

Statistics Publication Notice

Education Series

ISSN 1479-7569

A National Statistics Publication for Scotland



DESTINATIONS OF LEAVERS FROM SCOTTISH SCHOOLS: 2009/10 1 December 2010

This publication presents national and local authority level information on the destinations of young people, who left publicly funded and grant-aided secondary schools from the academic year 2009/10. Information collected by Skills Development Scotland was linked to data from the pupil census to produce information on destinations by pupil characteristics, which are presented here.

School level destinations will be published on www.scottishschoolsonline.gov.uk in December.

Supplementary data tables can be found at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Datasets

Requests for further or additional destination analysis can be emailed to:

school.stats@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Main Findings:

1.1 86.8 per cent per cent of 2009/10 school leavers are in positive destinations (higher education, further education, employment, voluntary work or training¹), up from 86.4 per cent in 2007/08 and 85.7 per cent in 2008/09 (Table 1). Girls (88.2 per cent) are more likely than boys (85.4 per cent) to enter positive destinations upon leaving school (Table 1).

1.2 Proportions entering higher or further education have increased by 4.6 and 2.3 percentage points since 2007/08, to reach 35.7 and 27.1 per cent respectively. Taken

¹ As defined in the Scottish Budget Spending Review 2007
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/30090722/18>

together, the proportion of young people entering further or higher education has risen from 56.0 per cent in 2007/08 to 62.8 per cent in 2009/10 (Table 1).

1.3 The proportion of leavers entering employment has increased very slightly from 18.4 per cent in 2008/09 to 18.5 per cent in 2009/10, but is still lower than at any other time since 1992/93 (Chart 1).

1.4 The proportion who are unemployed and seeking employment or training has decreased very slightly from 11.5 per cent last year to 11.3 per cent (Table 1).

1.5 The proportion unemployed and *not* seeking employment or training has decreased slightly from 1.6 per cent in 2008/09 to 1.3 per cent in 2009/10 (Table 1).

1.6 Vulnerable school leavers, such as those from more deprived areas, with additional support needs, or looked after children, continue to be less likely to enter positive destinations (Table 5).

1.7 The S4 to S5 staying on rate to September of the following school year has increased by around 2 percentage points, while the S4 to S6 staying on rate has increased by around 4 percentage points (Table 3).

1.8 Pupils that stay on at school for longer are more likely to enter positive destinations (Table 2). Staying on at school provides pupils with the opportunity to re-sit exams, or enter for more advanced qualifications that are usually taken in S5 and S6. Leavers with more advanced qualifications are more likely to enter positive destinations (Table 4).

Tables:

Table 1: Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded secondary schools in Scotland by destination category and gender, 2007/08 to 2009/10.

Table 2: Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded secondary schools in Scotland by destination category and stage of leaving, 2009/10.

Table 3: Staying on rates in publicly funded secondary schools in Scotland, 2000/01-2010/11, S4 to S5 and S4 to S6, as at September at the start of the school year.

Table 4: Number of school leavers from publicly funded schools in Scotland by highest qualifications attained, 2009/10 (pre-appeal).

Table 5: Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded secondary schools in Scotland by characteristics and whether they've entered a positive destination, 2008/09 and 2009/10.

Table 6: Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded schools in Scottish Education Authorities entering positive destinations, 2007/08 to 2009/10.

Charts:

Chart 1: Percentage of school leavers entering Higher Education, Further Education, Employment, Training or Voluntary Work, 1992/93 to 2009/10.

Maps:

Map 1: Destinations of school leavers: Percentage going to positive destinations, 2009/10.

Analysis of change over time

This publication of school leaver destinations reflects the current difficult economic climate. Fewer labour market opportunities might be expected to lead to greater demand for places in Higher and Further Education, or indeed to increased numbers of pupils staying on at school, and to lower proportions entering employment. Figures for 2009/10 bear these expectations out.

Table 1: Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded secondary schools in Scotland by destination category and gender, 2007/08 to 2009/10.

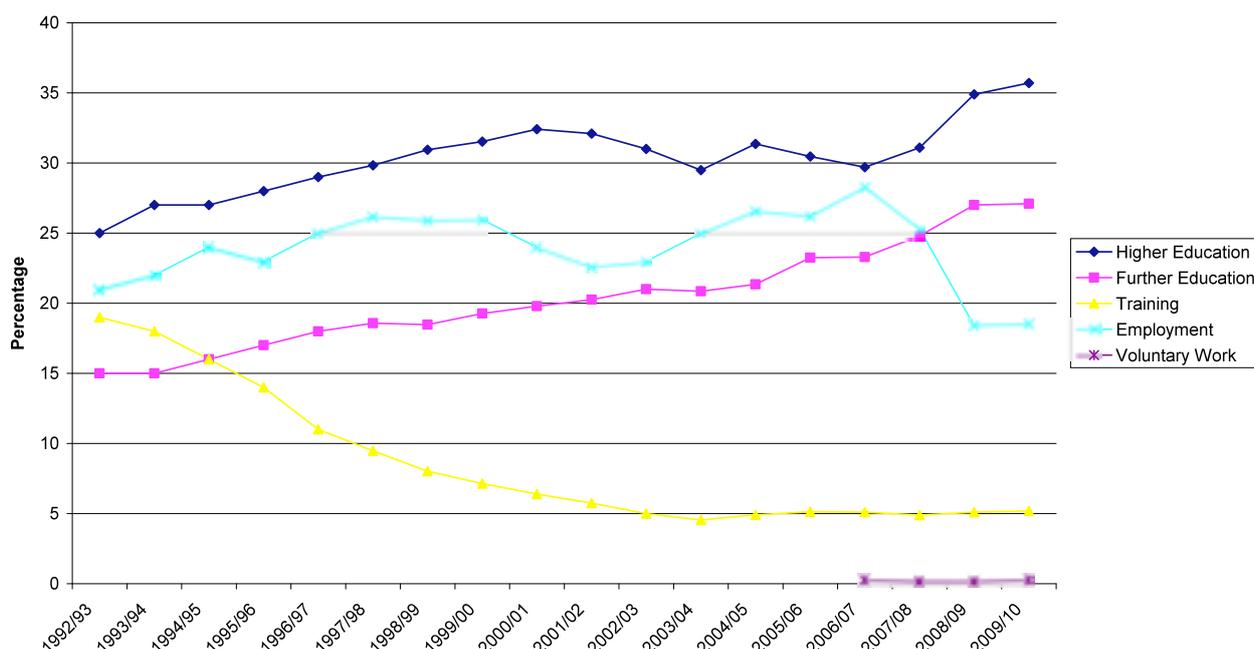
Destination	2007/08			2008/09			2009/10		
	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
Higher Education	27.8	34.5	31.1	31.6	38.3	34.9	32	39.4	35.7
Further Education	21.3	28.4	24.8	24.5	29.6	27.0	24.9	29.3	27.1
Training	6.0	3.7	4.9	6.3	4.0	5.1	6.6	3.8	5.2
Employment	29.7	20.9	25.3	21.7	15.0	18.4	21.6	15.3	18.5
Voluntary Work	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3
Unemployed Seeking ¹	12.8	9.0	10.9	13.3	9.8	11.5	13.2	9.4	11.3
Unemployed Not Seeking	1.0	2.0	1.5	1.1	2.0	1.6	0.7	1.8	1.3
Unknown	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.6
Total Leavers	29,717	29,127	58,844	27,061	26,471	53,532	27,297	26,800	54,097
Positive Destinations	85.0	87.8	86.4	84.3	87.2	85.7	85.4	88.2	86.8
Other Destinations	15.0	12.2	13.6	15.7	12.8	14.3	14.6	11.8	13.2

1. In 2009/10 this included 384 leavers taking part in non-formal learning through the Personal Skills Development programme. Percentages may not total 100 due to round.

The proportion of leavers entering Higher or Further Education reached its highest level, almost 63 per cent, since 1992/93 when it was 40 per cent. The proportion entering employment remained stable (compared to 2008/09) at 18.5 per cent.

Within the unemployed seeking category there were 384 leavers (6.3 per cent of those unemployed seeking) taking part in non-formal learning through the Personal Skills Development programme. The proportion of leavers entering positive destinations reached its highest level for 3 years at 86.8 per cent.

Chart 1. Percentage of School Leavers Entering Higher Education, Further Education, Employment, Training or Voluntary Work: 1992/93 to 2009/10.



Staying on Rates and Destinations of Leavers by Stage of Leaving

Staying on at school provides pupils with the opportunity to engage in wider learning and to attain more and higher qualifications which can be used to increase their options on leaving school. Staying-on in school past the minimum leaving age is a good indicator that a young person will enter a positive destination upon leaving school. Over 93 per cent of school leavers who left at the end of S6 entered a positive destination, compared with only 76 per cent of those who left at the end of S4.

Table 2: Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded secondary schools in Scotland by destination category and stage of leaving, 2009/10.

Destination	Stage Pupil Left School				All
	By End of S4	S5	S6	Other Code	
Higher Education	*	8.6	61.7	*	35.7
Further Education	42.1	37.8	16.4	50.0	27.1
Training	14.5	8.0	0.7	6.6	5.2
Employment	18.7	26.4	14.3	6.6	18.5
Voluntary Work	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.3
Unemployed Seeking	21.6	16.1	5.3	17.1	11.3
Unemployed Not Seeking	1.8	1.9	0.8	6.6	1.3
Unknown	*	0.9	0.4	*	0.6
Positive Destinations	75.8	81.1	93.5	71.1	86.8
Total Leavers (=100%)	9,647	15,251	29,123	76	54,097

* Percentages based on numbers of less than 5 have been suppressed for disclosure and quality reasons

1. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

2. Other Codes include Adult Returnee (9), student from a special class (18) and 49 not matched to the pupil census

There is evidence that more young people are choosing to stay on at school. Staying on rates increased significantly between the 2009/10 school year and the start of the 2010/11 school year (Table 3). The S4 to S5 staying on rate increased by around 2 percentage points, while the S4 to S6 staying on rate increased by around 4 percentage points. This reflects the challenging economic environment that school leavers currently face.

Table 3: Staying on rates in publicly funded secondary schools in Scotland, 2000/01-2010/11, S4 to S5 and S4 to S6, as at September at the start of the school year.

Gender	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
S5 (September) Staying on Rates											
Total	79	79	77	77	77	77	78	78	78	81	83
Male	76	76	74	74	74	74	74	74	75	79	80
Female	82	81	80	81	81	81	81	81	81	83	85
S6 Staying on Rates											
Total	46	45	46	45	44	44	44	45	45	50	54
Male	42	41	42	41	40	40	40	41	42	46	50
Female	49	48	49	49	49	49	49	50	49	54	57

Destinations of School Leavers from Publicly Funded Secondary Schools by Pupil Qualifications and Pupil Characteristics

Staying on at school and achieving more and higher qualifications does have a positive impact on the likelihood of entering positive destinations. The latest figures show that around 95 per cent of leavers who attain qualifications at Higher or better enter positive destinations compared to only 52 per cent of leavers with no qualifications.

Of the unemployed and seeking group, only around 17 per cent have qualifications at Higher or better, while almost 96 per cent of leavers entering Higher Education have qualifications at Higher or better.

Table 4: Number of school leavers from publicly funded schools in Scotland by highest qualifications attained, 2009/10 (pre-appeal).

Destination	Total Leavers	No qualifications at SCQF level 3 or better	1-5+ @ SCQF Level 3	1-5+ @ SCQF Level 4	1-5+ @ SCQF Level 5	1-5+ @ SCQF Level 6	1-3+ @ SCQF Level 7
Higher Education	19,309	*	*	63	747	11,141	7,344
Further Education	14,637	399	403	3673	6758	2,991	413
Training	2,822	222	266	1379	883	*	*
Employment	10,005	153	142	1898	4189	3,133	490
Voluntary Work	187	*	*	29	29	*	*
Unemployed Seeking	6,117	578	596	2145	1726	903	169
Unemployed Not Seeking	696	115	61	205	161	108	46
Unknown	324	46	23	72	92	80	11
Positive Destinations	46,960	790	818	7,042	12,606	17,407	8,297
Percentage in Positive Destinations	86.8	51.7	54.6	74.4	86.4	94.1	97.3
Total	54,097	1,529	1,498	9,464	14,585	18,498	8,523

* Numbers less than 5 are suppressed for disclosure and quality reasons and may not total 100 per cent due to rounding

Data on qualifications for 2009/10 are pre-appeal

Analysis of school leaver characteristics and location also help to identify the groups of young people who are at risk of not entering a positive destination when they leave school. Being from a deprived area, registered for free school meals, looked after and having support needs are all associated with lower proportions of leavers entering positive destinations.

Table 5: Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded secondary schools in Scotland by characteristic and whether they've entered a positive destination, 2008/09 and 2009/10.

Positive Destinations¹	2008/09	2009/10
Ethnic Background		
White - UK	85.8	86.8
White - Other	87.8	86.6
Mixed	82.5	89.3
Asian - Indian	91.6	90.2
Asian - Pakistani	90.1	89.9
Asian - Chinese	96.0	94.2
Asian - Other	88.3	89.0
Black	85.7	89.9
Other	81.6	78.7
Not known / Disclosed	78.4	82.0
National Identity		
Scottish	85.8	86.9
English	86.0	87.0
British	87.4	88.7
Northern Irish ²	81.4	91.3
Welsh ²	84.0	86.5
Irish ²	81.0	92.6
Other	87.7	85.5
Not known or disclosed	79.2	81.2
Urban/Rural Classification		
Large Urban Areas	84.3	85.3
Other Urban Areas	85.9	86.8
Accessible Small Towns	87.7	87.8
Remote Small Towns	87.5	89.6
Accessible Rural	85.6	88.0
Remote Rural	88.2	88.6
Deprivation (SIMD 2009 ranking)		
Most deprived 0-20%	77.2	78.9
20-40%	82.3	83.8
40-60%	87.0	87.9
60-80%	90.2	90.7
Least Deprived 80-100%	92.7	93.2
Leaver with CSP or IEP³		
CSP or IEP	71.1	76.5
no CSP or IEP	86.4	87.4
Looked After Status⁴		
Looked After at Home	49.6	49.9
Looked After Away from Home	64.1	65.4
Not Looked After by Local Authorities	86.3	87.5

1. Positive destinations include higher education, further education, employment, voluntary work or training

2. may be subject to large fluctuations due to small numbers

3. CSP refers to Co-ordinated Support Plan and IEP to Individualised Educational Programmes

4. for definitions of looked after status please see background note 2.6

5. Percentages may not total 100 per cent due to rounding

Leaver Destinations at an Education Authority Level

The destinations of young leavers varies between education authorities with fluctuations also seen year on year. 94.5 per cent of leavers from East Renfrewshire entered positive destinations compared to 82.5 per cent from Edinburgh.

Table 6. Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded schools in Scottish Education Authorities entering positive destinations, 2007/08 to 2009/10.

Local Authority	Total Number of Leavers	Positive Destinations		
		2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Aberdeen City	1,772	85.8	82.7	85.6
Aberdeenshire	2,745	91.6	90.1	91.4
Angus	1,301	90.0	87.3	88.3
Argyll & Bute	957	87.8	87.4	87.8
Clackmannanshire	571	86.1	85.7	87.9
Dumfries & Galloway	1,629	87.8	89.7	87.7
Dundee City	1,411	82.5	81.5	83.2
East Ayrshire	1,357	84.8	84.7	88.4
East Dunbartonshire	1,312	91.0	90.7	92.0
East Lothian	1,054	83.5	83.4	86.1
East Renfrewshire	1,318	93.0	92.9	94.5
Edinburgh City	3,411	81.9	82.3	82.5
Eilean Siar	332	93.3	88.3	94.3
Falkirk	1,547	86.7	82.1	84.2
Fife	3,979	86.2	85.7	86.6
Glasgow City	4,841	82.8	83.9	84.1
Highland	2,690	88.5	85.1	86.7
Inverclyde	939	91.3	89.9	89.1
Midlothian	950	81.4	78.4	83.1
Moray	1,062	89.5	88.2	90.9
North Ayrshire	1,438	85.9	84.5	85.5
North Lanarkshire	3,653	86.9	85.7	85.7
Orkney Islands	231	92.2	93.9	93.9
Perth & Kinross	1,428	89.0	88.6	88.5
Renfrewshire	1,886	86.5	84.7	88.8
Scottish Borders	1,250	87.0	87.4	88.3
Shetland Islands	298	92.4	91.7	90.6
South Ayrshire	1,187	86.4	88.0	87.4
South Lanarkshire	3,407	88.2	86.7	86.2
Stirling	1,062	85.2	88.0	85.6
West Dunbartonshire	999	82.5	83.0	88.1
West Lothian	1,978	80.8	81.9	84.1
Scotland	54,097	86.4	85.7	86.8

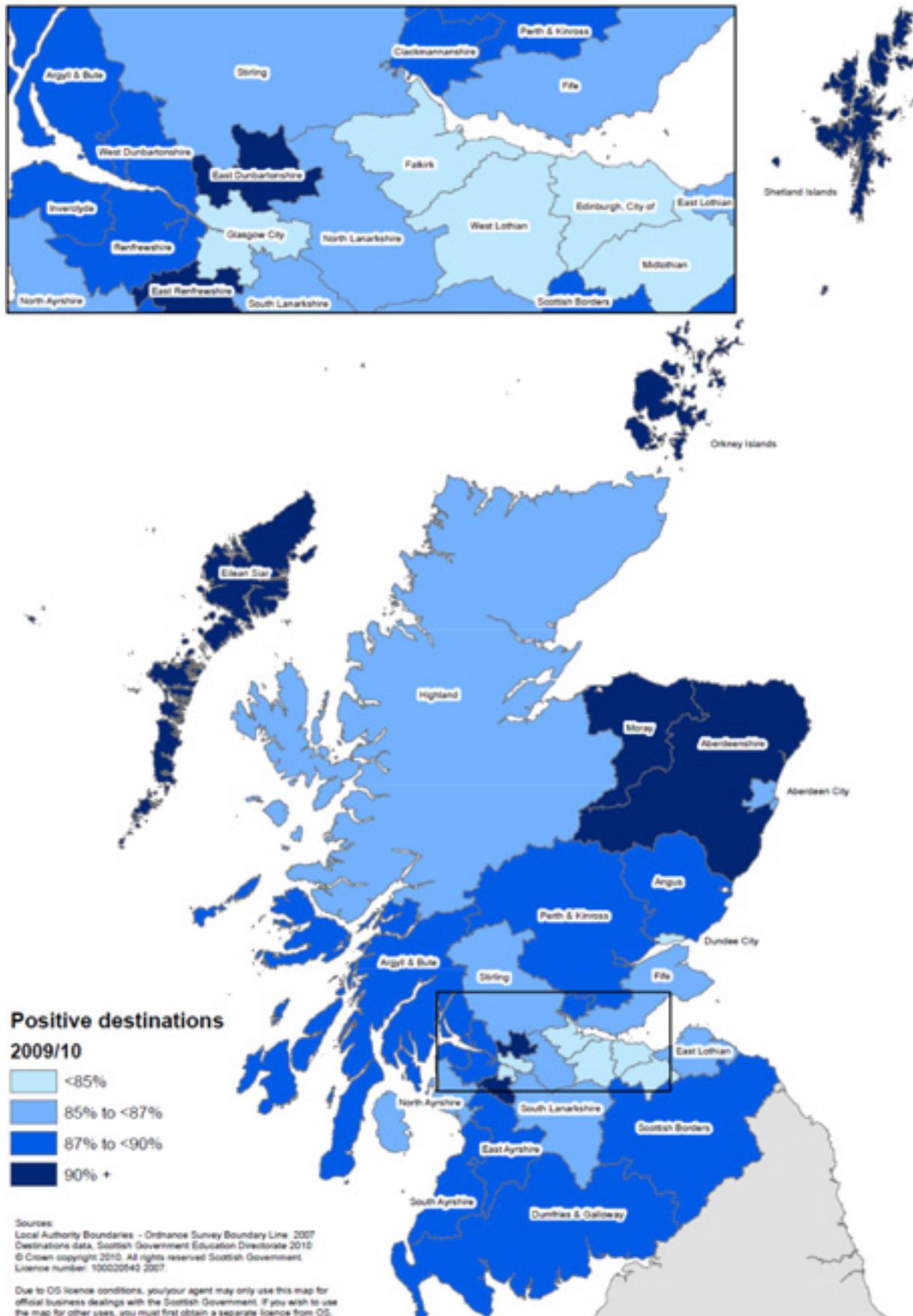
1. Percentages may not total 100 per cent due to rounding

2. Scotland total includes Jordanhill, Glasgow total excludes Jordanhill

The destination of leavers from individual education authorities can be influenced by a number of factors. Economic factors may affect the availability of employment in the local area, the opening of an industrial enterprise may present many new opportunities, equally a lack of local employment may encourage leavers towards further education or training. The opportunities available through Skillseekers and Modern Apprenticeships, partnerships between education and business or special arrangements for entry to higher education may also influence where a leaver chooses to go. There may be a strong local tradition for pupils either to stay on at school or to leave school as early as possible, affecting the numbers who stay on long enough to gain the necessary entrance qualifications for higher education.

Fluctuations from year to year are likely, for example, differences in the proportion of leavers proceeding to higher education may derive from the ability of pupils in a particular year group. Similarly, there may be short term opportunities for employment in some localities. In education authorities with only a few leavers, a small change in the number of leavers in each destination category can make a big difference in percentage terms from year to year.

**Map 1. Destinations of School Leavers:
Percentage going to Positive Destinations, 2009/10.**



BACKGROUND NOTES

This information is linked to the follow-up survey, which collects information on the destination of school leavers in March, approximately 9 months after the end of the school year. Information from the follow-up survey is used for National Indicator 10 - Increase the proportion of school leavers (from Scottish publicly funded schools) in positive and sustained destinations (FE, HE, employment, voluntary work or training).

1. Data Sources

1.1. Information on the destination of leavers from publicly funded schools is provided to the Scottish Government by Skills Development Scotland.

1.2. Unless otherwise stated, all figures relate to publicly funded secondary schools.

1.3. School leavers who moved out-with Scotland have not been included in the results.

1.4. Information on pupil characteristics, e.g. additional support needs, pupil stage, etc. is taken from the September 2009 Pupil Census:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/11/05112711/0>. In a small number of cases (1,240) leavers were matched to the 2008 census, and 49 leavers could not be matched to either census.

1.5. In 2009/10, 99.8 per cent of leavers could be matched to a pupil census record by Scottish Candidate Number (SCN) and at least one other piece of information. For those leavers with no Scottish Candidate Number in the original data, matching on school, Student ID, gender, postcode and date of birth (dob) is carried out. All matching is done within certain constraints:

- Pupil Census record must be in SP (Special School), AD (Adult Learner) or S3 or above to be included.
- School Attended must be main school attended.

The breakdown of how matches were assigned is shown in the following table:

Match Type, 2009/10	Number	%
scn,student id,centre,gender,postcode,dob	49602	91.7
scn,centre,gender,dob	3978	7.4
scn,gender,dob	303	0.6
scn,centre,gender,postcode,dob	83	0.2
No match found	49	0.1
centre,gender,postcode	31	0.1
scn,centre,gender,postcode	30	0.1
scn,centre,gender	9	0.0
centre,gender,postcode,dob	6	0.0
student id,centre,gender,postcode,dob	3	0.0
scn,centre	2	0.0
student id,centre,gender,dob	1	0.0
All	54,097	100.0

2. Definitions

2.1. A school leaver is classed as a young person of school leaving age, who left school during (at the end of the winter term) or at the end of the school year, where the school

year is taken to run from 1 August to 31 July. Supplementary evidence suggests that around 20 per cent of school leavers leave at the end of the winter term.

The data relate to the latest known destination of leavers in September 2010. For example, a school leaver who left in June 2010 and travelled for several months but who is known to have taken up employment prior to September will be counted under 'employment'. In practice, many young people do not decide whether or not to leave school until after they have received the results of external examinations, have tried to get a job or achieve entry to further or higher education or training. For many pupils, therefore, it is only possible to identify later whether they have effectively left school by 31 July.

2.2. The following categories for leaver destinations are included in the Statistics Publication Notice. Destinations are based on how the school leaver describes their destination and hours spent in, for example, work or education, are not used to define destinations.

2.2.1. Positive: includes higher education, further education, training, voluntary work and employment. This is in line with the definition of positive destinations set out in Indicator 10 of the Scottish Budget Spending Review 2007:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/30090722/18>

2.2.2. Higher Education: includes leavers following HND (Higher National Diploma) or HNC (Higher National Certificate) courses, degree courses, courses for the education and training of teachers and higher level courses for professional qualifications. It also includes programmes at a level higher than the standard of the National Qualifications, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher, Advanced Higher and the National Certificate of Education of England, Wales or Northern Ireland at Advanced Level. Leavers with a deferred, unconditional place in higher education have also been included in this category.

2.2.3. Further Education: includes leavers undertaking full-time education which is not higher education and who are no longer on a school roll.

2.2.4. Training: includes leavers who are on a training course and in receipt of an allowance or grant, such as Get Ready for Work and Skillseekers (non-employed).

2.2.5. Employment: includes those who are employed and in receipt of payment from their employers. It includes young people undertaking training in employment through Skillseekers and Modern Apprenticeships.

2.2.6. Voluntary Work: includes those undertaking voluntary work, with or without financial allowance, who are not 'unemployed and actively seeking', as per the unemployed definition. Included in this category would be individuals who are on a gap year, those participating in Project Scotland/CSV or other voluntary programmes.

2.2.7. Unemployed and seeking employment or training: includes those who are registered with Skills Development Scotland and are known by them to be seeking employment or training. This is based on regular contact between Skills Development Scotland and the client. This does not refer to the definition of 'unemployed' used by the Benefits Agency to calculate published unemployment rates. Young people participating in Personal/Skills Development (see below) are counted in this category.

Personal/Skills Development: Some young people are not yet ready, or in the position to make an immediate transition to a formal positive destination. In such cases, individuals should be able to engage in Personal/Skills Development often, but not exclusively delivered by a community learning and development or third sector organisation, as a

stepping-stone to a more formal positive destination. This includes a wide range of, often short-term learning and development combined with personal support, such as training programmes (eg provision funded by a local authority or other partner, but not a National Training Programme); tailored programmes, including as part of an Activity Agreement pilot, aimed at supporting progression into positive and sustained destinations; and employment involving less than 16 hours and including job-related training or Personal/Skills Development.

2.2.8. Unemployed and not seeking employment or training: includes all those individuals who are not seeking employment or training for a range of reasons. The reasons may involve sickness, prison, pregnancy, caring for children or other dependents or taking time out.

NOTE: the above two categories are comparable to the single 'other known destination' category from publications prior to 2002/03.

2.2.9. Unknown: includes all leavers whose destination is not known either to Skills Development Scotland or to the school attended.

2.3. Individualised Educational Programmes (IEPs) are written plans setting targets that a child, with additional support needs, is expected to achieve. Targets should be limited in number and focus on key priorities of learning. They should be simple, clearly expressed and measurable.

2.4. Pupils with any combination of support needs are categorised as having Additional Support Needs.

2.5. Data on schools leavers with additional support needs is taken from the 2009 Pupil Census. There are some 1,240 leavers who were matched to the 2008 census, which still included Main Difficulty of Learning as well as Reasons for Support. During the transition period of the Additional Support for Learning Act pupils could have been recorded under either category. The categories used in this publication result from combining the two sets. As the categories do not always match exactly the data are indicative only. Details of how the two sets of categories were linked can be found in 'Attendance and Absence in Scottish Schools, 2006/07', Annex B

(<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/12/11160723/0>).

In the current publication, leavers with dual sensory impairment are not shown separately due to small numbers, but are included in both the hearing impairment and visual impairment categories. Leavers with Complex or Multiple Impairments are included under Other due to small numbers.

2.6. Figures collected from the Pupil Census on the number of children looked after by local authorities appear to be incomplete when compared with similar data from social work services departments. The Scottish Government is working to support Local Authorities with improving the sharing of information in respect of children in their care as part of their Corporate Parent duties.

A child or young person who is **Looked After at home** is subject to a supervision requirement *with no* condition of residence through the Children's Hearing system. The child or young person continues to live in their normal place of residence (i.e. often the family home).

A child or young person who is **Looked After away from home** (i.e. away from their *normal* place of residence) is subject to a supervision requirement *with* a condition of residence through the Children's Hearing system, or is provided with accommodation under section 25 (voluntary agreement) or is the subject of a Parental Responsibility Order (section 86). The child or young person is cared for away from their normal place of residence, e.g. in a foster care placement, residential/children's unit, a residential school, a secure unit or a kinship placement.

2.7. Figures collected from the Pupil Census on pupils registered for free school meals are less accurate than those from the separate School Meals Survey, however only the census information can be linked to individuals and used in the context of this publication.

3. General

3.1 This is a National Statistics Publication. It has been produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice and Release Practice Protocol: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/ns-standard/cop/index.html>

3.2 These statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

3.3 Copies of the tables are available on the Scottish Government's website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00878>

Public enquiries (non-media) about the information contained in this Statistics Publication Notice should be addressed to:

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A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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Further contact details, e-mail addresses and details of previous and forthcoming publications can be found on the Scottish Government Website at www.scotland.gov.uk/statistics

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service, please write to the Chief Statistician, Mr Rob Wishart, 1N.03, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail rob.wishart@scotland.gsi.gov.uk. We also welcome any comments or suggestions that would help us to improve our standards of service.

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ISSN 1479 7569

ISBN 978-0-7559-9839-5

APS Group Scotland
DPPAS11036 (11/10)