

# SFC Statistical publication

## College Leaver Destinations 2013-14 (Experimental Statistics: data being developed)

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Summary: To inform stakeholders of the publication of the 2013-14 College Leaver Destinations measurements

FAO: Principals and Directors of Scotland's colleges

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### Table 1

Summary data: College Leaver Destinations for AY 2013-14 full time qualifiers

### Table 2

Summary data: KPI 4 Developing the Young Workforce (16-24 year old) full-time  
qualifiers

## Executive Summary

1. This publication provides information on the destinations of successful full-time college leavers in Scotland, thereby supporting the Scottish Funding Council's work with colleges on outcome based planning through Outcome Agreements, the Scottish Government's skills strategy, Skills for Scotland and Developing the Young Workforce – Scotland's Youth Employment strategy, by providing key measurements for progression to further study and employment for all age groups.
2. This is the first publication of College Leaver Destinations (CLD) for Scotland's colleges and covers the 2013-14 academic year. This publication reports on the destinations of leavers, 3-6 months after qualifying.
3. The main results for Further and Higher Education students are:
  - There were 52,556 qualifiers in session 2013-14 and the proportion of known destinations is 85.7%.
  - Overall the percentage of leavers entering a **positive destination**<sup>i</sup> is 81.5%, 4.2% in a negative destination and 14.3% **unconfirmed destination**<sup>ii</sup>.
  - The majority of college leavers had continued with **further study or training**<sup>iii</sup> 64.5%.
  - The percentage of college leavers entering **employment**<sup>iv</sup> is 17.0%.
  - The percentage of college leavers who were **unemployed and looking for work**<sup>v</sup> is 3.0%.
  - The percentage of college leavers **unavailable to work**<sup>vi</sup> due to a number of reasons such as; ill-health, retired, carer or taking time out to travel is 1.2%.
4. The main results for Further Education (FE) students are:
  - There were 35,351 FE qualifiers and the proportion of known destinations is 87.0%.
  - The percentage of FE leavers entering a positive destination is 82.9%, 4.1% in a negative destination and 13.0% unconfirmed destination.
  - The percentage of FE leavers continuing with further study or training 68.9%.
  - The percentage of FE leavers entering employment is 14.0%.
  - The percentage of FE leavers unemployed and looking for work is 3.0%.
  - The percentage of FE leavers unavailable to work due to a number of reasons such as; ill-health, retired, carer or taking time out to travel is 1.1%.
5. The main results for Higher education (HE) students are:
  - There were 17,205 HE qualifiers and the proportion of known destinations is 82.9%.

- The percentage of HE leavers entering a positive destination is 78.5%, 4.5% in a negative destination and 17% unconfirmed destination.
  - The percentage of HE leavers continuing with further study or training 55.3%;
  - The percentage of HE leavers entering employment is 23.2%.
  - The percentage of HE leavers unemployed and looking for work is 3.0%.
  - The percentage of HE leavers unavailable to work due to a number of reasons such as; ill-health, retired, carer or taking time out to travel is 1.5%.
6. The destinations and employment outcomes of 16-24 year olds is of particular relevance to *Developing the Young Workforce* - Scotland's Youth Employment strategy.
  7. There were 39,838 successful full-time students of age 16-24 years in session 2013-14. This is just over three quarters of the total qualifiers in the session.
  8. The main results for students in the 16 to 24 year old age range are:
    - 39,838 qualifiers and the proportion of known destinations is 87.5%.
    - The percentage of leavers entering a positive destination is 83.7%, 3.8% in a negative destination and 12.5% unconfirmed destination.
    - The percentage of leavers continuing with further study or training 66.6%.
    - The percentage of leavers entering employment is 17.1%.
    - The percentage of leavers unemployed and looking for work is 2.8%.
  9. The percentage figures can be reported in two ways; against an All qualifiers total population or for only those qualifiers with a 'known destination'. For publication reporting purposes we use the All qualifiers total population figures that includes a number of 'unconfirmed' destinations. This has the effect of lowering the percentage figures in the various destination categories reported. For example, if we look at the reported percentage of All qualifiers entering employment that is 17.0% and compare the figure when calculated as a percentage of the 'known' destinations only, it is 2.9 percentage points higher at 19.9%. For comparison purposes, the Summary data tables by College appended to the publication, includes the percentage figures for those only in a 'known' destination covering; a positive destination; in employment and in further study.
  10. The statistics in this report are classed as 'Experimental Statistics: data being developed' which are defined in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics as: 'new official statistics undergoing evaluation that are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development as a means to build in quality at an early stage'.
  11. We will continue to develop the collection quality assurance processes and to refine and extend the use of data linkage to improve the completeness and

robustness of these data. Other key areas for development include:

- Consistency of collection methods.
- Integrity of destinations evidence collected anecdotally.
- Response rates.

12. We would welcome feedback on the above and any other aspects of the report in order to improve the quality and usefulness for users.

## Introduction

13. The aim is to develop a robust sector-wide method for collecting information on the destinations of full-time college leavers after qualifying, that will enable the **national performance measure on Destinations & Employment<sup>vii</sup>** to be established and the **Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 4 on Destinations and Employment<sup>viii</sup>** for *Developing the Young Workforce* – Scotland’s Youth Employment Strategy.
14. Previously no valid and reliable College leaver destination data was available centrally covering both full-time FE (non-advanced) and HE (advanced) leavers in Scotland. SFC had collected data from colleges for a number of years on the destinations of their full-time HE successful leavers through the First Destination Graduates (FDG) survey, however, there was no centralised collection for FE full-time successful leavers, although many colleges did make efforts to collect this information for their own purposes.
15. The HE destination response rates were traditionally very poor and no valid analysis and reporting could be published. This has meant we have not had a clear picture of college leavers’ destinations, specifically, how many find a job, how many continue their education and how many have a negative destination.
16. There was a demonstrable need to establish a systematic and comprehensive way of collecting and reporting college leaver destination data that can potentially help address several purposes including:
  - Reporting on the proportion of full-time college leavers going into a positive destination year-on-year at college, regional and national level.
  - Demonstrating the impact of the college sector to the individual, economy and society.
  - Helping colleges to ensure relevance and effectiveness of provision.
  - Helping colleges to equip learners to make informed choices.
  - Providing evidence to inform regional curriculum planning and the design of learning programmes.
17. Early in 2013, SFC established a range of “thematic groups”, involving college

representatives, to advise on national measures for outcome agreements. One of these groups was specifically set up to look at college leaver destinations. This group made a number of recommendations around developing a robust sector-wide method for collecting information on destinations of full-time college leavers after qualifying.

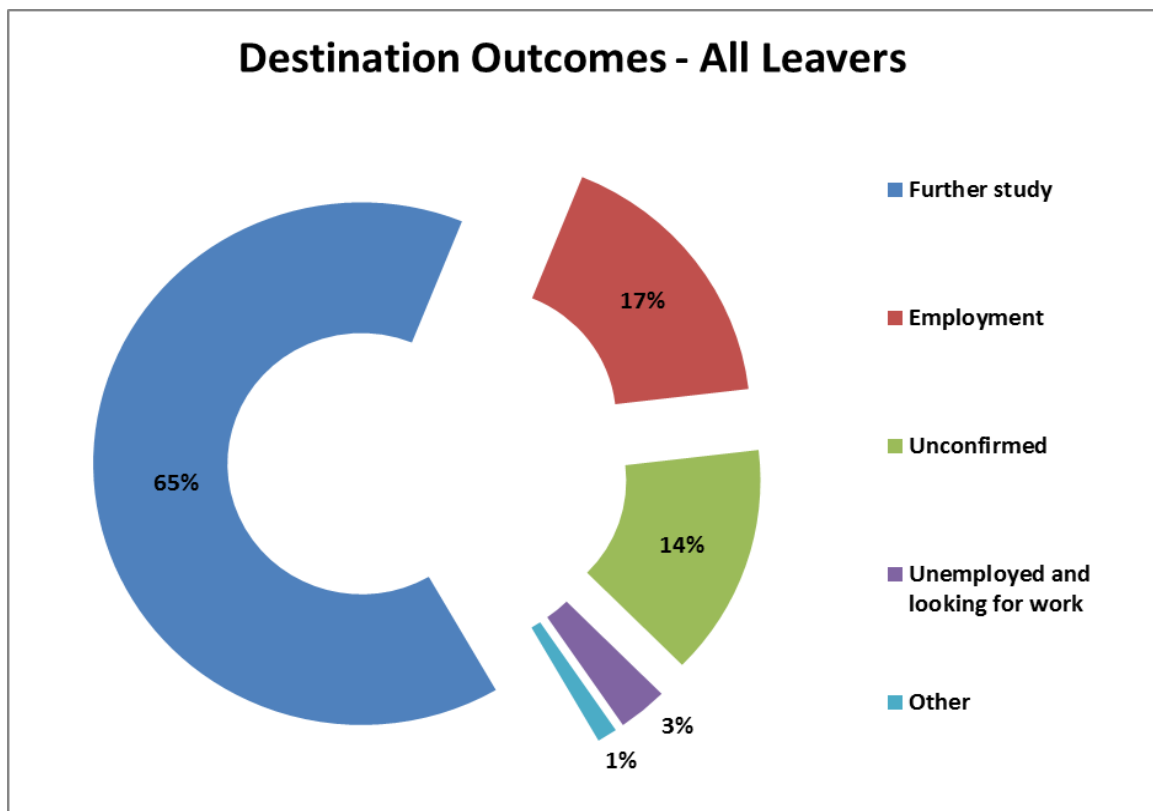
18. In 2013 SFC commenced work to develop, with the support of the college sector, a national college leaver destination survey which would collect and report on leaver destination data from colleges.
19. A revised survey was developed and piloted on the 2012-13 leavers with 18 volunteer colleges. SFC also worked, primarily with Skills Development Scotland (SDS), during this time to develop data linkage methods to existing data sets held by SDS and the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) to reduce the collection burden on colleges and improve destination data integrity.
20. SFC worked closely with colleges during 2013-14 to build capacity and to share 'good practice' so that all college regions were confident that they could achieve a meaningful response rate when the survey came on stream at the end of 2014. A target response rate of 80% was set for the CLD which is in line with the target response rate for the Higher Education Statistical Agency's annual Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE).
21. The leaver destination outcome measures reported in this publication, and gathered from successful full-time leavers who attended college in AY 2013-14, will be used as the Destinations and Employment baseline data for the Outcome Agreement measurement and the *Developing the Young Workforce* - Key Performance Indicator 4.

## Overview of findings

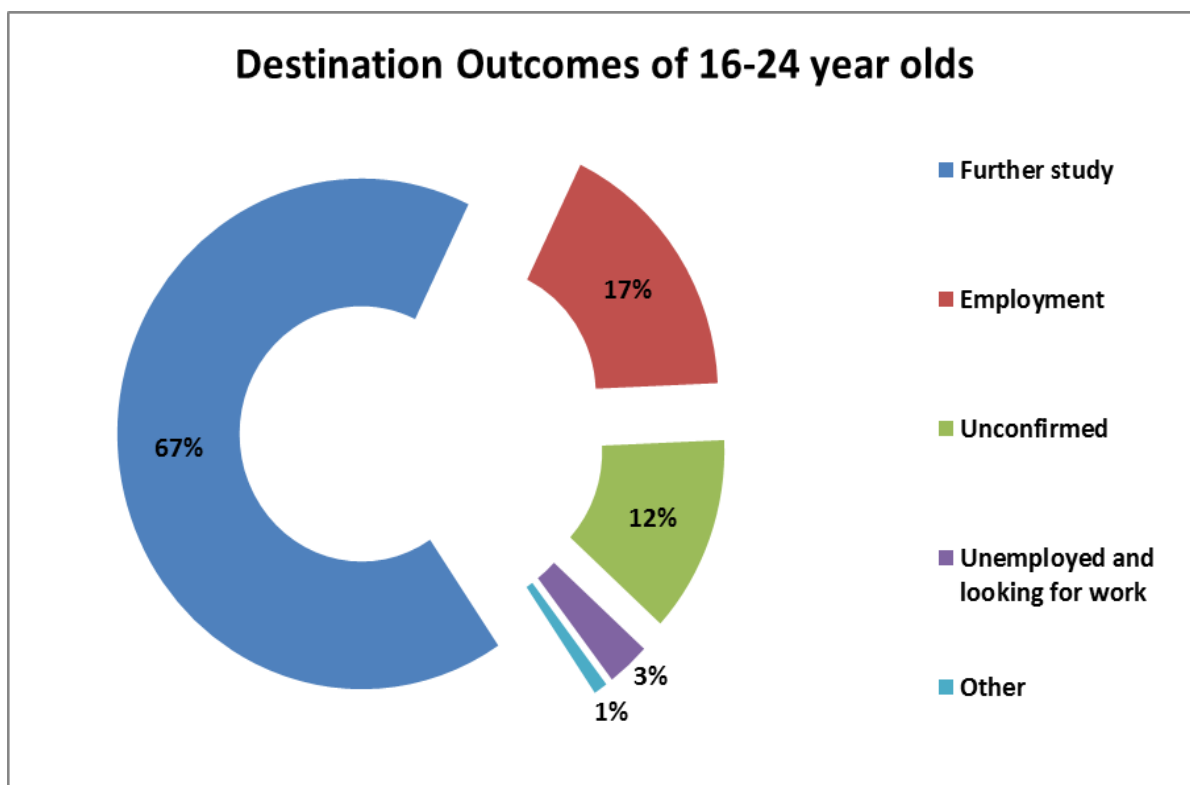
22. There were 52,556 full-time college qualifiers in session 2013-14.
23. Response rates overall are 85.7% and over the target of 80% which matches the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Institutions target. However, there are 14.3% of qualifiers for whom their destination is unconfirmed.
24. The percentage of leavers entering a positive destination for:
 

All (FE & HE) qualifiers	81.5%
FE (non-advanced) qualifiers	82.9%
HE (advanced) qualifiers	78.5%
25. The positive destinations can be broken down in to those entering employment and those undertaking further study:

	Employment	Further Study
All (FE & HE) qualifiers	17.0%	64.5%
FE (non-advanced) qualifiers	14.0%	68.9%
HE (advanced) qualifiers	23.2%	55.3%



26. The number of 16-24 year old college leavers is just over three quarters of the total qualifiers in the AY 2013-14. The number of known destinations is 34,862 (87.5%) and the percentage entering a positive destination is 83.7%. This leaves 4,976 (12.5%) qualifiers whose destination is still unconfirmed – see Table 2 appended for Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 4 16-24 year old qualifiers top-level summary data on Destinations and Employment for *Developing the Young Workforce* – Scotland's Youth Employment Strategy.



27. The information has been collected using a mix of data matching for those students continuing their studies at any Scottish college, studying at a Higher Education Institution in Scotland (SAAS data), matching to Skills Development Scotland (SDS) Data Hub for employment, training programmes and Modern Apprenticeships and direct collection from students by the colleges.
28. The UHI partner colleges and SRUC report their HE leavers into the Higher Education Statistical Agency's annual DLHE survey. Therefore, this publication only reports for UHI partner colleges and SRUC the destinations of their FE (non-advanced) college leavers.
29. The statistics in this report are classed as 'Experimental Statistics – data being developed' which are defined in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics as: 'new official statistics undergoing evaluation that are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development as a means to build in quality at an early stage'.
30. We will continue to develop the collection quality assurance processes and to refine and extend the use of data linkage to improve the completeness and robustness of these data. Other key areas for development include:
  - Consistency of collection methods.
  - Integrity of destinations evidence collected anecdotally.
  - Response rates.

## Further information

31. The College leaver destination measures are of primary importance to Ministers, College Principals, Governing Boards and Scottish Government officials.

## Background Notes

- i. **Positive destinations:** Positive destinations have been defined in the national measure for Destination and Employment<sup>7</sup> as the number of college qualifiers in work, training and/or further study 3-6 months after qualifying.
- ii. **Unconfirmed destination:** For qualifiers whom contact could not be made.
- iii. **Further study or training:** For qualifiers who are continuing with full-time or part-time study, training or research at college or university.
- iv. **Entering employment:** For those in full-time and part-time paid work only (including self-employed/freelance, voluntary/unpaid, developing a professional portfolio/creative practice or on an internship). Also includes qualifiers who were not currently in employment but had secured employment that was set to commence by 31 March 2015.
- v. **Unemployed and looking for work:** This applies to qualifiers who are registered unemployed.
- vi. **Unavailable to work:** This applies to qualifiers who are; taking time out in order to travel; Not employed but NOT looking for employment, Further study or training; Permanently unable to work/retired; Temporarily sick/unable to work/looking after home/family.
- vii. **National Measure: Destinations & Employment:** Number and proportion of full-time college qualifiers in work, training and/or further study 3-6 months after qualifying. Separate figure are reported for FE (non-advanced) and HE (advanced) levels course qualifiers.
- viii. **KPI 4 on Destinations & Employment for *Developing Scotland's Young Workforce*:** The percentage of 16-24 year old college students who have successfully completed a full time course moving into employment or higher level study. Please note the data currently captures students moving into further study at any level, not just those moving into higher level study.

- ix. **Working full-time:** includes destination outcomes of; apprenticeships, self-employed/freelance, voluntary or other unpaid work, developing a professional portfolio/creative practice or on an internship.
- x. **Working part-time:** includes destination outcomes of; self-employed/freelance, voluntary or other unpaid work, developing a professional portfolio/creative practice or on an internship.

**Table 1 - Summary data: College Leaver Destinations for AY 2013-14 full-time qualifiers**

**CLD 2013-14 ALL (HE + FE)**

Total Qualifiers	52,556	
Unconfirmed	7,535	14.3%
Known	45,021	85.7%

Destination outcome	number	% of those known	% of all qualifiers
Working	8,956	19.9%	17.0%
Education/training	33,860	75.2%	64.5%
Other <sup>1</sup>	2,205	4.9%	4.2%

**CLD 2013-14 (HE)**

Total Qualifiers	17,205	
Unconfirmed	2,940	17.1%
Known	14,265	82.9%

Destination outcome	number	% of those known	% of all qualifiers
Working	3,991	28.0%	23.2%
Education/training	9,508	66.7%	55.3%
Other	766	5.4%	4.5%

**CLD 2013-14 (FE)**

Total Qualifiers	35,351	
Unconfirmed	4,595	13.0%
Other	30,756	87.0%

Destination outcome	number	% of those known	% of all qualifiers
Working	4,965	16.1%	14.0%
Education/training	24,352	79.2%	68.9%
Other	1,439	4.7%	4.1%

<sup>1</sup>Other includes the outcomes; Unemployed and looking for work, Temporarily sick or unable to work/looking after the home or family, Unemployed but NOT looking for employment, further study or training, Permanently unable to work/retired and Taking time out in order to travel

**Table 2 - Summary data: KPI 4 Developing the Young Workforce (16-24 year old) full-time qualifiers**

**16-24 year olds KPI 4 2013-14 ALL (HE + FE)**

Total Qualifiers	39,838	
Unconfirmed	4,976	12.5%
Known	34,862	87.5%

Destination outcome	number	% of known qualifiers	% of total qualifiers
Working	6,813	19.5%	17.1%
Education/training	26,549	76.2%	66.6%
Other	1,499	4.3%	3.8%

**16-24 year olds KPI 4 2013-14 (HE)**

Total Qualifiers	12,868	
Unconfirmed	1,957	15.2%
Known	10,911	84.8%

Destination outcome	number	% of known qualifiers	% of total qualifiers
Working	2,738	25.1%	21.3%
Education/training	7,716	70.7%	60.0%
Other	457	4.2%	3.6%

**16-24 year olds KPI 4 2013-14 (FE)**

Total Qualifiers	26,970	
Unconfirmed	3,019	11.2%
Known	23,951	88.8%

Destination outcome	number	% of known qualifiers	% of total qualifiers
Working	4,075	17.0%	15.1%
Education/training	18,833	78.6%	69.8%
Other	1,042	4.4%	3.9%