

Statistics Publication Notice

An Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

**FOLLOW UP SURVEY OF LEAVERS FROM SCOTTISH SCHOOLS: LEAVERS
FROM SCHOOL YEAR 2008/09
29 June 2010**

1. Introduction

This Statistics Publication Notice presents national information on the destination status of young people approximately 9 months after they left school, from the 2008/09 school year. The initial (approximately 3 months after leaving school) destination status of these leavers were published in the “Destinations of Leavers from Scottish Schools: 2008/09” publication on 24 November 2009. The information in this publication is the basis for the Scottish Government’s national indicator on positive and sustained destinations for leavers from Scottish publicly funded schools.

The Statistics Publication Notice and accompanying tables can be found on the Scottish Government Web Site: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00821>

2. Main Findings

The leavers follow up survey of young people from school year 2008/09 shows us that:

- The proportion of school leavers in sustained positive destinations (higher or further education, employment, voluntary work or training) was 85.1 per cent in March 2010, approximately 9 months after leaving school. This compares to 84.0 per cent of school leavers in positive destinations in March 2009 (Table 1).
- The proportion of school leavers in further or higher education rose from 51.0 per cent in March 2009 to 57.5 per cent in March 2010 (Table 2).
- The proportion in employment in March 2010 fell to 22.9 per cent compared to 28.5 per cent in March 2009 (Table 2).
- The proportion unemployed (either seeking, or not seeking, employment or training) decreased from 15.4 per cent in March 2009 to 14.5 per cent in March 2010 (Table 2).

- The proportion of leavers in higher education decreased from 34.9 per cent in the initial survey to 33.6 per cent in the follow up survey, this decrease is similar to that seen last year (Table 3). There is minimal movement into higher education as people usually start education in September. The vast majority (92.7 per cent) of leavers who entered higher education remained there with small numbers moving to other destinations (Table 4).
- The proportion of leavers in employment increased from 18.4 per cent in the initial survey to 22.9 per cent in the follow up survey, this increase of 4.5 percentage points is higher than the increase seen last year (3.2 percentage points) (Table 3). Of the leavers who entered employment in the initial survey 86.1 per cent remained there (Table 4).
- The proportion of leavers in training decreased from 5.1 per cent to 4.4 per cent, this decrease is the same as that seen last year (Table 3). Of the leavers in training in the initial survey only 30 per cent remained there (Table 4). However, over 14 per cent of leavers who were initially unemployed seeking moved into training. The large amount of movement to and from the training category demonstrates the short term nature of many training opportunities.
- It should be noted that the initial number of school leavers from the 2008/09 school year was down 9 per cent compared to 2007/08. This is a result of a falling school age population and increased staying on rates, the S4 to S5 staying on rate to September of the following school year increased by around 3 percentage points, while the S4 to S6 staying on rate increased by around 5 percentage points.

TABLES

Table 1 -Percentage of school leavers in positive and other follow up destinations: ^{1,2}
Leavers from school years 2006/07 - 2008/09

	School leavers from 2006/07	School leavers from 2007/08	School leavers from 2008/09
Positive	87.0	84.0	85.1
Other	13.0	16.0	14.9
Number of Leavers	57,137	58,603	53,324

1. Leavers from publicly funded secondary schools, excluding those who moved outwith Scotland, were deceased or who had returned to school between the initial and follow up surveys.
2. Positive destinations comprise higher education, further education, training, employment and voluntary work (see note 4 in background notes).

Table 2 - Percentage of school leavers by follow up destination category: ^{1,2}
Leavers from school years 2006/07 - 2008/09

	School leavers from 2006/07	School leavers from 2007/08	School leavers from 2008/09
Higher Education	27.9	29.7	33.6
Further Education	20.0	21.3	23.9
Training	4.4	4.2	4.4
Employment	34.4	28.5	22.9
Voluntary Work	0.3	0.3	0.3
Unemployed Seeking	10.6	13.4	12.6
Unemployed Not Seeking	1.9	2.0	1.9
Unknown (both surveys) ³	0.6	0.6	0.4
Number of Leavers	57,137	58,603	53,324

1. Leavers from publicly funded secondary schools, excluding those who moved outwith Scotland, were deceased or who had returned to school between the initial and follow up surveys.
2. Percentages may not total 100 per cent due to rounding
3. There was insufficient information to impute a destination category for these individuals. They are included in 'Other' destinations in the relevant tables. (see note 2 in background notes and accompanying Technical Note at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00821>)

Table 3 - Percentage of school leavers by initial and follow up destination category:^{1,2} : Leavers from school years 2007/08 and 2008/09.

	Initial Destination	Follow Up Destination	Percentage point change
2008/09			
Higher Education	34.9	33.6	-1.3
Further Education	27.0	23.9	-3.1
Training	5.1	4.4	-0.7
Employment	18.4	22.9	4.5
Voluntary Work	0.2	0.3	0.1
Unemployed seeking	11.5	12.6	1.1
Unemployed Not Seeking	1.6	1.9	0.3
Unknown	1.2	0.4	-0.8
Number of Leavers	53,532	53,324	
2007/08			
Higher Education	31.1	29.7	-1.4
Further Education	24.8	21.3	-3.5
Training	4.9	4.2	-0.7
Employment	25.3	28.5	3.2
Voluntary Work	0.2	0.3	0.1
Unemployed seeking	10.9	13.4	2.5
Unemployed Not Seeking	1.5	2.0	0.5
Unknown	1.1	0.6	-0.5
Number of Leavers ³	58,844	58,603	

1. Initial destinations include all leavers from publicly funded secondary schools excluding those who had moved outwith Scotland by the time of the September survey. Follow up destinations also exclude leavers who had moved outwith Scotland, had gone back to school or were deceased at the time of the follow up survey (see note 3 in background notes).

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

3. Numbers of leavers for initial destinations in 2007/08 are slightly different to those published in December 2008.

Table 4 – Percentage of school leavers by initial and follow up destination category. Leavers from school year 2008/09.

Initial Destination	Follow Up Destination									Number of leavers
	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Unknown	Excluded ¹	
Higher Education	92.7	1.7	0.1	3.5	0.1	1.6	0.2	-	0.1	18,680
Further Education	2.9	80.4	2.6	5.9	0.1	7.3	0.6	-	0.3	14,466
Training	0.0	6.3	30.3	23.4	0.3	37.9	1.6	-	0.3	2,748
Employment	0.7	1.8	1.7	86.1	0.2	8.4	0.7	-	0.4	9,858
Voluntary Work	3.1	3.9	5.5	27.3	37.5	21.1	1.6	-	-	128
Unemployed Seeking	0.8	5.7	14.6	21.5	0.7	51.6	4.0	-	1.1	6,182
Unemployed Not Seeking	0.8	2.0	4.1	12.0	1.6	16.8	61.8	-	0.8	833
Unknown	10.7	12.1	5.5	12.2	-	20.9	1.6	33.4	3.6	637
Number of Leavers	17,936	12,747	2,370	12,187	153	6,709	1,009	213	208	53,532

1. Leavers who moved outwith Scotland, were deceased or had returned to school between the initial and follow up surveys.

Table 5 - Percentage of school leavers by initial and follow up destination category. Leavers from school year 2007/08.

Initial Destination	Follow Up Destination									Number of leavers
	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Unknown	Excluded ¹	
Higher Education	93.2	0.5	0.1	4.0	0.0	1.8	0.3	-	0.1	18,315
Further Education	1.2	79.1	1.9	7.6	0.1	9.0	0.7	-	0.5	14,609
Training	0.2	5.6	35.1	23.2	0.8	32.9	1.9	-	0.4	2,885
Employment	0.7	1.8	1.9	83.6	0.1	10.8	0.6	-	0.4	14,913
Voluntary Work	1.5	3.8	6.1	16.8	48.1	16.8	5.3	-	1.5	131
Unemployed Seeking	0.5	5.6	12.5	23.7	0.8	51.3	4.8	-	0.8	6,426
Unemployed Not Seeking	0.8	1.9	2.1	10.8	0.6	19.7	62.4	-	1.8	893
Unknown	2.7	6.1	3.0	14.3	0.7	19.8	1.9	48.7	2.8	672
Number of Leavers	17,418	12,505	2,433	16,708	184	7,846	1,182	327	241	58,844

1. Leavers who moved outwith Scotland, were deceased or had returned to school between the initial and follow up surveys.

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Official Statistics Publication

This is an Official 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.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/cop/default.asp

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

2. Sources and Methodology

Information on the follow up destination of leavers from publicly funded schools is provided to the Scottish Government by Skills Development Scotland (SDS). This is the third year that this follow-up survey has been carried out for the purposes of an official statistics publication. SDS conducted the follow up survey during the period 1st March – 1st April 2010.

This survey is a follow-up survey of those young people who were initially surveyed in September 2009 about their destinations after leaving school. The initial destinations data were published in “Destinations of Leavers from Scottish Schools: 2008/09” on 24th November 2009:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/11/20112425/0>

The initial destinations data provides information on the outcomes for young people approximately 3 months after leaving school while the follow up survey provides information on the outcomes of young people approximately 9 months after leaving school. These publications should be seen as complementary to one another but it should be noted that various factors may affect the results at different time periods.

In 2008/09 a new leaver category was added called Personal Skills Development (PSD). In the 2008/09 follow up survey 380 leavers were recoded as PSD. These individuals were mapped to the destination categories on a case by case basis using additional information supplied at the time of interview, 46% were mapped to Unemployed Seeking, 31% to Training and 16% to Unemployed Not Seeking. The Scottish Government are working with SDS to develop a more consistent approach to mapping PSD to destination categories.

During this follow-up survey, SDS were able to follow up 97.3% of all school leavers in 2008/09. For 2.3% statistical methods were used to impute the follow-up destinations of these individuals based on their initial destination and known characteristics of those who were followed up and those who were not. For 0.4% of leavers, Skills Development Scotland had not been able to obtain any destination information at either survey point. These individuals are included in tables 1 and 3 in ‘Other destinations’ at both September and March, consistent with the treatment of unknown destinations in the publication “Destinations of Leavers from Scottish Schools: 2007/08”. There was insufficient information to include them in the imputation set and they are shown in ‘Destination Unknown (both surveys)’ in table 2.

A technical note detailing the process by which follow up leaver destinations were imputed for those who were not followed up is published alongside this statistical publication and is available through:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00821>

All figures in this publication relate to publicly funded secondary schools. The data relate to the destination in March 2010 of those young people who left school in the 2008/09 session.

Percentages may not always total 100 percent due to rounding.

3. School Leavers

A school leaver is classed as a young person of school leaving age who left school during or at the end of the school year, where the school year is taken to run from 1 August to 31 July.

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. If it has been ascertained that the individual has not actually left school they have been excluded from the data in tables 1 and 2 of this publication.

4. Leaver Destination

All destinations are based on self-reporting by school leavers. The following categories for leaver destinations are included in the Statistics Publication Notice.

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>

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 New National Qualifications (Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, the new Higher) which were introduced in 1999/00, Advanced Higher, introduced in 2001, Scottish Certificate of Sixth Year Studies, 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.

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

Training: includes leavers who are on a training course and in receipt of an allowance or grant, such as Skillseekers, but who are not employed. It should

be noted that a large proportion of leavers entering employment may also be participants in training such as Modern Apprenticeships.

Employment: includes those who consider themselves employed, irrespective of the number of hours, and who are in receipt of payment from their employers. It includes young people undertaking training in employment through Skillseekers and Modern Apprenticeships.

Voluntary Work: includes those undertaking voluntary work, paid or unpaid, 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.

Unemployed and seeking employment or training: includes those who are registered with Skill Development Scotland and are known by them to be seeking employment or training. This is based on regular contact between Skill Development Scotland and the client. This does not refer to the definition of 'unemployed' used by the Benefits Agency to calculate published unemployment rates.

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.

Destination unknown (both surveys): includes individuals who were not able to be contacted at either the September or the March/April survey point.

5. Enquiries

Copies of this publication are available on the Scottish Government's website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00821>

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

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APS Group Scotland
DPPAS10270 (06/10)

Technical Note:

Follow Up Survey Of Leavers From Scottish Schools: Leavers From School Year 2008/09

Background

Information on the latest known destination of school leavers in September each year is supplied to the Scottish Government (SG) by Skills Development Scotland (SDS). This is referred to as the school leaver's 'initial destination' roughly 3 months after they left school (although some may have been Christmas leavers thus representing a longer follow up period).

During March and April 2010, Careers Scotland contacted the 2008/09 cohort of leavers from publicly funded schools to update their destination from the initial survey. The results will be used to monitor the national indicator on increasing the proportion of school leavers in sustained positive destinations. This paper sets out the process through which the final estimate for the national indicator was derived.

Data matching

As in previous years the SDS data was matched to pupils census data using the Scottish Candidate Number (SCN) first, and if that was missing, combinations of school code, date of birth, postcode and gender, since these four variables were common to both datasets. Consistent with 2007/08 status 04 pupils (those on the roll of a school but attending a course of Further Education else where) were included and tighter constraints on what was considered a good match were applied, the 2007/08 technical note is available at

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/06/followtech>

The following table shows the results of the matching for 2008/09.

MatchType	Number	%
scn,student		
id,centre,gender,postcode,dob	48,813	91.2
scn ,centre,gender,dob	4,136	7.7
scn ,gender,dob	249	0.5
scn,centre,gender,postcode,dob	159	0.3
No match found	61	0.1
centre,gender,postcode	44	0.1
scn,centre,gender,postcode	25	0.1
scn ,centre,gender	15	0.0
centre,gender,postcode,dob	12	0.0
scn,centre	12	0.0
student id,gender,dob	3	0.0
student id,centre,gender,postcode,dob	2	0.0
scn ,gender,studentid	1	0.0
All	53,532	100.0

- For pupils where no match was found on the census (61), the data reported by SDS on school, gender and postcode was accepted and no attempt was made to assign additional characteristics. A non-match may result from a lack

of information from SDS (not all fields were supplied for all leavers) or because the leavers were not on that year's pupil census (pupils may be omitted if they are not in the school on census day, for instance if they had left school but subsequently returned).

National Indicator Estimate

Creating the dataset

The following table outlines the steps taken to arrive at the final dataset for deriving the national indicator estimate. The matched data gives the number of pupils in valid schools - that is, in publicly funded and grant-maintained secondaries.

Table 2. Numbers for Follow up Analysis

Leaving (number included for initial destinations):	53,532
No. of leavers whose follow up destination was moved outwith Scotland	123
No. of leavers whose follow up destination was deceased	11
No. of leavers whose follow up destination was school pupil	74
No. of leavers in follow up survey	53,324

In the follow up survey, those leavers whose destination was recorded as school pupil have been excluded from the results. The surveys are intended to focus on young people of school leaving age who left school during or at the end of the school year (which is taken to run from 1 August to 31 July). 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 at a later date whether they have effectively left school by 31 July. Where the follow up has established that pupils originally thought to be school leavers are now back in school, such pupils are excluded from the analysis. Other leavers have been excluded from the original data because they are deceased or have moved outwith Scotland prior to the follow up survey.

Imputation for non-follow up

In the initial survey SDS was able to establish the destination of 98.8% of school leavers, and those results were published with the remaining 1.2% stated as 'Unknown'. For the follow up survey, destinations could be established for 97.3% of eligible cases, an improvement on the 94.5% successfully followed up in 2007/08. However, the higher rate of non-response compared to the original destinations survey suggested that follow up destinations should be imputed if analysis suggested that certain groups would be under-represented by only considering cases where a follow up destination is available.

The cases without a valid follow up destination comprised those not followed up: 1,235 leavers with a known initial destination and unknown sustained destination, and 213 with both initial and follow up destinations being unknown. These latter cases are treated as unknowns for sustained destinations.

As the percentage of known destinations was very high, it was decided that a simple imputation method would provide a sufficient adjustment to improve the representativeness of the results.

Analysis of the follow up survey showed that several variables might be related to the likelihood of a successful follow up. Variables were chosen after examining the percentages and numbers followed up by classes of the variable, followed up by chi-square tests of association. Logistic regression was then used to assess models including the chosen variables. The final set of variables used to impute the data were:

- Initial destination
- Match type – those not matched to a record in the pupils census as opposed to those matched
- SIMD ranking recoded to the 20% most deprived datazones and other 80% datazone

The following tables shows the rate of follow up for each initial (detailed) destination, SIMD category and match type.

Table 3: follow up rates

Original Status	Followed Up		Not Followed Up		All Leavers
	Leavers	%	Leavers	%	
Higher Education	18,318	98.2	343	1.8	18,661
Personal/ Skills Development	320	97.6	8	2.4	328
Further Education	14,203	98.5	210	1.5	14,413
Skillseeker Non Employed	133	99.3	1	0.7	134
Get Ready For Work	2,152	98.5	33	1.5	2,185
GRfW Lifeskills	251	98.8	3	1.2	254
Part-time Employment	1,125	96.5	41	3.5	1,166
Employed - without Training	3,415	96.3	133	3.7	3,548
Modern Apprenticeship	2,342	99.3	16	0.7	2,358
Skillseeker Employed	624	99.5	3	0.5	627
Employed - with Training	2,016	96.5	73	3.5	2,089
Self-Employed	29	96.7	1	3.3	30
Voluntary Work	118	94.4	7	5.6	125
Unemployed	5,813	95.7	264	4.3	6,077
Unavailable - Ill Health	105	83.3	21	16.7	126
Economically Inactive	524	89.0	65	11.0	589
Unknown	400	65.1	214	34.9	614
Total	51,888	97.3	1,436	2.7	53,324
SIMD					
Most deprived 20%	11,116	96.2	436	3.8	11,552
Other 80%	40,763	97.6	999	2.4	41,762
Total*	51,879	97.3	1,435	2.7	53,314
Matched to Census					
Match to Census	51,836	97.3	1,429	2.7	53,265
No match	52	88.1	7	11.9	59
Total	51,888	97.3	1,436	2.7	53,324

*Excludes 10 leavers for whom no data could be assigned

Where the initial destination was known, respondents and non-respondents were split into groups by destination, and then again by whether or not matched to the census and by SIMD indicator. This made it possible to determine the distribution of follow up destinations of respondents within each group and randomly allocate follow-up destinations to non-respondents with the same characteristics in the same proportions.

Effects of imputation

The effects of this imputation are shown in the following tables which provide the final published data together with the comparable tables if imputation had not been carried out and only the known follow up destinations had been analysed.

Table 1 (as published – with imputation)

	%
Positive Destinations	85.1
Other Destinations	14.9
Number of Leavers	53,324

Table 1 (known destinations only)

	%
Positive Destinations	85.8
Other Destinations	14.2
Number of Leavers	51,888

Table 2 (as published – with imputation)

Destination	%
Higher Education	33.6
Further Education	23.9
Training	4.4
Employment	22.9
Voluntary Work	0.3
Unemployed Seeking	12.6
Unemployed Not Seeking	1.9
Unknown	0.4
Number of leavers	53,324

Table 2 (known destinations only)

Destination	%
Higher Education	33.9
Further Education	24.2
Training	4.5
Employment	22.9
Voluntary Work	0.3
Unemployed Seeking	12.4
Unemployed Not Seeking	1.8
Number of leavers	51,888

This comparison indicates that the imputation of follow up destinations has had a relatively small effect on the results of the survey. It can be seen from Table 2 that the imputation has produced a small increase in the destination categories which the analysis of follow up rates suggested may have been under-represented in the data, i.e. the various unemployed categories.

Tables of the distributions of follow up destinations by initial destinations for imputed cases and non-imputed cases are given below.

We are confident that by adjusting the data to be more representative of the overall cohort, this imputation has improved the quality of our estimate of the proportion of school leavers in positive and sustained destinations. If you have any comments or questions about the imputation method used in this survey, please contact school.stats@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

IMPUTED ONLY									
Imputed Follow up Destination									
Initial Destination	Higher Education %	Further Education %	Training %	Employment %	Voluntary Work %	Unemployed Seeking %	Unemployed Not Seeking %	Unknown %	Total N
Higher Education	97.4	0.9	-	0.6	0.6	0.6	-	-	343
Further Education	1	91.9	1.4	2.9	0.5	2.4	-	-	210
Training	-	5.1	28.2	15.4	2.6	48.7	-	-	39
Employment	0.4	1.1	0.4	90.3	0.4	7.5	-	-	267
Voluntary Work	14.3	-	-	42.9	42.9	-	-	-	7
Unemployed Seeking	0.8	1.5	6.1	9.8	-	79.9	1.9	-	264
Unemployed Not Seeking	-	1.1	2.2	6.5	8.7	9.8	71.7	-	92
Unknown	-	-	-	0.5	-	-	-	99.5	214
Total	23.7	14.3	2.3	20.3	1.1	18.5	4.9	14.8	1,436

FOLLOWED UP ONLY								
Non-Imputed Follow up Destination								
Initial Destination	Higher Education %	Further Education %	Training %	Employment %	Voluntary Work %	Unemployed Seeking %	Unemployed Not Seeking %	Total N
Higher Education	92.7	1.8	0.1	3.6	0.1	1.6	0.2	18,319
Further Education	2.9	80.4	2.6	6.0	0.0	7.4	0.7	14,213
Training	0.0	6.3	30.4	23.6	0.3	37.8	1.6	2,700
Employment	0.7	1.8	1.7	86.4	0.2	8.5	0.7	9,551
Voluntary Work	2.5	4.1	5.8	26.4	37.2	22.3	1.7	121
Unemployed Seeking	0.8	6.0	15.2	22.2	0.7	51	4.1	5,850
Unemployed Not Seeking	1.0	2.2	4.4	12.8	0.7	17.8	61.2	734
Unknown	17.0	19.3	8.8	19.3	-	33.3	2.5	400
Total	33.9	24.2	4.5	22.9	0.3	12.4	1.8	51,888