



This publication presents information about the outcomes for students who completed their vocational education and training (VET) during 2007. The findings relate to students who were awarded a qualification (graduates), or who successfully completed part of a course and then left the VET system (module completers).



Highlights

Employment

- 80.7% of all graduates and 76.9% of all module completers were employed after their training.
- 48.3% of graduates and 33.3% of module completers who were not employed before training were employed after.
- 17.1% of all graduates and 14.1% of all module completers were employed in their first full-time job after their training.

Relevance to employment

- 75.5% of graduates and 61.6% of module completers employed after training said that their training was highly or somewhat relevant to their current job.
- 73.0% of graduates and 54.0% of module completers employed after training received at least one job-related benefit from their training, such as getting a job or promotion.

Further study

- 32.8% of all graduates were enrolled in further study after their training.
- 89.1% of all graduates were employed or in further study after their training.

Satisfaction

- 89.0% of all graduates and 85.5% of all module completers were satisfied with the overall quality of their training.
- 87.9% of graduates and 82.0% of module completers fully or partly achieved their main reason for doing their training.

Intended occupation

- 30.3% of graduates were employed in the same occupation group as their training course. A further 33.8% were employed in other occupations but found their training relevant.

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An explanation of the terms used in this publication can be found on page 12. For other terms and definitions, refer to the *Terms and definitions* paper at: <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2083.html>.

Introduction

The Student Outcomes Survey focuses on students' employment outcomes and satisfaction with vocational education and training (VET) in Australia. Information about the level and type of training students undertake, further study patterns and reasons for not continuing with the training (where applicable) is also collected.

Scope

The Student Outcomes Survey is an annual survey which covers students who have an Australian address as their usual address and are awarded a qualification (graduates), or who successfully complete part of a course and then leave the VET system (module completers). The scope of the survey is as in figure 1. Students who undertake recreational, leisure or personal enrichment (short) courses are excluded. This scope has been in place since 2005. Prior to 2005, information was only collected from students undertaking Commonwealth and state funded programs through TAFE.

For information about the number of survey respondents and their characteristics, see tables 8 and 9.

Figure 1 Scope of the 2008 Student Outcomes Survey

Funding type	Provider type		
	TAFE and other government providers	Private providers	Community education providers ^(a)
Commonwealth and state funded	✓	✓	✓
Fee-for-service	✓		✓

Note: (a) This information is only collected in New South Wales and Victoria.

Technical notes

Student Outcomes Survey

The Student Outcomes Survey was undertaken as a stratified, randomly selected sample, with survey responses weighted to population benchmarks. As the estimates from the Student Outcomes Survey are based on information provided by a sample rather than a population, they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the estimates that would have been produced if all graduates or module completers had been included and responded to the survey.

The variables within each table are presented as percentages based on the weighted responses.

For more information

For additional data tables from the 2008 Student Outcomes Survey, please refer to <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2083.html>. These data tables include outcome information classified by a greater range of student characteristics, and also contain information at the state level as well as a comparison with previous years. These tables contain the absolute number of responses and the estimated population, as well as confidence intervals.

Employment outcomes

Time series

- The proportion of graduates employed after training was 80.7% in 2008, down from 81.1% in 2007. It is 1.4 percentage points above the 2005 level. Table 2
- In 2008, 48.3% of graduates who were not employed before training were employed after training, 1.2 percentage points lower than in 2007. Table 35
(available online)
- For module completers, the proportion employed after training has increased by 2.6 percentage points since 2007 to 76.9% in 2008. Table 3
- In 2008, 33.3% of module completers who were not employed before training were employed after training, 4.3 percentage points higher than in 2007. Table 36
(available online)

For apprentices and trainees

- 89.2% of graduates who undertook training as part of an apprenticeship or traineeship were employed after training. Table 5
- 93.9% of graduates who undertook training as part of an apprenticeship or traineeship in a trade-related course were employed after training. Table 7
- For graduates who undertook training as part of an apprenticeship or traineeship in a non-trade course, 87.7% were employed after training. Table 7
- Of module completers who undertook training as part of an apprenticeship or traineeship, 75.4% were employed after training. Table 6

By qualification level

- The proportion of graduates employed after training varies by the qualification level of the course they undertook. The rates for certificate I (61.0%) and certificate II (73.1%) are significantly lower than certificate III, certificate IV, and diploma and above qualifications (ranging between 84.7% and 86.0%) Table 5
- Module completers from certificate I and certificate II have lower levels of employment after training (54.5% and 62.0% respectively) compared with certificate III and higher, 'other', statement of attainment and subject-only enrolments (ranging from 73.7% to 84.5%). Table 6

By field of education

- The fields with the highest employment rates for graduates were Education (91.8%), Engineering and related technologies (89.8%), and Architecture and building (also 89.8%). Table 5
- The fields with the lowest employment rates for graduates were Mixed field programs (54.0%) and Creative arts (61.7%). Table 5
- The fields with the highest employment rates for module completers were Health (95.4%), and Architecture and building (86.3%). Table 6
- The fields with the lowest employment rates for module completers were Creative arts and Information technology (both 67.7%). Table 6

Satisfaction with the training

Time series

- 89.0% of graduates were satisfied with the overall quality of their training, with 87.9% of graduates reporting that they had fully or partly achieved their main reason for training. These proportions have grown steadily since 2005. *Table 2*
- The proportion of module completers satisfied with the overall quality of their training has increased from 83.8% in 2007 to 85.5% in 2008. *Table 3*

For apprentices and trainees

- 87.7% of graduates undertaking training as part of an apprenticeship or traineeship were satisfied with their training, with 94.3% achieving their main reason for training. *Table 5*
- For those completing a module as part of their apprenticeship or traineeship, 78.9% were satisfied and 76.5% achieved their main reason for undertaking the training.. *Table 6*

By qualification level

- More graduates who completed a certificate I, II or III were satisfied with their training (ranging from 89.2% to 92.9% satisfied) than graduates who completed a certificate IV, diploma or above (ranging from 85.0% to 86.6%). *Table 5*
- More module completers from 'other', statement of attainment and subject-only enrolments were satisfied with their training (ranging from 89.5% to 90.3%) than module completers from qualification-level courses (ranging from 69.4% to 79.7%). *Table 6*

By field of education

- The fields with the highest proportion of satisfied graduates were Natural and physical sciences (93.8%), and Society and culture (90.5%). *Table 5*
- The fields with the lowest proportion of satisfied graduates were Education (84.5%) and Creative arts (86.1%). *Table 5*
- The fields with the highest proportion of satisfied module completers were subject-only enrolments (89.5%), Health and Mixed field programs (both 88.0%). *Table 6*
- The fields with the lowest proportion of satisfied module completers were Creative arts (73.9%), Management and commerce (77.7%), and Society and culture (also 77.7%). *Table 6*

Intended occupation and training relevance

- Overall, 30.3% of graduates were employed in the same occupation group as their training course. Another 33.8% were employed in other occupations but found their training relevant. 16.8% were employed in other occupations and found their training not relevant to their current job. *Table 7*
- 78.9% of graduates who undertook training as part of an apprenticeship or traineeship in a trade-related course were employed in the same occupation as the training course. *Table 7*
- Of the graduates who undertook training as part of an apprenticeship or traineeship in a non-trade course, 37.6% were employed in the same occupation group as the training course. *Table 7*

Tables

Table I Key findings for graduates and module completers, 2008

	Graduates %	Module completers %
Employment and further study outcomes		
<i>After training (as at 30 May 2008)</i>		
Employed	80.7	76.9
Not employed ¹	19.3	23.1
Unemployed	9.2	9.0
Not in the labour force	9.7	13.4
Employed before training	74.0	75.0
Difference in proportion employed from before training to after	6.7	1.9
Not employed before commencing the training and employed after	12.5	8.3
Employed in first full-time job after training ²	17.1	14.1
Employed or in further study after training ^{2,3}	89.1	79.3
Enrolled in further study after training ^{2,3}	32.8	4.0
Studying at university ²	6.9	4.0
Studying at TAFE institute ²	17.8	na
Studying at private provider or other registered provider ²	7.8	na
Training		
Reasons for undertaking the training		
Employment-related outcome	77.6	68.8
Further study outcome	4.5	2.2
Personal development outcome	17.8	29.0
Training was part of an apprenticeship or traineeship ²	25.7	9.0
Satisfaction outcomes		
Satisfied with the overall quality of training	89.0	85.5
Fully or partly achieved their main reason for doing the training	87.9	82.0
Benefits of training		
Of those employed at May 2008		
Reported that the training was highly or somewhat relevant to their current job	75.5	61.6
Received at least one job-related benefit	73.0	54.0

For Notes on tables, see page 12, or <http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistics/surveys/sos08/tables_notes.pdf>.

Table 2 Percentage of graduates by key outcome measures, 2005–08

	2005	2006	2007	2008
	%	%	%	%
All TAFE providers				
Employed after training	78.5	79.0	80.2	79.8
Not employed before commencing the training and employed after ¹	12.8	12.8	12.4	12.4
Employed or in further study after training ²	88.4	87.4	88.7	88.9
Enrolled in further study after training ²	33.0	31.0	31.2	33.6
Fully or partly achieved main reason for doing the training	85.1	85.6	86.4	87.3
Satisfied with the overall quality of training	87.9	88.1	89.1	89.2
All VET providers				
Employed after training	79.3	79.6	81.1	80.7
Not employed before commencing the training and employed after ¹	12.7	13.0	12.8	12.5
Employed or in further study after training ²	88.7	87.8	89.2	89.1
Enrolled in further study after training ²	31.6	30.2	30.8	32.8
Fully or partly achieved main reason for doing the training	86.0	86.5	86.7	87.9
Satisfied with the overall quality of training	87.1	88.1	88.8	89.0

For Notes on tables, see page 12, or <http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistics/surveys/sos08/tables_notes.pdf>.

Table 3 Percentage of module completers by key outcome measures, 2005–08

	2005	2006	2007	2008
	%	%	%	%
All TAFE providers				
Employed after training	77.1	77.6	76.8	78.7
Not employed before commencing the training and employed after ¹	7.9	7.5	7.6	7.6
Employed or in further study after training ^{2,3}	78.5	79.1	78.1	79.5
Enrolled in further study after training ^{2,3}	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.1
Fully or partly achieved main reason for doing the training	81.9	79.5	79.7	81.8
Satisfied with the overall quality of training	84.7	84.0	83.8	85.5
All VET providers				
Employed after training	75.9	74.6	74.3	76.9
Not employed before commencing the training and employed after ¹	7.8	7.4	7.6	8.3
Employed or in further study after training ^{2,3}	78.5	78.5	77.8	79.3
Enrolled in further study after training ^{2,3}	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.0
Fully or partly achieved main reason for doing the training	82.8	81.6	80.4	82.0
Satisfied with the overall quality of training	85.0	84.7	83.8	85.5

For Notes on tables, see page 12, or <http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistics/surveys/sos08/tables_notes.pdf>.

Table 4 Key findings for graduates and module completers by state/territory, 2008

	Australia	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
Graduates									
Respondents	22 205	4 802	6 243	5 540	1 006	2 125	1 164	686	639
Estimated population	469 700	143 290	135 690	88 580	27 500	45 180	16 250	7 050	6 180
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Employed after training	80.7	76.0	81.8	83.8	85.9	81.8	82.8	80.3	85.0
Not employed before commencing the training and employed after ¹	12.5	12.3	13.6	11.8	14.9	11.8	10.1	9.4	8.7
Employed or in further study after training ²	89.1	87.1	90.3	88.8	91.9	90.7	90.1	87.2	91.0
Enrolled in further study after training ²	32.8	37.1	32.1	26.5	33.6	33.8	31.1	32.6	38.1
Fully or partly achieved main reason for doing the training	87.9	85.8	88.3	89.0	87.5	89.5	90.6	91.7	87.6
Satisfied with the overall quality of training	89.0	89.7	88.1	87.7	91.9	89.6	91.6	85.4	89.3
Module completers									
Respondents	6 857	1 703	1 981	1 440	343	685	397	162	146
Estimated population	342 670	125 910	121 550	40 420	21 700	19 970	6 580	3 450	3 100
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Employed after training	76.9	72.0	81.0	77.1	78.5	79.9	78.9	76.0	80.3
Not employed before commencing the training and employed after ¹	8.3	8.7	7.2	9.7	11.0	6.1	7.4	6.9*	10.0
Employed or in further study after training ^{2,3}	79.3	73.5	85.9	77.9	79.5	80.5	80.9	76.8	81.0
Enrolled in further study after training ^{2,3}	4.0	3.3	4.8	3.9	3.7*	3.7	4.4	6.9*	7.6*
Fully or partly achieved main reason for doing the training	82.0	79.1	85.1	79.6	87.4	81.9	79.9	86.4	73.9
Satisfied with the overall quality of training	85.5	85.2	87.6	81.3	88.3	81.9	85.2	87.0	73.2

For Notes on tables, see page 12, or <http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistics/surveys/sos08/tables_notes.pdf>.

Table 5 Findings for graduates by various training characteristics, 2008

	Employed after training	Difference in proportion employed from before training to after	Employed or in further study	Fully or partly achieved their main reason for doing the training	Satisfied with the overall quality of training
	%	%	%	%	%
Field of education					
Natural and physical sciences	73.6	11.0	94.0	82.4	93.8
Information technology	64.3	14.1	83.8	79.7	87.2
Engineering and related technologies	89.8	7.5	92.6	90.7	89.1
Architecture and building	89.8	12.9	94.0	92.6	89.1
Agriculture, environmental and related studies	84.5	4.3	91.0	90.4	90.2
Health	89.0	4.3	93.3	91.1	87.7
Education	91.8	2.5	94.4	87.6	84.5
Management and commerce	78.7	3.8	88.9	84.6	88.3
Society and culture	81.5	10.5	89.6	89.4	90.5
Creative arts	61.7	-2.4	84.0	81.4	86.1
Food, hospitality and personal services	79.0	7.4	86.0	88.5	90.2
Mixed field programs	54.0	12.1	75.3	87.7	90.4
Qualification					
Diploma and above	84.7	3.1	93.2	85.8	85.0
Certificate IV	84.7	1.0	93.7	86.6	86.6
Certificate III	86.0	9.0	91.5	90.9	89.2
Certificate II	73.1	7.0	83.1	85.7	91.1
Certificate I	61.0	13.7	76.3	85.5	92.9
Training was part of an apprenticeship or traineeship					
Yes	89.2	11.3	93.2	94.3	87.7
No	77.8	4.7	87.7	85.5	89.2
Reasons for undertaking the training					
Employment-related outcome	85.6	7.1	91.8	86.3	88.9
Further study outcome	61.3	0.8	90.4	91.1	88.7
Personal development outcome	65.1	6.0	78.5	93.1	88.8
All graduates	80.7	6.7	89.1	87.9	89.0

For Notes on tables, see page 12, or <http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistics/surveys/sos08/tables_notes.pdf>.

Table 6 Findings for module completers by various training characteristics, 2008

	Employed after training	Difference in proportion employed from before training to after	Employed or in further study ³	Fully or partly achieved their main reason for doing the training	Satisfied with the overall quality of training
	%	%	%	%	%
Field of education					
Natural and physical sciences	76.5	-3.0	78.3	80.3	87.2
Information technology	67.7	5.3	69.3	74.0	79.8
Engineering and related technologies	83.4	-0.3	84.2	86.2	87.6
Architecture and building	86.3	1.2	86.6	84.8	87.3
Agriculture, environmental and related studies	81.6	1.3	82.5	86.9	86.4
Health	95.4	2.7	94.9	88.8	88.0
Education	78.7	-1.1	78.8	88.0	84.8
Management and commerce	74.5	0.4	75.8	73.1	77.7
Society and culture	73.5	3.0	76.0	75.2	77.7
Creative arts	67.7	8.0	69.8	75.9	73.9
Food, hospitality and personal services	76.2	-0.1	76.6	80.1	87.4
Mixed field programs	71.1	4.8	72.3	80.2	88.0
Subject-only enrolment	74.0	1.4	85.5	86.8	89.5
Qualification					
Diploma and above	77.0	1.8	79.0	70.6	71.6
Certificate IV	81.7	9.3	82.0	69.3	69.4
Certificate III	73.7	2.2	75.0	71.0	77.3
Certificate II	62.0	1.8	62.3	74.0	79.7
Certificate I	54.5	6.8	51.5	69.0	79.3
Other ⁴	84.5	0.8	85.5	87.8	90.3
Statement of attainment	75.6	1.2	74.9	85.0	90.0
Subject-only enrolment	74.0	1.4	85.5	86.8	89.5
Training was part of an apprenticeship or traineeship					
Yes	75.4	1.3	75.6	76.5	78.9
No	78.7	1.3	79.6	81.9	85.7
Reasons for undertaking the training					
Employment-related outcome	84.2	2.1	85.0	79.7	84.8
Further study outcome	55.1	-2.0	60.5	72.0	86.1
Personal development outcome	62.2	0.9	66.3	88.8	87.7
Reasons for not continuing training					
Of those not continuing training					
Got what they wanted from training	84.4	2.4	86.5	94.1	92.3
Changed jobs or started a new job	82.3	8.9	82.1	73.5	77.4
Training did not meet needs or other training-related reasons	66.1	2.1	69.0	59.0	60.2
Personal reasons	59.3	1.6	60.8	68.1	81.3
Other reasons	67.5	5.7	69.4	70.9	82.0
All module completers	76.9	1.9	79.3	82.0	85.5

For Notes on tables, see page 12, or <http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistics/surveys/sos08/tables_notes.pdf>.

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Table 7 Occupational destination and training relevance for graduates² by various training characteristics, 2008

	Employed			Occupation after training not known	Total employed ⁶	Not employed ¹	Total
	In same occupation group ⁵ (as training course)	In different occupation group (to training course)					
		Training was highly or somewhat relevant to current job	Training was of very little relevance or not at all relevant to current job				
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Intended occupation of training activity⁵							
Managers	10.7	54.4	15.6	1.6*	82.2	17.8	100
Professionals	20.7	40.4	21.4	0.6*	83.1	16.9	100
Technicians and trades workers	54.2	21.7	11.2	1.1	88.1	11.9	100
Community and personal service workers	37.4	22.1	19.3	0.9	79.9	20.1	100
Clerical and administrative workers	13.5	41.4	17.0	1.3	73.4	26.6	100
Sales workers	36.3	33.1	13.9	1.0*	84.5	15.5	100
Machinery operators and drivers	22.7	51.9	18.0	1.8*	94.4	5.6	100
Labourers	21.8	38.3	19.5	1.2*	81.0	19.0	100
Training was part of an apprenticeship or traineeship							
In a trade occupation course ⁷	78.9	10.5	3.9	0.6*	93.9	6.1	100
In a non-trade occupation course	37.6	37.7	11.4	0.8*	87.7	12.3	100
All graduates⁸	30.3	33.8	16.8	1.1	82.1	17.9	100

For Notes on tables, see page 12, or <http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistics/surveys/sos08/tables_notes.pdf>.

Table 8 Number of respondents and the estimated population of graduates and module completers by key characteristics, 2008

Student characteristics	Graduates		Module completers	
	Respondents	Estimated population	Respondents	Estimated population
Age				
15–24 years	9 017	192 360	1 748	80 530
25–44 years	7 545	167 020	2 450	130 110
45 years and over	5 546	107 420	2 534	124 130
Female	12 865	236 780	3 583	165 160
Indigenous	634	12 890	170	8 270
With a disability	1 902	40 320	702	35 340
Speak a language other than English at home	3 905	85 820	1 204	53 960
From remote/very remote areas	1 002	21 940	358	16 720
Highest qualification before training				
Certificate IV or higher	5 930	111 450	2 322	102 910
Certificate III	2 912	66 730	864	45 380
Certificate I/certificate II	2 751	56 850	508	24 540
Senior secondary	4 772	104 840	1 224	62 310
Miscellaneous education ⁹	5 320	114 270	1 590	82 370
Unknown	520	15 570	349	25 170
Total	22 205	469 700	6 857	342 670

For Notes on tables, see page 12, or <http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistics/surveys/sos08/tables_notes.pdf>.

Table 9 Number of respondents and the estimated population of graduates and module completers by state/territory, 2008

State/territory where study was completed	Graduates		Module completers	
	Respondents	Estimated population	Respondents	Estimated population
New South Wales	4 802	143 290	1 703	125 910
Victoria	6 243	135 690	1 981	121 550
Queensland	5 540	88 580	1 440	40 420
South Australia	1 006	27 500	343	21 700
Western Australia	2 125	45 180	685	19 970
Tasmania	1 164	16 250	397	6 580
Northern Territory	686	7 050	162	3 450
Australian Capital Territory	639	6 180	146	3 100
Australia	22 205	469 700	6 857	342 670

Terms

For more information, please see *Technical notes, Terms and definitions*, and other supporting documents at <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2083.html>.

All TAFE providers refers to technical and further education institutes (TAFE).

All VET providers refers to all types of training providers (including TAFE institutes and other government, private and community education providers).

Graduates refers to students who are reported as completing all requirements for a qualification or students who self-identify as having completed all requirements.

Module completers refers to those students who successfully completed part of a qualification and then left the VET system. It is important to note that, at the time of sample selection, insufficient information was available to identify 'actual' module completers. Instead, a sample of potential module completers was chosen, which includes continuing students and graduates. The exact status of respondents is determined at the time of the survey through the information provided on the survey form.

'Satisfied with the overall quality of training' means that the respondent 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' on a 5-point scale with the statement: 'Overall, I was satisfied with the quality of the training'.

Notes on tables

* The estimate has a relative standard error greater than 25% and therefore should be used with caution.

na Not applicable.

1 Not employed is defined as unemployed (looking for full-time or part-time work), not in the labour force, or not employed (no further information).

2 These questions are not asked of students from community education providers. Therefore, the percentage reported represents the proportion of graduates, or module completers, respectively, excluding those from community education providers.

3 For module completers, the only further study included is university study as, by definition, module completers have left the VET system.

4 This includes bridging and enabling courses, Years 11 and 12, education not elsewhere identified and non-award courses.

5 Occupation is defined by the Australian and New Zealand Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO 2006). This is an Australian Bureau of Statistics classification that identifies occupations according to their primary purpose. Matching between intended and destination occupation occurs at the ANZSCO sub-major group level.

6 Total includes instances where training relevance is not known.

7 A trade course has an intended occupation code corresponding to 'Technicians and trades workers'.

8 Totals exclude students from community education providers (for whom occupation after training is not captured). Also excluded are a small number of students with an unknown intended ANZSCO. As a result, figures for 'Total employed' and 'Not employed' differ from those contained within other tables where the base is all graduates.

9 Includes statement of attainment, certificates of competency, pre-vocational training and secondary schooling up to and including Year 10.