

QuickRead: School Leaver Destinations

QuickReads

In our QuickReads series we summarise the headline facts and figures around useful topics for SDS staff. We've used evidence from official sources, but have focused on the key messages. More information on the issues presented in the series can be found in the labour market reports in the 'Knowledge' section of the Skills Development Scotland website.

This QuickRead provides information on school leaver destinations in 2009-10.

Summary

- In 2009-10, 87 per cent of school leavers entered positive destinations (higher education, further education, employment, voluntary work or training). This is up slightly from 86 per cent on 2008-09 and 2007-08.
- There has been a rise in the proportion of young people entering further or higher education – from 56 per cent in 2007-08 and 62 per cent in 2008-09 to 63 per cent in 2009-10.
- There has also been a slight fall in the proportion who are unemployed and seeking employment or training from 12 per cent in 2008-09 to 11 per cent in 2009-10.
- The percentage of school leavers entering employment has increased very slightly but is still at a 20-year low.
- The number of job vacancies relative to the number of school leavers has fallen slightly. This reflects a continued deterioration in labour market conditions since the recession.

1. Where do School Leavers go?

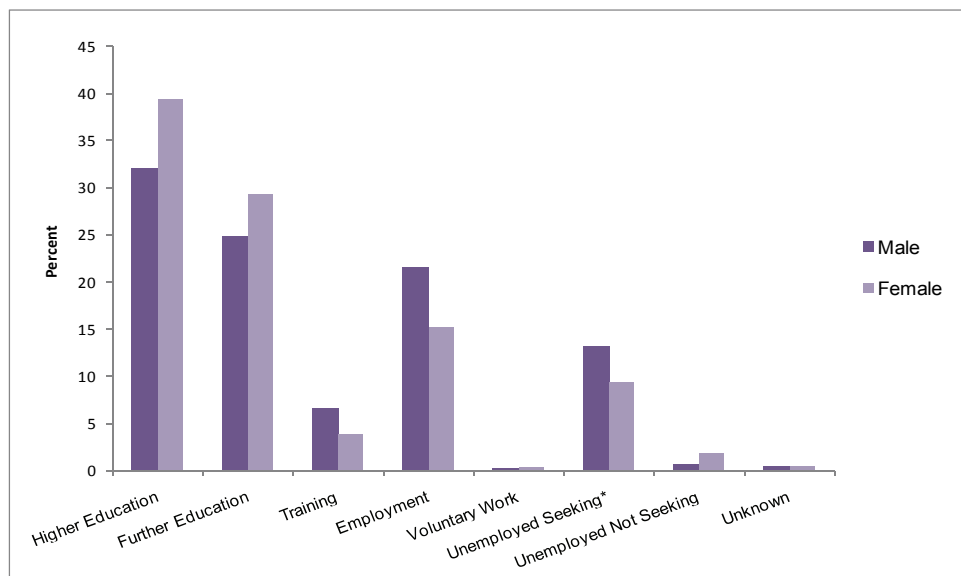
Figure 1 shows that in 2009-10, the most common destination for both male and female school leavers was higher education, followed by further education.

A substantial number of school leavers entered employment on leaving school, although this proportion has fallen over time.

There remains a residual of school leavers who are unemployed and seeking employment and training.

Female school leavers are more likely to enter HE or FE, male school leavers more likely to enter employment, training or unemployment.

Figure 1: Percentage of School Leavers from Publicly Funded Secondary Schools by Destination & Gender: 2009-10



Source: *Destinations of leavers from Scottish schools, 2009-10*, Scottish Government, December 2010.

2. Which school leavers are most at risk of unemployment?

The destination survey shows that in 2009-10, school leavers from certain groups were most likely to enter non-positive destinations on leaving school. These were people:

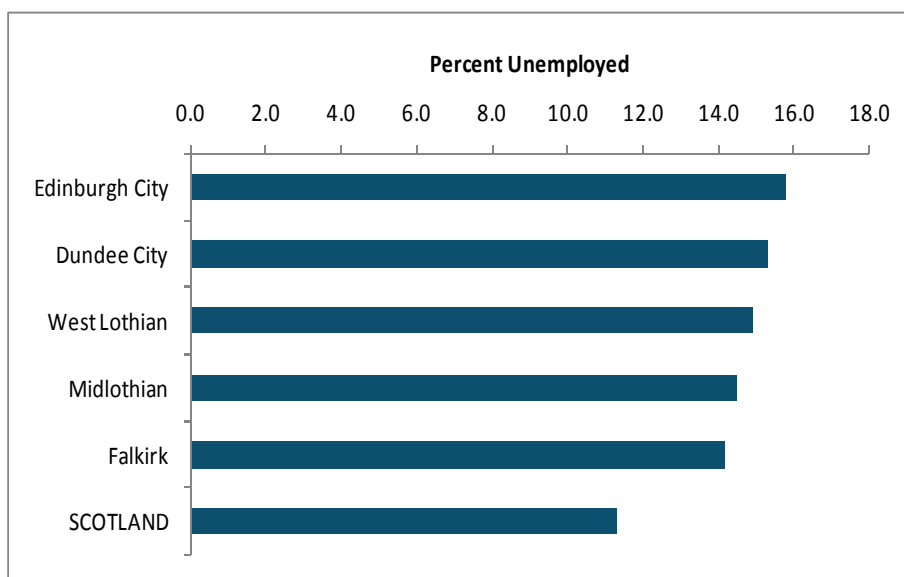
- Resident in deprived areas
- Having a Co-ordinated Support Plan, Individualised Educational Programme or other support need.
- Having been looked after by the local authority
- Registered for free school meals

3. Where is school leaver unemployment concentrated?

Figure 2 shows the top 5 local authority areas with the highest percentage of school leavers unemployed and seeking employment, and compares these with the Scottish average. These are not all areas with high unemployment rates, so other factors must be at work. Possible reasons include increasing competition for college places as more school leavers choose to enter FE/HE, or that better qualified/more experienced people are competing for vacancies.

In general the areas with the highest percentage of *positive* destinations were rural (e.g. Eilean Siar, Orkney). This is partly due to more school leavers entering employment, a reflection of closer ties with local industries. There are also some more urban areas with high positive destination rates, reflecting more school leavers entering HE/FE.

Figure 2: Concentration of Unemployment, 2009-10 (%)



Source: Jobcentre Plus (NOMIS), *Destinations of leavers from Scottish schools, 2009-10*, Scottish Government, December 2010.

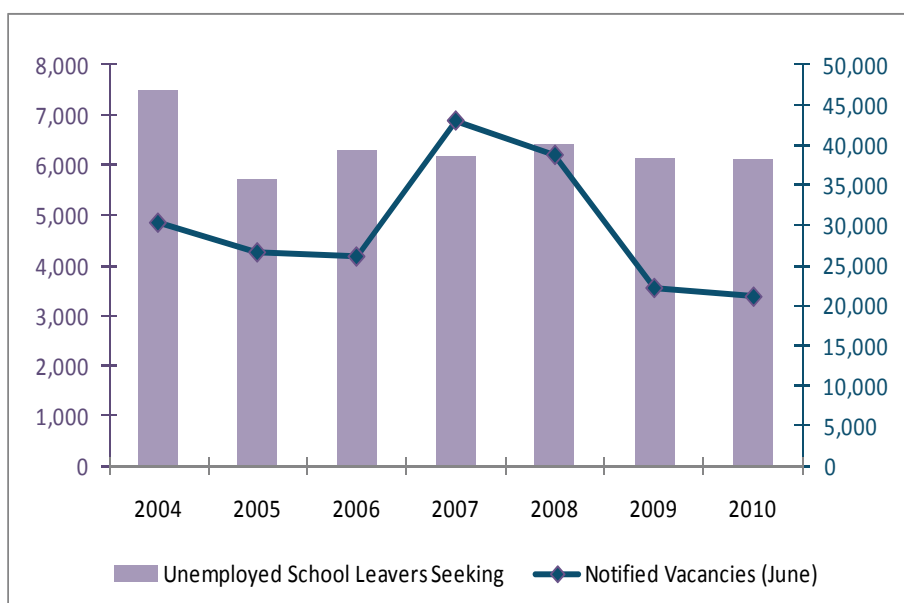
4. Are there more opportunities now?

The impact of the current recession has meant a fall in the employment opportunities available to school leavers.

Figure 3 shows the number of unemployed school leavers seeking employment and training (left axis) and the number of vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in June each year (right axis) over 2004-10.

Although the number of school leavers seeking employment and training fell slightly over 2009-10, the number of vacancies fell *more quickly*. This highlights increasing competition for each vacancy.

Figure 3: Unemployed School Leavers and Notified Vacancies, 2004-10



Source: Jobcentre Plus (NOMIS), *Destinations of leavers from Scottish schools, 2009-10*, Scottish Government, December 2010.