Leaver Initial Destinations – Increased post-school participation

This guide provides an overview of the initial destination measure, which includes the definition of leavers cohort, examples of each destination and the application of filters for cohort selection.

The Leaver Initial Destinations measure is useful when trying to understand which learner journeys through your Senior Phase lead to positive initial destinations and which do not, especially when used with other data sources, such as the Participation Measure.

Additional Information):
Initial Destinations of Senior Phase School Leavers Results
Skills Development Scotland: Leavers' Destinations
Insight Help & Support (Technical Guidance / Step By Step Guide)

Navigation

Benchmarking ► National Benchmarking Measure: Leaver Initial Destinations

Information on Leavers Initial Destinations is available within an establishment's National Dashboard and provides the overall percentage of positive destinations in comparison to Virtual Comparator Establishment, Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC), Local Authority and National values. An example is shown below:
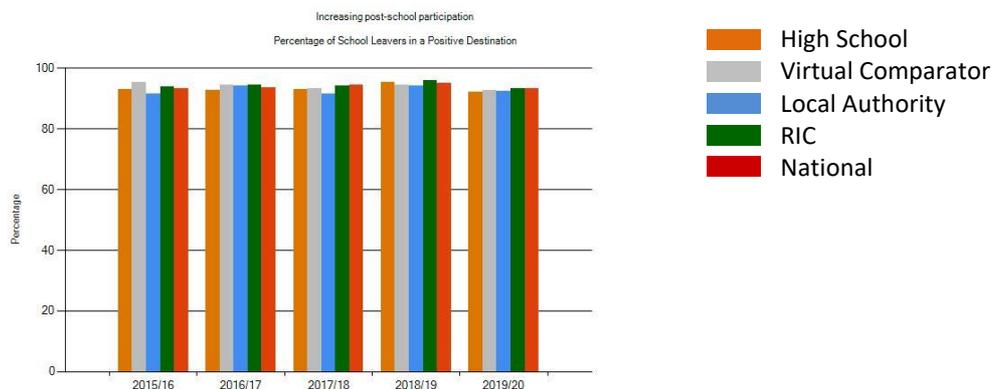
Users are also able to view the detailed destination information by clicking on the Explore different breakdowns button above the chart

View Options	Change Options	Explore different breakdowns ▾	Help with this measure
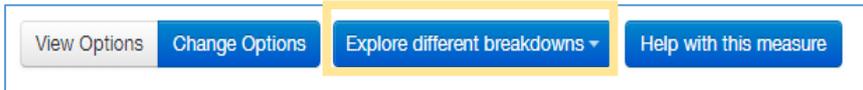
Both positive and non-positive destinations are separated by category.

Using Filters

Users can further examine the destinations data by using filters to form sub-cohorts of leavers e.g. by sex, ASN status, stage and SIMD. Filters can be selected by clicking

[Change Options]   towards the top left of the screen.

Some examples of questions that filters would allow you to explore are:

How do the boys' destinations compare to those of the girls? (Filter by Sex)

What do the leavers' destinations from S4, from S5 and S6 tell us about how well the needs of these different groups are being met? (Filter by Stage)

How are learner journeys culminating at highest SCQF level 4/5/6/7 leading to the most appropriate positive destination? (Filter by Highest SCQF Level Course Attained)
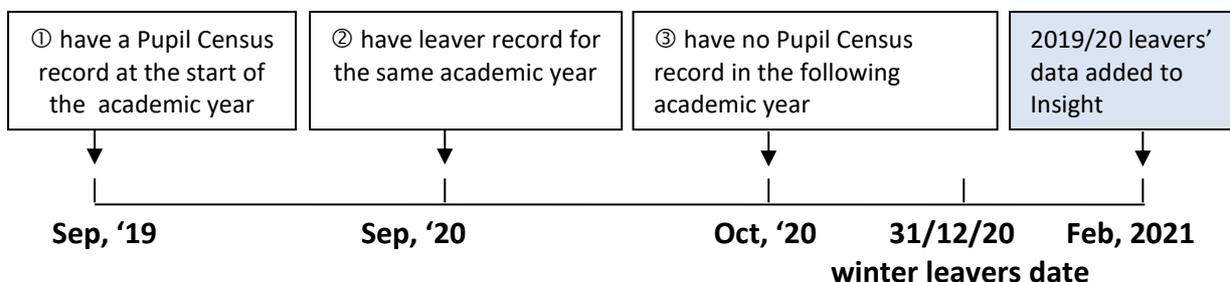
How well do we support learners with additional support needs to access sustained positive destinations? (Filter by ASN)

The Leavers Cohort

A young person who left school during the senior phase (S4-S6) is classified as a school leaver. The leavers cohort is identified by the records in both Pupil Census and the shared Opportunities for All dataset managed by Skills Development Scotland.

Example:

If S4/S5/S6 pupils match all criteria ① ② ③ below, they will be included in the 2019/20 Leavers cohort and their data will be updated in February, 2021

① have a Pupil Census record at the start of the academic year	② have leaver record for the same academic year	③ have no Pupil Census record in the following academic year	2019/20 leavers' data added to Insight

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Sep, '19          Sep, '20                  Oct, '20    31/12/20    Feb, 2021
                                                      winter leavers date
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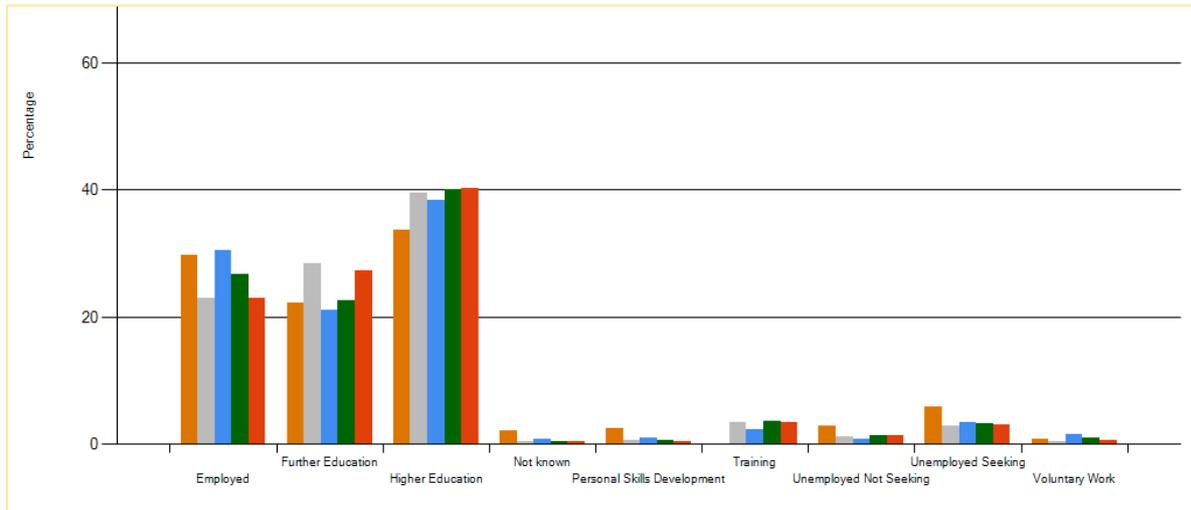
Winter Leavers
Young people in S5 who have a leaving date of 31st December are classed as Winter Leavers. As they were on the school roll at the time of the September census, Insight will not recognise them as leavers in the current session; they will not form part of the Leavers

cohort in the February immediately following their school leaving date . They will, however, be included in the leavers cohort in the following year.

Categories of Destination

Each category of destination is classified as either positive or non-positive. Each leaver's category will be determined by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) staff in direct discussion with the school leaver. SDS staff make the decision on the most appropriate category to be used for any given situation. In cases where a leaver has two destinations, SDS staff will decide on the most appropriate category to be used.

Examples are given below:

Category	Classification	Comments / Examples
Activity Agreement	Positive	• Only used when a leaver is undertaking a specific Activity Agreement after leaving school *(category not used from Feb 2020 Update onwards)*
Personal Skills Development	Positive	• Only used when a leaver is undertaking a specific Personal Skills Development activity after leaving school *Category (used from Feb 2020 Update onwards)*
Employed	Positive	• Most Full/Part-time paid employment • Apprenticeships at all levels • Self-Employment • This category may not be used when the leaver declares that the employment is e.g. casual, low hours, weekend only and the leaver is seeking a destination in another category *This category would not be used when a leaver has a part time job in addition to Further of Higher Education*
Further Education	Positive	• Non-school education at SCQF Level 6 and below • National Certificate Courses • Pre-Apprenticeship courses • Transition to college programmes
Higher Education	Positive	• Non-school education at SCQF Level 7 and above • HNC, HND, Undergraduate Degree Courses • Professional Qualifications • Leavers undertaking an un-programmed gap year with an unconditional deferred place in a positive destination
Training	Positive	• Used when a leaver is undertaking an employability training programme which has a formal attendance arrangement and provides the trainees with an allowance/grant. May be funded by SDS, Local Authorities, Community Jobs Scotland etc.

		• Also used when a leaver is in receipt of a scholarship/sponsorship involving a vocational/sporting activity. • Those receiving a scholarship or sponsorship to concentrate on vocational/sporting activity will be included here. This status would only include individuals who have a non-employed status but the individual is receiving external funding to participate in the activity.
Voluntary Work	Positive	• Unpaid work with Third sector organisations • Leavers undertaking a gap year with a recognised third sector organisation and having an unconditional deferred place in a different positive destination category
Unemployed Not Seeking	Non-Positive	*Used when a leaver has a barrier to reaching a positive destination. SDS will continue to engage with a leaver in this category. Examples include:* • Medical e.g. broken leg, recovering from surgery, mental health (including locked wards) • Is pregnant or a young mother • In prison, young offenders institute or similar
Unemployed Seeking	Non-Positive	*Used when support is being provided to a leaver by SDS to enter a positive destination. Support might include Coaching, Interview Practice, confidence building, application support etc. Also used for:* • Leavers undertaking an un-programmed gap year without an unconditional deferred place in a different positive destination category • Leavers taking time out to travel
Not Known	Non-Positive	• SDS unable to contact with leaver to establish destination

Reflective Questions

How does Insight information on initial candidate destinations compare with sustained destinations information obtained from other sources?

Where learners enter Further Education as a positive destination, how well did this represent progression from the school's senior phase?

How effective are the opportunities we provide for young people to discuss their progress with key adults in supporting continuity in learning at transition to their positive destination?

How well does our work with partners, businesses and stakeholders ensure positive outcomes for our young people?

How well are we removing barriers to learning and ensuring equity for all in reaching an appropriate positive destination?

Do young people make effective use of relevant digital and online resources to help them make informed decisions about future pathways?

Are young people aware of remote working opportunities available using digital technologies?