

## CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

# Initial Destinations of Senior Phase School Leavers

**No. 1: 2017 Edition**

**7th March 2017**

This annual statistical publication provides information on initial destinations of senior phase school leavers for 2015/16 and time series data for 2011/12 to 2014/15.

Supplementary data tables can be found at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Datasets>

Requests for further or additional analysis can be e-mailed to:

[Insight@gov.scot](mailto:Insight@gov.scot)

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# 1. Introduction

1.1. This publication presents data on initial destinations of leavers from local authority and grant aided schools in Scotland. Data is only presented on pupils leaving during the senior phase (S4-S6) and does not include pupils attending special schools.

1.2. Information on the initial destinations of school leavers is provided from the Opportunities for All shared dataset managed by Skills Development Scotland (SDS). The initial destinations data presented in this publication provides information on the outcomes for young people as recorded in October 2016, approximately three months after leaving school.

1.3. Initial destinations data from SDS is matched to the Scottish Government's (SG) pupil census in order to identify the cohort of senior phase school leavers from local authority or grant aided secondary schools. A pupil is counted as a school leaver if they have a leaver record in SDS's data, a pupil census record for the same academic year, and no pupil census record in the following academic year.

1.4. The cohorts of school leavers presented in this publication are consistent with the data presented in the education benchmarking tool 'Insight' and the Education Scotland 'Parentzone' website. These cohorts differ from the former SDS publication "Initial School Leaver Destinations" which included all leavers from publicly funded secondary schools and was published for the final time in December 2015. For more information on the cohort definition and how this differs from the SDS cohort please see background note 5.2.

1.5. For the purposes of this publication school leavers who are engaged in higher education, further education, training, voluntary work, employment or activity agreements are classified as having a 'positive destination'. Other initial destinations include school leavers who are unemployed not seeking employment or training, unemployed seeking employment or training, and individuals where their initial destination is not known. For full definitions of leaver destinations please see background note 5.3.

1.6. This bulletin includes data on 52,249 senior phase school leavers from local authority and grant aided secondary schools in 2015/16.

## 2. National Trends in Initial Destinations of Senior Phase School Leavers

- 93.3 percent of 2015/16 senior phase school leavers were in a positive destination approximately three months after leaving school (compared to 93.0 percent in 2014/15).
- The percentage of leavers in a positive initial destination has increased over the five year period from 2011/12 when 90.1 percent of leavers were in a positive destination.
- 66.9 percent of school leavers continued their education within Higher or Further Education establishments in 2015/16 (66.5 percent in 2014/15).
- There has been a decrease in the percentage of leavers entering training (2.6 percent in 2015/16 compared to 3.8 percent in 2014/15).
- 5.1 percent of leavers are unemployed and seeking employment or training (5.4 percent in 2014/15). There has been a downward trend over the last five years.

### 2.1. Comparison to previous year

2.1.1. The percentage of senior phase school leavers in a positive initial destination has marginally increased to 93.3 percent in 2015/16 compared to 93.0 percent in 2014/15.

2.1.2. There has been a 1.5 percentage point increase in leavers continuing to Higher Education (40.3 percent in 2015/16 compared to 38.8 percent in 2014/15) but a 1 percentage point drop in leavers continuing on to further education (26.6 percent in 2015/16 compared to 27.6 percent in 2014/15).

2.1.3. There has been a 1.2 percentage point drop in the percentage of school leavers in training (2.6 percent in 2015/16 compared to 3.8 percent in 2014/15).

2.1.4. The percentage of school leavers who are unemployed and not seeking training or employment has slightly increased since last year (1.3 percent in 2015/16 compared to 1.1 percent in 2014/15).

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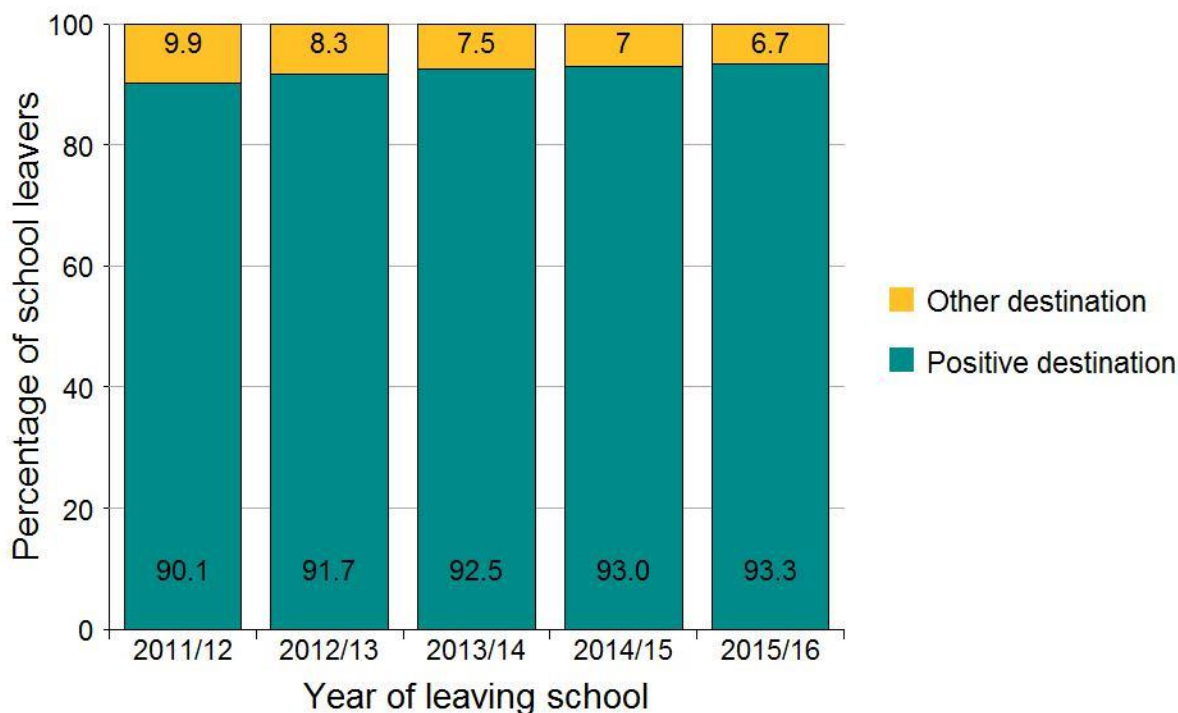
**Table 1: Comparison of initial destinations in 2014/15 and 2015/16**

Destination	2014/15 percent	2015/16 percent	Percentage point change
Further Education	27.6	26.6	-1.0
Higher Education	38.8	40.3	1.5
Employed	21.4	22.3	0.9
Training	3.8	2.6	-1.2
Voluntary Work	0.4	0.5	0.1
Activity Agreement	0.9	1.0	0.1
Unemployed Seeking	5.4	5.1	-0.3
Unemployed Not Seeking	1.1	1.3	0.2
Not known	0.5	0.2	-0.3
<b>Any positive destination</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Number of school leavers</b>	<b>52,433</b>	<b>52,249</b>	

## **2.2. Initial destinations of school leavers, 2011/12 to 2015/16**

2.2.1. The next section provides information about the trend in initial destinations over the five year period from 2011/12 to 2015/16.

**Chart 1. Positive/Other initial destinations by year of leaving (2011/12-2015/16)**



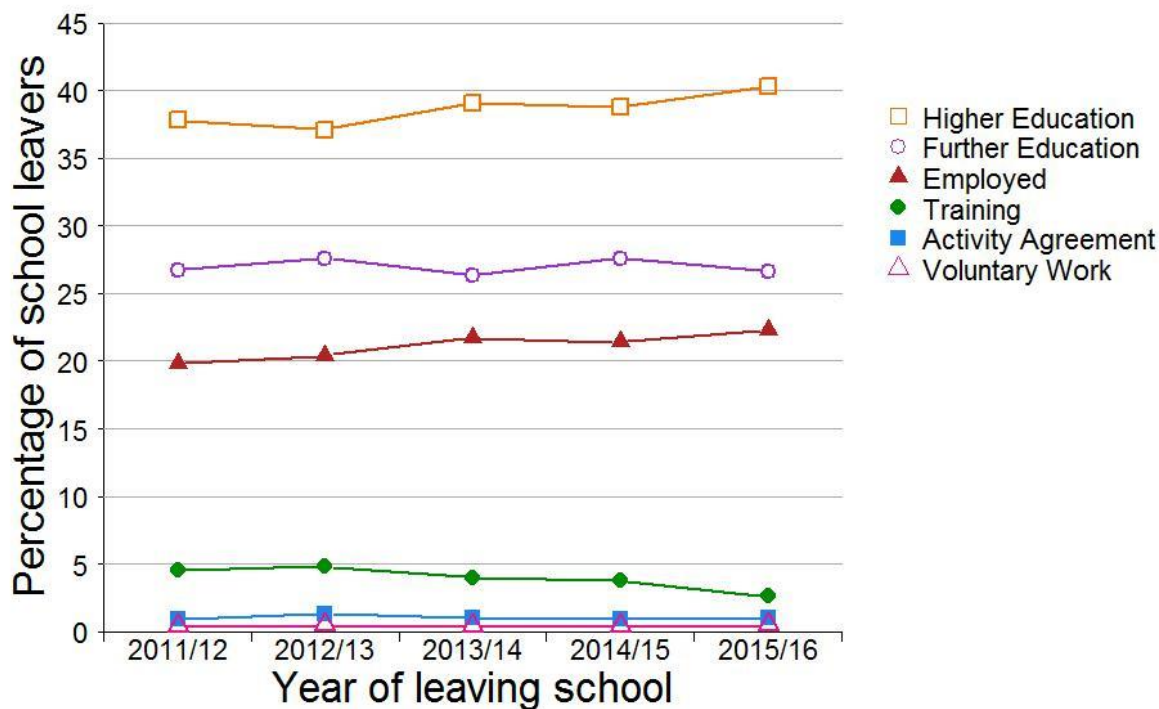
\* Other destinations includes those individuals where initial destination is not known.

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Table 2: Initial destinations of school leavers (2011/12 – 2015/16)

Destination	2011/12 percent	2012/13 percent	2013/14 percent	2014/15 percent	2015/16 percent
Further Education	26.7	27.6	26.3	27.6	26.6
Higher Education	37.8	37.1	39.1	38.8	40.3
Employed	19.8	20.4	21.7	21.4	22.3
Training	4.5	4.8	4.0	3.8	2.6
Voluntary Work	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5
Activity Agreement	0.9	1.3	1.0	0.9	1.0
Unemployed Seeking	8.2	6.9	6.1	5.4	5.1
Unemployed Not Seeking	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3
Not known	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2
Any positive destination	90.1	91.7	92.5	93.0	93.3
Number of school leavers	49,744	51,632	51,335	52,433	52,249

Chart 2. Five year trend in positive initial destinations



2.2.2. The percentage of school leavers in an initial positive destination has increased over the five year period from 2011/12 (90.1 percent) to 2015/16 (93.3 percent).

2.2.3. The five year trend is for a slightly increasing percentage of school leavers to continue their education beyond school in Higher education (37.8 percent in 2011/12 compared to 40.3 percent in 2015/16). This year the percentage of leavers in Higher education was the highest in the reported five year period at 40.3 percent. Over the same period, the percentage of leavers continuing their education in further education has remained broadly constant (26.7 percent in 2011/12 and 26.6 percent in 2015/16).

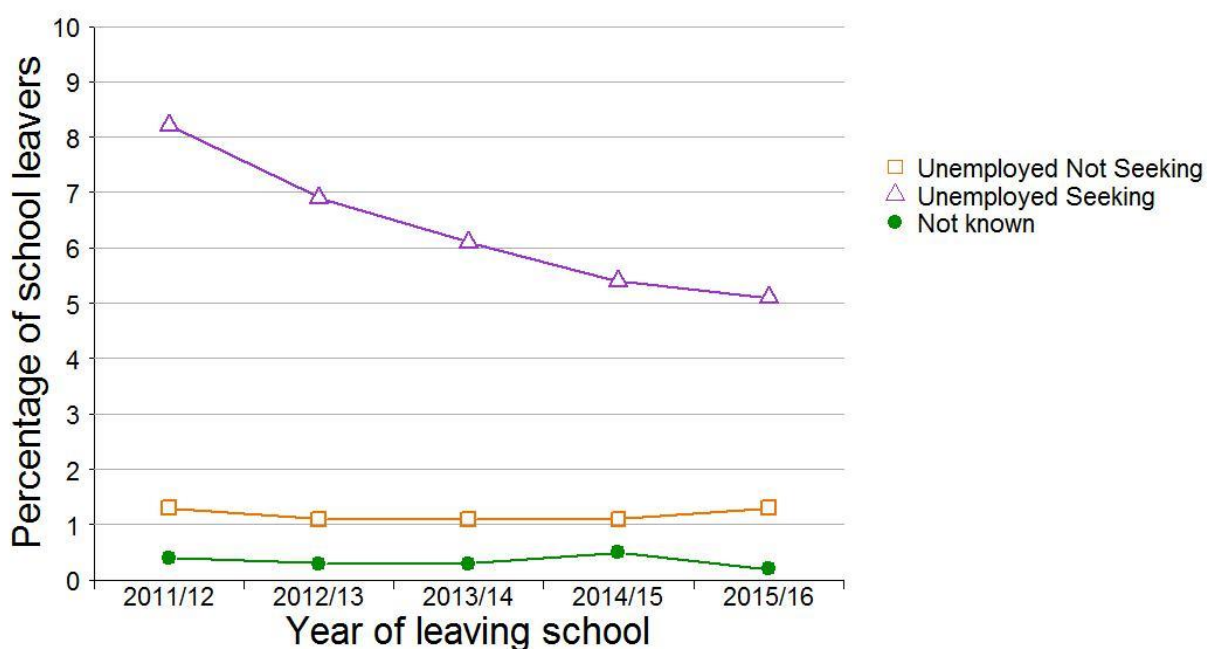
2.2.4. The percentage of leavers entering employment has slightly increased over the five year period from 19.8 percent in 2011/12 to 22.3 percent in 2015/16.

2.2.5. For the third year in a row the percentage of leavers entering training has fallen and is now at 2.6 percent (compared to 4.8 percent in 2012/13).

2.2.6. The percentage of leavers in activity agreements or undertaking voluntary work has remained low over the last five years (1 percent of leavers were engaged activity agreements and 0.5 percent of leavers were undertaking voluntary work in 2015/16).

2.2.7. The percentage of leavers who are unemployed and seeking work or training has fallen over the last five years (5.1 percent in 2015/16 compared to 8.2 percent in 2011/12). The percentage of leavers who are unemployed and not seeking work or training has slightly increased since last year and now matches the figure for 2011/12 at 1.3 percent.

**Chart 3. Five year trend in other destinations**



### 3. Leaver Initial Destinations by Deprivation

3.1 The next section presents a breakdown of results by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2012.

**Table 3: Positive initial destinations of school leavers by SIMD 2012 (2011/12 – 2015/16)**

<b>SIMD 2012 Quintile</b>	<b>2011/12 Percent positive</b>	<b>2012/13 Percent positive</b>	<b>2013/14 Percent positive</b>	<b>2014/15 Percent positive</b>	<b>2015/16 Percent positive</b>
<b>Quintile 1 (20 percent most deprived)</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>86.6</b>	<b>88.3</b>	<b>88.5</b>	<b>88.7</b>
<b>Quintile 2</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>90.5</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>92.1</b>
<b>Quintile 3</b>	<b>90.6</b>	<b>92.4</b>	<b>92.8</b>	<b>93.7</b>	<b>94.1</b>
<b>Quintile 4</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>94.2</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>94.9</b>	<b>95.3</b>
<b>Quintile 5 (20 percent least deprived)</b>	<b>95.1</b>	<b>95.7</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>96.3</b>	<b>96.6</b>
<b>All leavers</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>93.3</b>

\* Deprivation is measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012 based on the pupil's home post code from the pupil census. For more information see background note 5.2.5.

3.2. In 2015/16, 96.6 percent of senior phase school leavers from the 20 percent least deprived areas were in a positive initial destination compared to 88.7 percent of senior phase school leavers from the 20 percent most deprived areas.

3.3. For the most deprived 20 percent of senior phase school leavers, the percentage in a positive initial destination has increased 4.8 percentage points over the last five years (from 83.9 percent in 2011/12 to 88.7 percent in 2015/16). For the least deprived 20 percent of senior phase school leavers, the percentage in a positive initial destination has increased by 1.5 percentage points over the last five years (from 95.1 percent in 2011/12 to 96.6 percent in 2015/16).



## 4. Local Authority Breakdowns

The next section presents a breakdown of results at a local authority level.

### 4.1. Five year trend for positive destinations by local authority

**Table 4: Five year trend for percentage of senior phase pupils with any positive initial destination by local authority**

Local Authority	2011/12 percent	2012/13 percent	2013/14 percent	2014/15 percent	2015/16 percent
Aberdeen City	88.6	91.1	91.2	90.2	90.3
Aberdeenshire	94.1	94.4	94.0	95.9	94.7
Angus	94.2	93.9	92.7	94.2	95.1
Argyll & Bute	90.4	93.1	91.5	93.2	92.9
Clackmannanshire	87.9	88.6	93.3	92.5	90.2
Dumfries & Galloway	87.9	91.8	90.9	93.1	94.6
Dundee City	89.6	91.1	90.9	93.0	91.5
East Ayrshire	89.4	91.6	93.3	94.2	91.8
East Dunbartonshire	95.0	96.0	97.0	96.8	97.5
East Lothian	88.4	90.0	92.4	91.8	93.5
East Renfrewshire	95.2	95.7	96.1	96.1	96.6
Edinburgh, City of	88.8	91.7	91.3	92.5	93.7
Falkirk	90.4	91.6	92.7	90.1	95.0
Fife	89.6	89.8	92.5	92.4	92.7
Glasgow City	87.9	89.4	89.8	90.3	89.9
Highland	91.2	93.4	93.7	93.8	95.0
Inverclyde	94.5	95.2	94.0	94.6	94.3
Midlothian	85.8	89.2	94.2	93.4	95.1
Moray	91.8	94.1	93.9	94.4	92.7
Na h-Eileanan Siar	95.4	96.8	96.6	95.9	97.6
North Ayrshire	90.3	94.6	94.3	95.9	94.8
North Lanarkshire	87.6	90.4	91.5	93.1	92.3
Orkney Islands	94.1	94.2	93.8	94.6	91.1
Perth & Kinross	93.2	92.4	93.8	92.1	95.0
Renfrewshire	88.1	90.3	92.7	90.9	92.2
Scottish Borders	91.3	92.3	94.4	95.2	94.2
Shetland Islands	90.3	95.4	93.2	95.6	93.4
South Ayrshire	88.8	92.8	92.4	94.5	94.3
South Lanarkshire	89.8	89.1	92.3	93.1	94.1
Stirling	88.6	90.0	92.1	90.7	93.3
West Dunbartonshire	92.8	91.1	89.6	89.9	92.2
West Lothian	89.8	92.6	92.8	93.4	92.7
Grant-Aided	95.0	*	*	*	95.3
<b>National</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>93.3</b>

\* Value could provide information on a cohort of less than five or has been suppressed to prevent calculation of data for a small cohort.

## 4.2. Senior phase leaver destinations by local authority (2015/16)

Table 5: Initial destinations of senior phase school leavers by local authority (2015/16)

	Percentage of leavers in destination									Total number of leavers
	Further education	Higher education	Employed	Training	Voluntary work	Activity agreement	Unemployed seeking	Unemployed not seeking	Not known	
Aberdeen City	28	45	15	2	0	1	7	2	1	1,673
Aberdeenshire	28	42	22	1	*	*	3	1	1	2,581
Angus	35	38	19	2	1	0	4	1	0	1,225
Argyll & Bute	19	41	31	1	*	*	5	2	0	903
Clackmannanshire	29	25	30	3	*	*	8	1	0	489
Dumfries & Galloway	29	39	23	1	*	*	4	1	0	1,474
Dundee City	37	32	16	4	1	2	7	2	*	1,388
East Ayrshire	38	36	15	2	*	*	7	1	0	1,278
East Dunbartonshire	16	61	17	2	1	1	*	*	*	1,368
East Lothian	22	39	28	2	*	*	5	1	0	1,018
East Renfrewshire	16	66	12	*	2	*	2	1	0	1,394
Edinburgh, City of	27	39	23	3	1	1	5	1	*	3,270
Falkirk	22	37	28	5	1	1	3	1	*	1,527
Fife	33	39	17	2	0	2	6	1	1	3,712
Glasgow City	28	35	20	5	1	1	7	2	0	4,551
Highland	21	37	33	1	1	2	3	1	0	2,516
Inverclyde	28	38	24	3	*	*	4	1	0	749
Midlothian	29	32	30	2	1	2	4	1	*	992
Moray	27	39	25	1	*	*	4	2	1	1,008
Na h-Eileanan Siar	*	44	32	2	*	*	*	*	0	248
North Ayrshire	34	38	20	2	0	1	4	1	*	1,317
North Lanarkshire	26	40	22	3	0	1	7	1	*	3,966
Orkney Islands	21	37	31	*	0	*	4	3	*	213
Perth & Kinross	26	39	28	1	0	1	3	2	0	1,389
Renfrewshire	25	42	23	2	*	*	6	1	0	1,777
Scottish Borders	31	38	23	1	*	*	3	2	*	1,166
Shetland Islands	27	30	33	*	0	*	4	2	0	273
South Ayrshire	26	46	18	2	*	*	4	1	*	1,204
South Lanarkshire	22	43	22	4	*	*	5	1	*	3,481
Stirling	18	44	28	2	1	1	5	1	*	1,060
West Dunbartonshire	27	40	20	3	1	1	7	1	0	949
West Lothian	24	40	25	3	1	1	5	2	*	1,983
Grant-Aided	*	78	11	*	*	0	*	*	0	107
<b>National</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52,249</b>

\* Value could provide information on a cohort of less than five or has been suppressed to prevent calculation of data for a small cohort. Values are rounded to the nearest whole value and therefore may not sum to 100.

## **5. Background Notes**

### **5.1. Background to statistical bulletin**

5.1.1. Since 2013, The Scottish Government (SG) and Skills Development Scotland (SDS) have been consulting with public sector partners, including local authorities, to develop an alternative form of measurement to complement school leaver destination statistics. In August 2016, SDS published the Annual Participation Measure (APM) for the first time. The APM has been developed with the intention of being the key metric for measuring success in relation to the 'Increase the proportion of young people in learning, training and work' indicator in the National Performance Framework. The latest data on the Participation Measure will be published by SDS in August 2017.

5.1.2. As part of the move to the APM and in order to reduce the range of leaver destination data produced using differing methodologies, SDS have ceased their publication "Initial School Leaver Destinations". This was published for the final time in December 2015. SDS continues to supply initial and follow up destination school leavers data to the Scottish Government Education Analytical Services for their annual National Statistics publication and to update 'Insight', the online benchmarking tool for Scottish local authorities and secondary schools. Initial destinations data provides information on the outcomes for young people approximately three months after leaving school. Initial destinations data is used in the measures presented in Insight, the Education Scotland 'Parentzone' website, and the Scottish Government National Statistics publication 'Summary statistics for attainment, leaver destinations and healthy living'.

5.1.3. This statistical bulletin presents the national picture for initial leavers destinations for senior phase pupils and also includes breakdowns by Local Authority. The cohort of school leavers presented in this publication is consistent with the data presented in the education benchmarking tool 'Insight' and the Education Scotland 'Parentzone' website.

5.1.4. The Scottish Government's National Statistics publication will be published in June 2017 and will also include follow up destinations data, provided by SDS in March, along further breakdowns by pupil characteristics (e.g. stage of leaving). The leaver cohort for the National Statistics publication includes S3 leavers, whereas the focus of this publication is exclusively on school leavers from the senior phase (S4-S6). The June National Statistics publication can be accessed at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Publications>

### **5.2. Data sources and methodology**

5.2.1. The statistical extracts for both the Participation Measure and the destination of school leavers are taken from the shared Opportunities for All dataset held by SDS on their customer support system. The status information is gathered through the use of shared administrative data from local authorities, colleges, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Student Awards Agency for Scotland

(SASS) and the SDS Corporate Training System combined with direct follow up of 16-19 year old customers by SDS staff. The extract used for this publication is taken on the first Monday in October (3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 for 2015/16 leavers).

5.2.2. Initial destinations data from SDS is matched to the Scottish Government's (SG) pupil census for the same academic year in order to identify the cohort of senior phase school leavers from local authority or grant aided secondary schools. For example, the 2015/16 cohort of school leavers from SDS was matched to the SG pupil census for senior phase pupils in a local authority or grant aided school in September 2015. This cohort is then checked against the pupil census from the start of the following academic year (e.g. the 2015/16 leaver cohort was checked against the September 2016 pupil census) and any pupils who are found to still be attending school are removed from the leaver cohort. In addition, any leavers that were identified by SDS as having moved out with Scotland are excluded.

5.2.3. A school leaver is classed as a young person in the senior phase (S4-S6) who left school during the school year, where the school year is taken to run from school census day one year to the the day before census the following year. Therefore, for 2015/16 leavers, the leaver year is 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016. For data from 2011/12-2014/15, the reporting period for SDS did not exactly match with the census to census reporting period used by the Scottish Government. This resulted in a small number of pupils being backdated to previous years. From 2015/16, the reporting process was aligned and backdating was not nessesary.

5.2.4. The cohort of leavers included in this publication is not consistent with the former SDS publication "Initial School Leaver Destinations" which was published for the final time in December 2015 and included all leavers from publically funded secondary schools. For example, in 2014/15 SDS reported data on 53,836 leavers whereas this publication reports on 52,433. The additional leavers in the SDS publication included individuals who were identified as a leaver in the shared dataset but then appeared in the school census in the following academic year, individuals who returned to, or joined, a school during the academic year, as well as S3 leavers. This bulletin includes data on 52,249 senior phase school leavers from local authority and grant aided secondary schools in 2015/16.

5.2.5. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012 identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Scotland. It is based on data zones (a small area geographically) and provides an assessment of multiple deprivation based on income, employment, health, education, housing, access to services and levels of crime in the area. It provides a relative measure of deprivation which means that the data zones can be ranked from most to least deprived and cut offs can be applied to identify different levels of deprivation. The calculation of quintiles means that the data zones have been ranked and split into five equal parts with quintile 1 being the most deprived 20 percent of data zones and quintile 5 being the least deprived 20 percent of data zones. School leavers are allocated to datazones, and therefore deprivation quintiles, based on their home postcode from the Pupil Census. For a very small number of individuals (less than 0.01%) home postcode

was not known and these individuals were excluded from the deprivation breakdown. This publication uses SIMD 2012 and is consistent with deprivation measures presented in Insight and Parentzone. For further information on the SIMD, please see the link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD/> .

5.2.6. All values in the publication are rounded to one decimal place so may not sum to the totals shown.

### 5.3. Definition of leaver destinations

All destinations are based on self-reporting by school leavers or administrative data. The following categories for leaver destinations are included in this Statistical Bulletin.

5.3.1. **Positive destination:** includes higher education, further education, training, voluntary work, employment and activity agreements.

5.3.2. **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 National Qualifications, i.e. above SCQF level 7. Leavers with a deferred, unconditional place in higher education have also been included in this category.

5.3.3. **Further Education:** includes leavers undertaking full-time education which is not higher education and who are no longer on a school roll. This may include National Qualifications.

5.3.4. **Training:** includes leavers who are on a training course and in receipt of an allowance or grant, such as the Employability Fund national training programme. It also includes leavers who are on local authority or third sector funded training programmes who are in receipt of a training allowance.

5.3.5. **Employment:** includes those who are employed and in receipt of payment from their employers. It includes young people undertaking training in employment through national training programmes such as Modern Apprenticeships.

5.3.6. **Voluntary work:** includes those undertaking voluntary work, with or without financial allowance, who are not 'unemployed and actively seeking', as per the unemployed definition and those participating in Project Scotland/CSV or other voluntary programmes.

5.3.7. **Activity Agreements:** includes those for whom there is an agreement between a young person and a trusted professional that the young person will take part in a programme of learning and activity which helps them become ready for formal learning or employment.

**5.3.8. Unemployed and seeking employment or training:** includes those who are registered with Skills Development Scotland and are known by them to be seeking employment or training. This is based on regular contact between Skills Development Scotland and the client. This does not refer to the definition of 'unemployed' used by the Department of Work and Pensions to calculate published unemployment rates. Young people participating in Personal Skills Development who do not fit in any of the existing categories are counted in this category.

**5.3.9. Unemployed and not seeking employment or training:** includes young people who SDS is aware of who are actively seeking employment/training. It includes those receiving support from SDS, DWP and other Opportunities for All partners. Individuals can be in this category for a range of reasons. The reasons may involve sickness, prison, pregnancy, caring for children or other dependents or taking time out.

**5.3.10. Not known:** includes all leavers whose destination is not known either to Skills Development Scotland or to the school attended.

## **5.4. List of supplementary tables**

The following supplementary tables are available at  
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education>;

- **Publication Table 1:** Comparison of initial destinations in 2014/15 and 2015/16
- **Publication Table 2:** Initial destinations of school leavers, 2011/12 to 2015/16
- **Publication Table 3:** Positive initial destinations by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2012 (2011/12 – 2015/16)
- **Publication Table 4:** Senior phase pupils with any positive initial destination by local authority, 2011/12 to 2015/16 (Includes leaver numbers).
- **Publication Table 5:** Initial destinations of senior phase school leavers by local authority, 2015/16

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The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

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