

Statistics Publication Notice

Lifelong Learning Series

A National Statistics Publication for Scotland

Early Destinations of Students Qualifying from Scottish Higher Education Institutions 2011-12



25th September 2013

Statistics on the first destinations of leavers from Scottish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are published today by Scotland's Chief Statistician. This publication reports on the destinations of 2011-12 leavers, 6 months after qualifying.

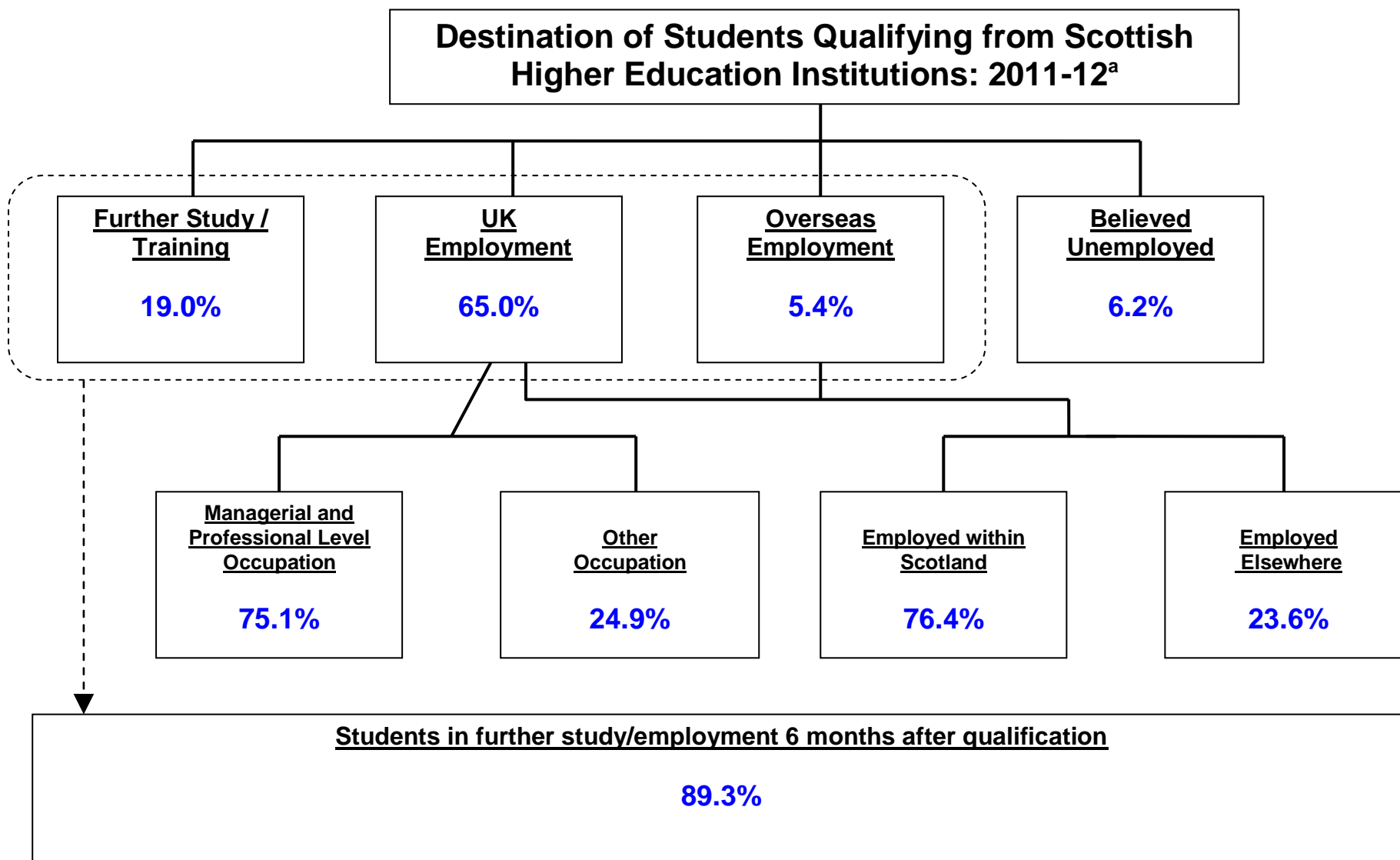
This publication is an update of the 'Early Destinations of Students Qualifying from Scottish Higher Education Institutions 2010-11' publication, issued on the 25th September 2012. It presents information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey, for Scottish domiciled leavers and leavers from Scottish HEIs. The 2011-12 DLHE survey was changed substantially from previous years which limits comparability over time. Consequently, this publication primarily presents data for 2011-12, with some limited time series analysis.

Key Findings

- 89.3 per cent of leavers from higher education courses at Scottish HEIs were in employment or further study/training 6 months after completing their course.
- 65.0 per cent of leavers from higher education courses at Scottish HEIs were in UK employment 6 months after completing their course. A further 5.4 per cent were employed overseas, with 19.0 per cent engaged in further study or training and 6.2 per cent believed to be unemployed.
- 75.1 per cent of leavers in UK employment were employed in Managerial and Professional occupations
- 76.4 per cent of leavers in UK or overseas employment were employed in Scotland.
- 64.4 per cent of Scots postgraduate and first degree leavers from Scottish HEIs were employed in Managerial and Professional level occupations within Scotland or engaged in further study or training, 6 months after completing their higher education course. This percentage is a National Indicator in 'Scotland Performs'¹.
- Due to changes to the survey in 2011-12, the comparability of the time series is limited. Some information for previous years is provided in Table 12 for reference.

¹ [Increase the proportion of graduates in positive destinations](#)

Figure 1: Summary of Key Findings



^a 4.5% of 2011-12 leavers were in 'Other' destinations.

^b Percentages rounded to one decimal place

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Analysis

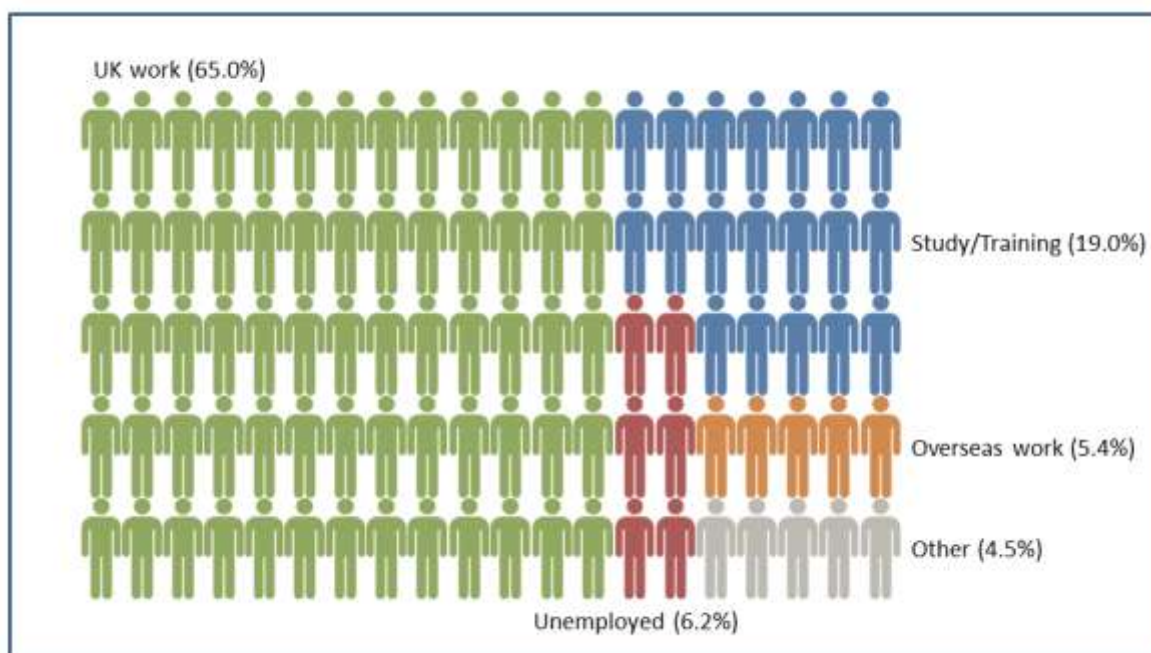
The information presented in this publication relates to the initial destinations (six months after qualifying) of students gaining higher education (HE) qualifications from Scottish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) – such students will be referred to as leavers in the remainder of this release.

Destinations of leavers from Scottish HEIs

Employment within the UK was the most common destination for leavers (65.0 per cent). The second most common destination was further study or training (19.0 per cent). The percentage of leavers believed to be unemployed was 6.2 per cent, whilst 5.4 per cent were working overseas (Table 1, Figure 2).

In total, 89.3 per cent of leavers from Scottish HEIs were in further study, training or employment.

Figure 2: Destination of leavers from Scottish HEIs, 2011-12



Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)
Reference: Table 1 (page 13)

Destinations by level of qualification

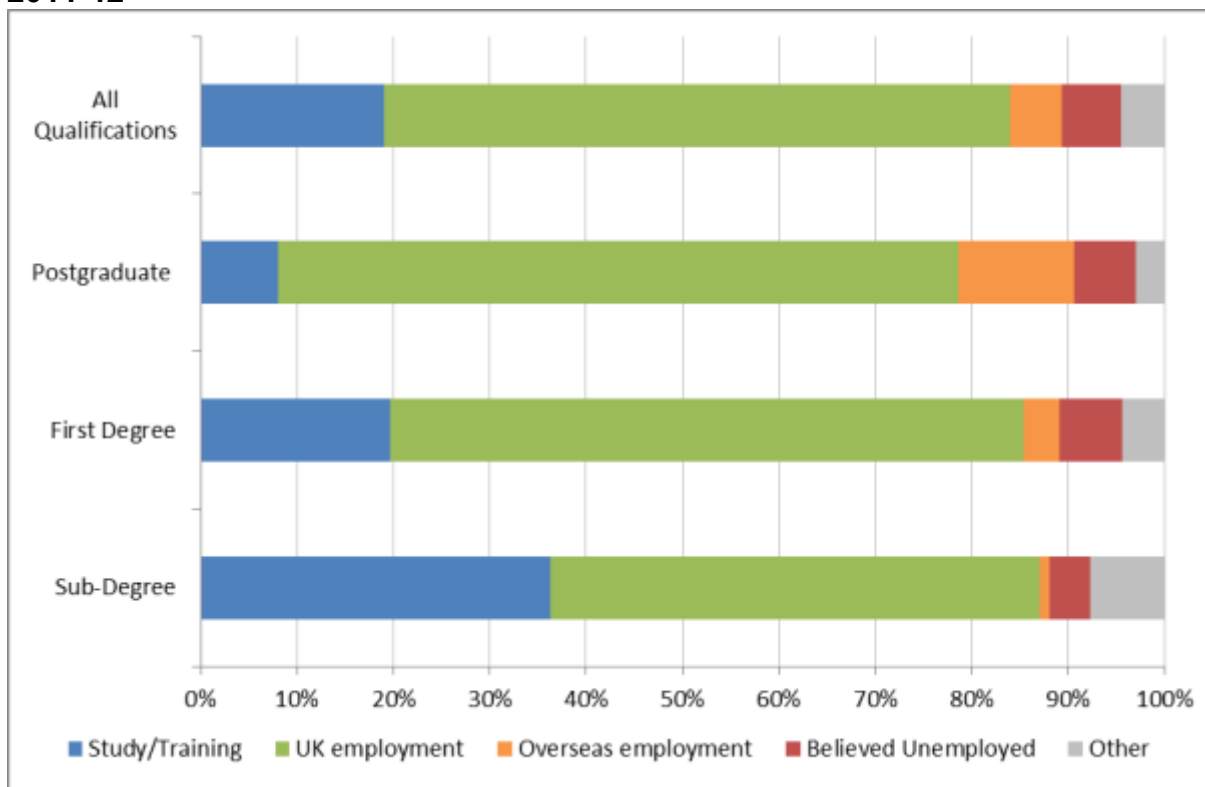
Looking at leaver destinations by level of qualification obtained we see that the higher the level of qualification obtained, the higher the percentage of leavers in employment (UK and overseas) and the lower the percentage of leavers in further study (Table 1, Figure 2).

However, we should note that the higher employment percentage for postgraduate leavers is not necessarily a direct result of their higher qualifications. The activities of leavers prior to, or during, study also have an impact on their employment prospects.

For example, postgraduate qualifications may be undertaken by those already in employment (perhaps to formalise their experience or to meet requirements of their employers). It could therefore be expected that a higher percentage of postgraduate leavers will enter (or return to) employment post-study.

It might also be expected that those with lower levels of qualifications are the most likely to go on to further study or training as they are likely to be at an earlier stage in their education. There are also fewer options for higher levels of study for those qualifying at postgraduate level.

Figure 3: Destination of leavers from Scottish HEIs by qualification obtained, 2011-12

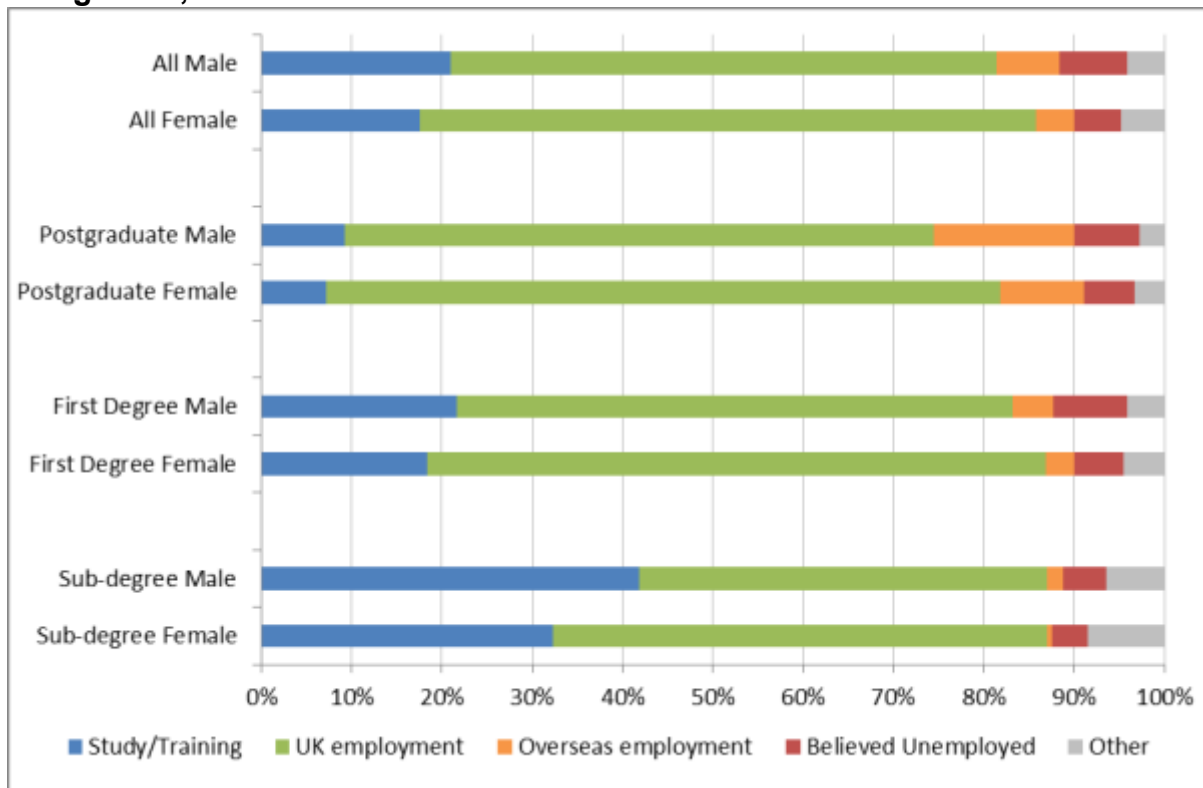


Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)
Reference: Table 1 (page 13)

Destinations by gender

The pattern of destinations is broadly similar for male and female leavers. However, a slightly higher percentage of males were engaged in further study/training, overseas employment and unemployment, while a higher percentage of females were in UK employment (Table 1, Figure 4).

Figure 4: Destination of leavers from Scottish HEIs by qualification obtained and gender, 2011-12



Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)
Reference: Table 1 (page 13)

Where there are differences between the genders, it is important to note that gender may not be the direct cause. Another factor to consider is subject studied. For example, a relatively low percentage of leavers who studied Engineering and Technology, traditionally a male dominated subject, went into UK employment (58.9 per cent); whilst a relatively high percentage of leavers who studied Education, traditionally female dominated subject, were in UK employment (93.2 per cent) (Table 2).

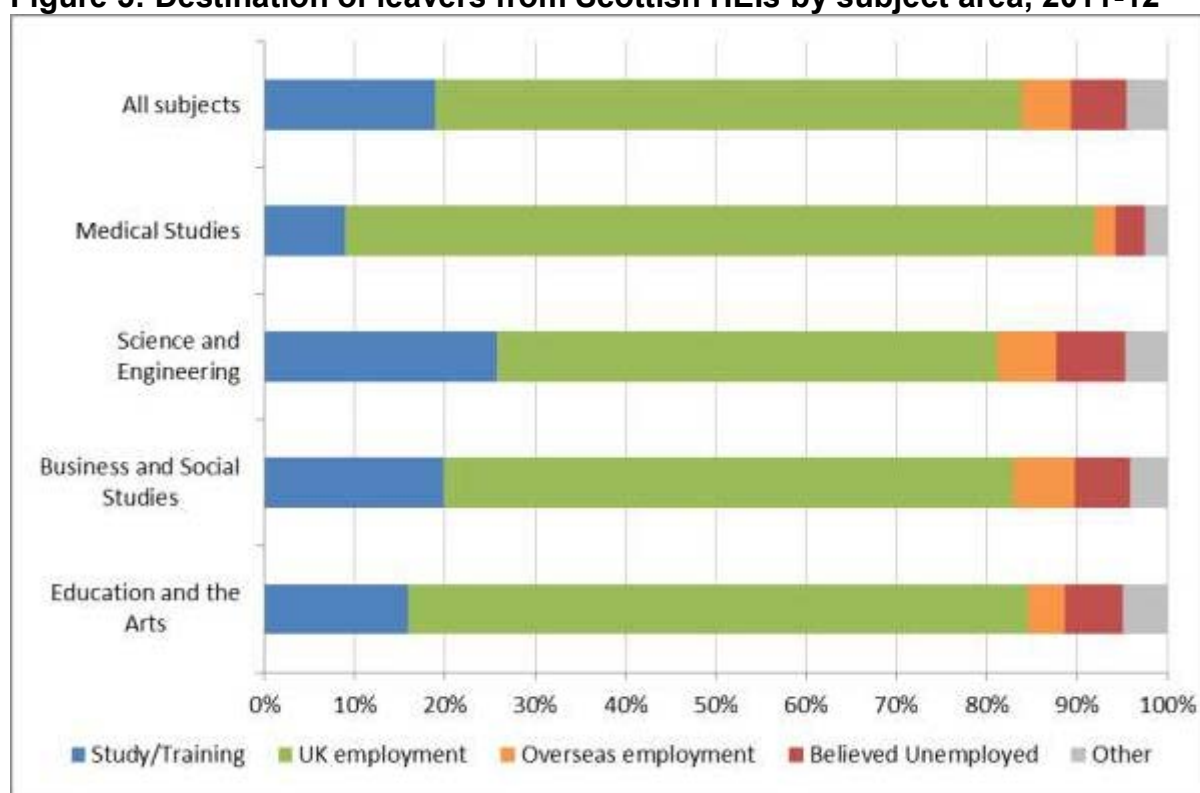
Destinations by subject

Those leaving Scottish HEIs with a Law qualification were the most likely to be undertaking further study or training activities (35.9 per cent), followed by leavers with a Physical Science qualification (32.8 per cent).

Leavers who obtained an Education qualification were the most likely to be in UK employment (93.2 per cent), followed by those with a Medicine and Dentistry qualification (86.2 per cent).

Leavers who obtained an Information Technology qualification were the most likely to be unemployed (10.7 per cent), followed by those with a Creative Arts qualification (10.4 per cent) (Table 2).

Figure 5: Destination of leavers from Scottish HEIs by subject area, 2011-12



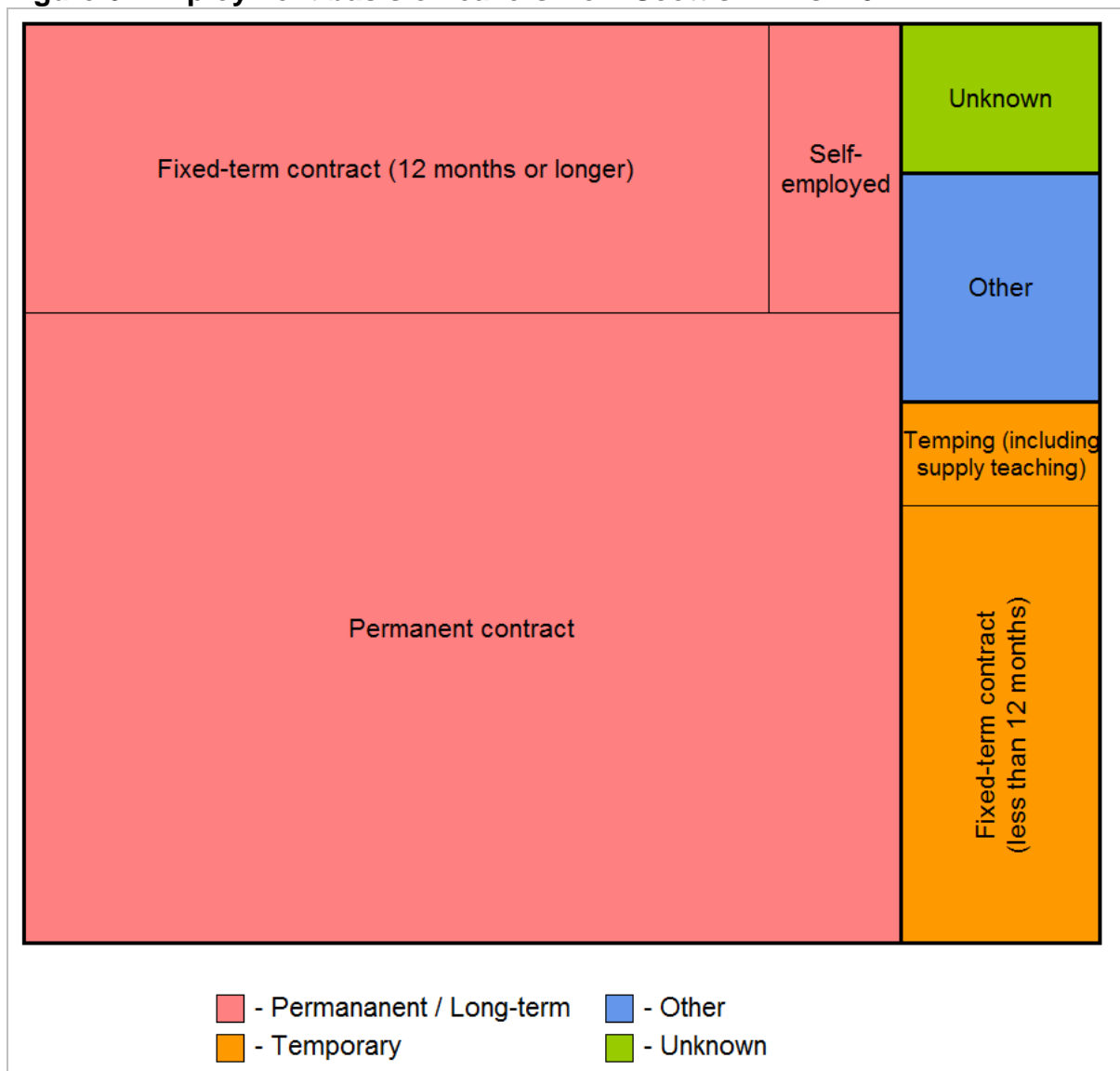
Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)
Reference: Table 2 (page 14)

Leavers from Scottish HEIs in Employment

Employment basis of leavers in employment

The majority of leavers in UK employment were employed on permanent contracts (56.0 per cent) with a further 21.7 per cent employed on fixed term contracts lasting 12 months or longer. Around one in ten leavers who found UK employment were working on a more temporary basis, with 8.8 per cent employed on fixed term contracts lasting less than 12 months and a further 2.1 per cent temping. (Table 3, Figure 6).

Figure 6: Employment basis of leavers from Scottish HEIs: 2011-12



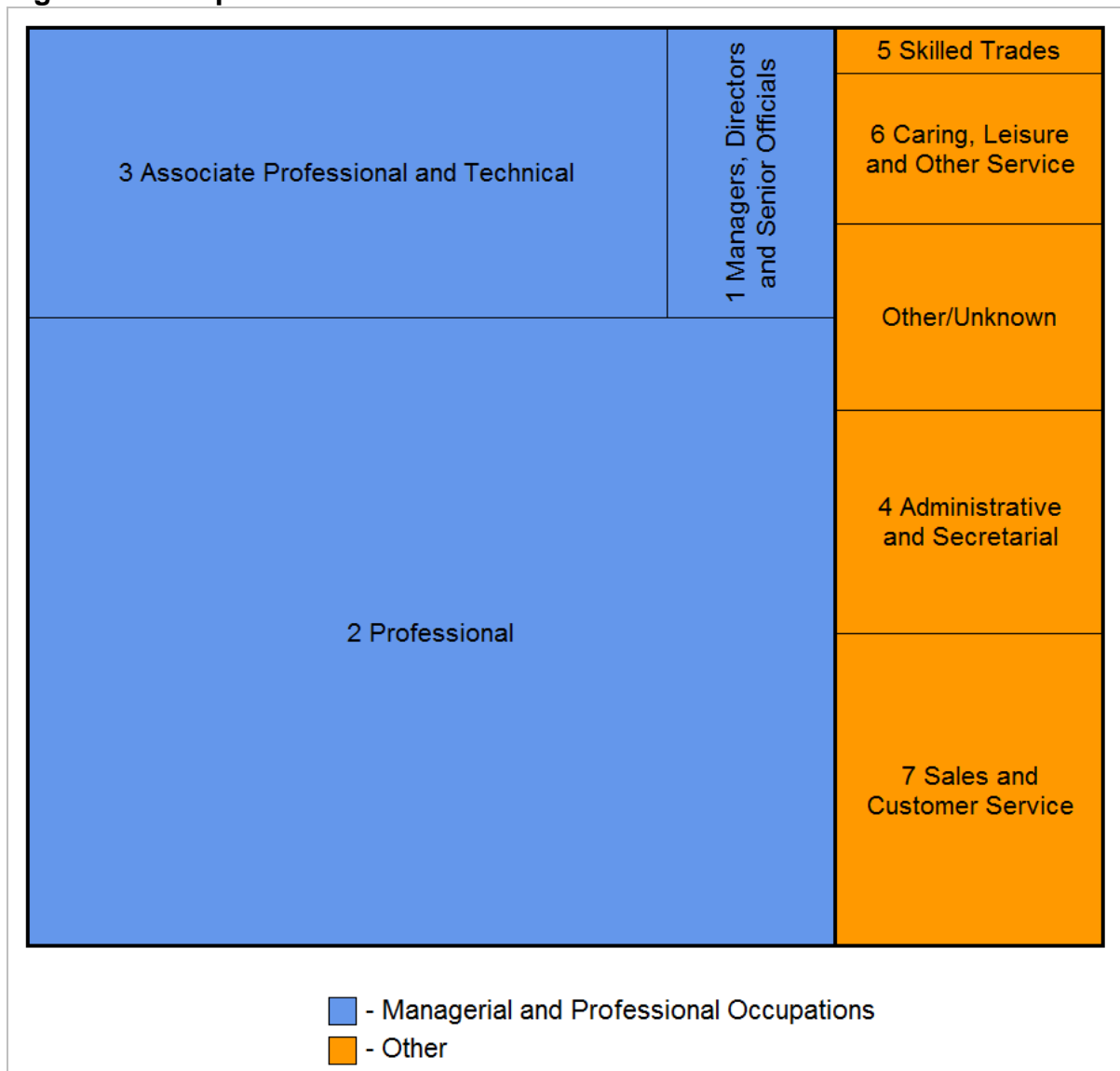
Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)
Reference: Table 3 (page 15)

Looking at employment basis by level of qualification obtained we see that the lower the level of qualification obtained, the higher the percentage of leavers employed on permanent contracts (Table 3).

Occupation of leavers in employment

The occupations of leavers can be grouped using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). The SOC contains eight major groups with the first three groups (SOC 1 to 3) covering Managerial and Professional occupations. In 2011-12, around three quarters of leavers (75.1 per cent) who found UK employment were employed in Managerial and Professional occupations (Table 4, Figure 7).

Figure 7: Occupation of leavers from Scottish HEIs: 2011-12



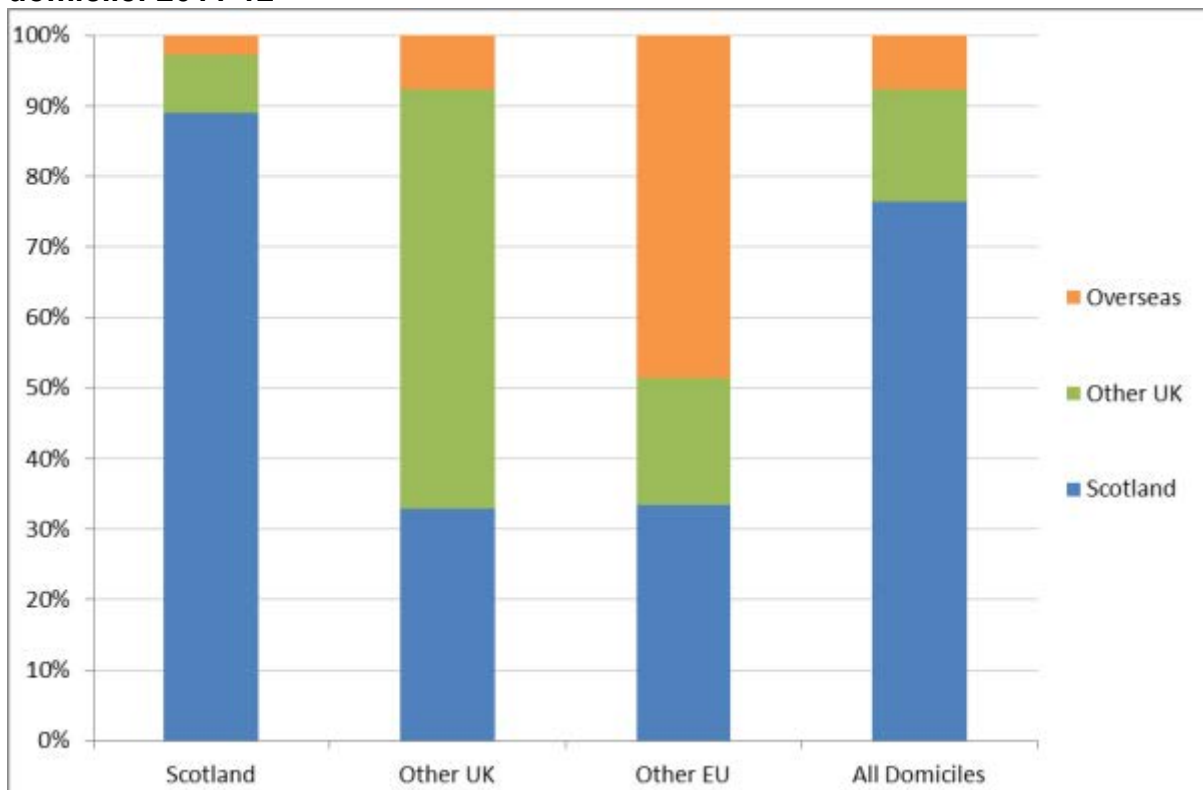
Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)
Reference: Table 4 (page 16)

Looking at occupation by level of qualification obtained we see that the higher the level of qualification obtained, the higher the percentage of leavers in Managerial and Professional occupations (SOC 1 to 3) (Table 4).

Location of leavers in employment

By comparing leavers' pre-study domicile with their location of employment we can get an early indication of the flows of leavers from Scottish HEIs to other parts of the UK and overseas. The vast majority of Scottish domiciled leavers who found employment did so in Scotland (89.1 per cent). This compares with around a third (33.0 per cent) of leavers domiciled in other parts of the UK. Similarly, around a third (33.5 per cent) of other EU domiciled leavers who found employment did so in Scotland (Table 7, Figure 8).

Figure 8: Employment location of leavers from Scottish HEIs by pre-study domicile: 2011-12



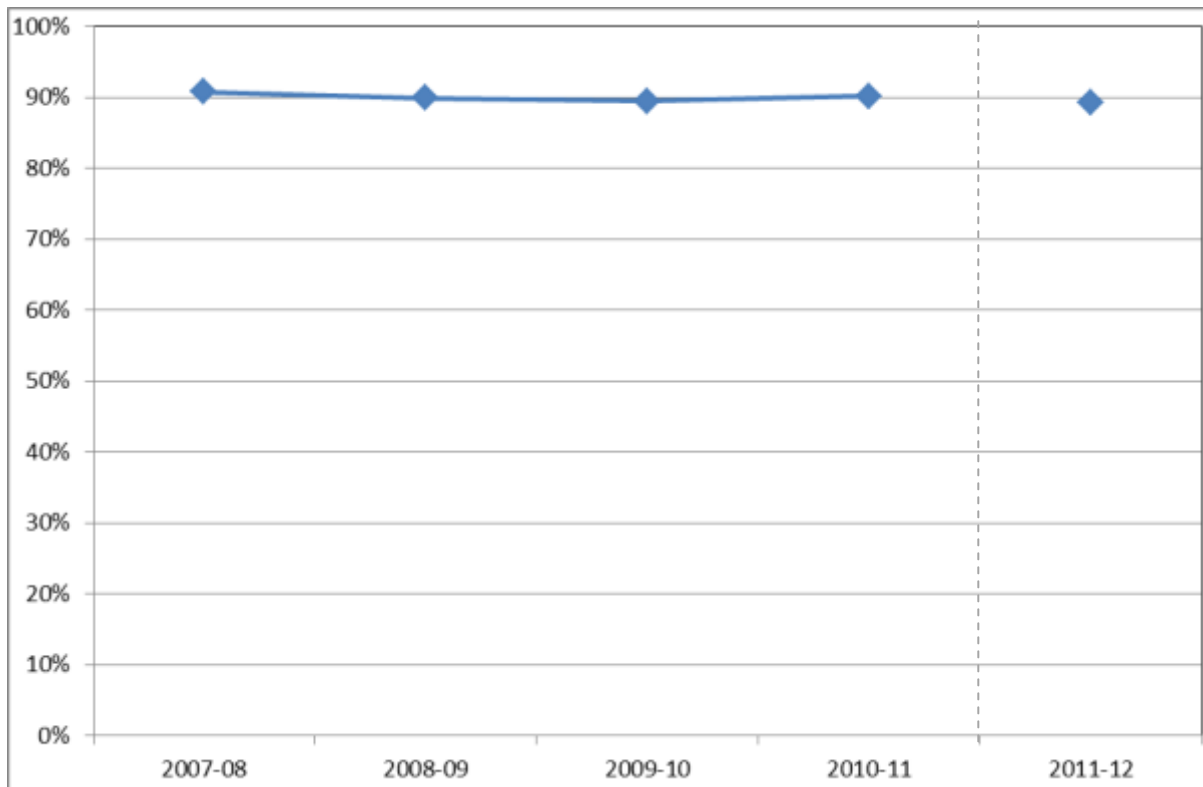
Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)
Reference: Table 7 (page 19)

Time Series Analysis

In 2011-12 HESA re-designed the DLHE survey to collect richer information from leavers particularly regarding their activities on the survey date. Further details are provided in section 2.1 of the Methodological Notes.

These changes limit the comparability of the 2011-12 results with previous years.

Figure 9: Percentage of leavers from Scottish HEIs in employment or further study/training: 2007-08 to 2010-11, 2011-12



NOTE: The comparability of the time series is limited by changes implemented in the 2011-12 DLHE survey. Further details are provided in the Methodological Notes (2.1).

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)
Reference: Table 1 (page 13) and Table 12 (page 23)

Tables

Table 1: First destination of leavers from Scottish HEIs by level of qualification obtained and gender: 2011-12

Leavers from Scottish HEIs

	No. of Leavers	Study/ Training (%)	UK employment (%)	Overseas employment (%)	Believed unemployed (%)	Other (%)
All Qualifications	47,415	19.0	65.0	5.4	6.2	4.5
Male	19,685	21.0	60.4	7.0	7.5	4.1
Female	27,725	17.6	68.2	4.2	5.3	4.8
Postgraduate	11,670	8.1	70.5	12.1	6.4	3.0
Male	5,150	9.2	65.2	15.6	7.3	2.7
Female	6,520	7.2	74.7	9.3	5.6	3.3
First Degree	29,550	19.7	65.7	3.7	6.5	4.4
Male	11,970	21.6	61.6	4.5	8.2	4.1
Female	17,580	18.4	68.5	3.1	5.4	4.6
Sub-Degree	6,195	36.2	50.8	1.0	4.3	7.7
Male	2,570	41.8	45.3	1.7	4.8	6.4
Female	3,625	32.3	54.7	0.5	4.0	8.5

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Data weighted according to response rates (see Methodological Notes, Section 3)

Number of leavers rounded to the nearest 5

Table 2: First destination of leavers from Scottish HEIs by subject area: 2011-12

Leavers from Scottish HEIs

	No. of Leavers	Study/Training (%)	UK employment (%)	Overseas employment (%)	Believed unemployed (%)	Other (%)
All subjects	47,415	19.0	65.0	5.4	6.2	4.5
Medical Studies	7,115	8.9	83.1	2.2	3.3	2.5
Allied Medicine	5,765	8.2	82.4	2.4	4.0	3.0
Medicine and Dentistry	1,350	11.8	86.2	1.3	0.4	0.3
Science and Engineering	13,455	25.7	55.4	6.6	7.7	4.6
Agriculture	405	31.8	47.9	9.7	5.5	5.2
Biological Sciences	4,115	28.4	54.2	4.2	7.1	6.1
Engineering and Technology	3,650	21.6	58.9	8.6	7.1	3.8
Information Technology	2,075	21.0	58.2	6.7	10.7	3.5
Mathematical Sciences	800	25.4	57.9	6.4	6.5	3.8
Physical Sciences	2,230	32.8	47.6	7.4	7.7	4.5
Veterinary Science	185	2.7	84.3	3.8	6.5	3.2
Business and Social Studies	15,405	19.9	63.0	6.9	6.2	4.1
Architecture	1,440	19.1	64.4	6.5	6.7	3.2
Business Administration	6,515	16.3	65.3	8.2	5.8	4.4
Law	2,245	35.9	49.8	6.2	5.6	2.5
Mass Communication	790	8.5	73.4	4.6	9.6	3.8
Social Studies	4,410	19.2	64.1	5.8	6.2	4.7
Education and the Arts	10,895	15.9	68.7	4.1	6.4	4.9
Creative Arts	2,735	21.1	58.5	4.1	10.4	5.9
Education	4,235	2.7	93.2	1.1	1.2	1.9
Humanities	1,865	28.5	49.7	4.8	9.6	7.4
Languages	2,060	24.6	49.2	9.9	8.9	7.4
Multi-Disciplinary Studies	545	21.3	42.9	1.7	3.9	30.3
Supplementary Subject Information						
Economics and Politics	1,340	22.8	49.7	13.7	8.7	5.0
English	920	26.9	51.9	5.7	9.8	5.8
Geography	690	26.8	51.1	7.2	9.6	5.4
Psychology	1,475	24.8	59.8	3.6	5.7	6.0

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Data weighted according to response rates (see Methodological Notes, Section 3)

Number of leavers rounded to the nearest 5

Table 3: Employment basis of leavers from Scottish HEIs by level of qualification obtained and gender: 2011-12

Leavers from Scottish HEIs in UK employment

	No. of Leavers	Self-employed (%)	Permanent contract (%)	Fixed-term contract (12 months or longer) (%)	Fixed-term contract (less than 12 months) (%)	Temping (incl. supply teaching) (%)	Other (%)	Unknown (%)
All Qualifications	30,800	3.8	56.0	21.7	8.8	2.1	4.6	3.0
Male	18,900	3.2	54.6	23.2	9.5	2.3	4.5	2.7
Female	11,895	4.9	58.2	19.2	7.6	1.8	4.8	3.5
Postgraduate	8,225	4.8	49.9	27.9	9.5	1.4	4.4	2.1
Male	4,870	3.8	48.5	30.1	10.4	1.6	4.0	1.6
Female	3,360	6.3	52.0	24.8	8.2	1.1	4.9	2.7
First Degree	19,425	3.5	56.0	20.6	9.2	2.3	4.8	3.6
Male	12,050	3.0	54.2	22.2	10.0	2.4	4.8	3.3
Female	7,375	4.4	58.8	17.9	7.8	2.1	4.9	4.0
Sub-Degree	3,145	3.1	72.1	11.9	4.4	2.5	3.7	2.4
Male	1,985	2.8	71.9	11.8	4.5	3.0	3.6	2.3
Female	1,165	3.6	72.4	11.9	4.2	1.6	3.8	2.6

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Data weighted according to response rates (see Methodological Notes, Section 3)

Number of leavers rounded to the nearest 5

'Self-employed' includes those working freelance and starting up their own business

'Other' includes those on an internship, developing a professional portfolio and in voluntary work

Table 4: Occupation of leavers from Scottish HEIs by level of qualification obtained and gender: 2011-12

Leavers from Scottish HEIs in UK employment

	No. of Leavers	1 Managers, Directors and Senior Officials (%)	2 Professional (%)	3 Associate Professional and Technical (%)	4 Administrative and Secretarial (%)	5 Skilled Trades (%)	6 Caring, Leisure and Other Service (%)	7 Sales and Customer Service (%)	Other / Unknown (%)	SOC 1 to 3 (Managerial and Professional)
All Qualifications	30,800	4.9	51.5	18.7	6.0	1.3	4.2	8.3	5.0	75.1
Male	18,900	4.0	52.7	17.7	7.2	0.5	5.5	8.2	4.2	74.5
Female	11,895	6.4	49.5	20.2	4.2	2.6	2.1	8.6	6.4	76.1
Postgraduate	8,225	6.1	65.8	17.5	4.0	0.3	1.3	2.9	2.1	89.4
Male	4,870	4.7	66.4	17.6	5.1	0.1	1.4	2.4	2.2	88.7
Female	3,360	8.2	65.0	17.2	2.3	0.6	1.0	3.5	2.1	90.4
First Degree	19,425	4.2	48.1	19.5	6.6	1.0	4.2	10.6	5.9	71.8
Male	12,050	3.7	49.2	18.5	7.6	0.5	5.3	10.5	4.9	71.3
Female	7,375	5.0	46.5	21.2	4.9	1.8	2.3	10.7	7.5	72.7
Sub-Degree	3,145	6.5	34.5	16.7	8.2	5.6	12.1	9.0	7.4	57.7
Male	1,985	4.8	40.3	13.7	9.9	1.1	17.1	8.1	5.1	58.8
Female	1,165	9.5	24.5	21.8	5.4	13.4	3.6	10.5	11.3	55.8

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Data weighted according to response rates (see Methodological Notes, Section 3)

Number of leavers rounded to the nearest 5

Table 5: Employment industry of leavers from Scottish HEIs by subject of qualification: 2011-12

Leavers from Scottish HEIs in UK employment

	No. of Leavers	Agriculture and Related Industries (%)	Manufacturing and Construction (%)	Retail and Leisure (%)	Transport and Communication (%)	Finance and Business Services (%)	Public Administration (%)	Education (%)	Health, Social and Community Work (%)
All subjects	30,800	0.3	9.8	14.8	5.3	17.6	12.0	13.3	26.0
Medical Studies	5,910	0.0	1.1	7.7	0.4	2.1	1.9	3.3	83.1
Science and Engineering	7,460	0.9	20.4	16.7	10.3	25.0	5.8	8.3	11.8
Business and Social Studies	9,705	0.2	12.0	18.2	5.4	28.0	16.0	6.4	12.9
Education and the Arts	7,485	0.1	3.0	14.4	4.0	9.4	20.5	35.2	12.4

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Data weighted according to response rates (see Methodological Notes, Section 3)

Number of leavers rounded to the nearest 5

Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2007 was used to categorise employment industry (see Methodological Notes, Section 4)

Leavers from Multi-Disciplinary Studies are included in 'All subjects' but not in breakdown by subject area

A small number of leavers whose employment industry was unknown are included in subject area totals and 'All subjects' but not in breakdown by industry

Table 6: Employment location of leavers from Scottish HEIs by subject of qualification: 2011-12

Leavers from Scottish HEIs in UK or overseas employment

	Location of Employment			
	No. of Leavers	Scotland (%)	Other UK (%)	Overseas (%)
All subjects	33,355	76.4	15.9	7.7
Medical Studies	6,065	79.6	17.8	2.6
Allied Medicine	4,885	80.1	17.1	2.8
Medicine and Dentistry	1,180	77.7	20.8	1.5
Science and Engineering	8,345	69.4	20.0	10.6
Agriculture	230	63.4	19.8	16.8
Biological Sciences	2,405	77.0	15.8	7.2
Engineering and Technology	2,460	67.7	19.6	12.7
Information Technology	1,345	72.4	17.5	10.3
Mathematical Sciences	515	63.7	26.3	9.9
Physical Sciences	1,225	62.8	23.7	13.4
Veterinary Science	165	33.1	62.6	4.3
Business and Social Studies	10,765	76.2	14.0	9.8
Architecture	1,020	71.7	19.1	9.2
Business Administration	4,790	76.2	12.7	11.1
Law	1,260	78.3	10.6	11.1
Mass Communication	615	74.9	19.2	5.9
Social Studies	3,085	77.0	14.7	8.3
Education and the Arts	7,935	81.2	13.1	5.7
Creative Arts	1,710	77.4	16.1	6.5
Education	3,995	96.4	2.4	1.2
Humanities	1,015	58.3	33.0	8.8
Languages	1,215	55.9	27.4	16.7
Multi-Disciplinary Studies	240	88.4	7.9	3.7
Supplementary Subject Information				
Economics and Politics	850	49.3	28.9	21.5
English	530	62.3	27.8	9.8
Geography	405	57.1	30.5	12.4
Psychology	935	78.6	15.6	5.7

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Data weighted according to response rates (see Methodological Notes, Section 3)

Number of leavers rounded to the nearest 5

'Other UK' includes a small number of leavers whose location of employment was unknown

Table 7: Employment location of leavers from Scottish HEIs by pre-study domicile: 2011-12

Leavers from Scottish HEIs in UK or overseas employment

	No. of Leavers	Location of Employment		
		Scotland (%)	Other UK (%)	Overseas (%)
All Domiciles	33,355	76.4	15.9	7.7
Scotland	25,780	89.1	8.2	2.8
Other UK	4,465	33.0	59.4	7.7
Other EU	3,100	33.5	18.0	48.5

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Data weighted according to response rates (see Methodological Notes, Section 3)

Number of leavers rounded to the nearest 5

'Other UK' includes a small number of leavers whose location of employment was unknown

Table 8: First destination of Scottish domiciled leavers from Scottish HEIs by gender and level of qualification obtained: 2011-12 (National Indicator)

Scottish domiciled postgraduate and first degree leavers from Scottish HEIs

	No. of Leavers	Study/Training (%)	Employed within Scotland		Employed elsewhere (%)	Believed unemployed (%)	Other (%)	National Indicator value ¹ (%)
			SOC 1 to 3 (Professional) (%)	Other (%)				
Postgraduate and First Degree	22,365	13.7	50.6	16.5	9.1	6.1	4.0	64.4
Male	8,850	15.1	47.3	15.6	10.5	7.9	3.7	62.4
Female	13,510	12.8	52.9	17.1	8.1	4.9	4.2	65.7

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Student numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5

Data are not weighted.

1. More information on the National Indicator including recent performance is available on Scotland Performs:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/scotPerforms/indicator/graduates>

Table 9: First destination of Scottish domiciled leavers from Scottish HEIs by ethnicity: 2011-12

Scottish domiciled leavers from Scottish HEIs

	No. of Leavers	Study/Training (%)	UK employment (%)	Overseas employment (%)	Believed unemployed (%)	Other (%)
All ethnic backgrounds	35,400	16.8	70.8	2.0	5.8	4.6
Asian - Chinese	220	24.1	53.6	6.8	12.3	2.7
Asian - Indian	205	19.2	67.0	2.0	6.4	4.9
Asian - Pakistani	445	20.1	61.7	0.9	13.2	4.0
Asian - other	155	20.9	58.8	2.0	12.4	6.5
Black	270	22.4	55.1	1.8	19.1	1.5
White	32,925	16.7	71.3	1.9	5.4	4.6
Mixed background	365	18.4	61.5	4.4	11.0	4.4
Other ethnic background	100	21.6	52.0	13.7	7.8	3.9
Unknown	715	9.2	76.8	2.5	6.7	4.9

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Data weighted according to response rates (see Methodological Notes, Section 3)

Number of leavers rounded to the nearest 5

Table 10: Employment location of Scottish domiciled leavers from other UK HEIs by level of qualification obtained: 2011-12

Scottish domiciled leavers from other UK HEIs

	No. of Leavers	Location of Employment		
		Scotland (%)	Other UK (%)	Overseas (%)
All Qualifications	2,445	42.6	50.6	6.8
Postgraduate	1,130	44.1	48.5	7.5
First Degree	980	33.7	59.3	6.8
Sub-Degree	335	63.7	32.1	4.2

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Data weighted according to response rates (see Methodological Notes, Section 3)

Number of leavers rounded to the nearest 5

'Other UK' includes a small number of leavers whose location of employment was unknown

Table 11: Response rate for Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey for leavers from Scottish HEIs by level of qualification obtained: 2011-12

Leavers from Scottish HEIs

All Qualifications (%)	71.0
Postgraduate (%)	67.5
First Degree (%)	74.5
Sub-Degree (%)	61.8

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Explicit refusals to give information are counted as non-responses

Table 12: First destination of leavers from Scottish HEIs: 2007-08 to 2010-11, 2011-12

Leavers from Scottish HEIs

	No. of Leavers	Study/Training (%)	UK employment (%)	Overseas employment (%)	Believed unemployed (%)	Other (%)
2007-08	42,650	18.9	67.6	4.3	4.9	4.3
2008-09	43,810	22.5	63.6	3.9	6.1	4.0
2009-10	42,880	19.8	65.1	4.6	6.4	4.1
2010-11	44,870	19.0	65.9	5.3	5.9	3.9
2011-12	47,415	19.0	65.0	5.4	6.2	4.5

NOTE: The comparability of the time series is limited by changes implemented in the 2011-12 DLHE survey. Further details are provided in the Methodological Notes (2.1).

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Data weighted according to response rates (see Methodological Notes, Section 3)

Number of leavers rounded to the nearest 5

Methodological Notes

1. Data Sources

This publication contains information on the destinations (six months after graduating) of leavers from Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) in Scotland who gained higher education qualifications in academic year 2011-12.

These statistics are collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) through the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey:

- **HEIs** distribute the DLHE survey to leavers, collect the results and pass the data onto HESA.
- **Leavers** complete and return the DLHE survey to the HEIs.
- **HESA** collates and validates the data before passing the finished dataset onto the Scottish Government.
- **The Scottish Government** uses the HESA dataset to analyse and report on destinations of qualifiers from Scottish institutions.

2. Coverage

2.1 Time series comparisons

Following a review of the DLHE survey and consultation with government departments, the HE sector and users of the data, the DLHE survey was re-designed to collect richer information from leavers, particularly regarding their activities on the survey date. As a result, substantial changes were made to the DLHE questionnaire issued to 2011-12 leavers.

Leavers now report all activities (employment, education, other) that they are undertaking on the census date and indicate which activity they consider to be most important. HESA derive destination categories from the responses, taking into account the most important activity and, in some instances, other activities the leaver is involved in. More information on the changes to the survey can be found on the HESA website:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/includes/C11018_resources/changesrecord.pdf?v=1.11

Consequently, the destination categories have different definitions and the comparability of the time series is limited.

2.2 Destination categories

This publication presents leaver destinations using the *Employment Activity* categories derived by HESA. The 9 HESA Employment activity categories are grouped as follows in Table 1, 2, 9 and 12:

SG Destination Category	HESA Derived Activity Categories
Study/Training	04 Primarily studying and also in work 05 Full-time study 06 Part-time study
UK employment	01 Full-time work 02 Part-time work 03 Primarily in work and also studying
Overseas employment	01 Full-time work 02 Part-time work 03 Primarily in work and also studying
Believed unemployed	07 Due to start work 08 Unemployed
Other	09 Other

2.3 Open University

Leavers from the Open University whose pre-study domicile was in Scotland are counted as leavers from Scottish HEIs within this publication. This methodology differs from that used by HESA, who count the Open University as a wholly English institution, due to the location of its administrative base.

2.4 Target population for the survey

The HESA DLHE target population contains all UK, European Union and Non-EU domiciled HE students for whom destinations data is expected and sought. A list of exclusions applied to the DLHE target population is available on the HESA website: http://www.hesa.ac.uk/component/option,com_studrec/task,show_file/Itemid,233/mnl_11018/href,coverage.html/

The figures presented in this publication exclude Non-EU leavers and postgraduate research leavers with dormant status as these groups are new to the target population for 2011-12.

Consequently, the totals presented in this publication are not equivalent to the total number of qualifiers, as reported in the Scottish Funding Council publication 'Higher Education Students and Qualifiers at Scottish Institutions 2011-12': [http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/ReportsandPublications/Higher Education Students and Qualifiers at Scottish Institutions 2011-12.pdf](http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/ReportsandPublications/Higher_Education_Students_and_Qualifiers_at_Scottish_Institutions_2011-12.pdf)

3. Quality Information

3.1 Relevance

HESA is the official agency which collects, analyses and disseminates quantitative information about higher education. The primary purpose of the early DLHE data collection is to provide each of the bodies listed below with accurate and comprehensive statistical information regarding the destinations of leavers 6 months after graduation.

The statistics are used in Scotland by:

- Minister and officials in government

- The Scottish Funding Council
- Students, Researchers and Academics
- Careers Scotland

The statistics are used in a variety of ways including:

- Monitoring destinations of graduates. Table 8 presents information which is used in the Scotland Performs National Performance Framework.
- Informing students about potential careers paths based on subject of study.

3.2 Accuracy

3.2.1 Response rates

Although the DLHE survey is a census of the target population, some leavers do not respond to the survey or explicitly refuse to give any information. The current response rate for leavers from Scottish HEIs is 71.0 per cent. Response rates by level of qualification level are shown in Table 11.

3.2.2 Weighting for non-response

The data that were successfully collected were used to estimate the most likely responses of those who did not respond. The response rates for different categories of student were analysed to determine the extent of non-response for each group. We have found, for example, that students who have obtained a higher class of first degree (first or upper second) are more likely to respond to the survey than those who obtained a lower class of degree. High performing students were therefore over-represented in the respondents.

To account for this, the survey results for different demographics were weighted (i.e. an adjustment factor was applied) to make them more representative of the target population. The adjustments were made separately based on pre-study location (domicile), region of institution, level of qualification studied for and class of first degree.

The adjustment factors ranged from 1.2 to 1.9. Where adjustments have been made, it is noted under the relevant table of results. Further information on the quality the data used in this publication can be found on the Lifelong Learning Statistics website at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Lifelong-learning/LLStatsQuality>

3.2.3 Data Presentation

In all tables in this release, leaver numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5 and percentages to one decimal place. Within tables, missing values have been replaced with “-“. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding. Unless stated otherwise, percentages in tables are calculated from unrounded values.

3.3 Timeliness

HESA collected data for 2011-12 DLHE survey in April 2012 (winter leavers) and January 2013 (summer leavers). They published a statistical first release and further analysis in June and July 2013 respectively:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1899&Itemid=239

3.4 Comparability

In June each year, HESA produce a statistical first release containing a summary of results from the DLHE survey. Historically each of the devolved countries of the UK has produced their own more detailed publication, containing more detailed country-specific analysis.

There are two key differences between the figures presented in this Scottish Government publication and those presented by HESA in their statistical first release and other publications (both of which are explained elsewhere in this Methodological Notes section):

- Scottish domiciled OU leavers are counted in Scottish HEI figures (see 2.3)
- The results are weighted for non-response (see 3.2.2)

4. Definitions

4.1 International Students

'Other European Union' (Other EU) figures include accession countries according to EU membership at the start of each academic year. In 2011-12 EU member countries included; Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Hungary, the Republic of Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

4.2 Level of Study

Postgraduate level qualifications include; doctorate, masters, postgraduate bachelor's degrees, postgraduate diplomas or certificates, PGCE/PGDE and professional qualification at postgraduate level. From 2007-08 professional graduate certificates in education were reported as undergraduate qualifications and separately from postgraduate certificates in education, in years prior to this both were reported as postgraduate certificates in education.

First Degree qualifications include; first degrees, first degrees with qualified teacher status, enhanced first degrees, first degrees obtained concurrently with a diploma and intercalated first degrees.

Other Undergraduate qualifications include; Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), professional qualification at undergraduate level, foundation courses at HE level, HND, HNC, NVQ/SVQ levels 5 and 4, diplomas and certificates at undergraduate level and other formal HE qualifications of less than degree standard.

4.3 Subject data

Subject data from higher education institutions is apportioned to broadly reflect the weight of a particular subject within the study programmes of individual students. This process is consistent with the treatment of subject breakdowns by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Supplementary subject figures are included in the main subject groupings. They are also reported separately for clarity. Economics and politics are included in social studies, English is included in languages, geography is included in social studies and psychology is included in biological sciences.

The Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) of subject classification has been used as the basis for HESA data collection and this publication. Further information on JACS is available on the HESA website:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=158&Itemid=233

4.4 Occupation data

The Standard Occupation Classification 2010 (SOC 2010) has been used to categorise and report on the occupations of leavers in 2011-12, replacing SOC 2000 which was used in previous years. Further information on SOC 2010 is available on the ONS website:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/soc2010/index.html>

4.5 Employment industry data

The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) has been used to categorise and report on the employment industry of leavers in 2011-12. Further information on SIC is available on the ONS website:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/standard-industrial-classification/index.html>

A NATIONAL STATISTICS PUBLICATION FOR SCOTLAND

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- meet identified user needs; p
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

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