



College Leaver Destinations 2020-21



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

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College Leaver Destinations 2020-21

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FAO:	Principals and Directors of Scotland's colleges, students and parents, and the general public.
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Table of Contents

Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic	4
Executive Summary	5
Sector Leavers	8
Sector Leaver Analysis	11
Further Information.....	17
Appendix: Methodology, Data Sources and Data Definitions.....	18
CLD Rationale.....	18
Sources of Destinations	19
Contextualising the College Sector	20
Definitions.....	21
Previous CLD Publications.....	22

Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic

1. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the requirement for public health control measures continued throughout 2020-21. The measures put in place to protect staff and students in 2020-21 were stricter and longer lasting than was experienced in 2019-20 and severely limited colleges' ability to deliver learning and teaching activities and student support services on campus. This had a direct impact on potential qualifiers who form the cohort the College Leaver Destinations (CLD) collection follows.
2. In last year's publication we reported that around 6,897 students deferred from full-time courses in the 2019-20 session due to the pandemic. Of these, 2,282 subsequently completed successfully and so would have been included in last year's publication in a normal session but were resulted too late to be included in that survey. This year's publication does now include deferred students, however the number is small enough to have minimal impact on the figures. The CLD data contained here includes 95 qualifiers who were deferred from the 2019-20 academic year. Of these, 77 have confirmed destinations, meaning students deferred from the 2019-20 academic year constitute only 0.2% of students with confirmed destinations reported here for 2020-21. These students were likely forced to defer their studies as a direct consequence of disruptions to work-based or in-person teaching during the pandemic. Most of the deferred students with confirmed destinations qualified at SCQF 1-6 (62 of 77). Almost all of the 77 deferred students reached a positive destination at 94.8% (73 students), with around three quarters continuing in college (75.8.%) and 16.9% finding work.
3. Since the CLD examines the period three to six months post-qualification, it is worth noting that this year's CLD survey was carried out during a vastly different economic environment to what 2019-20 leavers faced. Leavers from 2019-20 faced the uncertainty of the second half of 2020 before the vaccination rollout and in the first half of 2021 when the country remained mainly in lockdown. The national impact on unemployment for this period has been well documented in the media and this is reflected in the previous session's data. However, this year, leavers were faced with a far more buoyant jobs market as lockdown restrictions were lifted and those who were previously unable to find work were able to find new opportunities in employment.
4. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) has presented data for several years, but full consideration should be given to these exceptional circumstances when comparing results over time.

Executive Summary

5. The COVID-19 Pandemic had a significant impact on both the studies and the destinations for the 2019-20 qualifying cohort, reducing the number of qualifiers as well as having a direct impact on employment opportunities. For the 2020-21 session however, qualifiers were presented with a vastly different economic landscape as jobs quickly became available again, reducing the number of leavers entering unemployment or being unable to work, while further study at HEIs remained an attractive prospect for many. These factors have resulted in a record high proportion of Sector Leavers in positive destinations for this publication.
6. This publication provides information on the destinations of successful full-time college leavers in Scotland. It supports SFC's work with colleges on outcome-based planning through Outcome Agreements and the Scottish Government's skills strategy, *Scotland's Future Skills Action Plan* and *Developing the Young Workforce – Scotland's Youth Employment Strategy*, by providing key measurements for progression to further study and employment for all age groups.
7. This is the eighth publication of College Leaver Destinations (CLD) for Scotland's colleges and covers leavers from the academic year 2020-21. This publication reports on the destinations of leavers 3-6 months after qualifying.
8. The key focus of this publication centres on **Sector Leavers** with known destinations. Key highlights for this group are as follows:
 - Overall, 39,732 qualifiers had a confirmed destination (including continuing at college). Sector Leavers accounted for 16,653 of these, meaning 41.9% of qualifiers with confirmed destinations were Sector Leavers.
 - 91.0% of Sector Leavers found positive destinations, an increase from last session's 84.4% and a record high.
 - 83.9% of Sector Leavers who achieved SCQF¹ 2 1-6 went on to positive destinations, up from 74.5% last session.

¹ Where a programme is not formally SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) credit rated a 'broadly comparable' level can be assigned. This has been done by either comparing across to SCQF from other national frameworks if the programme has a level on another framework, or if this is not the case, using the SCQF Level Descriptors to identify the most appropriate level of learning for the programme of study. References to SCQF in this publication should be assumed to reflect this definition.

² SCQF 1-6 is also sometimes referred to as 'FE level' and SCQF 7+ as 'HE level'.

- 95.4% of Sector Leavers who achieved SCQF 7+ went on to positive destinations, up from 90.3% last session.
 - 40.0% of Sector leavers who achieved SCQF 7+ went into employment, up from 31.5% last session.
9. In last year's publication we reported that industries such as Hairdressing, Beauty and Complementary Therapies saw a large drop in employment, with work destinations for these Sector Leavers at SCQF 7+ down 23.8 percentage points (pp) to 55.1%, reflecting the closure of salons during the pandemic. This figure recovered by 10.9pp to 66.0% for the 2020-21 session as salons reopened, with this group also seeing another year-on-year increase in the proportion moving to university, up 7.6pp to 25.8%.
10. Industries such as Engineering and Hospitality and Tourism have seen a strong recovery in Sector Leavers finding employment since the last session, with the proportion of Sector Leavers at SCQF 7+ finding work up 17.0pp to 57.2% and 14.9pp to 52.5% respectively. The overall growth in positive destinations was driven by more Sector Leavers finding opportunities for employment in a recovering jobs market, coupled with the continued attraction of university study. For Sector Leavers as a whole:
- University study remained an attractive destination for Sector Leavers at SCQF 7+, with 55.4% of qualifiers from this level going on to university study, down slightly from 58.8% last session.
 - With regards to the recovering jobs market, 9.0% of Sector Leavers were unemployed or unavailable for work compared to 15.6% last session, a record low for this publication.

The key focus of this publication centres on Sector Leavers with known destinations with the following showing the salient aspects for this group:

16,653 qualifiers with **KNOWN DESTINATIONS** left the college sector and these **SECTOR LEAVERS ACCOUNTED FOR 41.9%** for whom the post-study destination was confirmed (39,732).



91.0% of Sector Leavers found positive destinations, an increase from last session's 84.4% and a **RECORD HIGH**.



83.9% of Sector Leavers who **ACHIEVED SCQF 1-6** went on to positive destinations, up from 74.5% last session.



95.4% of Sector Leavers who **ACHIEVED SCQF 7+** went on to positive destinations, up from 90.3% last session.

55.4% of Sector Leavers who **ACHIEVED SCQF 7+** went on to **UNIVERSITY STUDY** compared to 58.8% last session.



Unemployment and unavailability for work for Sector Leavers has decreased to 9.0% from 15.6% last session - although the gap by SCQF remains notable:

16.1% AT SCQF 1-6 (down from 25.5%) compared with
4.6% AT SCQF 7+ (down from 9.7%).

Sector Leavers

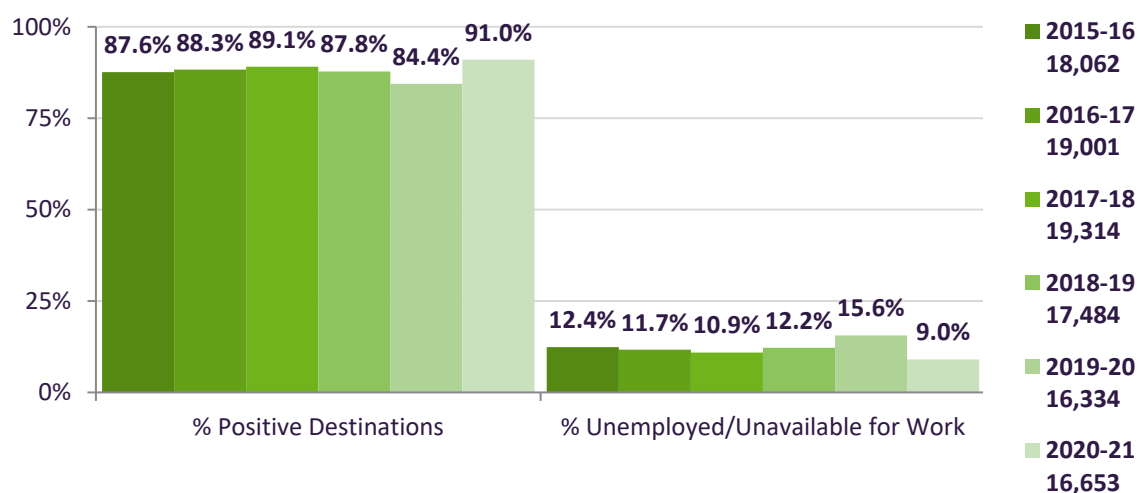
11. The overall CLD collection examines all successful qualifiers from full-time college courses, including those who have left the sector and those who have completed a full-time course but are remaining at college to complete a subsequent qualification. These courses are commonly confined to a single academic year and are designed to allow students to progress from lower level courses to more advanced courses via learning pathways, i.e. course literature commonly signposts that 'course A' will enable progression to 'course B', with the student directed towards HE study or employment in a particular area after completion of a number of progressing courses. The journey varies depending on the point of entry and qualifications achieved prior to enrolment for students. The sector leavers are extracted from the CLD collection and are the focus of this publication.

Table 1: 2020-21 Full-Time Qualifiers and Sector Leavers with known destinations

	CLD Qualifiers 2020-21	Unconfirmed	Confirmed Destinations	Continuing College Study	Sector Leavers
SCQF 1-6	27,403	2,837	24,566	18,114	6,452
		10.4%	89.6%	66.1%	23.5%
SCQF 7+	18,167	3,001	15,166	4,965	10,201
		16.5%	83.5%	27.3%	56.2%
Total	45,570	5,838	39,732	23,079	16,653
		12.8%	87.2%	50.6%	36.5%

12. Table 1 reflects the breakdown of all qualifiers for the 2020-21 CLD by SCQF level. The majority of SCQF 1-6 qualifiers stay on at college (66.1%) where only 27.3% at SCQF 7+ remain. Of the 22,491 who have not remained in college, destinations were confirmed for 16,653. This group with confirmed destinations is defined in this publication as Sector Leavers. At SCQF 1-6 Sector Leavers account for 23.5% of qualifiers, while at SCQF 7+ the proportion is 56.2%.

Chart A: Sector Leaver Destinations 2015-16 to 2019-20



13. Chart A shows the trend in destinations for confirmed Sector Leavers since 2015-16³. The impact of the pandemic lockdowns on opportunities for sector leavers in the 2019-20 session is evident, with a decrease in positive destinations to 84.4%, a 3.4pp reduction that year. However as of the 2020-21 session, the proportion of Sector Leavers in a positive destination has bounced back above pre-pandemic levels, at a record high. Meanwhile the proportion unemployed or unavailable to work is at a record low, at 9.0%.

³ This is the period from which data is of an appropriate quality for analysis of the Sector Leavers.

Table 2 Sector Leaver Comparison 2019-20 to 2020-21

External Destination	2019-20 Sector Leavers	% Sector Leavers	2020-21 Sector Leavers	% Sector Leavers	
Qualifiers Leaving College Sector	16,334 / 40,996	39.8%	16,653 / 39,732	41.9%	▲
FE to University	1,659	10.2%	1,280	7.7%	▼
HE to University	5,991	36.7% 84.4%	5,655	34.0%	▼ 91.0% ▲
FE/HE into work	6,130	37.5%	8,211	49.3%	▲
Unemployed	1,585	9.7%	836	5.0%	▼
Unavailable for work	969	5.9% 15.6%	671	4.0%	▼ 9.0% ▼
		100%		100%	

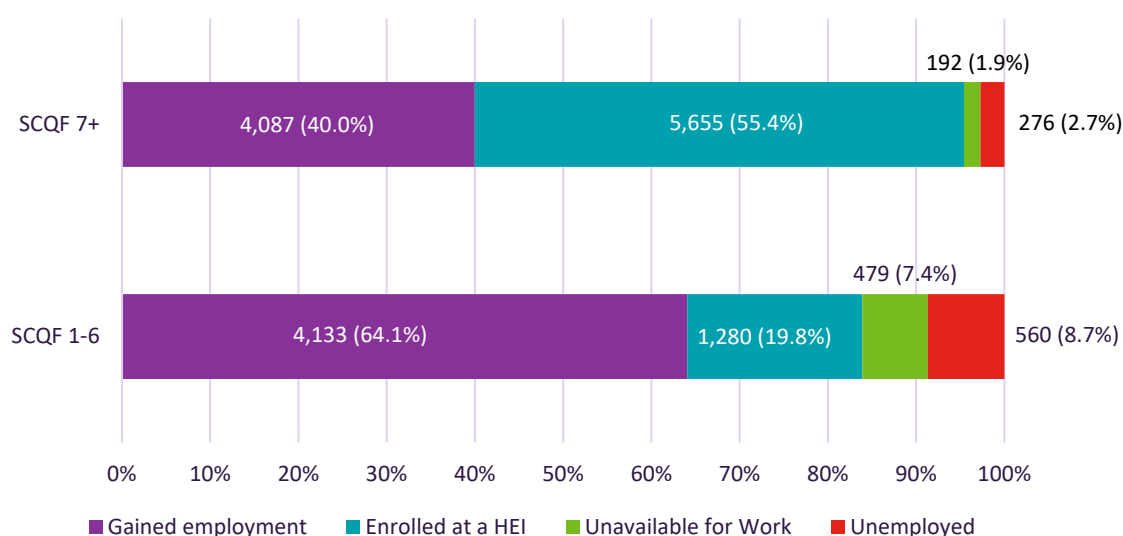
14. Table 2 provides comparative destination proportions for the confirmed Sector Leavers for 2019-20 with 2020-21. In this session we know the destination of 16,653 Sector Leavers, an increase of 319 from the previous year. As observed, the increase in positive destinations to 91.0% can be attributed to the increase in job opportunities that became available as workplaces reopened and lockdown restrictions lifted as vaccinations were rolled out across the Scottish population at the end of 2020 and the early part of 2021. Many college leavers found themselves presented with a buoyant jobs market after qualifying. The proportion of Sector Leavers unemployed dropped to 5.0%, down from 9.7% the previous session, with the proportion of unemployed or unavailable to work at a record low of 9.0%. The proportion of Sector Leavers moving to employment post-qualification increased from 37.5% last year to 49.3% this session.
15. Looking at Table 2 above, university study remained an attractive destination for many Sector Leavers, with 34.0% of Sector Leavers qualifying at HE level (SCQF 7+) and going on to university study, down only 2.7pp on the previous session. We reported last year that the pandemic highlighted the vital role that universities play in offering opportunities for learners post-college, with 10.2% of Sector Leavers qualifying at FE level (SCQF 1-6) and going on to university and 36.7% of Sector Leavers going from HE level study to university, up 3.6pp and 3.4pp respectively for that year. For the 2020-21 session, these figures are down 2.5pp and 2.7pp respectively and therefore remain above pre-pandemic levels from 2018-19. This suggests that universities still have a

vital role to play in helping college leavers achieve positive destinations in the later phases of the pandemic.

Sector Leaver Analysis

16. Chart B provides a breakdown of the destinations for those leaving college by SCQF level.

Chart B: Confirmed destination of Sector Leavers by level, 2020-21



17. While economic factors have had a sizeable impact on the overall increase in the proportion of Sector Leavers going into employment, we can see that for SCQF 1-6 leavers, employment is still the most attractive destination, at 64.1%, whereas for SCQF 7+ leavers university study is still the most attractive destination, at 55.4%. The destination patterns by SCQF level have reverted to similar behaviours seen pre-pandemic in the 2018-19 session, where 62.6% of SCQF 1-6 Sector Leavers gained employment (1.5pp lower than 2020-21) while 53.7% of SCQF 7+ sector leavers enrolled at a Higher Education Institution (HEI) (1.7pp lower than 2020-21).
18. Last year we reported that the pandemic had had a stronger effect on SCQF 1-6 Sector Leavers' ability to find employment compared to SCQF 7+ leavers. However, this year the trend for SCQF 1-6 Leavers finding employment has bounced back strongly, from 47.5% reported last year to 64.1% in this session, a 16.6pp increase. Meanwhile for SCQF 7+ Sector Leavers the proportion finding employment bounced back by 8.5pp to 40.0%. It is positive to see that leavers from lower levels of study have found economic opportunity this year in the later phases of the pandemic, and that the decrease in employment outcomes was largely isolated to qualifiers from one session.

Table 3: Sector Leaver Destinations by Gender with variance from previous year

		Total	HEI%	Work %	(Positive %: HEI+Work)	Unavailable %	Unemploye d %
SCQF 1-6	Male	2,784	10.1%	75.1%	85.3%	4.5%	10.3%
	Female	3,615	27.4%	55.7%	83.1%	9.6%	7.4%
SCQF 7+	Male	3,945	55.6%	40.6%	96.1%	1.1%	2.8%
	Female	6,210	55.4%	39.6%	94.9%	2.4%	2.6%
SCQF 1-6 variance	Male	14	-5.5pp	17.5pp	12.1pp	-3.7pp	-8.4pp
	Female	267	-9.1pp	16.5pp	7.4pp	-2.9pp	-4.4pp
SCQF 7+ variance	Male	-79	-4.9pp	10.0pp	5.0pp	-1.6pp	-4.5pp
	Female	72	-2.4pp	7.4pp	5.0pp	-1.6pp	-3.5pp

19. Overall, at SCQF 1-6, the increase in the proportions moving into employment is similar for males and females, a 17.5pp and 16.5pp increases respectively. It is positive that both groups experienced a similar level of growth in employment destinations in this session. However, a divergence in pathways taken still exists more strongly for males and females at the SCQF 1-6 level compared to SCQF 7+. Three quarters of male SCQF 1-6 qualifiers went into work (75.1%), whereas 55.7% of females took this route, and one in 10 (10.1%) male Sector Leavers went on to study at HEIs, compared to 27.4% for females from this level. Both males and females from this level have seen a rise going into positive destinations, with 12.1pp and 7.4pp increases for males and females this session respectively, to 85.3% and 83.1%.
20. At SCQF 7+, positive destinations are 96.1% (up 5.0pp) for males and 94.9% (also up 5.0pp) for females, so the overall pattern for both genders at this level is very similar. For men and women qualifying from SCQF 7+, the proportions going into work or study at university are very similar, with 55.6% of males from this level and 55.4% of females from this level going on to study at a HEI, while 40.6% of males and 39.6% of females at this level found work. Last year we commented that females appeared to be affected more by the pandemic than males in terms of employment. As of this latest session however, there seems to be much greater balance between the sexes in this regard.
21. Last year we also observed that the related unemployment proportions reveal males were more likely to become unemployed. However, this year, the unemployment gap

for Sector Leavers at SCQF 7+ is only 0.2pp between men and women. At SCQF 1-6, men are still more likely to be unemployed, at 10.3% compared to 7.4% for women at this level.

22. Table 4 provides positive destination proportions by subject groupings. It is worth pointing out that some percentages are based on small numbers, which make some percentages less robust than others.

Table 4: Sector Leaver Positive Destination Comparison by Subject Area

	SCQF 1-6						SCQF 7+					
	Total	(Overall Positive %: HEI+Work)	HEI%	HEI variance	Work %	Work Variance	Total	(Overall Positive %: HEI+Work)	HEI%	HEI variance	Work %	Work Variance
Art and design arts and crafts	233	82.0%	34.3%	-10.5pp	47.6%	22.5pp	709	94.1%	61.1%	-2.3pp	33.0%	8.6pp
Business, management and administration	204	78.4%	2.9%	-17.0pp	75.5%	26.0pp	1,790	95.4%	61.5%	-6.6pp	34.0%	9.9pp
Care	1,366	87.0%	43.7%	-12.3pp	43.3%	13.7pp	2,196	95.9%	54.5%	-2.0pp	41.4%	4.6pp
Computing and ICT	112	72.3%	6.3%	-25.8pp	66.1%	27.6pp	733	94.0%	65.1%	0.6pp	28.9%	5.4pp
Construction	629	89.3%	1.1%	0.0pp	88.2%	18.7pp	244	95.1%	65.2%	-9.5pp	29.9%	13.0pp
Education and training	101	84.2%	8.9%	-4.1pp	75.2%	12.2pp	74	98.6%	16.2%	0.9pp	82.4%	4.4pp
Engineering	868	90.0%	2.2%	-3.6pp	87.8%	10.4pp	703	97.6%	40.4%	-10.7pp	57.2%	17pp
Hairdressing, beauty and complementary therapies	547	81.5%	1.1%	-3.6pp	80.4%	15.2pp	306	91.8%	25.8%	7.6pp	66.0%	10.9pp
Hospitality and tourism	396	82.1%	2.8%	0.3pp	79.3%	17.3pp	362	91.4%	39.0%	-8.1pp	52.5%	14.9pp
Land-based industries	273	86.8%	0.0%	-14.1pp	86.8%	32.5pp	31	87.1%	38.7%	17.3pp	48.4%	-13.5pp

Languages and ESOL	264	68.6%	8.7%	2.5pp	59.8%	9.3pp	0	-	-	-	-	-
Media	54	75.9%	13.0%	-7.4pp	63.0%	21.2pp	557	94.4%	57.5%	7.8pp	37.0%	4.2pp
Nautical studies	46	95.7%	2.2%	-1.1pp	93.5%	10.2pp	248	100.0%	0.0%	-1.3pp	100.0%	5.0pp
Performing arts	62	71.0%	19.4%	-26.5pp	51.6%	21.3pp	493	94.1%	44.6%	7.6pp	49.5%	3.2pp
Science	342	92.7%	63.2%	-6.8pp	29.5%	13.0pp	390	96.4%	78.5%	3.4pp	17.9%	-1.0pp
Social subjects	451	90.5%	58.5%	-11.4pp	31.9%	14.0pp	722	96.3%	79.6%	-7.6pp	16.6%	7.8pp
Special programmes	251	46.6%	0.0%	-1.5pp	46.6%	19.3pp	0	-	-	-	-	-
Sport and leisure	253	80.6%	5.9%	-6.8pp	74.7%	16.6pp	643	97.0%	52.9%	-12.2pp	44.2%	15.7pp
All	6,452	83.9%	19.8%	-7.2pp	64.1%	16.6pp	10,201	95.4%	55.4%	-3.4pp	40.0%	8.5pp

23. Positive destinations for subject groupings at SCQF 1-6 for Sector Leavers range from 68.6% (Languages and ESOL) to 95.7% (Nautical studies)⁴. At SCQF 7+, the range is 87.1% (Land-based industries) to 100.0% (Nautical studies). A greater proportion of Sector Leavers with higher levels of qualifications do tend to find positive destinations compared to those with lower levels of qualification, with SCQF 1-6 averaging 83.9% compared to 95.4% at SCQF 7+. Note: the results here appear unfavourable to those at the lower SCQF level since the vast majority of SCQF 1-6 qualifiers stay in college for further study, at 76.5% (20,951/27,403). This continued college study is a positive outcome for those at the lower SCQF levels, however this is excluded here since the analysis only looks at proportions for those who leave the college sector.
24. At SCQF 1-6, all subject areas saw an increase in the proportion finding work. Land-based industries saw the biggest increase at 32.5pp to 86.8%, followed by Computing and ICT which increased by 27.6pp to 66.1% finding work. Languages and ESOL had the smallest increase at 9.3pp. At this level, subjects with the biggest increase in the proportion finding work tended to also be the subjects with the biggest decrease in the proportion going to HEIs. For example, Computing and ICT saw a 27.6pp increase in the proportion finding work and a 25.8pp decrease in the proportion going on to university. A similar pattern can also be observed for Performing arts, Care and Business, management and administration.
25. At SCQF 7+ the largest change in proportions moving to work was Sport and leisure (15.7pp increase to 42.2%) followed by Hospitality and tourism (14.9pp increase to 52.5%) and Construction (13.0pp increase to 29.9%). Here the impact of these industries returning to in-person work in the later phases of the pandemic are being reflected in the data.
26. Qualifiers from SCQF 1-6 Special Programmes, which are generally designed for students with additional support needs for learning, saw the lowest levels of positive destinations at 46.6%. However, this has seen a large increase since the last session during the pandemic, increasing 17.8pp to 28.8%.
27. Last year we noted that the majority of subject areas were hit hard by the pandemic, notably Hairdressing, Beauty and Complementary Therapies and Performing Arts, Hospitality and Tourism, with a reflected increase in the proportion from these subjects going onto university instead. At SCQF 7+ in particular, further study at a HEI is still a popular route for Sector Leavers navigating the pandemic, however the improved jobs market has encouraged qualifiers from many industries to pursue work

⁴ Excluding Special Programmes.

opportunities instead.

Further Information

28. The CLD measures are of primary importance to Ministers, College Principals, Governing Boards and Scottish Government officials.
29. Despite the obvious difficulties last year and this year, staff within the colleges again worked hard to maintain the integrity of this collection. This session our confirmed rate stands at 87.2%, down very slightly from 89.3% last session, highlighting the continued commitment to this work. SFC again extends its thanks to the efforts put in by those who are so central to this publication – and this year to those who again truly did go the extra mile. Thank you. We will continue in our efforts to reduce the number of unconfirmed destinations next year through matching, our approach to collection and refinement of the process to further improve analysis, and we would welcome feedback to inform modifications to the publication coverage and presentation.
30. Please pass any comments to Daniel Proudfoot, email: dproudfoot@sfc.ac.uk.

Appendix: Methodology, Data Sources and Data Definitions

CLD Rationale

32. The CLD collection forms a central element in understanding the learner journey through and beyond college education. The dataset has evolved from the need to develop a robust sector-wide method of collecting information to enable the National Performance Measure on Destinations and Employment to be established and to monitor *Developing the Young Workforce – Scotland’s Youth Employment Strategy*.
33. Prior to the first survey in 2013-14 there was a general lack of valid and reliable college leaver destination data for FE (non-advanced) qualifiers, while poor response rates were associated with the data collected by SFC for a number of years on full-time HE (advanced) qualifiers through the First Destinations Graduate Survey (FDG). These things demonstrated the need to establish a coherent, systematic and comprehensive way of collecting and reporting on the destinations of college students who successfully completed courses. The benefits of such a collection are manifold and include:
 - Facilitating reporting on full-time college leavers going into positive destinations year-on-year at national, regional and college level.
 - Demonstrating the impact of the college sector to the individual, the economy and to society.
 - Helping colleges to ensure relevance and effectiveness of provision.
 - Guiding colleges to equip learners to make informed choices.
 - Providing evidence to inform regional curriculum planning and to aid in the design of learning programmes.
34. Since the 2013-14 CLD publication (December 2015), the endeavour has been to improve the quality of the data to provide accurate information and conclusions. A great deal of work has been undertaken by the colleges to ensure the most robust picture of College Leaver Destinations from the dataset, while refinement of data matching has also been central to the high proportion of confirmed destinations.
35. Changes in the Further Education Statistics (FES) collection of college data were implemented in the 2016-17 session to provide a robust and accurate measure of progression of SCQF level or broadly comparable level for those continuing study.
36. Building on the enhancements for equalities data introduced in CLD 2015-16, we have continued to enrich our understanding of the sector this year through establishing the relationship of courses to jobs for those who enter the workplace as a destination as

well as providing analysis of rurality to enrich the detail and validity of analysis from this dataset.

Sources of Destinations

37. The CLD continues to build on ‘best practice’ as well as to improve data linkage for 16-24 year olds with Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and the Students Award Agency for Scotland (SAAS) to reduce the collection burden and to improve data integrity. The target confirmed destination rate again was set at 80% in line with the target rate for HESA’s annual Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE). Table A1 shows the numbers and percentages from data linkage and other sources used in compiling this dataset.

Table A1: Sources of CLD 2020-21 Data

Source	Count	%
FES	20,927	45.9%
INDIVIDUAL	6,413	14.1%
SDS	6,811	14.9%
MISSING	6,407	14.1%
COLLEGE	3,613	7.9%
UCAS	609	1.3%
OTHER	553	1.2%
FAMILY	237	0.5%
	45,570	100%

38. We continue to develop the collection quality assurance processes and to refine and extend the use of data linkage to improve the completeness and robustness of these data. Other key areas for development include:
- Consistency of collection methods.
 - Integrity of destinations evidence collected anecdotally.
 - Confirmed destination rates.
 - Improving SCQF and broadly comparable level accuracy.

- Addition of employment relationship to course field added.

Contextualising the College Sector

39. It is important to recognise what the college sector is to fully appreciate the value of the destinations information in this publication and why the distribution of destinations for college qualifiers fall as they do. There is an unfortunate tendency to see college and university as the same thing - since students can progress from one to the other - but this is an oversimplification and does not capture the differences within the tertiary sector.
40. The university sector is most easily understood: a significant proportion enrol on a degree course and four years later graduate from the programme with their degree and, most frequently, move into the world of employment. A cursory examination of the Higher Education Statistical Agency's (HESA) destinations⁵ demonstrates this trend with university destinations almost the exact inverse of what is happening in the college sector. The focus on Sector Leavers in this publication perhaps adds a more comparable analysis of the college leavers, but the difference in the sectors should always be kept in mind.

Notes:

Care should be taken when comparing figures in the publication to ensure percentages are of the same type for valid comparison – and especially when comparing with previous CLD publications.

Table and chart percentages are driven from raw figures so rounding may produce some apparent addition errors.

⁵ <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/destinations>

Definitions

Sector Leavers:	Qualifiers we have confirmed destinations who do not stay in the college sector after qualifying and instead have moved into post-college destinations: work, study at university and negative destinations such as unemployment. This CLD the national figure for Sector Leavers was 16,653 .
Unconfirmed qualifiers:	Qualifiers where contact could not be made.
Positive Destinations:	Defined in the <i>National Measure: Destination and Employment</i> as the number and proportion of college qualifiers in work, training and/or further study 3-6 months after qualifying. Separate figures are reported for FE (non-advanced) and HE (advanced) levels course qualifiers.
All qualifiers:	Refers to qualifiers for whom we have confirmed destinations <i>and</i> those qualifiers who remain unconfirmed. This CLD the national figure for all qualifiers was 45,570 .
Confirmed qualifiers:	Refers to only those qualifiers for whom we have confirmed destinations. This CLD the national figure for confirmed qualifiers was 39,732 .
Further study or training:	Qualifiers who are continuing with full-time or part-time study, training or research at college or university.
Entering employment:	For those in full-time and part-time work only (including self-employed/freelance, voluntary/unpaid, developing a professional portfolio/creative practice or on an internship).

Also includes qualifiers who were not currently in employment but who secured employment that was set to commence by 31 March 2022.

Unemployed:	This applies to qualifiers <i>Unemployed and looking for work</i> .
Unavailable to work:	Qualifiers who are: <i>taking time out in order to travel; Permanently unable to work/retired; Temporarily sick/unable to work/looking after home/family; and those not employed but not looking for employment, further study or training.</i>
SCQF:	SCQF refers to a programme's SCQF level or a 'broadly comparable' level for non-SCQF credit rated provision.

Previous CLD Publications

41. Figures and percentages referring to previous CLD publications are taken from the original publications:

[College Leaver Destinations 2013-14](#)

(Experimental Statistics: data being developed) [Ref: SFC/ST/07/2015].

[College Leaver Destinations 2014-15](#) [SFC/ST/07/2016].

[College Leaver Destinations 2015-16](#) [SFC/ST/07/2017].

[College Leaver Destinations 2016-17](#) [SFC/ST/07/2018].

[College Leaver Destinations 2017-18](#) [SFC/ST/08/2019].

[College Leaver Destinations 2018-19](#) [SFC/ST/07/2020].

[College Leaver Destinations 2019-20](#) [SFC/ST/07/2021].