

Your occupation. Your future?

The vocational school leavers surveys done so far indicate that the most frequent activity after finishing school is work (40%), education (20%) and these two activities combined (21%)¹. A comparison of the status of leavers one year after they finish school with their plans formulated during the last year of their vocational school education shows that many of them have achieved what they intended.

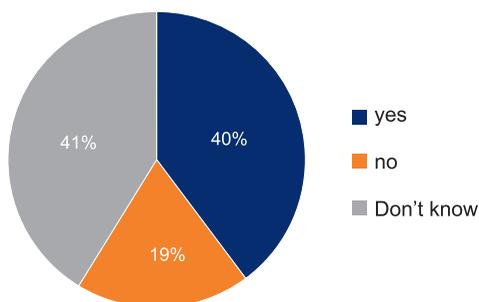
Education

Any type of vocational school offers a chance of both employment and continued education (at schools of higher education, for leavers of secondary technical and post-secondary schools, and in supplementary secondary general schools for those who complete basic vocational education). Hence, analysis of students' plans should take into account both work and further education. Nearly a year before completing school, final grade students did not have any precise ideas – and their answers to the questions were quite often “don't know”. The figure was as high as 41% for continued education, and 13% for employment. Interest in taking up further education was expressed by 40% of the students. The differences between the particular school types

were not very big. Students of secondary technical schools had the clearest views as to their further education (41% “yes” answers, compared with 18% “no’s”). Young people from basic vocational schools taking full-time education were much rarer to think about continuing their education (34% “Yes’s”, 26% “No’s”). The levels of undecidedness at all school types were similar – the percentage of “don't know” answers was oscillating around 41%.

The educational choices of students about to finish their vocational schools differed not only in terms of their readiness to continue education but also the types of schools in which to pursue further learning. Amongst basic vocational school students, 36% were thinking about some educational follow-up; 74% of them were interested in supplementary secondary general school; and 19% in taking up courses. The respondents ranked the correspondence of future courses with the occupation they currently learned to acquire at 3.8 (on a five-level scale of grades where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest figure). Amongst secondary technical schools students, an intention to continue education was expressed by 41% of whom 84% were decided to take up studies. Courses were mentioned by 15%, and post-secondary education by 7%. Correspondence between the planned and current education of secondary technical schools was the lowest for studies – 3.2 – reached 3.3 for courses .

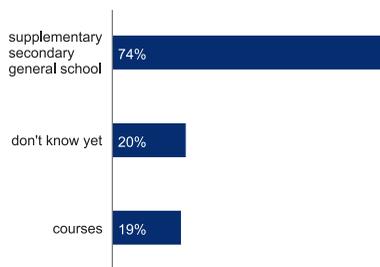
Do you plan to continue your education after finishing school?



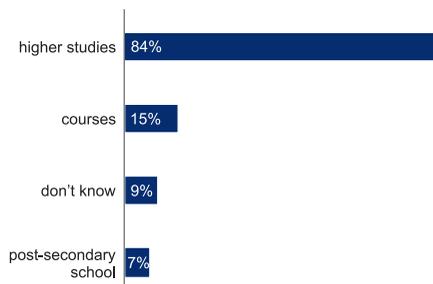
¹ *Occupational start. Report on the vocational school leavers survey 2012*, Kraków: Wojewódzki Urząd Pracy w Krakowie, 2013.

² The survey done in the fourth quarter of 2013 covered 13 113 students of last grades of vocational schools from 200 school complexes in Małopolska. The survey covered 9 257 students of secondary technical schools, 925 from post-secondary schools and 3 931 from basic vocational ones (of whom 1 393 were educated while employed as underage workers).

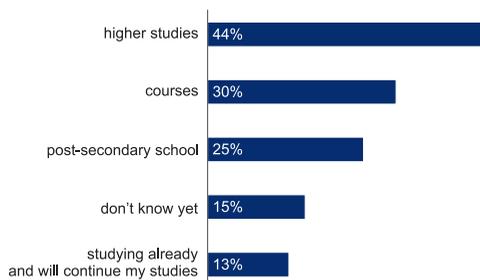
Continuation of education – basic vocational schools



Continuation of education – secondary technical schools



Continuation of education – post-secondary schools



The plans of post-secondary schools those who expressed their interest in continuing education (38%) varied considerably: 44% intended to study, 30% – improve their knowledge at training courses, and 25% at another post-secondary school. In turn, 13% were thinking of continuing their studies which they started in parallel with learning at their school. The level of correspondence between the planned studies and their current direction of education was low and reached 3.2. The highest correspondence was noted for training courses – 4.0.

Work

After finishing school, students were decided to take up employment but most of them were only thinking of looking for jobs. Amongst the respondents,

40% intended to seek any job, and 37% – in line with their educational background. 16% of the students claimed that they had work already guaranteed and hence did not have to take any action to get it. 8% of them said that they had jobs guaranteed which corresponded to their occupations – where they had their practical training (40%) or in another company (39%). It was mainly students of basic vocational schools pursuing their education as underage workers and post-graduate school students who associated their future with the place where they had their practical training for a trade.

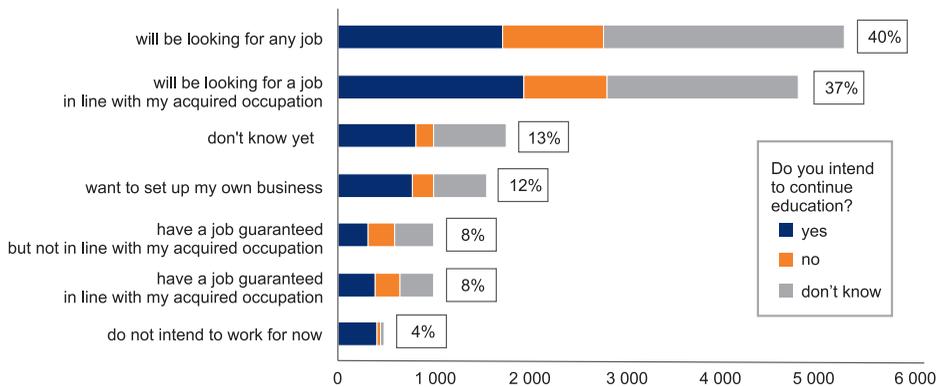
The percentage of students who declared that they had jobs guaranteed in line with their educational background has been decreasing for three years now. It was 14% in the survey two years ago, 13% last year and 8% this year. The dropping proportion of people declaring guaranteed employment (in and not in line with the occupations they learnt at school) translates into an increase in the percentage of those forced to seek work after finishing school (77% now, 72% last year and 69% two years ago).

The relatively frequent combination of work with further education (declared by 21% of the total number of 2012 leavers³) confirms the justifiability of presentation of plans to work combined with education. Students' declarations indicate that most of them intended to work and study at the same time. However, people who said they did not want to work had the most precise plans – 84% of them were education-oriented young people. Amongst the other respondents, the ones with employment guaranteed but not in line with their educational background stood out – they were much more frequent to declare their unwillingness to take up further education.

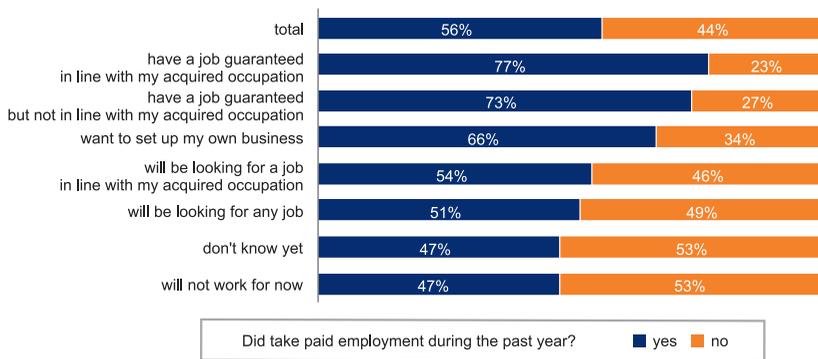
Work experience is a major factor taken into consideration by employers during recruitment. One of the ways of getting it is to take up additional work whilst still at school. Amongst the surveyed students 56% worked in the previous year (5 percentage points less than in the previous survey). The group of people with the longest work experience was dominated by the ones who declared that they had work guaranteed (77% in line with their occupation 73% in other occupations). The least work experience was characterised by those who did not have precise plans as to their future paid employment or who, for the time being, did not intend to work (47%).

3 Occupational start. Report on the vocational school leavers survey 2012, Kraków: Wojewódzki Urząd Pracy w Krakowie, 2013.

Plans for employment and continuation of education

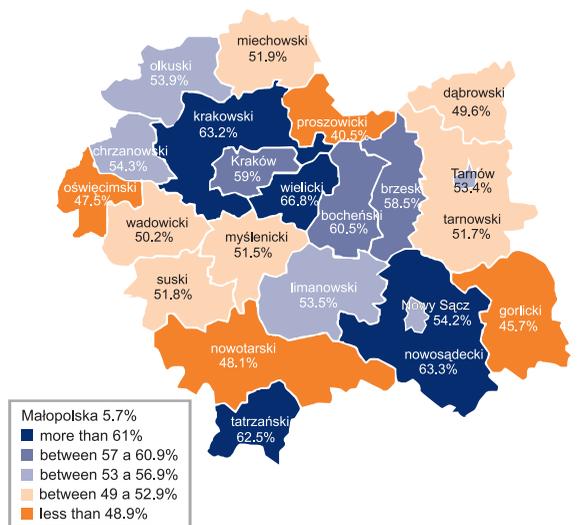


Plans for taking up employment vs work experience



The student's work experience to date varies across counties. The following were the ones where the highest proportions of young people with some work experience: wielicki (66.8%), nowosądecki (63.3%), krakowski (63.2%) and tatrzański (62.5%). The lowest percentages of people who had taken up any employment were noted in the counties of proszowicki (40.5%), gorlicki (45.7%), oświęcimski (47.5%) and nowotarski (48.1%). Amongst all surveyed students, only 20% mentioned that the experience from work done in the previous year was in line with their educational profile. The differences between the types of education were insignificant: for post-secondary schools, the applicable percentage was 16%, for secondary technical schools – 20%, and for basic vocational schools for full-time students – 21%. What differentiated between students from the viewpoint of types of schools was the nature of the work they took. For post-secondary schools, regular work during the school year dominated (65% of the total employed population regardless of the similarity between the work done and the direction of their education). For (full-time) students of secondary and

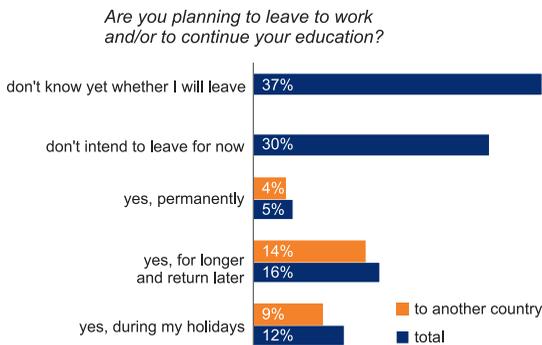
Work experience during the past year



Migration

The worsening labour market situation is reflected in the plans of students to leave the country. In the previous survey, 21% of the students were interested in work or education abroad. This year, the figure was already 27%, with different time perspectives for the planned emigration. Permanent emigration was considered by 4% (1 percentage point more than during the previous survey), 9% were thinking of going during their holidays (1 percentage point more), and 14%

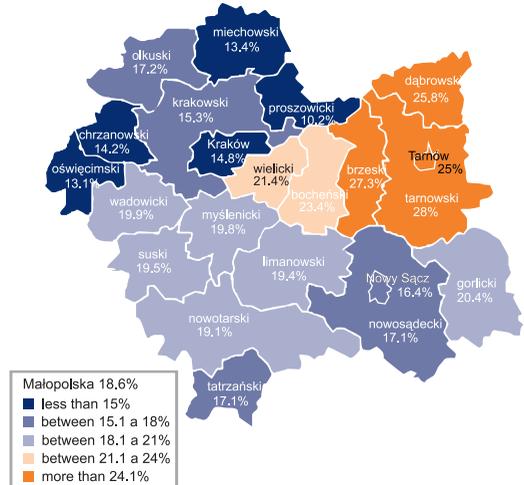
people up to the age of 25 in the total unemployment figure is higher in the counties in which more emigration declarations were noted (except agricultural counties: proszowicki and miechowski).



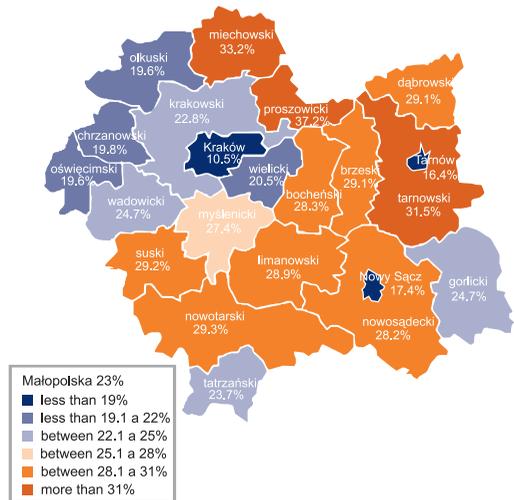
(4 percentage points more) for longer, with a return option. The UK and Germany invariably continue to be the most popular emigration destinations. As for trips during holidays, Germany dominated over the UK. The situation is quite the reverse for permanent emigration and longer stays with a return option: the UK was mentioned more frequently than Germany.

The interest in going abroad varied across counties. The total percentage of the people who wanted to leave Poland for longer (emigration with a return option and permanent emigration) was 18.6%. The counties with the highest percentages of such emigration include: tarnowski (28%), brzeski (27.3%) and dąbrowski (25.8%) and the town of Tarnów (25%). On the opposite end, there are young people from the counties of proszowicki (10.2%), oświęcimski (13.1%), miechowski (13.4%) and chrzanowski (14.2%). The map of planned emigration largely corresponds to the map of youth unemployment. The percentage of

Percentages of people who want to go to live abroad for longer or permanently



Unemployed up to the age of 25 as a percentage of the total unemployment figure



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