

# VET student outcomes 2021

National Centre for Vocational Education Research



## Description

This product provides a summary of the outcomes and satisfaction of students who completed nationally recognised vocational education and training (VET) delivered by registered training organisations (RTOs) in Australia during 2020 using data collected between June and August 2021. The figures are derived from the National Student Outcomes Survey, which is an annual survey of VET students.

## Introduction

Historically the National Student Outcomes Survey included graduates (students who completed a qualification) and subject completers (students who completed at least one subject and left the VET system without obtaining a qualification).

To better reflect the training undertaken in the VET system, the survey has been segmented by training type, consistent with the *Total VET students and courses* publication, by:

- **qualification completers** - students who completed a training package qualification or an accredited qualification
- **qualification part-completers** - students who enrolled in but only completed part of a training package qualification or an accredited qualification (and are no longer undertaking that training)
- **short course completers** - students who completed a training package skill set or an accredited course
- **short course part-completers** - students who enrolled in but only completed part of a training package skill set or accredited course (and are no longer undertaking that training)
- **subject(s) only completers** - students who completed one or more subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program and who are no longer undertaking training in the VET sector.

## Highlights

In total, 231 608 VET students responded to the survey.

### Main reason for undertaking training

In 2021, the most common reason for undertaking training for:

- qualification completers and part-completers was 'to get a job', at 25.1% and 21.9% respectively
- short course completers (41.6%), short course part-completers (47.8%) and subject(s) only completers (51.3%) was 'it was a requirement of my job'.

### Improved employment status after training

In 2021, higher proportions of students had an improved employment status after training. Proportions with an improved employment status after training were:

- 60.6% for qualification completers, up 4.6 percentage points from 2020.
- 56.1% for qualification part-completers, up 6.4 percentage points from 2020.
- 61.7% for short course completers, up 3.3 percentage points from 2020.
- 65.1% for short course part-completers, up 5.7 percentage points from 2020.
- 64.4% for subject(s) only completers, up 3.2 percentage points from 2020.

### Satisfaction with training

In 2021, proportions of students satisfied with the training overall were:

- 89.1% for qualification completers, up 0.7 percentage points from 2020
- 79.3% for qualification part-completers, up 3.2 percentage points from 2020
- 92.6% for short course completers, down 0.7 percentage points from 2020
- 90.0% for short course part-completers, similar to 2020
- 93.1% for subject(s) only completers, up 0.9 percentage points from 2020.

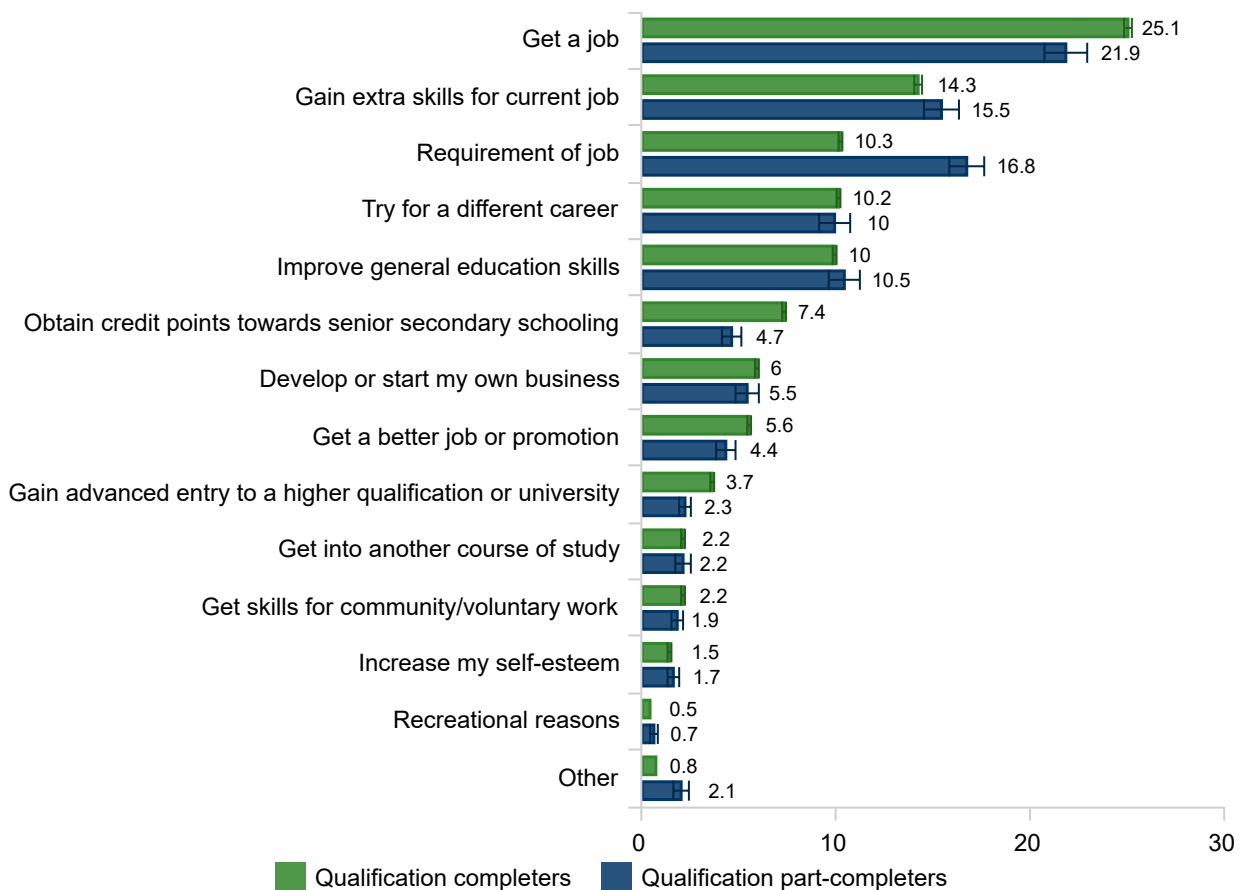
## Qualification completers and part-completers

Qualification completers are students who completed a training package qualification or an accredited qualification. Qualification part-completers are students who enrolled in but only completed part of a training package qualification or an accredited qualification (and are no longer undertaking that training). Of the VET students who responded to the survey, 147 333 were qualification completers and 17 454 qualification part-completers.

### Main reason for training

Overall, 71.6% of qualification completers and 74.0% of qualification part-completers undertook training for employment-related reasons. The main reason for training was 'to get a job', as cited by 25.1% of qualification completers and 21.9% of qualification part-completers.

**Figure 1 Main reason for undertaking training, for qualification completers and part-completers, 2021 (%)**



In 2021, compared with 2020:

- 85.0% of qualification completers achieved their main reason for training, up 1.4 percentage points.
- 76.6% of part-completers achieved their main reason for undertaking training, up 1.6 percentage points.

## Main reason for not completing the training

18.0% of qualification part-completers did not complete their training due to personal reasons, while 16.1% did not complete because they changed jobs or started a new job.

Figure 2 Main reason for not completing the training, for qualification part-completers, 2021 (%)



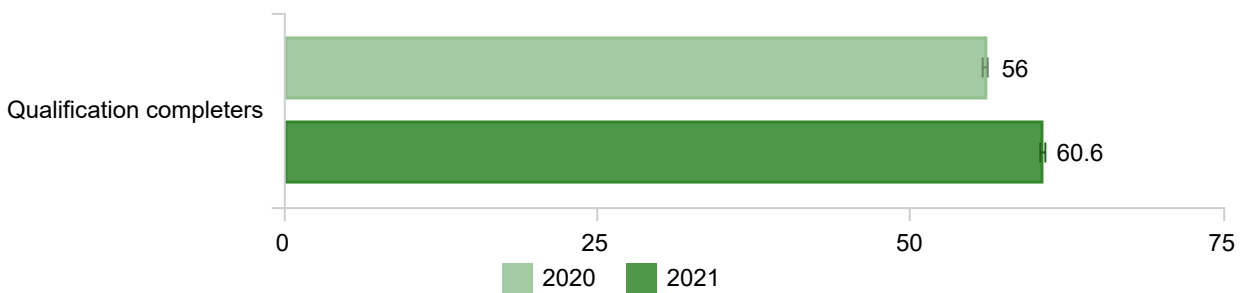
## Employment outcomes

In 2021, 60.6% of qualification completers had an improved employment status after training, up 4.6 percentage points from 2020.

- 63.1% of qualification completers were employed before training. Of these:
  - 16.5% were employed at a higher skill level after training, up 2.5 percentage points from 2020.
  - 38.8% were employed in a better job after training, up 5.5 percentage points from 2020.
- 36.9% of qualification completers were not employed before training. Of these:
  - 43.3% were employed after training, up 7.1 percentage points from 2020.

24.8% of qualification completers were employed after training in the same occupation as their qualification, down 0.6 percentage points from 2020. A further 26.5% were employed in a different occupation but found the training relevant, up 1.6 percentage points from 2020.

**Figure 3 Improved employment status after training for qualification completers, 2020 and 2021 (%)**

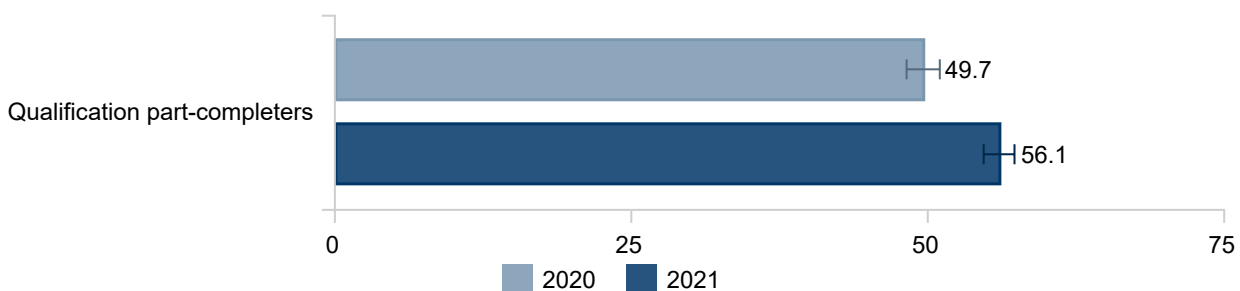


The median annual income for students who completed a certificate II or higher level qualification and were employed full-time after training was \$57 400. By field of education, income was highest for those who completed a qualification in Education (\$67 100) and lowest for Mixed field programmes (\$39 000).

In 2021, 56.1% of qualification part-completers had an improved employment status after training, up 6.4 percentage points from 2020.

- 63.4% of qualification part-completers were employed before training. Of these:
  - 12.4% were employed at a higher skill level after training, up 1.8 percentage points from 2020.
  - 31.6% were employed in a better job after training, up 3.6 percentage points from 2020.
- 36.6% of qualification part-completers were not employed before training. Of these:
  - 39.2% were employed after training, up 5.9 percentage points from 2020.

**Figure 4 Improved employment status after training for qualification part-completers, 2020 and 2021 (%)**

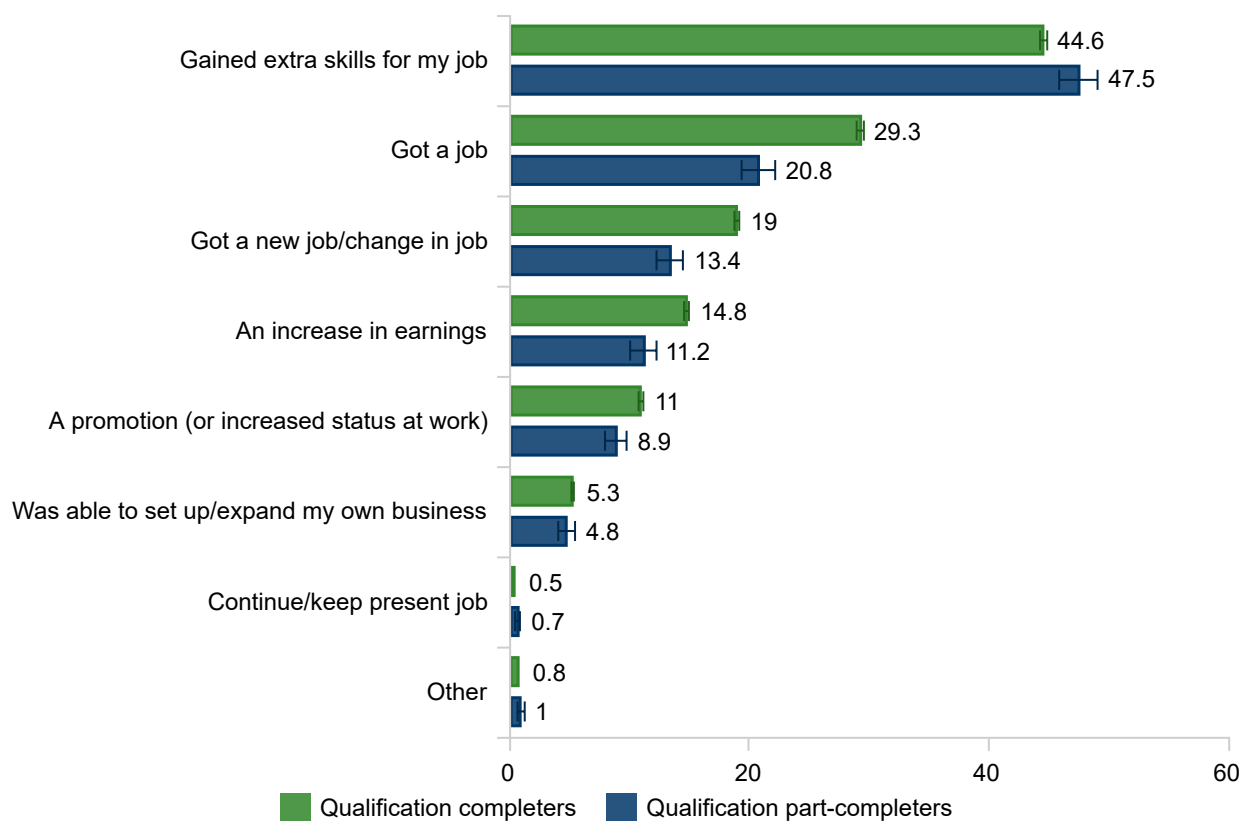


## Job-related benefits

Of those employed after training:

- 79.80% of qualification completers received at least one job-related benefit, up 1 percentage points from 2020.
- 72.6% of qualification part-completers received at least one job-related benefit, up 4.1 percentage points from 2020.
- The most commonly cited benefit was 'gained extra skills for my job', cited by 44.6% of qualification completers and 47.5% of part-completers, followed by 'got a job' (29.3% of qualification completers and 20.8% of part-completers).

**Figure 5 Job-related benefits of undertaking training, for qualification completers and part-completers, 2021 (%)**



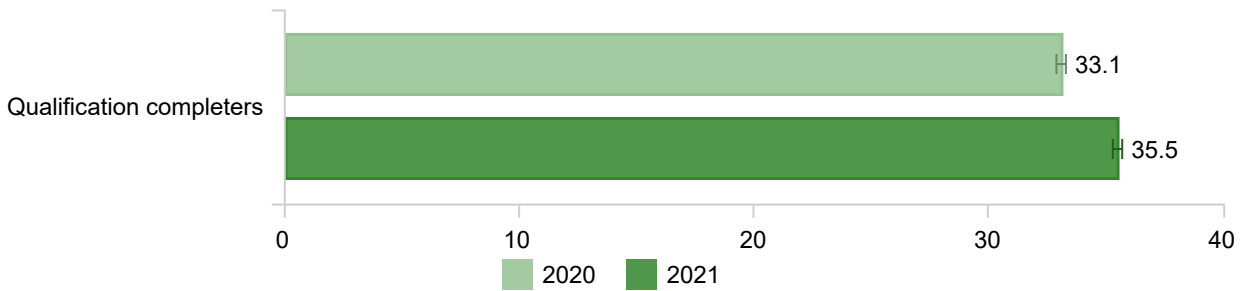
Note: Totals sum to more than 100% as respondents could choose more than one response category.

## Further study outcomes

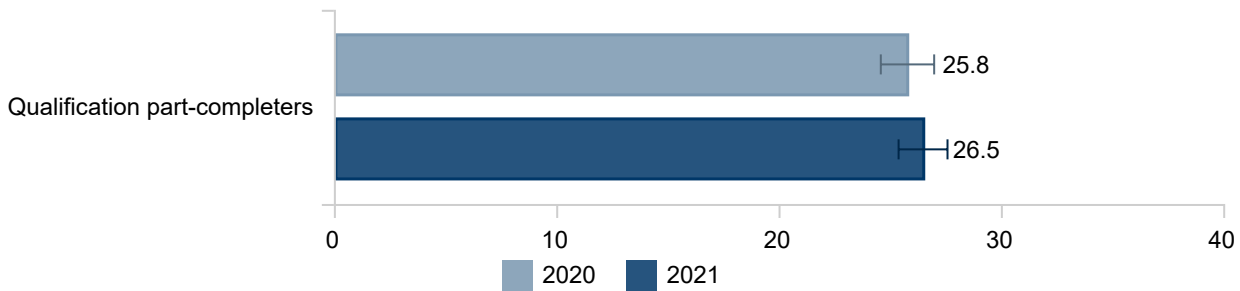
In 2021:

- 35.5% of qualification completers enrolled in further study after training, up 2.4 percentage points from 2020.
- 26.5% of qualification part-completers enrolled in further study after training, similar to 2020.

**Figure 6 Enrolled in further study after training, for qualification completers, 2020 and 2021 (%)**



**Figure 7 Enrolled in further study after training, for qualification part-completers, 2020 and 2021 (%)**



## Satisfaction with training

In 2021, compared with 2020:

- 89.1% of qualification completers were satisfied with the training overall, up 0.7 percentage points.
- 79.3% of qualification part-completers were satisfied with the training overall, up 3.2 percentage points.
- 84.7% of qualification completers are likely to recommend their training provider, up 0.3 percentage points.
- 76.9% of qualification part-completers are likely to recommend their training provider, up 2.7 percentage points.

**Figure 8 Satisfaction with training, for qualification completers and part-completers, 2021 (%)**

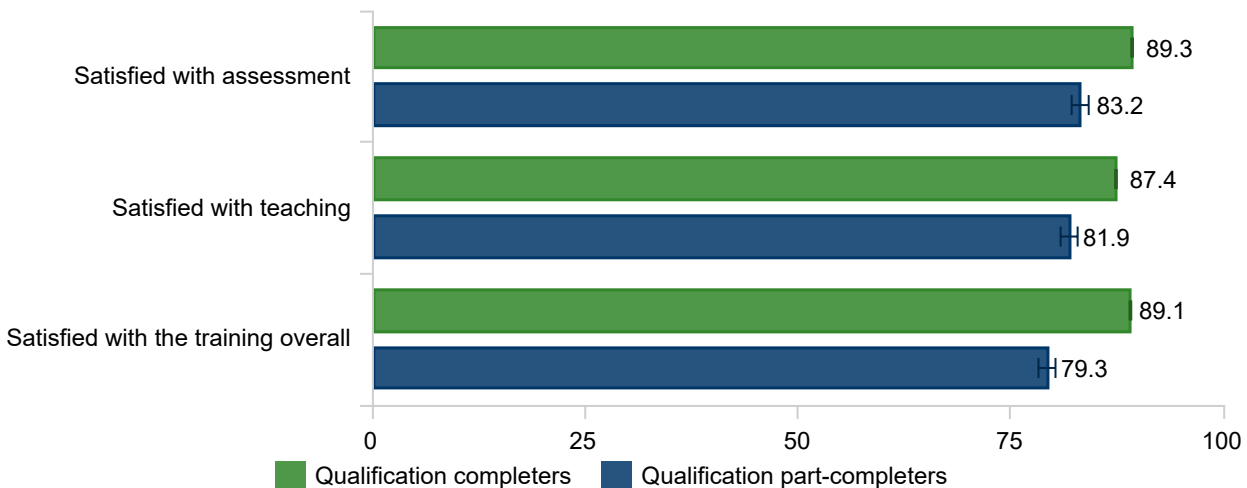
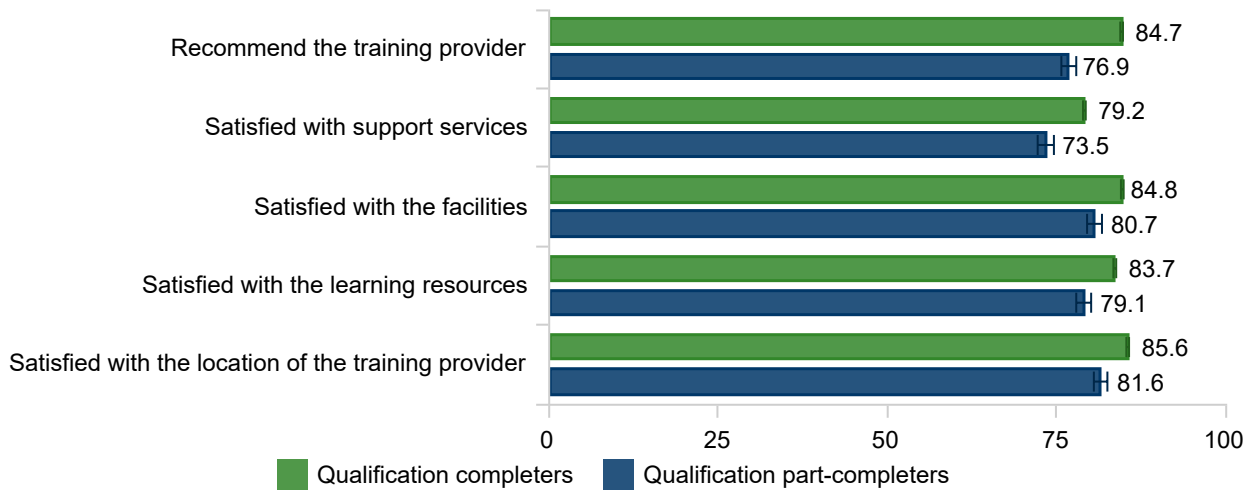


Figure 9 Satisfaction with training provider, for qualification completers and part-completers, 2021 (%)



## Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on training

For training undertaken in 2020:

- 52.1% of qualification completers had their training shift to online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of these:

- 86.1% received support from their training provider to transition to online learning, of which 89.8% were satisfied with the support offered.

- 46.3% faced at least one challenge with online learning.

- 45.7% of qualification part-completers had their training shift to online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of these:

- 79.5% received support from their training provider to transition to online learning, of which 84.8% were satisfied with the support offered.

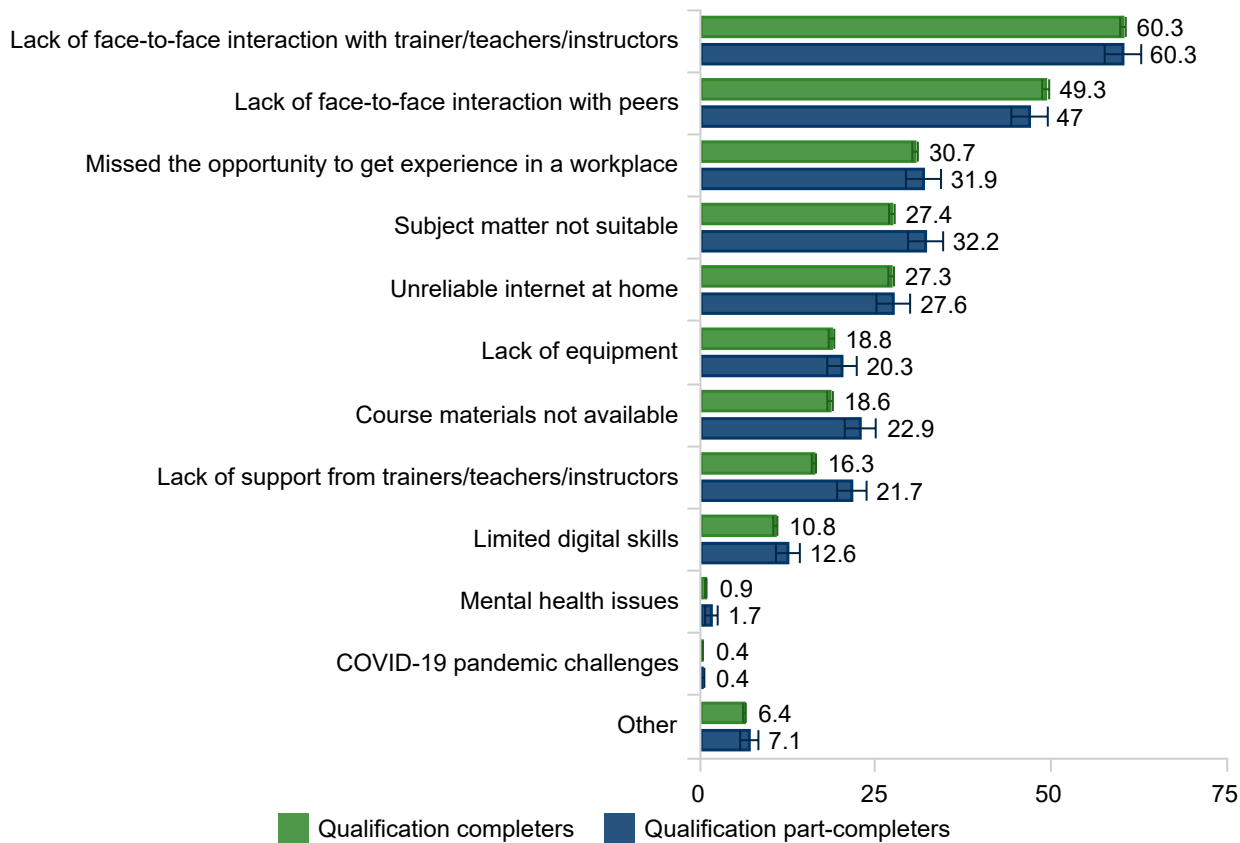
- 51.7% faced at least one challenge with online learning.

32.5% of qualification part-completers reported their reason for not continuing the training was due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of qualification completers and part-completers who faced challenges with online learning, lack of face-to-face interaction with both trainers and peers were the most commonly cited challenges.



**Figure 10 Challenges with online learning faced by qualification completers and part-completers, 2021 (%)**



Note: Totals sum to more than 100% as respondents could choose more than one response category.

For training undertaken in 2020;

- 46.2% of qualification completers whose training was not part of an apprenticeship or traineeship undertook a work placement. Of these:

- 34.5% had their work placement delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 40.0% of qualification part-completers whose training was not part of an apprenticeship or traineeship undertook a work placement. Of these:

- 37.2% had their work placement delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

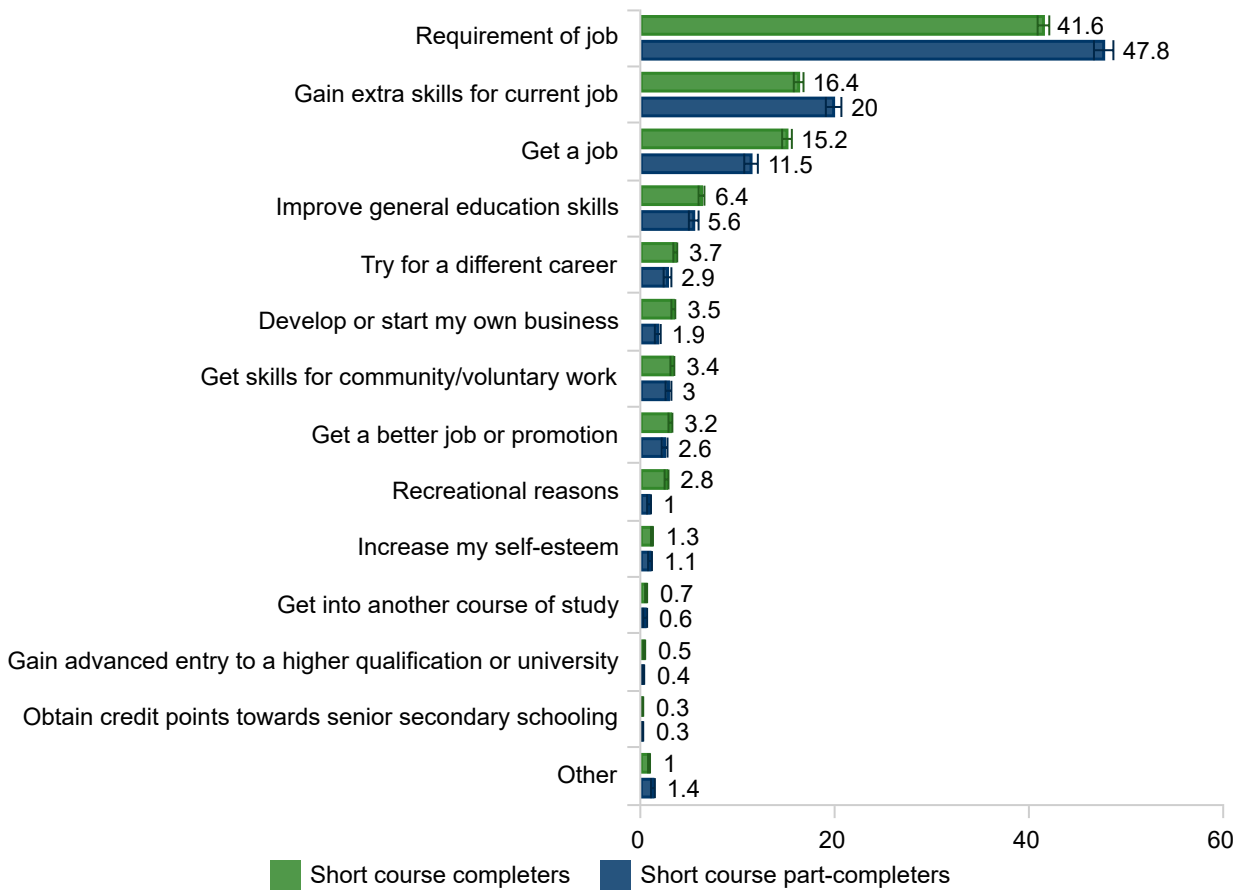
## Short course completers and part-completers

Short course completers are students who completed a training package skill set or accredited course. Short-course part-completers are students who enrolled in but only completed part of a training package skill set or accredited course (and are no longer undertaking that training). Of the VET students who responded to the survey, 18 146 were short course completers and 7 776 short course part-completers.

## Main reason for training

Overall, 83.6% of short course completers and 86.6% of part-completers undertook training for employment-related reasons. The main reason for training was ‘it was a requirement of my job’, as cited by 41.6% of short course completers and 47.8% of short course part-completers.

**Figure 11 Main reason for undertaking training, for short course completers and part-completers, 2021 (%)**



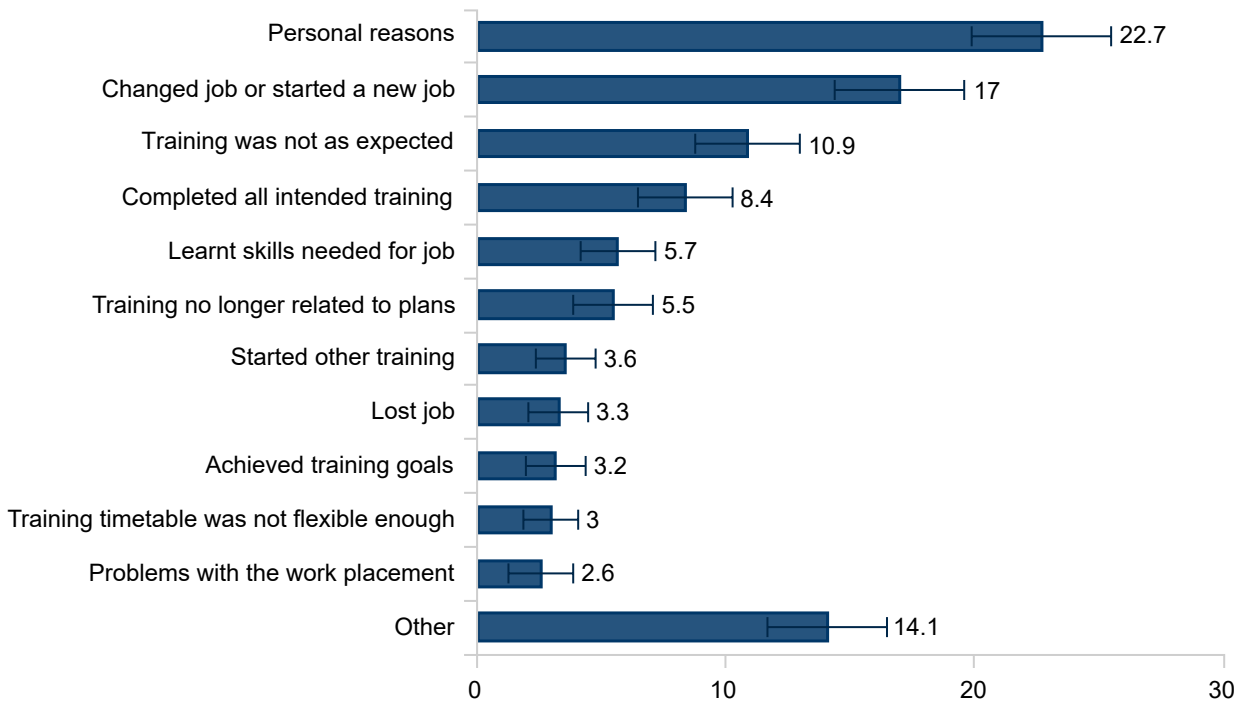
In 2021:

- 90.1% of short course completers achieved their main reason for training, up 0.9 percentage points from 2020.
- 89.8% of short course part-completers achieved their main reason for undertaking training, similar to 2020.

## Main reason for not completing the training

The main reason short course part-completers did not complete their training was due to personal reasons (22.7%).

**Figure 12 Main reason for not completing the training, for short course part-completers, 2021 (%)**

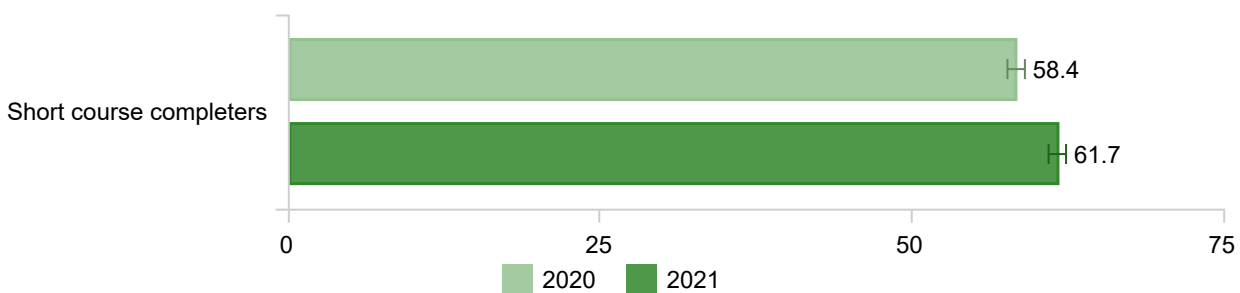


## Employment outcomes

In 2021, 61.7% of short course completers had an improved employment status after training, up 3.3 percentage points from 2020.

- 82.5% of short course completers were employed before training. Of these:
  - 5.1% were employed at a higher skill level after training, similar to 2020.
  - 23.1% were employed in a better job after training, up 1.4 percentage points from 2020.
- 17.5% of short course completers were not employed before training. Of these:
  - 46.0% were employed after training, up 7.3 percentage points from 2020.

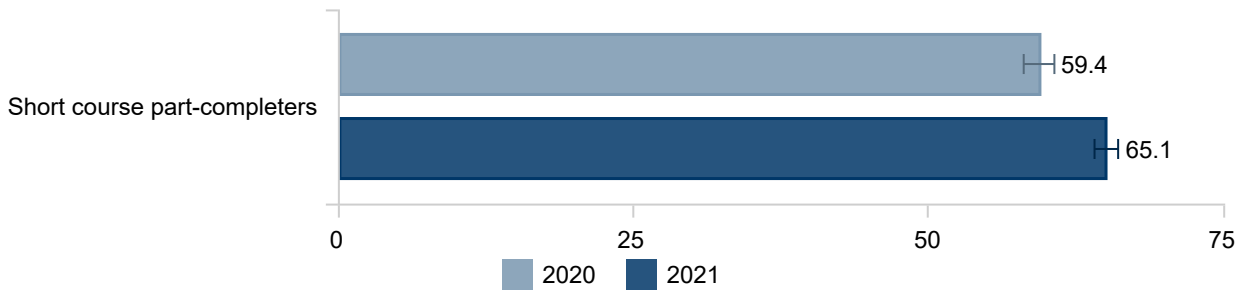
**Figure 13 Improved employment status after training for short course completers, 2020 and 2021 (%)**



In 2021, 65.1% of short course part-completers had an improved employment status after training, up 5.7 percentage points from 2020.

- 85.2% of short course part-completers were employed before training. Of these:
  - 4.1% were employed at a higher skill level after training, similar to 2020.
  - 20.2% were employed in a better job after training, similar to 2020.
- 14.8% of short course part-completers were not employed before training. Of these:
  - 44.2% were employed after training, up 12.2 percentage points from 2020.

**Figure 14 Improved employment status after training for short course part-completers, 2020 and 2021 (%)**

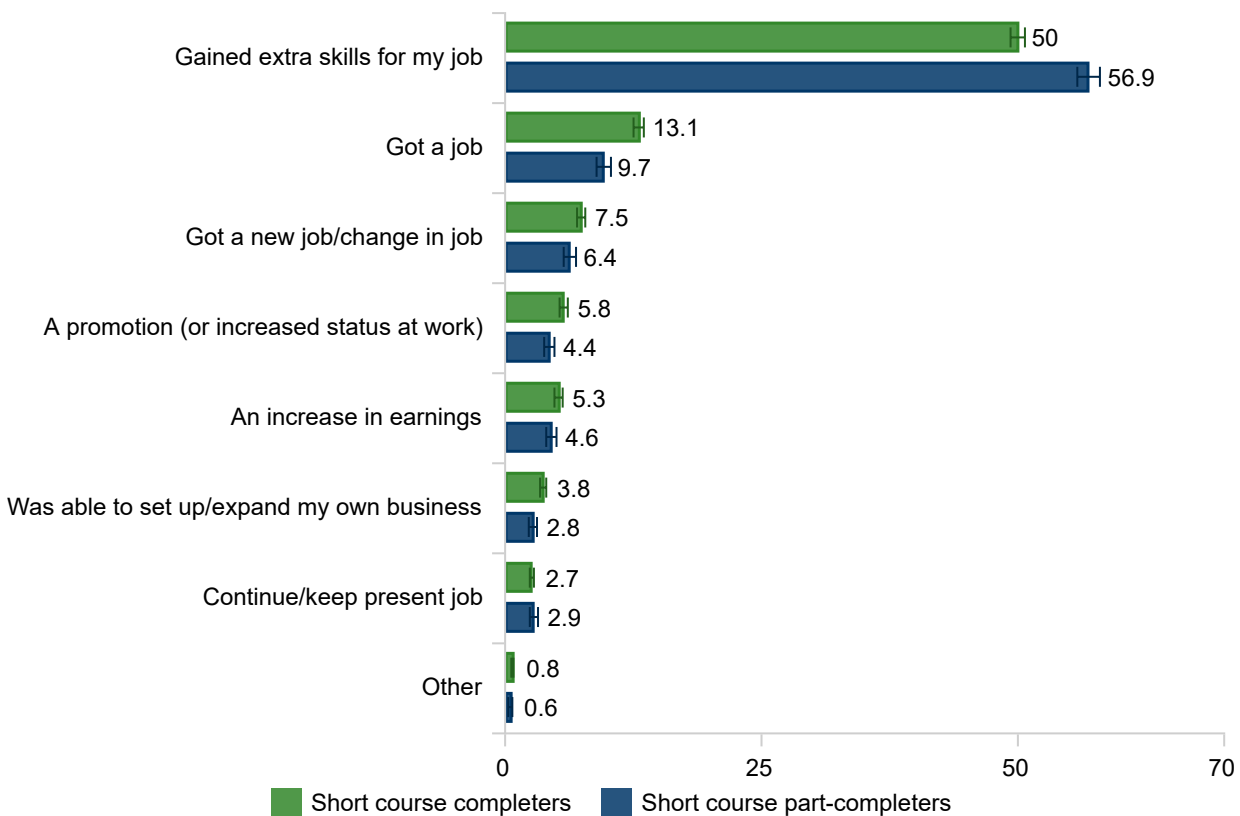


**Job-related benefits**

Of those employed after training:

- 71.2% of short course completers received at least one job-related benefit, similar to 2020.
- 74.3% of short course part-completers received at least one job-related benefit, up 2.9 percentage points from 2020.
- The most commonly cited job-related benefit from training was 'gained extra skills for my job', cited by 50.0% of short course completers and 56.9% of part-completers, followed by 'got a job' (13.1% of short course completers and 9.7% of part-completers).

**Figure 15 Job-related benefits of undertaking training, for short course completers and part-completers, 2021 (%)**



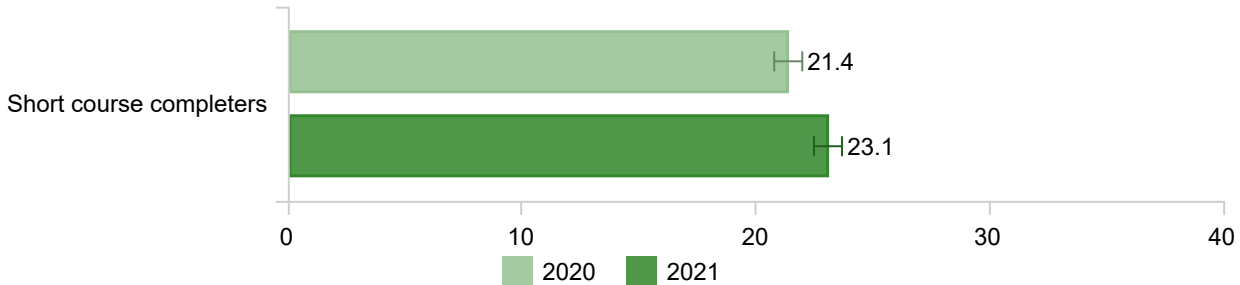
Note: Totals sum to more than 100% as respondents could choose more than one response category.

## Further study outcomes

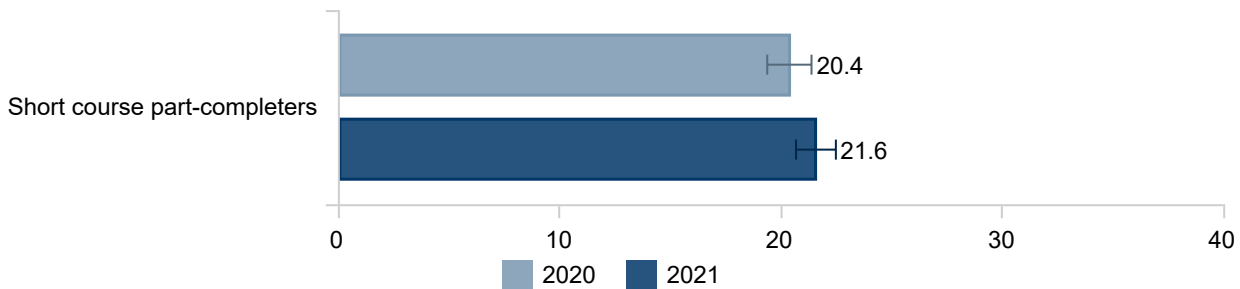
In 2021:

- 23.1% of short course completers enrolled in further study after training, up 1.7 percentage points from 2020.
- 21.6% of short course part-completers enrolled in further study after training, similar to 2020.

**Figure 16 Enrolled in further study after training, for short course completers, 2020 and 2021 (%)**



**Figure 17 Enrolled in further study after training, for short course part-completers, 2020 and 2021 (%)**



## Satisfaction with training

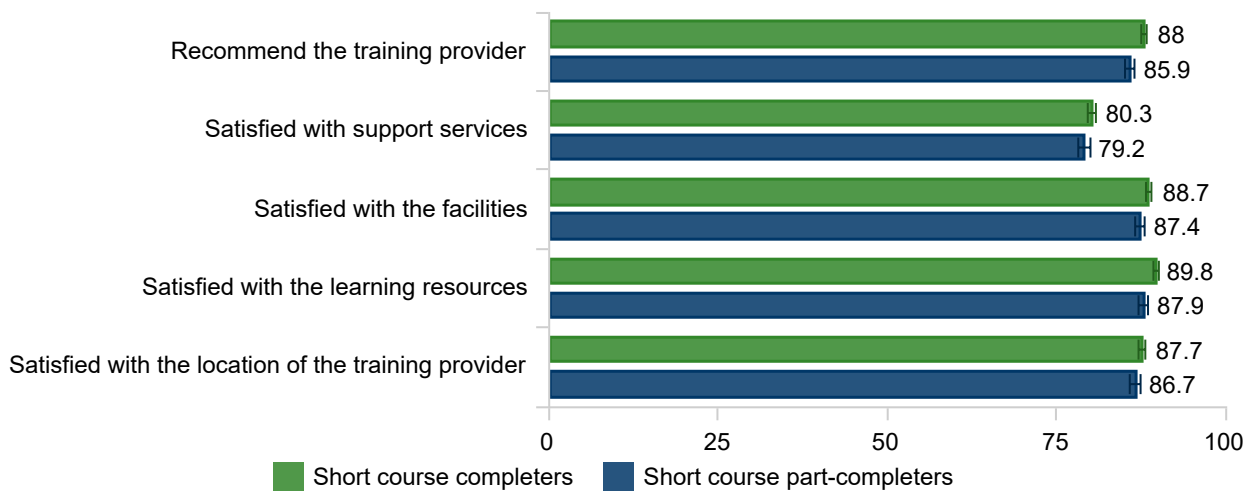
In 2021:

- 92.6% of short course completers were satisfied with the training overall, down 0.7 percentage points from 2020.
- 90.0% of short course part-completers were satisfied with the training overall, similar to 2020.
- 88.0% of short course completers are likely to recommend their training provider, down 1.1 percentage points from 2020.
- 85.9% of short course part-completers are likely to recommend their training provider, similar to 2020.

**Figure 18 Satisfaction with training, for short course completers and part-completers, 2021 (%)**



**Figure 19 Satisfaction with training provider, for short course completers and part-completers, 2021 (%)**



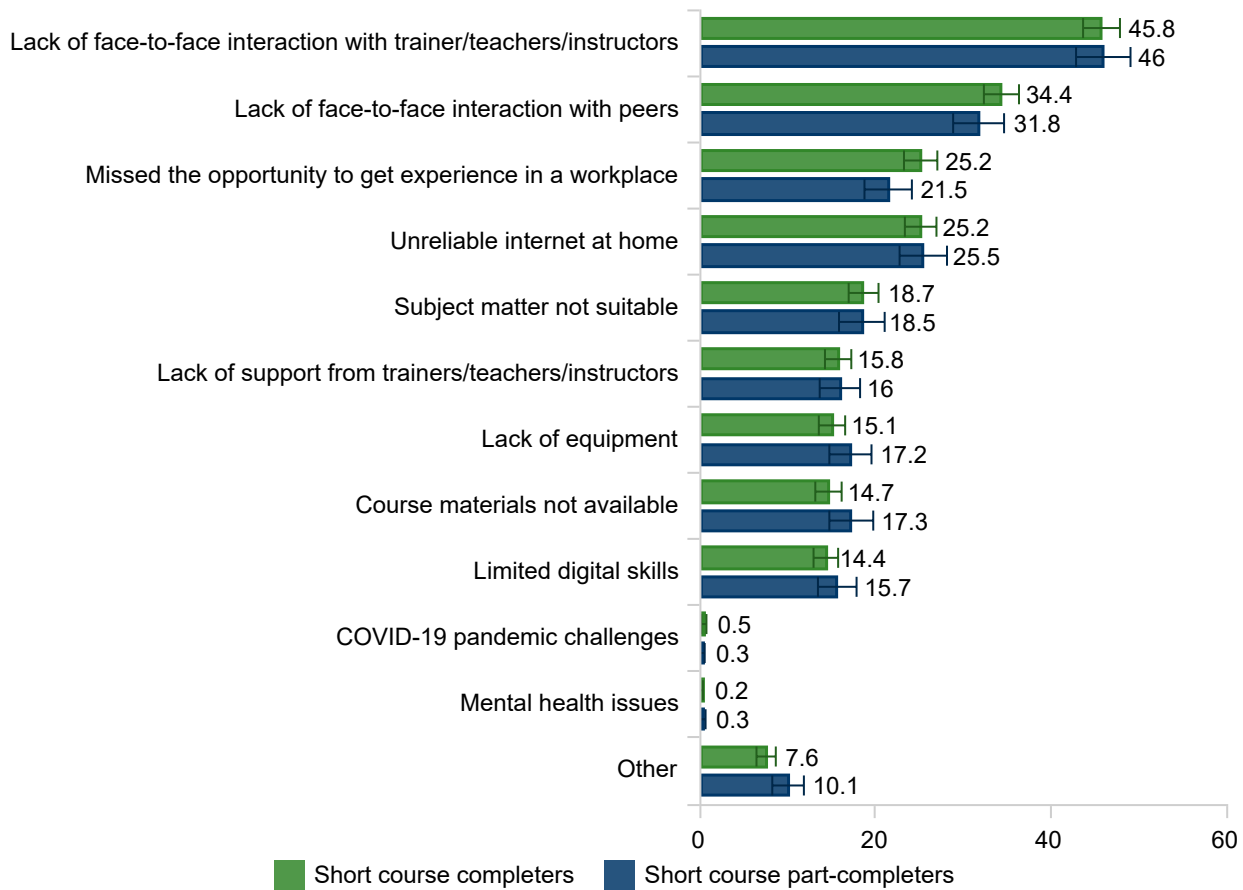
## Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on training

For training undertaken in 2020:

- 34.7% of short course completers had their training shift to online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of these:
  - 77.7% received support from their training provider to transition to online learning, of which 90.4% were satisfied with the support offered.
  - 27.4% faced at least one challenge with online learning.
  
- 38.3% of short course part-completers had their training shift to online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of these:
  - 75.4% received support from their training provider to transition to online learning, of which 90.1% were satisfied with the support offered.
  - 26.5% faced at least one challenge with online learning.

Of short course completers and part-completers who faced challenges with online learning, lack of face-to-face interaction with both trainers and peers were the most cited challenges.

**Figure 20 Challenges with online learning faced by short course completers and part-completers, 2021 (%)**



34.1% of short course part-completers reported their reason for not continuing the training was due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

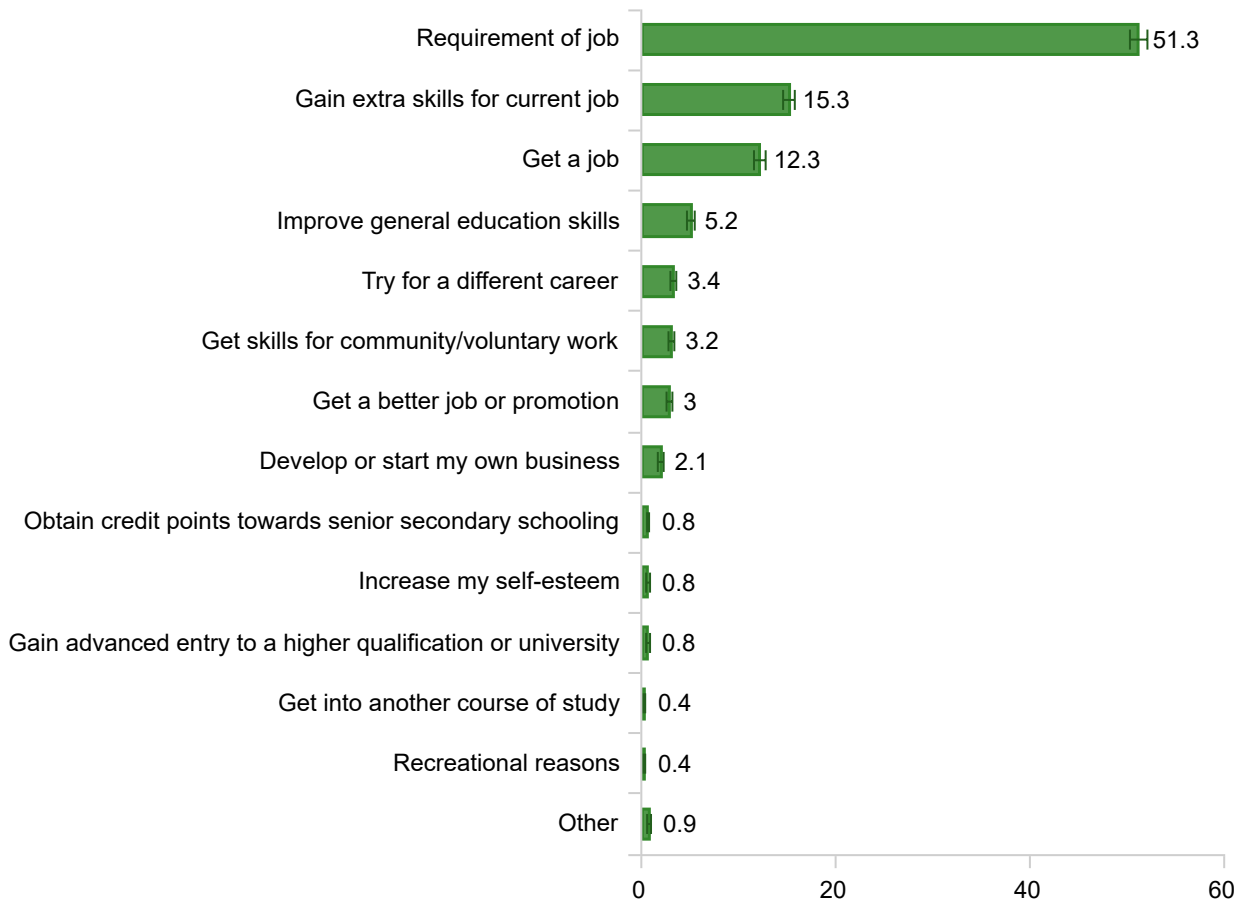
## Subject(s) only completers

Subject(s) only completers are students who completed one or more subjects not delivered as part of a nationally recognised program and who are no longer undertaking training in the VET sector. Of the VET students who responded to the survey, 40 899 were subject(s) only completers.

## Main reason for training

Overall, 87.5% of subject(s) only completers undertook training for employment-related reasons. The main reason for training was 'it was a requirement of my job', as cited by 51.3% of subject(s) only completers.

**Figure 21 Main reason for undertaking training, for subject(s) only completers, 2021 (%)**



In 2021, 91.2% of subject(s) only completers achieved their main reason for undertaking training, up 2.6 percentage points from 2020.

## Employment outcomes

In 2021, 64.4% of subject(s) only completers had an improved employment status after training, up 3.2 percentage points from 2020.

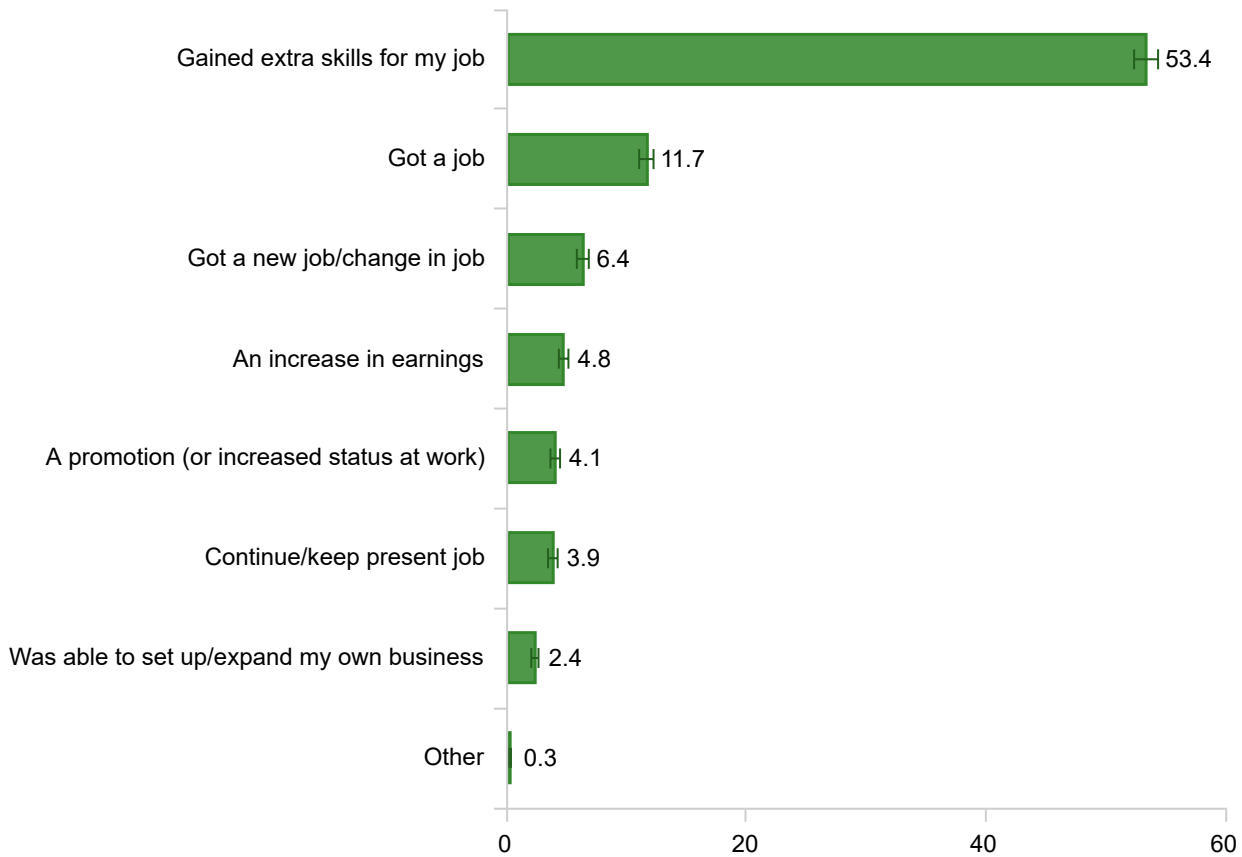
- 15.4% of subject(s) only completers were not employed before training. Of these:
  - 46.0% were employed after training, up 7.5 percentage points from 2020.

### Job-related benefits

Of the subject(s) only completers employed after training, 73.2% received at least one job-related benefit, similar to 2020. The most commonly reported benefit was 'gained extra skills for my job' (53.4%), followed by 'got a job' (11.7%).



**Figure 22 Job-related benefits of training, for subject(s) only completers, 2021 (%)**



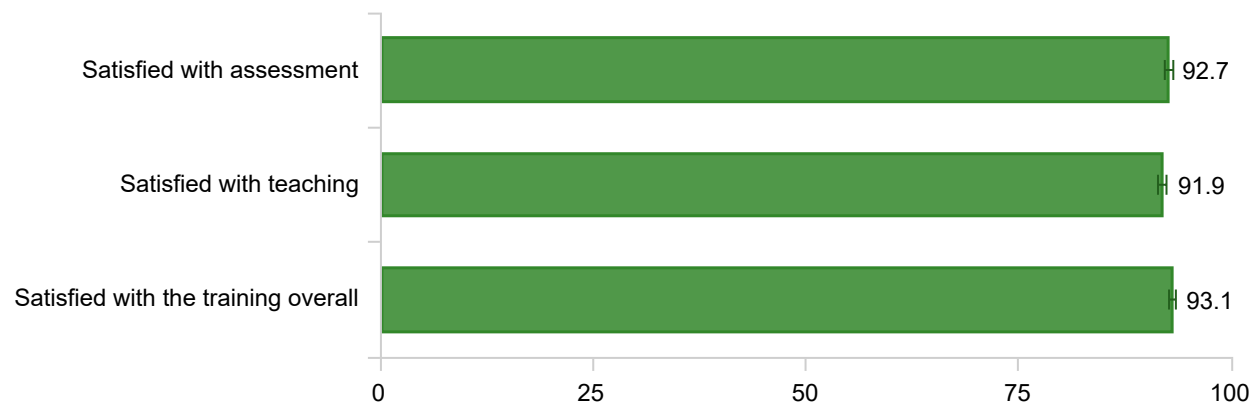
Note: Totals sum to more than 100% as respondents could choose more than one response category.

## Satisfaction with training

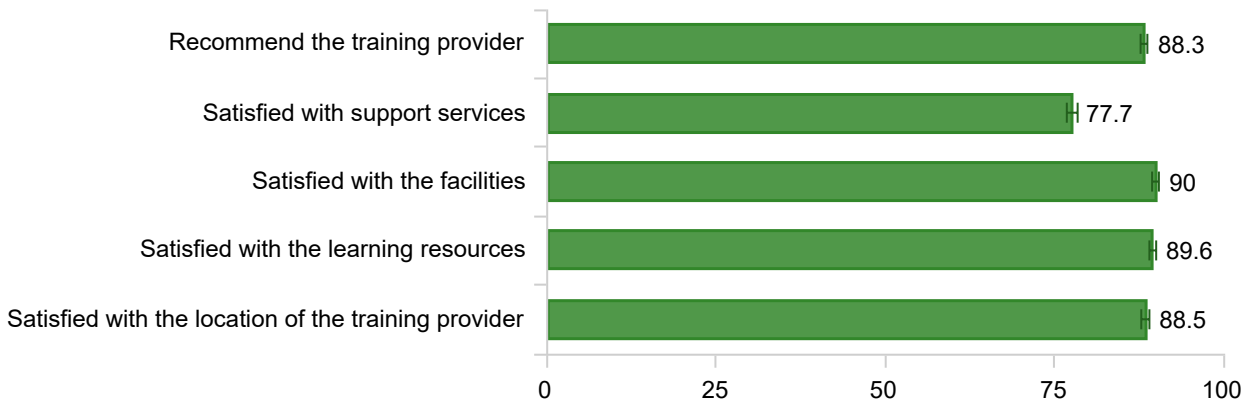
In 2021:

- 93.1% of subject(s) only completers were satisfied with the training overall, up 0.9 percentage points from 2020.
- 88.3% of subject(s) only completers are likely to recommend their training provider, up 2.1 percentage points from 2020.

**Figure 23 Satisfaction with training, for subject(s) only completers, 2021 (%)**



**Figure 24 Satisfaction with training provider, for subject(s) only completers, 2021 (%)**



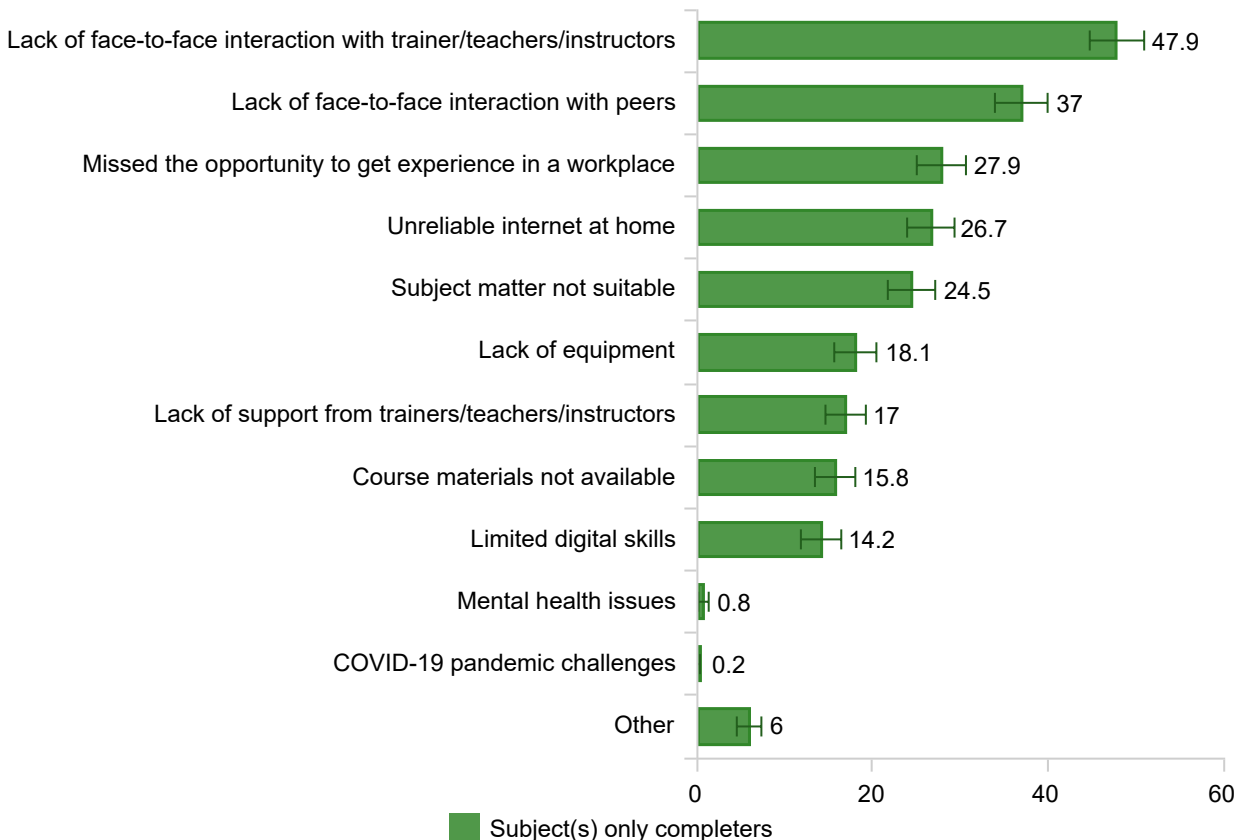
## Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on training

Of subject(s) only completers:

- 30.8% had their training shift to online learning during 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of these:
  - 76.1% received support from their training provider to transition to online learning, of which 90.9% were satisfied with the support offered.
  - 27.3% faced at least one challenge with online learning.

Of those subject(s) only completers who faced challenges with online learning, lack of face-to-face interaction with both trainers and peers were the most cited challenges.

**Figure 25 Challenges with online learning faced by subject(s) only completers, 2021 (%)**



Note: Totals sum to more than 100% as respondents could choose more than one response category.

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