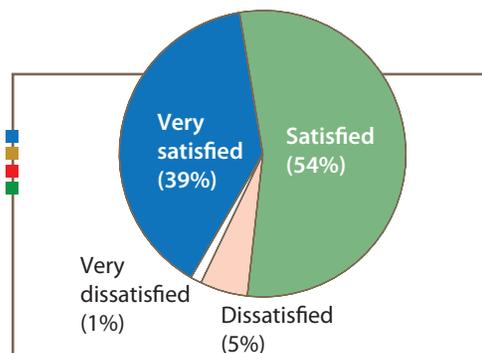


The 2012

BC STUDENT OUTCOMES

Highlights



Satisfaction

Student satisfaction is important to student learning; it is associated with favourable education evaluations and successful employment outcomes. Former students consistently report a high level of overall satisfaction with their post-secondary education or training. In 2012, 93 percent of all respondents to the Outcomes surveys said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied*.

OVERALL

In 2012, four province-wide surveys collected information from over 30,000 former students who left apprenticeship technical training; baccalaureate programs; diploma, associate degree, and certificate programs; or the developmental studies of Adult Basic Education and English as a Second or Additional Language. The annual surveys are conducted with funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology, the Industry Training Authority, Citizenship and Immigration Canada through the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, and from B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions.

For 25 years, the BC Student Outcomes Project has surveyed former post-secondary students and provided valuable information to policy makers, institutional researchers, and labour market analysts. Insights provided by the former students have been used to inform an understanding of their transitions from one education stage to another and from education into the labour force.

Student Outcomes information today provides a comprehensive overview of the province's public post-secondary system, from the student's perspective. The feedback provided demonstrates that B.C.'s dynamic and integrated post-secondary system is producing graduates who have the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in our knowledge-driven economy.

In the Highlights

Of the former **apprenticeship** students surveyed:

- 85% said the quality of instruction was *very good* or *good*
- 83% said their training covered the standards used in their field
- 96% were in the labour force; the unemployment rate was 9%

Of the **baccalaureate graduates** surveyed:

- 94% said the quality of instruction was *very good* or *good*
- 55% took further education; 19% were currently studying full-time
- 87% were in the labour force; 6% were unemployed and 1% had a job lined up

Of the former **diploma, associate degree, and certificate** students surveyed:

- 79% said the quality of instruction was *very good* or *good*
- 74% of former Arts and Sciences students took further education
- 90% of respondents from Applied programs were in the labour force; their unemployment rate was 9%

Of the former **developmental** students surveyed:

- 87% said the quality of teaching was *very good* or *good*
- 71% of ABE respondents and 63% of ESL respondents pursued further education
- 92% said they were *very well* or *somewhat prepared* for further education

Former Apprenticeship Students

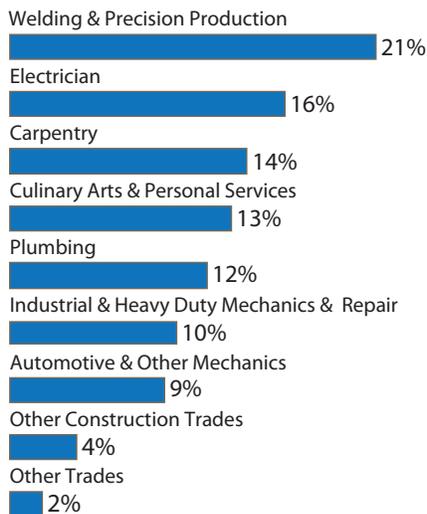
Since 2005, the Apprenticeship Student Outcomes (APP SO) Survey has collected information from former apprenticeship students who have completed their in-school or technical training. The 2012 APP SO survey was conducted by telephone and online from January to April of 2012; 3,701 former apprentices from 37 institutions (14 public and 23 private) were surveyed, 8 to 18 months after they completed their apprenticeship programs. The response rate was 55 percent. At the time of the survey, the median age of the former students who responded was 27; 61 percent were under 30. Most respondents (91 percent) were men.

Apprenticeship programs

A successful apprentice in B.C. is one who has earned a certificate or “ticket” by completing the required work hours and technical training and passing examinations. For most apprentices, the majority of training is on-the-job, although 15 to 20 percent of the required instruction is in a classroom setting. Four out of five (81 percent) of the apprentices surveyed in 2012 took their in-school training through a public post-secondary institution and one in five (19 percent), from a private institution.

Over one-fifth (21 percent) of the former apprenticeship students had taken a program in the Welding & Precision Production area. Many more (45 percent together) had trained in a construction trade: Electrician, Plumbing, Carpentry, or Other Construction Trade.

Type of trades program



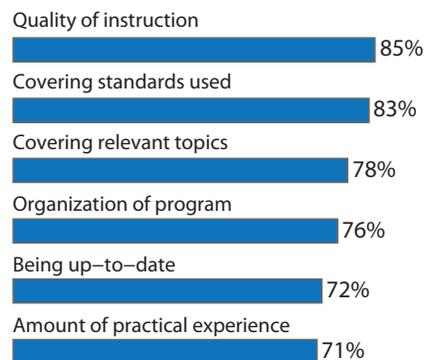
Note: Programs are grouped using the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP).

APP SO

In-school training

The former apprentices were asked to rate a number of aspects of their training, including the quality of instruction and the training content. In each case, a majority of respondents gave a *very good* or *good* rating. Respondents gave particularly high ratings to the *quality of instruction*. They also provided favourable ratings to *covering the standards being used in the field* and *covering relevant topics*.

Ratings of in-school training

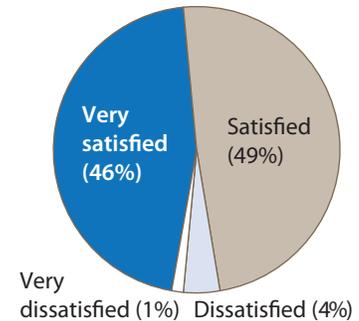


Note: Percentages are of those who said the content of their training was *very good* or *good*, based on respondents who gave a rating, excluding those who said *not applicable*. A five-point scale (from *very good* to *very poor*) was used.

APP SO

Most respondents (95 percent) said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the in-school education they received as part of their apprenticeship program. Overall satisfaction with in-school training has been consistently high since this survey began in 2005.

Satisfied with in-school training



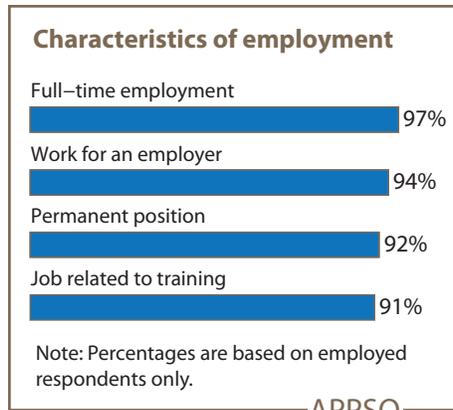
APP SO

After their final in-school training, the majority of apprentices were close to completing the requirements for certification. By the time of the 2012 survey, three-quarters (76 percent) of the respondents said they had received their British Columbia Certificate of Qualification or “ticket”—many with Interprovincial or Red Seal endorsement.

Workplace training

The majority (90 percent) of APP SO respondents said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their overall workplace training experience. This level of satisfaction with on-the-job training is consistent with previous years’ ratings, although compared with the 2011 findings, the percentage of those saying they were *very satisfied* has increased from 35 to 44 percent.

Likewise, most respondents said their in-school technical training was related to their workplace experience: 48 percent said *very related* and 43 percent said *somewhat related*. Very few said their in-school and workplace training were unrelated.



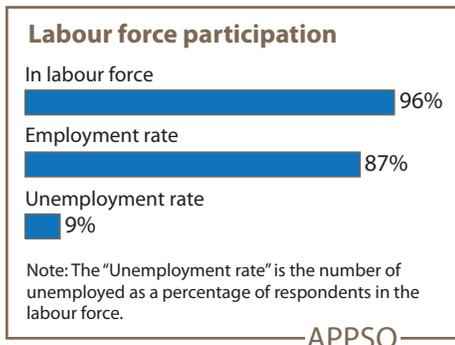
At the time of the survey, the median age of respondents was 27; 73 percent were under 30. Almost two-thirds (63 percent) were women.

Baccalaureate programs

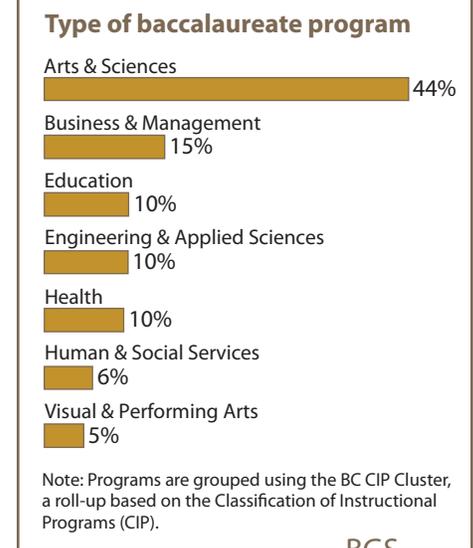
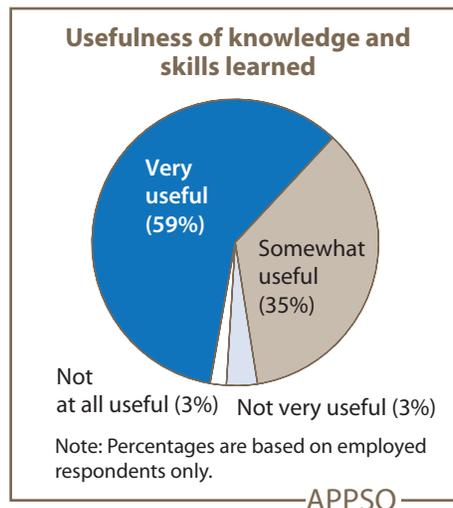
The graduates who responded to the BGS had taken a variety of programs for their degree, although the largest portion (44 percent) had graduated from an Arts and Sciences program.

Labour force participation

Most (96 percent) of the former apprentices surveyed were in the labour force: that is, employed or looking for work. The unemployment rate (the number unemployed as a percentage of the labour force) for respondents was 9 percent—a drop from the 11 percent unemployment rate of the 2011 respondents to the APPSO Survey.



said the knowledge and skills had been very or somewhat useful (59 percent and 35 percent, respectively).



A large majority of employed respondents had a job that was related to their training and was a permanent position. Likewise, most respondents (94 percent) were employees rather than self-employed (6 percent). Almost all employed respondents were working full-time.

Former apprentices were asked to say how useful the knowledge and skills they gained through their program of studies had been in performing their job. Most

Baccalaureate Graduates

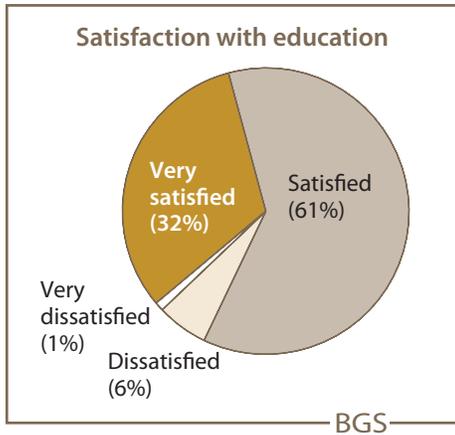
The 2012 Baccalaureate Graduates Survey (BGS) targeted former students who graduated with a bachelor's degree in 2010. Information was collected on their employment outcomes, further education, and overall satisfaction—9,160 graduates responded, by telephone or online, from 21 to 33 months after they completed their studies. The response rate was 51 percent.

Education evaluation

The BGS respondents were asked to evaluate some aspects of their educational program. Nine out of ten respondents (89 percent) said their required courses were very good or good in terms of providing a comprehensive or full understanding of their field of study. An even larger majority (94 percent) rated the quality of course instruction in their program as very good or good. Three-quarters (76 percent) said they would select the same program again.

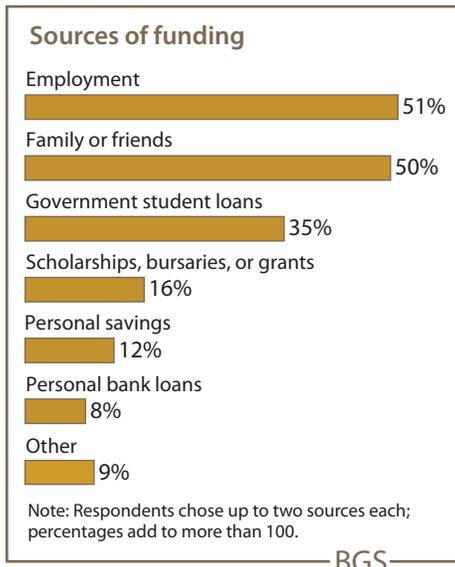
BGS

Most of the graduates surveyed (93 percent) said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the education they received from their program.



Student finances

Former students were asked to identify the top two sources of funding they used to pay for their education (tuition, books, food, and lodging). The most reported sources of funding were *employment* and *family or friends*.



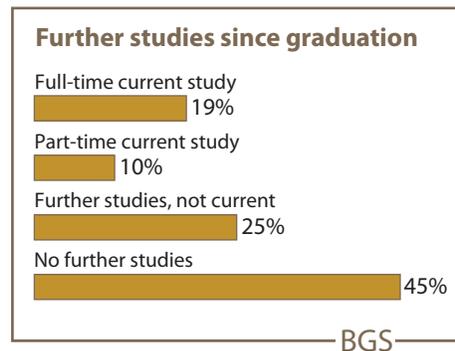
BGS respondents were asked to estimate the amount of financial debt they incurred from student loans or other sources to cover education and living expenses associated with the educational program

they completed in 2010. Almost half (49 percent) said they had debt; the median amount they borrowed was \$20,000.

Over one-third (36 percent) of respondents had incurred government-sponsored student loan debt. The median amount of this debt, for those who borrowed, was also \$20,000.

Further education

Over half (55 percent) of the BGS respondents had enrolled in further education since they graduated in 2010, and over half of the respondents who had taken further education were studying at the time of the survey.

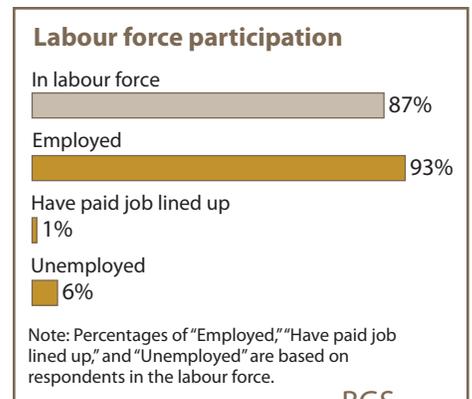


Of the respondents who went on to pursue another degree, a large majority (85 percent) said their baccalaureate had prepared them *very well* or *well* for their further studies.

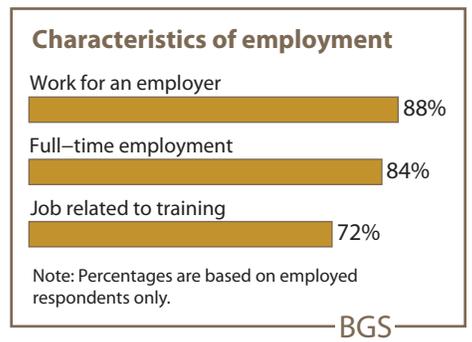
Labour force participation

The majority of the graduates surveyed were in the labour force, that is, employed or looking for work. Of those in the labour force, 93 percent were employed, 6 percent were unemployed, and 1 percent had a job lined up.

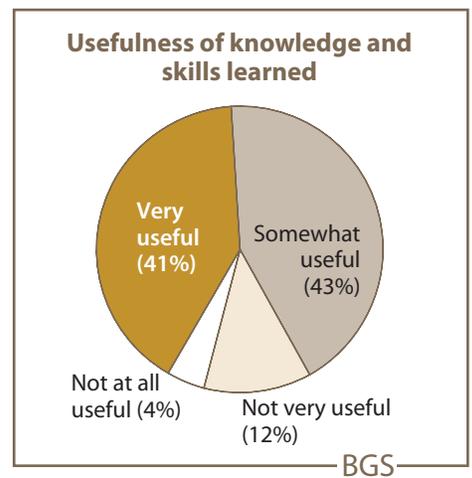
Employed respondents were likely to be working full-time: the percentage in full-time employment was 84 percent, up from 82 percent in 2011. The majority were in a position paid by an employer—only 5 percent were self-employed, while



7 percent worked for an employer *and* were self-employed. Almost three-quarters (72 percent) of those with a job said it was *very* or *somewhat related* to their baccalaureate program.



A large majority (84 percent) of employed respondents said the knowledge, skills, and abilities they acquired during their baccalaureate education were *very useful* or *somewhat useful* to them in their work.

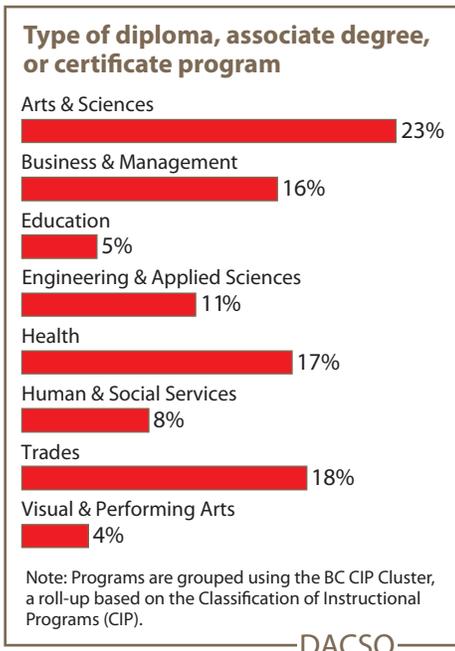


Former Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Students

The 2012 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey was conducted January to June 2012. The survey targeted former students who had completed or nearly completed their programs 9 to 20 months previously; 15,125 former students from 19 of B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions participated by telephone or online. The overall response rate was 55 percent. At the time of the survey, the median age of respondents was 25; 67 percent were under 30. Over half (56 percent) of the respondents were women.

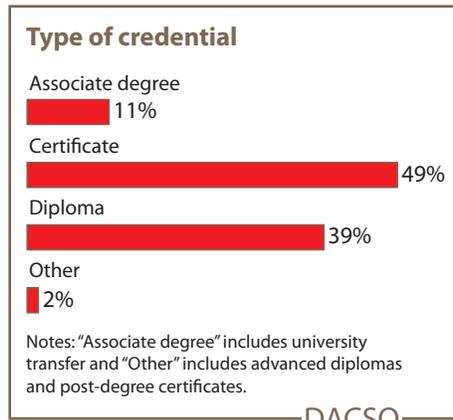
Diploma, associate degree, and certificate programs

Over three-quarters (77 percent) of the former students surveyed had taken Applied programs, which are intended to lead to employment in a specific field, such as



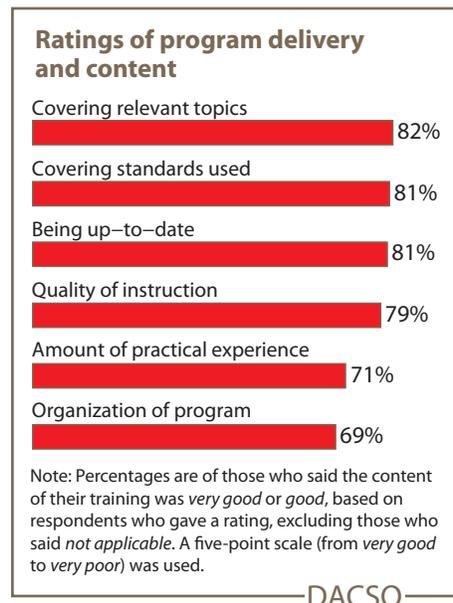
business management, communications, or health technology. Almost one-quarter (23 percent) of the respondents had been in Arts and Sciences programs—programs that typically lead to further study.

Credentials for each of the program groups above included associate degrees, certificates, and diplomas. Almost half (49 percent) of the respondents were in programs that had a certificate as a credential.



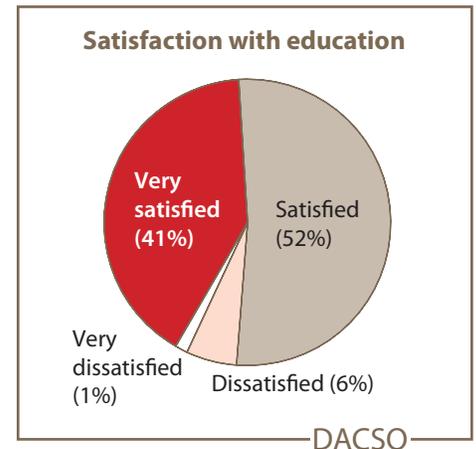
Education evaluation

DACSO respondents were asked to rate certain aspects of program content and delivery. Each item received a *very good* or *good* rating from a large majority of



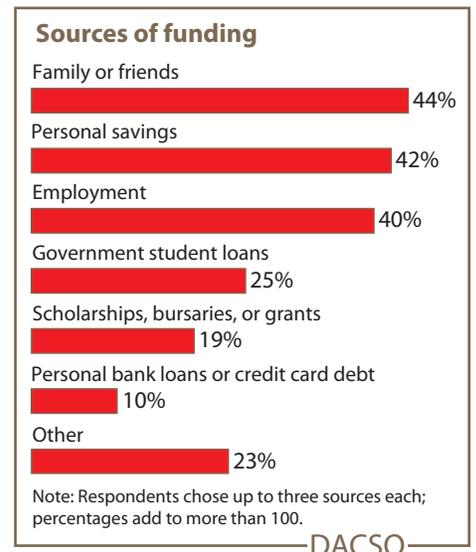
respondents. In particular, respondents gave high ratings to their program's course content, such as *covering relevant topics* and *covering the standards used in the field*.

Most (93 percent) of the former students surveyed said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the education they received throughout their program.



Student finances

Former students were asked to identify the top sources of funding they used to pay for their education (tuition, books, food, and lodging)—they gave up to three



DACSO

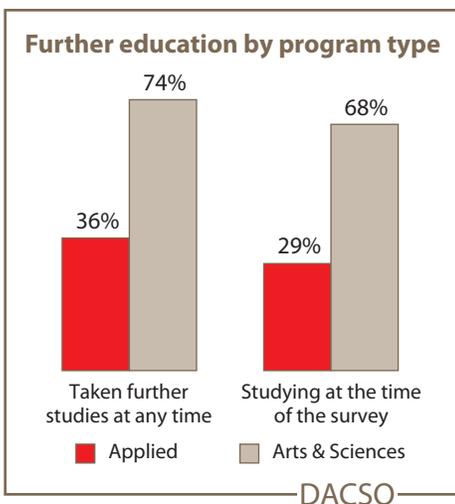
responses. The most reported sources of funding were *financial support from family or friends*, and *personal savings*.

Respondents were also asked specifically about any borrowing they did to finance their studies. Approximately half (48 percent) of those who answered the loan questions had borrowed from a government loan program or from other sources for their education. The median amount they borrowed was \$9,000.

Over one-quarter (26 percent) of the respondents had received a government student loan for their program. The median amount for those who borrowed was \$10,000.

Further education

By the time they were surveyed, nearly half (45 percent) of all DACSO respondents had taken further education or training; well over one-third (38 percent) were currently enrolled. There are some major differences in rates of further study depending on program type—those who took Arts and Sciences programs were much more likely to be continuing their studies.



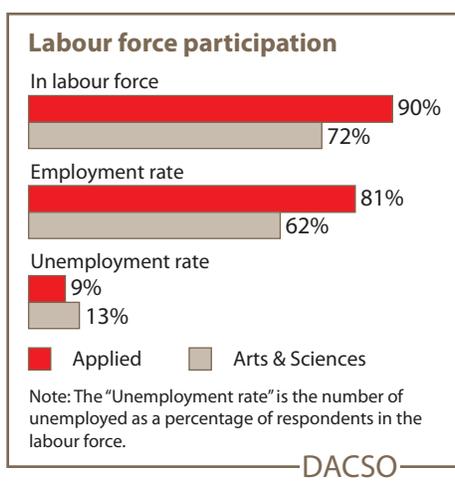
Two-thirds (67 percent) of DACSO respondents who continued their education at a different institution had expected to

transfer course credits from their previous studies. Of those who expected transfer credits, a large majority (88 percent) got the credits they expected. Almost as many (83 percent) were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their transfer experience.

Most of the respondents who took further education said their programs prepared them for their ongoing learning: 93 percent said they were *very well* or *somewhat prepared*.

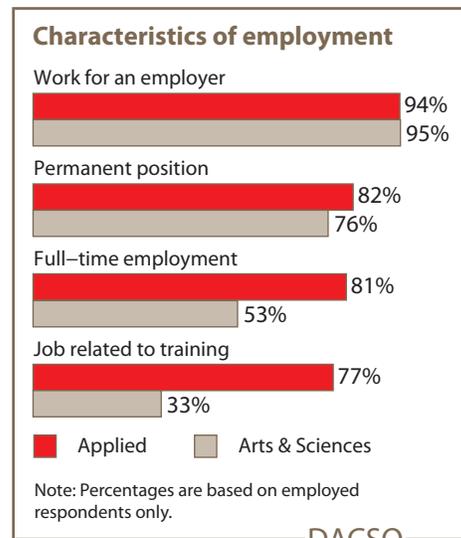
Labour force participation

A large majority (86 percent) of the former students surveyed were in the labour force—employed or looking for work. There was a pronounced difference in labour force participation between respondents from Applied programs and those from Arts and Sciences. Since the former Arts and Sciences students were more likely to be studying again at the time of the survey, they were less likely to be in the labour force. The unemployment rates differed as well: the rate of respondents from Applied programs was lower and had dropped from 11 percent since the 2011 survey.

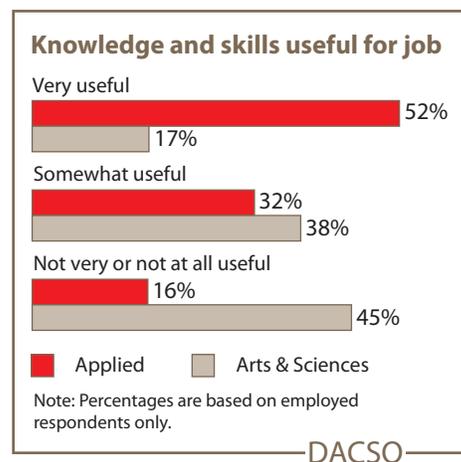


Most employed respondents, whether from Applied or Arts and Sciences programs, worked for an employer; only

6 percent were self-employed. Respondents from Applied programs, whose education was intended to lead to employment, were much more likely than those from Arts and Sciences programs to have a training-related job; former Arts and Sciences students, many of whom were studying at the time of the survey, were less likely to have full-time employment.



Over three-quarters (78 percent) of DACSO respondents said that the knowledge and skills they gained in their program were useful to them in the performance of their jobs. There was a significant difference between the responses of former students depending on their program type; a large majority (84 percent) of former



students from Applied programs said the knowledge and skills they learned were *very* or *somewhat useful*. Not surprisingly, former Arts and Sciences students—whose programs focussed on further education, not specific occupations—were less likely (55 percent) to say what they learned was useful for employment.



Former Developmental Students

The purpose of the 2012 Developmental Student Outcomes Survey was to ask former Adult Basic Education (ABE) and domestic English as a Second Language (ESL) students who studied at the intermediate level or higher, to evaluate their educational experiences and to report on their transitions to the labour market and further education. The survey was conducted by telephone and online from January to April of 2012, 8 to 18 months after students left their courses.

There were 1,762 ABE and 746 ESL respondents; the response rates were 47 and 49 percent, respectively. At the time of the survey, the median age of the ABE respondents was 24; 75 percent were under 30. Over half (56 percent) of the ABE respondents were women. The ESL respondents were more likely to be female: over two-thirds (68 percent) were women. The median age of ESL respondents was 32; 43 percent were under 30. Almost all former ESL students (97 percent) were born outside Canada; when those respondents were taking their courses, 80 percent were permanent residents and 16 percent had already become naturalized citizens.

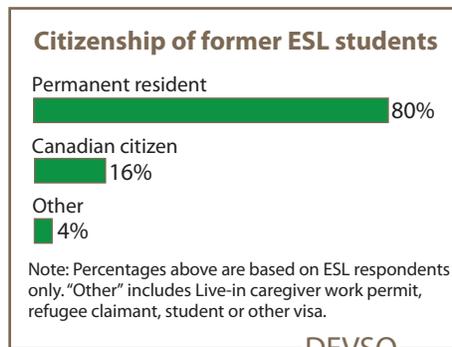
Developmental studies

Adult Basic Education (ABE) provides upgrading courses that may lead to a high school diploma or enable students to qualify for post-secondary programs. English as a Second Language (ESL) programs provide language instruction and information about Canadian culture, society, and the workplace to people who are learning English as an additional language.

To be eligible for the DEVSO Survey, former students must have taken several developmental courses, at least one at the intermediate level or higher. For ABE, the intermediate level is roughly equivalent to grade 10, and for ESL, it articulates to Access level 6 or Canadian Language Benchmark level 5.

Former ESL students

Almost all former ESL students (97 percent) were born outside Canada. When those respondents were taking their courses, four-fifths were permanent residents and most of the remaining one-fifth had already become naturalized citizens. Others had work permits or visas.

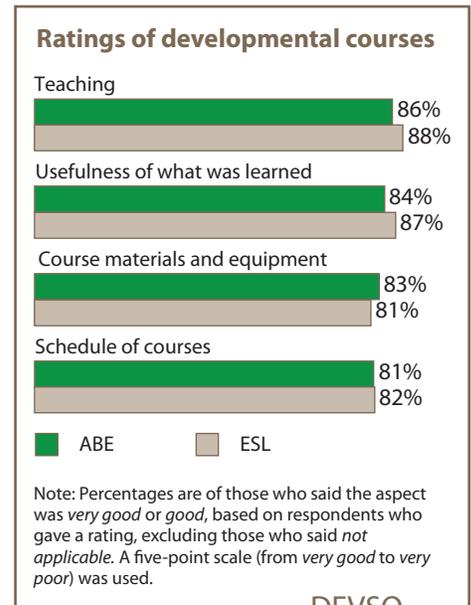


Education evaluation

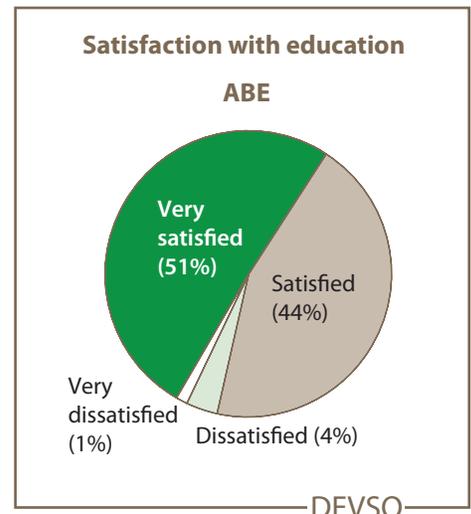
Both ABE and ESL survey respondents were asked to rate certain aspects of their courses. The majority of respondents gave ratings of *good* or *very good* to all items;



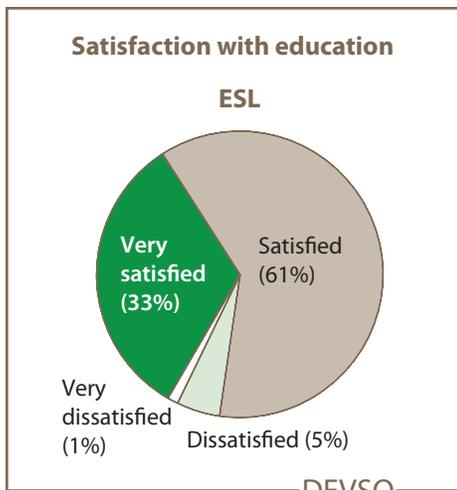
in particular, respondents gave high ratings to the quality of the *teaching* and the *usefulness of what was learned*.



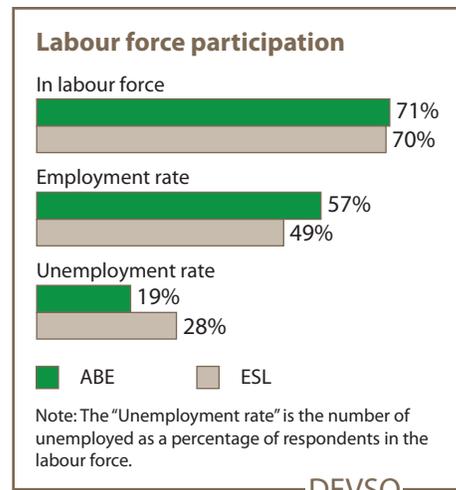
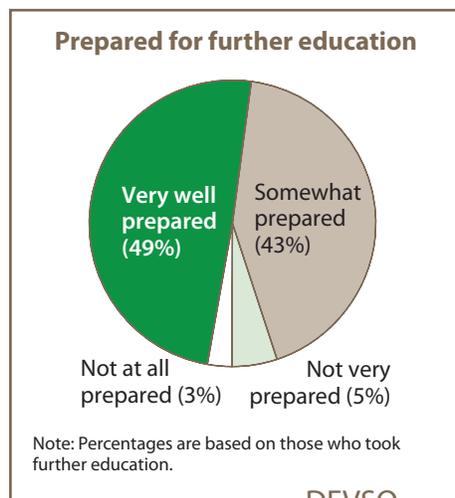
Almost all respondents (95 percent) said they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the ABE or ESL courses they took.



DEVSO

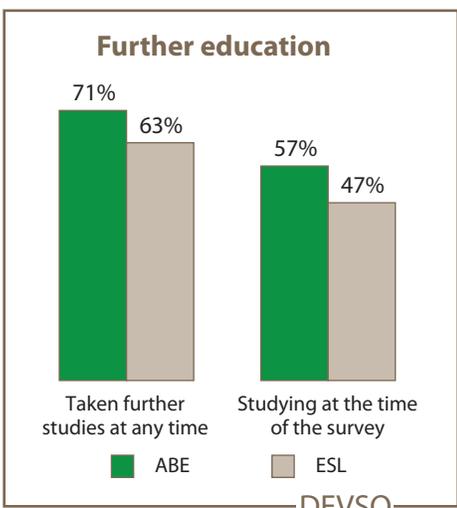


been *very well* or *somewhat prepared* by their developmental courses. Former ABE and ESL students had similar responses to this question.



Further education

The majority (69 percent) of DEVSO respondents went on to take further education after completing their ABE or ESL courses. At the time of the survey, over half (54 percent) were enrolled in a program of study—ABE respondents were more likely to be studying.



Labour force participation

The labour force participation and employment rates of DEVSO respondents at the time of the survey reflected their high level of enrolment in further education. The labour force outcomes of former ABE students were similar to those of the DACSO Arts and Sciences respondents, who also had high rates of further study.

Of those who were employed, 49 percent of ABE respondents and 60 percent of ESL respondents worked full-time.

Most (95 percent) of the former ESL students used English at work; 80 percent of those respondents said their English language training was *very helpful* or *helpful*. Over half (53 percent) of the employed former ABE students said the knowledge and skills they gained through their courses were *very* or *somewhat useful* in the performance of their jobs.

BC Student Outcomes
APPSO • BGS • DACSO • DEVSO

About BC Student Outcomes

Findings from the student outcomes surveys are used by the Province of B.C. for labour market analysis, policy development, and accountability. Post-secondary institutions use the data to improve programs and services; their academic and career counsellors draw on the results to advise prospective and continuing students. Students, parents, and the general public can view outcomes information through *Search BC Post-Secondary Student Survey Results* (outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/SORSLite/SORSLiteHome.aspx) or Education Planner (www.educationplanner.bc.ca). For more information on BC Student Outcomes, please see outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Default/Home.aspx or contact the institutional research department of any B.C. public university, college, or institute (look for addresses here: outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Default/Contacts.aspx).

Most (92 percent) of the respondents who took further education said they had