

Projected latent demand

A significant proportion of Tasmanian school leavers do not enrol at the University of Tasmania in the year following the completion of year 12 resulting in unmet or latent demand for post school education. In the five years since 2011, the average proportion of the year 12 cohort who gain an ATAR is 43.81 per cent. This differs slightly by region with the South averaging a higher proportion gaining an ATAR (46.86 per cent) than the North (42.83 per cent) and the North West (41.23 per cent). Of the year 12 cohort, on average, 39.75 per cent apply to study at the University of Tasmania, however, only 25.10 per cent enrol the following year. Again, this differs by region as set out in Table 1.

Table 1. Proportion of Tasmanian school leavers gaining an ATAR, applying to UTAS and enrolling in the year following year 12, annual average 2011 to 2015

	Tasmania	North	North West	South
ATAR (%) (includes 2016 data)	43.81	42.83	41.23	46.86
Apply to UTAS (%)	39.75	38.05	38.92	42.02
Enrol at UTAS (%)	25.10	24.38	23.10	26.98

Source: University of Tasmania

Based on average rates of school leavers gaining an ATAR, applying to UTAS and enrolling at UTAS the year following completion of year 12, latent demand for post school education can be projected using the Tasmania Treasury Population Projections for Tasmania and its Local Government Areas¹. Assuming the annual average ATAR, application and enrolment rates remain constant until 2037 (the projection period under the Tasmanian Treasury projection series) and using the medium series, which is considered to be the most likely series in population projections, for 18 year olds², future latent demand can be projected.

While Tasmania's population is projected to enter decline by the mid-2040s and each subsequent age cohort is getting smaller in size, a considerable proportion of the 18-year-old cohort is projected to gain an ATAR, yet not enrol at the University of Tasmania in the year following year 12 completion. A consistently larger proportion of the 18-year-old cohort is projected to *not* achieve an ATAR. It is important to note that the Tasmanian Treasury population projections do not incorporate the potential influence of government policy intervention on the population size or structure resulting from the Tasmanian Population Growth Strategy³. In addition, the assumed rates for ATAR achievement, application to UTAS and enrolments at UTAS do not factor in any future outcomes from government education policy to increase education participation, retention and attainment of Tasmanians⁴ nor the Tasmanian Government Partnership Agreement with the University of Tasmania which specifically identifies the objective to improve educational outcomes in Tasmania⁵.

¹ Tasmanian Department of Treasury and Finance, 2014 Population projections for Tasmania and its Local Government Areas, <http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/domino/DTF/DTF.nsf/v-ecopol/397D0680E5DCC583CA257CEC0005F727>, accessed 25 January 2017

² based on current Tasmanian Government education policy which would result in school leavers being 18 years of age on 1 January following completion of year 12

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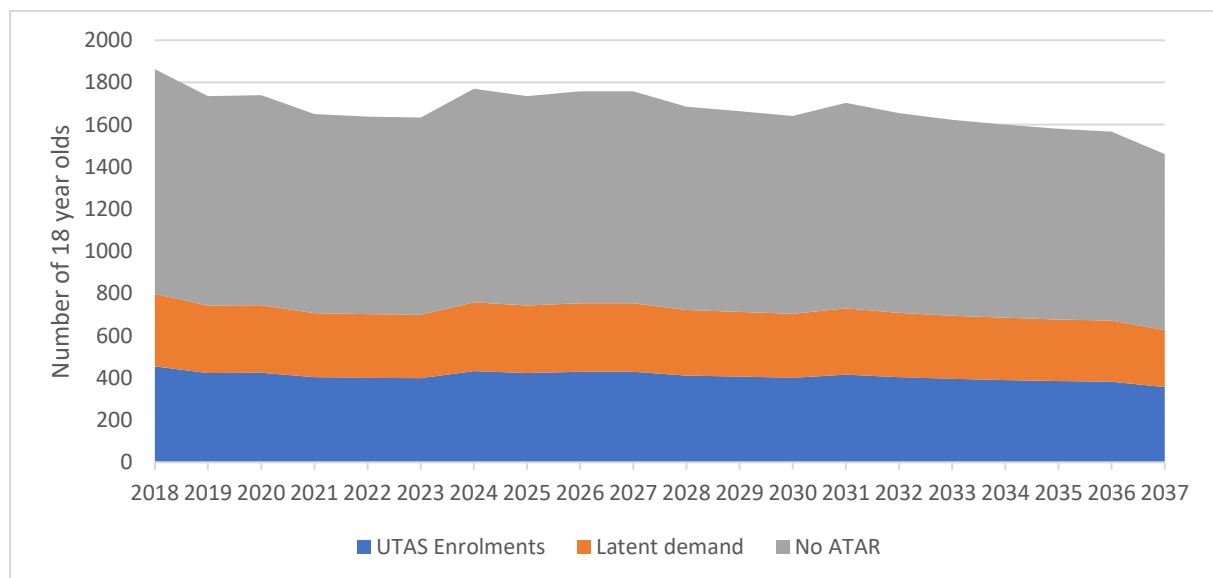
http://stategrowth.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/124304/Population_Growth_Strategy_Growing_Tas_Population_for_web.pdf

⁴ <https://www.tas.liberal.org.au/sites/default/files/policy/Leading%20the%20nation%20in%20education.pdf>

⁵ http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/policy/partnership_with_the_university_of_tasmania

In the north of Tasmania, the size of the 18-year-old cohort is projected to decline gradually until 2037. Based on the annual average rates of ATAR achievements and enrolments at UTAS from the North of Tasmania, the number of 18 year olds achieving an ATAR is projected to decline from 798 in 2018 to 626 in 2037. The number of those who achieve an ATAR but do not enrol at UTAS (latent demand) will decline from 344 to 270 by 2037. The number of 18 year olds not achieving an ATAR is also projected to decline from 1,065 in 2018 to 835 in 2037. As is evident in Figure 1, this group is considerably larger in size than those who are projected to achieve an ATAR but do not enrol at UTAS. This group is also the target of the above-mentioned education policy partnership between the Tasmanian State Government and the University of Tasmania. The investment in appropriate, modern education infrastructure and the introduction of associate degrees linked to employment outcomes in the north of Tasmania will likely contribute to lifting the education aspirations of young Tasmanians and increase participation in post school education.

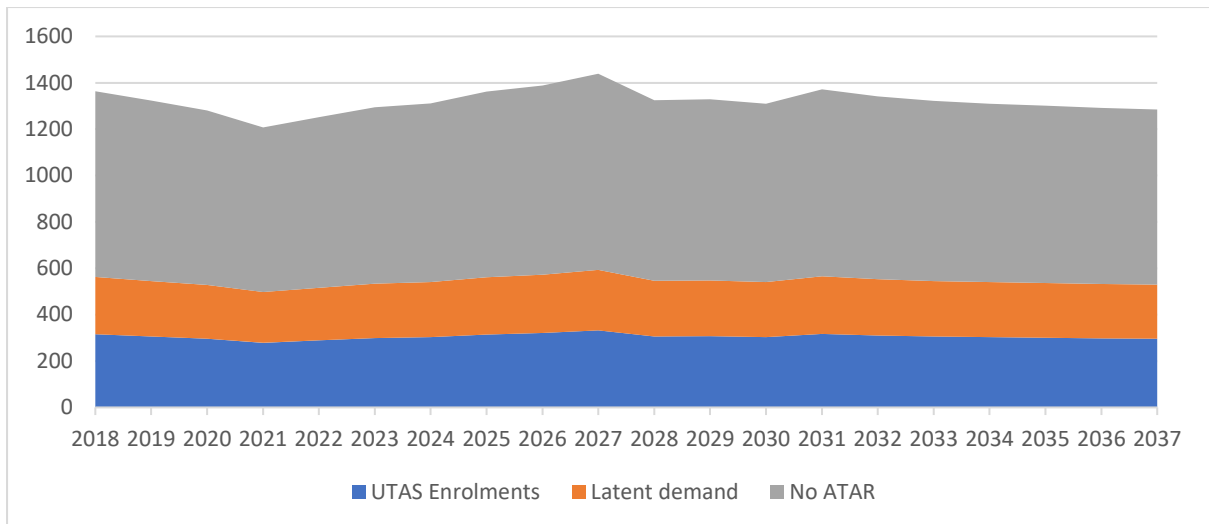
Figure 1. Projected latent demand for post school education, 18 year olds, Northern Tasmania, 2018 to 2037



Source: Tasmanian Department of Treasury and Finance, 2014 Population projections for Tasmania and its Local Government Areas; University of Tasmania; author calculations

The size of the 18-year-old cohort is also projected to decline marginally in the North West and West of Tasmania by 2037, however the size is projected to fluctuate for the region over the period, as evident in Figure 2. Based on annual average rates for ATAR achievement and enrolments at UTAS for the North and North West of the State, the number of 18 year olds projected to achieve an ATAR declines over the period from 545 in 2018 to 530 by 2037. Latent demand is also projected to decline from 247 to 233 by 2037. While the number of 18 year olds without an ATAR also declines from 802 in 2018 to 755 in 2037 in the North West and West, this group is also likely to benefit from the Tasmanian State Government education policy initiatives to increase participation, retention and attainment of young Tasmanians and therefore increase potential demand for post school education in the state, particularly associate degree pathways to employment or further education.

Figure 2. Projected latent demand for post school education, 18 year olds, North West and West Tasmania, 2018 to 2037



Source: Tasmanian Department of Treasury and Finance, 2014 Population projections for Tasmania and its Local Government Areas; University of Tasmania; author calculations