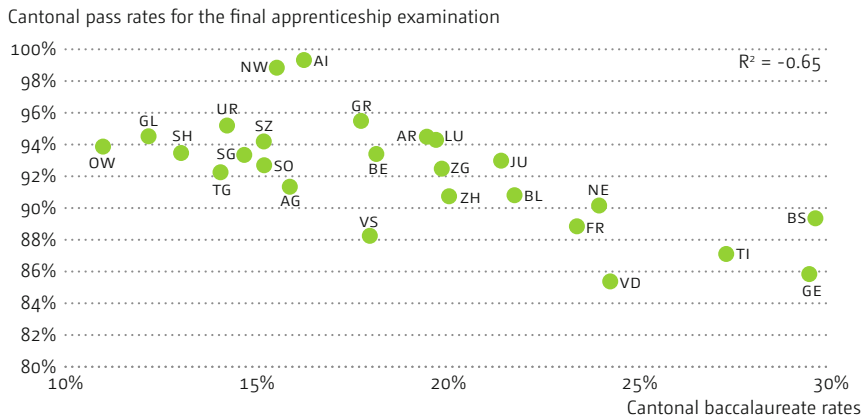


the problem of unsuitable applicants also impacts occupations with lower requirements as they lose their ideal candidates to companies with higher requirements. If these shortcomings in school achievements at the start of the apprenticeship are not fully offset by a greater effort during the training itself, or if trainees with insufficient skills do not drop out of their apprenticeship, this will ultimately be reflected in the success rate for the final apprenticeship examination.

123 Cantonal pass rates for the final apprenticeship examination and bacculaureate rates, 2016

Data: FSO



The strong correlation between the bacculaureate rates for the cantons and the average success rates for the final apprenticeship examinations can also be explained against this background. The bacculaureate rate can explain almost 50% of the variation in final apprenticeship examination pass rates.

Success in final apprenticeship examinations, but many two-year courses terminated prematurely

The two-year federal vocational education and training certificate (EBA) is characterised, albeit with a marked gender mismatch, by a relatively high pass rate for the final examination (→ Figure 124). However, this high pass rate is largely due to the fact that this two-year VET course features considerably more drop-outs than the three and four-year courses (EFZ). A mere 74.1% of those who began a certificate course in 2012 successfully completed their training two years later (FSO, 2016c). It therefore appears that it is only those trainees with realistic prospects of success who take the final examination.

EBA courses also include trainees who initially began their training on an EFZ level course. Even if only 1% of EFZ trainees switch course type, more than 10% of EBA trainees still end up on the two-year course by this route (FSO, 2015c). As far as the training mobility of successful EBA trainees is concerned, the recorded figures for the 2012 and 2013 cohorts show that around one third of them began or even concluded an EFZ course in the same or following year. This confirms earlier cantonal studies that showed that most of those on EBA courses entered the labour market with their qualification from that course. In this regard, a review (Fitzli, 2018) confirmed that this type of training had a high level of target achievement, albeit with a need for optimisation.

124 Pass rates for the final apprenticeship examination (EBA) by gender, 2010–2016

Data: FSO

