

Aviation Maintenance Training

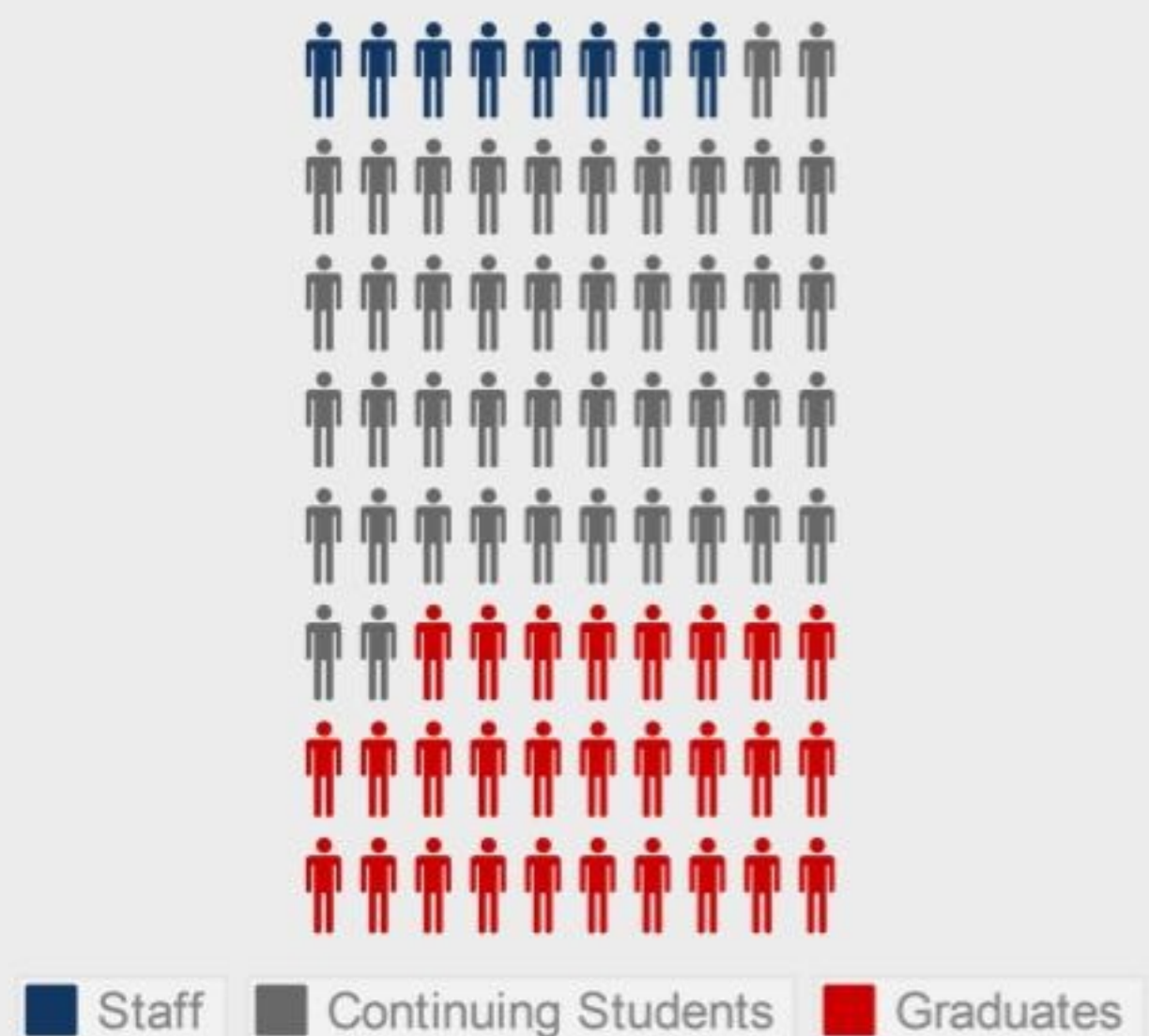
Overview

The Aviation Technician Education Council (ATEC) surveyed all aviation maintenance technician schools (AMTS) holding an FAA part-147 certificate in order to assess key trends in the industry and gather data about both student and institutional needs in order to plan future council programs and initiatives.

The survey period closed on Jan. 16, 2015. Out of the 172 AMTS contained in the FAA certification database, 54 responded - nearly one third of the entire population. This strong participation rate makes the survey a reliable snapshot of the AMTS community.

The Typical AMTS

The typical AMTS is likely to be public (67 percent) and operates as part of a larger educational institution (87 percent). It has 8 staff members, including instructors and administrative support, total enrollment of 72 students and 28 graduates.

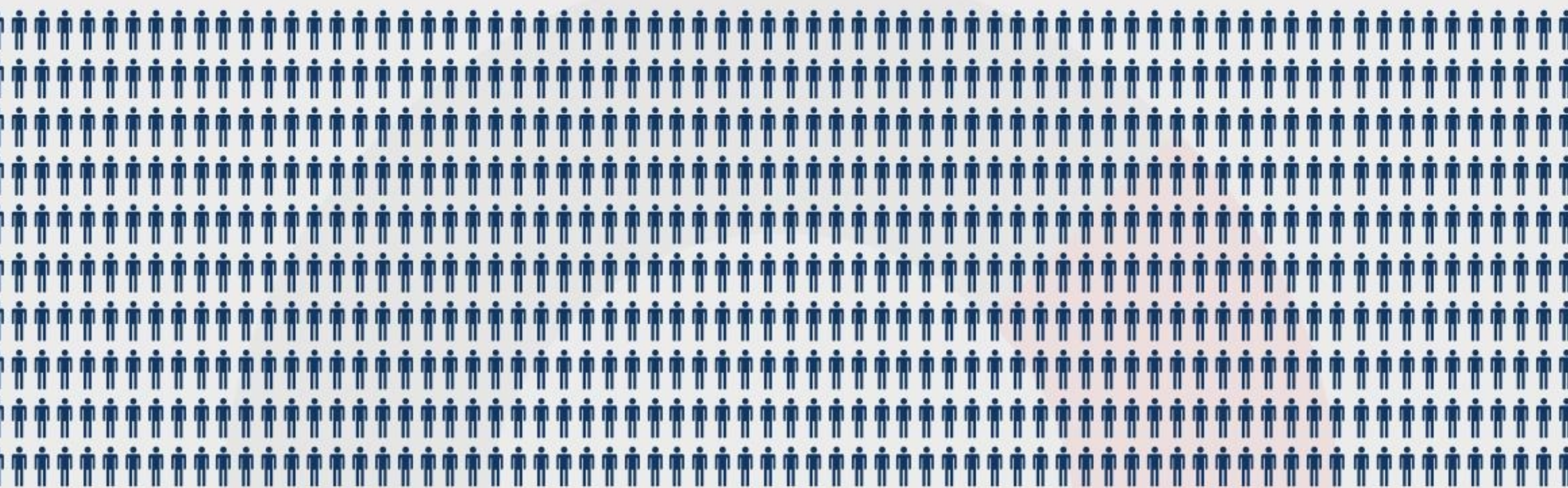


The community is composed mostly of smaller institutions, with 80 percent of survey respondents (43 schools) reporting a total enrollment of fewer than 150 students, with four out of ten (24 schools) enrolling fewer than 50.

The few larger schools dominate overall enrollment. The ten largest AMTS that provided a survey response reported a combined enrollment of more than 3,000 students and more than 1,700 graduates in 2013. This means that the top 19 percent of institutions in terms of size account for roughly half of the total number of students and six out of every ten graduates.

Workforce Bleed

The loss of graduates from AMTS programs into other technical fields is a key challenge facing the aviation maintenance community. Based on survey data, respondents estimate that one out of four graduates does not pursue an aviation career. This means that from the respondent group alone, roughly 700 graduates in 2013 were lost to other industries.



Institution size may have some impact on the retention of graduates by the aviation community. A student coming out of one of the 10 largest schools noted above is 10 percent less likely to pursue a career in aviation.

Predicting the Future

The vast majority of respondents (75 percent) indicated their institution's enrollment has either held level or increased over the past three years. Of those who provided a prediction for the future, almost all expect the number of students in attendance to at least stay the same and more than half (55 percent) believe it will increase. Only one respondent indicated that enrollment will shrink.



Based on anecdotal discussions with ATEC members, such predictions are heavily dependent on economic conditions. Institutions might exhibit "wishful thinking" regarding future enrollment expansion, but educators believe general trend during the nation's slow recovery period has been towards growth. Considering MRO market sentiments regarding the future demand for workers, it appears that there will be demand for AMTS graduates into the foreseeable future.



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ATEC is a partnership of over 150 FAA-certificated training schools across the country. The council is dedicated to fostering aviation maintenance education and providing industry with skilled labor. To learn more, visit www.atec-amt.org.