

## Key Statistics 2014/2015 and 2015/2016



First Released 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**Table 1. Number of Full-Time Students in Institutions Aided by DES**

	2014/2015	2015/2016
<b>First Level</b>	<b>544,696</b>	<b>553,380</b>
Primary Schools	536,747	545,310
<i>Of which Special Class Pupils in Mainstream Schools</i>	<i>3,816</i>	<i>4,355</i>
Special Schools	7,949	8,070
<b>Second Level (excluding number of PLC students)</b>	<b>339,207</b>	<b>345,550</b>
Secondary	190,587	192,808
Vocational	91,612	94,826
Community and Comprehensive	57,008	57,916
<b>Second-Level Students in PLC Courses</b>	<b>33,089</b>	<b>32,453</b>
Secondary	557	551
Vocational	31,466	30,909
Community and Comprehensive	1,066	993
<b>Third Level</b>	<b>173,649</b>	<b>179,850</b>
Universities	95,120	100,793
Institutes of Technology	68,324	68,570
Teacher Training Institutions	6,953	7,029
Other Aided Institutions	3,252	3,458

Time series of the tables in this document and more details can be found on the Department's Educational Statistical Database at

<http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/Education-Statistics-Database/>

More details can also be found in the Department's Annual Statistical Reports at

<http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/Statistical-Reports/>

For further information please contact [statistics@education.gov.ie](mailto:statistics@education.gov.ie)

<b>Table 2. Number of Schools Aided by the Department of Education and Skills</b>		
	<b>2014/2015</b>	<b>2015/2016</b>
<b>First Level</b>	<b>3,277</b>	<b>3,262</b>
Primary Schools (Mainstream)	3,137	3,124
Special Schools	140	138
<b>Second Level</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>735</b>
Secondary	375	375
Vocational	262	265
Community and Comprehensive	95	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,009</b>	<b>3,997</b>
<b>Second-Level Schools Offering PLC Courses</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>152</b>
Secondary	11	11
Vocational	129	124
Community and Comprehensive	19	17

<b>Table 3. Number of Teaching Staff (Full-time Equivalent Posts Allocated)</b>		
	<b>2014/2015</b>	<b>2015/2016</b>
First Level	33,613	34,576
All Second Level	26,174	26,804
Second Level Excluding PLC	24,455	25,123
PLC	1,719	1,681

Only teachers paid from funds provided by the Department of Education and Skills are included in the above table. Second-level teacher figures exclude all further education except for PLC.

<b>Table 4. Overview of Pupil-Teacher Ratio at First and Second Level</b>		
	<b>2014/2015</b>	<b>2015/2016</b>
First Level	16.2	16.0
All Second Level	14.2	14.1
Second Level Excluding PLC	13.9	13.8
PLC	19.2	19.3

The pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) is calculated at each level by dividing the total number of pupils by the total number of allocated posts (classroom teachers and support teachers). This calculation differs from other such calculations (for example the staffing schedule at primary level which is the basis for allocating classroom teachers to each school based on their enrolments).

<b>Table 5. Pupil-Teacher Ratio and Average Class Size in National Schools</b>		
	<b>2014/2015</b>	<b>2015/2016</b>
Total enrolment in all national schools (at the start of the school year)	544,696	553,380
Total number of allocated posts (as at the 30 <sup>th</sup> June in the given school year)	33,613	34,576
Pupil-teacher ratio in all national schools	16.2	16.0
Total enrolment in mainstream classes	532,931	540,955
Teaching teachers of mainstream classes	21,419	21,724
Average class size in mainstream classes	24.9	24.9

<b>Table 6. School Size at First and Second Level in 2015-2016</b>		
<b>Enrolment Size (Number of Pupils)</b>	<b>Number of Schools</b>	
	<b>First Level</b>	<b>Second Level</b>
Fewer than 50 pupils	588	5
50 – 99	707	13
100 – 199	802	59
200 - 299	511	110
300 - 499	392	177
500+	124	371
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,124</b>	<b>735</b>

<b>Table 7. Number of Third-Level Institutions Aided by the Department of Education and Skills</b>	
Universities	7
Institutes of Technology Sector	14
Teacher Training	5
Other	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>

Table 8. Number of Candidates in State Examinations		
	2014	2015
Junior Certificate Candidates	60,328	59,521
Leaving Certificate Candidates	56,989	57,931
<i>of which</i>		
Leaving Certificate School Candidates	50,643	51,712
External Candidates	2,578	2,616
VTOS/PLC Candidates	804	716
Leaving Certificate Applied	2,964	2,887
<b>Total Exam Candidates</b>	<b>117,317</b>	<b>117,452</b>

Table 9. Expenditure per Student				
Year	Expenditure per Student at Constant 2013 Prices (€)			Real Current Public Expenditure (€m (at constant 2013 prices))
	First Level	Second Level	Third Level	
2005	5,970	8,363	10,820	7,220
2006	6,178	8,730	11,353	7,589
2007	6,323	9,196	11,267	7,918
2008	6,439	9,319	11,133	8,160
2009	6,686	9,420	10,568	8,445
2010	6,573	9,120	10,140	8,394
2011	6,534	9,020	9,389	8,304
2012	6,348	8,842	8,627	8,102
2013	6,274	8,252	8,126	7,869

Note: Data refer to Gross Voted Expenditure divided by full-time equivalent students in DES-aided institutions for each calendar year. Values are calculated in constant 2013 prices using the CSO National Accounts deflator for Net Expenditure by central and local governments on current goods and services.

Table 10. Enrolments of Full-Time Students in Institutions Aided by the Department of Education and Skills					
Level	1975/1976	1985/1986	1995/1996	2005/2006	2015/2016
First Level	528,398	567,064	478,692	457,889	553,380
Second Level (excludes PLC)	267,891	335,743	352,910	303,821	345,550
PLC	0	<i>Not available</i>	17,985	29,376	32,453
Third Level	31,730	53,473	95,099	136,719	179,850

The PLC programme was introduced in 1985.

Table 11. Key Indicators and Benchmarks						
		IRELAND		EU AVERAGE		
		2011	2014	2011	2014	
<b>Educational poverty and spending cuts: challenges for the education sector</b>						
Share of 15-year olds with underachievement in:	Reading	•	:	9.6% <sup>12</sup>	:	17.8% <sup>12</sup>
	Maths	•	:	16.9% <sup>12</sup>	:	22.1% <sup>12</sup>
	Science	•	:	11.1% <sup>12</sup>	:	16.6% <sup>12</sup>
Education investment	Public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP			4.7%		4.1% <sup>13</sup>
	Public expenditure on education as share of total public expenditure			10.1%		10.2% <sup>13</sup>
				10.5%		10.3% <sup>13</sup>
<b>Education attainment levels of young people across Europe</b>						
Early leavers from education and training (age 18-24)	Men			12.8%		8.0% <sup>u</sup>
	Women			8.8%		5.7% <sup>u</sup>
	Total	•		10.8%		6.9% <sup>u</sup>
Tertiary education attainment (age 30-34)	Men			43.1%		45.1%
	Women			56.0%		58.6%
	Total	•		49.7%		52.2%
<b>Policy levers for inclusiveness, quality and relevance</b>						
Early childhood education and care (participation from age 4 to starting age of compulsory education)		•		98.6%		97.2% <sup>13</sup>
Teachers' participation in training	Any topic (total)		:	:	:	84.6% <sup>13</sup>
	Special needs education		:	:	:	32.4% <sup>13</sup>
	Multicultural settings		:	:	:	13.2% <sup>13</sup>
	ICT skills for teaching		:	:	:	51.0% <sup>13</sup>
Foreign language learning	Share of ISCED 2 students learning two or more foreign languages			10.2%		9.2% <sup>12</sup>
Share of ISCED 3 students in vocational education and training (VET)				34.0%		1.5% <sup>13,b</sup>
Employment rate of recent graduates by education attainment (age 20-34 having left education 1-3 years before reference year)	ISCED 3-4			52.7%		56.8%
	ISCED 5-8			81.5%		83.7%
	ISCED 3-8 (total)	•		70.9%		73.9%
Learning mobility	Inbound graduates mobility (bachelor)		:	:	:	4.6% <sup>13</sup>
	Inbound graduates mobility (master)		:	:	:	9.3% <sup>13</sup>
Adult participation in lifelong learning by education attainment (age 25-64)	ISCED 0-8 (total)			6.8%		6.7%
				8.9%		10.7%

Sources: Eurostat (LFS, UOE, GFS); OECD (PISA, TALIS). Notes: • ET 2020 benchmark; data refer to weighted EU average, covering a different number of Member States depending on the source; b= break in time series, d= definition differs, p= provisional, u= low reliability, 12=2012, 13=2013. Further information is found in the respective section of Volume 1 (ec.europa.eu/education/monitor). \*Ireland had previously a significant number of pre-vocational ISCED 97 level 3 programmes, which are now classified as general ones.