

Key Statistics 2015/2016 and 2016/2017



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

| | 2015/2016 | 2016/2017 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| First Level | 553,380 | 558,314 |
| Primary Schools | 545,310 | 550,200 |
| <i>Of which Special Class Pupils in Mainstream Schools</i> | 4,355 | 4,836 |
| Special Schools | 8,070 | 8,114 |
| Second Level (excluding number of PLC students) | 345,550 | 352,257 |
| Secondary | 192,808 | 194,879 |
| Vocational | 94,826 | 97,741 |
| Community and Comprehensive | 57,916 | 59,637 |
| Second-Level Students in PLC Courses | 32,453 | 31,980 |
| Secondary | 551 | 536 |
| Vocational | 30,909 | 30,479 |
| Community and Comprehensive | 993 | 965 |
| Third Level | 179,850 | 181,039 |
| Universities | 100,793 | 105,051 |
| Institutes of Technology | 68,570 | 67,636 |
| Teacher Training Institutions | 7,029 | 5,118 |
| Other Aided Institutions | 3,458 | 3,234 |

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

| Table 2. Number of Schools Aided by the Department of Education and Skills | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | 2015/2016 | 2016/2017 |
| First Level | 3,262 | 3,250 |
| Primary Schools (Mainstream) | 3,124 | 3,115 |
| Special Schools | 138 | 135 |
| Second Level | 735 | 711 |
| Secondary | 375 | 374 |
| Vocational | 265 | 241 |
| Community and Comprehensive | 95 | 96 |
| Total | 3,997 | 3,961 |
| Second-Level Schools Offering PLC Courses | 152 | 146 |
| Secondary | 11 | 9 |
| Vocational | 124 | 121 |
| Community and Comprehensive | 17 | 16 |

| Table 3. Number of Teaching Staff (Full-time Equivalent Posts Allocated) | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | 2015/2016 | 2016/2017 |
| First Level | 34,576 | 35,669 |
| All Second Level | 26,804 | 27,966 |
| Second Level Excluding PLC | 25,123 | 26,273 |
| PLC | 1,681 | 1,693 |

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.

| Table 4. Overview of Pupil-Teacher Ratio at First and Second Level | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | 2015/2016 | 2016/2017 |
| First Level | 16.0 | 15.7 |
| All Second Level | 14.1 | 13.7 |
| Second Level Excluding PLC | 13.8 | 13.4 |
| PLC | 19.3 | 18.9 |

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).

| Table 5. Pupil-Teacher Ratio and Average Class Size in National Schools | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | 2015/2016 | 2016/2017 |
| Total enrolment in all national schools (at the start of the school year) | 553,380 | 558,314 |
| Total number of allocated posts (as at the 30 th June in the given school year) | 34,576 | 35,669 |
| Pupil-teacher ratio in all national schools | 16.02 | 15.7 |
| Total enrolment in mainstream classes | 540,955 | 545,364 |
| Teaching teachers of mainstream classes | 21,724 | 22,152 |
| Average class size in mainstream classes | 24.9 | 24.7 |

| Table 6. School Size at First and Second Level in 2016-2017 | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Enrolment Size (Number of Pupils) | Number of Schools | |
| | First Level | Second Level |
| Fewer than 50 pupils | 583 | 11 |
| 50 – 99 | 699 | 12 |
| 100 – 199 | 782 | 72 |
| 200 - 299 | 518 | 97 |
| 300 - 499 | 403 | 179 |
| 500+ | 130 | 340 |
| Total | 3,115 | 711 |

| Table 7. Number of Third-Level Institutions Aided by the Department of Education and Skills* | |
|---|-----------|
| Universities | 7 |
| Institutes of Technology Sector | 14 |
| Teacher Training | 3 |
| Other | 2 |
| Total | 26 |

| Table 8. Number of Candidates in State Examinations | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 |
| Junior Certificate Candidates | 59,521 | 60,248 |
| Leaving Certificate Candidates | 57,931 | 58,465 |
| <i>of which</i> | | |
| Leaving Certificate School Candidates | 51,712 | 52,211 |
| External Candidates | 2,616 | 2,819 |
| VTOS/PLC Candidates | 716 | 677 |
| Leaving Certificate Applied | 2,887 | 2,758 |
| Total Exam Candidates | 117,452 | 118,713 |

| 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 | 1976/1977 | 1986/1987 | 1996/1997 | 2006/2007 | 2016/2017 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| First Level | 536,476 | 567,567 | 469,628 | 471,519 | 558,314 |
| Second Level (excludes PLC) | 277,978 | 339,154 | 353,617 | 303,920 | 352,257 |
| PLC | n/a | n/a | 18,721 | 30,191 | 31,980 |
| Third Level | 33,571 | 55,016 | 100,204 | 138,362 | 181,039 |
| Total (includes PLC figure, where applicable) | 848,025 | 961,737 | 942,170 | 943,992 | 1,123,590 |

The PLC programme was introduced in 1985.

Table 11. Key Indicators and Benchmarks

| | | IRELAND | | EU AVERAGE | |
|---|--|---------|----------------|------------|----------|
| | | 2011 | 2014 | 2011 | 2014 |
| Educational poverty and spending cuts: challenges for the education sector | | | | | |
| Share of 15-year olds with underachievement in: | Reading | • | : 9.6% 12 | : | 17.8% 12 |
| | Maths | • | : 16.9% 12 | : | 22.1% 12 |
| | Science | • | : 11.1% 12 | : | 16.6% 12 |
| Education investment | Public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP | | 4.7% 4.1% 13 | 5.1% | 5.0% 13 |
| | Public expenditure on education as share of total public expenditure | | 10.1% 10.2% 13 | 10.5% | 10.3% 13 |
| Education attainment levels of young people across Europe | | | | | |
| Early leavers from education and training (age 18-24) | Men | | 12.8% 8.0% u | 15.2% | 12.7% |
| | Women | | 8.8% 5.7% u | 11.5% | 9.5% |
| | Total | • | 10.8% 6.9% u | 13.4% | 11.1% |
| Tertiary education attainment (age 30-34) | Men | | 43.1% 45.1% | 31.0% | 33.6% |
| | Women | | 56.0% 58.6% | 38.7% | 42.3% |
| | Total | • | 49.7% 52.2% | 34.8% | 37.9% |
| Policy levers for inclusiveness, quality and relevance | | | | | |
| Early childhood education and care (participation from age 4 to starting age of compulsory education) | • | | 98.6% 97.2% 13 | 93.2% | 93.9% 13 |
| Teachers' participation in training | Any topic (total) | | : :13 | : | 84.6% 13 |
| | Special needs education | | : :13 | : | 32.4% 13 |
| | Multicultural settings | | : :13 | : | 13.2% 13 |
| | ICT skills for teaching | | : :13 | : | 51.0% 13 |
| Foreign language learning | | | 10.2% 9.2% 12 | 63.0% | : 12 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-------|----------|
| Share of ISCED 3 students in vocational education and training (VET) | | 34.0% | 1.5% 13,b | 50.4% | 48.9% 13 |
| 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% | 71.3% | 70.8% |
| | ISCED 5-8 | 81.5% | 83.7% | 82.5% | 80.5% |
| | ISCED 3-8 (total) • | 70.9% | 73.9% | 77.1% | 76.1% |
| Learning mobility | Inbound graduates mobility (bachelor) | : | 4.6% 13 | : | : 13 |
| | Inbound graduates mobility (master) | : | 9.3% 13 | : | : 13 |
| 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.