

# Key Statistics 2016/2017 and 2017/2018



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Education and Skills

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

	2016/2017	2017/2018
<b>First Level</b>	<b>558,314</b>	<b>563,459</b>
Primary Schools	550,200	555,251
<i>Of which Special Class Pupils in Mainstream Schools</i>	<i>4,836</i>	<i>5,572</i>
Special Schools	8,114	8,208
<b>Second Level (excluding number of PLC students)</b>	<b>352,257</b>	<b>357,408</b>
Secondary	194,879	197,200
Vocational	97,741	100,311
Community and Comprehensive	59,637	59,897
<b>Second-Level Students in PLC Courses</b>	<b>31,969</b>	<b>30,873</b>
Secondary	536	553
Vocational	30,469	29,434
Community and Comprehensive	964	886
<b>Third Level*</b>	<b>181,039</b>	-
Universities	105,051	107,114
Institutes of Technology	67,636	68,525
Teacher Training Institutions	5,118	-
Other Aided Institutions	3,234	-

*\*Complete 2017-18 statistics of Third-level enrolments are not yet available (June 2018).*

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>2016/2017</b>	<b>2017/2018</b>
<b>First Level</b>	<b>3,250</b>	<b>3,246</b>
Primary Schools (Mainstream)	3,115	3,111
Special Schools	135	135
<b>Second Level</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>715</b>
Secondary	374	374
Vocational	241	245
Community and Comprehensive	96	96
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,961</b>	<b>3,960</b>
<b>Second-Level Schools Offering PLC Courses</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>132</b>
Secondary	9	10
Vocational	121	107
Community and Comprehensive	16	15

<b>Table 3. Number of Teaching Staff (Full-time Equivalent Posts Allocated)</b>		
	<b>2016/2017</b>	<b>2017/2018</b>
First Level	35,669	36,773
All Second Level	27,966	29,544
Second Level Excluding PLC	26,273	27,919
PLC	1,693	1,625

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>2016/2017</b>	<b>2017/2018</b>
First Level	15.7	15.3
All Second Level	13.7	13.1
Second Level Excluding PLC	13.4	12.8
PLC	18.9	19

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>2016/2017</b>	<b>2017/2018</b>
	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>
Total enrolment in all national schools (at the start of the school year)	558,314	563,419
Total number of allocated posts (as at the 30 <sup>th</sup> June in the given school year)	35,669	36,773
Pupil-teacher ratio in all national schools	15.7	15.3
Total enrolment in mainstream classes	545,364	549,679
Teaching teachers of mainstream classes	22,152	22,430
Average class size in mainstream classes	24.7	24.5

<b>Table 6. School Size at First and Second Level in 2017-2018</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	578	8
50 – 99	693	14
100 – 199	748	71
200 - 299	534	97
300 - 499	423	185
500+	135	340
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,111</b>	<b>715</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	3
Other	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

<b>Table 8. Number of Candidates in State Examinations</b>		
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Junior Certificate Candidates	60,248	61,654
Leaving Certificate Candidates	58,465	58,543
<i>of which</i>		
Leaving Certificate School Candidates	52,211	52,583
External Candidates	2,819	2,623

VTOS/PLC Candidates	677	564
Leaving Certificate Applied	2,758	2,773
<b>Total Exam Candidates</b>	<b>118,713</b>	<b>120,197</b>

<b>Table 9. Expenditure per Student</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure per Student at Constant 2015 Prices (€)</b>			<b>Real Current Public Expenditure (€m (at constant 2015 prices))</b>
	<b>First Level</b>	<b>Second Level</b>	<b>Third Level</b>	
<b>2006</b>	5,471	7,731	10,054	7,327
<b>2007</b>	6,064	8,820	10,806	7,644
<b>2008</b>	6,753	9,774	11,676	7,878
<b>2009</b>	6,992	9,852	11,052	8,153
<b>2010</b>	6,338	8,794	9,778	8,105
<b>2011</b>	6,418	8,860	9,223	8,017
<b>2012</b>	6,417	8,939	8,721	7,823
<b>2013</b>	6,326	8,320	8,194	7,804
<b>2014</b>	6,005	8,115	7,591	7,827
<b>2015</b>	6,295	8,257	7,576	8,019

*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 2015 prices using the CSO National Accounts deflator for Net Expenditure by central and local governments on current goods and services.*

<b>Table 10. Enrolments of Full-Time Students in Institutions Aided by the Department of Education and Skills</b>					
<b>Level</b>	<b>1977/1978</b>	<b>1987/1988</b>	<b>1997/1998</b>	<b>2007/2008</b>	<b>2017/2018</b>
First Level	541,687	565,487	460,845	486,156	563,459
Second Level (excludes PLC)	284,261	340,190	347,898	305,156	357,408
PLC	-	-	21,287	29,967	30,873
Third Level*	35,237	57,221	104,439	139,134	-
<b>Total (includes PLC figure, where applicable)</b>	<b>861,185</b>	<b>962,898</b>	<b>934,469</b>	<b>960,413</b>	<b>-</b>

*\*2017-18 statistics of Third-level enrolments are not yet available (June 2018).  
The PLC programme was introduced in 1985.*