

December 2008

# **PROJECTIONS OF FULL TIME ENROLMENT**

**At Primary, Second and Third level, 2008 - 2030**

## **Introduction**

This report, by the Department of Education and Science, contains projections of full time enrolment at first, second and third level. These projections are based on particular assumptions regarding fertility and migration contained in the Central Statistics Office *Population and Labour Force Projections, 2011-2041* (CSO, 2008). The projections at second level are also based on rates of completion up to Leaving Certificate level, and the projections of third level are based on a combination of factors described in more detail in the section on third level.

Caution is needed in relation to all assumptions. Previous experience of working with projections have shown that short-term trends in both migration and fertility remain volatile and difficult to predict – not least because of uncertainties about the direction of future economic and social change as well as their relationship to patterns of social behaviour.

## **Primary Level**

Table 1 provides a summary of projected enrolment for all National Schools (including Special Schools) for each academic year to 2030/2031. A range of projections on enrolment based on four of the six possible scenarios as published by the CSO are presented the table.

It is highly probable that total enrolment at Primary level will reach the 500,000 mark this autumn (2008/2009). It should be noted that there was an exceptionally high figure for births recorded in 2007 which has consequences for enrolment in Junior Infant classes in 2011.

A likely scenario is a continuing high level of births (F1) and a significant reduction in inward migration (M2). Under this particular combination of assumptions enrolment at primary level would grow by approximately 56,000 over the next 5 years (from 2007/08 to 2012/13).

**Table 1**  
**Projected Enrolment in Primary Schools**

*(All aided primary schools including Special Education but excluding Early Start classes)*

<b>Academic-Year</b>	<b>Scenario M0F2</b>	<b>Scenario M2F2</b>	<b>Scenario M2F1</b>	<b>Scenario M1F1</b>
<b>2000/01</b>	<b>439,560</b>			
<b>2001/02</b>	<b>441,065</b>			
<b>2002/03</b>	<b>443,720</b>			
<b>2003/04</b>	<b>446,029</b>			
<b>2004/05</b>	<b>449,298</b>			
<b>2005/06</b>	<b>457,889</b>			
<b>2006/07</b>	<b>471,519</b>			
<b>2007/08</b>	<b>486,444</b>			
2008/09	487,680	500,005	499,999	500,572
2009/10	487,083	509,926	509,907	511,569
2010/11	486,953	518,644	518,608	521,710
2011/12	491,261	530,185	530,126	534,584
2012/13	496,803	542,022	542,350	547,956
2013/14	497,495	548,885	550,525	557,969
2014/15	496,046	553,575	557,470	567,401
2015/16	493,121	556,720	563,834	576,859
2016/17	491,855	558,895	570,214	586,274
2017/18	489,901	561,372	577,883	596,787
2018/19	485,805	562,679	585,354	607,793
2019/20	476,350	559,567	589,354	616,451
2020/21	464,954	554,977	592,429	624,497
2021/22	455,628	552,632	597,810	634,656
2022/23	446,025	549,999	602,470	643,471
2023/24	436,372	547,101	605,855	650,913
2024/25	426,639	543,734	607,719	657,180
2025/26	416,827	539,861	607,991	661,662
2026/27	407,092	535,645	606,832	664,432
2027/28	397,728	531,075	604,226	665,532
2028/29	389,041	526,053	600,083	665,037
2029/30	381,212	520,643	594,510	663,159
2030/31	487,680	514,657	587,730	660,006

## Second Level

Table 2 outlines three series of enrolment projections at second level based on a continuing high level of births (F1) and a significant reduction in inward migration (M2) combined with three possible scenarios of rate of retention to Leaving Certificate. In the school-year 2007/2008, approximately 80% of entrants to first year of Junior Cycle are estimated to complete Leaving Certificate, eventually, at rates of drop-out and progression prevailing in that year. However, this estimate is based on a limited measure of second level completion. It omits important educational pathways outside the mainstream school senior cycle such as Youthreach and apprenticeship training. It also omits a number of 'external' Leaving Certificate Examination students who leave aided schools to complete second level in private second level colleges.

The three scenarios of rate of retention to Leaving Certificate presented in table 2 are:

- S1 constant retention at the 2006 level of around 80% (close to 85% in real terms);
- S2 small rise in retention to reach 85% (or 90% in real terms) by 2016 – remaining constant thereafter;
- S3 increase in retention to reach 85% in 2013 and 87% (or 92% in real terms) by 2016 – remaining constant thereafter.

Under the middle scenario (S2), the numbers enrolled at second level would grow by 23,000 from 2007/08 to 2012/13.

**Table 2**  
**Projected Enrolment at Second Level**  
*(assuming Scenarios M2 and F1)*

<b>Academic-Year</b>	<b>S1</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>S3</b>
	<i>Retention Rate at constant (2007) level of 80% (roughly equivalent to 85%)</i>	<i>Retention Rate increases to 85% by 2016 and constant thereafter (roughly equivalent to 90%)</i>	<i>Retention Rate increases to 85% by 2013 and 87% by 2016 and constant thereafter (roughly equivalent to 92% after 2016)</i>
<b>2000/01</b>	<b>345,384</b>		
<b>2001/02</b>	<b>340,078</b>		
<b>2002/03</b>	<b>339,231</b>		
<b>2003/04</b>	<b>337,851</b>		
<b>2004/05</b>	<b>335,162</b>		
<b>2005/06</b>	<b>332,407</b>		
<b>2006/07</b>	<b>333,713</b>		
<b>2007/08</b>	<b>335,123</b>		
2008/09	335,804	336,207	336,207
2009/10	339,196	339,573	340,305
2010/11	344,132	344,782	345,924
2011/12	350,544	351,913	353,044
2012/13	356,543	358,666	360,189
2013/14	362,883	366,039	368,258
2014/15	369,500	373,579	376,678
2015/16	375,585	380,693	384,258
2016/17	381,084	387,499	390,890
2017/18	385,120	392,445	396,053
2018/19	388,707	396,573	400,364
2019/20	394,243	402,380	406,300
2020/21	399,097	407,351	411,336
2021/22	400,816	409,133	413,152
2022/23	403,002	411,420	415,488
2023/24	406,098	414,646	418,786
2024/25	408,931	417,542	421,718
2025/26	411,223	419,829	424,001
2026/27	414,211	422,846	427,024
2027/28	417,881	426,606	430,826
2028/29	421,278	430,103	434,372
2029/30	424,084	432,997	437,312
2030/31	426,165	435,145	439,495

## Third Level

Three series of projections of full time enrolment in third level institutions (aided by the Department of Education and Science) are given in Table 3. Each is based on a continuing high level of births (F1), a significant reduction in inward migration (M2) combined with an assumed increase in retention at Second Level to 85% in 2012 (referred to as Scenario S2) and a number of other factors outlined below.

At third level, the following factors contribute to growth in numbers:

- The estimated numbers sitting the Leaving Certificate as School candidates for the last time (total School candidates excluding Leaving Certificate Applied and net of projected repeats in the following year);
- The proportion of such Leaving Certificate candidates who enter full time undergraduate courses at Third Level (*Leaving Certificate Entry Rate – LCER*);
- The proportions of ‘mature’, ‘direct’, ‘late’ and ‘out-of-State’ entrants in any year;
- The proportion of total enrolment at Third Level that is ‘turned over’ into the following year (the *Rate Of Undergraduate Turnover*, or ROU);
- The proportion of postgraduate students in total full time enrolment

Scenario T2 is based on no change in the *Leaving Certificate Entry Rate* (LCER), a constant *Rate of Undergraduate Turnover* (ROU) as well as continuing increases in the proportion of mature students (to reach 19% by 2016 and 25% by 2022) and a faster growth in the number of postgraduate students and under-graduate entrants from outside the State. Under this Scenario, projected enrolment goes to over 200,000 full time students by 2021/22.

An alternative scenario T1 entails a reduced LCER, a constant ROU and no changes in the proportion of postgraduates along with a modest increase in the proportion of mature students in undergraduate entrants to reach 15% by 2016. The resulting projected enrolment under T1 is just under 163,000 in 2021/2022.

Finally, scenario TO is used to demonstrate, hypothetically, the impact of no change with regard to any of the above parameters (mature intake, out-of-state entrants, post-graduate proportion and ROU). However, the LCER is reduced as in T1. This scenario is unlikely to be realised in practice as on-going demand for third level places from among non-traditional entry routes is likely to increase.

**Table 3**  
**Projected Full time Enrolment at Third Level**  
*(assuming Scenarios F2, M1 and S2)*

<b>Academic-Year</b>	<b>T0</b>	<b>T1</b>	<b>T2</b>
<b>2000/01</b>	<b>119,991</b>		
<b>2001/02</b>	<b>124,589</b>		
<b>2002/03</b>	<b>129,283</b>		
<b>2003/04</b>	<b>133,887</b>		
<b>2004/05</b>	<b>133,691</b>		
<b>2005/06</b>	<b>136,719</b>		
<b>2006/07</b>	<b>138,362</b>		
<b>2007/08</b>	<b>137,595 p</b>		
2008/09	139,492	139,832	139,126
2009/10	139,638	140,540	141,315
2010/11	139,251	140,872	143,654
2011/12	138,300	140,744	145,608
2012/13	138,106	141,487	148,106
2013/14	138,422	142,834	151,859
2014/15	138,945	144,459	157,312
2015/16	139,563	146,238	162,793
2016/17	140,937	148,968	169,110
2017/18	142,437	151,468	175,607
2018/19	144,108	153,897	182,009
2019/20	146,421	156,838	189,114
2020/21	149,092	160,038	196,678
2021/22	151,591	162,963	204,062
2022/23	153,295	164,965	210,425
2023/24	154,328	166,197	214,873
2024/25	156,195	168,297	219,854
2025/26	158,738	171,104	225,349
2026/27	160,166	172,689	228,909
2027/28	160,805	173,411	231,095
2028/29	161,781	174,488	233,607
2029/30	163,112	175,941	236,525
2030/31	164,662	177,626	239,689

**Note concerning assumptions underlying this model**

The *Total Period Fertility Rate* is a synthetic indicator of fertility at one point in time (a year) across all cohorts of women giving birth in that year. It shows the average expected number of children a woman would have by the age of 49 based on the current year's information on births and age of mothers.

**Table A****Assumptions regarding the Total Period Fertility Rate (TPFR)**

*(Expert Group on Population and Labour Force Projections, April 2008)*

	Actual figure	F1	F2
2006	1.9	1.9	1.9
2016	-	1.9	1.65

**Table B****Assumed net inward migration per annum for each five-year inter-censal period**

	Projected M0	Projected M1	Projected M2
2002/2006	48,000 (actual)		
2006/2011	0	60,000	50,000
2011/2016	0	50,000	35,000
2016/2021	0	40,000	25,000
2021/2026	0	30,000	10,000
2026/2031	0	30,000	10,000
2032/2036	0	30,000	10,000
2036/2041	0	30,000	10,000

For further information on Tables A and B see *Population and Labour Force Projections, 2011-2041* (CSO, 2008) on [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)



**Table C****Retention at Second Level**

*(% of entrants to first year of Junior Cycle expected to complete Leaving Certificate – Established, LCVP or LCA, but excluding VTOS, External LC candidates, Youthreach, apprenticeship training)*

<b>School-Year</b>	<b>S1</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>S3</b>
	<i>Retention Rate at constant (2007) level of 80% (roughly equivalent to 85%)</i>	<i>Retention Rate increases to 85% by 2016 and constant thereafter (roughly equivalent to 90%)</i>	<i>Retention Rate increases to 85% by 2013 and 87% by 2016 and constant thereafter (roughly equivalent to 92% after 2016)</i>
<b>2007/08</b>	<b>80</b>		
2008/09	80	81	81
2009/10	80	81	82
2010/11	80	82	82
2011/12	80	82	83
2012/13	80	83	84
2013/14	80	83	85
2014/15	80	84	85
2015/16	80	84	86
2016/17	80	85	87
2017/18	80	85	87

For further information on Retention at Second level see the report on Retention Rates of Pupils in Second Level Schools (Department of Education and Science, 2008) on [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)