



Response Burden - National School Annual Census, 2010/2011, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014

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Introduction/Background

An optional question asking schools how long it took to complete the National School Annual Census was included in the 2010/2011¹, 2012/2013² and 2013/2014 National School Annual Censuses. The key findings presented below are based on average values from those schools that responded to the question. We would like to take this opportunity to thank these schools for taking the time to do so.

Further details on the response rate can be found in the Background Notes and the question asked is presented in Appendix 1.

Users should bear in mind that these are the times reported by the schools to complete the form – and not the time taken to gather the results.

Key Findings

On average, mainstream schools took 118 minutes to complete the 2013/2014 School Census form, as opposed to 110 minutes average to complete the 2012/2013 School Census form. This shows an increase of 8 minutes but an overall decrease from the average time of 134 minutes in 2010/2011. Special schools took 66 minutes to complete the 2013/2014 Special School Census form – virtually no change from the time taken (63 and 64 minutes respectively) to complete the 2012/2013 and 2010/2011 forms. *See Table 1 below.*

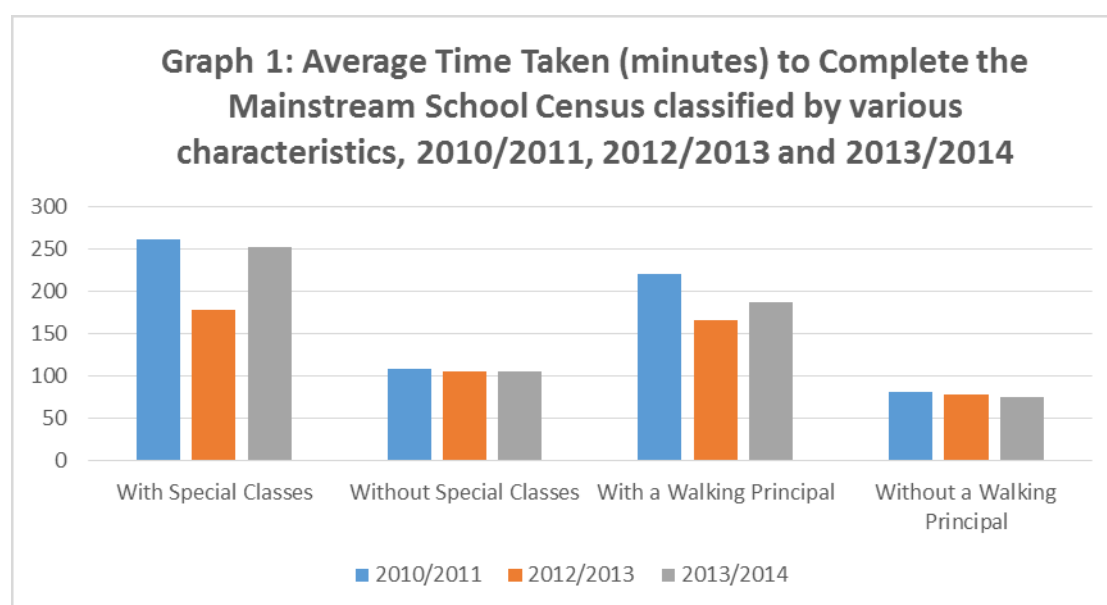
¹ The analysis of the 2010/2011 data was published in May 2011 on the Department of Education and Skills' website at http://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services>Returns/National-School-Annual-Census-Return/stat_opt_questions_2010_2011_%20nat_sch_census.pdf.

² The analysis of the 2012/2013 data was published in June 2013 on the Department of Education and Skills' website at <http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/Statistical-Reports/Response-Burden-National-School-Annual-Census-2010-2011-and-2012-2013.pdf>

Table 1: Average Length of Time (in Minutes) it took National Schools to Complete the National School Annual Census Form Classified by School Type - 2010/2011 and 2012/2013

	Minutes	
	School Type	
Academic Year	Mainstream	Special
2010/2011	134	64
2012/2013	110	63
2013/2014	118	66

Tables 2 and 3 and Graph 1 below show further breakdowns of the average length of time taken to complete the Mainstream School Census form classified by other criteria. As expected, mainstream schools with special class pupils³ took longer to complete the form than schools without special class pupils as these schools have more questions to answer. Schools with a walking principal took, on average, over twice as long (220, 166 and 187 minutes in 2010/2011, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 respectively) to complete the Census form as schools without a walking principal (82, 78 and 75 minutes respectively) in all three Censuses. *See Tables 2 and 3 and Graph 1 following.*



³ In the 2010/2011 Census this category included schools that had special class pupils or pupils who were taught by a resource teacher for Travellers (RTT). RTTs have since been withdrawn.

Table 2: Average Length of Time it Took Mainstream Schools to Complete the Census Form Classified by Whether the School had Special Class Pupils - 2010/2011, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014

	Minutes		
	Mainstream Schools With/Without Special Class Pupils		
Academic Year	With Special Class Pupils	Without a Special Class Pupils	All Mainstream Schools
2010/2011	262	108	134
2012/2013	178	105	110
2013/2014	252	105	118

Table 3: Average Length of Time it Took to Complete the Mainstream School Census Form Classified by Whether the School had a Walking Principal or not - 2010/2011, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014

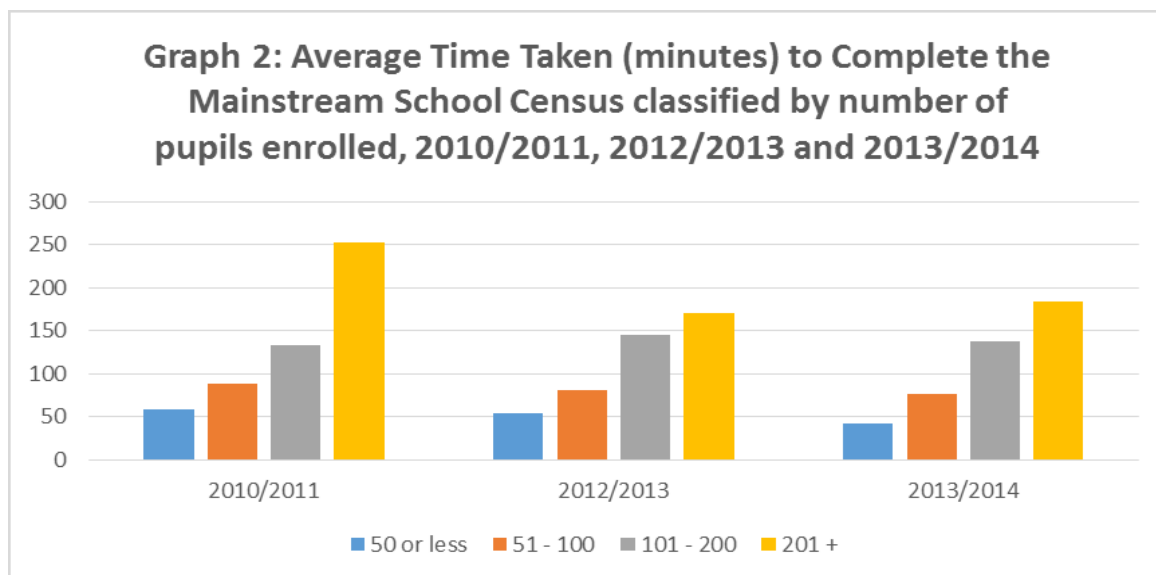
	Minutes		
Academic Year	Mainstream Schools With a Walking Principal	Mainstream Schools Without a Walking Principal	All Mainstream Schools
2010/2011	220	82	134
2012/2013	166	78	110
2013/2014	187	75	118

The time taken, on average, to complete the Census form increased with the number of pupils enrolled in the school. In all time periods, it took on average longer to complete the form the more pupils that were enrolled in the school. The time taken was less in 2013/2014 than in 2012/2013 for all size categories except for schools with 201 or more pupils, when the time taken was longer than in 2012/2013 (184 minutes compared to 171 minutes in 2012/2013). *See Table 4 and Graph 2 following.*

Table 4: Average Length of Time it Took to Complete the Mainstream School Census Form Classified by Number of Pupils Enrolled - 2010/2011, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014

Academic Year	Mainstream Schools Classified by Number of Pupils				All Mainstream Schools
	50 or Less	51 to 100	101 to 200	201 +	
2010/2011	59	88	133	253	134
2012/2013	54	81	146	171	110
2013/2014	42	77	138	184	118

Minutes



Background Notes

Response Rates

These results are based on response rates to the question in the 2013/2014 National School Annual Census of 43% for mainstream schools and 50% for special schools. The response rates to the question were slightly higher when the questions were asked in the previous Censuses. See Table A below for more details.

Table A: Response Rate to the Question - National School Annual Census 2010/2011, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014

Level of Response	<u>2010/2011</u>			<u>2012/2013</u>		
	Mainstream Schools	Special Schools	All Schools	Mainstream Schools	Special Schools	All Schools
Responded	1,828	83	1,911	1,113	78	1,191
Did Not Respond	1,337	57	1,394	2,039	63	2,102
Total Number of Schools	3,165	140	3,305	3,152	141	3,293
Response Rate (%)	57.8	59.3	57.8	35.3	55.3	36.2

Level of Response	<u>2013/2014</u>		
	Mainstream Schools	Special Schools	All Schools
Responded	1,236	71	1,307
Did Not Respond	1,909	70	1,979
Total Number of Schools	3,145	141	3,286
Response Rate (%)	42.8	50.4	39.8

Appendix 1

Question Asked

The question asked is presented below. The wording of the question was the same in all years, the only difference was the positioning of the question. The question was the first question on the optional questions page in 2010/2011, as opposed to the fourth question in the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 Censuses.

Question in the National School Annual Census:

4	How long approximately (in minutes) did it take to complete the form? (The purpose of this question is to estimate response burden placed on schools)	
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