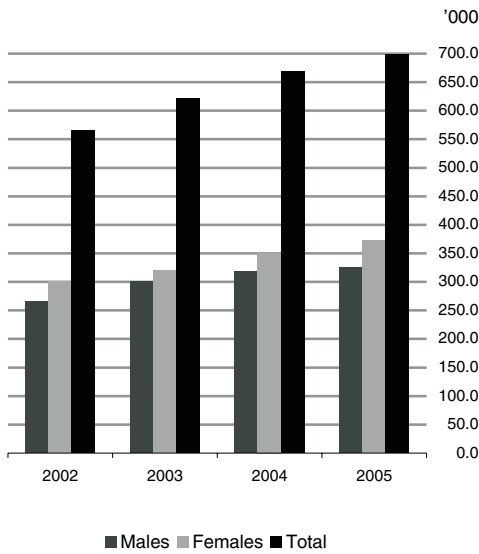




Quarterly National Household Survey *Educational Attainment* 2002 to 2005

Persons aged 15 to 64 years with a third level qualification



Almost a quarter of those aged 15-64 have a third level qualification

In the second quarter of 2005 almost a quarter of those aged 15-64 had a third level qualification which compares to just a fifth three years previously (Q2 2002). In 2005, over 325,000 males and 373,000 females had a third level qualification reflecting increases of 22.6% and 24.3% respectively on the corresponding 2002 figures. Excluding 15-24 year olds (the age group most likely to be still in education), just over 28% of the population aged 25-64 had a third level qualification, compared to 24.4% in the second quarter of 2002. See tables 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b and graph opposite.

Almost 40% of all 25-34 year olds declared having a third level qualification in 2005 compared to a figure of just over 34% three years previously. More than 120,000 males and 147,000 females aged 25-34 held a third level qualification in 2005 while the comparable figures for 2002 were 96,600 and 116,400 respectively. See tables 6 & 7.

Rise in numbers achieving higher secondary level or above

Over 61% of all persons aged 15-64 attained education levels of higher secondary level or above in 2005. This represents an increase of 4 percentage points on the comparable figure in 2002. This rise was evident for both males and females with the male rate increasing from 55.0% to 58.5% between 2002 and 2005 and the female rate increasing from 60.2% to 64.5% over the same period. See tables 1a & 1b.

Almost 16% of persons aged 15-64 had not progressed beyond primary level education in the second quarter of 2005 compared to a figure of 19.5% in 2002. See tables 1a & 1b.

In the second quarter of 2005, almost 76.0% of persons aged 25-64 were in the labour force. The labour force participation rate for persons with a third level degree or above was 90.4% compared to a participation rate of just 52.6% for persons whose highest level of education attained was, at most, primary. Conversely, the unemployment rate for those aged 25-64 with a degree or above was just 1.8% compared with 7.4% for persons whose highest educational attainment level was primary or below. See tables 5a & 5b.

For more information contact Claire Burke on 021-453 5323 or Kieran O'Shea on 021-453 5488.

Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

Ardee Road
Dublin 6
Ireland

Skehard Road
Cork
Ireland

LoCall: 1890 313 414

Tel: +353-1 498 4000
Fax: +353-1 498 4229

Tel: +353-21 453 5000
Fax: +353-21 453 5492

Both offices may be contacted through any of these telephone numbers.

CSO on the Web: www.cso.ie
and go to
Labour Market and Earnings: Labour Market

Director General: Donal Garvey

Enquiries:

Labour Market Statistics Direct Dial (021) 453 5491
Email: labour@cso.ie
Queries and Sales Information Section, ext 5032
information@cso.ie

Almost 12% of 18-24 year olds leave school early

In the second quarter of 2005 the number of early school leavers stood at 54,600 or 11.9% of all persons aged 18-24. Early school leavers are defined as those persons aged 18-24 whose highest level of education attained is lower secondary or below who have completed their formal education. Males are more likely to leave school early than their female counterparts with 14.5% of males and 9.3% of females defined as early school leavers. *See table 9a.*

Almost 57% of the 54,600 early school leavers were in employment while a little over 16% were unemployed and the remaining 27% classified as not being economically active. Early school leavers are three times more likely to be unemployed than to be in employment when compared to all persons of the same age group. Male early school leavers are more likely than their female counterparts to be unemployed: 18.1% compared to 13.3%. *See table 9c.*

The latest available figures for all EU member states were those for the second quarter of 2005. These show that 14.9% of all 18-24 year olds in Europe (EU-25) had left school early at that time. This compares with 11.9% for Ireland, placing the country fifteenth in the ranking list of EU member states. *See table 9b.*

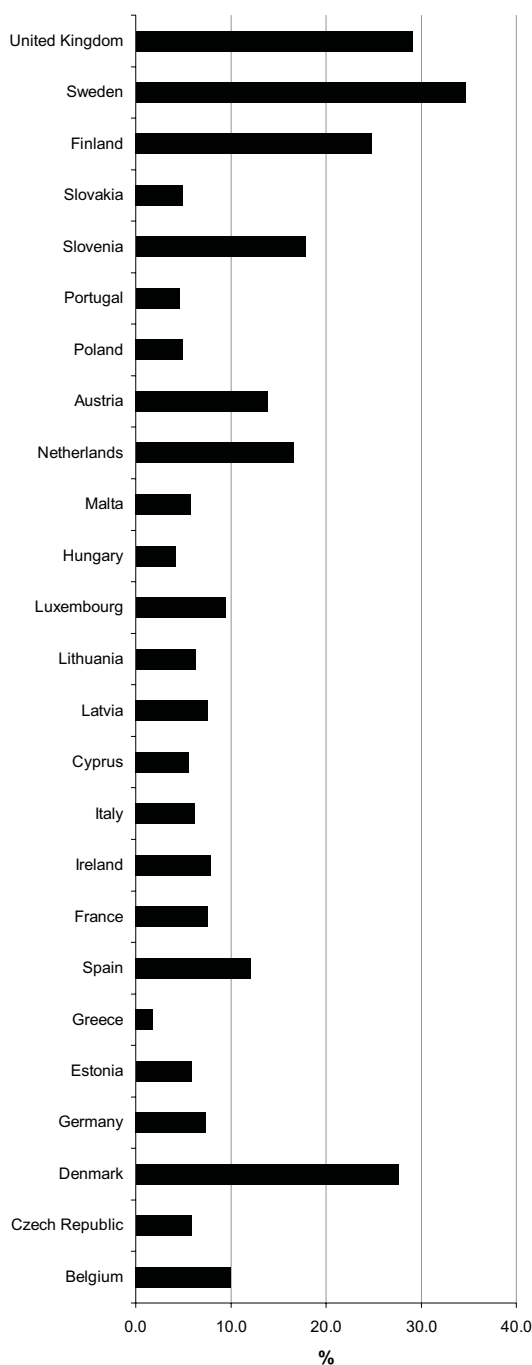
One third of workforce aged 25-64 has a third level qualification

In the second quarter of 2005, almost 34% of employed persons aged 25-64 reported having a third level qualification, compared to a figure of just under 30% three years previously. Almost 40% of employed females aged 25-64 held a third level qualification while the comparable figure for males was just under 30%. *See tables 3a & 3b.*

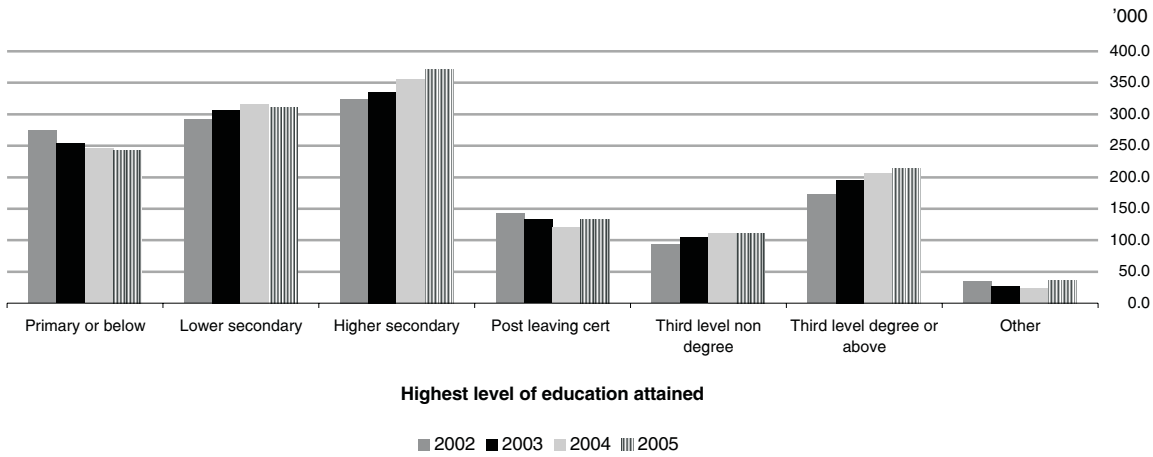
One in twelve are life long learners

Nearly 8% of the population aged between 25 and 64 were defined as life long learners in the second quarter of 2005. Of these, just over 73.2% were employed, 2.5% were unemployed with the balance (24.4%) classified as not being economically active. The most recent figures for all EU member states relate to the second quarter of 2005. These results showed that on average almost 11% of Europeans (EU-25) aged between 25 and 64 were life long learners. *See tables 11a, 11b, 11c, graph opposite and background notes.*

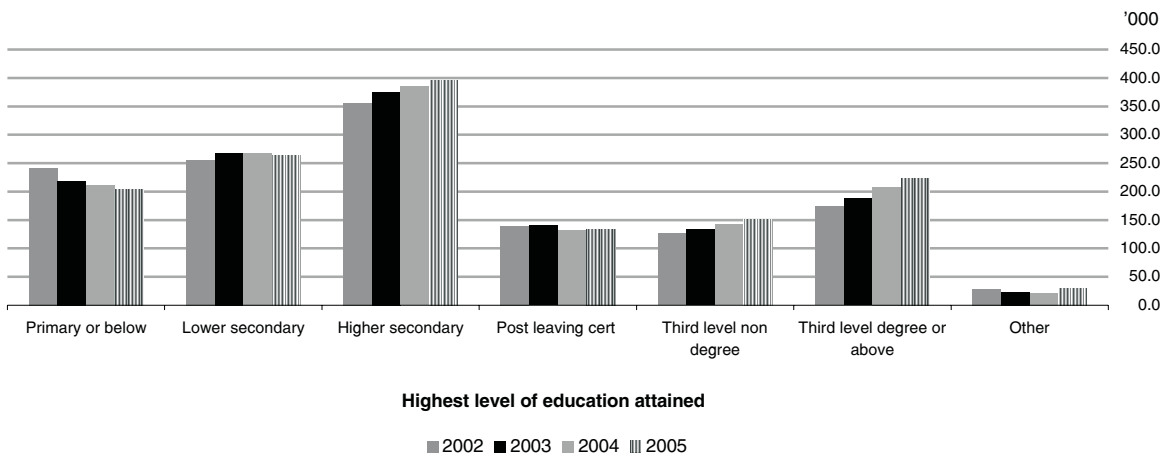
Life long learners in EU member states,
Second Quarter 2005



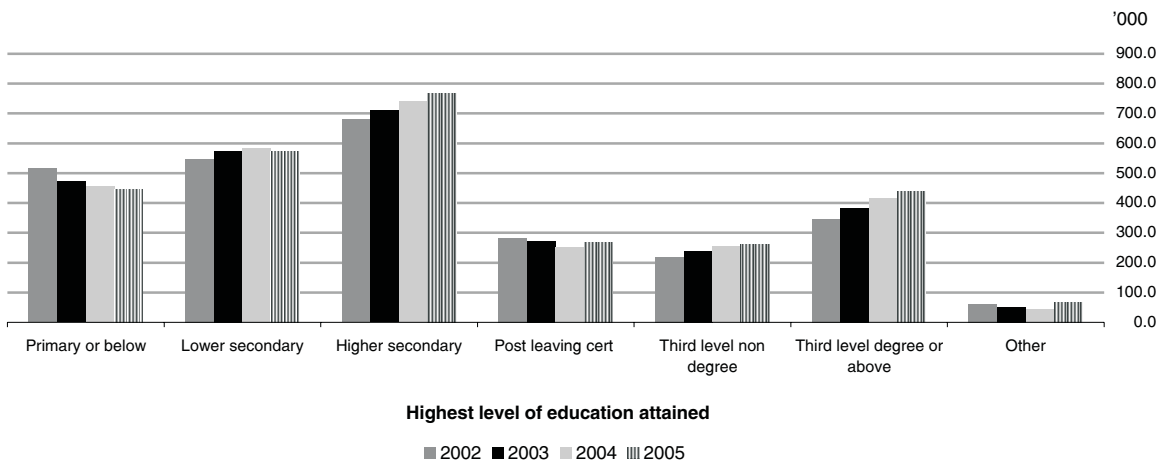
Males aged 15 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained, March-May 2002 to March to May 2005



Females aged 15 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005



All persons aged 15 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained, March -May 2002 to March-May 2005



**Table 1a Persons aged 15 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained¹,
March-May 2002 to March-May 2005**

Highest education level attained ¹	2002	2003	2004	2005
'000				
Males aged 15 to 64				
Primary or below	274.7	253.3	246.7	242.4
Lower secondary	291.3	307.0	316.1	310.3
Higher secondary	324.2	335.2	356.1	371.6
Post leaving cert	142.8	133.4	121.1	132.0
Third level non degree	93.0	104.9	111.5	111.0
Third level degree or above	172.7	195.8	206.7	214.7
Other	34.2	27.3	23.4	36.5
Total	1,333.0	1,357.0	1,381.6	1,418.5
Females aged 15 to 64				
Primary or below	241.6	218.3	211.4	203.4
Lower secondary	255.9	267.6	267.8	263.4
Higher secondary	356.1	375.3	384.6	394.9
Post leaving cert	138.9	140.5	132.0	134.3
Third level non degree	126.4	132.8	142.4	150.6
Third level degree or above	173.8	187.3	208.2	222.6
Other	28.1	23.5	21.7	29.2
Total	1,320.8	1,345.3	1,368.1	1,398.3
All persons aged 15 to 64				
Primary or below	516.4	471.6	458.1	445.7
Lower secondary	547.2	574.7	583.9	573.7
Higher secondary	680.2	710.5	740.7	766.4
Post leaving cert	281.7	273.9	253.1	266.3
Third level non degree	219.4	237.7	253.9	261.5
Third level degree or above	346.5	383.1	414.9	437.3
Other	62.3	50.8	45.1	65.7
Total persons aged 15 to 64	2,653.8	2,702.3	2,749.7	2,816.7

¹ See Background Notes.

Table 1b Percentage of persons aged 15 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained¹, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005

Highest education level attained ¹	2002	2003	2004	2005
%				
Males aged 15 to 64				
Primary or below	20.6	18.7	17.9	17.1
Lower secondary	21.9	22.6	22.9	21.9
Higher secondary	24.3	24.7	25.8	26.2
Post leaving cert	10.7	9.8	8.8	9.3
Third level non degree	7.0	7.7	8.1	7.8
Third level degree or above	13.0	14.4	15.0	15.1
Other	2.6	2.0	1.7	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Females aged 15 to 64				
Primary or below	18.3	16.2	15.5	14.5
Lower secondary	19.4	19.9	19.6	18.8
Higher secondary	27.0	27.9	28.1	28.2
Post leaving cert	10.5	10.4	9.6	9.6
Third level non degree	9.6	9.9	10.4	10.8
Third level degree or above	13.2	13.9	15.2	15.9
Other	2.1	1.7	1.6	2.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All persons aged 15 to 64				
Primary or below	19.5	17.5	16.7	15.8
Lower secondary	20.6	21.3	21.2	20.4
Higher secondary	25.6	26.3	26.9	27.2
Post leaving cert	10.6	10.1	9.2	9.5
Third level non degree	8.3	8.8	9.2	9.3
Third level degree or above	13.1	14.2	15.1	15.5
Other	2.3	1.9	1.6	2.3
Total persons aged 15 to 64	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ See Background Notes.

**Table 2a Persons aged 25 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained¹,
March-May 2002 to March-May 2005**

Highest education level attained ¹	2002	2003	2004	2005
'000				
Males aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	221.8	206.3	204.0	199.1
Lower secondary	191.6	206.5	212.2	209.8
Higher secondary	203.4	213.9	230.6	246.4
Post leaving cert	125.4	116.6	105.1	116.0
Third level non degree	79.9	88.2	96.0	97.4
Third level degree or above	156.0	177.5	189.3	196.5
Other	29.1	22.5	20.0	30.4
Total	1,007.3	1,031.4	1,057.2	1,095.7
Females aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	198.1	179.8	174.8	167.1
Lower secondary	171.0	178.8	176.1	175.8
Higher secondary	240.0	256.4	272.1	279.5
Post leaving cert	116.9	119.2	111.7	115.7
Third level non degree	106.2	111.8	121.7	129.5
Third level degree or above	149.7	163.1	179.3	193.3
Other	23.2	19.1	17.3	22.9
Total	1,005.0	1,028.1	1,053.0	1,083.7
All persons aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	420.0	386.0	378.8	366.2
Lower secondary	362.5	385.2	388.4	385.5
Higher secondary	443.4	470.2	502.8	525.9
Post leaving cert	242.3	235.8	216.8	231.7
Third level non degree	186.0	200.0	217.6	226.8
Third level degree or above	305.7	340.5	368.6	389.8
Other	52.3	41.6	37.3	53.4
Total persons aged 25 to 64	2,012.3	2,059.4	2,110.2	2,179.4

¹ See Background Notes.

Table 2b Percentage of persons aged 25 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained¹, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005

Highest education level attained ¹	2002	2003	2004	2005
%				
Males aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	22.0	20.0	19.3	18.2
Lower secondary	19.0	20.0	20.1	19.1
Higher secondary	20.2	20.7	21.8	22.5
Post leaving cert	12.4	11.3	9.9	10.6
Third level non degree	7.9	8.6	9.1	8.9
Third level degree or above	15.5	17.2	17.9	17.9
Other	2.9	2.2	1.9	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Females aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	19.7	17.5	16.6	15.4
Lower secondary	17.0	17.4	16.7	16.2
Higher secondary	23.9	24.9	25.8	25.8
Post leaving cert	11.6	11.6	10.6	10.7
Third level non degree	10.6	10.9	11.6	11.9
Third level degree or above	14.9	15.9	17.0	17.8
Other	2.3	1.9	1.6	2.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All persons aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	20.9	18.7	18.0	16.8
Lower secondary	18.0	18.7	18.4	17.7
Higher secondary	22.0	22.8	23.8	24.1
Post leaving cert	12.0	11.4	10.3	10.6
Third level non degree	9.2	9.7	10.3	10.4
Third level degree or above	15.2	16.5	17.5	17.9
Other	2.6	2.0	1.8	2.5
Total persons aged 25 to 64	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ See Background Notes.

**Table 3a Persons in employment aged 25 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained¹,
March-May 2002 to March-May 2005**

Highest education level attained ¹	2002	2003	2004	2005
Males in employment aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	141.9	126.1	128.5	125.8
Lower secondary	164.1	174.6	178.4	178.4
Higher secondary	182.2	189.4	204.6	218.7
Post leaving cert	114.6	106.0	94.3	104.4
Third level non degree	72.7	80.2	87.2	89.3
Third level degree or above	142.8	162.2	173.3	182.0
Other	24.3	17.6	15.8	25.5
Total	842.5	856.1	882.0	924.0
Females in employment aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	59.6	53.2	51.2	52.6
Lower secondary	80.9	83.9	81.1	84.0
Higher secondary	150.2	156.9	169.8	176.7
Post leaving cert	82.2	81.8	76.1	79.9
Third level non degree	84.2	88.5	95.7	101.3
Third level degree or above	125.9	135.1	148.5	163.9
Other	14.5	10.5	10.8	13.6
Total	597.4	610.0	633.1	672.0
All persons in employment aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	201.5	179.4	179.6	178.4
Lower secondary	244.9	258.6	259.5	262.4
Higher secondary	332.4	346.3	374.3	395.4
Post leaving cert	196.7	187.8	170.4	184.3
Third level non degree	156.9	168.7	182.9	190.6
Third level degree or above	268.7	297.3	321.8	345.8
Other	38.8	28.1	26.6	39.1
Total in employment aged 25 to 64	1,439.9	1,466.2	1,515.1	1,596.0

¹ See Background Notes.

**Table 3b Percentage of persons in employment aged 25 to 64, classified by the highest level of
education attained¹, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005**

Highest education level attained ¹	2002	2003	2004	2005
Males in employment aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	16.8	14.7	14.6	13.6
Lower secondary	19.5	20.4	20.2	19.3
Higher secondary	21.6	22.1	23.2	23.7
Post leaving cert	13.6	12.4	10.7	11.3
Third level non degree	8.6	9.4	9.9	9.7
Third level degree or above	16.9	18.9	19.6	19.7
Other	2.9	2.1	1.8	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Females in employment aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	10.0	8.7	8.1	7.8
Lower secondary	13.5	13.8	12.8	12.5
Higher secondary	25.1	25.7	26.8	26.3
Post leaving cert	13.8	13.4	12.0	11.9
Third level non degree	14.1	14.5	15.1	15.1
Third level degree or above	21.1	22.1	23.5	24.4
Other	2.4	1.7	1.7	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All persons in employment aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	14.0	12.2	11.9	11.2
Lower secondary	17.0	17.6	17.1	16.4
Higher secondary	23.1	23.6	24.7	24.8
Post leaving cert	13.7	12.8	11.2	11.5
Third level non degree	10.9	11.5	12.1	11.9
Third level degree or above	18.7	20.3	21.2	21.7
Other	2.7	1.9	1.8	2.4
Total in employment aged 25 to 64	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ See Background Notes.

**Table 4a Persons unemployed aged 25 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained¹,
March-May 2002 to March-May 2005**

Highest education level attained ¹	2002	2003	2004	2005
Males unemployed aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	12.6	11.5	12.1	11.4
Lower secondary	7.7	9.9	10.9	9.6
Higher secondary	5.6	5.3	6.8	6.6
Post leaving cert	2.3	2.7	3.4	3.4
Third level non degree	1.9	2.6	2.3	2.1
Third level degree or above	2.9	3.8	3.2	3.4
Other	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0
Total	33.6	36.6	39.4	37.5
Females unemployed aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	3.6	2.7	2.2	2.9
Lower secondary	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.3
Higher secondary	4.7	5.0	4.8	5.3
Post leaving cert	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.8
Third level non degree	1.5	2.4	2.3	2.4
Third level degree or above	1.9	2.7	2.4	3.0
Other	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.7
Total	19.1	20.7	19.3	21.4
All persons unemployed aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	16.2	14.2	14.3	14.3
Lower secondary	12.0	14.4	15.5	14.0
Higher secondary	10.3	10.4	11.6	11.8
Post leaving cert	4.9	5.5	5.9	6.2
Third level non degree	3.4	5.0	4.6	4.5
Third level degree or above	4.8	6.4	5.6	6.4
Other	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.7
Total unemployed aged 25 to 64	52.6	57.3	58.7	58.9

¹ See Background Notes.

Table 4b Percentage of persons unemployed aged 25 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained¹, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005

Highest education level attained ¹	2002	2003	2004	2005
Males unemployed aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	37.5	31.4	30.7	30.4
Lower secondary	22.9	27.0	27.7	25.6
Higher secondary	16.7	14.5	17.3	17.6
Post leaving cert	6.8	7.4	8.6	9.1
Third level non degree	5.7	7.1	5.8	5.6
Third level degree or above	8.6	10.4	8.1	9.1
Other	1.8	2.2	2.3	2.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Females unemployed aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	18.8	13.0	11.4	13.6
Lower secondary	22.5	21.7	23.8	20.1
Higher secondary	24.6	24.2	24.9	24.8
Post leaving cert	13.6	13.0	13.0	13.1
Third level non degree	7.9	11.6	11.9	11.2
Third level degree or above	9.9	13.0	12.4	14.0
Other	2.6	2.9	2.1	3.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All persons unemployed aged 25 to 64				
Primary or below	30.8	24.8	24.4	24.3
Lower secondary	22.8	25.1	26.4	23.8
Higher secondary	19.6	18.2	19.8	20.0
Post leaving cert	9.3	9.6	10.1	10.5
Third level non degree	6.5	8.7	7.8	7.6
Third level degree or above	9.1	11.2	9.5	10.9
Other	2.1	2.4	2.2	2.9
Total unemployed aged 25 to 64	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ See Background Notes.

Table 5a Labour force participation rate of persons aged 25 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained¹, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005

Highest education level attained ¹	2002	2003	2004	2005
Male participation rate				
Primary or below	69.7	66.7	68.9	68.9
Lower secondary	89.7	89.3	89.2	89.6
Higher secondary	92.3	91.0	91.7	91.4
Post leaving cert	93.2	93.2	93.0	92.9
Third level non degree	93.4	93.9	93.2	93.8
Third level degree or above	93.4	93.5	93.2	94.4
Other	85.6	81.8	83.5	87.2
Total	87.0	86.6	87.2	87.8
Female participation rate				
Primary or below	31.9	31.1	30.5	33.2
Lower secondary	49.8	49.4	48.7	50.2
Higher secondary	64.5	63.1	64.2	65.1
Post leaving cert	72.5	70.9	70.4	71.5
Third level non degree	80.7	81.3	80.5	80.1
Third level degree or above	85.4	84.5	84.2	86.3
Other	64.7	58.1	64.7	62.4
Total	61.3	61.3	62.0	64.0
All persons participation rate				
Primary or below	51.8	50.2	51.2	52.6
Lower secondary	70.9	70.9	70.8	71.7
Higher secondary	77.3	75.9	76.8	77.4
Post leaving cert	83.2	82.0	81.3	82.2
Third level non degree	86.2	86.9	86.2	86.0
Third level degree or above	89.5	89.2	88.8	90.4
Other	76.3	70.9	74.8	76.4
Total participation rate	74.2	74.0	74.6	75.9

¹ See Background Notes.

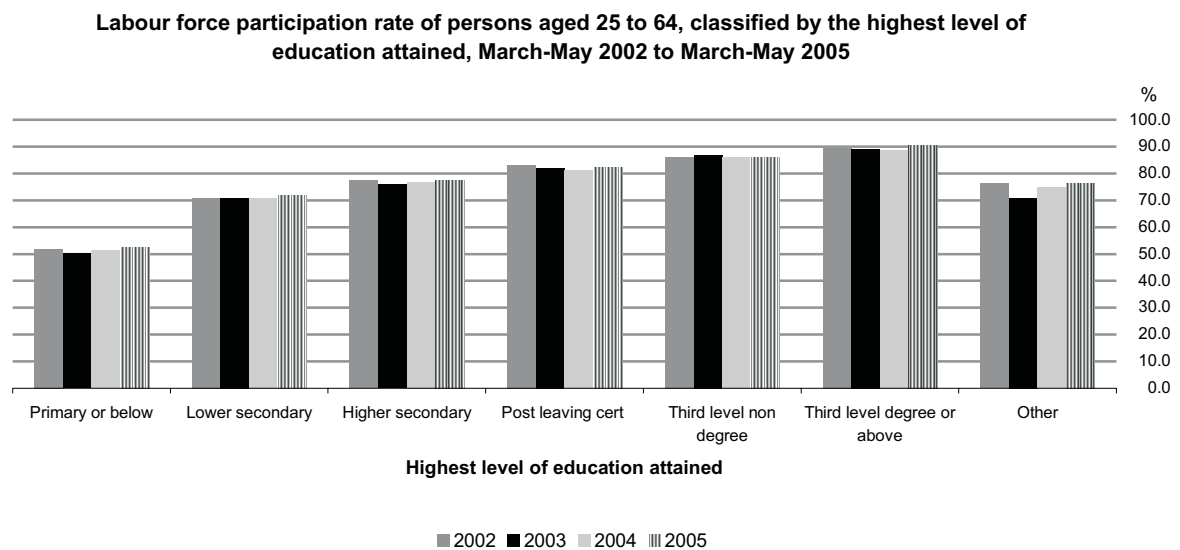


Table 5b Unemployment rate of persons aged 25 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained¹, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005

Highest education level attained ¹	2002	2003	2004	2005
Male unemployment rate				
Primary or below	8.2	8.4	8.6	8.3
Lower secondary	4.5	5.4	5.8	5.1
Higher secondary	3.0	2.7	3.2	2.9
Post leaving cert	2.0	2.5	3.5	3.2
Third level non degree	2.5	3.1	2.6	2.3
Third level degree or above	2.0	2.3	1.8	1.8
Other	2.4	4.3	5.4	3.8
Total	3.8	4.1	4.3	3.9
Female unemployment rate				
Primary or below	5.7	4.8	4.1	5.2
Lower secondary	5.0	5.1	5.4	4.9
Higher secondary	3.0	3.1	2.7	2.9
Post leaving cert	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.4
Third level non degree	1.8	2.6	2.3	2.3
Third level degree or above	1.5	2.0	1.6	1.8
Other	3.3	5.4	3.6	4.9
Total	3.1	3.3	3.0	3.1
All persons unemployment rate				
Primary or below	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.4
Lower secondary	4.7	5.3	5.6	5.1
Higher secondary	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9
Post leaving cert	2.4	2.8	3.3	3.3
Third level non degree	2.1	2.9	2.5	2.3
Third level degree or above	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.8
Other	2.8	4.7	4.7	4.2
Total unemployment rate	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.6

¹ See Background Notes.

Unemployment rate of persons aged 25 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005

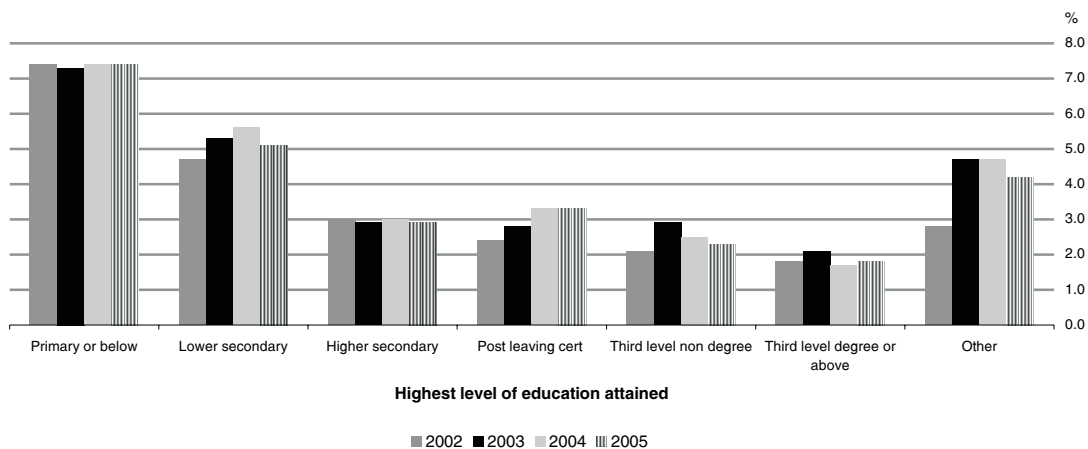


Table 6 Persons aged 15 to 64 classified by the highest level of education attained¹, and age group, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005

'000

Age Group	Primary or below	Lower secondary	Higher secondary	Post leaving cert	Third level		Other	Total
					non degree	degree or above		
March-May 2002								
All persons	516.4	547.2	680.2	281.7	219.4	346.5	62.3	2,653.8
15-19	82.2	147.4	76.6	3.6	0.9	0.8	1.7	313.2
20-24	14.2	37.3	160.2	35.8	32.5	40.0	8.3	328.3
25-34	47.3	92.6	155.3	89.2	80.4	132.5	19.9	617.4
35-44	76.0	116.6	141.5	78.1	53.5	84.1	13.1	562.9
45-54	133.7	98.0	95.9	49.1	34.4	57.3	12.1	480.4
55-64	162.9	55.3	50.7	26.0	17.7	31.7	7.2	351.5
March-May 2003								
All persons	471.6	574.7	710.5	273.9	237.7	383.1	50.8	2,702.3
15-19	73.7	153.2	74.0	2.9	1.4	0.4	1.3	306.8
20-24	11.9	36.2	166.2	35.3	36.3	42.2	7.9	336.0
25-34	37.1	94.7	160.3	91.5	85.1	146.1	17.5	632.3
35-44	66.2	117.6	150.3	71.7	59.7	95.7	10.9	572.1
45-54	122.2	109.1	104.1	45.1	36.6	63.3	7.5	488.0
55-64	160.6	63.7	55.6	27.4	18.6	35.4	5.7	367.0
March-May 2004								
All persons	458.1	583.9	740.7	253.1	253.9	414.9	45.1	2,749.7
15-19	66.9	159.2	69.0	2.8	1.3	*	1.4	300.8
20-24	12.5	36.3	169.0	33.4	35.0	46.2	6.5	338.7
25-34	37.4	93.4	168.8	78.5	92.3	163.8	16.0	650.2
35-44	58.7	123.3	157.0	68.5	62.7	102.8	10.6	583.6
45-54	118.6	107.7	114.7	43.1	41.3	64.2	6.4	495.8
55-64	164.1	63.9	62.3	26.7	21.4	37.8	4.3	380.6
March-May 2005								
All persons	445.7	573.7	766.4	266.3	261.5	437.3	65.7	2,816.7
15-19	68.1	153.5	68.7	2.4	1.2	*	1.9	296.0
20-24	11.4	34.7	171.8	32.2	33.5	47.3	10.4	341.3
25-34	35.7	84.9	183.1	86.9	95.8	171.7	23.6	681.6
35-44	59.2	118.0	159.1	70.8	66.6	108.5	14.9	597.0
45-54	107.5	113.6	121.5	46.1	40.9	67.6	9.1	506.3
55-64	163.9	69.0	62.2	27.9	23.6	42.0	5.8	394.4

¹ See Background Notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Persons aged 15 to 64 classified by the highest level of education attained, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005

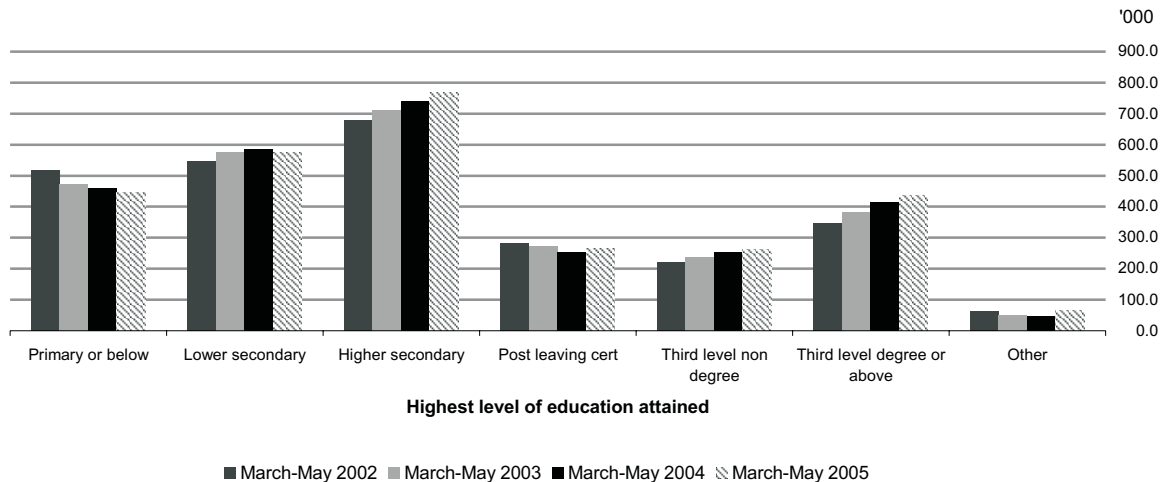


Table 7 Number and percentage of persons aged 25 to 34 with third level qualifications¹ classified by sex, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005

	2002	2003	2004	2005
				'000
Males				
Third level	96.6	108.2	117.2	120.1
Total	308.5	316.8	325.4	344.1
% of male population aged 25-34 with third level qualifications	31.3	34.2	36.0	34.9
Females				
Third level	116.4	123.0	138.8	147.4
Total	308.9	315.5	324.9	337.5
% of female population aged 25-34 with third level qualifications	37.7	39.0	42.7	43.7
All persons				
Third level	213.0	231.2	256.0	267.5
Total	617.4	632.3	650.2	681.6
% of population aged 25-34 with third level qualifications	34.5	36.6	39.4	39.2

¹ Includes third level non degree and third level degree or above.

Percentage of persons aged 25 to 34 with third level qualifications classified by sex, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005

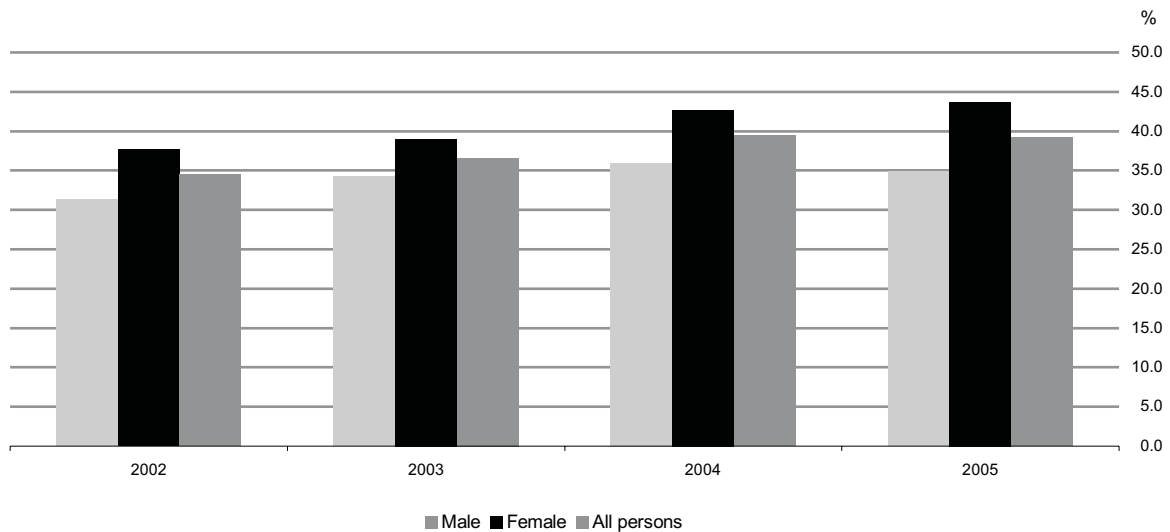


Table 8a Number and percentage of persons aged 20 to 24 with at least higher secondary level education, classified by sex, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005

	2002	2003	2004	2005
				'000
Males				
Higher secondary or above	129.0	135.1	137.6	138.7
Total	165.3	168.5	170.3	171.4
% of male population aged 20-24 with at least-upper secondary level education	78.0	80.2	80.8	80.9
Females				
Higher secondary or above	139.6	144.9	145.9	146.1
Total	163.0	167.5	168.5	170.0
% of female population aged 20-24 with at least-upper secondary level education	85.6	86.5	86.6	85.9
All persons				
Higher secondary or above	268.6	280.0	283.5	284.8
Total	328.3	336.1	338.7	341.3
% of population aged 20-24 with at least-upper secondary level education	81.8	83.3	83.7	83.4

Note: This is a new indicator and hence EU comparable data is not yet available.

Table 8b Percentage of persons aged 20 to 24 with at least higher secondary level education, in EU member states, classified by sex, second quarter 2004

Country	Males	Females	Total
EU-25	73.8	79.6	76.7
EU-15	70.7	77.0	73.8
Belgium	77.4	86.8	82.1
Czech Republic	90.5	91.2	90.9
Denmark	73.3	78.6	76.1
Germany	71.5	74.2	72.8
Estonia	72.5	92.3	82.3
Greece	78.2	85.6	81.9
Spain	54.7	69.2	61.8
France	78.2	81.3	79.8
Ireland	80.8	86.6	83.7
Italy	67.6	78.2	72.9
Cyprus	75.4	84.4	80.1
Latvia	70.7	83.4	76.9
Lithuania	82.2	90.1	86.1
Luxembourg	74.0	65.5	69.8
Hungary	81.9	84.9	83.4
Malta	47.1	48.7	47.9
Netherlands	70.9	77.1	73.9
Austria	86.2	86.3	86.3
Poland	87.4	91.6	89.5
Portugal	39.4	58.8	49.0
Slovenia	86.0	93.7	89.7
Slovakia	91.1	91.5	91.3
Finland	81.2	87.9	84.6
Sweden	85.1	87.6	86.3
United Kingdom	76.2	76.6	76.4

Source: Eurostat.

Note: Trends in some member states may be affected by changes in methodology.

Note: Data for Luxembourg is unchanged from Q2 2003 as updated detail is not available at present.

Table 9a Early school leavers¹ classified by sex, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Male early school leavers	41.3	17.9	34.0	14.7	36.4	15.8	33.7	14.5
Female early school leavers	23.8	10.6	21.3	9.4	21.2	9.5	21.0	9.3
Total early school leavers	65.1	14.3	55.2	12.0	57.6	12.7	54.6	11.9

¹ Early school leavers are defined as persons aged 18 to 24 whose highest level of education attained is lower secondary or below and have not received education (either formal or non formal) in the four weeks prior to the survey. See Background Notes.

Table 9b Early school leavers¹ in EU member states classified by sex, second quarter 2005

Country	%		
	Males	Females	Total
EU-25	17.1	12.7	14.9
EU-15	19.4	14.5	16.9
Belgium	15.3	10.6	13.0
Czech Republic	6.2	6.6	6.4
Denmark	9.4	7.5	8.5
Germany ²	12.2	11.9	12.1
Estonia	17.4	10.7	14.0
Greece	17.5	9.2	13.3
Spain	36.4	25.0	30.8
France	14.6	10.7	12.6
Ireland	14.5	9.3	11.9
Italy	25.9	17.8	21.9
Cyprus	26.6	10.6	18.1
Latvia	15.5	8.2	11.9
Lithuania	12.2	6.2	9.2
Luxembourg	12.8	13.0	12.9
Hungary	13.5	11.1	12.3
Malta	46.2	42.8	44.5
Netherlands	15.8	11.2	13.6
Austria	9.5	8.7	9.1
Poland	6.9	4.0	5.5
Portugal	46.7	30.1	38.6
Slovenia	5.7	2.8	4.3
Slovakia	6.0	5.7	5.8
Finland	10.6	6.9	8.7
Sweden	9.3	7.9	8.6
United Kingdom	14.7	13.2	14.0

¹ Early school leavers are defined as persons aged 18 to 24 whose highest level of education attained is lower secondary or below and have not received education (either formal or non formal) in the four weeks prior to the survey. See Background Notes.

² Data for Germany relates to Q2 2004 as updated detail is not available at present.

Source: Eurostat.

Note: Trends in some member states may be affected by changes in methodology.

**Table 9c All persons aged 18 to 24 and early school leavers, classified by ILO employment status
March-May 2002 to March-May 2005**

'000

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Early School Leaver	Total	Early School Leaver	Total	Early School Leaver	Total	Early School Leaver	Total
Males								
In employment	29.0	144.4	24.0	146.3	24.8	145.9	22.4	145.7
Unemployed	6.3	13.5	5.3	13.1	6.1	13.4	6.1	14.4
Not economically active	6.0	72.2	4.6	72.3	5.5	71.0	5.1	71.9
Total	41.3	230.1	34.0	231.7	36.4	230.3	33.7	231.9
Females								
In employment	11.3	121.2	9.5	125.5	8.2	121.7	8.5	130.4
Unemployed	2.0	8.0	2.0	8.9	3.1	9.4	2.8	9.8
Not economically active	10.6	95.1	9.8	93.3	9.8	91.3	9.7	85.2
Total	23.8	224.4	21.3	227.6	21.2	222.5	21.0	225.4
All persons								
In employment	40.3	265.7	33.6	271.8	33.0	267.6	31.0	276.0
Unemployed	8.2	21.5	7.2	22.0	9.2	22.8	8.9	24.2
Not economically active	16.6	167.3	14.4	165.6	15.3	162.4	14.7	157.0
Total	65.1	454.5	55.2	459.4	57.6	452.8	54.6	457.3

Table 10 Students as a proportion of population aged 18 to 24 classified by single year of age and sex, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005

%

Year of age	2002	2003	2004	2005
Male students				
18	62.2	64.0	66.9	63.9
19	51.4	48.3	50.3	50.7
20	41.3	44.3	40.4	41.7
21	34.8	39.7	34.6	36.7
22	25.0	26.4	30.1	24.8
23	15.3	17.1	16.1	16.9
24	11.2	13.7	10.7	11.6
Total	34.9	36.2	35.0	34.7
Female students				
18	79.0	78.6	81.9	78.1
19	64.9	63.0	64.6	66.9
20	55.8	56.2	54.6	51.8
21	43.0	44.8	41.2	39.3
22	25.7	29.5	30.6	29.5
23	17.5	14.2	19.6	16.1
24	9.6	11.2	10.3	10.8
Total	42.5	42.2	41.4	39.7
All students				
18	70.3	71.2	74.1	70.3
19	58.0	55.3	56.9	58.8
20	48.4	50.2	47.5	46.6
21	39.0	42.2	37.7	38.0
22	25.4	28.0	30.4	27.0
23	16.5	15.8	17.7	16.5
24	10.4	12.5	10.7	11.3
Total	38.6	39.2	38.1	37.2

**Table 11a Life long learners¹ classified by sex,
March-May 2002 to March-May 2005**

	'000			
Receipt of education in the past four weeks	2002	2003	2004	2005
Males				
Received	64.6	85.0	64.3	71.7
Did not receive	938.4	945.4	992.2	1,023.2
Not stated	4.2	1.0	0.7	0.7
Total	1,007.3	1,031.4	1,057.2	1,095.6
% male life long learners	6.4	8.2	6.1	6.5
Females				
Received	87.4	112.0	88.1	101.5
Did not receive	914.4	914.7	964.6	981.6
Not stated	3.2	1.3	0.3	0.7
Total	1,005.0	1,028.1	1,053.0	1,083.7
% females life long learners	8.7	10.9	8.4	9.4
All persons				
Received	152.0	197.0	152.4	173.2
Did not receive	1,852.8	1,860.1	1,956.8	2,004.8
Not stated	7.4	2.3	1.0	1.4
Total	2,012.3	2,059.4	2,110.2	2,179.4
% total life long learners	7.6	9.6	7.2	7.9

¹ Life long learners are defined as persons aged 25 to 64 in receipt of education (either formal or non formal) in the four weeks prior to the survey. See Background Notes.

**Table 11b Life long learners¹ in EU member states classified by sex,
second quarter 2005**

	%		
Country	Males	Females	Total
EU-25	10.0	11.7	10.8
EU-15	11.0	12.8	11.9
Belgium	10.3	9.7	10.0
Czech Republic	5.5	6.4	5.9
Denmark	24.2	31.0	27.6
Germany ²	7.8	7.0	7.4
Estonia	4.2	7.5	5.9
Greece	1.9	1.7	1.8
Spain	11.2	13.1	12.1
France	7.4	7.9	7.6
Ireland	6.5	9.4	7.9
Italy	5.7	6.6	6.2
Cyprus	5.1	6.1	5.6
Latvia	4.9	10.0	7.6
Lithuania	4.9	7.6	6.3
Luxembourg	9.3	9.5	9.4
Hungary	3.5	4.8	4.2
Malta	6.7	4.8	5.8
Netherlands	16.6	16.7	16.6
Austria	13.2	14.6	13.9
Poland	4.3	5.6	5.0
Portugal	4.5	4.7	4.6
Slovenia	16.0	19.6	17.8
Slovakia	4.7	5.2	5.0
Finland	21.1	28.6	24.8
Sweden	29.9	39.7	34.7
United Kingdom	24.2	33.9	29.1

¹ Life long learners are defined as persons aged 25 to 64 in receipt of education (either formal or non formal) in the four weeks prior to the survey. See Background Notes.

² Data for Germany relates to Q2 2004 as updated detail is not available at present.

Source: Eurostat.

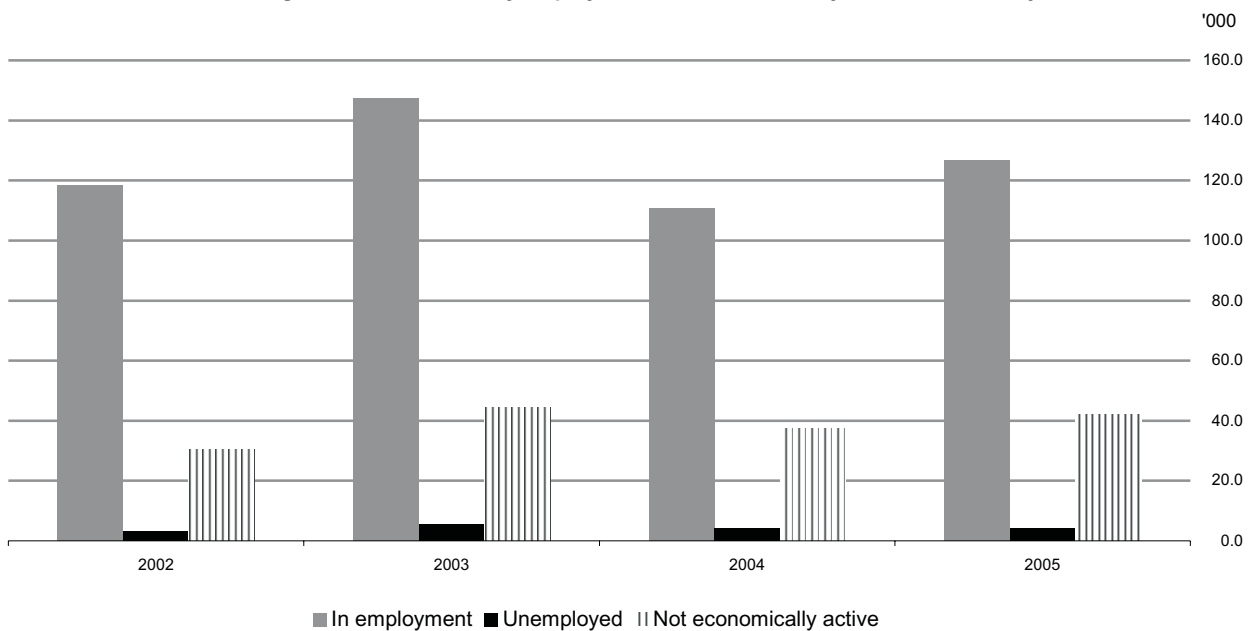
Note: Trends in some member states may be affected by changes in methodology.

Table 11c Life long learners¹ classified by employment status, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005

	'000			
Employment Status in the past four weeks	2002	2003	2004	2005
Males				
In employment	53.5	69.5	50.8	57.7
Unemployed	1.2	2.4	1.9	1.9
Not economically active	9.9	13.1	11.7	12.1
Total	64.6	85.0	64.3	71.7
Females				
In employment	65.0	77.8	60.1	68.9
Unemployed	1.9	2.9	2.3	2.4
Not economically active	20.5	31.3	25.7	30.1
Total	87.4	112.0	88.1	101.5
All persons				
In employment	118.5	147.3	110.9	126.7
Unemployed	3.1	5.3	4.2	4.3
Not economically active	30.5	44.4	37.3	42.2
Total	152.0	197.0	152.4	173.2

¹ Life long learners are defined as persons aged 25 to 64 in receipt of education (either formal or non formal) in the four weeks prior to the survey. See Background Notes.

Life long learners classified by employment status, March-May 2002 to March-May 2005



Background Notes

Reference period	Questions on educational attainment are included in the core QNHS on an ongoing basis.
Purpose of survey	While the primary purpose of the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) is to collect information on employment and unemployment, it also includes different modules on social topics of interest on a quarterly basis.
Highest level of education attained	<p>This classification is derived from a single question and refers to educational standards that have been attained and can be compared in some measurable way. Therefore 'successfully' means that any tests, exams, dissertations, thesis etc. must be taken or submitted, and passed.</p> <p>For example, to have completed the leaving certificate syllabus but not to have actually sat and passed the leaving certificate exams is not considered for our purposes to be 'successfully completed'.</p> <p>The category primary includes persons with no formal education attainment, or whose highest educational attainment is pre-primary. The category others includes a small number of not stated responses to the educational attainment question.</p>
Early school leavers	Early school leavers are defined as persons aged 18 to 24 whose highest level of education attained is lower secondary or below and have not received education (either formal or non formal) in the four weeks prior to the survey. Note that this indicator is not strictly comparable over 2002 and 2003 as modifications to the questionnaire in 2003 increased capture of information on receipt of education in the four weeks prior to the survey.
Life long learners	Life long learners are defined as persons aged 25 to 64 in receipt of education (either formal or non formal) in the four weeks prior to the survey. For issues regarding comparability see paragraph above.
ILO Labour Force Classification	<p>The primary classification used for the QNHS results is the ILO (International labour Office) labour force classification. Labour Force Survey data on this basis have been published since 1988. The ILO classification distinguishes the following main subgroups of the population aged 15 or over:</p> <p>In Employment: Persons who worked in the week before the survey for one hour or more for payment or profit, including work on the family farm or business and all persons who had a job but were not at work because of illness, holidays etc. in the week.</p> <p>Unemployed: Persons who, in the week before the survey, were without work and available for work within the next two weeks, and had taken specific steps, in the preceding four weeks, to find work.</p> <p>Inactive Population (not in labour force): All other persons.</p> <p>The labour force comprises persons employed plus unemployed.</p>
Participation and Unemployment Rates	The rates given in this release are based on the ILO classification. The Participation Rate is the number of persons in the labour force expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 or over. The Unemployment Rate is the number of unemployed expressed as a percentage of the total labour force.

Principal Economic Status Classification

Results are also available using the Principal Economic Status (PES) classification which was used in the Labour Force Survey and the Census of Population. The PES classification is based on a single question in which respondents are asked what is their usual situation with regard to employment and given the following response categories:

At work
Unemployed
Student
Engaged on home duties
Retired
Other

This PES question is asked before the sequence of questions used to derive ILO status.

QNHS Social Modules

While the main purpose of the QNHS is the production of quarterly labour force estimates, there is also a provision for the collection of data on social topics through the inclusion of special survey modules. The selection of the major national modules undertaken to date has been largely based on the results of a canvas of users (over 100 organisations) that was conducted by the CSO in 1996 and most recently 2002. The results of the canvas are presented to the National Statistics Board and they are asked to indicate their priorities for the years ahead.

The schedule for social modules in any given year is based on the following structure:

Quarter 1	Annual modules update (Disability, Pensions, Childcare, Accidents and Illness)
Quarter 2	EU module (always covered under EU legislation)
Quarter 3	National module Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Survey
Quarter 4	National module

The table below outlines the social modules published to date in the QNHS

Reference Quarter	Social Module
Q3 2005	ICT household survey
Q4 2004	Equality
Q3 2004	ICT household survey
Q2 2004	Work organisation and working time
Q2 2004	Union Membership
Q4 2003	Crime and Victimization
Q3 2003	Housing
Q3 2003	ICT household survey
Q2 2003	Life long learning
Q4 2002	Childcare
Q3 2002	Teleworking
Q3 2002	Voter registration and participation
Q2 2002	Disability in the labour force (Annual update Q1 2004)
Q1 2002	Pension provision (Annual update Q1 2004)
Q3 2001	Health
Q2 2001	Length and pattern of working time
Q4 2000	Home computing
Q2 2000	Transition from school to working life
Q1 2000	Travel to work
Q1 1999	Recycling and energy conservation
Q4 1998	Crime and Victimization
Q3 1998	Home computing
Q3 1998	Housing and households

Planned future modules are as follows:

Reference Quarter	Social Module
Q3 2004	Travel to work
Q1 2005	Annual modules update
Q2 2005	Reconciliation between work and family life
Q3 2005	Recycling and energy
Q4 2005	Pension provision
Q1 2006	Annual modules update
Q2 2006	Transition from work into retirement
Q3 2006	ICT household survey
Q3 2006	Social capital and sport
Q4 2006	Health