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- Between 1987/88 and 1999/2000, the total number of pupils in the Republic of Ireland decreased by almost 12% reflecting a sharp fall in the numbers attending first level education. In Northern Ireland, total pupil numbers increased by 2%.
- In 1999/2000, there were 20 pupils per teacher in first level education and 17 pupils per teacher in second level education in the Republic of Ireland. The corresponding ratios for Northern Ireland were 20 and 15 respectively.
- In 2000/01, 64% of second level schools in the Republic of Ireland were co-educational compared with 56% in 1988/89. The proportion of second level co-educational schools in Northern Ireland increased from 63% to 71% over the same period.
- Between 1987/88 and 2000/01, the number of students from the Republic of Ireland enrolled in full-time or part-time undergraduate courses increased by over 100,000 to 133,626, whilst the number of post-graduate students almost trebled. Over the same period, the numbers of both undergraduate and postgraduate students from Northern Ireland more than doubled.
- In both parts of Ireland, more than 90% of higher education students who qualified in 1999/2000 proceeded into employment, training or further study. The proportion of students assumed to be unemployed was higher in Northern Ireland (4.2%) than in the Republic (2.3%).

Table 4.1 Schools, pupils and teachers

Description	Number					
	1987/88	1992/93	1999/00	1987/88	1992/93	1999/00
	Republic of Ireland			Northern Ireland		
Schools						
First level ¹	3,562	3,530	3,752	1,097	1,071	1,036
Second level ²	817	785	752	295	280	288
Totals	4,379	4,315	4,504	1,392	1,351	1,324
Pupils						
First level ¹	565,487	521,531	444,310	191,161	195,594	187,931
Second level ²	339,556	358,347	353,860	148,811	149,725	159,652
Totals	905,043	879,878	798,170	339,972	345,319	347,583
Teachers						
First level ³	21,217	20,791	21,850	8,052	8,331	8,340
Second level ³	19,314	21,193	23,986	10,347	10,107	10,711
Totals	40,531	41,954	45,836	18,399	18,438	19,051

Sources Republic of Ireland: Department of Education and Science
Northern Ireland: Department of Education

¹Includes nursery schools and preparatory departments of grammar schools.

²Includes special schools in Northern Ireland.

³Teacher numbers are expressed as full time teachers only in Northern Ireland.

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Table 4.2 Pupil:Teacher ratios

Description	Ratios		
	1987/88	1992/93	1999/2000
Republic of Ireland			
First Level	26.7	25.1	20.3
Second level	17.6	18.1	16.8
Northern Ireland			
First Level ¹	23.7	22.6	20.4
Second level ²	14.4	14.5	14.7

Sources Republic of Ireland: Department of Education and Science
Northern Ireland: Department of Education

¹Excludes nursery schools and preparatory departments of grammar schools.

²Excludes special schools.

Table 4.3 Single sex and co-educational second level schools¹

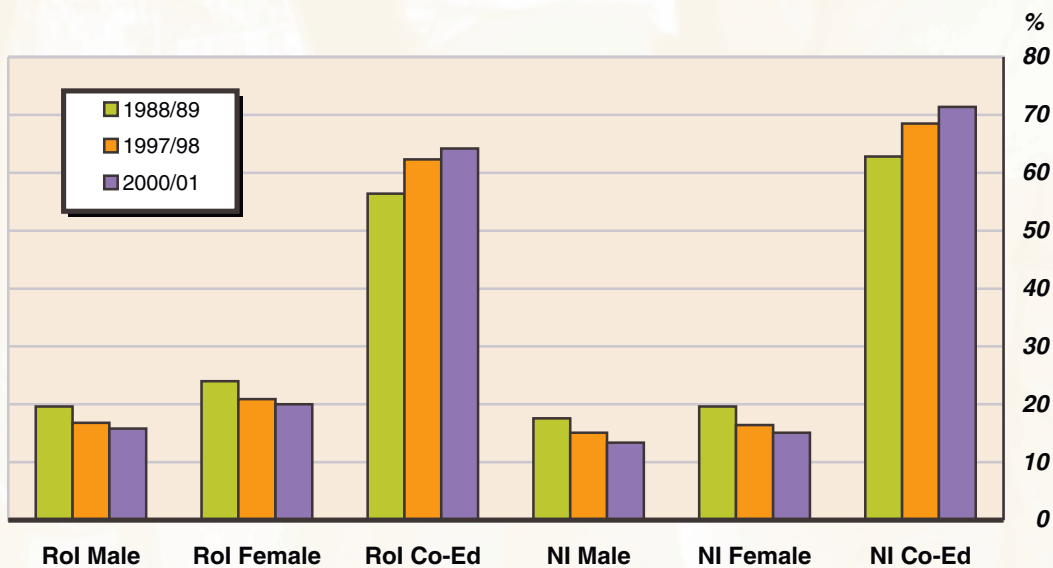
Number and percentages

Second level	1988/89		1997/98		2000/01	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Republic of Ireland						
Male School	159	19.6	128	16.8	119	15.8
Female School	195	24.0	159	20.9	150	20.0
Co-Educational School	458	56.4	475	62.3	482	64.2
Total	812	100.0	762	100.0	751	100.0
Northern Ireland						
Male School	43	17.6	36	15.1	32	13.4
Female School	48	19.6	39	16.4	36	15.1
Co-Educational School	154	62.8	163	68.5	170	71.4
Total	245	100.0	238	100.0	238	100.0

Sources Republic of Ireland: Department of Education and Science
Northern Ireland: Department of Education

¹Northern Ireland figures exclude special schools

Figure 4.1 Second level schools by gender category



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Table 4.4 Higher education enrolments

Type of enrolment	<i>Number</i>		
	1987/88	1997/98	2000/2001
Republic of Ireland¹			
Full-time undergraduate	30,362	52,538	107,860
Part-time undergraduate	2,951	4,862	25,766
Full-time postgraduate	4,498	10,379	12,131
Part-time postgraduate	1,902	4,501	6,499
Northern Ireland²			
Full-time undergraduate	20,640	36,842	39,133
Part-time undergraduate	4,801	17,224	19,138
Full-time postgraduate	1,722	3,953	3,627
Part-time postgraduate	2,574	5,710	5,036

Sources Republic of Ireland: Higher Education Authority
Northern Ireland: Department for Employment and Learning

¹In addition, there were 5,117 Full-time students enrolled in those non-aided institutions that submitted a return. Refers only to students enrolled in ROI institutions.

²Northern Ireland domiciles at United Kingdom (includes students enrolled at Northern Ireland institutions) and Republic of Ireland institutions.

Table 4.5 First destinations of third level students who qualified in 1999/2000

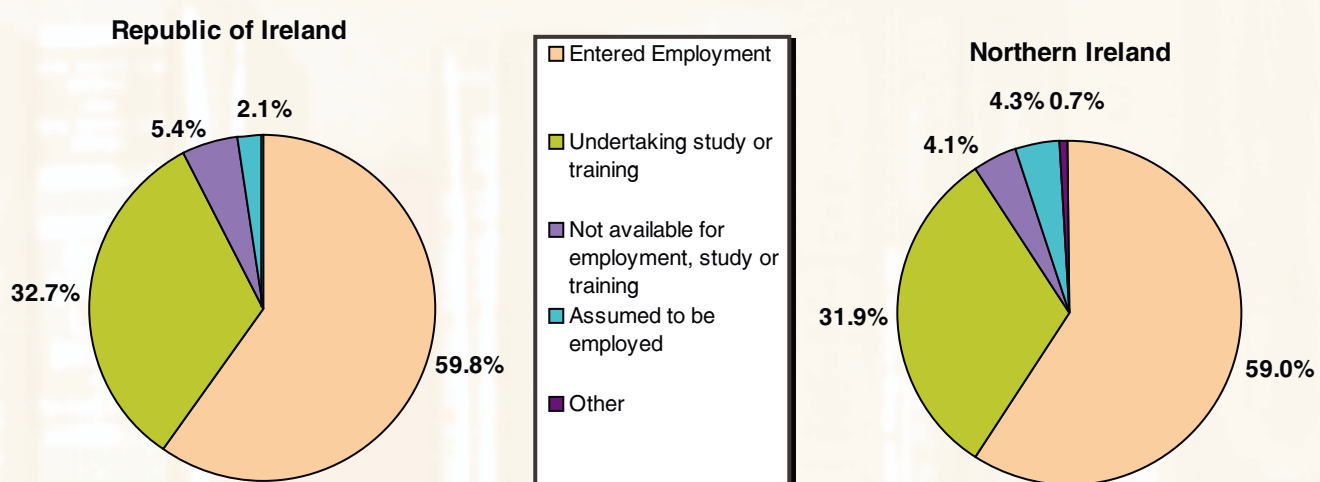
Number and percentages

First destinations	Undergraduate		Postgraduate	
	Number	%	Number	%
Republic of Ireland domiciled				
Entered employment	9,763	59.7	2,864	82.4
Undertaking study or training	5,350	32.7	355	10.2
Not available for employment, study or training	882	5.4	149	4.3
Assumed to be unemployed	343	2.1	108	3.1
Other	0	0	0	0
Total graduates	16,339	100.0	3,476	100.0
Northern Ireland domiciled				
Entered employment	4,030	59.0	983	83.7
Undertaking study or training	2,179	31.9	121	10.3
Not available for employment, study or training	279	4.1	20	1.7
Assumed to be unemployed	297	4.3	38	3.2
Other	49	0.7	13	1.1
Total graduates	6,834	100.0	1,175	100.0

Sources Republic of Ireland: Department of Education and Science
Northern Ireland: Department for Employment and Learning

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Figure 4.2 First destinations of third level undergraduate students who qualified in 1999/2000



Technical Notes

I.

In the Republic of Ireland, *first level* includes national schools and special schools aided by the Department of Education & Science, and non-aided private primary schools. Second level includes secondary schools, vocational schools, community schools, comprehensive schools, others aided by the Department of Education and Science (Horology College), non-aided colleges (Secretarial and Commercial) and those aided by other departments (Agriculture).

In Northern Ireland, first level includes nursery and primary grant aided schools and grammar preparatory. Second level includes secondary, grammar and special schools. (Table 4.1)

II.

The NI figures for number of pupils are taken from the annual school census. The census covers all schools in Northern Ireland and collects a wide range of data relating to pupils. (Table 4.1)

III.

The NI data for teachers in respect of voluntary grammar schools are taken from returns made by the schools to the Department of Education. Figures in respect of all other schools are extracted from the teachers' payroll system. The teacher numbers are given as full-time equivalent. (Table 4.1)

IV.

The pupil:teacher ratio in Northern Ireland is the number of full-time equivalent pupils divided by the number of full-time equivalent teachers.

Republic of Ireland figures are for full-time teachers only. (Table 4.2)

V.

The full-time undergraduate figures in Northern Ireland are affected by the inclusion for the first time in 1997/98 of students on nursing courses. (Table 4.4)

VI.

The reference date for first destinations data for NI domiciled students is 31 December 1998.

For Republic of Ireland domiciled students the reference date is 30 April 1999. (Table 4.5)

VII.

Republic of Ireland data for third level students refer to the HEA sector; the seven universities, two teacher training colleges, the National College of Art and Design and the Royal College of Surgeons, the Technological sector (i.e. Institutes of Technology) and other designated affiliates.

NI data refer to students gaining HE qualifications at higher educational institutions in the UK. (Table 4.5).

