

6

Education

- In 2009, over 30.3% of those aged between 15-64 had a third level qualification.
- At age 20, 63.1% of females and 48.1% of males were in full-time education in 2008/09.
- In 2008 total gross expenditure on education by the State was €9,295m.
- In 2009 there were 31,349 primary school teachers in the State, 85% of whom were females.
- In 2008/09 there were 26,329 full-time equivalent teachers in secondary, vocational and community/comprehensive schools.
- 56.2% of new entrants to Universities and 51.8% of new entrants to all third level institutions were female in 2008/09.



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Introduction

The statistics in this chapter have been obtained from the Department of Education and Science. Results from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) on Educational Attainment are also included. The data include details of participation in and expenditure on first, second and third level education.

Educational Attainment

In 2009 30.3% of those aged 15-64 had a third level qualification. 67% of all persons aged 15-64 attained education levels of higher secondary level or above. 12.1% of persons aged 15-64 had not progressed beyond primary level education.

Persons in education

The number of students in first level education totalled 501,448 in 2008/09. This was a significant increase over 2007/08 but represented only 87% of the 576,576 figure recorded in 1985/86. The numbers at this level have fallen substantially since then, but have risen since 2001/02. In the case of second level students, the participation rate rose strongly from 1965/66 until 1995/96 and has levelled somewhat in more recent years. Over the period 1965-2009, there was an increase of 637.7% in the third level student population. There were 4,672 extra places taken up in 2008/09 as compared with 2007/08.

In 2008/09, participation rates for males and females differed substantially over the age group 17-22, with more females than males in full-time education between the ages of 17 and 24 years. At the age of 20, 63.1% of females and 48.1% of males were in full-time education. The education participation rates by gender became more balanced for the ages 23 and 24.

Women accounted for 56.2% of new entrants to Universities in the year 2008/09, but accounted for only 43.2% of new entrants to the Institutes and Colleges of Technology.

Teachers in Education

The number of teaching posts in first level education has increased from 21,500 in 1999 to 31,349 in 2009. The number of teachers (full-time and full-time equivalents) in Secondary, Vocational and Community/Comprehensive schools has increased from 25,187 in 2001/02 to 26,329 in 2008/09, although the number declined by 907 as compared with 2007/08.

Examination Results

The number of examination candidates in second level schools has declined from 119,661 in 2001 to 109,754 in 2009. The percentage of students in 2009 taking higher level Leaving Certificate English was 61% compared to 27% in Irish and 16% in Mathematics. The percentage of students in 2009 achieving an A Grade in higher level English was 10%, in higher level Irish was 14% and in higher level Mathematics was 15%.

Technical Notes

Table 6.1

Table 6.1 gives details of the highest education attained by people in Ireland and is taken from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS).

Table 6.1a

A break in continuity occurred in the Educational Attainment series and, therefore, data for 2009 is not directly comparable with previous years. The classification of education levels has been revised in order to facilitate the linking of education categories to the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), while also retaining links with the international education classification, ISCED97. This affects the classification in a number of ways. One key difference is the distinction between ordinary and honours level degrees.

Table 6.3

The percentage of the population in full-time education may exceed 100% because the figures are from different periods (enrolments are in September of the academic year while population estimates are from the following April) and because the single year of age figures are estimates rather than exact figures.

Table 6.4

Up to 2003 the estimates for the Education Sector were accounted for in the Book of Estimates and the Appropriation Accounts under four separate Votes – (a) Office of the Minister for Education and Science (b) First Level Education (c) Second Level and Further Education and (d) Third level and Further Education.

In 2003, with the approval of the Public Accounts Committee, the former four Education Votes were amalgamated into one single Vote – Education and Science. The amalgamated Vote followed the former Vote and Subhead structures as closely as possible.

The amalgamation of the votes aligned the financial functioning of the Department with the approach taken in the Department's Statement of Strategy.

Administration and other services include school transport, teacher in-career development, schools information and communications technological activities, Child Abuse Commission and Residential Institutions Redress.

Table 6.5

As private schools are not funded by the Department of Education and Science they are not obliged to return census forms. Therefore, the figure in respect of private primary schools in 2008/09 refers to the schools that returned the form only and not the overall number of private schools.

Table 6.7

Only teachers paid from funds provided by the Department of Education and Science are included in this table.

Part-time teaching staff includes job-sharers, eligible part-time teachers and other part-time teachers.

The data in respect of Vocational schools relate to day courses only.

The breakdown of the number of full-time and full-time equivalent of part-time teachers in vocational schools is no longer available from 2008/09. The overall number is included in the totals.

Table 6.9

The information in this table refers to the number of second level pupils taking individual subjects in the Leaving Certificate programme.

Tables 6.9-6.13

Design and Communication is the new name for Technical Drawing.

Table 6.10

The percentages in this table are the proportion of Leaving Certificate examination candidates (excluding Leaving Certificate Applied) who took a particular subject at ordinary level.

Table 6.11

The percentages in this table are the proportion of Leaving Certificate examination candidates (excluding Leaving Certificate Applied) who took a particular subject at higher level.

Table 6.1 Persons aged 15-64 by the highest level of education attained

Thousands

Highest education level attained	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Males						
Primary or below	253.9	247.3	238.5	240.5	238.7	219.9
Lower secondary	300.7	315.3	307.5	312.8	314.4	319.6
Higher secondary	334.1	352.7	369.6	377.8	390.4	394.7
Post leaving certificate	133.2	123.1	132.0	137.5	143.4	144.4
Third level non-degree	105.3	109.4	111.8	117.3	118.1	127.1
Third level degree or above	197.7	209.3	222.8	230.3	251.9	265.6
Other	34.1	28.4	43.6	56.9	55.3	54.8
Total	1,358.9	1,385.4	1,425.9	1,473.1	1,512.2	1,526.1
Females						
Primary or below	218.5	213.2	197.7	198.2	198.3	178.1
Lower secondary	261.6	264.6	263.7	258.6	258.5	256.6
Higher secondary	375.6	382.2	392.0	390.1	401.1	411.2
Post leaving certificate	139.9	131.4	131.6	133.9	135.4	135.3
Third level non-degree	134.3	143.3	152.9	156.9	160.5	177.7
Third level degree or above	188.5	210.5	233.8	261.7	283.3	303.5
Other	29.8	26.3	30.8	40.4	41.6	44.0
Total	1,348.1	1,371.5	1,402.4	1,439.9	1,478.7	1,506.2
All persons						
Primary or below	472.4	460.5	436.2	438.8	437.0	398.0
Lower secondary	562.3	579.9	571.2	571.4	572.9	576.2
Higher secondary	709.6	734.8	761.6	767.9	791.5	805.9
Post leaving certificate	273.1	254.5	263.7	271.4	278.8	279.7
Third level non-degree	239.5	252.8	264.7	274.3	278.6	304.8
Third level degree or above	386.3	419.8	456.6	492.0	535.2	569.1
Other	63.8	54.6	74.4	97.3	96.9	98.8
TOTAL	2,707.1	2,756.8	2,828.3	2,913.0	2,990.9	3,032.3

Source: CSO

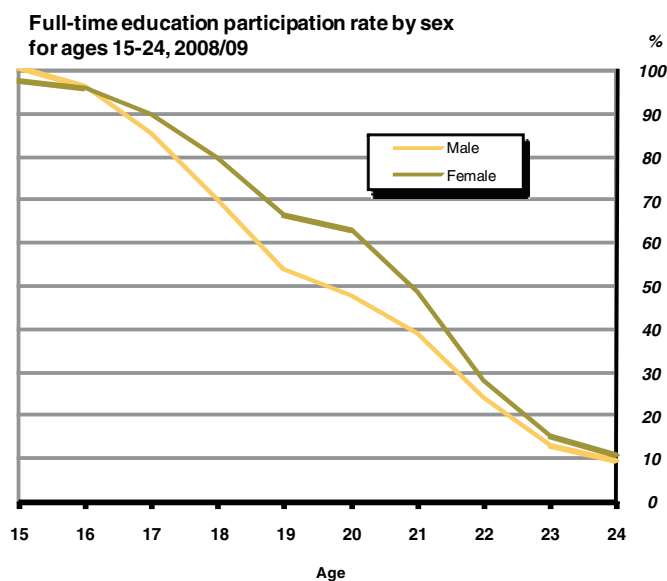


Table 6.1a Persons aged 15-64 by the highest level of education attained*Thousands*

Highest education level attained	2009
Males	
Primary or below	200.0
Lower secondary	304.0
Higher secondary	377.8
Post leaving certificate	172.0
Third level non-honours degree	167.3
Third level honours degree or above	249.6
Other	43.9
Total	1,514.6
Females	
Primary or below	166.9
Lower secondary	244.2
Higher secondary	395.3
Post leaving certificate	166.9
Third level non-honours degree	239.1
Third level honours degree or above	261.2
Other	40.4
Total	1,513.9
All persons	
Primary or below	366.9
Lower secondary	548.2
Higher secondary	773.1
Post leaving certificate	338.9
Third level non-honours degree	406.3
Third level honours degree or above	510.8
Other	84.3
TOTAL	3,028.5

Source: CSO

Table 6.2 Persons in full-time education by level

Number

School year	First level	Second level	Third level
1965/66	504,865	142,983	20,698
1970/71	520,129	197,142	24,496
1975/76	550,078	270,956	33,148
1980/81	568,364	300,601	41,928
1985/86	576,576	338,207	55,088
1990/91	552,528	345,941	69,988
1995/96	485,923	373,665	102,662
2000/01	444,782	349,274	126,300
2001/02	447,446	344,720	131,812
2002/03	448,754	343,596	137,323
2003/04	451,755	341,724	143,271
2004/05	455,572	339,128	143,546
2005/06	462,811	335,134	145,287
2006/07	477,078	336,955	149,502
2007/08	490,838	338,682	148,014
2008/09	501,448	344,893	152,686

Source: Department of Education and Science

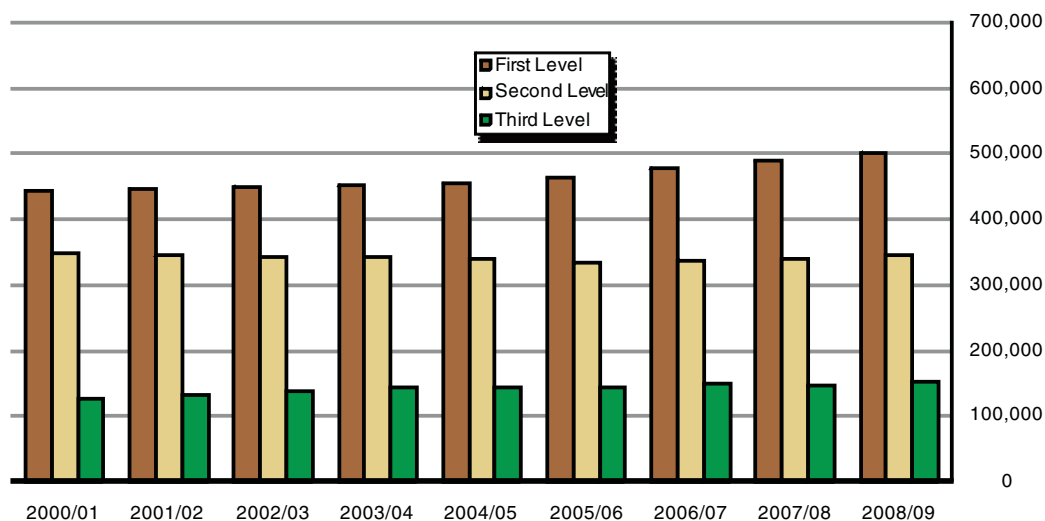
Persons in full-time education by level

Table 6.3 Persons receiving full-time education and estimated participation rates for ages 15-24, 2008/09

Age	In full-time education			As % of population	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
15	28,529	27,563	56,092	101.0	97.6
16	28,204	28,070	56,274	96.5	96.1
17	25,638	26,847	52,485	85.9	90.0
18	19,815	22,433	42,248	70.5	79.9
19	14,676	18,083	32,759	54.1	66.7
20	12,877	16,893	29,770	48.1	63.1
21	11,199	13,973	25,172	39.0	48.7
22	7,387	8,591	15,978	24.1	28.0
23	4,393	5,002	9,395	13.5	15.4
24	3,347	3,766	7,113	9.8	11.0

Source: Department of Education and Science

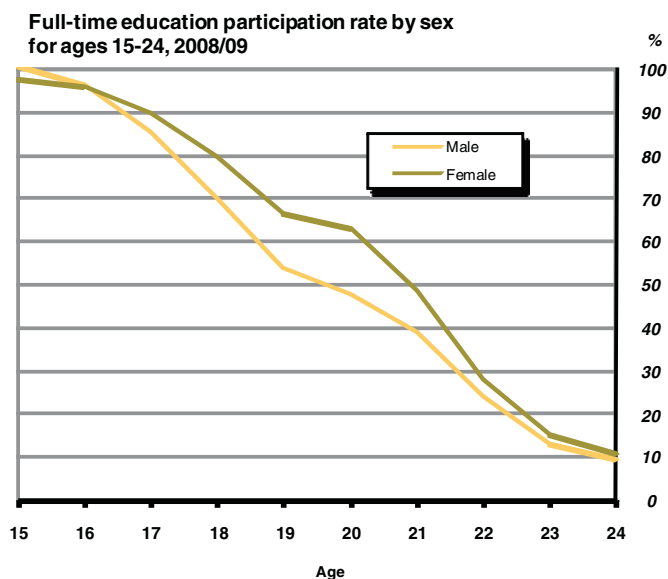


Table 6.4 Voted expenditure by sector for financial year ended 31 December 2008

€m

Sector	Current	Capital	Total
Administration and other services	653.8	22.7	676.5
First level education grants and services	2,959.5		2,959.5
Second level and further education grants and services	2,990.6		2,990.6
Third level and further education grants and services	1,833.8	5.7	1,839.5
Capital services	27.7	801.2	828.9
Gross expenditure	8,465.4	829.6	9,295.0
Appropriations in aid	248.0	17.3	265.3
Net expenditure	8,217.4	812.3	9,029.7

Source: Department of Education and Science

Table 6.5 Pupils in first level schools by standard

Number

Standard	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Infants standard	111,355	113,150	113,749	115,418	120,314	124,988	128,486
First standard	52,166	54,770	56,131	57,393	57,546	59,559	61,767
Second standard	51,243	52,211	54,865	56,435	57,913	58,159	59,625
Third standard	51,226	51,567	52,436	55,373	57,121	58,604	58,498
Fourth standard	52,068	51,323	51,829	52,891	56,027	57,871	58,884
Fifth standard	54,476	52,405	51,713	52,416	53,688	56,788	58,447
Sixth standard	54,616	54,225	52,382	51,832	52,705	54,115	56,715
Other standard	379	320	215	208	141	186	171
Special schools	6,807	6,718	6,621	6,627	6,578	6,619	9,668
Pupils with special needs in ordinary first level schools	9,384	9,340	9,357	9,296	9,486	9,555	6,653
Private primary schools	5,034	5,726	6,274	4,922	5,559	4,394	2,534
Total pupils	448,754	451,755	455,572	462,811	477,078	490,838	501,448

Source: Department of Education and Science

Table 6.6 Teaching posts in first level schools on 30 June

Number

Sex	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Male	4,498	4,370	4,503	4,536	4,490	4,578	4,493	4,485	4,632	4,868	4,715
Female	17,002	17,480	18,347	19,399	20,210	21,461	21,789	23,030	24,902	25,500	26,634
Total	21,500	21,850	22,850	23,935	24,700	26,039	26,282	27,515	29,534	30,368	31,349

Source: Department of Education and Science

Table 6.7 Teachers in secondary, vocational and community schools

Number

Category	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Secondary								
Full-time	12,424	12,447	11,835	11,553	11,477	11,501	11,506	11,630
Full-time equivalent of part-time	1,582	1,680	1,326	1,653	1,844	1,944	1,942	1,964
Vocational								
Full-time	5,685	5,933	5,977	5,994	6,482	7,132	6,865	n/a
Full-time equivalent of part-time	1,607	1,417	1,581	1,682	1,503	1,617	2,625	n/a
Community and comprehensive								
Full-time	3,410	3,682	3,602	3,487	3,452	3,452	3,482	3,522
Full-time equivalent of part-time	479	533	490	621	629	671	816	824
Total								
Full-time	21,519	22,062	21,414	21,034	21,411	22,085	21,853	15,152
Full-time equivalent of part-time	3,668	3,630	3,397	3,956	3,976	4,232	5,383	2,788
GRAND TOTAL								
Full-time and full-time equivalent	25,187	25,692	24,811	24,990	25,387	26,317	27,236	26,329

Source: Department of Education and Science

Table 6.8 Second level state examination candidates

Number

Examination	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Junior Certificate	60,124	60,152	59,340	56,864	56,640	57,784	57,287	55,940	55,557
Male	30,308	30,150	29,855	28,495	28,627	29,273	28,812	27,632	28,361
Female	29,816	30,002	29,485	28,369	28,013	28,511	28,475	28,308	27,196
Leaving Certificate	59,537	58,400	59,536	58,742	57,391	54,111	53,893	52,143	54,197
Male	28,176	27,716	28,532	28,059	27,189	25,832	25,730	25,238	26,546
Female	31,361	30,684	31,004	30,683	30,202	28,279	28,163	26,905	27,651
ALL EXAMINATION CANDIDATES	119,661	118,552	118,876	115,606	114,031	111,895	111,180	108,083	109,754
Male	58,484	57,866	58,387	56,554	55,816	55,105	54,542	52,870	54,907
Female	61,177	60,686	60,489	59,052	58,215	56,790	56,638	55,213	54,847

Sources: Department of Education and Science & State Examination Commission

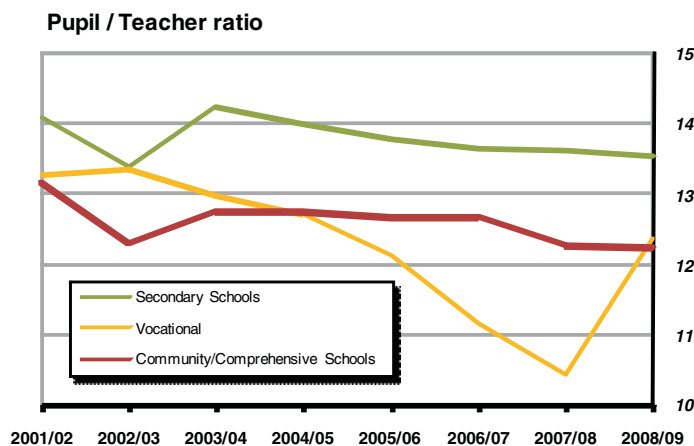


Table 6.9 Pupils in all second level schools taking each subject in the Leaving Certificate Programme, 2008/2009*Number*

Subject	Number of pupils			% studying subject	
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Mathematics	51,025	51,967	102,992	99.8	99.7
English	50,980	52,001	102,981	99.7	99.7
Irish	45,260	47,191	92,451	88.5	90.5
Religious Education	43,737	46,436	90,173	85.5	89.1
Physical Education	30,475	33,942	64,417	59.6	65.1
French	28,853	34,533	63,386	56.4	66.2
Biology	20,402	36,656	57,058	39.9	70.3
Geography	27,790	22,461	50,251	54.3	43.1
Preparation for Work	17,017	19,807	36,824	33.3	38.0
Business Studies	17,246	18,938	36,184	33.7	36.3
Enterprise Education	16,652	19,358	36,010	32.6	37.1
Home Economics (New syllabus)	3,116	23,389	26,505	6.1	44.9
History and Early-Modern History	14,034	10,435	24,469	27.4	20.0
Computer Studies	10,720	12,397	23,117	21.0	23.8
Construction Studies	17,673	1,539	19,212	34.6	3.0
Architectural Technology	9,037	8,193	17,230	17.7	15.7
German	8,003	8,850	16,853	15.7	17.0
Chemistry	6,604	8,367	14,971	12.9	16.0
Physics	10,614	3,537	14,151	20.8	6.8
Accounting	6,769	7,236	14,005	13.2	13.9
Design and Communication	11,742	1,492	13,234	23.0	2.9
Art (with Craftwork option)	4,623	8,354	12,977	9.0	16.0
Engineering	10,097	668	10,765	19.7	1.3
Music	2,986	7,201	10,187	5.8	13.8
Art (with Design option)	3,826	5,613	9,439	7.5	10.8
Agricultural Science	6,279	2,839	9,118	12.3	5.4
Spanish	3,751	5,125	8,876	7.3	9.8
Economics	5,313	3,172	8,485	10.4	6.1
Choir	159	2,920	3,079	0.3	5.6
Applied Maths	1,483	634	2,117	2.9	1.2
Health Education	537	1,484	2,021	1.1	2.8
Technology	1,157	301	1,458	2.3	0.6
Classical Studies	722	526	1,248	1.4	1.0
Physics and Chemistry	615	359	974	1.2	0.7
Italian	311	467	778	0.6	0.9
Speech and Drama	6	586	592	0.0	1.1
Latin	271	55	326	0.5	0.1
Japanese	132	193	325	0.3	0.4
Typewriting	78	195	273	0.2	0.4
Keyboarding	90	75	165	0.2	0.1
Ancient and Modern Greek	87	48	135	0.2	0.1
Polish	32	61	93	0.1	0.1
Portugese	64	14	78	0.1	0.0
Agricultural Economics	36	39	75	0.1	0.1
Russian	21	31	52	0.0	0.1

Table 6.9 Pupils in all second level schools taking each subject in the Leaving Certificate Programme, 2008/2009 (continued)

Subject	Number				
	Number of pupils			% studying subject	
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Orchestra	0	50	50	0.0	0.1
Lithuanian	11	29	40	0.0	0.1
Romanian	7	9	16	0.0	0.0
Hebrew Studies	6	7	13	0.0	0.0
Latvian	6	3	9	0.0	0.0
Arabic	3	5	8	0.0	0.0
Czech	4	3	7	0.0	0.0
Hungarian	1	6	7	0.0	0.0
Dutch	5	1	6	0.0	0.0
Danish	1	3	4	0.0	0.0
Swedish	1	3	4	0.0	0.0
Bulgarian	2	1	3	0.0	0.0
Finnish	2	0	2	0.0	0.0
Estonian	0	2	2	0.0	0.0
Slovakian	0	1	1	0.0	0.0
Economic History	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Leaving Certificate Programme and Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme	51,134	52,134	103,268		

Source: Department of Education and Science

Table 6.10 Leaving Certificate candidates taking selected subjects at ordinary level

%

Subject	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Mathematics	70	71	70	70	68	68	69	69	69	69
Irish	52	53	52	52	52	52	52	50	49	48
English	43	39	39	37	37	35	35	34	34	34
French	32	31	31	31	29	30	28	28	26	26
Biology	17	17	15	16	15	15	15	16	16	15
Business Studies	13	14	13	13	13	13	13	12	13	11
Geography	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	12	11
Mathematics (Foundation)	10	9	10	10	11	10	10	11	11	11
Irish (Foundation)	9	9	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
History	8	7	7	8	8	7	7	8	8	8
Home Economics (S & S)	10	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	7	7
German	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Art	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Design and Communication	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
Physics	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	4	4	4
Construction Studies	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Accounting	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Spanish	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3
Chemistry	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	3
Engineering	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Economics	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Agricultural Science	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Music	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Physics and Chemistry	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sources: Department of Education and Science and State Examination Commission

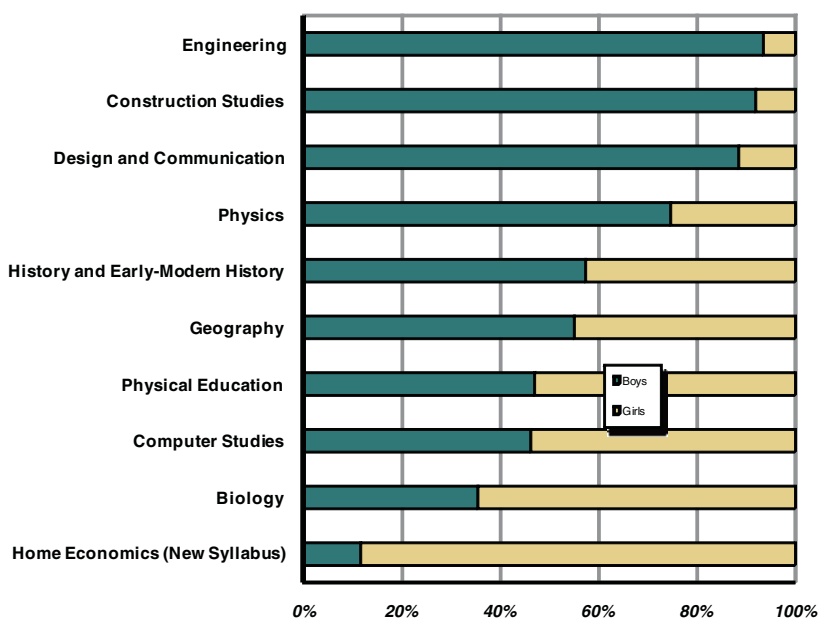
All Leaving Certificate students taking selected subjects, 2009

Table 6.11 Leaving Certificate candidates taking selected subjects at higher level

%

Subject	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
English	53	55	57	58	59	60	60	61	61	61
Biology	27	26	25	25	29	32	33	34	35	37
Geography	37	38	38	39	39	39	35	35	35	35
Irish	28	28	27	27	27	27	25	27	27	27
French	28	28	27	27	27	27	26	27	27	25
Business Studies	29	29	29	28	27	25	25	25	23	23
Home Economics (S & S)	25	25	24	23	19	18	16	16	17	17
Mathematics	18	18	17	17	17	18	18	16	16	16
Art	11	11	12	12	13	14	15	15	15	15
History	13	12	12	13	12	12	14	15	15	14
Construction Studies	11	11	11	12	12	12	13	12	13	13
Chemistry	9	9	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11
Physics	10	10	11	11	11	10	10	10	9	9
Accounting	9	9	8	8	9	9	10	10	9	9
Music	5	5	6	6	7	8	8	9	9	9
German	11	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8
Agricultural Science	4	4	4	4	4	5	6	6	7	8
Economics	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	5	7	7
Engineering	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7
Design and Communication	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7
Spanish	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
Applied Mathematics	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Classical Studies	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Physics and Chemistry	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Sources: Department of Education and Science and State Examination Commission

Table 6.12 Leaving Certificate ordinary level grades for most popular subjects, 2009

%

Subject	Grade				
	A	B	C	D	E or lower
History	19	29	29	19	3
Accounting	18	27	21	16	18
Mathematics	13	27	27	22	10
Physics	17	33	25	16	10
Economics	11	33	30	19	7
Design and Communication Graphics	7	25	36	20	12
Business Studies	10	32	32	19	7
Mathematics (Foundation)	11	36	31	17	5
English	8	30	39	19	3
Chemistry	9	26	28	22	15
Geography	4	23	48	22	4
Irish (Foundation)	4	28	44	22	2
Irish	4	37	38	17	4
German	5	37	33	19	6
Engineering	3	23	39	27	8
Biology	4	23	33	26	15
French	2	25	38	27	8
Art	2	21	47	26	4
Home Economics (S & S)	3	25	37	26	11
Construction Studies	50	16	39	32	12

Sources: Department of Education and Science & State Examination Commission

Table 6.13 Leaving Certificate higher level grades for most popular subjects, 2009

%

Subject	Grade				
	A	B	C	D	E or lower
Applied Mathematics	24	31	24	16	6
Chemistry	22	31	25	16	7
Accounting	20	35	24	14	7
Physics and Chemistry	17	27	26	20	11
Biology	17	27	27	21	9
Mathematics	15	33	33	16	3
Music	15	53	28	4	0
German	15	28	34	22	2
Spanish	15	31	36	17	2
Irish	14	37	36	13	1
Agricultural Science	13	26	29	24	8
History	13	31	34	20	3
Design and Communication Graphics	13	32	34	18	3
Economics	12	31	29	22	6
Business Studies	11	30	29	23	7
Physics	11	29	23	19	8
French	11	27	35	24	3
English	10	27	39	22	2
Geography	9	30	37	22	3
Classical Studies	9	27	35	21	9
Engineering	9	32	36	19	4
Home Economics (S & S)	7	31	39	20	3
Construction Studies	6	34	37	20	4
Art	5	31	42	21	1

Source: Department of Education and Science and State Examination Commission

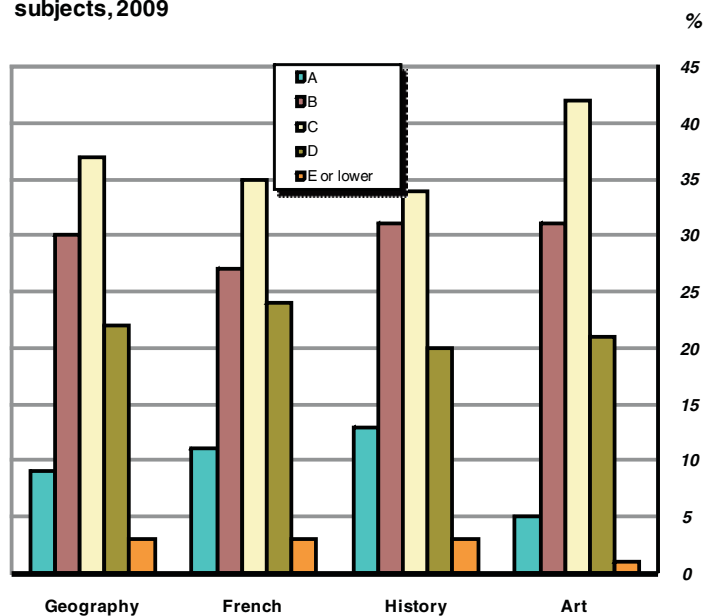
Grade distribution of selected Leaving Certificate higher level subjects, 2009

Table 6.14 First time entrants to third level courses in all institutions, 2008/09*Number*

Type of institution	Male	Female	Total
Universities	8,650	11,110	19,760
Technology Sector	9,707	7,393	17,100
Teacher Training Institutions	329	1,551	1,880
Other Colleges	315	352	667
Total	19,001	20,406	39,407

Source: Department of Education and Science

