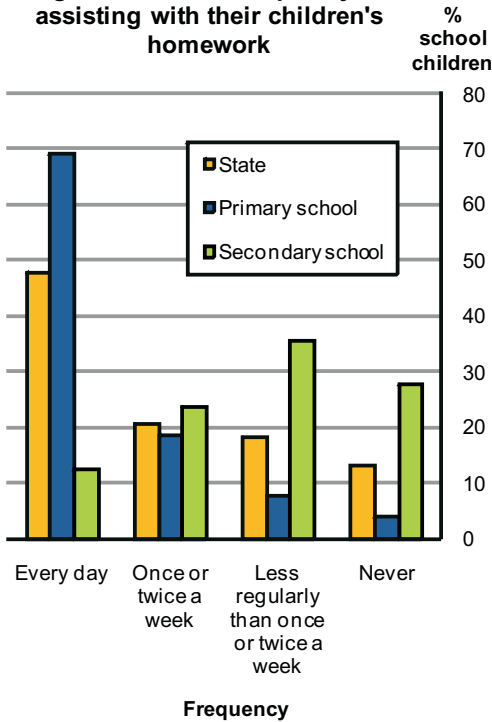




Figure 1 Parents' frequency of assisting with their children's homework



Quarterly National Household Survey Parental Involvement in Children's Education Q2 2012

A module on parents' involvement in their children's education was included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the second quarter (April–June) of 2012. This report presents the results of that module.

Summary of main findings

- ◆ Over two thirds (69%) of primary school children and 13% of secondary school children are assisted daily by their parents with homework. Some 4% of primary school children and 28% of secondary school children never receive assistance with their homework. *See Table 2.2 and Figure 1.*
- ◆ Overall 59% of school children's parents feel very confident about assisting their children with homework. In family units where the mother has a third level degree or above, 72% of parents feel very confident about assisting secondary school children with homework. *See Table 2.3.*
- ◆ Among pre-school or school children (aged 3-7) 93% are being read to by their parents. 71% are being read to on a daily basis. *See Tables 2.4.*
- ◆ 71% of school children with a parent in employment use the internet outside school to access school learning material. 59% of school children with parents who are both unemployed or not in the labour force and 55% of school children with parents who are both not in the labour force access the internet for the same purpose. *See Table 2.1.*
- ◆ 87% of parents aspire to having their children remain in the education system to attend college or university. However, only 82% of parents believe their children will actually remain in the education system to attend college or university. *See Tables 3.1 and 3.2.*
- ◆ 61% of parents whose first language was English or Irish felt very confident about assisting with their children's homework. In contrast just 47% of parents whose first language was not English or Irish felt very confident about assisting in this way. *See Table 2.3.*

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Background to the module

The aim of this module was to determine how parents are involving themselves in their children's education. The module targeted all households with children of school going age (3 – 18 years) and asked parents / guardians questions about aspects of their involvement with their children's educational activities.

The questionnaire is available at www.cso.ie. For further details see Background Notes.

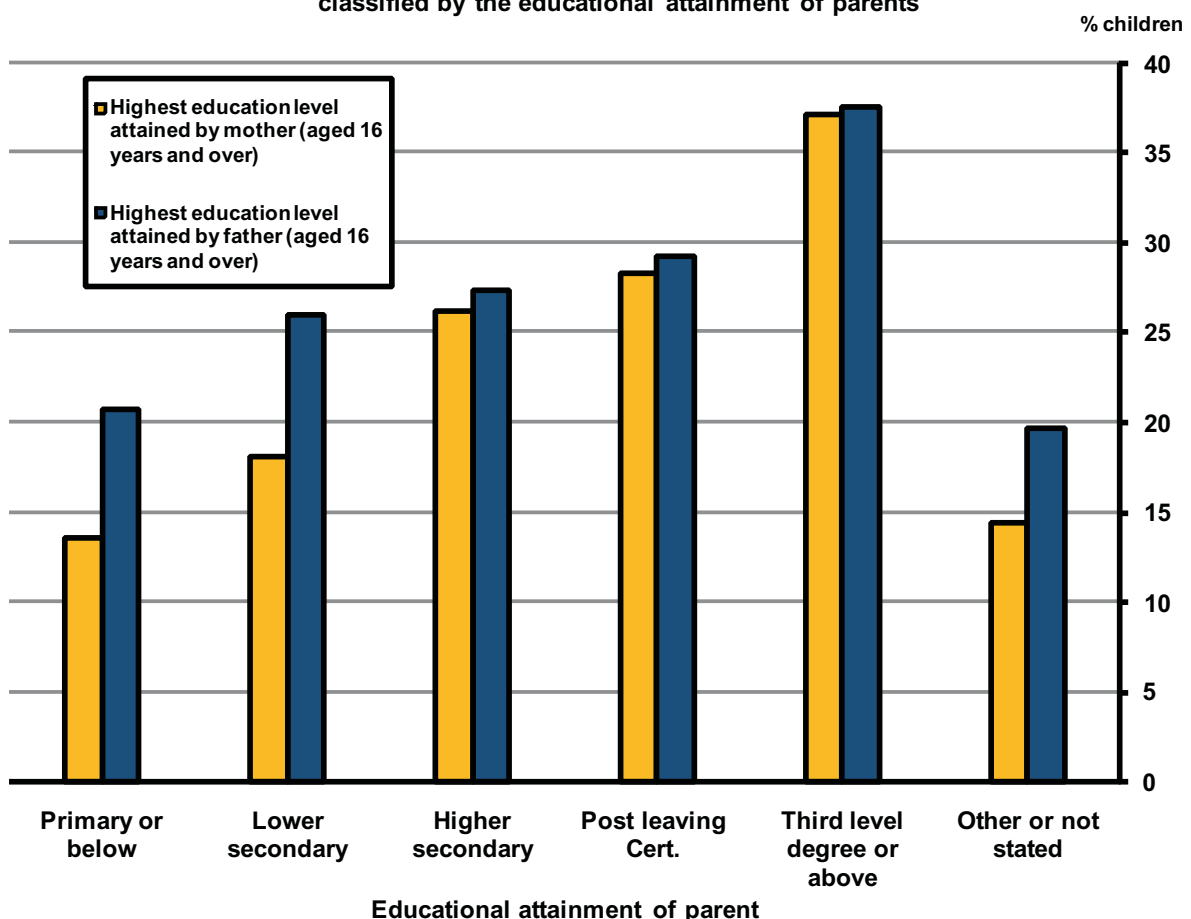
Section 1

Parental involvement with schools and school communities

- ◆ In total 13% of parents indicated some involvement in their children's parent association or school council.
- ◆ 3% were involved in the school board of management. *See Table 1.1.*

Parents with a higher education attainment are more likely to be involved in their child's school activities. For example 38% of fathers with a third level qualification or above indicated they have been involved in their child's school sports activity. In contrast just 21% of fathers with no formal or primary education were involved in their school sports activities. *See Figure 2 and Table 1.1.*

Figure 2 Percentage of school children with parents involved in school sports activities, classified by the educational attainment of parents

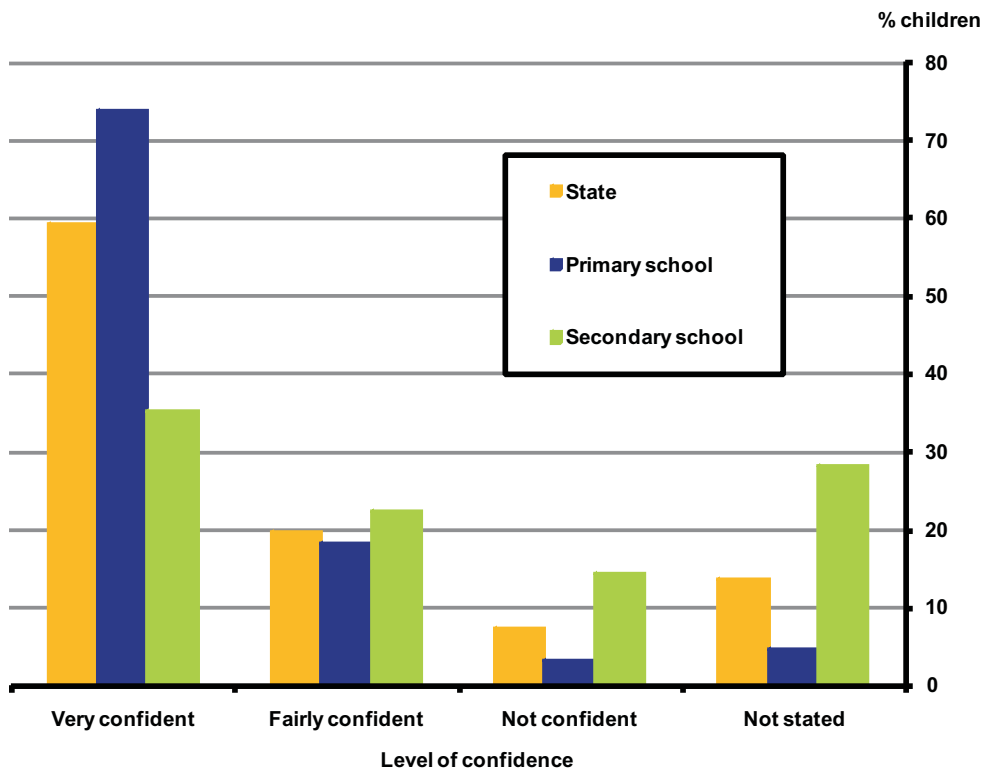


Section 2

Parents' involvement in education outside school

- ◆ 93% of parents read to their school or preschool children (aged 3-7) and 71% of parents read daily to those children *See Tables 2.4 and 2.5.*
- ◆ Over two thirds (68%) of school children access learning materials for school using the internet outside school hours. At secondary school level 90% of school children access the internet for this purpose. *See Table 2.1.*
- ◆ Just under half (48%) of parents assist with school children's homework each day and 59% of parents feel very confident in helping with their child's homework. *See Tables 2.2 and 2.3 and Figure 3.*

Figure 3 Parents' confidence in assisting with homework



Section 3

Educational development

- ◆ 87% of parents would aspire to having their children remain in the education system to attend college or university. However, only 82% of parents believe their children will **actually** remain in the education system to attend college or university. *See Tables 3.1 and 3.2.*

Tables

Table 1.1 Percentage of school children whose parents are involved in a selection of school activities classified by type of activity, and by educational and family characteristics

	Type of parent involvement				Unweighted Sample (number of persons aged 3-18 attending school)
	School council or parents association	Board of management	School sports	Other involvement	
State	13	3	28	40	12,131
Sex of child					
Male	13	3	29	40	6,138
Female	14	3	28	40	5,993
School level					
Primary school	15	4	33	43	7,673
Secondary school	11	3	20	34	4,458
Family unit: number of dependent children					
1	11	3	21	35	2,355
2	13	3	29	40	4,396
3	15	4	31	43	3,400
Greater than 3	13	3	30	39	1,980
⁴ Parents' employment status					
Employed (at least 1 parent)	15	4	31	43	9,459
Unemployed or Not in Labour force (both parents)	9	1	24	33	1,148
Not in Labour force (both parents)	5	1	16	23	1,450
Other or not stated	5	0	9	18	74
Highest education level attained by mother					
Primary or below	3	1	14	19	743
Lower secondary	7	2	18	29	1,625
Higher secondary	10	3	26	37	2,904
Post Leaving Cert	14	3	28	42	1,877
Third level degree or above	20	5	37	49	4,527
Other or not stated	7	1	14	22	455
Highest education level attained by father					
Primary or below	8	3	21	28	771
Lower secondary	10	3	26	37	1,761
Higher secondary	12	3	27	39	2,283
Post leaving cert	16	4	29	43	1,386
Third level degree or above	20	5	38	50	3,474
Other or not stated	8	1	20	29	2,456
First language of parents					
Irish or English	14	4	30	41	10,972
Other	6	1	16	26	1,125
Not stated	[17]	[3]	[19]	[40]	34
Urban/rural location					
Urban areas	11	2	26	38	6,597
Rural areas	16	4	31	42	5,534

Note 1 Data may be subject to sampling or other survey errors, which are greater in respect of smaller values or estimates of change.

Note 2 Figures in parentheses [] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Note 3 More than one activity may have been give by respondents.

Note 4 "Parents' employment status" See background notes for classification detail

Table 2.1 Percentage of school children who access the internet for school-related learning material classified by educational and family characteristics

	Internet used to access learning materials for school				% school children <i>Unweighted Sample (number of persons aged 3-18 attending school)</i>
	Yes	No	No access	Not-stated	
	State	68	30	1	
Sex of child					
Male	67	32	1	0	6,138
Female	69	29	2	0	5,993
School level					
Primary school	55	43	2	0	7,673
Secondary school	90	9	1	0	4,458
Family unit: number of dependent children					
1	78	20	1	1	2,355
2	69	29	1	0	4,396
3	64	34	2	0	3,400
Greater than 3	60	38	3	0	1,980
² Parents' employment status					
Employed (at least 1 parent)	71	28	1	0	9,459
Unemployed or Not in Labour force (both parents)	59	38	3	0	1,148
Not in Labour force (both parents)	55	41	3	0	1,450
Other or not stated	58	41	1	0	74
Mother's education level					
Primary or below	57	39	4	0	743
Lower secondary	65	33	2	0	1,625
Higher secondary	68	30	1	1	2,904
Post leaving cert	69	29	2	0	1,877
Third level degree or above	71	28	1	0	4,527
Other or not stated	62	36	2	1	455
Father's education level					
Primary or below	58	37	5	0	771
Lower secondary	69	29	2	0	1,761
Higher secondary	70	29	0	1	2,283
Post leaving cert	68	29	2	0	1,386
Third level degree or above	72	27	1	0	3,474
Other or not stated	63	35	2	0	2,456
Urban/rural location					
Urban areas	68	31	2	0	6,597
Rural areas	68	30	1	0	5,534

Note 1 Data may be subject to sampling or other survey errors, which are greater in respect of smaller values or estimates of change.

Note 2 "Parents' employment status" See background notes for detail of classification

Table 2.2 Percentage of school children aged 3 -18 classified by parents' frequency of assisting with homework, and by educational and family characteristics

% school children

	Frequency of assisting with homework				Unweighted Sample (number of persons aged 3-18 attending school)
	Every day	Once or twice a week	Less regularly than once or twice a week	Never	
State	48	21	18	13	12,131
Sex of child					
Male	48	20	18	13	6,138
Female	47	21	19	13	5,993
School level					
Primary school	69	19	8	4	7,673
Secondary school	13	24	36	28	4,458
Family unit: number of dependent children					
1	32	19	27	22	2355
2	50	21	17	12	4396
3	54	21	15	10	3400
Greater than 3	51	21	17	11	1980
³ Parents' employment status					
Employed (at least 1 parent)	47	21	18	13	9,459
Unemployed or Not in Labour force (both parents)	54	19	18	10	1,148
Not in Labour force (both parents)	46	17	19	18	1,450
Other or not stated	38	12	21	29	74
Mother's education level					
Primary or below	34	19	23	24	743
Lower secondary	42	18	21	18	1,625
Higher secondary	48	21	17	14	2,904
Post leaving cert	50	19	20	11	1,877
Third level degree or above	51	22	17	9	4,527
Other or not stated	45	18	20	16	455
Father's education level					
Primary or below	38	19	21	22	771
Lower secondary	44	21	19	16	1,761
Higher secondary	48	20	19	13	2,283
Post leaving cert	52	19	17	11	1,386
Third level degree or above	52	23	16	9	3,474
Other or not stated	45	19	20	16	2,456
First language of parents					
Irish or English	47	21	19	13	10,972
Other	49	20	16	14	1,125
Not stated	[54]	[11]	[9]	[9]	34
Urban/rural location					
Urban areas	47	21	19	14	6,597
Rural areas	49	20	18	13	5,534

Note 1 Data may be subject to sampling or other survey errors, which are greater in respect of smaller values or estimates of change.

Note 2 Figures in parentheses [] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Note 3 "Parents' employment status" See background notes for detail of classification

Table 2.3 Percentage of school children with parents who assist with homework classified by level of parents' confidence in assisting, and by educational and family characteristics

% school children

	Confidence in assisting with homework				Unweighted Sample (number of persons aged 3-18 attending school)
	Very confident	Fairly confident	Not confident	Not stated	
State	59	20	7	14	12,131
Sex of child					
Male	59	19	8	14	6,138
Female	59	20	7	13	5,993
School level					
Primary school	74	18	3	5	7,673
Secondary school	35	22	14	28	4,458
Family unit: number of dependent children					
1	43	22	13	22	2,355
2	61	20	7	12	4,396
3	68	18	5	10	3,400
Greater than 3	61	20	7	12	1,980
³ Parents' employment status					
Employed (at least 1 parent)	62	18	6	13	9,459
Unemployed or Not in Labour force (both parents)	58	22	10	10	1,148
Not in Labour force (both parents)	43	27	12	18	1,450
Other or not stated	37	24	10	30	74
Mother's education level					
Primary or below	33	23	20	25	743
Lower secondary	44	25	12	18	1,625
Higher secondary	58	21	7	15	2,904
Post leaving cert	60	22	7	11	1,877
Third level degree or above	72	15	4	10	4,527
Other or not stated	41	30	12	17	455
Father's education level					
Primary or below	40	21	16	22	771
Lower secondary	52	23	9	16	1,761
Higher secondary	58	21	8	14	2,283
Post leaving cert	61	21	7	12	1,386
Third level degree or above	75	13	3	9	3,474
Other or not stated	49	25	10	16	2,456
First language of parents					
Irish or English	61	19	7	13	10,972
Other	47	28	11	15	1,125
Not stated	[54]	[10]	[10]	[26]	34
Urban/rural location					
Urban areas	57	21	8	14	6,597
Rural areas	62	18	7	13	5,534

Note 1 Data may be subject to sampling or other survey errors, which are greater in respect of smaller values or estimates of change.

Note 2 Figures in parentheses [] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Note 3 "Parents' employment status" See background notes for classification detail

Table 2.4 Percentage of school or preschool children aged 3 to 7 classified by frequency with which parents read to the child, and by educational and family characteristics

% of school / preschool children aged 3-7

	Frequency of reading					Unweighted Sample (number of persons aged 3-7 attending school)
	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less Often	Never or not stated	
State	71	20	1	2	7	4,393
Sex of child						
Male	70	20	1	2	7	2,216
Female	71	20	1	2	7	2,177
School level						
Pre-school	77	16	0	1	6	1,410
Primary school	68	22	1	2	7	2,983
Family unit: number of dependent children						
1	73	16	0	1	8	618
2	74	17	1	2	7	1,716
3	69	23	1	2	5	1,354
Greater than 3	65	26	1	2	6	705
³ Parents' employment status						
Employed (at least 1 parent)	73	19	1	2	6	3,469
Unemployed or Not in Labour force (both parents)	68	22	0	1	8	459
Not in Labour force (both parents)	59	27	1	2	11	451
Other or not stated	*	*	*	*	*	14
Mother's education level						
Primary or below	50	28	1	4	16	161
Lower secondary	63	24	1	3	10	401
Higher secondary	69	21	1	2	8	982
Post leaving cert	71	22	1	2	5	671
Third level degree or above	75	18	1	1	5	2,079
Other or not stated	57	22	0	3	12	99
Father's education level						
Primary or below	62	24	1	2	11	194
Lower secondary	68	24	1	3	5	459
Higher secondary	68	21	1	2	8	839
Post leaving cert	73	16	1	2	8	578
Third level degree or above	76	17	1	1	5	1,568
Other or not stated	64	24	1	2	9	755
First language of parents						
Irish or English	73	20	1	2	4	3,857
Other	57	19	0	2	21	521
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	15
Urban/rural location						
Urban areas	69	21	1	2	7	2,403
Rural areas	72	19	1	1	6	1,990

Note 1 Data may be subject to sampling or other survey errors, which are greater in respect of smaller values or estimates of change.

Note 2 * Sample size too small for reliable estimate

Note 3 "Parents' employment status" See background notes for detail of classification

Table 3.1 Percentage of school and preschool children, classified by parents' aspirations for child's level of educational attainment, educational and family characteristics

% of school children and preschool children

	Parents' aspiration				Unweighted Sample (number of persons aged 3-18 attending school)
	Leaving Certificate	Further Education ¹	College or University	Not Stated	
State	7	5	87	2	13,524
Sex of child					
Male	8	6	84	2	6,851
Female	5	3	90	1	6,673
School level					
Pre-school	5	4	88	2	1,393
Primary school	7	4	88	2	7,673
Secondary school	7	7	85	1	4,458
Family unit: number of dependent children					
1	7	5	86	2	2,591
2	5	5	88	2	4,998
3	6	4	88	1	3,790
Greater than 3	10	5	83	1	2,145
⁴Parents' employment status					
Employed (at least 1 parent)	4	4	90	1	10,579
Unemployed or Not in Labour force (both parents)	12	6	81	2	1,291
Not in Labour force (both parents)	17	7	74	2	1,575
Other or not stated	24	10	62	4	79
Mother's education level					
Primary or below	19	11	68	3	779
Lower secondary	13	7	78	2	1,727
Higher secondary	7	4	87	2	3,178
Post leaving cert	7	5	87	1	2,077
Third level degree or above	2	4	93	1	5,259
Other or not stated	10	6	78	5	504
Father's education level					
Primary or below	17	9	72	2	819
Lower secondary	10	6	82	1	1,898
Higher secondary	5	4	90	2	2,533
Post leaving cert	4	4	90	2	1,591
Third level degree or above	2	3	94	1	3,995
Other or not stated	12	7	79	2	2,688
First language of parents					
Irish or English	7	5	87	1	12,178
Other	4	3	88	5	1,306
Not stated	[2]	[0]	[86]	[12]	40
Urban/rural location					
Urban areas	7	5	86	2	7,360
Rural areas	6	4	88	2	6,164

Note 1 Data may be subject to sampling or other survey errors, which are greater in respect of smaller values or estimates of change.

Note 2 Figures in parentheses [] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Note 3 ¹Further education = Apprenticeship, training or post leaving certificate course

Note 4 "Parents' employment status" See background notes for classification detail

Table 3.2 Percentage of school and preschool children, classified by parents' expectations of child's level of educational attainment, educational and family characteristics

% of school children and preschool children

	Parents' expectation				Unweighted Sample (number of persons aged 3-18 attending school)
	Leaving Certificate	Further Education ¹	College or University	Not Stated	
State	8	5	82	5	13,524
Sex of child					
Male	10	6	79	5	6,851
Female	7	3	86	4	6,673
School level					
Pre-school	6	3	82	8	1,393
Primary school	8	4	83	5	7,673
Secondary school	9	7	81	3	4,458
Family unit: number of dependent children					
1	9	5	80	5	2,591
2	7	5	84	5	4,998
3	7	4	84	4	3,790
Greater than 3	11	5	78	5	2,145
⁴ Parents' employment status					
Employed (at least 1 parent)	6	4	86	4	10,579
Unemployed or Not in Labour force (both parents)	14	5	75	7	1,291
Not in Labour force (both parents)	21	7	66	6	1,575
Other or not stated	24	10	60	7	79
Mother's education level					
Primary or below	23	11	60	6	779
Lower secondary	17	6	72	5	1,727
Higher secondary	9	4	82	5	3,178
Post leaving cert	8	5	81	5	2,077
Third level degree or above	3	4	90	3	5,259
Other or not stated	11	6	75	8	504
Father's education level					
Primary or below	19	10	65	6	819
Lower secondary	12	7	76	5	1,898
Higher secondary	6	3	86	4	2,533
Post leaving cert	5	4	86	6	1,591
Third level degree or above	2	3	92	3	3,995
Other or not stated	15	6	73	6	2,688
First language of parents					
Irish or English	9	5	82	4	12,178
Other	5	3	85	8	1,306
Not stated	[5]	[0]	[79]	[16]	40
Urban/rural location					
Urban areas	9	5	82	4	7,360
Rural areas	7	5	83	5	6,164

Note 1 Data may be subject to sampling or other survey errors, which are greater in respect of smaller values or estimates of change.

Note 2 Figures in parentheses [] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Note 3 ¹Further education = Apprenticeship, training or post Leaving Certificate course

Note 4 ⁴"Parents' employment status" See background notes for classification detail

Background Notes

Reference Period	A module on supporting children's learning was included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from April to June 2012 (quarter 2).
Purpose of survey	The QNHS began in September 1997, replacing the annual April Labour Force Survey (LFS). The purpose of the survey is the production of quarterly labour force estimates and occasional reports on special social topics. The survey meets the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No.577/98, adopted in March 1998, which requires the introduction of quarterly labour force surveys in EU member states.
Questionnaire	<p>The questionnaire focused on asking the parents or guardians of children who were identified as attending school how they contributed in different way to their child's learning.</p> <p>A copy of the questionnaire is available on the CSO website www.cso.ie</p>
Grossing effect	The QNHS grossing procedure aligns the distribution of persons covered in the survey with independently determined population estimates at the level of sex, five-year age group and region.
Statistical significance	All estimates based on sample surveys are subject to error, some of which is measurable. Where an estimate is statistically significantly different from another estimate it means that we can be 95% confident that differences between those two estimates are not due to sampling error. Unless otherwise stated, changes and differences mentioned in the text have been found to be statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.
Parents' Employment status (ILO)	<p>This classification is derived using employment indicators (ILO) and relationship coding taken from the main part of the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS). In the survey householders are asked to indicate their relationship to other dwellers in the same household. Once the nature of the relationship between householders is established family units are created where appropriate. The list below contains the relevant relationships that create a family unit.</p> <p>Family Units</p> <p>A family unit consists of either</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A married couple, or 2. A married couple and one or more of their never-married children, or 3. One parent and one or more of his or her never-married children, or 4. A couple living together (with never-married children, if any) who are not married to each other, where it is clear that the couple form a "de facto" family unit.
Parents' Employment status	<p>This classification assigns the employment status of parents hierarchically to indicate whether a parent or both parents are Employed, Unemployed or Not active in the labour force. In the situation where parents (in a family unit which contains a couple) fall into more than one category the classification follows the order of assignment detailed below.</p> <p>Employed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family is a couple - both work full-time • Family is a couple - both work; 1 full-time and 1 part-time • Family is a couple - 1 full-time and 1 unemployed • Family is a couple - 1 full-time and 1 inactive, • Family is a couple - both work part-time • Family is a couple - 1 part-time and 1 unemployed, • Family is a couple - 1 full-time and 1 inactive • Family is lone parent – lone parent works full-time, • Family is lone parent – lone parent works part-time

Unemployed

- Family is a couple - both unemployed
- Family is a couple - 1 unemployed and 1 inactive
- Family is lone parent – lone parent unemployed

Not in Labour force

- Family is a couple - both inactive,
- Family is lone parent – lone parent inactive

Other or not stated

- Not applicable, Family is a couple - at least one parent is aged under 15
- Family is lone parent – lone parent is aged under 15

Highest level of education attained

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 and it is included in the core QNHS on an on-going basis.

The question is phrased as follows:

What is the highest level of education or training you have attained?

Urban/rural location

The country is divided up into 8 strata based on population density. These areas are further classified into urban and rural areas as follows:

Urban

- Cities
- Suburbs of cities
- Mixed urban/rural areas bordering on the suburbs of cities
- Towns and their environs with populations of 5,000 or over (large urban)
- Mixed urban/rural areas bordering on the environs of larger towns
- Towns and their environs with a population of 1,000 to 5,000 (other urban)

Rural

- Mixed urban/rural areas

Rural areas

QHNS 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 canvass of users (over 100 organisations) that was conducted by the CSO in 1996, 2002, 2006, 2008 and most recently 2011. The results of the canvass 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	Accidents and Illness module and Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Survey
Quarter 2	EU module (always covered under EU legislation)
Quarter 3	National module
Quarter 4	National module

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

Reference Quarter	Social Module
Q3 2012	Effects on Households of the Economic Downturn
Q2 2012	Parental Involvement in Children's Education
Q1 2012	ICT Household Survey
Q2 2012	Union Membership
Q1 2012	Unemployment Thematic Report
Q3 2011	Educational Attainment Thematic Report 2011
Q2 2011	Response of Households to the Economic Downturn - pilot
Q2 2011	Voter Participation
Q1 2011	ICT Household Survey
Q4 2010	Equality
Q3 2010	Health
Q2 2010	Cross Border Shopping
Q2 2010	Educational Attainment
Q1 2010	Crime and Victimization
Q1 2010	ICT Household Survey
Q4 2009	Pensions
Q3 2009	Carers
Q2 2009	Union Membership
Q2 2009	Cross Border Shopping
Q3 2008	Lifelong learning
Q1 2008	Pension provision
Q4 2007	Childcare

More historical social modules published available at:

<http://www.cso.ie/en/qnhs/releasesandpublications/qnhs-specialmodules/>