

# 4



***EDUCATION***

## **School Statistics**

The total number of pupils in the Republic of Ireland decreased each year over the 1990s. By 2001/02, there were 100,000 fewer pupils in ROI schools than in 1991/92. Over the same period, the number of teachers steadily increased from 41,000 to 49,000. In Northern Ireland, the number of pupils increased each year between 1991/92 and 1996/97, before falling again through to 2001/02. The number of teachers in Northern Ireland generally increased over the same period so that by 2001/02 there were 14% more teachers than in 1991/92.

Over the period 1996/97 to 2001/02, pupil:teacher ratios in first level schools were broadly equivalent in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. However, in second level schools pupil:teacher ratios were generally higher in the Republic of Ireland than in Northern Ireland.

## **Examinations**

The most popular subject at ROI Junior Certificate level was English, with almost 60,000 pupils registered for the examination. This was followed by Mathematics (59,295) and Civil Social and Political Education (58,278). Mathematics was the most commonly undertaken Leaving Certificate examination with 53,658 candidates. English was the second most popular subject with 52,997 candidates followed by Irish with 49,085 candidates.

In Northern Ireland, the highest number of GCSE examination candidates were registered for Mathematics (23,265), followed by English (20,539) and Religious Studies (13,492). The three most popular subjects at 'A' level were Biology (2,780 candidates), English Literature (2,414 candidates) and Mathematics (2,104 candidates).

## **Higher Education**

The number of full-time undergraduates has increased in the Republic of Ireland, from 90,000 in 1996/97 to almost 112,000 in 2001/02. During the same period the number of full-time undergraduates in Northern Ireland increased from 35,000 to 40,000. In both jurisdictions, there was a marked increase in the number of part-time undergraduates over this period.

## **First Destinations**

Sixty per cent of NI undergraduates who qualified in 2000/01 entered employment compared with 47% of ROI undergraduates. Undergraduates from the Republic of Ireland were more likely to undertake further study or training than those from Northern Ireland (47% and 28% respectively).

**Table 4.1 Schools, pupils and teachers**

Description	<i>Numbers</i>										
	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>											
<b>Schools</b>											
First level	3,341	3,326	3,317	3,319	3,317	3,311	3,305	3,303	3,293	3,286	3,282
Second level	791	785	782	775	768	763	762	759	752	751	750
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,132</b>	<b>4,111</b>	<b>4,099</b>	<b>4,094</b>	<b>4,085</b>	<b>4,074</b>	<b>4,067</b>	<b>4,062</b>	<b>4,045</b>	<b>4,037</b>	<b>4,032</b>
<b>Pupils</b>											
First level	534,269	521,531	505,883	491,256	478,692	469,628	460,845	452,533	444,310	439,560	441,065
Second level	348,917	358,347	367,645	371,230	369,865	371,184	368,160	362,051	353,860	345,384	340,078
<b>Total</b>	<b>883,186</b>	<b>879,878</b>	<b>873,528</b>	<b>862,486</b>	<b>848,557</b>	<b>840,812</b>	<b>829,005</b>	<b>814,584</b>	<b>798,170</b>	<b>784,944</b>	<b>781,143</b>
<b>Teachers</b>											
First level <sup>1</sup>	20,708	20,761	20,776	20,901	21,052	21,035	21,100	21,500	21,850	22,850	23,935
Second level <sup>2</sup>	20,352	21,193	22,042	22,585	23,103	23,238	23,310	23,435	23,966	24,611	25,187
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,060</b>	<b>41,954</b>	<b>42,818</b>	<b>43,486</b>	<b>44,155</b>	<b>44,273</b>	<b>44,410</b>	<b>44,935</b>	<b>45,816</b>	<b>47,461</b>	<b>49,122</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>											
<b>Schools</b>											
First level	1,078	1,071	1,065	1,054	1,039	1,036	1,036	1,031	1,036	1,019	1,016
Second level	282	280	278	279	283	285	285	284	288	286	283
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1,351</b>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>1,322</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>1,299</b>
<b>Pupils</b>											
First level	194,661	195,594	195,776	195,572	196,198	195,704	193,377	190,404	187,931	186,412	185,132
Second level	147,401	149,725	152,656	154,598	156,224	157,423	157,775	158,619	159,652	160,227	160,213
<b>Total</b>	<b>342,062</b>	<b>345,319</b>	<b>348,432</b>	<b>350,170</b>	<b>352,422</b>	<b>353,127</b>	<b>351,152</b>	<b>349,023</b>	<b>347,583</b>	<b>346,639</b>	<b>345,345</b>
<b>Teachers</b>											
First level	8,322	8,331	8,509	8,739	8,779	8,750	8,653	8,441	9,106	9,101	9,135
Second level	9,928	10,107	10,248	10,398	10,598	10,701	10,557	10,590	11,310	11,541	11,612
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,250</b>	<b>18,438</b>	<b>18,757</b>	<b>19,137</b>	<b>19,377</b>	<b>19,451</b>	<b>19,210</b>	<b>19,031</b>	<b>20,416</b>	<b>20,642</b>	<b>20,747</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> Refers to teaching posts.

<sup>2</sup> Full-time equivalent.

**Table 4.2 Pupil:Teacher ratios**

Description	Ratios					
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>						
First level	22.3	21.8	21.0	20.3	19.2	18.4
Second level	17.7	17.5	17.4	16.8	16.1	15.8
<b>Northern Ireland</b>						
First level <sup>1</sup>	20.5	20.4	20.6	20.4	20.2	19.9
Second level <sup>2</sup>	14.8	14.8	14.9	14.7	14.5	14.4

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

<sup>1</sup> Excludes nursery schools and preparatory departments of grammar schools.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes special schools.

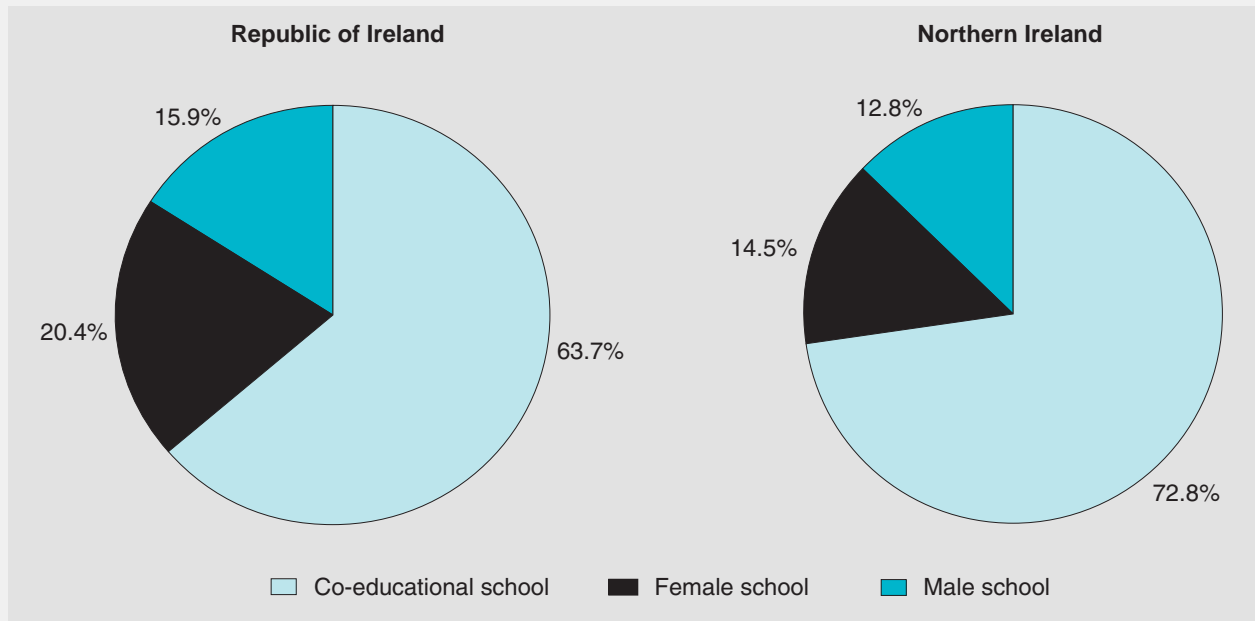
**Table 4.3 Single sex and co-educational second level schools**

Second level	Numbers and percentages											
	1996/97		1997/98		1998/99		1999/00		2000/01		2001/02	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>												
Male School	129	16.9	128	16.8	125	16.5	120	16.0	119	15.8	119	15.9
Female School	160	21.0	159	20.9	156	20.5	156	20.7	150	20.0	153	20.4
Co-Educational School	474	62.1	475	62.3	478	63.0	476	63.3	482	64.2	478	63.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup></b>												
Male School	36	15.1	36	15.1	34	14.4	34	14.3	33	13.9	30	12.8
Female School	40	16.8	39	16.4	37	15.6	37	15.6	36	15.1	34	14.5
Co-Educational School	162	68.1	163	68.5	166	70.0	167	70.2	169	71.0	171	72.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> Northern Ireland figures exclude special schools.

**Figure 4.1 Single sex and co-educational second level schools, 2001/02**



**Table 4.4 Number of examination candidates**

Examination	<i>Numbers</i>					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>						
<b>Junior certificate</b>						
Male	33,740	33,137	31,773	31,302	30,308	30,150
Female	33,313	32,471	30,886	30,168	29,816	30,002
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,053</b>	<b>65,608</b>	<b>62,659</b>	<b>61,470</b>	<b>60,124</b>	<b>60,152</b>
<b>Leaving certificate</b>						
Male	30,380	31,333	30,811	30,138	28,176	27,716
Female	33,607	34,589	34,125	33,281	31,361	30,684
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,987</b>	<b>65,922</b>	<b>64,936</b>	<b>63,419</b>	<b>59,537</b>	<b>58,400</b>
<b>Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup></b>						
<b>GCSE</b>						
Male	12,296	12,217	12,452	12,195	12,384	12,554
Female	12,310	12,236	12,175	12,241	12,339	12,412
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,606</b>	<b>24,453</b>	<b>24,627</b>	<b>24,436</b>	<b>24,723</b>	<b>24,966</b>
<b>'A' level<sup>2</sup></b>						
Male	3,899	3,879	3,893	4,020	4,223	4,140
Female	4,928	5,213	5,182	5,594	5,857	6,043
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,827</b>	<b>9,092</b>	<b>9,075</b>	<b>9,614</b>	<b>10,080</b>	<b>10,183</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> NI figures exclude special and independent schools and pupils with statements of special educational needs.

<sup>2</sup> 'A' level figures refer to schools only.

**Table 4.5a** Number of examination candidates for the top ten subjects in the Republic of Ireland, 2001/02

*Numbers*

Junior Certificate		Leaving Certificate	
Subject	Number of candidates	Subject	Number of candidates
English	59,590	Mathematics	53,658
Mathematics	59,295	English	52,997
Civil Social and Political Education	58,278	Irish	49,085
Irish	55,433	French	32,116
Geography	54,446	Geography	28,430
History	53,796	Business Organisation	23,605
Science	52,092	Biology	22,064
French	40,523	Home Economics	18,403
Business Studies	38,041	History	10,792
Art, Craft and Design	21,536	Art	9,224

Source Department of Education and Science

**Table 4.5b** Number of examination candidates for the top ten subjects in Northern Ireland, 2001/02<sup>1</sup>

*Numbers*

GCSE <sup>2</sup>		'A' level <sup>3</sup>	
Subject	Number of candidates	Subject	Number of candidates
Mathematics	23,265	Biology	2,780
English	20,539	English Literature	2,414
Religious Studies	13,492	Mathematics	2,104
French	13,173	Geography	2,055
Science (Double Award)	12,960	History	1,850
English Literature	11,132	Chemistry	1,610
Geography	9,839	Business Studies	1,476
Science (Single Award)	9,209	Physics	1,362
History	8,615	Politics	1,029
Business Studies	6,072	French	959

Source Department of Education

<sup>1</sup> Figures exclude special and independent schools.

<sup>2</sup> GCSE figures refer to Year 12 pupils in schools.

<sup>3</sup> 'A' level figures refer to schools only.

**Table 4.6a Higher education enrolments in the Republic of Ireland<sup>1</sup>**

Type of enrolment	Numbers					
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Full-time undergraduate	90,230	93,912	97,798	104,784	108,562	111,918
Part-time undergraduate	18,521	20,669	22,008	25,100	25,960	27,295
Full-time postgraduate	10,501	11,055	11,292	11,639	12,131	13,412
Part-time postgraduate	4,185	4,770	5,386	6,558	6,499	7,890

Source Higher Education Authority

<sup>1</sup> Refers only to students enrolled in state-aided ROI institutions.

**Table 4.6b Higher education enrolments in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>**

Type of enrolment	Numbers					
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Full-time undergraduate	35,081	36,842	37,449	37,870	39,220	40,300
Part-time undergraduate	14,357	17,224	17,924	19,454	20,140	20,918
Full-time postgraduate	4,192	3,953	3,503	3,428	3,663	3,762
Part-time postgraduate	5,109	5,710	5,612	5,654	5,398	5,078

Source Department for Employment and Learning

<sup>1</sup> Includes students enrolled on Higher Education courses in GB and ROI institutions (in 2001/02, this accounted for approximately 20,000 students).



**Table 4.7a First destinations of third level students from Republic of Ireland institutions who qualified in 2000/01**

*Numbers and percentages*

First destinations	Undergraduate		Postgraduate	
	Number	%	Number	%
Gained employment	10,852	46.8	3,855	79.4
Further study or training	10,817	46.6	588	12.1
Not available for employment, study or training	821	3.5	180	3.7
Seeking employment	711	3.1	230	4.7
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>23,201</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,853</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total graduates</b>	<b>33,327</b>		<b>7,247</b>	

Source Higher Education Authority

**Table 4.7b First destinations of Northern Ireland domiciled third level students who qualified in 2000/01**

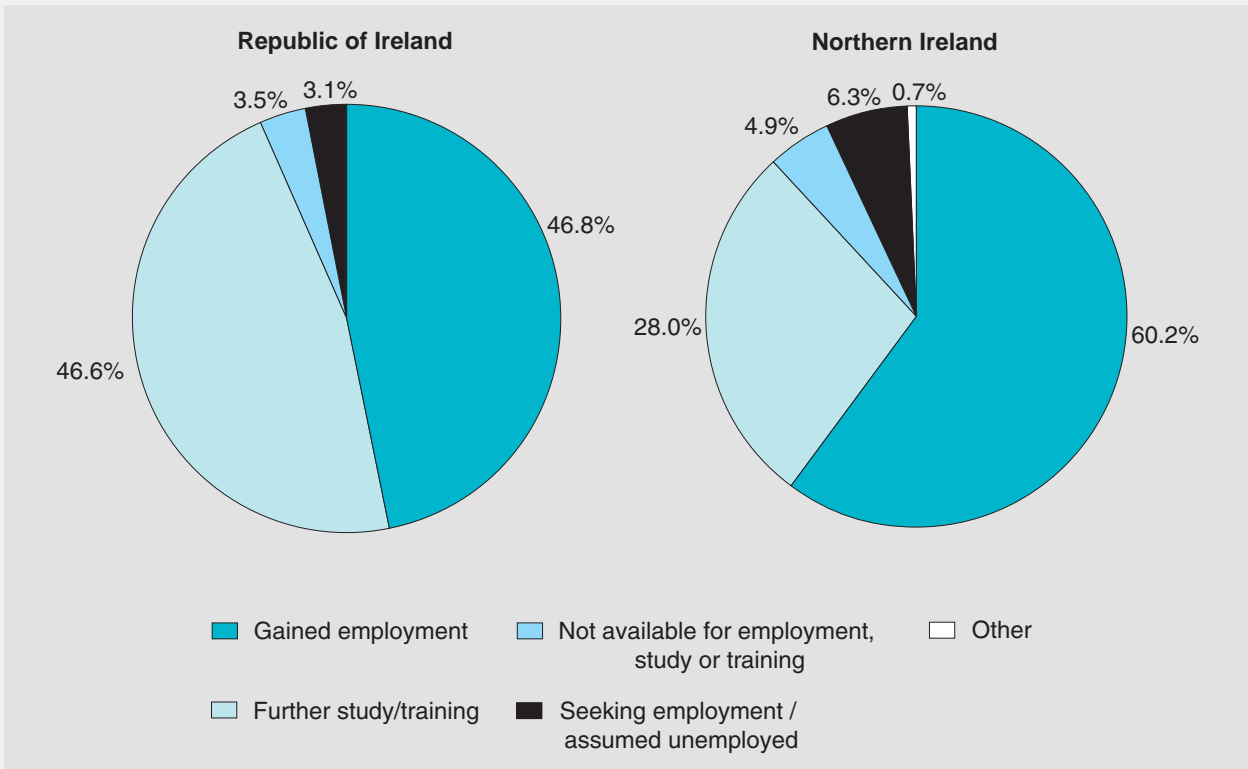
*Numbers and percentages*

First destinations	Undergraduate		Postgraduate	
	Number	%	Number	%
Entered employment	4,495	60.2	1,093	86.0
Undertaking study or training	2,092	28.0	96	7.6
Not available for employment, study or training	363	4.9	40	3.1
Assumed to be unemployed	467	6.3	37	2.9
Other	54	0.7	5	0.4
<b>Total graduates</b>	<b>7,471</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,271</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source Department for Employment and Learning

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**Figure 4.2 First destinations of third level undergraduate students who qualified in 2000/01**



## **Technical Notes**

### **Table 4.1 and 4.2**

In the Republic of Ireland, first level data includes national schools and special schools aided by the Department of Education and Science only. The national schools figure includes special classes which are provided in a number of these schools for pupils with special needs, for example, hearing and visually impaired, mild mental handicap and traveller children. Second level includes secondary schools, vocational schools/community colleges, community schools and comprehensive schools aided by the Department of Education and Science only. Pupil numbers for the Republic of Ireland are taken from the school census.

In Northern Ireland, first level includes nursery and primary grant aided schools and grammar preparatory. Second level includes secondary, grammar and special schools. NI pupil numbers are taken from the annual school census, which covers all schools in Northern Ireland and collects a wide range of data relating to pupils.

Republic of Ireland data for teachers are taken from returns made by schools to the Department of Education and Science. Teacher numbers are full-time equivalent.

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' pay roll system. The teacher numbers are given as a full-time equivalent.

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

### **Table 4.5a**

Republic of Ireland figures are a combination of Ordinary Level and Higher Level subjects taken. English, Irish and Mathematics are tested at three levels namely Foundation, Ordinary and Higher Level for the Junior Certificate. For the Leaving Certificate, Mathematics is tested at Alternative, Ordinary and Higher Level while Irish is tested at Foundation, Ordinary and Higher Level. Figures do not include candidates sitting for Applied Mathematics.

### **Table 4.6a and 4.6b**

Republic of Ireland data for third level students refer to the Higher Education Authority 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.

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NI figures include NI students at United Kingdom (includes students enrolled at Northern Ireland institutions) and Republic of Ireland institutions. 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 4.7a and 4.7b**

ROI data includes graduates of full-time third level courses from the universities, teacher training colleges, Institutes of Technology, other state-aided institutions and some of the larger private colleges.

NI data refer to NI students gaining HE qualifications at higher education institutions in the UK.