

6

Education

- In 2008 over 28.8% of those aged 15 to 64 had a third level qualification.
- At age 19, 65.2% of females and 49.7% of males were in full-time education in 2007/2008.
- In 2007 total gross expenditure on education by the State was €8,705m.
- In 2008 there were 30,368 primary school teachers in the State, 84% of whom were females.
- In 2007/2008 there were 27,236 full-time equivalent teachers in secondary, vocational and community/comprehensive schools.
- 59.6% of new entrants to HEA institutions and 52.6% of new entrants to all third level institutions were female in 2007/2008.

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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) modules 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 2008 28.8% of those aged 15-64 had a third level qualification. 64.6% of all persons aged 15-64 attained education levels of higher secondary level or above. Over 13.1% of persons aged 15-64 had not progressed beyond primary level education.

Persons in education

The number of students in first level education totalled 490,838 in 2007/08. This was a significant increase over 2000/01 but represented only 85% 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 2007/2008. Over the period 1965-2008, there was an increase of over 700% in the third level student population, although the number declined by 1,488 places in 2007/08, as compared with 2006/07.

In 2007/08, participation rates for males and females differed substantially over the age group 15-22, with more females than males in full-time education between the ages of 15 and 24 years. At the age of 19, 65.2% of females and 49.7% of males were in full-time education. This can be partially explained by a greater male participation in the labour force for the 15-19 age cohort. The education participation rates by gender became more balanced for the ages 23 and 24.

Women formed 59.6% of new entrants to the HEA institutions (Universities and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland) in the year 2007/08, but formed only 45.4% 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 21,100 in 1998 to 30,368 in 2008. 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 27,236 in 2007/08.

Examination Results

The number of examination candidates in second level schools has declined from 124,889 in 2000 to 108,083 in 2008. The number of students in 2008 taking higher level Leaving Certificate English was 61% compared to 27% in Irish and 16% in Mathematics. The number of students in 2008 achieving an A Grade in higher level English was 10%, in higher level Irish was 13% and in higher level Mathematics was 14%.

Technical Notes

Table 6.1

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

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 6.7

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.

Table 6.9

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

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.

Education

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 cert	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 cert	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 cert	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

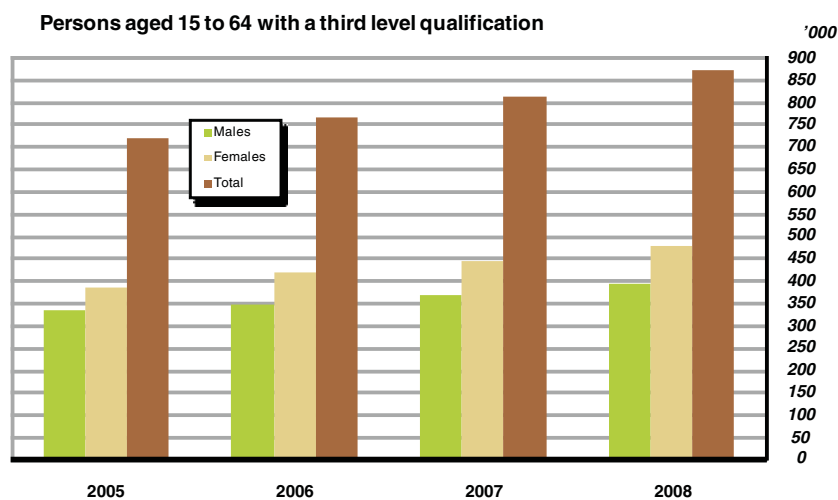
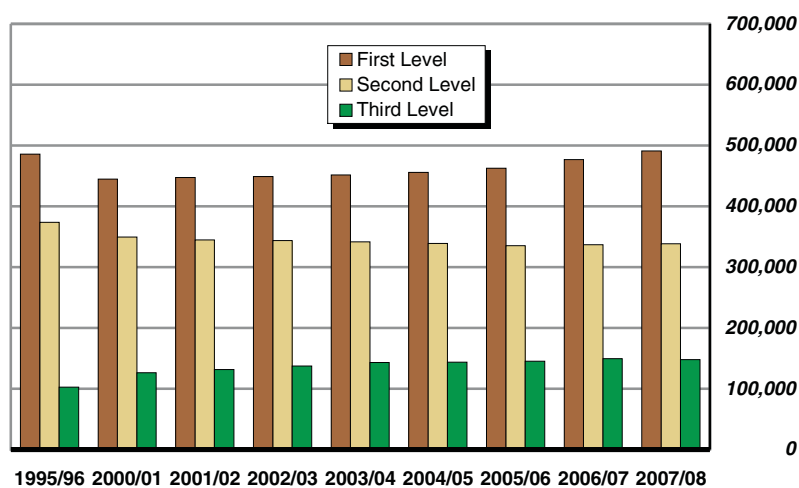


Table 6.2 Persons in full-time education by level

School year	Number		
	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

Source: Department of Education and Science

Persons in full-time education by level



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Table 6.3 Persons receiving full-time education and estimated participation rates for ages 15-24, 2007/08

Age	In full-time education			As % of population	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
15	28,921	28,265	57,186	100.3	104.3
16	28,028	28,247	56,275	95.2	99.4
17	24,945	26,114	51,059	81.6	91.0
18	17,262	20,968	38,230	61.0	75.4
19	13,635	17,799	31,434	49.7	65.2
20	12,428	16,603	29,031	43.3	56.0
21	11,242	14,320	25,562	35.4	46.4
22	7,271	8,607	15,878	21.5	25.3
23	4,526	5,060	9,586	12.8	14.3
24	3,435	4,028	7,463	9.5	10.5

Source: Department of Education and Science

Full-time education participation rate by sex for ages 15-24, 2007/2008

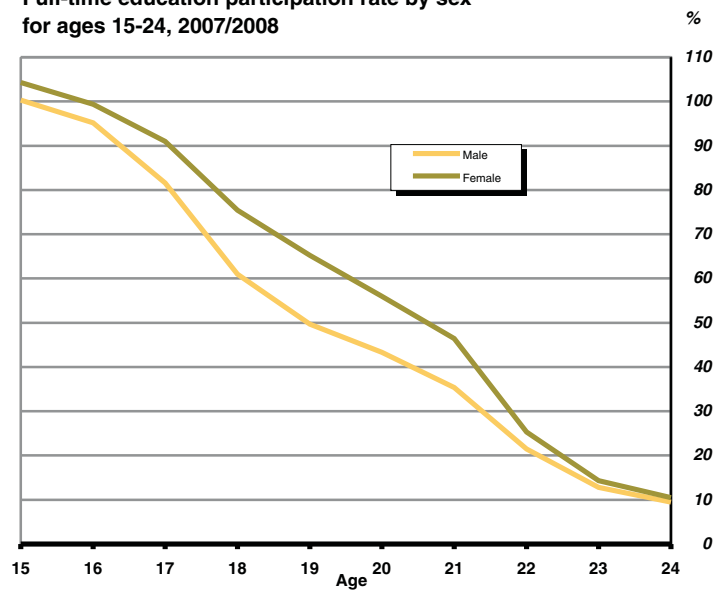


Table 6.4 Voted expenditure by sector for financial year ended 31 December 2007

€m			
Sector	Current	Capital	Total
Administration and other services	657,713	9,412	667,125
First level education grants and services	2,700,228	398,556	3,098,784
Second level and further education grants and services	2,775,631	247,470	3,023,101
Third level and further education grants and services	1,733,203	150,509	1,883,712
Capital services	23,735	8,133	31,868
Gross expenditure	7,890,510	814,080	8,704,590
Appropriations in aid	224,450	2,913	227,363
Net expenditure	7,666,060	811,167	8,477,227

Source: Department of Education and Science

Table 6.5 Pupils in first level schools by standard

Number							
Standard	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Infants standard	107,500	111,355	113,150	113,749	115,418	120,314	124,988
First standard	51,138	52,166	54,770	56,131	57,393	57,546	59,559
Second standard	50,927	51,243	52,211	54,865	56,435	57,913	58,159
Third standard	51,960	51,226	51,567	52,436	55,373	57,121	58,604
Fourth standard	54,079	52,068	51,323	51,829	52,891	56,027	57,871
Fifth standard	54,916	54,476	52,405	51,713	52,416	53,688	56,788
Sixth standard	53,760	54,616	54,225	52,382	51,832	52,705	54,115
Other standard	427	379	320	215	208	141	186
Special schools	6,982	6,807	6,718	6,621	6,627	6,578	6,619
Pupils with special needs in ordinary first level schools	9,376	9,384	9,340	9,357	9,296	9,486	9,555
Private primary schools	6,381	5,034	5,726	6,274	4,922	5,559	4,394
Total pupils	447,446	448,754	451,755	455,572	462,811	477,078	490,838

Source: Department of Education and Science

Table 6.6 Teaching posts in first level schools on 30 June

Number											
Sex	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Male	4,522	4,498	4,370	4,503	4,536	4,490	4,578	4,493	4,485	4,632	4,868
Female	16,578	17,002	17,480	18,347	19,399	20,210	21,461	21,789	23,030	24,902	25,500
Total	21,100	21,500	21,850	22,850	23,935	24,700	26,039	26,282	27,515	29,534	30,368

Source: Department of Education and Science

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Table 6.7 Teachers in secondary, vocational and community schools

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

Source: Department of Education and Science

Table 6.8 Second level state examination candidates

Examination	Number									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Junior Certificate	61,470	60,124	60,152	59,340	56,864	56,640	57,784	57,287	55,940	
Male	31,302	30,308	30,150	29,855	28,495	28,627	29,273	28,812	27,632	
Female	30,168	29,816	30,002	29,485	28,369	28,013	28,511	28,475	28,308	
Leaving Certificate	63,419	59,537	58,400	59,536	58,742	57,391	54,111	53,893	52,143	
Male	30,138	28,176	27,716	28,532	28,059	27,189	25,832	25,730	25,238	
Female	33,281	31,361	30,684	31,004	30,683	30,202	28,279	28,163	26,905	
ALL EXAMINATION CANDIDATES	124,889	119,661	118,552	118,876	115,606	114,031	111,895	111,180	108,083	
Male	61,440	58,484	57,866	58,387	56,554	55,816	55,105	54,542	52,870	
Female	63,449	61,177	60,686	60,489	59,052	58,215	56,790	56,638	55,213	

Sources: Department of Education and Science & State Examination Commission

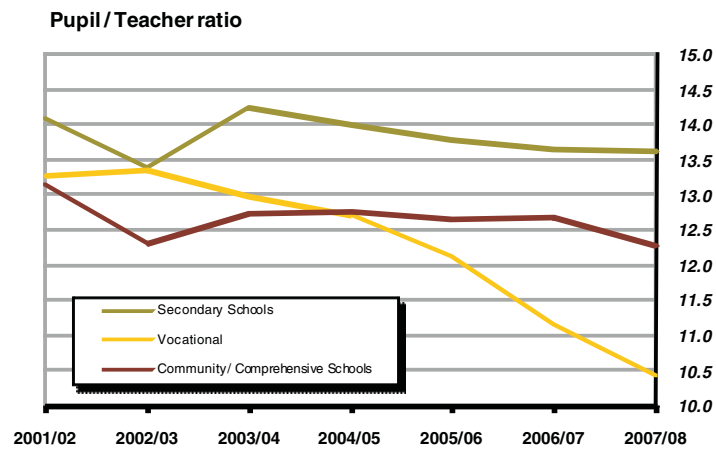


Table 6.9 Pupils in all second level schools by Leaving Certificate subject, 2008

Number

Subject	Number of pupils			% studying subject	
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Mathematics	50,274	51,598	101,872	99.8	99.7
English	50,221	51,629	101,850	99.7	99.8
Irish	45,235	47,354	92,589	89.8	91.5
Religious Education	41,928	44,921	86,849	83.3	86.8
Physical Education	29,710	34,052	63,762	59.0	65.8
French	26,430	33,540	59,970	52.5	64.8
Biology	19,087	35,924	55,011	37.9	69.4
Geography	26,956	21,750	48,706	53.5	42.0
Business Studies	17,089	19,052	36,141	33.9	36.8
Home Economics (New syllabus)	3,030	23,523	26,553	6.0	45.5
History	13,887	10,599	24,486	27.6	20.5
Computer Studies	10,521	12,198	22,719	20.9	23.6
Construction Studies	17,858	1,513	19,371	35.5	2.9
German	7,615	8,794	16,409	15.1	17.0
Chemistry	6,454	8,169	14,623	12.8	15.8
Physics	10,969	3,597	14,566	21.8	7.0
Accounting	6,683	7,565	14,248	13.3	14.6
Art (with Craftwork option)	4,344	7,931	12,275	8.6	15.3
Engineering	10,209	677	10,886	20.3	1.3
Art (with Design option)	3,908	6,040	9,948	7.8	11.7
Music	2,818	7,091	9,909	5.6	13.7
Agricultural Science	5,886	2,466	8,352	11.7	4.8
Economics	5,082	2,933	8,015	10.1	5.7
Spanish	2,855	4,355	7,210	5.7	8.4
Technical Drawing	5,265	490	5,755	10.5	0.9
Choir	182	2,871	3,053	0.4	5.5
Applied Maths	1,538	604	2,142	3.1	1.2
Health Education	505	1,287	1,792	1.0	2.5
Physics and Chemistry	759	450	1,209	1.5	0.9
Classical Studies	595	529	1,124	1.2	1.0
Speech and Drama	7	578	585	0.0	1.1
Italian	146	319	465	0.3	0.6
Latin	220	44	264	0.4	0.1
Typewriting	60	172	232	0.1	0.3
Keyboarding	120	76	196	0.2	0.1
Orchestra	0	94	94	0.0	0.2
Agricultural Economics	52	32	84	0.1	0.1
Greek	9	4	13	0.0	0.0
Economic History	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Leaving Certificate Programme	50,361	51,733	102,094		

Source: Department of Education and Science

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Table 6.10 Leaving Certificate candidates taking selected subjects at ordinary level

%

Subject	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Mathematics	70	70	71	70	70	68	68	69	69	69
Irish	53	52	53	52	52	52	52	52	50	49
English	42	43	39	39	37	37	35	35	34	34
French	30	32	31	31	31	29	30	28	28	26
Biology	18	17	17	15	16	15	15	15	16	16
Business Studies	11	13	14	13	13	13	13	13	12	13
Geography	11	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	12
Mathematics (Foundation)	9	10	9	10	10	11	10	10	11	11
Irish (Foundation)	9	9	9	10	9	9	9	9	9	9
History	8	8	7	7	8	8	7	7	8	8
Home Economics (S & S)	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	7
German	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Technical Drawing	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Art	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Physics	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	4	4
Construction Studies	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Accounting	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Spanish	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3
Engineering	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
Economics	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Chemistry	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2
Agricultural Science	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Music	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Physics and Chemistry	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sources: Department of Education and Science and State Examination Commission

All Leaving Certificate students taking selected subjects, 2008

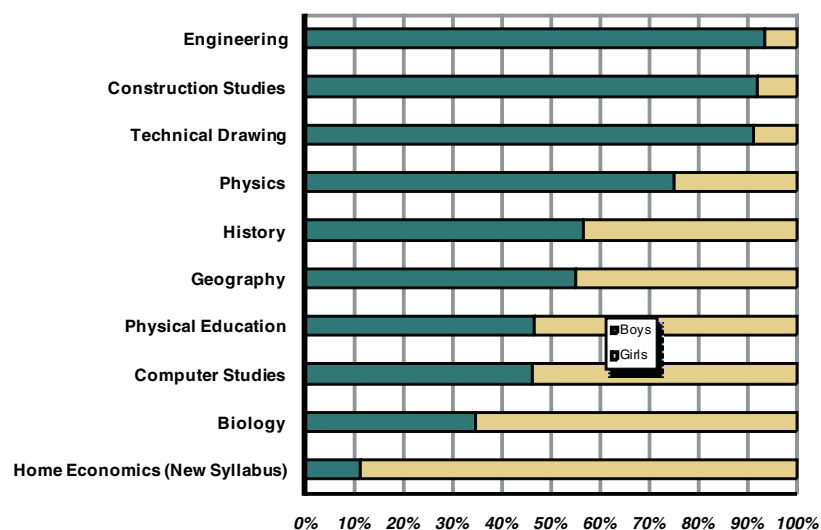


Table 6.11 Leaving Certificate candidates taking selected subjects at higher level

%

Subject	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
English	53	53	55	57	58	59	60	60	61	61
Geography	36	37	38	38	39	39	39	35	35	35
Biology	28	27	26	25	25	29	32	33	34	35
French	29	28	28	27	27	27	27	26	27	27
Irish	27	28	28	27	27	27	27	25	27	27
Business Studies	28	29	29	29	28	27	25	25	25	23
Home Economics (S & S)	27	25	25	24	23	19	18	16	16	17
Mathematics	17	18	18	17	17	17	18	18	16	16
Art	11	11	11	12	12	13	14	15	15	15
History	13	13	12	12	13	12	12	14	15	15
Construction Studies	10	11	11	11	12	12	12	13	12	13
Chemistry	9	9	9	10	10	11	11	11	11	11
Physics	10	10	10	11	11	11	10	10	10	9
Accounting	10	9	9	8	8	9	9	10	10	9
German	11	11	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Music	4	5	5	6	6	7	8	8	9	9
Economics	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	5	7
Engineering	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7
Agricultural Science	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	6	6	7
Technical Drawing	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Spanish	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
Applied Mathematics	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Classical Studies	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Physics and Chemistry	2	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, 2008

%

Subject	Grade				
	A	B	C	D	E or lower
Mathematics (Alt/Ord)	32	25	17	18	8
Accounting	22	26	20	17	16
History	20	29	28	19	4
Physics	16	32	27	18	9
Technical Drawing	12	27	29	23	9
Mathematics	12	28	27	21	12
Economics	12	32	32	17	6
Chemistry	12	31	26	19	14
Business Studies	11	32	31	19	7
English	8	29	39	20	4
Irish (Foundation)	5	37	44	13	1
Irish	5	33	37	20	6
Biology	5	25	34	26	11
German	4	35	37	19	6
Geography	3	26	47	20	4
Engineering	2	22	38	28	10
Home Economics (S & S)	2	24	39	28	8
French	2	19	40	31	8
Art	1	21	46	26	5
Construction Studies	1	17	41	31	16

Sources: Department of Education and Science & State Examination Commission

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Table 6.13 Leaving Certificate higher level grades for most popular subjects, 2008

Subject	Grade					%
	A	B	C	D	E or lower	
Applied Mathematics	27	28	23	14	9	
Physics and Chemistry	26	27	21	14	13	
Chemistry	24	31	24	16	6	
Accounting	20	28	24	18	9	
Physics	20	27	24	21	9	
Biology	17	27	28	21	8	
Spanish	16	34	32	17	1	
German	15	27	37	19	2	
Music	15	52	29	22	3	
Mathematics	14	31	33	18	5	
Technical Drawing	14	32	29	20	5	
Agricultural Science	14	27	28	21	8	
French	13	27	33	23	3	
Irish	13	33	36	17	1	
History	12	33	33	19	4	
Economics	12	33	30	21	5	
Business Studies	11	29	31	23	6	
Engineering	11	32	35	18	4	
English	10	27	40	22	1	
Classical Studies	9	26	33	23	3	
Home Economics (S & S)	9	31	35	22	3	
Geography	8	29	38	23	3	
Construction Studies	7	34	39	18	2	
Art	5	32	41	21	2	

Source: Department of Education and Science and State Examination Commission

Grade distribution of selected Leaving Certificate higher level subjects, 2008

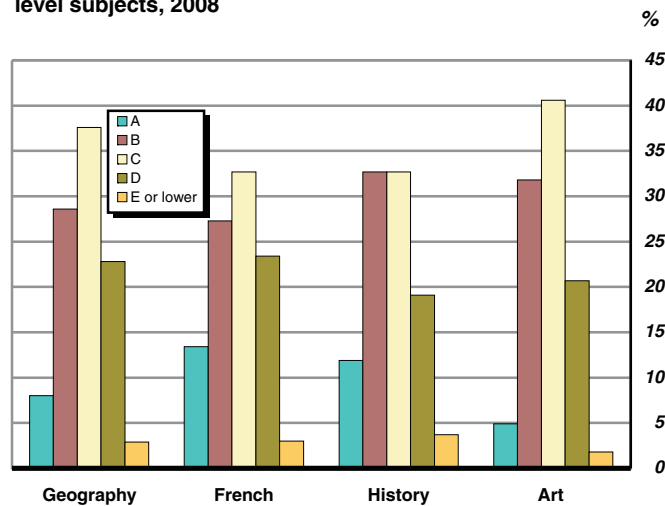


Table 6.14 First time entrants to third level courses in all institutions, 2007/08

Number

Type of institution	Male	Female	Total
HEA institutions	8,231	12,118	20,349
IOT/Technological sector	8,563	7,124	15,687
Other	1,609	1,162	2,771
Total	18,403	20,404	38,807

Source: Department of Education and Science

