

# 6

## Education

- In 2010, 31.8% of those aged between 15-64 had a third level qualification.
- At age 19, 75.0% of females and 65.1% of males were in full-time education in 2009/10.
- In 2010 total gross expenditure on education by the State was €9,355.6m.
- In 2010 there were 31,881 primary school teachers in the State, 84.4% of whom were females.
- In 2009/10 there were 25,801 full-time equivalent teachers in secondary, vocational and community/comprehensive schools.
- 53.9% of new entrants to Universities and 49.6% of new entrants to all third level institutions were female in 2009/10.

## Contents

Introductory text	91
<b>Table 6.1</b> Persons aged 15-64 by the highest level of education attained	94-95
<b>Table 6.2</b> Persons in full-time education by level	96
<b>Table 6.3</b> Persons receiving full-time education and estimated participation rates for ages 15-24, 2009/10	97
<b>Table 6.4</b> Voted expenditure by sector for financial year ended 31 December 2009	98
<b>Table 6.5</b> Pupils in first level schools by standard	98
<b>Table 6.6</b> Teaching posts in first level schools on 30 June	98
<b>Table 6.7</b> Teachers in secondary, vocational and community schools	99
<b>Table 6.8</b> Second level state examination candidates	99
<b>Table 6.9</b> Pupils in all second level schools taking each subject in the Leaving Certificate Programme, 2009/2010	100-101
<b>Table 6.10</b> Leaving Certificate candidates taking selected subjects at ordinary level	102
<b>Table 6.11</b> Leaving Certificate candidates taking selected subjects at higher level	103
<b>Table 6.12</b> Leaving Certificate ordinary level grades for most popular subjects, 2010	103
<b>Table 6.13</b> Leaving Certificate higher level grades for most popular subjects, 2010	104
<b>Table 6.14</b> First time entrants to third level courses in all institutions, 2009/10	105

## **Introduction**

The statistics in this chapter have been obtained from the Department of Education and Skills. 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 2010 31.8% of those aged 15-64 had a third level qualification. 68.5% of all persons aged 15-64 attained education levels of higher secondary level or above. 11.4% of persons aged 15-64 had not progressed beyond primary level education.

## **Persons in education**

The number of students in first level education totalled 510,460 in 2009/10. This was a significant increase over 2008/09 but represented only 88.5% 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 2009/10. Over the period 1965-2010, there was an increase of almost 700% in the third level student population. There were 12,157 extra places taken up in 2009/10 as compared with 2008/09.

In 2009/10, 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 17 and 24 years. At the age of 19, 75.0% of females and 65.1% 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 22, 23 and 24.

Women accounted for 53.9% of new entrants to universities and 77.8% of new entrants to teacher training colleges in the year 2009/10, but accounted for only 42.7% 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 21,850 in 2000 to 31,881 in 2010. The number of teachers (full-time and full-time equivalents) in Secondary, Vocational and Community/Comprehensive schools has increased slightly from 25,692 in 2002/03 to 25,801 in 2009/10, although the number declined by 516 as compared with 2006/07.

## **Examination Results**

The number of examination candidates in second level schools has declined from 118,552 in 2002 to 110,565 in 2010. The percentage of students in 2010 taking higher level Leaving Certificate English was 61% compared to 27% in Irish and 15% in Mathematics. The percentage of students in 2010 achieving an A Grade in higher level English was 10%, in higher level Irish was 12% and in higher level Mathematics was 15%.

## Technical Notes

### Tables 6.1 and 6.1a

Tables 6.1 and 6.1a give details of the highest education attained by people in Ireland and are taken from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS).

A break in continuity occurred in the Educational Attainment series and, therefore, data from 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

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 Skills 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 Skills 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.

Data for Secondary, Community and Comprehensive schools are based on payroll figures. From 2009/10 Data for the Vocational sector are based on allocated posts - the classification breakdowns are based on VEC utilisation figures.

For 2007/08 and 2008/09 the total number of vocational teachers is included in the grand total but because a detailed breakdown of the number of vocational teachers (into full-time and full-time equivalent of part-time) are not available for 2007/08 and 2008/09, vocational teachers are excluded from the full-time and full-time equivalent of part-time totals in the table.

### Table 6.9

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

Data for Secondary, Community and Comprehensive schools are based on payroll figures. From 2009/10 Data for the Vocational sector are based on allocated posts - the classification breakdowns are based VEC utilisation figures.

**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.

## 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
<b>Males</b>						
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,358.9</b>	<b>1,385.4</b>	<b>1,425.9</b>	<b>1,473.1</b>	<b>1,512.2</b>	<b>1,526.1</b>
<b>Females</b>						
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,348.1</b>	<b>1,371.5</b>	<b>1,402.4</b>	<b>1,439.9</b>	<b>1,478.7</b>	<b>1,506.2</b>
<b>All persons</b>						
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,707.1</b>	<b>2,756.8</b>	<b>2,828.3</b>	<b>2,913.0</b>	<b>2,990.9</b>	<b>3,032.3</b>

Source: CSO

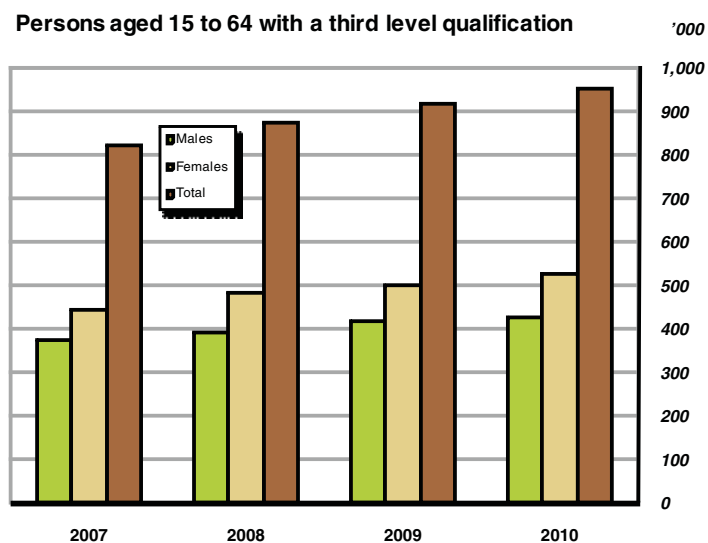


Table 6.1a Persons aged 15-64 by the highest level of education attained

Thousands

Highest education level attained	2009	2010
<b>Males</b>		
Primary or below	200.0	188.2
Lower secondary	304.0	280.9
Higher secondary	377.8	384.0
Post leaving certificate	172.0	170.0
Third level non-honours degree	167.3	160.4
Third level honours degree or above	249.6	266.4
Other	43.9	45.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,514.6</b>	<b>1,495.6</b>
<b>Females</b>		
Primary or below	166.9	154.1
Lower secondary	244.2	235.9
Higher secondary	395.3	393.9
Post leaving certificate	166.9	154.3
Third level non-honours degree	239.1	235.5
Third level honours degree or above	261.2	291.4
Other	40.4	42.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,513.9</b>	<b>1,507.2</b>
<b>All persons</b>		
Primary or below	366.9	342.3
Lower secondary	548.2	516.8
Higher secondary	773.1	777.8
Post leaving certificate	338.9	324.4
Third level non-honours degree	406.3	396.0
Third level honours degree or above	510.8	557.8
Other	84.3	87.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,028.5</b>	<b>3,002.8</b>

Source: CSO

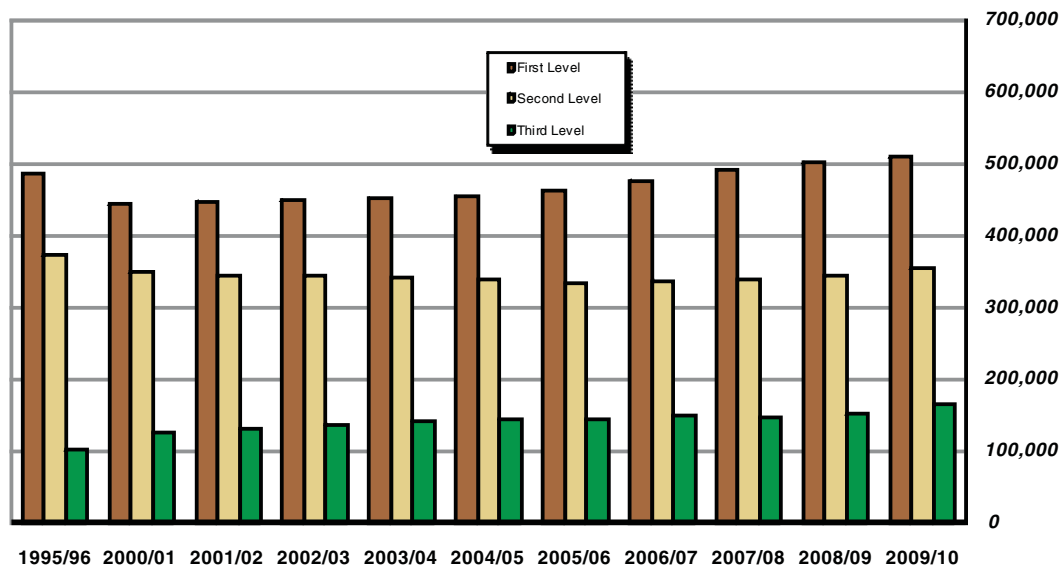
## Education

**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
2008/09	501,448	344,893	152,686
2009/10	510,460	354,235	164,843

Source: Department of Education and Skills

**Persons in full-time education by level**

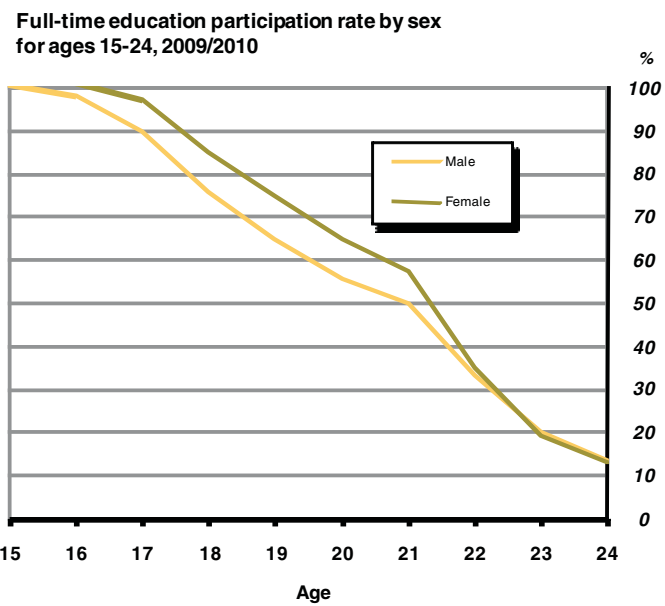




**Table 6.3 Persons receiving full-time education and estimated participation rates for ages 15-24, 2009/10**

Age	In full-time education			As % of population	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
15	28,467	27,424	55,891	100.7	102.4
16	27,815	27,372	55,187	98.2	101.5
17	26,315	26,852	53,167	89.9	97.4
18	20,933	23,257	44,190	75.6	85.4
19	17,094	19,729	36,823	65.1	75.0
20	14,200	17,233	31,433	55.7	65.1
21	12,584	15,368	27,952	49.9	57.7
22	9,007	10,006	19,013	33.5	34.9
23	5,819	5,948	11,767	20.2	19.1
24	4,253	4,291	8,544	13.8	13.0

Source: Department of Education and Skills



## Education

**Table 6.4 Voted expenditure by sector for financial year ended 31 December 2009**

€m

Sector	Current	Capital	Total
Administration and other services	503.2	30.0	533.2
First level education grants and services	3,133.3	–	3,133.3
Second level and further education grants and services	3,101.7	–	3,101.7
Third level and further education grants and services	1,820.9	–	1,820.9
Capital services	29.4	737.1	766.5
<b>Gross expenditure</b>	<b>8,588.5</b>	<b>767.1</b>	<b>9,355.6</b>
Appropriations in aid	573.9	5.6	579.5
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>8,014.6</b>	<b>761.5</b>	<b>8,776.1</b>

Source: Department of Education and Skills

**Table 6.5 Pupils in first level schools by standard**

Number

Standard	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Infants standard	113,150	113,749	115,418	120,314	124,988	128,486	129,569
First standard	54,770	56,131	57,393	57,546	59,559	61,767	62,827
Second standard	52,211	54,865	56,435	57,913	58,159	59,625	61,636
Third standard	51,567	52,436	55,373	57,121	58,604	58,498	59,783
Fourth standard	51,323	51,829	52,891	56,027	57,871	58,884	58,595
Fifth standard	52,405	51,713	52,416	53,688	56,788	58,447	59,248
Sixth standard	54,225	52,382	51,832	52,705	54,115	56,715	58,162
Other standard	320	215	208	141	186	171	190
Special schools	6,718	6,621	6,627	6,578	6,619	6,653	6,905
Pupils with special needs in ordinary first level schools	9,340	9,357	9,296	9,486	9,555	9,668	9,083
Private primary schools	5,726	6,274	4,922	5,559	4,394	2,534	4,462
<b>Total pupils</b>	<b>451,755</b>	<b>455,572</b>	<b>462,811</b>	<b>477,078</b>	<b>490,838</b>	<b>501,448</b>	<b>510,460</b>

Source: Department of Education and Skills

**Table 6.6 Teaching posts in first level schools on 30 June**

Number

Sex	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Male	4,370	4,503	4,536	4,490	4,578	4,493	4,485	4,632	4,868	4,715	4,969
Female	17,480	18,347	19,399	20,210	21,461	21,789	23,030	24,902	25,500	26,634	26,912
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,850</b>	<b>22,850</b>	<b>23,935</b>	<b>24,700</b>	<b>26,039</b>	<b>26,282</b>	<b>27,515</b>	<b>29,534</b>	<b>30,368</b>	<b>31,349</b>	<b>31,881</b>

Source: Department of Education and Skills

**Table 6.7 Teachers in secondary, vocational and community schools**

Number

Category	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
<b>Secondary</b>								
Full-time	12,447	11,835	11,553	11,477	11,501	11,506	11,630	11,323
Full-time equivalent of part-time	1,680	1,326	1,653	1,844	1,944	1,942	1,964	1,912
<b>Vocational</b>								
Full-time	5,933	5,977	5,994	6,482	7,132	n/a	n/a	6,130
Full-time equivalent of part-time	1,417	1,581	1,682	1,503	1,617	n/a	n/a	2,205
<b>Community and comprehensive</b>								
Full-time	3,682	3,602	3,487	3,452	3,452	3,482	3,522	3,428
Full-time equivalent of part-time	533	490	621	629	671	816	824	803
<b>Total</b>								
Full-time	<b>22,062</b>	<b>21,414</b>	<b>21,034</b>	<b>21,411</b>	<b>22,085</b>	<b>14,988</b>	<b>15,152</b>	<b>20,881</b>
Full-time equivalent of part-time	<b>3,630</b>	<b>3,397</b>	<b>3,956</b>	<b>3,976</b>	<b>4,232</b>	<b>2,758</b>	<b>2,788</b>	<b>4,920</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>								
Full-time and full-time equivalent	<b>25,692</b>	<b>24,811</b>	<b>24,990</b>	<b>25,387</b>	<b>26,317</b>	<b>25,648</b>	<b>26,100</b>	<b>25,801</b>

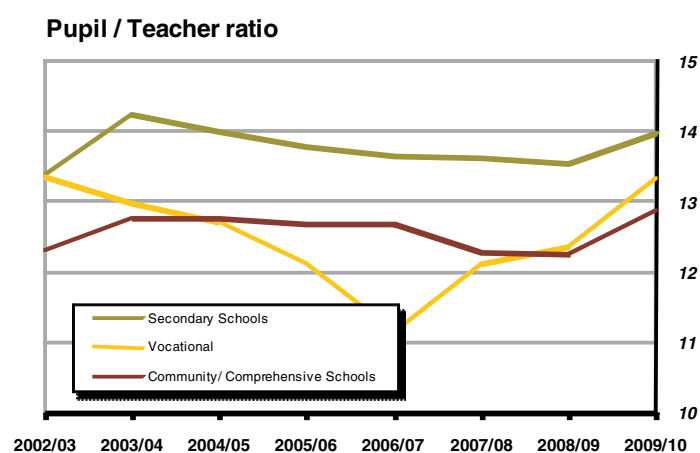
Source: Department of Education and Skills

**Table 6.8 Second level state examination candidates**

Number

Examination	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Junior Certificate</b>									
Male	60,152	59,340	56,864	56,640	57,784	57,287	55,940	55,557	56,086
Female	30,150	29,855	28,495	28,627	29,273	28,812	27,632	28,361	28,523
Female	30,002	29,485	28,369	28,013	28,511	28,475	28,308	27,196	27,563
<b>Leaving Certificate</b>									
Male	58,400	59,536	58,742	57,391	54,111	53,893	52,143	54,197	54,479
Female	27,716	28,532	28,059	27,189	25,832	25,730	25,238	26,546	27,056
Female	30,684	31,004	30,683	30,202	28,279	28,163	26,905	27,651	27,423
<b>ALL EXAMINATION CANDIDATES</b>									
Male	118,552	118,876	115,606	114,031	111,895	111,180	108,083	109,754	110,565
Female	57,866	58,387	56,554	55,816	55,105	54,542	52,870	54,907	55,579
Female	60,686	60,489	59,052	58,215	56,790	56,638	55,213	54,847	54,986

Sources: Department of Education and Skills & State Examination Commission



## Education

**Table 6.9 Pupils in all second level schools taking each subject in the Leaving Certificate Programme, 2009/2010**

Subject	Number				
	Number of pupils			% studying subject	
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Irish	45,517	46,826	<b>92,343</b>	87.8	89.7
English	51,618	51,940	<b>103,558</b>	99.6	99.5
Mathematics	51,414	51,743	<b>103,157</b>	99.2	99.2
History	14,122	10,542	<b>24,664</b>	27.3	20.2
Geography	29,108	23,755	<b>52,863</b>	56.2	45.5
French	26,431	32,936	<b>59,367</b>	51.0	63.1
German	7,181	8,200	<b>15,381</b>	13.9	15.7
Italian	296	409	<b>705</b>	0.6	0.8
Spanish	3,479	5,096	<b>8,575</b>	6.7	9.8
Ancient Greek	20	0	<b>20</b>	0.0	0.0
Hebrew Studies	30	74	<b>104</b>	0.1	0.1
Latin	477	170	<b>647</b>	0.9	0.3
Applied Mathematics	1,477	595	<b>2,072</b>	2.9	1.1
Physics	10,300	3,482	<b>13,782</b>	19.9	6.7
Chemistry	6,697	8,453	<b>15,150</b>	12.9	16.2
Physics and Chemistry	545	352	<b>897</b>	1.1	0.7
Agricultural Science	6,914	3,280	<b>10,194</b>	13.3	6.3
Biology	22,339	37,075	<b>59,414</b>	43.1	71.1
Agricultural Economics	4	12	<b>16</b>	0.0	0.0
Engineering	10,399	649	<b>11,048</b>	20.1	1.2
Technical Drawing	0	0	<b>0</b>	0.0	0.0
Construction Studies	17,418	1,358	<b>18,776</b>	33.6	2.6
Japanese (LC Exam)	89	250	<b>339</b>	0.2	0.5
Polish	44	61	<b>105</b>	0.1	0.1
Accounting	6,179	6,713	<b>12,892</b>	11.9	12.9
Business Studies	17,403	18,693	<b>36,096</b>	33.6	35.8
Economics	5,508	3,374	<b>8,882</b>	10.6	6.5
History Early-Mode	33	82	<b>115</b>	0.1	0.2
Art(with Design option)	3,823	4,989	<b>8,812</b>	7.4	9.6
Art(with Craftwork option)	4,788	8,980	<b>13,768</b>	9.2	17.2
Physical Education	30,839	34,102	<b>64,941</b>	59.5	65.4
Classical Studies	618	583	<b>1,201</b>	1.2	1.1
Computer Studies	10,010	11,214	<b>21,224</b>	19.3	21.5
Keyboarding	91	73	<b>164</b>	0.2	0.1
Choir	234	2,626	<b>2,860</b>	0.5	5.0
Orchestra	27	26	<b>53</b>	0.1	0.0
Religious Education	42,687	45,729	<b>88,416</b>	82.4	87.6
Typewriting	108	177	<b>285</b>	0.2	0.3
Health Education	487	1,331	<b>1,818</b>	0.9	2.6
Speech & Drama	21	576	<b>597</b>	0.0	1.1
Music	3,346	7,383	<b>10,729</b>	6.5	14.1
Dutch	92	42	<b>134</b>	0.2	0.1
Portuguese	52	12	<b>64</b>	0.1	0.0
Danish	5	9	<b>14</b>	0.0	0.0
Swedish	2	2	<b>4</b>	0.0	0.0

**Table 6.9 Pupils in all second level schools taking each subject in the Leaving Certificate Programme, 2009/2010 (continued)**

Subject	Number				
	Number of pupils			% studying subject	
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Home Economics	3,221	22,652	<b>25,873</b>	6.2	43.4
Russian (LC)	21	32	<b>53</b>	0.0	0.1
Technology	1,443	342	<b>1,785</b>	2.8	0.7
Preparation for Work	18,266	20,144	<b>38,410</b>	35.3	38.6
Enterprise Education	17,809	19,646	<b>37,455</b>	34.4	37.7
French (Basic)	1,807	1,054	<b>2,861</b>	3.5	2.0
German (Basic)	421	230	<b>651</b>	0.8	0.4
Spanish (Basic)	478	251	<b>729</b>	0.9	0.5
Italian (Basic)	81	31	<b>112</b>	0.2	0.1
French, Level 1	840	416	<b>1,256</b>	1.6	0.8
German, Level 1	260	60	<b>320</b>	0.5	0.1
Italian, Level 1	0	0	<b>0</b>	0.0	0.0
Spanish, Level 1	276	191	<b>467</b>	0.5	0.4
Modern Greek	46	45	<b>91</b>	0.1	0.1
Arabic	6	4	<b>10</b>	0.0	0.0
Religious Education (LC Exam)	729	1,042	<b>1,771</b>	1.4	2.0
Japanese	0	0	<b>0</b>	0.0	0.0
Czech	2	0	<b>2</b>	0.0	0.0
Latvian	5	8	<b>13</b>	0.0	0.0
Lithuanian	18	29	<b>47</b>	0.0	0.1
Romanian	9	14	<b>23</b>	0.0	0.0
Slovakian	0	1	<b>1</b>	0.0	0.0
Turkish	1	0	<b>1</b>	0.0	0.0
Design and Communication	11,134	1,554	<b>12,688</b>	21.5	3.0
Finnish	0	0	<b>0</b>	0.0	0.0
Estonian	0	0	<b>0</b>	0.0	0.0
Bulgarian	2	1	<b>3</b>	0.0	0.0
Hungarian	2	1	<b>3</b>	0.0	0.0
Architectural Tech	0	0	<b>0</b>	0.0	0.0
Project Mathematics	1,145	1,004	<b>2,149</b>	2.2	1.9
<b>Total number of pupils in the leaving certificate programme</b>	<b>51,814</b>	<b>52,179</b>	<b>103,993</b>		

Source: Department of Education and Skills

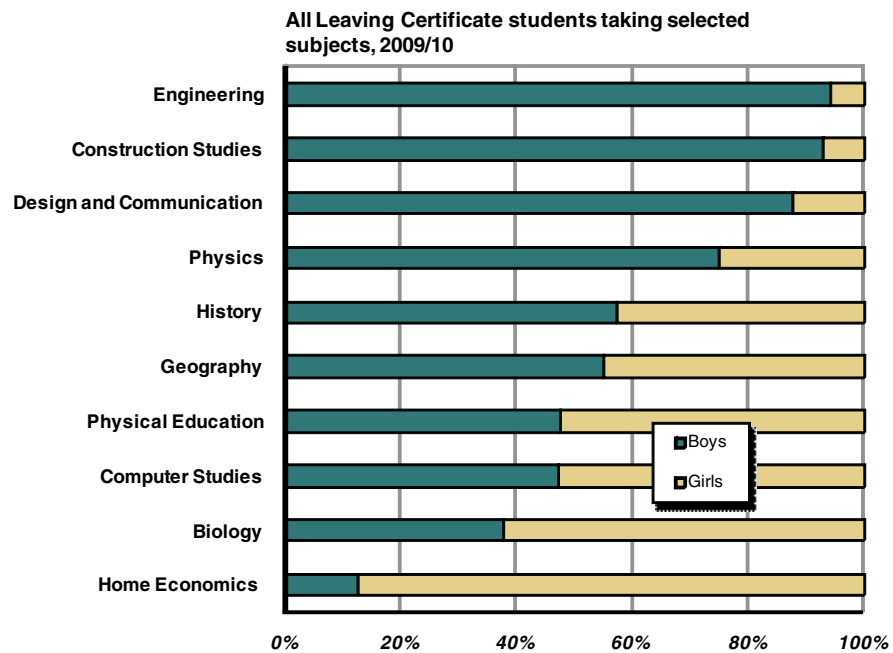
## Education

**Table 6.10 Leaving Certificate candidates taking selected subjects at ordinary level**

%

Subject	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Mathematics	71	70	70	68	68	69	69	69	69	70
Irish	53	52	52	52	52	52	50	49	48	48
English	39	39	37	37	35	35	34	34	34	34
French	31	31	31	29	30	28	28	26	26	24
Biology	17	15	16	15	15	15	16	16	15	15
Business Studies	14	13	13	13	13	13	12	13	11	11
Geography	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	12	11	11
Mathematics (Foundation)	9	10	10	11	10	10	11	11	11	11
Irish (Foundation)	9	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8
History	7	7	8	8	7	7	8	8	8	8
Home Economics	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	7	7	7
German	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5
Design and Communication	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	3
Art	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Physics	5	5	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	3
Construction Studies	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
Accounting	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
Spanish	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
Engineering	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
Economics	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2
Chemistry	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2
Agricultural Science	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Music	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Physics and Chemistry	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sources: Department of Education and Skills and State Examination Commission



**Table 6.11 Leaving Certificate candidates taking selected subjects at higher level**

%

Subject	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
English	55	57	58	59	60	60	61	61	61	61
Geography	38	38	39	39	39	35	35	35	35	37
Biology	26	25	25	29	32	33	34	35	37	38
French	28	27	27	27	27	26	27	27	25	26
Irish	28	27	27	27	27	25	27	27	27	27
Business Studies	29	29	28	27	25	25	25	23	23	23
Home Economics	25	24	23	19	18	16	16	17	17	16
Mathematics	18	17	17	17	18	18	16	16	16	15
Art	11	12	12	13	14	15	15	15	15	15
History	12	12	13	12	12	14	15	15	14	14
Construction Studies	11	11	12	12	12	13	12	13	13	13
Chemistry	9	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	12
Physics	10	11	11	11	10	10	10	9	9	9
Accounting	9	8	8	9	9	10	10	9	9	8
German	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	8
Music	5	6	6	7	8	8	9	9	9	10
Economics	7	7	7	7	7	7	5	7	7	7
Engineering	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7
Agricultural Science	4	4	4	4	5	6	6	7	8	9
Design and Communication	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	8
Spanish	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4
Applied Mathematics	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Classical Studies	1	2	1	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 Skills and State Examination Commission

**Table 6.12 Leaving Certificate ordinary level grades for most popular subjects, 2010**

%

Subject	Grade				
	A	B	C	D	E or lower
Mathematics	11	28	29	22	10
Irish	3	34	39	19	5
English	8	30	38	20	4
French	2	28	38	25	8
Biology	3	27	33	23	14
Business Studies	11	33	31	18	8
Mathematics (Foundation)	10	38	32	15	5
Geography	4	22	48	22	5
Irish (Foundation)	6	33	42	17	3
History	19	30	29	18	4
Home Economics	1	26	41	23	8
German	3	34	38	18	6
Art	1	21	46	27	6
Accounting	21	29	20	16	14
Design and Communication	6	31	34	18	11
Physics	17	32	24	16	12
Construction Studies	0	14	39	33	14
Spanish	5	29	36	22	8
Chemistry	8	22	26	25	19
Engineering	2	26	40	25	7
Agricultural science	0	14	36	36	13
Economics	11	33	31	19	6

Sources: Department of Education and Skills &amp; State Examination Commission

## Education

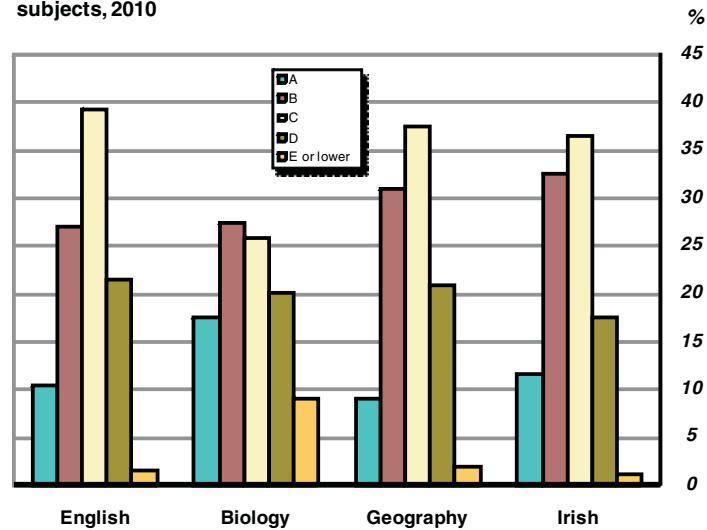
**Table 6.13 Leaving Certificate higher level grades for most popular subjects, 2010**

%

Subject	Grade				
	A	B	C	D	E or lower
English	10	27	39	22	2
Biology	18	28	26	20	9
Geography	9	31	38	21	2
Irish	12	33	37	18	1
French	13	26	34	24	3
Business	11	29	31	23	6
Home Economics	9	31	35	22	3
Mathematics	15	29	34	18	4
Art	6	33	40	20	2
History	13	30	32	20	4
Construction Studies	8	34	36	19	4
Chemistry	21	30	25	17	8
Music	16	53	27	5	0
Physics	21	29	24	20	7
Agricultural Science	10	27	32	24	7
Accounting	21	31	25	16	7
German	14	28	38	19	2
Design & Communication	14	34	29	19	4
Engineering	9	32	35	20	4
Spanish	17	34	32	15	2
Applied Mathematics	30	25	21	17	8

Source: Department of Education and Skills and State Examination Commission

**Grade distribution of selected Leaving Certificate higher level subjects, 2010**





**Table 6.14** First time entrants to third level courses in all institutions, 2009/10

*Number*

Type of institution	Male	Female	Total
H.E.A. Institutions	9,214	10,772	19,986
I.O.T./Technological Sector	10,836	8,074	18,910
Teacher Training Institutions	370	1,293	1,663
Other Colleges	382	349	731
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,802</b>	<b>20,488</b>	<b>41,290</b>

Source: Department of Education and Skills

