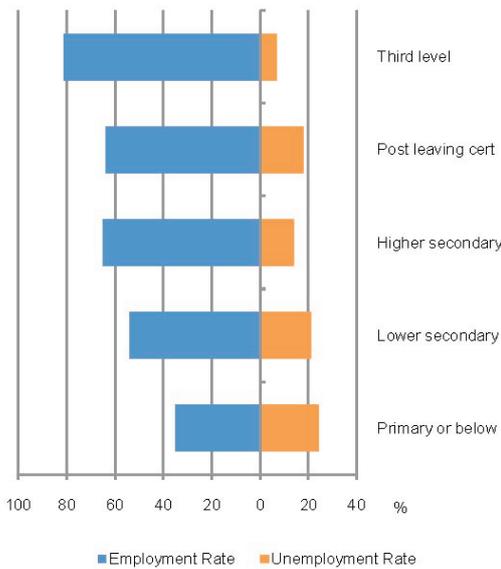




**Figure 1: Employment rate and unemployment rate for those aged 25-64 classified by highest level of education attained, April-June 2011**



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## Quarterly National Household Survey Educational Attainment Thematic Report 2011

Questions designed to measure the level of educational attainment in Ireland are included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) on an ongoing basis. This report presents the level of educational attainment for people in Ireland in Quarter 2 (Q2; April-June) 2011 and previous years. The percentages of those who have attained each of the different levels of educational attainment are given for the different levels of variables such as age, sex and nationality. Labour force participation rates, employment rates and unemployment rates are also presented for the different levels of educational attainment. Statistics for all 27 countries in the European Union (EU) are also presented for key indicators such as early school leavers and third level attainment to see how Ireland measures up against the rest of the EU.

**Table A: Summary of main results, April-June 2011**

Highest education level attained <sup>1</sup>	25-64 year olds			
	%	Labour force participation rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
Primary or below	10	46	35	24
Lower secondary	15	67	54	21
Higher secondary	24	76	65	14
Post leaving cert	13	78	64	18
Third Level	38	87	81	7
<b>Total persons aged 25 to 64</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>13</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.

### Summary of main findings

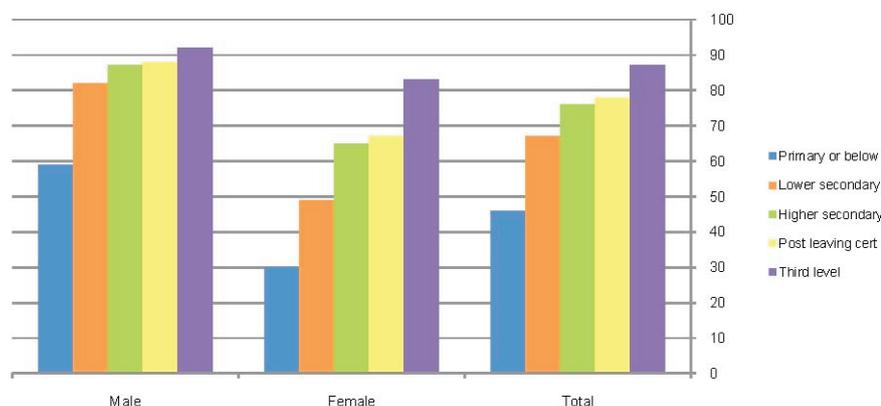
- The proportion of those aged 25-64 with a third level qualification was 38% in Quarter 2 (Q2) 2011. *See table A.*
- In Q2 2011, one in ten (10%) of those aged 25-64 had attained at most primary level education. *See table A.*
- Labour force participation rates clearly increased as the level of education attained increased; in Q2 2011, those with a third level qualification were almost twice as likely to be in the labour force (87%) compared to those with at most primary level education (46%). *See table A.*
- Employment rates clearly increased as the level of education attained increased with an employment rate of 35% in Q2 2011 for persons with at most primary level education compared with an employment rate of 81% for those with a third level qualification. *See table A and figure 1.*
- Those aged 25-64 with at most primary education were over three times more likely to be unemployed in Q2 2011 (24%) when compared with those who had attained a third level qualification (7%). *See table A and figure 1*

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## Higher educational attainment levels linked with higher labour force participation rates

In Quarter 2 (Q2) 2011, labour force participation rates amongst those aged 25-64 clearly increased as the level of education attained increased; those with a third level qualification were almost twice as likely to be in the labour force (87%) compared to those with at most primary level education (46%). While this relationship was observed for both males and females, it was much stronger amongst females; in Q2 2011 females aged 25-64 with a third level qualification were almost three times as likely to be in the labour force (83%) compared to females with at most primary level of education (30%). The corresponding values for males in Q2 2011 were 92% and 59% respectively. See table 6 and figure 2.

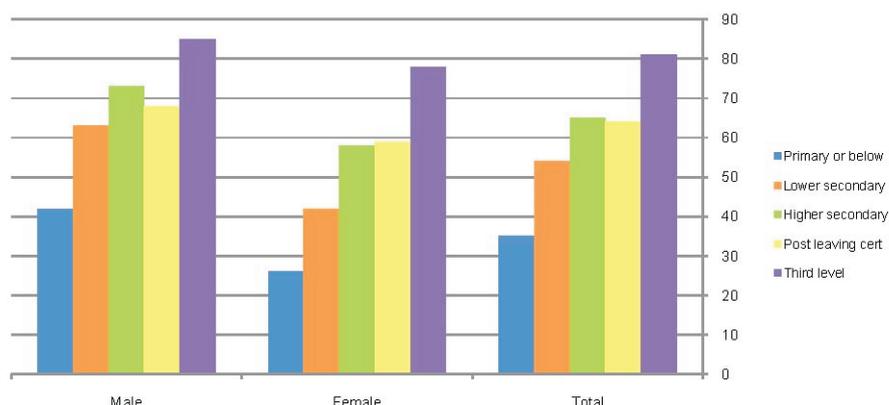
**Figure 2: Labour force participation rate of persons aged 25-64 classified by sex and the highest level of education attained, April-June 2011**



## Higher educational attainment levels linked with higher employment rates

In Q2 2011, employment rates amongst those aged 25-64 increased as the level of education attained increased with an employment rate of 35% for persons with at most primary level education compared with an employment rate of 81% for those with a third level qualification. The relationship between employment rates and level of education was particularly evident for females; only 26% of females with at most primary level education were employed in Q2 2011 compared to 78% of females with a third level qualification. The corresponding values for males in Q2 2011 were 42% and 85% respectively. The overall employment rate amongst those aged 25-64 has decreased by three percentage points from 69% in Q2 2009 to 66% in Q2 2011. In this period the employment rate for those with a third level qualification reduced by only one percentage point (from 82% in Q2 2009 to 81% in Q2 2011) while the employment rate for those with a post leaving certificate or lower level of education has decreased by between four and six percentage points. See table 7 and figure 3.

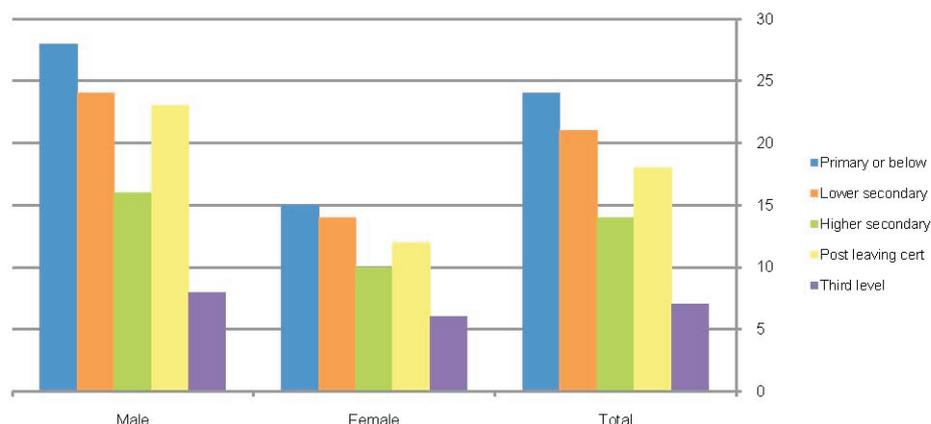
**Figure 3: Employment rate of persons aged 25-64 classified by sex and the highest level of education attained, April-June 2011**



## Higher educational attainment linked with lower unemployment rates

Unemployment rates clearly fell as the level of education attainment increased with an unemployment rate of 24% in Q2 2011 for persons aged 25-64 with at most primary education compared with 7% for persons with a third level qualification. The relationship between unemployment rates and level of education was particularly evident for men with a 28% unemployment rate for men with at most primary level education compared with an unemployment rate of 8% for men with a third level qualification. See table 8 and figure 4.

**Figure 4: Unemployment rate of persons aged 25-64 classified by sex and the highest level of education attained, April-June 2011**



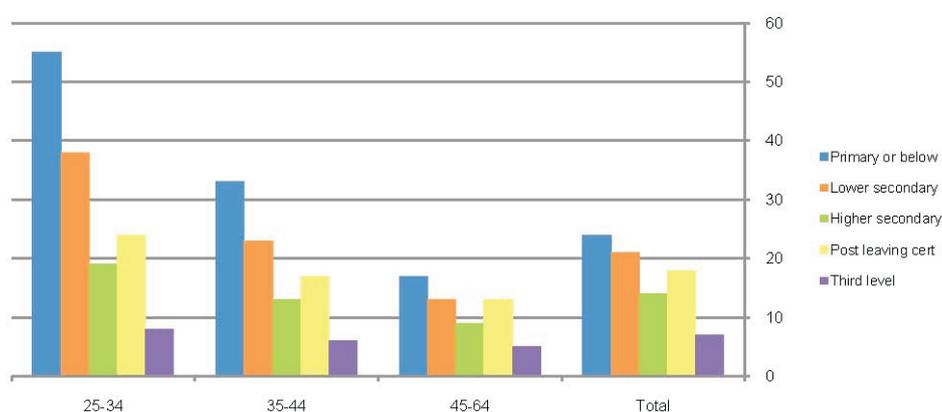
The gap between unemployment rates for those with the highest and lowest levels of education has increased from 10 percentage points in Q2 2009 (6% of those with a third level qualification and 16% of those with at most primary level education were unemployed) to 17 percentage points in Q2 2011 (7% of those with a third level qualification and 24% of those with at most primary level education were unemployed). *See table 8.*

### Increased levels of educational attainment results in more than a three-fold reduction in unemployment amongst those aged 25-64

Those aged 25-64 with at most primary education were over three times more likely to be unemployed in Q2 2011 (24%) when compared to those with a third level qualification (7%). Higher levels of education in all three age groups (25-34, 35-44 and 45-64) in Q2 2011 resulted in lower unemployment rates. The largest difference is evident in 25-34 age group where those with at most primary education are almost seven times more likely to be unemployed (55%) than those with a third level qualification (8%). *See table 9 and figure 5.*

In Q2 2011 unemployment rates were higher across all levels of educational attainment amongst those aged 25-34 when compared to those aged 35-44 or those aged 45-64. The differences were particularly evident amongst those with lower levels of educational attainment; there was a difference of 38 percentage points in the unemployment rate of those aged 25-34 years with at most a primary level of education when compared with those aged 45-64 years (55% for those aged 25-34 and 17% for those aged 45-64 years). The corresponding gap in unemployment rates for those with a third level qualification was only three percentage points (8% for those aged 25-34 and 5% for those aged 45-64). *See table 9 and figure 5.*

**Figure 5: Unemployment rate of persons aged 25-64 classified by age group and the highest level of education attained, April-June 2011**

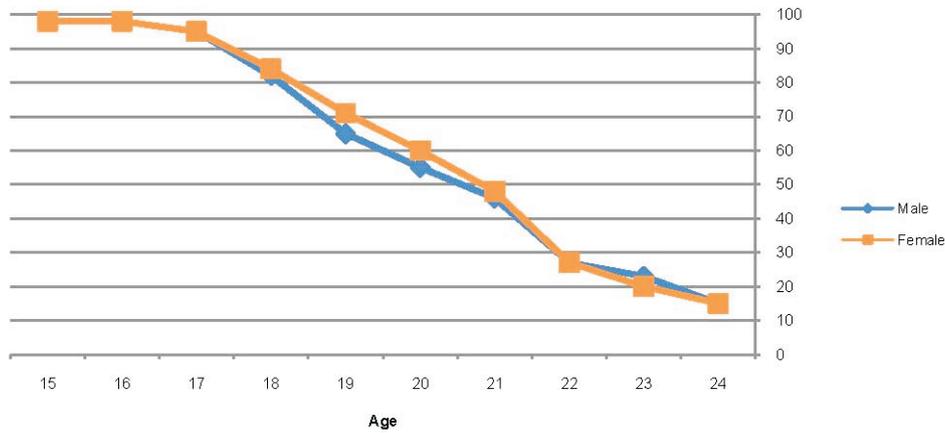


### Proportion of those aged 15-24 classified as students continues to rise

The proportion of those aged 15-24 in Ireland classified as “students” (i.e. principal economic status) has increased from 51% in Q2 2007 to 62% in Q2 2011. Increases over this period are evident for both males (47% up to 63%) and females (55% up to 62%). *See table 13 and figure 12.*

- Almost all persons aged 15-17 years were classified as students in Q2 2011 (98% of 15 year olds, 98% of 16 year olds and 95% of 17 year olds).
- The largest drop for a single year increase in age in the proportion classified as students was observed between those aged 21 years (47%) and those aged 22 years (27%).
- In Q2 2011, approximately one in seven (15%) of those aged 24 were classified as students.

**Figure 6: Students as a proportion of the population by single year of age and gender, April-June 2011**



Historically females aged 15-24 were more likely than their male counterparts to be classified as students; in Q2 2000 57% of females and 50% of males were classified as students. Q2 2010 was the first time since then that there were equal proportions of males and females classified as students (both 60%) while in Q2 2011 there were a higher proportion of males classified as students compared to females (63% versus 62%). See table 13.

### Proportion of those with at most primary education is still decreasing

The rise in the attainment of third level qualification coincided with a decrease in the proportion of those aged 25-64 with at most primary education; it was 13% in Q2 2009 and 10% in Q2 2011. See tables 2 and 4.

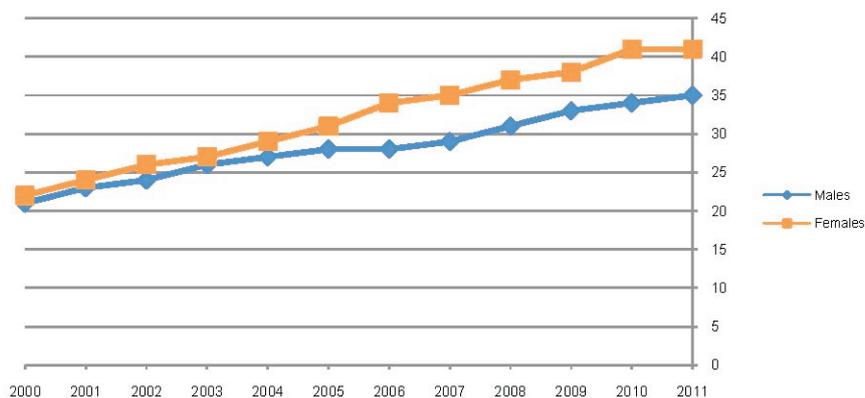
- The drop is evident for both males (14% in Q2 2009 down to 11% in Q2 2011) and females (11% in Q2 2009 down to 9% in Q2 2011).
- The decrease was evident particularly in the older age groups; there was a reduction of six percentage points for those aged 55-64 (from 33% in Q2 2009 down to 27% in Q2 2011).

### Over one third of 25-64 year olds have a third level qualification

In Q2 2011, almost four in ten (38%) of 25-64 year olds had attained a third level qualification compared with three in ten (30%) in Q2 2005 and approximately two in ten (22%) in Q2 2000. When one includes 15-24 year olds (the age group most likely to be still in education) the proportion of those aged 15-64 had attained a third level qualification in Q2 2011 was 33%. See tables 1 and 5.

Over the period 2000 to 2011 females aged 25-64 have consistently had a greater percentage with a third level qualification than males. The gap has doubled to 6 percentage points in Q2 2011 (41% of females compared with 35% of males) from 3 percentage points in Q2 2005 (31% of females compared with 28% of males). See table 5 and figure 6.

**Figure 7: Percentage of those aged 25-64 who have attained a third level qualification classified by sex, April-June 2000 to April-June 2011**



The gap between third level attainment rates of males and females developed in particular in younger age groups. Between 2000 and 2005 the gap in third level attainment between 25-34 year old males and females was between 3 and 9 percentage points. However from 2006 to 2011 this gap increased to between 12 and 15 percentage points. This was due to a larger increase in third level attainment among females in this period (46% in Q2 2005 up to 55% in Q2 2011) compared to males (37% in Q2 2005 up to 41% in Q2 2011). *See table 5.*

Figures for Q2 of 2011 show that younger age groups reported the highest percentage of persons with third level qualifications, with over 40% of the 25-34 and 35-44 year olds in this category (48% and 43% respectively) compared to 23% of 55-64 year olds. This reflects increased levels of participation in third level education over time. *See table 5.*

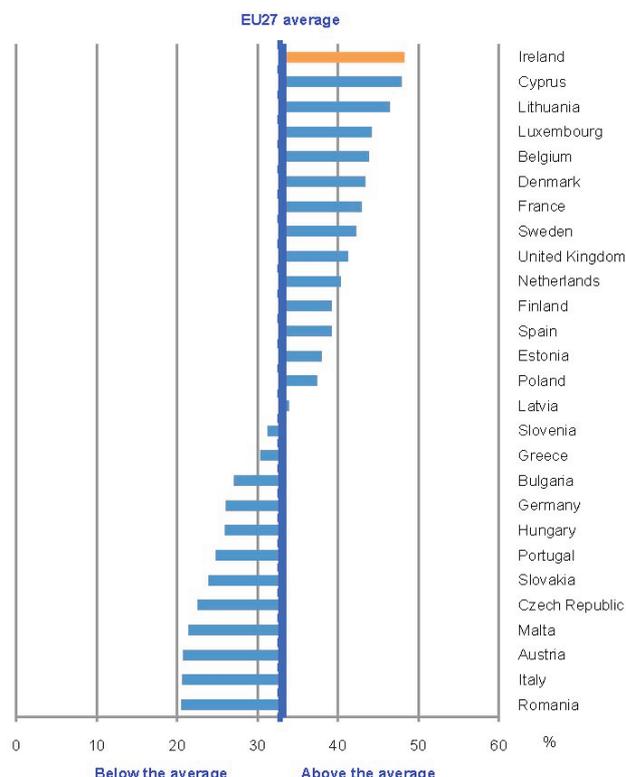
The proportion of persons who reported having a third level qualification increased across all age groups between Q2 2000 and Q2 2011. The largest increase was recorded in the 35-44 year age group where there was an increase of 21 percentage points, from 22% in Q2 2000 to 43% in Q2 2011. *See table 5.*

Females aged 25-34 have consistently had a higher proportion with third level qualification than males in the same age group; the gap has increased from 3 percentage points in Q2 2000 (32% of females versus 29% of males) to 14 percentage points in Q2 2011 (55% of females versus 41% of males). A different scenario is evident in the older age groups where males were traditionally more likely to have attained a third level qualification than females. From Q2 2000 through to Q2 2004 males aged 45-54 were more likely than their female counterparts to have attained a third level qualification; the proportion of males was one percentage point higher than the proportion of females in all instances. In Q2 2005 and Q2 2006 males and females aged 45-54 were equally likely to have attained a third level qualification and it is only since Q2 2007 that females aged 45-54 were more likely to have attained a third level qualification than males of the same age. *See table 5.*

### Ireland ranked joint first in EU in 2010 for third level attainment amongst those aged 25-34

The latest available figures for all EU member states showed that, in 2010, one in three (33%) of all 25-34 year olds had a third level qualification. This compared to a figure of 48% for Ireland, ranking the country joint highest in the EU with Cyprus (48%) while Austria, Italy and Romania had the lowest levels of third level attainment (all 21%). *See table 12b and figure 7.*

**Figure 8: Percentage of those aged 25-34 with a third level qualification by EU country, 2010**



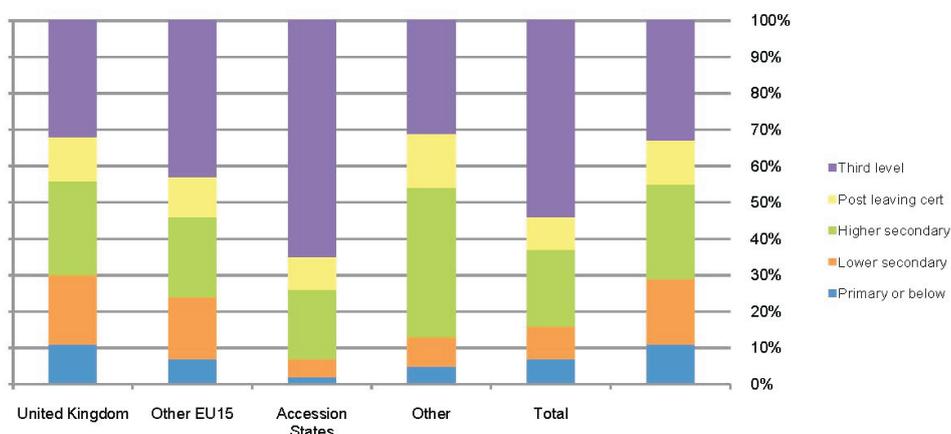
In all the EU member states, a greater percentage of females in the 25-34 year old age group had attained a third level education in 2010 than males. The lowest gap was witnessed in Germany (3 percentage points) while the highest gaps were observed in Estonia (20 percentage points) and Latvia (22 percentage points). In Ireland there was a gap of 13 percentage points between the proportion females and males aged 25-34 with a third level qualification in 2010 (55% of females versus 42% of males). *See table 12b.*

Although the proportion of those aged 25-34 in Ireland who have attained a third level degree or higher level of education has increased substantially from 30% in Q2 2000 to 48% in Q2 2011, the growth has slowed in the last couple of years (47% in Q2 2009 and 48% in both Q2 2010 and Q2 2011). *See table 12a.*

## Irish nationals aged 15-64 are less likely to have a third level qualification than other EU15 nationals resident in Ireland

In Q2 2011 approximately one in three Irish Nationals aged 15-64 had attained a third level qualification (32%) while the corresponding proportions of United Kingdom (UK) nationals and those from the other EU15 states who are usually resident in Ireland were 43% and 65% respectively. See table 3 and figure 8.

Figure 9: Highest level of education attained for persons aged 15-64, classified by nationality, April-June 2011



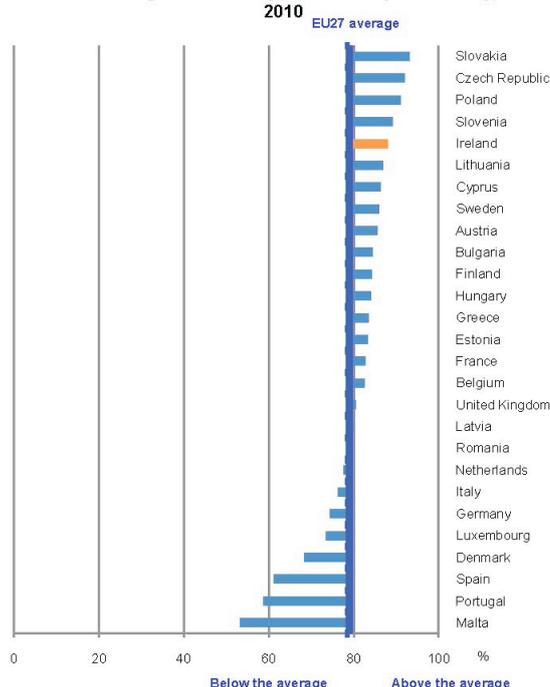
Irish nationals have a consistently lower level of educational attainment than those from the UK and the other EU15 states. In Q2 2011 45% of Irish nationals aged 25-44 years had attained a third level qualification compared to 55% of UK nationals resident in Ireland and 74% of nationals from the other EU15 states who are resident in Ireland. A similar pattern was evident for the 45-54 year old age group where UK nationals (43%) and those from the other EU15 states who are usually resident in Ireland (59%) are more likely than Irish nationals (27%) to have attained a third level qualification. The only nationality group with a lower rate of third level attainment than Irish nationals across the three age groups was the group of nationals from the accession states who are usually resident in Ireland. See table 3.

## Nine out of ten aged 20-24 have at least higher secondary level of education

In Q2 2011 almost nine out of ten (89%) of those aged 20-24 had attained at least higher secondary level of educational attainment. Although the proportion has increased from 83% in Q2 2000 to 89% in Q2 2011, the growth has slowed in the last couple of years (88% in Q2 2008 and Q2 2009 and 89% in both Q2 2010 and Q2 2011). In Q2 2011 females aged 20-24 in Ireland were more likely than males to have attained at least higher secondary level education (91% versus 87%). See table 11a.

The latest available EU figures showed that in 2010, 79% of all 20-24 year olds in the EU 27 member states had attained at least a higher secondary level of education. The corresponding figure for Ireland was 88% ranking the country fifth in the list of EU member states. Slovakia reported the highest proportion of those aged 20-24 who have attained at least higher secondary level of education (93%) while Malta reported the lowest (53%). See table 11b and figure 9.

Figure 10: Percentage of those aged 20-24 with at least a higher secondary education by EU country, 2010

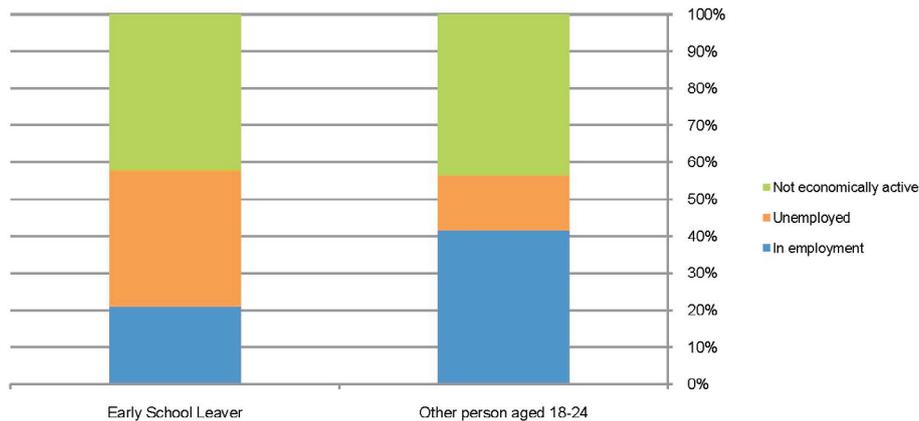


## One in ten 18-24 year olds are early school leavers

In the second quarter of 2011, 9% of those aged 18-24 were defined as early school leavers, i.e. persons aged 18 to 24 whose highest level of education attained is lower secondary or below and who have not received education (either formal or non-formal) in the four weeks prior to the survey; this has decreased from 13% in Q2 2004 and 11% in Q2 2008. *See tables 10a and 10c and figure 10.*

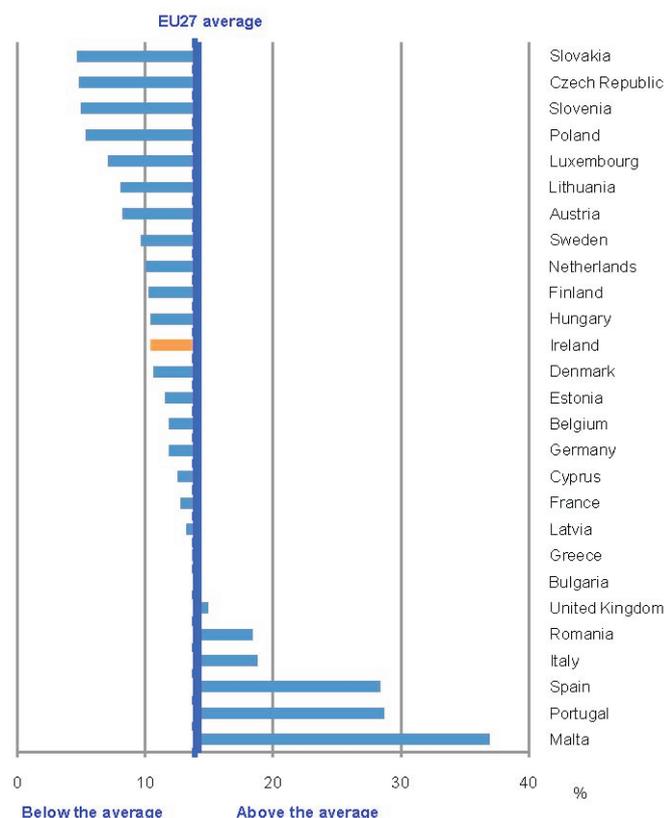
- In Q2 2011 females aged 18-24 in Ireland were less likely than males to be classified as early school leavers (7% versus 11%).
- Approximately one in five (21%) of all early school leavers were employed in Q2 of 2011 while just under two in five were unemployed (37%) and the remaining 42% were defined as not being economically active.
- Early school leavers had a much lower rate of employment in Q2 of 2011 compared with other persons aged 18-24 (21% compared to 42%).
- The unemployment rate for early school leavers in Q2 of 2011 was over twice that for other persons aged 18-24 (37% compared to 15%).

**Figure 11: Percentage of early school leavers and other persons aged 18 to 24, classified by ILO employment status, April-June 2011**



The latest available EU figures showed that, in 2010, 14% of all 18-24 year olds in the EU 27 member states were classified as early school leavers. The corresponding figure for Ireland was 11% ranking the country joint eleventh in the list of EU member states, alongside Denmark and Hungary. Malta reported the highest proportion of early school leavers (37%) while the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia had the lowest (5%). *See table 10b and figure 11.*

**Figure 12: Percentage of those aged 18-24 classified as early school leavers by EU country, 2010**



**Table 1 Percentage of persons aged 15 to 64, classified by sex and the highest level of education attained<sup>1</sup>, April-June 2009 to April-June 2011**

Highest education level attained <sup>1</sup>	NFQ Level <sup>1</sup>	2009	2010	2011
<b>Males aged 15 to 64</b>				
Primary or below	None/1/2	14	13	12
Lower secondary	3	21	19	19
Higher secondary	4/5	26	26	26
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	12	12	12
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	28	29	30
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	4	3	3
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	8	8	8
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	12	13	14
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	5	5	5
<b>Total males aged 15 to 64</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Females aged 15 to 64</b>				
Primary or below	None/1/2	11	11	10
Lower secondary	3	17	16	16
Higher secondary	4/5	27	27	26
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	11	11	11
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	34	36	37
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	5	4	4
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	11	12	11
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	12	14	15
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	5	6	6
<b>Total females aged 15 to 64</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>All persons aged 15 to 64</b>				
Primary or below	None/1/2	12	12	11
Lower secondary	3	19	18	18
Higher secondary	4/5	26	27	26
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	12	11	12
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	31	33	33
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	4	4	3
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	9	10	9
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	12	14	15
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	5	5	6
<b>Total persons aged 15 to 64</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.

Table 2 Educational attainment levels<sup>1</sup> classified by age group, April-June 2009 to April-June 2011

% of persons

Highest education level attained <sup>1</sup>	Primary or below	Lower secondary	Higher secondary	Post leaving cert	Third level				Total
					Higher certificate or equivalent	Ordinary degree or equivalent	Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	Postgraduate qualification	
NFQ Level <sup>1</sup>	None/1/2	3	4/5	4/5/6	6	7	8	9/10	
<b>April-June 2009</b>									
15-19	21	54	23	1	0	0	0	0	100
20-24	3	9	50	11	4	8	14	2	100
25-34	4	10	25	15	7	13	19	8	100
35-44	7	16	24	14	5	12	14	7	100
45-54	14	21	25	12	4	9	10	5	100
55-64	33	20	19	8	2	7	8	3	100
<b>All persons aged 15 to 64</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>April-June 2010</b>									
15-19	24	54	20	1	0	0	0	0	100
20-24	3	9	54	10	3	7	14	1	100
25-34	4	9	25	14	5	14	22	8	100
35-44	6	14	25	13	5	13	16	8	100
45-54	13	20	26	12	3	9	12	5	100
55-64	30	19	20	9	2	8	8	3	100
<b>All persons aged 15 to 64</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>April-June 2011</b>									
15-19	24	53	21	1	0	0	0	0	100
20-24	2	9	53	11	3	6	15	1	100
25-34	4	9	25	14	4	12	23	9	100
35-44	5	13	24	14	4	13	17	9	100
45-54	11	19	26	13	3	10	12	5	100
55-64	27	20	20	10	3	7	9	4	100
<b>All persons aged 15 to 64</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.

**Table 3 Educational attainment levels<sup>1</sup> classified by age group and nationality April-June 2010 and April-June 2011**

% of persons

Highest education level attained <sup>1</sup>	NFQ Level <sup>1</sup>	April - June 2010						April - June 2011					
		Irish	United Kingdom	Other EU15	Accession States	Other	Total	Irish	United Kingdom	Other EU15	Accession States	Other	Total
<b>15-24 year olds</b>													
Primary or below	None/1/2	13	22	6	15	13	13	13	15	7	14	17	13
Lower secondary	3	32	36	18	21	28	31	32	50	13	24	31	32
Higher secondary	4/5	37	28	54	46	35	37	37	25	46	41	35	37
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	5	6	0	10	6	6	6	5	4	9	5	6
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	13	8	23	8	18	13	12	5	30	11	11	12
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	1	0	2	1	3	1	1	2	4	4	1	1
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	3	1	9	4	9	3	3	1	5	5	4	3
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	3	7	11	1	5	7	7	2	16	3	6	7
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	1	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	5	0	0	1
<b>Total aged 15 to 24</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>25-44 year olds</b>													
Primary or below	None/1/2	5	4	.	6	3	5	5	4	1	3	4	4
Lower secondary	3	12	8	2	6	4	11	12	8	1	4	5	11
Higher secondary	4/5	25	20	16	36	19	25	24	22	13	42	18	25
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	14	10	4	17	8	14	14	11	11	16	10	14
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	44	57	78	36	65	45	45	55	74	35	64	46
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	5	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	2	4	4	4
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	13	14	21	12	21	14	12	12	15	12	18	13
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	18	27	34	12	29	19	20	29	36	12	31	20
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	8	11	19	7	10	8	9	10	20	7	11	9
<b>Total aged 25 to 34</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>45-64 year olds</b>													
Primary or below	None/1/2	21	11	5	16	6	20	19	7	1	9	9	18
Lower secondary	3	20	11	5	11	4	19	20	15	10	10	8	19
Higher secondary	4/5	23	24	18	36	20	23	23	22	21	37	17	23
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	11	12	6	16	10	11	11	13	9	21	11	12
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	25	42	66	21	60	26	27	43	59	23	54	27
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	3	4	7	4	5	3	3	5	2	2	3	3
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	8	13	20	9	15	9	8	14	10	15	10	9
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	10	17	31	6	31	10	11	17	29	6	32	11
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	4	8	9	2	10	5	4	8	18	0	9	5
<b>Total aged 45 to 54</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>All aged 15-64</b>													
Primary or below	None/1/2	12	9	2	8	5	12	11	7	2	5	7	11
Lower secondary	3	19	13	4	9	9	18	19	17	5	8	9	18
Higher secondary	4/5	26	23	22	38	22	27	26	22	19	41	21	26
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	11	10	4	16	8	11	12	11	9	15	9	12
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	31	45	69	29	56	33	32	43	65	31	54	33
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	2	4	3	3
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	10	12	19	11	18	10	9	11	13	11	14	9
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	13	21	30	10	25	14	14	20	32	10	27	15
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	5	8	15	5	9	5	6	8	18	6	9	6
<b>Total aged 15 to 64</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.

**Table 4 Percentage of persons aged 25 to 64, classified by sex and the highest level of education attained<sup>1</sup>, April-June 2009 to April-June 2011**

% of persons

Highest education level attained <sup>1</sup>	NFQ Level <sup>1</sup>	2009	2010	2011
<b>Males aged 25 to 64</b>				
Primary or below	None/1/2	14	13	11
Lower secondary	3	18	16	16
Higher secondary	4/5	23	24	24
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	13	13	14
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	32	34	35
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	4	3	3
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	9	9	9
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	14	15	16
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	6	6	7
<b>Total males aged 25 to 64</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Females aged 25 to 64</b>				
Primary or below	None/1/2	11	10	9
Lower secondary	3	14	13	13
Higher secondary	4/5	25	25	25
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	12	12	12
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	38	41	41
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	5	5	4
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	13	14	12
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	13	15	17
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	6	7	7
<b>Total females aged 25 to 64</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>All persons aged 25 to 64</b>				
Primary or below	None/1/2	13	11	10
Lower secondary	3	16	15	15
Higher secondary	4/5	24	24	24
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	13	12	13
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	35	37	38
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	5	4	4
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	11	12	11
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	14	15	16
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	6	6	7
<b>Total persons aged 25 to 64</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.

**Table 5 Percentage of persons that have attained a third level qualification<sup>1</sup>, classified by sex and age group, April-June 2000 to April-June 2011**

% of persons

	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total
<b>Males aged 25-64</b>					
2000	29	21	18	14	21
2001	31	23	19	14	23
2002	32	24	20	16	24
2003	36	27	21	17	26
2004	37	29	22	17	27
2005	37	30	22	17	28
2006	36	32	24	17	28
2007	37	32	24	18	29
2008	38	34	26	20	31
2009	40	36	27	21	32
2010	41	40	28	21	34
2011	41	41	30	22	35
<b>Females aged 25-64</b>					
2000	32	22	17	12	22
2001	35	23	18	13	24
2002	39	26	19	13	26
2003	40	29	20	14	27
2004	44	29	21	15	29
2005	46	32	22	17	31
2006	49	34	24	18	34
2007	50	36	26	16	35
2008	53	39	28	18	37
2009	53	41	28	20	38
2010	55	45	31	22	41
2011	55	46	32	24	41
<b>All persons aged 25-64</b>					
2000	30	22	17	13	22
2001	33	23	19	13	23
2002	36	25	20	15	25
2003	38	28	21	15	27
2004	40	29	21	16	28
2005	41	31	22	17	30
2006	42	33	24	17	31
2007	43	34	25	17	32
2008	45	37	27	19	34
2009	47	39	28	20	35
2010	48	42	30	22	37
2011	48	43	31	23	38

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.

**Table 6 Labour force participation rate of persons aged 25 to 64, classified by sex and the highest level of education attained<sup>1</sup>, April-June 2009 to April-June 2011**

%

Highest education level attained <sup>1</sup>	NFQ Level <sup>1</sup>	2009	2010	2011
<b>Male participation rate</b>				
Primary or below	None/1/2	62	61	59
Lower secondary	3	84	83	82
Higher secondary	4/5	90	88	87
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	92	89	88
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	93	92	92
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	92	89	92
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	94	93	91
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	94	92	92
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	94	91	93
<b>Total male participation rate</b>		<b>87</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Female participation rate</b>				
Primary or below	None/1/2	32	29	30
Lower secondary	3	49	48	49
Higher secondary	4/5	65	66	65
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	71	70	67
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	83	83	83
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	80	78	78
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	81	80	80
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	84	85	84
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	89	90	89
<b>Total female participation rate</b>		<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>All persons participation rate</b>				
Primary or below	None/1/2	48	46	46
Lower secondary	3	69	68	67
Higher secondary	4/5	77	77	76
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	82	80	78
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	88	87	87
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	86	83	84
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	86	86	85
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	89	89	88
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	91	90	91
<b>Total participation rate</b>		<b>77</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>76</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.

**Table 7 Employment rate of persons aged 25 to 64, classified by sex and the highest level of education attained<sup>1</sup>, April-June 2009 to April-June 2011**

%

Highest education level attained <sup>1</sup>	NFQ Level <sup>1</sup>	2009	2010	2011
<b>Male employment rate</b>				
Primary or below	None/1/2	51	47	42
Lower secondary	3	69	64	63
Higher secondary	4/5	78	75	73
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	77	72	68
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	87	85	85
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	83	77	78
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	85	86	83
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	87	85	86
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	90	87	88
<b>Total male employment rate</b>		<b>75</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Female employment rate</b>				
Primary or below	None/1/2	29	26	26
Lower secondary	3	45	42	42
Higher secondary	4/5	62	60	58
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	65	62	59
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	79	78	78
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	75	71	70
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	76	75	75
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	81	81	79
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	84	85	85
<b>Total female employment rate</b>		<b>63</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>All persons employment rate</b>				
Primary or below	None/1/2	41	37	35
Lower secondary	3	58	54	54
Higher secondary	4/5	70	67	65
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	71	67	64
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	82	81	81
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	79	74	73
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	80	79	78
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	84	83	83
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	86	86	87
<b>Total employment rate</b>		<b>69</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>66</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.

**Table 8 Unemployment rate of persons aged 25 to 64, classified by sex and the highest level of education attained<sup>1</sup>, April-June 2009 to April-June 2011**

%

Highest education level attained <sup>1</sup>	NFQ Level <sup>1</sup>	2009	2010	2011
<b>Male unemployment rate</b>				
Primary or below	None/1/2	19	23	28
Lower secondary	3	18	23	24
Higher secondary	4/5	13	15	16
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	16	20	23
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	7	8	8
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	10	14	15
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	9	8	9
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	7	7	6
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	4	4	5
<b>Total male unemployment rate</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Female unemployment rate</b>				
Primary or below	None/1/2	8	11	15
Lower secondary	3	8	12	14
Higher secondary	4/5	5	9	10
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	9	11	12
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	5	6	6
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	7	9	10
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	6	6	6
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	4	5	6
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	6	5	5
<b>Total female unemployment rate</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>All persons unemployment rate</b>				
Primary or below	None/1/2	16	20	24
Lower secondary	3	15	20	21
Higher secondary	4/5	10	12	14
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	13	16	18
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	6	7	7
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	8	11	12
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	7	7	7
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	5	6	6
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	5	5	5
<b>Total unemployment rate</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.

**Table 9 Unemployment rate classified by highest level of education attained<sup>1</sup> and age group, April-June 2010 and 2011**

%

Highest education level attained <sup>1</sup>	NFQ Level <sup>1</sup>	April - June 2010				April - June 2011			
		25-34	35-44	45-64	All 25-64	25-34	35-44	45-64	All 25-64
Primary or below	None/1/2	43	26	15	20	55	33	17	24
Lower secondary	3	34	20	14	20	38	23	13	21
Higher secondary	4/5	18	13	7	12	19	13	9	14
Post leaving cert	4/5/6	21	13	13	16	24	17	13	18
Third Level, of which:	6/7/8/9/10	8	7	5	7	8	6	5	7
Higher certificate or equivalent	6	14	10	8	11	17	9	10	12
Ordinary degree or equivalent	7	8	9	5	7	9	7	6	7
Honours bachelor degree or equivalent	8	7	6	5	6	7	6	4	6
Postgraduate qualification	9/10	6	5	3	5	6	4	3	5
<b>Total aged 25-64</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.

**Table 10a Early school leavers<sup>1</sup> as a percentage of 18 to 24 year olds classified by sex, April-June 2004 to April-June 2011**

	% of persons							
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Male early school leavers</b>	16	15	16	15	15	13	12	11
<b>Female early school leavers</b>	10	9	9	8	8	7	7	7
<b>Total early school leavers</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Early school leavers are defined as persons aged 18 to 24 whose highest level of education attained is lower secondary or below and have not received education (either formal or non formal) in the four weeks prior to the survey. See Background Notes.

**Table 10b Early school leavers<sup>1</sup> as a percentage of 18 to 24 year olds in EU member states, classified by sex, 2010**

	% of persons		
	Males	Females	Total
<b>EU-27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>EU-15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>
Austria	8	8	8
Belgium	14	10	12
Bulgaria	13	15	14
Cyprus	16	10	13
Czech Republic	5	5	5
Denmark	14	8	11
Estonia	15	n/a <sup>3</sup>	12
Finland	12	9	10
France	15	10	13
Germany	13	11	12
Greece	17	11	14
Hungary	12	10	11
<b>Ireland<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>
Italy	22	15	19
Latvia	17	9	13
Lithuania	10	6	8
Luxembourg	8	6	7
Malta	41	32	37
Netherlands	12	8	10
Poland	7	4	5
Portugal	33	25	29
Romania	19	18	18
Slovakia	5	5	5
Slovenia	6	3	5
Spain	34	23	28
Sweden	11	9	10
United Kingdom	16	14	15

<sup>1</sup> Early school leavers are defined as persons aged 18 to 24 whose highest level of education attained is lower secondary or below and have not received education (either formal or non formal) in the four weeks prior to the survey. See Background Notes.

<sup>2</sup> The Eurostat figures for Ireland are based on an annual average for 2010 and so may differ slightly from the values in Table 9a.

<sup>3</sup> n/a denotes that the figures were not available when the data for the table was taken from the Eurostat database.

Source: Eurostat.

Note: Trends in some member states may be affected by changes in methodology.

**Table 10c Percentage of early school leavers<sup>1</sup> and other persons aged 18 to 24 classified by sex and ILO employment status, April-June 2004 to April-June 2011**

	% of persons															
	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Early School Leaver	Other persons 18 to 24	Early School Leaver	Other persons 18 to 24	Early School Leaver	Other persons 18 to 24	Early School Leaver	Other persons 18 to 24	Early School Leaver	Other persons 18 to 24	Early School Leaver	Other persons 18 to 24	Early School Leaver	Other persons 18 to 24	Early School Leaver	Other persons 18 to 24
<b>Males</b>																
In employment	69	65	66	64	71	68	63	69	58	63	33	47	32	41	22	39
Unemployed	15	5	19	5	14	6	21	5	24	8	44	18	42	18	47	18
Not economically active	16	31	14	31	15	27	16	26	18	29	23	35	26	40	31	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>														
<b>Females</b>																
In employment	41	57	41	61	43	59	43	62	39	61	35	53	31	46	21	44
Unemployed	14	4	13	4	12	5	10	6	10	5	18	11	16	12	21	12
Not economically active	45	38	46	35	44	35	47	32	51	34	47	36	53	42	58	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>														
<b>All persons</b>																
In employment	59	61	56	62	61	63	56	65	51	62	34	50	32	44	21	42
Unemployed	15	5	17	5	14	5	17	5	19	6	35	14	32	15	37	15
Not economically active	27	35	27	33	26	31	27	29	29	32	31	35	36	41	42	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>														

<sup>1</sup> Early school leavers are defined as persons aged 18 to 24 whose highest level of education attained is lower secondary or below and have not received education (either formal or non formal) in the four weeks prior to the survey. See Background Notes.

**Table 11a Percentage of persons aged 20 to 24 with at least higher secondary level education<sup>1</sup>, classified by sex, April-June 2000 to April-June 2011**

	% of persons											
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Males</b>	80	81	80	82	82	84	81	83	84	84	86	87
<b>Females</b>	86	88	88	88	88	89	89	90	91	91	92	91
<b>All persons</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>89</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.

**Table 11b Percentage of persons aged 20 to 24 with at least a higher secondary education<sup>1</sup> in EU member states, classified by sex, 2010**

	% of persons		
Country	Males	Females	Total
<b>EU-27</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>EU-15</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>77</b>
Austria	85	86	86
Belgium	80	85	83
Bulgaria	85	84	84
Cyprus	83	89	86
Czech Republic	91	93	92
Denmark	61	76	68
Estonia	77	90	83
Finland	83	86	84
France	80	86	83
Germany	72	77	74
Greece	80	87	83
Hungary	82	86	84
<b>Ireland<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>85</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>88</b>
Italy	73	80	76
Latvia	74	86	80
Lithuania	84	90	87
Luxembourg	68	79	73
Malta	47	61	53
Netherlands	74	82	78
Poland	88	94	91
Portugal	55	63	59
Romania	78	79	78
Slovakia	93	93	93
Slovenia	86	93	89
Spain	55	68	61
Sweden	85	87	86
United Kingdom	79	82	80

Source: Eurostat.

Note: Trends in some member states may be affected by changes in methodology.

<sup>1</sup> The Eurostat figures for Ireland are based on an annual average for 2010 and so may differ slightly from the values in Table 8a.

**Table 12a Percentage of persons aged 25 to 34 with a third level qualification<sup>1</sup>, classified by sex, April-June 2000 to April-June 2011**

	% of persons											
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Males</b>	29	31	32	36	37	37	36	37	38	40	41	41
<b>Females</b>	32	35	39	40	44	46	49	50	53	53	55	55
<b>All persons</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Background Notes.

**Table 12b Percentage of persons aged 25 to 34 with third level qualification<sup>1</sup>, in EU member states, classified by sex, 2010**

Country	% of persons		
	Males	Females	Total
<b>EU-27</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>EU-15</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>34</b>
Austria	19	23	21
Belgium	38	49	44
Bulgaria	20	36	27
Cyprus	42	54	48
Czech Republic	20	25	23
Denmark	37	50	43
Estonia	28	48	38
Finland	31	48	39
France	38	47	43
Germany	25	28	26
Greece	25	36	30
Hungary	21	31	26
<b>Ireland<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>42</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>48</b>
Italy	16	25	21
Latvia	23	45	34
Lithuania	38	55	46
Luxembourg	43	46	44
Malta	17	26	22
Netherlands	37	44	40
Poland	30	45	37
Portugal	18	32	25
Romania	19	23	21
Slovakia	19	30	24
Slovenia	23	40	31
Spain	34	45	39
Sweden	36	50	42
United Kingdom	39	44	41

Source: Eurostat.

Note: Trends in some member states may be affected by changes in methodology.

<sup>1</sup> The Eurostat figures for Ireland are based on an annual average for 2010 and so may differ slightly from the values in Table 7a.

Table 13 Students<sup>1</sup> as a proportion of the population aged 15 to 24, classified by single year of age and sex, April-June 2000 to April-June 2011

% of persons

Year of age	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Male students</b>												
15	98	97	98	99	98	99	98	99	99	99	99	98
16	91	91	93	92	93	92	94	94	97	98	97	98
17	81	82	83	85	85	85	86	86	90	93	93	95
18	61	61	63	63	67	63	64	64	69	78	79	82
19	45	44	50	49	48	48	47	45	45	56	62	65
20	37	40	41	42	38	40	36	36	41	45	50	55
21	30	30	33	39	33	34	27	27	29	36	40	46
22	21	20	23	26	29	25	23	21	24	24	31	27
23	12	15	14	17	15	16	16	14	13	17	19	23
24	7	7	11	14	9	11	9	9	10	9	14	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Female students</b>												
15	98	99	99	99	99	99	100	99	99	100	98	98
16	94	96	97	97	98	98	98	98	98	99	98	98
17	90	90	92	91	93	95	93	95	92	95	97	95
18	79	79	78	79	82	79	81	80	79	83	85	84
19	62	63	63	63	61	66	60	64	61	65	69	71
20	47	50	53	55	53	50	52	50	51	51	55	60
21	40	39	41	43	39	38	42	38	38	41	45	48
22	25	26	24	29	29	30	31	26	25	26	30	27
23	13	14	18	14	18	15	14	16	14	15	16	20
24	7	10	9	11	10	10	10	12	11	12	11	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>All persons</b>												
15	98	98	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	98
16	93	94	95	94	96	95	96	96	97	99	97	98
17	86	86	87	88	89	90	90	90	91	94	95	95
18	70	70	71	71	74	70	73	72	74	81	82	83
19	53	53	56	55	54	57	53	54	54	60	65	68
20	42	45	47	49	45	45	44	43	46	48	53	57
21	35	34	37	41	36	36	35	32	33	38	43	47
22	23	23	24	28	29	27	27	23	24	25	31	27
23	13	14	16	16	17	16	15	15	13	16	18	21
24	7	9	10	13	9	10	10	10	10	11	12	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>62</b>

<sup>1</sup> Those who indicated that their principal economic status is "Student". See Background Notes.

## Background Notes

**Purpose of survey** The Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) began in September 1997, replacing the annual April Labour Force Survey (LFS). The QNHS meets the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No. 577/98, adopted in March 1998, which required the introduction of quarterly labour force surveys in EU Member States. While the primary purpose of the QNHS is the production of quarterly labour force estimates, it also includes special modules on social topics of interest on a quarterly basis. Further information relating to the social modules is provided at the end of this note.

**Data collection** Information is collected on laptop computers, using computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) software.

**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. The question is included in the core QNHS questionnaire on an ongoing basis and is phrased as follows: *“What is the highest level of education or training you have attained?”*

There are two methods of presenting results for educational attainment; the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) and the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

**ISCED:** UNESCO developed the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) to facilitate comparisons of education statistics and indicators across countries on the basis of uniform and internationally agreed definitions. The current revision of ISCED used in this release is ISCED 1997 (ISCED97).

**NFQ:** The NFQ was launched in 2003 and it is now the single structure mechanism for recognising all education and training in Ireland. All framework awards now have an **NFQ Level**, numbered from 1 to 10, which tells you about the standard of learning and an **NFQ Award-Type** which tells you about the purpose, volume and progression opportunities associated with a particular award. In this release educational attainment results are presented using a descriptive name and the corresponding NFQ levels.

For information on the NFQ see: <http://www.nfq.ie/nfq/en/>. For information on the ISCED97 classification see: [http://www.uis.unesco.org/ev\\_en.php?ID=7433\\_201&ID2=DO\\_TOPIC](http://www.uis.unesco.org/ev_en.php?ID=7433_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC).

The classification of educational levels in the QNHS was revised in Q2 of 2009 in order to facilitate the linking of education categories to the NFQ, while also retaining links with the international education classification, ISCED97. The change was made in the third level qualification categories to separate the attainment of Ordinary degrees from Honours Bachelor degrees. Because of this detailed results prior to Q2 2009 are not directly comparable with results from Q2 2009 onwards.

In previous educational attainment releases the educational attainment variable was presented using ISCED 1997 while, in this release, the response levels are grouped together into educational attainment levels using the NFQ. The table below gives education qualifications alongside the corresponding ISCED level, NFQ level and the educational attainment level reported in this release.

**Table A1: Educational qualifications and corresponding ISCED 97 level, NFQ level and Educational attainment level**

<i>Education Qualification</i>	<i>ISCED97 Level</i>	<i>NFQ Level</i>	<i>Educational Attainment Level</i>
No formal education or training	0		Primary or below
Pre-primary education/Primary education (or FETAC Certificate at NFQ level 1 or 2)	1	1/2	Primary or below
Lower Secondary			
Junior Certificate	2A	3	
Intermediate Certificate	2A	3	
Group Certificate	2A	3	
FÁS Introductory Skills Certificate	2A	3	Lower secondary
NCVA Foundation Certificate	2A	3	
FETAC Certificate at NFQ level 3	2A	3	
Equivalent Qualification at NFQ level 3	2A	3	
Transition Year			Lower secondary
Higher Secondary			
Leaving Certificate (Traditional)	3A	4/5	
Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)	3A	4/5	Higher secondary
Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)	3A	4/5	
Equivalent Qualification at NFQ level 4/5	3C	4/5	
Technical or Vocational			
Secretarial	4C	4/5	
Certificate in Hotel Operations	4C	4/5	
PLC (Post Leaving Certificate Course)	4C	4/5	
FÁS National Skills Certificate	4C	4/5	Post leaving cert
FÁS Specific Skills Certificate	4C	4/5	
FETAC level Certificate at NFQ level 4	4C	4	
FETAC level Certificate at NFQ level 5	4C	5	
Equivalent qualification at NFQ level 4/5	4C	4/5	
Advance Certificate			
Completed apprenticeships	4C	6	
Teagasc farming or horticulture Certificate/Diploma	4C	6	
National Craft Certificate	4C	6	Post leaving cert
FETAC advanced Certificate at NFQ level 6	4C	6	
Equivalent Qualification at NFQ level 6	4C	6	
Higher Certificate			
National Certificate (NCEA/DIT/IOT)	5B	6	
Cadetship (army, air corps or naval service)	5B	6	Higher certificate and equivalent
HETAC/DIT Higher Certificate at NFQ level 6	5B	6	
Equivalent qualification at NFQ level 6	5B	6	
Diploma			
National Diploma (HETAC/NCEA e.g. 3 year diploma)	5B	7	
Bachelor Degree (DIT)	5B	7	Ordinary degree or equivalent
Ordinary Bachelor Degree	5B	7	
Equivalent qualification at NFQ level 7	5B	7	
Honours Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma or Higher Diploma at NFQ level 8	5A	8	Honours bachelor degree or equivalent
Professional (Honours Bachelor Degree equivalent or higher)	5A	8	Honours bachelor degree or equivalent
Post-Graduate (e.g. Post Graduate Diploma or Masters degree at NFQ level 9)	5A	9	Postgraduate qualification
Doctorate or higher (e.g. Doctoral Degree/higher Doctorate at NFQ level 10)	6	10	Postgraduate qualification

<b>Reference Period</b>	<p>Up until 2008 the QNHS was based on seasonal quarters i.e. Q1: December-February, Q2: March-May, Q3: June-August, Q4: September-November. Since 2009, the QNHS has been based on calendar quarters, i.e. Q1: January-March, Q2: April-June, Q3: July-September, Q4: October-December. Questions on educational attainment are included in the core QNHS questionnaire each quarter. For this release, educational attainment results are presented for each year using data from Quarter 2 (i.e. April-June).</p> <p>The change in the educational attainment series in Q2 2009 means that detailed results prior to Q2 2009 are not directly comparable with results from Q2 2009 onwards. Because of this, some results in this release are only presented from Q2 2009 through to Q2 2011. For tables that are not affected by the change in series results are presented from Q2 2000 onwards or from whenever the data has been collected (e.g. from Q2 2004 onwards in the case of Early School Leavers). All of the quarterly databases from 2000 to 2011 have been classified into calendar quarters and so the data from Q2 of 2000 through to Q2 of 2011 are based on the same months (April-June).</p>
<b>Early school leavers</b>	<p>Early school leavers are defined as persons aged 18 to 24 whose highest level of education attained is lower secondary or below and have not received education (either formal or non-formal) in the four weeks prior to the survey. In this release data on early school leavers are presented from Q2 of 2004 through to Q2 of 2011.</p>
<b>ILO Labour Force Classification</b>	<p>The primary classification used for the QNHS results is the ILO (International Labour Office) Labour Force classification. The ILO classification distinguishes the following main subgroups of the population aged 15 and over:</p> <p><b>In Employment:</b> Persons who worked in the week before the survey for one hour or more for payment or profit, including work on the family farm or business and all persons who had a job but were not at work because of illness, holidays etc. in the week.</p> <p><b>Unemployed:</b> Persons who, in the week before the survey, were without work and available for work within the next two weeks, and had taken specific steps, in the preceding four weeks, to find work.</p> <p><b>Inactive Population (not in labour force):</b> All other persons.</p>
<b>Labour Force Participation Rate, Employment Rate and Unemployment Rate</b>	<p>The rates given in this release are based on the ILO classification. The Labour Force Participation Rate is the number of persons in the labour force expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 or over. The Employment Rate is the number of employed persons as a percentage of the total population. The Unemployment Rate is the number of unemployed expressed as a percentage of the total labour force.</p>
<b>Principal Economic Status Classification</b>	<p>The PES classification is based on a single question in which respondents are asked what their usual situation with regard to employment is and given the following response categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At work</li> <li>Unemployed</li> <li>Student</li> <li>Engaged on home duties</li> <li>Retired</li> <li>Other</li> </ul>

**QNHS 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 canvas of users (over 100 organisations) that was conducted by the CSO in 1996, 2002, 2006 and most recently 2009. The results of the canvas 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:

<b>Quarter 1</b>	Accidents and Illness module and Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Survey
<b>Quarter 2</b>	EU module (always covered under EU legislation).
<b>Quarter 3</b>	National module.
<b>Quarter 4</b>	National module.

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

<b>Reference Quarter</b>	<b>Social Module</b>
Q2 2011	Voter Participation
Q4 2010	Equality
Q3 2010	Health
Q2 2010	Cross Border Shopping
Q2 2010	Educational Attainment
Q1 2010	Crime and Victimization
Q4 2009	Pensions
Q3 2009	Caring
Q2 2009	Union Membership
Q2 2009	Cross Border Shopping
Q3 2008	Lifelong learning
Q1 2008	Pension provision
Q4 2007	Childcare
Q3 2007	Health
Q2 2007	Union Membership
Q1 2007	Work-related Accidents and Illnesses (Q1 2003 – Q1 2007)
Q1 2007	ICT household survey
Q4 2006	Crime and Victimization
Q3 2006	Sport and physical exercise
Q1 2006	ICT household survey
Q4 2005	Pension provision
Q4 2005	Special Saving Incentive Accounts (SSIAs)
Q3 2005	ICT household survey
Q3 2005	Recycling and energy conservation
Q2 2005	Reconciliation between work and family life
Q2 2005	Educational attainment
Q1 2005	Childcare
Q4 2004	Equality
Q3 2004	ICT household survey
Q2 2004	Union Membership
Q2 2004	Work organisation and working time
Q4 2003	Crime and Victimization
Q3 2003	Housing
Q3 2003	ICT household survey

Social modules yet to be published:

<b>Reference Quarter</b>	<b>Social Module</b>
Q1 2009-2011	ICT household survey
Q2 2011	Response of households to economic downturn
Q3 2011	Adult education survey