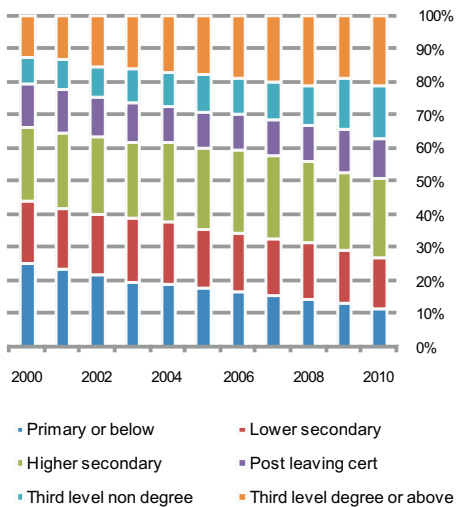




Quarterly National Household Survey Educational Attainment Quarter 2 2000 to Quarter 2 2010

Highest level of education attained for
persons aged 25-64, April-June 2000 to
April-June 2010



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

In the second quarter (Q2) of 2010, over one third (37%) of 25-64 year olds had attained a third level qualification compared with just one fifth (22%) in Q2 of 2000. When one includes 15-24 year olds (the age group most likely to be still in education), 33% of those aged 15-64 had attained a third level qualification, an increase from 19% ten years earlier. *See table 1.1 overleaf, tables 1 and 3, and graph opposite.*

Over the period 2000 to 2010 females in the 25-64 age group have consistently had a greater percentage who attained a third level qualification than males. The gap has more than doubled to 7 percentage points in 2010 (41% of females compared with 34% of males) from 3 percentage points in 2005 (31% of females compared with 28% of males). *See table 1.1 overleaf, table 3, and figure 1.*

The gap between males and females is evident particularly in younger age groups. Between 2000 and 2005 the gap in third level attainment between 25-34 year old males and females was between 4 and 9 percentage points. However from 2006 to 2010 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 2005 up to 55% in 2010) compared to males (37% in 2005 up to 41% in 2010). *See table 1.1 overleaf.*

Figures for Q2 of 2010 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 42% respectively) compared to 22% of 55-64 year olds. This reflects increased levels of participation in third level education over time. *See table 1.1 overleaf, and tables 2 and 7a.*

The proportion of persons who reported having a third level qualification increased across all age groups between 2000 and 2010. The largest increase was recorded in the 35-44 year age group where there was an increase of 20 percentage points, from 22% in 2000 to 42% in 2010. *See table 1.1 overleaf and table 2.*

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Figure 1: Percentage of persons aged 25-64 with third level qualifications by sex, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

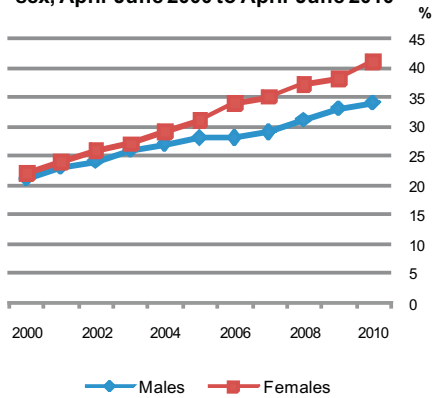


Figure 2: Percentage of persons aged 25-34 with a third level education by country, 2009

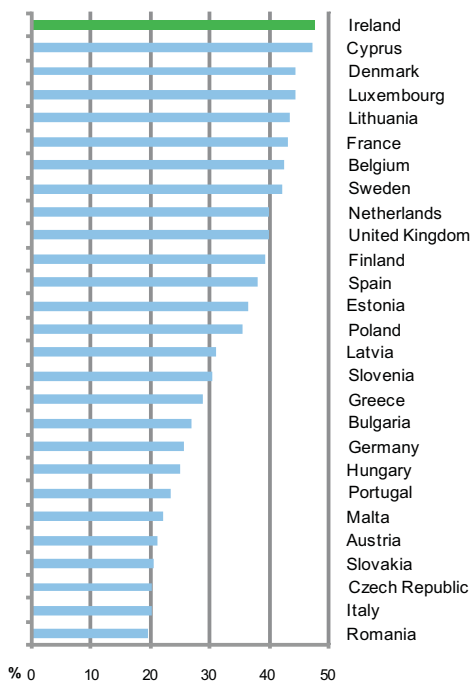


Figure 3: Employment rate and unemployment rate for those aged 25-64 classified by highest level of education attained, April-June 2010

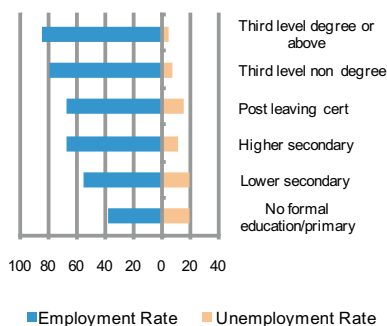


Table 1.1 Percentage of persons aged 25-64 that have attained a third level qualification, classified by age group, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

	% of males				
	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total
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	41	36	27	21	33
2010	41	40	28	21	34

	% of females				
	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total
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

	% of persons				
	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total
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

Ireland ranks joint first in EU for third level attainment

The latest available figures for all EU member states showed that, in the second quarter of 2009, 32% 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%). The lowest levels of third level attainment were reported in Romania, Italy and the Czech Republic (all 20%). See table 7b and figure 2.

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 than males. The lowest gaps were in Austria, Germany and the UK (3%) while the highest gaps were observed in Estonia, Finland and Latvia (19% to 21%). See table 7b.

Figure 4: Labour force participation for persons aged 25-64, classified by the highest level of education attained, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

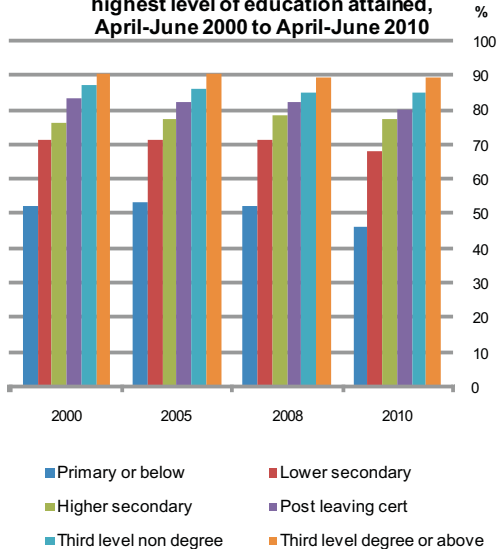


Figure 5: Employment rate for persons aged 25-64, classified by the highest level of education attained, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

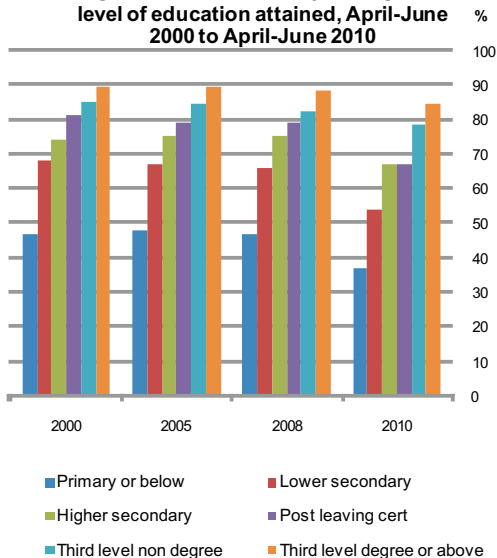
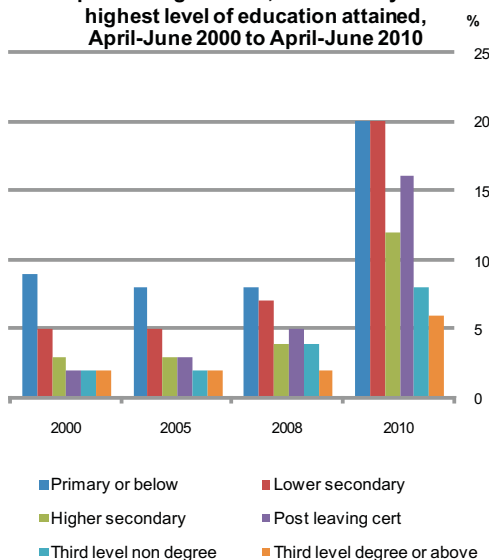


Figure 6: Unemployment rate for persons aged 25-64, classified by the highest level of education attained, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010



Percentage of those with at most primary education almost halved in ten years

The percentage of persons aged 15-64 with at most primary education has fallen steadily over the period 2000 to 2010. In the second quarter of 2010, 12% of persons aged 15-64 had an education level of “primary or below”, compared with 21% during the same time period in 2000 - a reduction of 9 percentage points. See tables 1 and 2.

- Just over one in five males (23%) aged 15-64 had received at most primary education in 2000, falling to approximately one in eight (13%) by 2010.
- The corresponding proportion of females dropped from one in five (20%) in 2000 to one in 10 (11%) in 2010.
- The decrease was evident in all age groups, with the most significant reduction, a decrease of 20 percentage points, for those aged 45-54 (from 33% in Q2 of 2000 to 13% in Q2 of 2010) and 55-64 (from 50% to 30%).

Three out of every five 15-24 year olds in education

In Q2 of 2010, three in five (60%) of those aged 15-24 years reported that they were students (i.e. principal economic status). This represents an increase of 9 percentage points in the three years since 2007 (13 percentage points for males and 5 percentage points for females). See table 10.

- Almost all persons aged 15-17 years were classified as students in Q2 of 2010 (99% of 15 year olds, 97% of 16 year olds and 95% of 17 year olds).
- In the period 2007 to 2010 the proportion of those aged 18 to 22 years old who were students increased by a minimum of 8 percentage points. The increase for males was three times that of females at ages 18 to 20 years (e.g. 17 percentage points for males against 5 percentage points for females aged 19 years).

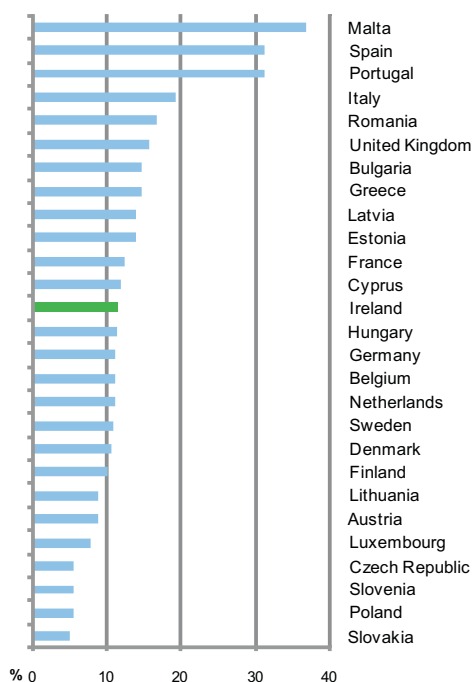
Higher labour force participation rates are associated with higher levels of education

In Q2 of 2010, 76% of persons aged 25-64 were in the labour force and 67% were employed. Participation in the labour force and employment rates rose as highest level of education attained increased. Those with a third level education had the highest rates of labour force participation (at least 85%) and employment (at least 78%), in contrast with persons whose highest level of education attainment is at most higher secondary, who had the lowest rates of labour force participation (at most 77%) and employment (at most 67%). See tables 4 and 5, and figures 3, 4 and 5.

Unemployment rates clearly fell as education levels increased with an unemployment rate of 20% for persons with at best primary education or lower secondary education, compared with 6%-8% for persons with a third level qualification. See table 6 and figure 6.

- The relationship between unemployment rates and level of education was particularly evident for men with a 23% unemployment rate for men with lower secondary education or below compared with an unemployment rate of 7%-10% for men with a third level qualification.
- The link between unemployment rates and levels of education is particularly evident since 2008; in Q2 of 2008 7%-8% of those with at most lower secondary level of education were unemployed compared to 2%-4% of those with a third level qualification.
- Between Q2 of 2008 and Q2 of 2010 levels of unemployment among all persons aged 25-64 years more than doubled. In this period the unemployment rate for those with at most lower secondary level of education had increased from 7%-8% to 20% while the corresponding unemployment rate for those with a third level qualification was significantly lower at 6%-8%.

Figure 7: Percentage of those aged 18-24 classified as early school leavers by country, 2009



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

In the second quarter of 2010, 10% of those aged 18-24 were defined as early school leavers, i.e. persons aged 18-24 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. *See tables 9a and 9c.*

- The proportion of male early school leavers was nearly double the proportion of female early school leavers in Q2 of 2010 (12% compared to 7%).
- Less than one third (32%) of all early school leavers were employed in Q2 of 2010 while the same proportion were unemployed (32%) and 36% were defined as not being economically active.
- Early school leavers had a lower rate of employment in Q2 of 2010 compared with other persons aged 18-24 (32% compared to 44%).
- The unemployment rate for early school leavers in Q2 of 2010 was over twice that for other persons aged 18-24 (32% compared to 15%).

The proportion of those aged 18-24 who are classified as early school leavers has fallen from 13% in Q2 of 2006 to 10% in Q2 of 2010 with a larger drop in evidence for males compared to females. In Q2 of 2006 16% of males aged 18-24 were classified as early school leavers and this fell to 12% by Q2 of 2010 while the corresponding values for females were 9% and 7% respectively. *See table 9a.*

The latest available EU figures showed that in 2009, 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 ninth in the list of EU member states, alongside Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands and Sweden. Malta reported the highest proportion of early school leavers (37%), while the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia had the lowest (5%). *See table 9b and figure 7.*

Table 1: Percentage of persons aged 15 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained¹, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

	% of persons										
Highest education level attained ¹	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ²	2010 ²
Males aged 15 to 64											
Primary or below	23	22	21	19	18	17	17	16	15	14	13
Lower secondary	24	23	22	23	23	22	22	22	22	21	19
Higher secondary	24	25	25	25	26	27	27	27	27	26	26
Post leaving cert	12	11	11	10	9	10	10	10	10	12	12
Third level non degree ²	6	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	9	11	11
Third level degree or above ²	12	12	13	15	15	16	16	17	18	17	18
Total males aged 15 to 64	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Females aged 15 to 64											
Primary or below	20	20	19	17	16	14	14	14	12	11	11
Lower secondary	21	20	19	20	20	19	18	18	18	17	16
Higher secondary	27	27	28	28	28	29	28	28	28	27	27
Post leaving cert	12	11	11	11	10	10	10	9	9	11	11
Third level non degree ²	9	9	10	10	11	11	11	11	12	16	16
Third level degree or above ²	11	12	14	14	16	17	19	20	21	18	20
Total females aged 15 to 64	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
All persons aged 15 to 64											
Primary or below	21	21	20	18	17	16	16	15	14	12	12
Lower secondary	23	21	21	21	21	21	20	20	20	19	18
Higher secondary	25	26	26	27	27	28	27	27	27	26	27
Post leaving cert	12	11	11	10	9	10	10	10	10	12	11
Third level non degree ²	8	8	8	9	9	10	10	10	10	14	14
Third level degree or above ²	11	12	13	14	16	17	17	18	19	17	19
Total persons aged 15 to 64	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

¹ See Background Notes.

² A break in continuity has occurred in the Educational Attainment series and, therefore, data from Q2 2009 onwards is not fully comparable with previous quarters. The classification of educational 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 that prior to 2009 third level qualifications were separated into non-degree qualifications and degree or above qualifications while from 2009 onwards third level qualifications are separated into non-honours level degree and honours level degree or above. For information on the framework 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.

Table 2: Highest level of education attained¹ of persons aged 15 to 64, classified by age group, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

Age Group	Primary or below	Lower secondary	Higher secondary	Post leaving cert	Third level		Total
					non degree ²	degree or above ²	
April-June 2000							
All persons aged 15 to 64	21	23	25	12	8	11	100
15-19	25	51	23	1	0	0	100
20-24	5	12	48	13	10	12	100
25-34	9	18	26	17	12	18	100
35-44	15	22	26	15	9	13	100
45-54	33	20	19	11	6	11	100
55-64	50	15	14	8	5	8	100
April-June 2001							
All persons aged 15 to 64	21	21	26	11	8	12	100
15-19	28	49	22	1	0	0	100
20-24	5	11	51	12	10	11	100
25-34	9	16	27	16	13	20	100
35-44	15	22	26	14	9	14	100
45-54	31	20	20	11	7	11	100
55-64	49	15	14	8	5	8	100
April-June 2002							
All persons aged 15 to 64	20	21	26	11	8	13	100
15-19	28	45	26	1	0	0	100
20-24	5	12	50	11	10	12	100
25-34	8	15	26	15	13	22	100
35-44	14	21	26	14	10	15	100
45-54	28	21	21	10	7	12	100
55-64	47	16	15	8	5	9	100
April-June 2003							
All persons aged 15 to 64	18	21	27	10	9	14	100
15-19	25	50	24	1	0	0	100
20-24	4	11	51	11	11	13	100
25-34	6	15	27	15	14	24	100
35-44	12	21	27	13	11	17	100
45-54	25	23	22	9	8	13	100
55-64	44	18	15	8	5	10	100
April-June 2004							
All persons aged 15 to 64	17	21	27	9	9	16	100
15-19	23	53	23	1	0	0	100
20-24	4	11	50	10	11	15	100
25-34	6	14	27	12	15	26	100
35-44	11	21	28	12	11	18	100
45-54	24	22	23	9	8	13	100
55-64	43	17	16	7	6	10	100
April-June 2005							
All persons aged 15 to 64	16	21	28	10	10	17	100
15-19	22	52	24	1	0	0	100
20-24	3	10	51	10	10	15	100
25-34	6	13	27	13	15	27	100
35-44	10	20	27	12	12	19	100
45-54	21	23	24	9	8	14	100
55-64	41	18	16	7	6	11	100
April-June 2006							
All persons aged 15 to 64	16	20	27	10	10	17	100
15-19	25	51	22	1	0	0	100
20-24	4	11	50	10	10	16	100
25-34	5	12	28	13	14	28	100
35-44	9	19	26	12	12	21	100
45-54	19	22	25	9	9	15	100
55-64	40	19	16	7	6	11	100

¹ See Background Notes.

Table 2 (contd): Highest level of education attained¹ of persons aged 15 to 64, classified by age group, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

Age Group	Primary or below	Lower secondary	Higher secondary	Post leaving cert	Third level		Total
					non degree ²	degree or above ²	
April-June 2007							
All persons aged 15 to 64	15	20	27	10	10	18	100
15-19	26	51	22	1	1	0	100
20-24	4	10	51	10	8	17	100
25-34	6	11	28	12	14	30	100
35-44	9	19	26	12	12	22	100
45-54	18	22	25	10	9	16	100
55-64	38	20	17	7	6	11	100
April-June 2008							
All persons aged 15 to 64	14	20	27	10	10	19	100
15-19	25	52	22	1	0	0	100
20-24	3	10	52	10	9	17	100
25-34	5	11	27	12	15	31	100
35-44	8	18	26	12	14	23	100
45-54	16	23	25	10	10	17	100
55-64	35	20	18	8	7	12	100
April-June 2009²							
All persons aged 15 to 64	12	19	26	12	14	17	100
15-19	21	54	23	1	0	0	100
20-24	3	9	50	11	12	15	100
25-34	4	10	25	15	20	27	100
35-44	7	16	24	14	17	21	100
45-54	14	21	25	12	13	15	100
55-64	33	20	19	8	9	11	100
April-June 2010²							
All persons aged 15 to 64	12	18	27	11	14	19	100
15-19	24	54	20	1	0	0	100
20-24	3	9	54	10	9	16	100
25-34	4	9	25	14	19	29	100
35-44	6	14	25	13	18	24	100
45-54	13	20	26	12	13	17	100
55-64	30	19	20	9	10	11	100

¹ See Background Notes.

² A break in continuity has occurred in the Educational Attainment series and, therefore, data from Q2 2009 onwards is not fully comparable with previous quarters. The classification of educational 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 that prior to 2009 third level qualifications were separated into non-degree qualifications and degree or above qualifications while from 2009 onwards third level qualifications are separated into non-honours level degree and honours level degree or above. For information on the framework 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.

Table 3: Percentage of persons aged 25 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained¹, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

	% of persons										
Highest education level attained ¹	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ²	2010 ²
Males aged 25 to 64											
Primary or below	25	24	23	20	20	19	18	17	15	14	13
Lower secondary	20	19	20	20	20	19	19	19	19	18	16
Higher secondary	20	21	21	21	22	23	24	24	24	23	24
Post leaving cert	13	13	13	12	10	11	11	11	11	13	13
Third level non degree ²	7	8	8	9	9	9	9	9	10	13	13
Third level degree or above ²	14	15	16	18	18	19	19	20	21	19	21
Total males aged 25 to 64	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Females aged 25 to 64											
Primary or below	22	22	20	18	17	15	14	14	12	11	10
Lower secondary	18	17	17	18	17	17	16	16	15	14	13
Higher secondary	24	25	25	26	26	26	26	25	26	25	25
Post leaving cert	13	13	12	12	11	11	11	10	10	12	12
Third level non degree ²	10	10	11	11	12	12	12	13	14	18	18
Third level degree or above ²	12	13	15	16	17	19	21	22	23	20	22
Total females aged 25 to 64	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
All persons aged 25 to 64											
Primary or below	24	23	21	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	11
Lower secondary	19	18	18	19	19	18	18	17	17	16	15
Higher secondary	22	23	23	23	24	25	25	25	25	24	24
Post leaving cert	13	13	12	12	11	11	11	11	11	13	12
Third level non degree ²	8	9	9	10	10	11	11	11	12	16	16
Third level degree or above ²	13	14	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	22
Total persons aged 25 to 64	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

¹ See Background Notes.

² A break in continuity has occurred in the Educational Attainment series and, therefore, data from Q2 2009 onwards is not fully comparable with previous quarters. The classification of educational 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 that prior to 2009 third level qualifications were separated into non-degree qualifications and degree or above qualifications while from 2009 onwards third level qualifications are separated into non-honours level degree and honours level degree or above. For information on the framework 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.

Table 4: Labour force participation rate of persons aged 25 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained¹, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

Highest education level attained ¹	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ²	2010 ²
Male participation rate											
Primary or below	71	70	69	66	69	69	68	68	66	62	61
Lower secondary	91	91	90	89	89	90	89	88	86	84	83
Higher secondary	92	93	92	91	91	92	92	92	91	90	88
Post leaving cert	94	95	93	93	93	93	93	93	94	92	89
Third level non degree ²	95	95	94	94	94	94	94	93	94	93	92
Third level degree or above ²	95	94	93	93	93	94	94	94	94	94	92
Total male participation rate	88	88	87	86	87	88	88	88	88	87	85
Female participation rate											
Primary or below	31	32	32	31	31	33	34	35	34	32	29
Lower secondary	49	48	49	49	48	50	51	52	51	49	48
Higher secondary	63	64	64	63	64	65	66	66	66	65	66
Post leaving cert	71	70	72	71	70	71	72	73	70	71	70
Third level non degree ²	81	80	80	81	81	79	79	81	79	81	80
Third level degree or above ²	84	86	85	84	84	86	86	86	85	86	87
Total female participation rate	59	60	61	61	62	64	65	67	66	67	67
All persons participation rate											
Primary or below	52	52	52	50	51	53	53	53	52	48	46
Lower secondary	71	71	71	70	71	71	71	72	71	69	68
Higher secondary	76	78	77	76	77	77	78	79	78	77	77
Post leaving cert	83	82	83	82	81	82	83	84	82	82	80
Third level non degree ²	87	86	86	87	87	86	85	86	85	86	85
Third level degree or above ²	90	90	89	89	89	90	90	90	89	90	89
Total participation rate	73	74	74	74	75	76	77	77	77	77	76

¹ See Background Notes.

² A break in continuity has occurred in the Educational Attainment series and, therefore, data from Q2 2009 onwards is not fully comparable with previous quarters. The classification of educational 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 that prior to 2009 third level qualifications were separated into non-degree qualifications and degree or above qualifications while from 2009 onwards third level qualifications are separated into non-honours level degree and honours level degree or above. For information on the framework 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.

Table 5: Employment rate of persons aged 25 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained¹, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

Highest education level attained ¹	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ²	2010 ²
Male employment rate											
Primary or below	64	65	64	61	63	63	63	63	60	51	47
Lower secondary	87	88	86	84	84	85	85	83	79	69	64
Higher secondary	90	91	89	88	89	89	89	89	86	78	75
Post leaving cert	92	93	91	91	90	90	91	90	90	77	72
Third level non degree ²	93	93	91	91	91	92	91	91	90	84	83
Third level degree or above ²	94	93	91	91	91	93	92	92	92	88	86
Total male employment rate	84	85	83	83	84	84	84	84	83	75	73
Female employment rate											
Primary or below	28	30	30	29	30	31	31	32	32	29	26
Lower secondary	47	46	47	47	46	47	48	49	49	45	42
Higher secondary	61	63	62	61	62	63	64	64	64	62	60
Post leaving cert	69	68	70	68	68	69	69	70	67	65	62
Third level non degree ²	79	78	79	79	79	77	77	78	76	76	74
Third level degree or above ²	83	85	84	82	82	85	84	85	83	82	82
Total female employment rate	57	58	59	59	60	62	63	64	64	63	62
All persons employment rate											
Primary or below	47	48	48	46	48	48	49	49	47	41	37
Lower secondary	68	68	67	67	67	67	68	68	66	58	54
Higher secondary	74	76	75	73	74	75	76	76	75	70	67
Post leaving cert	81	81	81	80	79	79	80	80	79	71	67
Third level non degree ²	85	85	84	84	84	84	83	84	82	79	78
Third level degree or above ²	89	89	87	87	87	89	88	88	88	85	84
Total employment rate	70	71	71	71	72	73	74	74	74	69	67

¹ See Background Notes.

² A break in continuity has occurred in the Educational Attainment series and, therefore, data from Q2 2009 onwards is not fully comparable with previous quarters. The classification of educational 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 that prior to 2009 third level qualifications were separated into non-degree qualifications and degree or above qualifications while from 2009 onwards third level qualifications are separated into non-honours level degree and honours level degree or above. For information on the framework 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.

Table 6: Unemployment rate of persons aged 25 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained¹, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

Highest education level attained ¹	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ²	2010 ²
Male unemployment rate											
Primary or below	9	7	8	8	9	9	8	8	10	19	23
Lower secondary	4	4	4	5	5	5	4	5	8	18	23
Higher secondary	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	13	15
Post leaving cert	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	5	16	20
Third level non degree ²	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	4	9	10
Third level degree or above ²	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	6	7
Total male unemployment rate	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	13	15
Female unemployment rate											
Primary or below	8	6	6	4	4	5	7	7	5	8	11
Lower secondary	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	8	12
Higher secondary	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	5	9
Post leaving cert	3	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	9	11
Third level non degree ²	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	6	7
Third level degree or above ²	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	5	5
Total female unemployment rate	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	8
All persons unemployment rate											
Primary or below	9	7	7	7	7	8	8	7	8	16	20
Lower secondary	5	4	4	5	5	5	4	5	7	15	20
Higher secondary	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	10	12
Post leaving cert	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	5	13	16
Third level non degree ²	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	4	8	8
Third level degree or above ²	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	6
Total unemployment rate	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	10	12

¹ See Background Notes.

² A break in continuity has occurred in the Educational Attainment series and, therefore, data from Q2 2009 onwards is not fully comparable with previous quarters. The classification of educational 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 that prior to 2009 third level qualifications were separated into non-degree qualifications and degree or above qualifications while from 2009 onwards third level qualifications are separated into non-honours level degree and honours level degree or above. For information on the framework 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.

Table 7a: Percentage of persons aged 25 to 34 with a third level education¹, classified by sex, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

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

¹ See Background Notes.

Table 7b: Percentage of persons aged 25 to 34 with third level education¹, in EU member states, classified by sex, 2009

	% of persons		
Country	Males	Females	Total
EU-27	28	36	32
EU-15	30	37	34
Austria	20	23	21
Belgium	36	49	43
Bulgaria	19	35	27
Cyprus	42	54	48
Czech Republic	18	23	20
Denmark	37	53	45
Estonia	28	46	37
Finland	30	49	39
France	39	48	43
Germany	24	27	26
Greece	24	34	29
Hungary	20	30	25
Ireland¹	41	54	48
Italy	16	25	20
Latvia	21	42	31
Lithuania	36	52	44
Luxembourg	42	47	45
Malta	19	26	22
Netherlands	37	43	40
Poland	28	43	36
Portugal	18	29	23
Romania	18	22	20
Slovakia	18	24	21
Slovenia	22	40	30
Spain	33	44	38
Sweden	37	48	42
United Kingdom	39	42	40

Source: Eurostat.

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

¹ The Eurostat figures for Ireland are based on an annual average for 2009 and so may differ slightly from the values in Table 7a.

Table 8a: Percentage of persons aged 20 to 24 with at least higher secondary level education¹, classified by sex, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

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

¹ See Background Notes.

Table 8b: Percentage of persons aged 20 to 24 with at least a higher secondary education¹, in EU member states, classified by sex, 2009

	% of persons		
Country	Males	Females	Total
EU-27	76	81	79
EU-15	73	79	76
Austria	86	86	86
Belgium	81	86	83
Bulgaria	85	83	84
Cyprus	84	90	87
Czech Republic	92	92	92
Denmark	62	78	70
Estonia	78	86	82
Finland	84	86	85
France	81	86	84
Germany	72	76	74
Greece	78	87	82
Hungary	82	86	84
Ireland¹	83	91	87
Italy	73	80	76
Latvia	76	85	81
Lithuania	83	91	87
Luxembourg	76	78	77
Malta	48	57	52
Netherlands	72	81	77
Poland	89	93	91
Portugal	50	61	56
Romania	78	79	78
Slovakia	93	94	93
Slovenia	86	93	89
Spain	53	67	60
Sweden	85	88	86
United Kingdom	77	81	79

Source: Eurostat.

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

¹ The Eurostat figures for Ireland are based on an annual average for 2009 and so may differ slightly from the values in Table 8a.

Table 9a: Early school leavers¹ as a percentage of 18 to 24 year olds classified by sex, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

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

¹ 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 9b: Early school leavers¹ in EU member states classified by sex, 2009

	% of persons		
	Males	Females	Total
EU-27	16	13	14
EU-15	18	14	16
Austria	9	9	9
Belgium	13	9	11
Bulgaria	14	16	15
Cyprus	15	9	12
Czech Republic	6	5	5
Denmark	13	8	11
Estonia	18	9	14
Finland	11	9	10
France	14	10	12
Germany	12	11	11
Greece	18	11	15
Hungary	12	10	11
Ireland²	14	8	11
Italy	22	16	19
Latvia	18	10	14
Lithuania	12	6	9
Luxembourg	9	7	8
Malta	40	34	37
Netherlands	13	9	11
Poland	7	4	5
Portugal	36	26	31
Romania	16	17	17
Slovakia	6	4	5
Slovenia	7	3	5
Spain	37	25	31
Sweden	12	10	11
United Kingdom	17	15	16

¹ 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.

² The Eurostat figures for Ireland are based on an annual average for 2009 and so may differ slightly from the values in Table 9a.

Source: Eurostat.

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

Table 9c Percentage of persons aged 18 to 24 and early school leavers¹, classified by ILO employment status, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

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

¹ 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 10: Students¹ as a proportion of population aged 15 to 24, classified by single year of age and sex, April-June 2000 to April-June 2010

% of persons

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

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

Table 11a: Percentage of persons aged 15 to 24 and 25 to 64, classified by the highest level of education attained (NFQ classification)¹, April-June 2009 to April-June 2010

Highest education level attained (NFQ) ¹	% of persons			
	15-24		25-64	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
No education or training	0	1	1	1
NFQ Levels 1/2	12	13	12	11
NFQ Level 3	31	31	16	15
NFQ Level 4/5	41	40	31	30
NFQ Level 6 Advanced Certificate	2	2	5	7
NFQ Level 6 Higher Certificate	2	1	5	4
NFQ Level 7 Ordinary Bachelor Degree	4	3	11	12
NFQ Level 8 Honours Bachelor Degree & Higher Diploma	7	7	14	15
NFQ Level 9 Masters Degree & Post-graduate diploma	1	1	5	6
NFQ Level 10 Doctoral Degree & Higher Doctorate	0	0	1	1
Total	100	100	100	100

¹ The classification of educational levels was revised in Q2 of 2009 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. For information on the framework see: <http://www.nfq.ie/nfq/en/>

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 survey is the production of quarterly labour force estimates, it also includes special modules on social topics of interest on a quarterly basis. The structure and list of published modules are provided at the end of this note.
Reference period	Questions on educational attainment are included in the core QNHS on an ongoing basis and this release presents results from the second quarter (Q2) of each of year from 2000 through to 2010. Up until 2008 the QNHS was based on seasonal quarters i.e. Q1: December-February, Q2: March-May, Q3: June-August, Q4: September-November. From January 1 st 2009 the QNHS was based on calendar quarters, i.e. Q1: January-March, Q2: April-June, Q3: July-September, Q4: October-December. For this release all of the quarterly databases from 2000 to 2010 were classified into calendar quarters and so the data from Q2 of 2000 through to Q2 of 2010 are based on the same months (April-June).
Highest level of education attained	<p>This classification is derived from a single question and refers to educational standards that have been attained and can be compared in some measurable way and it is included in the core QNHS on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>The question is phrased as follows: What is the highest level of education or training you have attained?</p>
Early school leavers	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 2010.
ILO Labour Force Classification	<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>In Employment: 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>Unemployed: 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>Inactive Population (not in labour force): All other persons.</p>
Participation and Unemployment Rates	The rates given in this release are based on the ILO classification. The Participation Rate is the number of persons in the labour force expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 or over. The Unemployment Rate is the number of unemployed expressed as a percentage of the total labour force.

Principal Economic Status Classification

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:

At work
Unemployed
Student
Engaged on home duties
Retired
Other

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 2008. 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:

Quarter 1	Annual modules update (Disability, Pensions, Childcare, Accidents and Illness), Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Survey
Quarter 2	EU module (always covered under EU legislation)
Quarter 3	National module
Quarter 4	National module

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

Reference Quarter	Social Module
Q2 2010	Cross border shopping
Q1 2010	Crime and Victimisation
Q3 2009	Caring
Q2 2009	Cross border shopping
Q2 2009	Union Membership
Q3 2008	Lifelong Learning
Q2 2008	Educational Attainment
Q3 2002	Teleworking
Q1 2008	ICT Household survey (as part of the Information Society and Telecommunications 2008 publication)
Q1 2008	Working Conditions Module
Q1 2008	Pension provision
Q1 2007	Childcare
Q3 2007	Health Status and Health Service Utilisation
Q2 2007	Union Membership
Q1 2007	Work –related Accidents and Illness (Q1 2003-Q1 2007)
Q1 2007	ICT Household survey (as part of the Information Society and Telecommunications 2008 publication)
Q4 2006	Crime and Victimisation
Q3 2006	Sport and physical exercise
Q3 2006	Social capital as part of Community Involvement and Social Networks 2006
Q1 2006	ICT Household survey (as part of the Information Society and Telecommunications 2008 publication)
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
Q1 2005	Childcare

Social modules yet to be published:

Reference Quarter	Social Module
Q4 2008	Travel to work
Q1 2009	ICT household survey
Q4 2009	Pension provision
Q4 2009	Travel
Q1 2010	ICT household survey
Q2 2010	Work and family life
Q3 2010	Health