

7

Education

- In 2007, over 27% of those aged between 15-64 had a third level qualification.
- At age 19, 66% of females and 48% of males were in full time education in 2006/2007.
- In 2007 total gross expenditure on education by the state was €7,897m.
- In 2007 there were 29,534 primary school teachers in the state, 84% of whom were females.
- In 2006/2007 there were 26,317 full time equivalent teachers in secondary schools.
- 59% of new entrants to HEA institutions and 53% of new entrants of all third level institutions were female in 2006/2007.



Contents

Introductory text	119
Table 7.1 Persons aged 15-64 classified by the highest level of education attained	122
Table 7.2 Persons in full-time education by level	123
Table 7.3 Persons receiving full-time education and estimated participation rates for ages 15-24, 2006/07	124
Table 7.4 Voted expenditure by sector for financial year ended 31 December 2006	125
Table 7.5 Pupils in first level schools classified by standard	125
Table 7.6 Teaching posts in first level schools on 30 June	125
Table 7.7 Teachers in secondary, vocational and community schools	126
Table 7.8 Second level state examination candidates	126
Table 7.9 Pupils in all second level schools by Leaving Certificate subject, 2007	127
Table 7.10 Leaving Certificate candidates taking selected subjects at ordinary level	128
Table 7.11 Leaving Certificate candidates taking selected subjects at higher level	129
Table 7.12 Leaving Certificate ordinary level grades for most popular subjects, 2007	129
Table 7.13 Leaving Certificate higher level grades for most popular subjects, 2007	130
Table 7.14 First time entrants to third level courses in all institutions, 2006/07	131

Introduction

The statistics in this chapter have been obtained from the Department of Education and Science. Results from the Quarterly national Household Survey (QNHS) modules on Educational Attainment are also included. The data include details of participation in and expenditure on first, second and third level education.

Educational Attainment

In 2007 over 27% of those aged 15-64 had a third level qualification. 63% of all persons aged 15-64 attained education levels of higher secondary level or above. 14% of persons aged 15-64 had not progressed beyond primary level education.

Persons in education

The number of students in first level education totalled 477,078 in 2006/07. This was a slight increase over 2004/05 but represented only 83% of the 576,576 figure recorded in 1985/86. The numbers at this level have fallen substantially since then, but have risen since 2001/02. In the case of second level students, the participation rate rose strongly from 1965/66 until 2006/2007. Over the period 1965-2007, there was an increase of over 700% in the third level student population. 4,215 extra places were taken up in 2006/07, as compared with 2005/06.

In 2006/07, participation rates for males and females differed substantially over the age group 15-22. Only a slightly greater proportion of females were in full-time education at age 15. At the age of 19, 66% of females and 48% of males were in full time education. This can be partially explained by a greater male participation in the labour force for the 15-19 age cohort. The education participation rates came back into balance for ages 23 and 24.

Women formed 59% of new entrants to the HEA institutions (Universities and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland) in the year 2006/07, but formed only 47% of new entrants to the Institutes and Colleges of Technology.

Teachers in Education

The number of teaching posts in first level education has increased from 21,100 in 1998 to 29,534 in 2007. The number of teachers (full time and full time equivalents) in secondary, vocational and community schools has increased from 24,611 in 2000/01 to 26,317 in 2006/07.

Exam Results

The number of examination candidates in second level schools has declined from 127,595 in 1999 to 111,180 in 2007. The number of students in 2007 taking higher level leaving certificate English was 61% compared to 27% in Irish and 16% in Mathematics. The number of students in 2007 achieving an A Grade in higher level English was 10% in higher level Irish was 12% and in higher level Mathematics was 15%.

Technical Notes

Tables 7.1

Table 7.1 gives details of the highest level of education attained by people in Ireland and is taken from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) ad hoc module on Educational Attainment last published in May 2006. Data refer to March-May 2000-2006.

Table 7.4

Up to 2003 the Estimates for the Education Sector were accounted for in the Book of Estimates and the Appropriation Accounts under four separate Votes - (a) Office of the Minister for Education and Science (b) First Level Education (c) Second Level and Further Education and (d) Third level and Further Education.

In 2003, with the approval of the Public Accounts Committee, the former four Education Votes were amalgamated into one single Vote – Education and Science. The amalgamated Vote followed the former Vote and Subhead structures as closely as possible.

The amalgamation of the votes aligned the financial functioning of the Department with the approach taken in the Department's Statement of Strategy.

Administration and other services include school transport, grant in aid fund for general expenses of youth and sport organisations, schools information and communications technological activities, Child Abuse Commission and Residential Institutions Redress.

Table 7.7

Only teachers paid from funds provided by the Department of Education and Science are included in this table.

Part-time teaching staff includes job-sharers, eligible part-time teachers and other part-time teachers.

The data in respect of Vocational schools relate to day courses only.

Table 7.9

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

Home Economics S & S (New Syllabus) has been introduced. Home Economics (S.S.) and Home Economics (General) are being phased out.

Table 7.10

The percentages in this table are the proportion of Leaving Certificate examination candidates (excluding Leaving Certificate Applied) who took a particular subject at ordinary level.

Table 7.11

The percentages in this table are the proportion of Leaving Certificate examination candidates (excluding Leaving Certificate Applied) who took a particular subject at higher level.

Table 7.1 Persons aged 15-64 classified by the highest level of education attained

Thousands

Highest education level attained	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Males							
Primary or below	278.7	282.7	274.7	253.3	246.7	242.4	240.1
Lower secondary	296.1	286.7	291.3	307.0	316.1	310.3	312.6
Higher secondary	301.1	315.5	324.2	335.2	356.1	371.6	381.3
Post leaving cert	146.4	141.7	142.8	133.4	121.1	132.0	138.5
Third level non-degree	76.7	91.8	93.0	104.9	111.5	111.0	118.3
Third level degree or above	148.2	155.1	172.7	195.8	206.7	214.7	228.5
Other	27.4	28.5	34.2	27.3	23.4	36.5	45.4
Total	1,274.6	1,302.1	1,333.0	1,357.0	1,381.6	1,418.5	1,464.7
Females							
Primary or below	245.8	250.8	241.6	218.3	211.4	203.4	198.4
Lower secondary	268.2	252.7	255.9	267.6	267.8	263.4	261.2
Higher secondary	335.6	348.9	356.1	375.3	384.6	394.9	394.4
Post leaving cert	149.2	142.6	138.9	140.5	132.0	134.3	134.3
Third level non-degree	103.7	119.5	126.4	132.8	142.4	150.6	156.8
Third level degree or above	134.8	148.7	173.8	187.3	208.2	222.6	258.0
Other	25.0	24.5	28.1	23.5	21.7	29.2	31.7
Total	1,262.3	1,287.7	1,320.8	1,345.3	1,368.1	1,398.3	1,435.0
All persons							
Primary or below	524.5	533.5	516.4	471.6	458.1	445.7	438.5
Lower secondary	564.3	539.4	547.2	574.7	583.9	573.7	573.8
Higher secondary	636.7	664.4	680.2	710.5	740.7	766.4	775.7
Post leaving cert	295.6	284.3	281.7	273.9	253.1	266.3	272.9
Third level non-degree	180.4	211.3	219.4	237.7	253.9	261.5	275.1
Third level degree or above	283.0	303.8	346.5	383.1	414.9	437.3	486.5
Other	52.3	53.1	62.3	50.8	45.1	65.7	77.1
TOTAL	2,536.8	2,589.8	2,653.8	2,702.3	2,749.7	2,816.7	2,899.6

Source: CSO

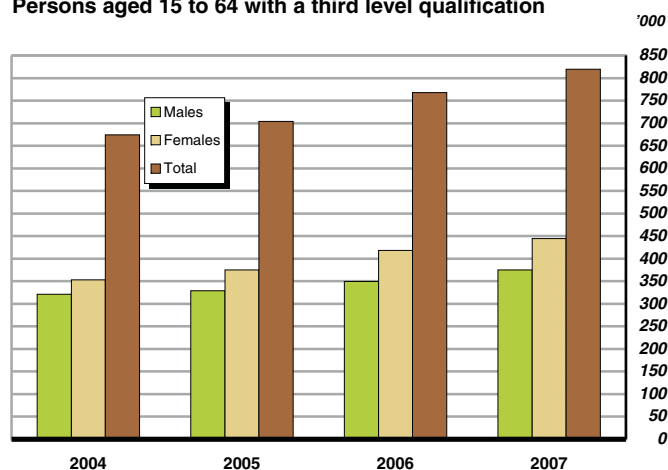
Persons aged 15 to 64 with a third level qualification

Table 7.2 Persons in full-time education by level

Number

School year	First level	Second level	Third level
1965/66	504,865	142,983	20,698
1970/71	520,129	197,142	24,496
1975/76	550,078	270,956	33,148
1980/81	568,364	300,601	41,928
1985/86	576,576	338,207	55,088
1990/91	552,528	345,941	69,988
1995/96	485,923	373,665	102,662
2000/01	444,782	349,274	126,300
2001/02	447,446	344,720	131,812
2002/03	448,754	343,596	137,323
2003/04	451,755	341,724	143,271
2004/05	455,572	339,128	143,546
2005/06	462,811	335,134	145,287
2006/07	477,078	336,955	149,502

Source: Department of Education and Science

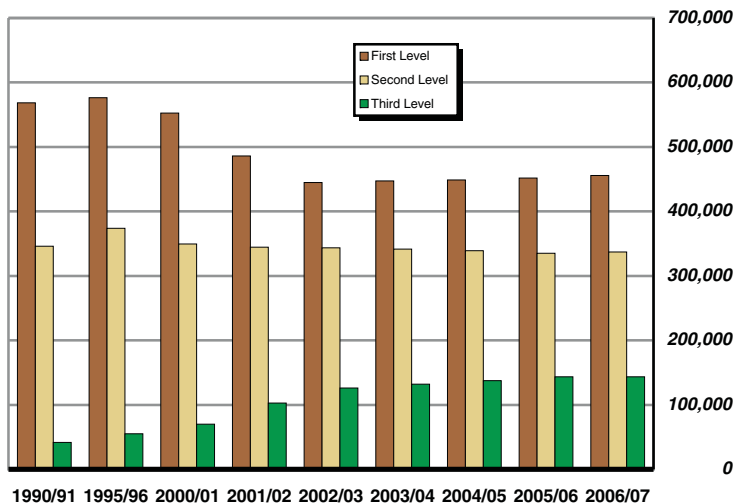
Persons in full-time education by level

Table 7.3 Persons receiving full-time education and estimated participation rates for ages 15-24, 2006/07

Age	In full-time education			As % of population	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
15	29,189	28,750	57,939	99.6	101.8
16	28,320	28,231	56,551	94.6	99.6
17	23,293	25,458	48,751	80.3	91.2
18	17,140	21,935	39,075	60.3	79.6
19	14,176	19,103	33,279	48.2	66.1
20	12,778	17,275	30,053	40.3	56.3
21	10,292	13,272	23,564	30.7	40.3
22	7,131	8,167	15,298	20.4	23.8
23	4,371	4,822	9,193	12.2	13.2
24	3,300	3,584	6,884	8.6	9.5

Source: Department of Education and Science

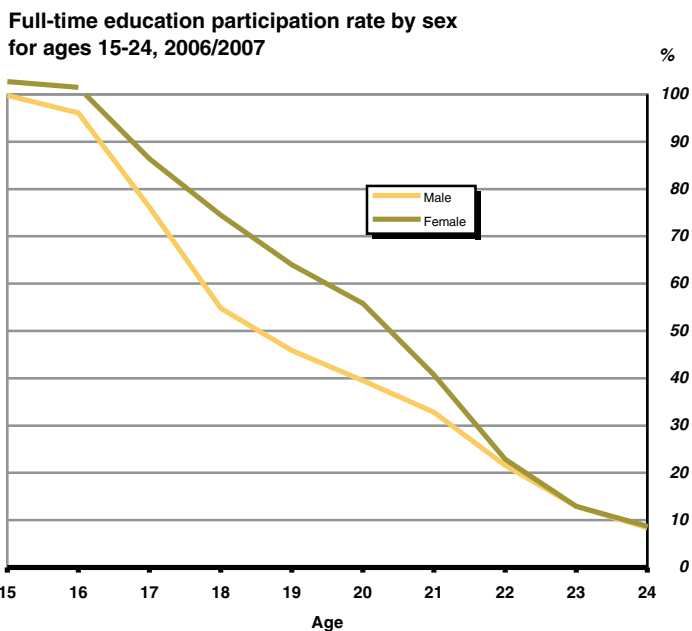


Table 7.4 Voted expenditure by sector for financial year ended 31 December 2006

€m

Sector	Current	Capital	Total
Administration and Other Services	612,874	7,499	620,373
First Level Education Grants and Services	2,464,416	244,898	2,709,314
Second Level & Further Education Grants and Services	2,534,090	249,480	2,783,570
Third Level & Further Education Grants and Services	1,667,656	115,984	1,783,640
Gross expenditure	7,279,036	617,861	7,896,897
Appropriations In Aid	282,517	–	282,517
Net expenditure	6,996,519	617,861	7,614,380

Source: Department of Education and Science

Table 7.5 Pupils in first level schools classified by standard

Number

Standard	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Infants standard	103,832	107,500	111,355	113,150	113,749	115,418	120,314
First standard	50,818	51,138	52,166	54,770	56,131	57,393	57,546
Second standard	51,766	50,927	51,243	52,211	54,865	56,435	57,913
Third standard	54,033	51,960	51,226	51,567	52,436	55,373	57,121
Fourth standard	54,606	54,079	52,068	51,323	51,829	52,891	56,027
Fifth standard	54,063	54,916	54,476	52,405	51,713	52,416	53,688
Sixth standard	53,595	53,760	54,616	54,225	52,382	51,832	52,705
Other standard	631	427	379	320	215	208	141
Special schools	7,124	6,982	6,807	6,718	6,621	6,627	6,578
Pupils with special needs in ordinary first level schools	9,092	9,376	9,384	9,340	9,357	9,296	9,486
Private Primary Schools	5,222	6,381	5,034	5,726	6,274	4,922	5,559
Total pupils	444,782	447,446	448,754	451,755	455,572	462,811	477,078

Source: Department of Education and Science

Table 7.6 Teaching posts in first level schools on 30 June

Number

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

Source: Department of Education and Science

Table 7.7 Teachers in secondary, vocational and community schools

Number

Category	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Secondary							
Full-time	12,476	12,424	12,447	11,835	11,553	11,477	11,501
Full-time equivalent of part-time	1,361	1,582	1,680	1,326	1,653	1,844	1,944
Vocational							
Full-time	5,788	5,685	5,933	5,977	5,994	6,482	7,132
Full-time equivalent of part-time	1,381	1,607	1,417	1,581	1,682	1,503	1,617
Community and Comprehensive							
Full-time	3,171	3,410	3,682	3,602	3,487	3,452	3,452
Full-time equivalent of part-time	434	479	533	490	621	629	671
Total							
Full-time	21,435	21,519	22,062	21,414	21,034	21,411	22,085
Full-time equivalent of part-time	3,176	3,668	3,630	3,397	3,956	3,976	4,232
GRAND TOTAL							
Full-time & full-time equivalent	24,611	25,187	25,692	24,811	24,990	25,387	26,317

Source: Department of Education and Science

Table 7.8 Second level state examination candidates

Number

Examination	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Junior Certificate	62,659	61,470	60,124	60,152	59,340	56,864	56,640	57,784	57,287
Male	31,773	31,302	30,308	30,150	29,855	28,495	28,627	29,273	28,812
Female	30,886	30,168	29,816	30,002	29,485	28,369	28,013	28,511	28,475
Leaving Certificate	64,936	63,419	59,537	58,400	59,536	58,742	57,391	54,111	53,893
Male	30,811	30,138	28,176	27,716	28,532	28,059	27,189	25,832	25,730
Female	34,125	33,281	31,361	30,684	31,004	30,683	30,202	28,279	28,163
ALL EXAMINATION CANDIDATES	127,595	124,889	119,661	118,552	118,876	115,606	114,031	111,895	111,180
Male	62,584	61,440	58,484	57,866	58,387	56,554	55,816	55,105	54,542
Female	65,011	63,449	61,177	60,686	60,489	59,052	58,215	56,790	56,638

Source: Department of Education and Science

Source: State Exams Commission

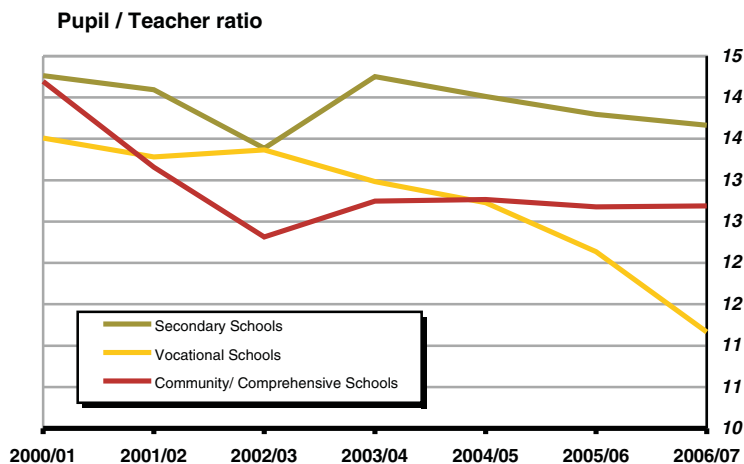


Table 7.9 Pupils in all second level schools by Leaving Certificate subject, 2007

Number

Subject	Number of pupils			% studying subject	
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
English	48,844	51,206	100,050	99.7	99.8
Mathematics	48,851	51,137	99,988	99.8	99.6
Irish	44,703	47,525	92,228	91.3	92.6
Religious Education	40,550	44,020	84,570	82.8	85.8
Physical Education	27,803	32,387	60,190	56.8	63.1
French	26,081	34,038	60,119	53.3	66.3
Biology	18,087	35,195	53,282	36.9	68.6
Geography	26,626	21,833	48,459	54.4	42.5
Business Studies	17,090	19,560	36,650	34.9	38.1
Home Economics (New syllabus)	2,884	22,949	25,833	5.9	44.7
Home Economics (S & S)	2,884	22,949	25,833	5.9	44.7
History	13,325	10,564	23,889	27.2	20.6
Computer Studies	11,021	12,827	23,848	22.5	25.0
Construction Studies	17,545	1,427	18,972	35.8	2.8
German	7,401	8,705	16,106	15.1	17.0
Physics	11,020	3,785	14,805	22.5	7.4
Accounting	6,508	7,760	14,268	13.3	15.1
Chemistry	6,219	7,883	14,102	12.7	15.4
Art (with Craftwork option)	4,086	7,565	11,651	8.3	14.7
Technical Drawing	10,654	946	11,600	21.8	1.8
Engineering	10,193	584	10,777	20.8	1.1
Art (with Design option)	4,054	6,116	10,170	8.3	11.9
Music	2,602	6,711	9,313	5.3	13.1
Economics	5,212	3,023	8,235	10.6	5.9
Agricultural Science	5,450	2,157	7,607	11.1	4.2
Spanish	2,289	3,857	6,146	4.7	7.5
Choir	173	2,768	2,941	0.4	5.4
Applied Maths	1,560	702	2,262	3.2	1.4
Health Education	435	1,400	1,835	0.9	2.7
Classical Studies	585	580	1,165	1.2	1.1
Physics and Chemistry	731	418	1,149	1.5	0.8
Speech and Drama	0	913	913	0.0	1.8
Italian	159	306	465	0.3	0.6
Typewriting	71	186	257	0.1	0.4
Keyboarding	134	111	245	0.3	0.2
Latin	186	41	227	0.4	0.1
Agricultural Economics	55	36	91	0.1	0.1
Orchestra	0	81	81	0.0	0.2
Greek	13	2	15	0.0	0.0
Home Economics (General)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Economic History	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Leaving Certificate Programme	48,972	51,328	100,300		

Source: Department of Education and Science

Table 7.10 Leaving Certificate candidates taking selected subjects at ordinary level

%

Subject	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Mathematics	70	70	70	71	70	70	68	68	69	69
Irish	53	53	52	53	52	52	52	52	52	50
English	43	42	43	39	39	37	37	35	35	34
French	30	30	32	31	31	31	29	30	28	28
Biology	18	18	17	17	15	16	15	15	15	16
Business Studies	15	11	13	14	13	13	13	13	13	12
Geography	13	11	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
Mathematics (Alt/Ord)	9	9	10	9	10	10	11	10	10	11
Irish (Foundation)	9	9	9	9	10	9	9	9	9	9
Home Economics (S & S)	10	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	8	8
History	9	8	8	7	7	8	8	7	7	8
German	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Technical Drawing	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5
Art	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Physics	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	4
Construction Studies	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Accounting	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Engineering	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2
Economics	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Chemistry	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2
Agricultural Science	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Spanish	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Music	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Physics and Chemistry	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Department of Education and Science
Source: State Exams Commission

All Leaving Certificate students taking selected subjects, 2007

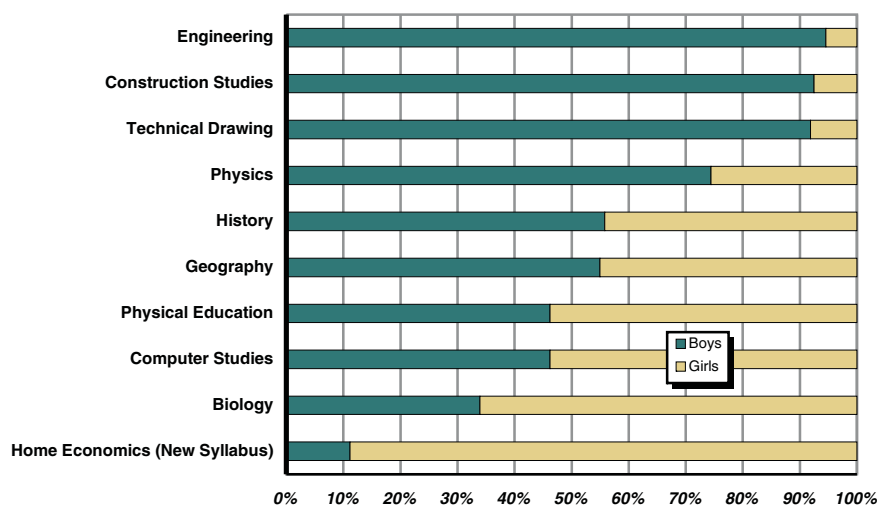


Table 7.11 Leaving Certificate candidates taking selected subjects at higher level

%

Subject	Grade									
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
English	53	53	53	55	57	58	59	60	60	61
Geography	33	36	37	38	38	39	39	39	35	35
Biology	30	28	27	26	25	25	29	32	33	34
French	27	29	28	28	27	27	27	27	26	27
Irish	28	27	28	28	27	27	27	27	25	27
Business Studies	23	28	29	29	29	28	27	25	25	25
Mathematics	17	17	18	18	17	17	17	18	18	16
Home Economics (S & S)	27	27	25	25	24	23	19	18	16	16
Art	11	11	11	11	12	12	13	14	15	15
History	14	13	13	12	12	13	12	12	14	15
Construction Studies	10	10	11	11	11	12	12	12	13	12
Chemistry	9	9	9	9	10	10	11	11	11	11
Physics	10	10	10	10	11	11	11	10	10	10
Accounting	10	10	9	9	8	8	9	9	10	10
German	11	11	11	10	9	9	9	9	9	9
Music	0	4	5	5	6	6	7	8	8	9
Economics	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	5
Engineering	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7
Agricultural Science	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	6	6
Technical Drawing	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Spanish	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
Applied Mathematics	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Classical Studies	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Physics and Chemistry	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Source: Department of Education and Science

Source: State Exams Commission

Table 7.12 Leaving Certificate ordinary level grades for most popular subjects, 2007

%

Subject	Grade				
	A	B	C	D	E or lower
History	23	31	27	16	3
Accounting	20	27	22	15	16
Mathematics	14	28	26	20	12
Physics	14	30	29	17	10
Economics	12	34	31	19	5
Technical Drawing	11	29	29	23	8
Business Studies	11	31	33	20	6
Mathematics (Alt/Ord)	10	34	31	18	7
English	8	29	40	20	3
Chemistry	8	24	27	25	17
Geography	5	32	42	19	3
Irish (Foundation)	5	32	44	17	2
Irish	5	41	34	16	5
German	4	37	35	18	7
Engineering	3	22	39	28	9
Biology	3	22	33	27	15
French	2	22	38	30	8
Art	1	23	44	27	6
Home Economics (S & S)	1	22	42	27	8
Construction Studies	1	18	40	32	10

Source: Department of Education and Science

Source: State Exams Commission

Table 7.13 Leaving Certificate higher level grades for most popular subjects, 2007

%

Subject	Grade				
	A	B	C	D	E or lower
Applied Mathematics	29	29	21	14	8
Physics and Chemistry	23	26	26	16	10
Physics	21	25	26	20	8
Chemistry	21	33	25	16	6
Accounting	20	34	23	16	8
Biology	20	27	25	20	8
Mathematics	15	34	31	16	4
Music	15	51	29	4	0
Spanish	14	28	38	19	1
Technical Drawing	13	33	32	18	4
German	13	29	34	22	2
History	13	31	33	20	3
French	12	28	34	23	3
Irish	12	34	37	16	1
Economics	11	32	30	21	6
Business Studies	11	27	28	25	8
English	10	29	38	22	2
Engineering	10	28	34	23	6
Agricultural Science	9	25	34	26	7
Classical Studies	8	26	31	25	11
Home Economics (S & S)	8	31	37	21	3
Geography	8	30	38	21	3
Construction Studies	8	34	38	18	3
Art	5	31	42	20	2

Source: Department of Education and Science

Grade distribution of selected Leaving Certificate higher level subjects, 2007

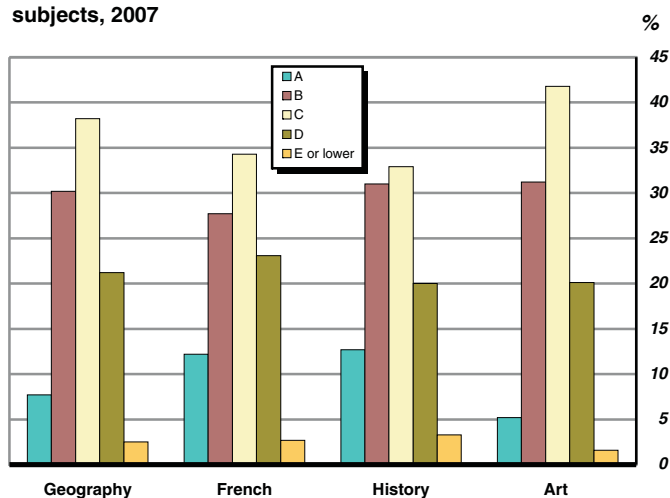


Table 7.14 First time entrants to third level courses in all institutions, 2006/07*Number*

Type of institution	Male	Female	Total
HEA Institutions	7,937	11,482	19,419
IOT/Technological Sector	8,689	7,827	16,516
Other	1,935	1,997	3,932
Total	18,561	21,306	39,867

Source: Department of Education and Science

