



School Completers – What Next?

Report on School Completers from Post-Primary Schools – Pupils Enrolled in 2010/2011 and not in 2011/2012

March 2016

This report may be accessed at:

[School Completers - What Next?](#)

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Introduction

This report is the second in a series of reports by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) which track school leavers a year after they leave school. Its companion reports 'Early School Leavers - What Next?' is also available.

Where individual data was available, tracking was carried out using data matching. This was supplemented with estimations for other destinations for which individualised data was not available. The reports are based on a detailed analysis of students on the Post-Primary Pupils Database who were enrolled in DES-aided post-primary schools, focusing on those pupils who were enrolled in post-primary schools in a particular academic year but not enrolled in one of these schools one year later. These pupils, using a unique personal identifier (a protected identifier key based on the Personal Public Service Number (PPSN)), were tracked to other data sources that were available at the time. The cohort of pupils dealt with in this report were enrolled in the final year of senior cycle in the 2010/2011 academic year and are termed 'School Completers'. The cohort of pupils who were enrolled in years prior to the final year of senior cycle in the 2010/2011 academic year and who were not enrolled in the 2011/2012 academic year form the subject of the companion report on Early Leavers.

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Author

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Executive Summary

This report focuses on a cohort of school leavers the year after they leave school. It is based on a detailed analysis of the records on the Post-Primary Pupils Database supplied by the Department of Education (DES) to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on students who were enrolled in DES-aided post-primary schools. It focuses on those pupils who were enrolled in post-primary schools in the 2010/2011 academic year but not enrolled in one of these schools one year later in the 2011/2012 academic year.

These pupils, using a unique personal identifier (a protected identifier key based on the Personal Public Service Number (PPSN)), were tracked to other administrative data sources that were available at the time. The data matching was done in the CSO with data supplied by the Department of Education and Skills.

These students were enrolled in post-primary schools on the 30th of September 2010 (2010/2011 academic year); other databases were examined for the period one year later to see if these pupils appeared on them (*for further details see the section on Reference Period in the Background Notes*).

In the 2010/2011 academic year there were **54,755** pupils enrolled in the second year of Senior Cycle or Repeat Leaving Certificate in second-level schools aided by the Department of Education and Skills that were not enrolled in the following year. These pupils are termed 'School Completers' for the purpose of this report and form the basis of the analysis that follows (*see Background Notes*).

The data linking was carried out in conjunction with the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and in line with the Statistics Act, 1993. In addition to tracking pupils across other databases, estimations and calculations have been used for other destinations using a mixture of data sources (e.g. students studying abroad and students studying in non-HEA-aided colleges). Note that the data in all tables have been rounded to the nearest 10 for statistical confidentiality, hence the sum of the components may not equal the total.

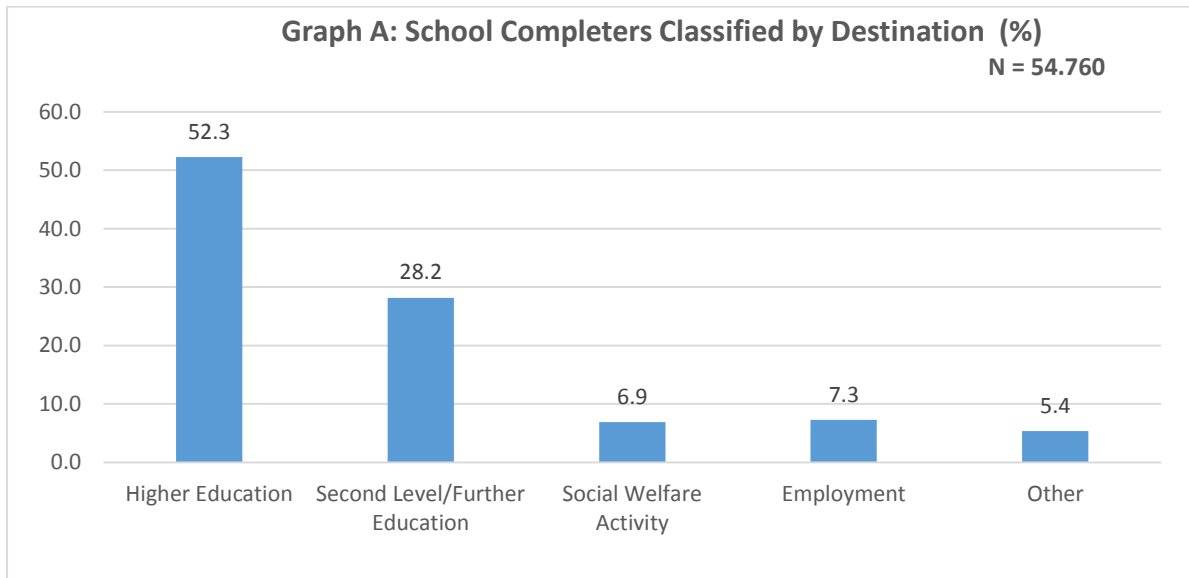
Table A: School Completers Enrolled in DES-Aided Second-Level Schools in 2010/2011 - Classified by Destination in 2011

Destination	No.	%
Enrolled in Higher Education	28,620	52.3
Enrolled in Second-Level/Further Education or Training	15,430	28.2
<i>of those remaining</i>		
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2011	3,780	6.9
Employment Activity During 2011*	3,980	7.3
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	2,950	5.4
Total	54,760	100.0

*Of those with no social welfare activity on the 31st of December 2011

Table A above and Graph A below present data on the destination of School Leavers. Over 50% (52.3%) of School Completers go on to higher education and a further 28.2% progress to further education/training or continued second-level education.

Of those School Completers who did not continue in the education sector, approximately 7% (6.9%) of the total cohort were seen to have social welfare activity at the end of December 2011. Of the remainder, 7.3% of the total cohort had employment activity during 2011.



Section 1: School Completers

Table 1.1: School Completers - Classified by Destination in 2011/2012

	Number	% of cohort
Total Cohort	54,760	100.0
<i>of which enrolled in</i>		
Higher Education Course (Higher Education Authority)*	25,040	45.7
Repeat Leaving Certificate	2,570	4.7
Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) Course	10,590	19.3
FÁS Course 2011	1,640	3.0
Other Second-Level/Further Education or Training*	630	1.2
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>15,430</i>	<i>28.2</i>
<i>of those remaining</i>		
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2011	3,780	6.9
Employment Activity During 2011~	3,980	7.3
<i>Estimates for</i>		
Higher Education Course (Higher Education Authority)*, Non-PPSN coverage	210	0.4
Higher Education Course – Non-HEA-Aided Institutions*	1,300	2.4
Higher Education Course Abroad*	2,070	3.8
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	2,950	5.4

~ Of those with no social welfare activity on the 31st December 2011.

* See Background Notes.

As shown in Table 1.1 above, 45.7% of School Completers (25,040) were enrolled in a higher education (HEA) college the year following their final year in school. When an estimate is included for non-coverage of PPSNs on the HEA Student Record System, a further 210 students were also enrolled in these colleges. An estimate was made for the number of students enrolled in non-HEA-aided institutions of 1,300, or 2.4%, of the cohort. Separately an estimate of 2,070, or 3.8%, of the cohort was made on the number of students enrolled in colleges abroad (the majority of these being in the UK, including Northern Ireland). Collectively, more than half (52.3%) of all School Completers were enrolled in a higher education institution in the year following their final year in school (see Table 1.1 above, Background Notes and Appendix 1).

Nearly 20% (19.3%), or 10,590, of School Completers progressed to a PLC course, with a further 4.2% (2,270) enrolled in a FÁS or other second-level/further education or training course. 2,570 students returned to school to repeat their Leaving Certificates - see Table 1.1 above.

Of the School Completers who were not accounted for in educational databases, 3,780 had social welfare activity on the 31st of December 2011, equating to 6.9% of the total cohort. A further 3,980 (7.3%) were in employment at some point during 2011. Note that the source file for employment relates to the entire year, so it is possible that some of the 3,980 persons referred to were in employment at the start of 2011 whilst in school and not in employment in the later part of the year.

There were 2,950 students left in the cohort that did not appear in the databases examined or were not accounted for in the estimations for higher education. A small percentage of students that did not appear in the other data sources examined (less than 250) received a minor FETAC award during 2012. This provides evidence that these students were still in the country - see Table 1.1 on the previous page.

School Completers – Gender Breakdown

Table 1.2: School Completers Classified by Gender and Destination in 2011/2012

	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total Cohort	27,240	100.0	27,510	100.0
<i>of which Enrolled in</i>				
Third-Level Course (Higher Education Authority (HEA))*	12,640	46.4	12,400	45.1
Repeat Leaving Certificate	1,170	4.3	1,400	5.1
Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) Course	6,270	23.0	4,320	15.7
FÁS Course 2011	530	1.9	1,100	4.0
Other Second-Level/Further Education or Training*	190	0.7	440	1.6
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>8,160</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>7,260</i>	<i>26.4</i>
<i>of those remaining</i>				
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2011	1,700	6.2	2,080	7.6
Employment Activity During 2011~	1,750	6.4	2,230	8.1
<i>Estimates for</i>				
Third-Level Course (HEA)*, non-PPSN Coverage	120	0.4	90	0.3
Third-Level Course, Non HEA-Aided Institutions*	540	2.0	770	2.8
Third-Level Course Abroad*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

~ Of those with no social welfare activity on the 31st December 2011

* See Background Notes

n/a Not Available

There is very little difference between the proportion of male School Completers who continue on directly to Higher Education and that of female School Completers (46.4% versus 45.1%). In absolute terms, 240 more males than females progressed directly into higher education courses (refers to HEA-aided higher education institutions only) - see Table 1.2 above.

Just over 23% (6,270) of all male School Completers continue to PLC courses. This compares to less than 16% (15.7%), or 4,320, of all female School Completers. However, more female School Completers than male enrol in FÁS and other second-level/further education and training courses - see Table 1.2 above.

Of those School Completers not accounted for in continuing education, a higher proportion of females were seen to have social welfare activity or employment activity - See Table 1.2 above.

School Completers – Differences in Destinations Depending on DEIS Status of School?

Table 1.3: School Completers – Classified by DEIS Status of School Attended and Destination in 2011/2012

	<u>DEIS</u>		<u>Non-DEIS</u>	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total Cohort	11,260	100.0	43,490	100.0
<i>of which Enrolled in</i>				
Third-Level Course (Higher Education Authority (HEA))*	2,910	25.8	22,130	50.9
Repeat Leaving Certificate	460	4.1	2,110	4.9
Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) Course	3,010	26.7	7,570	17.4
FÁS Course 2011	660	5.9	970	2.2
Other Second-Level/Further Education or Training*	160	1.4	470	1.1
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>4,290</i>	<i>38.1</i>	<i>11,120</i>	<i>25.6</i>
<i>of those remaining</i>				
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2011	1,400	12.4	2,380	5.5
Employment Activity During 2011~	890	7.9	3,090	7.1
<i>Estimates for</i>				
Third-Level Course (HEA)*, non-PPSN coverage	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Third-Level Course, Non-HEA-Aided Institutions*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Third-Level Course Abroad*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

~ Of those with no social welfare activity on the 31st December 2011

* See Background Notes

n/a Not Available

Table 1.3 above shows a comparison of the destinations of the School Completers cohort classified by the DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) status of the school they attended. In terms of proportion, nearly twice as many of those who attended a non-DEIS school progressed to third level (50.9% versus 25.8%), whereas a higher proportion of those who attended a DEIS school progressed to post leaving certificate (PLC) courses (26.7% versus 17.4%). A higher proportion of those attending a DEIS school were observed to have social welfare activity than those who attended a non-DEIS school (12.4% versus 5.5%). The proportion of the DEIS School Completers who were seen to have employment activity is similar to that of the non-DEIS School Completers.

Comparison of 2010/2011 School Completers with 2009/2010 School Completers

Table 1.4: 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 School Completers - Classified by Destination One Year Later

	2009/2010 School Completers Destination in 2010	2010/2011 School Completers Destination in 2011
Total Cohort	100.0	100.0
<i>of which Enrolled in</i>		
Third-Level Course (Higher Education Authority (HEA))*	44.0	45.7
Repeat Leaving Certificate	5.4	4.7
Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) Course	19.8	19.3
FÁS Course 2010/2011	1.4	3.0
Other Second-Level/Further Education or Training*	0.9	1.2
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>27.6</i>	<i>28.2</i>
<i>of those remaining</i>		
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2010/2011	7.3	6.9
Employment Activity During 2010~	10.3	7.3
<i>Estimates for</i>		
Third-Level Course (HEA)* non-PPSN Coverage	0.5	0.4
Third-Level Course, Non-HEA-Aided Institutions*	2.3	2.4
Third-Level Course Abroad*	3.6	3.8
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	4.5	5.4

~ Of those with no social welfare activity on the 31st December 2011

* See Background Notes

Table 1.4 above shows a comparison of the destinations of the 2009/2010 School Completers cohort with the 2010/2011 School Completers cohort that are featured in this publication; the patterns are quite similar. There was a slight increase in the 2010/2011 School Completer direct progression rate to third level when compared with the 2009/2010 School Completer cohort, combined with a slight decrease in both the Repeat Leaving Certificate rate and direct progression rate to PLC courses. The percentage of School Completers that progressed directly to FÁS training courses more than doubled for the 2010/2011 academic year, however users should note that part of this increase may be due to improvements in the FÁS dataset.

Further information on the 2009/2010 School Completer cohort is available on the DES website at:

<http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/School-Completers-What-Next-.pdf>

and

<http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/Statistical-Reports/School-Completers-Additional-Tables.xlsx>

Section 2: School Completers Progressing to Higher Education

Table 2.1: School Completers who Progressed Directly to Higher Education* - Classified by Leaving Certificate Programme

	Leaving Certificate	Leaving Certificate Vocational /Leaving Certificate Applied	Repeat Leaving Certificate	Total
Enrolled in Higher Education	15,350	7,880	1,810	25,040
% of all School Completers	50.1	38.0	53.4	45.7
Number of School Completers	30,630	20,760	3,370	54,760

* Refers to School Completers who enrolled in HEA-aided institutions only.

Type of Leaving Certificate Programme

Table 2.1 above shows that 45.7% of the entire group of School Completers were enrolled in HEA-aided institutions one year later. Looking at the different Leaving Certificate programmes, 50.1% of all those who pursued the Leaving Certificate programme were enrolled in HEA-aided institutions one year later. The same is true of 38.0% of those who pursued the Leaving Certificate Vocational or Leaving Certificate Applied programmes and 53.4% of those who repeated the Leaving Certificate. Note that these figures relate to School Completers who entered HEA-aided institutions only (see Table 2.1 above).

What Type of School Did They Come From?

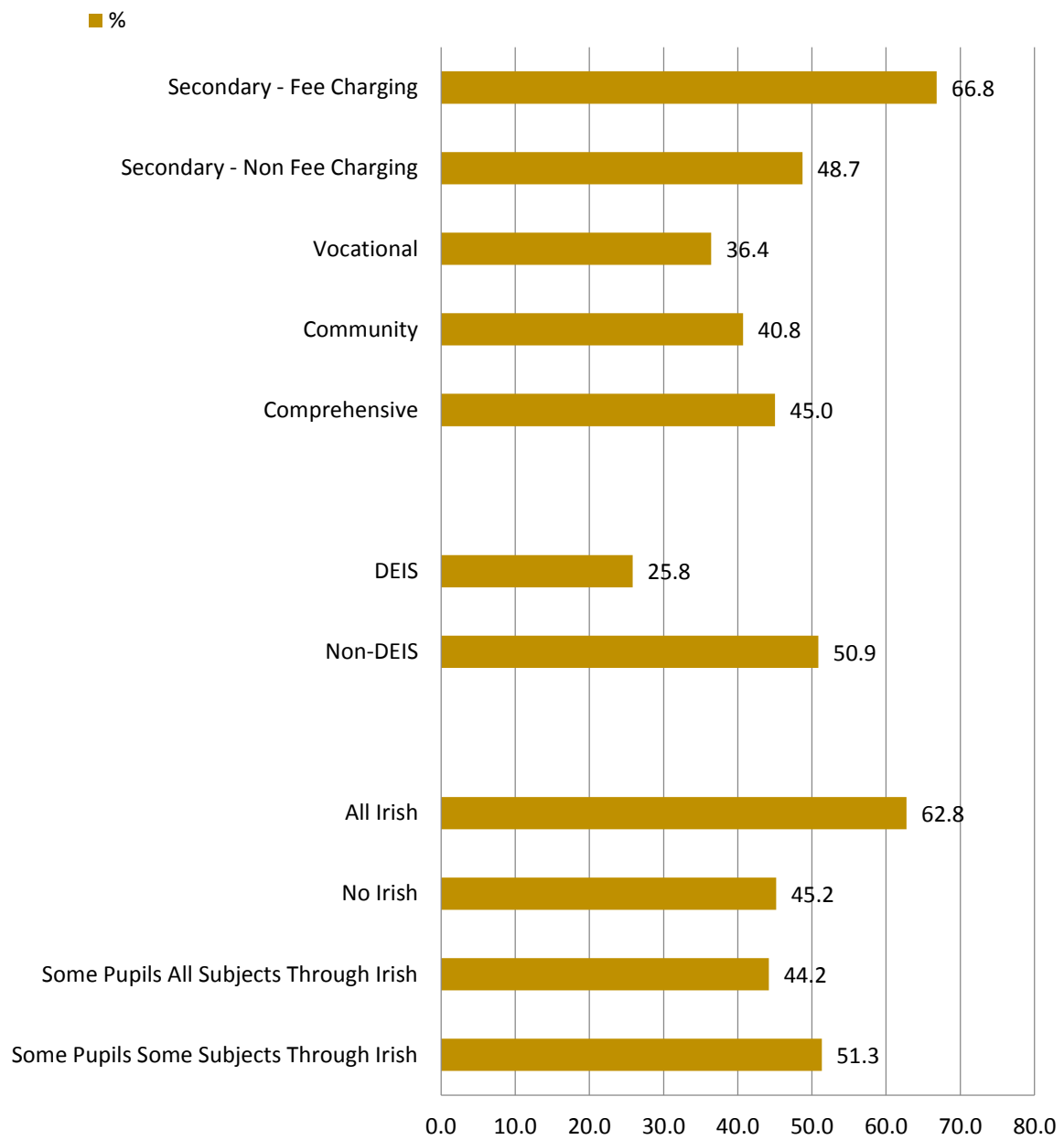
Table 2.2: School Completers who Progressed Directly to Higher Education* - Classified by Characteristics of School Attended

	Number of Completers Who Progressed Directly to Higher Education	All School Completers	% of All School Completers
School Type			
Secondary – Fee-Charging	2,740	4,100	66.8
Secondary – Non-Fee-Charging	13,420	27,550	48.7
Vocational	4,980	13,670	36.4
Community	3,310	8,130	40.8
Comprehensive	590	1,310	45.0
Total	25,040	54,760	45.7
DEIS Status of School			
DEIS	2,910	11,260	25.8
Non-DEIS	22,130	43,500	50.9
Total	25,040	54,760	45.7
Medium of Instruction in School			
All Pupils Taught All Subjects Through Irish	910	1,450	62.8
No Subjects Taught Through Irish	23,360	51,690	45.2
Some Pupils Taught All Subjects Through Irish	380	860	44.2
Some Pupils Taught Some Subjects Through Irish	390	760	51.3
Total	25,040	54,760	45.7

* Refers to School Completers who enrolled in HEA-aided institutions only.

Table 2.2 above shows School Completers who progressed directly to higher education, classified by some characteristics of the school they attended. It also shows the percentage of students from schools with these characteristics that progressed directly to higher education. The various categories of school characteristics are not mutually exclusive. Pupils who attended fee-charging secondary schools were more likely (66.8%) to progress directly to higher education than those who attended the other school types. Similarly, 50.9% of pupils who attended non-DEIS schools progressed directly to higher education compared to just 25.8% of those who attended DEIS schools (DEIS - Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools). Pupils who attended all-Irish schools were more likely (62.8%) to have progressed directly to higher education than those who attended schools where Irish was not the sole medium of instruction (see Table 2.2 above and Graph 2.1 overleaf).

Graph 2.1: Percentage of School Completers from Schools with Various Characteristics who Progressed Directly to Higher Education



What Level of Course are They Pursuing?

Table 2.3: School Completers who Continued Directly to Higher Education*- Classified by Leaving Certificate Programme and NFQ Level of Higher Education Course

	Leaving Certificate Established	Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme	Repeat Leaving Certificate	Total
<i>NFQ Level</i>				
Level 6 (Higher Certificate) and below	680	620	130	1,430
Level 7 (Ordinary Bachelor's Degree)	1,900	1,810	390	4,100
Level 8 (Honours Bachelor's Degree) and above	12,710	5,420	1,270	19,390
Missing	60	30	20	110
Total	15,350	7,880	1,810	25,040
<i>All School Completers</i>	<i>30,630</i>	<i>20,760</i>	<i>3,370</i>	<i>54,760</i>

* Refers to School Completers who enrolled in HEA-aided institutions only

Table 2.3 above shows that the majority of School Completers who progressed directly to higher education enrolled in National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) Level 8 courses. NFQ Level 8 is the Honours Bachelor's Degree and is normally awarded following the completion of a programme of three to four years' duration in a recognised higher education institution (*see Table 2.3 above*).

Working Their Way Through College.

Table 2.4: School Completers who Progressed Directly to Higher Education* - Classified by Employment Activity

Employment Activity	Males	Females	Total
Employment Activity During 2011	5,320	4,520	9,840
Total Cohort	12,640	12,400	25,040
<i>% of Cohort</i>	<i>42.1</i>	<i>36.5</i>	<i>39.3</i>

* Refers to School Completers who enrolled in HEA-aided institutions only.

The table above shows that, of those students who continued directly to higher education, 39.3% had employment activity during 2011. A higher proportion of males than females were in employment - see Table 2.4 above and footnote¹ below.

¹ Data from the Quarterly National Household Survey for the fourth quarter of 2011 show that 15,800 or 6.5% of all persons aged 15 to 19 who defined themselves as students were in employment in that period. Percentages for the other quarters vary. The data is not available for single year of age (*see Appendix Table 2*).

Did They Stay in College?

Table 2.5 below shows whether the 2010 School Completer cohort were in higher education in 2012. Of the 25,040 students who were in higher education in 2011, 88.1% (or 22,050) were still in higher education in 2012. This implies a drop-out rate of 12% for students who entered third level directly upon completion of the Leaving Certificate. The HEA's 'A Study of Progression in Irish Higher Education' report which looked at all new entrants in 2011/2012, not just those who entered directly upon leaving school showed a non-progression rate of 16%.

Interestingly, 5,270 students in the 2010 cohort who did not progress directly to higher education in 2011 were enrolled in higher education in 2012. Over 66% (3,490) were either repeating their Leaving Certificate or were enrolled on a PLC course in 2011 (*see Table 2.5*)

Table 2.5: School Completers - Classified by Destination in 2011/2012 and whether they were in Higher Education* in 2012/2013

	Number	% of Cohort	Third-Level Course 2012*
Total Cohort	54,760	100.0	27,320
<i>of which enrolled in</i>			
Third-Level Course (Higher Education Authority(HEA))*	25,040	45.7	22,050
Repeat Leaving Certificate	2,570	4.7	1,440
Post-Leaving Certificate Course (PLC)	10,590	19.3	2,050
FÁS Course 2011	1,640	3.0	70
Other Second-Level/Further Education or Training*	630	1.2	110
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>15,430</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>3,670</i>
<i>of those remaining</i>			
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2011	3,780	6.9	210
Employment Activity During 2011 (<i>of those with no social welfare activity 31st December 2011</i>)	3,980	7.3	640
<i>Estimates for</i>			
Third-Level Course (HEA)* non-PPSN coverage	210	0.4	n/a
Third-Level Course, Non-HEA-Aided Institutions*	1,300	2.4	n/a
Third-Level Course Abroad*	2,070	3.8	n/a
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	2,950	5.4	n/a

* See Background Notes

Section 3: School Completers Progressing to Post-Leaving Certificate Courses

Table 3.1: School Completers who Progressed Directly to PLC Courses - Classified by Leaving Certificate Programme and Percentage of All School Completers

	Leaving Certificate	Leaving Certificate Applied	Leaving Certificate Vocational	Repeat Leaving Certificate	Total
Enrolled in PLC Courses	5,340	1,040	3,740	470	10,590
All School Completers	30,630	3,040	17,710	3,370	54,750
% of All School Completers	17.4	34.2	21.1	13.9	19.3

School Completers account for around one third of all entrants to PLC courses. Table 3.1 above shows that there is a direct progression rate of nearly 20% (19.3%) of School Completers to PLC courses. Note that there were 31,283 students enrolled in year one of PLC courses in 2011/2012, which is significantly higher than the numbers shown in the table above. This is because many of the students enrolled in year one of PLC courses in 2011/2012 did not enter directly upon completing the Leaving Certificate or Repeat Leaving Certificate. Further information on PLC students can be found in the 'PLC –What Next?' report available on the DES website.

Table 3.2 below shows historical rates of transfer, the direct progression rate to PLC courses was 16.4% in 2001/2002. This decreased to 15.9% the following year and hit its lowest at 15.8% in 2003/2004 before increasing steadily (with a dip in 2006/2007) to 19.8% in 2009/2010 and decreasing again to 19.3% in 2010/2011. This pattern may reflect the changing economic environment as well as the increase in the number of PLC places available.

Table 3.2: Direct Progression Rate to PLC Courses - 2001/2002 to 2011/2012

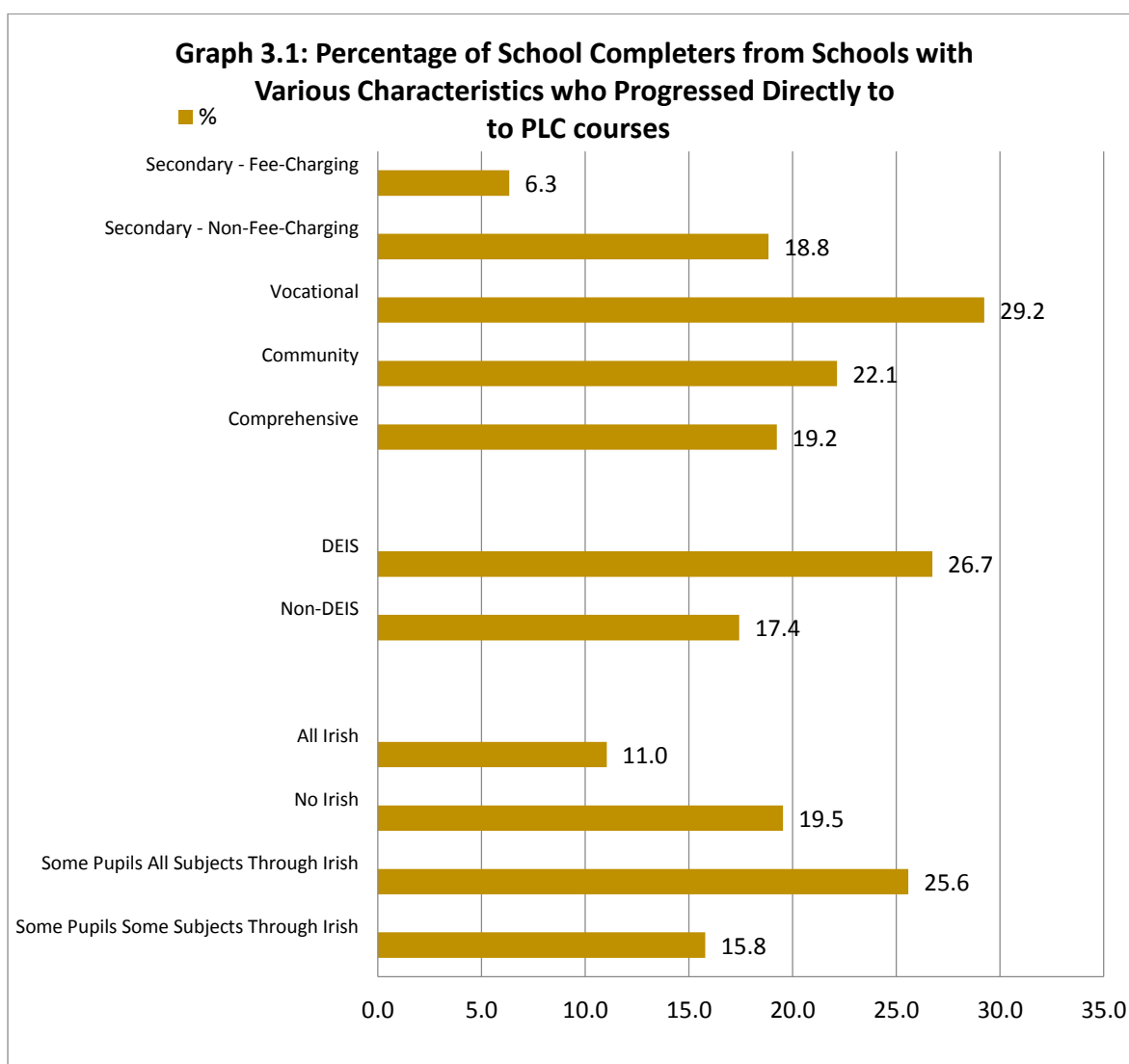
Enrolled in	Progressed Directly to PLC Course in	Direct Progression Rate to PLC %
2001/2002	2002/2003	16.4
2002/2003	2003/2004	15.9
2003/2004	2004/2005	15.8
2004/2005	2005/2006	15.9
2005/2006	2006/2007	16.3
2006/2007	2007/2008	16.0
2007/2008	2008/2009	18.0
2008/2009	2009/2010	19.4
2009/2010	2010/2011	19.8
2010/2011	2011/2012	19.3

What Type of School Did They Come From?

Table 3.3: School Completers who Progressed Directly to PLC Courses - Classified by Characteristics of School Attended

	Number of Completers who Progressed Directly to PLC Courses	All School Completers	% of All School Completers
School Type			
Secondary – Fee-Charging	260	4,100	6.3
Secondary – Non-Fee-Charging	5,190	27,550	18.8
Vocational	3,090	13,680	29.2
Community	1,800	8,130	22.1
Comprehensive	250	1,300	19.2
Total	10,590	54,760	19.3
DEIS Status of School			
DEIS	3,010	11,260	26.7
Non-DEIS	7,580	43,500	17.4
Total	10,590	54,760	19.3
Medium of Instruction in School			
All Pupils Taught All Subjects Through Irish	160	1,450	11.0
No Subjects Taught Through Irish	10,100	51,700	19.5
Some Pupils Taught All Subjects Through Irish	220	860	25.6
Some Pupils Taught Some Subjects Through Irish	120	760	15.8
Total	10,590	54,760	19.3

Table 3.3 above shows some characteristics of the schools that the School Completers who progressed directly to PLC courses attended. The table also shows the percentage of students from schools with these characteristics that progressed directly into PLC courses. Just over 26% (26.7%) of those students enrolled in DEIS schools progressed directly to PLC courses. This compares to 17.4% of those enrolled in non-DEIS schools (DEIS – Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools). Only 6.3% of those enrolled in fee-charging schools progressed directly to PLC courses compared to an average of 18.8% of those in non-fee-charging schools (see Table 3.3 above and Graph 3.1 overleaf).



Working Their Way Through Further Education.

Table 3.4: School Completers who Progressed Directly to PLC Courses - Classified by Employment Activity

	Males	Females	Total
Employment Activity			
Employment Activity During 2011	2,000	1,070	3,070
Total Cohort	6,270	4,320	10,590
<i>% of Cohort</i>	<i>31.9</i>	<i>24.8</i>	<i>29.0</i>

Table 3.4 above shows that 29% of the School Completers who progressed directly to PLC courses had some employment activity during 2011. A higher proportion of males than females had some employment activity - see Table 3.4 above and footnote² below.

² Data from the Quarterly National Household Survey for the fourth quarter of 2011 show that 15,800, or 6.5%, of all persons aged 15 to 19 who defined themselves as students were in employment in that period. Percentages for the other quarters vary. The data is not available for single year of age (see Appendix Table 2).

Section 4: School Completers Repeating Leaving Certificate Programmes

Table 4.1: School Completers Repeating Leaving Certificate Courses - Classified by Leaving Certificate Programme

	Leaving Certificate	Leaving Certificate Applied	Leaving Certificate Vocational	Repeat Leaving Certificate	Total
Repeat Leaving Certificate 2011/12	1,470	10	1,060	30	2,570
All School Completers	30,630	3,040	17,710	3,370	54,760
% of All School Completers	4.8	0.3	6.0	1.2	4.7

Table 4.1 above shows that the number of School Completers who went on to enrol in a Repeat Leaving Certificate programme was 2,570. This is a Repeat Leaving Certificate rate of 4.7% - it does not factor in students who may have opted to repeat their Leaving Certificate in private non-DES-aided institutions (see Table 4.1 above).

The figure of 2,570 differs from the published figure for enrolment in Repeat Leaving Certificate (RLC) Programmes in 2011/2012 of 2,966. This is because there were 396 students enrolled in RLC programmes who were not enrolled in second-level schools in 2011/2012. These pupils could have been late entrants in the 2010/2011 academic year (and hence not show up in these figures), could have been enrolled in private non-aided second-level schools in the 2010/2011 academic year, could have taken a year or more off before enrolling in the RLC or come from outside the country.

While the majority (1,470) of Repeat Leaving Certificate students came from the Leaving Certificate programme, a further 1,060 were enrolled in the Leaving Certificate Vocational programme in 2010/2011. A small number were also enrolled in the Repeat Leaving Certificate programme in 2010/2011 (see Table 4.1 above).

There were 436 second-level schools offering Repeat Leaving Certificate programmes in the 2011/2012 academic year. Of the School Completers who continued directly to the Repeat Leaving Certificate, 1,590 did so in the same school they had attended previously and the remaining 980 in a different school.

Repeat Leaving Certificate Rates

Table 4.2: Leaving Certificate Repeat Rate - 2001/2002 to 2010/2011

Enrolled in	Continued Directly to Repeat Leaving Cert in	Repeat Leaving Certificate Rate %
2001/2002	2002/2003	6.0
2002/2003	2003/2004	5.3
2003/2004	2004/2005	4.8
2004/2005	2005/2006	4.0
2005/2006	2006/2007	4.0
2006/2007	2007/2008	3.8
2007/2008	2008/2009	4.3
2008/2009	2009/2010	5.4
2009/2010	2010/2011	5.4
2010/2011	2011/2012	4.7

Table 4.2 above shows the direct Repeat Leaving Certificate rate. This decreased from a high of 6% in 2001/2002; it was at its lowest in 2006/2007 at 3.8% and increased slowly until 2009/2010 when it decreased again to 4.7% in 2010/2011 - see Table 4.2 above.

Section 5: School Completers with Social Welfare Activity

Table 5.1: School Completers with Social Welfare Activity* - Classified by Further Detail

	Male	Female	Total
Supplementary Welfare (includes a small number of missing values)	90	100	190
Child Benefit	40	30	70
General Benefit	40	20	70
Pension including Disability payments	360	240	590
Unemployment	1,160	1,690	2,850
Total	1,690	2,080	3,780

*Refers to most recent type of social welfare activity, (i.e. a person receiving a Disability Pension might also be receiving Child Benefit)

Of the School Completers not accounted for in 2011 in an education setting, 3,780 were seen to have social welfare activity in the week of the 31st of December 2011. The table above shows the most recent type of activity. The majority of both males and females were seen to have unemployment activity.

Background Notes

Most of the data presented in this release is based on the results of a data-matching exercise. The study was carried out in line with the Statistics Act 1993 and the CSO Data Protocol governing data-matching exercises undertaken by the CSO (see <http://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/csodataprotocol/>).

The identifier used to match across the datasets was a protected identifier key (PIK) based on the PPSN. The PIK serves the purpose of hiding the original identifier while preserving the linking capabilities of the original identifier over time and across the sources it is deployed on. The coverage of PPSN varies across all data sources therefore it is possible that some of the pupils in the 'Other' category should really appear in the other destinations.

Data was made available in the CSO from the following sources to ascertain the education or economic status of pupils after they left school:

- The Post-Primary Pupil Database (PPPDB)
- The Higher Education Authority (HEA) Student Record System
- The Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) awards database (now Quality and Qualifications Ireland)
- FÁS dataset
- The Central Records System of the Department of Social Protection
- The P35 files (employer end-of-year returns) of the Revenue Commissioners

Estimations were used to calculate:

- the number of students enrolled in higher education (HEA) institutions for whom there was no PPSN coverage (*see Page 20*)
- the number of persons enrolled in higher education private institutions (*see Page 20*)
- the number of persons enrolled in higher education institutions abroad (*see Appendix 1*)

Other data sources could be used to further enrich the data. The project focused on what was available at the time; for future iterations of the work, if further data sources are available they will be explored.

At all times during the data-matching project the protection against data disclosure was paramount. In order to protect against data disclosure no figures of less than 5 are presented in the report. Also note that the data in all tables have been rounded to the nearest 10 for statistical confidentiality, hence the sum of the components may not equal the total.

Reference Period

Post-Primary Pupil Database (PPPDB): Students who were enrolled in the final year of post-primary schools on the 30th of September, 2010 (2010/2011 academic year) were checked against enrolment records in post-primary schools as of the 30th of September, 2011 (2011/2012 academic year). Those pupils not appearing in the files as of the 30th of September, 2011 were treated as School Completers. This cohort was then matched against the other data sources listed below.

HEA Student Record System: The 30th of November, 2011.

FETAC Awards database: The 2012 calendar year.

Central Records System of the Department of Social Protection: The 31st of December 2011. Other reference periods in 2011 were also examined. The 30th of September was not chosen, as School Leavers who have sat the Leaving Certificate are not entitled to claim certain social welfare allowances until 3 months after sitting the Leaving Certificate.

P35 files: Both the 2011 and 2012 data files were examined. The 2011 file was used for the tabulations presented in the report.

Data for Earlier Years

Data availability and inconsistent data coverage of PPSNs on the datasets that are available mean that many of the analyses presented in the report are not available for earlier years.

Post-Primary Pupil Database - Repeat Leaving Certificate and Post-Leaving Certificate Courses

Pupils enrolled in Repeat Leaving Certificate or Post-Leaving Certificate Courses in 2011/2012 appear as enrolled on the PPPDB on the 30th of September 2011. However, for the purposes of this analysis, pupils in these cohorts were treated as leavers in 2010 with the Repeat Leaving Certificate or Post-Leaving Certificate courses as separate destinations in 2011.

Post-Primary Pupil Database – Final Year Students Staying On

In the 2010/2011 academic year there were **55,067** pupils enrolled in the second year of Senior Cycle or Repeat Leaving Certificate in second-level schools aided by the Department of Education and Skills. Of these, **54,755** were not enrolled in the following year. There were 312 pupils enrolled in the Leaving Certificate/Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme/Leaving Certificate Applied Year 2/Repeat Leaving Certificate who were enrolled again in the 2011/2012 academic year (not as repeating the Leaving Certificate) so are not treated as School Leavers and hence do not appear in the analysis in this report - see table below.

Table B: Number of Pupils Enrolled in the Final Year of Leaving Certificate in Second-Level Schools Aided by the Department of Education and Skills in 2010/2011 and Number of Which not Enrolled in 2011/2012

	Enrolled in 2010/2011 30 th Sep 2010	<i>of which not Enrolled in 2011/2012 i.e. School Completers 30th Sep 2011</i>
Leaving Cert. Year 2	30,801	30,634
Leaving Cert. Applied Year 2	3,076	3,042
Leaving Cert. Voc. Programme Year 2	17,814	17,713
Repeat Leaving Cert.	3,376	3,366
Total *	55,067	54,755

*Differs slightly to the previously published figures due to improvements in data quality

Post-Primary Pupil Database – Final Year Students Leaving Early

Of the 54,755 pupils examined in this analysis, 639 had a leaving date before the end of the 2010/2011 academic year. 351 were following a Leaving Certificate Applied programme, 130 following a Leaving Certificate programme and 158 following a Leaving Certificate Vocational programme.

Definitions

Other Second Level/Further Education or Training

This variable was derived by taking account of all persons in receipt of a major FETAC award during 2012 and eliminating those already accounted for as enrolled in PLC or FÁS courses.

Employment Activity

‘Employment activity’ for the purposes of this release includes any person appearing on the Revenue P35 files or in the employment file within the Central Records System of the Department of Social Protection. The level of activity can vary from having worked one day in the year to working full-time throughout the year.

Social Welfare Activity

Social welfare activity for the purposes of this release includes any person appearing in the claims files within the Central Records System of the Department of Social Protection. This includes one-off claims such as dental and optical benefits, and ongoing claims such as Jobseeker’s Benefit/Allowance, State Pension and illness payments.

Higher Education Course (Higher Education Authority)

Refers to HEA-aided institutions. These are the seven Universities and the fourteen Institutes of Technology, including Dublin Institute of Technology and also includes Mary Immaculate College Ireland, Mater Dei Institute of Education, St Patrick’s College Drumcondra, St Angela’s College Sligo and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The National College of Ireland and National College of Art and Design are also included in this category, as they submit returns to the HEA via the HEA Student Record System, even though these are not HEA-aided institutions.

Higher Education Course, Non HEA-Aided (Higher Education Authority)

Refers to higher education institutions not aided by the HEA. This includes privately-funded institutions such as Dublin Business School and St Patrick’s College, Carlow and also Department of Education and Skills and other Department-aided institutions such as Frobel College and the

Pontifical College. The National College of Ireland and the National College of Art and Design (which are also DES aided but not HEA aided) are included in the Higher Education Course (HEA) category.

Note that the two classifications above vary from the classifications used for categorising the Higher Education sector in other DES statistical publications.

Enrolment in Higher Education Course (Higher Education Authority), Non-PPSN Coverage

There were a number of records on the HEA's Student Record System for 2011 that had no PPSN. These records were examined and records which had a domiciliary origin as Ireland and a date of birth in the appropriate age group were assumed to have been direct entrants from school.

Enrolment in Higher Education Course – Non-HEA-Aided Institutions

Data on the number of new entrants to higher education non-HEA-aided institutions is available at an aggregate level only. The same proportion (56%) of direct entrants that are amongst new entrants as per the HEA Student Record System was applied.

Appendix 1 – Irish Students Enrolled in Tertiary Education Abroad - 2010 and 2011

Estimates of the number of School Completers who progressed to college abroad were based on the data below, extracted from the OECD database. Further data was obtained from a colleague in the English Department for Education showing the breakdown of the number of Irish students studying in the UK by the different categories of tertiary education (ISCED levels 5B, 5A first degree, 5A postgraduate and 6). Estimations were made for the proportion of Irish new entrants in first year of ISCED levels 5B and 5A first degree. The same proportion (56%) of direct entrants that are amongst new entrants was applied. This is the best estimate that could be made given the lack of information on direct transfers from final year of second-level school in Ireland to higher education abroad. Since this is an estimate, note that the true figure may differ.

Appendix Table 1: Irish Students Enrolled in Tertiary Education Abroad - 2010 and 2011

	2010	2011
Country		
Australia	218	244
Austria	0	0
Belgium	16	37
Canada	107	114
Czech Republic	0	0
Denmark	17	31
Finland	0	0
France	0	0
Germany	318	296
Greece	0	0
Hungary	153	181
Iceland	2	3
Italy	0	0
Japan	0	0
Korea	0	0
Luxembourg	9	2
Mexico	0	0
Netherlands	45	60
New Zealand	53	55
Norway	0	0
Poland	0	0
Portugal	4	4
Slovak Republic	29	31
Spain	110	70
Sweden	40	42
Switzerland	30	35
Turkey	0	0
United Kingdom	15,360	16,469
United States	1,042	1,201
TOTAL	17,552	18,875

Data extracted on 20 Feb 2013 14:43 UTC (GMT) from OECD.Stat

International students are defined either as students with permanent residence outside the reporting country or as students with prior education outside the reporting country.

UNESCO-OECD-Eurostat (UOE) data collection on education statistics, compiled on the basis of national administrative sources, reported by Ministries of Education or National Statistical Offices.

Appendix 2 – Persons aged 15 – 19 whose Principal Economic Status is Student classified by Broad ILO Economic Status, 2007 to 2012

Appendix Table 2 below, sourced from the CSO's Quarterly National Household Survey, shows students aged 15 to 19 classified by ILO (International Labour Office) Economic Status. These persons self-classified their Principal Economic Status as 'Student'. The ILO labour force classification is based on the combination of answers to a number of questions. The number of students in employment increases in the summer months.

Appendix Table 2: Persons aged 15-19 whose Principal Economic Status is Student Classified by Broad ILO Status- Q1 2007 to Q4 2012

		Employed	Unemployed	Not in labour force	Total
					'000
2007	Q1	31.8	[1.7]	203.4	236.9
	Q2	34.3	6.2	199.6	240.2
	Q3	48.9	4.0	187.8	240.7
	Q4	31.3	[1.7]	207.2	240.2
2008	Q1	27.4	*	214.3	243.1
	Q2	29.5	7.1	210.3	246.9
	Q3	41.0	6.9	195.6	243.5
	Q4	24.5	3.7	222.4	250.6
2009	Q1	22.5	[2.2]	227.4	252.0
	Q2	23.1	11.4	220.5	255.0
	Q3	25.9	7.7	216.8	250.4
	Q4	18.9	4.3	226.1	249.4
2010	Q1	16.4	[2.8]	236.1	255.4
	Q2	16.9	8.3	229.6	254.8
	Q3	24.0	7.8	219.1	250.8
	Q4	19.1	4.7	225.2	249.0
2011	Q1	15.7	4.4	228.3	248.4
	Q2	14.8	8.5	226.5	249.9
	Q3	19.3	8.3	217.2	244.7
	Q4	15.8	4.4	222.9	243.2
2012	Q1	15.6	3.9	226.1	245.6
	Q2	15.5	12.1	219.4	246.9
	Q3	22.7	9.1	214.7	246.4
	Q4	18.6	4.7	223.3	246.6

Source: Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

Data may be subject to future revision.

Data may be subject to sampling or other survey errors, which are greater in respect of smaller values or estimates of change.

Reference period: q1=Jan-Mar, q2=Apr-Jun, q3=Jul-Sep, q4=Oct-Dec.

* Estimates for numbers of persons or averages where there are less than 30 persons in a cell are not produced as estimates are too small to be considered reliable.

Parentheses [] indicate where there are 30-50 persons in a cell, estimates are considered to have a wider margin of error and should be treated with caution.

Appendix Table 3: School Completers classified by Type of School Attended and by Destination in 2011

School Type	Secondary - Fee-Charging	Secondary - Non- Fee-Charging	Vocational	Community	Comprehensive	Total
Total Cohort	4,100	27,550	13,680	8,130	1,310	54,760
<i>Of which Enrolled in</i>						
Third Level Course (Higher Education Authority)*	2,740	13,420	4,980	3,310	590	25,040
Repeat LC	90	1,490	570	390	40	2,570
Post Leaving Cert Course (PLC)	260	5,190	3,090	1,800	250	10,590
FÁS Course 2011	10	750	550	280	40	1,640
Other Second/Further Education or Training*	20	260	210	110	20	630
<i>Sub Total</i>	380	7,690	4,420	2,580	360	15,430
<i>Of those remaining</i>						
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2011	50	1,620	1,410	600	100	3,780
Employment Activity during 2011~	250	1,850	1,120	670	90	3,980
<i>Estimates for</i>						
Third Level Course (Higher Education Authority)* non PPSN coverage	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	210
Third Level Course, Non HEA Aided Institutions*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,300
Third Level Course Abroad*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,070
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,950

~Of those with no social welfare activity 31st December 2011

* See Background Notes

n/a Not Available

Appendix Table 4: School Completers classified by Nationality Group and by Destination in 2011

Nationality Group	Irish nationality	British nationality	Nationality of a State in the EU 15 except Ireland and the United Kingdom	Nationality of State in the EU 12	Nationality of another State in Europe other than the EU 27	Other	Total
Total Cohort	50,260	910	400	1,350	200	1,630	54,760
<i>Of which Enrolled in</i>							
Third Level Course (Higher Education Authority)*	23,670	330	70	360	70	540	25,040
Repeat LC	2,330	50	10	50	10	120	2,570
Post Leaving Cert Course (PLC)	9,790	170	20	260	30	310	10,590
FÁS Course 2011/Other Second/Further Education or Training*	2,150	40	0	40	0	30	2,270
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>14,270</i>	<i>260</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>350</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>460</i>	<i>15,430</i>
<i>Of those remaining</i>							
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2011	3,470	70	10	150	10	60	3,780
Employment Activity during 2011~	3,730	60	10	110	10	60	3,980
<i>Estimates for</i>							
Third Level Course (Higher Education Authority)* non PPSN coverage	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	210
Third Level Course, Non HEA Aided Institutions*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,300
Third Level Course Abroad*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,070
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,950

~Of those with no social welfare activity 31st December 2011

* See Background Notes

n/a Not Available

Appendix Table 5: School Completers classified by Local Authority Area* and by Destination in 2011

	Carlow County Council	Cavan County Council	Clare County Council	Cork City Council	Cork County Council	Donegal County Council	Dublin City Council	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council	Fingal County Council	Galway City Council	Galway County Council	Kerry County Council	Kildare County Council	Kilkenny County Council	Laois County Council	Leitrim County Council	Limerick City Council	Limerick County Council	Longford County Council	Louth County Council	Mayo County Council	Meath County Council	Monagha n County Council	Offaly County Council	Roscomm on County Council	Sligo County Council	South Dublin County Council	Tipperary (NR) County Council	Tipperary (SR) County Council	Waterford City Council	Waterford County Council	Westmea th County Council	Wexford County Council	Wicklow County Council	Total		
Total Cohort	930	790	1500	2000	4280	2310	5510	2270	2700	820	2160	1840	2430	1110	790	440	1010	1240	590	1810	1820	1800	870	930	550	840	3040	1030	1110	700	620	1510	1850	1570	54760		
<i>Of which Enrolled in</i>																																					
Third Level Course (Higher Education Authority)*	380	330	770	990	2210	920	2110	1330	1100	430	1120	850	1090	550	330	220	480	600	260	740	870	850	420	420	270	420	1220	480	470	320	320	710	800	650	25040		
Repeat LC	50	30	100	40	140	140	180	50	90	30	120	170	90	40	40	30	30	50	50	80	150	70	60	70	50	70	90	60	80	20	30	140	70	50	2570		
Post Leaving Cert Course (PLC)	200	220	240	350	780	160	1260	360	620	160	420	320	500	200	130	80	200	220	120	450	330	420	150	150	100	150	700	180	180	110	100	250	440	380	10590		
FÁS Course 2011/Other Second/Further Education or Training*	30	40	70	60	140	180	250	20	90	20	60	60	80	50	60	30	50	50	30	110	60	70	20	60	20	60	110	50	60	70	30	70	80	40	2270		
<i>Sub Total</i>	280	290	410	450	1,060	480	1,690	430	800	210	600	550	670	290	230	140	280	320	200	640	540	560	230	280	170	280	900	290	320	200	160	460	590	470	15,430		
<i>Of those remaining</i>																																					
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2011	80	30	90	200	280	190	540	60	180	40	100	130	170	80	60	20	70	80	50	110	100	90	40	70	30	40	220	90	90	60	40	100	160	120	3780		
Employment Activity during 2011-	70	50	70	160	310	260	400	160	260	40	140	130	210	90	60	30	60	90	20	110	140	130	50	60	20	50	250	70	100	40	30	90	130	120	3980		
<i>Estimates for</i>																																					
Third Level Course (Higher Education Authority)* non PPSN coverage	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	210	
Third Level Course, Non HEA Aided Institutions*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1300
Third Level Course Abroad*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2070
<hr/>																																					
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,950

* Refers to Local Authority Area of Post-Primary School not of the Students Address

-Of those with no social welfare activity 31st December 2011

* See Background Notes

n/a Not Available