



Early Leavers – What Next?

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

March 2016

This report may be accessed at:

[Early Leavers - 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 report 'School Completers - What Next?' is also available.

The report takes full advantage of the potential of data matching to fill current data gaps. 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 Pupil 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 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 and are termed 'Early Leavers'. The cohort of pupils who were enrolled in the final year of senior cycle in the 2010/2011 academic year form the subject of the companion report on School Completers.

Acknowledgements

With thanks to the following for their help and assistance in the production and compilation of this report:

Central Statistics Office:	Berni Dunne
	John Dunne

And within the Department of Education and Skills: Statistics Section

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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 supplied by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on students who were enrolled in DES-aided post-primary schools on the Post-Primary Pupil Database, focusing 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 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 261,831 pupils enrolled in second-level schools aided by the Department of Education and Skills (excluding those enrolled in the final year of the senior cycle). Over 7,570 (7,572) were not enrolled in these schools in the following academic year. For the purposes of this report these are termed 'Early Leavers'.

Table A: Number of Pupils Enrolled in Second-Level Schools Aided by the Department of Education & Skills in 2010/2011 and Number of Which not Enrolled in 2011/2012 (Excludes those Enrolled in Final Year of Senior Cycle)

	Enrolled in 2010/2011 30 th Sep 2010	<i>of which not Enrolled in 2011/2012 i.e. Early Leavers 30th Sep 2011</i>
Junior Cycle		
Junior Certificate 1st Year	56,248	530
Junior Certificate 2nd Year	55,091	724
Junior Certificate 3rd Year	53,031	1,307
Junior Certificate School Programme Year 1	4,031	92
Junior Certificate School Programme Year 2	4,178	131
Junior Certificate School Programme Year 3	3,709	312
Senior Cycle		
Transition Year Programme	30,506	1,214
Leaving Certificate Year 1	32,042	1,953
Leaving Certificate Applied Year 1	3,649	548
Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme Year 1	19,346	761
Total*	261,831	7,572

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

*Excludes pupils enrolled in final year of Senior Cycle

The data linking was carried out in line with the Statistics Act, 1993, in conjunction with the CSO. 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 enrolled in the Youthreach Programme). 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.

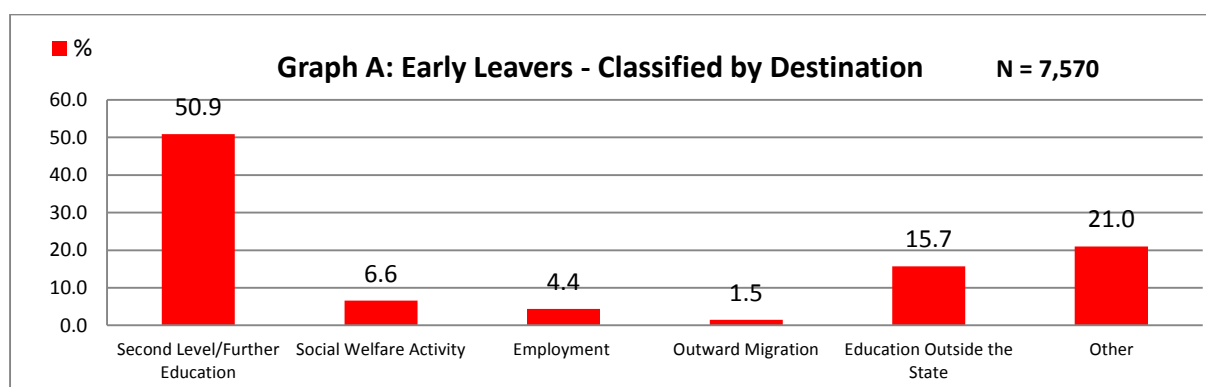
Table B: Early Leavers - Classified by Destination in 2011

	Number	% of Cohort
Total Cohort	7,570	100.0
<i>of which enrolled in</i>		
Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) Course	90	1.2
FÁS Course 2011	360	4.8
<i>of those remaining</i>		
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2011	500	6.6
<i>of those with no social welfare activity 31st December 2011</i>		
Employment Activity During 2011	330	4.4
<i>Outward Migration up to June 2011~</i>		
Enrolled in Education or Training Outside of the State	1,190	15.7
<i>Estimates for</i>		
Youthreach*	1,630	21.5
Enrolled in Private Institutions*	1,770	23.4
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)		
	1,590	21.0

* See Background Notes

~ Data source only covers why a student left between 30th September and 30th June

Table B (above) and Graph A (below) present data on the destination of Early Leavers. Just over 50% (50.9%) of Early Leavers went on to further education or training or continued second-level education in Ireland. This includes students who were tracked to other databases and estimations for students enrolled in Youthreach courses and private educational institutions. A further 15.7% were enrolled in education or training outside of the State. Of those Early Leavers who did not continue in the education sector, 6.6% were seen to have social welfare activity at the end of December 2011. Of the remainder, 4.4% had employment activity during 2011. Of the remainder, 4.4% had employment activity during 2011. Of the remainder, 1.5% were seen to have outward migration activity during 2011. Of the remainder, 21.0% were in other categories.



Section 1: Early Leavers

Table 1.1: Early Leavers - Classified by Destination in 2011

	Number	% of Cohort
Total Cohort	7,570	100.0
<i>of which Enrolled in</i>		
Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) Course	90	1.2
FÁS course 2011	360	4.8
<i>of those remaining</i>		
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2011	500	6.6
<i>of those with no social welfare activity 31st December 2011</i>		
Employment Activity During 2011	330	4.4
Outward migration up to June 2011~	110	1.5
Enrolled in Education or Training Outside of the State	1,190	15.7
<i>Estimates for</i>		
Youthreach*	1,630	21.5
Enrolled in Private Institutions*	1,770	23.4
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	1,590	21.0

* See Background Notes

~ Data source only covers why a student left between 30th September and 30th June

Using data matching, 1.2% (90) and 4.8% (360) respectively, of Early Leavers were enrolled in PLC or FÁS courses in 2011. Using estimation techniques and aggregate administrative data, an additional 21.5% (1,630) were enrolled in Youthreach and 23.4% (1,770) were enrolled in private educational institutions. This accounts for 50.9% of the cohort (see Table 1.1 above).

Of the Early Leavers not accounted for in the PLC or FÁS databases, 6.6% had social welfare activity at the end of December 2011 and of those remaining, 4.4% had employment activity during 2011.

See Table 1.1 above.

The Post-Primary Pupil Database captures information on why students leave school early. Of the Early Leavers not tracked to other databases, 1,300 were recorded as having left the schooling system to emigrate or to attend further education or training outside the State. This information only covers why a student left between the 30th of September 2010 and the 30th of June 2011, so does not take into account pupils who may have emigrated after that date (see Table 1.1 above).

Gender Differences in Destinations?

Table 1.2: Early Leavers - Classified by Sex and Destination in 2011

	Male	%	Female	%
Total Cohort	3,690	100.0	3,890	100.0
<i>of which enrolled in</i>				
Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) Course	60	1.6	40	1.0
FÁS Course 2011	140	3.8	220	5.7
<i>of those remaining</i>				
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2011	250	6.8	260	6.7
Employment Activity During 2011~	160	4.3	170	4.4
Outward Migration up to June 2011	50	1.4	60	1.5
Enrolled in Education or Training Outside of the State	700	19.0	480	12.3
<i>Estimates for</i>				
Youthreach*	970	26.3	660	17.0
Enrolled in Private Institutions*	850	23.0	910	23.4
<hr/>				
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	510	13.8	1,090	28.0

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

* See Background Notes

There is a higher proportion (1.6% or 60 pupils) of male Early Leavers enrolled in PLC courses than females (1.0% or 40 pupils). However a higher proportion of female Early Leavers (5.7% or 220) are enrolled in FÁS and other second-level training courses than males (3.8% or 140). The same proportion of males and females were seen to have social welfare activity as of the 31st of December 2011. Slightly more females than males had some employment activity during 2011. A far higher proportion (26.3% or 970) of male Early Leavers were enrolled in Youthreach than females (17.0% or 660) - see Table 1.2 above.

At What Stage Did They Drop Out?

Table 1.3a: Early Leavers - Classified by Programme and Destination in 2011

	Junior Certificate/JCSP		Transition Year	LC/LCVP/LCA Year 1	Total
	Year 1 or 2	Year 3			
Total Cohort	1,480	1,620	1,210	3,260	7,570
<i>of which Enrolled in</i>					
Post-Leaving Certificate Course (PLC)	0	10	10	70	90
FÁS Course 2011	10	80	50	220	360
<i>of those remaining</i>					
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2011	10	90	50	350	500
Employment Activity During 2011~	0	30	60	230	330
Outward Migration up to June 2011	40	20	20	30	110
Enrolled in Education or Training Outside of the State	370	170	270	380	1,190
<i>Estimates for</i>					
Youthreach*	440	400	400	400	1,630
Enrolled in Private Institutions*	0	300	280	1,180	1,770
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	610	520	70	400	1,590

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

* See Background Notes

Of the 7,570 Early Leavers, 4,310 (or 56.9%) left before entering the first year of one of the Leaving Certificate programmes (i.e. left after Junior Certificate or enrolment in Transition Year). Of the Early Leavers that left the schooling system to emigrate or attend education or training outside the State, the majority (890, 68.5%) did so before enrolment in the first year of one of the Leaving Certificate programmes - see Table 1.3a above.

Females tend to leave at an earlier stage than their male counterparts. Over 20% (780 or 20.5%) of females left after year 1 or 2 of the Junior Certificate or JCSP compared to under 20% (700 or 18.9%) of males. A further 24.4% (950) of females left after the third year of Junior Certificate/JCSP compared to 18.2% (670) of males. The majority of both male and female Early Leavers that were enrolled in PLC or FÁS courses left after enrolment in year 1 of one of the Leaving Certificate programmes. Similarly, of the leavers that had social welfare activity as of the 31st of December, or had employment activity during 2011, the majority (70.0% and 69.7% respectively) had left after enrolment in the first year of one of the Leaving Certificate programmes. See Tables 1.3b and 1.3c.

200 male and 160 female Early Leavers who left to enrol in education or training outside the State did so after enrolment in year one or two of the Junior Certificate or JCSP. This represents 28.6% of male leavers and 33.3% of female leavers who left and proceeded to education or training outside of the State - see Tables 1.3b and 1.3c.

While Early Leavers who were enrolled in Youthreach programmes left at various stages throughout the education system, it is worth noting that 240 male and 160 female Early Leavers who left after enrolment in the first year of one of the Leaving Certificate programmes were enrolled in Youthreach in 2011. See Tables 1.3b and 1.3c.

Of the Early Leavers for whom information on destination was not available, the highest proportion left school after the first or second year of the junior cycle. In absolute terms the largest group (400) for whom destination after leaving school was not available were female Early Leavers, who left after enrolment in year 1 or 2 of the Junior Certificate or JCSP. See Tables 1.3a, 1.3b and 1.3c.

Table 1.3b: Male Early Leavers - Classified by Programme and Destination in 2011

	Junior Certificate/JCSP		Transition Year	LC/LCVP/LCA Year 1	Total
	Year 1 or 2	Year 3			
Total Cohort	700	670	640	1,670	3,690
<i>of which enrolled in</i>					
Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) Course	0	10	10	40	60
FÁS Course 2011	0	40	20	90	140
<i>of those remaining</i>					
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2011	10	30	30	170	250
Employment Activity During 2011~	0	10	30	120	160
Outward Migration up to June 2011	20	10	10	10	50
Enrolled in Education or Training Outside of the State	200	100	160	240	700
<i>Estimates for</i>					
Youthreach*	260	240	240	240	970
Enrolled in Private Institutions*	0	150	140	570	850
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	210	80	0	190	510

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

* See Background Notes

Table 1.3c: Female Early Leavers - Classified by Programme and Destination in 2011

	Junior Certificate/JCSP		Transition Year	LC/LCVP/LCA Year 1	Total
	Year 1 or 2	Year 3			
Total Cohort	780	950	570	1,590	3,890
<i>of which Enrolled in</i>					
Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) Course	0	0	10	30	40
FÁS Course 2011	10	50	30	130	220
<i>of those remaining</i>					
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2011	10	60	20	180	260
Employment Activity During 2011~	0	20	30	120	170
Outward Migration up to June 2011	20	10	20	20	60
Enrolled in Education or Training Outside of the State	160	70	110	130	480
<i>Estimates for</i>					
Youthreach*	180	160	160	160	660
Enrolled in Private Institutions*	0	160	150	610	910
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	400	420	40	210	1,090

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

* See Background Notes

Table 1.4: Early Leavers with Social Welfare Activity* - Classified by Further Detail

	Junior Certificate /JCSP/ Transition Year	LC/LCVP/ LCA Year 1	Total
Child Benefit/General Benefits/Supplementary Welfare Allowance	10	20	30
Pensions (Including Disability Allowance/Invalidity Pension, i.e. Long-Term Payments)	120	160	290
Unemployment	20	170	180
Total	150	350	500

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

As mentioned previously, of the Early Leavers not accounted for on PLC or FÁS courses, 500 were seen to have social welfare activity on the 31st of December 2011. The table above further classifies the type of social welfare activity.

What Type of School Did They Come From?

Table 1.5: Early Leavers - Classified by Characteristics of School Attended

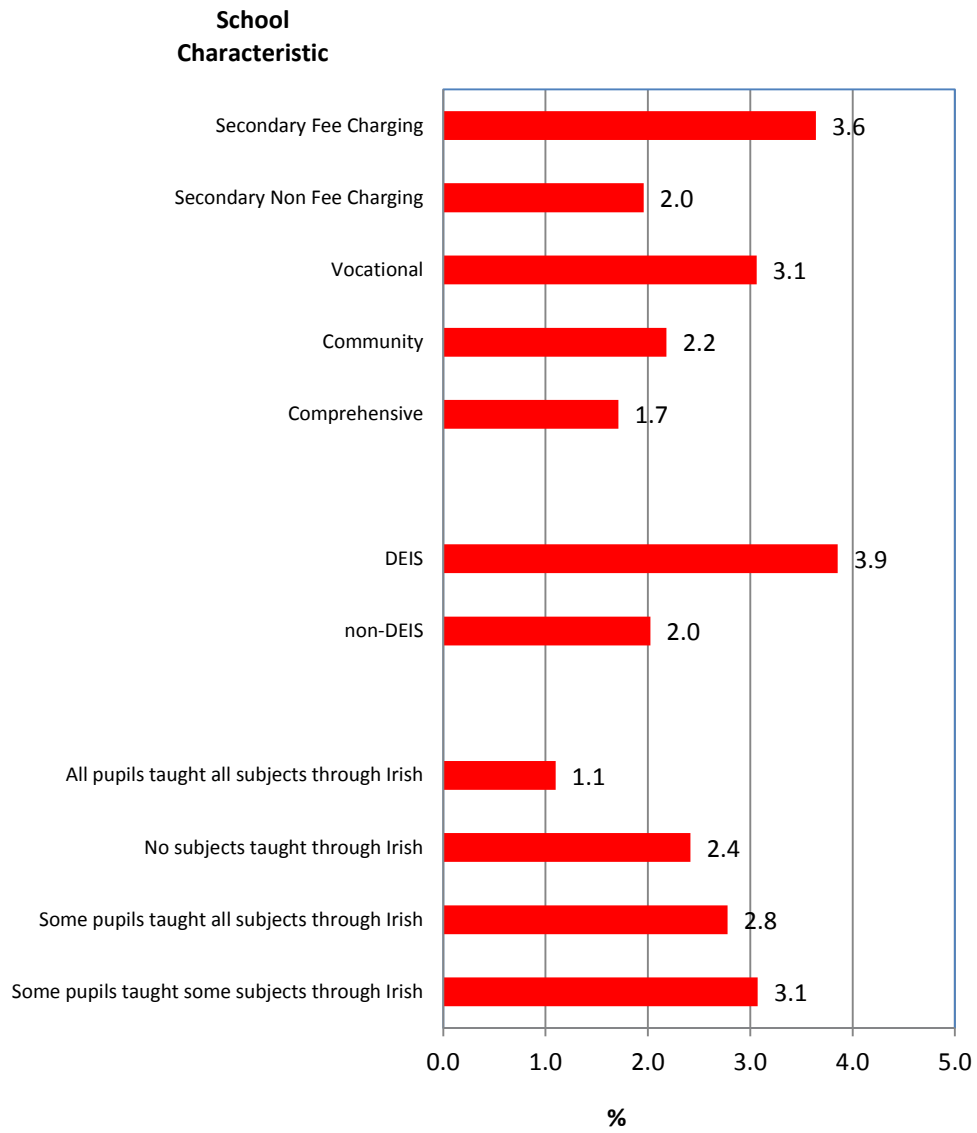
	Total Enrolment	All Early Leavers	% of Total Enrolment
School Type			
Secondary Fee Charging	25,820	940	3.6
Secondary Non Fee Charging	159,790	3,130	2.0
Vocational	77,740	2,380	3.1
Community	45,850	1,000	2.2
Comprehensive	7,590	130	1.7
Total*	316,790	7,570	2.4
DEIS Status of School			
DEIS	63,300	2,440	3.9
Non-DEIS	253,490	5,130	2.0
Total*	316,790	7,570	2.4
Medium of Instruction in School			
All Pupils Taught all Subjects Through Irish	10,010	110	1.1
No Subjects Taught Through Irish	297,510	7,190	2.4
Some Pupils Taught all Subjects Through Irish	5,040	140	2.8
Some Pupils Taught Some Subjects Through Irish	4,230	130	3.1
Total*	316,790	7,570	2.4

* Includes pupils in final year of Senior Cycle

Table 1.5 above shows some characteristics of the schools that Early School Leavers attended. The Total Enrolment figure includes pupils in the final year of the senior cycle. Just under 4% (3.9%) of all pupils enrolled in DEIS schools in 2010/2011 left before enrolling in the final year of the senior cycle. This compares to 2.0% of pupils enrolled in non-DEIS schools (DEIS – Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools). Only 1.1% of pupils who were taught all subjects thorough Irish were Early Leavers whereas 2.4% of pupils who were taught no subjects through Irish were Early Leavers.

In terms of school type, 3.6% of those attending fee-charging secondary schools were Early Leavers, compared to 2.0% of those attending non-fee-charging secondary schools (see Table 1.5 above and Graph 1.1 on the following page).

Graph 1.1: Percentage of Early Leavers - Classified by Characteristics of School Attended



Early Leavers – Differences in Destinations Depending on DEIS Status of School?

Table 1.6: Early Leavers - Classified by Destination in 2011 and DEIS Status of School Attended

	DEIS	%	Non-DEIS	%	Total	%
Total Cohort	2,440	100.0	5,130	100.0	7,570	100.0
<i>of which enrolled in</i>						
Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) Course	30	1.2	60	1.2	90	1.2
FÁS Course 2011	190	7.8	170	3.3	360	4.8
<i>of those remaining</i>						
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2011	250	10.2	250	4.9	500	6.6
<i>of those with no social welfare activity 31st December 2011</i>						
Employment Activity During 2011	80	3.3	260	5.1	330	4.4
Outward Migration up to June 2011~	20	0.8	90	1.8	110	1.5
Enrolled in Education or Training Outside of the State	240	9.8	940	18.3	1,190	15.7
<i>Estimates for</i>						
Youthreach*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,630	21.5
Enrolled in Private Institutions*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,770	23.4
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,590	21.0

* See Background Notes
n/a Not Available

Table 1.6 above shows a comparison of the destinations of the Early Leaver cohort classified by the DEIS status of the school they attended. Note that estimates for the Early Leavers whose destination was a Youthreach programme or a private institution is not available for this table. In proportion terms, more than twice as many of those who attended a DEIS school progressed to a FÁS course (7.8% or 190 pupils versus 3.3% or 170 pupils). In absolute terms, the same number had social welfare activity (250). However in proportion terms, more than twice as many of those who attended a DEIS schools than non-DEIS schools had social welfare activity (10.2% versus 4.9%). In both proportion and absolute terms more Early Leavers from non-DEIS schools had employment activity, were enrolled in education or training outside of the state or had migrated.

Demographic Characteristics of Early Leavers

Graph 1.2 below shows the percentage of Early Leavers from each Local Authority area of the School they attended. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown had the highest percentage of Early Leavers at 4.0%, followed by Galway City Council (3.5%), Carlow County Council (3.4%) and Wicklow County Council (3.3%). The lowest rates were observed in the areas of Kilkenny County Council (1.5%) and Laois County Council (1.6%) - see Graph 1.2 below.

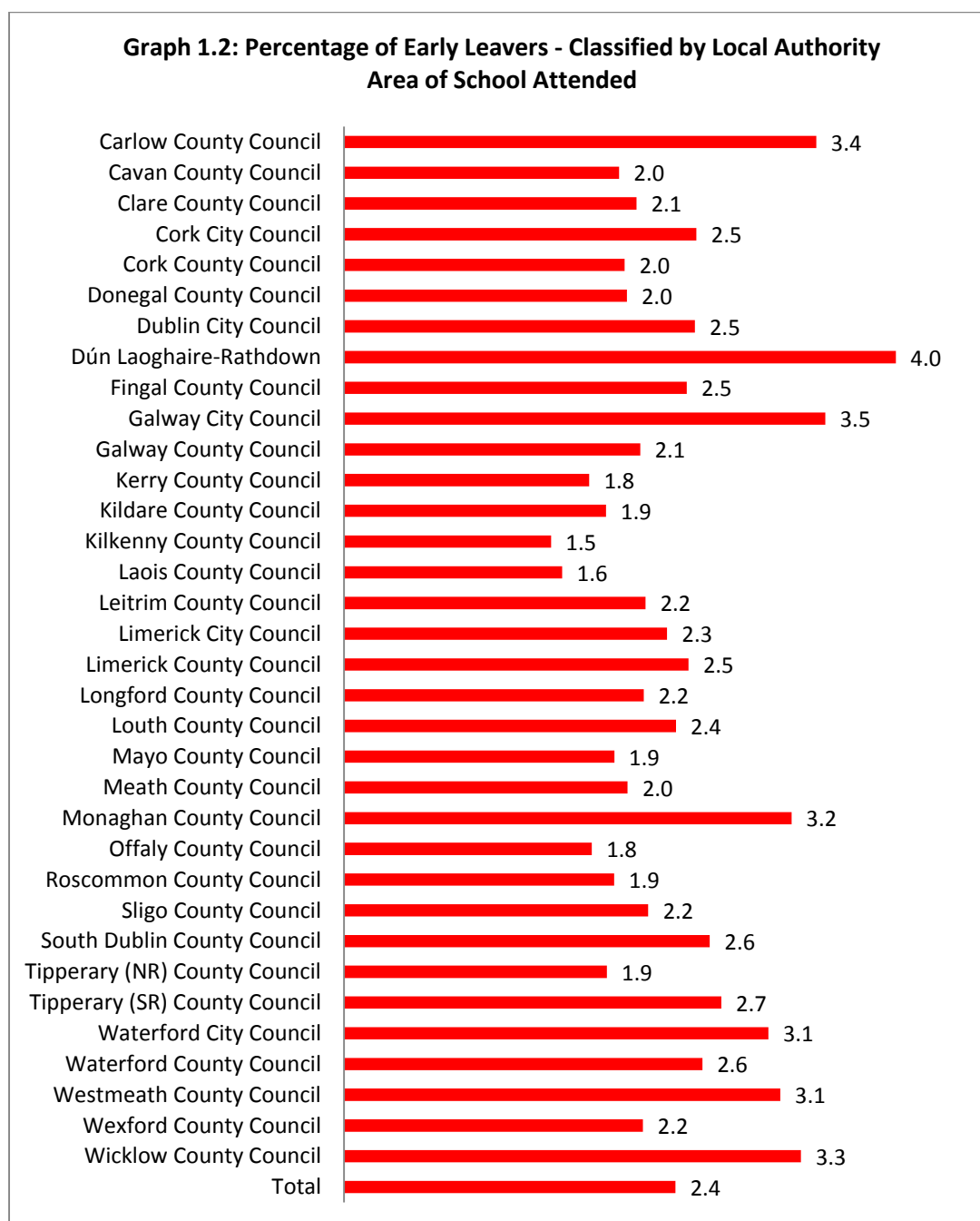


Table 1.7: Early Leavers - Classified by Nationality

	Total Enrolment*	All Early Leavers	% of Total Enrolment
Irish Nationality	284,880	4,510	1.6
British Nationality	7,550	350	4.6
Nationality of a State in the EU-15 Except Ireland and the United Kingdom	3,240	1,590	49.1
Nationality of a State in the EU-12	8,920	470	5.3
Nationality of another State in Europe other than the EU-27	1,180	50	4.2
Nationality of the USA or Canada	1,770	110	6.2
Nationality of a Country in Latin or Southern America	500	70	14.0
Nationality of a Country in Asia	4,120	230	5.6
Nationality of a Country in Africa	4,310	170	3.9
Nationality of a Country in Australasia or Oceania	320	30	9.4
Total	316,790	7,570	2.4

* Includes pupils in the final year of Senior Cycle

The EU-15 comprises the countries before enlargement of the EU on 1 May 2004, i.e. Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

The EU-12 is defined as the 10 accession countries that joined the EU on 1 May 2004, i.e. Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia) and includes the two new accession states that joined the EU on 1 January 2007, Bulgaria and Romania.

Table 1.6 above shows the breakdown of Early Leavers by nationality. A higher percentage of Early Leavers are from states other than Ireland. Nearly 50% (49.1%) of persons with a nationality of one of the EU-15 other than Ireland and the UK were Early Leavers. This compares to just 1.6% of persons with an Irish nationality.

Table 1.7 below shows that, of the 7,570 Early Leavers, 500 (or 6.6%) had been in receipt of Traveller Support. Of the 500 Early Leavers who had been in receipt of Traveller Support, 110 dropped out after the first or second year of the Junior Certificate or JCSP and a further 190 after the third year.

Table 1.8: Early Leavers - Classified by Programme and Whether in Receipt of Traveller Support*

	<u>Junior Certificate/JCSP</u>		Transition Year	LC/LCVP/LCA Year 1	Total
	Year 1 or 2	Year 3			
Total Cohort	1,480	1,620	1,210	3,260	7,570
<i>of which</i> In Receipt of Traveller Support	110	190	40	160	500

* See Background Notes

Table 1.9: 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 Early Leavers - Classified by Destination One Year Later

	2009/2010 Early Leavers Destination in 2010 (%)	2010/2011 Early Leavers Destination in 2011 (%)
Total Cohort	(7,710) 100.0	(7,570) 100.0
<i>of which enrolled in</i>		
Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) Course	1.5	1.2
FÁS Course 2010/2011	6.1	4.8
<i>of those remaining</i>		
Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2010/2011	6.6	6.6
<i>of those with no social welfare activity 31st December 2010/2011</i>		
Employment Activity During 2010/2011	6.1	4.4
Outward Migration up to June 2010/2011~	1.6	1.5
Enrolled in Education or Training Outside of the State	13.9	15.7
<i>Estimates for</i>		
Youthreach*	25.2	21.5
Enrolled in Private Institutions*	22.2	23.4
Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories)	16.9	21.0

* See Background Notes

~ Data source only covers why a student left between 30th September and 30th June

Table 1.9 above shows a comparison of the destinations of the 2009/2010 Early Leavers with the 2010/2011 Early Leaver cohort that are featured in this publication; the patterns are quite similar. There was a slight decrease in the take-up of FÁS courses in 2011, and an increase in the take-up of education or training outside of the State.

Further information on the 2009/2010 Early Leaver cohort is available on the DES website at:

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

Section 2: Data for Earlier Years

Table 2.1: Number of Early Leavers - 2001/2002 to 2010/2011

Enrolled in	but not in	Early Leavers
2001/2002	2002/2003	11,498
2002/2003	2003/2004	10,278
2003/2004	2004/2005	10,313
2004/2005	2005/2006	10,249
2005/2006	2006/2007	10,158
2006/2007	2007/2008	10,299
2007/2008	2008/2009	9,085
2008/2009	2009/2010	8,047
2009/2010	2010/2011	7,713
2010/2011	2011/2012	7,572

Data availability and inconsistent data coverage of PPSNs on the datasets that are available mean that some of the analyses presented so far are not available for earlier years, though some data is available. Table 2.1 above and Graph 2.1 below provide time-series data on the number of Early Leavers. This number has decreased from 11,498 pupils, who were enrolled in the 2001/2002 academic year but not enrolled one year later in the 2002/2003 academic year, to 7,572 who left between enrolment in 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 (see Table 2.1 above and Graph 2.1 below).

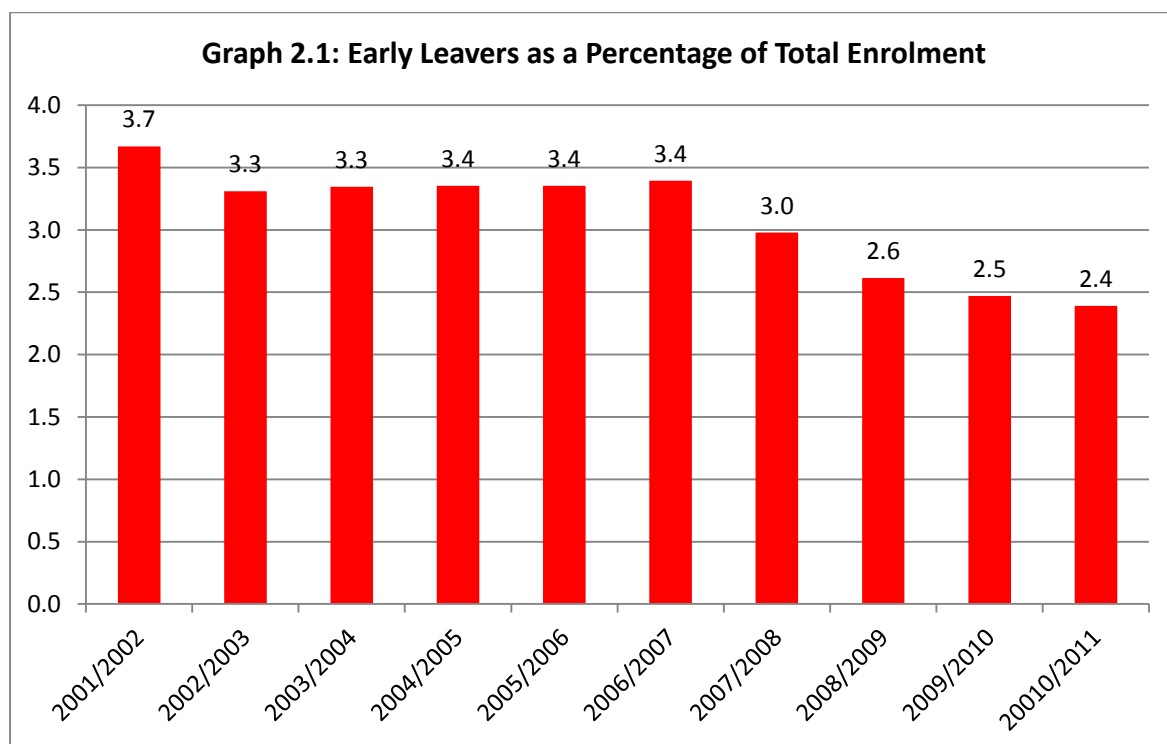
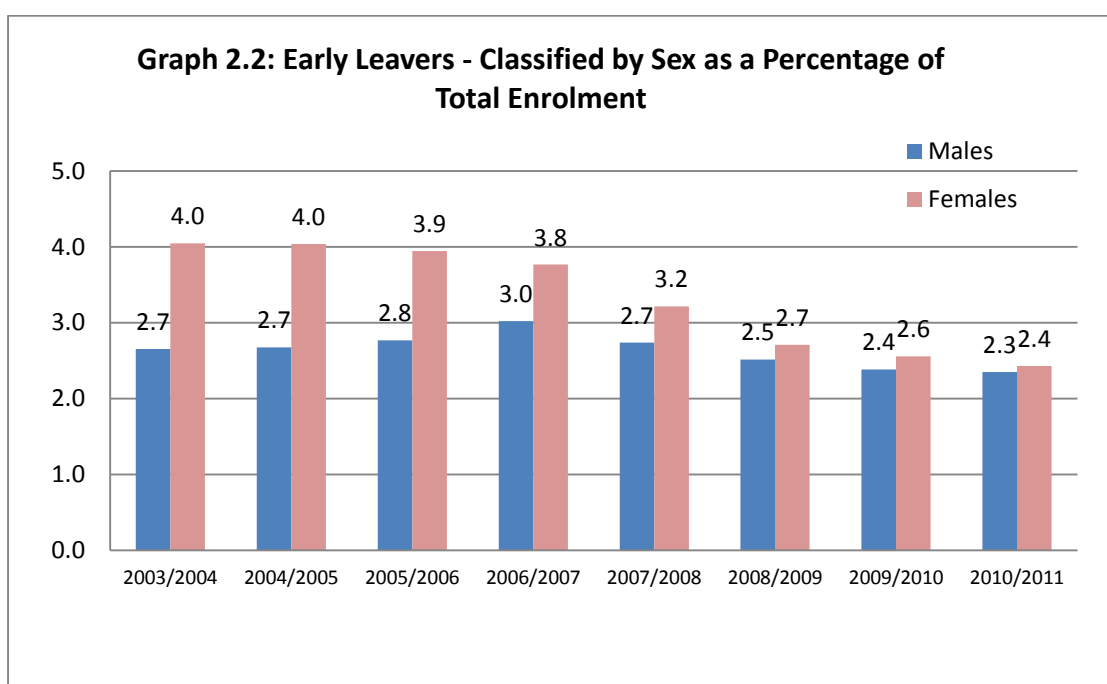


Table 2.2: Number of Early Leavers - Classified by Sex, 2001/2002 to 2010/2011

Enrolled in	But not in	Males	Females	Total Males*	Total Females*
2003/2004	2004/2005	4,121	6,192	155,217	153,082
2004/2005	2005/2006	4,125	6,124	154,118	151,649
2005/2006	2006/2007	4,216	5,942	152,370	150,636
2006/2007	2007/2008	4,597	5,702	152,113	151,382
2007/2008	2008/2009	4,170	4,915	152,288	152,826
2008/2009	2009/2010	3,857	4,190	153,269	154,649
2009/2010	2010/2011	3,690	4,023	154,722	157,433
2010/2011	2011/2012	3,685	3,887	156,833	159,953

*Includes pupils in final year of Senior Cycle

Table 2.2 above and Graph 2.2 below present data on Early Leavers classified by sex. An interesting finding is that more females consistently exit the second-level schooling system earlier than males. This is true both in terms of absolute numbers and in percentage of the entire male and female school populations. See Table 2.2 and Graph 2.2¹.



¹ Percentage of total enrolment presented in this graph is based on the total enrolment figure which includes pupils in their final year of Senior Cycle.

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 varied across all data sources. It is possible, therefore, 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 Youthreach courses (the estimates were made based on details provided on age of Youthreach participants and duration of time enrolled on the programme)
- students enrolled in private educational institutions

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 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 Leavers. This cohort was then matched against the other data sources listed below.

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 2010 were also examined.

P35 files: Both the 2010 and 2011 data files were examined. The 2011 file was used for the tabulations presented in the report.

Definitions

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 or illness payments.

Traveller Support

The Post-Primary Pupil Database contains information on whether an application has been made for a pupil for Traveller Support. Additional teaching hours are provided for children who are members of the Traveller community. Written parental/guardian consent is required by school authorities before they can include this in their returns to the Department. Note that this was first sought as part of the Post-Primary Pupil Database data collection for the 2009/2010 academic year so the 2010/2011 data may be under-represented.

Enrolment in Youthreach Courses

Estimates were made for the number of Early Leavers enrolled in Youthreach courses based on the age profile, the length of time enrolled on the programme, the economic status of those on the programme upon entering and the highest educational attainment of those on the programme.

Enrolment in Private Educational Institutions

Estimates were made for the number of Early Leavers enrolled in private educational institutions based on information sourced from the Statistics Section Census of non-aided second-level colleges which classified pupils by sex and age.

Other Data Sources

Census of Population 2011 - Carers

The Census of Population 2011 (special tabulation) showed that in April 2011 there were 313 people aged between 15 and 19 whose full-time education had ceased and who provided regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability. The question on whether full-time education has ceased was not asked to those aged under 15.

The Census also showed that there were 2,390 persons aged 10 to 14 and 4,244 aged 15 to 19 who provide regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability. The Census also showed that there were 103 persons under the age of 15 who provided more than 12 hours of unpaid care a week.

Number of Persons who Provide Regular Unpaid Personal Help for a Friend or Family Member with a Long-term Illness, Health Problem or Disability - Classified by Sex and Age

Age	Males	Females	Total	<i>of which full-time education has ceased</i>		
				Males	Females	Total
10 - 14	1,150	1,240	2,390	n/a	n/a	n/a
15	316	337	653	6	7	13
16	367	403	770	14	10	24
17	395	403	798	32	17	49
18	456	497	953	89	73	162
19	490	580	1,070	155	158	313

Source: CSO Census of Population 2011

n/a Not Available

Home-Schooled Children

Data from TUSLA (Child and Family Agency) showed that in 2011, 699 children were registered as being home-educated; this covers pupils from the ages of 6 to 16. Approximately 377 of these were of post-primary age. Data is not available as to whether these pupils were being home-educated in the previous year. Therefore, some of the pupils whose destination was 'Other', and could not be found on the other data sources examined, may have left school to be home-schooled.

Home Tuition

Data from the Department of Education and Skills on home tuition show that:

- There were 533 pupils in receipt of home tuition under the category of 'Pupils with Special Education Needs'. The vast majority of these are under post-primary age and are therefore unlikely to be included in the Early Leaver cohort.

- There were 191* post-primary-aged pupils who applied for home tuition for other reasons. Of these, 158 applications were because the child was unable to find a school place or was expelled and unable to find another school place. It is likely that these pupils fall into the category of 'Destination – Other' and could not be found on the other data sources.
(*2012 data)

Children in DES-Aided Detention Schools and High-Support Units

In September 2011 there were 34 boys and 4 girls in detention schools aided by the Department of Education and Skills. There were 21 boys and 17 girls enrolled in DES-aided high-support units in the same period. Data is not available on whether these pupils were enrolled in a DES-aided post-primary school in the previous year.