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School completers - what next? : report on school completers from post-primary schools : pupils enrolled in 2009/2010 and not in 2010/2011

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School Completers – What Next?

Report on School Completers from Post-Primary Schools – pupils enrolled in 2009/2010 and not in 2010/2011

May 2013

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[School Completers - What Next?](#)

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Introduction

This report and its companion report 'Early School Leavers - What Next?' are the first in a series of annual reports by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) which track school leavers a year after they leave school. Following the publication of the National Statistics Board report entitled 'The Irish Statistics System: The Way Forward and Joined Up Government Needs Joined Up Data' in December 2011, the Department of Education and Skills took the initiative to explore the potential of data matching to fill current data gaps. The tracking was carried out using data matching and was also supplemented with estimations for other destinations for which individualised data was not available.

The reports are based on a detailed analysis of the records held in the Department on students who were enrolled in DES-aided post-primary schools (on the Post-Primary Pupils Database), focusing on those pupils who were enrolled in post-primary schools in one 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 was enrolled in the final year of senior cycle in the 2009/2010 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 2009/2010 academic year and who were not enrolled in the 2010/2011 academic year form the subject of the companion report.

Future analysis will explore the tracking of this cohort into the future, as well as tracking more recent school leavers after they leave school.

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| | |
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Author

Nicola Tickner

Executive Summary

This report, by the Department of Education and Skills (DES), tracks school leavers the year after they leave school. It is based on a detailed analysis of the records held in the Department on students who were enrolled in DES-aided post-primary schools (on the Post-Primary Pupils Database), focusing on those pupils who were enrolled in post primary schools in the 2009/2010 academic year but not enrolled in one of these schools one year later in the 2010/2011 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 following sources were used to ascertain their education or economic status after they left school:

- The Higher Education Authority (HEA) Student Record System
- The Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) awards database (now the 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

These students were enrolled in post-primary school on the 30th of September 2009 (2009/2010 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.*

Table A: Number of Pupils Enrolled in the Final Year of Leaving Certificate in Second-Level Schools Aided by the Department of Education and Skills in 2009/2010 and Number of Which not Enrolled in 2010/2011

| | Enrolled in 2009/2010 | <i>Of Which not Enrolled in 2010/2011</i> |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| | 30 th Sep 2009 | <i>30th Sep 2010</i> |
| Leaving Cert. Year 2 | 31,623 | <i>31,493</i> |
| Leaving Cert. Applied Year 2 | 3,241 | <i>3,210</i> |
| Leaving Cert. Voc. Programme Year 2 | 16,949 | <i>16,844</i> |
| Repeat Leaving Cert. | 3,280 | <i>3,277</i> |
| Total * | 55,093 | <i>54,824</i> |

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

In the 2009/2010 academic year there were 55,093 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, 54,824 were not enrolled in the following year. These pupils are termed ‘School Completers’ for the purpose of the report and form the basis of the analysis that follows. *See Table A above.*

The data linking was carried out in line with the Statistics Act 1993 in conjunction with the Central Statistics Office (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 studying abroad and students studying in non-HEA-aided colleges).

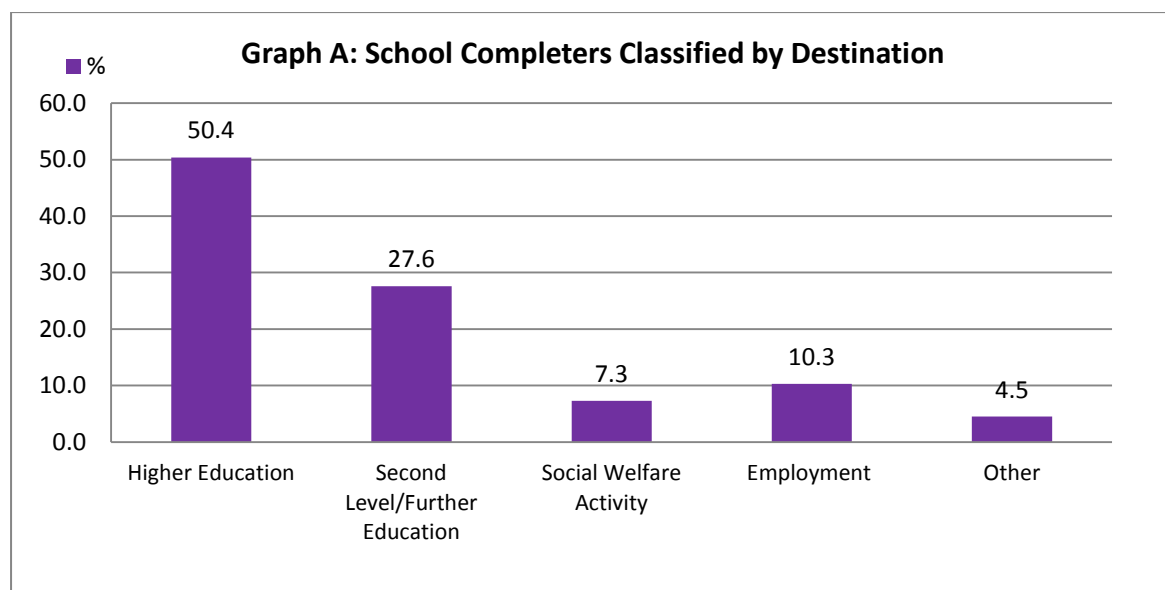
Table B: School Completers Enrolled in DES-Aided Second-Level Schools in 2009/2010 - Classified by Destination in 2010

| Destination | School Completer % |
|--|--------------------|
| Enrolled in Higher Education 2010 | 50.4 |
| Enrolled in Second-Level/Further Education or Training | 27.6 |
| <i>Of those remaining</i> | |
| Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2010 | 7.3 |
| Employment Activity During 2010* | 10.3 |
| Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories) | 4.5 |
| Total | 100.0 |

*Of those with no social welfare activity on the 31st of December 2010.

Table B (above) and Graph A (below) present data on the destination of School Leavers. Over 50% (50.4%) of School Completers go on to higher education and a further 27.6% progress to further education or training or continued second-level education.

Of those School Completers who did not continue in the education sector, approximately 7% (7.3%) were seen to have social welfare activity at the end of December 2010. Of the remainder, 10.3% had employment activity during 2010.



Section 1: School Completers

Table 1.1: School Completers - Classified by Destination in 2010

| | Number | % of cohort |
|--|---------------|-------------|
| Total Cohort | 54,824 | 100.0 |
| <i>Of which enrolled in</i> | | |
| Higher Education Course (Higher Education Authority)* | 24,124 | 44.0 |
| Repeat Leaving Cert. | 2,981 | 5.4 |
| Post-Leaving Cert. Course (PLC) | 10,872 | 19.8 |
| FÁS Course 2010 | 779 | 1.4 |
| Other Second Level/Further Education or Training* | 477 | 0.9 |
| <i>Subtotal</i> | <i>15,109</i> | <i>27.6</i> |
| <i>Of those remaining</i> | | |
| Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2010 | 3,997 | 7.3 |
| Employment Activity During 2010~ | 5,646 | 10.3 |
| <i>Estimates for</i> | | |
| Higher Education Course (Higher Education Authority)* Non-PPSN coverage | 261 | 0.5 |
| Higher Education Course - Non-HEA-Aided Institutions* | 1,249 | 2.3 |
| Higher Education Course Abroad* | 1,982 | 3.6 |
| Other (includes emigration, seasonal employment abroad and all other categories) | 2,456 | 4.5 |

~ Of those with no social welfare activity on the 31st December 2010.

* See Background Notes.

More than 40% (44%) of School Completers (24,124) 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 261 students were also enrolled in these colleges. An estimate was made for the number of students enrolled in non- HEA-aided institutions of 1,249 or 2.3% of the cohort. Separately an estimate of 1,982 (or 3.6%) 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, just over 50% (50.4%) 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% (19.8%) of School Completers progressed to a PLC course, with a further 2.3% enrolled in a FÁS or other second-level/further education or training course. 2,981 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, 3,997 had social welfare activity on the 31st of December 2010, equating to 7.3% of the total cohort. A further 5,646 (10.3%) were in employment during 2010. Note that the source file for employment relates to the

entire year, so it is possible that some of the 5,646 persons referred to were in employment at the start of 2010 whilst in school and not in employment in the later part of the year. There were 2,456 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 (239 students) received a minor FETAC award during 2011. This provides evidence that these students were still in the country. *See Table 1.1 on the previous page.*

School Completers – Gender Differences in Destinations?

Table 1.2: School Completers - Classified by Sex and Destination in 2010/2011

| | <u>Male</u> | | <u>Female</u> | |
|--|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Number | % | Number | % |
| Total Cohort | 27,313 | 100.0 | 27,511 | 100.0 |
| <i>Of which enrolled in</i> | | | | |
| Higher Education Course (Higher Education Authority)* | 12,153 | 44.5 | 11,971 | 43.5 |
| Repeat Leaving Cert. | 1,365 | 5.0 | 1,616 | 5.9 |
| Post-Leaving Cert. Course (PLC) | 6,557 | 24.0 | 4,315 | 15.7 |
| FÁS Course 2010 | 269 | 1.0 | 510 | 1.9 |
| Other Second-Level/Further Education or Training* | 138 | 0.5 | 339 | 1.2 |
| <i>Subtotal</i> | <i>8,329</i> | <i>30.5</i> | <i>6,780</i> | <i>24.7</i> |
| <i>Of those remaining</i> | | | | |
| Social Welfare Activity 31st December 2010 | 1,650 | 6.0 | 2,347 | 8.5 |
| Employment Activity During 2010~ | 2,520 | 9.2 | 3,126 | 11.4 |
| <i>Estimates for</i> | | | | |
| Higher Education Course (Higher Education Authority)* Non-PPSN Coverage | 130 | 0.5 | 131 | 0.5 |
| Higher Education Course - Non-HEA-Aided Institutions* | 495 | 1.8 | 754 | 2.7 |
| Higher Education Course Abroad* | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| 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 2010.

* 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 the proportion of female School Completers (nearly half of both sexes). However, while there is little difference in the proportion, in absolute terms nearly 200 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 24% (6,557) of all male School Completers continue to PLC courses. This compares to less than 16% (4,315) 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 on the previous page.*

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 on the previous page.*

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 Applied | Leaving Certificate Vocational | Repeat Leaving Certificate | Total |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Enrolled in Higher Education | 15,140 | 9 | 7,271 | 1,704 | 24,124 |
| % of all School Completers | 48.1 | 0.3 | 43.2 | 52.0 | 44.0 |
| Number of School Completers | 31,493 | 3,210 | 16,844 | 3,277 | 54,824 |

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

Looking at the entire group of School Completers, 48.1% of all those who pursued the Leaving Certificate programme were enrolled in HEA-aided institutions one year later. The same is true of 43.2% of those who pursued the Leaving Certificate Vocational programme and 52.0% of those who repeated the Leaving Certificate. This compares to less than 1% of those who pursued the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme. It should be borne in mind that the Leaving Certificate Applied is a distinct, self-contained two-year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life and not aimed at preparing students for entrance to higher education. 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?

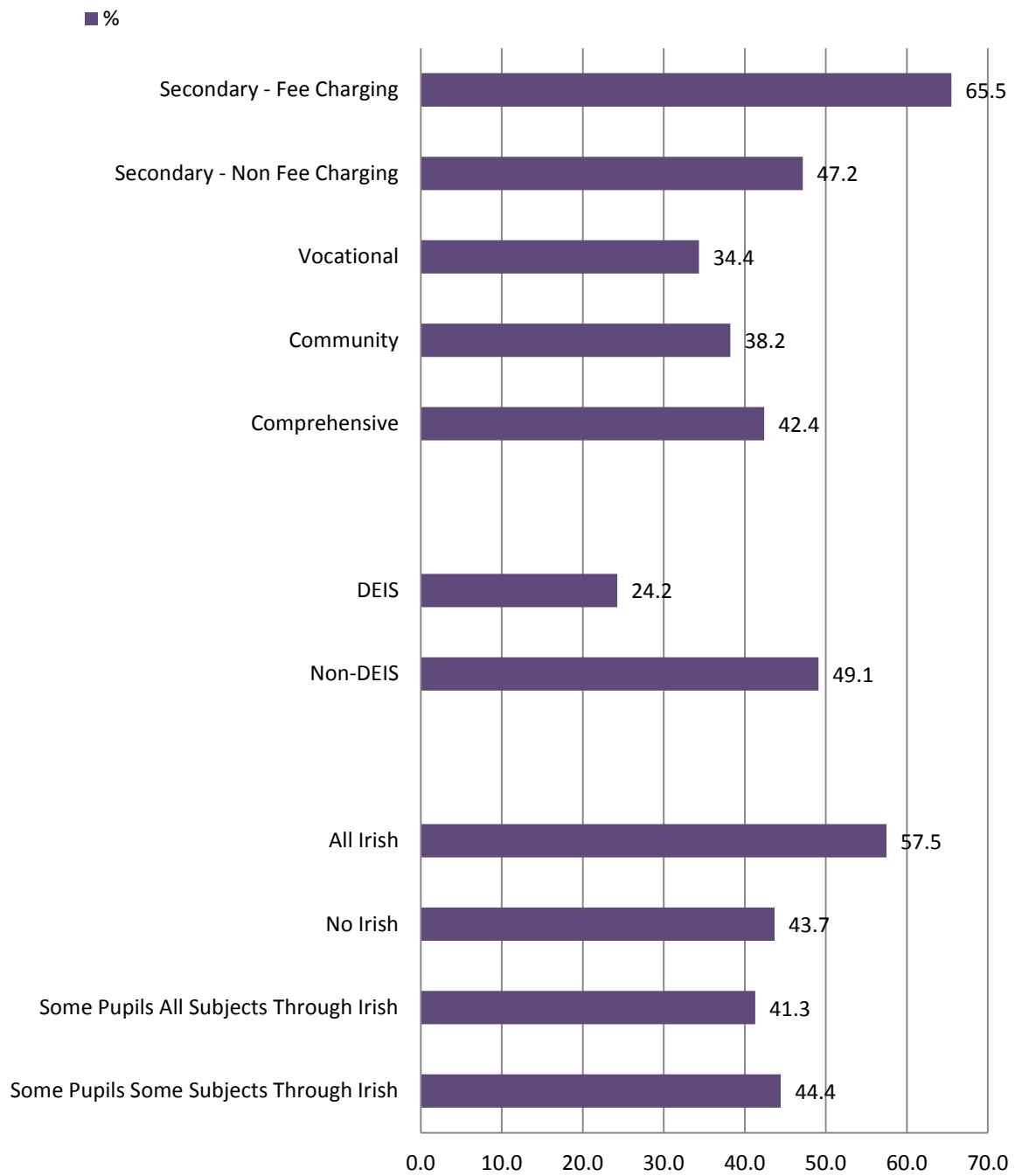
Table 2.2: School Completers who Progressed Directly to Higher Education* - Classified by Characteristics of School Attended

| | Number of Completers Who Progressed Directly to Higher Education | All School Completers | % of All School Completers |
|--|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| School Type | | | |
| Secondary – Fee-Charging | 2,706 | 4,131 | 65.5 |
| Secondary – Non-Fee-Charging | 13,161 | 27,908 | 47.2 |
| Vocational | 4,544 | 13,227 | 34.4 |
| Community | 3,118 | 8,155 | 38.2 |
| Comprehensive | 595 | 1,403 | 42.4 |
| Total | 24,124 | 54,824 | 44.0 |
| DEIS Status of School | | | |
| DEIS | 2,727 | 11,247 | 24.2 |
| Non-DEIS | 21,397 | 43,577 | 49.1 |
| Total | 24,124 | 54,824 | 44.0 |
| Medium of Instruction in School | | | |
| All Pupils Taught All Subjects Through Irish | 826 | 1,437 | 57.5 |
| No Subjects Taught Through Irish | 22,632 | 51,829 | 43.7 |
| Some Pupils Taught All Subjects Through Irish | 346 | 838 | 41.3 |
| Some Pupils Taught Some Subjects Through Irish | 320 | 720 | 44.4 |
| Total | 24,124 | 54,824 | 44.0 |

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

The table above shows School Completers who progressed directly to higher education, classified by some characteristics of the school they attended, and shows the percentage of students from schools with these characteristics that progressed directly to higher education. Note that the various categories of school characteristics are not mutually exclusive. Pupils who attended fee-charging secondary schools were more likely (65.5%) to progress directly to higher education than those who attended the other school types. Similarly, 49.1% of pupils who attended non-DEIS schools progressed directly to higher education compared to just 24.2% of those who attended DEIS schools (DEIS - Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools). Pupils who attended all-Irish schools were more likely (57.5%) 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 Progressed Directly to Higher Education*- Classified by NFQ Level of Higher Education Course

| | Number | % of Cohort |
|--|---------------|--------------|
| NFQ Level | | |
| Level 6 (Higher Certificate) and Below | 1,458 | 6.0 |
| Level 7 (Ordinary Bachelors Degree) | 3,933 | 16.3 |
| Level 8 (Honours Bachelors Degree) and Above | 18,571 | 77.0 |
| Missing | 162 | 0.7 |
| Total | 24,124 | 100.0 |

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

The majority of students (77%) enrolled in National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) level 8 courses. NFQ level 8 is the Honours Bachelor Degree and is normally awarded following 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

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Employment Activity | | | |
| Employment Activity During 2010 | 5,544 | 4,493 | 10,037 |
| Total Cohort | 12,153 | 11,971 | 24,124 |
| <i>% of Cohort</i> | <i>45.6</i> | <i>37.5</i> | <i>41.6</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, 41.6% had employment activity during 2010. A higher proportion of males were in employment than females. See *Table 2.4 above and footnote¹ below*.

¹ Data from the Quarterly National Household Survey for the fourth quarter of 2010 show that 19,100 or 7.7% 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 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 by Programme

| | Leaving Certificate | Leaving Certificate Applied | Leaving Certificate Vocational | Repeat Leaving Certificate | Total |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Enrolled in PLC Courses | 5,501 | 1,197 | 3,692 | 482 | 10,872 |
| All School Completers | 31,493 | 3,210 | 16,844 | 3,277 | 54,824 |
| % of All School Completers | 17.5 | 37.3 | 21.9 | 14.7 | 19.8 |

There is a direct progression rate of nearly 20% (19.8%) of School Completers to PLC courses. Note that there were 32,880 students enrolled in year one of PLC courses in 2010/2011, 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 2010/2011 did not enter directly upon completing the Leaving Certificate or Repeat Leaving Certificate. *See Table 3.1 above.*

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. This pattern may reflect the changing economic environment as well as the increase in the number of PLC places available. *See Table 3.2 below.*

Table 3.2: Direct Progression Rate to PLC Courses - 2001/2002 to 2009/2010

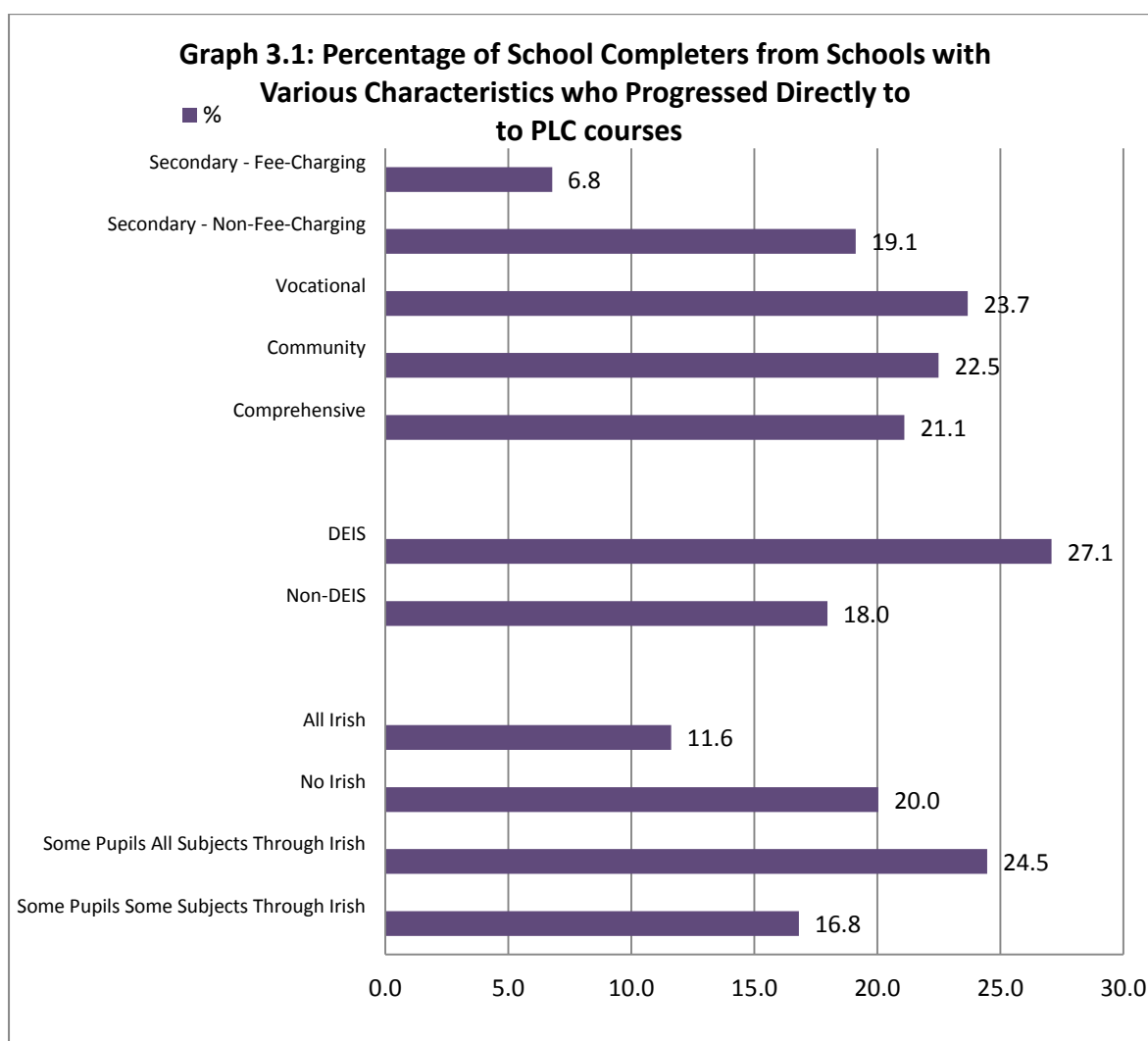
| Enrolled in | Progressed Directly to PLC Course in | Direct Progression Rate to PLC % |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2001/2002 | 2002/2003 | 16.4 |
| 2002/2003 | 2003/2004 | 15.9 |
| 2003/2004 | 2004/2005 | 15.8 |
| 2004/2005 | 2005/2006 | 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 |

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 | 280 | 4,131 | 6.8 |
| Secondary – Non-Fee-Charging | 5,335 | 27,908 | 19.1 |
| Vocational | 3,131 | 13,227 | 23.7 |
| Community | 1,834 | 8,155 | 22.5 |
| Comprehensive | 296 | 1,403 | 21.1 |
| Total | 10,876 | 54,824 | 19.8 |
| DEIS Status of School | | | |
| DEIS | 3,046 | 11,247 | 27.1 |
| Non-DEIS | 7,830 | 43,577 | 18.0 |
| Total | 10,876 | 54,824 | 19.8 |
| Medium of Instruction in School | | | |
| All Pupils Taught All Subjects Through Irish | 167 | 1,437 | 11.6 |
| No Subjects Taught Through Irish | 10,383 | 51,829 | 20.0 |
| Some Pupils Taught All Subjects Through Irish | 205 | 838 | 24.5 |
| Some Pupils Taught Some Subjects Through Irish | 121 | 720 | 16.8 |
| Total | 10,876 | 54,824 | 19.8 |

The table above shows some characteristics of the schools that the School Completers that 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 27% (27.1%) of those students enrolled in DEIS schools progressed directly to PLC courses. This compares to 18% of those enrolled in non-DEIS schools (DEIS – Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools). Only 6.8% of those enrolled in fee-charging schools progressed directly to PLC courses compared to an average of 20.9% 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 2010 | 2,332 | 1,257 | 3,589 |
| Total Cohort | 6,557 | 4,315 | 10,872 |
| <i>% of Cohort</i> | 35.6 | 29.1 | 33.0 |

Table 3.4 above shows that a third (33%) of the School Completers who progressed directly to PLC courses had some employment activity during 2010. 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 2010 show that 19,100 or 7.7% 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 who Continued to Repeat Leaving Certificate Programmes

Table 4.1: School Completers who Continued Directly to Repeat Leaving Certificate Courses - Classified by Leaving Certificate Programme

| | Leaving Certificate | Leaving Certificate Applied | Leaving Certificate Vocational | Repeat Leaving Certificate | Total |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Repeat Leaving Certificate 2010/11 | 1,756 | 20 | 1,168 | 37 | 2,981 |
| All School Completers | 31,493 | 3,210 | 16,844 | 3,277 | 54,824 |
| % of All School Completers | 5.6 | 0.6 | 6.9 | 1.1 | 5.4 |

The number of School Completers who went on to enrol in a Repeat Leaving Certificate programme was 2,981. This is a Repeat Leaving Certificate rate of 5.4%. This 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 2,981 differs from the published figure for enrolment in Repeat Leaving Certificate (RLC) Programmes in 2010/2011 of 3,376. This is because there were 395 students enrolled in RLC programmes who were not enrolled in second-level schools in 2010/2011. These pupils could have been late entrants in the 2009/2010 academic year (and hence not show up in these figures), could have been enrolled in private non-aided second-level schools in the 2009/2010 academic year, taken a year or more off before enrolling in the RLC or come from outside the country.

Interestingly, not all Repeat Leaving Certificate students came from the Leaving Certificate programme. Nearly 40% (1,188) were enrolled in either the Leaving Certificate Vocational programme or the Leaving Certificate Applied programme. A small number were also enrolled in the Repeat Leaving Certificate programme in 2009/2010. *See Table 4.1 above.*

There were 436 second-level schools offering Repeat Leaving Certificate programmes in the 2010/2011 academic year. Of the School Completers who continued directly to the Repeat Leaving Certificate, 1,922 did so in the same school they had attended previously and the remaining 1,059 in a different school.

Repeat Leaving Certificate Rates

Table 4.2: Leaving Certificate Repeat Rate - 2001/2002 to 2009/2010

| 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 |

The table above shows the direct Repeat Leaving Certificate rate. This decreased from a high of 6% in 2001/2002; was at its lowest in 2006/2007 at 3.8% and has been increasing slowly ever since. See *Table 4.2 above*.

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 while preserving the linking capabilities of the identifier over time and across the sources it is deployed on. The coverage of PPSN varied across all data sources. As the coverage varies it is possible that some of the pupils in the 'Other' category should really appear in the other destinations.

Estimations were used to calculate:

- the number of students enrolled in higher education HEA institutions for whom there was no PPSN coverage (*See Page 22*)
- the number of persons enrolled in higher education private institutions (*See Page 22*)
- 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 data 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.

Origin of the Project

The data-matching project came about as a proposal from the Statistician in DES to the CSO. The CSO Administrative Data Centre held a meeting to explore potential data-matching projects. At the same time there was an emerging data gap on the destinations of School Leavers, particularly as the School Leaver Survey had not been repeated for a number of years.

Reference Period

PPPDB - Students who were enrolled in final year of post-primary schools on the 30th of September 2009 (2009/2010 academic year) were checked against enrolment records in post-primary schools as of the 30th of September 2010 (2010/2011 academic year). Those pupils not appearing in the files as of the 30th of September 2010 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 2010.

FETAC awards database - the 2011 calendar year.

Central Records System of the Department of Social Protection – the 31st December 2010. Other reference periods in 2010 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 2010 and 2011 data files were examined. The 2010 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 (PPPDB) - Repeat Leaving Certificate and Post Leaving Certificate Courses

Pupils enrolled in Repeat Leaving Certificate or Post-Leaving Certificate Courses in 2010/2011 appear as enrolled on the PPPDB on the 30th of September 2010. However, for the purposes of this analysis, pupils in these cohorts were treated as leavers in 2009 with the Repeat Leaving Certificate or Post-Leaving Certificate courses as separate destinations in 2010.

Post-Primary Pupil Database – Final Year Students Staying On

Note that there are 269 pupils enrolled in the Leaving Certificate/Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme/Leaving Certificate Applied year 2/Repeat Leaving Certificate who were enrolled again in the 2010/2011 academic year so are not treated as School Leavers and hence do not appear in the analysis. *See Table A, page 6.*

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 2011 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 or Allowance pensions and illness payments.

Higher Education Course (Higher Education Authority)

Refers to HEA-aided institutions. These are the seven Universities and the 14 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, the National College of Art and Design and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The National College of Ireland and the 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 Froebel 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 (Higher Education Authority) 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 2010 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 (57%) 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 - 2009 and 2010

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 ISCED levels 5B and 5A first degree. The same proportion (57%) 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 - 2009 and 2010

| | 2009 | 2010 |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <u>Country</u> | | |
| 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 |
| <u>Germany</u> | 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 Economic Status. These persons self-classified their Principal Economic Status as 'Student'. The ILO (International Labour Office) 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

'000

| | | Employed | Unemployed | Not in labour force | Total |
|-------------|-----------|----------|------------|---------------------|-------|
| 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.