

This is FET

Traveller Community 2023



SOLAS
learning works



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Government of Ireland

**Further
Education
& Training**

A Report by the
National FET Statistics, Data and Insights Unit in SOLAS
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Authors

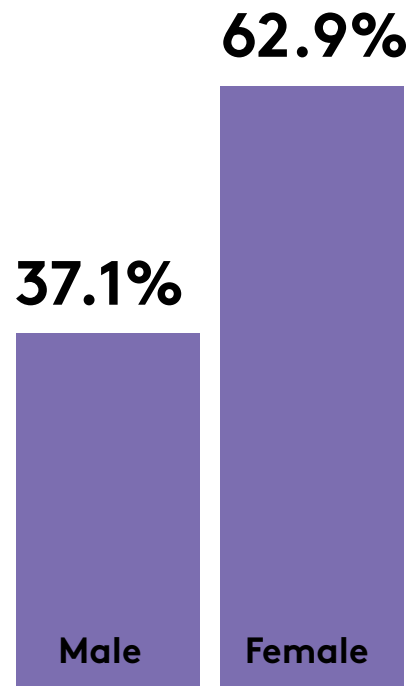
Darragh Walsh
Selen Guerin



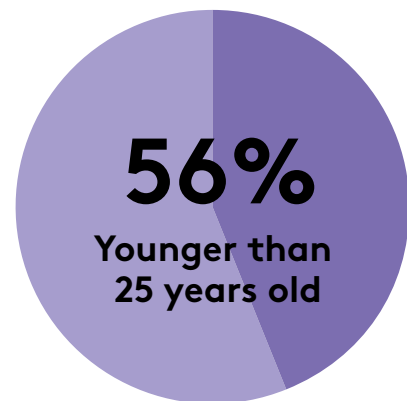
All data is sourced from the Programme and Learner Support Systems (PLSS) database. PLSS collects and processes the personal data of the FET learners who are enrolled in SOLAS funded programmes. This report excludes apprenticeship provision.

The National FET Statistics, Data and Insights Unit would like to acknowledge the assistance of the ETB staff involved in submitting data to SOLAS.

Enrolments



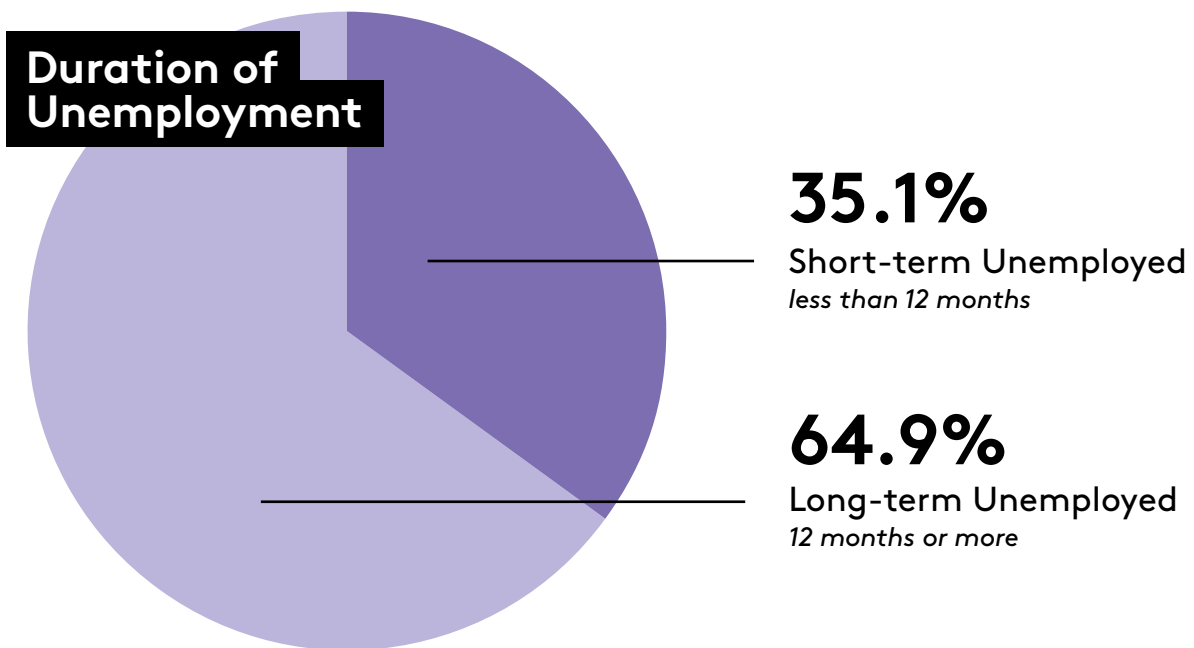
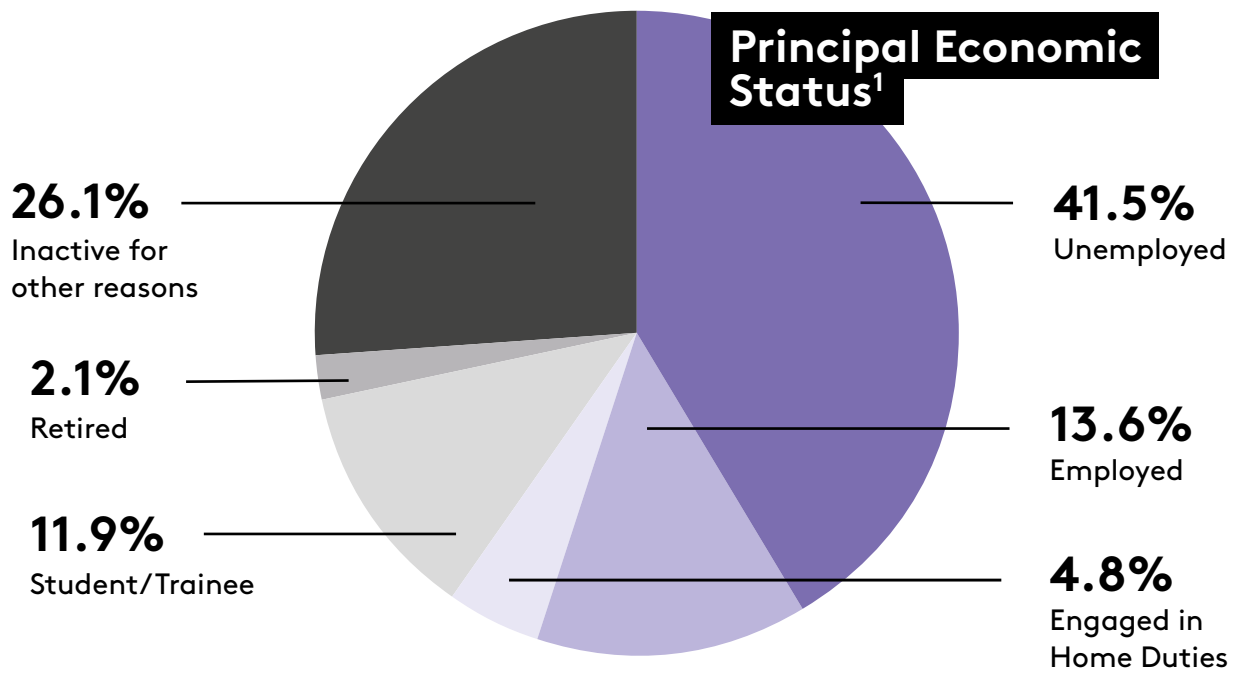
87%
Full and partial
completions



69.6%
Certification rate

In 2023, the total number of Traveller enrolments reported in further education and training was 1,408. Of these learner enrolments, 37.1% were men and 62.9% were women. The majority (56%) of these learners were younger than 25 years of age.

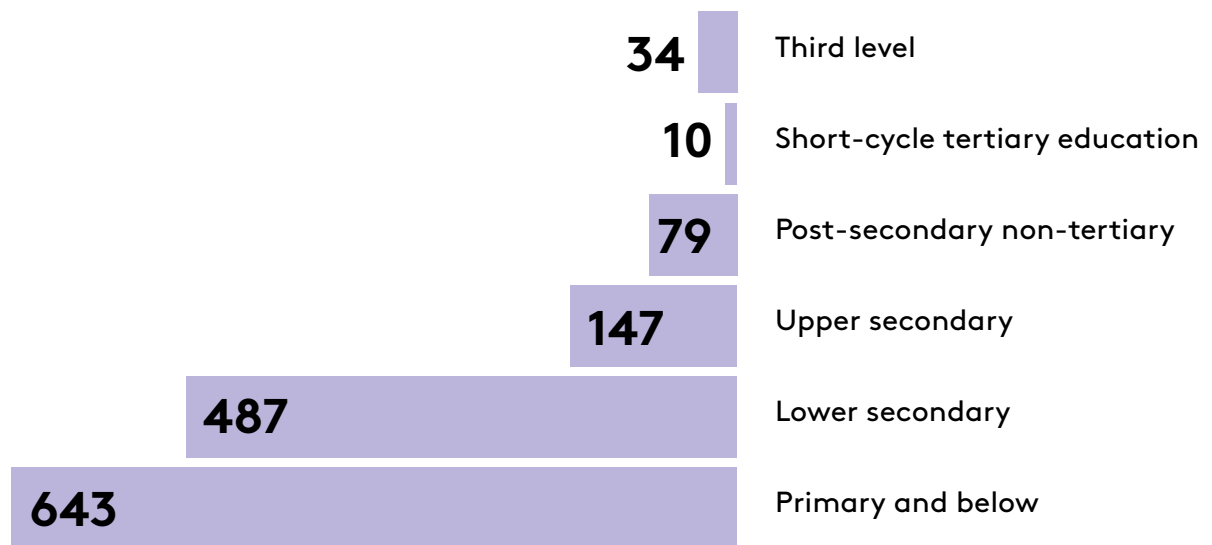
Of the 1,408 Traveller enrolments, 87% partially or fully completed a course in 2023. The certification rate for Travellers who completed certified courses was 69.6%.



The majority of Travellers were either unemployed or economically inactive. Of those who were unemployed, 64.9% were unemployed for 12 months or more.

¹ The Principal Economic Status response rate for Travellers was 90%.

Highest Level of Formal Education²



Over three-quarters (1,130) of Travellers reported that they had a lower secondary or primary and below education level attained prior to joining further education and training.



Of the 1,408 Traveller enrolments, 48 reported that they were part of a jobless household, whereas 117 reported that they were dependants in a jobless household. There were also 253 Travellers that reported they had a long-lasting condition.

² It should be noted that this figure is an estimate and includes only those cases where previous levels of education were captured.

ETB

ETB	Learners
Cavan and Monaghan ETB	84
City of Dublin ETB	152
Cork ETB	90
Donegal ETB	27
Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB	130
Galway and Roscommon ETB	124
Kerry ETB	22
Kildare and Wicklow ETB	46
Kilkenny and Carlow ETB	84
Laois and Offaly ETB	98
Limerick and Clare ETB	58
Longford and Westmeath ETB	106
Louth and Meath ETB	85
Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB	98
Tipperary ETB	64
Waterford and Wexford ETB	143

Of the 1,408 Travellers enrolled in FET courses, Traveller enrolments were primarily concentrated in City of Dublin ETB, Waterford and Wexford ETB, Dublin and Dun Laoighaire ETB, and Galway and Roscommon ETB.³

³ Learners are unique within an ETB but not nationally.

Programme Category⁴

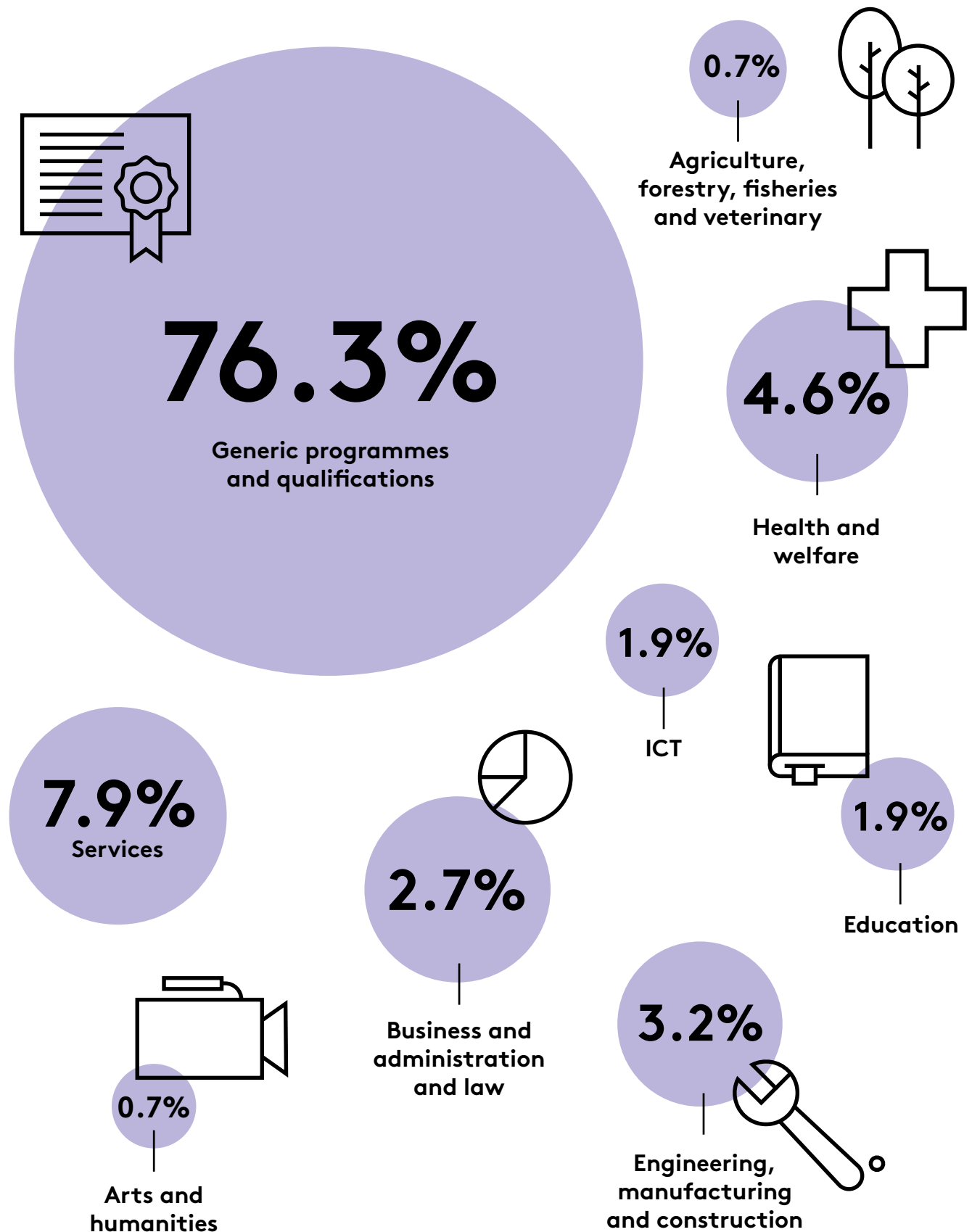
Programme Category	Learners
Adult Literacy Groups	310
Bridging and Foundation Training	6
BTEI Groups	122
Community Education	262
Community Training Centres	181
e-Learning	15
ESOL	14
Evening Training	31
FET Cooperation Hours	50
FET Pathways from School	9
ITABE	8
Justice Workshop	14
Local Training Initiatives	87
Other Funding	18
PLC	43
Skills to Advance	27
Specialist Training Providers	14
Specific Skills Training	43
Traineeship Training	20
Voluntary Literacy Tuition	9
VTOS Core	15
Youthreach	287

Among FET programmes, Traveller enrolments were primarily concentrated among Adult Literacy and Youthreach courses.⁵ There were also an additional 6 enrolments in online eCollege, Skills for Work and Traineeship Employed.

⁴ Learners here are unique within programmes, but not necessarily across programmes.

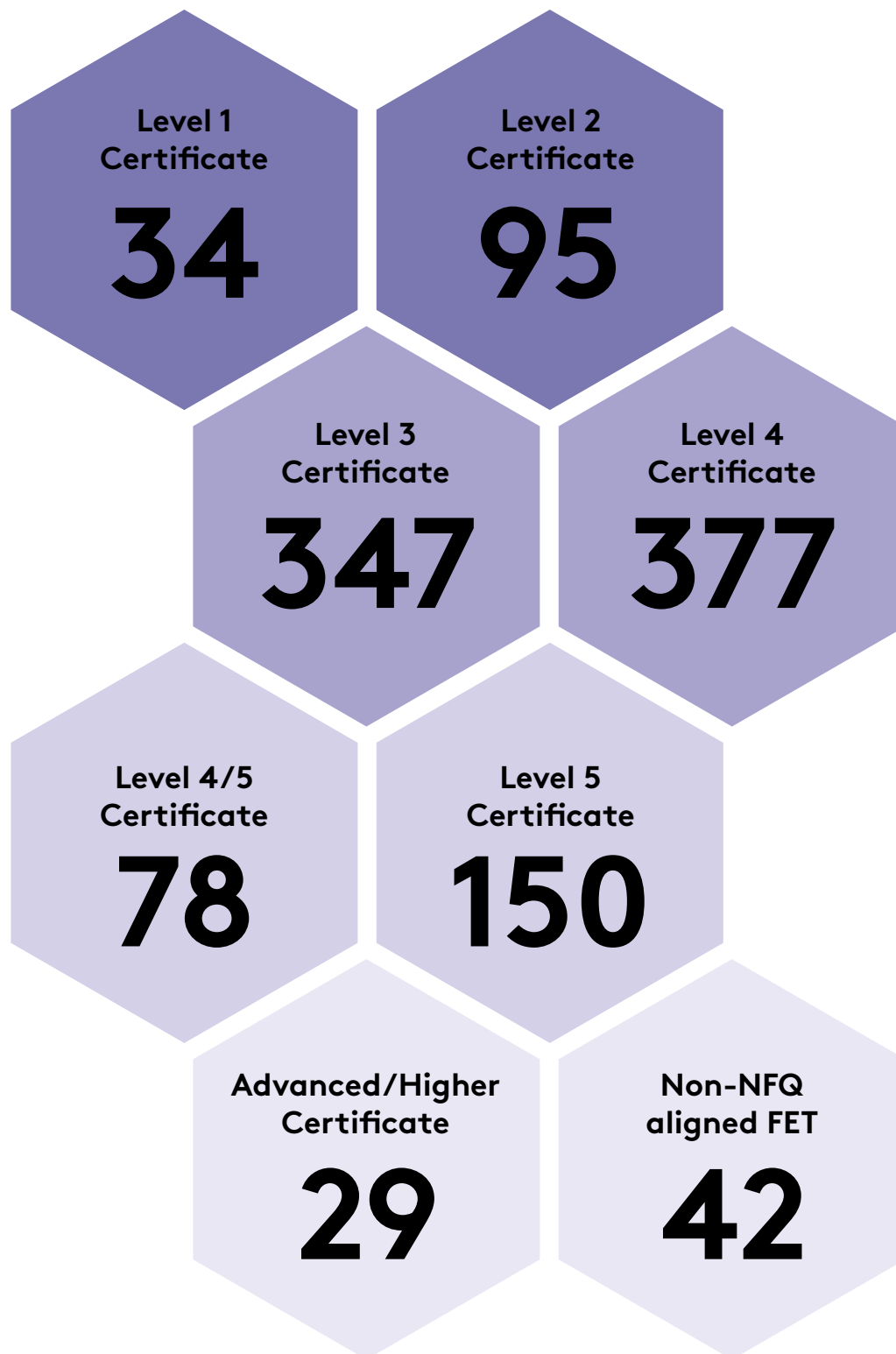
⁵ Any learner count less than 5 is excluded in this table.

Field of Study (Broad ISCED)



Field of Study (Broad ISCED)	Examples of courses
Generic programmes and qualifications	Employability Skills
	ESOL English Language
	Health and Wellbeing
	Arts and Crafts
Business and administration and law	Start your own Business
	Office Administration
Health and welfare	Nursing Studies
	Applied Social Studies
Services	Beauty Therapy
	Sports, Recreation and Exercise
Arts and humanities	Art, Craft and Design
	Film and TV Production
Education	Early Childhood Care and Education
	Special Needs Assisting
ICT	Computer Systems and Networks
	Computer Basics
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	Welding
	Engineering Technology
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	Horticulture
	Animal Care
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	Applied Science/ Laboratory Techniques
	Pre-University Science
Social sciences, journalism and information	Journalism for the Digital Age
	Cultural and Heritage Studies

Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or Equivalent⁶



⁶ This excludes learners enrolled in courses that do not lead to an award through a recognised awarding body.

Definition of Terms

Activity

The sum of learners multiplied by the number of courses which they have been enrolled in or completed within a programme or across different programmes, or providers during 2023.

Certification Rate

The proportion of full and partial learner completions who achieved certification to all learners who completed a certified course in 2023.

Completions

Completions include the total number of learners who fully or partially completed their course during 2023. Completions exclude those learners who may have left their course early (e.g. early leavers).

Enrolments

Enrolments are defined as learners who are on course or have completed a course during 2023.

Field of Study

This is defined and categorized by the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED). Both broad (2-digit) and detailed (4-digit) fields of study are used for categorising Further Education and Training course fields of study.

Partial Completions

Learners who have completed more than 25 per cent but less than 90 per cent of a course and its requirements in 2023.

Inactive

This term is used according to the Eurostat and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition which defines inactive as individuals who are neither employed nor unemployed and are not working and not available or looking for work. Inactive in this report includes those learners engaged in home duties, retired, student/trainees, and those inactive for other reasons.

Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

This is a framework through which all learning achievements may be measured and related to each other in a coherent way. The many different types and sizes of qualifications included in the NFQ are organised based on their level of knowledge, skill and competence. In some cases, where awards have not been placed on the Irish NFQ, equivalent levels are assigned based on the document 'Qualifications can cross boundaries' and the level assigned to the award on the relevant country's framework (e.g. Cf. Ofqual, Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework, etc.).

Non-NFQ Aligned courses

This includes completions with certification not aligned with the NFQ.

Learner

A unique individual who has progressed onto a course in the application process. The total number of learners is the sum of all unique individuals in Further Education and Training in 2023.

Long-lasting Condition

This includes anyone who has: 1) blindness or a serious vision impairment, 2) deafness or a serious hearing impairment, 3) a difficulty with basic physical activities (e.g. walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying, etc.), 4) an intellectual disability, 5) a difficulty with learning, remembering or concentrating, 6) a psychological or emotional condition, and/or 7) a difficulty with pain, breathing, any other chronic illness/condition.

Long-term Unemployed

This refers to any person who is unemployed for 12 months or more.

On Course

This refers to those learners who were still on course at a point in time.

Full Completions

Learners who have completed 90 per cent or more of the course and its requirements in 2023.

Post-secondary Non-tertiary

This refers to Post Leaving Certificate NFQ Level 4 or 5, Advanced Certificate NFQ Level 6, other non-NFQ aligned FET, Certificate NFQ Level 4, or Certificate NFQ Level 5.

Short-cycle Tertiary

This refers to third level non-degree courses and includes higher certificate NFQ level 6 courses and diploma NFQ level 7 courses. These courses are usually of one year in duration and are often vocational in nature.

Third Level

This refers to Ordinary Bachelor degree, Honours Bachelor degree, Professional, Post-Graduate, Doctorate or Higher degree courses.

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