



Department of Education & Youth

Teacher Workforce Data- Methodology

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An Roinn Oideachais agus Óige Department of Education and Youth

Overview

The Department of Education and Youth adhere to the core standards reflected in the Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviours, the Code of Ethics, and the Civil Service Renewal Plan. These standards include the important principal of quality, along with other core values such as objectivity, impartiality, and accountability.

Introduction

Education statistics in the area of learners (entrants, enrolments, graduates), teachers and expenditure are of significant interest to the public and are vital for the performance and management of the education system in Ireland. Trust in these statistics is vital for good governance of the sector and is critical for evidence-based policymaking. Trust in the quality and impartiality of these statistics is of paramount importance and this document outlines how the Department of Education and Youth adhere to the core principals identified in the Irish Statistical System Code of Practice, such as:

- Commitment to quality;
- Professional independence;
- Statistical Confidentiality;
- Timeliness and punctuality; and
- Accessibility and clarity.

General Information

The Department of Education and Youth participate in the collection, collation, analysis, and dissemination of a wide range of education data. DEY publish a workforce data bulletin, amongst other reports, annually in January.

The reference year for data in this publication is the current school year, for example the report published in January 2026 is for the school year 2025/26.

The statistical information published in the workforce data bulletin includes:

- Teacher payroll and allocation counts and summaries for Primary & Post Primary
- Data on substitutes and leave
- Irish Medium Education (IME) teachers
- Special Education Teachers and Special Needs Assistants



Organisational Unit Responsible

Statistics section is responsible for collating, validating, and compiling into the required format required by the DEY the following data: data on teachers at primary and post primary level and SNAs at primary and post primary level, including contracted, full time, part time and substitute staff.

The statistics section comprises of one senior statistician and six statisticians.

Periodicity

The workforce data bulletin is published annually in January on the Department of Education and Youth website.

Users

The statistics published in the workforce data bulletin are designed with the objective of being both informative and accessible to a wide readership. The publications are used by a broad range of stakeholders, including:

- Members of the public
- Researchers and research bodies
- Political parties and public representatives
- Education stakeholders such as staff representative bodies, school management bodies, various other education agencies.
- Other Government Departments / Public Service
- Internal stakeholders such as teacher supply, school governance, forward planning, and teacher allocations.
- Journalists and other media providers

Data Sources

- Information on teachers and SNAs is provided by the relevant payroll departments, Allocations Team, The Teaching Council, and the Special Education department.
- Information on schools is obtained from a central database called the Primary Online Database and the Post Primary Online Database.



Quality Principle

The core function of the statistics section within the Department is to produce statistics that are accurate, reliable, coherent, and comparable. The statistics section is committed to being objective in its compilation and analysis of the data it produces and aims to disseminate statistics in a clear, accessible, and timely manner. The following section outlines the statistics section approach to delivering on its commitment to the Irish Statistical System Code of Practice quality principles in the production of statistics.

Relevance

The statistics compiled by statistics section are compiled in timely manner for annual publication.

Accuracy and Reliability

There is a high reputational benefit for the Department of Education in ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the education statistics. The data is compiled by professional statisticians who are committed to upholding the principles of accuracy and reliability. The data published in the workforce data bulletin is used and referenced by stakeholders right across the education system and is trusted by all. In compiling the data statistics section perform multiple layers of check and validations to ensure the accuracy of the data.

Timeliness and Punctuality

The workforce data bulletin is published annually in January.

Coherence and Comparability

All the data provided for publication is drawn from administrative sources that are used to manage the education system and accordingly is regarded as accurate and reliable.

The data is checked against other published statistics such as external surveys, detailed census statistics, CSO survey results in the area of education.

Change over time is monitored carefully to ensure coherence with previous data while all significant changes are examined carefully to maintain accuracy.



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Accessibility and Clarity

Publications are available in PDF form, with relevant csv files, via a link on the Department's web site.

The statistical tables upon which reports are based, are accessible via links from the Department's website to PX stat tables on the CSO web site.

Production of Statistics

Overview

The following section outlines current processes for the production of the workforce data bulletin.

Collect, Process & Analyse Phase

Statistics section are responsible for analysing and validating each component of the tables included, including the overall teacher numbers.

Statistics section extract workforce data from the Department's payroll systems. The data is analysed, and teacher counts are grouped by schools and county.

Data on allocations is provided by the department's allocation teams in school governance and special education.

Data on schools is extracted from the Department's Primary Online Database (POD) and Post Primary Online Database (PPOD).

Leave and Substitute teacher data is extracted from the Department's Online Leave & Claims System.

The data is summarised into the required format for the report and grouped by county and national level.

Once the data is compiled, checked, and verified the report template is completed for publication.



Dissemination Phase

This phase manages the publication of the workforce data bulletin on the department's website in January.

The bulletin is published on the Department's website as a pdf document, with relevant data tables as csv files.

The statistical tables upon which reports are based, are accessible via links from the Department's website to PX stat tables on the CSO web site.

Revisions

As quality is reviewed on an ongoing basis revision can occur. Once the need for a revision is identified the publication is removed from the Department's website and the CSO website, the revision is made and when appropriate a note is added.

Confidentiality

Statistics section collect a significant amount of data which is used to develop and produce the tables required for the workforce data bulletin. All data collected by the statistics section is treated as strictly confidential.

All education statistics are compiled by professional statisticians. These statisticians are recruited in the same manner as all other professional statisticians working for the CSO, they undergo the same training, and work to the same principles and standards. Professional staff are all signed up as Officers of Statistics. The unit is headed up by a senior statistician, also professionally recruited, on temporary (5 year) secondment to the department.

There are data sharing agreements in place with all agencies who share data with us and the section work in full compliance with GDPR obligations. We do not make any microdata available to users. All confidential microdata is stored in a secure folder on the network / data hub and access is strictly limited to statisticians in the section along with economic research and evaluation staff in the department.

Staff must adhere to the central policies such as:

- Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviours
- Official Secrets Act
- Code of Ethics in Public Office