

Statistical Bulletin 5/2016

Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2014/15

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This statistical bulletin presents an analysis of the GCSE and A-level qualifications and destinations of pupils leaving post-primary schools in 2014/15.

Key Points

- The proportion of school leavers achieving **at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent** has increased by 9.2 percentage points from 71.9% in 2009/10 to 81.1% in 2014/15.
- At 66.0%, the proportion of school leavers achieving **at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths** has increased by 2.5 percentage points since 2013/14 (63.5%) and by 6.9 percentage points since 2009/10 (59.0%).
- The proportion of free school meal entitled school leavers achieving **at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths** increased by 6.4 percentage points from 34.9% in 2013/14 to 41.3% in 2014/15.
- The proportion of school leavers achieving **three or more A-levels A* - C or equivalent** was 38.2% in 2014/15, an increase of 2.7 percentage points from 35.5% in 2009/10.
- The proportion of school leavers continuing on to **Institutions of Higher Education** has remained stable (42.3% in 2014/15). Overall, 95.5% of school leavers were recorded by their school as entering **Education, Employment or Training**.

Contents

| Section | Title | Page |
|----------|--|------|
| | | |
| | <u>Introduction</u> | 4 |
| 1 | <u>Qualifications</u> | 6 |
| 1.1 | <u>5+ GCSEs A*-C including equivalent qualifications</u> | 6 |
| 1.2 | <u>5+ GCSEs A*-C and equivalent qualifications including GCSE English and GCSE maths</u> | 7 |
| 1.3 | <u>No GCSEs or equivalent qualifications</u> | 8 |
| 1.4 | <u>A-levels and equivalent qualifications</u> | 9 |
| | | |
| 2 | <u>Destinations</u> | 10 |
| | | |
| 3 | <u>Notes to Readers</u> | 12 |
| | | |
| 4 | 2014/15 Tables | |
| Table 1 | <u>Qualifications of school leavers by gender and school type</u> | 15 |
| Table 2 | <u>Highest qualification of school leavers by destination</u> | 16 |
| Table 3 | <u>Qualifications of school leavers by gender and religion of pupil</u> | 17 |
| Table 4 | <u>Qualifications of school leavers by ethnic origin</u> | 18 |
| Table 5 | <u>Qualifications of school leavers by gender and free school meal entitlement</u> | 19 |
| Table 6 | <u>Qualifications of school leavers by 2014 district council of pupil residence</u> | 20 |
| Table 7 | <u>School leavers not entitled to free school meals achieving at least 5 GCSEs A*-C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil</u> | 21 |
| Table 8 | <u>School leavers entitled to free school meals achieving at least 5 GCSEs A*-C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil</u> | 21 |
| Table 9 | <u>School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs A*-C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil</u> | 21 |
| Table 10 | <u>Qualifications of school leavers by special educational need (SEN) status</u> | 22 |
| Table 11 | <u>Qualifications of school leavers 2009/10 to 2014/15</u> | 23 |
| Table 12 | <u>Qualifications of male school leavers 2009/10 to 2014/15</u> | 23 |
| Table 13 | <u>Qualifications of female school leavers 2009/10 to 2014/15</u> | 23 |
| | | |
| Table 14 | <u>Destination of school leavers by school type and gender</u> | 24 |
| Table 15 | <u>Destination of school leavers by gender and religion of pupil</u> | 25 |
| Table 16 | <u>Destination of school leavers by ethnic origin</u> | 26 |
| Table 17 | <u>Destination of school leavers by free school meal entitlement and gender</u> | 27 |
| Table 18 | <u>Destination of school leavers by special educational need (SEN) status</u> | 28 |
| Table 19 | <u>Higher education destination by country of institution and</u> | 29 |

| | | |
|------------|--|----|
| | gender of pupil | |
| Table 20 | Higher education destination by country of institution and religion of pupil | 29 |
| Table 21 | Destination of school leavers 2009/10 to 2014/15 | 30 |
| Table 22 | Destination of male school leavers 2009/10 to 2014/15 | 30 |
| Table 23 | Destination of female school leavers 2009/10 to 2014/15 | 30 |
| | | |
| 5 | Appendices 2009/10 | |
| Appendix A | Qualifications of school leavers by gender and school type | 31 |
| Appendix B | Destinations of school leavers by gender and school type | 32 |

Uses of Qualification and Destination data

The primary reason for this data collection exercise is to create a statistical base to inform a wide range of policy areas aimed at raising standards and tackling educational underachievement. Data collected throughout this process are used by policy teams within the Department of Education (DE) and by other users across the education service, most notably by the Education and Training Inspectorate and the new Education Authority (formerly the Education and Library Boards). The data are used to respond to Assembly questions and are included in the Department's accountability and performance management process. The data are also used in the development, implementation and monitoring of policies, in particular the Literacy and Numeracy strategy, school improvement programmes and relevant Departmental Milestones.

School leavers survey data are used to monitor the progress against two key commitments in Priority One of The Programme for Government (PfG) 2011-2015¹. These are:

Increase the overall proportion of young people who achieve at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C or equivalent including GCSEs in maths and English by the time they leave school to 66% by 2014/15.

Current position: In 2014/15 the percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs A*-C including GCSEs in maths and English was **66.0%**

Increase the proportion of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who achieve at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C or equivalent including GCSEs in maths and English to 49% by 2014/15

Current position: In 2014/15 the percentage of school leavers entitled to free school meals achieving at least 5 GCSEs A*-C including GCSEs in maths and English was **41.3%**.

Background information

Year 12 pupils staying on at school

There has been a change in the stage at which pupils are leaving school, with a greater proportion of school pupils staying on at school and entering Year 13. The proportion of pupils staying on into Year 13 has increased from 62.6% in 2009/10 to 69.8% in 2014/15 (Source: Annual School Census 2014). This is reflected in the change in the proportion of school leavers who were Year 12 pupils which has decreased from 36.4% of all leavers in 2009/10 to 30.2% in 2014/15.

¹ These commitments may change in the new Programme for Government which is currently under development.

Extension of Free School Meal eligibility criteria

In 2013/14, there were 4,054 school leavers that were entitled to free schools meals, 17.9% of all school leavers. By 2014/15, this figure has increased to 5,310, 23.7% of school leavers. This increase in the proportion of school leavers with Free School Meal Entitlement (FSME) coincides with an extension of the eligibility for free school meals under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion. This was introduced on a phased basis with Nursery, Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils eligible from September 2010 and Key Stage 2 pupils eligible from September 2011. It was extended to post-primary pupils from September 2014.

Other information

Information reported in this bulletin may reflect outcomes associated with the continuation of a range of programmes specifically targeting the literacy and numeracy of young people in those schools serving the most disadvantaged pupils².

Statistics relating to school numbers and enrolments can be found on the Statistics and research section of the DE [website](#)³.

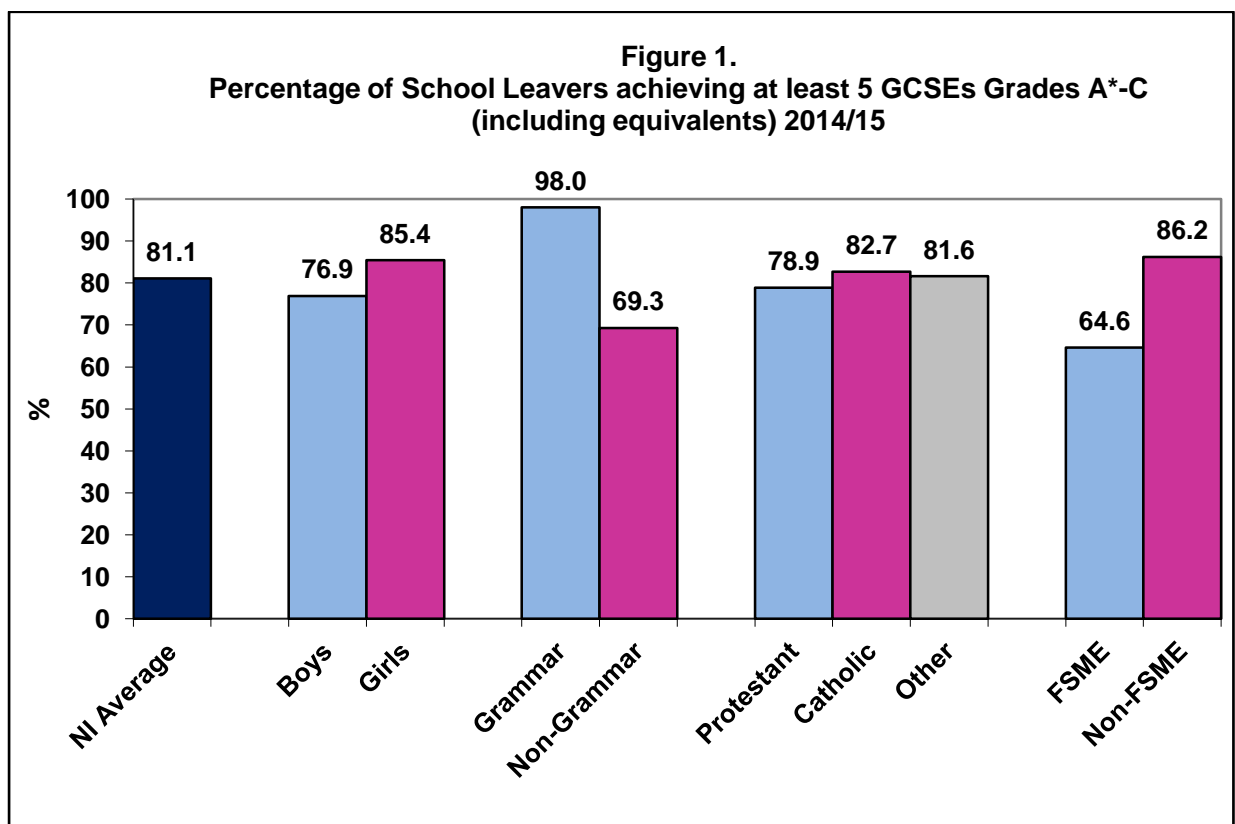
² <http://www.etini.gov.uk/index/surveys-evaluations/surveys-evaluations-primary/surveys-evaluations-primary-2015/an-evaluation-of-the-implementation-of-the-delivering-social-change-improving-literacy-and-numeracy-signature-programme.htm>

³ <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/statistics>

Section 1: Qualifications

1.1 5+ GCSEs A*-C including equivalent qualifications

- The proportion of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent has increased by 9.2 percentage points from 71.9% in 2009/10 to 81.1% in 2014/15 ([Table 11](#), [Figure 1](#)).
- As in previous years, the proportion of girls leaving school with at least five GCSEs or equivalent at grades A* - C remains higher than the proportion of boys; 85.4% of girls leaving school in 2014/15 achieved this standard compared with 76.9% of boys ([Table 1](#), [Table 12](#), [Table 13](#) & [Figure 1](#)).

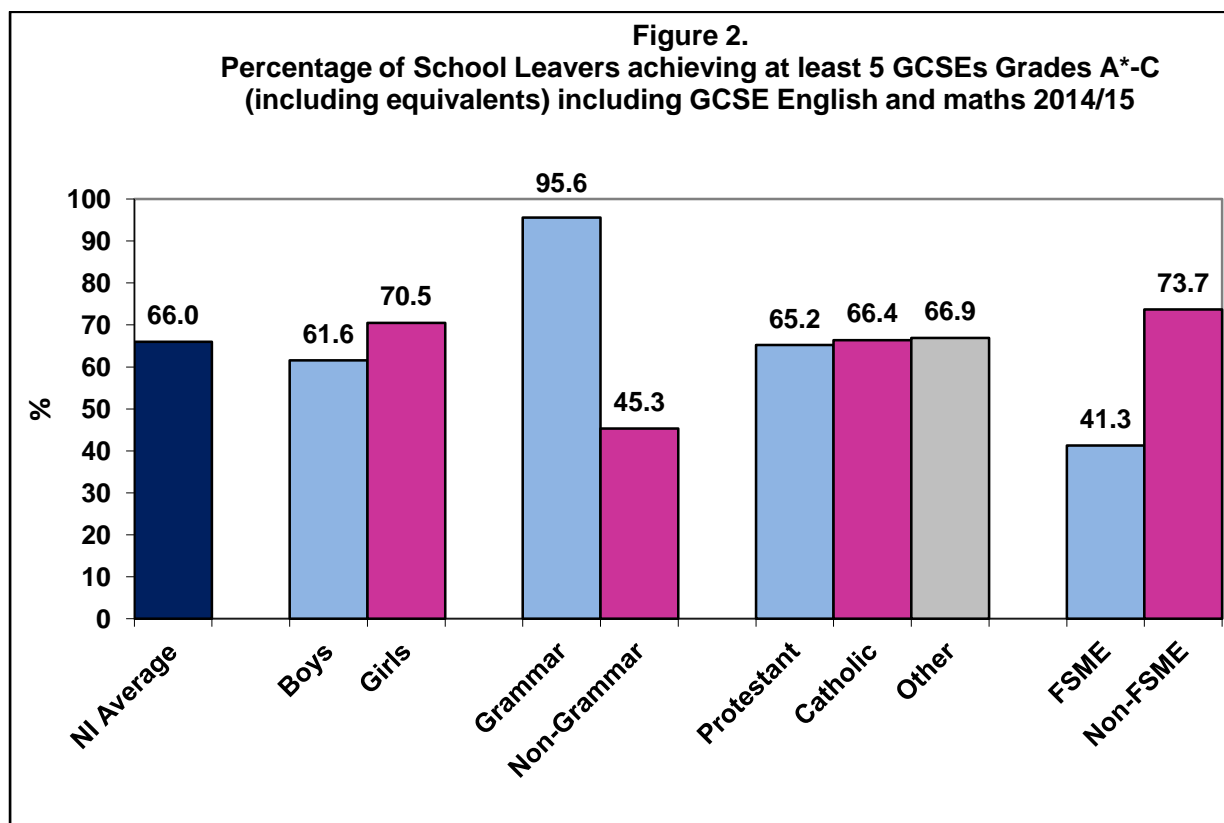


- The proportion of pupils leaving non-grammar schools who achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent has increased by 14.4 percentage points from 54.9% in 2009/10 to 69.3% in 2014/15. The corresponding proportions for grammar schools were 97.0% and 98.0%, a 1.0 percentage point increase ([Table 1](#), [Appendix A](#) & [Figure 1](#)).
- The proportion of pupils with a special educational need (SEN) stage 5 who achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent was 38.9% compared with 86.4% for those pupils without a SEN. 63.5% of pupils who were recorded as having a SEN stage 1-4 achieved this standard ([Table 10](#)).

1.2 5+ GCSEs A*-C and equivalent qualifications including GCSE English and GCSE maths

- At 66.0%, the proportion of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths has increased by 2.5 percentage points since 2013/14 (63.5%) and by 6.9 percentage points since 2009/10 (59.0%) ([Table 11](#), [Figure 2](#)).
- The proportion of free school meal entitled⁴ school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths increased by 6.4 percentage points from 34.9% in 2013/14 to 41.3% in 2014/15 ([Table 5](#), [Figure 2](#)).
- There is a 15.1 percentage point gap between the proportion of pupils achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths (66.0%) and the proportion of pupils achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent (81.1%) ([Table 1](#)).
- Over two-thirds (70.5%) of girls achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths compared with 61.6% of boys, a difference of 8.9 percentage points ([Table 1](#), [Table 9](#) & [Figure 2](#)).
- In 2014/15, 95.6% of grammar school leavers left with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths, while 98.0% left with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent, a difference of 2.4 percentage points. The corresponding proportions for non-grammar school leavers were 45.3% and 69.3% respectively, a difference of 24.0 percentage points ([Table 1](#) & [Figure 2](#)).
- Again, looking at the difference between these two indicators, 66.4% of Catholic school leavers left with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths, while 82.7% left with at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent, a difference of 16.3 percentage points. The corresponding proportions for Protestant school leavers were 65.2% and 78.9% respectively, a difference of 13.7 percentage points ([Table 3](#), [Table 9](#) & [Figure 2](#)).

⁴ The increase in the number of FSME pupils coincides with an extension of the eligibility for free school meals under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion which was extended to post-primary pupils from September 2014.



- In 2014/15, 26.7% (213) of Protestant boys entitled to free school meals⁵ achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths compared with 39.9% (672) of Catholic boys entitled to free school meals. Similarly, Catholic girls entitled to free school meals (49.6%, 826) outperformed Protestant girls entitled to free school meals (40.3%, 296) in achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths ([Table 8](#)).
- Geographically the data can be analysed in terms of the school leaver's place of residence ([Table 6](#)). Analysis conducted using the 2014 District Council (DC) boundaries showed a 13.4 percentage point difference between the lowest achieving DC which was Belfast (60.2%) and the highest achieving DC which was Lisburn and Castlereagh (73.6%) when comparing those leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs A*-C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths.

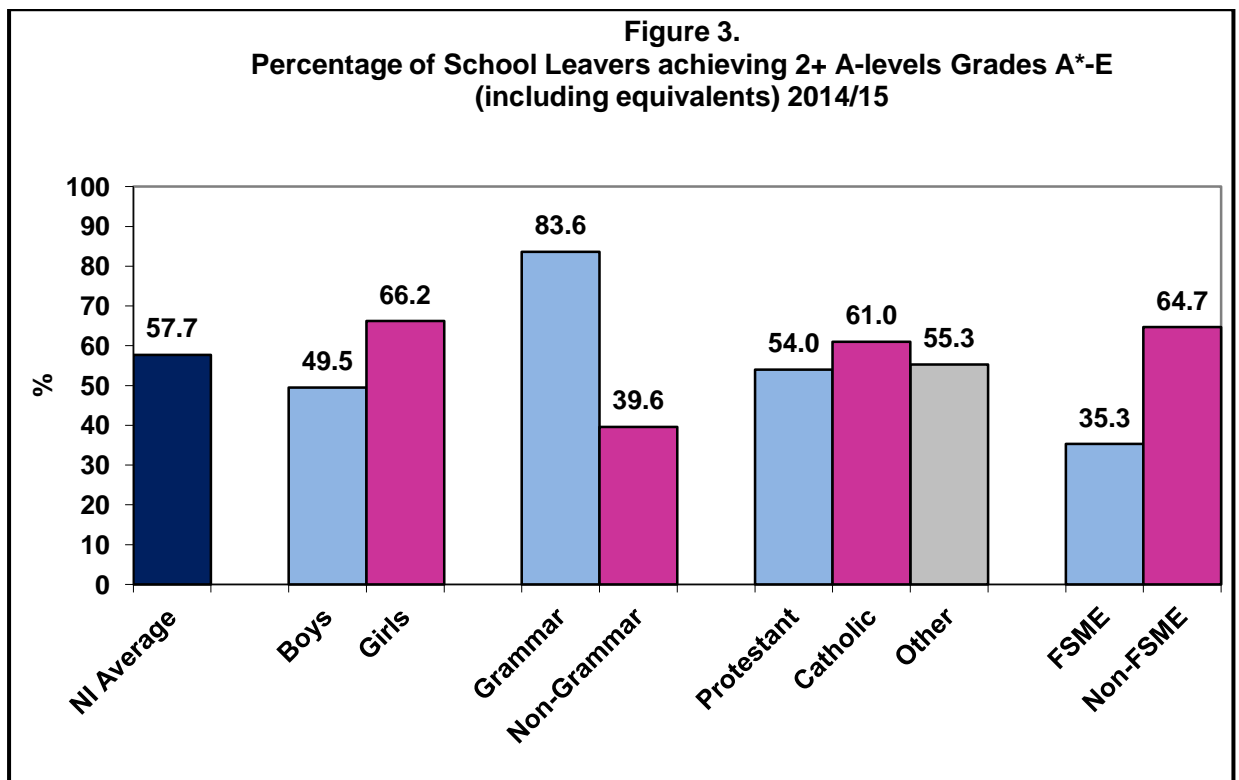
1.3 No GCSEs or equivalent qualifications

- Slightly more boys (66) left school in 2014/15 with no GCSEs than girls (56), equating to 0.6% and 0.5% respectively ([Table 1](#), [Table 12](#) & [Table 13](#)).
- When free school meal entitlement is considered, 1.2% (66) of those entitled to free school meals⁵ leave without any GCSEs compared with 0.3% (56) of school leavers who are not entitled to free school meals ([Table 5](#)).

⁵ The increase in the number of FSME pupils coincides with an extension of the eligibility for free school meals under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion which was extended to post-primary pupils from September 2014.

1.4 A-levels and equivalent qualifications

- The proportion of school leavers achieving three or more A-levels A*-C or equivalent was 38.2% in 2014/15, an increase of 2.7 percentage points from 35.5% in 2009/10 ([Table 1](#), [Table 11](#)).
- The proportion of school leavers achieving two or more A-levels A*-E or equivalent was 57.7% in 2014/15, an increase of 5 percentage points from 52.7% in 2009/10 ([Table 1](#), [Table 11](#) & [Figure 3](#)).
- Girls continue to outperform boys in terms of qualifications achieved. In 2014/15, 45.7% of girls achieved at least three A-levels A*-C or equivalent on leaving school compared with 31.1% of boys, and 66.2% of girls achieved two or more A-levels A*-E or equivalent in 2014/15 compared with 49.5% of boys ([Table 1](#), [Table 12](#) & [Table 13](#), [Figure 3](#)).

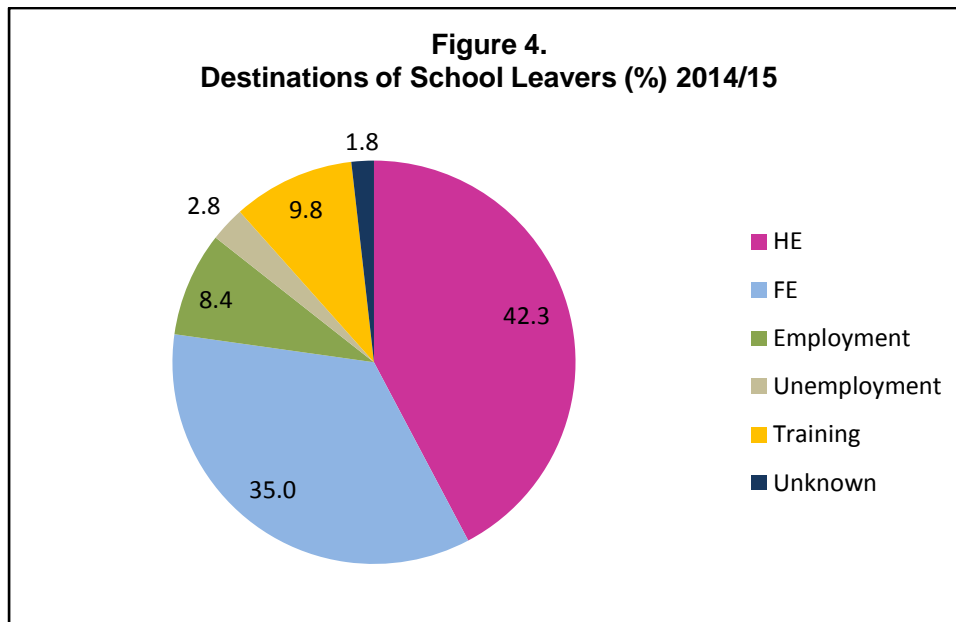


- The proportion of grammar school leavers achieving at least two A-levels A*-E or equivalent has decreased from 85.3% in 2009/10 to 83.6% in 2014/15, with 88.8% of grammar school girls now leaving school with two or more A-levels or equivalent compared with 78.3% of grammar school boys. The corresponding proportions achieving at least two A-levels or equivalent in non-grammar schools were 49.5% for girls, 30.4% for boys and 39.6% overall, an increase of 9.0 percentage points since 2009/10 when it was 30.6% ([Table 1](#), [Appendix A](#), [Figure 3](#)).
- When religion of pupil is considered, 61.0% of Catholic school leavers achieved two or more A-levels or equivalent compared with 54.0% of Protestant school leavers ([Table 3](#), [Figure 3](#)).

- The proportion of pupils achieving at least two A-levels or equivalent was higher for those school leavers who were not entitled to free school meals (Non-FSME), 64.7% compared with 35.3% of school leavers entitled to free school meals⁶ (FSME) ([Table 5](#), [Figure 3](#)).

Section 2: Destinations

The main destination of the school leaver is reported by the pupil and recorded by the school.



- In total, 42.3% of pupils leaving school in 2014/15 entered Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). At 50.2%, the proportion of girls continuing on to HEIs is higher than that for boys (34.7%) ([Table 14](#), [Figure 4](#)).
- When religion of pupil is considered, 39.0% of Protestant school leavers enter Institutions of Higher Education compared with 45.4% of Catholic school leavers ([Table 15](#)).
- Analysis by location of HEI showed a greater proportion of boys (67.8%) than girls (65.5%) entered Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions ([Table 19](#)). In addition, Catholic school leavers (73.8%) are more likely to enter Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions than Protestant school leavers (60.5%) ([Table 20](#)).
- The proportion of school leavers continuing on to Institutions of Higher Education has remained stable (42.3% in 2014/15). In contrast, the proportion continuing on to Institutions of Further Education increased by 1.9 percentage points from 33.1% in 2009/10 to 35.0% in 2014/15 ([Table 21](#)).

⁶ The increase in the number of FSME pupils coincides with an extension of the eligibility for free school meals under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion which was extended to post-primary pupils from September 2014.

- In 2014/15, school leavers not entitled to free school meals were more likely to continue their education with 81.1% entering institutions of Higher or Further Education compared with 65.3% of leavers who were entitled to free school meals⁷ ([Table 17](#)).
- At 13.5% the proportion of boys entering Training is more than double that of girls (5.9%) ([Table 14](#)).
- Overall, 95.5% of 2014/15 school leavers were recorded by their school as entering Education, Employment or Training. When school type is considered, 97.6% of grammar school leavers and 94.0% of non-grammar school leavers were recorded as having these destinations ([Table 14](#)).

⁷ The increase in the number of FSME pupils coincides with an extension of the eligibility for free school meals under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion which was extended to post-primary pupils from September 2014.

National Statistics

1. National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is a producer's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

2. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service on 0845 601 3034

minicom: 01633 812399

E-mail: info@statistics.gov.uk

Fax: 01633 652747

Letters: Customer Contact Centre, Office for National Statistics, Rm 1.101, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG

3. You can also find National Statistics on the [Internet](#)⁸

School Leavers' Survey

4. For more detail about the collection of school leavers statistics click [here](#)⁹. Special analysis of the school leavers' survey can be produced on request.
5. Information presenting qualifications and destinations of school leavers in Wales, England, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland is not reported as policy differences between the regions make direct comparisons difficult. Figures relating to these regions can be accessed at the links below:

Wales:

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/?topic=Education+and+skills&lang=en#/statistics-and-research/?topics=Education+and+skills&subtopics=Qualifications&view=Search+results&lang=en>

⁸ <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

⁹ <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-leavers-data-collection-and-validation>

England:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-education-and-training>

Scotland:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/PubAttainment>

Republic of Ireland:

<http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/>

6. A comparison of Northern Ireland pupils is available in an international context through the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). PISA, organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) aims to compare standards of achievement for 15 year olds in reading, mathematics and science, between participating countries. It takes place every 3 years. [2012 results](#)¹⁰ were published on 3 December 2013.
7. Further information on examination equivalencies can be obtained from: <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/Qualification>
8. The numbers relating to qualifications are cumulative totals of the level detailed and those above. For example 81.1% of school leavers achieved at least 5 GCSEs A*-C inc. equivalents. This proportion is calculated by adding those with a highest qualification of 3+ A-levels, 2 A-levels, 1 A-level & 5 GCSEs A*-C and dividing by the total number of school leavers.
9. Destinations are reported by the school leaver and recorded by the school.
10. Since 2012/13 two AS qualifications have not been counted as one A-level as in previous years.
11. The school leaving cohort comprises of year 12, 13 and 14 pupils leaving mainstream grant aided post-primary schools.

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¹⁰ http://www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/PQUK03/PQUK03_home.cfm

DE Statistical Bulletins can be accessed at the DE Internet site – <http://www.education-ni.gov.uk> under the Statistics and research section.

Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office at the same address, telephone (028) 9127 9207.

Please send any feedback on the content or presentation of this publication to the E-mail address: amanda.lennon@education-ni.gov.uk

Table 1

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and school type 2014/2015⁽¹⁾

| | BOYS | | GIRLS | | TOTAL | |
|---|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % |
| GRAMMAR | | | | | | |
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 2629 | 57.8 | 3318 | 71.3 | 5947 | 64.6 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 3434 | 75.5 | 4023 | 86.4 | 7457 | 81.0 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 3560 | 78.3 | 4136 | 88.8 | 7696 | 83.6 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 4404 | 96.8 | 4613 | 99.1 | 9017 | 98.0 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 4261 | 93.7 | 4534 | 97.4 | 8795 | 95.6 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 4529 | 99.6 | 4643 | 99.7 | 9172 | 99.7 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 5 | 0.1 | 4 | 0.1 | 9 | 0.1 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 5 | 0.1 | 4 | 0.1 | 9 | 0.1 |
| TOTAL GRAMMAR | 4548 | 100.0 | 4656 | 100.0 | 9204 | 100.0 |
| NON-GRAMMAR | | | | | | |
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 915 | 13.4 | 1691 | 26.8 | 2606 | 19.8 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 1639 | 23.9 | 2615 | 41.4 | 4254 | 32.3 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 2082 | 30.4 | 3127 | 49.5 | 5209 | 39.6 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 4358 | 63.7 | 4758 | 75.4 | 9116 | 69.3 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 2756 | 40.3 | 3202 | 50.7 | 5958 | 45.3 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 6309 | 92.2 | 5963 | 94.5 | 12272 | 93.3 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 61 | 0.9 | 52 | 0.8 | 113 | 0.9 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 45 | 0.7 | 39 | 0.6 | 84 | 0.6 |
| TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR | 6845 | 100.0 | 6312 | 100.0 | 13157 | 100.0 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | |
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 3544 | 31.1 | 5009 | 45.7 | 8553 | 38.2 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 5073 | 44.5 | 6638 | 60.5 | 11711 | 52.4 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 5642 | 49.5 | 7263 | 66.2 | 12905 | 57.7 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 8762 | 76.9 | 9371 | 85.4 | 18133 | 81.1 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 7017 | 61.6 | 7736 | 70.5 | 14753 | 66.0 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 10838 | 95.1 | 10606 | 96.7 | 21444 | 95.9 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 66 | 0.6 | 56 | 0.5 | 122 | 0.5 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 50 | 0.4 | 43 | 0.4 | 93 | 0.4 |
| TOTAL LEAVERS | 11393 | 100.0 | 10968 | 100.0 | 22361 | 100.0 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes only those with no qualifications of any kind.

Where small numbers appear in this table, consideration was given to balancing the privacy of individual information against the utility of the data. As the risk of identification was considered to be low, small numbers have not been suppressed. This is consistent with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#)¹¹.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated.

¹¹ <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/>

Table 2

Highest qualification of school leavers by destinations 2014/2015⁽¹⁾

| | Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾ | | Institutions of Further Education | | Employment | | Training ⁽⁵⁾ | | Unemployment | | Unknown | | Total | |
|---|---|------|-----------------------------------|------|-------------|------|-------------------------|------|--------------|------|------------|------|--------------|-------|
| | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % |
| A-levels | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 9072 | 77.5 | 1607 | 13.7 | 713 | 6.1 | 97 | 0.8 | 148 | 1.3 | 74 | 0.6 | 11711 | 100.0 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 364 | 30.5 | 455 | 38.1 | 258 | 21.6 | 33 | 2.8 | 65 | 5.4 | 19 | 1.6 | 1194 | 100.0 |
| 1+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 16 | 6.7 | 116 | 48.3 | 72 | 30.0 | 14 | 5.8 | 15 | 6.3 | 7 | 2.9 | 240 | 100.0 |
| GCSEs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5+ A*-C (or equivalent) ⁽²⁾ | 6 | 0.1 | 3479 | 69.7 | 444 | 8.9 | 771 | 15.5 | 148 | 3.0 | 140 | 2.8 | 4988 | 100.0 |
| 1-4 A*-C (or equivalent) ⁽²⁾ | | | 1984 | 54.1 | 317 | 8.6 | 1079 | 29.4 | 178 | 4.9 | 110 | 3.0 | 3668 | 100.0 |
| Other grades (1+ D-G) ⁽²⁾ | | | 174 | 39.6 | 49 | 11.2 | 154 | 35.1 | 39 | 8.9 | 23 | 5.2 | 439 | 100.0 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | | | 21 | 17.4 | 16 | 13.2 | 41 | 33.9 | 23 | 19.0 | 20 | 16.5 | 121 | 100.0 |
| TOTAL LEAVERS | 9458 | | 7836 | | 1869 | | 2189 | | 616 | | 393 | | 22361 | |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
5. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Table 3

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and religion of pupil 2014/2015⁽¹⁾

| | BOYS | | GIRLS | | TOTAL | |
|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % |
| PROTESTANT | | | | | | |
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 1274 | 28.3 | 1814 | 42.2 | 3088 | 35.1 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 1858 | 41.3 | 2435 | 56.6 | 4293 | 48.8 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 2061 | 45.8 | 2689 | 62.5 | 4750 | 54.0 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 3349 | 74.5 | 3593 | 83.6 | 6942 | 78.9 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 2706 | 60.2 | 3025 | 70.4 | 5731 | 65.2 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 4270 | 95.0 | 4167 | 96.9 | 8437 | 95.9 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 17 | 0.4 | 18 | 0.4 | 35 | 0.4 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 16 | 0.4 | 13 | 0.3 | 29 | 0.3 |
| TOTAL PROTESTANT | 4497 | 100.0 | 4299 | 100.0 | 8796 | 100.0 |
| CATHOLIC | | | | | | |
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 1934 | 33.6 | 2750 | 48.7 | 4684 | 41.1 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 2737 | 47.5 | 3612 | 64.0 | 6349 | 55.7 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 3038 | 52.8 | 3921 | 69.4 | 6959 | 61.0 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 4521 | 78.5 | 4905 | 86.9 | 9426 | 82.7 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 3589 | 62.3 | 3986 | 70.6 | 7575 | 66.4 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 5474 | 95.1 | 5442 | 96.4 | 10916 | 95.7 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 44 | 0.8 | 35 | 0.6 | 79 | 0.7 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 30 | 0.5 | 27 | 0.5 | 57 | 0.5 |
| TOTAL CATHOLIC | 5757 | 100.0 | 5646 | 100.0 | 11403 | 100.0 |
| OTHER⁽⁵⁾ | | | | | | |
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 336 | 29.5 | 445 | 43.5 | 781 | 36.1 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 478 | 42.0 | 591 | 57.8 | 1069 | 49.4 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 543 | 47.7 | 653 | 63.8 | 1196 | 55.3 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 892 | 78.3 | 873 | 85.3 | 1765 | 81.6 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 722 | 63.4 | 725 | 70.9 | 1447 | 66.9 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 1094 | 96.0 | 997 | 97.5 | 2091 | 96.7 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 5 | 0.4 | 3 | 0.3 | 8 | 0.4 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 4 | 0.4 | 3 | 0.3 | 7 | 0.3 |
| TOTAL OTHER⁽⁵⁾ | 1139 | 100.0 | 1023 | 100.0 | 2162 | 100.0 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes only those with no qualifications of any kind.
5. Other includes Other Christian, No religion and Non-Christian.

Where small numbers appear in this table, consideration was given to balancing the privacy of individual information against the utility of the data. As the risk of identification was considered to be low, small numbers have not been suppressed. This is consistent with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#)¹².

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated.

¹² <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/>

Table 4

Qualifications of school leavers by ethnic origin 2014/2015⁽¹⁾

| | TOTAL | |
|--|---------|-------|
| | Numbers | % |
| WHITE | | |
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 8363 | 38.2 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 11456 | 52.3 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 12617 | 57.6 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 17758 | 81.1 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 14458 | 66.0 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 21010 | 96.0 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 107 | 0.5 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 83 | 0.4 |
| TOTAL WHITE | 21894 | 100.0 |
| MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS⁽⁵⁾ | | |
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 190 | 40.7 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 255 | 54.6 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 288 | 61.7 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 375 | 80.3 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 295 | 63.2 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 434 | 92.9 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 15 | 3.2 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 10 | 2.1 |
| TOTAL MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS⁽⁵⁾ | 467 | 100.0 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes only those with no qualifications of any kind.
5. 'Minority Ethnic Groups' includes Irish Travellers. 'White' does not include Irish Travellers.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated.

Table 5

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and free school meal entitlement 2014/2015⁽¹⁾

| | BOYS | | GIRLS | | TOTAL | |
|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % |
| ENTITLED TO FSM | | | | | | |
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 358 | 13.2 | 626 | 24.1 | 984 | 18.5 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 579 | 21.4 | 949 | 36.5 | 1528 | 28.8 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 728 | 26.9 | 1147 | 44.1 | 1875 | 35.3 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 1587 | 58.6 | 1845 | 70.9 | 3432 | 64.6 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 971 | 35.8 | 1222 | 47.0 | 2193 | 41.3 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 2428 | 89.6 | 2408 | 92.6 | 4836 | 91.1 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 35 | 1.3 | 31 | 1.2 | 66 | 1.2 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 23 | 0.8 | 25 | 1.0 | 48 | 0.9 |
| TOTAL ENTITLED TO FSM | 2709 | 100.0 | 2601 | 100.0 | 5310 | 100.0 |
| NOT ENTITLED TO FSM | | | | | | |
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 3186 | 36.7 | 4383 | 52.4 | 7569 | 44.4 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 4494 | 51.8 | 5689 | 68.0 | 10183 | 59.7 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 4914 | 56.6 | 6116 | 73.1 | 11030 | 64.7 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 7175 | 82.6 | 7526 | 89.9 | 14701 | 86.2 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 6046 | 69.6 | 6514 | 77.9 | 12560 | 73.7 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 8410 | 96.8 | 8198 | 98.0 | 16608 | 97.4 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 31 | 0.4 | 25 | 0.3 | 56 | 0.3 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 27 | 0.3 | 18 | 0.2 | 45 | 0.3 |
| TOTAL NOT ENTITLED TO FSM | 8684 | 100.0 | 8367 | 100.0 | 17051 | 100.0 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes only those with no qualifications of any kind.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated.

Table 6

Qualifications of school leavers by 2014 district council of pupil residence 2014/2015^{(1) (3)}

| District Council | 2 or more A-levels Grades A*-E ⁽²⁾ | | At least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C ⁽²⁾ | | At least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc. GCSE English and maths | | Total Leavers |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|---------------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number |
| Antrim and Newtownabbey | 876 | 55.2 | 1285 | 80.9 | 1061 | 66.8 | 1588 |
| Ards and North Down | 987 | 57.2 | 1327 | 76.9 | 1151 | 66.7 | 1726 |
| Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | 1249 | 52.2 | 1940 | 81.1 | 1630 | 68.1 | 2393 |
| Belfast | 2105 | 59.7 | 2792 | 79.2 | 2121 | 60.2 | 3526 |
| Causeway Coast and Glens | 843 | 50.1 | 1385 | 82.3 | 1031 | 61.3 | 1683 |
| Derry City and Strabane | 1269 | 58.9 | 1767 | 82.0 | 1363 | 63.2 | 2155 |
| Fermanagh and Omagh | 900 | 61.9 | 1199 | 82.4 | 1009 | 69.3 | 1455 |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh | 1049 | 65.1 | 1383 | 85.8 | 1187 | 73.6 | 1612 |
| Mid and East Antrim | 969 | 57.3 | 1389 | 82.1 | 1145 | 67.7 | 1691 |
| Mid Ulster | 1079 | 55.8 | 1581 | 81.7 | 1284 | 66.4 | 1935 |
| Newry, Mourne and Down | 1501 | 61.0 | 1974 | 80.2 | 1702 | 69.2 | 2460 |
| Invalid/Missing/Unknown Postcodes | 78 | 56.9 | 111 | 81.0 | 69 | 50.4 | 137 |
| Total Leavers | 12905 | 57.7 | 18133 | 81.1 | 14753 | 66.0 | 22361 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. District council of pupil residence is based on the residential postcode of each individual pupil.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated.

Table 7

School leavers *not entitled* to free school meals achieving at least 5 GCSEs⁽²⁾ A*-C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil 2014/2015⁽¹⁾

| | BOYS | | GIRLS | | TOTAL | |
|----------------------------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|
| | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % |
| PROTESTANT | 2493 | 67.4 | 2729 | 76.6 | 5222 | 71.9 |
| Total | 3700 | | 3564 | | 7264 | |
| CATHOLIC | 2917 | 71.6 | 3160 | 79.4 | 6077 | 75.5 |
| Total | 4073 | | 3979 | | 8052 | |
| OTHER⁽³⁾ | 636 | 69.8 | 625 | 75.8 | 1261 | 72.7 |
| Total | 911 | | 824 | | 1735 | |
| ALL RELIGIONS | 6046 | 69.6 | 6514 | 77.9 | 12560 | 73.7 |
| Total | 8684 | | 8367 | | 17051 | |

Table 8

School leavers *entitled* to free school meals achieving at least 5 GCSEs⁽²⁾ A*-C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil 2014/2015⁽¹⁾

| | BOYS | | GIRLS | | TOTAL | |
|----------------------------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|
| | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % |
| PROTESTANT | 213 | 26.7 | 296 | 40.3 | 509 | 33.2 |
| Total | 797 | | 735 | | 1532 | |
| CATHOLIC | 672 | 39.9 | 826 | 49.6 | 1498 | 44.7 |
| Total | 1684 | | 1667 | | 3351 | |
| OTHER⁽³⁾ | 86 | 37.7 | 100 | 50.3 | 186 | 43.6 |
| Total | 228 | | 199 | | 427 | |
| ALL RELIGIONS | 971 | 35.8 | 1222 | 47.0 | 2193 | 41.3 |
| Total | 2709 | | 2601 | | 5310 | |

Table 9

School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs⁽²⁾ A*-C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil 2014/2015⁽¹⁾

| | BOYS | | GIRLS | | TOTAL | |
|----------------------------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|
| | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % |
| PROTESTANT | 2706 | 60.2 | 3025 | 70.4 | 5731 | 65.2 |
| Total | 4497 | | 4299 | | 8796 | |
| CATHOLIC | 3589 | 62.3 | 3986 | 70.6 | 7575 | 66.4 |
| Total | 5757 | | 5646 | | 11403 | |
| OTHER⁽³⁾ | 722 | 63.4 | 725 | 70.9 | 1447 | 66.9 |
| Total | 1139 | | 1023 | | 2162 | |
| ALL RELIGIONS | 7017 | 61.6 | 7736 | 70.5 | 14753 | 66.0 |
| Total | 11393 | | 10968 | | 22361 | |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Other includes Other Christian, No religion and Non-Christian.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated.

Table 10

Qualifications of school leavers by special educational need (SEN) status 2014/2015 ⁽¹⁾

| | No SEN | | SEN Stages 1-4 | | SEN Stage 5 | | Total | |
|---|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % |
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 7832 | 43.0 | 640 | 20.0 | 81 | 8.4 | 8553 | 38.2 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 10661 | 58.6 | 931 | 29.2 | 119 | 12.4 | 11711 | 52.4 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 11654 | 64.0 | 1099 | 34.4 | 152 | 15.8 | 12905 | 57.7 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 15732 | 86.4 | 2027 | 63.5 | 374 | 38.9 | 18133 | 81.1 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 13349 | 73.3 | 1222 | 38.3 | 182 | 18.9 | 14753 | 66.0 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 17854 | 98.1 | 2919 | 91.4 | 671 | 69.8 | 21444 | 95.9 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 60 | 0.3 | 34 | 1.1 | 28 | 2.9 | 122 | 0.5 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 49 | 0.3 | 29 | 0.9 | 15 | 1.6 | 93 | 0.4 |
| TOTAL | 18206 | 100.0 | 3193 | 100.0 | 962 | 100.0 | 22361 | 100.0 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes only those with no qualifications of any kind.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated

Table 11

Qualifications of school leavers 2009/2010 to 2014/2015⁽¹⁾

| | 2009/10 % | 2010/11 % | 2011/12 % | 2012/13 % | 2013/14 % | 2014/15 % |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 35.5 | 35.6 | 36.4 | 36.0 | 37.0 | 38.2 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 48.0 | 48.4 | 50.2 | 50.2 | 50.8 | 52.4 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 52.7 | 53.3 | 55.6 | 55.1 | 55.7 | 57.7 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 71.9 | 73.2 | 76.5 | 78.5 | 78.6 | 81.1 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 59.0 | 59.5 | 62.0 | 62.2 | 63.5 | 66.0 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 92.8 | 93.5 | 94.7 | 94.8 | 95.2 | 95.9 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 2.1 | 2.2 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 0.5 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 1.7 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 0.8 | 0.4 |
| TOTAL LEAVERS | 22826 | 23160 | 22568 | 23001 | 22636 | 22361 |

Table 12

Qualifications of male school leavers 2009/2010 to 2014/2015⁽¹⁾

| | 2009/10 % | 2010/11 % | 2011/12 % | 2012/13 % | 2013/14 % | 2014/15 % |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 28.5 | 29.6 | 29.6 | 29.1 | 30.2 | 31.1 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 40.2 | 40.9 | 42.0 | 42.6 | 43.4 | 44.5 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 44.8 | 45.7 | 47.4 | 47.3 | 48.1 | 49.5 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 65.4 | 67.7 | 71.0 | 74.5 | 74.1 | 76.9 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 53.4 | 55.0 | 56.3 | 57.5 | 58.6 | 61.6 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 90.8 | 91.9 | 93.5 | 93.7 | 94.0 | 95.1 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.2 | 0.6 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 2.0 | 2.3 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| TOTAL LEAVERS | 11382 | 11847 | 11415 | 11746 | 11632 | 11393 |

Table 13

Qualifications of female school leavers 2009/2010 to 2014/2015⁽¹⁾

| | 2009/10 % | 2010/11 % | 2011/12 % | 2012/13 % | 2013/14 % | 2014/15 % |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 42.4 | 41.9 | 43.4 | 43.2 | 44.2 | 45.7 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 55.7 | 56.2 | 58.6 | 58.2 | 58.6 | 60.5 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 60.5 | 61.3 | 64.0 | 63.3 | 63.6 | 66.2 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 78.4 | 78.9 | 82.1 | 82.8 | 83.4 | 85.4 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 64.7 | 64.3 | 67.8 | 67.0 | 68.6 | 70.5 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 94.8 | 95.2 | 95.8 | 96.0 | 96.5 | 96.7 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.5 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| TOTAL LEAVERS | 11444 | 11313 | 11153 | 11255 | 11004 | 10968 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes only those with no qualifications of any kind.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated.

Table 14

Destination of school leavers by school type and gender 2014/2015⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

| | BOYS | | GIRLS | | TOTAL | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % |
| GRAMMAR | | | | | | |
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾ | 2851 | 62.7 | 3547 | 76.2 | 6398 | 69.5 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 1176 | 25.9 | 802 | 17.2 | 1978 | 21.5 |
| Employment | 259 | 5.7 | 182 | 3.9 | 441 | 4.8 |
| Training ⁽⁴⁾ | 134 | 2.9 | 31 | 0.7 | 165 | 1.8 |
| Unemployment | 50 | 1.1 | 52 | 1.1 | 102 | 1.1 |
| Destinations Unknown | 78 | 1.7 | 42 | 0.9 | 120 | 1.3 |
| TOTAL GRAMMAR | 4548 | 100.0 | 4656 | 100.0 | 9204 | 100.0 |
| NON-GRAMMAR | | | | | | |
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾ | 1098 | 16.0 | 1962 | 31.1 | 3060 | 23.3 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 3070 | 44.9 | 2788 | 44.2 | 5858 | 44.5 |
| Employment | 801 | 11.7 | 627 | 9.9 | 1428 | 10.9 |
| Training ⁽⁴⁾ | 1409 | 20.6 | 615 | 9.7 | 2024 | 15.4 |
| Unemployment | 299 | 4.4 | 215 | 3.4 | 514 | 3.9 |
| Destinations Unknown | 168 | 2.5 | 105 | 1.7 | 273 | 2.1 |
| TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR | 6845 | 100.0 | 6312 | 100.0 | 13157 | 100.0 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | |
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾ | 3949 | 34.7 | 5509 | 50.2 | 9458 | 42.3 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 4246 | 37.3 | 3590 | 32.7 | 7836 | 35.0 |
| Employment | 1060 | 9.3 | 809 | 7.4 | 1869 | 8.4 |
| Training ⁽⁴⁾ | 1543 | 13.5 | 646 | 5.9 | 2189 | 9.8 |
| Unemployment | 349 | 3.1 | 267 | 2.4 | 616 | 2.8 |
| Destinations Unknown | 246 | 2.2 | 147 | 1.3 | 393 | 1.8 |
| TOTAL LEAVERS | 11393 | 100.0 | 10968 | 100.0 | 22361 | 100.0 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institutions may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
4. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Table 15

Destination of school leavers by gender and religion of pupil 2014/2015⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

| | BOYS | | GIRLS | | TOTAL | |
|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % |
| PROTESTANT | | | | | | |
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾ | 1445 | 32.1 | 1983 | 46.1 | 3428 | 39.0 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 1846 | 41.0 | 1562 | 36.3 | 3408 | 38.7 |
| Employment | 459 | 10.2 | 332 | 7.7 | 791 | 9.0 |
| Training ⁽⁵⁾ | 540 | 12.0 | 278 | 6.5 | 818 | 9.3 |
| Unemployment | 123 | 2.7 | 94 | 2.2 | 217 | 2.5 |
| Destinations Unknown | 84 | 1.9 | 50 | 1.2 | 134 | 1.5 |
| TOTAL PROTESTANT | 4497 | 100.0 | 4299 | 100.0 | 8796 | 100.0 |
| CATHOLIC | | | | | | |
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾ | 2128 | 37.0 | 3051 | 54.0 | 5179 | 45.4 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 1922 | 33.4 | 1656 | 29.3 | 3578 | 31.4 |
| Employment | 494 | 8.6 | 403 | 7.1 | 897 | 7.9 |
| Training ⁽⁵⁾ | 892 | 15.5 | 307 | 5.4 | 1199 | 10.5 |
| Unemployment | 196 | 3.4 | 148 | 2.6 | 344 | 3.0 |
| Destinations Unknown | 125 | 2.2 | 81 | 1.4 | 206 | 1.8 |
| TOTAL CATHOLIC | 5757 | 100.0 | 5646 | 100.0 | 11403 | 100.0 |
| OTHER⁽³⁾ | | | | | | |
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾ | 376 | 33.0 | 475 | 46.4 | 851 | 39.4 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 478 | 42.0 | 372 | 36.4 | 850 | 39.3 |
| Employment | 107 | 9.4 | 74 | 7.2 | 181 | 8.4 |
| Training ⁽⁵⁾ | 111 | 9.7 | 61 | 6.0 | 172 | 8.0 |
| Unemployment | 30 | 2.6 | 25 | 2.4 | 55 | 2.5 |
| Destinations Unknown | 37 | 3.2 | 16 | 1.6 | 53 | 2.5 |
| TOTAL OTHER⁽³⁾ | 1139 | 100.0 | 1023 | 100.0 | 2162 | 100.0 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institution may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. Other includes Other Christian, No religion and Non-Christian.
4. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
5. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Table 16

Destination of school leavers by ethnic origin 2014/2015⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

| | Total | |
|--|---------|-------|
| | Numbers | % |
| WHITE ⁽³⁾ | | |
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾ | 9229 | 42.2 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 7689 | 35.1 |
| Employment | 1836 | 8.4 |
| Training ⁽⁵⁾ | 2165 | 9.9 |
| Unemployment | 599 | 2.7 |
| Destinations Unknown | 376 | 1.7 |
| TOTAL WHITE | 21894 | 100.0 |
| MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS ⁽³⁾ | | |
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽⁴⁾ | 229 | 49.0 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 147 | 31.5 |
| Employment | 33 | 7.1 |
| Training ⁽⁵⁾ | 24 | 5.1 |
| Unemployment | 17 | 3.6 |
| Destinations Unknown | 17 | 3.6 |
| TOTAL MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS ⁽³⁾ | 467 | 100.0 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institution may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. 'Minority Ethnic Groups' includes Irish Travellers. 'White' does not include Irish Travellers.
4. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
5. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Table 17

Destination of school leavers by free school meal entitlement and gender 2014/2015⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

| | BOYS | | GIRLS | | TOTAL | |
|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % |
| ENTITLED TO FSM | | | | | | |
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾ | 435 | 16.1 | 730 | 28.1 | 1165 | 21.9 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 1141 | 42.1 | 1161 | 44.6 | 2302 | 43.4 |
| Employment | 270 | 10.0 | 237 | 9.1 | 507 | 9.5 |
| Training ⁽⁴⁾ | 659 | 24.3 | 309 | 11.9 | 968 | 18.2 |
| Unemployment | 132 | 4.9 | 109 | 4.2 | 241 | 4.5 |
| Destinations Unknown | 72 | 2.7 | 55 | 2.1 | 127 | 2.4 |
| TOTAL ENTITLED TO FSM | 2709 | 100.0 | 2601 | 100.0 | 5310 | 100.0 |
| NOT ENTITLED TO FSM | | | | | | |
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾ | 3514 | 40.5 | 4779 | 57.1 | 8293 | 48.6 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 3105 | 35.8 | 2429 | 29.0 | 5534 | 32.5 |
| Employment | 790 | 9.1 | 572 | 6.8 | 1362 | 8.0 |
| Training ⁽⁴⁾ | 884 | 10.2 | 337 | 4.0 | 1221 | 7.2 |
| Unemployment | 217 | 2.5 | 158 | 1.9 | 375 | 2.2 |
| Destinations Unknown | 174 | 2.0 | 92 | 1.1 | 266 | 1.6 |
| TOTAL NOT ENTITLED TO FSM | 8684 | 100.0 | 8367 | 100.0 | 17051 | 100.0 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institution may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
4. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Table 18

Destination of school leavers by special educational need (SEN) status 2014/2015⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

| | No SEN | | SEN Stages 1-4 | | SEN Stage 5 | | Total | |
|---|--------------|------|----------------|------|-------------|------|--------------|--------------|
| | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % |
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾ | 8651 | 47.5 | 719 | 22.5 | 88 | 9.1 | 9458 | 42.3 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 5992 | 32.9 | 1368 | 42.8 | 476 | 49.5 | 7836 | 35.0 |
| Employment | 1505 | 8.3 | 319 | 10.0 | 45 | 4.7 | 1869 | 8.4 |
| Training ⁽⁴⁾ | 1315 | 7.2 | 593 | 18.6 | 281 | 29.2 | 2189 | 9.8 |
| Unemployment | 452 | 2.5 | 115 | 3.6 | 49 | 5.1 | 616 | 2.8 |
| Destinations Unknown | 291 | 1.6 | 79 | 2.5 | 23 | 2.4 | 393 | 1.8 |
| TOTAL LEAVERS | 18206 | | 3193 | | 962 | | 22361 | 100.0 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institution may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
4. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Table 19

Higher Education destination by country of institution and gender of pupil 2014/2015⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

| | Boys | | Girls | | Total | |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| NI Institution | 2680 | 67.8 | 3609 | 65.5 | 6289 | 66.5 |
| GB Institution | 1133 | 28.7 | 1733 | 31.5 | 2866 | 30.3 |
| Other Institution ⁽⁴⁾ | 137 | 3.5 | 167 | 3.0 | 304 | 3.2 |
| Total | 3950 | 100.0 | 5509 | 100.0 | 9459 | 100.0 |

Table 20

Higher Education destination by country of institution and religion of pupil 2014/2015⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

| | Protestant | | Catholic | | Other ⁽⁵⁾ | | Total | |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------|----------|-------|----------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| NI Institution | 2073 | 60.5 | 3825 | 73.8 | 391 | 45.9 | 6289 | 66.5 |
| GB Institution | 1280 | 37.3 | 1161 | 22.4 | 425 | 49.9 | 2866 | 30.3 |
| Other Institution ⁽⁴⁾ | 75 | 2.2 | 194 | 3.7 | 35 | 4.1 | 304 | 3.2 |
| Total | 3428 | 100.0 | 5180 | 100.0 | 851 | 100.0 | 9459 | 100.0 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institution may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
4. Includes Non-UK and unknown higher education institutions.
5. Other includes Other Christian, No religion and Non-Christian.

Table 21

Destination of school leavers 2009/2010 to 2014/2015⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

| | 2009/10 % | 2010/11 % | 2011/12 % | 2012/13 % | 2013/14 % | 2014/15 % |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾ | 42.2 | 41.7 | 42.3 | 42.6 | 41.8 | 42.3 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 33.1 | 32.6 | 34.6 | 34.4 | 35.4 | 35.0 |
| Employment | 7.0 | 6.6 | 6.2 | 6.4 | 6.9 | 8.4 |
| Training ⁽⁴⁾ | 11.8 | 13.1 | 11.1 | 11.3 | 10.4 | 9.8 |
| Unemployment | 3.6 | 3.8 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.8 |
| Destinations Unknown | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 1.8 |
| TOTAL LEAVERS | 22826 | 23160 | 22568 | 23001 | 22636 | 22361 |

Table 22

Destination of male school leavers 2009/2010 to 2014/2015⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

| | 2009/10 % | 2010/11 % | 2011/12 % | 2012/13 % | 2013/14 % | 2014/15 % |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾ | 35.9 | 35.5 | 35.4 | 36.9 | 35.8 | 34.7 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 33.1 | 33.6 | 35.8 | 35.7 | 36.5 | 37.3 |
| Employment | 8.0 | 7.5 | 7.1 | 6.7 | 7.4 | 9.3 |
| Training ⁽⁴⁾ | 16.9 | 17.2 | 15.5 | 14.8 | 14.5 | 13.5 |
| Unemployment | 3.6 | 3.9 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 3.1 |
| Destinations Unknown | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 2.2 |
| TOTAL LEAVERS | 11382 | 11847 | 11415 | 11746 | 11632 | 11393 |

Table 23

Destination of female school leavers 2009/2010 to 2014/2015⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

| | 2009/10 % | 2010/11 % | 2011/12 % | 2012/13 % | 2013/14 % | 2014/15 % |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾ | 48.4 | 48.3 | 49.5 | 48.7 | 48.1 | 50.2 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 33.1 | 31.4 | 33.3 | 33.2 | 34.2 | 32.7 |
| Employment | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 6.1 | 6.3 | 7.4 |
| Training ⁽⁴⁾ | 6.7 | 8.8 | 6.6 | 7.7 | 6.1 | 5.9 |
| Unemployment | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 |
| Destinations Unknown | 2.4 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 2.7 | 1.3 |
| TOTAL LEAVERS | 11444 | 11313 | 11153 | 11255 | 11004 | 10968 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institution may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
4. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Appendix A

Qualifications of school leavers by gender and school type 2009/2010⁽¹⁾

| | BOYS | | GIRLS | | TOTAL | |
|--|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % |
| GRAMMAR | | | | | | |
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 2598 | 58.8 | 3543 | 73.6 | 6141 | 66.5 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 3414 | 77.3 | 4210 | 87.5 | 7624 | 82.6 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 3562 | 80.6 | 4312 | 89.6 | 7874 | 85.3 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 4216 | 95.4 | 4735 | 98.4 | 8951 | 97.0 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 4059 | 91.9 | 4619 | 96.0 | 8678 | 94.0 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 4393 | 99.4 | 4800 | 99.8 | 9193 | 99.6 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 7 | 0.2 | 7 | 0.1 | 14 | 0.2 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 7 | 0.2 | 7 | 0.1 | 14 | 0.2 |
| TOTAL GRAMMAR | 4419 | 100.0 | 4812 | 100.0 | 9231 | 100.0 |
| NON-GRAMMAR | | | | | | |
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 646 | 9.3 | 1305 | 19.7 | 1951 | 14.4 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 1167 | 16.8 | 2161 | 32.6 | 3328 | 24.5 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 1539 | 22.1 | 2615 | 39.4 | 4154 | 30.6 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 3228 | 46.4 | 4235 | 63.9 | 7463 | 54.9 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 2015 | 28.9 | 2782 | 41.9 | 4797 | 35.3 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 5945 | 85.4 | 6054 | 91.3 | 11999 | 88.3 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 296 | 4.3 | 166 | 2.5 | 462 | 3.4 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 224 | 3.2 | 144 | 2.2 | 368 | 2.7 |
| TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR | 6963 | 100.0 | 6632 | 100.0 | 13595 | 100.0 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | |
| 3+ A-levels A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 3244 | 28.5 | 4848 | 42.4 | 8092 | 35.5 |
| 3+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 4581 | 40.2 | 6371 | 55.7 | 10952 | 48.0 |
| 2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾ | 5101 | 44.8 | 6927 | 60.5 | 12028 | 52.7 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ | 7444 | 65.4 | 8970 | 78.4 | 16414 | 71.9 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ inc English and maths | 6074 | 53.4 | 7401 | 64.7 | 13475 | 59.0 |
| At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G ⁽²⁾ | 10338 | 90.8 | 10854 | 94.8 | 21192 | 92.8 |
| No GCSEs ⁽³⁾ | 303 | 2.7 | 173 | 1.5 | 476 | 2.1 |
| No Formal Qualifications ⁽⁴⁾ | 231 | 2.0 | 151 | 1.3 | 382 | 1.7 |
| TOTAL LEAVERS | 11382 | 100.0 | 11444 | 100.0 | 22826 | 100.0 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Includes those who undertook no GCSE examinations or obtained no graded results but who obtained other qualifications.
4. Includes only those without qualifications of any kind.

Please see Notes to Readers point 8 for an explanation on how these figures are calculated.

Appendix B

Destinations of school leavers by gender and school type 2009/2010⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

| | BOYS | | GIRLS | | TOTAL | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Numbers | % | Numbers | % | Numbers | % |
| GRAMMAR | | | | | | |
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾ | 3051 | 69.0 | 3867 | 80.4 | 6918 | 74.9 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 894 | 20.2 | 645 | 13.4 | 1539 | 16.7 |
| Employment | 222 | 5.0 | 126 | 2.6 | 348 | 3.8 |
| Training ⁽⁴⁾ | 105 | 2.4 | 20 | 0.4 | 125 | 1.4 |
| Unemployment | 51 | 1.2 | 70 | 1.5 | 121 | 1.3 |
| Destinations Unknown | 96 | 2.2 | 84 | 1.7 | 180 | 1.9 |
| TOTAL GRAMMAR | 4419 | 100.0 | 4812 | 100.0 | 9231 | 100.0 |
| NON-GRAMMAR | | | | | | |
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾ | 1032 | 14.8 | 1673 | 25.2 | 2705 | 19.9 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 2868 | 41.2 | 3143 | 47.4 | 6011 | 44.2 |
| Employment | 694 | 10.0 | 552 | 8.3 | 1246 | 9.2 |
| Training ⁽⁴⁾ | 1824 | 26.2 | 742 | 11.2 | 2566 | 18.9 |
| Unemployment | 362 | 5.2 | 332 | 5.0 | 694 | 5.1 |
| Destinations Unknown | 183 | 2.6 | 190 | 2.9 | 373 | 2.7 |
| TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR | 6963 | 100.0 | 6632 | 100.0 | 13595 | 100.0 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | |
| Institutions of Higher Education ⁽³⁾ | 4083 | 35.9 | 5540 | 48.4 | 9623 | 42.2 |
| Institutions of Further Education | 3762 | 33.1 | 3788 | 33.1 | 7550 | 33.1 |
| Employment | 916 | 8.0 | 678 | 5.9 | 1594 | 7.0 |
| Training ⁽⁴⁾ | 1929 | 16.9 | 762 | 6.7 | 2691 | 11.8 |
| Unemployment | 413 | 3.6 | 402 | 3.5 | 815 | 3.6 |
| Destinations Unknown | 279 | 2.5 | 274 | 2.4 | 553 | 2.4 |
| TOTAL LEAVERS | 11382 | 100.0 | 11444 | 100.0 | 22826 | 100.0 |

NOTES

1. Excludes special and independent schools.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institutions may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.
3. Includes universities and teacher training colleges.
4. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.