

## 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**.

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### 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) 2011-2015<sup>1</sup>. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 pupils<sup>2</sup>.

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

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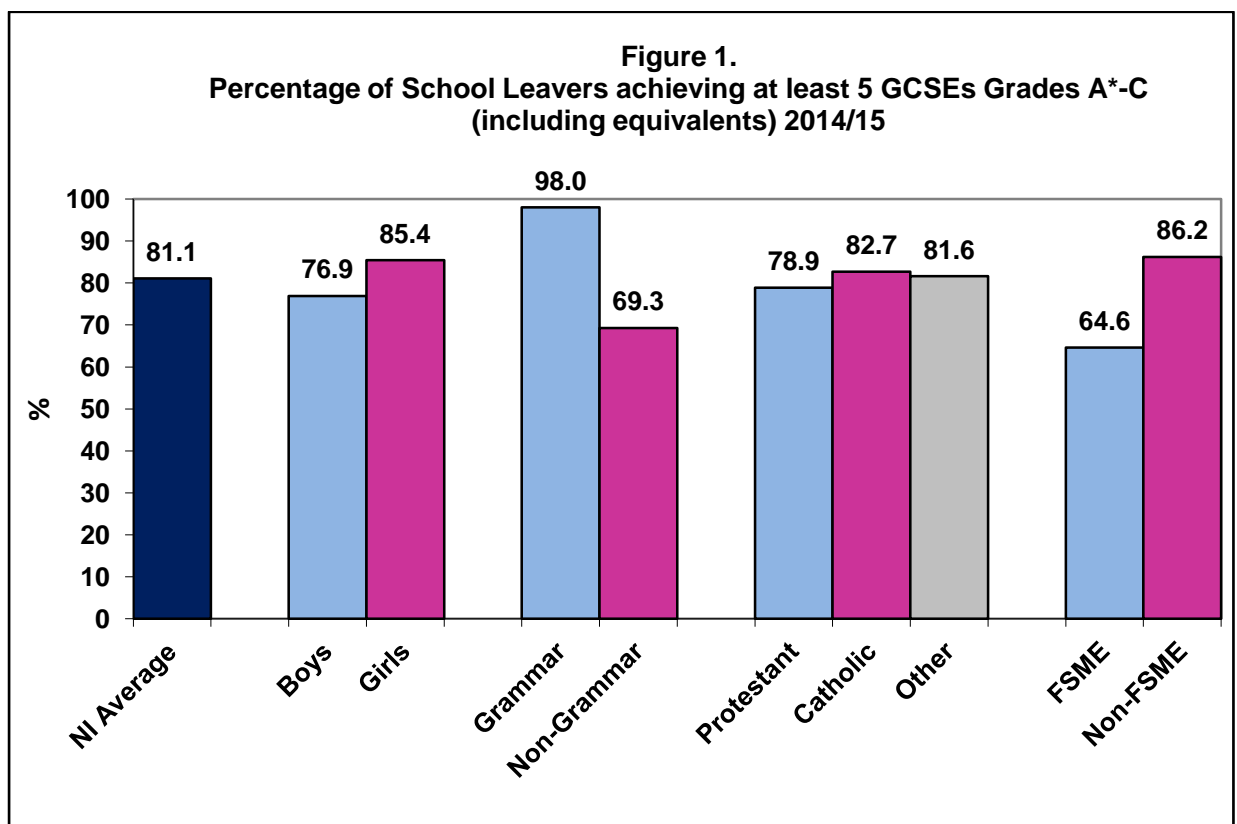
<sup>2</sup> <http://www.etini.gov.uk/index/surveys-evaluations/surveys-evaluations-primary/surveys-evaluations-primary-2015/an-evaluation-of-the-implementation-of-the-delivering-social-change-improving-literacy-and-numeracy-signature-programme.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <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](#)).



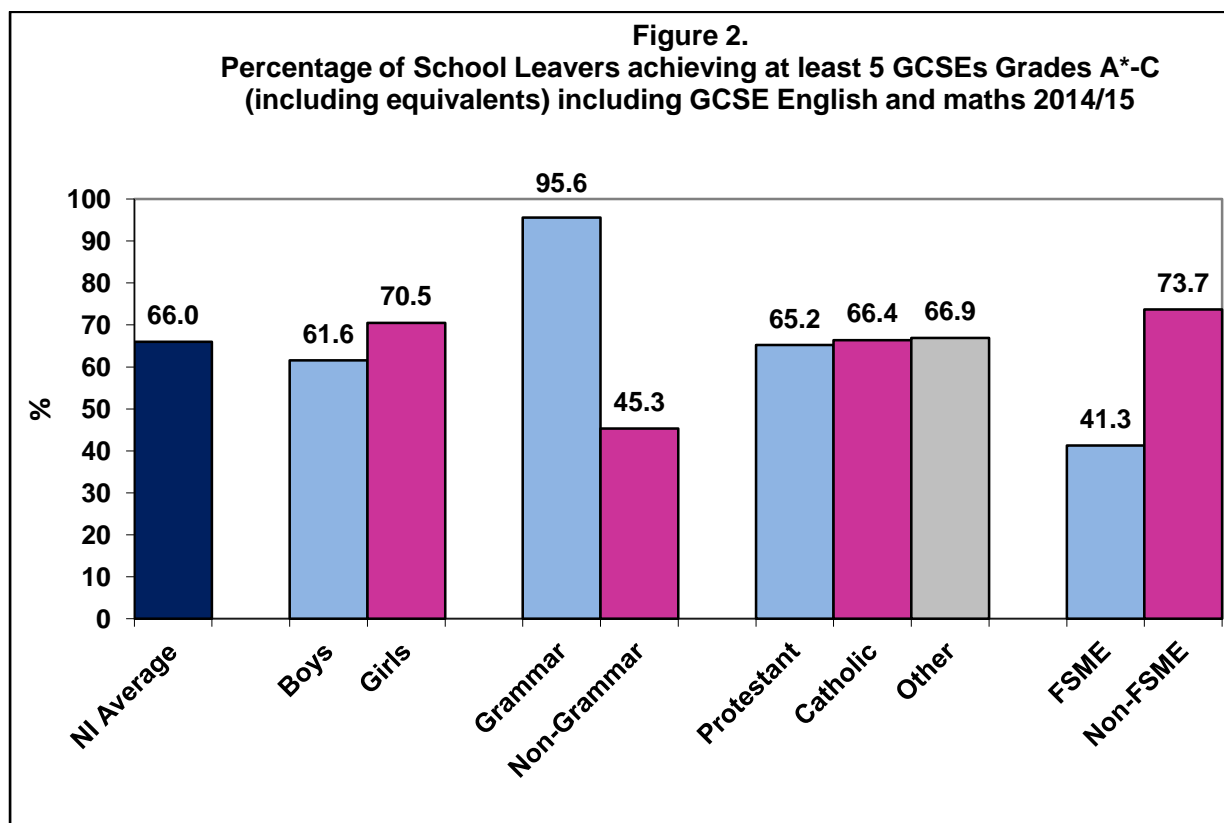
- The proportion of pupils leaving non-grammar schools who achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C or equivalent has increased by 14.4 percentage points from 54.9% in 2009/10 to 69.3% in 2014/15. The corresponding proportions for grammar schools were 97.0% and 98.0%, a 1.0 percentage point increase ([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 entitled<sup>4</sup> 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](#)).

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<sup>4</sup> 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 meals<sup>5</sup> 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

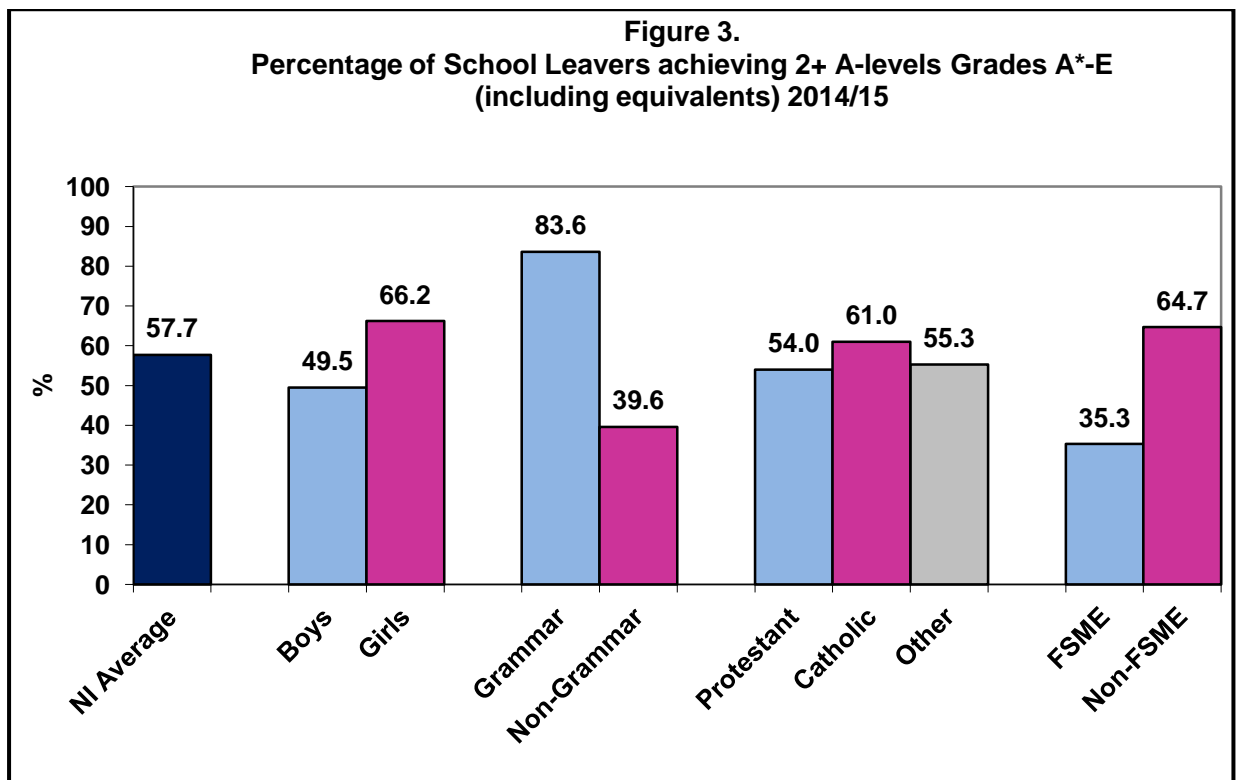
- Slightly more boys (66) left school in 2014/15 with no GCSEs than girls (56), equating to 0.6% and 0.5% respectively ([Table 1](#), [Table 12](#) & [Table 13](#)).
- When free school meal entitlement is considered, 1.2% (66) of those entitled to free school meals<sup>5</sup> leave without any GCSEs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

<sup>5</sup> 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](#)).

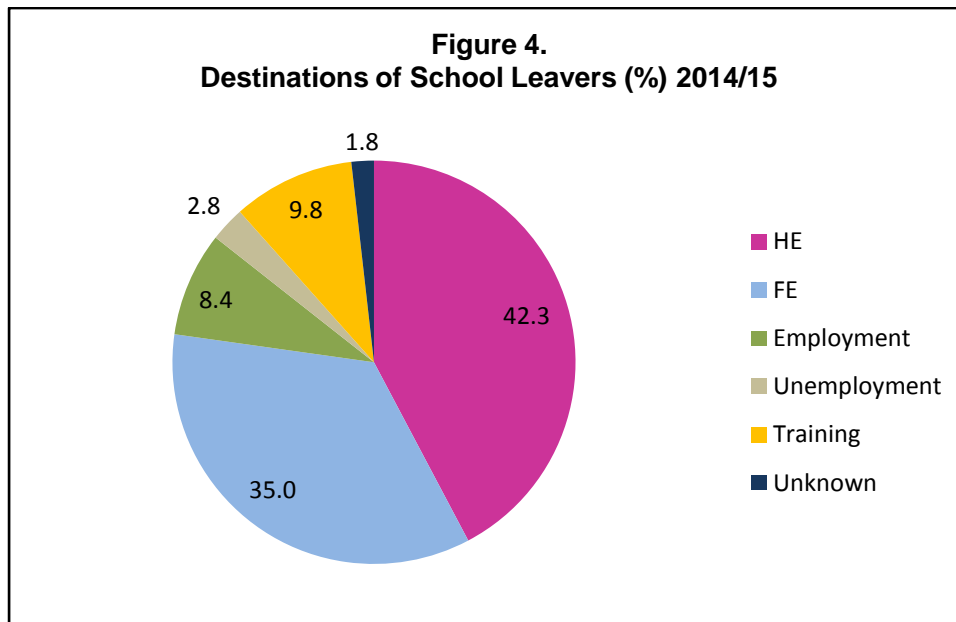


- The proportion of grammar school leavers achieving at least two A-levels A\*-E or equivalent has decreased from 85.3% in 2009/10 to 83.6% in 2014/15, with 88.8% of grammar school girls now leaving school with two or more A-levels or equivalent compared with 78.3% of grammar school boys. The corresponding 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 meals<sup>6</sup> (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](#)).

<sup>6</sup> 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 meals<sup>7</sup> ([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](#)).

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<sup>7</sup> 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

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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](#)<sup>8</sup>

### School Leavers' Survey

4. For more detail about the collection of school leavers statistics click [here](#)<sup>9</sup>. 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>

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

<sup>9</sup> <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](#)<sup>10</sup> 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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<sup>10</sup> [http://www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/PQUK03/PQUK03\\_home.cfm](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.

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

Table 1

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

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>GRAMMAR</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	2629	57.8	3318	71.3	5947	64.6
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	3434	75.5	4023	86.4	7457	81.0
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	3560	78.3	4136	88.8	7696	83.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	4404	96.8	4613	99.1	9017	98.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	4261	93.7	4534	97.4	8795	95.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	4529	99.6	4643	99.7	9172	99.7
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	5	0.1	4	0.1	9	0.1
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	5	0.1	4	0.1	9	0.1
<b>TOTAL GRAMMAR</b>	4548	100.0	4656	100.0	9204	100.0
<b>NON-GRAMMAR</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	915	13.4	1691	26.8	2606	19.8
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	1639	23.9	2615	41.4	4254	32.3
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	2082	30.4	3127	49.5	5209	39.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	4358	63.7	4758	75.4	9116	69.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	2756	40.3	3202	50.7	5958	45.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	6309	92.2	5963	94.5	12272	93.3
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	61	0.9	52	0.8	113	0.9
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	45	0.7	39	0.6	84	0.6
<b>TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR</b>	6845	100.0	6312	100.0	13157	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	3544	31.1	5009	45.7	8553	38.2
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	5073	44.5	6638	60.5	11711	52.4
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	5642	49.5	7263	66.2	12905	57.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	8762	76.9	9371	85.4	18133	81.1
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	7017	61.6	7736	70.5	14753	66.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	10838	95.1	10606	96.7	21444	95.9
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	66	0.6	56	0.5	122	0.5
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	50	0.4	43	0.4	93	0.4
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	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](#)<sup>11</sup>.

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

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

Table 2

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

	Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(4)</sup>		Institutions of Further Education		Employment		Training <sup>(5)</sup>		Unemployment		Unknown		Total	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>A-levels</b>														
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	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 <sup>(2)</sup>	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 <sup>(2)</sup>	16	6.7	116	48.3	72	30.0	14	5.8	15	6.3	7	2.9	240	100.0
<b>GCSEs</b>														
5+ A*-C (or equivalent) <sup>(2)</sup>	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) <sup>(2)</sup>			1984	54.1	317	8.6	1079	29.4	178	4.9	110	3.0	3668	100.0
Other grades (1+ D-G) <sup>(2)</sup>			174	39.6	49	11.2	154	35.1	39	8.9	23	5.2	439	100.0
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>			21	17.4	16	13.2	41	33.9	23	19.0	20	16.5	121	100.0
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>9458</b>		<b>7836</b>		<b>1869</b>		<b>2189</b>		<b>616</b>		<b>393</b>		<b>22361</b>	

**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<sup>(1)</sup>

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

**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](#)<sup>12</sup>.

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

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

Table 4

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

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

**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<sup>(1)</sup>

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

**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<sup>(1) (3)</sup>

District Council	2 or more A-levels Grades A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>		At least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>		At least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> 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
<b>Total Leavers</b>	<b>12905</b>	<b>57.7</b>	<b>18133</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>14753</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>22361</b>

**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<sup>(2)</sup> A\*-C inc. GCSE English and GCSE maths by gender and religion of pupil 2014/2015<sup>(1)</sup>

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

Table 8

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

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

Table 9

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

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>PROTESTANT</b>	2706	60.2	3025	70.4	5731	65.2
<b>Total</b>	4497		4299		8796	
<b>CATHOLIC</b>	3589	62.3	3986	70.6	7575	66.4
<b>Total</b>	5757		5646		11403	
<b>OTHER<sup>(3)</sup></b>	722	63.4	725	70.9	1447	66.9
<b>Total</b>	1139		1023		2162	
<b>ALL RELIGIONS</b>	7017	61.6	7736	70.5	14753	66.0
<b>Total</b>	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 <sup>(1)</sup>

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

**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<sup>(1)</sup>

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

Table 12

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

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

Table 13

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

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

**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<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>GRAMMAR</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	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 <sup>(4)</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL GRAMMAR</b>	<b>4548</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4656</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9204</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>NON-GRAMMAR</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	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 <sup>(4)</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR</b>	<b>6845</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6312</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13157</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	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 <sup>(4)</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>11393</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10968</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>22361</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>PROTESTANT</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(4)</sup>	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 <sup>(5)</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL PROTESTANT</b>	<b>4497</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4299</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8796</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>CATHOLIC</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(4)</sup>	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 <sup>(5)</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL CATHOLIC</b>	<b>5757</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5646</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11403</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>OTHER<sup>(3)</sup></b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(4)</sup>	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 <sup>(5)</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL OTHER<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>1139</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1023</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2162</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	Total	
	Numbers	%
<b>WHITE</b> <sup>(3)</sup>		
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(4)</sup>	9229	42.2
Institutions of Further Education	7689	35.1
Employment	1836	8.4
Training <sup>(5)</sup>	2165	9.9
Unemployment	599	2.7
Destinations Unknown	376	1.7
<b>TOTAL WHITE</b>	21894	100.0
<b>MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS</b> <sup>(3)</sup>		
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(4)</sup>	229	49.0
Institutions of Further Education	147	31.5
Employment	33	7.1
Training <sup>(5)</sup>	24	5.1
Unemployment	17	3.6
Destinations Unknown	17	3.6
<b>TOTAL MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS</b> <sup>(3)</sup>	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<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>ENTITLED TO FSM</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	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 <sup>(4)</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL ENTITLED TO FSM</b>	<b>2709</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2601</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5310</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>NOT ENTITLED TO FSM</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	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 <sup>(4)</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL NOT ENTITLED TO FSM</b>	<b>8684</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8367</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17051</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	No SEN		SEN Stages 1-4		SEN Stage 5		Total	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	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 <sup>(4)</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>18206</b>		<b>3193</b>		<b>962</b>		<b>22361</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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<sup>(1)(2)(3)</sup>

	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 <sup>(4)</sup>	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<sup>(1)(2)(3)</sup>

	Protestant		Catholic		Other <sup>(5)</sup>		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 <sup>(4)</sup>	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<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	2009/10 %	2010/11 %	2011/12 %	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	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 <sup>(4)</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>22826</b>	<b>23160</b>	<b>22568</b>	<b>23001</b>	<b>22636</b>	<b>22361</b>

Table 22

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

	2009/10 %	2010/11 %	2011/12 %	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	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 <sup>(4)</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>11382</b>	<b>11847</b>	<b>11415</b>	<b>11746</b>	<b>11632</b>	<b>11393</b>

Table 23

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

	2009/10 %	2010/11 %	2011/12 %	2012/13 %	2013/14 %	2014/15 %
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	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 <sup>(4)</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>11444</b>	<b>11313</b>	<b>11153</b>	<b>11255</b>	<b>11004</b>	<b>10968</b>

**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<sup>(1)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>GRAMMAR</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	2598	58.8	3543	73.6	6141	66.5
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	3414	77.3	4210	87.5	7624	82.6
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	3562	80.6	4312	89.6	7874	85.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	4216	95.4	4735	98.4	8951	97.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	4059	91.9	4619	96.0	8678	94.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	4393	99.4	4800	99.8	9193	99.6
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	7	0.2	7	0.1	14	0.2
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	7	0.2	7	0.1	14	0.2
<b>TOTAL GRAMMAR</b>	4419	100.0	4812	100.0	9231	100.0
<b>NON-GRAMMAR</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	646	9.3	1305	19.7	1951	14.4
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	1167	16.8	2161	32.6	3328	24.5
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	1539	22.1	2615	39.4	4154	30.6
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	3228	46.4	4235	63.9	7463	54.9
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	2015	28.9	2782	41.9	4797	35.3
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	5945	85.4	6054	91.3	11999	88.3
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	296	4.3	166	2.5	462	3.4
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	224	3.2	144	2.2	368	2.7
<b>TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR</b>	6963	100.0	6632	100.0	13595	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>						
3+ A-levels A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	3244	28.5	4848	42.4	8092	35.5
3+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	4581	40.2	6371	55.7	10952	48.0
2+ A-levels A*-E <sup>(2)</sup>	5101	44.8	6927	60.5	12028	52.7
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup>	7444	65.4	8970	78.4	16414	71.9
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-C <sup>(2)</sup> inc English and maths	6074	53.4	7401	64.7	13475	59.0
At Least 5 GCSEs A*-G <sup>(2)</sup>	10338	90.8	10854	94.8	21192	92.8
No GCSEs <sup>(3)</sup>	303	2.7	173	1.5	476	2.1
No Formal Qualifications <sup>(4)</sup>	231	2.0	151	1.3	382	1.7
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	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<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

	BOYS		GIRLS		TOTAL	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
<b>GRAMMAR</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	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 <sup>(4)</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL GRAMMAR</b>	<b>4419</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4812</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9231</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>NON-GRAMMAR</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	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 <sup>(4)</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL NON-GRAMMAR</b>	<b>6963</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6632</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13595</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>						
Institutions of Higher Education <sup>(3)</sup>	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 <sup>(4)</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL LEAVERS</b>	<b>11382</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11444</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>22826</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 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.