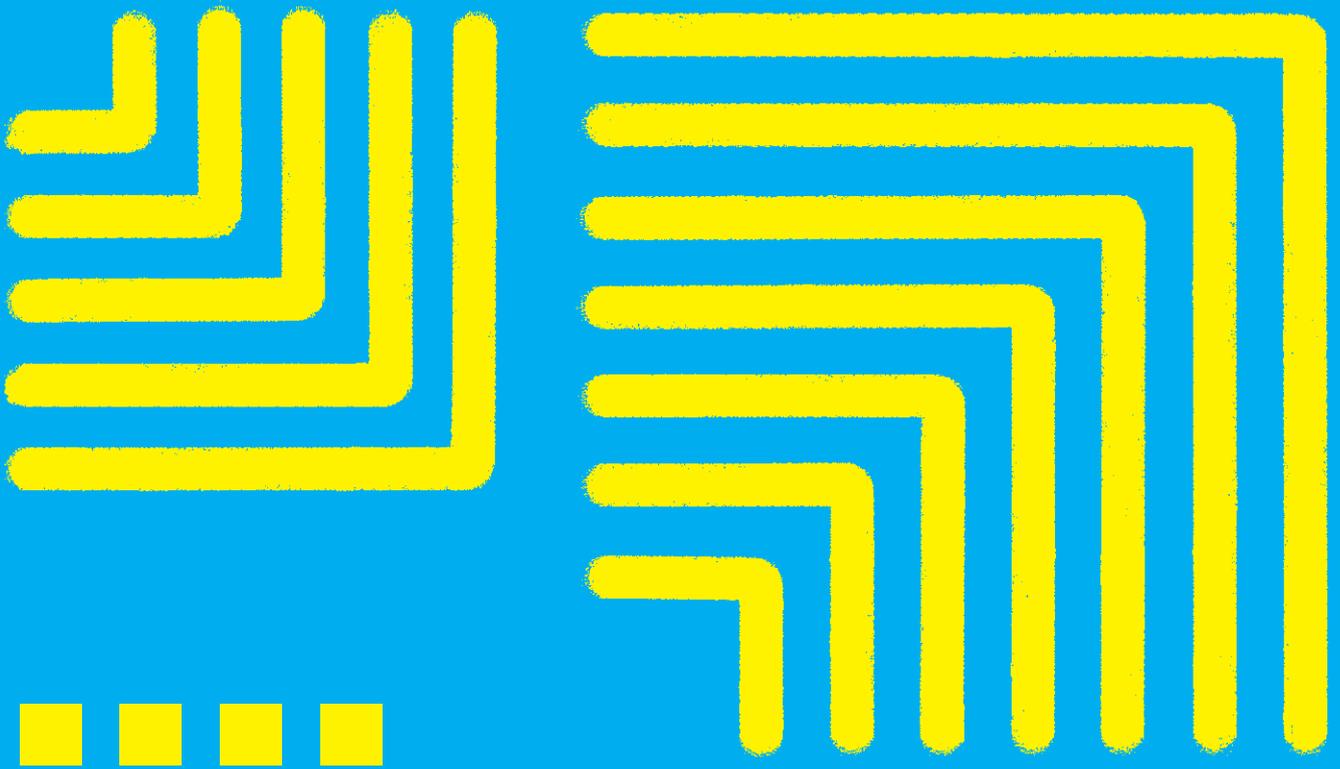


This is FET Facts and Figures 2019



A Report by the
Data Analytics Unit in SOLAS
October 2020

Authors

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All data is sourced from the Programme and Learner Support Systems (PLSS) database. PLSS collects and processes the personal data of the FET learners who are enrolled in SOLAS funded programmes. Please note that apprenticeship and eCollege data are not included in the 2019 PLSS database.

The Data Analytics Unit would like to acknowledge the assistance of the ETB staff involved in submitting data to SOLAS.

FET Statistics

Enrolments

179,058



Learner Completions

131,097



Learner Certified Completions

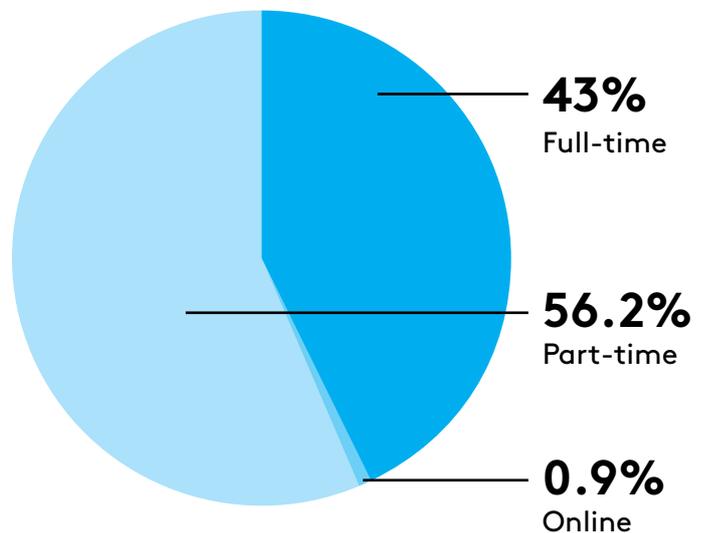
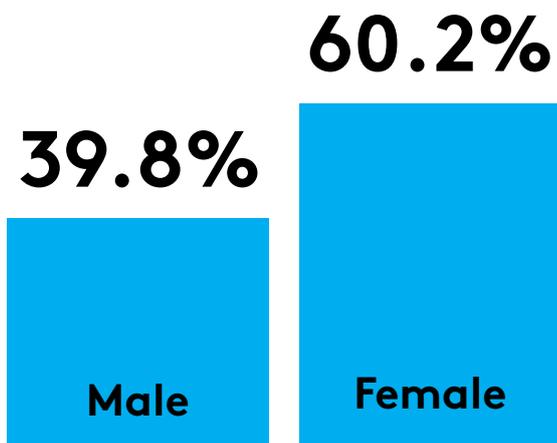
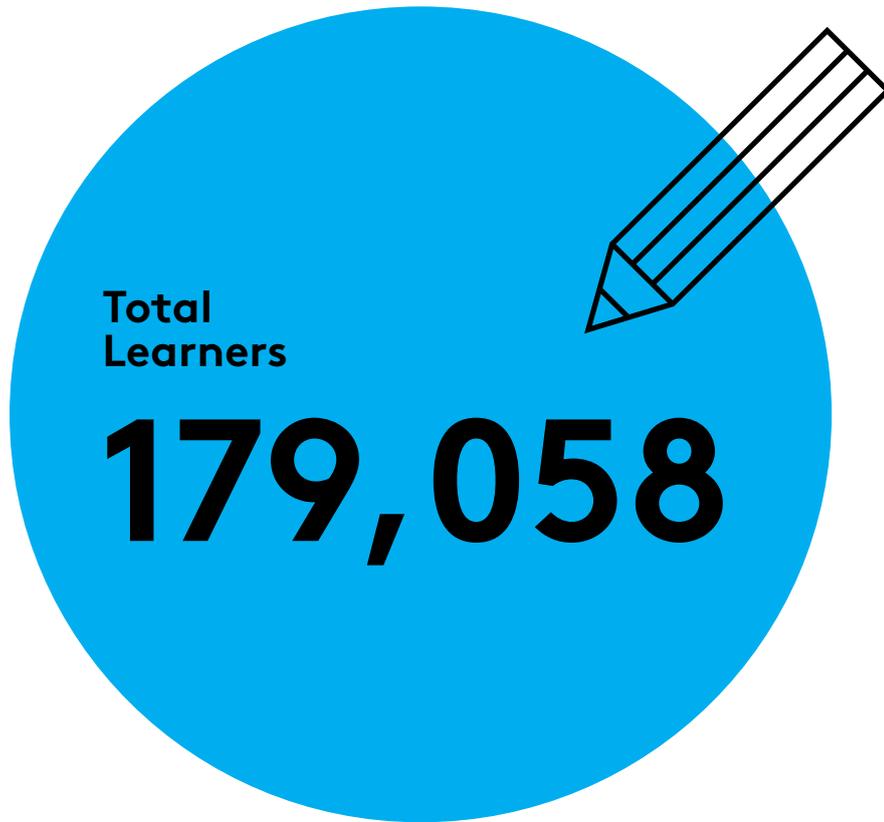
86,847

In 2019, 179,058 unique learners were enrolled in FET courses. Of these enrolments, 131,097 learners partially or fully completed their course(s). Of the 131,097 learner completions, 86,847 of these learner completions were certified.

Section 1 Enrolments

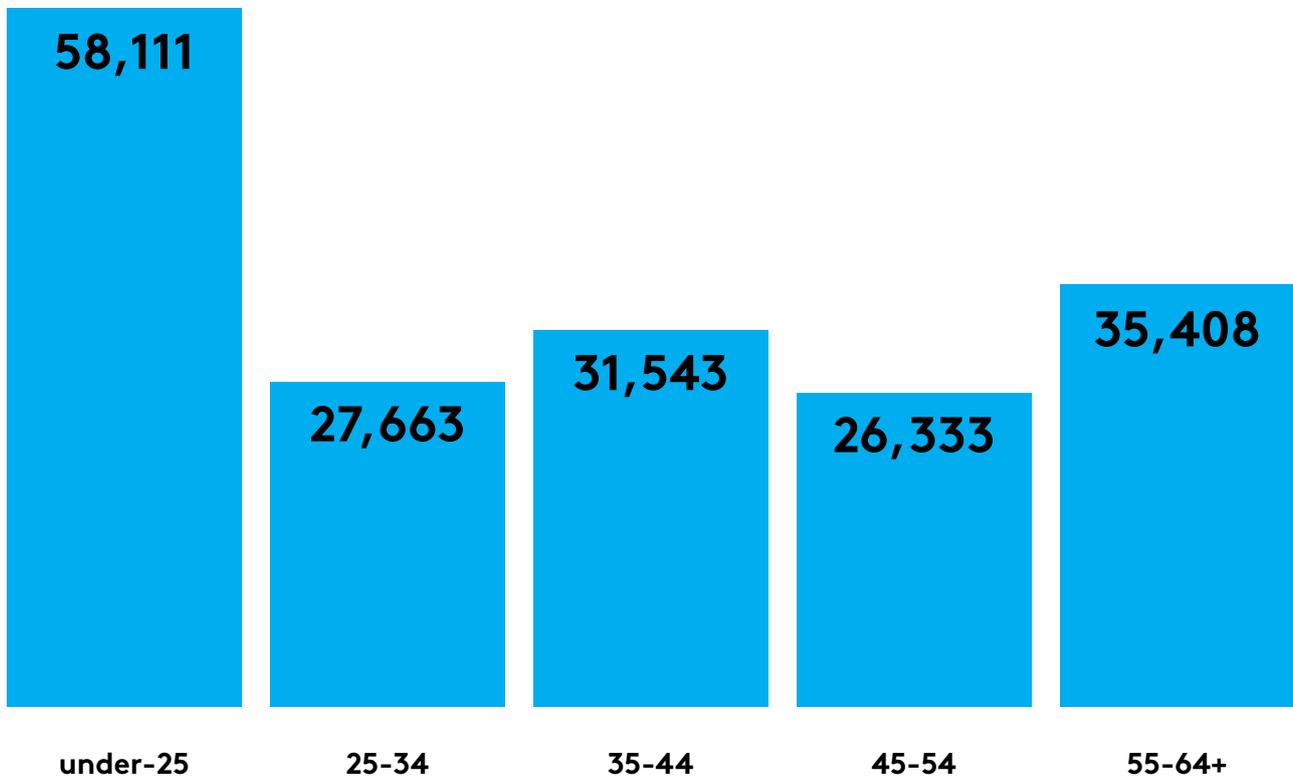


Enrolments



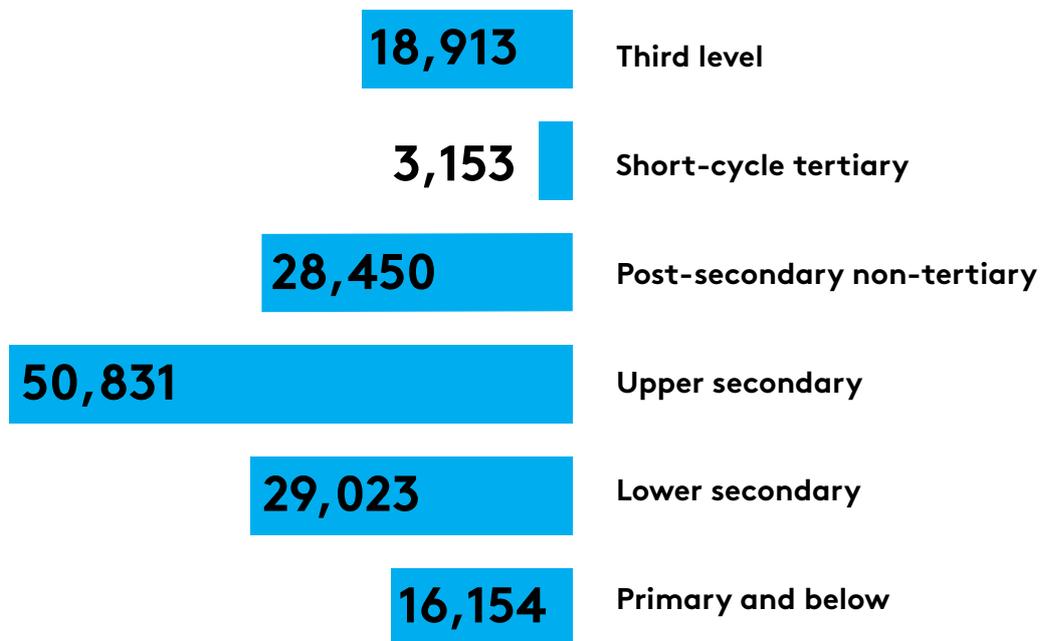
In 2019, there were 179,058 learner enrolments. Of these learner enrolments, 60.2% were female and 39.8% were male. The distribution of enrolments was higher among part-time courses (56.2%), than full-time courses (43%), with a small percentage (.9%) undertaking online courses.

Start Age



Enrolments were primarily concentrated among the under-25s, representing approximately one third of all enrolments in 2019.

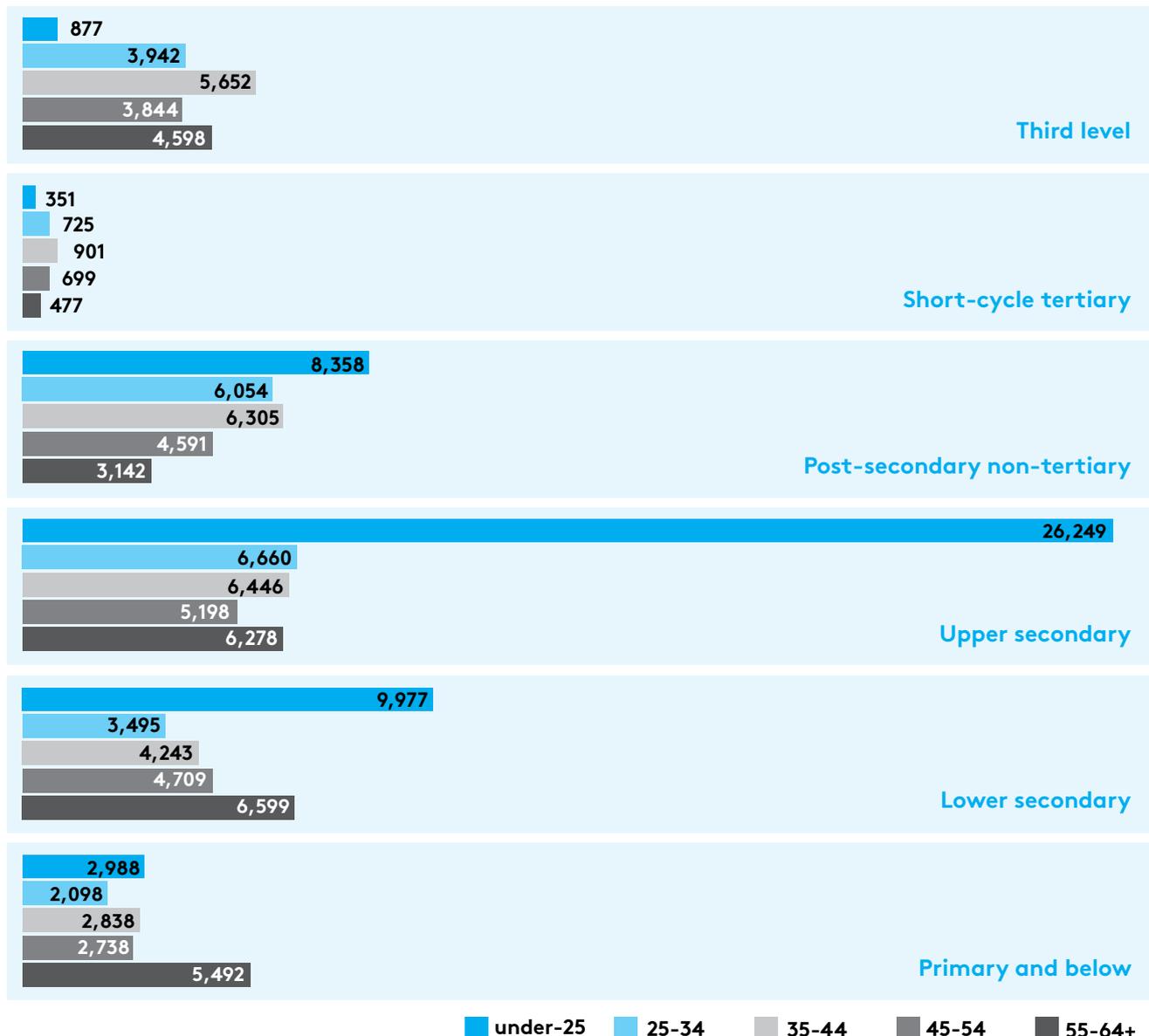
Highest Level of Formal Education¹



In 2019, 45,177 (30.8%) of learners had a lower secondary education or below when enrolling in a FET course, whereas 50,831 (34.7%) unique learners had an upper secondary education. The figure also shows that 28,450 (19.4%) of learners had a post-secondary non-tertiary education, an education group primarily comprised of individuals enrolled in FET level 4-6 courses (e.g. Post Leaving Certificate and Back to Education Initiative). In addition, the figure shows that 3,153 (2.2%) learners had a short-cycle tertiary education and 18,913 (12.9%) learners a third level degree education.

¹ It should be noted that this calculation is an estimate and includes only those cases where previous levels of education were captured.

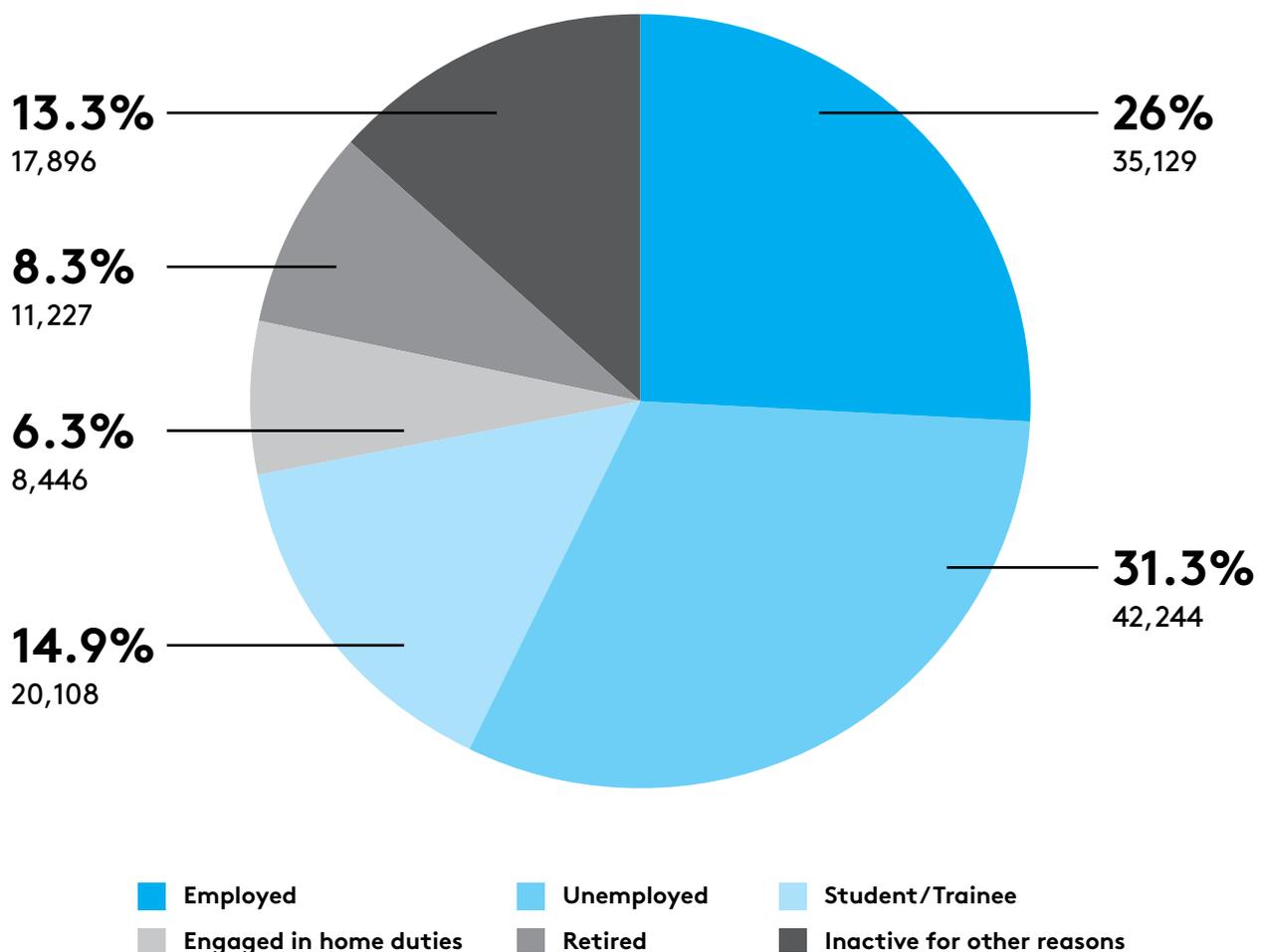
Highest Level of Formal Education by Start Age²



The under-25 age group had the highest concentration among lower secondary, upper secondary, and post-secondary non-tertiary levels of education prior to enrolment, whereas the 55-64+ age group had the highest concentration among those learners with primary and below education. For short-cycle tertiary non-degree education and third level degree education, the age groups were distributed relatively evenly, with the exception of the under-25 age group among those learners with a third level degree education.

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

Principle Economic Status³



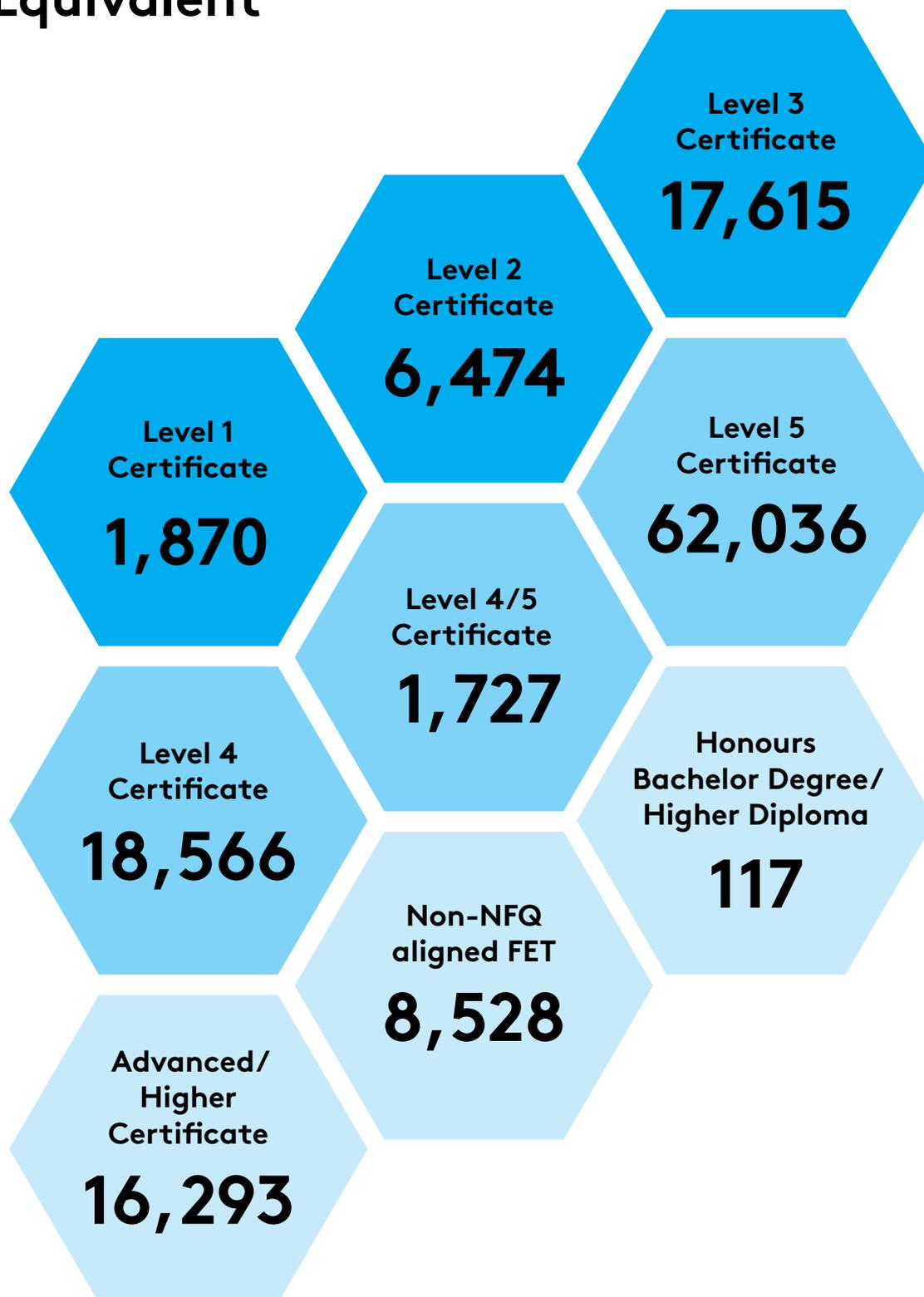
In 2019, 31.3% of learners were unemployed prior to enrolment, while 26% were employed. The remaining 42.7% of learners were inactive prior to enrolment.

Of those learners who were unemployed, **40% were long-term unemployed.**⁴

³ It should be noted that this calculation is an estimate and includes only those cases where previous economic status was captured. The Principle Economic Status response rate for learner enrolments was 75.4%.

⁴ It should be noted that this only captures those cases where the previous start date of principle economic status was captured.

Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or Equivalent⁵



⁵ This excludes learners enrolled in courses that do not lead to an award through a recognised awarding body.

Programme Category

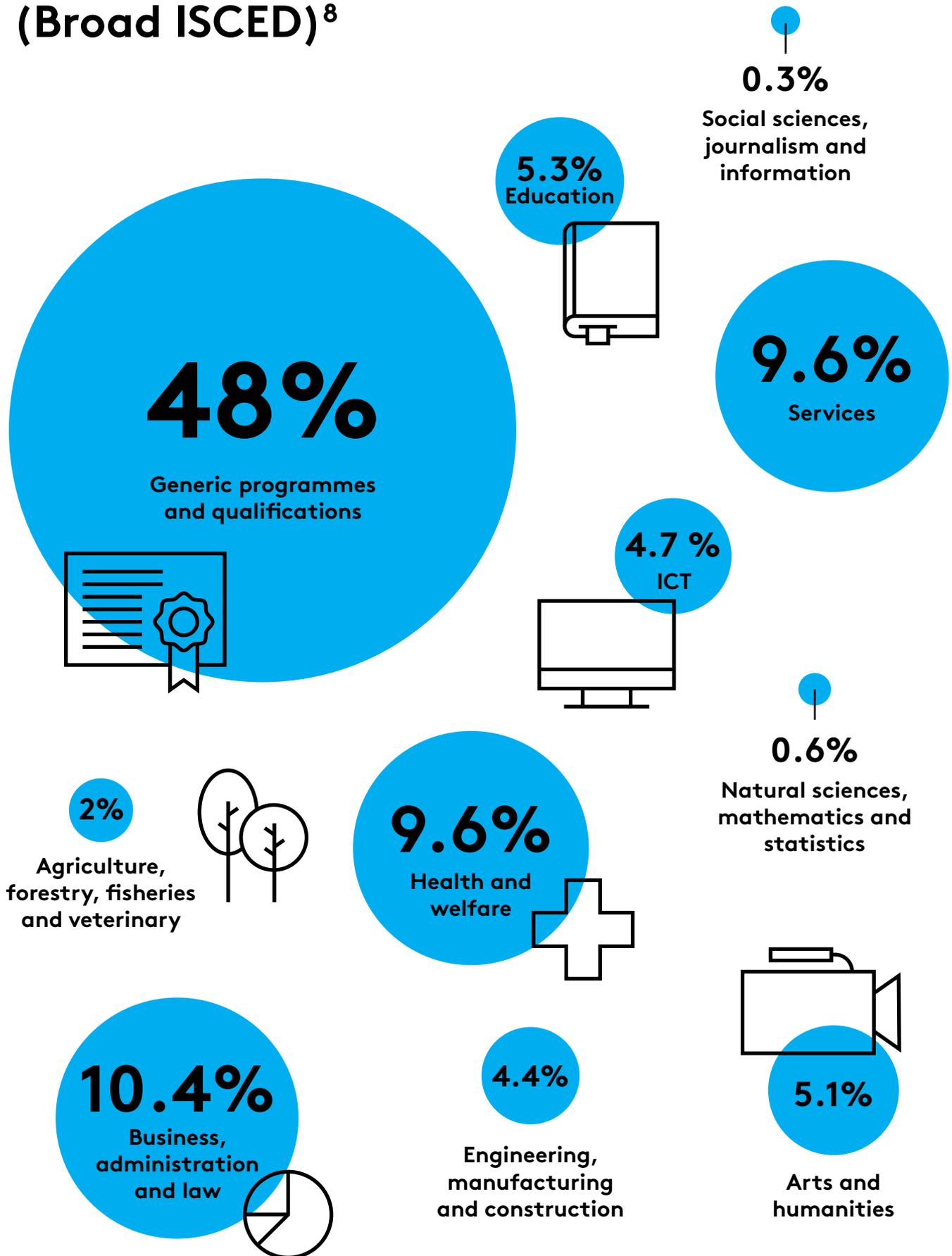
	Programme Category ⁶	Learners
Full-time	Blended Training	523
	Bridging and Foundation Training	554
	Community Training Centres	2,708
	Justice Workshop	218
	Local Training Initiatives	2,956
	PLC ⁷	47,884
	Specialist Training Providers	3,212
	Specific Skills Training	8,389
	Traineeship Employed	667
	Traineeship Training	4,756
	VTOS Core	5,016
	Youthreach	4,581
	Part-time	Adult Literacy Groups
BTEI Groups		22,030
Community Education		33,046
ESOL		12,265
Evening Training		12,812
FET Cooperation Hours		3,053
ITABE		1,585
Other Funding		2,556
Refugee Resettlement		693
Skills for Work		3,884
Skills to Advance Dispersed		11
Voluntary Literacy Tuition		749
		Recognition of Prior Learning
	Skills to Advance	2,870

Among full-time programmes, enrolments were concentrated among Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses, Specific Skills Training and Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) Core programmes. For part-time programmes, enrolments were concentrated among Adult Literacy Groups, BTEI groups, and Community Education.

⁶ Learners here are unique within programmes, but not necessarily across programmes.

⁷ PLC courses run on an academic year, whereas this figure includes two groups of starters from two academic years. Therefore, this figure for PLC courses is higher than that of a normal academic year.

Field of Study (Broad ISCED)⁸



⁸ Field of study is defined according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED).

Field of study (Broad ISCED)	Examples of courses
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	Horticulture
	Animal care
Arts and humanities	Art, craft and design
	Film and TV production
Business, administration and law	Start your own business
	Office administration
Education	Early childhood care and education
	Special needs assisting
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	Welding
	Engineering technology
Generic programmes and qualifications	Employability skills
	ESOL English language
	Health and wellbeing
	Arts and crafts
ICT	Computer systems and networks
	Computer basics
Health and welfare	Nursing studies
	Applied social studies
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	Applied science/laboratory techniques
	Pre-university science
Services	Beauty therapy
	Sports, recreation and exercise
Social sciences, journalism and information	Journalism for the digital age
	Cultural and heritage studies

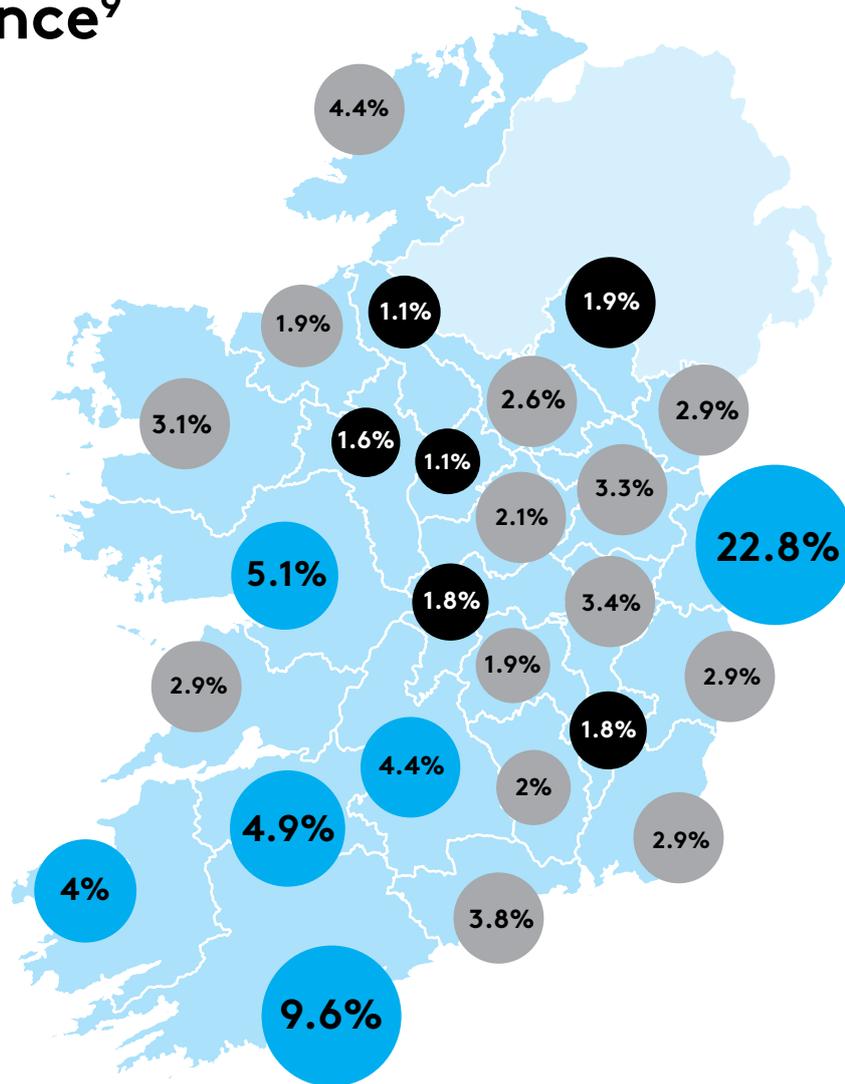
Field of Study (Broad ISCED) by Delivery Type

	Full-time	Part-time	Online	Total
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	2,492	1,169	0	3,661
Arts and humanities	8,471	629	0	9,100
Business, administration and law	12,022	6,213	413	18,648
Education	4,608	4,827	134	9,569
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	5,065	2,849	32	7,946
Generic programmes and qualifications	12,628	72,616	707	85,951
Health and welfare	11,866	5,344	0	17,210
ICT	4,827	3,268	223	8,318
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	1,047	11	0	1,058
Services	13,410	3,665	49	17,124
Social sciences, journalism and information	465	8	0	473
Total	76,901	100,599	1,558	179,058

Overall, enrolments were primarily concentrated among the generic programmes and qualifications ISCED field of study, representing almost half (48%) of all enrolments in 2019. This was followed by business, administration and law (10.4%), health and welfare (9.6%) and services (9.6%).

For full-time learner enrolments, services and generic programmes and qualifications had the highest numbers of learners. In addition, business, administration and law and health and welfare also had high numbers of full-time enrolments. For part-time enrolments, generic programmes and qualifications had the highest numbers of learners. This was followed by business, administration and law, health and welfare, and education. Among online enrolments, generic programmes and qualifications had the highest number of learners. This was followed by business, administration and law, and information and communication technologies (ICT).

County of Residence⁹

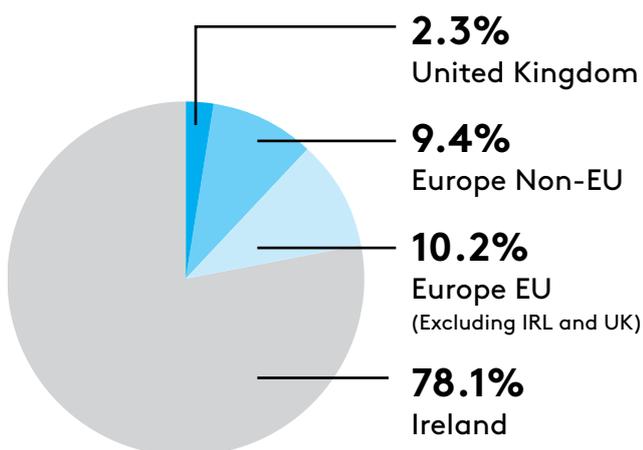
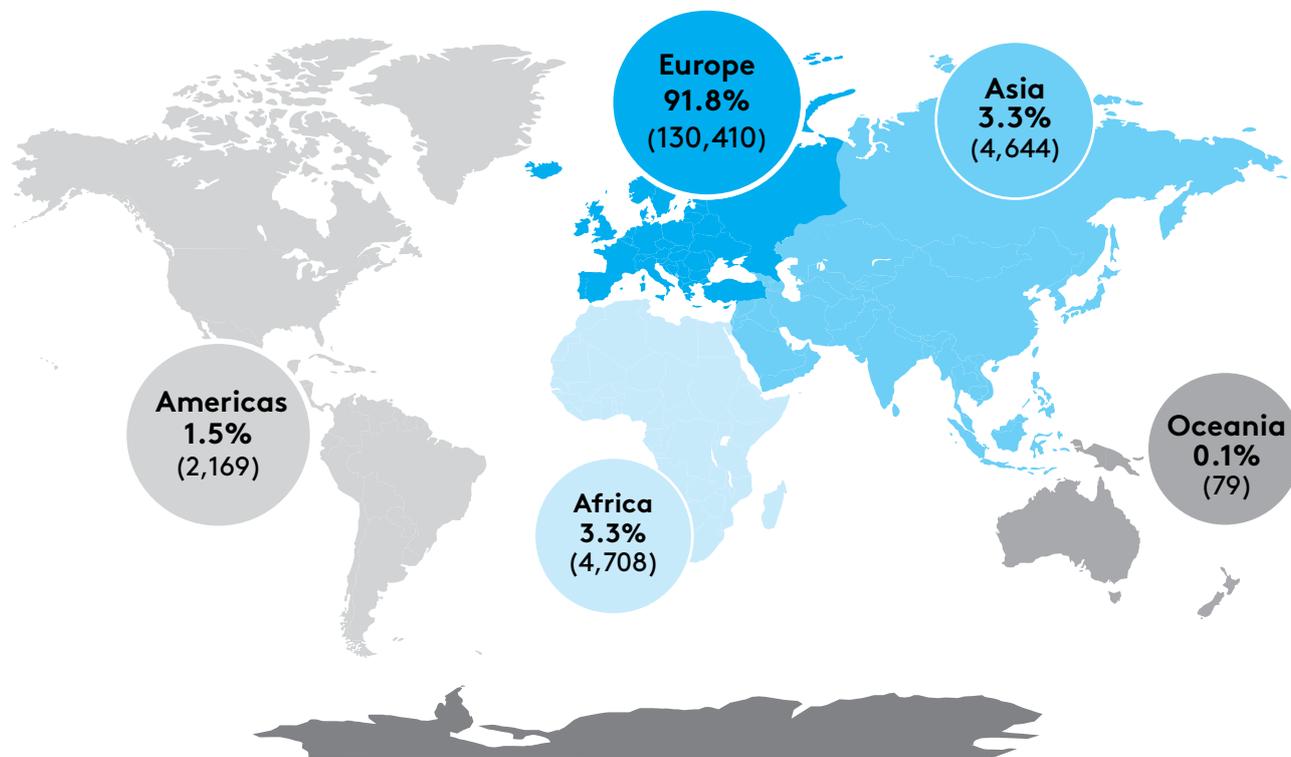


Carlow	3,065	1.8%	Longford	1,979	1.1%
Cavan	4,522	2.6%	Louth	5,028	2.9%
Clare	5,127	2.9%	Mayo	5,379	3.1%
Cork	16,766	9.6%	Meath	5,853	3.3%
Donegal	7,668	4.4%	Monaghan	3,322	1.9%
Dublin	40,073	22.8%	Offaly	3,182	1.8%
Galway	8,889	5.1%	Roscommon	2,832	1.6%
Kerry	6,945	4%	Sligo	3,359	1.9%
Kildare	5,996	3.4%	Tipperary	7,735	4.4%
Kilkenny	3,514	2%	Waterford	6,573	3.8%
Laois	3,401	1.9%	Westmeath	3,676	2.1%
Leitrim	1,840	1.1%	Wexford	5,153	2.9%
Limerick	8,535	4.9%	Wicklow	5,104	2.9%
Total				175,426	100%

⁹ It should be noted that this calculation is an estimate and excludes non-responses, unknown responses and those learners with a county of residence in Northern Ireland.

Nationality¹⁰

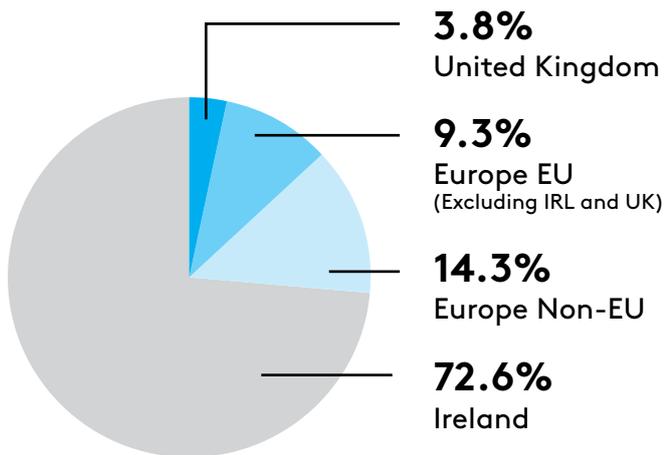
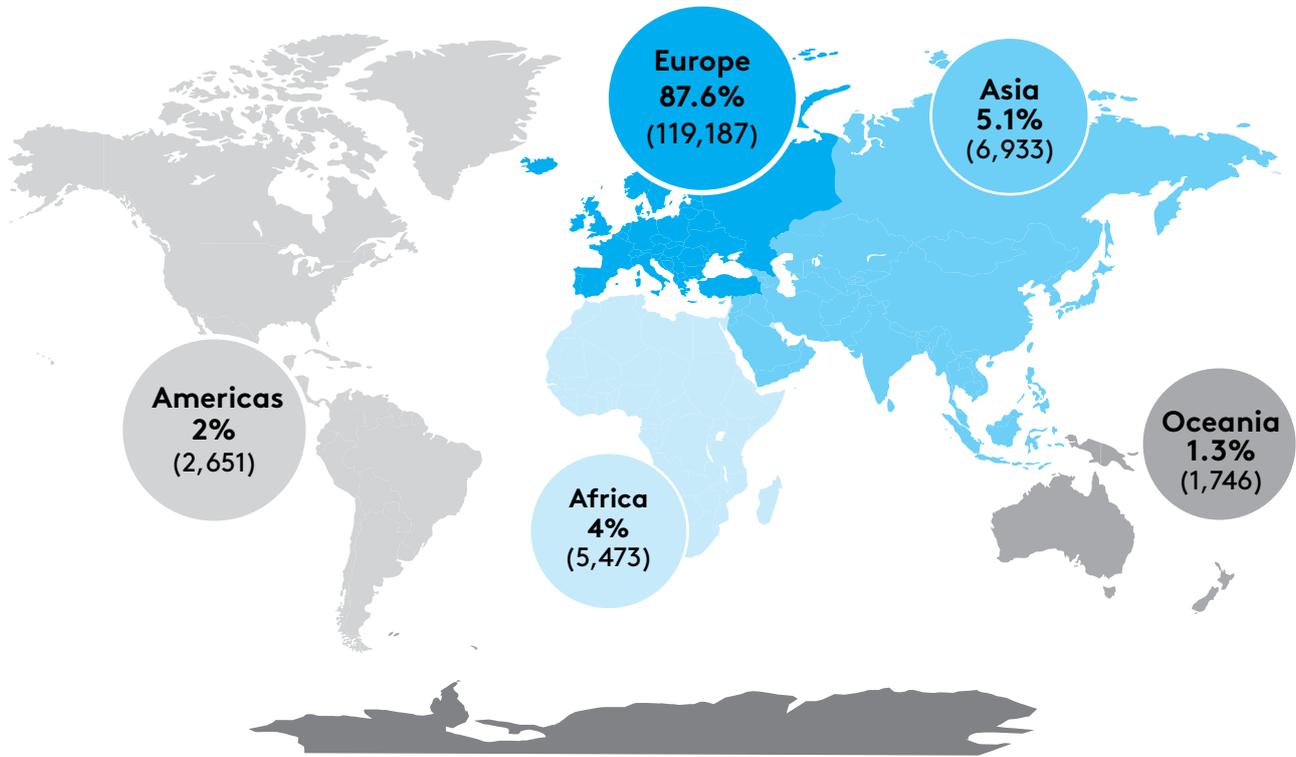
In 2019, there were **190 different** nationalities enrolled in FET.



The highest percentage of learner enrolments were nationals of Europe EU (91.8%). This was followed by Africa (3.3%) and Asia (3.3%), the Americas (1.5%) and Oceania (.1%). The majority of unique learners were nationals of Ireland (78.1%), followed by Europe EU (10.2%), Europe Non-EU (9.4%) and the United Kingdom (2.3%).

¹⁰ It should be noted that this calculation is an estimate and includes only those cases where nationality was captured.

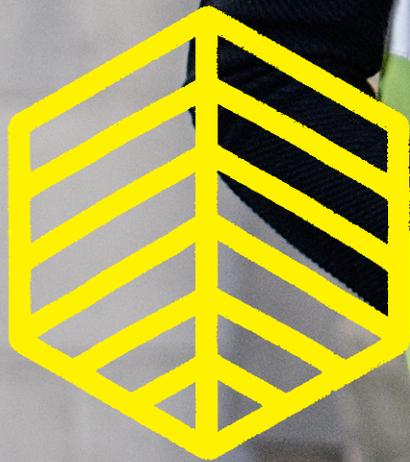
Country of birth¹¹



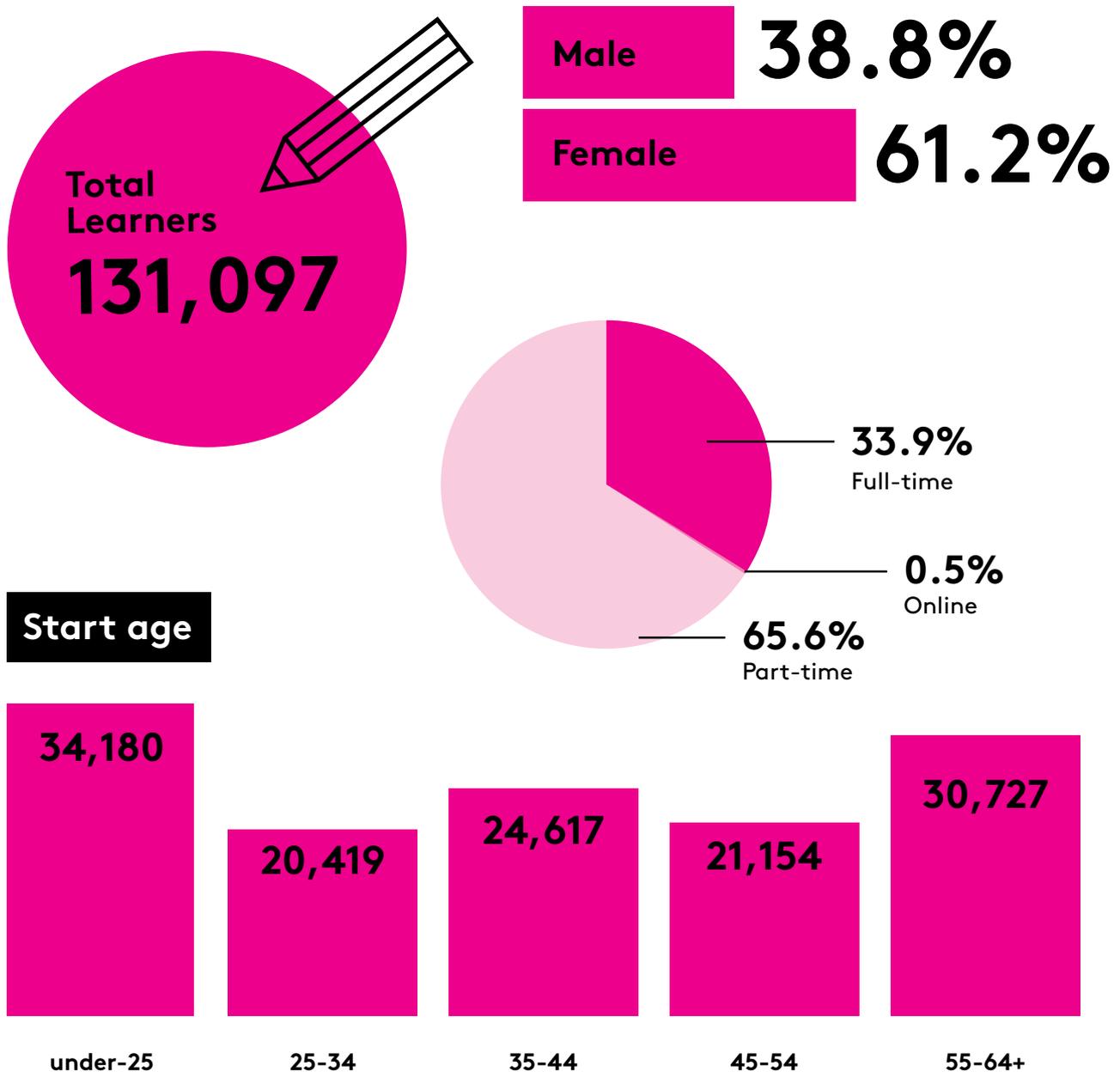
The highest percentage of unique learner enrolments were born in Europe (87.6%). This was followed by Asia (5.1%), Africa (4%), the Americas (2%), and Oceania (1.3%). The majority of learners were born in Ireland (72.6%), followed by Europe Non-EU (14.3%), Europe EU (9.3%) and the United Kingdom (3.8%).

¹¹ It should be noted that this calculation is an estimate and includes only those cases where country of birth was captured.

Section 2 Completions

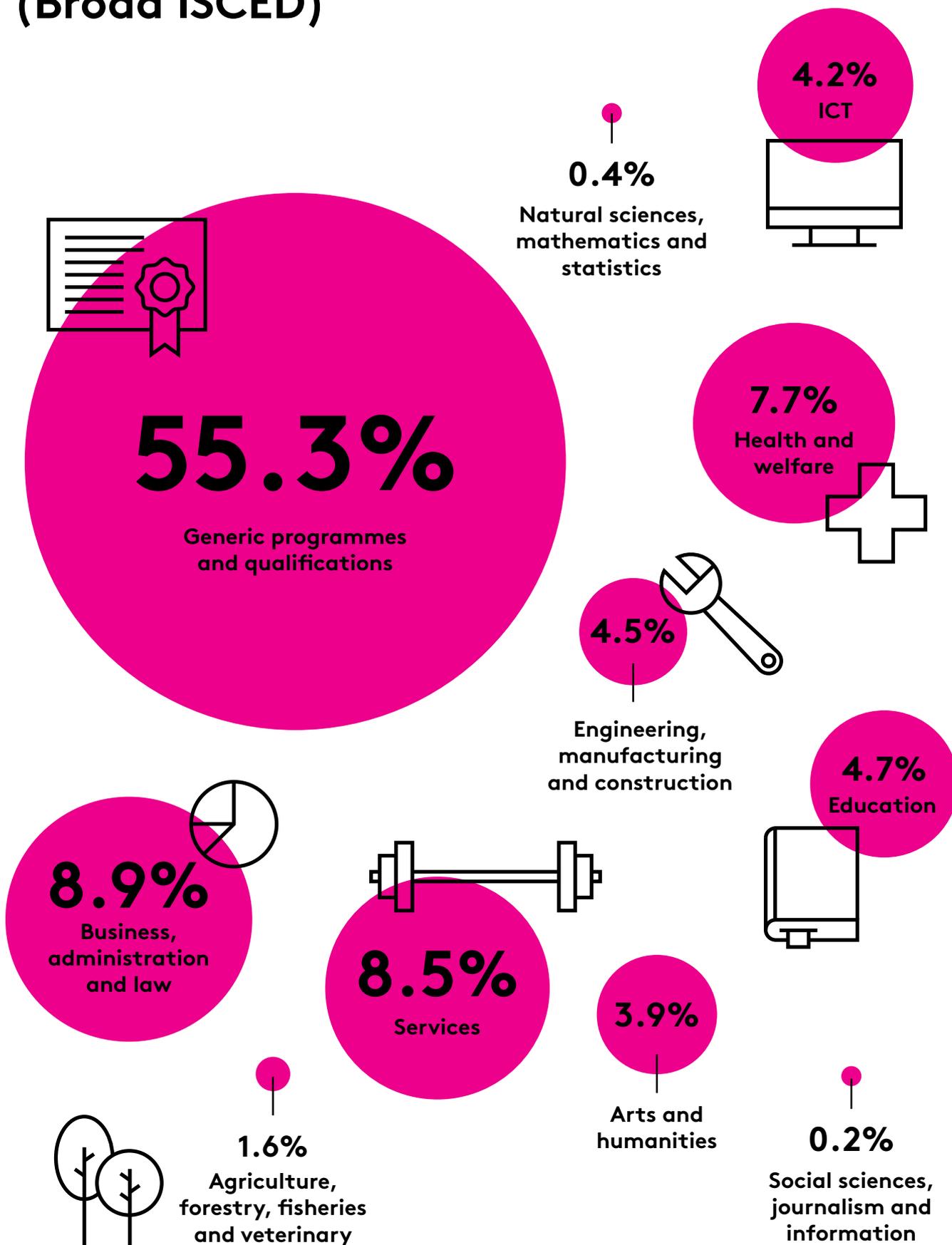


Completions



In 2019, there were 131,097 learner completions. Of these learner completions, 61.2% were female and 38.8% were male. The distribution of completions was higher among part-time courses (65.6%), than full-time courses (33.9%), with a small percentage (.5%) completing online courses. Approximately half of all completions were among the under-25 and 55-64+ age groups.

Field of Study (Broad ISCED)



Field of Study (Broad ISCED)	Examples of courses
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	Horticulture
	Animal care
Arts and humanities	Art, craft and design
	Film and TV production
Business, administration and law	Start your own business
	Office administration
Education	Early childhood care and education
	Special needs assisting
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	Welding
	Engineering technology
Generic programmes and qualifications	Employability skills
	ESOL English language
	Health and wellbeing
	Arts and crafts
Health and welfare	Nursing studies
	Applied social studies
ICT	Computer systems and networks
	Computer basics
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	Applied science/laboratory techniques
	Pre-university science
Services	Beauty therapy
	Sports, recreation and exercise
Social sciences, journalism and information	Journalism for the digital age
	Cultural and heritage studies

Field of Study (Broad ISCED) by Delivery Type

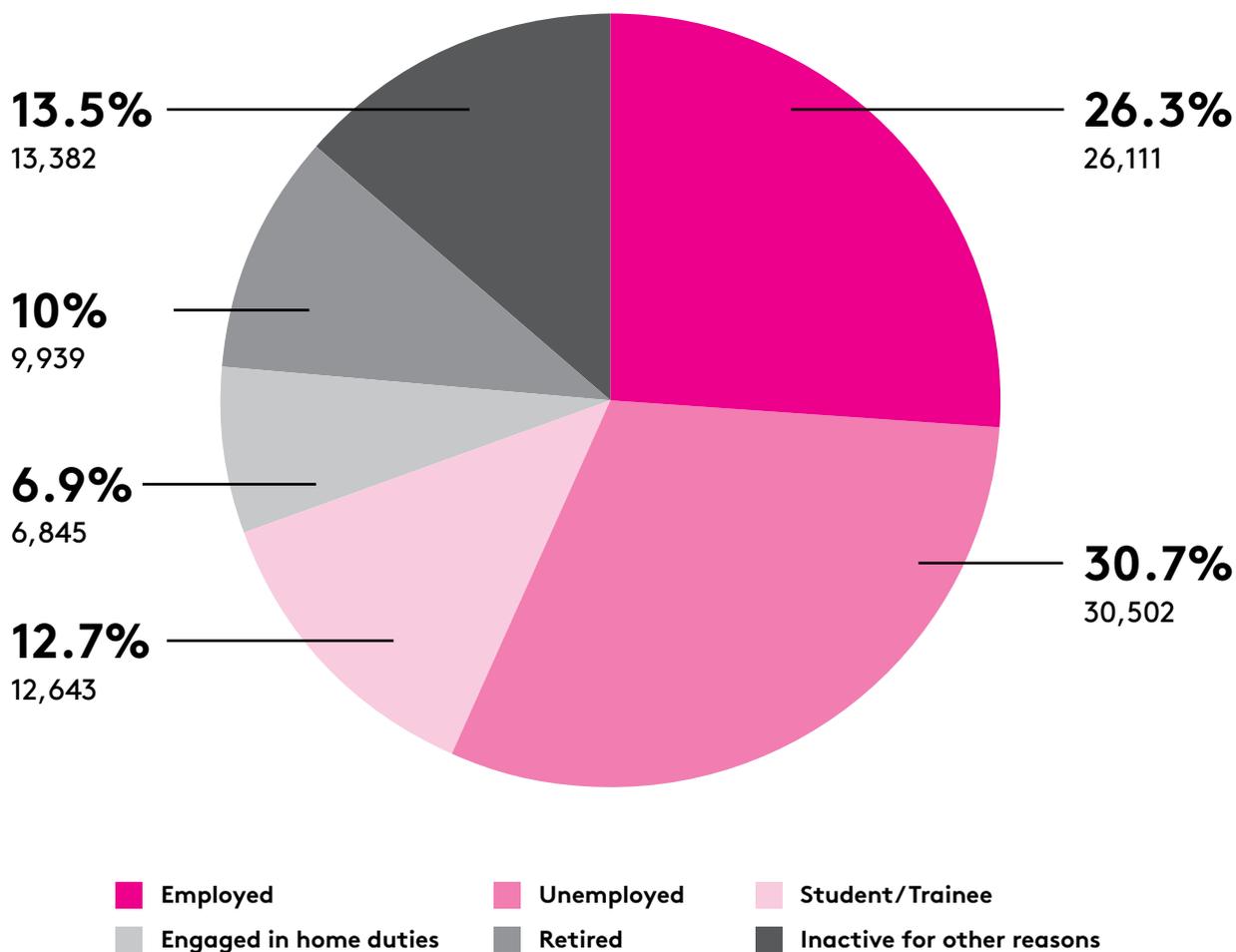
	Full-time	Part-time	Online	Total
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	1,297	810	0	2,107
Arts and humanities	4,676	475	0	5,151
Business, administration and law	6,628	4,759	261	11,648
Education	2,369	3,657	110	6,136
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	3,235	2,646	32	5,913
Generic programmes and qualifications	8,644	63,850	9	72,503
Health and welfare	5,990	4,132	0	10,122
ICT	2,797	2,598	162	5,557
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	516	0	0	516
Services	8,033	3,110	37	11,180
Social sciences, journalism and information	253	10	0	263
Total	44,438	86,047	611	131,096

Overall, generic programmes and qualifications had the highest numbers of learners, with 55.3% of learner completions in this field of study.¹² This was followed by business, administration and law (8.9%), health and welfare (7.7%) and services (8.5%).

For full-time learner completions, services and generic programmes and qualifications had the highest numbers of learners. In addition, business, administration and law and health and welfare also had high numbers of full-time completions. For part-time completions, generic programmes and qualifications accounted for approximately three fourths of all part-time completions. This was followed by business, administration and law, health and welfare, and education. Among online completions, business, administration and law had the highest number of learners. This was followed by information and communication technologies (ICT), education and services.

¹² It should be noted that any learner counts less than 5 are excluded here.

Principle Economic Status¹³



In 2019, 30.7% of learners were unemployed prior to completion, while 26.3% were employed. The remaining 43.1% of learners were inactive prior to completion.

¹³ It should be noted that this calculation is an estimate and includes only those cases where previous economic status was captured. The PES response rate for learner completions was 75.8%.

Certified Completions

Certified Completions by Outcomes ¹⁴

	Learners	Percent
Fully certified	50,875	58.6
Partially certified	14,932	17.2
No certification achieved	16,685	19.2
Waiting for certification details	4,355	5
Total	86,847	100

In 2019, the certification rate (full + partially certified) was 75.8%. Of the remaining certified learner completions, 5% were waiting for certification details and 19.2% did not achieve certification.

Certified Completions by Award Level

	Learners	Percent
Non-NFQ Aligned FET ¹⁵	5,899	9
Level 1 Certificate	673	1
Level 2 Certificate	2,544	3.9
Level 3 Certificate	7,554	11.5
Level 4 Certificate	9,908	15.1
Level 4/5 Certificate	709	1.1
Level 5 Certificate	30,520	46.4
Advanced Certificate/Higher Certificate	7,984	12.1
Honours Bachelor Degree/Higher Diploma	16	0
Total	65,807	100

In 2019, 46.4% of certified completions were at level 5, whereas 15.1% were at level 4, 11.5% at level 3 and 12.1% at an advanced or higher certificate level. In addition, 9% of certified completions were non-NFQ aligned FET awards.

¹⁴ This excludes completions where the course did not have an award through a recognised awarding body.

¹⁵ This includes full and partial learner completions that gained an award through a recognised awarding body, but the awards were not aligned with the NFQ.

Certified Completions by Field of Study (Broad ISCED), Award Level and Outcomes (Learner Activity)¹⁶

	Fully Certified	Partially Certified	Total
Non-NFQ aligned FET			
Arts and humanities	62	0	62
Business, administration and law	252	111	363
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	1,748	118	1,866
Generic programmes and qualifications	533	20	553
ICT	1,684	471	2,155
Services	2,345	325	2,670
Total	6,624	1,045	7,669
Level 1 Certificate			
Generic programmes and qualifications	878	368	1,246
Level 2 Certificate			
Generic programmes and qualifications	3,581	907	4,488
Level 3 Certificate			
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	60	24	84
Generic programmes and qualifications	7,668	2,679	10,347
ICT	73	14	87
Services	23	3	26
Total	7,824	2,720	10,544

¹⁶ Learner activity refers to the sum of instances of learner full and partial completions that gained an award through a recognised awarding body in 2019. For example, a learner may be enrolled and attain a certified completion in multiple courses (e.g. an ESOL course and an evening training course).

Certified Completions by Field of Study (Broad ISCED), Award Level and Outcomes (Learner Activity)

	Fully Certified	Partially Certified	Total
Level 4 Certificate			
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	634	263	897
Business, administration and law	1,352	307	1,659
Education	151	9	160
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	734	137	871
Generic programmes and qualifications	3,772	1,598	5,370
Health and welfare	6	0	6
ICT	891	272	1,163
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	5	0	5
Services	2,082	393	2,475
Total	9,627	2,979	12,606
Level 4/5 Certificate			
Generic programmes and qualifications	509	230	605
Level 5 Certificate			
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	672	244	916
Arts and humanities	2,054	819	2,873
Business, administration and law	6,398	1,323	7,721
Education	4,009	903	4,912
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	1,436	316	1,752
Generic programmes and qualifications	923	176	1,099
Health and welfare	8,975	2,258	11,233
ICT	853	452	1,305
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	355	109	464
Services	2,744	1,219	3,963
Social sciences, journalism and information	154	50	204
Total	28,573	7,869	36,442

Certified Completions by Field of Study (Broad ISCED), Award Level and Outcomes (Learner Activity)

	Fully Certified	Partially Certified	Total
Advanced Certificate/Higher Certificate			
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	168	81	249
Arts and humanities	1,041	339	1,380
Business, administration and law	1,581	380	1,961
Education	2,483	351	2,834
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	195	40	235
Health and welfare	477	118	595
ICT	252	94	346
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	6	3	9
Services	878	248	1,126
Social sciences, journalism and information	27	2	29
Total	7,108	1,656	8,764
Honours Bachelor Degree/Higher Diploma			
Arts and humanities	16	0	16

Certified Completions by Field of Study (Detailed ISCED) and Award Level (Learner Activity)

	Non-NFQ Aligned FET	Level 1 Certificate	Level 2 Certificate	Level 3 Certificate
Accounting and taxation	14			
Agriculture				
Architecture and town planning	3			6
Arts				
Audio-visual techniques and media production				
Basic programmes and qualifications	517	1,190	4,488	7,356
Biology				
Biological and related sciences				
Building and civil engineering	36			17
Business and administration	9			
Child care and youth services				
Computer use	1,973			16
Database and network design and administration	43			22
Education				
Education and training not elsewhere classified				
Education science				
Electricity and energy	51			
Electronics and automation				
Engineering and engineering trades				
Engineering, manufacturing and construction				40
Fashion, interior and industrial design				
Finance, banking and insurance	48			
Fine arts				
Food processing				
Generic programmes and qualifications				106
Hair and beauty services	127			8
Handicrafts				
Health				
Horticulture				
Hotel, restaurants and catering	394			18

Level 4 Certificate	Level 4/5 Certificate	Level 5 Certificate	Advanced Certificate/ Higher Certificate	Honours Bachelor Degree/Higher Diploma	Total
		15	519		548
		36	29		65
56		138	15		218
		441	45		486
		1,106	545	16	1,667
4,280	739	1,057			19,627
			9		9
		464			464
421		327			801
		1,954	573		2,536
		157			157
19		425	62		2,495
		451	121		637
			550		550
		32			32
			61		61
167		138	43		399
25		40	147		212
136		661			797
					40
		418	225		643
		5			53
		450	264		714
		69			69
					106
612		1,523	253		2,523
		132	30		162
		1,944	235		2,179
897		251	61		1,209
973		440	31		1,856

	Non-NFQ Aligned FET	Level 1 Certificate	Level 2 Certificate	Level 3 Certificate
ICT	186			
Journalism and reporting				
Language acquisition	62			
Law	9			
Literacy and numeracy				899
Management and administration	173			
Manufacturing and processing				
Marketing and advertising				
Materials (glass, paper, plastic and wood)				
Mechanics and metal trades	1,657			
Mining and extraction				
Motor vehicles, ships and aircraft	119			
Music and performing arts				
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics				
Nursing and midwifery				
Occupational health and safety	973			
Personal skills and development		56		2,056
Pharmacy				
Philosophy and ethics				
Protection of persons and property				
Secretarial and office work				
Social and behavioural sciences				
Social work and counselling				
Sociology and cultural studies				
Software and applications development and analysis	63			
Sports	33			
Therapy and rehabilitation				
Training for pre-school teachers				
Transport services	1,118			
Travel, tourism and leisure	51			
Veterinary	10			
Welfare				
Wholesale and retail sales				
Total	7,669	1,246	4,488	10,544

Level 4 Certificate	Level 4/5 Certificate	Level 5 Certificate	Advanced Certificate/ Higher Certificate	Honours Bachelor Degree/Higher Diploma	Total
1,102			24		1,312
		85			85
					62
		194			203
					899
11		3,232	645		4,061
			5		5
		181			181
3		98	30		131
10		54			1,721
		4			4
53		223			395
		295	271		566
5					5
		6,351			6,351
					973
1,118					3,230
		24			24
		31			31
713		134	9		856
1,221		1,759	219		3,199
			29		29
		1,488	261		1,749
		119			119
3		426	139		631
119		1,113	356		1,621
		70	4		74
166		4,903	2,249		7,318
		76			1,194
59		648	473		1,231
		629	159		798
		1,193	73		1,266
437		438			875
12,606	739	36,442	8,764	16	82,514

Definition of Terms

Activity

The sum of learners multiplied by the number of courses which they have been enrolled in or completed within a programme or across different programmes, or providers during 2019.

Certified Completions

In the FET sector, not all learner completions lead to an award through a recognised awarding body in the FET sector. Therefore, certified completions refer only to the total number of certified completions in 2019.

Certification Rate

The sum of only full and partial learner completions that gained an award through a recognised awarding body in 2019.

Completions

Total number of learners who have a finish date of a course (regardless of whether the course is certified or not) in 2019. Completions include partial and full completers, but exclude early leavers.

Enrolments

Enrolments are defined as learners who are on course or have completed a course during 2019.

Field of Study

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

Full Completions

Learners who have completed 90 per cent or more of the course and its requirements in 2019.

Inactive

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

Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

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

Learner

A unique individual who has progressed onto a course in the application process. The total number of learners is the sum of all unique individuals in Further Education and Training in 2019.

Long-term Unemployed

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

Non-NFQ Aligned courses

This includes completions with certification not aligned with the NFQ.

On Course

This refers to those learners who were still on course as of December 31st, 2019.

Partial Completions

Learners who have completed more than 25 percent but less than 90 percent of a course and its requirements in 2019.

Post-secondary non-tertiary

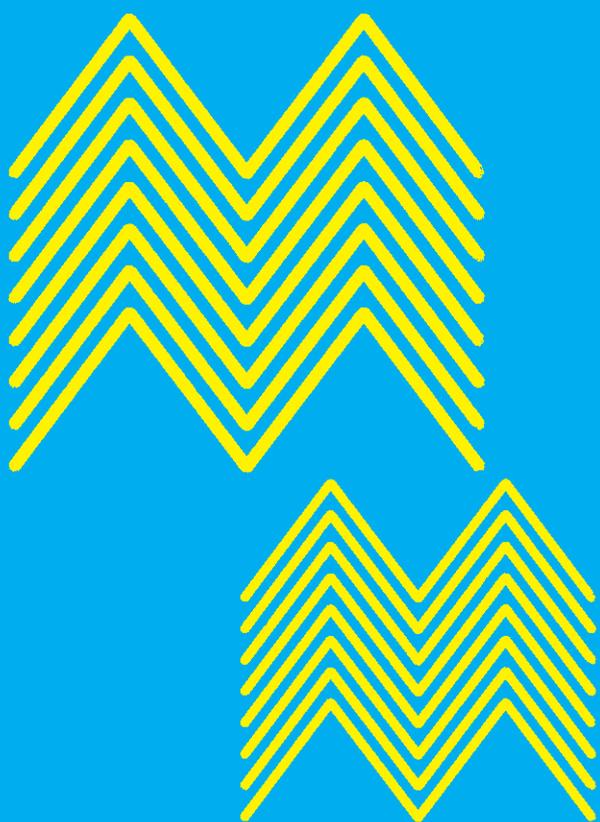
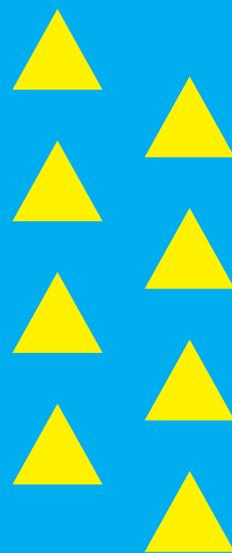
This refers to Post Leaving Certificate NFQ Level 4 or 5, Advanced Certificate NFQ Level 6, other non-NFQ aligned FET, Certificate NFQ Level 4, or Certificate NFQ Level 5.

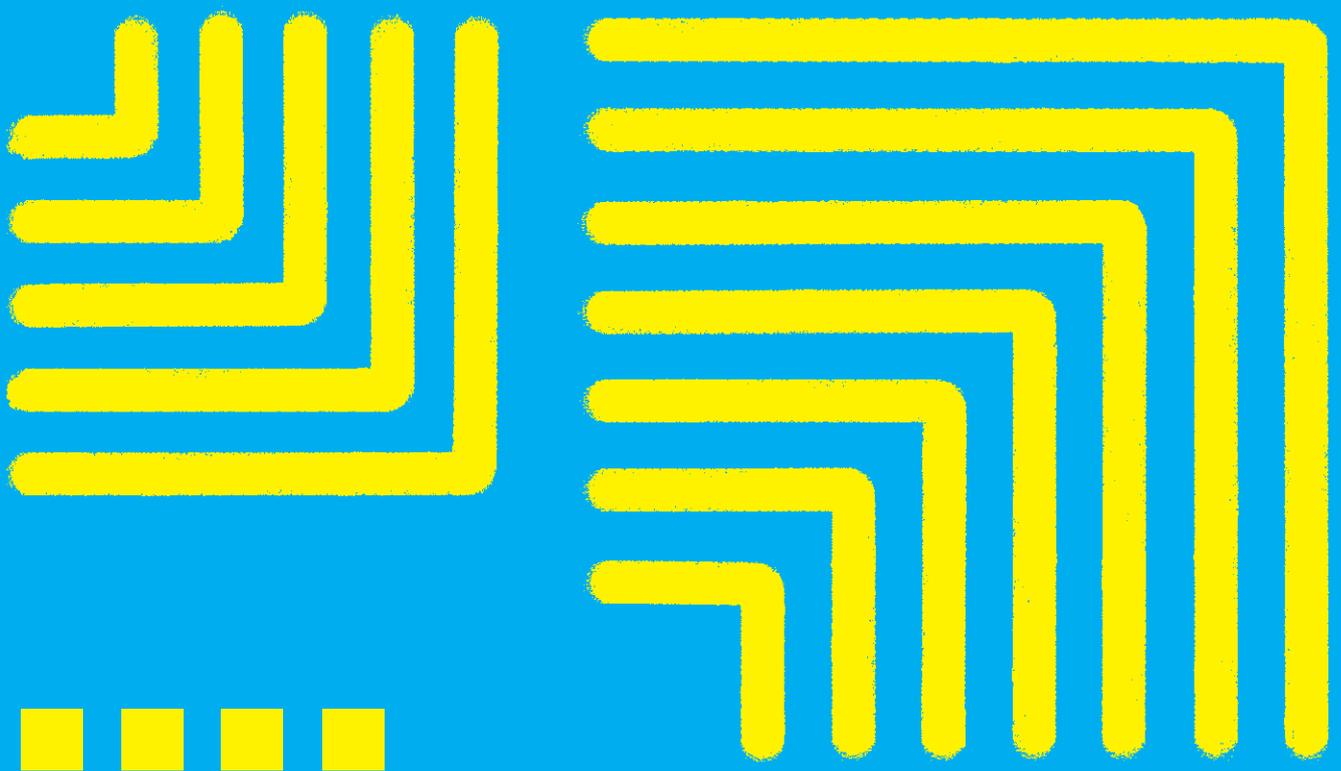
Short-cycle tertiary education

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

Third Level

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





For further information, please contact:

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