

This is FET

Traveller Community 2021



SOLAS
learning works



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Riailas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

**Further
Education
& Training**

A Report by the
Data Analytics Unit in SOLAS
May 2023

Authors

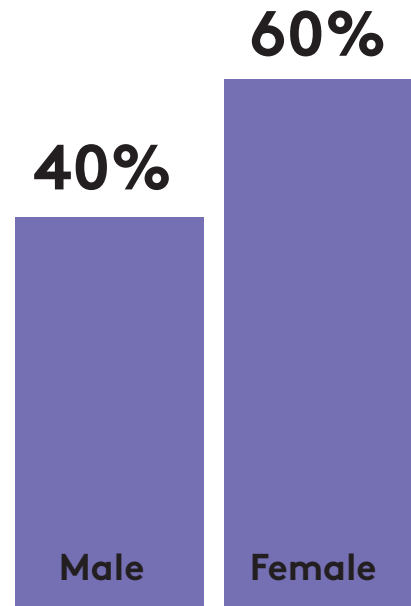
Amelia Dulee-Kinsolving
Selen Guerin



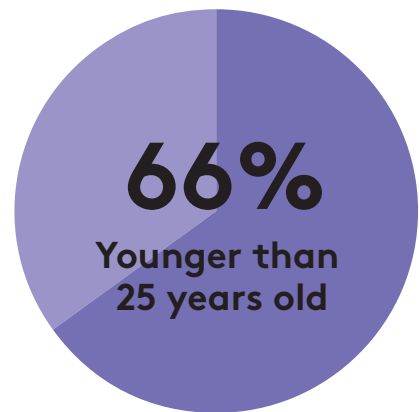
All data is sourced from the Programme and Learner Support Systems (PLSS) database. PLSS collects and processes the personal data of the FET learners who are enrolled in SOLAS funded programmes. This report excludes apprenticeship provision.

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

Enrolments



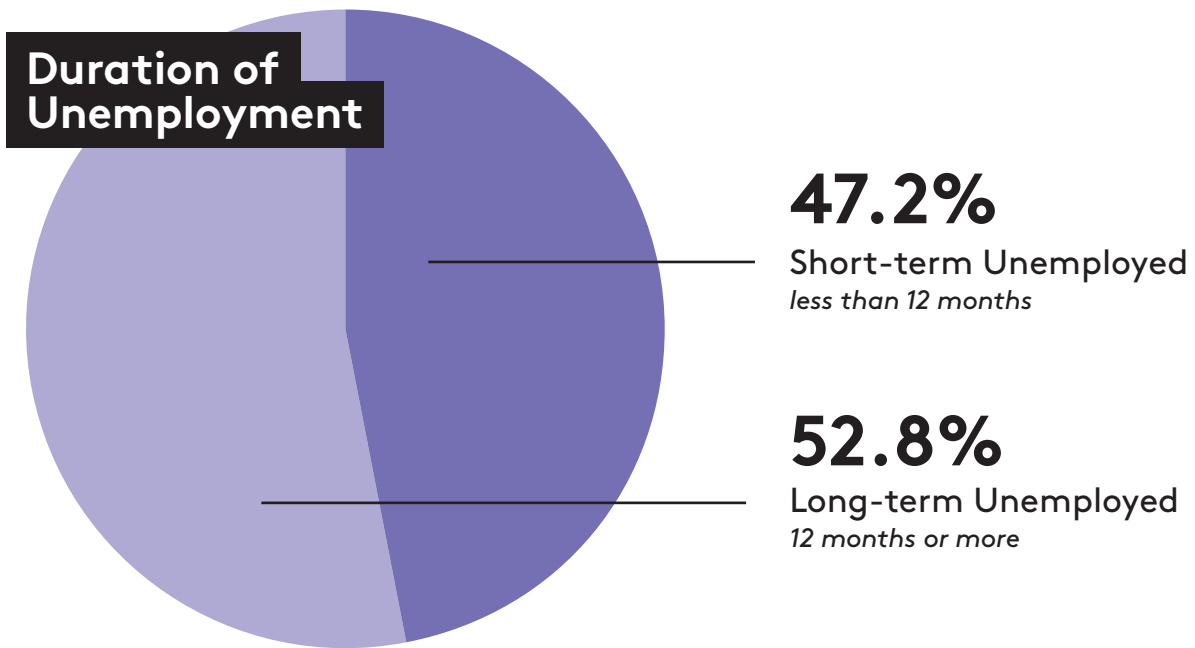
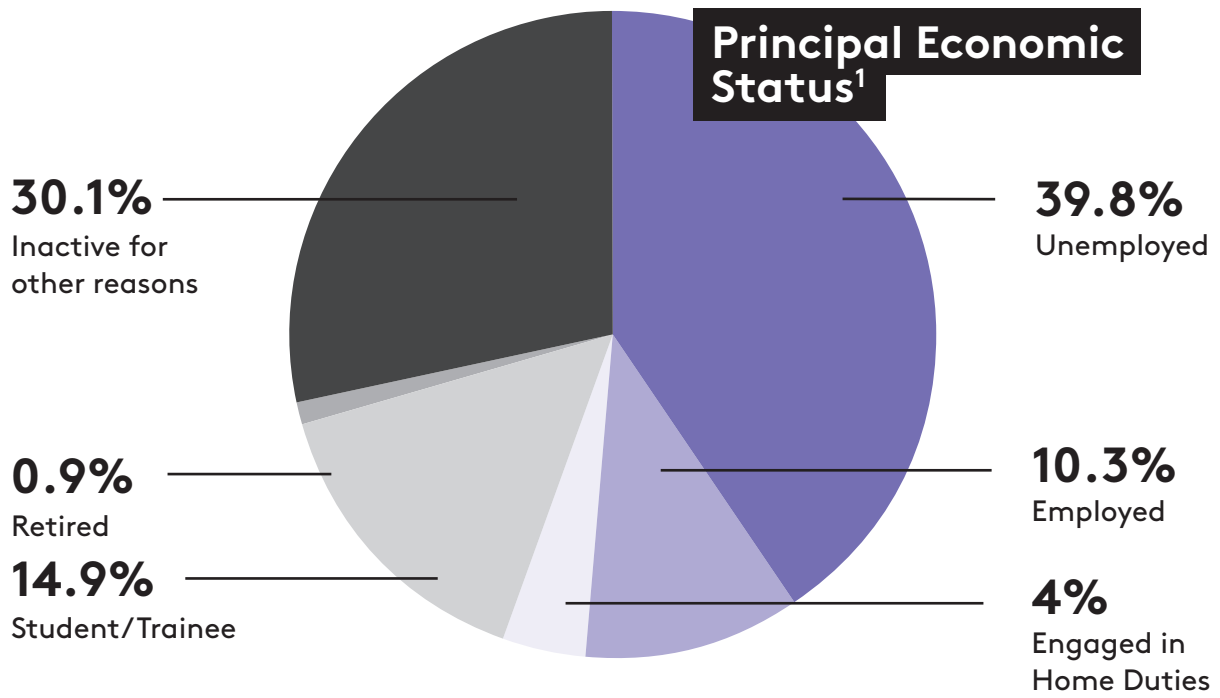
87%
Full and partial
completions



53.1%
Certification rate

In 2021, the total number of Traveller enrolments reported in further education and training was 1,130. Of these learner enrolments, 40% were men and 60% were women. The majority (66%) of these learners were younger than 25 years of age.

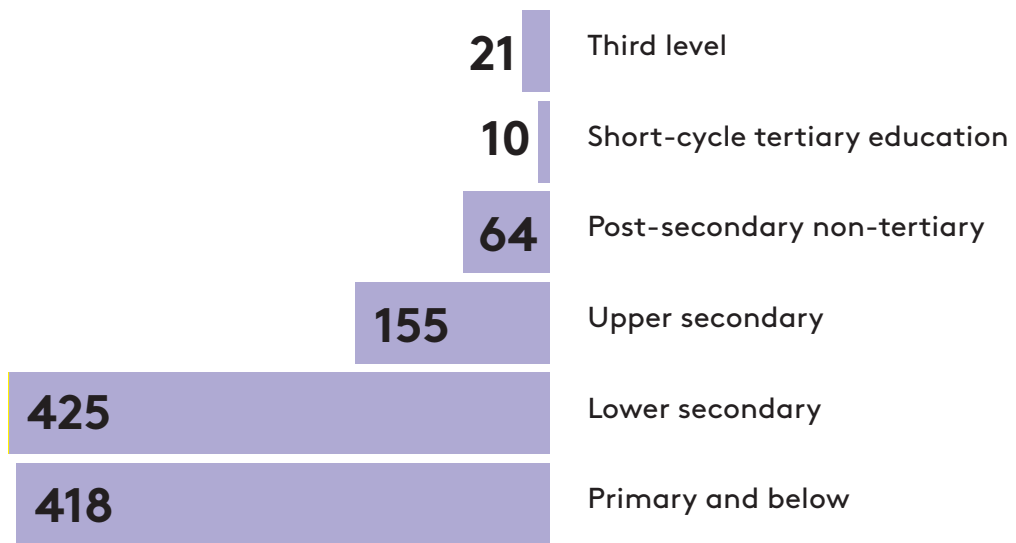
Of the 1,130 Traveller enrolments, 87% partially or fully completed a course in 2021. The certification rate for Travellers who completed certified courses was 53.1%.



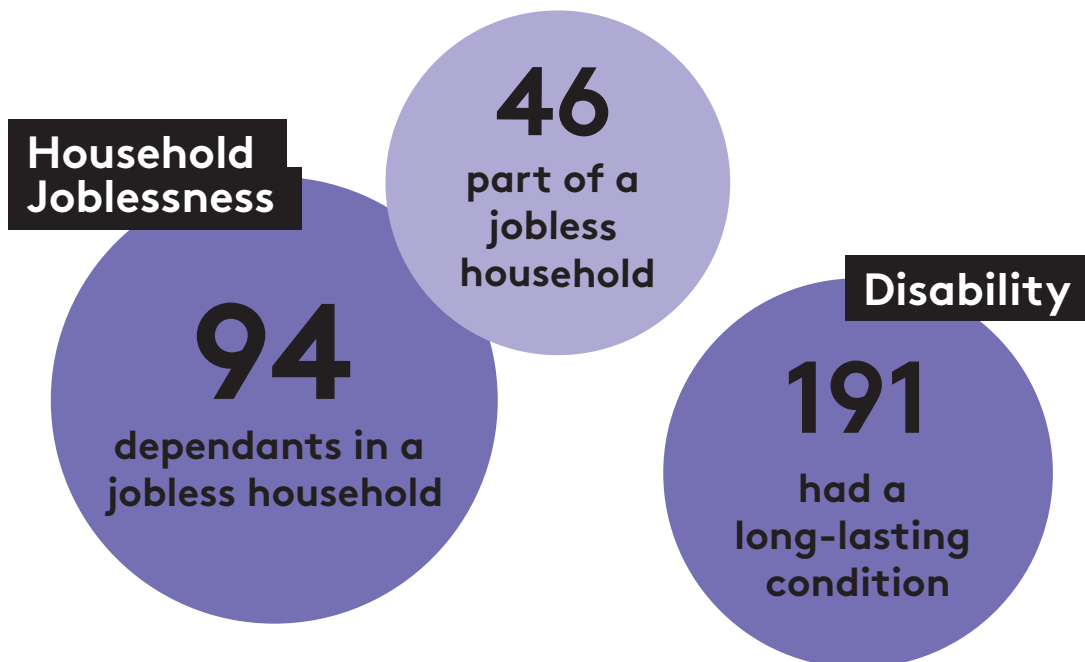
The majority of Travellers were either unemployed or economically inactive. Of those who were unemployed, 52.8% were unemployed for 12 months or more.

¹ The Principal Economic Status response rate for Travellers was 96.5%.

Highest Level of Formal Education²



Over three-quarters (843) of Travellers reported that they had a lower secondary or primary and below education level attained prior to joining further education and training.



Of the 1,130 Traveller enrolments, 46 reported that they were part of a jobless household, whereas 94 reported that they were dependants in a jobless household. There were also 191 Travellers that reported they had a long-lasting condition.

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

ETB

ETB	Learners
Cavan and Monaghan ETB	62
City of Dublin ETB	103
Cork ETB	39
Donegal ETB	35
Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB	93
Galway and Roscommon ETB	72
Kerry ETB	21
Kildare and Wicklow ETB	29
Kilkenny and Carlow ETB	70
Laois and Offaly ETB	106
Limerick Clare ETB	57
Longford and Westmeath ETB	76
Louth and Meath ETB	77
Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB	80
Tipperary ETB	85
Waterford and Wexford ETB	128

Of the 1,130 Travellers enrolled in FET courses, Traveller enrolments were primarily concentrated in Laois and Offaly ETB, Waterford and Wexford ETB, and City of Dublin ETB.³

³ Learners are unique within an ETB but not nationally.

Programme Category⁴

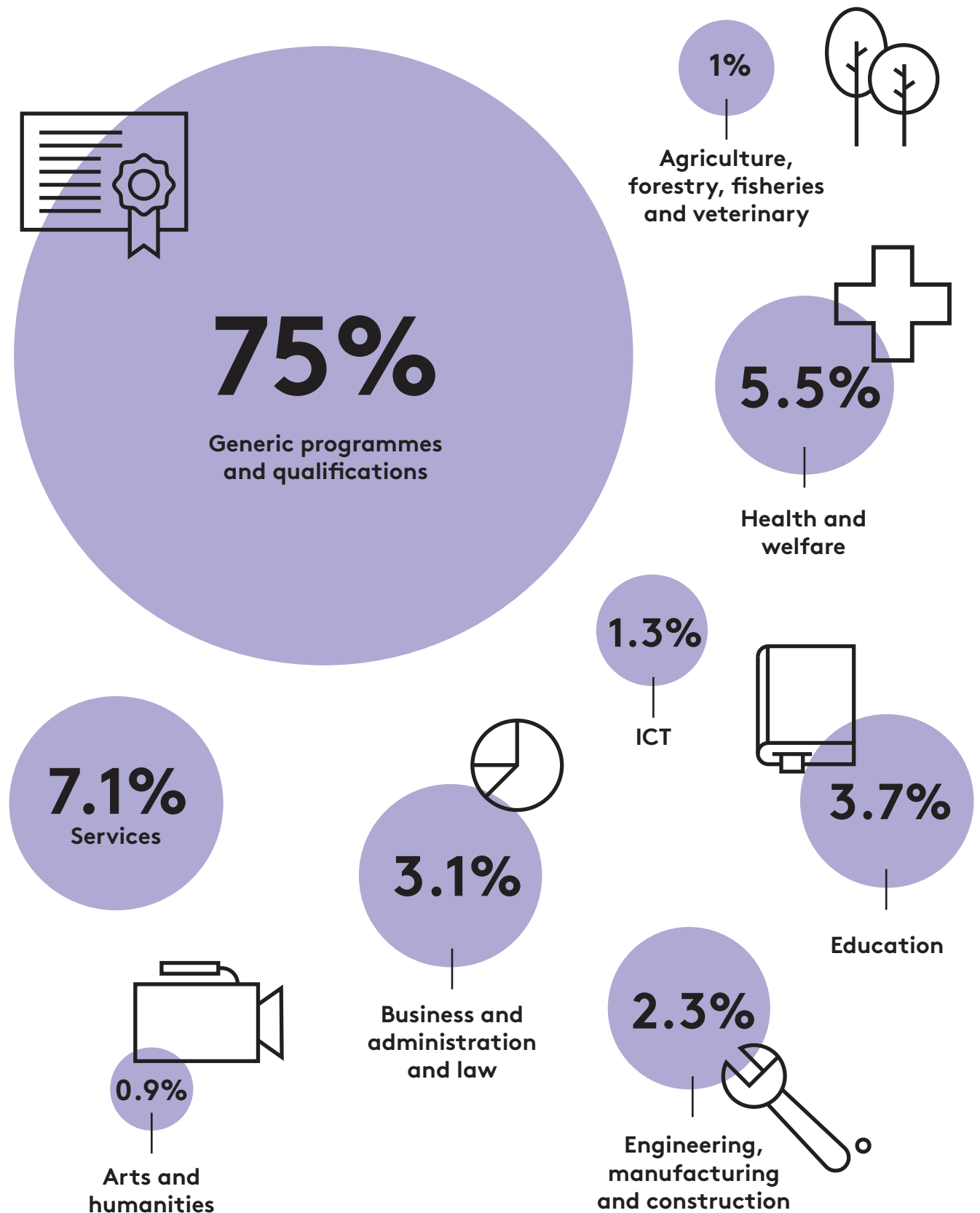
Programme Category	Learners
Adult Literacy Groups	203
BTEI Groups	97
Community Education	133
Community Training Centres	146
Evening Training	14
FET Cooperation Hours	37
ITABE	14
Justice Workshop	15
Local Training Initiatives	103
PLC	59
Skills for Work	22
Specialist Training Providers	26
Specific Skills Training	31
Traineeship Training	15
VTOS Core	19
Youthreach	272

Among FET programmes, Traveller enrolments were primarily concentrated among Adult Literacy and Youthreach courses.⁵ There were also an additional 19 enrolments in Traineeship Employed, ESOL, Skills to Advance, Bridging and Foundation Training courses. Refugee Resettlement, Voluntary Literacy Tuition, Online eCollege and Other Funding.

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

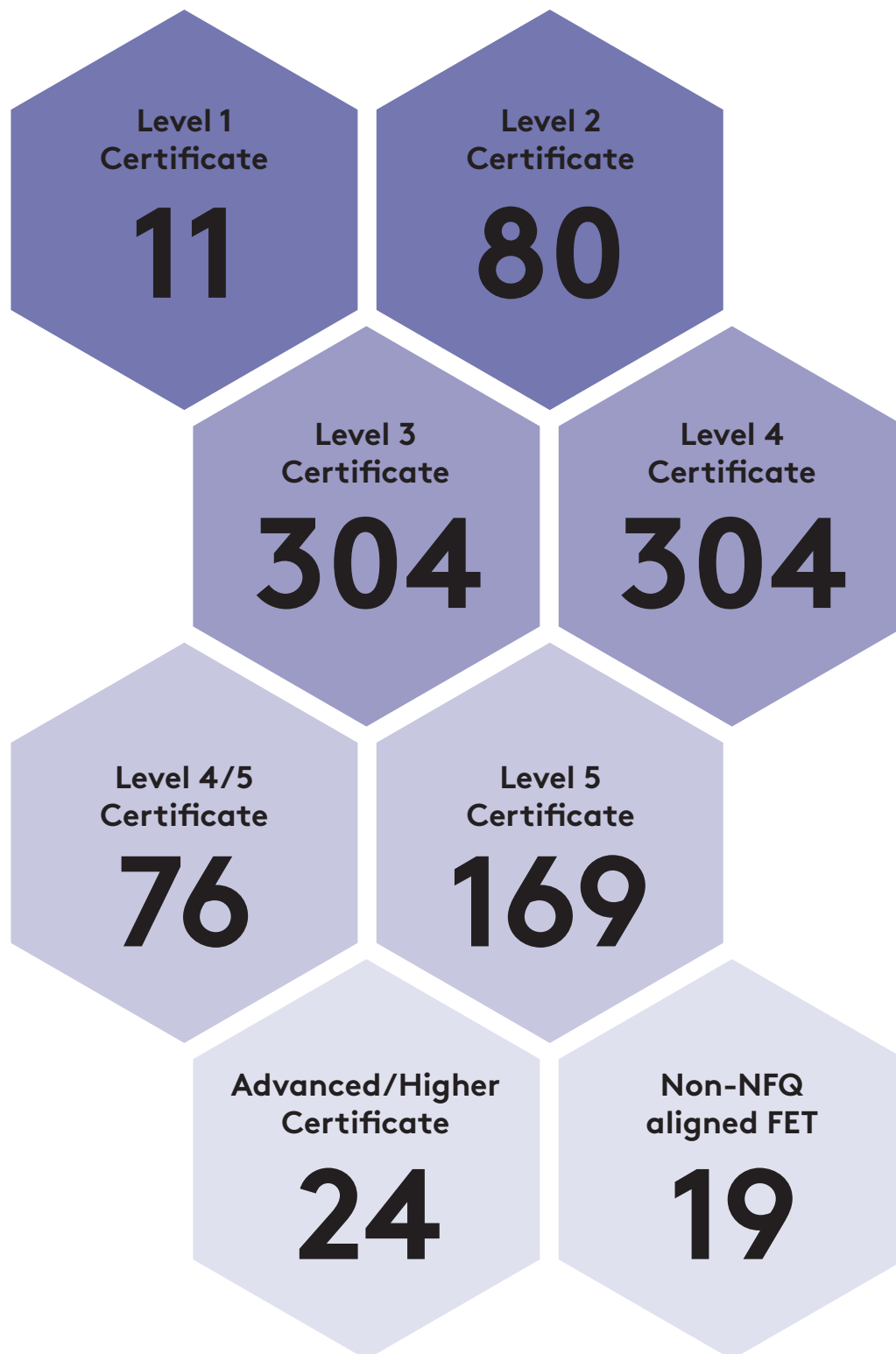
⁵ Any learner count less than 5 is excluded in this table.

Field of Study (Broad ISCED)



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

Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or Equivalent⁶



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

Definition of Terms

Activity

The sum of learners multiplied by the number of courses which they have been enrolled in or completed within a programme or across different programmes, or providers during 2021.

Certification Rate

The sum of only full and partial learner completions that gained an award through a recognised awarding body in 2021.

Completions

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 2021.

Field of Study

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

Partial Completions

Learners who have completed more than 25 per cent but less than 90 per cent of a course and its requirements in 2021.

Inactive

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

Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

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

Non-NFQ Aligned courses

This includes completions with certification not aligned with the NFQ.

Learner

A unique individual who has progressed onto a course in the application process. The total number of learners is the sum of all unique individuals in Further Education and Training in 2021.

Long-lasting Condition

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

Long-term Unemployed

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

On Course

This refers to those learners who were still on course during 2021.

Full Completions

Learners who have completed 90 per cent or more of the course and its requirements in 2021.

Post-secondary Non-tertiary

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

Short-cycle Tertiary

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

Third Level

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

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