



Monitoring Ireland's Skills Supply: Trends in Education & Training Outputs

July 2010



The report provides an indication of the supply of skills to the labour market from the formal education and training system:

- student inflows: indicates potential future supply
- graduate output: indicates potential current supply
- field of learning: indicates the potential supply of skills by broad type
- where graduates go: shows the economic status of young graduates

Education and Training Awards by Level, 2009*



	NFQ 1-2	NFQ 3	NFQ 4	NFQ 5	NFQ 6	NFQ 7	NFQ 8	NFQ 9/10	Total
Junior Cert	-	55,560	-	-	-	-	-	-	55,560
Leaving Cert	-	-	57,460	-	-	-	-	-	57,460
FETAC (Major Awards)	270	2,500	1,670	17,440	6,900	-	-	-	28,780
IoTs	-	-	-	-	3,070	7,120	8,520	1,980	20,690
Universities	-	-	-	-	1,720	2,060	17,630	13,200	34,610
Total	270	58,060	76,570	11,690	9,180	26,150	15,180	197,100	

*Data for Universities and Institutes of Technology is from 2008

- An overall increase of 5,000 awards, or 2%, since 2008
- Increases occurred at all NFQ levels excluding levels 6 and 7 which declined by 12% and 2% respectively

Higher and Further Education/Training Awards by Field, 2009



Field	NFQ 1-2	NFQ 3	NFQ 4	NFQ 5	NFQ 6	NFQ 7	NFQ 8	NFQ 9/10	Total
General	270	2,280	380	30	-	-	-	-	2,960
Education	-	-	-	-	250	140	1,570	2,630	4,590
Humanities & Arts	-	-	20	2,130	530	1,240	4,810	1,870	10,600
Soc Science, Bus & Law	-	220	400	4640	1,720	2,460	8,520	4,990	22,950
Science	-	-	-	690	590	910	3,380	1,830	7,400
Engineering & Construct	-	-	80	390	5,320	2,050	2,850	850	11,540
Agriculture & Vet.	-	-	120	890	630	290	270	70	2,270
Health & Welfare	-	-	-	7,300	780	1,040	4,170	2,590	15,880
Services	-	-	680	1,360	1,880	1,050	570	360	5,900
Total	270	2,500	1,680	17,430	11,700	9,180	26,140	15,190	84,090

Source: FETAC (Major Awards), Higher Education Authority

Numbers at school and college to grow significantly in the coming years

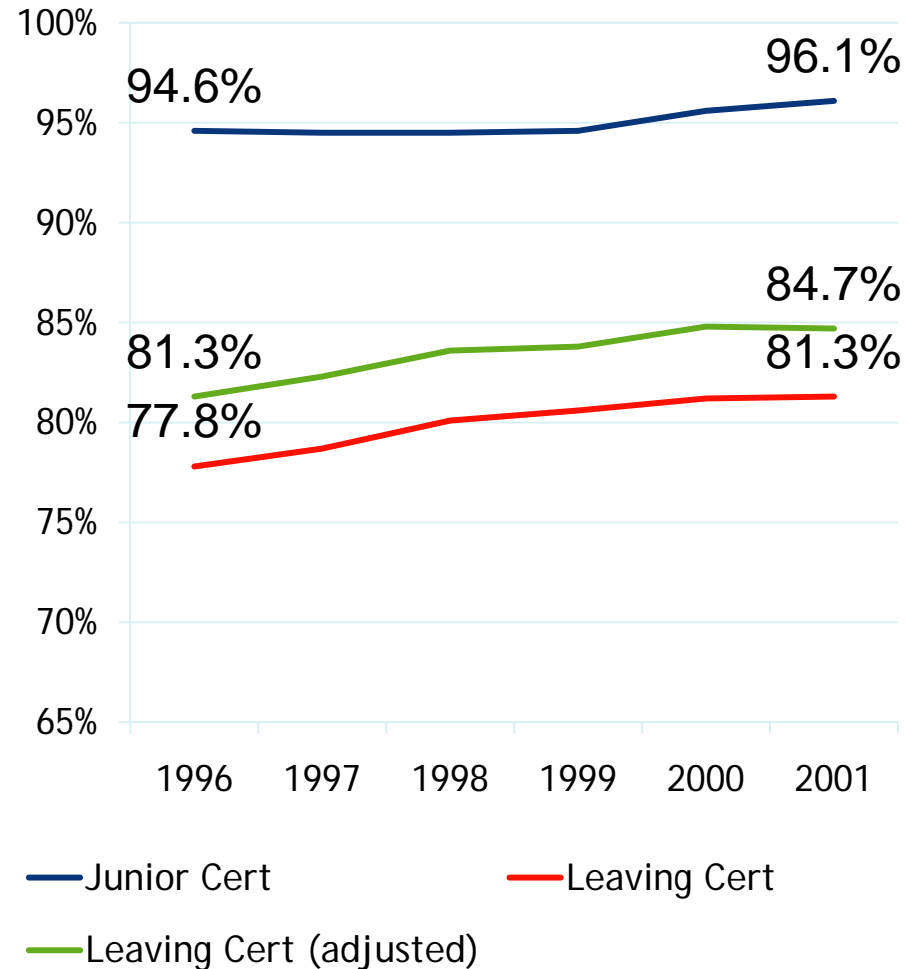


- Number of births in Ireland in recent years have been amongst the highest on record, reaching over 74,000 in 2009
- Over 65,000 junior infants in 2008 – to rise by 10,000+ by 2013
- 2nd level enrolments expected to increase by 22,300 by 2018
(Source: Department of Education and Science)
- CAO acceptances on the rise – (+6,500 between 2006 & 2009)
- Full time enrolments at third level to rise by almost one third to reach 204,000 by 2018 (Source: Department of Education and Science)

Retention Rates (Junior & Leaving Cert)



- **Junior Cert retention rate** was 96.1% for pupils who began 2nd level in 2001 - an increase from 94.6% six years previously
- **The Leaving Cert retention rate:** increased from 77.8% to 81.3% between 1996 and 2001
- When adjusted for those transferring to non-State aided education, **the adjusted Leaving Cert retention rate was 84.7%**

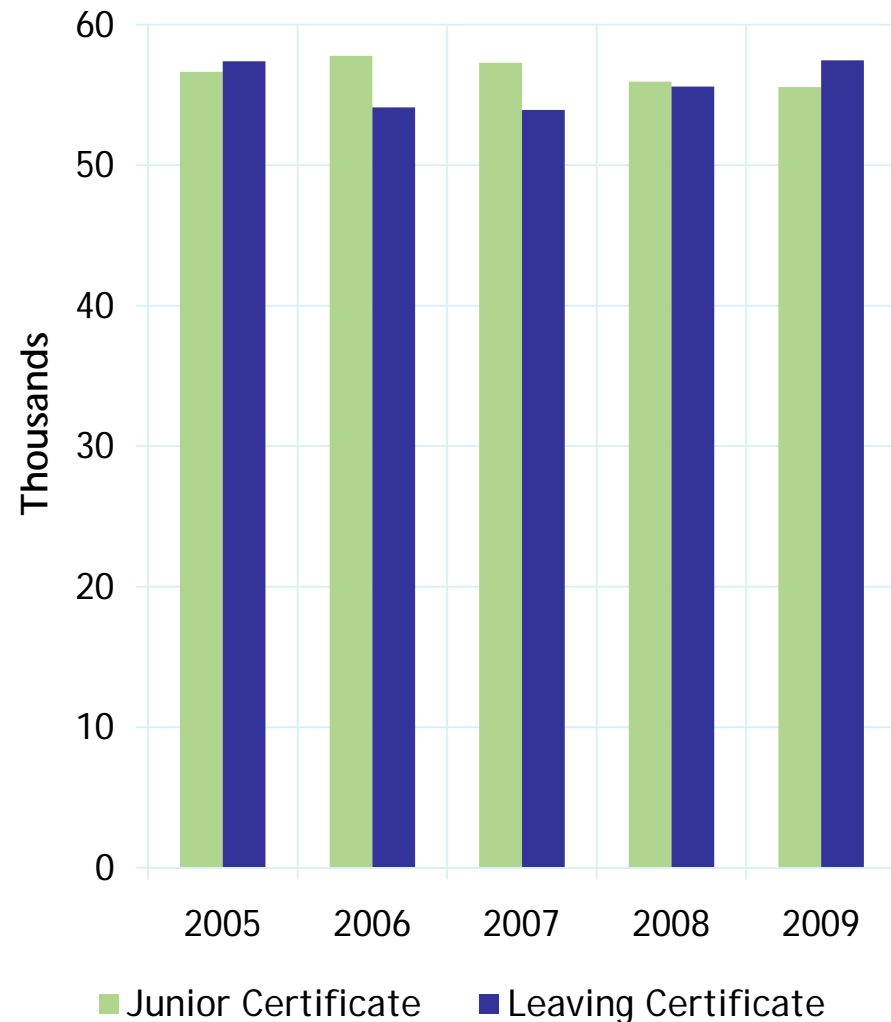


Source: DES

Junior & Leaving Certificate Sits



- Over 55,500 **Junior Certificate** sits in 2009 – the lowest since 2005
- Due to increases in 1st year pupils at 2nd level since 2007, a reversal of this downward trend is likely
- Almost 57,500 **Leaving Certificate** sits in 2009 – the highest over the period 2005-2009
- In the medium-term further increases are likely



Source: State Examination Commission

Leaving Certificate 2009



- 16% of maths students sat the higher level paper (down from 19% in 2005)
- Biology is the most popular science subject with 28,100 sits – 72% at higher level
- Although the overall Leaving Certificate numbers increased by 3% since 2005, the numbers taking business-related subjects declined
- Students are less likely to sit the higher level paper in languages than for science or business-related subjects (excluding maths)
- There were 817 sits in non-curricular languages* – up from 541 in 2008

* Candidates must be from an EU member state and speak the language as a mother tongue

FETAC Awards 2007-2009



	2007		2008		2009	
	Awards	*Award Holders	Awards	*Award Holders	Awards	*Award Holders
Major	22,759	22,689	24,429	24,429	28,772	28,722
Minor	176,321	87,662	177,228	93,910	268,680	135,804
Special Purpose	24,157	20,290	17,176	17,176	16,087	16,087
Supplemental	456	456	717	717	1,281	1,281
Total	223,693	128,624	219,550	131,089	314,820	174,870

Source: FETAC

*The number of award holders does not sum up as some candidates may obtain more than one award type



- There were almost 175,000 FETAC award holders in 2009, a 41% increase on 2008
- There were 28,772 major awards in 2009, mostly at level 5
- Major awards recipients were skewed towards the younger learners with more than 60% aged under 30
- Those aged 40+ accounted for a third of all minor awards compared to 28% in the previous year

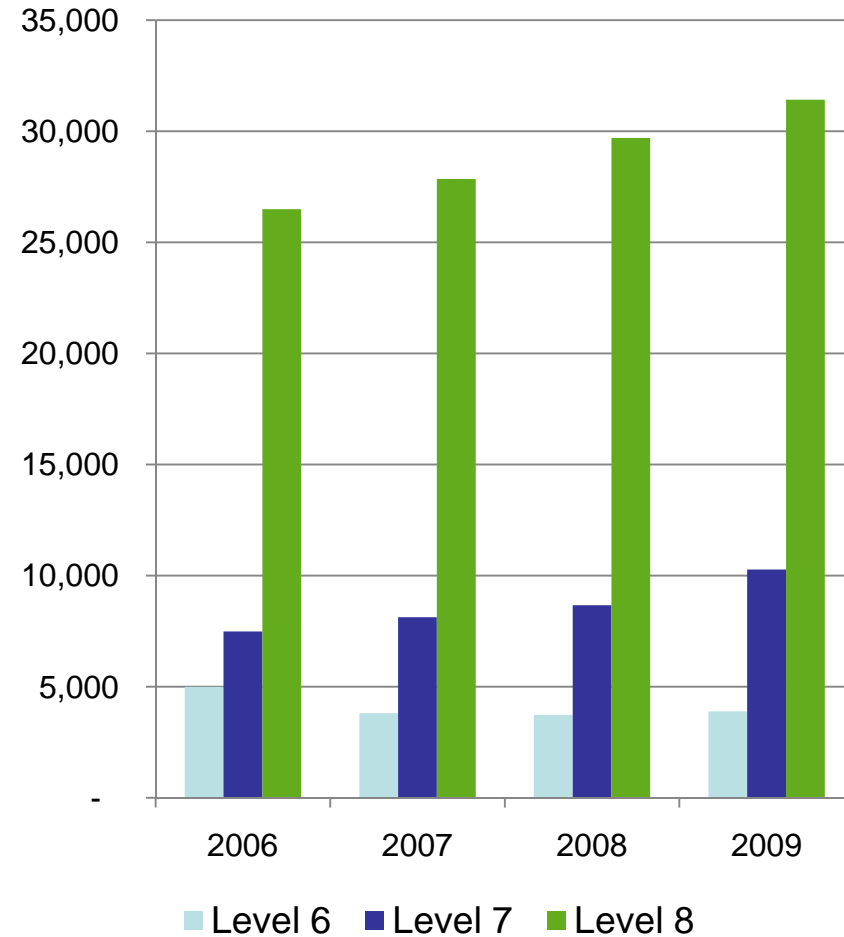
CAO Acceptances (Higher Education)



Level 6: an overall decrease, despite a slight recovery in 2009

Level 7: increasing steadily with a 19% rise between 2008 and 2009

Level 8: growing by an average of 6% annually over the period 2006-2009



Source: CAO

Part Time Students in Higher Education



NFQ Level	2007		2008	
	Part-time Students	% of Total Awards at this Level	Part-time Students	% of Total Awards at this Level
NFQ 6	2,200	34%	2,600	54%
NFQ 7	2,600	28%	2,900	31%
NFQ 8	2,100	8%	2,000	8%
NFQ 9/10	4,600	31%	4,900	33%
Total (NFQ 6-10)	11,500	20%	12,400	22%

Source: Higher Education Authority

- Overall in 2008 over a fifth of awards went to part-time students, an increase of two percentage points on 2007
- The share of awards going to part-time students remained stable at level 8 but increased at all other levels



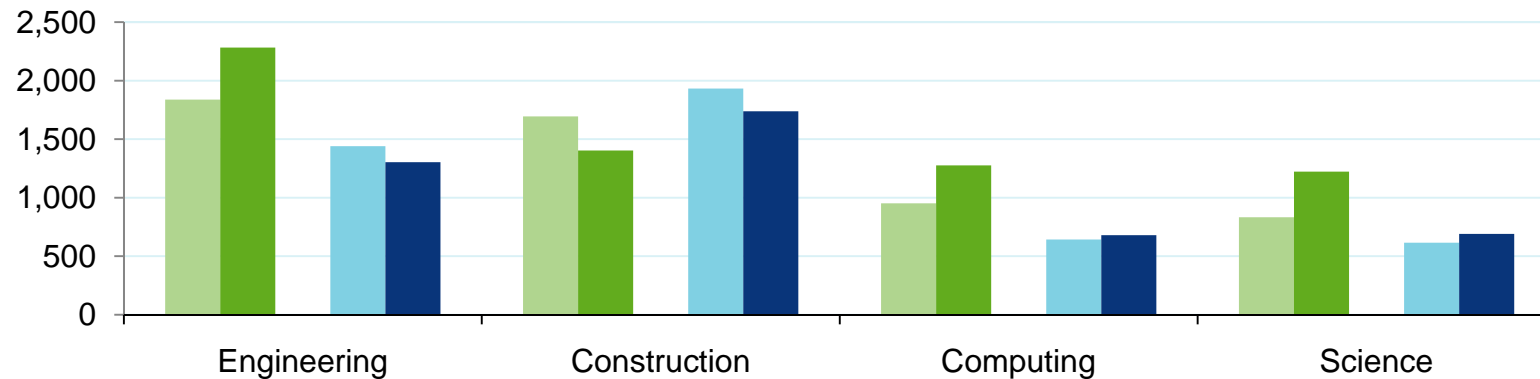
Promising signs for technology subjects, excluding construction

- **Engineering:** graduates are declining but CAO acceptances increased in 2009 for all levels
- **Computing:** although graduate numbers in this discipline have been decreasing, CAO acceptances rose significantly in 2009
- **Science:** CAO acceptances increased at all levels – graduate output should continue to increase
- **Construction:** output grew but a reverse is expected due to the impact of the downturn of the construction sector and the decline in CAO acceptances for this subject

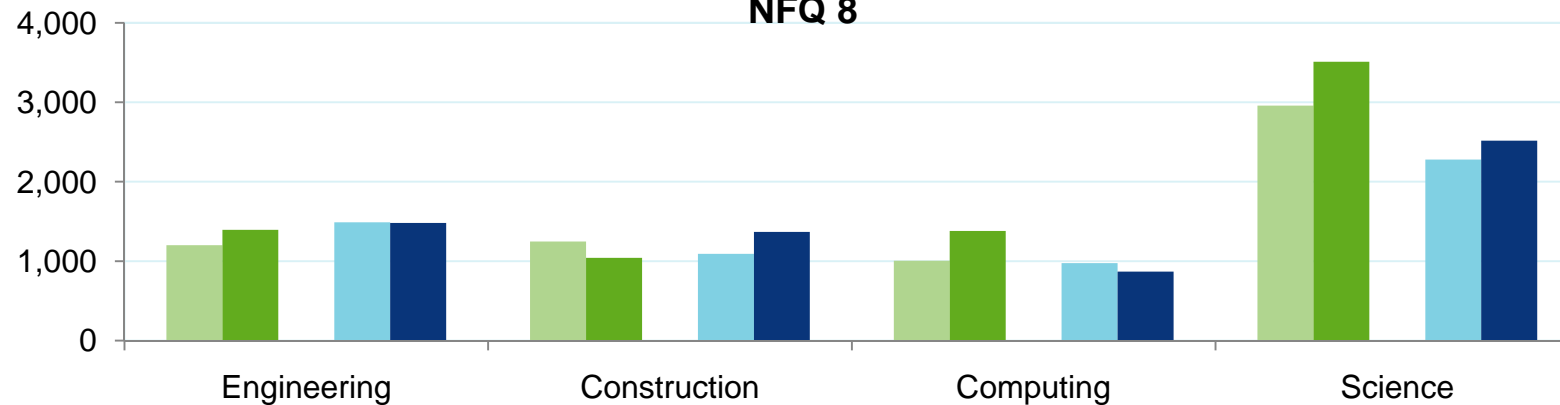
Higher Education Technology – NFQ 6/7 & NFQ 8



NFQ 6/7



NFQ 8

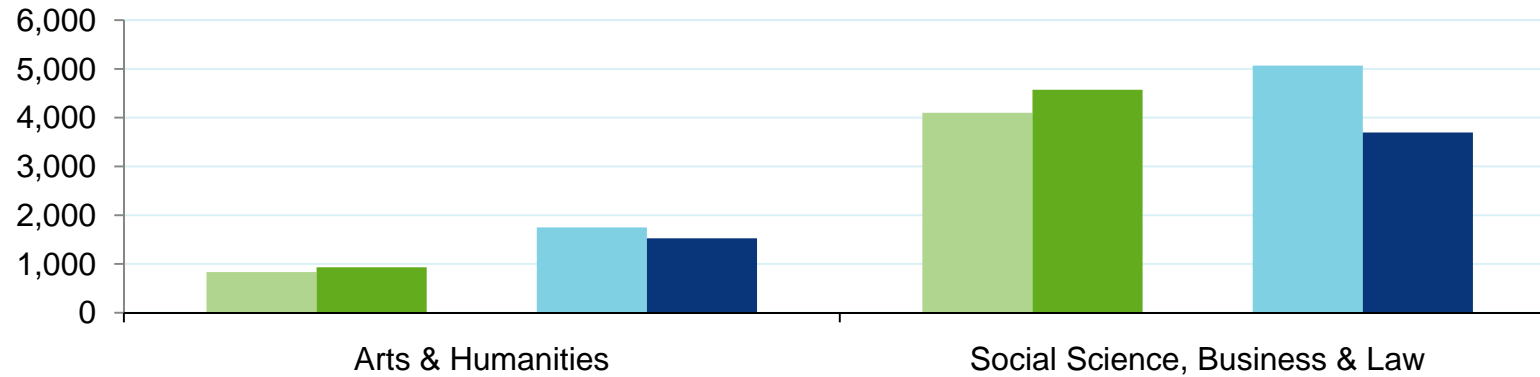


■ Acceptances 2008
 ■ Acceptances 2009
 ■ Graduates 2007
 ■ Graduates 2008

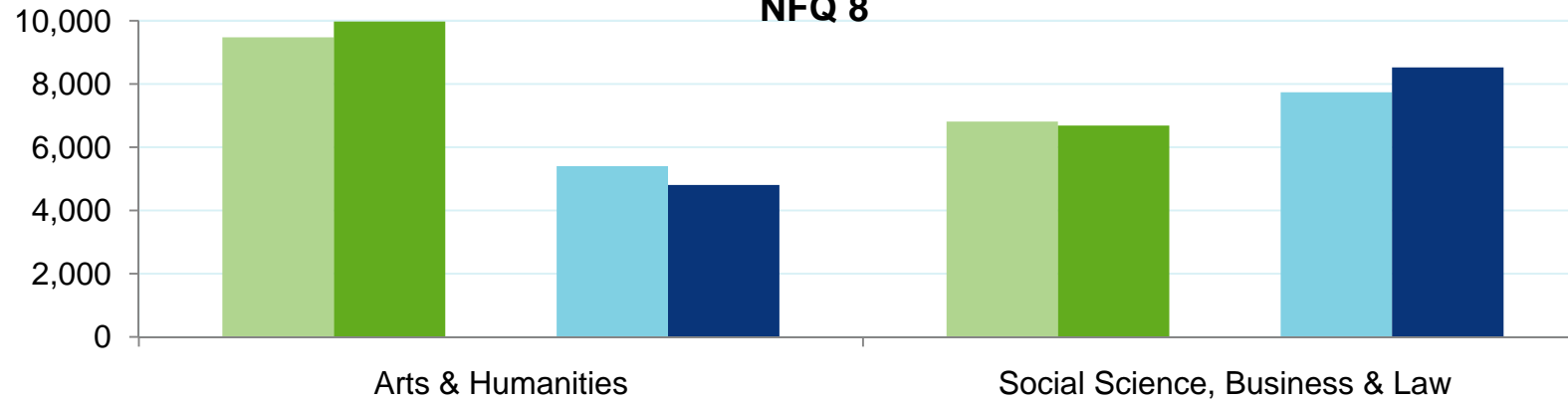
Higher Education Selected Disciplines – NFQ 6/7 & NFQ 8



NFQ 6/7

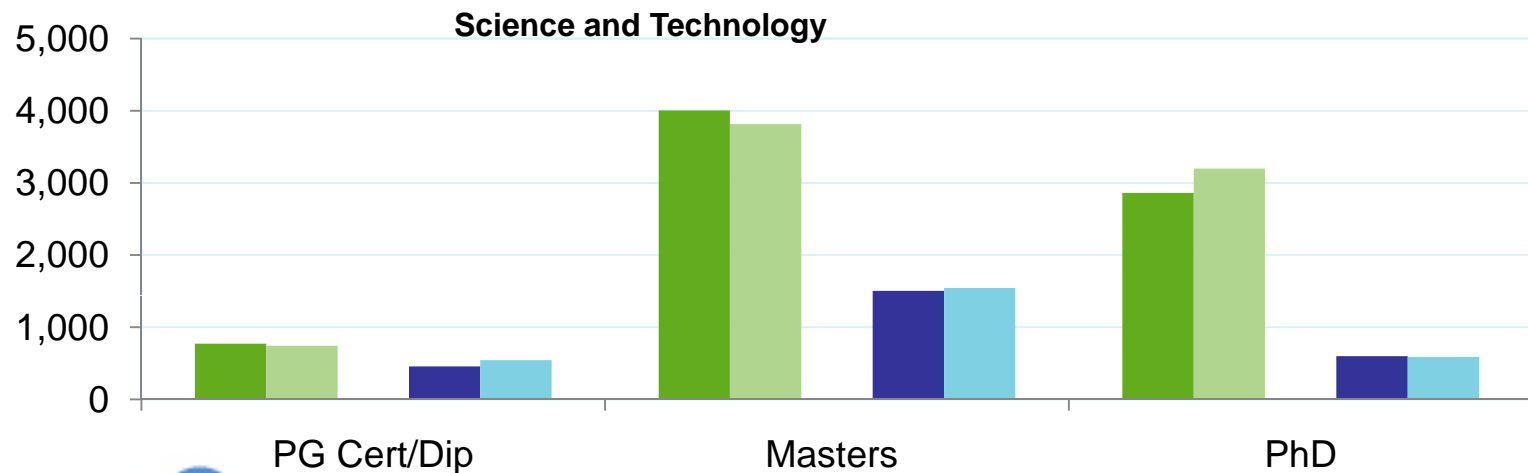
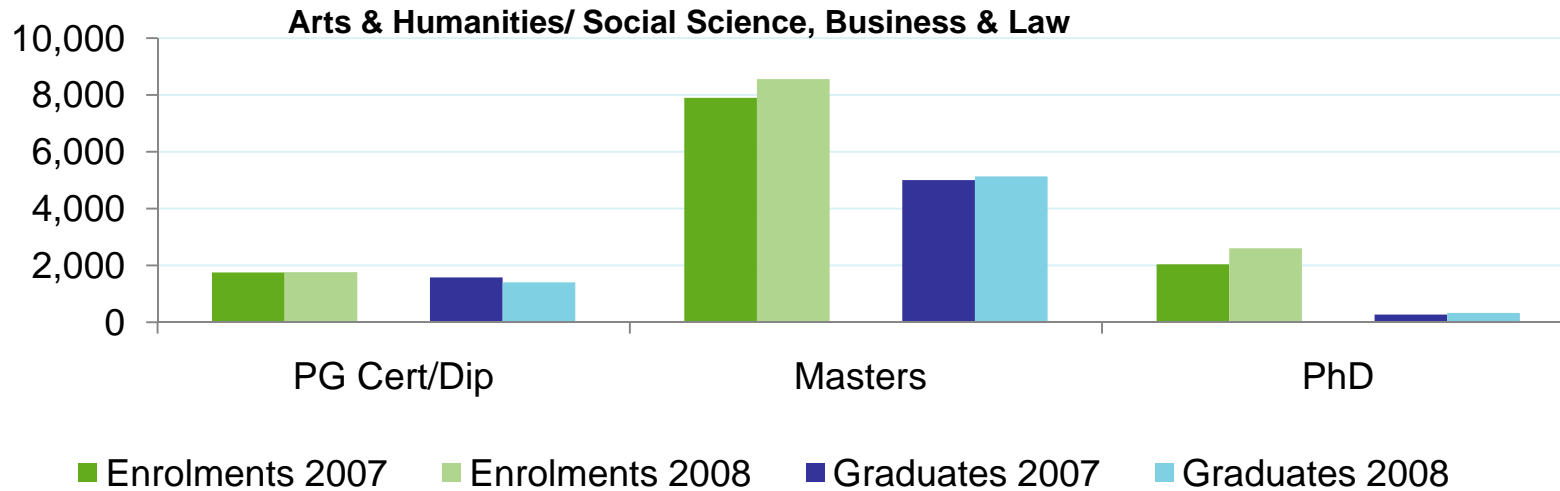


NFQ 8



■ Acceptances 2008
 ■ Acceptances 2009
 ■ Graduates 2007
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Higher Education – Postgraduate Trends





Science & Technology

- Masters degrees account for the majority of postgraduate programmes in science and technology
- 1,100 PhD awards were made in 2008 – almost a 50% increase since 2004
- Almost one half of all PhDs awarded in 2008 were in technology-related subjects

Arts & Humanities/Social Science, Business & Law

- 60% of all masters graduates in 2008 were for arts & humanities/ social science, business and law courses
- While the number of PhD awards in this category are small, recent increases in enrolments (28% between 2007 and 2008) should lead to further increases in the number of graduates at this level

Economic Status of Young (25-34) Graduates, Q4 2009



Education Fields	At work	Unemployed	Other	Total
Education	92%	4%	4%	100%
Humanities and Arts	81%	10%	9%	100%
Social Sciences, Business & Law	88%	5%	7%	100%
Science, Maths & Computing	80%	8%	12%	100%
Engineering, Manufacturing & Construction	80%	11%	9%	100%
Agriculture and Veterinary	86%	9%	6%	100%
Health and Welfare	91%	3%	6%	100%
Services	78%	12%	10%	100%

Source: Central Statistics Office

- Those with Education qualifications (NFQ 8 and above) were most likely to be in employment – 92% at work compared to 78% for services (e.g. hospitality) graduates
- 80% of engineering graduates were at work, compared to 90% in quarter 1 2008

Employment of Young (25-34) Graduates by Field of Learning, Quarter 4 2009



Occupation Fields	% Graduates Employed in Related discipline
Education	82%
Humanities and Arts	11%
Social sciences, Business & Law	74%
Science, Mathematics and Computing	54%
Engineering, Manufacturing & Construction	53%
Agriculture & Veterinary	23%
Health & Welfare	82%
Services	39%

Source: Central Statistics Office

- 82% of Education graduates were working in a related field, compared to 11% of Arts/Humanities graduates
- Those with qualifications in engineering/construction were less likely than 1 year previously to work in this field with an increased share working in science-related occupations (mainly as software engineers)
- While 54% of science graduates work in a related field, a further 10% work in education (almost exclusively as third level lecturers)