

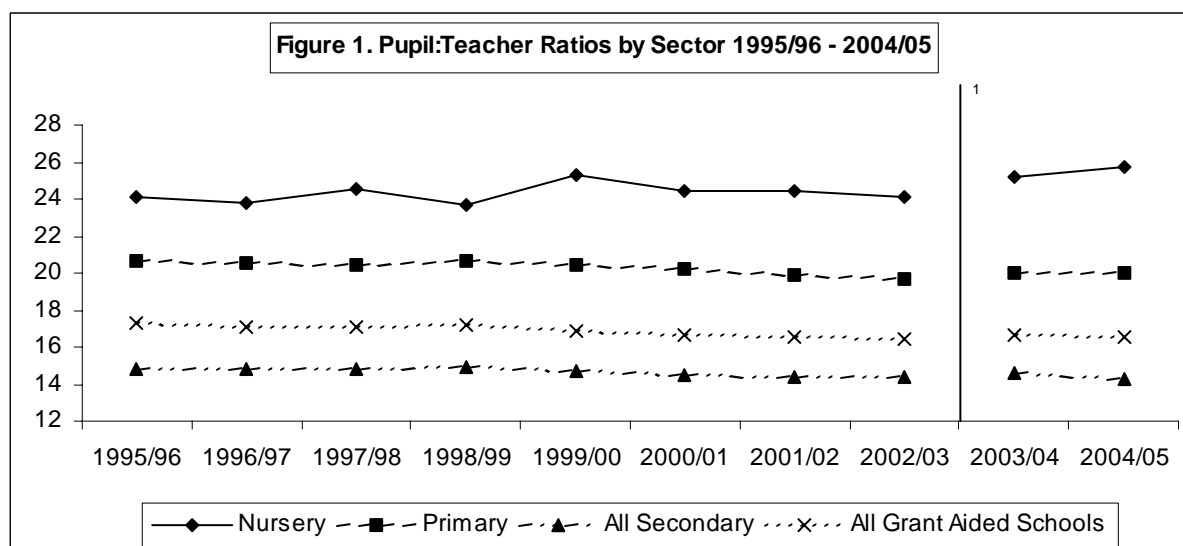
STATISTICAL PRESS RELEASE

24 June 2005

Pupil:Teacher Ratios in Grant Aided Schools in Northern Ireland 2004/05

Key Points

- The overall Pupil:Teacher Ratio (PTR) is 0.1 lower than in 2003/04. The overall PTR is 16.5.
- Between 2003/04 and 2004/05 the PTR for nursery schools rose by 0.5, the primary figure remained constant, the figure for preparatory departments of grammar schools increased by 0.3, the secondary (non-grammar) PTR fell by 0.3, the grammar figure remained constant, and the special schools figure fell by 0.1. The nursery PTR now stands at 25.7, the primary and preparatory department PTRs are 20.0 and 17.3 respectively, the secondary (non-grammar) and grammar PTRs are 13.8 and 15.2 respectively, and the special school PTR is 5.8.
- The management type with the highest primary school PTR is Grant Maintained Integrated (20.9) and the Management type with the lowest primary school PTR is Other Maintained (18.2). For secondary (non-grammar) schools the PTR is highest in the Grant Maintained Integrated sector (14.1) and lowest in the Controlled Integrated and Other Maintained sectors (both 13.4). The PTR in voluntary grammar schools (15.1) is lower than in controlled grammar schools (15.4).



1. Since 2003/04 the PTRS have been compiled using teacher data collected on a new, improved basis which involves verification with schools. See Notes to Editors, paragraph 6.

- The Belfast Board had the lowest primary PTR (19.0) while the 'all secondary' PTR was lowest in the Western Board (14.1). The North Eastern Board had the highest primary PTR (20.8) and the Southern Board had the highest 'all secondary' PTR (14.7).

The 2003/04 and 2004/05 PTRs for the main school sectors are as follows:

School Sector	2003/04	2004/05
Nursery	25.2	25.7
Primary	20.0	20.0
All Secondary	14.6	14.3
Special	5.9	5.8
All Grant-aided Schools	16.6	16.5

Comparisons with England

PTRs in Northern Ireland are below those in England in all sectors except nursery. However, the comparison needs to be treated with caution as it is affected by varying school size distributions and, in the case of secondary PTRs, by the fact that teachers and students in sixth form colleges in England are not included.

School Sector	2004/05	
	N. Ireland	England (provisional)
Nursery	25.7	16.5
Primary	20.0	22.5
All Secondary	14.3	16.8
Overall*	16.5	16.9

* Includes Special Schools

Figures

Figure 1 shows the Pupil:Teacher Ratios by sector 1995/96 to 2004/05.

Tables

Table 1 shows the Pupil:Teacher Ratios for Northern Ireland between 1995/96 and 2004/05 broken down by school type and management type.

Table 2 shows the Pupil:Teacher Ratios for 2004/05 broken down by area board, school type and management type.

Notes to Editors

National Statistics

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Pupil:Teacher Ratios

4. Since the introduction of Local Management of Schools (LMS) in 1991/92 all secondary schools have had fully delegated budgets, which means that decisions on staffing levels are taken by the schools themselves. LMS has also been phased in gradually in the primary schools sector with the result that all primary schools have had fully delegated budgets from 1998/99.
5. **Teachers**

The teacher numbers are based on a reference week in the autumn term.

The following types of teacher are taken into account in calculating the Pupil:Teacher Ratio:

- full-time teachers;
- part-time teachers;
- temporary teachers who are filling a vacancy pending the appointment of a permanent teacher; and
- teachers paid on a 1/365th basis. (These are temporary teachers who are appointed for a period of not less than one year).

Numbers are expressed as full-time equivalents and part-time hours are converted on the basis of a 32.4 hour week.

Excluded from the teacher element of the calculation are:

- substitute teachers; and
- peripatetic teachers.

6. New (verified) basis for 2003/04 and 2004/05 teacher numbers

Prior to 2003/04, the figures for nursery, primary, secondary (non-grammar), and special schools were extracted from the computerised teachers' payroll system, whilst the figures for grammar schools were obtained from a statistical return completed by the schools. In 2003/04 and 2004/05 the grammar school figures were again obtained from a statistical return completed by the schools, but each nursery, primary, secondary (non-grammar) and special school was sent a list of teachers from the computerised teachers' payroll system, and asked to mark any amendments. The net effect of this was that the number of teachers as verified by schools in 2003/04 was some 400 lower than the number of teachers extracted from the computerised teachers' payroll system, e.g. because substitute teachers had been incorrectly recorded.

7. Pupils

Pupil figures are taken from the Annual School Census conducted in October each year.

Pupils include those on a full-time and part-time attendance mode expressed as full-time equivalents. A part-time pupil is counted as 0.5 of a full-time pupil.

8. Comparisons

Comparisons of PTRs between area boards, management types and territories must be interpreted with caution as differences will reflect varying school size distributions and differences in the proportion of schools of each type (nursery, primary and secondary). It should also be noted that since 1 April 1993 sixth form colleges in England were reclassified as further education colleges. Teachers and students in these colleges do not feature in the PTRs for England.

9. Further Enquiries

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Special analysis of PTR or Teacher data can be produced on request.

DE Statistical Press Releases can be accessed at the DE website –
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Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office at the same address, telephone 028 9127 9701.

Table 1. PUPIL:TEACHER RATIOS 1995/96 - 2004/05

School Type	Management Type	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	New (verified) basis	
											2003/04	2004/05
Nursery	Controlled	24.4	23.9	24.5	24.1	25.3	24.3	23.9	23.5	24.3	25.2	25.5
	Catholic Maintained	23.3	23.7	24.5	22.9	25.1	24.8	25.5	25.2	24.5	25.1	26.1
	Total	24.1	23.8	24.5	23.7	25.3	24.4	24.4	24.1	24.4	25.2	25.7
Primary*	Controlled	20.9	20.9	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.4	20.2	20.0	19.7	20.3	20.2
	Controlled Integrated	19.8	17.0	16.2	25.3	18.7	17.6	18.4	17.8	17.3	17.8	18.4
	Catholic Maintained	20.6	20.1	20.1	20.4	20.0	20.0	19.7	19.4	19.2	19.8	19.9
	Grant Maintained Integrated	20.5	20.2	19.8	20.6	20.5	20.6	19.8	20.7	20.9	21.5	20.9
	Other Maintained	18.6	18.9	19.6	18.2	18.1	18.4	17.2	17.8	17.7	17.6	18.2
	Total	20.7	20.5	20.4	20.6	20.4	20.2	19.9	19.7	19.4	20.0	20.0
Grammar Preparatory Departments	Controlled	19.2	19.3	18.6	18.7	18.5	17.9	18.4	18.1	17.0	17.0	16.8
	Voluntary	18.2	17.9	18.7	17.1	17.4	16.4	16.6	17.1	17.0	17.0	17.4
	Total	18.3	18.0	18.7	17.3	17.5	16.6	16.9	17.2	17.0	17.0	17.3
Secondary (Excl Grammar)	Controlled	14.1	14.1	14.4	14.4	14.3	14.1	14.0	13.8	13.8	14.2	13.9
	Controlled Integrated	14.5	13.4	14.6	14.3	13.6	13.5	13.1	13.3	13.6	13.7	13.4
	Catholic Maintained	14.3	14.1	14.2	14.4	14.2	13.9	13.9	13.9	13.8	14.1	13.7
	Grant Maintained Integrated	12.4	12.4	12.9	13.3	13.0	13.1	13.0	13.5	13.8	14.2	14.1
	Other Maintained	-	15.2	19.4	15.7	12.1	11.6	11.2	10.5	11.5	11.5	13.4
	Total	14.1	14.0	14.2	14.3	14.1	13.9	13.8	13.8	13.8	14.1	13.8
Grammar Secondary Departments	Controlled	15.8	16.0	15.6	15.7	15.5	15.4	15.4	15.7	15.5	15.5	15.4
	Voluntary	16.1	15.9	15.8	15.7	15.6	15.4	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.1
	Total	16.0	16.0	15.8	15.7	15.6	15.4	15.3	15.3	15.2	15.2	15.2
All Secondary	Total	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.9	14.7	14.5	14.4	14.4	14.3	14.6	14.3
Special (excl. Hospital Schools)	Controlled	6.9	6.6	6.9	6.7	6.3	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0
	Catholic Maintained	6.4	6.2	5.9	5.4	5.0	4.8	5.3	5.2	4.4	4.6	4.7
	Other Maintained	4.2	4.1	4.5	4.0	4.3	4.3	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.5
	Total	6.7	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.8
All Grant-Aided Schools	Controlled	17.3	17.2	17.3	17.3	17.1	16.8	16.6	16.4	16.3	16.7	16.5
	Controlled Integrated	17.3	15.7	15.6	17.6	15.5	15.0	14.9	14.9	15.1	15.4	15.5
	Catholic Maintained	17.9	17.5	17.6	17.7	17.5	17.3	17.2	17.0	16.8	17.3	17.1
	Grant Maintained Integrated	15.5	15.2	15.2	15.5	15.1	15.1	14.8	15.4	15.7	16.1	15.9
	Other Maintained	13.7	14.1	15.7	14.5	13.9	14.0	13.6	14.1	14.5	14.4	15.2
	Voluntary	16.2	16.0	15.9	15.8	15.7	15.4	15.3	15.3	15.2	15.2	15.2
	Total	17.3	17.1	17.1	17.2	16.9	16.7	16.5	16.4	16.3	16.6	16.5

NOTES: * includes pupils and teachers in nursery classes

Table 2. PTR's FOR 2004/05 BY AREA BOARD AND MANAGEMENT TYPE

School type	Management Type	Belfast	Western	North Eastern	South Eastern	Southern	Total
Nursery	Controlled	26.0	26.0	24.7	25.2	25.9	25.5
	Catholic Maintained	25.8	-	29.7	25.7	26.3	26.1
	Total	25.9	26.0	25.1	25.4	26.0	25.7
Primary*	Controlled	18.7	20.2	21.2	20.2	19.8	20.2
	Controlled Integrated	22.4	-	15.5	19.2	17.5	18.4
	Catholic Maintained	19.2	20.5	20.4	18.5	20.4	19.9
	Grant Maintained Integrated	20.9	21.0	21.1	19.7	21.5	20.9
	Other Maintained	18.6	18.5	17.3	16.3	18.5	18.2
	Total	19.0	20.4	20.8	19.6	20.2	20.0
Grammar Preparatory Departments	Controlled	-	-	-	17.3	11.5	16.8
	Voluntary	16.6	-	15.7	20.3	14.0	17.4
	Total	16.6	-	15.7	19.1	13.0	17.3
Secondary (Excl Grammar)	Controlled	12.9	13.7	14.0	14.0	14.4	13.9
	Controlled Integrated	-	-	-	13.2	14.6	13.4
	Catholic Maintained	13.1	13.3	14.0	13.4	14.5	13.7
	Grant Maintained Integrated	14.6	14.0	13.8	14.3	13.6	14.1
	Other Maintained	13.4	-	-	-	-	13.4
	Total	13.2	13.5	14.0	13.8	14.4	13.8
Grammar Secondary Departments	Controlled	15.1	15.6	15.8	14.9	15.1	15.4
	Voluntary	15.3	15.0	15.0	15.2	15.3	15.1
	Total	15.2	15.1	15.2	15.1	15.2	15.2
All Secondary	Total	14.2	14.1	14.5	14.3	14.7	14.3
Special (Excl Hospital Schools)	Controlled	5.4	5.5	7.3	5.9	6.3	6.0
	Catholic Maintained	4.7	-	-	-	-	4.7
	Other Maintained	-	-	3.5	-	-	3.5
	Total	5.2	5.5	6.7	5.9	6.3	5.8
All Grant-Aided Schools	Controlled	14.9	16.0	17.4	16.6	16.8	16.5
	Controlled Integrated	22.4	-	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.5
	Catholic Maintained	15.9	17.3	17.6	16.7	17.9	17.1
	Grant Maintained Integrated	16.0	15.9	15.8	15.6	16.7	15.9
	Other Maintained	16.6	18.5	7.5	16.3	18.5	15.2
	Voluntary	15.4	15.0	15.0	15.5	15.3	15.2
	Total	15.5	16.5	17.0	16.4	17.1	16.5

Note: * includes pupils and teachers in nursery classes
 - indicates no schools in this category