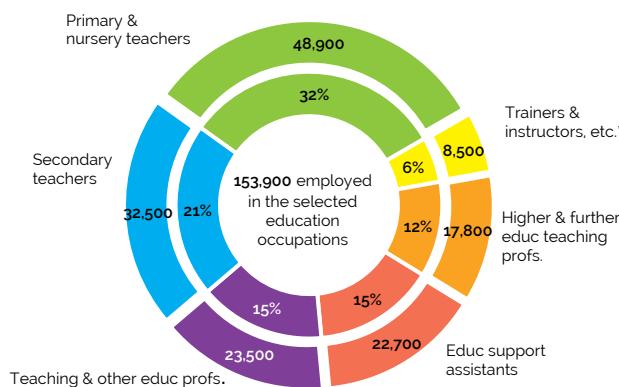


## 9.5 Education Occupations

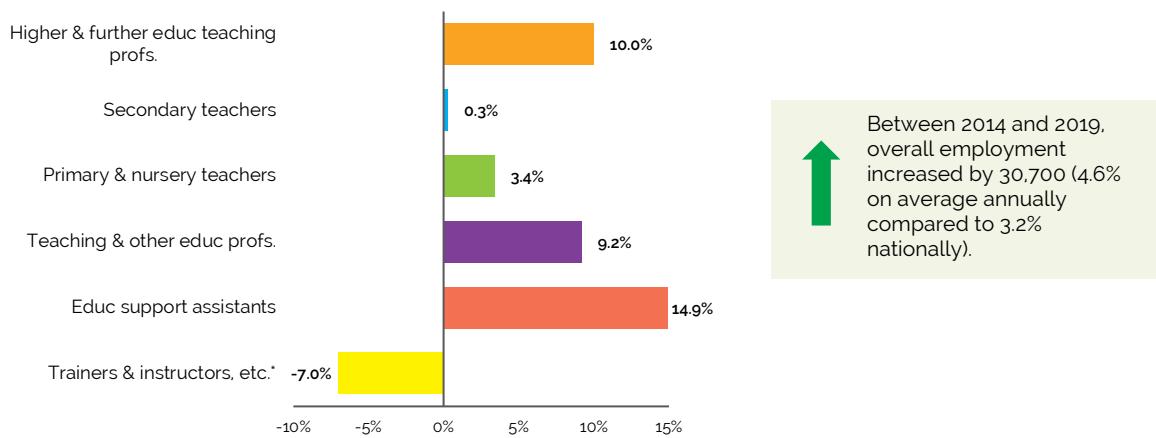
Overall employment: Approximately 154,000 persons (73% female) were employed in the selected education occupations, representing 6.8% of the national workforce.

- **Sector:** 93% of overall employment was concentrated in the education sector
- **Employment growth (5-year):** Between 2014 and 2019, overall employment increased by 30,700 (4.6% on average annually compared to 3.2% nationally). The strongest rate of employment growth was observed for educational support assistants (14.9%) during the period
- **Age:** The 25-54-year age group accounted for the majority of persons employed, at 74%. The share of employees aged 55 years and over, at 19%, was on par with the national average
- **Education:** The share who had attained third level qualifications (86%) was significantly above the national average share (48%), while 12% had attained a higher secondary/FET qualification
- **Full-time/part-time:** Over 82% of education workers were in full-time employment
- **Nationality:** The share of non-Irish workers was well below the national average of 16%, while 92% of workers were Irish nationals.

Numbers employed, 2019 (annual average)



Average growth rates (%) 2014-2019



Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO data

\*See detailed occupation description in table below

## Overall Outlook for these Occupations

Education occupations experienced a stronger employment growth than the national average over the period between 2014 and 2019. Employment for these occupations is driven by government funding and policies along with the changing demographic profile of the population. The second level school population is growing with an expected peak to occur in 2024-2025; this will result in increased demand at second level within the next ten years, and later at third level as this cohort moves up through the education system. In addition, government initiatives in areas such as early childhood education and lifelong learning will impact on the demand for these occupations.

Those employed in this occupational group are estimated to experience one of the smallest percentage declines in employment on average annually in 2020, at 2.6%. Although permanently appointed teachers/lecturers are unlikely to see a decline in employment numbers, a fall may occur for teachers outside the formal education system (e.g. TEFL teachers etc.). The move to online/distance learning, which accelerated during the lockdown, may also have an impact on employment numbers for these occupations, although numbers involved are relatively small. Those employed in education occupations are very likely to work in close proximity to others and, thus, may be at a higher risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Occupation	Economic summary
Higher & further education teaching profs.	The strong employment growth over the five-year period may be in part due to classification issues as a result of the revision of the Labour Force Survey, with employment since 2017 remaining relatively unchanged. Demand for specialised skills mixes for researchers and lecturers in higher education is evident in the 75 new employment permits issued for these occupations in 2019. The expected decline in the inflow of international students may be, in the medium-term, partially offset by increasing numbers of Leaving Certificate students, although this will depend, to some extent, on government funding for places.
Secondary teachers	Employment numbers fell by almost 4,000 in the year since 2018 (annual average). Despite this, difficulties in sourcing those with specific subject specialisations are likely to continue to be an issue. The government has allocated additional hours to facilitate the reopening of schools which may impact employment numbers.
Primary & nursery teachers	Employment growth over the last five years was in line with the national average. Increases in employment are expected in the coming months as a result of schools adapting to new COVID-19 protocols. However, demographic factors may see a decline in demand for primary teachers in the coming years in the absence of any change in measures such as a reduction in class size.
Teaching & other educational profs.	This occupation (which includes special needs teachers, nursery managers/owners and school principals) saw strong employment growth in the five-year period, with most of the growth occurring since 2018. The impact of COVID-19 on employment levels for this occupation is as yet unknown.
Educational support assistants	Employment in this occupation has been growing strongly in recent years, as a result of both demographics of the relevant school-going age cohort and government allocations, both of which have increased. School closures may have had a short-term impact on employment in this occupation, but the reopening of schools should see a reversal of this.
Trainers & instructors, career guidance	Employment fell by 7% over the five-year period for this occupation, although numbers employed have remained relatively unchanged over the previous three years. The impact of COVID-19 on employment levels for this occupation is as yet unknown.

\*For detailed table see Appendix A