

The ages at which pupils commenced their post-primary course at public post-primary schools are given in the following table:—

TABLE N.—AGES AT WHICH PUPILS COMMENCE POST-PRIMARY COURSE.

Type of School.	Age at which Post-primary Course commenced.										Total Numbers commencing Post-primary Education.	
	Under 12 Years.		12 Years.		13 Years.		14 Years.		15 Years and over.			
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Secondary ..	27	52	513	709	1,280	1,411	708	528	197	120	2,725	2,820
Combined ..	4	1	97	119	297	252	198	103	50	30	646	505
Technical ..	11	12	359	358	1,337	1,075	933	532	257	126	2,897	2,103
District high ..	13	14	236	348	645	659	307	280	104	79	1,305	1,380
Correspondence ..	3	6	29	62	76	114	38	57	24	24	170	263
Totals—1938 ..	58	85	1,234	1,596	3,635	3,511	2,184	1,500	632	379	7,743	7,071
Totals—1937 ..	79	83	1,252	1,544	3,407	3,328	2,091	1,494	660	377	7,489	6,826
Difference ..	-21	+2	-18	+52	+228	+183	+93	+6	-28	+2	+254	+245

In 1937 21 per cent. and in 1938 20 per cent. of those commencing a post-primary course did so under the age of thirteen years.

15. DESTINATION OF PUPILS LEAVING SCHOOL.

A summary of the destination returns obtained from the schools, through the various Boards, is given in the following tables:—

TABLE O 1.—PROBABLE DESTINATION OF PUPILS LEAVING PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS DURING OR AT END OF YEAR 1938.

Destination.	With Primary School Certificate.		Without Primary School Certificate.		Totals.			
					Boys.		Girls.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
Post-primary ..	6,607	6,586	171	119	6,778	64	6,705	67
Commercial occupations								
(a) Clerical (including typing) ..	23	30	6	5	29	*	35	1
(b) Shop and warehouse assistants	327	212	189	118	516	5	330	3
Trades—								
(a) Engineering ..	94	..	48	..	142	1
(b) Building ..	55	4	25	2	80	1	6	*
(c) Other ..	184	86	125	50	309	3	136	1
Agricultural and pastoral	814	49	746	57	1,560	15	106	1
Other occupations ..	264	261	273	212	537	5	473	5
Home ..	187	1,246	226	833	413	4	2,079	21
Not known ..	67	49	105	87	172	2	136	1
Totals, 1938 ..	8,622	8,523	1,914	1,483	10,536	100	10,006	100
Totals, 1937 ..	8,651	8,567	1,985	1,486	10,636	100	10,053	100
Difference ..	-29	-44	-71	-3	-100	..	-47	..

* Insignificant percentage.