

In the 2009 session, the success rate for the general *baccalauréat* reached 88.9%. The share of vocational *baccalauréat* holders began to rise again, with the introduction of resit exams. The parents of more than one in three general *baccalauréat* holders are managers or hold jobs in high-level intellectual professions. In 2009, 65.6% of young people of a given generation passed their *baccalauréat*.

In Metropolitan France and in the DOM, in the 2009 *baccalauréat* session, 625,713 candidates sat the exams and 539,092 gained the qualification. All streams combined, the success rate was higher than the previous year (86.2% as against 83.5% in 2008) and indeed, in comparison with all previous sessions (*Graph 01*). Since 1995, it has increased by 11.3 points: success in the general *baccalauréat* has increased by 13.8 points, the technological *baccalauréat* by 4.3 points and the vocational *baccalauréat* by 14.6 points. In 2009, the rise in success levels was largely due to the vocational *baccalauréat*, with the introduction of resit exams for the first time in the 2009 session.

In the same period, the breakdown of *baccalauréat* holders (*Table 02*) changed in favour of the vocational streams (+80% or 53,600 more graduates) reaching 22.4% in 2009. This development came at the expense of technological categories (- 4.8% or 6,700 fewer graduates), representing 24.4% of the graduates of this session. The general stream remained stable (300 fewer graduates) with 53.2% of *baccalaureate* graduates in 2009.

The increase in the numbers of vocational *baccalauréat* holders is particularly marked in the production sector (101.6%). In the technology series, the increase of *baccalaureate* holders was most marked in medical and social science and technology (ST2S) (+39% or 5200 more graduates) but did not compensate for decline in science and technology management (TSG) and industrial science and technology (ITS) (- 13.9% - 14% totalling 15,900 fewer graduates). Concerning the general *baccalauréat*, the number of successful candidates decreased in the literary streams (-30.3%). On the contrary, *baccalauréat* holders were more numerous in the ES (economic and social sciences) and

S (science) streams (18.2% and 6.8% respectively). At the 2009 session, there were 53 general, 24 technological and 22 vocational *baccalauréat* holders per 100 compared to 58, 28 and 14 respectively in 1995.

Nearly one out of four *baccalauréat* holders comes from a management or high-level intellectual profession background (26.3%) making this the best represented socio-professional category (*Table 03*). This is particularly true of the general stream with more than one out of three general *baccalauréat* holders coming from such backgrounds (35.8%). Among holders of a technological or vocational *baccalauréat*, working class children are proportionally the most numerous (22.1% and 32.5% respectively) although they only represent 18.2% of *baccalauréat* holders in general.

In 2009, 65.8% of young people from a single generation gained a *baccalauréat* in Metropolitan France as against 62.6% in 2008: 35.4% in the general stream 16% in the technological stream and 14.4% in the vocational stream (*Graph 04*).

Since 1985, the annual number of *baccalauréat* holders has doubled and the proportion of *baccalauréat* holders per generation has increased by 36.4 points. This high increase is particularly due to growth in the number of general *baccalauréat* holders in addition to development of the vocational *baccalauréat* implemented as from 1987. Between 1995 and 2005, contrasting with the preceding long growth period, the proportion of *baccalauréat* holders per generation levelled off and hovered around 62%; rates from 2006 to 2008 remained around 64 then rose by 3 points in 2009.

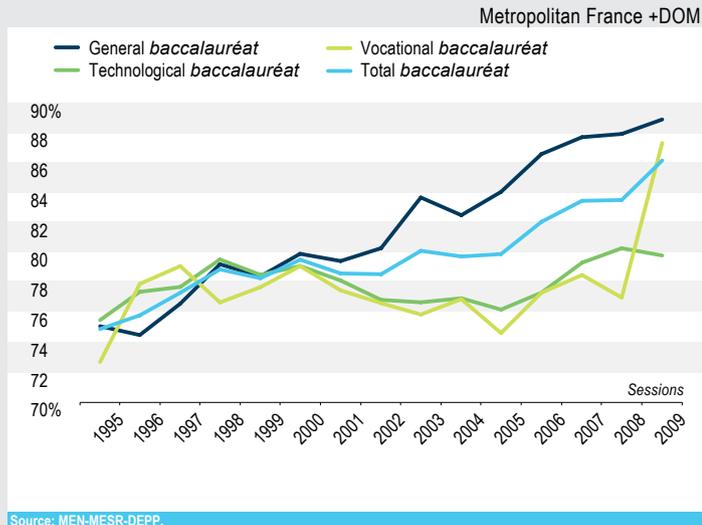
Proportion of a generation holding a *baccalauréat*: This is the proportion of *baccalauréat* holders in a hypothetical generation of individuals in which each age group complied with the rates of candidacy and success observed for the year under consideration. This number is obtained by calculating, for each age group, the ratio of the number of successful graduates to this age group's total population and the total of these rates per age group. The age groups taken into consideration in this calculation are not the same for the general and technological as for the vocational streams, given that the syllabus of the latter is a year longer and enjoys a rather different distribution by age, particularly among the older age groups. The calculations were based on the INSEE demographic series integrating the results of annual population censuses (set up in 2004) contained in the database in force at the end of March 2008.

Pass rate: is obtained by calculating the ratio of successful candidates to the number sitting the exams. All candidates taking at least one exam paper are considered to have sat the exams.

Age: is defined by the number of years between the year of observation and the year of birth, whatever the actual birth date.

Source: MEN-MESR-DEPP.
Scope: Coverage: Metropolitan France or Metropolitan France +DOM.

01 Trends in *baccalauréat* pass rates since 1996 in the different streams



02 Trends and breakdown of *baccalauréat* holders between the 1995 and 2009 sessions

Metropolitan France +DOM

	1995 session		2009 session	
	Graduates	%	Graduates	%
General <i>baccalauréat</i>				
ES	76,555	15.5%	90,466	16.8%
L	71,460	14.5%	47,765	8.9%
S	139,031	28.2%	148,531	27.6%
Total general streams	287,046	58.3% *	286,762	53.2% *
Technological <i>baccalauréat</i>				
STI	35,217	7.2%	30,281	5.6%
STG	78,894	16.0%	67,918	12.6%
ST2S (formerly SMS)	13,337	2.7%	18,542	3.4%
Other technological streams	10,819	2.2%	14,861	2.8%
Total technological streams	138,267	28.1%	131,602	24.4%
Vocational <i>baccalauréat</i>				
Production	26,218	5.3%	52,845	9.8%
Services	40,878	8.3%	67,883	12.6%
Total vocational streams	67,096	13.6%	120,728	22.4%
Total	492,409	100.0%	539,092	100.0%

* The sum rounded up may differ from the total of all rounded-up sums.
Source: MEN-MESR-DEPP.

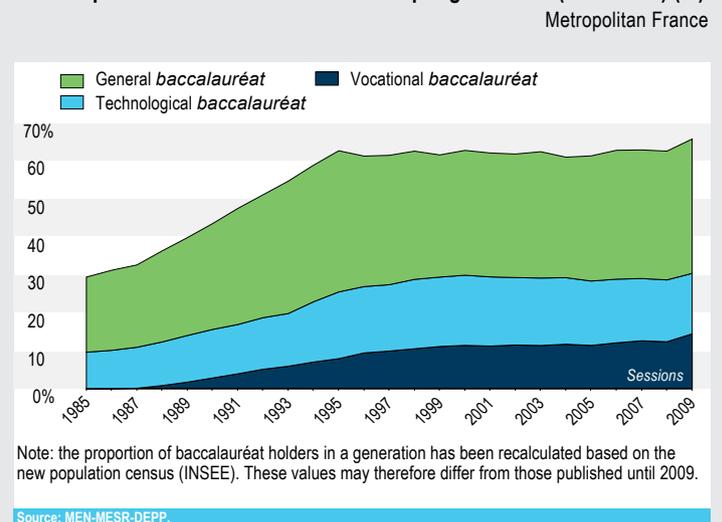
03 2009 pass rates according to social background (%)

Metropolitan France + DOM

	Distribution of successful candidates (%)			
	General bac	techno-logical bac	Voca-tional bac	All
Socio-professional categories included:	97.4	92.4	74.4	91.0
Farmers	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.3
Skilled craftsmen, sales/retail, company directors	9.3	9.8	12.1	9.9
Managers, high-level intellectual professions	35.7	16.1	10.4	26.3
Intermediate professions	17.2	16.8	11.7	16.1
Employees	15.0	20.2	16.4	16.5
Working-class	11.9	22.2	32.4	18.2
Retired	2.0	2.8	4.8	2.7
Others with no stated profession	6.5	10.0	10.0	8.0
All	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: MEN-MESR-DEPP.

04 Proportions of *baccalauréat* holders per generation (1985-2009) (%)



85% of new *baccalauréat* holders immediately enrol in higher education. They are less likely to opt for general university courses than for the various schools recruiting *baccalauréat* holders. Vocational *baccalauréat* holders are increasingly likely to continue studying, particularly via work-based training. All in all, 53% of young people per generation go on to higher education.

In 2008, nearly 90% of new *baccalauréat* holders continue their studies after obtaining their *baccalauréat* (Table 1): 85% go on to higher education and a minority (4%) opt for other channels, particularly vocational training or study abroad. While universities remained the primary destination in 2008, they attracted no more than three in ten new *baccalauréat* holders, as against four in ten in 1996. *Baccalauréat* holders are opting less for traditional selective courses (CPGE, IUT, STS), than for those special schools recruiting in a variety of fields: enrolment in business, engineering, art, cultural or paramedical schools (or preparatory classes for entry into such schools) has doubled over the past ten years.

The loss of interest in university particularly affects general *baccalauréat* holders, regardless of their discipline. But trends in the career choices of S *baccalauréat* holders (Graph 02) indicate that the decrease only affects Bachelor's degree courses, and particularly scientific disciplines: only one out of ten S *baccalauréat* holders took a Bachelor of Science in 2008 as against a quarter in 1996. At the same time, they more often opt for the first year of medicine and pharmacy (PCEM or PCEP) courses.

As with general *baccalauréat* holders, technological *baccalauréat* holders are proportionally less likely to enrol in university and those passing the *baccalauréat* without honours, still the most numerous group to continue studying, are also most affected by this decline (Table 01). The change is less in favour of short technological courses (at IUT and STS) — the main facilities for technology graduates in higher education

— than of schools recruiting after the *baccalauréat*, particularly in the paramedical sector.

While numbers of technical *baccalauréat* holders pursuing further studies are settling, those of vocational *baccalauréat* holders are witnessing a substantial rise: 47% of them (and 58% of those to have passed the *baccalauréat* with honours) join higher education, an increase of almost twenty points since 1996. The bulk of the studies are pursued at STS level: four in ten vocational *baccalauréat* holders prepare for a BTS the following September, around 50% of them through work-based learning. One vocational *baccalauréat* holder in five enrolls in higher education in this way, via an apprenticeship or vocational contract.

Altogether, 53% of young people per generation go on to higher education in the academic year after passing the *baccalauréat* or, in the case of some, a year later. This rate is higher than 80% for children of teachers and managers but below 50% for children with employee or working class parents (Graph 04).

The problem of organisation is the main difficulty encountered by all graduates during their first year of graduate study, especially by those enrolled in medicine or CPGE (Table 03). They are also the most likely to report difficulties in pursuing their studies. New Bachelor's degree students or those studying a short technology course often highlight their lack of interest in the tuition provided.

The 1989 panel, representative of 1/30th of the school population in Year 7 and SES in September 1989, in public or private institutions of metropolitan France and overseas departments, was formed by selecting all students born on the 5th of each month. Most of the students reached *baccalauréat* age in 1996 with the others following between 1997 and 1999: their educational careers were first monitored after the *baccalauréat*, except for students who were taught in the DOM.

The 1995 panel, representative of 1/40th of the school population in Year 7 and SES (Specialised Education Section) in September 1995 in the public or private institutions of Metropolitan France, was formed by selecting all students born on the 17th of each month (except March, July and October). The majority of students obtained their *baccalauréat* in 2002, with the others following between 2003 and 2005: they were all interviewed individually during each year of their educational career, regardless of the nature and mode of the training, at the latest until they achieved until they achieved *baccalauréat*+5 level. Their pathways are still under observation. The 2008 panel was formed in 2008 by selecting from *baccalauréat* holders a sample of 12,000 graduates who enrolled in 2007-2008 at a public or private institution in metropolitan France (excluding the Ministry of Agriculture), based on the following criteria: *baccalauréat* type, age and level of *baccalauréat*, and sex. These *baccalauréat* holders were interviewed once between April and July 2009 regarding their situation in the September following their *baccalauréat*, choice of Bachelor's degree, motivations and the experience of their first year of graduate study.

Sources: MEN-MESR-DEPP et MESR-DGESIP/DGRI-SIES (1989, 1995 and 2008 panels).

Scope: Metropolitan France.

01 The progress of *baccalauréat* holders in 2008 depending on type of *baccalauréat* and the level attained (%)

Metropolitan France

		CPGE	1 st university cycle	IUT	STS	Other higher education courses **	Total further education	Including: work-based study	Other courses not incl. in higher education	Total further education
General <i>baccalauréat</i> holders	With honours	23	42	10	4	18	97	1	2	1
	Without honours	2	50	12	12	16	92	2	3	5
	All 2008	13	46	11	8	17	95	1	2	3
	1996* recall	12	56	10	9	9	96	1	2	2
Technological <i>baccalauréat</i> holders	With honours	5	9	17	47	15	93	9	3	4
	Without honours	-	15	7	46	13	81	10	5	14
	All 2008	2	13	10	46	14	85	8	4	11
	1996* recall	1	20	11	49	6	87	5	4	9
Vocational <i>baccalauréat</i> holders	With honours	-	3	2	51	2	58	30	7	35
	Without honours	-	6	1	29	2	38	19	8	54
	All 2008	-	5	1	39	2	47	20	8	45
	1996* recall	-	6	1	21	1	29	12	8	63
All <i>baccalauréat</i> holders	All 2008	8	31	9	23	14	85	6	4	11
	1996* recall	8	40	9	21	7	85	4	3	12

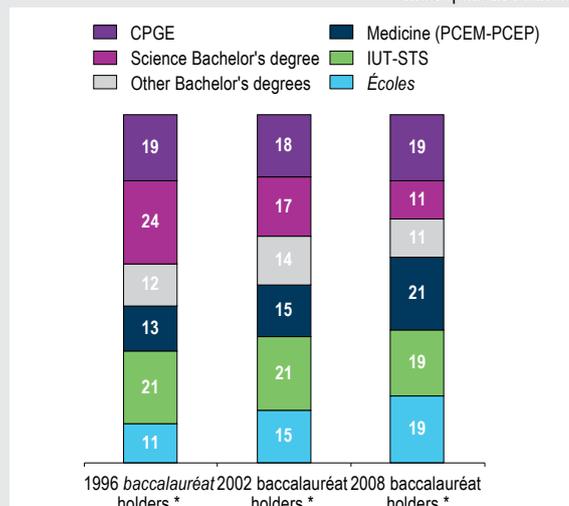
* students entering Year 7 in 1989, the majority of whom reached *baccalauréat* age in 1996, with the remainder between 1997 and 1999 (1989 panel).

** schools of business, engineering, paramedical studies, the arts

Source: MESR-DGESIP/DGRI-SIES (panel of *baccalauréat* holders 2008 and post-*baccalauréat* monitoring of panels of students entering sixth grade in 1989).

02 Directions chosen by S *baccalauréat* holders in higher education (%)

Metropolitan France



* students entering Year 7 in 1989, the majority of whom reached *baccalauréat* age in 1996, with the remainder between 1997 and 1999 (1989 panel).

** students entering Year 7 in 1995, the majority of whom reached *baccalauréat* age in 2002, with the remainder between 2003 and 2005 (1995 panel).

Source: MESR-DGESIP/DGRI-SIES (panel of *baccalauréat* holders 2008 and post-*baccalauréat* monitoring of panels of students entering sixth grade in 1989).

03 Difficulties encountered by *baccalauréat* holders in the 1st year of higher education by course (%)

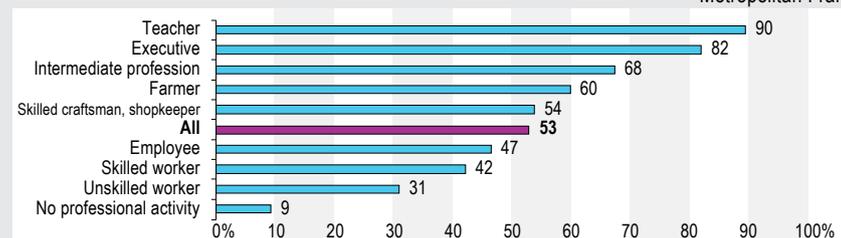
Metropolitan France

	All new students	PCEM - PCEP	CPGE	Bachelor's degree	IUT	STS
Difficulties in self-organising for study	38	57	51	42	34	32
Lack of interest in the subjects studied	32	22	21	38	35	36
Difficulty in following classes	29	45	39	31	26	29
Financial difficulties	24	18	11	24	17	28
Material difficulties (transport, accommodation)	22	15	14	23	19	24

Source: MESR-DGESIP/DGRI-SIES (2008 *baccalauréat* holders panel).

04 Access rate to higher education per generation according to social background (%)

Metropolitan France



Source: Source: MESR-DEPP (post-*baccalauréat* monitoring of the sample of pupils in Year 7 in 1995).

In 2009, general *baccalauréat* holders represented 83% of new *baccalauréat* holders enrolled at university (excluding IUTs). Their share among students enrolling in IUTs has levelled out at two thirds since 2000. STS sections mainly recruit technological *baccalauréat* holders but also attract a growing number of those with a vocational *baccalauréat*.

More than 80% of new *baccalauréat* holders enrolled at university (excluding IUT) hold a general *baccalauréat*. After declining between 1995 and 2000, this share since increased slightly before recovering to approximately 83%. The proportion of general *baccalauréat* holders enrolling in IUTs increased 5 points between 1995 and 2001, before levelling out at 68.3%. (Table 1)

In the STS, holders of a technological *baccalauréat* are in the majority among the newly enrolled but their percentage has steadily decreased over the previous few years and continued to do so at the start of the 2009 academic year (-2.3 points compared to 2008), ending at around 55% as against 67% in 2000. This decrease is offset by a strong rise in enrolments to vocational *baccalauréat* courses (+11.5 points). The proportion of those holding vocational *baccalauréats* doubled between 2000 (8.9%) and 2009 (20.4%).

In the "other courses" (engineering schools independent from universities, business, paramedical and social studies schools, etc.), general *baccalauréat* holders remained in the majority (81.6% of enrolments).

At university, the profile of new *baccalauréat* holders varies according to the streams they enter. The majority of enrollees are general *baccalauréat* holders. Scientific *baccalauréat* holders concentrate on production IUTs, sciences, STAPS and constitute almost all medical students. The other general *baccalauréat* holders opt for the Arts, humanities, law, economics, economic

and social administration and IUTs. Technological *baccalauréat* holders are particularly prevalent in IUTs: a quarter of new *baccalauréat* holders in IUT services hold an STG *baccalauréat* and almost a third of those in production hold an STI *baccalauréat* (Graph 02).

Access to higher education remains closely linked to social background. Therefore, among *baccalauréat* holders enrolled in higher education, young people from the most privileged backgrounds are largely over-represented. Whatever the stream, excepting STS, more than one out of four new students had parents who were executives, teachers or self-employed. The distribution of students according to their social background has remained stable since 2000. There were proportionately twice as many children of management parents as working class children in the main streams of higher education (Table 03).

27.9% of those enrolled in university who had just passed their *baccalauréat* were from the most privileged social backgrounds, a fact which is even more obvious in CPGEs and the health-related disciplines where the proportions of children with executive, teacher and self-employed parents constituted 48.8% and 42.1% respectively.

On the contrary, more employee and working class children were enrolled in the short course technological streams: IUT and especially STS: they represented 30.7% of the newly-enrolled in IUTs and 37.2% in STS compared to less than 16% in CPGE.

Since the same student may enrol in several different options, as with the previous indicator, the data shown here refers not to individuals but to enrolments of new baccalauréat holders in higher education (main enrolments in university only). The practice of multiple enrolments, especially widespread in Bachelor's degree courses, between university and CPGE concerns general baccalauréat holders, mostly from science baccalauréats. Since 2007, the validation of credits and integration of CPGE students in Bachelor's degree programmes has been simplified (decree No. 2007-692 of 3rd May 2007 relative to the organisation and operation of Grande Ecole preparatory classes in compliance with the European harmonisation of educational structures). These agreements should facilitate the validation of credits and the integration of CPGE students in Bachelor's degree courses and reduce the numbers of "double enrolments" (CPGE - university)

Source: MESR-DGESIP/DGRI-SIES
Scope: Metropolitan France + DOM

The profile of new *baccalauréat* holders entering the main higher education courses

09

01 Educational background of new *baccalauréat* holders in higher education streams (%) – 2000-2009 evolution

Metropolitan France + DOM

	University (excl. IUT)		IUT		CPGE		STS (1)		Other higher education courses (2)	
	2000	2009	2000	2009	2000	2009	2000	2009	2000	2009
Bac ES	22.5	25.0	20.5	24.2	11.5	14.0	8.5	10.1	20.6	27.5
Bac L	21.9	17.3	2.9	2.3	11.6	9.3	6.2	4.6	14.6	10.6
Bac S	38.3	40.6	44.3	41.8	72.8	72.0	9.4	9.6	44.2	43.5
General bac	82.7	82.9	67.7	68.3	95.9	95.3	24.1	24.3	79.4	81.6
Bac STI	1.3	1.2	13.4	12.0	2.1	2.0	22.0	17.1	2.7	3.0
Bac STT	9.8	8.1	15.6	14.6	1.5	2.3	34.7	29.5	7.2	6.7
Autres bacs techno.	3.3	3.3	2.2	3.0	0.5	0.4	10.3	8.7	9.1	7.2
Technological bac	14.4	12.6	31.2	29.6	4.1	4.7	67.0	55.3	19.0	16.9
Vocational bac	2.9	4.5	1.1	2.1	0.0	0.0	8.9	20.4	1.6	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

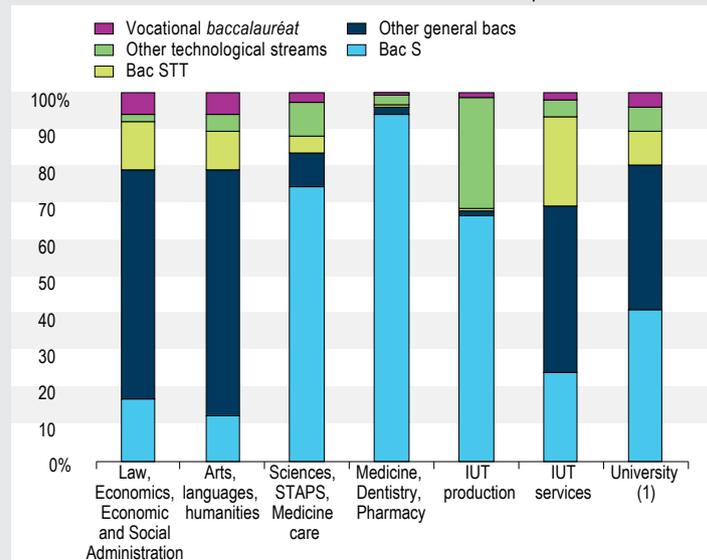
(1) Except for STS with work-based learning and except for DCG (diplôme de comptabilité et de gestion — Diploma in accounting and management, formerly DPECF).

(2) "Other courses" designates non-university engineering schools, higher education institutions not linked to the universities (business, management, sales, accountancy, notarial studies, architecture, various specialisations), schools of the arts and culture, private universities, Paramedical schools (2007-2008 data) and social worker training courses (2007-2008 data) recruiting holders of the *baccalauréat*.

Source: MESR-DGESIP/DGRI-SIES.

02 Educational background of new 2009 *baccalauréat* holders in scientific streams

Metropolitan France + DOM



(1) 82 universities and the Aibi university centre for training and research (CUFR).

Source: MESR-DGESIP/DGRI-SIES.

03 Educational background of new *baccalauréat*-holders in the main higher education streams at the start of the 2007 academic year (%)

Metropolitan France + DOM

	University				of which CPGE (1)	STS (2)	Main higher education streams (3)
	Law, economy, arts, sciences and STAPS	Medicine	IUT	Total			
Farmers, skilled craftsmen, merchandisers, businessmen	10.2	10.8	12.2	10.7	10.7	10.4	10.6
Self-employed, management, teachers	28.4	42.1	27.1	30.2	48.8	13.6	27.8
Intermediate professions	13.7	14.0	16.8	14.3	12.6	13.3	13.9
Employees	15.2	12.5	15.3	14.9	9.1	15.6	14.4
Working-class	13.8	10.0	15.4	13.5	6.4	21.6	14.9
Retired, no profession	11.5	7.5	8.2	10.2	6.1	11.4	10.1
Undetermined	7.2	3.1	5.0	6.2	6.3	14.1	8.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(1) For the CPGE and STS under the MEN, i.e. all students in the public sector, all students from private STS and all students from private CPGE.

(2) Except for STS with work-based learning and except for DCG.

(3) Total university, CPGE and STS.

Source: MESR-DGESIP/DGRI-SIES.