



Organisation of school time in Europe

Primary and secondary general education

2015/16 school year

Eurydice – Facts and Figures

*Education and
Training*

KEY POINTS

In most countries, the school year starts at the beginning of September

Despite some differences, countries across Europe show many similarities regarding the structure of the school year. In around a third of European countries/regions, the school year officially starts on the first of September. In the five Nordic countries as well as in the Netherlands, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, it generally starts between mid- to end August. In Southern Europe, the starting date is usually in the second half of September (e.g. Greece, Italy, Malta and Portugal).

The distribution of holidays during the school year varies between countries with the exception of the Christmas break

In addition to the summer break, there are four other main periods of school holidays across Europe: the autumn holidays, Christmas and New Year's, winter/Carnival holidays as well the spring/Easter holidays. With the exception of the Christmas/New Year's holiday, other school breaks differ both in length and timing. As some of these holidays are related to flexible calendar dates (Carnival and Easter), their timing changes slightly from year to year. As well as these common holidays, all countries offer additional days of holiday for public or religious occasions.

Regional and local variations exist within some countries

The periods and dates of school holidays may vary within a country. In some countries, such as Germany, Spain, Italy, Austria and Switzerland, regional authorities make the decisions in this regard. In Norway and Sweden, the responsibility lies with the municipalities, while in Ireland and the United Kingdom (England and Wales) the school calendar is traditionally decided at school level. However, this freedom to determine school holiday periods may be limited. The number of days of teaching is generally fixed at central level.

In the Czech Republic, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the central authorities fix different dates for some periods of holidays depending on the geographical area.

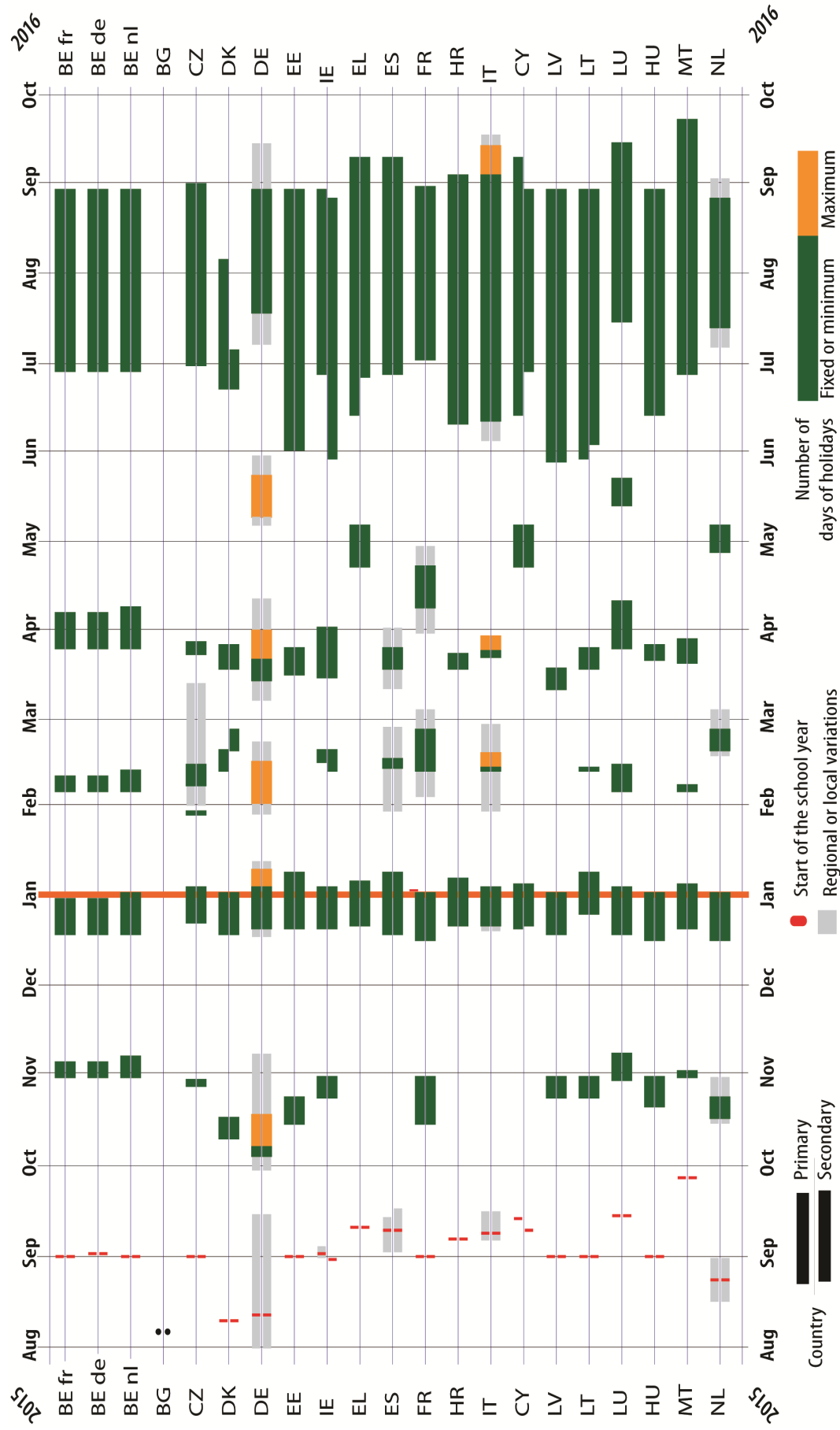
The length of the summer holidays varies a lot across Europe

In Europe, the school year generally ends between the end of May and the second half of July. Mid-June is the time when the summer break begins in most countries. The length of the summer holidays varies significantly between countries: from 6 weeks in some German *Länder*, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom (England and Wales), Switzerland and Liechtenstein up to 13 weeks in Lithuania, Latvia, Italy, Portugal and Turkey. The summer holidays are usually shorter in those countries where students have more frequent and longer holidays during the school year. Some countries show differences in the length of holidays depending on the level of education. In secondary education, students normally study longer, as they might take examinations at the end of the year.

Same holiday patterns persist for primary and secondary education

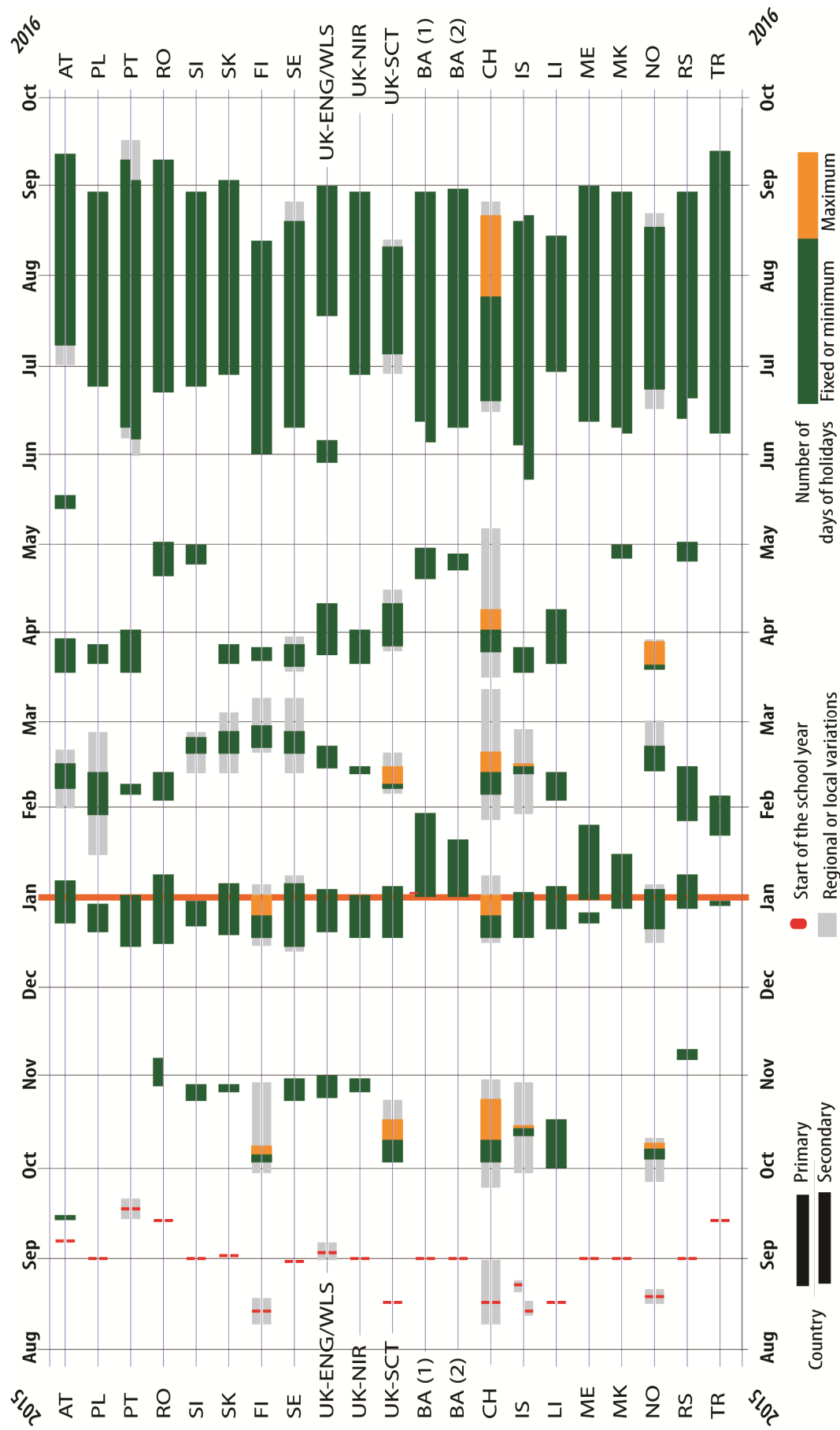
The pattern of holidays over the school year is similar for both primary and secondary education. Slight differences occur in only a few countries. In Greece, Cyprus, Lithuania and Serbia, the summer holidays for younger students last longer than for older. The opposite is true in Ireland and Iceland.

Figure 1: Length of the school year and distribution of holidays, general education, ISCED 1-3, 2015/16



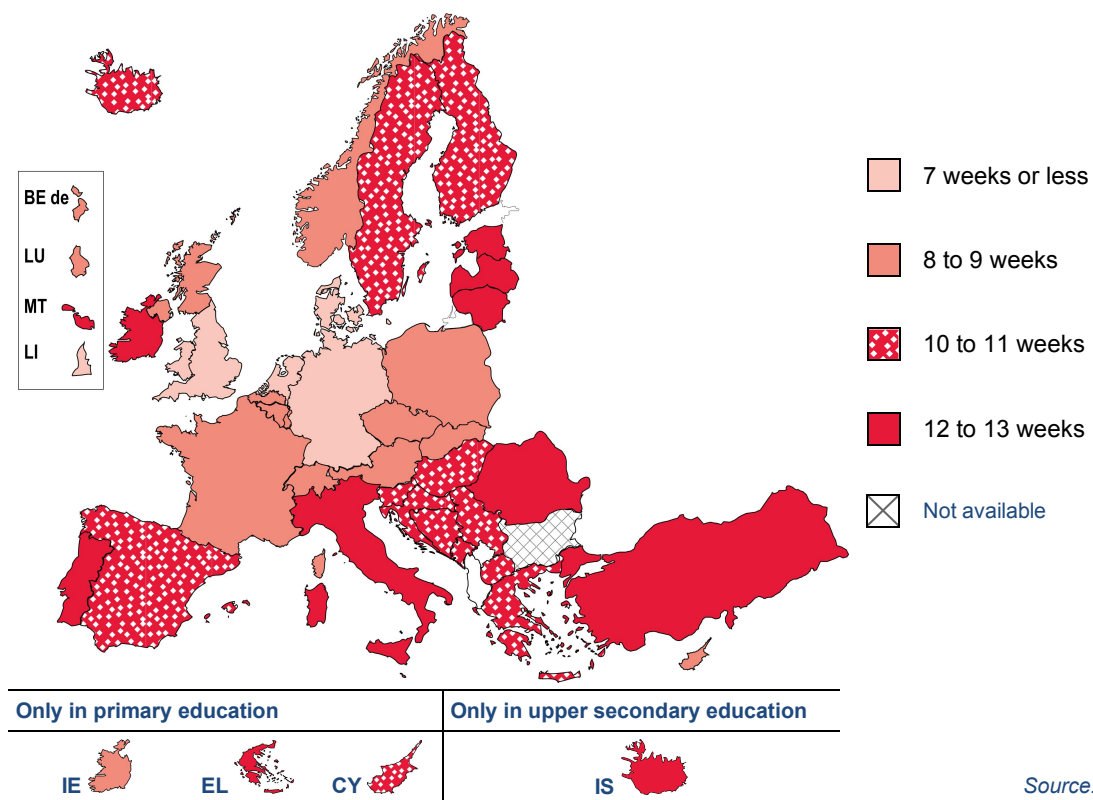
NB: Denmark and Hungary: The distinction is made between primary and lower secondary education (single structure) on one hand and upper secondary on the other hand.

Figure 1 (continued): Length of the school year and distribution of holidays, general education, ISCED 1-3, 2015/16



NB: Slovenia, Sweden and Iceland: The distinction is made between primary and lower secondary education (single structure) on one hand and upper secondary on the other hand.

Figure 2: Length of summer holidays (in weeks), primary and secondary general education, 2015/16



Source: Eurydice.

Country specific note

Switzerland: Between 5 and 9 weeks.

AUSTRIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	7 September 2015: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 14 September 2015: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	7 September 2015: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 14 September 2015: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
End of students' school year	1 July 2016: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 8 July 2016: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	1 July 2016: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 8 July 2016: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2015 – 6 January 2016	2 weeks 24 December 2015 – 6 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	1 week 1-6 February 2016: Niederösterreich, Wien 8-13 February 2016: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol 15-20 February 2016: Oberösterreich, Steiermark, Vorarlberg	1 week 1-6 February 2016: Niederösterreich, Wien 8-13 February 2016: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol 15-20 February 2016: Oberösterreich, Steiermark, Vorarlberg
Spring/Easter	1 week 19-29 March 2016	1 week 19-29 March 2016
Third term	4 days 14-17 May 2016	4 days 14-17 May 2016
Summer	About 9 weeks 2 July – 4 September 2016: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 9 July – 11 September 2016: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	About 9 weeks 2 July – 4 September 2016: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 9 July – 11 September 2016: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2015 2 November 2015 8 December 2015 1 May 2016 5 May 2016 26 May 2016 1 extra religious holiday per province (<i>Land</i>)	1 November 2015 2 November 2015 8 December 2015 1 May 2016 5 May 2016 26 May 2016 1 extra religious holiday per province (<i>Land</i>)
Starting/End date of teachers' school year	The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year	The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year

BELGIUM (FLEMISH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of students' school year	30 June 2016	30 June 2016
Autumn holidays	1 week 2-8 November 2015	1 week 2-8 November 2015
Christmas/New Year holidays	2 weeks 21 December 2015 – 3 January 2016	2 weeks 21 December 2015 – 3 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	1 week 8-14 February 2016	1 week 8-14 February 2016
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 28 March – 10 April 2016	2 weeks 28 March – 10 April 2016
Third term	Between Easter holidays and Summer holidays	Between Easter holidays and Summer holidays
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2016	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2016
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	1 and 2 November 2015 (All Saints' Day) 11 November 2015 (Armistice Day) 28 March 2016 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 5-6 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday) + 4 days to be decided by the school	1 and 2 November 2015 (All Saints' Day) 11 November 2015 (Armistice Day) 28 March 2016 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 5-6 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday) + 4 days to be decided by the school
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2016	30 June 2016

Source: Eurydice.

BELGIUM (FRENCH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of students' school year	30 June 2016	30 June 2016
Autumn holidays	1 week 2-6 November 2015	1 week 2-6 November 2015
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 21 December 2015 – 1 January 2016	2 weeks 21 December 2015 – 1 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	1 week 8-12 February 2016	1 week 8-12 February 2016
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 28 March – 8 April 2016	2 weeks 28 March – 8 April 2016
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2016	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	11 November 2015 5 May 2016 16 May 2016	11 November 2015 5 May 2016 16 May 2016
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2016	30 June 2016

Source: Eurydice

BELGIUM (GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	2 September 2015	2 September 2015
End of students' school year	30 June 2016	30 June 2016
Autumn holidays	1 week 2-6 November 2015	1 week 2-6 November 2015
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 21 December 2015 – 1 January 2016	2 weeks 21 December 2015 – 1 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	1 week 8-12 February 2016	1 week 8-12 February 2016
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 28 March – 8 April 2016	2 weeks 28 March – 8 April 2016
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2015	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2015
Public/religious holidays	11 November 2015 15 November 2015 (Sunday) 1 May 2016 (Sunday) 5 May 2016 16 May 2016	11 November 2015 15 November 2015 (Sunday) 1 May 2016 (Sunday) 5 May 2016 16 May 2016
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2016	30 June 2016

Additional notes:

- During the last working days of August, secondary education teachers may be consigned to conduct exams of a second chance.
- A school year has a minimum of 180 and a maximum of 184 days of school days.
- As the 1 November 2015 is a religious holiday (*Allerheiligen* – All Saints' Day) and at the same time autumn vacation, it is left to the school to choose a compensation day. As the 1 May 2016 is a holiday day, which takes place on a Sunday, schools can choose a second compensation day.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of students' school year	14 June 2016 (24 May 2016 in the final year)	7 June 2016 (10 May 2016 in the final year)
Winter holidays	4-29 January 2016	4-29 January 2016
Spring/Easter		
Summer holidays	15 June – 31 August 2016	8 June – 31 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	Public holidays: 25 November 2015 (Statehood Day) 1-2 January 2016 (New Year) 1 March 2016 (Independence Day) 1-2 May 2016 (International Labour Day) Religious holidays: 24 September 2015 (Eid al-Adha) 25 December 2015 (Catholic Christmas) 22-30 April 2016 (Pesah) 27 March 2016 (Catholic Easter) 1 May 2016 (Orthodox Easter)	
Starting date of teachers' school year	17 August 2015	17 August 2015
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2016	30 June 2016

Additional notes:

Religious holidays are celebrated depending on the religious community.

There are some differences between the cantons within the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The given data are the most common for most cantons. Apart from these dates, each canton (ten in total) has established its own celebration day.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (CONTINUED)

Republic of Srpska

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of students' school year	10 June 2016 (27 May 2016 in the final year)	10 June 2016 (13 May 2016 in the final year)
Winter holidays	4-22 January 2016	4-22 January 2016
Spring/Easter	25-29 April 2016	25-29 April 2016
Summer holidays	13 June – 1 September 2016	13 June – 1 September 2016
Public/religious holidays	Public holidays: 1-2 January 2016 (New Year) 1-2 May 2016 (International Labour Day) Religious holidays: 25 December 2015 (Catholic Christmas) 25 and 28 March 2016 (Catholic Easter) 29 April and 2 May 2016 (Orthodox Easter)	
Starting date of teachers' school year	17 August 2015	17 August 2015
End of teachers' school year	1 July 2016	1 July 2016

Additional notes:

Religious holidays are celebrated depending the religion community. Holidays which are dated on non-working days are not taken into account.

CROATIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year

	Primary and general secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	7 September 2015
End of students' school year	10 June 2016
Winter holidays	24 December 2015 – 8 January 2016
Spring holidays	21-25 March 2016
Summer holidays	13 June – (to be decided in 2016)
Public/religious holidays	8 October 2015 (Independence Day) 28 March 2016 (Easter Monday) 26 May 2016 (Corpus Christi)
Starting date of teachers' school year	21 August 2015
End of teachers' school year	4 July 2016

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Starting from the school year 2010/11, counties, regional administrative units (in total 21) are allowed to request some modifications of the school calendar for the coming year (the date of the beginning of the school year and the duration of the winter break) which apply at the County level.

CYPRUS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year*	14 September 2015	10 September 2015 (see additional notes)
End of students' school year*	15 June 2016	(see additional notes)
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2015 – 6 January 2016	2 weeks 24 December 2015 – 6 January 2016
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 25 April – 8 May 2016	2 weeks 25 April – 8 May 2016
Summer	12 weeks 16 June – 11 September 2016	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	1 October 2015 28 October 2015 13 November 2015 14 March 2016 25 March 2016 1 April 2016 9 June 2016	1 October 2015 28 October 2015 13 November 2015 14 March 2016 25 March 2016 1 April 2016 20 June 2016
Starting date of teachers' school year**	7 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of teachers' school year**	17 June 2016	30 June 2016

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

Primary Education

***Students:** In primary education, lessons begin on the second Monday of September and end on the Wednesday before the penultimate Friday of June.

****Teachers:** Teachers in primary education need to be at school from the first Monday of September until the penultimate Friday of June.

Secondary Education

***Students:** Classes may begin on any day during the first ten days of September. The exact date in each year is specified by the Minister of Education and Culture. In Lower Secondary Education, the school year ends on any day during the first seven days of June. In Upper Secondary Education, the school year ends on any day during the last ten days of May. The exact date is also specified by the Minister.

****Teachers:** In general secondary education, the end of the school year is at the end of June after exams, correction of papers, result announcements. The official teachers' school year is longer than student's school year in secondary education as it includes registration days, sorting out of schools and classes and exam periods. In secondary general education according to the law, the official school year is from 01 September each year until the 31 August next year (01 September 2015-31 August 2016).

CZECH REPUBLIC

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of students' school year	30 June 2016	30 June 2016
Autumn holidays	29-30 October 2015	29-30 October 2015
Christmas/New Year	23 December 2015 – 3 January 2016	23 December 2015 – 3 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	29 January 2016	29 January 2016
Spring/Easter	1 week between 1 February and 13 March 2016 depending on the region (spring holiday) 24-25 March 2016 (Easter)	1 week between 1 February and 13 March 2016 depending on the region (spring holiday) 24-25 March 2016 (Easter)
Summer	1 July – 31 August 2016	1 July – 31 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	28 September 2015 28 October 2015 17 November 2015 28 March 2016 (Easter) 1 May 2016 8 May 2016	28 September 2015 28 October 2015 17 November 2015 28 March 2016 (Easter) 1 May 2016 8 May 2016
Starting date of teachers' school year	Not specified	Not specified
End of teachers' school year	Not specified	Not specified

SPECIFICATION OF TERMS FOR SPRING HOLIDAYS	
Term 2016	Regions
1-7 February	Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín
8-14 February	Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál
15-21 February	Mladá Boleslav, Příbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník
22-28 February	Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Klatovy, Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město
29 February – 6 March	Praha 1 - 5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domažlice, Tachov, Louny, Prostějov, Karviná
7-13 March	Praha 6 - 10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Písek, Frýdek-Místek

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

According to the Labour Code, the holiday for **teachers** at primary or secondary level is 8 weeks each calendar year. They take it primarily in the time of school holidays.

DENMARK

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary and lower secondary education (<i>Folkeskole</i>)	General secondary education (<i>Gymnasium</i>)
Starting date of students' school year	10 August 2015	10 August 2015
End of students' school year	24 June 2016	24 June 2016
Autumn holidays	12-16 October 2015 (both days inclusive)	12-16 October 2015 (both days inclusive)
Christmas/New Year	21 December 2015 – 1 January 2016 (both days inclusive)	21 December 2015 – 1 January 2016 (both days inclusive)
Winter/Carnival	15-19 February 2016 (both days inclusive)	22-26 February 2016 (both days inclusive)
Spring/Easter	21-28 March 2016 (both days inclusive)	21-28 March 2016 (both days inclusive)
Summer	Starting on 25 June 2016	Starting on 25 June 2016
Public/religious holidays	22 April 2016 5-6 May 2016 16 May 2016	22 April 2016 5-6 May 2016 16 May 2016
Starting date of teachers' school year	Not determined at central level – differs at the various schools / institutions. In general teachers start a few days before pupils/students.	
End of teachers' school year	Not determined at central level. Usually the teachers' school year follows that of the pupils/students.	

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

The above mentioned dates for the *Folkeskole* are valid for the schools in Aarhus Municipality: <http://www.aarhus.dk/da/borger/familie-boern-og-unge/skole/skolerne-i-aarhus-kommune/ferier-og-fridage.aspx> The dates for upper secondary education are taken from Køge Gymnasium: http://www.kggym.dk/files/4214/2478/5425/Ferieplan_2015_-_2016.pdf.

The winter/carnival holiday can vary across the country as it depends on the municipality which usually decides whether the winter holiday is in week 7 or 8.

Folkeskole, schools offering comprehensive primary and lower secondary education, are free to decide on the number of holidays and their distribution, given that they offer a minimum of 200 school days each year. The Ministry of Education determines the last day of the school year, which is the case for both primary, lower secondary and general upper secondary education. In addition, the Ministry may also issue guidelines regarding the distribution of holidays.

The Constitution Day (*Grundlovsdag*) 5 June is not a public holiday. However, some schools are closed on this day while others are open.

ESTONIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of students' school year	31 August 2016	31 August 2016
Autumn holidays	1 week 17-25 October 2015	1 week 17-25 October 2015
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2015 – 10 January 2016	2 weeks 23 December 2015 – 10 January 2016
Spring/Easter	1 week 19-27 March 2016	1 week 19-27 March 2016
Summer	12.5 weeks 4 June – 31 August 2016	12.5 weeks 4 June – 31 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	24 February 2016 (Independence Day) 25 March 2016 (Good Friday)	24 February 2016 (Independence Day) 25 March 2016 (Good Friday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	The beginning and the end of a teacher's school year depend on the individual school and teacher. According to the legislation, teachers have 56 days (8 weeks) of holidays. Generally, they take holidays in the middle of June and are back in the middle of August.	
End of teachers' school year		

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

The Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act (§24) stipulates that an academic year shall start on 1 September and a study period shall include not less than 175 days of study (35 weeks).

School holidays (and accordingly the end of the school year) are determined by a regulation of the Minister of Education and Research for every school year. On the basis of a proposal of the head of the school and with the approval of the board of trustees, the owner of a school may establish school holidays different from those established by the Minister, taking into account that during the academic year there are four school holidays with a total duration of at least 12 weeks, whereby the summer holiday lasts at least eight consecutive weeks.

FINLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 10 and 18 August 2015	Between 10 and 18 August 2015
End of students' school year	4 June 2016	4 June 2016
Autumn holidays	2-5 days in October 2015	2-5 days in October 2015
Christmas/New Year	1-2 weeks between 18 December 2015 and 7 January 2016	1-2 weeks between 18 December 2015 and 7 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	1 week between 22 February and 11 March 2016	1 week between 22 February and 11 March 2016
Spring/Easter	4 days between 25 and 28 March 2016	4 days between 25 and 28 March 2016
Summer	10-11 weeks between 4 June to mid-August 2016	10-11 weeks between 4 June to mid-August 2016
Public/religious holidays	6 January 2016 (Epiphany) 1 May 2016 5 May 2016 (Ascension day)	6 January 2016 (Epiphany) 1 May 2016 5 May 2016 (Ascension day)
Starting date of teachers' school year ⁽¹⁾	Between 6 and 18 August 2015	Between 6 and 18 August 2015
End of teachers' school year	4 June 2016	4 June 2016

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

Independence day, Epiphany and 1 May are deducted from the total number of school days (190 days) if they are on any weekday other than Saturday. In the school year 2015/16, the number of school days will consequently be 189.

⁽¹⁾ There are no exact starting and ending dates of teachers' school year because their duties are regulated according to the collective agreement for teachers. In the agreement, the parties have agreed that the teachers have a calculatory holiday, which begins in mid-June and the length of holiday depends mainly on years in occupation. In practice, teachers' holidays coincide with students' holidays. However, teachers have their planning and INSET obligations, which they have to do both during and outside the school year. In general teachers start a school year a couple days before students.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of students' school year	10 June 2016	10 June 2016
Christmas / New Year	31 December 2015 – 17 January 2016	31 December 2015 – 17 January 2016
Spring / Easter	29 April – 2 May 2016	29 April – 2 May 2016
Third term	13-20 June 2016: Additional classes for students with low attainment in primary schools 8-19 August 2016: Preliminary classes for students with who will take remedial exams or exams for faster progress	13-27 June 2016: Additional classes for students with low attainment 8-12 August 2016: Preliminary classes for students with who will take remedial exams or exams for faster progress
Summer	13 June – 31 August 2016	11 June – 31 August 2016
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	8 September 2015 12 October 2015 23 October 2015 8 December 2015 29 April – 2 May 2016 24 May 2016	8 September 2015 12 October 2015 23 October 2015 8 December 2015 29 April – 2 May 2016 24 May 2016
Starting date of teachers' school year	10 August 2015	10 August 2015
End of teachers' school year	8 July 2016	8 July 2016

Source: Eurydice.

FRANCE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of students' school year	5 July 2016	5 July 2016
Autumn holidays	2 weeks 17 October – 1 November 2015	2 weeks 17 October – 1 November 2015
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 19 December 2015 – 3 January 2016	2 weeks 19 December 2015 – 3 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 13-28 February 2016 (zone A) 6-21 February 2016 (zone B) 20 February – 6 March 2016 (zone C)	2 weeks 13-28 February 2016 (zone A) 6-21 February 2016 (zone B) 20 February – 6 March 2016 (zone C)
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 9-24 April 2016 (zone A) 2-17 April 2016 (zone B) 16 April – 1 May 2016 (zone C)	2 weeks 9-24 April 2016 (zone A) 2-17 April 2016 (zone B) 16 April – 1 May 2016 (zone C)
Summer	8.5 weeks 5 July – 1 September 2016	8.5 weeks 5 July – 1 September 2016
Public/religious holidays	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 11 November 2015 1 January 2016 28 March 2016 1 May 2016 5 May 2016 8 May 2016 16 May 2016	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 11 November 2015 1 January 2016 28 March 2016 1 May 2016 5 May 2016 8 May 2016 16 May 2016
Starting date of teachers' school year	31 August 2015	31 August 2015
End of teachers' school year	5 July 2016	5 July 2016

Source: Eurydice.

GERMANY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year

Starting date of students' school year	1 August 2015 begin of official school year (for details see table I)
End of students' school year	31 July 2016 end of official school year (for details see table I)
Autumn holidays	3 to 13 days staggered between 30 September and 7 November 2015 (for details see table II)
Christmas/New Year	11 to 18 days staggered between 18 December 2015 and 11 January 2016 (for details see table II)
Winter/Carnival	0 to 12 days staggered between 28 January and 20 February 2016 (for details see table II)
Spring/Easter	6 to 17 days staggered between 7 March and 9 April 2016 (for details see table II)
Third term	0 to 11 days staggered between 6 May and 28 May 2016 (for details see table II)
Summer	6 weeks staggered between 7 July and 13 September 2016 (for details see table I)
Public/religious holidays	Up to 10 days, depending on the <i>Land</i>
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 August 2015 (official date)
End of teachers' school year	31 July 2016 (official date)

Source: Eurydice

TABLE I: Specification for starting/end of students' school year and summer holidays

	Beginning of students' school year 2015/16	End of students' school year 2015/16	Summer holidays 2016
Hamburg	27 August 2015	20 July 2016	21 July – 31 August
Berlin	31 August 2015	20 July 2016	21 July – 2 September
Brandenburg	31 August 2015	20 July 2016	21 July – 3 September
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern/ Schleswig-Holstein	31 August 2015	23 July 2016	25 July – 3 September
Bremen / Niedersachsen	3 September 2015	22 June 2016	23 June – 3 August
Rheinland-Pfalz / Hessen	7 September 2015	15 July 2016	18 July – 26 August
Saarland	7 September 2015	16 July 2016	18 July – 27 August
Sachsen / Thüringen	24 August 2015	24 June 2016	27 June – 5 / 10 August
Sachsen-Anhalt	27 August 2015	24 June 2016	27 June – 10 August
Nordrhein-Westfalen	12 August 2015	8 July 2016	11 July – 23 August
Baden-Württemberg	14 September 2015	27 July 2016	28 July – 10 September
Bayern	15 September 2015	29 July 2016	30 July – 12 September

GERMANY (CONTINUED)

TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods

Land	Autumn 2015	Christmas /New Year 2015/16	Winter 2016	Spring / Easter 2016	3 rd term 2016
Baden- Württemberg	2-6 November	23 Dec. – 9 Jan.	-	29 Mar. – 2 April	17-28 May
Bayern	2-7 November	24 Dec. – 5 Jan.	8-12 February	21 Mar. – 1 April	17-28 May
Berlin	19-31 October	23 Dec. – 2 Jan.	1-6 February	21 Mar. – 2 April	6 + 17-18 May
Brandenburg	19-30 October	23 Dec. – 2 Jan.	1-6 February	23 Mar. – 2 April	6 + 17 May
Bremen	19-31 October	23 Dec. – 6 Jan.	28-29 January	18 Mar. – 2 April	17 May
Hamburg	19-30 October	21 Dec. – 1 Jan.	29 January	7-18 March	6 + 17-20 May
Hessen	19-31 October	23 Dec. – 9 Jan.	-	29 Mar. – 9 April	-
Mecklenburg- Vorpommern	24-30 October	21 Dec. – 2 Jan.	1-13 February	21-30 March	14-17 May
Niedersachsen	19-31 October	23 Dec. – 6 Jan.	28-29 January	18 Mar. – 2 April	6 + 17 May
Nordrhein- Westfalen	5-17 October	23 Dec. – 6 Jan.	-	21 Mar. – 2 April	17 May
Rheinland-Pfalz	19-30 October	23 Dec. – 8 Jan.	-	18 Mar. – 1 April	-
Saarland	19-31 October	21 Dec. – 2 Jan.	8-13 February	29 Mar. – 9 April	-
Sachsen	12-24 October	21 Dec. – 2 Jan.	8-20 February	25 Mar. – 2 April	6 May
Sachsen-Anhalt	17-24 October	21 Dec. – 5 Jan.	1-10 February	24 March	6-14 May
Schleswig- Holstein	19-31 October	21 Dec. – 6 Jan.	-	24 Mar. – 9 April	6 May
Thüringen	5-17 October	23 Dec. – 2 Jan.	1-6 February	24 Mar. – 2 April	6 May

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

In accordance with the *Hamburg Agreement* between the *Länder* on harmonisation in the school system, the school year begins on 1 August and ends on 31 July. The actual beginning and end depend on the dates of the summer holidays which vary from one year to the other.

GREECE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	11 September 2015	11 September 2015
End of students' school year	15 June 2016	The date in question, set after a Ministerial Decision (usually around 20 May), is subject to annual arrangement both for lower and upper secondary education. The beginning of the exam period is set within the second fortnight of May and the end of the exam period, within the last week of June.
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2015 – 7 January 2016	2 weeks 24 December 2015 – 7 January 2016
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 25 April – 6 May 2016	2 weeks 25 April – 6 May 2016
Summer	Around 12 weeks 16 June – 10 September 2016	Around 10 weeks After the end of the exam period in June until 10 September 2016
National/religious holidays	28 October 2015 17 November 2015 30 January 2016 (religious school celebration) Saturday this year 14 March 2016 (Ash Monday) 25 March 2016 20 June 2016 (Holy spirit bank holiday only for teachers) and some regional holidays	28 October 2015 17 November 2015 30 January 2016 (religious school celebration) 14 March 2016 25 March 2016 20 June 2016 (Holy spirit bank holiday only for teachers) and some regional holidays
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of teachers' school year	21 June 2016	30 June 2016

Additional notes:

The official school year for both primary and secondary education lasts from 1 September 2015 until 31 August 2016.

At **primary** level, according to Presidential Decree 200/1998 (Government Gazette 161/issue A'/13-7-1998) and Presidential Decree 201/1998 (Government Gazette 161/issue A'/13-7-1998), the didactic year lasts from 1 September until 21 June of the following year.

At **secondary** level, according to Presidential Decree 123/1987, the didactic year lasts from 1 September until 30 June of the following year.

HUNGARY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary and lower secondary education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of students' school year	15 June 2016	15 June 2016 (29 April 2016 in the final upper secondary grade)
Autumn holidays	23 October – 1 November 2015	23 October – 1 November 2015
Christmas/New Year holidays	19 December 2015 – 3 January 2016	19 December 2015 – 3 January 2016
Spring/Easter holidays	24-28 March 2016	24-28 March 2016
Summer holidays	11 weeks 16 June – 31 August 2016	11 weeks 16 June – 31 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	15 March 2016 (The Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848) 1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday)	15 March 2016 (The Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848) 1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*
End of teachers' school year	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

According to the Act on Public Education, the minister responsible for education specifies the schedule of the school year in a ministerial decree. The Act stipulates that the school year starts on the first working day of September every year and finishes on the last working day prior to 16 June.

Thus schools have no autonomy in changing the first and last day of the school year but they have some autonomy in giving extra holidays before or after public holidays or school holidays for practical reasons (e.g. if a public holiday falls on a Thursday, the school may give Friday as holiday) if they provide teaching on a regular resting day (weekend) instead.

In addition to compulsory school days (181 days in basic schools and 180 days in upper-secondary schools), schools also have five (in basic schools) or six (in upper-secondary schools) non-teaching days for educational purposes.

Holidays at schools providing minority education may differ from the above described school holidays to celebrate national traditions.

* Act No. XXXIII of 1992 on the legal status of public servants and the Government Decree No. 326/2013 stipulate that the holidays of teachers primarily have to be given during the summer holiday. If not all days can be taken during that, the rest has to be provided during the autumn, winter or spring holidays or teaching days. (For teachers the autumn, winter and spring holidays are regarded as workdays without teaching).

ICELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary and lower secondary education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 21 and 24 August 2015	Between 13 and 17 August 2015
End of students' school year	Between 6 and 10 June 2016	Between 23 and 27 May 2016
Autumn holidays	2-3 days in October 2015	2-3 days in October 2015
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 21 December 2015 – 4 January 2016	2 weeks 21 December 2015 – 4 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	2-3 days in February 2016	2-3 days in February 2016
Spring/Easter	8 days 21 March – 28 March 2016	8 days 21 March – 28 March 2016
Summer	11 weeks Between 7 June and 21 August 2016	12 weeks Between 26 May and 23 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	21 April 2016 5 May 2016 16 May 2016	21 April 2016 5 May 2016 16 May 2016
Starting date of teachers' school year	Between 9 and 21 August 2015	Between 20 and 22 August 2015
End of teachers' school year	Between 5 and 11 June 2016	Between 28 May and 1 June 2016

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

According to teachers wage contracts compulsory school teachers shall work in schools 4 days before the beginning of the school year and 4 days after the formal end of the school year. Upper secondary school teachers have a total of 4 working days before the beginning and/or the end of the school year.

IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	First week of September 2015 ⁽¹⁾	Circa 31st August 2015
End of students' school year	End of June 2016 ⁽²⁾	End of State Examinations in June 2016
Autumn holidays	1 week 26-30 October 2015 (inclusive)	1 week 26-30 October 2015 (inclusive)
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2015 – 5 January 2016 (inclusive)	2 weeks 23 December 2015 – 5 January 2016 (inclusive)
Winter/Carnival	2 days 18-19 February 2016 ⁽³⁾	1 week 15-19 February 2016
Spring/Easter	2 weeks + 1 day 18 March – 1 April 2016 (inclusive)	2 weeks + 1 day 18 March – 1 April 2016 (inclusive)
Summer	About 9 weeks End of June until week of 1 September 2016	About 12 weeks June, July and most of August 2016
Public/religious holidays	17 March 2016 2 May 2016 6 June 2016 and some religious holidays	17 March 2016 2 May 2016 6 June 2016 and some religious holidays
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2016	31 August 2016

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

Primary Education

- ⁽¹⁾ In order to meet the overall requirement of 183 days at primary level, the school year will normally commence in the week that 1 September falls. The exact date is determined locally at Board of Management level.
- ⁽²⁾ School may use their own discretion to determine the precise ending of the school year in June, providing it has met the overall requirement of 183 days.
- ⁽³⁾ Primary school may use 3 discretionary days to extend their Winter/Carnival break to an alternative option of a 5 day break.

Circular 0016/2014 sets out the standardised school breaks at primary and post-primary level for the school years 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17.

IRELAND (CONTINUED)

The arrangements for standardised closure at primary level (Circular 0016/2014) are agreed without prejudice to closure on specific days, within the overall requirement of 183 days at primary level, dictated by religious observance that is required in schools under patronage of different denominations or faiths. In the absence of an adequate number of discretionary days a school authority may choose to utilise a religious observation day for non-tuition purpose when planning the school year.

The existing arrangements for school breaks may provide some limited flexibility to schools on certain other days outside of the defined periods. The scheduling of such days must not be used to extend or modify the period set out above in respect of mid-term, Christmas and Easter breaks save where a school has been affected by extensive or prolonged school closures or religious observance requirements of a school under a particular patronage makes this necessary.

It was not a requirement of this agreement that the commencement or end of the school year either at primary or post primary level should be standardised.

General Secondary

In accordance with Circular M29/95, the minimum number of teaching days per post-primary school will be 167. In addition, in accordance with Circular 0016/2014, holiday periods during the school year have been standardised, i.e. midterm breaks, Christmas and Easter holidays. Traditionally, formal instruction ends in post-primary schools on the Friday preceding the June bank holiday weekend. State examinations normally commence the following Wednesday. In order for schools to meet their requirement to be open for 167 days during 2015/16 school year, it is expected that post-primary schools will be open circa the 31 August 2015.

The above holidays are standardised in accordance with Circular 0016/2014. The school year at post-primary level is very tight and does not allow for any additional holidays, as schools must comply with the minimum number of 167 days. In fact, in recent years, since the standardised school calendar, many schools which would have traditionally opened on the 1 September are now opening in late August in order to meet their full complement of days. There is more flexibility at primary school level, as they are not restricted by the end of year State exams.

ITALY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 7 and 16 September 2015	Between 7 and 16 September 2015
End of students' school year	Between 3 and 16 June 2016	Between 3 and 16 June 2016
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	12 to 14 days between 22-24 December 2015 and 5 January 2016	12 to 14 days between 22-24 December 2015 and 5 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	1-5 days in February	1-5 days in February
Spring/Easter	2 to 6 days between 24 March and 26-30 March 2016, depending on the regions	2 to 6 days between 24 March and 26-30 March 2016, depending on the regions
Third term	–	–
Summer	12-13 weeks Between June and September 2016	12-13 weeks Between June and September 2016
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2015 25 April 2016 1 May 2016 2 June 2016 (and Saints' days depending on the regions)	1 November 2015 25 April 2016 1 May 2016 2 June 2016 (and Saints' days depending on the regions)
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2016	31 August 2016

Source: Eurydice

ITALY (CONTINUED)

Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2015/16		
Primary and general secondary education		
	Beginning 2015	End 2016
Abruzzo	14 September	7 June
Alto Adige (Bolzano)	7 September (5-day weeks) 7 September (6-day weeks)	16 June (5-day weeks) 16 June (6-day weeks)
Basilicata	14 September	9 June
Calabria	14 September	8 June
Campania	14 September	8 June
Emilia-Romagna	15 September	6 June
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	14 September	11 June
Lazio	15 September	8 June
Liguria	14 September	8 June
Lombardia	14 September	8 June
Marche	14 September	3 June (5-day weeks) 4 June (6-day weeks)
Molise	9 September	4 June
Piemonte	14 September	9 June
Puglia	16 September	8 June
Sardegna	14 September	10 June
Sicilia	14 September	9 June
Toscana	15 September	10 June
Trentino (Trento)	10 September	7 June
Umbria	14 September	8 June
Valle d'Aosta	14 September	11 June
Veneto	16 September	8 June

Additional notes:

Schools can adjust the school calendar, established by the Regions, to the POF's requirements (the POF is the basic document of the cultural and planning identity of each school. It defines the curricular, extra-curricular, educational and organisational projects of each school). Schools can organise in a flexible way the overall and single-subject timetable, provided that lessons spread over a minimum of five days per week and that the prescribed number of hours for the single subjects is complied with. The school year begins between the 2nd and the 4th week of September and finishes between the 1st and the 3rd week of June. The school adaptations of the school time should guarantee at least 200 days of lesson in the school year.

According to school autonomy, schools have up to 5 or 6 days available, which are foreseen for the suspension of educational activities.

**Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education
2014/15 school year**

	Integrated primary and lower secondary education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of students' school year	30 May 2016	30 May 2016
Autumn holidays	1 week 26-30 October 2015	1 week 26-30 October 2015
Winter holidays (Christmas/New Year)	2 weeks 21 December 2015 – 1 January 2016	2 weeks 21 December 2015 – 1 January 2016
Spring/Easter	1 week 14-18 March 2016	1 week 14-18 March 2016 21-25 March 2016 (for the 12th class)
Summer	13 weeks 31 May – 31 August 2016	13 weeks 31 May – 31 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	18 November 2015 (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) 25-28 March 2016 (Easter) 1 May 2016 (Convocation of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Latvia; Labour Day) 4 May 2016 (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia)	18 November 2015 (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) 25-28 March 2016 (Easter) 1 May 2016 (Convocation of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Latvia; Labour Day) 4 May 2016 (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia)
Starting date of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

Single structure compulsory education (integrated primary and lower-secondary education (*pamatizglītība*)): end of the school year for the 9th class: 10 June 2016.

Upper secondary education: end of the school year for the 12th class: 17 June 2016.

The school year is divided in two semesters: the first from 1 September to 18 December 2015 and the second from 4 January to 30 May 2016 (or 10 June for the 9th class and 17 June for the 12th class).

Education institutions decide when to carry out an additional 1 week long holidays in the second semester for the 1st class.

Education institutions decide when to carry out a 1 week long project week in the second semester.

Extension of the school year for classes 1-8 and 10-11 may be made if specific circumstances hindering education process arise during the school year (e.g. extreme temperature, strike, emergency situation in school, etc.).

Holidays (summer 2015): These are the dates for the official summer holiday period for classes 1-8 and 10-11.

Public holidays: When the specific holidays of 18 November (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) and 4 May (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia) fall on Saturday or Sunday, the holiday is transferred to the next working day.

Teachers: The teachers' school year concurs fully with students' year, but normally is longer and starts earlier, though the end and the start date is not defined officially. Teachers have the right to receive 8 weeks of paid annual leave in summer.

LIECHTENSTEIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year	
	Primary education and general secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	17 August 2015
End of students' school year	1 July 2016
Autumn holidays	2 weeks 3-18 October 2015
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2015 – 6 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	1 week 6-14 February 2016
Spring/Easter	2.5 weeks 24 March – 10 April 2016
Summer	6 weeks 2 July – 16 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	8 September 2015 – Birth of the Blessed Virgin Marie (Mariä Geburt) 1 November 2015 – All Saints Day (<i>Allerheiligen</i>) 8 December 2015 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Mariä Empfängnis) 1/2 February 2016 - Candlemas 19 March 2016 – St. Josephs Day (<i>Josefitag</i>) 27/28 March 2016 – Easter Monday (<i>Ostern/Ostermontag</i>) 1 May 2016 – Labour Day (<i>Tag der Arbeit</i>) 5/6 May 2015 – Ascension Day (<i>Auffahrt</i>) 15/16 May 2016 – Whitsuntide/Whit Monday (<i>Pfingsten/Pfingsmontag</i>) 25/26 June 2016 – Corpus Christi (<i>Fronleichnam</i>)
Starting date of teachers' school year	17 August 2015
End of teachers' school year	1 July 2016

Source: Office of Education Liechtenstein: <http://www.llv.li/files/onlineschalter/Dokument-121.pdf>

LITHUANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of students' school year	31 May 2016	3 June 2016*
Autumn holidays	1 week 26-30 October 2015	1 week 26-30 October 2015
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 28 December 2015 – 8 January 2016	2 weeks 28 December 2015 – 8 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	15 February 2016	15 February 2016**
Spring/Easter	1 week 21-25 March 2016	1 week 21-25 March 2016
Summer	13 weeks 1 June – 31 August 2016	12,5 weeks 6 June – 31 August 2016***
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2015 16 February 2016 11 March 2016 1 May 2016	1 November 2015 16 February 2016 11 March 2016 1 May 2016
Starting date of teachers' school year	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher
End of teachers' school year	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher****	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher****

Source: General Curriculum Framework for Primary and Secondary Education

Additional notes:

* The end of students' school year in grade 5 (first year of lower secondary education) is on 31 May 2016 and in grade 12 (last year of upper secondary education) is on 26 May 2016.

** Additional 10 days holidays are allocated to pupils of grades 1 to 5. It is required that the school agreed additional holidays with parents and school council. At national level, it is recommended that additional holidays would coincide with 6-12 grades winter holidays.

*** Summer holidays for students in grade 5 start on 1 June 2016 and in grade 12 on 27 May 2016.

**** The annual amount of leave for **teachers** is legislated as 56 calendar days. Normally, it is recommended that teachers take their annual leave during school summer holidays (i.e. teachers' leave is normally determined by the school calendar).

LUXEMBOURG

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	15 September 2015	15 September 2015
End of students' school year	15 July 2016	15 July 2016
Autumn holidays	1 week 31 October – 8 November 2015	1 week 31 October – 8 November 2015
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 19 December 2015 – 3 January 2016	2 weeks 19 December 2015 – 3 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	1 week 6-14 February 2016	1 week 6-14 February 2016
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 26 March – 10 April 2016	2 weeks 26 March – 10 April 2016
Third term	1 week 14-22 May 2016	1 week 14-22 May 2016
Summer	8 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2016	8 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2016
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2015 (All Saints' Day) 1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 5 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday) 23 June 2016 (National Holiday)	1 November 2015 (All Saints' Day) 1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 5 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday) 23 June 2016 (National Holiday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	15 September 2015	15 September 2015
End of teachers' school year	15 July 2016	15 July 2016

Source: Eurydice.

MALTA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	28 September 2015	28 September 2015
End of students' school year	28 June 2016	28 June 2016
Autumn holidays	2-3 November 2015	2-3 November 2015
Christmas / New Year	23 December 2015 – 6 January 2016	23 December 2015 – 6 January 2016
Winter / Carnival	8-9 February 2016	8-9 February 2016
Spring / Easter	23-30 March 2016	23 – 30 March 2016
Third term	1 April – 28 June 2016	1 April – 28 June 2016
Summer	30 June – 24 September 2016	30 June – 24 September 2016
Public / religious holidays	8 December 2015 10 February 2016 31 March 2016 7 June 2016 29 June 2016	8 December 2015 10 February 2016 31 March 2016 7 June 2016 29 June 2016
Starting date of teachers' school year	24 September 2015	24 September 2015
End of teachers' school year	6 July 2016	6 July 2016

Additional notes:

Half-yearly examinations take place between 1 and 4 February 2016 for pupils in the last three years of primary school and between 11 and 24 February 2016 for secondary school students.

The Annual Examinations take place between 22 and 24 June 2016 for primary school pupils and between 13 and 28 June 2016 for secondary school students.

Students of Year 6 in primary schools sit for End-of-Primary Benchmark Assessments held between 26 and 27 May (oral components) and between 30 May and 2 June 2016 (for the written components).

Teachers are required to attend in-service training (INSET) for three days either prior to the beginning of the school year or immediately at the end of the school year. This training is held on 18, 22 and 23 September 2015 and on 7, 8 and 11 July 2016.

Teachers who attend INSET courses in September 2015 start their school year on 18 September 2015. Teachers who attend INSET courses in July 2016 end their school year on 11 July 2016.

During the month of June schools are on half-days.

MONTENEGRO

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of students' school year	10 June 2016 20 May 2016 (in the final year)	10 June 2016 20 May 2016 (in the final year)
Christmas/New Year/Winter	25-27 December 2015 1-3 January 2016 7-9 January 2016	25-27 December 2015 1-3 January 2016 7-9 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	4-25 January 2016	4-25 January 2016
Summer	13 June – 31 August 2016	13 June – 31 August 2016 Note: for the students in vocational education who have professional internship (10-15 days), the summer vacation begins after the end of the internship.
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	25-27 December 2015 (Catholic Christmas) 1-3 January 2016 (New Year's Day) 7-9 January 2016 (Orthodox Christmas) 27 March 2016 Easter Day (Catholic) 1 May 2016 Easter Day (Orthodox) 1 May 2016 (International Labour Day) 21 May 2016 (Independence Day) 13 July 2016 (Statehood Day)	25-27 December 2015 (Catholic Christmas) 1-3 January 2016 (New Year's Day) 7-9 January 2016 (Orthodox Christmas) 27 March 2016 Easter Day (Catholic) 1 May 2016 Easter Day (Orthodox) 1 May 2016 (International Labour Day) 21 May 2016 (Independence Day) 13 July 2016 (Statehood Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	10 August 2015	10 August 2015
End of teachers' school year	11 July 2016	11 July 2016

Source: Eurydice.

THE NETHERLANDS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/2016 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Northern region: 17 August 2015 Central region: 24 August 2015 Southern region: 31 August 2015	Northern region: 17 August 2015 Central region: 24 August 2015 Southern region: 31 August 2015
End of students' school year	Northern region: 15 July 2016 Central region: 8 July 2016 Southern region: 22 July 2016	Northern region: 15 July 2016 Central region: 8 July 2016 Southern region: 22 July 2016
Autumn holidays	Northern region: 17 to 25 October 2015 Central region: 17 to 25 October 2015 Southern region: 24 October to 1 November 2015	Northern region: 17 to 25 October 2015 Central region: 17 to 25 October 2015 Southern region: 24 October to 1 November 2015
Christmas/New Year holidays	19 December 2015 to 3 January 2016	19 December 2015 to 3 January 2016
Winter/Carnival (Spring Holiday or Crocus Holiday)	Northern region: 27 February to 6 March 2016 Central region: 20 to 28 February 2016 Southern region: 20 to 28 February 2016	Northern region: 27 February to 6 March 2016 Central region: 20 to 28 February 2016 Southern region: 20 to 28 February 2016
Spring/Easter (May Holiday)	30 April – 8 May 2016	30 April – 8 May 2016
Summer	Northern region: 16 July to 28 August 2016 Central region: 9 July to 21 August 2016 Southern region: 23 July to 4 September 2016	Northern region: 16 July to 28 August 2016 Central region: 9 July to 21 August 2016 Southern region: 23 July to 4 September 2016
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	28 March 2016 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2016 (King's Birthday) 5 May 2016 (Liberation day) 5 May 2016* (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday) * in 2016 is this the same day as Liberation Day	28 March 2016 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2016 (King's Birthday) 5 May 2016 (Liberation day) 5 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes

The Netherlands (continued)

Additional notes:

The school year officially runs from 1 August to 31 July of the following year. The start and end of the school year of the individual schools is according to the region (Northern, Central and Southern region).

Dates for the **summer holidays** are decided by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science; the holiday period is staggered over 3 regions (compulsory dates for all schools); also dates for Christmas holidays and May holidays (one week) are decided by the Ministry; other holidays are recommended by the Ministry.

A balanced distribution of teaching time is important in the Netherlands. Schools have the opportunity to deviate from the recommended data, but they have to take into account the wishes and expectations of the parents/caregivers. The Primary Education Act requires schools to provide at least 7,520 teaching hours over the eight years that children attend school.

- *) In the Netherlands Carnival holiday is called Spring Holiday or Crocus Holiday
- If the recommended period for the Spring Holiday does not fit with Carnival week; it can be expected that schools, especially in the Southern areas of the Netherlands, will not follow the recommendations and will close for Carnival.

The **teachers'** school year is similar to the students' school year. However, it is at the school's discretion to decide whether teachers are expected to end or start later (in order to attend meetings, for preparation of timetable, other non-teaching activities etc.)

NORWAY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 17 and 21 August 2015	Between 17 and 21 August 2015
End of students' school year	Between 17 and 23 June 2016	Between 17 and 24 June 2016
Autumn holidays	1 week (some only 2-3 days) Between 28 September and 9 October 2015	1 week (some only 2-3 days) Between 28 September and 9 October 2015
Christmas/New Year	Around 2 weeks From 18-23 December 2015 until 4-6 January 2016	Around 2 weeks From 18-23 December 2015 until 4-6 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	1 week Between 15 February and 2 March 2016	1 week Between 15 February and 2 March 2016
Spring/Easter	8 or 9 days Between 21 March and 28/29 March 2016	8 or 9 days Between 21 March and 28/29 March 2016
Third term	–	–
Summer	Around 8 weeks Between 17/24 June and 17/22 August 2016	Around 8 weeks Between 17/24 June and 17/22 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 5 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday) 17 May 2016 (National Day)	1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 5 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday) 17 May 2016 (National Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes

Source: KS/ Eurydice.

Additional notes:

For the primary schools can the municipality decide individually the school holidays, as the counties can decide for the upper secondary schools.

The teachers' work during the school year is counted in working hours. That is 1300 hours for primary education (ISCED 1), 1225 hours for lower secondary education (ISCED 2) and 1150 hours for upper secondary education. It is an individual matter for each school if the work hours, longer than for the students, are before the beginning or after the end of the school year.

POLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of students' school year	24 June 2016	24 June 2016
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	23-31 December 2015	23-31 December 2015
Winter	2 weeks as specified for the following regions: 18-31 January 2016 Kujawsko-Pomorskie Lubuskie Małopolskie Świętokrzyskie Wielkopolskie 25 January – 7 February 2016 Podlaskie Warmińsko-Mazurskie 1-14 February 2016 Dolnośląskie Mazowieckie Opolskie Zachodniopomorskie 15-28 February 2016 Lubelskie Łódzkie Podkarpackie Pomorskie Śląskie	2 weeks as specified for the following regions: 18-31 January 2016 Kujawsko-Pomorskie Lubuskie Małopolskie Świętokrzyskie Wielkopolskie 25 January – 7 February 2016 Podlaskie Warmińsko-Mazurskie 1-14 February 2016 Dolnośląskie Mazowieckie Opolskie Zachodniopomorskie 15-28 February 2016 Lubelskie Łódzkie Podkarpackie Pomorskie Śląskie
Spring/ Easter	24-29 March 2016	24-29 March 2016
Third term	–	–
Summer	27 June – 31 August 2016	27 June – 31 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	11 November 2015 1 January 2016 6 January 2016 3 May 2016 26 May 2016	11 November 2015 1 January 2016 6 January 2016 3 May 2016 26 May 2016
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of teachers' school year	24 June 2016	24 June 2016

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

In addition, the school head has the possibility to determine some extra days off (up to 6 days for primary schools, basic vocational schools, post-secondary schools, continuous education institutions; up to 8 days for lower secondary schools; up to 10 days for upper secondary schools) that may be devoted to external tests and exams and/or religious festivals not being registered as official public holidays.

Teacher holiday period altogether is 47 days. The school head may oblige a teacher to work for the benefit of their school for 7 days over their summer or winter holidays. In addition, during the summer holidays teachers carry out tasks related to recruitment and exam procedures.

PORTUGAL

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 15 and 21 September 2015	Between 15 and 21 September 2015
End of students' school year*	9 June 2016	3 June 2016 – years 9, 11 and 12 9 June 2016 – years 7, 8 and 10
First term	15/21 September – 17 December 2015	15/21 September – 17 December 2015
Christmas/New Year	18 December 2015 – 3 January 2016	18 December 2015 – 3 January 2016
Second term	4 January – 18 March 2016	4 January – 18 March 2016
Winter/Carnival	8-10 February 2016	8-10 February 2016
Spring/Easter	21 March – 1 April 2016	21 March – 1 April 2016
Third term*	4 April 9 June 2016	4 April 3 June 2016 – years 9, 11 and 12 9 June 2016 – years 7, 8 and 10
Summer*	About 13 weeks From 9 June until mid-September 2016	About 13 weeks From 3 or 9 June until mid-September 2016
Public/religious holidays	8 December 2015 1 May 2016 10 June 2016 (plus holidays at municipal level)	8 December 2015 1 May 2016 10 June 2016 (plus holidays at municipal level)
Starting date of teachers' school year**	See additional notes	See additional notes
End of teachers' school year**	See additional notes	See additional notes

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

* The end of the year for pupils in years 4 and 6 having extra support is 12 July 2016.

National exams occur until the end of July.

** The official teachers' school year lasts from 1 September to 31 August. Teachers have the right to take summer holidays between the end of pupils' school year and the beginning of the following school year.

ROMANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	14 September 2015	14 September 2015
End of students' school year	24 June 2016	24 June 2016
Autumn holidays	31 October – 8 November 2015	–
Christmas/New Year	19 December 2015 – 10 January 2016	19 December 2015 – 10 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	6-14 February 2016	6-14 February 2016
Spring/Easter	23 April – 3 May 2016	23 April – 3 May 2016
Summer	25 June – 11 September 2016	25 June – 11 September 2016
Public/religious holidays	30 November 2015 1 December 2015	30 November 2015 1 December 2015
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2016	31 August 2016

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

1. The schools and the School Inspectorates will mark with specific events the following days:

- 5 October 2015 = World Teachers' Day
- 5 June 2016 = Primary Teacher's Day

2. The week 18-22 April 2016 in the second semester is dedicated to extracurricular and extra-school activities, within the programme *Other kind of school: Know more, Be better!* [*Școala altfel: Să știi mai multe, să fii mai bun!*], with a specific timetable.

3. In exceptional situations, depending on the local climatic conditions and school's specificity, the organisation of the school year can be modified at the request of schools, approved by the regional education authorities (County School Inspectorate). Approval is given if the number of 175 school days (36 weeks) is maintained and all pupils may participate without restrictions in national examinations.

SERBIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary and lower secondary education (<i>Primary school</i>)	Upper secondary education (<i>Secondary school</i>)
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	
End of students' school year	Final (8th) grade: 1 June 2016 Other grades: 15 June 2016	Final (4th) grade: 25 May 2016 Final grade (3rd or 4th grade) in vocational secondary schools: 1 June 2016 Other grades: 22 June 2016
Autumn holidays	9-11 November 2015	
Christmas/New Year	31 December 2015 – 10 January 2016	
Winter/Carnival	30 January – 16 February 2016	
Spring/Easter	28 April – 3 May 2016	
Summer	16 June – 31 August 2016	23 June – 31 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	11 November 2015 1-2 January 2016 7 January 2016 15-16 February 2016 29 April – 3 May 2016	
Starting date of teachers' school year	Exact starting date of teachers' school year is determined at institutional (school) level. As required at central level, teachers have vacation days as any other employees (minimum is 20 days per year for teachers entering the profession), which they have to use during the school holidays. Teachers usually start the school year a couple of weeks before students (mid-August).	
End of teachers' school year	Exact end date of teachers' school year is determined at institutional (school) level. As required at central level, teachers have vacation days as any other employees (minimum is 20 days per year for teachers entering the profession), which they have to use during the school holidays. Teachers usually end the school year several weeks after students (mid-July).	

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia issues the school calendar for primary and secondary education each year for the forthcoming school year.

Final grade students in both primary and secondary education finish the school year earlier in order to prepare for final and entrance exams.

SLOVAKIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	2 September 2015	2 September 2015
End of students' school year	30 June 2016	30 June 2016
Autumn holidays	2 days 29-30 October 2015	2 days 29-30 October 2015
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2015 – 7 January 2016	2 weeks 22 December 2015 – 7 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	1 week according to regions: 15-19 February 2016 Košice, Prešov 22-26 February 2016 Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava 29 February – 4 March 2016 Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín	1 week according to regions: 15-19 February 2016 Košice, Prešov 22-26 February 2016 Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava 29 February – 4 March 2016 Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín
Spring/Easter	4 days (Easter holidays) 24-29 March 2016	4 days (Easter holidays) 24-29 March 2016
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 2 September 2016	9 weeks 1 July – 2 September 2016
Public/religious holidays	1 September 2015 15 September 2015 17 November 2015 1 February 2016	1 September 2015 15 September 2015 17 November 2015 1 February 2016
Starting date of teachers' school year	Usually one week before beginning of the school year	Usually one week before beginning of the school year
End of teachers' school year	Usually, one week after summer holidays begin	Usually, one week after summer holidays begin

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

Official school year lasts from 1 September to 31 August. If 2 September falls on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday starting date of school year is next Monday.

According to the Labour Code, teachers and school heads at primary and secondary levels have 8 weeks of holidays per calendar year. They take it during the holidays. Usually, teachers work one week after beginning of summer holidays and one week before the beginning of the school year.

SLOVENIA

Organisation of school time in single structure education and general upper secondary education 2015/16 school year

	Single structure education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of students' school year	24 June 2016 15 June 2016 (final grade)	24 June 2016 20 May 2016 (final grade)
Autumn holidays	1 week 26 to 30 October 2015	1 week 26 to 30 October 2015
Christmas/New Year	1 week 25 December 2015 to 1 January 2016	1 week 25 December 2015 to 1 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	1 week 15-19 February 2016 (Western region) 22-26 February 2016 (Eastern region)	1 week 15-19 February 2016 (Western region) 22-26 February 2016 (Eastern region)
Spring holidays	1 week 27 April – 2 May 2016	1 week 27 April – 2 May 2016
Summer holidays	10 weeks 27 June – 31 August 2016	10 weeks 27 June – 31 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	28 March 2016 (Easter Monday)	28 March 2016 (Easter Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	10-15 days before students start school	10-15 days before students start school
End of teachers' school year	Beginning to mid-July 2016	Beginning to mid-July 2016

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

Slovenia has a single structure compulsory school of nine years.

For students, the school year officially runs from 1 September to 31 August, however, the lessons end in June.

For teachers, the school year begins 10 to 15 days before the students start school and lasts until the beginning or mid-July. The precise length depends on the days of annual leave allocated to an individual (22 to 35 days) and tasks and obligations appointed by the school head.

SPAIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year ^(1, 2)		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 3 and 14 September 2015	Between 3 and 17 September 2015
End of students' school year	Between 16 and 24 June 2016	Between 9 and 24 June ⁽³⁾ 2016
Christmas/New Year	At least 2 weeks between 21 December 2015 and 10 January 2016	At least 2 weeks between 21 December 2015 and 10 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	Between 2 and 3 days (depending on the Autonomous Community) ⁽⁴⁾	Between 2 and 3 (depending on the Autonomous Community) ⁽⁴⁾
Spring/Easter	About 10 days in the period between the third week of March and the first week of April 2016	About 10 days in the period between the third week of March and the first week of April 2016
Summer	11 weeks between late June and mid-September	11-12 weeks between late June and mid-September
Public/religious holidays	12 public holidays (some common throughout the country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities).	12 public holidays (some common throughout the country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities).
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2016	30 June 2016 ⁽⁵⁾

Additional notes:

⁽¹⁾ Dates vary according to the different Autonomous Communities, see the table below.

⁽²⁾ The total minimum number of school days is 175 in primary, lower and upper secondary education in all Autonomous Communities, although there are some additional days in secondary education in several Communities.

⁽³⁾ In the last year of post-compulsory upper general secondary education, classes finish two or three weeks earlier than in other stages. This time is meant for preparing entrance examinations to universities.

⁽⁴⁾ In the different Autonomous Communities, the education authorities allocate a certain number of days (between 3 and 6) for Carnival, bank holidays or other free days or grant freedom to schools to allocate these days along the whole school year at their convenience.

⁽⁵⁾ The management team of Secondary Education Schools must stay in the school until 31 July.

SPAIN (CONTINUED)

Specification of terms for the starting and the end of students' school year 2015/15 in the different Autonomous Communities

	Primary education		General secondary education ⁽¹⁾	
	Beginning (2015)	End (2016)	Beginning (2015)	End (2016)
Andalucía	10 September	22 June	15 September	22 June
Aragón	10 September	21 June	14 September	23 June
Asturias	10 September	21 June	15 September	24 June
Baleares	11 September	22 June	11 September	22 June
Canarias	09 September	20 June	14 September	20 June
Cantabria	10 September	21 June	17 September	24 June
Castilla y León	10 September	22 June	17 September	22 June
Castilla-La Mancha	07 September	17 June	15 September	22 June
Cataluña	14 September	21 June	14 September	21 June
Ceuta	09 September	23 June	09 September	17 June
Extremadura	09 September	19 June	14 September	20 June
Galicia	10 September	22 June	15 September	23 June
La Rioja	11 September	24 June	11 September	24 June
Madrid	08 September	21 June	10 September	21 June
Melilla	09 September	23 June	09 September	17 June
Murcia	07 September	23 June	16 September	23 June
Navarra ⁽²⁾	Not before 10 September	Not later 16 June	Not before 10 September	Not later 16 June
País Vasco ⁽²⁾	Not before 08 September	Not later 23 June	Not before 08 September	Not later 21 June
C. Valenciana	03 September	17 June	03 September	9 June

Additional notes:

⁽¹⁾ In the last year of post-compulsory upper general secondary education, classes end up two or three weeks earlier than in the rest of stages. This time is used to prepare the university admission examinations.

⁽²⁾ In these Autonomous Communities schools are free to establish their own calendar taking into account the limit starting and ending dates established by the educational authorities.

Source: School calendars of the Autonomous Communities and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

SWEDEN

Organisation of school time in compulsory education (*grundskola*) and in general upper secondary education (*gymnasieskola*) 2015/16 school year

	Single structure compulsory education (<i>grundskola</i>)	General upper secondary education (<i>gymnasieskola</i>)
Starting date of students' school year	Late in August	Late in August
End of students' school year	Mid-June	Mid-June
According to the Compulsory School Ordinance and the Upper secondary School Ordinance, a school year consists of at least 178 school days and at least 17 holidays – the exact dates vary on regional and municipality level.		
Autumn holidays	26-30 October 2015	26-30 October 2015
Christmas/New Year	Start between 16-18 December 2015 End between 7-8 January 2016	Start between 16-18 December 2015 End between 7-8 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	One week between 15 February – 11 March 2016	One week between 15 February – 11 March 2016
Spring/Easter	One week between 21 March – 1 April 2016	One week between 21 March – 1 April 2016
Summer	About 10 weeks	About 10 weeks
Public/religious holidays	25 March 2016 (Good Friday) 28 March 2016 (Easter Monday) 6 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 6 June 2016 (National Day)	25 March 2016 (Good Friday) 28 March 2016 (Easter Monday) 6 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 6 June 2016 (National Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Mid-August	Mid-August
End of teachers' school year	Mid-June	Mid-June

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

Sweden has a single structure compulsory school (9 years) with no differences between stages. Starting and finishing dates vary on regional and municipality levels, dates here are indicative.

Teachers usually start their work earlier for planning etc. Continuous professional development (CPD) is the responsibility of the employer and it can take place when the pupils are in school or not.

SWITZERLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Staggered between 10 and 31 August 2015	Staggered between 10 and 31 August 2015
End of students' school year	Staggered between 24 June and 15 July 2016	Staggered between 24 June and 15 July 2016
Autumn holidays	Between 1 and 3 weeks Staggered between 26 September and 1 November 2015	Between 1 and 3 weeks Staggered between 26 September and 1 November 2015
Christmas/New Year	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 19 December 2015 and 10 January 2016	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 19 December 2015 and 10 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 30 January and 14 March 2016	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 30 January and 14 March 2016
Spring/Easter	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 19 March and 8 May 2016	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 19 March and 8 May 2016
Third term	-	-
Summer	Between 5 and 9 weeks Staggered between 18 June and 28 August 2016	Between 5 and 9 weeks Staggered between 18 June and 28 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	5 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday)	5 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 August 2015	1 August 2016
End of teachers' school year	31 July 2016	31 July 2016

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

According to Switzerland's federal structure, the starting date / end of students' school year (for details see table I) and school holidays vary between cantons, in some cantons even between municipalities (for details see table II).

With a few exceptions the teachers' official school year starts August 1st and ends on 31 July. However, it is at the school's discretion to decide whether teachers are expected to start or end later (in order to attend meetings, to prepare for teaching, etc.).

The only national holiday is August 1st (National Day). All other public and religious holidays are fixed by the cantons. New Year's Day, Ascension and Christmas Day are the only holidays all cantons have in common. In most cantons Good Friday, Easter Monday, Whit Monday and Boxing Day are also official holidays.

SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

TABLE I: Specification for starting/end of students' school year and summer holidays

Canton	Beginning of students' school year 2015/16	End of students' school year 2015/16	Summer holidays 2016
Aargau	10 August 2015	15 July 2016	16 July – 7 August
Appenzell Innerrhoden*	17 August 2015	1 July 2016	2 July – 14 August
Appenzell Ausserrhoden	10 August 2015	8 July 2016	9 July – 14 August
Bern*	10 August 2015	1 July 2016	2 July – 14 August
Basel-Landschaft	17 August 2015	1 July 2016	2 July – 14 August
Basel-Stadt	17 August 2015	1 July 2016	2 July – 14 August
Fribourg*	26 August 2015	8 July 2016	9 July – 24 August
Geneva	24 August 2015	1 July 2016	2 July – 28 August
Glarus	10 August 2015	1 July 2016	2 July – 14 August
Graubünden*	24 August 2015	1 July 2016	2 July – 21 August
Jura	17 August 2015	1 July 2016	2 July – 14 August
Lucerne*	17 August 2015	8 July 2016	9 July – 21 August
Neuchâtel	17 August 2015	1 July 2016	2 July – 14 August
Nidwalden*	17 August 2015	8 July 2016	9 July – 21 August
Obwalden*	17 August 2015	8 July 2016	9 July – 21 August
St. Gallen	10 August 2015	8 July 2016	9 July – 14 August
Schaffhausen	10 August 2015	8 July 2016	9 July – 14 August
Solothurn	10 August 2015	8 July 2016	9 July – 14 August
Schwyz*	17 August 2015	8 July 2016	9 July – 21 August
Thurgau	10 August 2015	8 July 2016	9 July – 14 August
Ticino	31 August 2015	17 June 2016	18 June – 28 August
Uri*	17 August 2015	1 July 2016	2 July – 14 August
Vaud	24 August 2015	1 July 2016	2 July – 21 August
Valais*	17 August 2015	24 June 2016	25 June – 14 August
Zug	17 August 2015	8 July 2016	9 July – 21 August
Zurich*	17 August 2015	15 July 2016	16 July – 21 August

* with variation between regions/municipalities

SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods

Canton	Autumn 2015	Christmas / New Year 2015/16	Winter 2016	Spring / Easter 2016
Aargau*	26 Sept. – 11 Oct.	19 Dec. – 3 Jan.	variable	9-24 April
Appenzell Innerrhoden*	3-18 Oct.	24 Dec. – 3 Jan.	6-14 Feb.	2-17 April
Appenzell Ausserrhoden	3-18 Oct.	24 Dec. – 3 Jan.	variable	9-24 April
Bern*	3-18 Oct.	24 Dec. – 10 Jan.	variable	9 – 24 April
Basel-Landschaft*	3-18 Oct.	24 Dec. – 3 Jan.	6-21 Feb.	19 March – 3 April
Basel-Stadt	3-18 Oct.	24 Dec. – 3 Jan.	6-21 Feb.	24 March – 3 April
Fribourg*	17 Oct. – 1 Nov.	19 Dec. – 3 Jan.	6-14 Feb.	25 March – 10 April
Geneva	17-25 Oct.	24 Dec. – 10 Jan.	13 – 21 Feb.	25 March – 10 April
Glarus	3-18 Oct.	24 Dec. – 10 Jan.	30 Jan. – 7 Feb.	7-24 April
Graubünden*	10-25 Oct.	23 Dec. – 5 Jan.	27 Feb. – 6 March	16 April – 1 May
Jura	3-18 Oct.	23 Dec. – 10 Jan.	13-21 Feb.	25 March – 10 April
Lucerne*	26 Sept. – 11 Oct.	19 Dec. – 3 Jan.	30 Jan. – 14 Feb.	25 March – 10 April
Neuchâtel	3-18 Oct.	19 Dec. – 3 Jan.	27 Feb. – 6 March	25 March – 10 April
Nidwalden*	26 Sept. – 11 Oct.	19 Dec. – 3 Jan.	30 Jan. – 14 Feb.	25 March – 10 April
Obwalden*	26 Sept. – 11 Oct.	24 Dec. – 6 Jan.	30 Jan. – 14 Feb.	25 March – 10 April
St. Gallen	26 Sept. – 18 Oct.	19 Dec. – 3 Jan.	variable	9-24 April
Schaffhausen	26 Sept. – 18 Oct.	24 Dec. – 3 Jan.	30 Jan. – 14 Feb.	16 April – 1 May
Solothurn*	26 Sept. – 18 Oct.	24 Dec. – 10 Jan.	6-21 Feb.	9-24 April
Schwyz*	26 Sept. – 11 Oct.	24 Dec. – 6 Jan.	27 Feb. – 6 March	30 April – 15 May
Thurgau	3-18 Oct.	24 Dec. – 3 Jan.	30 Jan. – 7 Feb.	25 March – 10 April
Ticino	24 Oct. – 1 Nov.	24 Dec. – 6 Jan.	6-14 Feb.	25 March – 3 April
Uri*	3-18 Oct.	24 Dec. – 10 Jan.	27 Feb. – 6 March	23 April – 8 May
Vaud	10-25 Oct.	19 Dec. – 3 Jan.	20 Feb. – 29 Feb.	25 March – 10 April
Valais*	17 Oct. – 1 Nov.	19 Dec. – 3 Jan.	6 Feb. – 14 March	25 March – 3 April
Zug	3-18 Oct.	19 Dec. – 3 Jan.	6-21 Feb.	16 April – 1 May
Zurich*	3-18 Oct.	19 Dec. – 3 Jan.	13-28 Feb.	23 April – 8 May

* with variation between regions/municipalities

TURKEY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	14 September 2015 (1st Grade – 7 September 2015)	14 September 2015
End of students' school year	11 June 2016	11 June 2016
Christmas/New Year	1 January 2016	1 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 25 January – 6 February 2016	2 weeks 25 January – 6 February 2016
Summer	13 weeks 11 June – 14 September 2015	13 weeks 11 June – 14 September 2015
Public/religious holidays	23-27 September 2015 (4.5 days – religious holiday) 28-29 October 2015 (1.5 days – Republic Day) 23 April 2016 (Children's Day) 1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 19 May 2016 (Youth and Sport Day)	23-27 September 2015 (4.5 days – religious holiday) 28-29 October 2015 (1.5 days – Republic Day) 23 April 2016 (Children's Day) 1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 19 May 2016 (Youth and Sport Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Beginning September	Beginning September
End of teachers' school year	Beginning July	Beginning July

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

In primary and general secondary education, a school year must contain at least 180 days. A school year runs 9 months from September to June.

A school year is divided into two parts: at the end of a semester, there is a two-week holiday, called mid-school year holiday. The summer holidays are between June and September. Decisions on ending/starting semester dates are made by the Ministry.

Source: The work schedule of Ministry of National Education.

UNITED KINGDOM – ENGLAND AND WALES

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	The first week of September 2015	The first week of September 2015
End of students' school year	Between 19 and 26 July 2016	Between 19 and 26 July 2016
Autumn holidays	1 week 26-30 October 2015	1 week 26-30 October 2015
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks Between 21 December 2015 and 1 January 2016	2 weeks Between 21 December 2015 and 1 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	1 week 15-19 February 2016	1 week 15-19 February 2016
Spring/Easter	2 weeks Between 25 March and 8 April 2016	2 weeks Between 25 March and 8 April 2016
Third term	1 week 30 May – 3 June 2016	1 week 30 May – 3 June 2016
Summer	6 weeks Between 19 July and 31 August 2016	6 weeks Between 19 July and 31 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	2 May 2016 – early May Bank Holiday (see note) 30 May 2016 – late May Bank Holiday (within third term holiday)	2 May 2016 – early May Bank Holiday (see note) 30 May 2016 – late May Bank Holiday (within third term holiday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	The first week of September 2015	The first week of September 2015
End of teachers' school year	Between 20 and 26 July 2016	Between 20 and 26 July 2016

Source: Eurydice.

UNITED KINGDOM – ENGLAND AND WALES (CONTINUED)

Additional notes:

Traditionally, the school year is divided into three terms, each of which is divided into two half terms separated by a half term holiday. The dates of school holidays are normally planned to take into account and cover most national public holidays including Easter, although a minority of schools operate a standardised year.

The length of the school year, 380 half day sessions, is laid down centrally but the actual dates are not. These are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the local authority (LA) or school governing body. The decision is taken at school level in voluntary aided schools and foundation schools. Otherwise LAs regulate the school year, and the table shows the most common patterns for term dates and holidays set by LAs.

Teachers are required to be available for five additional days when pupils are not present, i.e. for 195 days in total.

In England, the recent growth in the number of academies means that approximately 70 per cent of secondary and 30 per cent of primary schools in England are responsible for setting their own term dates. Academies and free schools also have responsibility for determining the length of their school year.

Some English local authorities have recommended that schools with a significant number of pupils who will be celebrating non-Christian religious festivals (for example Eid-UI-Adha, Eid-UI-Fitr, Guru Nanak's birthday, Diwali) should consider making these optional closure days.

In March 2014, the Welsh Assembly passed legislation (the Education (Wales) Act 2014) which will require local authorities and school governing bodies to co-operate and co-ordinate with each other to ensure that the dates for the school term are the same (or as close as possible to being the same) for every maintained school in Wales. It also gives Welsh Ministers the power to direct local authorities and the governing bodies of voluntary aided and foundation schools on the term dates they set. This is to achieve harmonisation of school term dates if local authorities and the governing bodies of voluntary aided and foundation schools have been unable to agree on term dates, or if the term dates which have been agreed need to be altered. As school term dates are set at least two years in advance, the first harmonised term dates will be for the year 2016/2017.

UNITED KINGDOM – NORTHERN IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of students' school year	30 June 2016	30 June 2016
Autumn holidays	2 days 29-30 October 2015	2 days 29-30 October 2015
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 21 December 2015 – 1 January 2016	2 weeks 21 December 2015 – 1 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	2 days 15-16 February 2016	2 days 15-16 February 2016
Spring/Easter	1.5 weeks 24 March – 1 April 2016	1.5 weeks 24 March – 1 April 2016
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks Between 1 July and 31 August 2016	9 weeks Between 1 July and 31 August 2016
Public/religious holidays	17 March 2016 – St Patrick's Day (not all schools) 2 May 2016 – early May Bank Holiday 30 May 2016 – late May Bank Holiday	17 March 2016 – St Patrick's Day (not all schools) 2 May 2016 – early May Bank Holiday 30 May 2016 – late May Bank Holiday
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2015	1 September 2015
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2016	30 June 2016

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

Schools are required to be in operation for 200 days. The number of days that pupils are taught in the classroom may vary from 185 to 190 days when optional closing days, teacher training days and School Development Days (SDDs) are taken into account. Decisions on when to take these days are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the Education Authority or boards of governors. The five optional closing days may be taken as an extension to the Easter, Christmas or summer holidays or to cover closure in exceptional circumstances, for example, the death of someone connected with the school or a planned event such as a move to new premises/building work or a religious holiday. Teachers are required to be available for work on 195 days, of which no more than 190 days should involve teaching children in the classroom. The remaining five non-contact days are used for training purposes. Schools may also avail themselves of up to five School Development Days (SDDs) for the purpose of school improvement and school/staff development. For further information see [Circular 2013/09](#).

UNITED KINGDOM – SCOTLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2015/16 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Mid-August 2015	Mid-August 2015
End of students' school year	End June/early July 2016	End June/early July 2016
Autumn holidays	All schools will take from 1 to 2 weeks between 5 and 23 October 2015 and some will also take from 1 to 2 days in September 2015	All schools will take from 1 to 2 weeks between 5 and 23 October 2015 and some will also take from 1 to 2 days in September 2015
Christmas/New Year	Around 2 weeks between 21 December 2015 to 6 January 2016	Around 2 weeks between 21 December 2015 to 6 January 2016
Winter/Carnival	From 1 day to 1 week between 8 and 19 February 2016	From 1 day to 1 week between 8 and 19 February 2016
Spring/Easter	About 2 weeks between 28 March and 15 April 2016	About 2 weeks between 28 March and 15 April 2016
Summer mid-term holidays	Generally schools will take at least 1 day on 2 May 2016 but some schools will also take up to 3 days between 4 and 30 May 2016	Generally schools will take at least 1 day on 2 May 2016 but some schools will also take up to 3 days between 4 and 30 May 2016
Summer	End June/early July 2016	End June/early July 2016
Public/religious holidays	Up to 3 days	Up to 3 days
Starting date of teachers' school year	Mid-August 2015	Mid-August 2015
End of teachers' school year	End June/early July 2016	End June/early July 2016

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

In Scotland, pupils attend school for 190 days a year. The teachers' school year is longer by 5 in-service days (195 days).

As school holidays (and in-service days) are not fixed nationally, but by each of the 32 local education authorities, term dates vary from one authority to another. There are no differences between primary and secondary schools.

The Eurydice Network's task is to understand and explain how Europe's different education systems are organised and how they work. The network provides descriptions of national education systems, comparative studies devoted to specific topics, indicators and statistics. All Eurydice publications are available free of charge on the Eurydice website or in print upon request. Through its work, Eurydice aims to promote understanding, cooperation, trust and mobility at European and international levels. The network consists of national units located in European countries and is co-ordinated by the EU Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. For more information about Eurydice, see <http://ec.europa.eu/eurydice>.

