

Teaching English as a Foreign Language: 2024

NR072/2025

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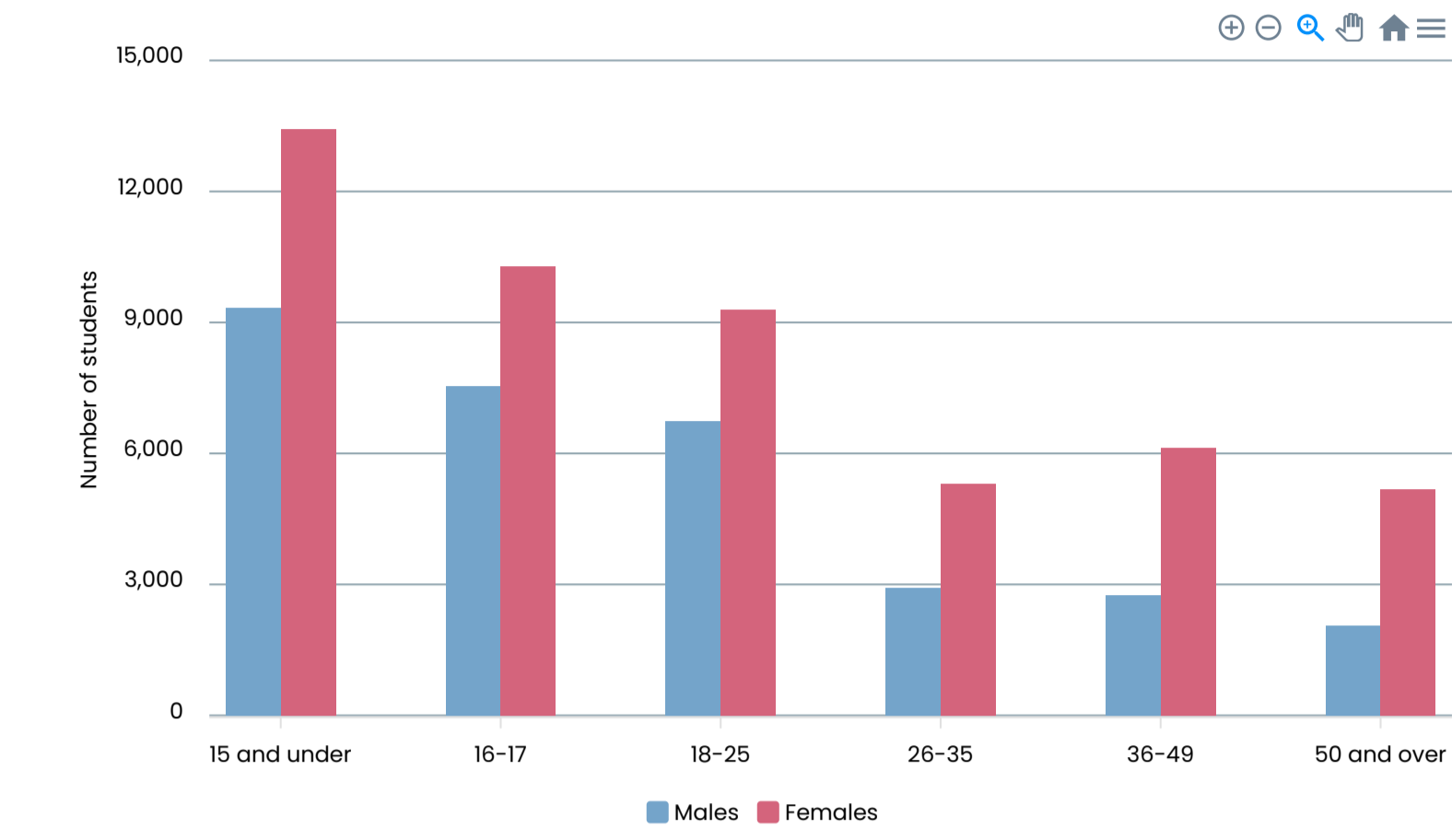
In 2024, foreign students attending English language courses at 33 local licensed English Language Teaching (ELT) schools amounted to 80,946, marking an increase of 2,379 over 2023.



The majority of students attending English language courses in Malta came from Italy (24.9 per cent), followed by France (10.3 per cent) and Germany (10.1 per cent). Overall, 73.9 per cent of total students originated from an EU country (Table 1).

The largest share of language students was in the 15 and under age bracket, accounting for 28.1 per cent of the total students following ELT courses, followed by the 16 and 17-year-old age group, which accounted for 22.0 per cent. Students aged 50 and over were in the minority and numbered 7,237 (8.9 per cent). Female students outnumbered males, and accounted for 61.3 per cent of the entire ELT student population (Tables 2 and 3, Chart 1).

Chart 1. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by age group and sex

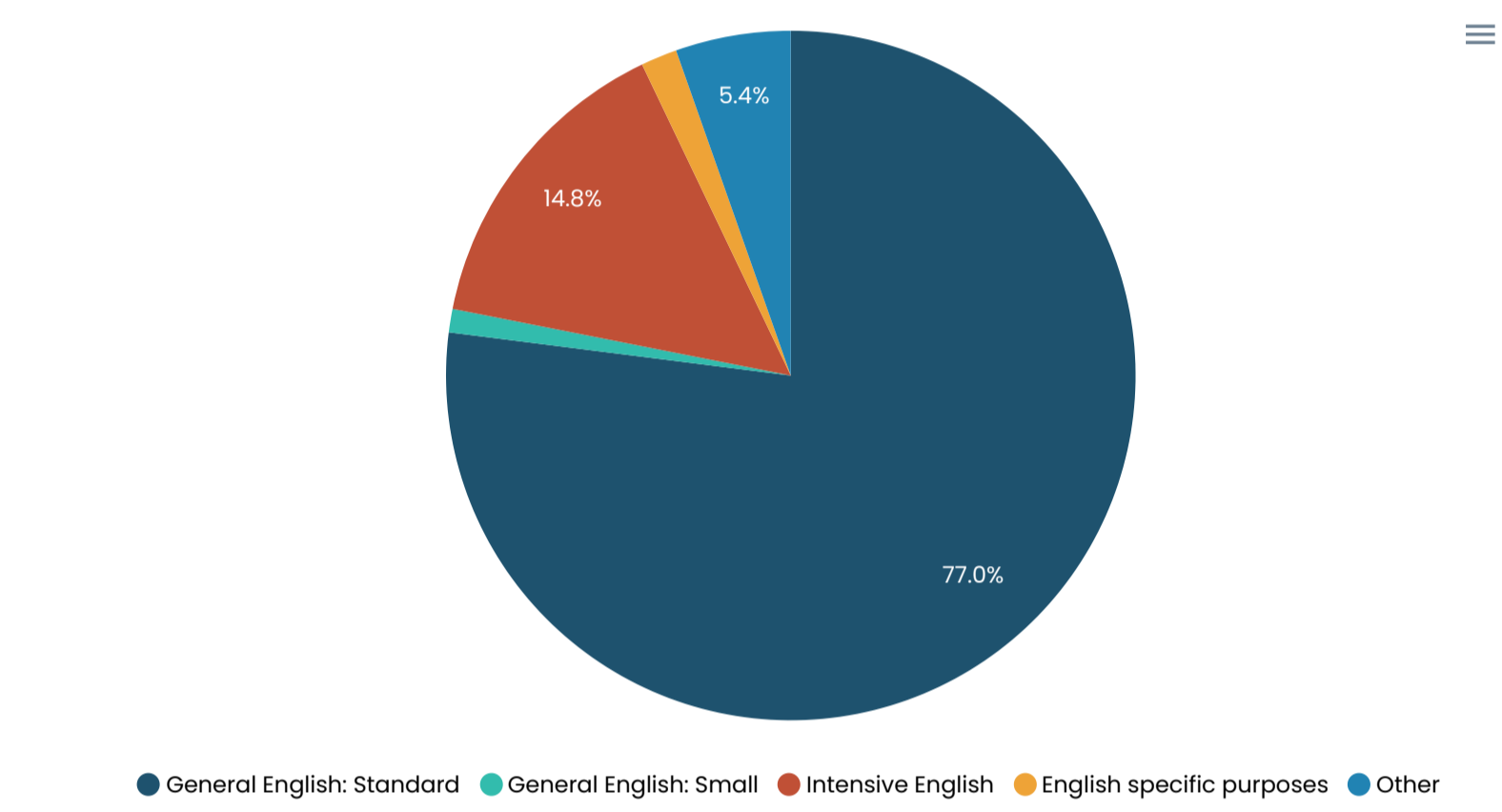


¹ Some courses were held remotely.

July was the busiest month for local licensed ELT schools for courses attendance, accounting for 17.0 per cent of the annual total. August and March followed at 14.5 and 10.4 per cent respectively (Table 4).

The most popular course uptake in local licensed ELT schools was ‘General English: Standard’, whereby a total of 62,299 students, or 77.0 per cent opted for this course. This was followed by the ‘Intensive English’ courses, with 14.8 per cent of total students (Table 5, Chart 2).

Chart 2. Percentage distribution of foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by type of course



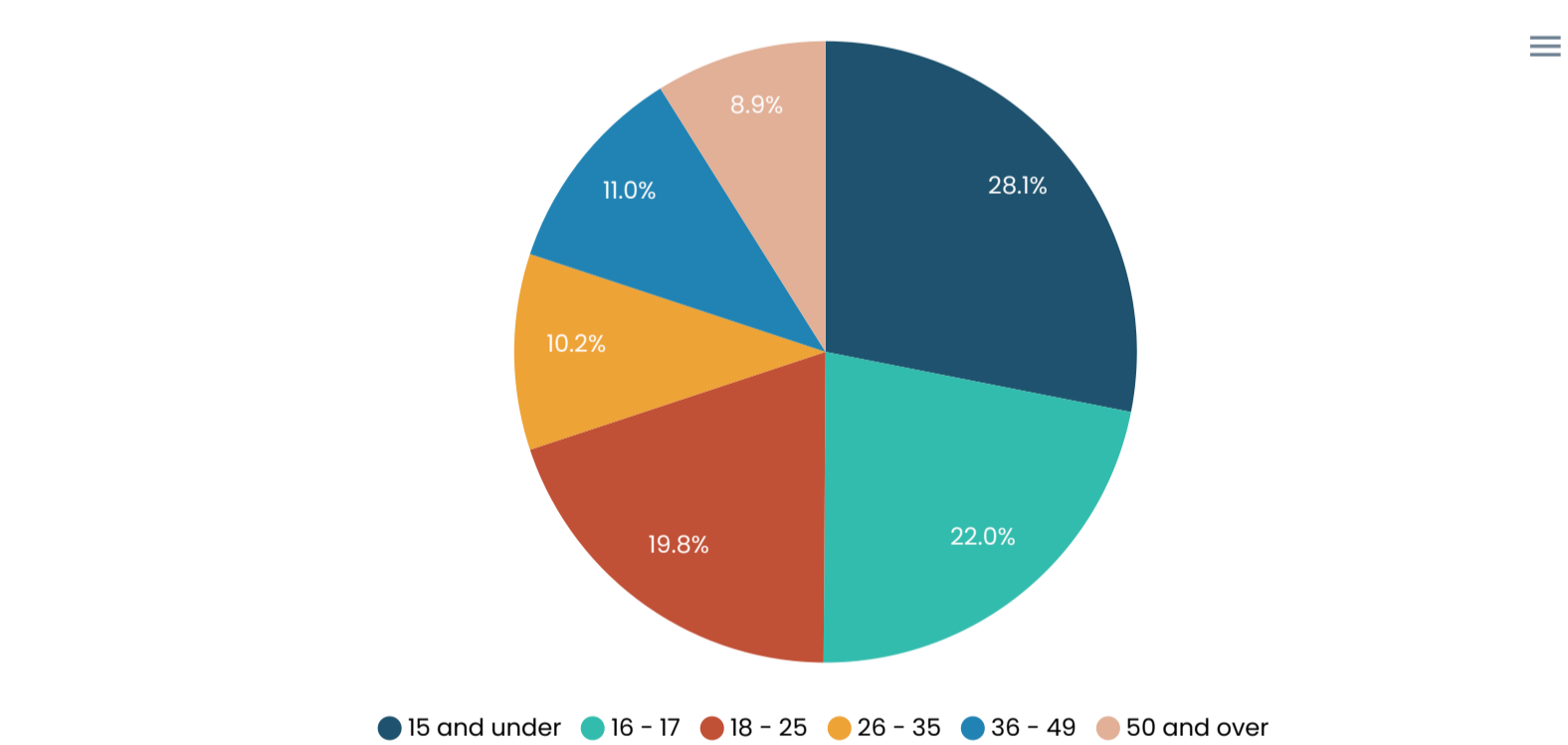
¹ Some courses were held remotely.

- Notes:
- English specific purposes courses include business English.
 - ‘Other’ includes exam preparation courses, one-to-one lessons, combination of courses, and other courses.
 - Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Foreign students enrolled in local licensed ELT schools accounted for 256,868 student weeks. The absolute majority of courses (99.8 per cent of total student weeks) were held physically while online courses accounted for only 0.2 per cent. The average number of student weeks during the year under review stood at 3.2, a decrease of 0.3 compared to previous year (Table 7). With an average of 13.9 weeks, students from Colombia recorded the highest number of student weeks, followed by Chilean and South Korean students with average student weeks at 12.0 and 8.9 weeks respectively (Table 8 and 9).

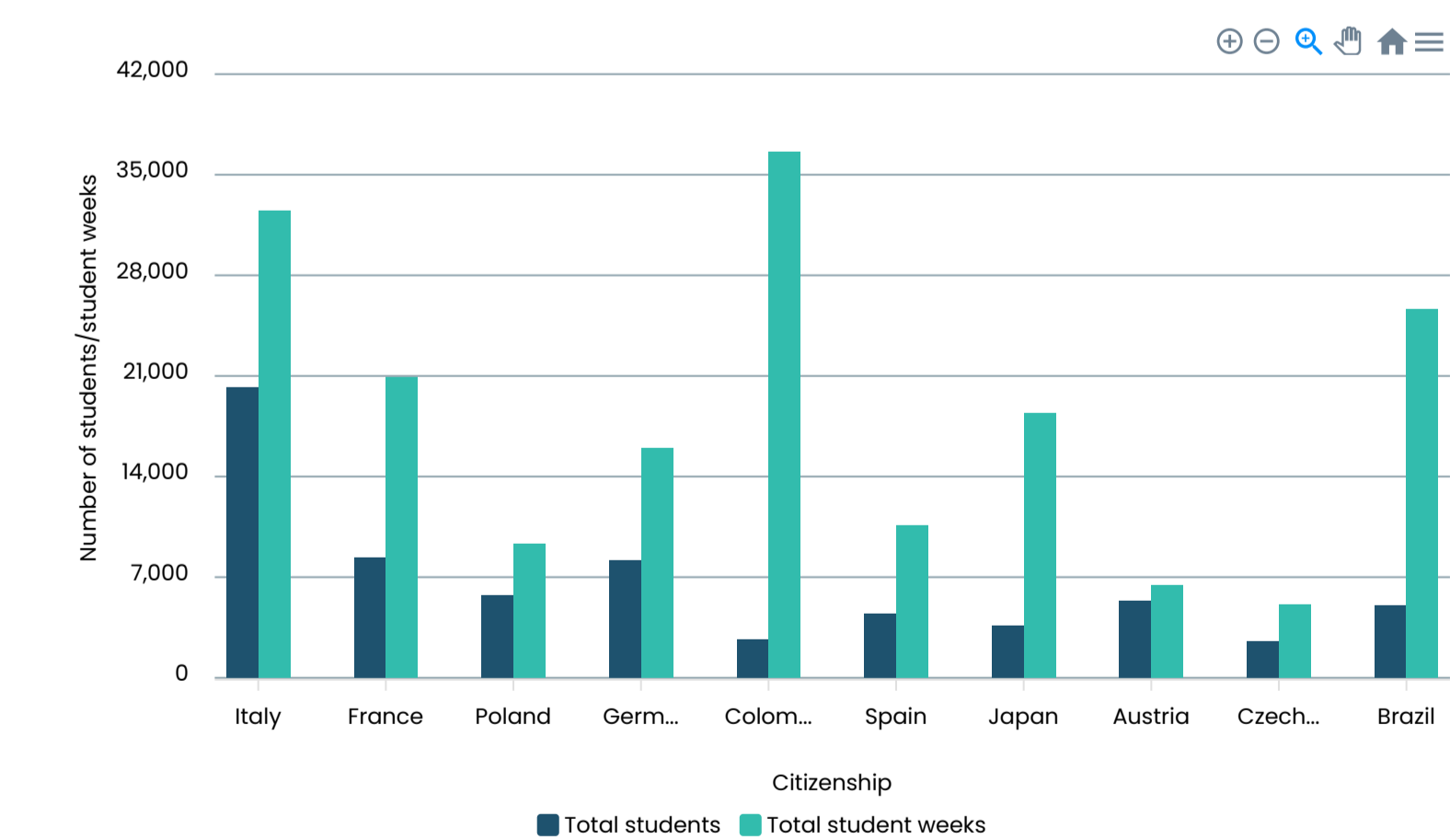
In 2024, teaching and academic staff in local licensed ELT schools numbered 743, with the largest proportion (24.5 per cent) being in 25-34 age group. Female teachers and academic staff accounted for 66.4 per cent of the total (Table 10). Non-teaching staff amounted to 638, of whom 69.4 per cent were employed on a full-time basis (Table 10 and 11).

Chart 3. Percentage distribution of foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by age group



¹ Some courses were held remotely.

Chart 4. Number of foreign students and student tuition weeks by the top 10 countries of citizenship



Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 5. Number of foreign students and tuition weeks

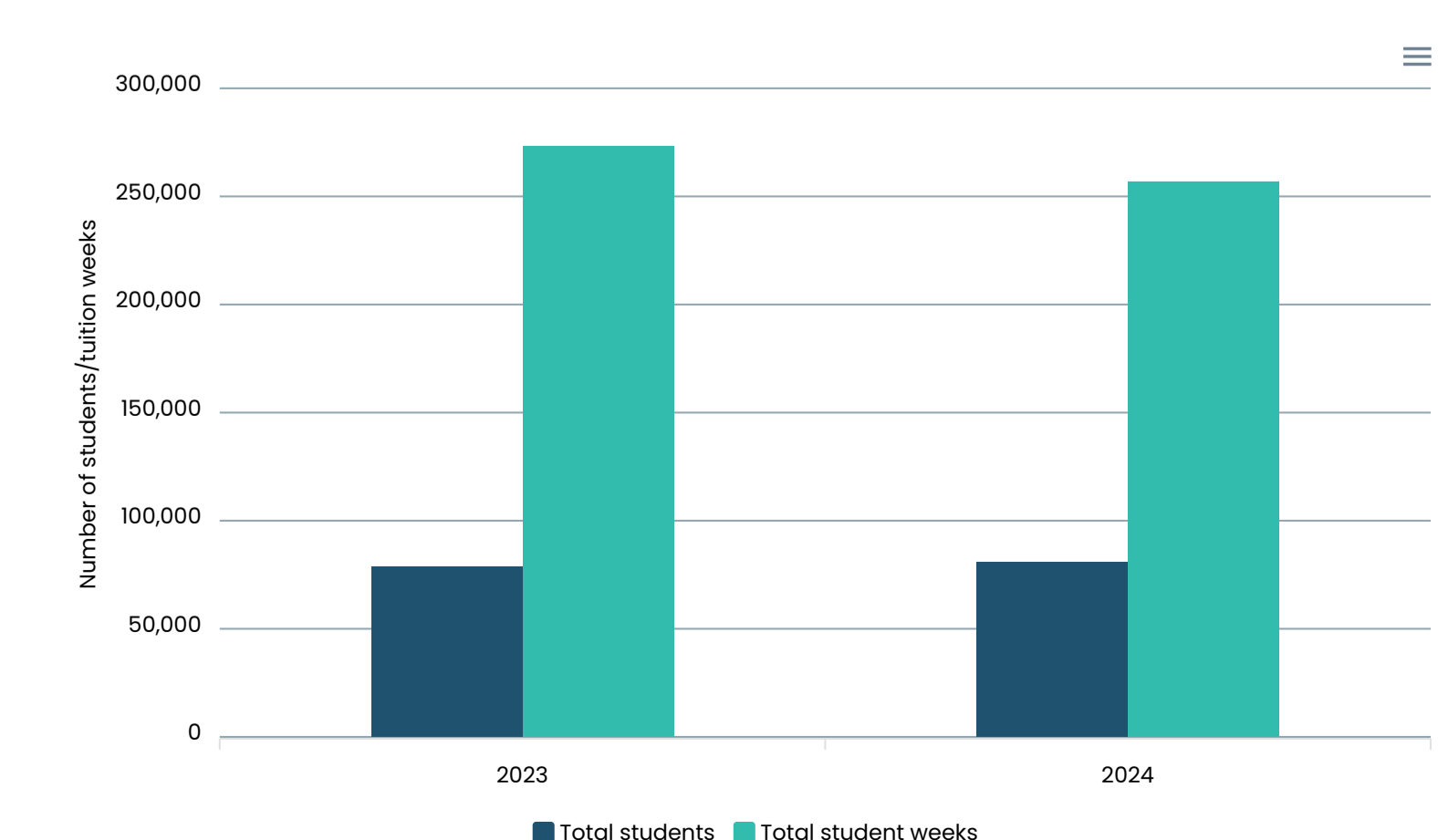


Table 1. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by year, sex and country of citizenship

Country of citizenship	2023			2024		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Italy	8,838	12,970	21,808	8,736	11,446	20,182
France	2,633	4,448	7,081	3,139	5,196	8,335
Poland	1,355	3,504	4,859	1,670	4,087	5,757
Germany	3,268	4,906	8,174	3,210	4,948	8,158
Spain	1,629	2,178	3,807	2,033	2,442	4,475
Czech Republic	847	1,982	2,829	822	1,705	2,527
Belgium	202	338	540	197	398	595
Austria	2,093	2,815	4,908	2,387	2,969	5,356
Slovakia	282	563	845	292	606	898
Hungary	374	702	1,076	390	765	1,155
Other EU countries	638	1,502	2,140	628	1,756	2,384
Total EU	22,159	35,908	58,067	23,504	36,318	59,822
Japan	968	2,439	3,407	1,070	2,530	3,600
Switzerland	608	922	1,530	742	973	1,715
Colombia	1,321	1,715	3,036	1,102	1,534	2,636
Turkey	1,070	779	1,849	969	872	1,841
South Korea	210	730	940	243	677	920
Russia	239	424	663	210	416	626
Brazil	1,477	3,146	4,623	1,529	3,522	5,051
China	165	264	429	214	297	511
Chile	139	195	334	129	219	348
Ukraine	230	357	587	192	307	499
Other Non-EU countries	1,378	1,724	3,102	1,443	1,934	3,377
Total Non-EU	7,805	12,695	20,500	7,843	13,281	21,124
Total	29,964	48,603	78,567	31,347	49,599	80,946

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

Table 2. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by age group and country of citizenship for the top 10 countries and other countries: 2024

Country of citizenship	Age group						Total
	15 and under	16-17	18-25	26-35	36-49	50 and over	
Italy	8,314	7,706	1,823	469	740	1,130	20,182
France	2,954	1,739	1,952	483	595	612	8,335
Germany	2,247	1,067	1,401	721	1,221	1,501	8,158
Poland	1,884	985	243	353	1,405	887	5,757
Colombia	35	145	756	1,115	475	110	2,636
Spain	900	834	1,677	318	402	344	4,475
Japan	443	336	1,966	448	208	199	3,600
Austria	2,026	2,214	911	32	69	104	5,356
Czech Republic	697	534	303	151	533	309	2,527
Brazil	155	188	1,238	1,934	1,028	508	5,051
Other countries ²	3,092	2,077	3,756	2,198	2,213	1,533	14,869
Total	22,747	17,825	16,026	8,222	8,889	7,237	80,946

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

² Includes unspecified country of citizenship.

Table 3. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by year, sex and age group

Age group	2023	2024	Change	Percentage change
	Males			
15 and under	8,902	9,329	427	4.8
16-17	6,983	7,532	549	7.9
18-25	6,217	6,740	523	8.4
26-35	3,276	2,926	-350	-10.7
36-49	2,774	2,759	-15	-0.5
50 and over	1,812	2,061	249	13.7
Total	29,964	31,347	1,383	4.6
	Females			
15 and under	13,322	13,418	96	0.7
16-17	10,492	10,293	-199	-1.9
18-25	8,852	9,286	434	4.9
26-35	5,509	5,296	-213	-3.9
36-49	6,160	6,130	-30	-0.5
50 and over	4,268	5,176	908	21.3
Total	48,603	49,599	996	2.0
	Total			
15 and under	22,224	22,747	523	2.4
16-17	17,475	17,825	350	2.0
18-25	15,069	16,026	957	6.4
26-35	8,785	8,222	-563	-6.4
36-49	8,934	8,889	-45	-0.5
50 and over	6,080	7,237	1,157	19.0
Total	78,567	80,946	2,379	3.0

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

Table 4. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by year, sex and month²

Month	2023	2024	Change	Percentage change
	Males			
January	606	528	-78	-12.9
February	1,636	1,786	150	9.2
March	3,333	3,390	57	1.7
April	2,921	2,725	-196	-6.7
May	2,368	2,399	31	1.3
June	2,243	2,398	155	6.9
July	4,749	4,862	113	2.4
August	3,819	4,373	554	14.5
September	2,496	2,393	-103	-4.1
October	2,307	2,383	76	3.3
November	1,360	1,944	584	42.9
December	2,011	2,102	91	4.5
Remote learning	115	64	-51	-44.3
Total	29,964	31,347	1,383	4.6
	Females			
January	839	956	117	13.9
February	2,624	2,391	-233	-8.9
March	4,952	5,007	55	1.1
April	4,717	3,920	-797	-16.9
May	3,507	3,755	248	7.1
June	3,581	3,995	414	11.6
July	8,706	8,864	158	1.8
August	6,695	7,402	707	10.6
September	4,229	3,602	-627	-14.8
October	3,755	3,808	53	1.4
November	2,122	3,040	918	43.3
December	2,734	2,752	18	0.7
Remote learning	142	107	-35	-24.6
Total	48,603	49,599	996	2.0
	Total			
January	1,445	1,484	39	2.7
February	4,260	4,177	-83	-1.9
March	8,285	8,397	112	1.4
April	7,638	6,645	-993	-13.0
May	5,875	6,154	279	4.7
June	5,824	6,393	569	9.8
July	13,455	13,726	271	2.0
August	10,514	11,775	1,261	12.0
September	6,725	5,995	-730	-10.9
October	6,062	6,191	129	2.1
November	3,482	4,984	1,502	43.1
December	4,745	4,854	109	2.3
Remote learning	257	171	-86	-33.5
Total	78,567	80,946	2,379	3.0

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

² Refer to methodological note 4.

Table 5. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by type of course and country of citizenship: 2024

Country of citizenship	Type of course					Total
	General English: Standard	General English: Small	Intensive English	English specific purposes ²	Other ³	
Italy	18,077	86	1,473	93	453	20,182
France	6,396	33	1,327	267	312	8,335
Poland	3,994	65	985	70	643	5,757
Germany	4,127	212	2,608	377	834	8,158
Spain	3,836	25	394	26	194	4,475
Japan	2,727	94	635	35	109	3,600
Switzerland	918	30	577	9	181	1,715
Colombia	2,082	12	340	80	122	2,636
Czech Republic	1,738	82	503	30	174	2,527
Turkey	1,435	6	305	22	73	1,841
Belgium	374	3	193	5	20	595
South Korea	732	0	135	10	43	920
Austria	5,187	15	99	20	35	5,356
Slovakia	611	14	170	12	91	898
Hungary	702	36	278	17	122	1,155
Sweden	385	6	38	2	5	436
Netherlands	283	2	103	9	33	430
Denmark	155	0	8	2	10	175
Russia	405	8	114	31	68	626
Portugal	191	3	86	2	20	302
Other countries ⁴	7,944	158	1,613	284	828	10,827
Total	62,299	890	11,984	1,403	4,370	80,946

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

² Includes business English.

³ Includes exam preparation courses, one-to-one lessons, combination of courses, and other courses.

⁴ Includes unspecified country of citizenship.

**Table 6. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools
by sex and type of accommodation: 2024**

Type of accommodation	Males	Females	Total ²
Hotel	5,323	7,085	12,408
5 Star	10	12	22
4 Star	3,098	4,218	7,316
3 Star	2,208	2,846	5,054
Hostel / Residence / Guesthouse	9,088	15,540	24,628
Host family	5,938	9,127	15,065
Holiday Furnished Premises (HFP)	1,276	2,282	3,558
Accommodation not provided by the school	8,920	14,387	23,307
Other	16	35	51
Unknown	786	1,143	1,929
Total	31,347	49,599	80,946

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

² Refers to bookings made.

Table 7. Number of student weeks by sex, year and month

Month	Number of student weeks			Average number of student weeks per student ¹		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	2024					
January	4,313	6,248	10,561	8.2	6.5	7.1
February	6,164	8,744	14,908	3.5	3.7	3.6
March	8,269	12,051	20,321	2.4	2.4	2.4
April	8,505	12,405	20,910	3.1	3.2	3.1
May	8,615	13,399	22,014	3.6	3.6	3.6
June	8,960	13,952	22,911	3.7	3.5	3.6
July	15,676	25,411	41,087	3.2	2.9	3.0
August	12,078	18,246	30,324	2.8	2.5	2.6
September	8,293	12,436	20,729	3.5	3.5	3.5
October	8,584	13,494	22,078	3.6	3.5	3.6
November	7,244	10,625	17,869	3.7	3.5	3.6
December	5,466	7,283	12,749	2.6	2.6	2.6
Remote learning	143	263	406	2.2	2.5	2.4
Total	102,311	154,557	256,868	3.3	3.1	3.2
	2023					
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	2023					
January	4,678	6,736	11,414	7.7	8.0	7.9
February	6,319	9,613	15,933	3.9	3.7	3.7
March	9,280	13,573	22,853	2.8	2.7	2.8
April	9,133	13,412	22,546	3.1	2.8	3.0
May	9,701	14,432	24,133	4.1	4.1	4.1
June	9,820	14,610	24,430	4.4	4.1	4.2
July	15,977	25,005	40,982	3.4	2.9	3.0
August	12,955	19,459	32,414	3.4	2.9	3.1
September	8,513	12,922	21,435	3.4	3.1	3.2
October	9,223	14,026	23,249	4.0	3.7	3.8
November	7,349	10,620	17,969	5.4	5.0	5.2
December	5,570	7,534	13,104	2.8	2.8	2.8
Remote learning	1,221	1,450	2,671	10.6	10.2	10.4
Total	109,740	163,391	273,131	3.7	3.4	3.5

¹ Based on student figures as presented in Table 4.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 8. Number of student weeks by age group and country of citizenship: 2024

Country of citizenship	Age group						Total
	15 and under	16-17	18-25	26-35	36-49	50 and over	
Italy	10,856	11,657	4,851	1,792	1,491	1,861	32,508
France	5,327	4,069	7,918	1,451	1,029	1,088	20,882
Poland	2,692	1,619	581	699	2,235	1,461	9,289
Germany	3,635	2,254	4,155	1,364	2,110	2,424	15,942
Spain	1,763	1,481	3,996	1,386	1,112	828	10,566
Japan	819	922	11,819	2,706	1,276	854	18,396
Switzerland	697	1,008	2,113	358	435	838	5,450
Colombia	194	1,848	11,145	16,388	6,043	943	36,561
Czech Republic	1,351	1,165	756	320	955	569	5,117
Turkey	673	757	7,424	3,193	1,509	346	13,902
Belgium	254	453	878	130	56	118	1,889
South Korea	271	59	3,340	2,144	1,314	1,023	8,150
Austria	2,473	2,555	1,065	78	111	172	6,453
Slovakia	601	323	220	211	398	219	1,971
Hungary	471	355	294	176	462	410	2,168
Sweden	531	200	333	34	23	25	1,145
Netherlands	117	463	699	27	64	60	1,430
Denmark	215	86	31	3	12	16	363
Russia	794	189	324	436	406	140	2,288
Portugal	67	121	395	256	202	104	1,146
Other countries ¹	4,073	4,199	15,155	22,034	11,693	4,099	61,252
Total	37,872	35,782	77,493	55,186	32,937	17,599	256,868

¹ Includes unspecified country of citizenship.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 9. Number of student weeks by sex and country of citizenship: 2024

Country of citizenship	Number of student weeks			Average number of student weeks per student ¹		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Italy	14,411	18,097	32,508	1.6	1.6	1.6
France	8,519	12,363	20,882	2.7	2.4	2.5
Poland	2,751	6,538	9,289	1.6	1.6	1.6
Germany	6,385	9,557	15,942	2.0	1.9	2.0
Spain	4,543	6,023	10,566	2.2	2.5	2.4
Czech Republic	1,665	3,452	5,117	2.0	2.0	2.0
Belgium	632	1,257	1,889	3.2	3.2	3.2
Austria	2,760	3,693	6,453	1.2	1.2	1.2
Slovakia	655	1,316	1,971	2.2	2.2	2.2
Hungary	801	1,367	2,168	2.1	1.8	1.9
Other EU countries	2,013	4,721	6,734	3.2	2.7	2.8
Total EU	45,135	68,383	113,519	1.9	1.9	1.9
Japan	5,757	12,638	18,396	5.4	5.0	5.1
Switzerland	2,250	3,200	5,450	3.0	3.3	3.2
Colombia	15,483	21,078	36,561	14.0	13.7	13.9
Turkey	7,483	6,420	13,902	7.7	7.4	7.6
South Korea	2,201	5,949	8,150	9.1	8.8	8.9
Russia	809	1,479	2,288	3.9	3.6	3.7
Brazil	8,446	17,184	25,630	5.5	4.9	5.1
China	1,939	2,488	4,426	9.1	8.4	8.7
Chile	1,643	2,521	4,164	12.7	11.5	12.0
Ukraine	575	959	1,535	3.0	3.1	3.1
Other Non-EU countries	10,590	12,258	22,848	7.3	6.3	6.8
Total Non-EU	57,176	86,174	143,349	7.3	6.5	6.8
Total	102,311	154,557	256,868	3.3	3.1	3.2

¹ Based on student figures as presented in Table 1.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 10. Staff¹ employed in local licensed ELT schools by sex, type of employment and age group: 2024

Age group	Males	Females	Total
	Teaching/Academic staff		
16-17	-	1	1
18-24	47	114	161
25-34	64	118	182
35-44	54	84	138
45-54	31	63	94
55 and over	54	113	167
Total	250	493	743
	Non-teaching staff		
16-17	9	19	28
18-24	60	104	164
25-34	92	128	220
35-44	38	59	97
45-54	33	43	76
55 and over	32	21	53
Total	264	374	638
	Total		
16-17	9	20	29
18-24	107	218	325
25-34	156	246	402
35-44	92	143	235
45-54	64	106	170
55 and over	86	134	220
Total	514	867	1,381

¹ Refer to methodological note 4.

Note: For type of employment, teaching and non-teaching staff definitions see methodological note 8.

Table 11. Staff¹ in local licensed ELT schools by sex and type of employment: 2024

Type of employment	Teaching/Academic staff			Non-teaching staff			Total		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Full-time	50	98	148	176	267	443	226	365	591
Part-time	98	140	238	41	39	80	139	179	318
Casual	102	255	357	47	68	115	149	323	472
Total	250	493	743	264	374	638	514	867	1,381
Full-time	20.0	19.9	19.9	66.7	71.4	69.4	44.0	42.1	42.8
Part-time	39.2	28.4	32.0	15.5	10.4	12.5	27.0	20.6	23.0
Casual	40.8	51.7	48.0	17.8	18.2	18.0	29.0	37.3	34.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Refer to methodological note 4.

Note: For type of employment, teaching and non-teaching staff definitions see methodological note 7.

Methodological Notes

1. Data used in this News Release is based on information collected by the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation which was subsequently analysed by NSO.
2. Data was collected by the ELT Council during the period December 2024-February 2025. All local licensed English Language Teaching (ELT) schools operating in 2024 responded to this questionnaire. A full list of ELT schools can be accessed [here](#).
3. Breakdowns by country are based on the students' citizenship as provided by the student. Thus, figures for foreign citizens are not directly comparable to other tourism figures published by the NSO.
4. For the scope of this release 'teaching/academic staff' includes all ELT permit holders. Staff employed with different schools carrying out the same role are counted once.
5. Figures on type of course followed and type of accommodation cannot be compared with data of previous years due to methodological enhancements held in 2020.

6. Definitions:

ELT schools refer to institutions which provide English-related courses for foreign students. More information can be accessed [here](#).

Teaching/Academic staff refer to professional personnel directly involved in teaching students, including teachers, assistant teachers, ELT instructors and other ELT permit holders.

Non-Teaching staff refer to persons employed by educational institutions who have no instructional responsibilities, and do not hold an ELT permit. Examples are school management staff, front office staff, group leaders, administration staff, sales, marketing and reservations staff.

Full-time employment: includes employed persons on a full-time basis.

Part-time employment: includes employed persons whose normal hours are less than those of comparable full-time workers.

Casual employment: includes temporary workers, working irregular hours, who are employed on a part-time basis.

7. Number of student weeks by foreign students is calculated as follows: total number of days divided by seven.
8. Average number of student weeks per student is calculated as follows: total number of weeks divided by total number of students.
9. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately. For guidance on access and re-use of data please visit our [dedicated webpage](#).
10. For further assistance send your request through our [online request form](#).
11. A detailed news release calendar is available [online](#).