

# Statistics of Education:

## Class Sizes and Pupil Teacher Ratios in England



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# CLASS SIZES AND PUPIL:TEACHER RATIOS IN SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND

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## INTRODUCTION

- 1 This Bulletin brings together information about pupil:teacher ratios, average class sizes and the size of classes as taught in schools in England. While the key figures have already been published elsewhere, the Bulletin contains more extensive analyses.
- 2 The Annual Schools Census collects information about pupils on roll and teachers who are employed at schools as at January each year. Information of this type has been collected for a long time: the earliest pupil:teacher ratios reported in Section 1 of this Bulletin are for 1947 in maintained primary and secondary schools.
- 3 In addition, the sizes of classes being taught at a specific time on the day of the Census is collected from maintained primary and secondary schools, giving a snapshot of classes in all of these schools in January. From this, average class size and the percentage of children in classes of different sizes can be derived. For primary schools there is also information about the Key Stage, the activity of the class and the number of teaching assistants present at the time of the Census. The figures reported in Sections 2 and 3 of this Bulletin are derived from the classes as taught section of the Annual Schools Census.
- 4 Information from the additional collection of information about the size of infant classes in maintained primary schools in England in September is reported in Section 4 for 1998, 1999 and 2000. Class sizes as measured in September are not directly comparable with those in January, as any differences in the figures will reflect seasonal effects such as pupils entering school in January.
- 5 The Government is committed to raising the standard of education in all our schools. Reducing the size of infant classes is one of a range of measures put in place to achieve this. The September Class Size Count that is analysed in Section 4 of this Bulletin was begun specifically to monitor the Government's pledge to reduce the size of infant classes for children aged 5, 6 and 7 to 30 or below.
- 6 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 will ensure that smaller infant classes will be in place by September 2001 at the latest. This legislation requires local education authorities to draw up plans in consultation with schools, parents and Diocesan representatives showing how the size of infant classes will be reduced. A total of £620 million has been made available to reduce the size of infant classes. This is sufficient to employ around 6,000 additional teachers and to build some 2,000 new infant classrooms.

### Measures of Class Size

- 7 *The pupil:teacher ratio* is calculated by taking the full-time equivalent of all the pupils (where a part-time pupil counts as one half) and dividing it by the full-time equivalent of the number of teachers employed (calculated by looking at the number of hours worked by teachers). While the number of teachers employed relative to the number of pupils enrolled will have an affect on class sizes, not all teachers will necessarily be in the class room at any one time.
- 8 *The average class size* is calculated by dividing the number of pupils in classes being taught at the time of the Census by the number of classes.
- 9 *The percentage of pupils in classes of a particular size* is calculated by looking at the proportion of all children who were in classes of that size in classes as taught at the time of the Census.
- 10 *The child:adult ratio* is calculated by dividing the number of children in classes as taught at the time of the Census by the number of adults (teachers and teaching assistants employed by the school). Child:adult ratio is only available for those classes where the number of teaching assistants is collected in the classes as taught section of the Annual Schools Census.

### Further Information

- 11 Information about class sizes and pupil:teacher ratios, including Local Education Authority level statistics, can be found in Statistical First Releases that are available on the website [www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics). The most recent Statistical First Releases are 14/2000 'Pupil:Teacher Ratios in Maintained Schools in England: January 2000 (Provisional)', 15/2000 'Class sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2000 (Provisional)' and 45/2000 'Infant Class Sizes in England: September 2000'. Information about class sizes and pupil:teacher ratios is also included in the Volume 'Statistics of Education: Schools in England: January 2000' which was published in September 2000.

# SECTION 1

## PUPIL:TEACHER RATIOS

**TABLE 1:**  
Pupils, teachers and pupil:teacher ratios in England, January each year

(A) Primary, secondary and nursery schools

	Primary schools (1) (2)					Secondary schools (1)			
	Schools	Pupils		Qualified Teachers (3)	Pupil: Teacher ratio (5)	Schools	Pupils	Qualified Teachers (3)	Pupil: Teacher ratio (4)
		Full-time	Part-time						
1947	21,208	3,422,346	..	111,657	30.7	4,245	1,249,075	61,016	20.5
1948	21,026	3,530,908	..	114,605	30.8	4,287	1,448,383	66,340	21.8
1949	20,861	3,592,252	..	116,092	30.9	4,362	1,553,303	71,886	21.7
1950	20,833	3,677,093	..	118,680	31.0	4,417	1,586,827	74,901	21.2
1951	20,848	3,729,122	..	122,374	30.5	4,470	1,617,213	77,899	20.8
1952	20,942	3,930,605	..	126,019	31.2	4,526	1,637,660	79,963	20.5
1953	21,117	4,145,598	..	129,950	31.9	4,584	1,647,818	81,534	20.2
1954	21,269	4,258,660	..	133,412	31.9	4,662	1,696,314	83,965	20.2
1955	21,436	4,304,910	1,000	137,157	31.4	4,753	1,784,452	87,622	20.4
1956	21,506	4,293,947	1,100	138,748	31.0	4,876	1,923,123	92,504	20.8
1957	21,546	4,291,586	1,200	139,730	30.7	4,992	2,047,265	98,554	20.8
1958	21,512	4,214,236	1,300	138,252	30.5	5,155	2,185,997	105,287	20.8
1959	21,408	4,024,714	1,500	135,151	29.8	5,311	2,434,723	115,438	21.1
1960	21,302	3,924,803	1,703	133,534	29.4	5,396	2,556,845	123,357	20.7
1961	21,134	3,866,244	2,652	133,353	29.0	5,445	2,652,682	130,023	20.4
1962	21,037	3,865,465	4,118	134,214	28.8	5,491	2,657,317	134,937	19.7
1963	20,948	3,880,773	5,780	133,715	29.0	5,495	2,605,205	135,549	19.2
1964	20,827	3,937,986	7,222	135,931	29.0	5,496	2,650,311	138,553	19.1
1965	20,789	4,003,934	10,225	140,377	28.6	5,472	2,640,373	141,507	18.7
1966	20,751	4,093,482	10,990	145,048	28.3	5,412	2,638,603	143,947	18.3
1967	20,781	4,218,152	13,474	150,535	28.1	5,365	2,654,547	146,493	18.1
1968	20,891	4,364,004	16,311	155,694	28.1	5,222	2,713,899	150,177	18.1
1969	21,023	4,497,923	22,051	161,978	27.8	5,127	2,781,352	155,208	17.9
1970	21,077	4,617,123	27,631	168,233	27.5	5,060	2,860,124	161,154	17.7
1971	21,083	4,720,151	36,587	175,435	27.0	4,984	2,953,252	164,781	17.9
1972	21,183	4,806,738	46,922	184,320	26.2	4,913	3,055,344	174,064	17.6
1973	21,209	4,839,478	56,932	190,667	25.5	4,870	3,161,489	185,260	17.1
1974	21,282	4,835,907	74,260	195,581	24.9	4,818	3,499,654	200,426	17.5
1975	21,326	4,786,818	89,727	199,399	24.2	4,777	3,597,633	209,324	17.2
1976	21,394	4,737,403	109,205	199,937	24.0	4,728	3,700,472	217,313	17.0
1977	21,414	4,637,462	133,098	197,056	23.9	4,734	3,798,711	223,209	17.0
1978	21,372	4,499,633	142,328	193,521	23.6	4,711	3,851,271	227,379	16.9
1979	21,309	4,370,801	147,473	192,462	23.1	4,694	3,872,036	231,404	16.7
1980	21,242	4,210,328	150,517	188,603	22.7	4,680	3,866,102	232,457	16.6
1981	21,018	4,020,964	155,529	181,310	22.6	4,654	3,839,858	230,928	16.6
1982	20,650	3,838,907	167,804	174,240	22.5	4,622	3,798,000	228,397	16.6
1983	20,384	3,660,634	183,491	168,514	22.3	4,553	3,740,944	227,084	16.5
1984	20,020	3,571,376	194,469	165,637	22.1	4,444	3,645,586	224,648	16.2
1985	19,734	3,542,076	205,772	164,429	22.2	4,382	3,525,771	218,605	16.1
1986	19,549	3,548,313	212,669	165,318	22.1	4,286	3,388,517	212,641	15.9
1987	19,432	3,576,938	215,292	168,385	21.9	4,221	3,239,512	207,180	15.6
1988	19,319	3,618,300	226,628	169,700	22.0	4,153	3,070,172	199,584	15.4
1989	19,232	3,667,129	238,349	172,414	22.0	4,035	2,944,722	192,841	15.3
1990	19,162	3,734,025	250,835	175,599	22.0	3,976	2,862,624	187,646	15.3
1991	19,047	3,782,108	265,370	176,295	22.2	3,897	2,853,288	183,508	15.5
1992	18,926	3,811,404	278,132	177,873	22.2	3,847	2,905,779	183,555	15.8
1993	18,828	3,878,753	286,650	179,420	22.4	3,773	2,964,669	184,036	16.1
1994	18,683	3,945,344	296,406	180,558	22.7	3,629	2,933,598	178,780	16.4
1995	18,551	4,005,842	306,358	181,910	22.9	3,614	2,992,857	181,445	16.5
1996	18,480	4,075,664	313,700	182,626	23.2	3,594	3,010,416	180,868	16.6
1997	18,392	4,113,219	315,824	182,442	23.4	3,569	3,041,584	181,692	16.7
1998	18,312	4,140,130	320,516	181,394	23.7	3,567	3,072,822	181,853	16.9
1999	18,234	4,140,955	319,216	182,646	23.5	3,560	3,121,901	183,578	17.0
2000	18,158	4,120,900	314,446	183,762	23.3	3,550	3,181,813	185,429	17.2

	Nursery schools (5)				
	Schools	Pupils		Teachers (3)	Pupil: Teacher ratio (4)
		Full-time	Part-time		
1964	439	22,403	..	863	26.0
1965	436	22,521	..	878	25.7
1966	436	22,571	..	881	25.6
1967	438	22,830	..	872	26.2
1968	440	22,873	..	1,134	20.1
1969	441	16,027	14,372	1,180	19.7
1970	453	15,323	17,030	1,241	19.2
1971	468	14,674	19,616	1,283	19.1
1972	494	14,560	22,512	1,383	18.7
1973	508	14,568	24,812	1,191	22.6
1974	532	14,135	27,851	1,246	22.5
1975	554	14,053	29,962	1,343	21.6
1976	569	13,746	32,258	1,416	21.1
1977	584	13,894	34,239	1,495	20.7
1978	597	14,364	34,553	1,532	20.7
1979	596	14,445	34,396	1,569	20.2
1980	599	14,274	34,538	1,595	19.8
1981	591	13,946	34,681	1,589	19.7
1982	584	13,530	35,811	1,582	19.9
1983	577	12,791	37,084	1,558	20.1
1984	567	12,367	37,260	1,551	20.0
1985	563	12,046	37,796	1,571	19.7
1986	562	11,860	37,836	1,567	19.6
1987	560	11,696	38,049	1,583	19.4
1988	560	11,407	38,596	1,581	19.4
1989	561	11,135	39,305	1,580	19.5
1990	566	10,622	41,196	1,609	19.4
1991	568	10,275	42,101	1,637	19.1
1992	562	9,935	42,518	1,632	19.1
1993	563	9,672	43,635	1,643	19.2
1994	554	9,140	43,474	1,579	19.6
1995	553	8,871	43,897	1,580	19.5
1996	549	8,846	43,563	1,588	19.2
1997	546	8,714	42,252	1,576	18.9
1998	535	8,443	40,482	1,541	18.6
1999	522	8,491	39,126	1,520	18.5
2000	516	8,087	38,367	1,504	18.1

(1) Includes Middle Schools.

(2) From 1970 to 1982 includes Immigrant centres (centres for teaching English as an additional language).

(3) Includes both the full-time and full-time equivalent of part-time qualified teachers.

(4) The pupil:teacher ratio within schools is the ratio of the full-time equivalent number of pupils (counting each part-time pupil as 0.5) to the full-time equivalent number of teachers.

(5) Includes 2 Direct Grant Nursery schools.

**(B) Special, pupil referral units and independent schools**

Special schools (1) (6)					Pupil Referral Units (7)				Independent schools (2) (3)				
Schools	Pupils		Teachers (3)	Pupil: Teacher ratio(4)	Schools	Pupils	Teachers (3)	Pupil: Teacher ratio (4)	Schools	Pupils		Teachers (3)	Pupil: Teacher ratio (4)
	Full-time	Part-time								Full-time	Part-time		
833	70,245	..	6,076	11.6	..	..	..	..	3,825	568,931	..	41,222	13.8
847	71,915	..	6,336	11.4	..	..	..	..	3,633	548,176	..	40,763	13.4
868	74,102	..	6,634	11.2	..	..	..	..	3,480	551,415	..	40,476	13.6
887	75,914	..	7,021	10.8	..	..	..	..	3,327	546,691	..	39,646	13.8
910	79,271	..	7,391	10.7	..	..	..	..	3,153	534,691	..	38,666	13.8
928	82,223	..	7,719	10.7	..	..	..	..	3,016	523,120	15,154	38,749	13.7
951	84,256	48	8,175	10.3	..	..	..	..	2,875	520,525	13,838	38,583	13.7
983	87,709	70	8,628	10.2	..	..	..	..	2,740	515,142	13,544	38,113	13.7
1,432	117,988	340	12,479	9.5	..	..	..	..	2,707	516,457	13,291	38,463	13.6
1,468	123,304	313	13,390	9.2	..	..	..	..	2,631	520,660	13,734	38,851	13.6
1,502	126,060	349	13,166	9.6	..	..	..	..	2,542	528,163	13,255	39,269	13.6
1,529	127,326	483	14,054	9.1	..	..	..	..	2,477	530,362	12,772	39,627	13.5
1,545	128,898	619	14,972	8.6	..	..	..	..	2,437	523,435	11,783	39,591	13.4
1,579	130,460	691	15,756	8.3	..	..	..	..	2,400	518,783	10,930	39,842	13.2
1,591	131,525	859	16,242	8.1	..	..	..	..	2,379	509,819	11,320	39,881	12.9
1,599	130,871	817	16,799	7.8	..	..	..	..	2,361	512,233	11,078	39,710	13.0
1,597	128,848	876	16,942	7.6	..	..	..	..	2,348	516,948	10,602	41,159	12.7
1,593	127,157	968	16,896	7.6	..	..	..	..	2,339	515,742	11,278	41,597	12.5
1,571	125,407	1,080	16,900	7.5	..	..	..	..	2,338	510,074	10,914	42,261	12.2
1,562	123,514	1,297	16,890	7.4	..	..	..	..	2,344	503,239	13,191	42,902	11.9
1,548	118,578	1,519	16,906	7.1	..	..	..	..	2,331	500,845	14,233	43,757	11.6
1,529	114,747	1,526	16,846	6.9	..	..	..	..	2,311	501,422	14,723	44,520	11.4
1,493	111,940	1,614	16,667	6.8	..	..	..	..	2,285	504,235	15,083	45,233	11.3
1,470	107,126	1,559	16,566	6.5	..	..	..	..	2,276	514,855	16,182	46,102	11.3
1,443	103,218	1,852	16,462	6.3	..	..	..	..	2,273	522,949	17,118	47,151	11.3
1,414	100,037	2,027	16,310	6.2	..	..	..	..	2,269	532,198	18,582	48,741	11.1
1,398	97,141	2,154	16,401	6.0	..	..	..	..	2,283	539,512	19,233	50,204	10.9
1,380	95,383	2,380	16,452	5.9	..	..	..	..	2,287	546,156	19,632	51,692	10.8
1,352	95,381	2,546	16,447	5.8	..	..	..	..	2,269	546,438	20,101	52,558	10.6
1,327	95,630	2,655	16,279	6.0	..	..	..	..	2,261	538,676	21,431	52,995	10.4
1,310	96,252	2,721	15,885	6.1	..	..	..	..	2,266	533,803	22,097	52,746	10.3
1,291	95,499	2,891	15,491	6.3	286	5,043	1,428	3.5	2,259	533,416	23,156	53,055	10.3
1,263	95,157	2,919	15,160	6.5	291	6,872	1,610	4.3	2,264	534,168	25,238	53,399	10.2
1,239	95,195	3,054	15,002	6.4	309	7,530	1,740	4.3	2,271	540,655	26,937	53,676	10.3
1,229	95,539	2,888	14,811	6.5	309	7,740	1,801	4.3	2,242	545,889	26,133	54,789	10.2
1,209	94,941	2,752	14,707	6.5	298	8,263	1,851	4.5	2,229	547,438	27,393	56,163	10.0
1,197	94,142	2,428	14,728	6.5	295	8,479	1,986	4.3	2,202	549,650	27,503	57,196	9.9

(1) Includes Maintained and Non-Maintained Special Schools.

(2) Includes Direct Grant Grammar schools up to and including 1980.

(3) From 1990, includes City Technology Colleges.

(4) Includes both the full-time and full-time equivalent of part-time qualified teachers.

(5) The Pupil:Teacher ratio within schools is the ratio of the full-time equivalent number of pupils to the full-time equivalent of the number of teachers

(6) From 1995, excludes pupils who are also registered at a maintained mainstream school.

(7) From 1995, excludes pupils who are also registered at a maintained mainstream or Special school.

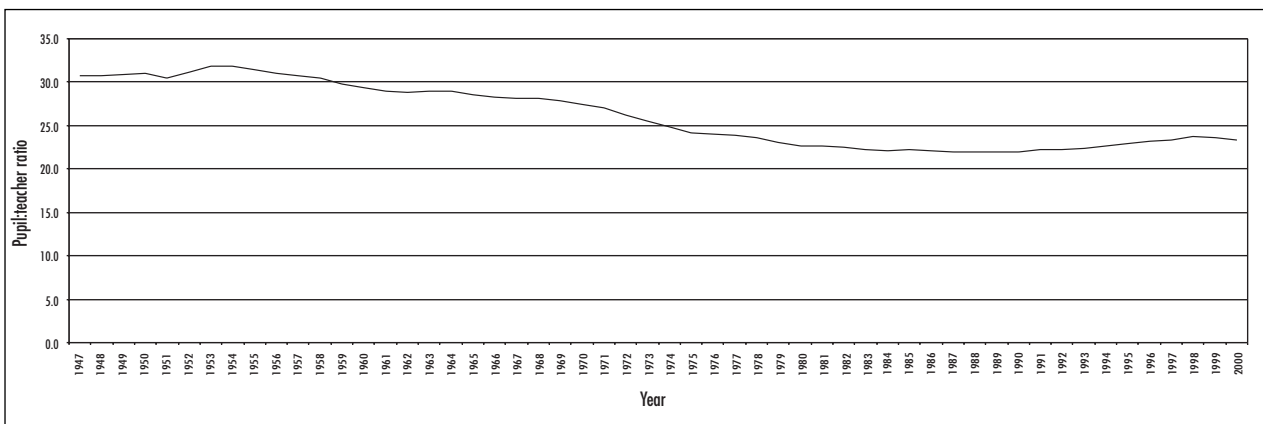
.. not available

**12** The pupil:teacher ratio reflects the relationship between the full time equivalent of the number of pupils on roll in schools and the full time equivalent of the number of teachers employed in schools in January each year. The ratio can change when either the number of pupils or the number of teachers or both change. If there is an increase or decrease in the number of pupils on roll and the number of teachers employed rises or falls in line with the changes in pupil numbers then the pupil:teacher ratio will remain constant. There are two main reasons why pupil numbers have changed over the time period described in this Section: population changes and changes in Government policy relating to school leaving age and early years education. Table 1 shows the changes in pupils, teachers and pupil:teacher ratios in primary and secondary schools between January 1947 and 2000.

### Primary Schools

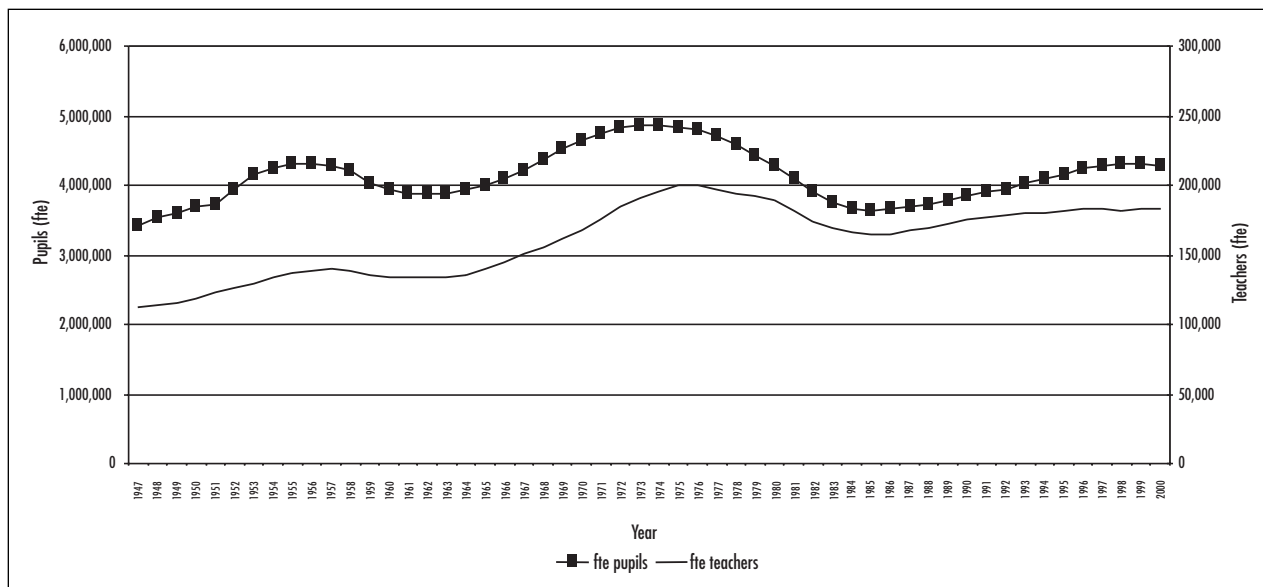
**13** Chart 1 illustrates the changes in pupil:teacher ratios in primary schools. In 1947 in primary schools one teacher was employed for every 30.7 pupils. After reaching its highest value of 31.9 pupils for every teacher in 1953 and 1954, the ratio decreased in primary schools to reach 21.9 pupils for every teacher in 1987 and then rose to 23.7 pupils per teacher in 1998. The pupil:teacher ratio then decreased in each of the years 1999 and 2000

**CHART 1:**  
Pupil:teacher ratios in primary schools: January 1947 to 2000



**14** Chart 2 shows the changes in pupil:teacher ratio which are for differing reasons over this time period. For example, prior to 1954, the post-war baby boom caused a rapid increase in pupil numbers that was generally not matched by an equivalent increase in teachers, and the pupil:teacher ratio rose. The subsequent increase in pupils between 1962 and 1974 was better matched by an increase in teacher numbers and the pupil:teacher ratio decreased, the rise in pupils numbers between 1985 and 1998 was not matched by an equivalent rise in teacher numbers and the pupil:teacher ratio increased slightly. In 1999 and 2000 the pupil:teacher ratio decreased in primary schools as pupil numbers levelled off and the number of teachers increased.

**CHART 2:**  
Full time equivalent pupils and teachers in primary schools: January 1947 to 2000

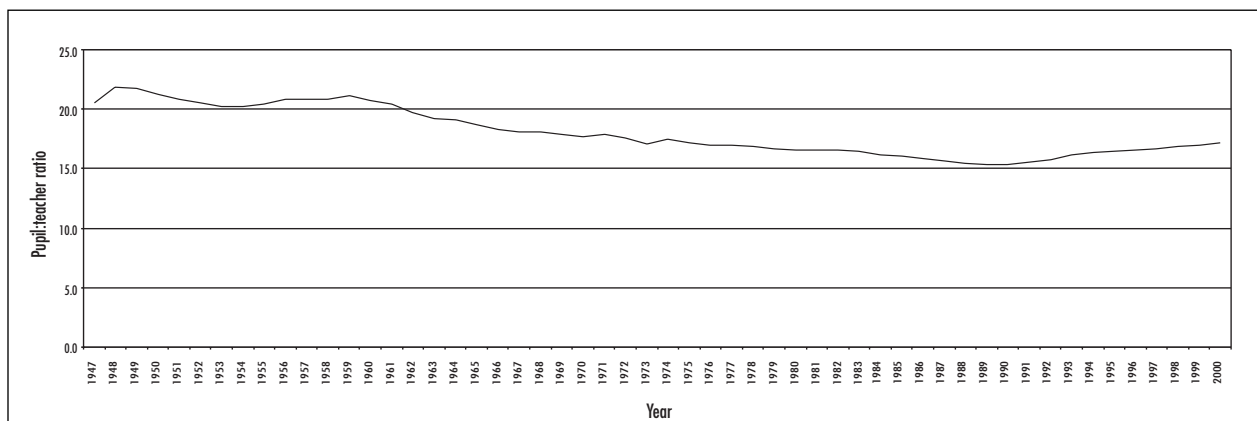




## Secondary Schools

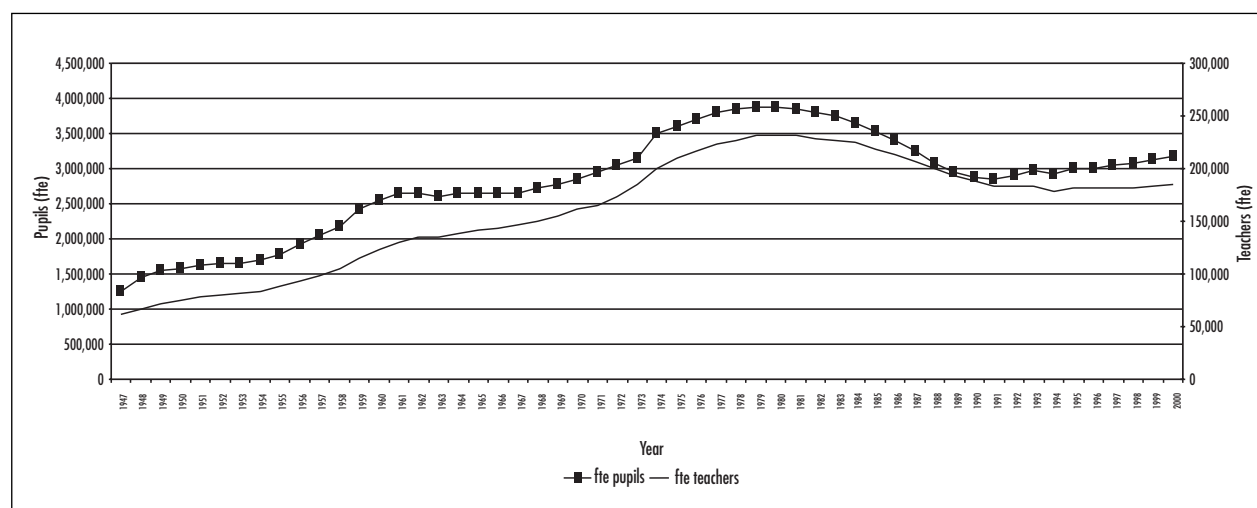
15 Chart 3 illustrates the changes in pupil:teacher ratios in secondary schools. In 1947 in secondary schools one teacher was employed for every 20.5 pupils. After reaching its highest value of 21.8 pupils for every teacher in 1948 the ratio decreased then increased between 1949 and 1959. This was followed by a steady decrease until the lowest value of 15.3 pupils for every teacher was reached in 1989 and 1990. There has been an increase in the pupil:teacher ratio in secondary schools in each year between 1991 and 2000: in January 2000 the pupil:teacher ratio in secondary schools was 17.2.

**CHART 3:**  
Pupil:teacher ratios in secondary schools: January 1947 to 2000



16 Chart 4 shows the changes in pupil:teacher ratio, which are for differing reasons over this time period. Between 1948 and 1959 there was a considerable increase in the number of pupils enrolled in secondary schools. The decrease and subsequent increase in the pupil:teacher ratio was because the number of teachers did not increase in step with the change in pupil numbers. Between 1960 and 1980 the number of teachers increased more quickly than the increase in pupil numbers even when there was a steep rise in pupil numbers in 1974 associated with the raising of the school leaving age. Between 1980 and 1990 the number of teachers fell less quickly than the decrease in the number of pupils which resulted in the pupil:teacher ratio continuing to decrease. As pupil numbers increased during the 1990s, teacher numbers did not increase as steeply and the pupil:teacher ratio increased.

**CHART 4:**  
Pupils and teachers in secondary schools: January 1947 to 2000

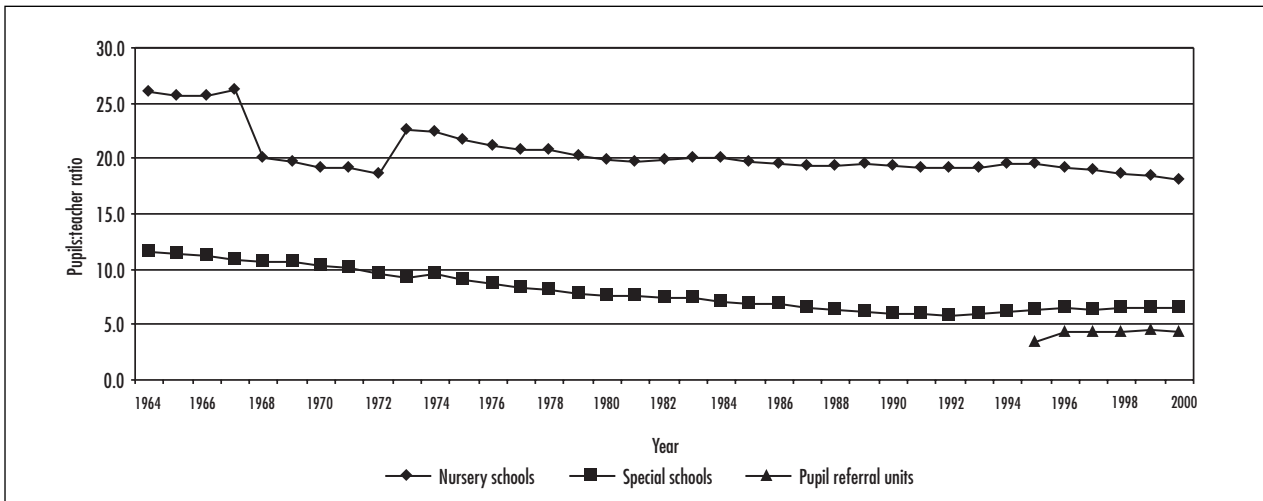


**Other maintained schools**

17 Chart 5 shows the available pupil:teacher ratios for nursery schools, special schools and pupil referral units.

**CHART 5:**

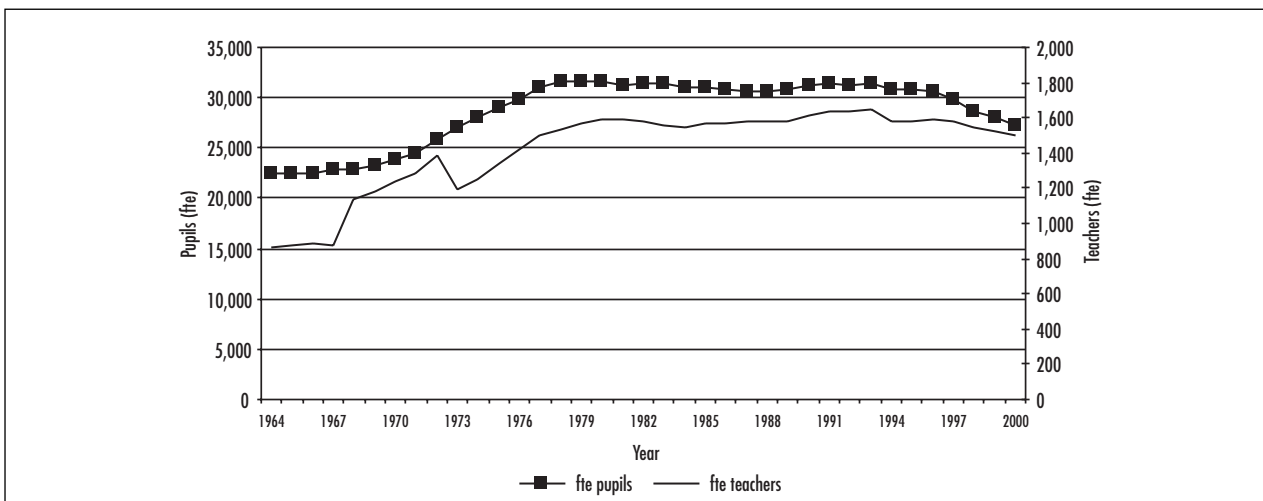
Pupil:teacher ratios in nursery schools, special schools and pupil referral units: January 1964 to 2000



18 In nursery schools, there is generally a downward trend in the pupil:teacher ratio. In 1964 (the earliest date for which data are available) there were 26.0 pupils for every teacher in nursery schools. This figure rose slightly to 26.2 in 1967. Between 1969 and 1972 the pupil:teacher ratio in nursery schools was low at between 19 and 20 pupils per teacher, but rose again in 1973 to 22.6 pupils for each teacher. Since 1973 there has been a steady decline in the pupil:teacher ratio in nursery schools to 18.1 pupils for each teacher in 2000. It can be seen from Chart 6 that the reason for the low pupil:teacher ratio between 1969 and 1972 was a sharp increase in the number of teachers employed in nursery schools. At all other times for which data are available the number of teachers either increased more quickly than, or decreased less quickly than, the number of pupils.

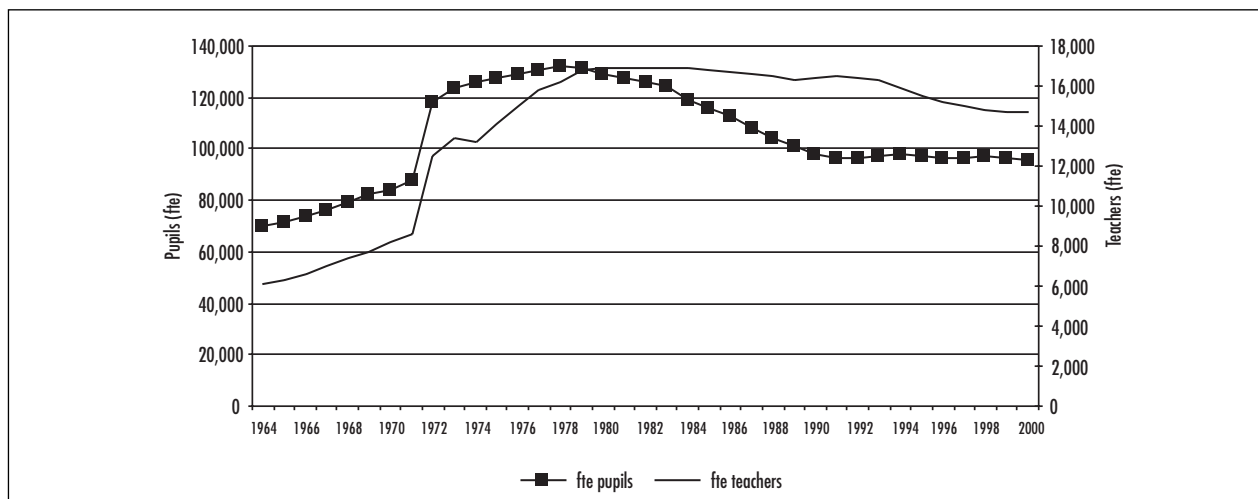
**CHART 6:**

Pupils and teachers in nursery schools: January 1964 to 2000



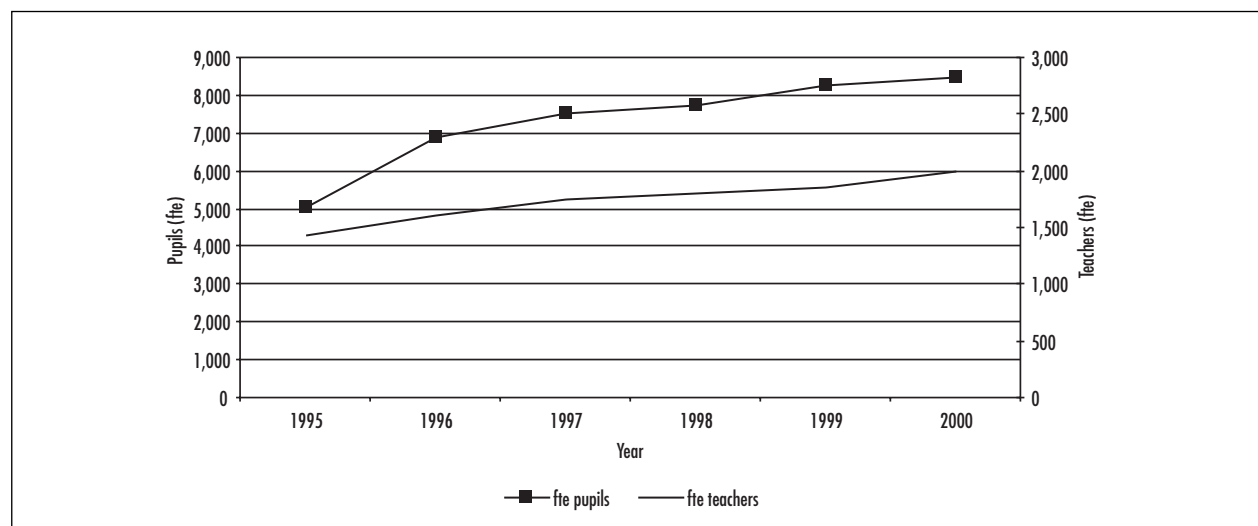
19 In special schools, there is a downward trend in the pupil:teacher ratio between 1964 (the earliest date for which data are available) and 1992, followed by a slight increase until 1998 and no change in 1999 and 2000. In 1964, there were 11.6 pupils for every teacher, the lowest pupil:teacher ratio was 5.8 pupils for each teacher in 1992 and the value between 1998 and 2000 was 6.5. Chart 7 shows that the number of pupils in special schools increased considerably between 1964 and 1978, with a particularly marked rise as the school leaving age was raised in the 1970s. However the increase in the number of teachers more than kept pace with the rise in pupil numbers. Similarly the decrease in teachers was at a slower rate than the decrease in the number of pupils between 1978 and 1992. As the pupil numbers levelled off in the 1990s, there was a decrease in the number of teachers causing the pupil:teacher ratio to rise.

**CHART 7:**  
Pupils and teachers in special schools: January 1964 to 2000



**20** Data for pupil referral units are only available for 1995 to 2000. Apart from 1995, when there were only 3.5 pupils for each teacher, the ratio has remained at about 4.3 pupils for each teacher. Chart 8 shows that there has been an increase in the number of pupils in pupil referral units, but that the increase in the number of teachers has been at approximately the same rate since 1996.

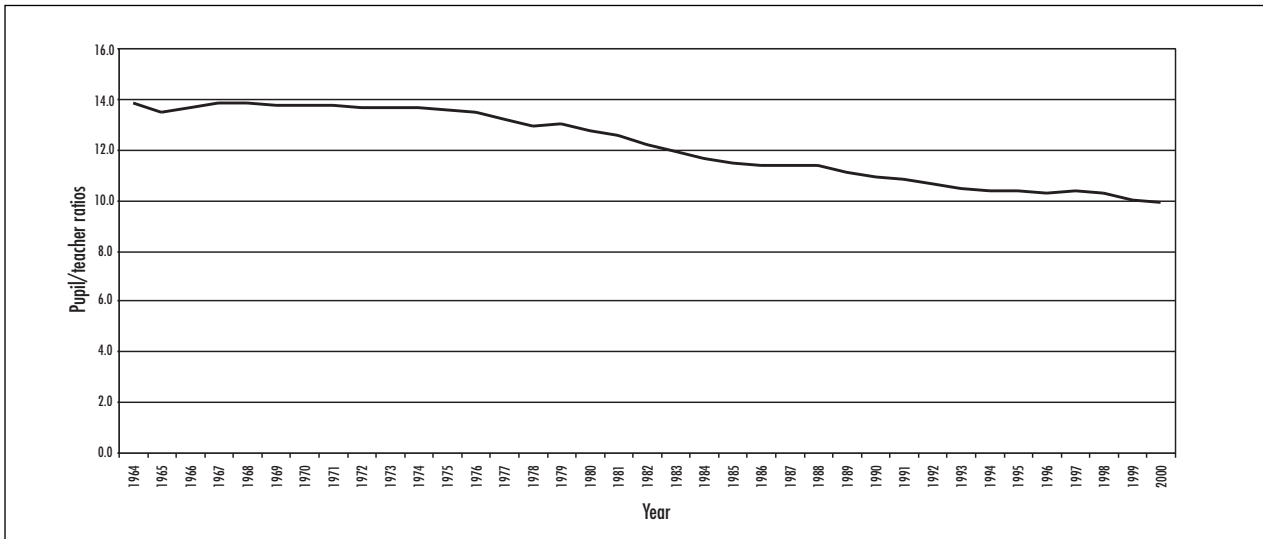
**CHART 8:**  
Pupils and teachers in pupil referral units: January 1995 to 2000



### Independent schools

**21** Chart 9 shows that the pupil:teacher ratio has tended to decrease in independent schools between 1964 and 2000. In 1964 the ratio was 13.8 pupils for each teacher. Although there were some slight increases in intervening years, the ratio had fallen to 9.9 pupils for each teacher by January 2000.

**CHART 9:**  
Pupil:teacher ratios in independent schools: January 1964 to 2000



22 Chart 10 shows the variability in the number of pupils enrolled in independent schools that accounts for some of the slight increase shown in the pupil:teacher ratio in specific years. However, the general upward trend in the number of teachers has more than compensated for the overall increase in the number of pupils since 1984 so that the pupil:teacher ratio has fallen.

**CHART 10:**  
Full time equivalent pupils and teachers in independent schools: January 1964 to 2000



## **SECTION 2**

### **CLASS SIZES IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

**23** Information analysed in this section relates to the average size of classes in primary and secondary schools and the ranges of sizes of classes for classes taught by one teacher and for all classes since 1978.

**24** The average class size is calculated from the classes as taught section of the Annual Schools Census by summing the number of children in classes in primary or secondary schools at the time of the Census and dividing by the total number of classes. From the same section of the Annual Schools Census the range of size of classes can be analysed and the numbers of pupils in classes of a particular size can be calculated. Generally, classes are analysed in the range '30 or less pupils', '31 to 35' pupils and '36 or more pupils', although the last two categories are sometimes combined, particularly when the '36 or more pupils' category is small. One exception to this is Tables 2 and 3 in which the data on classes has been analysed using the ranges, '31 to 35' and '36 or more pupils'.

#### **Primary schools**

**25** Table 2 shows the average size of all classes and classes being taught by one teacher in primary schools at the time of the Census each January between 1978 and 2000 and the number of classes of particular sizes and the number of pupils in them.

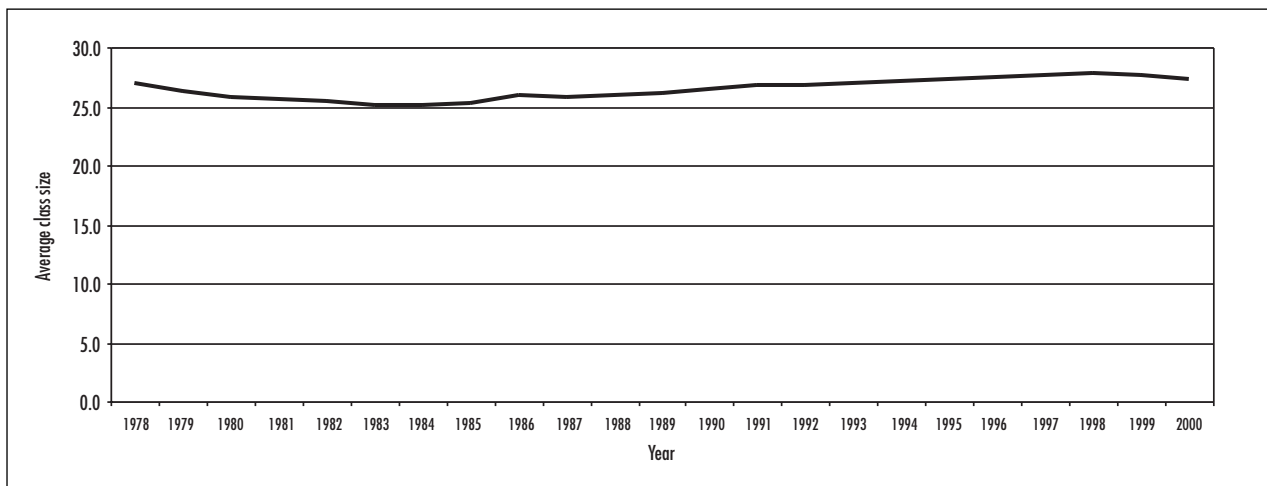
**26** Chart 11 shows the trends in average class size in primary schools between January 1978 and 2000. In 1978 the average number of pupils in all primary school classes was 26.9. The average class size fell steadily to reach 25.0 in 1984 and then rose up until 1998 when the highest value of 27.8 was reached. There was a fall in average class size in each of the years 1999 and 2000 when the value was 27.3.

**TABLE 2:**  
Classes in maintained primary schools (1)(2) in England: January 1978 to 2000

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
<b>CLASSES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS (2)</b>												
<b>All classes</b>												
Average class size	26.9	26.3	25.7	25.5	25.4	25.1	25.0	25.2	25.9	25.8	25.9	26.1
Number of classes	169,700	169,100	166,400	160,400	154,300	149,300	146,600	144,800	141,600	142,700	144,300	145,200
Number of pupils	4,564,000	4,442,000	4,283,700	4,097,500	3,921,900	3,751,400	3,667,900	3,645,500	3,666,000	3,687,400	3,736,000	3,791,700
<b>Classes taught by one teacher</b>												
Average class size	26.4	25.9	25.4	25.2	25.1	24.8	24.7	24.9	25.5	25.4	25.4	25.7
Number of classes	163,800	163,500	160,600	155,200	149,200	144,200	141,300	139,100	133,200	134,500	134,500	134,800
Number of classes with												
31 - 35 pupils	44,100	39,000	33,600	31,300	28,800	25,900	24,500	24,500	26,900	25,800	24,500	24,500
36 or more pupils	8,400	5,900	4,400	3,700	3,500	2,900	2,500	2,300	2,400	2,100	1,800	1,900
Percentage of classes with												
31 - 35 pupils	27.0	23.9	20.9	20.2	19.3	17.9	17.4	17.6	20.2	19.2	18.2	18.2
36 or more pupils	5.1	3.6	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.4
Number of pupils	4,328,800	4,231,800	4,077,800	3,914,700	3,749,400	3,582,300	3,496,600	3,463,400	3,392,900	3,419,700	3,420,800	3,461,900
Number of pupils in classes with												
31 - 35 pupils	1,447,100	1,273,800	1,094,000	1,017,900	936,800	840,800	796,400	796,700	886,600	849,000	804,400	803,900
36 or more pupils	316,100	220,000	165,400	140,500	131,900	110,800	95,100	86,700	89,700	79,700	68,400	70,600
Percentage of pupils in classes with												
31 - 35 pupils	33.4	30.1	26.8	26.0	25.0	23.5	22.8	23.0	26.1	24.8	23.5	23.2
36 or more pupils	7.3	5.2	4.1	3.6	3.5	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.0	2.0

(1) Classes as taught during the one selected period in each school on the day of the census in January  
(2) Includes middle schools

**CHART 11:**  
Average size of primary school classes taught by one teacher: January 1978 to 2000



**27** Between 1978 and 2000, classes where only one teacher was present at the time of the Census were between 92.6 and 96.7 per cent of all primary school classes. Their average size follows a similar pattern of change when compared to all classes: between 1978 and 1984 the average size of classes with one teacher fell from 26.4 pupils to 24.7, there was then a steady rise to 27.5 pupils in 1998 and a fall to 27.1 in 2000.

**28** Chart 12 shows that the percentage of large classes with one teacher in primary schools has changed considerably between 1978 and 2000. In 1978, 5 per cent of one teacher primary classes had 36 or more pupils and a further 27 per cent had between 31 and 35 pupils: this total of 32 per cent in one teacher primary classes of 31 or more pupils is the highest in this time series. The percentage of classes with more than 31 pupils decreased sharply in 1979 and 1980, then more slowly to 19 per cent in 1984. Although the percentages were variable between 1985 and 1998 there was an upward trend and 29 per cent of classes had 31 or more pupils in 1998. Since then there has been a sharp decrease and only 22 per cent of classes had 31 or more pupils in 2000, including 2 per cent of classes with 36 or more pupils.

**TABLE 2: CONTINUED**

Classes in maintained primary schools (1)(2) in England: January 1978 to 2000

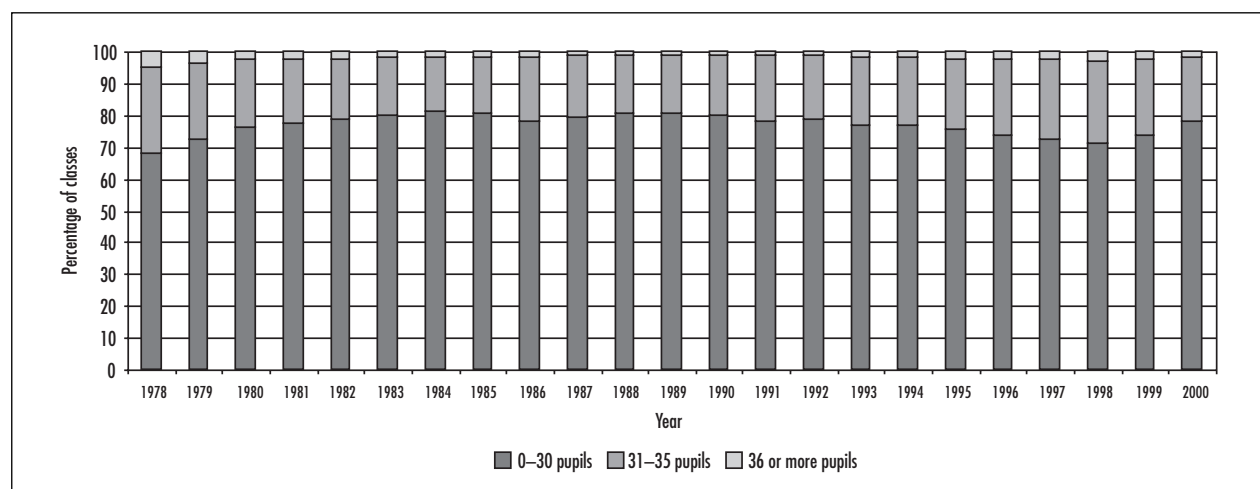
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>CLASSES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS (2)</b>											
<b>All classes</b>											
Average class size	26.4	26.8	26.8	27.0	27.2	27.3	27.5	27.6	27.8	27.6	27.3
Number of classes	146,500	146,600	147,800	149,400	150,800	152,300	154,000	154,600	154,700	156,000	157,100
Number of pupils	3,863,300	3,920,900	3,957,000	4,029,100	4,098,000	4,163,500	4,234,400	4,275,200	4,307,900	4,307,100	4,282,800
<b>Classes taught by one teacher</b>											
Average class size	25.9	26.3	26.4	26.6	26.9	27.1	27.3	27.5	27.7	27.5	27.1
Number of classes	135,700	135,900	137,400	139,600	141,800	144,100	145,200	146,400	146,400	147,600	149,300
Number of classes with											
31 - 35 pupils	25,600	27,800	27,600	30,100	30,300	32,400	34,900	37,000	38,400	35,000	29,500
36 or more pupils	1,900	2,100	2,100	2,300	2,600	3,200	3,400	3,800	4,300	3,800	3,100
Percentage of classes with											
31 - 35 pupils	18.9	20.5	20.1	21.5	21.3	22.5	24.0	25.3	26.2	23.7	19.7
36 or more pupils	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.6	3.0	2.5	2.1
Number of pupils	3,515,800	3,577,300	3,625,300	3,718,800	3,813,300	3,908,400	3,966,000	4,025,200	4,054,800	4,051,800	4,044,600
Number of pupils in classes with											
31 - 35 pupils	839,500	911,200	902,800	985,900	979,000	1,048,000	1,130,800	1,200,300	1,245,100	1,134,300	954,700
36 or more pupils	70,900	80,000	79,500	89,500	97,200	107,700	129,800	143,900	165,700	142,900	117,000
Percentage of pupils in classes with											
31 - 35 pupils	23.9	25.5	24.9	26.5	25.7	26.8	28.5	29.8	30.7	28.0	23.6
36 or more pupils	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.6	4.1	3.5	2.9

(1) Classes as taught during the one selected period in each school on the day of the census in January

(2) Includes middle schools

**CHART 12:**

Classes in primary schools taught by one teacher, by size: January 1978 to 2000



**29** The percentage of pupils in large classes with one teacher in primary schools has the same pattern as that for the percentage of classes between 1978 and 2000. In 1978, over 7 per cent of pupils in one teacher primary classes were in classes with 36 or more pupils and a further 33 per cent had between 31 and 35 pupils: the total of 41 per cent of pupils in one teacher primary classes of 31 or more pupils is the largest in this time series. The percentage of pupils in classes with more than 31 pupils decreased sharply in 1979 and 1980, then more slowly to 26 per cent in 1984. Although the percentages were variable between 1985 and 1998 there was an upward trend from 1990 onwards and 35 per cent of pupils were in classes of 31 or more pupils in 1998. Since then there has been a sharp decrease and only 27 per cent of pupils were in classes with 31 or more pupils in 2000, including 3 per cent of pupils in classes with more than 35 pupils.

## Secondary schools

**30** Table 3 shows the average size of all classes and classes being taught by one teacher in secondary schools at the time of the Census each January between 1978 and 2000 and also the number of classes of particular sizes and the number of pupils in them.

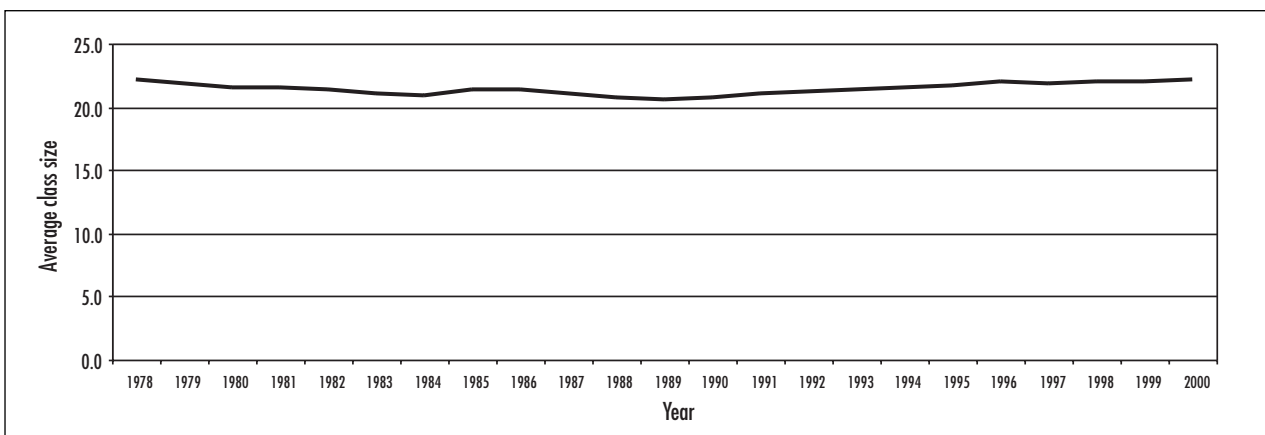
**TABLE 3:**  
Classes in maintained secondary schools (1)(2) in England: January 1978 to 2000

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
<b>CLASSES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS (2)</b>												
<b>All classes</b>												
Average class size	22.1	21.8	21.6	21.5	21.3	21.1	20.9	21.4	21.3	21.0	20.7	20.6
Number of classes	170,600	173,500	175,600	174,400	173,100	172,600	169,400	160,900	155,200	150,100	143,200	137,500
Number of pupils	3,767,600	3,790,600	3,783,700	3,748,100	3,694,900	3,637,200	3,543,700	3,444,100	3,307,200	3,156,200	2,967,900	2,837,000
<b>Classes taught by one teacher</b>												
Average class size	21.2	21.0	20.9	20.8	20.7	20.6	20.4	20.4	20.3	20.2	19.9	19.9
Number of classes	165,600	168,600	171,000	170,200	169,300	169,000	165,700	155,900	150,200	145,000	137,400	131,400
Number of classes with												
31 - 35 pupils	18,800	16,500	14,600	13,700	12,800	12,400	11,400	10,600	9,500	7,600	6,200	5,500
36 or more pupils	1,000	860	700	570	530	500	410	300	400	230	140	150
Percentage of classes with												
31 - 35 pupils	11.4	9.8	8.5	8.0	7.6	7.3	6.9	6.8	6.3	5.2	4.5	4.2
36 or more pupils	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
Number of pupils	3,515,900	3,542,800	3,567,700	3,545,200	3,508,700	3,474,800	3,379,500	3,182,800	3,055,200	2,930,700	2,735,500	2,612,000
Number of pupils in classes with												
31 - 35 pupils	606,300	529,100	467,400	438,800	410,100	397,200	363,700	337,900	307,400	243,200	199,700	175,700
36 or more pupils	40,000	33,200	27,200	22,500	20,700	19,700	16,000	10,900	17,300	9,400	5,600	5,700
Percentage of pupils in classes with												
31 - 35 pupils	17.2	14.9	13.1	12.4	11.7	11.4	10.8	10.6	10.1	8.3	7.3	6.7
36 or more pupils	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2

**31** Chart 13 shows the trend in average class size in secondary schools between 1978 and 2000. In 1978 the average number of pupils in all secondary school classes was 22.1. The average class size fell to reach 20.9 in 1984, rose to 21.4 in 1985, fell to 20.6 in 1989 and then rose steadily to reach 22.2 in 2000.

**32** Between 1978 and 2000, classes where only one teacher was present at the time of the Census were between 95 and 98 per cent of all secondary school classes. Chart 13 shows that their average size followed a slightly different pattern of change when compared to all classes: between 1978 and 1988 the average size of classes with one teacher fell from 21.2 pupils to 19.9, remained at 19.9 in 1989 and then rose each year to 22.0 pupils in 2000.

**CHART 13:**  
Average size of secondary school classes taught by one teacher: January 1978 to 2000





**TABLE 3 CONTINUED**

Classes in maintained secondary schools (1)(2) in England: January 1978 to 2000

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>CLASSES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS (2)</b>											
<b>All classes</b>											
Average class size	20.7	21.0	21.2	21.4	21.6	21.6	21.9	21.9	21.9	22.0	22.2
Number of classes	132,800	130,400	131,200	132,600	129,700	132,300	132,700	134,200	135,100	136,400	138,100
Number of pupils	2,748,100	2,738,600	2,784,100	2,839,600	2,795,200	2,857,700	2,910,200	2,932,800	2,959,900	3,004,900	3,060,000
<b>Classes taught by one teacher</b>											
Average class size	20.0	20.3	20.6	20.9	21.4	21.5	21.7	21.7	21.7	21.9	22.0
Number of classes	126,300	124,200	124,700	126,300	124,500	127,300	127,700	129,600	130,800	132,300	134,500
Number of classes with											
31 - 35 pupils	5,000	5,000	5,400	6,000	6,500	6,200	7,300	7,600	8,700	9,600	10,300
36 or more pupils	110	120	110	180	80	110	80	90	160	170	150
Percentage of classes with											
31 - 35 pupils	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.7	5.2	4.9	5.7	5.9	6.6	7.3	7.7
36 or more pupils	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Number of pupils	2,522,100	2,525,400	2,571,500	2,638,200	2,666,500	2,735,900	2,766,800	2,808,500	2,845,100	2,890,600	2,960,600
Number of pupils in classes with											
31 - 35 pupils	159,500	159,100	172,800	191,100	205,700	196,700	231,200	242,100	276,200	306,200	328,200
36 or more pupils	4,200	5,000	4,500	7,400	3,000	4,500	3,400	3,300	6,400	6,800	5,600
Percentage of pupils in classes with											
31 - 35 pupils	6.3	6.3	6.7	7.2	7.7	7.2	8.4	8.6	9.7	10.6	11.1
36 or more pupils	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2

(1) Classes as taught during the one selected period in each school on the day of the census in January

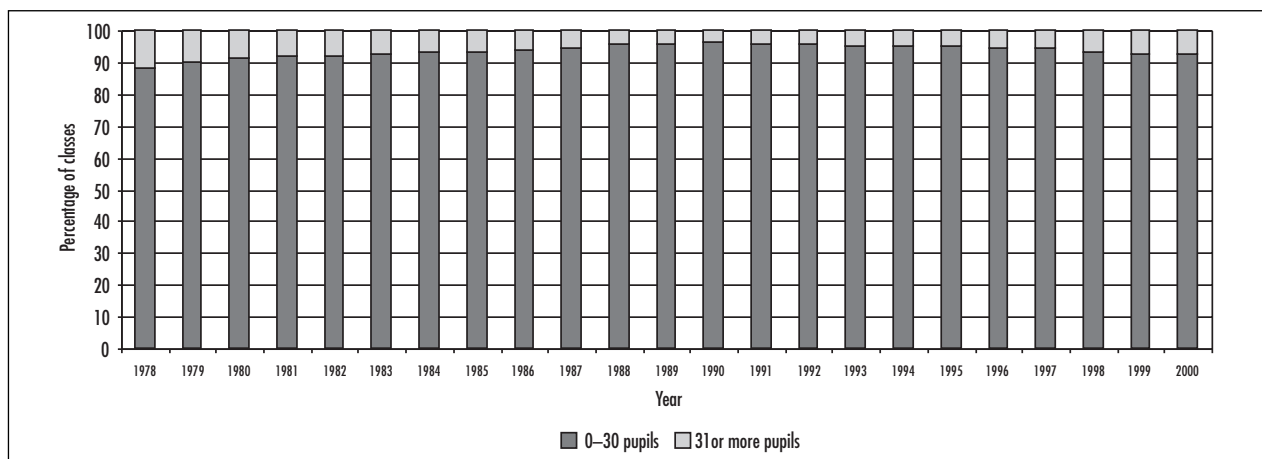
(2) Includes middle schools as deemed

(3) Figures prior to 1994 include sixth form colleges

**33** Chart 14 shows that the percentage of large classes with one teacher in secondary schools has changed considerably between 1978 and 2000. However, there is a more stable trend in the pattern of large classes in secondary schools than there is in primary schools. A class of 36 or more pupils is much less common in the secondary sector than it is in the primary: in 1978, 0.6 per cent of classes were of 36 or more pupils and this decreased until 1988 and has remained at 0.1 per cent since then. There has also been a decrease in the percentage of classes with 31 or more pupils. In 1978, 12 per cent of classes had 31 or more pupils. There was a steady decrease in this percentage until 1990, when 4 per cent of classes contained 31 or more pupils. The percentage of classes with 31 or more pupils then rose in each year apart from 1995 to nearly 8 per cent in January 2000.

**CHART 14:**

Classes in secondary school taught by one teacher, by size: January 1978 to 2000



**34** The percentage of pupils in large classes with one teacher in secondary schools follows a similar pattern to the percentage of classes of the same size. In 1978, just over 1 per cent of pupils were taught by one teacher in secondary school classes of 36 or more pupils and this had fallen to about 0.2 per cent in January 2000. Including the 1 per cent in classes of 36 or more, 18 per cent of pupils were in secondary school classes of 31 or more pupils taught by one teacher in 1978. This percentage showed a steady decline to less than 7 per cent in 1990 and 1991, followed by an increase between 1992 and 2000. In January 2000, just over 11 per cent of pupils were in secondary school classes of 31 or more pupils taught by one teacher.

## SECTION 3

### CLASS SIZES BY KEY STAGE AND AGE GROUP

**35** Since 1996 more detailed information about each class in a primary school has been collected in the classes as taught section of the Annual Schools Census. The additional information about each class includes the number of teaching assistants present, the activity being undertaken at the time of the Census and the Key Stage. In addition, the National Curriculum Year Group of each primary school class has been collected since 1998.

Key Stage 1 Classes

**TABLE 4:**  
Key stage 1 classes taught by one teacher in maintained primary schools (1) in England:  
January 1996 to 2000

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Average class size	26.8	26.9	27.1	26.5	25.8
Number of classes	59,900	61,100	61,100	61,600	62,700
Number of classes with					
1 - 30 pupils	46,363	46,522	46,316	50,637	57,164
31-35 pupils	12,500	13,600	13,700	10,300	5,300
36 or more pupils	1,000	1,000	1,100	640	200
Percentage of classes with					
1 - 30 pupils	77.4	76.1	75.8	82.2	91.2
31-35 pupils	21.0	22.2	22.4	16.8	8.4
36 or more pupils	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.0	0.3
Number of classes supported by one or more members of non-teaching staff (2)					
All classes	24,000	26,300	28,500	28,400	28,200
1 - 30 pupils	17,600	19,000	20,600	22,400	25,500
31-35 pupils	5,900	6,600	7,100	5,500	2,600
36 or more pupils	600	670	760	440	120
Percentage of classes supported by one or more members of non-teaching staff (2)					
All classes	40.2	43.1	46.5	46.1	45.1
1 - 30 pupils	37.9	40.8	44.5	44.3	44.6
31-35 pupils	46.8	49.0	51.7	53.6	49.3
36 or more pupils	62.7	66.3	68.7	69.1	59.2
Number of pupils	1,601,900	1,646,600	1,654,300	1,629,700	1,614,600
Number of pupils in classes with					
1-30 pupils	1,161,000	1,169,800	1,169,000	1,273,100	1,437,700
31-35 pupils	405,500	439,100	443,600	332,500	169,500
36 or more pupils	35,500	37,700	41,700	24,100	7,400
Percentage of pupils in classes with					
1 - 30 pupils	72.5	71.0	70.7	78.1	89.0
31-35 pupils	25.3	26.7	26.8	20.4	10.5
36 or more pupils	2.2	2.3	2.5	1.5	0.5
Average number of children per adult (3)	18.7	18.4	17.9	17.6	17.2
Percentage of pupils in classes with					
15 or fewer children per adult	30.0	31.7	34.4	37.6	42.2
over 15 and up to 30 children per adult	55.7	54.0	51.9	52.5	52.3
over 30 children per adult	14.3	14.3	13.7	9.9	5.5

(1) Classes as taught during the one selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

(2) Excludes SEN support staff who are in the classroom wholly or mainly to provide support for statemented pupils.

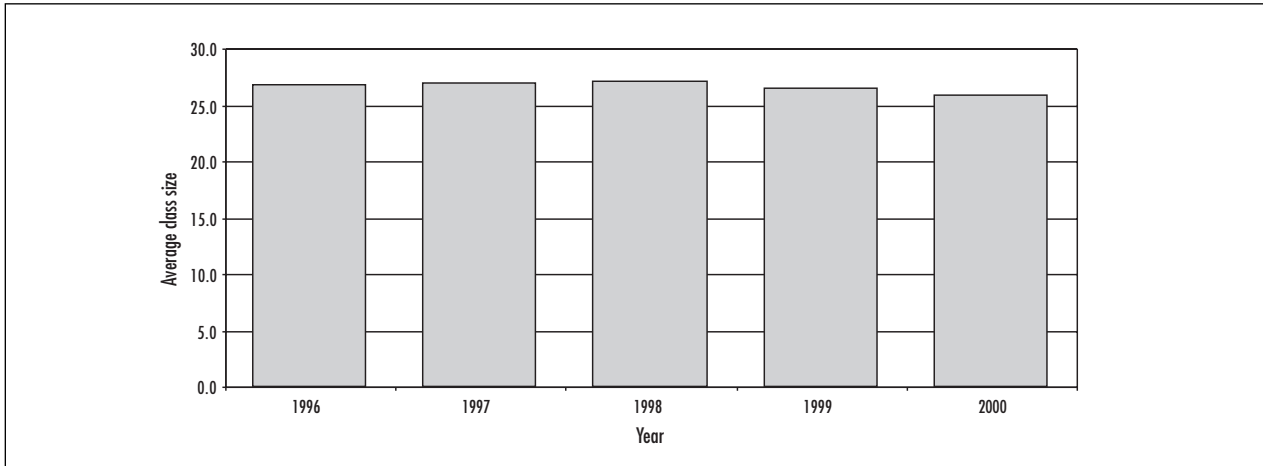
(3) The number of children in classes divided by the total number of adults present at the time of the census.

**36** Table 4 shows information about Key Stage 1 classes taught by one teacher in primary schools between January 1996 and January 2000.

**37** Chart 15 shows the trend in the average size of Key Stage 1 classes taught by one teacher. After rising from 26.8 to 27.1 pupils per teacher between 1996 and 1998, the average class size has fallen steadily to reach 25.8 pupils per teacher in January 2000.

**CHART 15:**

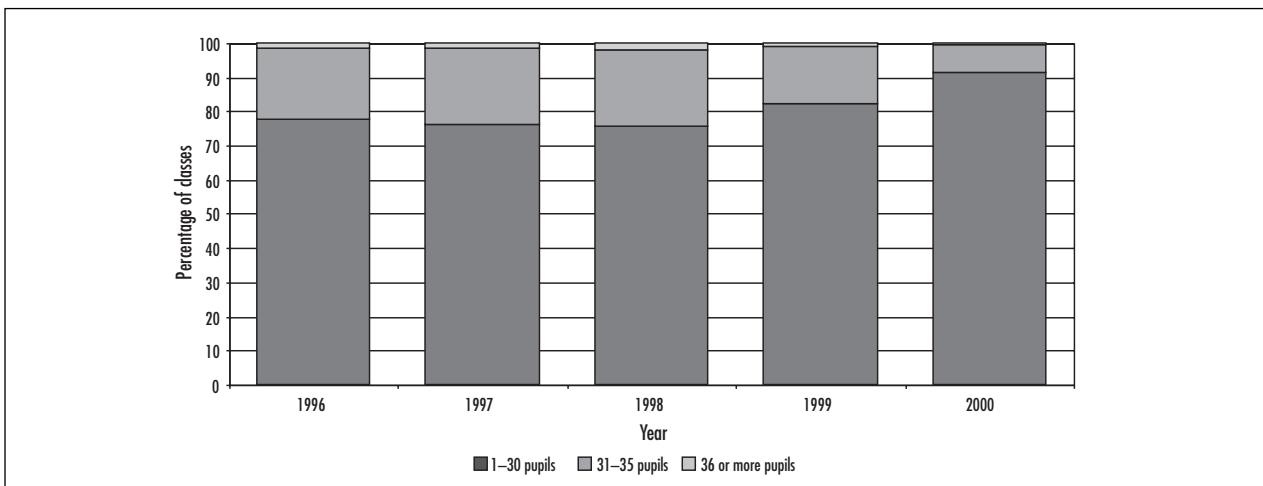
Average size of Key Stage 1 classes taught by one teacher in primary schools: January 1996 to 2000



**38** Chart 16 illustrates the changes in the percentage of Key Stage 1 classes taught by one teacher of different sizes between January 1996 and January 2000. The percentage of classes taught by one teacher with more than 36 pupils rose from 1.6 to 1.8 between 1996 and 1998 and has since fallen to 0.3 per cent in January 2000. The pattern of the percentage of classes taught by one teacher with 31 to 35 pupils is similar: between 1996 and 1998 there was a rise from 21.0 per cent to 22.4 per cent followed by a rapid decrease to 8.4 per cent in January 2000.

**CHART 16:**

Key Stage 1 classes in primary schools, by size of class: January 1996 to 2000



**39** The changes in the percentage of pupils in Key Stage 1 classes taught by one teacher of different sizes between 1996 and 2000 are similar to the changes in the proportion of classes. The percentage of pupils in classes with more than 36 pupils rose from 2.2 to 2.5 between 1996 and 1998 and has since fallen to 0.5 per cent in January 2000. The pattern of the percentage of pupils in classes with 31 to 35 pupils is similar: between 1996 and 1998 there was a rise from 25.3 per cent to 26.8 per cent followed by a rapid decline to 10.5 per cent in January 2000. Table 4 shows that changes in the number of children in Key Stage 1 classes with 31 or more pupils and only one teacher followed the same pattern as the changes in the percentages: the number rose from 441,000 in January 1996 to 485,000 in January 1998 and then fell to 177,000 in January 2000.

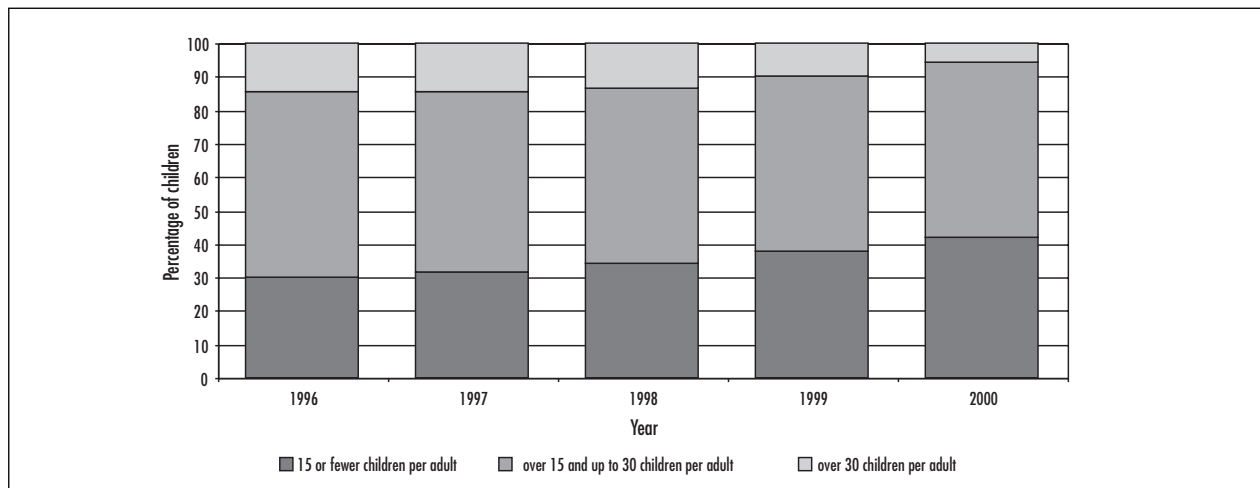
**40** Many classes at Key Stage 1 have additional teaching assistants present at the time of the Census. From this information the child:adult ratio can be calculated. The child:adult ratio is calculated by dividing the total number of children by the total number of adults in classes as taught at the time of the Census. Adults included in the calculation

are teachers and assistants employed by the school to assist the teacher. Assistants employed specifically to assist a pupil in the class and volunteers, such as parents, are excluded.

41 Chart 17 illustrates the changes in the child:adult ratio between 1996 and 2000. In 1996 there were, on average, 18.7 children for every adult in Key Stage 1 classes taught by one teacher. This has decreased steadily so that, in 2000, there were 17.2 children for each adult. The additional teaching assistants mean that, in January 2000, half of the classes of 31 or more pupils had more than one adult present.

**CHART 17:**

Child:adult ratio in Key Stage 1 classes in primary schools: January 1996 to 2000



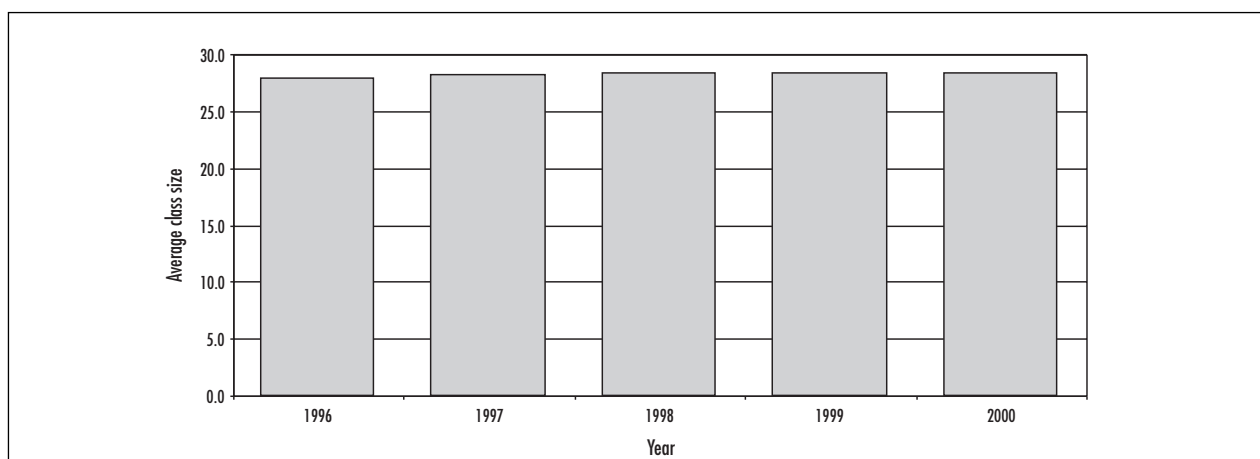
42 The percentage of all Key Stage 1 classes with one teacher where there was at least one teaching assistant present has increased from about 40 per cent in January 1996 to about 45 per cent in January 2000.

**Key Stage 2 Classes**

43 Table 5 shows the information about Key Stage 2 classes taught by one teacher between January 1996 and January 2000. Chart 18 illustrates the changes in the average class size between 1996 and 2000. In January 1996 the average class size for key Stage 2 classes taught by one teacher was 27.9. There was a slight rise between 1996 and 1999, when the average class size was 28.4, followed by a slight fall to 28.3 in 2000.

**CHART 18:**

Average size of Key Stage 2 classes in primary schools: January 1996 to 2000



44 Chart 19 shows the trend in the percentage of classes with more than 36 pupils, 31 to 35 pupils and 1 to 30 pupils. The percentage of classes with 36 or more pupils was 2.2 in 1996. By 1998, 3.0 per cent of Key Stage 2 classes taught by one teacher contained 36 or more pupils, but the percentage fell to 2.7 in 2000. The percentage of Key Stage 2 classes with one teacher and between 31 and 35 pupils followed a similar pattern: in 1996 28.4 per cent of classes had between 31 and 35 pupils, this rose to 31.3 per cent in 1998 and fell to 30.3 per cent in 2000.

**TABLE 5:**  
Key stage 2 classes taught by one teacher in maintained primary schools (1) (2) in England:  
January 1996 to 2000

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Average class size	27.9	28.1	28.3	28.4	28.3
Number of classes	72,200	73,200	73,700	74,700	75,300
Number of classes with					
1 - 30 pupils	50,100	49,400	48,400	49,300	50,500
31-35 pupils	20,500	21,800	23,100	23,200	22,800
36 or more pupils	1,600	2,000	2,200	2,200	2,000
Percentage of classes with					
1 - 30 pupils	69.4	67.6	65.7	66.0	67.1
31-35 pupils	28.4	29.8	31.3	31.1	30.3
36 or more pupils	2.2	2.7	3.0	2.9	2.7
Number of classes supported by one or more members of non-teaching staff (3)					
All classes	12,900	14,800	16,200	17,900	20,800
1 - 30 pupils	8,500	9,300	9,900	11,200	13,500
31-35 pupils	4,000	4,900	5,600	6,000	6,600
36 or more pupils	400	600	700	700	700
Percentage of classes supported by one or more members of non-teaching staff (3)					
All classes	17.8	20.2	22.0	24.0	27.6
1 - 30 pupils	17.0	18.9	20.6	22.7	26.7
31-35 pupils	19.3	22.4	24.1	25.6	28.8
36 or more pupils	26.8	29.2	31.8	34.6	35.8
Number of pupils	2,013,700	2,056,800	2,087,800	2,119,700	2,131,900
Number of pupils in classes with					
1-30 pupils	1,289,400	1,277,300	1,255,100	1,284,400	1,317,500
31-35 pupils	665,800	707,500	749,900	755,500	740,600
36 or more pupils	58,500	72,000	82,800	79,700	73,700
Percentage of pupils in classes with					
1 - 30 pupils	64.0	62.1	60.1	60.6	61.8
31-35 pupils	33.1	34.4	35.9	35.6	34.7
36 or more pupils	2.9	3.5	4.0	3.8	3.5
Average number of children per adult (4)	23.4	23.1	22.9	22.5	21.7
Percentage of pupils in classes with					
15 or fewer children per adult	12.0	13.0	13.7	15.2	18.2
over 15 and up to 30 children per adult	59.3	57.8	56.3	55.9	54.9
over 30 children per adult	28.8	29.2	29.9	28.9	26.9

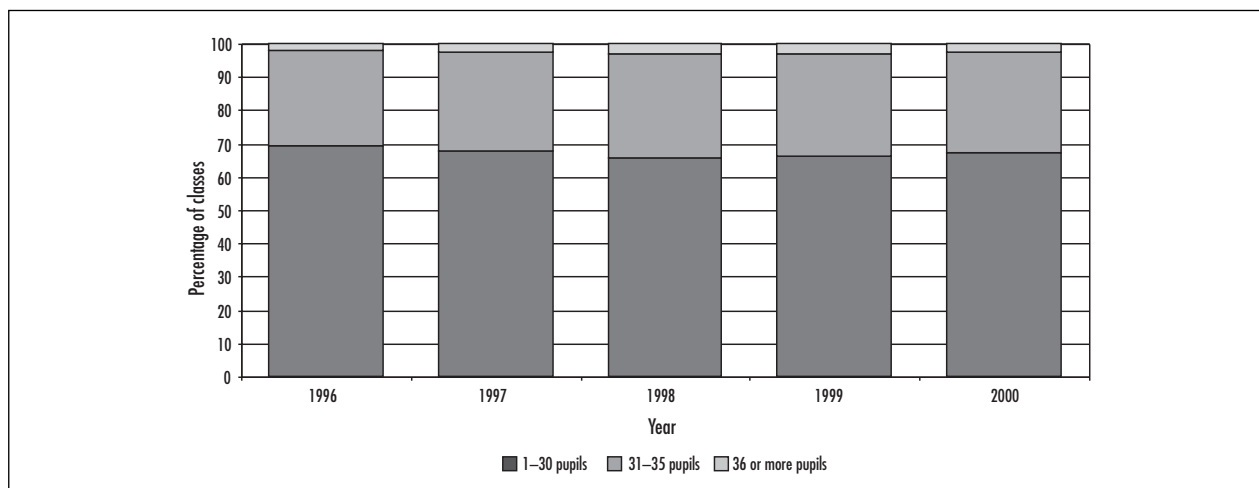
(1) Classes as taught during the one selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

(2) Excludes middle schools.

(3) Excludes SEN support staff who are in the classroom wholly or mainly to provide support for statemented pupils.

(4) The number of children in classes divided by the total number of adults present at the time of the census.

**CHART 19:**  
Key Stage 2 classes in primary schools, by size of class: January 1996 to 2000

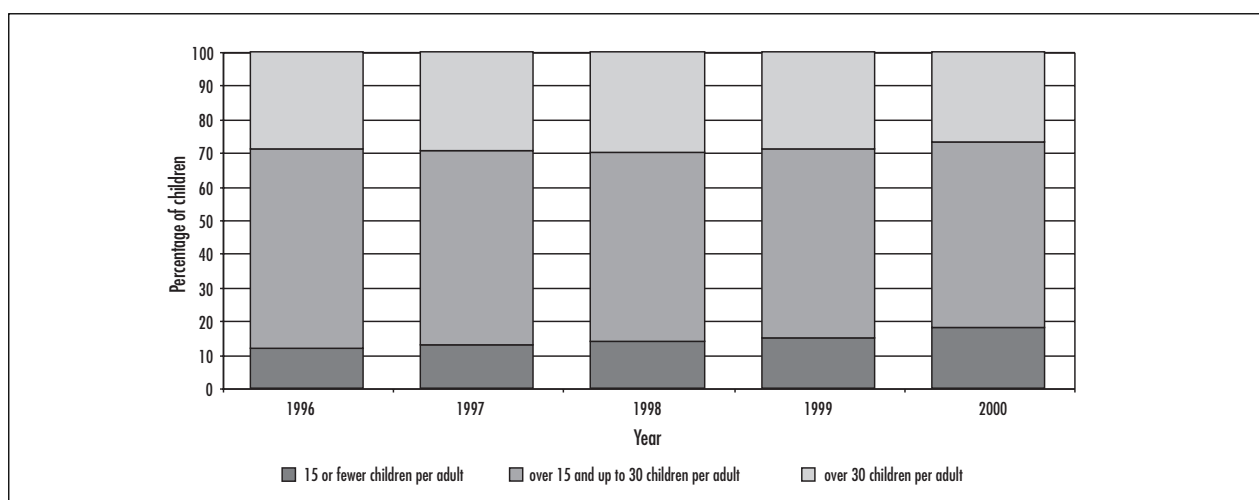


**45** The pattern of the percentage of pupils in classes with more than 36 pupils, 31 to 35 pupils and 1 to 30 pupils is very similar to that for the percentage of classes of the same sizes. The percentage of pupils in classes with 36 or more pupils was 2.9 in 1996. By 1998, 4.0 per cent of pupils were in Key Stage 2 classes with 36 or more pupils and only one teacher, but the percentage fell to 3.5 per cent in 2000. The percentage of pupils in Key Stage 2 classes with one teacher and between 31 and 35 pupils followed a similar pattern: in 1996, 33.1 per cent of pupils were in classes with between 31 and 35 pupils, this rose to 35.9 per cent in 1998 and fell to 34.7 per cent in 2000. Table 5 shows that the number of children in larger classes followed a similar pattern to the percentage of children in such classes: in 1996 724,000 pupils were in Key Stage 2 classes of 31 or more pupils with only one teacher, this rose to 833,000 in 1998 and fell to 814,000 in 2000.

**46** Many classes at Key Stage 2 also have additional teaching assistants present at the time of the Census. From this information the child:adult ratio can be calculated. The child:adult ratio is calculated by dividing the total number of children by the total number of adults in classes as taught at the time of the Census. Adults included in the calculation are teachers and assistants employed by the school to assist the teacher. Assistants employed specifically to assist a pupil in the class and volunteers, such as parents, are excluded.

**47** Chart 20 illustrates the changes in the child:adult ratio in Key Stage 2 classes between 1996 and 2000. In 1996 there were, on average, 23.4 children for every adult in Key Stage 2 classes. This has decreased steadily so that, in 2000, there were 21.7 children for each adult. The additional teaching assistants mean that about 71 per cent of classes of 31 or more pupils had only one adult present.

**CHART 20:**  
Child:adult ratio in Key Stage 2 classes in primary schools: January 1996 to 2000



**48** The percentage of all Key Stage 2 classes with one teacher where there was at least one teaching assistant present has increased from about 18 per cent in January 1996 to about 28 per cent in January 2000.

## Year Groups in primary schools

**TABLE 6:**

Reception and year groups 1,2,3,4,5,6,7, and mixed year group classes taught by one teacher in maintained primary schools (1) (2) in England

	Year Group								
	Reception	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mixed
<b>January 1998</b>									
Average class size	25.8	28.1	28.2	28.5	28.5	28.6	28.0	..	27.4
Number of classes	18,800	14,200	15,200	14,400	13,100	12,400	12,700	..	37,800
Number of classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	15,400	10,200	10,500	9,600	8,600	8,000	8,600	..	26,500
31 - 35 pupils	3,000	3,800	4,400	4,400	4,100	4,000	3,700	..	10,200
36 or more pupils	370	240	320	360	340	370	400	..	1,040
Percentage of classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	81.9	71.8	69.2	66.7	66.0	64.8	67.9	..	70.2
31 - 35 pupils	16.1	26.5	28.7	30.9	31.4	32.3	29.0	..	27.1
36 or more pupils	2.0	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.6	3.0	3.1	..	2.7
Number of pupils	485,300	397,100	429,300	409,900	373,200	354,000	356,000	..	1,033,500
Number of pupils in classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	372,700	267,000	276,000	252,300	227,000	210,400	221,300	..	663,400
31 - 35 pupils	98,200	121,200	141,400	144,400	133,400	129,900	120,000	..	331,600
36 or more pupils	14,500	8,800	11,900	13,100	12,800	13,700	14,700	..	38,500
Percentage of pupils in classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	76.8	67.2	64.3	61.6	60.8	59.4	62.2	..	64.2
31 - 35 pupils	20.2	30.5	32.9	35.2	35.7	36.7	33.7	..	32.1
36 or more pupils	3.0	2.2	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.9	4.1	..	3.7
Average number of pupils per adult (3)	15.2	19.6	20.8	22.8	23.3	23.7	23.6	..	20.0
Percentage of pupils in classes with									
15 or fewer children per adult	51.6	26.8	21.5	14.8	13.2	11.8	11.4	..	23.0
over 15 and up to 30 children per adult	43.4	56.7	56.8	57.3	57.0	56.7	58.5	..	53.3
over 30 children per adult	5.1	16.6	21.7	28.0	29.8	31.4	30.1	..	23.7
<b>January 1999</b>									
Average class size	25.4	27.2	27.6	28.6	28.7	28.4	28.3	25.0	27.0
Number of classes	19,100	14,300	15,600	14,900	13,700	12,600	13,400	150	35,900
Number of classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	16,332	11,555	11,966	9,849	9,015	8,422	8,979	116	26,380
31 - 35 pupils	2,484	2,672	3,478	4,649	4,349	3,824	4,017	29	8,737
36 or more pupils	245	104	188	378	334	371	400	3	827
Percentage of classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	85.7	81.6	76.5	66.2	65.8	66.8	67.0	78.4	73.5
31 - 35 pupils	13.0	18.7	22.2	31.3	31.8	30.3	30.0	19.6	24.3
36 or more pupils	1.3	0.7	1.2	2.5	2.4	2.9	3.0	2.0	2.3
Number of pupils	484,900	390,000	431,800	424,800	392,600	358,800	379,500	3,700	970,000
Number of pupils in classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	395,100	300,300	312,700	260,000	239,000	220,900	234,000	2,600	656,400
31 - 35 pupils	80,100	85,900	112,300	150,800	141,300	124,300	130,700	940	283,200
36 or more pupils	9,600	3,800	6,900	14,000	12,300	13,700	14,800	110	30,500
Percentage of pupils in classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	81.5	77.0	72.4	61.2	60.9	61.6	61.6	71.6	67.7
31 - 35 pupils	16.5	22.0	26.0	35.5	36.0	34.6	34.4	34.4	29.2
36 or more pupils	2.0	1.0	1.6	3.3	3.1	3.8	3.9	3.0	3.1
Average number of children per adult (3)	15.2	19.0	20.2	22.4	23.0	23.2	23.3	20.7	19.4
Percentage of pupils in classes with									
15 or fewer children per adult	52.9	31.0	24.8	16.2	14.4	13.8	12.8	14.2	25.6
over 15 and up to 30 children per adult	42.6	57.7	59.4	56.0	56.7	56.6	57.5	64.6	53.4
over 30 children per adult	4.5	11.3	15.8	27.8	28.9	29.6	29.7	21.2	21.0
<b>January 2000</b>									
Average class size	24.7	26.6	26.8	28.5	28.8	28.5	27.9	25.0	26.6
Number of classes	18,300	15,200	15,600	15,200	14,200	13,400	13,600	120	36,000
Number of classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	17,500	13,600	13,400	10,300	9,200	9,000	9,500	100	27,900
31 - 35 pupils	700	1,600	2,100	4,500	4,600	4,100	3,700	20	7,500
36 or more pupils	80	30	60	320	400	370	380	0	600
Percentage of classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	95.9	89.1	86.2	68.2	65.0	66.8	69.7	84.2	77.6
31 - 35 pupils	3.7	10.7	13.5	29.7	32.2	30.4	27.5	13.3	20.7
36 or more pupils	0.4	0.2	0.4	2.1	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.5	1.7
Number of pupils	452,800	405,400	416,600	431,400	408,600	382,500	379,800	2,990	957,100
Number of pupils in classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	428,000	352,200	347,100	273,900	245,700	236,300	244,000	2,370	693,000
31 - 35 pupils	21,700	52,100	67,300	145,700	148,300	132,700	121,700	520	241,700
36 or more pupils	3,100	1,200	2,200	11,800	14,600	13,500	14,100	110	22,300
Percentage of pupils in classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	94.5	86.9	83.3	63.5	60.1	61.8	64.3	79.1	72.4
31 - 35 pupils	4.8	12.8	16.2	33.8	36.3	34.7	32.0	17.3	25.3
36 or more pupils	0.7	0.3	0.5	2.7	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.6	2.3
Average number of children per adult (3)	15.0	18.7	19.4	21.1	22.0	22.7	22.5	21.1	18.8
Percentage of pupils in classes with									
15 or fewer children per adult	59.7	34.7	30.7	20.9	18.0	15.3	15.4	16.8	28.7
over 15 and up to 30 children per adult	38.9	58.7	59.5	55.4	53.8	56.1	57.5	66.7	52.9
over 30 children per adult	1.4	6.6	9.8	23.7	28.2	28.5	27.0	16.4	18.4

(1) Classes as taught during the one selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

(2) Excludes middle school

(3) The number of children in classes divided by the total number of adults present at the time of the census.

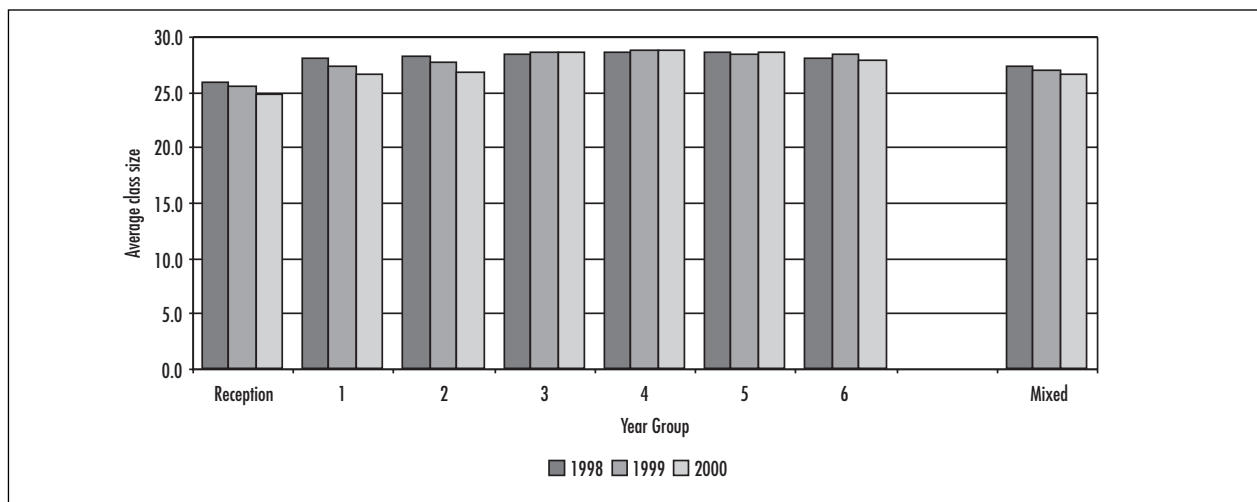


**49** Table 6 shows class size information by National Curriculum Year Group for classes taught by one teacher between January 1998 and January 2000.

**50** Chart 21 shows the average class size in Reception, Year Groups 1 to 6 and mixed Year Groups for 1998 to 2000. In 1998 as the Year Group rises from Reception to Year 5 so does the average class size followed by a slight fall in Year Group 6. In years 1999 and 2000 the average class size rises each year from Reception to Year Group 4 before falling in Year Group 5. For 1999 and 2000 the average class sizes for mixed Year Groups are generally in the same range as those for Year Group 1, the percentage being slightly lower for mixed Year groups than Year Group 1 in 1998. There is a noticeable drop in the average class size for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes between 1998 and 2000 in line with the changes reported for Key Stage 1 classes in Section 2. In January 2000 the average class sizes ranged from 24.7 in Reception classes to 28.5 in Year 5 classes.

**CHART 21:**

Average class sizes by Year Group: January 1998 to 2000



**51** Table 6 also shows that in each of the three years Reception classes had the smallest percentage of large classes and this percentage increased in each year until Year Group 4 then fell in Year Group 5 for 1999 and 2000 and increased until Year Group 5 falling in Year Group 6 in 1998. In line with the decrease in the number of large classes in Key Stage 1, there was a noticeable decrease in the percentage of large classes in Reception and Year Groups 1 and 2 between 1998 and 2000.

**Activity of Key Stage 1 and 2 classes in primary schools**

**52** Since 1996 information about the activity being undertaken in the classes as taught at the time of the Census has been collected in the two categories: 'PE/games/music/drama/watching TV/listening to the radio' and 'Other'. Table 7 shows the reported activity of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classes taught by one teacher by size between 1996 and 2000.

**53** Chart 22 illustrates that in all years and both Key Stages the average class sizes in the 'PE/games/music/drama/watching TV/listening to the radio' category were generally slightly higher than in the 'Other' category.

**54** Table 7 shows that between 1996 and 1998 approximately 80 per cent of Key Stage 1 classes and 85 per cent of Key Stage 2 classes were participating in activities in the 'other' category. In 2000 over 90 per cent of classes were reported in the 'other' category.

**TABLE 7:****Key stage 1 and 2 classes by activity taught by one teacher in maintained primary schools (1) in England: January 1996 to 2000**

	1996			1997			1998		
	PE, Games, Drama, Music, TV or Radio	Any other activity	Total	PE, Games, Drama, Music, TV or Radio	Any other activity	Total	PE, Games, Drama, Music, TV or Radio	Any other activity	Total
<b>Key Stage 1</b>									
Average class size	27.0	26.7	26.8	27.2	26.9	26.9	27.2	27.0	27.1
Number of classes	10,900	49,000	59,900	11,400	49,700	61,100	11,300	49,900	61,100
Number of classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	8,300	38,100	46,400	8,600	37,900	46,500	8,500	37,800	46,300
31 - 35 pupils	2,300	10,200	12,500	2,600	10,900	13,600	2,600	11,100	13,700
36 or more pupils	200	700	1,000	200	800	1,000	200	900	1,100
Percentage of classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	76.6	77.6	77.4	75.1	76.4	76.1	75.1	75.9	75.8
31 - 35 pupils	21.5	20.8	21.0	23.0	22.0	22.2	23.0	22.3	22.4
36 or more pupils	1.9	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.8
Number of pupils	293,500	1,308,400	1,601,900	309,900	1,336,700	1,646,600	306,600	1,347,700	1,654,300
Number of pupils in classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	210,200	950,700	1,161,000	217,100	952,700	1,169,800	214,600	954,300	1,169,000
31 - 35 pupils	75,600	329,900	405,500	84,900	354,200	439,100	83,900	359,700	443,600
36 or more pupils	7,700	27,800	35,500	8,000	29,800	37,700	8,000	33,700	41,700
Percentage of pupils in classes									
1 - 30 pupils	71.6	72.7	72.5	70.0	71.3	71.0	70.0	70.8	70.7
31 - 35 pupils	25.8	25.2	25.3	27.4	26.5	26.7	27.4	26.7	26.8
36 or more pupils	2.6	2.1	2.2	2.6	2.2	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.5
<b>Key Stage 2</b>									
Average class size	28.1	27.9	27.9	28.3	28.1	28.1	28.4	28.3	28.3
Number of classes	11,800	60,300	72,200	11,300	61,800	73,200	11,400	62,300	73,700
Number of classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	8,100	42,000	50,100	7,700	41,800	49,400	7,400	40,900	48,400
31 - 35 pupils	3,400	17,100	20,500	3,300	18,400	21,800	3,600	19,500	23,100
36 or more pupils	300	1,300	1,600	300	1,600	2,000	300	1,900	2,200
Percentage of classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	68.5	69.5	69.4	67.7	67.5	67.6	65.4	65.7	65.7
31 - 35 pupils	29.1	28.3	28.4	29.5	29.8	29.8	31.5	31.3	31.3
36 or more pupils	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.8	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.0	3.0
Number of pupils	332,700	1,681,000	2,013,700	320,500	1,736,300	2,056,800	323,900	1,763,900	2,087,800
Number of pupils in classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	210,500	1,078,900	1,289,400	200,200	1,077,100	1,277,300	194,200	1,060,900	1,255,100
31 - 35 pupils	111,900	553,900	665,800	108,500	599,000	707,500	116,700	633,100	749,900
36 or more pupils	10,300	48,200	58,500	11,800	60,200	72,000	12,900	69,900	82,800
Percentage of pupils in classes with									
1 - 30 pupils	63.3	64.2	64.0	62.5	62.0	62.1	60.0	60.1	60.1
31 - 35 pupils	33.6	33.0	33.1	33.9	34.5	34.4	36.0	35.9	35.9
36 or more pupils	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.7	3.5	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.0

(1) Classes as taught during the one selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

(2) Excludes middle schools

**TABLE 7: CONTINUED**

Key stage 1 and 2 classes by activity taught by one teacher in maintained primary schools (1) in England: January 1996 to 2000

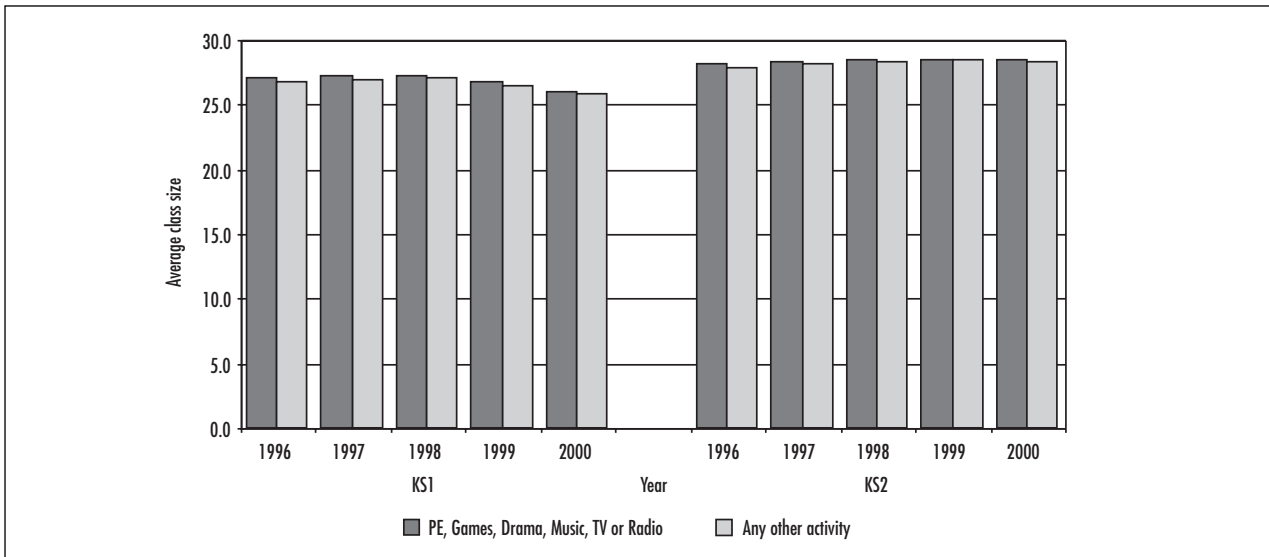
	1999			2000		
	PE, Games, Drama, Music, TV or Radio	Any other activity	Total	PE, Games, Drama, Music, TV or Radio	Any other activity	Total
<b>Key Stage 1</b>						
Average class size	26.7	26.4	26.5	26.0	25.7	25.8
Number of classes	7,100	54,500	61,600	6,200	56,400	62,700
Number of classes with						
1 - 30 pupils	5,800	44,900	50,600	5,600	51,600	57,200
31 - 35 pupils	1,200	9,100	10,300	600	4,700	5,300
36 or more pupils	100	500	600	0	200	200
Percentage of classes with						
1 - 30 pupils	81.5	82.3	82.2	90.0	91.4	91.2
31 - 35 pupils	17.2	16.7	16.8	9.7	8.3	8.4
36 or more pupils	1.3	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Number of pupils	188,900	1,440,800	1,629,700	161,600	1,453,000	1,614,600
Number of pupils in classes with						
1 - 30 pupils	146,300	1,126,800	1,273,100	141,500	1,296,100	1,437,700
31 - 35 pupils	39,000	293,500	332,500	19,300	150,200	169,500
36 or more pupils	3,600	20,500	24,100	810	6,600	7,400
Percentage of pupils in classes						
1 - 30 pupils	77.4	78.2	78.1	87.6	89.2	89.0
31 - 35 pupils	20.6	20.4	20.4	11.9	10.3	10.5
36 or more pupils	1.9	1.4	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
<b>Key Stage 2</b>						
Average class size	28.4	28.4	28.4	28.5	28.3	28.3
Number of classes	7,000	67,700	74,700	6,300	69,100	75,300
Number of classes with						
1 - 30 pupils	4,600	44,700	49,300	4,100	46,400	50,500
31 - 35 pupils	2,200	21,000	23,200	2,000	20,800	22,800
36 or more pupils	200	1,900	2,200	200	1,800	2,000
Percentage of classes with						
1 - 30 pupils	64.9	66.1	66.0	65.5	67.2	67.1
31 - 35 pupils	31.8	31.1	31.1	31.9	30.1	30.3
36 or more pupils	3.3	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.7	2.7
Number of pupils	199,400	1,920,300	2,119,700	178,200	1,953,600	2,131,900
Number of pupils in classes with						
1 - 30 pupils	118,200	1,166,200	1,284,400	107,400	1,210,100	1,317,500
31 - 35 pupils	72,600	683,000	755,500	65,000	675,700	740,600
36 or more pupils	8,600	71,100	79,700	5,800	67,800	73,700
Percentage of pupils in classes with						
1 - 30 pupils	59.3	60.7	60.6	60.3	61.9	61.8
31 - 35 pupils	36.4	35.6	35.6	36.5	34.6	34.7
36 or more pupils	4.3	3.7	3.8	3.3	3.5	3.5

(1) Classes as taught during the one selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

(2) Excludes middle schools

**CHART 22:**

Average class sizes in Key Stage 1 and 2 classes in primary schools, by size and activity: January 1996 to 2000



**Secondary schools**

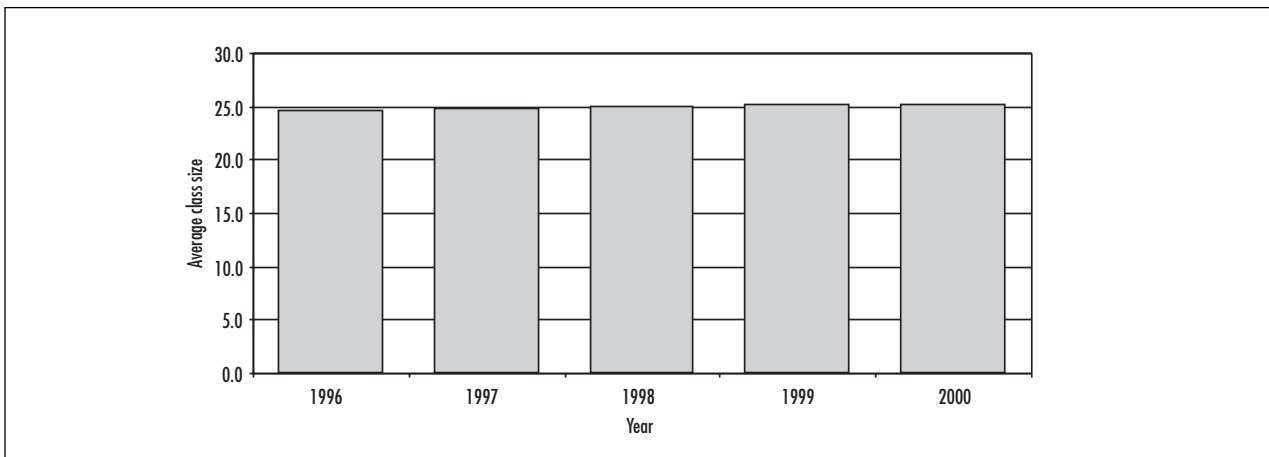
**55** Information about classes with one teacher in the age groups 'mainly under 14', mainly aged 14 and 15' and mainly aged 16 and over is collected from secondary schools. Table 8 shows the average class size and distribution of class sizes for these three age groups from 1996 to 2000.

**Class sizes for pupils aged mainly under 14**

**56** Pupils in this age group are usually those studying at Key Stage 3. The changes in average class size for classes with one teacher and pupils mainly under 14 are illustrated in Chart 23. Over this time period there has been a steady rise in the average class size from 24.6 pupils per teacher in 1996 to 25.2 in January 2000.

**CHART 23:**

Average class sizes for pupils aged mainly under 14 in secondary schools: January 1996 to 2000



**TABLE 8**  
**Classes taught by one teacher in maintained secondary schools (1) (2) in England**  
**January 1996 - 2000**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>MAINLY UNDER 14</b>					
<b>Classes taught by one teacher</b>					
Average class size	24.6	24.7	24.9	25.1	25.2
Number of classes	57,700	59,200	59,800	61,100	62,700
Percentage of classes with					
31 - 35 pupils	8.3	8.6	9.6	10.9	11.6
36 or more pupils	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Number of pupils	1,419,100	1,460,700	1,488,700	1,532,600	1,579,500
Number of pupils in classes with					
31 - 35 pupils	151,800	162,200	182,900	210,900	231,600
36 or more pupils	1,300	1,900	2,700	3,100	3,500
Percentage of pupils in classes with					
31 - 35 pupils	10.7	11.1	12.3	13.8	14.7
36 or more pupils	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
<b>MAINLY 14 AND 15</b>					
<b>Classes taught by one teacher</b>					
Average class size	21.7	21.6	21.6	21.7	21.8
Number of classes	47,200	46,800	46,900	46,900	47,600
Percentage of classes with					
31 - 35 pupils	3.8	3.8	4.3	4.6	4.8
36 or more pupils	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Number of pupils	1,023,300	1,011,000	1,013,600	1,016,600	1,039,800
Number of pupils in classes with					
31 - 35 pupils	56,400	56,200	64,400	68,700	72,600
36 or more pupils	1,200	800	2,000	2,100	1,000
Percentage of pupils in classes with					
31 - 35 pupils	5.5	5.6	6.4	6.8	7.0
36 or more pupils	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
<b>MAINLY 16 AND OVER</b>					
<b>Classes taught by one teacher</b>					
Average class size	10.6	10.8	10.7	10.5	10.7
Number of classes	17,100	18,100	18,400	18,600	18,500
Percentage of classes with					
31 - 35 pupils	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
36 or more pupils	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Number of pupils	181,900	194,600	197,100	195,200	197,500
Number of pupils in classes with					
31 - 35 pupils	1,900	1,500	1,600	1,300	900
36 or more pupils	500	400	1,100	1,100	800
Percentage of pupils in classes with					
31 - 35 pupils	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5
36 or more pupils	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.4

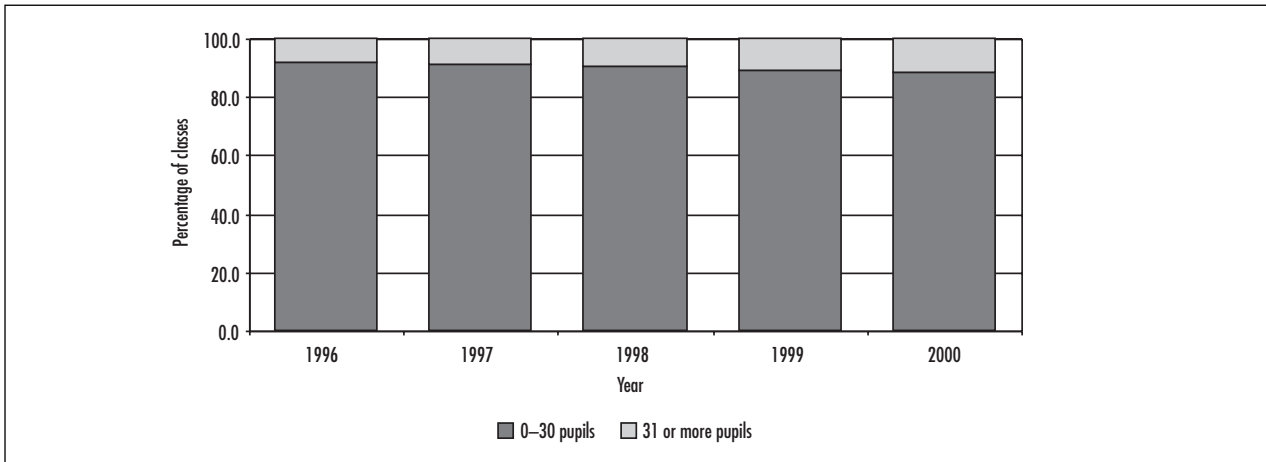
(1) Classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

(2) Excludes middle schools

57 Chart 24 shows the distribution of class sizes with one teacher and pupils aged mainly under 14. The proportion of classes with 31 or more pupils has risen in each year: in 1996 8.4 per cent of classes had 31 or more pupils and this had risen to 11.8 per cent in 2000.

**CHART 24:**

Classes for pupils aged mainly under 14 in secondary schools, by size: January 1996 to 2000



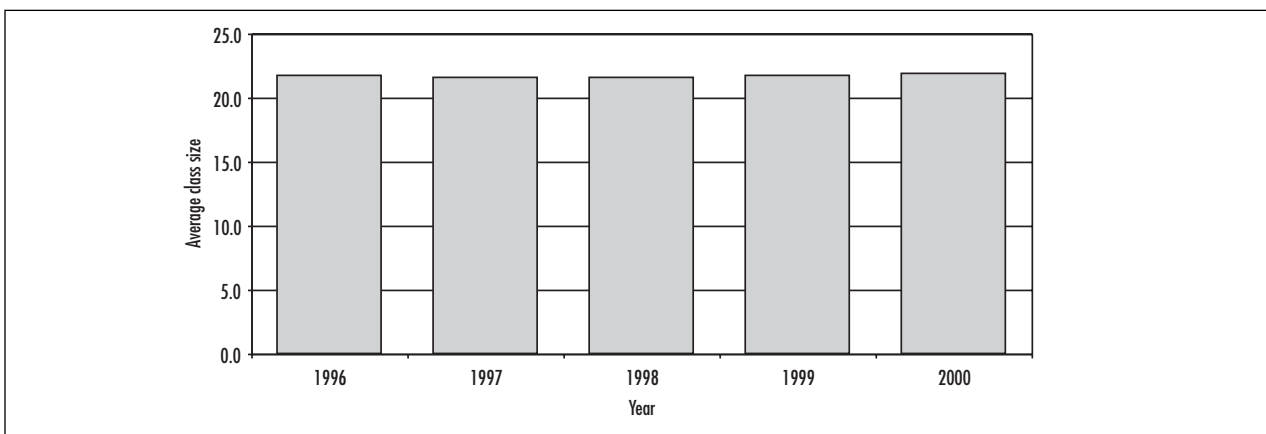
58 The percentage of pupils aged mainly under 14 in classes of different sizes follows a similar pattern to the percentage of classes of those sizes: in January 1996 10.8 per cent of pupils were in classes of 31 or more pupils, by January 2000 this had risen to 14.9 per cent of pupils

**Class sizes for pupils aged mainly 14 and 15**

59 Pupils in this age group are usually those studying at Key Stage 4. The average class sizes of classes with pupils mainly aged 14 and 15 between 1996 and 2000 are illustrated in Chart 25. There has been very little change in the average size of a class size for pupils aged mainly 14 and 15 over this time period: it has remained between 21.6 and 21.8 pupils per teacher.

**CHART 25:**

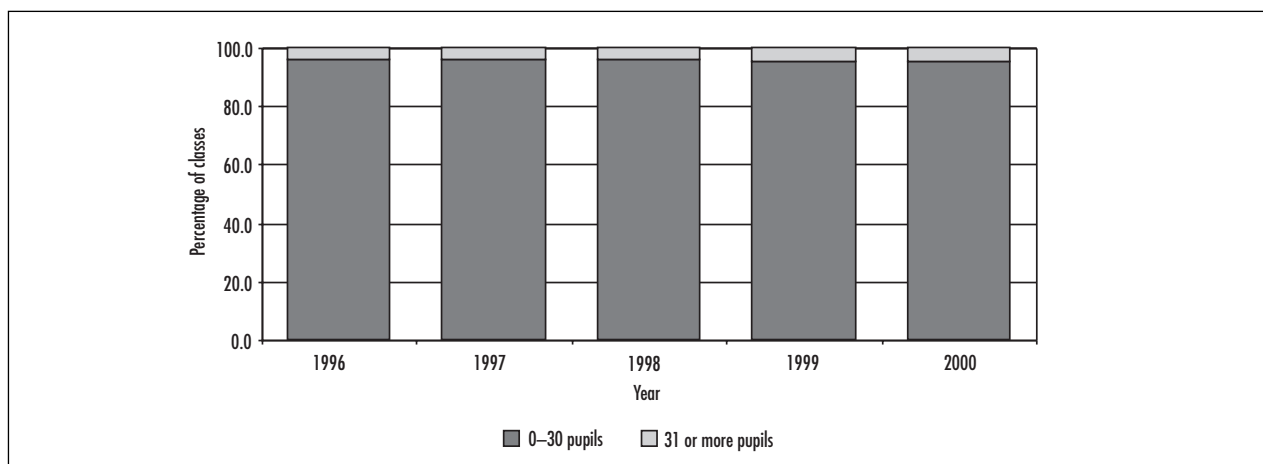
Average class sizes for pupils aged mainly 14 and 15 in secondary schools, by size: January 1996 to 2000



60 Chart 26 shows the distribution of class sizes for pupils aged mainly 14 and 15. Between 1996 and 2000 there has been a slight rise in the number of classes with 31 or more pupils: from 3.9 per cent in 1996 to 4.9 per cent in 2000.

**CHART 26:**

Class sizes for pupils aged mainly 14 and 15 in secondary schools, by size: January 1996 to 2000



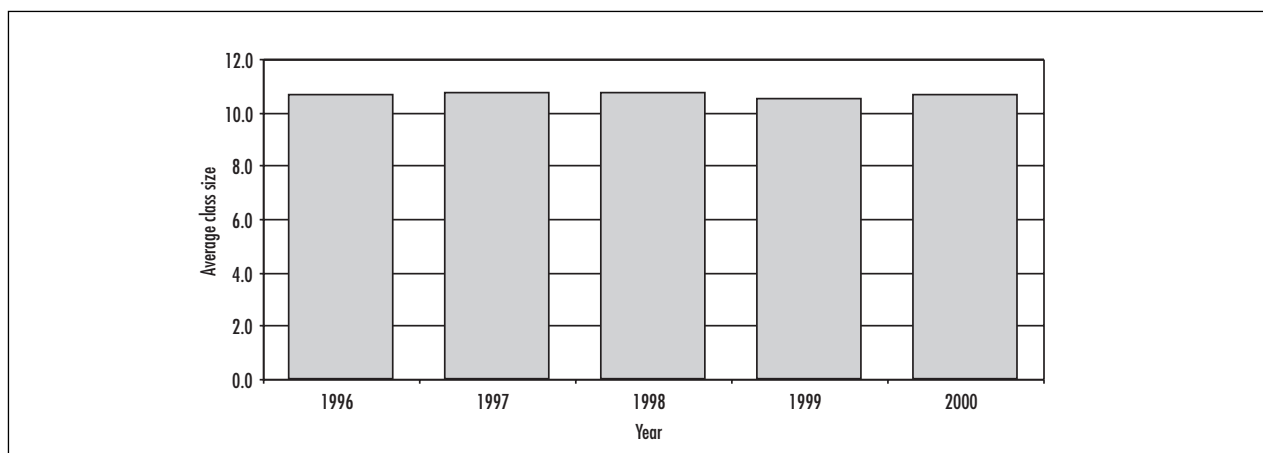
**61** The percentage of pupils aged mainly 14 and 15 in classes of different sizes follows a similar pattern to the percentage of classes of those sizes: the percentage of pupils in classes of 31 or more rose from 5.6 in 1996 to 7.1 in 2000.

**Class sizes for pupils aged mainly 16 and over**

**62** Pupils in this age group are usually those studying after GCSE or equivalent qualifications. The average class sizes of classes with pupils mainly 16 and over between 1996 and 2000 are illustrated in Chart 27. There has been very little change in the average size of a class size for pupils aged mainly 16 and over in this time period: it has remained between 10.5 and 10.8 pupils per teacher.

**CHART 27:**

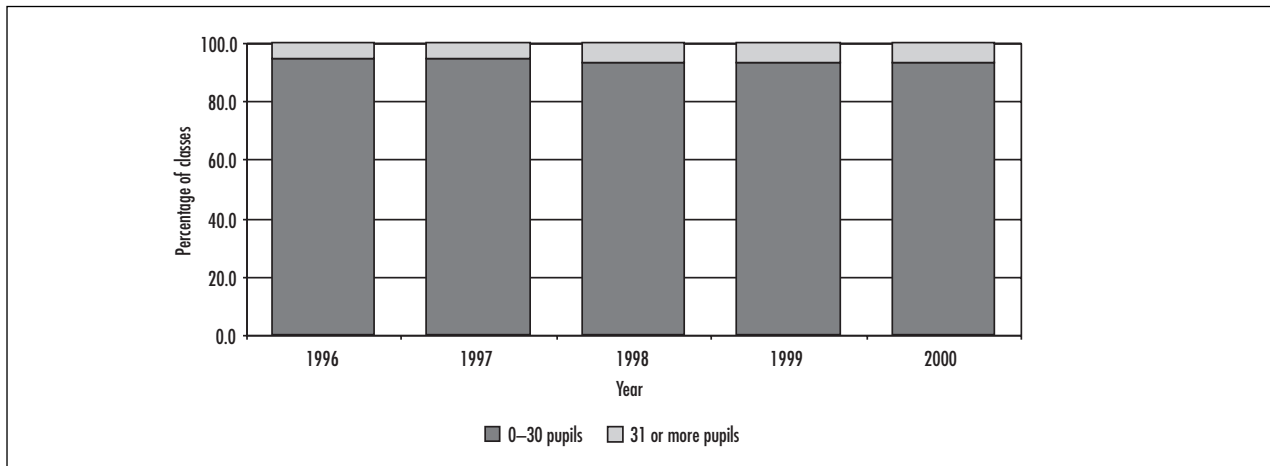
Average class sizes for pupils aged mainly 16 and over in secondary schools: January 1996 to 2000



**63** Chart 28 shows the distribution of class sizes for pupils aged mainly 16 and over. Very few classes for pupils aged mainly 16 and over have more than 30 pupils and there has been very little change in the percentages during this time period.

**CHART 28:**

Class sizes for pupils aged mainly 16 and over in secondary schools, by size: January 1996 to 2000



**64** The percentage of pupils aged mainly 16 and over in classes of different sizes follows a similar pattern to the percentage of classes of those sizes.



## SECTION 4

### INFANT CLASS SIZES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS: SEPTEMBER 1998 TO 2000

**TABLE 9:**

Infant classes taught by one teacher in maintained primary schools in England:  
September 1998 to 2000

	1998	1999	2000
Average class size	25.7	24.9	24.5
Number (1) of pupils in classes with:			
30 or fewer pupils	1,258,000	1,439,000	1,520,000
31 or more pupils	354,000	171,000	30,000
Percentage of pupils in classes with:			
30 or fewer pupils	78.0	89.0	98.0
31 or more pupils	22.0	11.0	2.0

(1) these figures include estimates of the number of pupils entering later in the autumn term under staggered entry arrangements and for pupils from schools which did not make a return.

**65** Since 1998 information about infant classes has been collected each September. Table 9 shows the size of these classes between September 1998 and September 2000.

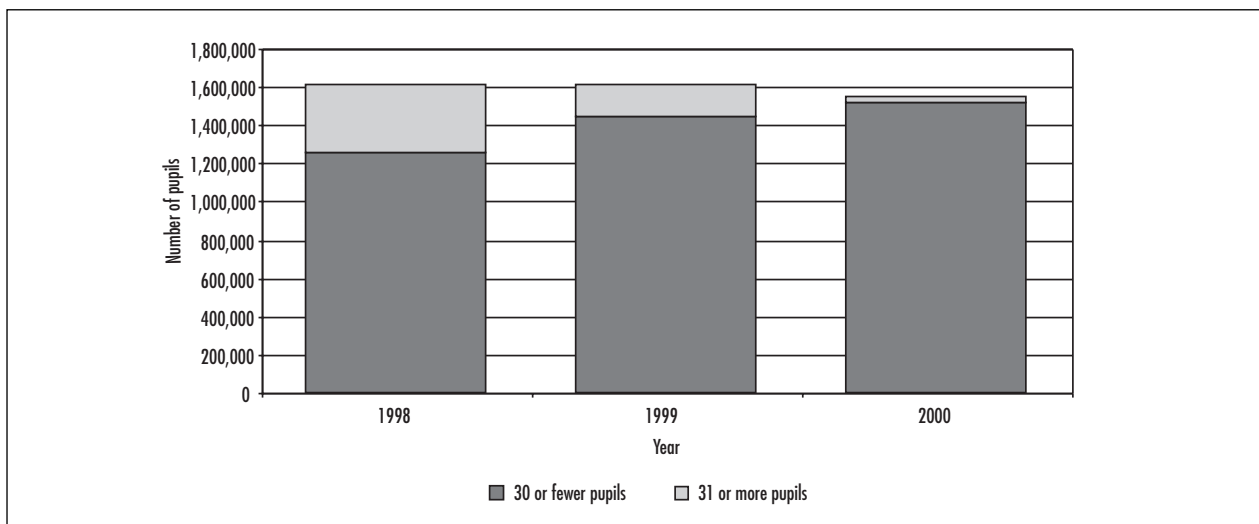
**66** The average class size in September has fallen considerably each year: from 25.7 pupils per teacher in September 1998 to 24.5 in September 2000. In line with the Government's policy to reduce class sizes, the percentage of children in classes of 31 or more pupils decreased from 22 in 1998 to 2 in 2000.

**67** The numbers of children reported in Table 9 include an estimate for children entering school later in the autumn term under staggered entry arrangements and for schools from which no data were received. Staggered entry is an arrangement by which pupils who will be entering school during the autumn term do not all enter at the beginning of the term, but are brought in at intervals during the term. The method of estimation used for this is to calculate changes between September and January for previous years separately for those schools with staggered entry and those without. For those schools with staggered entry arrangements, part of the change between September and January will be attributable to pupils entering school in January and part will be because of children entering later in the autumn term. For schools without staggered entry, all of the change will be attributable to children entering school in January. The difference between the two groups will provide an estimate of the increase in pupil numbers and, hence, in pupils in classes of 31 or more, later in the autumn term for those schools with staggered entry arrangements. Estimates for missing schools are calculated by applying the changes shown by all schools to the figures supplied by the same schools in previous years.

**68** Using the methodology described in paragraph 67, the estimated number of pupils in classes of 31 or more in September 2000 was 30,000, a decrease of 324,000 when compared to September 1998. Chart 29 illustrates the changes in the numbers of pupils in classes with one teacher and 30 or fewer or 31 or more pupils. Apart from the decrease in the numbers of pupils in large classes, there has also been an overall decrease in the number of pupils in classes with one teacher: there were an estimated 1,550,000 in September 2000 compared to 1,610,000 in September 1999 and 1,612,000 in September 1998. This decrease may, in part, be because of the additional funding to provide a second teacher for classes with 31 or more pupils, although information about classes with more than one teacher was not collected in September 1998 or 1999, so there is not a method of verifying this supposition.

**CHART 29:**

Number of pupils in infant classes, by size of class: September 1998 to 2000

**Additional information about classes in September 2000**

**69** In September 2000 the data collection of class sizes was extended. In September 1998 and 1999 information was only collected about classes with one teacher, in 2000, all classes where the majority of children would reach the age of 5, 6 or 7 during the 2000-2001 school year were collected. Some additional data items about each class were collected: the number of teaching assistants in classes, the activity being undertaken by the class, whether the class contained pupils of ages other than 5, 6 or 7 and how many children would have been exceptions under the legislation to come into force in September 2001. In addition activity was collected for these classes using the new, more detailed codes which will become standard from January 2001.

**Number of adults in class: September 2000****TABLE 10:**

Adults present in all infant classes in maintained primary schools in England: September 2000

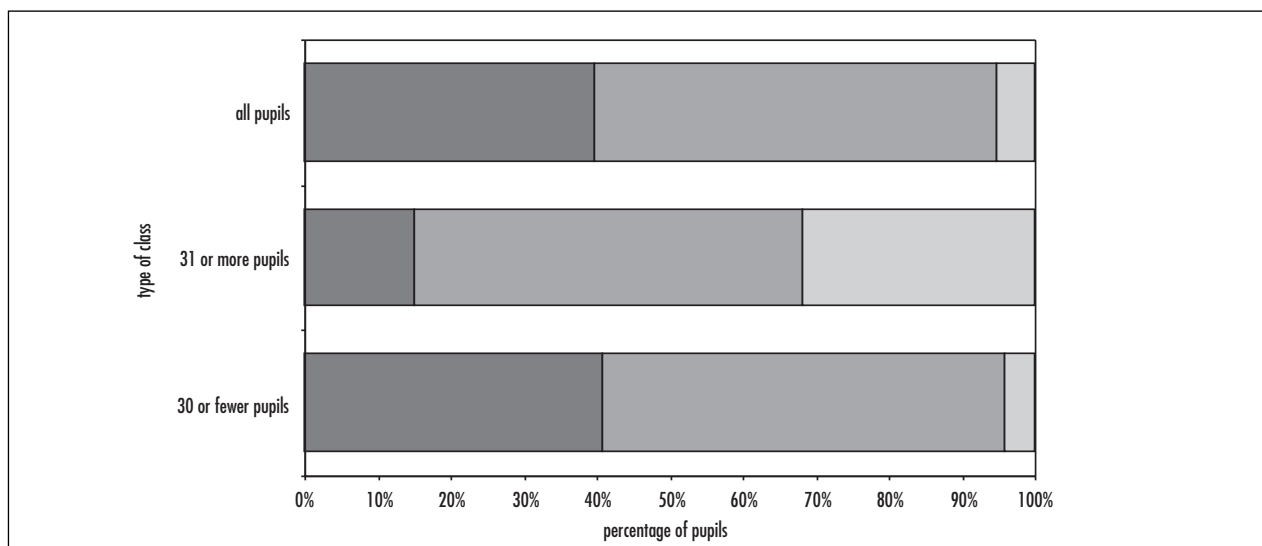
	Number of adults present (2)			Total
	1	2	3 or more	
Number (1) of pupils in classes with:				
30 or fewer pupils	627,000	846,800	62,800	1,536,500
31 or more pupils	9,600	34,100	20,700	64,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>636,600</b>	<b>880,800</b>	<b>83,500</b>	<b>1,600,900</b>
Percentage of pupils in classes with:				
30 or fewer pupils	39.2	52.9	3.9	96.0
31 or more pupils	0.6	2.1	1.3	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(1) these figures exclude estimates of the number of pupils entering later in the autumn term under staggered entry arrangements and for pupils from schools which did not make a return.

(2) Adults include the teachers and teaching assistants employed at the school. Other adults (such as parents) who are not employed but who may have been present at the time of the Count are not included.

**70** Adults included in the September Class Size Count are teachers and assistants employed by the school to assist the teacher. Assistants employed specifically to assist a pupil in the class and volunteers, such as parents, are excluded. Table 10 shows that the majority of pupils were in classes where there was more than one adult in class at the time of the September 2000 class size count and this is illustrated in Chart 30. At the time of the September Class Size Count 2000, 40 per cent of pupils had only one teacher and no other adult present in class, 55 per cent had two adults and 5 per cent had three or more adults. In classes with 31 or more pupils the percentage of pupils with at least one adult other than the teacher in class was much higher: only 15 per cent of pupils were with one teacher and no other adult, 53 per cent of pupils had two adults present and 32 per cent had three or more adults.

**CHART 30:**  
Percentage of pupils by number of adults in class by size of class: September 2000



### Classes containing mixed age groups: September 2000

**TABLE 11:**  
Classes with one teacher with mixed age groups: September 2000

	Mixed age groups	Single age groups	Total
<b>Classes with one teacher</b>			
Number (1) of classes	3,400	59,200	62,600
with less than 30 pupils	3,300	58,400	61,700
with 31 or more pupils	70	800	900
<b>Percentage of classes:</b>			
with less than 30 pupils	97.9	98.6	98.5
with 31 or more pupils	2.1	1.4	1.5
<b>Number (1) of pupils</b>			
in classes of less than 30 pupils	80,200	1,450,500	1,530,700
in classes of 30 or more	77,900	1,423,800	1,501,700
in classes of 30 or more	2,300	26,700	29,000
<b>Percentage of pupils:</b>			
in classes of less than 30 pupils	97.1	98.2	98.1
in classes of 30 or more	2.9	1.8	1.9

(1) these figures exclude estimates of the number of pupils entering later in the autumn term under staggered entry arrangements and for pupils from schools which did not make a return.

**71** Table 11 shows that 5.5 per cent of all classes contained pupils of mixed ages, that is, the majority of pupils would reach the age of 5, 6 or 7 during the 2000-2001 school year, but a minority were older or younger than this age. Mixed age classes tended to be larger than those of a single age group: 2.1 per cent of mixed age classes had 31 or more pupils, and 2.9 per cent of pupils in mixed aged classes of 31 or more pupils compared to 1.4 per cent and 1.8 per cent respectively for classes of a single age group.

### Potential exceptions: September 2000

**72** From September 2001 there will be a new categorisation of admission to an infant class as an exception. In order to prepare for the collection of information about children admitted to classes exceptionally, information was collected about the number of children who were admitted in September 2000 under circumstances that would have made them an exception in September 2001. The definition of an exception will cover several categories of admission to school other than by the usual admissions procedure. These include where the child moves into the area after the normal admissions round, where a child receives a statement of special educational needs naming the school, the result of admission appeal or an error made during the normal admissions process or a child normally educated in a special needs unit who is spending some time in a mainstream infant class. A child would only be reported as an exception if

their admission results in the class becoming of size 31 or more. The information reported here about exceptions should be treated with caution, as this is the first time that these data have been collected.

**73** Altogether schools reported that 597 children had been admitted in September 2000 under circumstances that would have made them exceptions in September 2001. These admissions resulted in 398 classes taught by one teacher being larger than 30 pupils. If these pupils had not been admitted, then the total number of pupils estimated to be in classes of 31 or more pupils in September 2000 would have been approximately 17,200 rather than 30,000. Thirty per cent of the 398 classes where exceptions were reported had only one teacher and no other adult present at the time of the count compared to about 15 per cent of classes without exceptions. The high proportion of classes with one teacher and no additional adult presumably reflects the unplanned nature of the admission of pupils under these circumstances.

## Class activity: September 2000

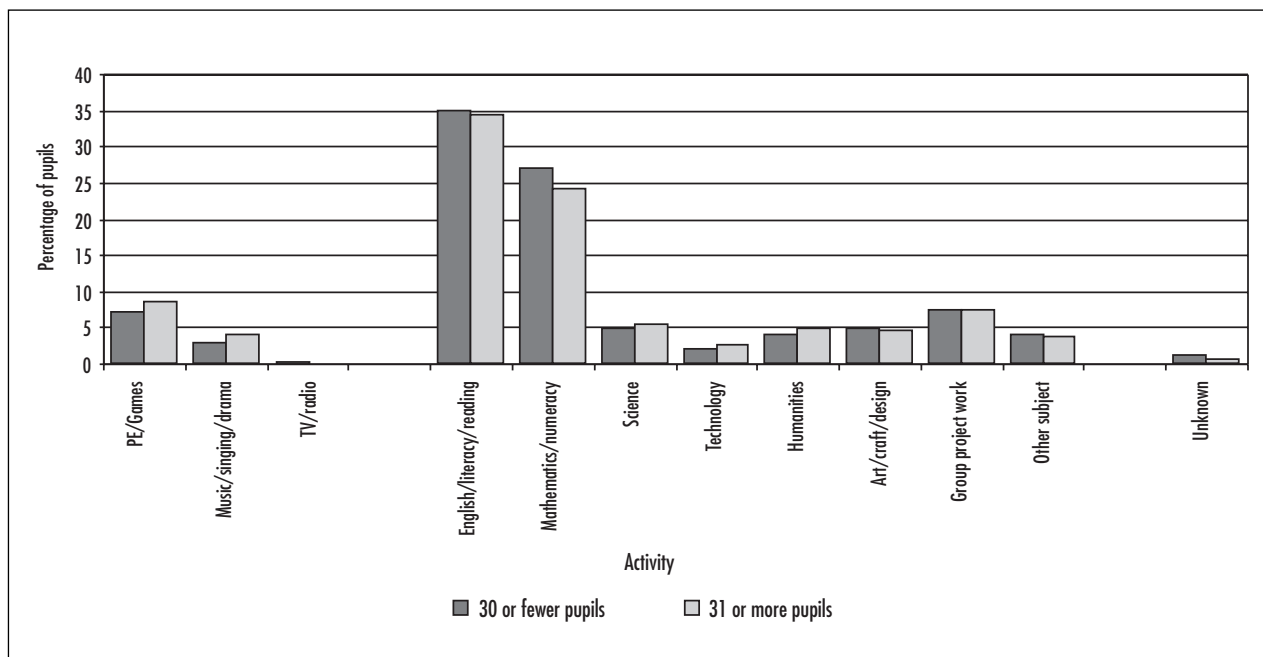
**TABLE 12:**  
Number (1) and percentage of pupils by size of infant class and activity in England: September 2000

	Number (1) of pupils in one teacher classes			Percentage of pupils in one teacher classes		
	30 or fewer pupils	31 or more pupils	all classes	30 or fewer pupils	31 or more pupils	all classes
PE/ Games	105,700	2,400	108,100	7.0	8.3	7.1
Music, singing or drama	44,700	1,200	45,900	3.0	4.2	3.0
Watching TV or listening to the radio	4,800	30	4,830	0.3	0.1	0.3
English, literacy or reading	523,200	10,000	533,200	34.8	34.6	34.8
Mathematics or numeracy	403,400	7,100	410,500	26.8	24.6	26.8
Science	71,800	1,500	73,300	4.8	5.2	4.8
Technology/ IT/ Computing	29,000	700	29,700	1.9	2.4	1.9
Humanities	58,500	1,300	59,800	3.9	4.5	3.9
Art, craft or design	73,800	1,300	75,100	4.9	4.5	4.9
Group project work	111,600	2,100	113,700	7.4	7.3	7.4
Other Subject	57,800	1,100	58,900	3.8	3.8	0.0
Unknown	18,500	160	18,660	1.2	0.5	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,502,800</b>	<b>28,890</b>	<b>1,531,690</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(1) these figures exclude estimates of the number of pupils entering later in the autumn term under staggered entry arrangements and for pupils from schools which did not make a return.

**74** The number and percentage of pupils reported for in classes taught by one teacher by the different activities are shown in Table 12. 'English, literacy or reading' was the most common activity and 'mathematics or numeracy' the second most common activity: altogether more than six out of every ten pupils (61.6 per cent) were taking part in one of these two types of activity.

**CHART 31:**  
**Percentage of pupils by size of class and activity: September 2000**



**75** Chart 31 shows that there was only a small difference between the percentages of classes of 31 or more pupils and those with 30 or fewer pupils taking part in different activities, although 'PE/games' and 'music, singing or drama' were slightly more common, and 'English, literacy or reading' and 'mathematics or numeracy' were slightly less common' in classes of 31 or more pupils than in classes of 30 or fewer pupils.