



Organisation of school time in Europe

Primary and general secondary education

School year 2004/05





ORGANISATION OF SCHOOL TIME IN EUROPE

SCHOOL YEAR 2004/2005

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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SEPTEMBER 2004

**TABLE I – LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2004/2005
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	PRIMARY EDUCATION		SECONDARY EDUCATION	
	Beginning 2004	End 2005	Beginning 2004	End 2005
BELGIUM FRENCH COMMUNITY FLEMISH COMMUNITY GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	01 September 01 September 01 September	30 June 30 June 30 June	01 September 01 September 01 September	30 June 30 June 30 June
CZECH REPUBLIC ¹	01 September	31 August	01 September	31 August
DENMARK ²	09 August	18 June	09 August	18 June
GERMANY ³	01 August	31 July	01 August	31 July
ESTONIA ⁴	01 September	03 June	01 September	03 June
GREECE ⁵	13 September	15 June	13 September lower and upper education	mid-May lower education 16 May upper education
SPAIN ⁶	Between 01 and 15 September	Between 21 and 30 June	Between 01 and 20 September	Between 10 and 30 June
FRANCE ⁷	02 September	02 July	02 September	02 July
IRELAND ⁸	01 September	30 June approx.	01 September	30 June approx
ITALY ⁹	Between 08 and 23 September	Between 04 and 16 June	Between 08 and 23 September	Between 04 and 16 June
CYPRUS ¹⁰	01 September	30 June	01 September	30 June
LATVIA ¹¹	01 September	31 May	01 September	31 May (form 9 ends 10 June and form 12 ends 17 June)
LITHUANIA ¹²	01 September	01 June (end of lessons)	01 September	01 June (end of lessons)
LUXEMBOURG	15 September	15 July	15 September	15 July
HUNGARY ¹³	01 September	15 June	01 September	15 June (6 May for those in the final year)
MALTA ¹⁴	27 September	27 June	27 September	27 June
NETHERLANDS ¹⁵	Between 16 August and 06 September	Between 01 July and 22 July	Between 23 August and 06 September	Between 01 July and 15 July
AUSTRIA ¹⁶	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 06 September other <i>Länder</i> : 13 September	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 01 July other <i>Länder</i> : 08 July	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 06 September other <i>Länder</i> : 13 September	Wien, Niederösterreich, Burgenland: 01 July other <i>Länder</i> : 08 July
POLAND ¹⁷	01 September	24 June	01 September	24 June
PORTUGAL	16 September	24 June	16 September	24 June 9 th and 12 th year between 09 and 24 June
SLOVENIA ¹⁸	01 September (primary and lower secondary education)	24 June (primary and lower secondary education)	01 September (upper secondary education)	24 June (upper secondary education)
SLOVAKIA ¹⁹	01 September	31 August	01 September	31 August
FINLAND ²⁰	Between 09 and 17 August	04 June	Between 09 and 17 August	04 June

COUNTRY	PRIMARY EDUCATION		SECONDARY EDUCATION	
	Beginning 2004	End 2005	Beginning 2004	End 2005
SWEDEN ²¹	Between 12 and 26 August	Beginning of June	Between 12 and 26 August	Beginning of June
UNITED KINGDOM ENGLAND AND WALES ²²	First week of September	Third or fourth week of July	First week of September	Third or fourth week of July
NORTHERN IRELAND ²³	First week of September	End of June	First week of September	End of June
SCOTLAND ²⁴	Middle of August	End of June/beginning of July	Middle of August	End of June/beginning of July
ICELAND ²⁵	Between 23 August and 01 September (primary/lower secondary)	Between 28 May and 10 June (primary/lower secondary)	Between 23 August and 01 September (upper secondary)	Between 23 and 30 May (upper secondary)
LIECHTENSTEIN	17 August	01 July	17 August	01 July
NORWAY ²⁶	Between 14 and 25 August	Between 17 and 24 June	Between 14 and 25 August	Between 17 and 24 June
BULGARIA	15 September	1 st grade: 23 May 2 nd to 4 th grade: 31 May	15 September	5 th to 8 th grade: 15 June, 8 th grade for pupils with admission after completion of grade 7: 30 June 9 th to 11 th grades: 30 June 12 th to 13 th grades: 23 May
ROMANIA ²⁷	15 September	17 June	15 September	17 June

ENDNOTES

**TABLE I – LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2004/2005
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

- ¹ **Czech Republic:** According to the Labour Code, the holiday for **teachers** at primary or secondary level is 8 weeks a calendar year. They take it primarily in the time of school holidays.
- ² **Denmark:** The Ministry of Education issues guidelines to the distribution of holidays in the *Folkeskole*. They are not binding. Only the date of the last day of the school year must be complied with, and the school year must consist of 200 school days. As for upper secondary education, the Ministry only fixes the date of the last day of the school year.
- ³ **Germany:** In accordance with the *Hamburg Agreement* between the *Länder* on harmonisation in the school system, the school year begins on 01 August and ends on 31 July. The actual beginning and end depend on the dates of the summer holidays which vary from one year to the other.

SCHOOL YEAR 2004/2005			
Primary and secondary education			
	Beginning of school year 2004/2005	Summer holidays 2005	
		Beginning	End
HAMBURG	05 August	30 June	10 August
BERLIN, BRANDENBURG	09 August	23 June	06 August
MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN, SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN	09 August	27 June	06 August
BREMEN, NIEDERSACHSEN, SACHSEN-ANHALT, THÜRINGEN	19 August	14 July	24 August
SACHSEN	23 August	18 July	26 August
RHEINLAND-PFALZ	30 August	25 July	02 September
HESSEN, SAARLAND	30 August	25 July	03 September
NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN	06 September	07 July	19 August
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG	13 September	28 July	10 September
BAYERN	14 September	01 August	12 September

- ⁴ **Estonia:** The Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act stipulates that an academic year shall start on 01 September and a study period shall include not less than 175 days of study (35 weeks). School holidays (and accordingly the end of the school year) are determined by a regulation of the Minister of Education for every school year.
Teacher: The beginning and the end of a teacher's school year depend on the individual school and teacher. According to the legislation, teachers have 56 days (8 weeks) of vacation. Generally, they go on vacation in the middle of June and are back in the middle of August.
- ⁵ **Greece:** Official school year: 01 September 2004 to 31 August 2005; Teaching school year: 13 September 2004 to 15 June 2005.

Teachers

PRIMARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)		SECONDARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)	
Primary education		Secondary education (upper/lower)	
Beginning 2004	End 2005	Beginning 2004	End 2005
01 September	21 June	01 September	end of June

- ⁶ **Spain:** Dates vary according to the different Autonomous Communities. For detailed information, also on teachers' school year, see the following table:

	LENGTH OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL YEAR				TEACHERS' SCHOOL YEAR	
	Primary education		Secondary education		Primary/secondary	
	Beginning	End	Beginning	End	Beginning	End
Andalucía	15 September	23 June	15 September	23 June	01 September	30 June
Aragón	09 September ¹	21 June ¹	13 September	21 June	01 September	30 June
Asturias	09 September	23 June	13 September	23 June	01 September	30 June
Baleares	13 September	22 June	15 September	22 June	01 September	30 June; Official 31 August
Canarias	7/9 September	22 June	14/16 September	17/22 June	01 September	30 June
Cantabria	09 September ¹	21 June ¹	16 September	27 June	01 September	30 June
Castilla-La Mancha	08 September	21 June	13 September	24 June	01 September	30 June

Castilla y León	14 September ¹	27 June ¹	20 September	27 June	01 September	30 June
Cataluña	15 September	22 June	15 September	22 June	01 September	30 June
Extremadura	13 September	24 June	13 September	24 June	01 September	30 June
Galicia	10 September	27 June	17 September	27 June	01 September	31 August
Madrid	13 September	24 June	15 September	24 June	01 September	30 June
Murcia	08 September ¹	24 June ¹	15 September	30 June	01 September	30 June
Navarra ²	Not later than 09 September	Not before 24 June	Not later than 17 September	Not before 10 June	01 September	30 June
País Vasco	Not before 01 September	Not later than 30 June	Not before 01 September	Not later than 30 June	Not before 01 September	Not later than 30 June
La Rioja	07 September	21 June	14 September	24 June	01 September	30 June
C.Valenciana	09 September ¹	22 June ¹	17 September	24 June	-	-
1) Date for the first cycle of Compulsory Secondary Education when it takes place at a Primary School 2) The first cycle of Compulsory Secondary Education, when it takes place at a Primary School, begins not later than 15 September and end not before 24 June.						

⁷ **France: Teachers** have to begin on 1 September 2004.

⁸ **Ireland:** In general, school commence on the 1 September provided it is a weekday. However, to ensure compliance with the agreed arrangements on the standardisation of the school year and the requirement at second level that school provide a minimum of 167 days tuition, it may be necessary, because of particular circumstances arising in the school year 2004/2005, that some second level schools commence on the 30 or 31 August 2004.

⁹ **Italy:** It is up to the *Direttori degli Uffici scolastici regionali* (school regional authorities) to decide the date of beginning of the school year. Starting from school year 2002/2003 also the date of end of the school year is decided by the Regions. That means that the school year can begin and finish at different dates, according to the decision taken at regional level. The *Direttore dell'Ufficio scolastico regionale* can decide for the same region different dates of beginning and end, according to the school level. Generally speaking, the school year begins between the 2nd and the 4th week of September and finishes between the 1st and the 3rd week of June. According to the implementation of school autonomy, the consultative councils of the schools can adapt the school calendar concerning the beginning and the end of the lessons. It means that the decisions of the *Direttori degli Uffici scolastici regionali* will be applied only in the case that schools have not decided their own dates of beginning and end. The school adaptations of the organisation of school time must guarantee at least 200 days of lesson a school year.

LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR 2004/2005		
Primary and secondary education		
	Beginning	End
Lombardia	08 September	08 June
Toscana	13 September	08 June
Molise, Umbria, Valle d'Aosta	13 September	09 June
Trentino-Trento	13 September	10 June
Piemonte	13 September	11 June
Trentino-Bolzano	13 September	16 June
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	14 September	04 June
Abruzzo	15 September	04 June
Marche	15 September	07 June
Emilia Romagna	15 September	08 June
Campania	15 September	11 June
Lazio, Liguria	16 September	10 June
Puglia	20 September	08 June
Calabria, Sardegna	20 September	11 June
Basilicata	20 September	13 June
Veneto	20 September	16 June
Sicilia	23 September	09 June

PRIMARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)		SECONDARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)	
Beginning 2004	End 2005	Beginning 2004	End 2005
01 September	30 June	01 September	30 June

- ¹⁰ **Cyprus:** The school year includes registration days, sorting out of schools and classes, exam periods.
- ¹¹ **Latvia:** The school year is divided in two semesters, the first from 1 September until 12 December and the second from 3 January until 31 May (or 10 June for form 9 and 17 June for form 12).
The **teachers'** school year concurs with student's year, but normally is longer and starts earlier, though the end and the start date is not defined officially. The employment status of teachers is contractual and determined by the labour law. Hence, teachers are engaged not just when classes are in operation, but in periods during which schools are open for administrative reasons. In any case, the teacher has the right to receive 8 weeks of paid annual leave, commonly in summer.
- ¹² **Lithuania:** It is within each school's discretion to decide what kind of activity pupils will be offered after 01 June: either disciplinary subject-based projects, subject/art weeks, work at the school library, visits to higher education schools, installing exhibition, visits to historic places, sports events, remedial courses for pupils not showing notable progress, etc.
Pupils in the years 1 to 5 can finish only after at least 170 school days, while those in the years 6 to 9 and 11, after at least 195 days. These days include the national holidays.
Pupils in the last year of lower secondary education finish their lessons on 25 May, those in upper secondary education on 17 May.
Teachers: In Lithuania, the annual amount of leave for teachers is legislated as 56 calendar days. Normally, it is recommended that teachers take their annual leave during school summer holidays (i.e. teachers' leave is normally determined by the school calendar).
- ¹³ **Hungary:** The number of teaching days is 181, compulsory, for all institutions.
The head of the institution may require **teachers** anytime to be present for certain non-teaching activities if they are not on leave, however most teachers work only a few weeks more than the normal length of the student's year .
- ¹⁴ **Malta:** Half yearly examinations for primary schools are held between 11 and 15 February. For secondary schools these are held between 11 and 21 February 2005. Annual examinations for primary schools are held between 22 and 24 June 2005. For secondary schools annual examinations are held between 13 and 27 June 2005.
The **teachers'** school year starts on 23 September 2004 and ends on 05 July 2005. However, teachers have INSET courses probably between 17 and 22 September and between 06 and 08 July. Half of the teaching complement attends the September session while the other half attends the July session.
As 06 July is a holiday in lieu of 01 May, those teachers who would be attending INSET courses between 06 and 08 July would be getting 11 July in lieu of 01 May.
- ¹⁵ **Netherlands:** The school year officially runs from 01 August till 31 July of the following year. Start and end of the teaching year is according to region (north, central and south region).

LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR				
	Primary education		Secondary education	
	Beginning 2004	End 2005	Beginning 2004	End 2005
North region	23 August	22 July	30 August	15 July
Central region	16 August	01 July	23 August	01 July
South region	06 September	08 July	06 September	08 July

Teacher's school year is similar as student's school year.

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

- ¹⁶ **Austria:** Other Länder: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg.
The **teachers'** school year is of the same length as the pupils' school year.
- ¹⁷ **Poland:** End of the school year in both primary and secondary schools is always the last Friday of June. In the last grades of upper secondary schools ending with the Matura examination, however, the school year ends earlier, but the date has not yet been decided. In the last grades of gymnasium (lower secondary) ending with the external examination, the school year ends on 29 April. In the last grades of basic vocational schools, ending with the external vocational examination, the school year ends on 17 June.
In general, **teachers'** school year covers the same period of time as pupils' school year. Teachers' holidays, however, may be shortened by max. 7 days, if there is a need to perform organisational tasks in a given school.
- ¹⁸ **Slovenia:** The official length of the school year is from 01 September to 31 August, but lessons are completed in June.
Primary and lower secondary education:
End of the elementary school lessons (single structure of primary and lower secondary education):
15 June for the final grade pupils, external examinations run by the end of June;
24 June for pupils who are not in the final grade.

Upper secondary education:

End of the upper secondary school lessons:

16 January is the last day of lessons for students in the final grade of short vocational courses (2.5-year duration);

final examination from 1 February to 28 February;

23 May to 25 May end of lessons for students in final grade of other vocational, technical and general courses; final examinations in June and July;

24 June is the last day of lessons for upper secondary students who are not in the final grade.

PRIMARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)		SECONDARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)	
Beginning 2004	End 2005	Beginning 2004	End 2005
About 20 August	mid-July	About 20 August	mid-July

Teachers' school year begins about 10 days before the pupils' school year and ends some 14-21 days after the end of pupils' lessons. The precise length depends on the individually determined leave of a teacher (from 22 to 35 days) and his/her tasks and obligations allocated by the head teacher.

- ¹⁹ **Slovakia:** Official school year: 01 September to 31 August.
Starting date of teaching in the school year 2004/2005 is 02 September 2004 and ends on 30 June 2005.
- ²⁰ **Finland:** The providers of education (municipalities, school boards of private schools) can decide when to start, but the date of the last school day, as well as the length of the school year, are fixed. According to the Basic Education Act (628/1998), teachers and pupils have 190 school days in pre-primary, basic and voluntary additional basic education. Independence Day, Epiphany and 1 May are deducted from the total number of school days if they are on any weekday other than Saturday. In the 2004/2005 school year Independence Day and Epiphany are on weekdays other than Saturday, so there will be 188 school days in all.
- ²¹ **Sweden:** The exact dates vary between the municipalities.
- ²² In **England and Wales**, schools must be open for at least 380 half day sessions each school year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by local education authorities (LEAs) or school governing bodies. Although school holidays generally cover the same core periods, exact dates may vary between schools and authorities. In most cases, the school year runs from the first week of September to the third or fourth week of July.
Teachers are required to be available for 5 additional days. Schools normally schedule these within the school opening dates given in the table.
- ²³ In **Northern Ireland**, schools must be open for 190 days a year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally, they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by Education and Library Boards or school governing bodies. Therefore school holidays may differ between boards and schools. The five Education and Library Boards, encouraged by the Department of Education, have set up a harmonisation scheme, which sets the core holiday dates on which no services (school transport and school meals) are provided. Schools do not have to set holidays within these dates, but they are strongly advised to do so.
Teachers are required to be available for 5 additional days. These are scheduled by schools to take place outside but near to the dates given in the table.
- ²⁴ **Scotland:** There are no differences between primary and secondary schools, however, there are variances across the 32 local education authorities.
The earliest **start** date for the school year 2004/05 is 17 August 2004.
- ²⁵ **Iceland:** There are still a few small rural schools on compulsory level which operate for 8 ½ months. The **teachers** work for 9 months.

PRIMARY AND LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)		UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION (TEACHERS)	
Beginning 2004	End 2005	Beginning 2004	End 2005
Between 17 and 26 August	Between 04 and 14 June	Between 20 and 28 August	Between 25 May and 02 June

- ²⁶ **Norway:** The dates may vary between municipalities (primary and lower secondary education) and between counties (upper secondary education). The students' school year lasts totally 38 weeks. Minimum 7 weeks summer holidays.
The **teacher's school year** lasts totally 39 weeks; one more than the students. The local administrations are free to organise the teachers extra working time during the year.
- ²⁷ **Romania:** In exceptional situations, depending on local climatic conditions and school's specificity, the structure of the school year can be modified at the request of schools approved by the local education authorities (County School Inspectorates). Approval is given if the number of 35 weeks and 173 school days is maintained and all pupils may participate, without restrictions, in national examinations.

**TABLE II – STARTING DATES OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IN 2004/2005
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	STARTING DATES - 2004	
BELGIUM		
FRENCH COMMUNITY	01 September	
FLEMISH COMMUNITY	01 September	
GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	01 September	
CZECH REPUBLIC	01 September	
DENMARK¹	09 August	
GERMANY		
HAMBURG	05 August	
BERLIN, BRANDENBURG	09 August	
MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN, SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN	09 August	
BREMEN, NIEDERSACHSEN, SACHSEN-ANHALT, THÜRINGEN	19 August	
SACHSEN	23 August	
RHEINLAND-PFALZ	30 August	
HESSEN, SAARLAND	30 August	
NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN	06 September	
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG	13 September	
BAYERN	14 September	
ESTONIA	01 September	
GREECE²	13 September	
SPAIN³	Primary Between 01 and 15 September	Secondary Between 01 and 20 September
FRANCE	02 September	
IRELAND	01 September	
ITALY	Between 2 nd and 4 th week of September (08-23 Sept.)	
CYPRUS	01 September	
LATVIA	01 September	
LITHUANIA	01 September	
LUXEMBOURG	15 September	
HUNGARY	01 September	
MALTA	27 September	
NETHERLANDS	Primary	Secondary
NORTH REGION	23 August	30 August
CENTRAL REGION	16 August	23 August
SOUTH REGION	06 September	06 September
AUSTRIA		
BURGENLAND, NIEDERÖSTERREICH, WIEN	06 September	
OTHER LÄNDER	13 September	
POLAND	01 September	
PORTUGAL	16 September	
SLOVENIA	01 September	
SLOVAKIA	01 September	
FINLAND	Between 09 and 17 August	
SWEDEN	Between 12 and 26 August	
UNITED KINGDOM		
ENGLAND AND WALES	First week of September	
NORTHERN IRELAND	First week of September	
SCOTLAND ⁴	Middle of August	
ICELAND	Primary/lower secondary Between 23 August and 01 September	Upper secondary Between 23 August and 01 September
LIECHTENSTEIN	17 August	
NORWAY⁵	Between 14 and 25 August	
BULGARIA	15 September	
ROMANIA	15 September	

ENDNOTES

TABLE II – STARTING DATES OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2004/2005
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)

- ¹ **Denmark:** Not all schools start at the same date, they may start a week earlier so as to save up a week so that they can have a week's Winter holidays in February.
- ² **Greece:** Official school year: 01 September – 31 August.
- ³ **Spain:** Each Autonomous Community officially starts and ends the school year on a fixed date within this period. Teachers begin on 02 September (officially on 01 September).
- ⁴ **Scotland:** There are no differences between primary and secondary schools, however, there are variances across the 32 local education authorities. The earliest **start** date for the school year 2004/05 is 17 August 2004.
- ⁵ **Norway:** The dates may vary between municipalities (primary and lower secondary education) and between counties (upper secondary education).

**TABLE III – SCHOOL HOLIDAYS OVER THE SCHOOL YEAR 2004/2005
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2004	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2004/2005	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2005	SPRING / EASTER 2005	3rd TERM 2005	SUMMER 2005	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2004/2005
BELGIUM FRENCH COMMUNITY	1 week (01-05 November)	2 weeks (27 December- 07 January)	1 week (07-11 February)	2 weeks (28 March-08 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	5 public holidays (27/09; 11/11; 01/05, 05/05; 16/05)
FLEMISH COMMUNITY	1 week (01-06 November)	2 weeks (27 December- 08 January)	1 week (07-12 February)	2 weeks (28 March-09 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	5 public holidays (11/11; 01/05; 05/05; 06/05; 16/05 + 2 extra days)
GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	1 week (01-05 November)	2 weeks (27 December- 07 January)	1 week (07-11 February)	2 weeks (28 March-08 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	5 public holidays (11/11; 15/11; 01/05; 05/05; 16/05 + 2 extra days)
CZECH REPUBLIC¹	2 days (27 and 29 October)	About 1 week (23 December- 01 January)	1 day (04 February)	1 week (between 07 February and 20 March depending on the region); 2 days (24-25 March)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	6 days (28/09; 28/10; 17/11; 28/03; 01/05; 08/05)
DENMARK²	1 week (11-17 October)	2 weeks (20 December- 02 January)	-	1 week (21-28 March)	-	7 weeks (20 June-07 August)	4 public holidays (22/04; 05/05; 06/05; 16/05)
GERMANY³	5 to 12 days (staggered between 04 October and 06 November)	7 to 13 days (staggered between 22 December and 08 January)	0 to 12 days (staggered between 24 January and 19 February)	6 to 11 days (staggered between 14 March and 09 April)	0 to 11 days (staggered between 06 and 28 May)	6 weeks (staggered between 23 June and 12 September)	Up to 10 days, depending on the <i>Land</i>
ESTONIA	1 week (23 October- 31 October)	2 weeks (24 December- 09 January)	-	1 week (19-27 March)	-	12 weeks (04 June-31 August)	2 days (24/02; 25/03)
GREECE	-	2 weeks (24 December- 07 January)	-	2 weeks (25 April-06 May)	-	Prim. : 10 weeks (22 June-31 August) Sec. : 9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	5 national/religious holidays (28/10; 31/01; 14/03; 25/03; 20/06 and some holidays of regional character)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2004	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2004/2005	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2005	SPRING / EASTER 2005	3 rd TERM 2005	SUMMER 2005	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2004/2005
SPAIN	-	2 weeks (between 22 December and 7/9 January)	Usually 2 or 3 days (a maximum of 4 days, between 7 and 11 February depending on the Autonomous Community)	About 1 week (staggered between 18 March and 04 April depending on the Autonomous Community)	-	Prim.: 11 weeks (staggered between mid-/late June and mid-September) Sec.: 12 weeks (staggered between mid-/ late June and mid-/late September)	Around 7 public holidays depending on the Autonomous Community
FRANCE	1½ week (23 October- 04 November)	2 weeks (18 December- 03 January)	2 weeks: 12/02-28/02 (zone A) 05/02-21/02(zone B) 19/02-07/03(zone C)	2 weeks: 16/04-02/05 (zone A) 09/04-25/04 (zone B) 23/04-09/05(zone C)	-	9 weeks (02 July- 01 September)	3 jours (11/11; 28/03; 05/05)
IRELAND ⁴	1 week (25-30 October)	2 weeks (22 December- 08 January)	1 week (Primary: 14-19 February)	1 week (23 March-02 April)	-	Prim.: 9 weeks (01 July-31 August) Sec.: 13 weeks (04 June-31 August)	3 public holidays (17/03; 02/05; 06/06) + some religious holidays
ITALY ⁵	-	2 weeks (23/24 December- 05/09 January)	1 to 5 days	5 to 7 days (23/25-28/30 March depending on the regions)	-	13-15 weeks (between June and September)	5 national holidays (01/11; 08/12; 25/04; 01/05 [Sunday]; 02/06 and some religious holidays depending on the regions)
CYPRUS	-	2 weeks (primary 23 December- 06 January) (secondary 24 December- 06 January)	-	2 weeks (25 April-06 May)	-	About 9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	13 public/religious holidays (01/10; 28/10; 13/11; 30/01; 23/02; 14/03; 25/03; 01/04; 01/05; 31/05; 09/06; 11/06; 20/06)
LATVIA ⁶	1 week (25-29 October)	2 weeks (20 December- 01 January)	-	1 week (14-18 March)	-	13 weeks (01 June-31 August)	4 days (18/11; 28/03; 01/05; 04/05)
LITHUANIA ⁷	1 week (before or after 01 November)	2 weeks (around 23 Decem- ber-06 January)	-	1 week (end of March- beginning of April)	-	about 2 months (July/August)	5 days (01/11; 16/02; 11/03; 28/03; 01/05)
LUXEMBOURG	1 week (30 October- 06 November)	2 weeks (18 December- 01 January)	1 week (05 February- 12 February)	2 weeks (26 March-09 April)	1 week (14-21 May)	9 weeks (16 July- 14 September)	3 public holidays (01/05; 05/05; 23/06)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2004	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2004/2005	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2005	SPRING / EASTER 2005	3 rd TERM 2005	SUMMER 2005	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2004/2005
HUNGARY ⁸	1 week (30 October- 06 November)	2 weeks (20 December- 01 January)	-	1 week (24-29 March)	-	11 weeks (16 June-31 August)	6 days (23/10; 01/11; 15/03; 12/04 , 01/05; 31/05)
MALTA ⁹	3 days (01-03 November)	2 weeks (23 December- 06 January)	2 days (07 and 08 February)	1 week (23-30 March)	-	13 weeks (27/06-26/09)	About 10 days (08/9; 21/09; 08/12; 13/12; 10/02; 19/03; 31/03; 01/05; 07/06; 29/06)
NETHERLANDS ¹⁰	1 week (staggered over 2 regions: North/Central: 16-24 October; South: 23-31 October)	2 weeks (25 December- 09 January)	1 week (staggered over 2 regions: South/Central: 05-13 February; North: 12-20 February)	-	1 week (30 April-08 May)	Prim: 6 weeks (staggered over 3 regions between 02 July and 04 September) Sec: 7 weeks (staggered over 3 regions between 02 July and 04 September)	3 public holidays (28/03; 05/05; 16/05) 2 national holidays (30/04 and 05/05)
AUSTRIA ¹¹	-	2 weeks (24 December- 06 January)	1 week (N, W: 07-12 February; B, K, S, T, V: 14-19 February; O, ST: 21-26 February)	1 week (19-29 March)	3 days (14-17 May)	About 9 weeks (B, N, W: 02 July- 03 September; K, O, S, St, T, V: 09 July-10 September)	7 days (26/10; 01/11; 02/11; 08/12; 01/05; 05/05; 26/05) 1 extra religious holiday (saint) different in each <i>Land</i>
POLAND ¹²	-	1 week (23 December- 01 January)	2 weeks (between 17 January and 27 February depending on the region)	6 days (24-29 March)	-	9 ½ weeks (25 June-31 August)	7 days (01/11; 11/11; 01/05; 02/05; 03/05; 26/05; 27/05)
PORTUGAL	-	2 weeks (20 December- 02 January)	3 days (07-09 February)	11 days (21 March-01 April)	-	About 12/14 weeks (9 th and 12 th year from 09 June, others from 24 June to mid-September)	Around 10 days throughout the school year
SLOVENIA ¹³	1 week (01-07 November)	1 week (27 December- 02 January)	1 week (between 21 February and 06 March, depending on the regions)	1 week (27 April-02 May)	-	10 weeks (25 June-31 August)	2 days (08/02; 28/03)
SLOVAKIA ¹⁴	2 days (28 and 29 October)	7 days (23 December- 31 December)	1 day (01 February)	1 week (spring holidays) (between 14 February and 04 March, depending on the regions); 4 days (Easter holidays) (24-29 March)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	5 days (01/09; 15/09; 01/11; 17/11; 06/01)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2004	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2004/2005	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2005	SPRING / EASTER 2005	3rd TERM 2005	SUMMER 2005	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2004/2005
FINLAND ¹⁵	1 to 7 days (between 11 and 29 October)	About 2 weeks (between 19 December and 09 January)	1 week (between 21 February and 11 March)	4 days (25-28 March)	-	10-11 weeks (06 June-mid-August)	3 public/religious holidays (06/12; 06/01; 05/05)
SWEDEN ¹⁶	1 week (between 11 October and 05 November)	Around 3 weeks (between 17 December and 12 January)	1 week (between 14 February and 11 March)	1 week (between 21 March and 08 April)	-	Around 10 weeks (between the beginning of June to end of August)	4 days (25/03; 28/03; 05/05; 16/05 and 1 extra day to be distributed)
UNITED KINGDOM ENGLAND AND WALES ¹⁷	1 week (25-29 October)	2 weeks (20 December- 04 January)	1 week (14-18 February)	2 weeks (25 March-08 April)	1 week (30 May-03 June)	6 weeks (between the 25 or 28 July and the first week of September)	1 public holiday (02 May)*
NORTHERN IRELAND ¹⁸	2 days (28-29 October)	2 weeks (20 December- 03 January)	1 day (14 February)	1 week (25 March-01 April)	-	9 weeks (between 01 July and 31 August)	Up to 7 optional closure days 2 public holidays (02/05; 30/05)
SCOTLAND ¹⁹	From 1 to 2 weeks (between 11 and 24 October)	2 weeks (21 December- 09 January)	1 to 7 days (between 10 and 22 February)	2 weeks (between 25 March and 10 April)	-	7 weeks (between end of June and mid-August)	Up to 3 days (05/05 + 2 days - casual holidays)
ICELAND ²⁰	0-2 days (usually in the third week of October)	2 weeks (21 December- 03 January)	0-5 days (usually in the third week of February)	7-11 days (between 21 and 28 March)	-	11-13 weeks (from approx. 10 June to 23 August)	3-4 public holidays
LIECHTENSTEIN	2 weeks (02-17 October)	2 weeks (24 December- 09 January)	1 week (05-13 February)	About 2 weeks (24 March-10 April)	-	6 weeks (02 July-16 August)	8 public holidays (08/09; 01/11; 08/12; 02/02; 19/03; 05/05; 16/05; 26/05)
NORWAY ²¹	1 week (between 27/09 and 15/10)	Around 2 weeks (between 17 December and 05 January)	1 week (21-25 February)	1 week (between 21 March and 01 April)	-	Around 8 weeks (between 20 June and 20 August)	4 public holidays (01/05; 05/05; 16/05; 17/05)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2004	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2004/2005	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2005	SPRING / EASTER 2005	3 rd TERM 2005	SUMMER 2005	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2004/2005
BULGARIA ²²	3 days (1 st grade: 06-09 November)	1 ½ week (all grades: 24 December to 04 January)	3 days (all grades: 03-06 February)	1 week (all grades: 01-10 April) Easter: 01/05-02/05 for all grades	-	Around 13 to 15 weeks (Grade 1: 24 May- 14 September Grades 2 to 4: 01 June to 14 September- Grades 5 to 8: 16/06-14/09 Grade 8 for pupils with admission after completion of grade 7: 01/07-14/09 Grades 9 to 11: 01 July-14 September Grades 12 and 13: *24 May-14 September)	4 public holidays (22/09; 03/03; 06/05; 24/05)
ROMANIA	1 week (only for primary education: 01-07 November)	2 ½ weeks (22 December- 09 January)	-	2 weeks (19 March-03 April)	-	12 weeks (18 June- 11 September)	2 holidays (national holiday 01/12 and 02/05)

ENDNOTES

**TABLE III –SCHOOL HOLIDAYS OVER THE SCHOOL YEAR 2004/2005
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

¹ **Czech Republic: Specification of terms for spring holidays in the Czech Republic**

Term - 2005	Regions
7-13 February	Praha 6 to 10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Písek, Frýdek-Místek
14-20 February	Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín
21-27 February	Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál
28 February-6 March	Mladá Boleslav, Příbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník
7-13 March	Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Klatovy, Český Krumlov, Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město
14-20 March 2005	Praha 1 to 5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domažlice, Tachov, Louny, Prostějov, Karviná

² **Denmark:** The Ministry of Education issues guidelines to the distribution of holidays. They are not binding. Only the date of the last day of the school year must be complied with, and the school year must consist of 200 school days.

³ **Germany:** The length of the shorter holiday periods in each year is fixed by the individual *Länder* within the total number of 75 days of the holidays in the school year.

Shorter School holiday periods (public/occasional/religious holidays)

Land	Autumn 2004	Christmas / New Year 2004/2005	Winter 2005	Spring / Easter 2005	3 rd term 2005
Baden-Württemberg	02 Nov.-06 Nov.	23 Dec.-08 Jan.	-	24 March-02 April	17 May-28 May
Bayern	02 Nov.-06 Nov.	24 Dec.-07 Jan.	07 Febr.-11 Febr.	21 March-02 April	17 May-28 May
Berlin	04 Oct.-16 Oct.	23 Dec.-31 Dec.	24 Jan.-29 Jan.	23 March-01 April	06 May/17 May-18 May
Brandenburg	04 Oct.-16 Oct.	23 Dec.-31 Dec.	24 Jan.-29 Jan.	23 March-02 April	06 May
Bremen	11 Oct.-23 Oct.	23 Dec.-08 Jan.	31 Jan.-01 Febr.	19 March-02 April	17 May
Hamburg	04 Oct.-16 Oct.	22 Dec.-31 Dec.	-	14 March-26 March	06 May-13 May
Hessen	18 Oct.-30 Oct.	22 Dec.-08 Jan.	-	29 March-09 April	-
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	18 Oct.-23 Oct.	22 Dec.-03 Jan.	31 Jan.-11 Febr.	21 March-29 March	13 May-17 May
Niedersachsen	11 Oct.-23 Oct.	23 Dec.-08 Jan.	31 Jan-01 Febr.	21 March-02 April	06 May/25 May-28 May
Nordrhein-Westfalen	18 Oct.-30 Oct.	24 Dec.-07 Jan.	-	21 March-02 April	-
Rheinland-Pfalz	18 Oct.-29 Oct.	22 Dec.-07 Jan.	-	21 March-01 April	-
Saarland	11 Oct.-23 Oct.	23 Dec.-04 Jan.	07 Febr./08 Febr.	21 March-04 April	06 May+27 May
Sachsen	11 Oct.-23 Oct.	23 Dec.-01 Jan.	07 Febr.-19 Febr.	25 March-02 April	-
Sachsen-Anhalt	18 Oct.-23 Oct.	22 Dec.-31 Dec.	31 Jan.-09 Febr.	21 March-01 April	17 May-21 May
Schleswig-Holstein	04 Oct.-16 Oct.	23 Dec.-05 Jan.	-	21 March-02 April	06 May-07 May
Thüringen	11 Oct.-23 Oct.	22 Dec.-31 Dec.	07 Febr.-12 Febr.	21 March-02 April	14 May-17 May

For summer holidays please see endnote to table I.

- ⁴ **Ireland:** School authorities have discretion in the planning of the school year, holidays, etc. However, a primary school must open for a minimum of 183 recognised teaching days and is required to close for July and August. A secondary school must open for a minimum of 167 recognised teaching days.
- ⁵ **Italy:** Public holidays that fall on Sunday are **not** taken on another day of the week as compensation. **Campania region:** Head teachers in schools, where the presence of pupils of other religious is high, can dedicate one day of holiday for those groups (e.g. Chinese New Year celebration, end of Ramadan).
- ⁶ **Latvia:** The official summer holiday period is from 02 June to 29 August, though pupils after years 9 and 12 have an examination period in June.
- ⁷ **Lithuania:** Exact dates of school holidays are within each school's disposition. Additional school holidays may be allocated subject to the school council's approval.
- ⁸ **Hungary:** School holidays represented in the list do not include any weekends (which may make them longer) which are normally non-teaching days. The list of public holidays however do include weekends, which are normally non-teaching days.
- ⁹ **Malta:** 7 January holiday in lieu of 25 December; 1 April holiday in lieu of 1 January; 6 June holiday in lieu of 19 March; 6 July holiday in lieu of 1 May.
Teacher: holidays from 11 July 2005-16 September 2005.

- ¹⁰ **Netherlands:** Dates for the summer holidays are decided by the Ministry; the holiday period is staggered over 3 regions (compulsory dates for all schools); all other holidays are recommended by the Ministry

School year 2004/2005 (summer holidays 2005)

	Primary education	Secondary education
North region	23 July-04 September	16 July-04 September
Central region	02 July-14 August	02 July-21 August
South region	09 July-21 August	09 July-28 August

The administrative school year runs from 01 August 2004 to 31 July 2005, the summer holiday 2005 is considered to be the summer holiday for the school year 2004/2005.

- ¹¹ **Austria:** B►Burgenland, N►Niederösterreich; W►Wien; K►Kärnten; O►Oberösterreich; S►Salzburg; St►Steiermark; T►Tirol; V►Vorarlberg.
4 to 5 additional days may be allocated as a holiday each academic year.

- ¹² **Poland:** WINTER HOLIDAYS:

17-30 January	Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Pomorskie, Śląskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie;
24 January-06 February	Podlaskie
31 January-13 February	Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Lubuskie, Małopolskie, Świętokrzyskie, Wielkopolskie
14-27 February	Dolnośląskie, Łódzkie, Mazowieckie, Opolskie, Zachodniopomorskie

- ¹³ **Slovenia:** Winter/Carnival: Ljubljana and Maribor regions: 28 February-06 March; other regions: 21-27 February.

- ¹⁴ **Slovakia:**

14 February-18 February	Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín
21 February-25 February	Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava
28 February-04 March	Prešov, Košice

- ¹⁵ In **Finland**, the provider of education decides on the precise starting date of the school year and on other possible short holiday periods. School holidays differ so that even in one municipality pupils in different schools may have their school holidays at different times. Winter holidays are generally the following: in the Southern parts of Finland week 8, in Central Finland week 8/9 and in the Northern parts of Finland week 10. Many municipalities have some Saturday school days during the school year 2004/2005. The Saturday school days vary between municipalities.

- ¹⁶ **Sweden:** The exact dates vary between the municipalities. There is a total of 178 school days and at least 5 holidays to be distributed, as each municipality wishes.

- ¹⁷ **England and Wales:** There is currently some movement towards the adoption of a standardised six-term school year which would be consistent year on year; a number of LEAs have agreed to do this from 2004/2005. However, the decision to adopt this new model remains at the level of the LEA or school governing body. The pattern of terms and holidays proposed would be two approximately seven week terms with a two week break between them, followed by four approximately six week terms with breaks of either one or two weeks at Easter between them.
*School holidays in England and Wales are planned to take into account and cover other national public holidays.
See also the endnote to table I.
- ¹⁸ **Northern Ireland:** *See endnote to table I.*
- ¹⁹ In **Scotland** the school holidays are not fixed nationally, but by local education authorities, and may vary from one local authority to another.
- ²⁰ **Iceland:** Autumn, Christmas, Winter and Spring holidays can vary on compulsory level according to a change in the compulsory school act from 2001.
Pupils' holidays over the school year are never less than 15 weeks.
Schools decide on the exact date of the school holidays.
- ²¹ **Norway:** The exact dates vary between municipalities (primary and lower secondary education) and between counties (upper secondary education).
- ²² **Bulgaria: Grades 12 and 13:** *Summer break for few vocational schools with provision up to **grade 13** (normally **grade 12** is the last year of education).