



Organisation of school time in Europe

Primary and general secondary education

2007/08 school year



AUSTRIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	03 September 2007: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 10 September 2007: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	03 September 2007: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 10 September 2007: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
End of students' school year	27. Juni 2008: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 04 July 2008: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	27. Juni 2008: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 04 July 2008: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 03 November 2007: Vorarlberg	1 week 29 October – 03 November 2007: Vorarlberg
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2007 – 06 January 2008	2 weeks 24 December 2007 – 06 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	1 week 11 – 16 February 2008: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Vorarlberg, Wien 18 – 23 February 2008: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol	1 week 11 – 16 February 2008: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Vorarlberg, Wien 18 – 23 February 2008: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol
Spring/Easter	1 week 15 – 25 March 2008	1 week 15 – 25 March 2008
Third term	4 days 10 – 13 May 2008	4 days 10 – 13 May 2008
Summer	About 9 weeks 28 June – 30 August 2008: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 05 July – 06 September 2008: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	About 9 weeks 28 June – 30 August 2008: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 05 July – 06 September 2008: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Public/religious holidays 2007/08	6 days 26/10; 01/11; 02/11; 08/12; 01/05; 22/05 1 extra religious holiday (Saint – different in each <i>Land</i>)	6 days 26/10; 01/11; 02/11; 08/12; 01/05; 22/05 1 extra religious holiday (Saint – different in each <i>Land</i>)
The teachers' school year is of the same length as the pupils' school year.		

Source: Eurydice

BELGIUM (GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of students' school year	30 June 2008	30 June 2008
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 02 November 2007	1 week 29 October – 02 November 2007
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2007– 04 January 2008	2 weeks 24 December 2007– 04 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	1 week 04 – 08 February 2008	1 week 04 – 08 February 2008
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 24 March – 04 April 2008	2 weeks 24 March – 04 April 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2008	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2008
Public/religious holidays	15/11; 01/05; 12/05 + 2 extra days	15/11; 01/05; 12/05 + 2 extra days
Starting date of teachers' school year	03 September 2007*	03 September 2007*
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2008	30 June 2008

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes

*Starting date of teachers' school year: The following addition to the teachers' holiday rules has been decided by a decree of 6 June 2005 : "The organizing authority has the right to call staff members into service during the five last working days in August in order to organise examinations, to decide students' pass/fail status or to hold meetings for the preparation of the coming school year."

BELGIUM (FRENCH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of students' school year	30 June 2008	30 June 2008
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 02 November 2007	1 week 29 October – 02 November 2007
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2007 – 04 January 2008	2 weeks 24 December 2007 – 04 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	1 week 04 – 08 February 2008	1 week 04 – 08 February 2008
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 24 March – 04 April 2008	2 weeks 24 March – 04 April 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2008	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2008
Public/religious holidays	27/09; 01/05; 12/05	27/09; 01/05; 12/05
Starting date of teachers' school year	03 September 2007	03 Septembe 2007
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2008	30 June 2008

Source: Eurydice

BELGIUM (FLEMISH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of students' school year	27 June 2008(*)	27 June 2008(*)
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 04 November 2007	1 week 29 October – 04 November 2007
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2007 – 06 January 2008	2 weeks 24 December 2007 – 06 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	1 week 04 February – 10 February 2008	1 week 04 February – 10 February 2008
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 24 March – 06 April 2008	2 weeks 24 March – 06 April 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	9 weeks 28 June – 31 August 2008	9 weeks 28 June – 31 August 2008
Public/religious holidays	01 May + 02 May + 12 May + 11 November 2008	01 May + 02 May + 12 May + 11 November 2008
Starting date of teachers' school year	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of teachers' school year	27 June 2008	27 June 2008

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

(*)The school year 2008 ends on Friday 27 June, since 30 June is a Monday (Minister's decision).

BULGARIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	17 September 2007 (15 September official date)	17 September 2007 (15 September official date)
End of students' school year	Grade I : 23 May 2008 Grade II – IV : 31 May 2008 Grade V – VIII : 15 June 2008 Grade VIII*: 30 June 2008	Grade VIII* : 30 June 2008 Grade IX – XI : 30 June 2008 Grade XII – XIII : 23 May 2008
Autumn holidays	2 days Grade I : 08 – 11 November 2007	-
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2007 – 06 January 2008	2 weeks 22 December 2007 – 06 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	2 days 01 – 04 February 2008	2 days 01 – 04 February 2008
Spring/Easter	1 week 31 March – 08 April 2008 3 days + 1 day 26 – 30 April 2008 and 02 May 2008	1 week 31 March – 08 April 2008 3 days + 1 day 26 – 30 April 2008 and 02 May 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	Between 11 and 16 weeks Grade I : 23 May – 15 September 2008 Grade II – IV : 31 May – 15 September 2008 Grade V – VIII : 15 June – 15 September 2008 Grade VIII* : 30 June – 15 September 2008	11 weeks Grade IX – XI : 30 June – 15 September 2008 16 weeks Grade XII – XIII : 23 May – 15 September 2008
Public/religious holidays	2 Public holidays: 01 November 2007 24 May 2008	2 Public holidays: 01 November 2007 24 May 2008
Starting date of teachers' school year	See Additional notes	See Additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See Additional notes	See Additional notes

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

*Pupils from VIII grade for whom the school year will close on 30 June (primary education) are those admitted to continue their compulsory education in VIII grade, after completing successfully VII grade, to secondary language learning schools, after undergoing national tests or alternative form of examinations.

Teachers: The decision on the length of the teachers' school year is not taken at central level. Each educational institution (the school director) is entitled to draw up the school working schedule for the employed teachers. Most common situation is that the teachers are supposed to be at disposal at school at the beginning of September in order to get prepared with the necessary school documentation etc. As for the end of a given school year, it again depends on whether the teachers are needed at school in order to help/complete/close with the school documentation or whether they are involved in certain initiated projects, initiatives, etc.

Cyprus

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year 2007	06 September 2007	11 September 2007 / secondary
End of students' school year 2008	18 June 2008	30 June 2008 (see additional notes)
Autumn holidays	-	-
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2007- 06 January 2008	2 weeks 24 December 2007- 06 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	-	-
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 19 April 2008- 04 May 2008	2 weeks 19 April 2008- 04 May 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	11 weeks 19 June 2008- 03 September 2008	9 weeks 01 July 2008- 31 August 2008
Public/religious holidays 2007/08	01/10, 13/11; 30/01; 10/03, 25/03, 01/04, <u>05/06</u> ; 11/06; 16/06	01/10, 13/11; 30/01; 10/03, 25/03, 01/04, 11/06; 16/06
Starting date of teachers' school year	03 September 2007	01 September 2007
End of teachers' school year	20 June 2008	30 June 2008

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The 5th of June is the end of the students' school year for students in lower secondary education.

For the 1st and 2nd grade of upper secondary education the school year ends on the 3rd of June.

For the 3rd grade of upper secondary education the school year ends on the 2nd of June.

The Minister of Education and Culture may choose to change the above dates for educational benefit reasons.

General secondary education: end of school year, end of June (includes exams, correction of papers, result announcements).

Teachers:

The official school year is longer for teachers in both primary and secondary education as it includes registration days, sorting out of schools and classes and exam periods.

In primary and secondary general education according to the law, the official school year is from 01 September 2007 until the 31 August 2008.

Teachers, however, need to be at school from the 01 September 2007 until the 30 June 2008 for "school work" for secondary education and from 03 September 2007 until the 20th of June 2008 for primary education.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of students' school year	27 June 2008	27 June 2008
Autumn holidays	2 days 25 and 26 October 2007	2 days 25 and 26 October 2007
Christmas/New Year	1 ½ weeks 22 December 2007 – 02 January 2008	1 ½ weeks 22 December 2007 – 02 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	1 day 01 February 2008	1 day 01 February 2008
Spring/Easter	1 week between 04 February and 16 March 2008 depending on the region 2 days: 21 and 22 March 2008	1 week between 04 February and 16 March 2008 depending on the region 2 days: 21 and 22 March 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	30 June to 31 August 2008	30 June to 31 August 2008
Public/religious holidays	6 days 28/09; 28/10, 17/11; 24/03; 01/05; 08/05	6 days 28/09; 28/10, 17/11; 24/03; 01/05; 08/05
Starting date of teachers' school year	Not specified	Not specified
End of teachers' school year	Not specified	Not specified

Specification of terms for spring holidays	
Term 2008	Regions
04 – 10 February	Mladá Boleslav, Příbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník
11 – 17 February	Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Klatovy, Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město
18 - 24 February	Praha 1 až 5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domažlice, Tachov, Louny, Prostějov, Karviná
25 February – 02 March	Praha 6 až 10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Písek, Frýdek-Místek
03 – 09 March	Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín
10 – 16 March	Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

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

Public/religious holiday: 1 January, 5 and 6 July and Christmas are part of the School holidays and are not included on the line with other public/religious holidays.

DENMARK

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary and lower secondary education ("Folkeskole")	General upper secondary education ("Gymnasium")
Starting date of students' school year	13 August 2007	16 August 2007
End of students' school year	27 June 2008	27 June 2008
Autumn holidays	1 week 13 – 21 October 2007	1 week 13 – 21 October 2007
Christmas/New Year	21 December 2007 – 02 January 2008	22 December 2007 – 02 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	1 week 09 – 17 February 2008 (week 7)	1 week 09 – 17 February 2008 (week 7)
Spring/Easter	1 week 15 – 24 March 2008	1 week 15 – 24 March 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	Approx. 7 weeks 28 June – 10 August 2008	App. 7 weeks from 28 June – mid August 2008
Public/religious holidays	18 April 2008 01 – 04 May 2008 10 – 12 May 2008 05 June 2008	18 April 2008 01 – 04 May 2008 10 – 12 May 2008 05 June 2008
Starting date of teachers' school year	Not determined at central level - differs at the various schools/institutions. In general the teachers start a few days before the pupils/students.	Not determined at central level - differs at the various schools/institutions. In general the teachers start a few days before the pupils/students.
End of teachers' school year	Not determined at central level. Usually the teachers' school year follows that of the pupils/students.	Not determined at central level. Usually the teachers' school year follows that of the pupils/students.

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The abovementioned dates are a sample from Herning municipality, as the dates vary slightly on a national scale. E.g. the winter/carnival holiday, thus, depends on the municipality which usually decides whether the holiday is in week 7 or 8.

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

Institutions offering general upper secondary education are also at liberty to decide on the distribution of holidays, with the condition that the 3-year general upper secondary programme consists of at least 2470 lessons of 60 minutes duration.

ESTONIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	03 September 2007 (official date 01 September 2007)	03 September 2007 (official date 01 September 2007)
End of students' school year	02 June 2008	02 June 2008
Autumn holidays	1 week 27 October 2007– 04 November 2007	1 week 27 October 2007– 04 November 2007
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2007– 06 January 2008	2 weeks 22 December 2007– 06 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	-	-
Spring/Easter	1 week 15– 23 March 2008	1 week 15– 23 March 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	13 weeks 03 June – 31 August 2008	13 weeks 03 June – 31 August 2008
Public/religious holidays	2 days 21 March 2008 01 May 2008	2 days 21 March 2008 01 May 2008
Starting date of teachers' school year	<i>See Additional notes</i>	<i>See Additional notes</i>
End of teachers' school year	<i>See Additional notes</i>	<i>See Additional notes</i>

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

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.

FINLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 07 and 18 August 2007	Between 07 and 18 August 2007
End of students' school year	31 May 2008	31 May 2008
Autumn holidays	1 to 7 days between 08 and 26 October 2007	1 to 7 days between 08 and 26 October 2007
Christmas/New Year	1 to 2 weeks between 22 December 2007 and 07 January 2008	1 to 2 weeks between 22 December 2007 and 07 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	1 week between 18 February and 07 March 2008	1 week between 18 February and 07 March 2008
Spring/Easter	3 – 4 days between 20 and 24 March 2008	3 – 4 days between 20 and 24 March 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	10 – 11 weeks from 31 May to mid-August 2008	10 – 11 weeks from 31 May to mid-August 2008
Public/religious holidays	2 days 06/12; 01/05	2 days 06/12; 01/05
Starting date of teachers' school year	Between 07 and 18 August 2007 ¹	Between 07 and 18 August 2007 ¹
End of teachers' school year	31 May 2008 ¹	31 May 2008 ¹

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

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 2007/08 school year, two of these days (Epiphany is on 1 May) are on weekdays other than Saturday, so there will be 188 school days in all. School holidays may differ within one municipality so that pupils in different schools may have their school holidays at different times. In 2008 the graduation day is a Saturday and it is counted to school days.

¹ There are no exact starting and ending dates of teachers' school year because their duties are regulated according to the collective agreement of the teachers. In the agreement the parties have agreed that the teachers have a calculatory holiday which begins 16 June and the length of holiday depends mainly on years in occupation. But the teachers have their planning and on-the-job-training duties which they have to do during the summer holiday of the schools.

FRANCE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year 2007	04 September	04 September
End of students' school year 2008	03 July	03 July
Autumn holidays 2007	1 ½ weeks 27 October - 08 November	1 ½ weeks 27 October - 08 November
Christmas/New Year 2007/08	2 weeks 22 december - 07 January	2 weeks 22 december - 07 January
Winter/Carnival 2008	2 weeks 16/02-28/04 (zone A) 09/02-25/02 (zone B) 23/02-10/03 (zone C)	2 weeks 16/02-28/04 (zone A) 09/02-25/02 (zone B) 23/02-10/03 (zone C)
Spring/Easter 2008	2 weeks 12/04-28/04 (zone A) 05/04-21/04 (zone B) 19/04-05/05 (zone C)	2 weeks 12/04-28/04 (zone A) 05/04-21/04 (zone B) 19/04-05/05 (zone C)
Third term 2008	-	-
Summer 2008	9 weeks 03 July – 01 September	9 weeks 03 July – 01 September
Public/religious holidays 2007/08	7 days 1/11; 11/11; 25/12; 01/01; 01/05; 08/05; 17/05	7 days 1/11; 11/11; 25/12; 01/01; 01/05; 08/05; 17/05
Starting date of teachers' school year 2007	03 September	03 September
End of teachers' school year 2008	03 July	03 July

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes

Zone A: Caen, Clermont-Ferrand, Grenoble, Lyon, Montpellier, Nancy-Metz, Nantes, Rennes, Toulouse;

Zone B: Aix-Marseille, Amiens, Besançon, Dijon, Lille, Limoges, Nice, Orléans-Tours, Poitiers, Reims, Rouen, Strasbourg;

Zone C: Bordeaux, Créteil, Paris, Versailles.

GERMANY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year	
Starting date of students' school year	01 August 2007 begin of official school year (for details see table I)
End of students' school year	31 July 2008 end of official school year (for details see table I)
Autumn holidays	0 to 12 days staggered between 08 October and 03 November 2007 (for details see table II)
Christmas/New Year	11 to 18 days staggered between 19 December 2007 and 12 January 2008 (for details see table II)
Winter/Carnival	0 to 12 days staggered between 31 January and 16 February 2008 (for details see table II)
Spring/Easter	4 to 15 days staggered between 10 March and 05 April 2008 (for details see table II)
Third term	0 to 11 days staggered between 02 and 24 May 2008 (for details see table II)
Summer	6 weeks staggered between 26 June and 15 September 2008 (for details see table I)
Public/religious holidays	Up to 10 days, depending on the <i>Land</i>
Starting date of teachers' school year	01 August 2007 (official date)
End of teachers' school year	31 July 2008 (official date)

Source: Eurydice

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

	Beginning of students' school year 2007/08	End of students' school year 2007/08	Summer holidays 2008
Nordrhein-Westfalen	06 August 2007	25 June 2008	26 June – 08 August
Hessen, Rheinland-Pfalz	20 August 2007	21 June 2008	23 June – 01 August
Saarland	20 August 2007	28 June 2008	30 June – 09 August
Hamburg	23 August 2007	16 July 2008	17 July – 27 August
Berlin	27 August 2007	15 /16 July 2008	16/17 July – 29 August
Brandenburg	27 August 2007	16 July 2008	17 July – 30 August
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schleswig-Holstein	27 August 2007	19 July 2008	21 July – 30 August
Bremen, Niedersachsen, Thüringen	30 August 2007	09 July 2008	10 July – 20 August
Sachsen-Anhalt	30 August 2007	09 July 2008	10 July – 22 August
Sachsen	03 September 2007	12 July 2008	14 July – 22 August
Baden-Württemberg	10 September 2007	23 July 2008	24 July – 06 September
Bayern	11 September 2007	01 August 2008	04 Aug. – 15 September

GERMANY (CONTINUED)

TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods

Land	Autumn 2007	Christmas /New Year 2007/08	Winter 2008	Spring / Easter 2008	3 rd term 2008
Baden-Württemberg	29 Oct.-03 Nov.	24 Dec.-05 Jan.	-	17 March-28 March	13 May-23 May
Bayern	29 Oct.-03 Nov.	24 Dec.-05 Jan.	04 Febr.-09 Febr.	17 March-29 March	13 May-24 May
Berlin	15 Oct.-20 Oct.	24 Dec.-12 Jan.	04 February	17 March-29 March	02 May/13 May-16 May
Brandenburg	15 Oct.- 20 Oct.	24 Dec.-12 Jan.	04 February	19 March-28 March	13 May-16 May
Bremen	22 Oct.-03 Nov.	24 Dec.-05 Jan.	31 Jan.+ 01 Febr.	10 March-25 March	13 May-16 May
Hamburg	15 Oct.-27 Oct.	21 Dec.-05 Jan.	01 February	10 March-20 March	02 May/13 May-17 May
Hessen	08 Oct.-20 Oct.	24 Dec.-11 Jan.	-	25 March-05 April	-
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	22 Oct.-27 Oct.	24 Dec.-04 Jan.	04 Febr.-16 Febr.	17 March-26 March	09 May-13 May
Niedersachsen	22 Oct.-03 Nov.	24 Dec.-05 Jan.	31 Jan.+ 01 Febr.	10 March-26 March	02 May + 13 May
Nordrhein-Westfalen	24 Sep.-06 Oct.	20 Dec.-04 Jan.	-	17 March-29 March	13 May
Rheinland-Pfalz	08 Oct.-19 Oct.	24 Dec.-08 Jan.	-	12 March-28 March	-
Saarland	08 Oct.-20 Oct.	19 Dec.-05 Jan.	31 Jan.-06 Febr.	17 March-29 March	-
Sachsen	08 Oct.-19 Oct.	22 Dec.-02 Jan.	04 Febr.-15 Febr.	20 March-28 March	02 May/10 May-13 May
Sachsen-Anhalt	15 Oct.-20 Oct.	21 Dec.-04 Jan.	02 Febr.-09 Febr.	17 March-20 March	13 May-23 May
Schleswig-Holstein	15 Oct.-27 Oct.	24 Dec.-08 Jan.	-	20 March-04 April	-
Thüringen	15 Oct.-26 Oct.	22 Dec.-05 Jan.	04 Febr.-09 Febr.	22 March-28 March	13 May-16 May

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

In accordance with the *Hamburg Agreement* between the *Länder* on harmonisation in the school system, the school year begins on 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.

GREECE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year 2007	11 September 2007	11 September 2007
End of students' school year 2008	15 June 2008	Lower education: The date in question (usually around the 20 th May) is subject to annual arrangement. Upper education: 16 May 2008
Autumn holidays	-	-
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2007– 07 January 2008	2 weeks 24 December 2008– 07 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	-	-
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 21 April – 04 Mai 2008	2 weeks 21 April – 04 Mai 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	10 weeks 23 June – 31 August 2008 (official date: 22 June 2008)	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2008
Public/religious holidays	7 national/religious holidays 28/10; 17/11; 30/01; 10/03; 25/03; 01/05; 16/06 and some holidays of Regional character	7 national/religious holidays 28/10; 17/11; 30/01; 10/03; 25/03; 01/05; 16/06 and some holidays of Regional character
Starting date of teachers' school year 2007	03 September 2007 (official date: 01 September)	03 September 2007 (official date: 01 September)
End of teachers' school year 2008	22 June 2008	30 June 2008

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Official school year: 01 September 2007 to 31 August 2008

Didactic Year: 11 September 2007 to 15 June 2008 (Primary Education)

11 September 2007 to 16 -20 May 2008 (Secondary Education)

HUNGARY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of students' school year	13 June 2008	13 June 2008 30 April 2008 - for pupils taking the school leaving examination in 2008
Autumn holidays	3 days 29 October – 31 October 2007	3 days 29 October – 31 October 2007
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2007 – 02 January 2008	2 weeks 22 December 2007 – 02 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	-	-
Spring/Easter	3 days 21 March – 25 March 2008	3 days 21 March – 25 March 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	11 weeks 13 June – 29 August 2008	11 weeks 13 June – 29 August 2008
Public/religious holidays	23 October, 01 November, 25-26 December (Christmas), 01 January (New Year's Day), 15 March, 24 March (Easter), 1 May, 12 May (Whit Monday)	23 October, 01 November, 25-26 December (Christmas), 01 January (New Year's Day), 15 March, 24 March (Easter), 1 May, 12 May (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Autonomy of the educational institution taking into account the concerning legal provision*	Autonomy of the educational institution taking into account the concerning legal provision*
End of teachers' school year	Autonomy of the educational institution taking into account the concerning legal provision*	Autonomy of the educational institution taking into account the concerning legal provision*

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Taking into consideration § 52. of the Act on public education (which states that the first day of the school year is the 1st of September and the last day of the school year is the 15th of June), schools cannot change the first and last day of the school year but may grant further holidays to the pupils (5 days in primary and 6 days in secondary education) or may change the beginning and end date of the preset school holidays over the school year.

School holidays at schools teaching, using any of the languages of national or ethnic minorities of Hungary as the language of instruction, may differ from the above described school holidays. (Source: Decree No. 19/2007 [II.23.] of the Minister of Education and Culture on the school year of 2007/2008).

* Act No. XXXIII. of 1992 on the legal status of public servants and the Governmental Decree No. 138/1992 the enacting clause of the above act state that the holidays/free days of teachers (46 days) primarily have to be given during the summer holidays. If not all days are possible during this period then the rest has to be given during the autumn, winter or spring holidays. (For teachers the autumn, winter and spring holidays are workdays without teaching).

ICELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education and lower secondary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 22 August and 03 September 2007	Between 22 August and 31 August 2007
End of students' school year	Between approx. 22 and 30 May 2008	Between 21 and 30 May 2008
Autumn holidays 2007	0-2 days (last week of October)	0-2 days (last week of October)
Christmas/New Year 2007/08	2 weeks Approx. 21 December – 03 January	2 weeks 21 December – 03 January
Winter/Carnival 2008	0 – 5 days (primary and lower secondary) Second or third week of February	0 – 4 days (upper secondary) Second or third week of February
Spring/Easter 2008	About 7 days Between 17 and 25 March	About 7 days Between 17 and 25 March
Third term	-	-
Summer 2008	11 weeks (primary and lower secondary) between 31 May and 21 August	13 weeks (upper secondary education) between 22 May and 30 August
Public/religious holidays 2008	3 days 24/04; 01/05; 12/05	3 days 24/04; 01/05; 12/05
Starting date of teachers' school year	Primary and lower secondary education: Between 16 and 31 August 2007	Upper secondary education: Between 21 and 30 August 2007
End of teachers' school year	Primary and lower secondary education: Between 26 May and 5 June 2008	Upper secondary education: Between 22 May and 04 June 2008

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Pupils' holidays over the school year are never shorter than 15 weeks.

Teachers work for 9 months. According to their wage contract, teachers in compulsory education must attend school 4 days before the school year begins and 4 days after the school year commences. Teachers in upper secondary education attend school 4 days, before and after the school year commences.

IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	First week of September 2007 ¹	Circa 27 August 2007
End of students' school year	End of June 2008 ²	30 May 2008
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 02 November 2007	1 week 29 October – 2 November 2007
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2007 – 04 January 2008	2 weeks 22 December 2007 – 04 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	2 days 14 – 15 February 2008 ³	1 week 11– 15 February 2008
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 17 – 28 March 2008	2 weeks 17– 28 March 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	About 10 weeks End of June until week of 1 st September 2008	12½ weeks June, July & most of August 2008
Public/religious holidays 2008	17/03; 21/03, 23/03; 24/03; 05/05; 02/06; 04/08; 27/10; 25/12; 26/12 and some religious holidays	17/03; 21/03, 23/03; 24/03; 05/05; 02/06; 04/08; 27/10; 25/12; 26/12 and some religious holidays
Starting date of teachers' school year (full time teachers) 2007	03 September 2007 (official date 01 September 2007)	03 September 2007 (official date 01 September 2007)
End of teachers' school year (full time teachers) 2008	31 August 2008 (official date)	31 August 2008 (official date)

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Primary education

¹ In order to meet the overall requirements of 183 days at primary level, the school year will normally commence in the week that 1st September falls. The exact date is determined locally at Board of Management level.

² School may use their own discretion to determine the precise ending of the school year in June, providing it has met the overall requirements of 183 days.

³ Primary school may use 3 discretionary days to extend this break to an alternative option of a 5 day break.

Circular M21/04 sets out the standardized school breaks at primary level. This circular includes breaks up to and including Easter 2008. Agreed school breaks from Easter 2008 onwards are currently under discussion and it is expected that a new circular on standardized breaks from Easter 2008 will issue shortly.

The arrangements for standardized closures at primary level (Circular M21/04) are agreed without prejudice to closure on specific days, within the overall requirement of 183 days at primary level, dictated by religious observance that is required in schools under the patronage of different denominations or faiths. In the absence of an adequate number of discretionary days a school authority may choose to utilize a religious observance day for non-tuition purposes when planning the school year.

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

General secondary education

In accordance with circular M29/95, the minimum number of teaching days per post-primary school year will be 167. In addition, in accordance with circular M21/04, holiday periods during the school year have been standardised, ie midterm breaks, Christmas and Easter holidays. Traditionally, formal instruction ends in post-primary schools on the Friday preceding the June bank holiday weekend. State examinations normally commence the following Wednesday. In order for schools to meet their requirement to be open for 167 days during 2007/08 school year, it is expected that post schools will open circa 27 August 2007.

The above holidays are standardized in accordance with circular M21/04. The school year at post-primary level is very tight and doesn't allow for any additional holidays as schools must comply with the minimum number of 167 days. In fact, in recent years, since the standardised school calendar, many schools who would have traditionally opened on 1 September are now opening in late August in order to meet their full complement of days. There is more flexibility at primary school level as they are not restricted by end of year state exams.

ITALY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year 2007	Between 10 and 18 September	Between 10 and 18 September
End of students' school year 2008	Between 06 and 14 June	Between 06 and 14 June
Autumn holidays 2007	-	-
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks between 21/24 December 2007 and 05/06 January 2008	2 weeks between 21/24 December 2007 and 05/06 January 2008
Winter/Carnival 2008	1 to 3 days generally in February, depending on the regions	1 to 3 days generally in February, depending on the regions
Spring/Easter 2008	4 to 8 days between 17 and 26 April, depending on the regions	4 to 8 days between 17 and 26 April, depending on the regions
Third term 2008	-	-
Summer 2008	12 – 13 weeks between June and September	12 – 13 weeks between June and September
Public/religious holidays 2007/08	5 national holidays 01/11; 08/12; 25/04; 01/05; 02/06 and Saints' days, depending on the regions	5 national holidays 01/11; 08/12; 25/04; 01/05; 02/06 and Saints' days, depending on the regions
Starting date of teachers' school year 2007	01 September 2007	01 September 2007
End of teachers' school year 2008	30 June 2008	30 June 2008

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2007/08

Primary and General secondary education		
	Beginning 2007	End 2008
Abruzzo	17 September	14 June
Alto Adige (Bolzano)	10 September	14 June
Basilicata	13 September	7 June
Calabria	17 September	7 June
Campania	17 September	7 June
Emilia-Romagna	17 September	7 June
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	12 September	7 June
Lazio	12 September	7 June
Liguria	17 September	11 June
Lombardia	10 September	7 June

Marche	17 September	7 June
Molise	10 September	6 June
Piemonte	10 September	7 June
Puglia	17 September	10 June
Sardegna	17 September	10 June
Sicilia	18 September	7 June
Toscana	13 September	7 June
Trentino (Trento)	12 September	10 June
Umbria	11 September	7 June
Valle D'Aosta	10 September	7 June
Veneto	10 September	7 June

Schools can adjust the school calendar, established by the Regions, to the POF's requirements (POF is a basic document of the cultural and planning identity of the schools. It defines the curricular, extra-curricular, educational and organisational projects of each school within the school autonomy). Schools can organize in a flexible way the overall timetable for the curriculum and for any single subject even on the basis of multi-week planning, provided that lessons spread over a minimum of five days per week and that the prescribed annual, pluriennial or cycle number of hours for the single subjects is complied with. 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. The school adaptations of the organization of school time must guarantee at least 200 days of lesson a school year.

According to school autonomy, schools have 2 to 8 days available which are foreseen for the suspension of educational activities.

LATVIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of students' school year	30 May 2008	30 May 2008
Autumn holidays	1 week 22 – 26 October 2007	1 week 22 – 26 October 2007
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2007 – 04 January 2008	2 weeks 24 December 2007– 04 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	-	-
Spring/Easter	1 week 20 – 28 March 2008	1 week 20 – 28 March 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	13 weeks 02 June – 29 August 2008	13 weeks 02 June – 29 August 2008
Public/religious holidays	3 public holidays 18/11; 01/05; 04/05	3 public holidays 18/11; 01/05; 04/05
Starting date of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes-

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Lower secondary education (Basic education): end of the school year for the 9th class: 13 June 2008.

Upper secondary education: end of the school year for the 12th class: 20 June 2008.

The school year is divided in two semesters: the first from 03 September to 21 December 2007 and the second from 07 January to 30 May 2008 (or 13 June for the 9th class and 20 June for the 12th class).

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

Holidays (summer 2008): These are the dates for the official summer holiday period for classes 1-8 and 10-11. For the 1st class, education institutions decide on additional holidays of 1 week in the second semester.

Public holidays: When holiday coincidences on Saturday or Sunday, as it will be on 18 November and 04 May, the holiday is transferred on Monday.

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

LIECHTENSTEIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	20 August 2007	20 August 2007
End of students' school year	04 July 2008	04 July 2008
Autumn holidays	2 weeks 06 October – 21 October 2007	2 weeks 06 October – 21 October 2007
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2007 – 06 January 2008	2 weeks 22 December 2007 – 06 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	1 week 02 February – 10 February 2008	1 week 02 February – 10 February 2008
Spring/Easter	2 ½ weeks 19 March – 06 April 2008	2 ½ weeks 19 March – 06 April 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	6 weeks 05 July – 17 August 2008	6 weeks 05 July – 17 August 2008
Public/religious holidays	01/11; 01 and 02/05; 12/05; 22 and 23/05	01/11; 01 and 02/05; 12/05; 22 and 23/05
Starting date of teachers' school year	20 August 2007	20 August 2007
End of teachers' school year	4 July 2008	4 July 2008

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Public/Religious Holidays during school holidays: 25-26/12; 01/01; 06/01; 02/02; 19/03; 24/03; 15/08

LITHUANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	03 September 2007 (official date: 01 September 2007)	03 September 2007 (official date: 01 September 2007)
End of students' school year	30 May 2008	20 June 2008 16 May 2008 grade 12
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 02 November 2007	1 week 29 October – 02 November 2007
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2007 – 04 January 2008	2 weeks 24 December 2007 – 04 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	-	-
Spring/Easter	1 week 17 March – 24 March 2008	1 week 17 March – 24 March 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	13 weeks 31 May – 31 August 2008	10 Weeks 21 June – 31 August 2008
Public/religious holidays	2 days 11/03; 01/05	2 days 11/03; 01/05
Starting date of teachers' school year	following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher	following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher
End of teachers' school year	following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher	following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The end of students' school year in grade 5 (first year of lower secondary education) is on 30 May. Students in the last year of upper secondary education (grade 12) finish the school year on 16 May.

Subject to the school council's approval, additional school holidays may be allocated to pupils of grades 1 to 5.

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

LUXEMBOURG

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	17 September 2007	17 September 2007
End of students' school year	15 July 2008	15 July 2008
Autumn holidays	1 week 27 October – 04 November 2007	1 week 27 October – 04 November 2007
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2007 – 06 January 2008	2 weeks 22 December 2007 – 06 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	1 week 02 February – 10 February 2008	1 week 02 February – 10 February 2008
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 22 March – 06 April 2008	2 weeks 22 March – 06 April 2008
Third term	1 week 10 May – 18 May 2008	1 week 10 May – 18 May 2008
Summer	9 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2008	9 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2008
Public/religious holidays	2 public holidays 01/05/2008, 23/06/2008	2 public holidays 01/05/2008, 23/06/2008
Starting date of teachers' school year	17 September 2007	17 September 2007
End of teachers' school year	15 July 2008	15 July 2008

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Official starting date of students' and teachers' school year is 15 September 2007.

MALTA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year (2007-2008)	24 September 2007	24 September 2007
End of students' school year	27 June 2008	27 June 2008
Autumn holidays	2 days 01 – 02 November 2007	2 days 01 – 02 November 2007
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2007 – 04 January 2008	2 weeks 24 December 2007 – 04 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	2 days 04 – 05 February 2008	2 days 04 – 05 February 2008
Spring/Easter	1 week 19 – 26 March 2008	1 week 19 – 26 March 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	11 ½ weeks 30 June – 17 September 2008	11 ½ weeks 30 June – 17 September 2008
Public/religious holidays	21/09; 08/12*; 13/12; 25/12*; 01/01*; 10/02*; 19/03*; 21/03*; 31/03; 01/05; 07/06*; 29/06*; 15/08*; 08/09*	21/09; 08/12*; 13/12; 25/12*; 01/01*; 10/02*; 19/03*; 21/03*; 31/03; 01/05; 07/06*; 29/06*; 15/08*; 08/09*
Starting date of teachers' school year	19 September 2007	19 September 2007
End of teachers' school year	04 July 2008	04 July 2008

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Annual examinations

Primary (Years 4, 5 & 6): from 25 – 27 June 2008

Secondary (Orals): from 12 – 16 June 2008

(Annuals): from 17 – 27 June 2008

Public/religious holidays:

Public/religious holidays marked with an * fall on a Saturday/Sunday or during the holidays periods. As a result, actual public/religious holidays during scholastic year 2007-2008 will add up to 4 days.

In-service Training:

During the periods 14 – 18 September 2007 and 07 – 09 July 2008 teachers are obliged to attend INSET courses on either of the two periods.

THE NETHERLANDS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Northern region: 19 August 2007 Central region: 02 September 2007 Southern region: 12 August 2007	Northern region: 26 August 2007 Central region: 02 September 2007 Southern region: 19 August 2007
End of students' school year	Northern region: 28 June 2008 Central region: 19 July 2008 Southern region: 05 July 2008	Northern region: 28 June 2008 Central region: 12 July 2008 Southern region: 05 July 2008
Autumn holidays	Northern region: 13 – 21 October 2007 Central + Southern region: 20 – 28 October 2007	Northern region: 13 – 21 October 2007 Central + Southern region: 20 – 28 October 2007
Christmas/New Year	22 December 2007 – 06 January 2008	22 December 2007 – 06 January 2008
Winter/Carnival*)	Northern + Central region: 23 February – 02 March 2008 Southern region: 16 – 24 February 2008	Northern + Central region: 23 February – 02 March 2008 Southern region: 16 – 24 February 2008
Spring/Easter	-	-
Third term	26 April – 05 May 2008	26 April – 05 May 2008
Summer	Northern region: 28 June – 10 August 2008 Central region: 19 July – 31 August 2008 Southern region: 05 July – 17 August 2008	Northern region: 28 June – 17 August 2008 Central region: 12 July – 31 August 2008 Southern region: 05 July – 24 August 2008
Public/religious holidays	Easter Monday: 24 March 2008 Queen's Birthday: 30 April 2008 Ascension Day: 01 May 2008 Whit Monday: 12 May 2008	
Starting date of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The school year officially runs from 01 August to 31 July of the following year. Start and end of the teaching year is according to region (North, Central and South region).

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.

- *) Carnival holiday is called Spring Holiday in the Netherlands as well, or Crocus Holiday;
- the recommended date for the Carnival Holiday does not fit with Carnival week; it can be expected that schools in the Roman-Catholic areas of the country will not follow the recommendations and will close for Carnival.

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

NORWAY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 20 and 22 August 2007	Between 20 and 22 August 2007
End of students' school year	Between 18 and 26 June 2008	Between 18 and 26 June 2008
Autumn holidays	1 week Starting 01 October or 08 October 2007 (week 40 or 41)	1 week Starting 01 October or 08 October 2007 (week 40 or 41)
Christmas/New Year	Approx. 2 weeks Between 20 December 2007 and 07 January 2008	Approx. 2 weeks Between 20 December 2007 and 07 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	1 week Between 11 and 29 February 2008 (week 7, 8 or 9) and Nordland: 24 – 29 March (week 13)	1 week Between 11 and 29 February 2008 (week 7, 8 or 9) and Nordland: 24 – 29 March (week 13)
Spring/Easter	Approx. 1 week 17 to 24 March 2008 or 17 to 25 March 2008	Approx. 1 week 17 to 24 March 2008 or 17 to 25 March 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	Approx. 8 weeks Between 19/27 June and 16/23 August 2008	Approx. 8 weeks Between 19/27 June and 16/23 August 2008
Public/religious holidays	2 occasional holidays 01/05; 17/05	2 occasional holidays 01/05; 17/05
Starting date of teachers' school year	See additional note	See additional note
End of teachers' school year	See additional note	See additional note

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

In some regions the school can decide individually the school holidays.

The **teachers'** work during the year is counted in working hours, that is 1300 hours for primary education (ISCED 1), 1225 hours for lower secondary education (ISCED 2) and 1150 for upper secondary education (ISCED 3). It is an individual matter for each school if the work hours, longer than for students, are before the beginning or after the end.

POLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of students' school year	20 June 2008	20 June 2008
Autumn holidays	-	-
Christmas/New Year	1 week 24 December 2007 – 01 January 2008	1 week 24 December 2007 – 01 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 14 - 26 January 2008: Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Pomorskie, Śląskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie 21 January - 02 February 2008: Podlaskie 28 January - 09 February 2008: Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Lubuskie, Małopolskie, Świętokrzyskie, Wielkopolskie 11 - 23 February 2008: Dolnośląskie, Łódzkie, Mazowieckie, Opolskie, Zachodniopomorskie	2 weeks 14 - 26 January 2008: Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Pomorskie, Śląskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie 21 January - 02 February 2008: Podlaskie 28 January - 09 February 2008: Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Lubuskie, Małopolskie, Świętokrzyskie, Wielkopolskie 11 - 23 February 2008: Dolnośląskie, Łódzkie, Mazowieckie, Opolskie, Zachodniopomorskie
Spring/Easter	4 days 20 - 25 March 2008	4 days 20 - 25 March 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	10 weeks 21 June - 31 August 2008	10 weeks 21 June - 31 August 2008
Public/religious holidays	6 days 01/11; 01/05; 02/05; 03/05; 22/05; 23/05	6 days 01/11; 01/05; 02/05; 03/05; 22/05; 23/05
Starting date of teachers' school year	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of teachers' school year	20 June 2008	20 June 2008

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

End of the school year in both primary and secondary schools is always the first Friday after the 18th of June. In the last grades of upper secondary schools ending with the Matura examination, however, the school year ends earlier, on 25 April 2008. In the last grades of gymnasium (lower secondary) ending with the external examination, the school year ends on 25 April 2008. In the last grades of basic vocational schools, ending with the external vocational examination, the school year ends on 13 June 2007.

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.

PORTUGAL

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 12 and 17 September 2007 (Mainland) 10 September 2007 (the Azores) 24 September 2007 (Madeira)	Between 12 and 17 September 2007 (Mainland) 10 September 2007 (the Azores) 24 September 2007 (Madeira)
End of students' school year	20 June 2008	06 June 2008 ¹⁾ (for 9 th , 11 th and 12 th years of schooling) 20 June 2008 (remaining years of schooling)
Autumn holidays	-	-
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 17 December 2007 – 02 January 2008	2 weeks 17 December 2007 – 02 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	3 days 04 – 06 February 2008	3 days 04 – 06 February 2008
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 17 – 28 March 2008	2 weeks 17 – 28 March 2008
Third term	-	
Summer	About 10 to 12 weeks (beginning 23 June 2008)	About 10 to 12 weeks (beginning between 09 and 23 June after the end of the exams for 9 th , 11 th and 12 th year of schooling and beginning 23 June 2008 for the remaining years of schooling)
Public/religious holidays	8 days 05 October 2007; 01 November 2007; 01 December 2007; 08 December 2007; 25 April 2008; 01 May 2008; 22 May 2008; 10 June 2008	8 days 05 October 2007; 01 November 2007; 01 December 2007; 08 December 2007; 25 April 2008; 01 May 2008; 22 May 2008; 10 June 2008
Starting date of teachers' school year²⁾	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of teachers' school year²⁾	29 August 2008	29 August 2008

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

¹⁾ In the 9th, 11th and 12th years of schooling, school year ends earlier (6 June followed by national examinations on some subjects).

²⁾ For teachers, the official length of school year goes from the 1st September to the 31st August. They have the right to one month summer holidays, which they can enjoy during the months of June, July or August, according to the needs of the respective schools.

ROMANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	17 September 2007	17 September 2007
End of students' school year	13 June 2008	13 June 2008
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 04 November 2007	-
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2007 – 06 January 2008	2 weeks 22 December 2007 – 06 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	1 week 02 February – 10 February 2008	1 week 02 February – 10 February 2008
Spring/Easter	1 week 26 April – 04 May 2008	1 week 26 April – 04 May 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	13 weeks 14 June – 14 September 2008	13 weeks 14 June – 14 September 2008
Public/religious holidays	1 day (national holiday) 01 December 2007	1 day (national holiday) 01 December 2007
Starting date of teachers' school year	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2008	31 August 2008

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

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

For the **8th grade** (general secondary education), the length of the school year corresponds to 34 weeks and 170 days, starting on 17 September 2007 and ending on 6 June 2008.

Teachers: During school holidays, teachers may benefit from an annual leave of minimum 62 days, excluding Sundays and legal holidays.

SLOVAKIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of students' school year	27 June 2008	27 June 2008
Autumn holidays	3 days 31 October – 02 November 2007	3 days 31 October – 02 November 2007
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2007 – 07 January 2008	2 weeks 22 December 2007 – 07 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	1 day 01 February 2008	1 day 01 February 2008
Spring/Easter	1 week (spring holidays) according to regions: 18 – 22 February 2008: Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín 25 – 29 February 2008: Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava 03 – 07 March 2008: Prešov, Košice 4 days (Easter holidays) 20 – 25 March 2008	1 week (spring holidays) according to regions: 18 – 22 February 2008: Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín 25 – 29 February 2008: Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava 03 – 07 March 2008: Prešov, Košice 4 days (Easter holidays) 20 – 25 March 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	9 weeks 28 June – 31 August 2008	9 weeks 28 June – 31 August 2008
Public/religious holidays	3 days 01/11; 01/05; 08/05	3 days 01/11; 01/05; 08/05
Starting date of teachers' school year	Usually, one week before the beginning of the school year	Usually, one week before the beginning of the school year
End of teachers' school year	Usually, one week after summer holidays begin	Usually, one week after summer holidays begin

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Official school year: 01 September to 31 August

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

SLOVENIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of students' school year	24 June 2008 (see notes)	24 June 2008 (see notes)
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 02 November 2007	1 week 29 October – 02 November 2007
Christmas/New Year	1 week 24 December 2007 - 02 January 2008	1 week 24 December 2007 - 02 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	1 week 18 February – 22 February 2008: Ljubljana, Maribor and Ptuj regions 25 – 29 February 2008: other regions	1 week 18 February – 22 February 2008: Ljubljana, Maribor and Ptuj regions 25 – 29 February 2008: other regions
Spring/Easter	1 week 28 April – 02 May 2008	1 week 28 April – 02 May 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	10 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2008	10 weeks 25 June 31 August 2008
Public/religious holidays	2 days 08/02, 24/03	2 days 08/02, 24/03
Starting date of teachers' school year	See notes	See notes
End of teachers' school year	See notes	See notes

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The official length of the school year is from 01 September to 31 August, but lessons are completed in June.

Primary education: Primary and lower secondary education (single structure education);

General secondary education: Upper secondary general education.

End of the school lessons (single structure of primary and lower secondary education):

13 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.

End of the upper secondary school lessons:

16 May end of lessons for students in final grade; 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.

Teachers' school year begins about 10 days before the pupils'/students' 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.

SPAIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year^{1,2}		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year¹	Between 06 and 17 September 2007	Between 07 and 24 September 2007
End of students' school year²	19/20 June 2008	Between 19 and 27 June 2008
Autumn holidays	-	-
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks between 22 December 2007 and 07 January 2008	2 weeks between 22 December 2007 and 07 January 2008
Winter/Carnival 2008³	Between 3 and 6 days (depending on the Autonomous Community)	Between 3 and 6 days (depending on the Autonomous Community)
Spring/Easter	About 1 week between 14 and 24 March 2008	About 1 week between 14 and 24 March 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	11 weeks between late June and mid-September 2008	11/12 weeks between late June and mid-September 2008
Public/religious holidays 2007/08	Around 8 days (depending on the Autonomous Community)	Around 8 days (depending on the Autonomous Community)
Starting date of teachers' school year	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2008	30 June 2008

Additional notes:

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

² The total minimum number of school days is 175 in Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary Education in all Autonomous Communities.

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

SPAIN (CONTINUED)

Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2007/08

	Primary education		General secondary education	
	Beginning 2007	End 2008	Beginning 2007	End 2008 ¹
Andalucía	17 September	20 June	17 September (Lower Secondary) 24 Sept.(Upper Secondary)	20 June
Aragón	10 September	20 June	12 September ²	20 June
Asturias	11 September	19 June	14 September	20 June
Baleares	14 September	20 June	17 September	20 June
Canarias	06/10 September	20 June	12/14 September (Lower Secondary) 14/18 Sept. (Upper Secondary)	20 June
Cantabria	12 September	20 June	19 September ²	27 June ²
Castilla y León	10 September	20 June	17 September ²	24 June ²
Castilla-La Mancha	10 September	19 June	17 September	26 June
Cataluña	12 September	19 June	12 September	19 June
Extremadura	12 September	20 June	12 September (Lower Secondary) 14 September (Upper Secondary)	20 June
Galicia	12 September	20 June	19 September	20 June
La Rioja	07 September	20 June	14 September	24 June
Madrid	12 September	20 June	14 September	20 June
Murcia	11 September	20 June	17 September ²	26 June ²
Navarra	10 September	19 June	14 September	20 June
País Vasco ³	Not before 10 September	Not later than 21 June	Not before 07 September	20 June
C. Valenciana	07 September	20 June	14 September	23 June

¹ In the last year of post-compulsory upper general secondary education, classes are finished two or three weeks earlier. This time is used to prepare the university entrance examinations.

² In those cases that first cycle of compulsory lower secondary education is provided in primary schools, the starting and ending dates are the same as for primary education.

³ Schools are free to establish their own calendar taking into account the limit starting and ending dates established by the educational authorities.

Source: School calendars of the 17 Autonomous Communities.

SWEDEN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year 2007	Between 14 and 28 August 2007 (The exact days vary on regional and municipality levels)	Between 14 and 28 August 2007 (The exact days vary on regional and municipality levels)
End of students' school year 2008	Between 06/13 June 2008	Between 06/13 June 2008
Autumn holidays 2007	1 week between 10 October and 9 November 2007	1 week between 10 October and 9 November 2007
Christmas/New Year 2007/08	About 3 weeks Between 14/21 December and 07/10 January	About 3 weeks Between 14/21 December and 07/10 January
Winter/Carnival 2008	1 week between 11 - 29 February	1 week between 11 - 29 February
Spring/Easter 2008	1 week between 17 March and 18 April	1 week between 17 March and 18 April
Third term 2008	-	-
Summer 2008	About 10 weeks Between 09/16 June and end of August	About 10 weeks Between 09/16 June and end of August
Public/religious holidays 2008	2 days 01/05; 06/06	2 days 01/05; 06/06
Starting date of teachers' school year	Between 13 and 27 August 2007	Between 13 and 27 August 2007
End of teachers' school year	Between 6/13 June 2008	Between 6/13 June 2008

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Starting and finishing dates vary on regional and municipality levels.

Teachers: There is a total of 178 school days and appr. 5 extra days when teachers work or undergo training and when the students have no classes.

The start and end of teachers' working period is not regulated and they can have their extra days when the students are on holidays or not.

TURKEY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	17 September 2007	17 September 2007
End of students' school year	12 June 2008	12 June 2008
Autumn holidays	3 days 12-14 October 2007 (religious holidays)	3 days 12-14 October 2007 (religious holidays)
Christmas/New Year	4 days 20-23 December 2007 (religious holidays) 1 day 01 January 2008	4 days 20-23 December 2007 (religious holidays) 1 day 01 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 28 January – 08 February 2008	2 weeks 28 January – 08 February 2008
Spring/Easter	2 days 23-24 April 2008	2 days 23-24 April 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	12 weeks 13 June – 15 September 2008	12 weeks 13 June – 15 September 2008
Public holidays	29 October 2007 19 May 2008	29 October 2007 19 May 2008
Starting date of teachers' school year 2007	Beginning September	Beginning September
End of teachers' school year 2008	Beginning July	Beginning July

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

For primary and general secondary education, a school year must be not less than 180 days. A school year runs 9 months from September to June.

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

UK ENGLAND AND WALES

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year 2007	The first week of September	The first week of September
End of students' school year 2008	Between 17 and 25 July	Between 17 and 25 July
Autumn holidays 2007	1 week 22 – 26 October or 29 October – 02 November	1 week 22 – 26 October or 29 October – 02 November
Christmas/New Year holidays 2007/08	2 weeks between the third or fourth week of December and the first week of January	2 weeks between the third or fourth week of December and the first week of January
Winter/Carnival holidays 2008	1 week 11 – 15 February or 18 – 22 February	1 week 11 – 15 February or 18 – 22 February
Spring/Easter holidays 2008	2 weeks 21 March – 04 April or 07– 18 April	2 weeks 21 March – 04 April or 07– 18 April
Third term holidays 2008	1 week 26 – 30 May	1 week 26 – 30 May
Summer holidays 2008	6 weeks between 18 July and the first week of September	6 weeks between 18 July and the first week of September
Public/religious holidays 2008	Good Friday 21 March Easter Monday 24 March Early May Bank Holiday 5 May	Good Friday 21 March Easter Monday 24 March Early May Bank Holiday 5 May
Starting date of teachers' school year 2007	The first week of September	The first week of September
End of teachers' school year 2008	Between 17 and 25 July	Between 17 and 25 July

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

In **England and Wales**, schools must be open to pupils for at least 380 half day sessions each school year. Teachers are required to be available for five additional days, ie for 195 days in total.

The actual dates on which schools operate are not laid down centrally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the local authority (LA) or school governing body.

The table shows the most common patterns for term dates and holidays. Traditionally, the school year is divided into three terms, each of which is divided into two half terms separated by a half term holiday. The dates of school holidays are normally planned to take into account and cover most national public holidays including Easter. However, in 2008 Easter falls very early and many LAs have agreed spring holiday dates for 2008 that do not include the Easter weekend.

There is currently some movement towards the adoption of a standard school year, consistent year on year. The standard school year is divided into six blocks of roughly even length which are more evenly distributed throughout the year: two, approximately seven-week blocks before Christmas, followed by four approximately six-week blocks afterwards. The spring break is fixed and taken around the first two weeks of April irrespective of the timing of Easter. A number of LAs began to introduce this new model from 2004/05.

UK NORTHERN IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year 2007	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of students' school year 2008	30 June 2008	30 June 2008
Autumn holidays 2007	3 days 31 October – 02 November	3 days 31 October – 02 November
Christmas/New Year holidays 2007/08	2 weeks 24 December – 02 January	2 weeks 24 December – 02 January
Winter/Carnival holidays 2008	1 day 15 February	1 day 15 February
Spring/Easter holidays 2008	1 week 21 – 28 March	1 week 21 – 28 March
Third term holidays 2008	-	-
Summer holidays 2008	9 weeks between 01 July and the first week of September	9 weeks between 01 July and the first week of September
Public/religious holidays 2008	St Patrick's Day 17 March (not all schools) Early May Bank Holiday 05 May Spring Bank Holiday 26 May	St Patrick's Day 17 March (not all schools) Early May Bank Holiday 05 May Spring Bank Holiday 26 May
Starting date of teachers' school year 2007	03 September 2007	03 September 2007
End of teachers' school year 2008	30 June 2008	30 June 2008

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The table shows the dates on which schools are closed to pupils. Teachers must attend on 5 of these dates for training and development purposes.

Schools in **Northern Ireland** are required to be in operation for 200 days a year; however, schools have the discretion to close for up to 5 optional days. Optional days are intended to cover closings throughout the year in special circumstances, for example the death of a person connected with the school, the need to move premises, start of building work at the school or church holy days. These optional days are therefore likely to differ from school to school.

Schools within the **Western and Southern Board** areas, which close on 17 March 2008, will be open on one of the holiday dates shown, for example 26 May.

UNITED KINGDOM - SCOTLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2007/08 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Mid-August 2007	Mid-August 2007
End of students' school year	End June 2008	End June 2008
Autumn holidays	From 1 to 2 weeks Between 01 and 28 October 2007	From 1 to 2 weeks Between 01 and 28 October 2007
Christmas/New Year	21 December 2007 – 07 January 2008	21 December 2007 – 07 January 2008
Winter/Carnival	1 to 7 days between 08 and 19 February 2008	1 to 7 days between 08 and 19 February 2008
Spring/Easter	Around 2 weeks Between 28 March and 22 April 2008	Around 2 weeks Between 28 March and 22 April 2008
Third term	-	-
Summer	End June – mid August 2008	End June – mid August 2008
Public/religious holidays	Up to 3 days	Up to 3 days
Starting date of teachers' school year	Mid-August 2007	Mid-August 2007
End of teachers' school year	End June 2008	End June 2008

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

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

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