



## Organisation of school time in Europe

Primary and general secondary education

2008/09 school year



## AUSTRIA

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2008: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien  08 September 2008: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	01 September 2008: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien  08 September 2008: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
<b>End of students' school year</b>	03 July 2009: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien  10 July 2009: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	03 July 2009: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien  10 July 2009: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 27 – 31 October 2008: Vorarlberg	1 week 27 – 31 October 2008: Vorarlberg
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 24 December 2008 – 06 January 2009	2 weeks 24 December 2008 – 06 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 02 – 07 February 2009: Niederösterreich, Wien  09 – 14 February 2009: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol, Vorarlberg  13 – 21 February 2009: Oberösterreich, Steiermark	1 week 02 – 07 February 2009: Niederösterreich, Wien  09 – 14 February 2009: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol, Vorarlberg  13 – 21 February 2009: Oberösterreich, Steiermark
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 week 04 – 14 April 2009	1 week 04 – 14 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	4 days 30 May – 02 June 2009	4 days 30 May – 02 June 2009
<b>Summer</b>	About 9 weeks 04 July – 05 September 2009: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien  11 July – 12 September 2009: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	About 9 weeks 04 July – 05 September 2009: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien  11 July – 12 September 2009: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	5 days 01 November 2008 08 December 2008 01 May 2009 21 May 2009 11 June 2009  1 extra religious holiday (Saint – different in each <i>Land</i> )	5 days 01 November 2008 08 December 2008 01 May 2009 21 May 2009 11 June 2009  1 extra religious holiday (Saint – different in each <i>Land</i> )
<b>Starting/End date of teachers' school year</b>	The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year	The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year

Source: Eurydice

## BELGIUM (GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY)

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	30 June 2009	30 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 27 October – 31 October 2008	1 week 27 October – 31 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 02 January 2009	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 02 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 23 February – 27 February 2009	1 week 23 February – 27 February 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 06 April – 17 April 2009	2 weeks 06 April – 17 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	–	–
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2009	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	6 days 11 November 2008 01 May 2009 21 May 2009 01 June 2009 + 2 days	6 days 11 November 2008 01 May 2009 21 May 2009 01 June 2009 + 2 days
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008*
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	30 June 2009	30 June 2009

Source: Eurydice

### **Additional notes:**

\* During the last working days of August, secondary education teachers may be consigned to conduct exams of a second chance.

## BELGIUM (FRENCH COMMUNITY)

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	30 June 2009	30 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 27 October – 31 October 2008	1 week 27 October 2008 – 31 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 02 January 2009	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 02 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 23 February – 27 February 2009	1 week 23 February – 27 February 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 06 April - 17 April 2009	2 weeks 06 April - 17 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	–	–
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2009	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	4 days 11 November 2008 01 May 2009 21 May 2009 01 June 2009	4 days 11 November 2008 01 May 2009 21 May 2009 01 June 2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	30 June 2009	30 June 2009

Source: Eurydice

## BELGIUM (FLEMISH COMMUNITY)

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	30 June 2009	30 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 27 October – 31 October 2008	1 week 27 October – 31 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 02 January 2009	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 02 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 23 February – 27 February 2009	1 week 23 February – 27 February 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 06 April – 17 April 2009	2 weeks 06 April – 17 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	–	–
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2009	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	5 days 11 November 2008 01 May 2009 21 – 22 May 2009 01 June 2009	5 days 11 November 2008 01 May 2009 21 – 22 May 2009 01 June 2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	30 June 2009	30 June 2009

Source: Eurydice

## CZECH REPUBLIC

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	30 June 2009	30 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	3 days 27 - 29 October 2008	3 days 27 - 29 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 02 January 2009	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 02 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 day 30 January 2009  1 week between 02 February and 15 March 2009 depending on the region	1 day 30 January 2009  1 week between 02 February and 15 March 2009 depending on the region
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	3 days 09 – 10 and 13 April 2009	3 days 09 - 10 and 13 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	–	v
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2009	9 weeks 01 July – 31 August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	5 days 28 October 2008 17 November 2008 13 April 2009 01 May 2009 08 May 2009	5 days 28 October 2008 17 November 2008 13 April 2009 01 May 2009 08 May 2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	Not specified	Not specified
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	Not specified	Not specified

<b>SPECIFICATION OF TERMS FOR SPRING HOLIDAYS</b>	
<b>Term 2009</b>	<b>Regions</b>
<b>2 – 8 February</b>	Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál
<b>9 – 15 February</b>	Mladá Boleslav, Příbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník

<b>16 - 22. February</b>	Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Klatovy, Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město
<b>23 February – 1 March</b>	Praha 1 až 5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domažlice, Tachov, Louny, Prostějov, Karviná
<b>2 – 8 March</b>	Praha 6 až 10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Přešov, Frýdek-Místek
<b>9 – 15 March</b>	Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín

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.

## DENMARK

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary and lower secondary education ("Folkeskole")</b>	<b>General secondary education ("Gymnasium")</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	12 August 2008	18 August 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	27 June 2009	27 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 11 October – 19 October 2008	1 week 11 October – 19 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 23 December 2008 – 04 January 2009	2 weeks 20 December 2008 – 04 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 07 February – 15 February 2009	1 week 07 February – 15 February 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 week 04 April – 13 April 2009	1 week 04 April – 13 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	Approx. 7 weeks 27 June – mid-August 2009	Approx. 7 weeks 27 June - mid-August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	4 days 08 May 2009 21 May 2009 01 June 2009 05 June 2009	4 days 08 May 2009 21 May 2009 01 June 2009 05 June 2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	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.
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	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 the municipality of Copenhagen, 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 also issue guidelines regarding the distribution of holidays.



## ESTONIA

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	31 August 2009	31 August 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 25 October – 02 November 2008	1 week 25 October – 02 November 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 20 December 2008 – 04 January 2009	2 weeks 20 December – 04 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	-	-
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 week 14 March – 22 March 2009	1 week 14 March – 22 March 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	12 ½ weeks 04 June – 31 August 2009	12 ½ weeks 04 June – 31 August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	3 Days 24 February 2009 10 April 2009 01 May 2009	3 days 24 February 2009 10 April 2009 01 May 2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	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.	
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>		

Source: Eurydice

### **Additional notes:**

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.

## FINLAND

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	Between 07 and 12 August 2008	Between 07 and 12 August 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	30 May 2009	30 May 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1-7 days between 12 and 26 October 2008	1-7 days between 12 and 26 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	1-2 weeks between 21 December 2008 and 06 January 2009	1-2 weeks between 21 December 2008 and 06 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week between 16 February and 08 March 2009	1 week between 16 February and 08 March 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	4 days between 10 and 13 March 2009	4 days between 10 and 13 March 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	10-11 weeks between 30 May to mid-August 2009	10-11 weeks between 30 May to mid-August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	21 May (Ascension day)	21 May (Ascension day)
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	between 05 and 12 August 2009 <sup>1</sup>	between 05 and 12 August 2009 <sup>1</sup>
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	30 May 2009	30 May 2009

Source: Eurydice

### **Additional notes:**

Independence day, Epiphany and 1 May are deducted from the total number of school days (190 days) if they are on any weekday other than Saturday. In the school year 2008/2009 the number of school days will consequently be 188.

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

## FRANCE

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	02 September 2008	02 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	01 July 2009	01 July 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 ½ week 25 October – 06 November 2008	1 ½ week 25 October – 06 November 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 20 December 2008 – 05 January 2009	2 weeks 20 December 2008 – 05 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	2 weeks - 2009 07 February – 23 February (zone A) 21 February – 09 March (zone B) 14 February – 02 March (zone C)	2 weeks - 2009 07 February – 23 February (zone A) 21 February – 09 March (zone B) 14 February – 02 March (zone C)
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks – 2009 04 April – 20 April (zone A) 18 April – 04 May (zone B) 11 April – 27 April (zone C)	2 weeks – 2009 04 April – 20 April (zone A) 18 April – 04 May (zone B) 11 April – 27 April (zone C)
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks 02 July – 01 September 2009	9 weeks 02 July – 01 September 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	3 days 11 November 2008 01 May 2009 08 May 2009	3 days 11 November 2008 01 May 2009 08 May 2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	01 July 2009	01 July 2009

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 2008/09 school year

<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 August 2008 begin of official school year (for details see table I)
<b>End of students' school year</b>	31 July 2009 end of official school year (for details see table I)
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	4 to 13 days staggered between 04 October and 07 November 2008 (for details see table II)
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	11 to 18 days staggered between 19 December 2008 and 10 January 2009 (for details see table II)
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	0 to 12 days staggered between 30 January and 28 February 2009 (for details see table II)
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	4 to 15 days staggered between 09 March and 21 April 2009 (for details see table II)
<b>Third term</b>	0 to 12 days staggered between 18 May and 13 June 2009 (for details see table II)
<b>Summer</b>	6 weeks staggered between 25 June and 14 September 2009 (for details see table I)
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	Up to 10 days, depending on the <i>Land</i>
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 August 2008 (official date)
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	31 July 2009 (official date)

Source: Eurydice

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

	<b>Beginning of students' school year 2008/09</b>	<b>End of students' school year 2008/09</b>	<b>Summer holidays 2009</b>
Hessen, Rheinland-Pfalz	04 August 2008	10 July 2009	13 July – 21 August
Nordrhein-Westfalen	11 August 2008	01 July 2009	02 July – 14 August
Saarland	11 August 2008	10 July 2009	13 July – 22 August
Bremen, Niedersachsen, Thüringen	21 August 2008	24 June 2009	25 June – 05 August
Sachsen-Anhalt	25 August 2008	24 June 2009	25 June – 05 August
Sachsen	25 August 2008	26 June 2009	29 June – 07 August
Hamburg	28 August 2008	15 July 2009	16 July – 26 August
Berlin	01 September 2008	15 July 2009	15 July/16 July – 28 August
Brandenburg	01 September 2008	15 July 2009	16 July – 29 August
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Schleswig-Holstein	01 September 2008	17 July 2009	20 July – 29 August
Baden-Württemberg	07 September 2008	29 July 2009	30 July – 12 September
Bayern	16 September 2008	31 July 2009	03 Aug. – 14 September

## GERMANY (CONTINUED)

**TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods**

Land	Autumn 2008	Christmas /New Year 2008/09	Winter 2009	Spring / Easter 2009	3 <sup>rd</sup> term 2009
Baden-Württemberg	27 Oct.-31 Oct.	22 Dec.-10 Jan.	-	14 April-17 April	25 May-06 June
Bayern	03 Nov.-07 Nov.	22 Dec.-05 Jan.	23 Febr.-28 Febr.	06 April-18 April	02 June-13 June
Berlin	20 Oct.-31 Oct.	22 Dec.-03 Jan.	02 Febr.-07 Febr.	06 April-18 April	22 May
Brandenburg	20 Oct.- 30 Oct.	22 Dec.-03 Jan.	02 Febr.-07 Febr.	08 April-17 April	22 May
Bremen	13 Oct.-25 Oct.	22 Dec.-06 Jan.	02 February	30 March-15 April	02 June
Hamburg	13 Oct.-25 Oct.	22 Dec.-02 Jan.	30 January	09 March-21 March	18 May-23 May
Hessen	06 Oct.-18 Oct.	22 Dec.-10 Jan.	-	06 April-18 April	-
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	27 Oct.-01 Nov.	22 Dec.-03 Jan.	09 Febr.-20 Febr.	06 April-14 April	02 June-06 June
Niedersachsen	13 Oct.-25 Oct.	22 Dec.-06 Jan.	02 Febr.+ 03 Febr.	30 March-15 April	22 May + 02 June
Nordrhein-Westfalen	29 Sep.-11 Oct.	22 Dec.-06 Jan.	-	06 April-18 April	02 June
Rheinland-Pfalz	06 Oct.-17 Oct.	22 Dec.-07 Jan.	-	01 April-17 April	-
Saarland	04 Oct.-18 Oct.	19 Dec.-03 Jan.	19 Febr.-25 Febr.	06 April-18 April	-
Sachsen	20 Oct.-30 Oct.	22 Dec.-02 Jan.	09 Febr.-21 Febr.	09 April-18 April	22 May
Sachsen-Anhalt	13 Oct.-17 Oct.	22 Dec.-05 Jan.	02 Febr.-10 Febr.	06 April-18 April	22 May-29 May
Schleswig-Holstein	13 Oct.-25 Oct.	22 Dec.-07 Jan.	-	06 April-21 April	-
Thüringen	13 Oct.-24 Oct.	20 Dec.-03 Jan.	02 Febr.-07 Febr.	06 April-17 April	-

Source: Eurydice

**Additional notes:**

In accordance with the *Hamburg Agreement* between the *Länder* on harmonization 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.

## HUNGARY

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	15 June 2009	15 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	5 days 27 October - 31 October 2008	5 days 27 October - 31 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	1 week 22 December 2008 – 04 January 2009	1 week 22 December 2008 – 04 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	-	-
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	3 days 09 April – 14 April 2009	3 days 09 April – 14 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	11 weeks 16 June – 31 August 2009	11 weeks 16 June – 31 August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	3 days 23 October 2008 01 May 2009 01 June 2009 (Whit Monday)	3 days 23 October 2008 01 May 2009 01 June 2009 (Whit Monday)
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	Autonomy of the educational institution taking into account the concerning legal provision*	Autonomy of the educational institution taking into account the concerning legal provision*
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	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) the school with leaving the first and last school day of the academic year unchanged may give further holidays (5 days in primary and 6 days in secondary education) to the pupils 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. 17/2008 (V. 9.) of the Minister of Education and Culture on the organization of school year of 2008/2009).

\* 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 out during the summer holiday. If not all days can be taken during this period then the rest has to be given out during the autumn, winter or spring holidays. (For teachers the autumn, winter and spring holidays are workdays without teaching).

## ICELAND

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary and lower secondary education</b>	<b>General upper secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	Between 22 August and 03 September 2008	Between 22 and 29 August 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	Between 29 May and 05 June 2009	Between 20 and 28 May 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	0-2 days October 2008	0-2 days October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 20 December 2008 – 04 January 2009	2 weeks 20 December 2008 – 04 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	0-5 days in February 2009	0-5 days in February 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	7 days 06 – 14 April 2009	7 days 06 – 14 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	11 weeks Between 06 June and 23 August 2009	13 weeks Between 21 May and 31 August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	4 days 23 April 2009 01 May 2009 21 May 2009 01 June 2009	3 days 23 April 2009 01 May 2009 21 May 2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	Between 18 and 28 August 2008	Between 21 and 28 August 2008
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	10 June 2009	Between 22 and 29 May 2009

Source: Eurydice

### **Additional notes:**

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



## IRELAND

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	First week of September 2008 <sup>1</sup>	Circa 28 August 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	End of June 2009 <sup>2</sup>	30 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 27 to 31 October 2008	1 week 27 to 31 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 23 December 2008 to 06 January 2009	2 weeks 23 December 2008 to 06 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	2 days 16 and 17 February 2009 <sup>3</sup>	1 week 16 to 20 February 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 03 to 19 April 2009	2 weeks 03 to 19 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	About 10 weeks End of June until week of 01 September 2009	About 13 weeks June, July and most of August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	17/03; 04/05; 01/06 and some religious holidays	17/03; 04/05; 01/06 and some religious holidays
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	31 August 2009	31 August 2009

Source: Eurydice

**Additional notes:****Primary Education**

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Primary school may use 3 discretionary days to extend their break to an alternative option of a 5 day break.

Circular 0107/2007 sets out the standardized school breaks at primary level for the school years 2008/2009, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011.

The arrangements for standardized closure at primary level (Circular 0107/2007) are agreed without prejudice to closure on specific days, within the overall requirement of 183 days at primary level, dictated by religious observance that is required in schools under patronage of different denominations or faiths. In the absence of an adequate number of discretionary days a school authority may choose to utilize a religious observation day for non-tuition purpose when planning the school year.

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

**General Secondary**

In accordance with Circular M29/95, the minimum number of teaching days per post-primary school will be 167. In addition, in accordance with Circular 0107/2007, holiday periods during the school year have been standardized, i.e. midterm breaks, Christmas and Easter holidays. Traditionally, formal instruction ends in post-primary schools on the Friday preceding the June bank holiday weekend. State examinations normally commence the following Wednesday. In order for schools to meet their requirement to be open for 167 days during 2008/2009 school year, it is expected that post-primary schools will be open circa 28 August 2008.

The above holidays are standardized in accordance with Circular 0107/2007. 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 standardized 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 the end of year State exams.

## LATVIA

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	29 May 2009	29 May 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 27 – 31 October 2008	1 week 27 – 31 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 02 January 2009	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 02 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	-	-
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 week 03 April – 10 April 2009	1 week 03 April – 10 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	13 weeks 01 June – 31 August 2009	13 weeks 01 June – 31 August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	5 public holidays 18/11/2008; 10/04/2009; 13/04/2009; 01/05 and 04/05/2009	5 public holidays 18/11/2008; 10/04/2009; 13/04/2009; 01/05 and 04/05/2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	See additional notes	See additional notes
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	See additional notes	See additional notes

Source: Eurydice

### Additional notes:

Lower secondary education (Basic education): end of the school year for the 9<sup>th</sup> class: 12 June 2009.

Upper secondary education: end of the school year for the 12<sup>th</sup> class: 19 June 2009.

The school year is divided in two semesters: the first from 01 September to 19 December 2008 and the second from 05 January to 29 May 2009 (or 12 June for the 9<sup>th</sup> class and 19 June for the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 2009):** These are the dates for the official summer holiday period for classes 1-8 and 10-11. For the 1<sup>st</sup> class, education institutions decide on additional holidays of 1 week in the second semester.

**Public holidays:** When holiday coincidences on Saturday or Sunday 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.

## THE NETHERLANDS

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	Northern region: 11 August 2008 Central region: 01 September 2008 Southern region: 18 August 2008	Northern region: 18 August 2008 Central region: 01 September 2008 Southern region: 25 August 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	Northern region: 03 July 2009 Central region: 10 July 2009 Southern region: 24 July 2009	Northern region: 03 July 2009 Central region: 10 July 2009 Southern region: 17 July 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week Northern region: 18 – 26 October 2008 Central + Southern region: 11 – 19 October 2008	1 week Northern region: 18 – 26 October 2008 Central + Southern region: 11 – 19 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 20 December 2008 – 04 January 2009	2 weeks 20 December 2008 – 04 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival*)</b>	1 week Northern + Central region: 14 – 22 February 2009 Southern region: 21 February – 01 March 2009	1 week Northern + Central region: 14 – 22 February 2009 Southern region: 21 February – 01 March 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	-	-
<b>Third term</b>	1 week 25 April – 05 May 2009	1 week 25 April – 05 May 2009
<b>Summer</b>	6 weeks Northern region: 04 July – 16 August 2009 Central region: 11 July – 23 August 2009 Southern region: 25 July – 06 September 2009	7 weeks Northern region: 04 July – 23 August 2009 Central region: 11 July – 30 August 2009 Southern region: 18 July – 06 September 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	5 days Easter Monday: 13 April 2009 Queen's Birthday: 30 April 2009 Liberation Day: 05 May 2009 Ascension Day: 21 May 2009 Whit Monday: 01 June 2009	5 days Easter Monday: 13 April 2009 Queen's Birthday: 30 April 2009 Liberation Day: 05 May 2009 Ascension Day: 21 May 2009 Whit Monday: 01 June 2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	See additional notes	See additional notes
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	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 do 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.).

## LIECHTENSTEIN

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	18 August 2008	18 August 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	03 July 2009	03 July 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	2 weeks 04 October – 19 October 2008	2 weeks 04 October – 19 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 24 December 2008 – 06 January 2009	2 weeks 24 December 2008 – 06 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 21 February – 01 March 2009	1 week 21 February – 01 March 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 09 April (from noon) – 26 April 2009	2 weeks 09 April (from noon) – 26 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	6 weeks 04 July – 17 August 2009	6 weeks 04 July – 17 August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	10 days 08 September 2008 08 December 2008 02 February 2009 19 March 2009 01 May 2009 21 and 22 May 2009 01 June 2009 11 and 12 June 2009	10 days 08 September 2008 08 December 2008 02 February 2009 19 March 2009 01 May 2009 21 and 22 May 2009 01 June 2009 11 and 12 June 2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	18 August 2008	August 18, 2008
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	03 July 2009	03 July 2009

Source: Eurydice

## LITHUANIA

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	29 May 2009	19 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 27 October – 02 November 2008	1 week 27 October – 02 November 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 04 January 2009	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 04 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	-	-
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 week 06 April 2009 - 13 April 2009	1 week 06 April 2009 - 13 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	13 weeks 01 June 2009 – 31 August 2009	10 weeks 22 June 2009 – 31 August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	3 days 16 February 2009 11 March 2009 01 May 2009	3 days 16 February 2009 11 March 2009 01 May 2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	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
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	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 29 May. Students in the last year of upper secondary education (grade 12) finish the school year on 15 May.

Additional 10-day school holidays (5 days twice in the year) are allocated to pupils of grades 1 to 5. The recommended time is: 01 December 2008 - 07 December 2008 and 09 February 2009 – 15 February 2009. Subject to the school council's approval, additional school holidays may be allocated at another time.

Summer holidays for students in grade 5 start on 01 June 2009.

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

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	15 September 2008	15 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	15 July 2009	15 July 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 01 November – 09 November 2008	1 week 01 November – 09 November 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 20 December 2008 – 04 January 2009	2 weeks 20 December 2008 – 04 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 21 February – 01 March 2009	1 week 21 February – 01 March 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 04 April – 19 April 2009	2 week 04 April – 19 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	1 week 30 May – 07 June 2009	1 week 30 May – 07 June 2009
<b>Summer</b>	8 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2009	8 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	3 days 01 May 2009 21 May 2009 23 June 2009	3 days 01 May 2009 21 May 2009 23 June 2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	15 September 2008	15 September 2008
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	15 July 2009	15 July 2009

Source: Eurydice



## MALTA

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2008	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	03 <sup>rd</sup> and 04 <sup>th</sup> November 2008	03 <sup>rd</sup> and 04 <sup>th</sup> November 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2008 to 06 <sup>th</sup> January 2009	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2008 to 06 <sup>th</sup> January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2009	23 <sup>rd</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	08 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2009	08 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2009
<b>Third term</b>		
<b>Summer</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> June to 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2009	27 <sup>th</sup> June to 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	08 <sup>th</sup> December 2008, 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2009, 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2009, 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2009, 01 <sup>st</sup> May 2009	08 <sup>th</sup> December 2008, 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2009, 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2009, 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2009, 01 <sup>st</sup> May 2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	09 <sup>th</sup> July 2009	09 <sup>th</sup> July 2009

Source: Eurydice

### **Additional notes:**

During June schools are on half-days.

Half-yearly Examinations take place between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009 for secondary school students and between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 for primary school pupils.

The Annual Examinations take place between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009 for secondary school students and between the 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009 for primary school pupils.

On the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009 teachers attend in-service courses.

## NORWAY

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	Between 12 and 20 August 2008 Most counties: 18 August 2008	Between 12 and 20 August 2008 Most counties: 18 August 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	Between 18 and 24 June 2009	Between 18 and 24 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week Starting 29 September or 06 October 2008 (week 40 or 41)	1 week Starting 29 September or 06 October 2008 (week 40 or 41)
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	Approx.: 2 weeks Between 19 December 2008 and 02/07 January 2009	Approx.: 2 weeks Between 19 December 2008 and 02/07 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week Between 16 February and 13 March 2009 (Week 8 or 9 or 10 or 11)	1 week Between 16 February and 13 March 2009 (Week 8 or 9 or 10 or 11)
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	Approx.: 8 to 13 days Between 03/06 April and 13/15 April 2009	Approx.: 8 to 13 days Between 03/06 April and 13/15 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	Approx.: 8 weeks Between 18/24 June and 14/21 August 2009	Approx.: 8 weeks Between 18/24 June and 14/21 August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	1 day 01 May	1 day 01 May
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	See additional note	See additional note
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	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 school year is counted in working hours. That is 1300 hours for primary education (ISCED 1), 1225 hours for lower secondary education (ISCED 2) and 1150 hours for upper secondary education. It is an individual matter for each school if the work hours, longer than for the students, are before the beginning or after the end of the school year.

## POLAND

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	19 June 2009	19 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	-	-
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	1 week 22 December 2008 – 01 January 2009	1 week 22 December 2008 – 01 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	2 weeks <b>19 January – 1 February 2009</b> Dolnośląskie Mazowieckie Opolskie Zachodniopomorskie <b>26 January – 08 February 2009</b> Podlaskie Łódzkie Śląskie <b>02 – 15 February 2009</b> Lubelskie Podkarpackie Pomorskie Warmińsko-Mazurskie <b>16 February – 01 March 2009</b> Kujawsko-Pomorskie Lubuskie Małopolskie Świętokrzyskie Wielkopolskie	2 weeks <b>19 January – 1 February 2009</b> Dolnośląskie Mazowieckie Opolskie Zachodniopomorskie <b>26 January – 08 February 2009</b> Podlaskie Łódzkie Śląskie <b>02 – 15 February 2009</b> Lubelskie Podkarpackie Pomorskie Warmińsko-Mazurskie <b>16 February – 01 March 2009</b> Kujawsko-Pomorskie Lubuskie Małopolskie Świętokrzyskie Wielkopolskie
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	09 – 14 April 2009	09 – 14 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	10 weeks 20 June – 31 August 2009	10 weeks 20 June – 31 August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	2 days 01/05/2009, 11/06/2009	2 days 01/05/2009, 11/06/2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	19 June 2009	19 June 2009

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 24 April 2009. In the last grades of gymnasium (lower secondary) ending with the external examination, the school year ends on 24 April 2009. In the last grades of basic vocational schools, ending with the external vocational examination, the school year ends on 12 June 2009.

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 organizational tasks in a given school.

## PORTUGAL

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	Between 10 and 15 September 2008	Between 10 and 15 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	19 June 2009	9 June 2009 (for 9 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> grades) 19 June 2009 (for the other grades of general secondary education)
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	-	-
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	19 December 2008 – 04 January 2009	19 December 2008 – 04 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	23 – 25 February 2009	23 – 25 February 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	28 March – 13 April 2009	28 March – 13 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	About 10 to 12 weeks 22 June – 10/15 September 2009	About 10 to 12 weeks 10/22 June – 10/15 September 2009 (depending on the school grade)
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	8 days: 01 December 08 December 24 February 10 April 01 May 10 June 11 June	8 days: 01 December 08 December 24 February 10 April 01 May 10 June 11 June
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	a) see additional notes	a) see additional notes
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	a) see additional notes	a) see additional notes

Source: Eurydice

### **Additional notes:**

- a) The official length of teachers school year goes from the 1st September to the 31st August. Teachers have the right to one month summer holidays, which they can enjoy during the months of June (at the end of pupils school year), July or August, according to the needs of the respective schools.

## ROMANIA

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	15 September 2008	15 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	12 June 2009	12 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 27 October – 02 November 2008	1 week 27 October – 02 November 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 20 December 2008 – 04 January 2009	2 weeks 20 December 2008 – 04 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 31 January – 08 February 2009	1 week 31 January – 08 February 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 week 11 April – 20 April 2009	1 week 11 April – 20 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	13 weeks 13 June – 13 September 2009	13 weeks 13 June – 13 September 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	1 day (national holyday) 01 December 2008	1 day (national holyday) 01 December 2008
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	31 August 2009*	31 August 2009*

Source: Eurydice

### **Additional notes:**

In exceptional situations, depending on the local climatic conditions and school's specificity, the organisation of the school year can be modified at the request of schools, approved by the regional education authorities (County School Inspectorate). Approval is given if the number of 172 school days is maintained and all pupils may participate without restrictions in national examinations.

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

## SPAIN

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year<sup>1,2</sup></b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	Between 08 and 15 September 2008	Between 10 and 22 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	Between 18 and 23 June 2009	Between 18 and 29 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	-	-
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks between 20 December 2008 and 07 January 2009	2 weeks between 20 December 2008 and 07 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	Between 3 and 6 days (depending on the Autonomous Community) <sup>3</sup>	Between 3 and 6 (depending on the Autonomous Community) <sup>3</sup>
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	About 1 week between 03 and 20 April 2009	About 1 week between 03 and 20 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	11 weeks between late June and mid September 2009	11/12 weeks between late June and mid September 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	12 public holidays (some of them common throughout the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities).	12 public holidays (some of them common throughout the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities).
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	30 June 2009	30 June 2009

### **Additional notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Dates vary according to the different Autonomous Communities, see the table.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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

Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2008/09				
	Primary education		General secondary education	
	Beginning 2008	End 2009	Beginning 2008	End 2009 <sup>1</sup>
Andalucía	15 September	22 June	15 September (Lower Secondary) 22 Sept.(Upper Secondary)	22 June
Aragón	08 September	19 June	10 September <sup>2</sup>	19 June
Asturias	11 September	18 June	18 September	18 June
Baleares	15 September	19 June	15 September	19 June
Canarias	08 September	23 June	15 September	23 June
Cantabria	11 September	23 June	17 September <sup>2</sup>	26 June <sup>2</sup>
Castilla y León	10 September	23 June	15 September <sup>2</sup>	23 June <sup>2</sup>
Castilla-La Mancha	10 September	19 June	17 September	26 June
Cataluña	15 September	23 June	15 September	23 June
Extremadura	15 September	22 June	15 September (Lower Secondary) 16 September (Upper Secondary)	22 June
Galicia	11 September	22 June	18 September	23 June
La Rioja	08 September	22 June	12 September	23 June
Madrid	15 September	23 June	17 September	23 June
Murcia	10 September	23 June	16 September <sup>2</sup>	29 June <sup>2</sup>
Navarra	10 September	18 June	15 September	18 June
País Vasco <sup>3</sup>	Not before 09 September	23 June	Not before 09 September	23 June
C. Valenciana	08 September	22 June	15 September	23 June

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year 2008</b>	Between 12 and 25 August 2008 (The exact days vary on regional and municipality levels)	Between 12 and 25 August 2008 (The exact days vary on regional and municipality levels)
<b>End of students' school year 2009</b>	between 05 and 18 June 2009	between 05 and 18 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays 2008</b>	1 week between 13 and 31 October 2008	1 week between 13 and 31 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year 2008/09</b>	about 3 weeks between 18 and 22 December 2008 and 07 and 13 January 2009	about 3 weeks between 18 and 22 December 2008 and 07 and 13 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival 2009</b>	1 week between 09 February and 21 March 2009	1 week between 09 February and 21 March 2009
<b>Spring/Easter 2009</b>	1 week between 06 and 18 April 2009	1 week between 06 and 18 April 2009
<b>Third term 2009</b>	-	-
<b>Summer 2009</b>	About 10 weeks between 05 and 18 of June to the end of August 2009	About 10 weeks between 05 and 18 of June to the end of August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays 2009</b>	1 day 01/05/2009	1 day 01/05/2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	between 11 and 24 August 2008	between 11 and 24 August 2008
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	between 05 and 18 June 2009	between 05 and 18 June 2009

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.

## SLOVAKIA

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	02 September 2008	02 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	30 June 2009	30 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	2 days 30 October – 03 November 2008	2 days 30 October – 03 November 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 07 January 2009	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 07 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 day 30 January 2009 1 week <b>16 - 20 February 2009</b> Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava <b>23 – 27 February 2009</b> Prešov, Košice <b>02 - 06 March 2009</b> Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín	1 day 30 January 2009 1 week <b>16 - 20 February 2009</b> Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava <b>23 – 27 February 2009</b> Prešov, Košice <b>02 - 06 March 2009</b> Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	04 days (Easter holidays) 09 - 14 April 2009	4 days (Easter holidays) 09 - 14 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2009	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	5 days 01/09/2008, 15/09/2008, 17/11/2008, 01/05/2009, 08/05/2009	5 days 01/09/2008, 15/09/2008, 17/11/2008, 01/05/2009, 08/05/2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	Usually one week before beginning of the school year	Usually one week before beginning of the school year
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	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 2008/09 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	24 June 2009	24 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 27 October – 31 October 2008	1 week 27 October – 31 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	1 ½ week 25 December 2008 - 02 January 2009	1 ½ week 25 December 2008 - 02 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 16 February – 20 February 2009 (other regions) 23 February - 27 February 2009 (Ljubljana, Maribor, Ptuj)	1 week 16 February – 20 February 2009 (other regions) 23 February - 27 February 2009 (Ljubljana, Maribor, Ptuj)
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 day 13 April 2009 (Easter Monday)	1 day 13 April 2009 (Easter Monday)
<b>Third term</b>	1 week 27 April – 02 May 2009	1 week 27 April – 02 May 2009
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2009	9 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	1 day 08 February 2009 (Prešern Day, Day of Slovene Culture)	1 day 08 February 2009 (Prešern Day, Day of Slovene Culture)
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	At least 10 days before the starting date for students	At least 10 days before the starting date for students
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	Between the beginning to mid-July 2009	Between the beginning to mid-July 2009

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):**

15 June for the final (9<sup>th</sup>) grade pupils, external examinations run by the end of June;

24 June for pupils who are not in the final grade (grades 1-8).

**End of the upper secondary school lessons:**

20 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 somewhere between the beginning to mid July. 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.

## TURKEY

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	15 September 2008	15 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	13 June 2009	13 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	3 days 30 September – 02 October 2008 (religious holidays) 4 days 08 – 11 December 2008 (religious holidays)	3 days 30 September – 02 October 2008 (religious holidays) 4 days 08 – 11 December 2008 (religious holidays)
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	1 day 01 January 2009	1 day 01 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	2 weeks 26 January – 09 February 2009	2 weeks 26 January – 09 February 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 days 23 – 24 April 2009 (Public holidays)	2 days 23 – 24 April 2009 (Public holidays)
<b>Third term</b>	-	
<b>Summer</b>	13 weeks 15 June – 14 September 2009	13 weeks 15 June – 14 September 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	2 days 29 October 2008 (Public holiday) 19 May 2009 (Public holiday)	2 days 29 October 2008 (Public holiday) 19 May 2009 (Public holiday)
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	Beginning-September	Beginning-September
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	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

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	The first week of September 2008	The first week of September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	Between 17 and 23 July 2009	Between 17 and 23 July 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	1 week 27 – 31 October 2008	1 week 27 – 31 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks Between 22 December 2008 and the first week of January 2009	2 weeks Between 22 December 2008 and the first week of January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 week 16 – 20 February 2009	1 week 16 – 20 February 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 06 – 17 April 2009	2 weeks 06 – 17 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	1 week 25 – 29 May 2009	1 week 25 – 29 May 2009
<b>Summer</b>	6 weeks Between 20 July and the first week of September 2009	6 weeks Between 20 July and the first week of September 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	Good Friday 10 April 2009 Easter Monday 13 April 2009 Early May Bank Holiday 04 May 2009	Good Friday 10 April 2009 Easter Monday 13 April 2009 Early May Bank Holiday 04 May 2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	The first week of September 2008	The first week of September 2008
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	Between 17 and 23 July 2009	Between 17 and 23 July 2009

Source: Eurydice

**Additional notes:** 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.

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 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

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	30 June 2009	30 June 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	2 days 30 – 31 October 2008	2 days 30 – 31 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 02 January 2009	2 weeks 22 December 2008 – 02 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	2 days 12 – 13 February 2009	2 days 12 – 13 February 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	1 week 13 – 17 April 2009	1 week 13 – 17 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	9 weeks between 01 July 2009 and the first week of September 2009	9 weeks Between 01 July 2009 and the first week of September 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	St. Patrick's Day 17 March 2009 (not all schools)  Early May Bank Holiday 04 May 2009  Spring Bank Holiday 25 May 2009	St. Patrick's Day 17 March 2008 (not all schools)  Early May Bank Holiday 04 May 2009  Spring Bank Holiday 25 May 2009
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	01 September 2008	01 September 2008
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	30 June 2009	30 June 2009

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 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, the 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 Board** area, which close on 17 March 2009, will be open on Spring Bank Holiday, 25 May 2009.

## UNITED KINGDOM - SCOTLAND

<b>Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2008/09 school year</b>		
	<b>Primary education</b>	<b>General secondary education</b>
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	Mid-August 2008	Mid-August 2008
<b>End of students' school year</b>	End June/early July 2009	End June/early July 2009
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	From 1 to 2 weeks between 12 September and 27 October 2008	From 1 to 2 weeks between 12 September and 27 October 2008
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 to 2.5 weeks between 19 December 2008 to 07 January 2009	Around 2 weeks between 19 December 2008 to 07 January 2009
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	1 to 7 days between 06 and 24 February 2009	1 to 7 days between 06 and 24 February 2009
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	Around 2 weeks between 20 March and 21 April 2009	Around 2 weeks between 20 March and 21 April 2009
<b>Third term</b>	-	-
<b>Summer</b>	End June/early July – mid-August 2009	End June – mid-August 2009
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	Up to 3 days	Up to 3 days
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	Mid-August 2008	Mid-August 2008
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	End June/early July 2009	End June/early July 2009

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.