

Teaching English as a Foreign Language: 2025

NR 068/2026

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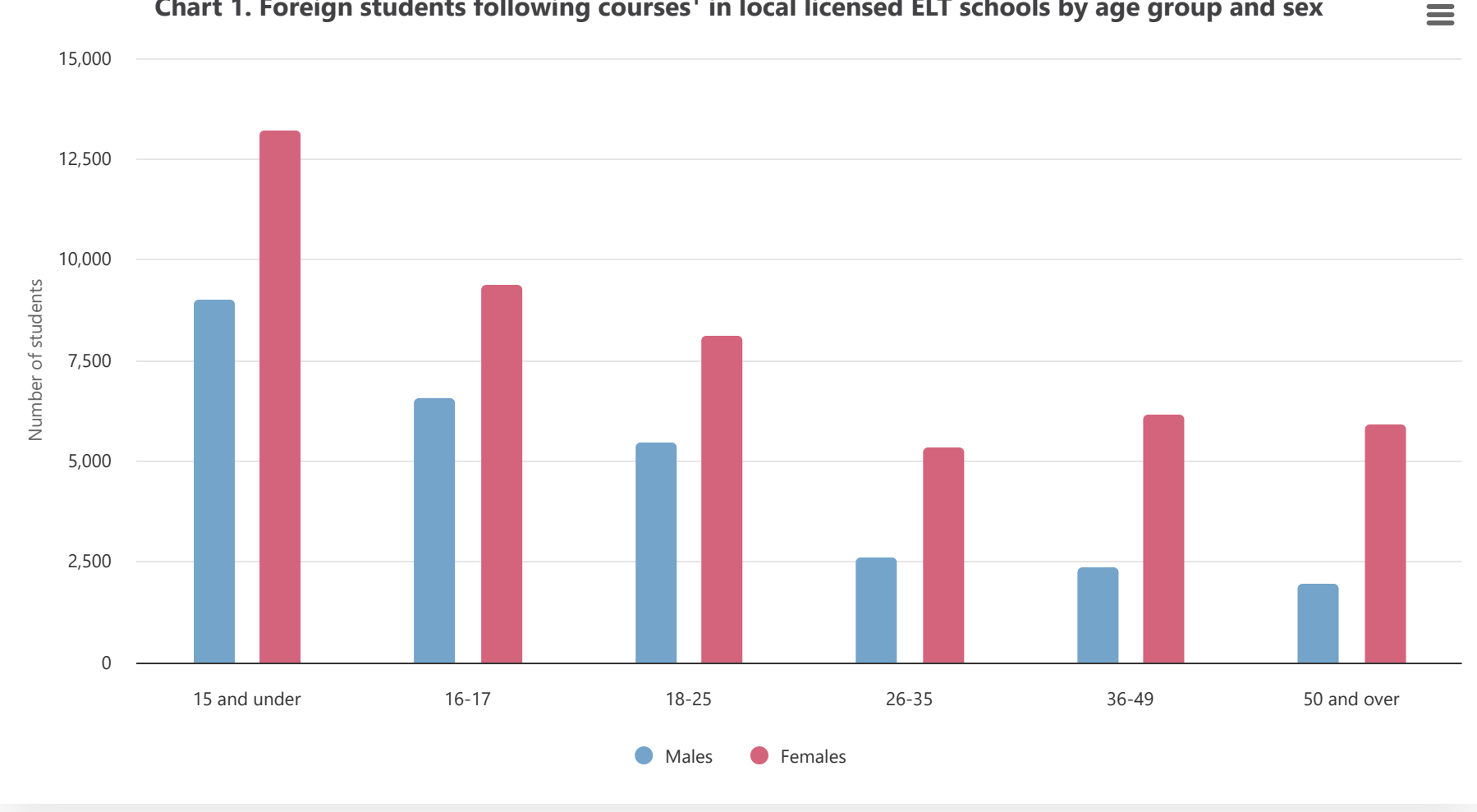
In 2025, foreign students attending English language courses at 34 local licensed English Language Teaching (ELT) schools amounted to 76,063, marking a drop of 4,883 over 2024.



The majority of students attending English language courses in Malta came from Italy (23.0 per cent), followed by Germany (10.6 per cent) and France (10.4 per cent). Overall, 71.8 per cent of total students originated from an EU country (Table 1).

Foreign students enrolled in local licensed ELT schools accounted for 262,255 student weeks, an increase of 5,387 weeks when compared to 2024. The absolute majority of courses (99.7 per cent of total student weeks) were held physically while online courses accounted for only 0.3 per cent. The average number of student weeks during the year under review stood at 3.4, an increase of 0.3 compared to previous year (Table 7). With an average of 12.1 weeks, students from Colombia recorded the highest number of student weeks, followed by Chilean and South Korean students with average student weeks at 11.9 and 8.6 weeks respectively (Table 8 and 9).

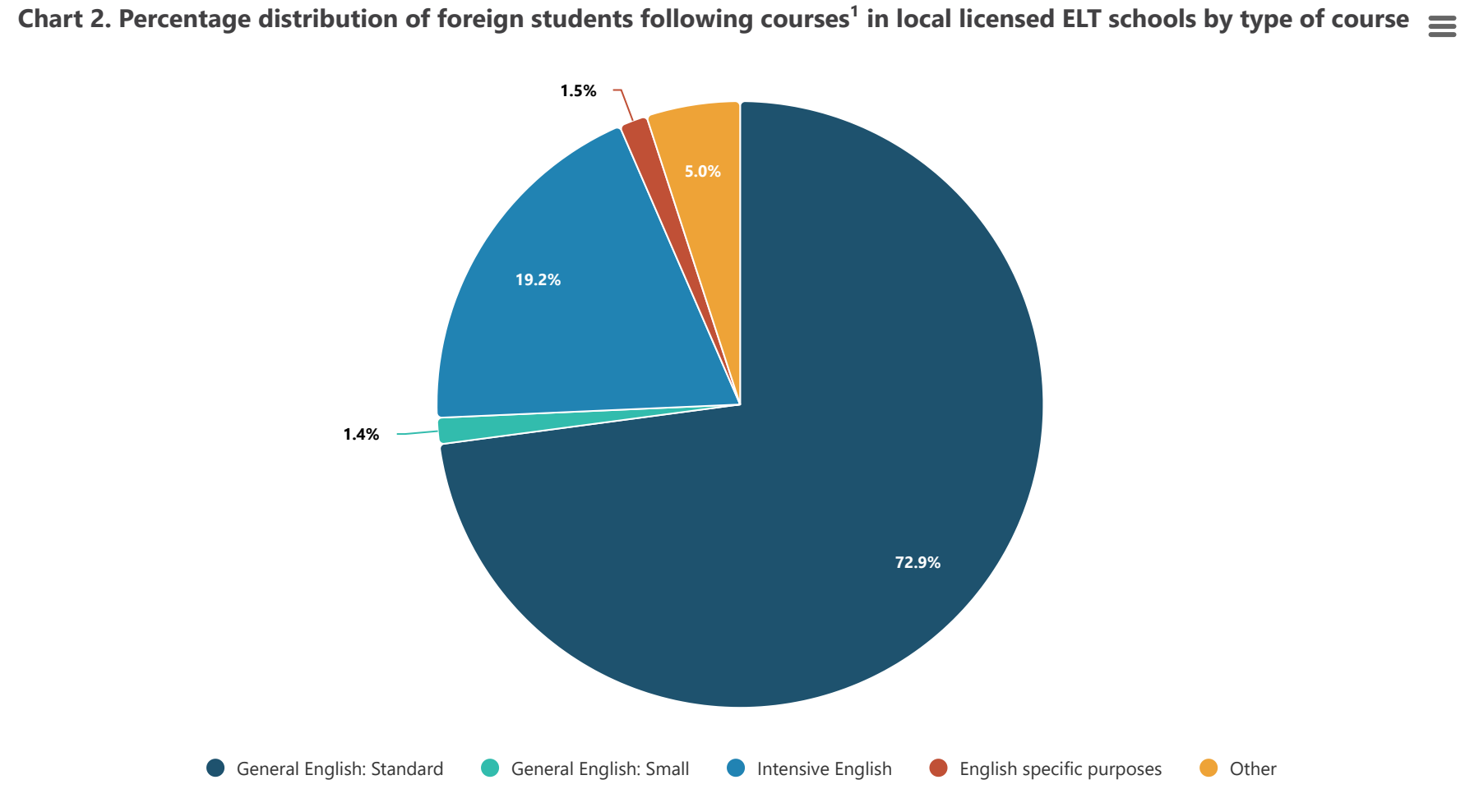
The largest share of language students was in the 15- and under age bracket, accounting for 29.2 per cent of the total students following ELT courses, followed by the 16 and 17-year-old age group, which accounted for 20.9 per cent. Students aged 50 and over were in the minority and numbered 7,836. Female students outnumbered males and others, and accounted for 63.2 per cent of the entire ELT student population (Tables 2 and 3, Chart 1).



¹ Some courses were held remotely.

July was the busiest month for local licensed ELT schools for courses attendance, accounting for 16.5 per cent of the annual total. August and March followed at 15.8 and 9.6 per cent respectively (Table 4).

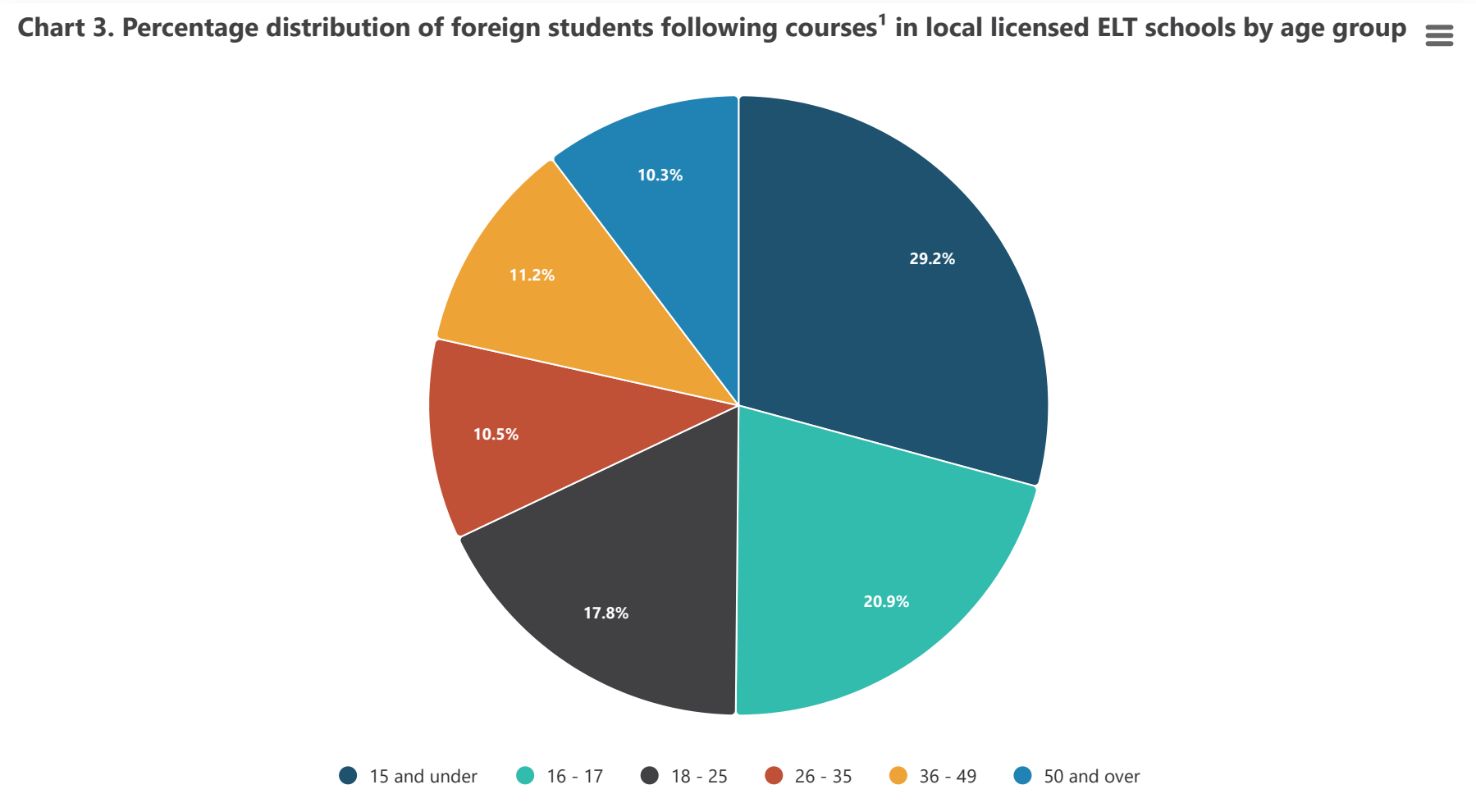
The most popular course uptake in local licensed ELT schools was ‘General English: Standard’, whereby a total of 55,432 students, or 72.9 per cent opted for this course. This was followed by the ‘Intensive English’ course, with 19.2 per cent of total students (Table 5, Chart 2).



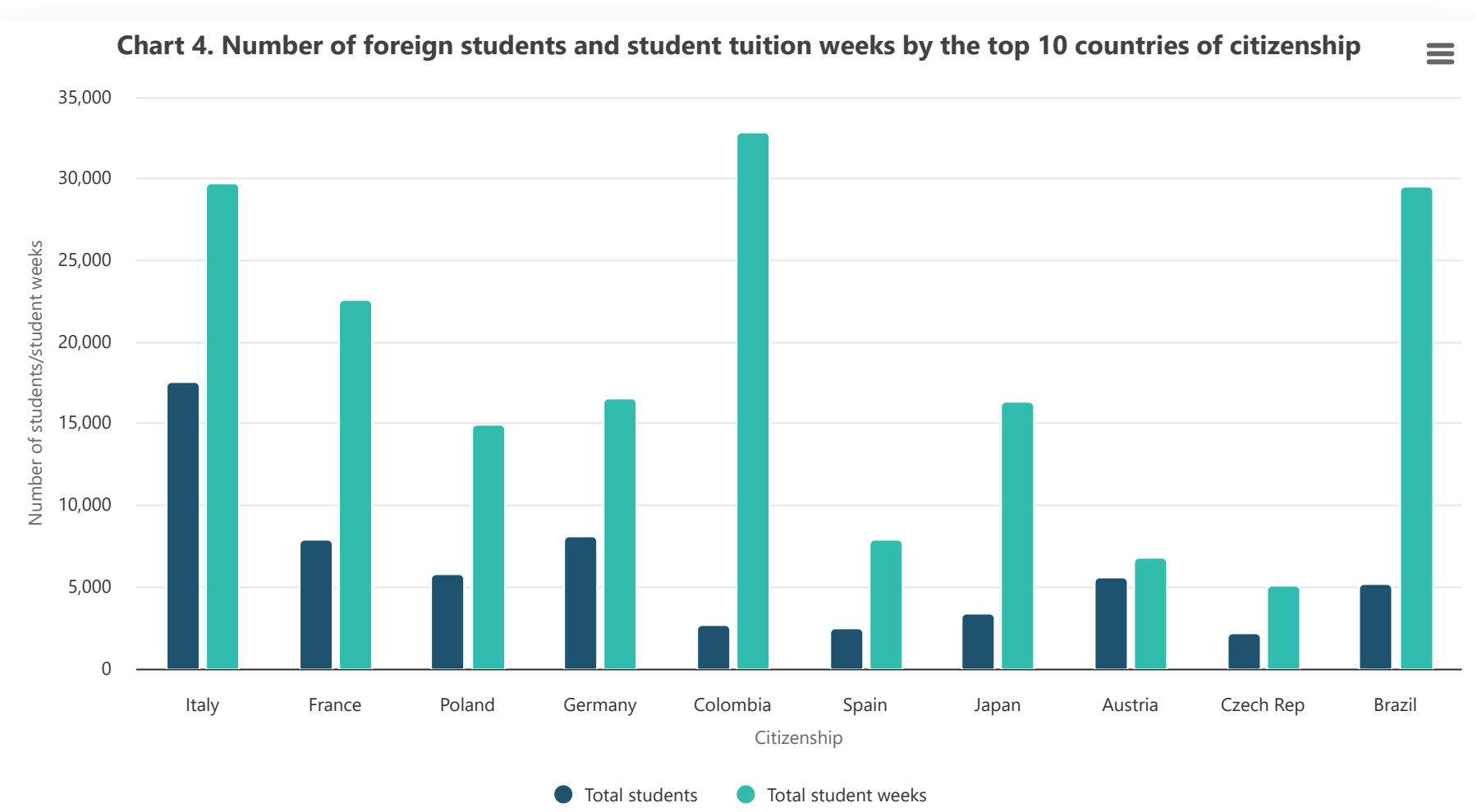
¹ Some courses were held remotely.

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

In 2025, teaching and academic staff in local licensed ELT schools numbered 712, with the largest proportion (24.4 per cent) being in 18-24 age group. Female teachers accounted for 67.7 per cent of the total (Table 10). Non-teaching staff amounted to 664, of whom 70.5 per cent were employed on a full-time basis (Table 10 and 11).



¹ Some courses were held remotely.



Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

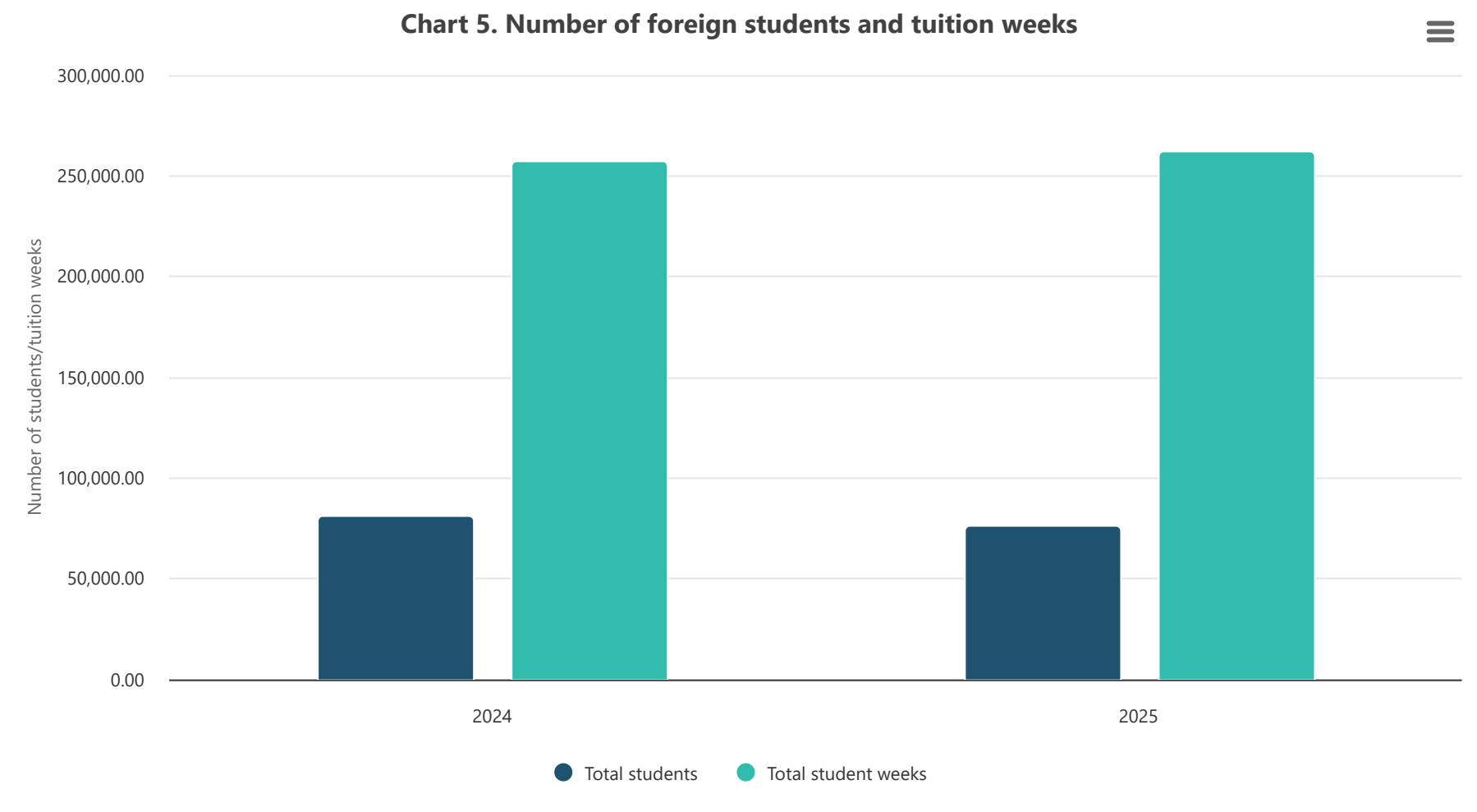


Table 1. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by year, sex and country of citizenship

Country of citizenship	2024			2025		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Italy	8,736	11,446	20,182	7,026	10,500	17,526
France	3,139	5,196	8,335	2,946	4,940	7,886
Poland	1,670	4,087	5,757	1,675	4,075	5,750
Germany	3,210	4,948	8,158	3,123	4,952	8,075
Spain	2,033	2,442	4,475	933	1,509	2,442
Czech Republic	822	1,705	2,527	644	1,560	2,204
Belgium	197	398	595	215	357	572
Austria	2,387	2,969	5,356	2,466	3,137	5,603
Slovakia	292	606	898	410	716	1,126
Hungary	390	765	1,155	420	836	1,256
Other EU countries	628	1,756	2,384	531	1,662	2,193
Total EU	23,504	36,318	59,822	20,389	34,244	54,633
Japan	1,070	2,530	3,600	951	2,414	3,365
Switzerland	742	973	1,715	824	1,166	1,990
Colombia	1,102	1,534	2,636	1,054	1,649	2,703
Turkey	969	872	1,841	931	941	1,872
South Korea	243	677	920	191	645	836
Russia	210	416	626	183	357	540
Brazil	1,529	3,522	5,051	1,520	3,695	5,215
China	214	297	511	220	342	562
Chile	129	219	348	79	160	239
Ukraine	192	307	499	279	353	632
Other Non-EU countries	1,443	1,934	3,377	1,338	2,138	3,476
Total Non-EU	7,843	13,281	21,124	7,570	13,860	21,430
Total	31,347	49,599	80,946	27,959	48,104	76,063

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

Table 2. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by age group and country of citizenship for the top 10 countries and other countries: 2025

Country of citizenship	Age group						Total
	15 and under	16-17	18-25	26-35	36-49	50 and over	
Italy	6,983	5,977	1,349	721	950	1,546	17,526
France	2,917	1,549	1,797	439	566	618	7,886
Poland	1,998	1,114	294	281	1,186	877	5,750
Germany	2,243	1,140	1,327	672	1,118	1,575	8,075
Colombia	64	195	728	1,055	517	144	2,703
Spain	677	436	533	201	277	318	2,442
Japan	507	224	1,743	410	227	254	3,365
Austria	2,520	2,244	648	25	53	113	5,603
Czech Republic	578	465	218	163	456	324	2,204
Brazil	194	265	1,382	1,819	1,070	485	5,215
Other countries ²	3,551	2,319	3,555	2,190	2,097	1,582	15,294
Total	22,232	15,928	13,574	7,976	8,517	7,836	76,063

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

² Includes unspecified country of citizenship.

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

Age group	2024	2025	Change	Percentage change
	Males			
15 and under	9,329	9,021	-308	-3.3
16-17	7,532	6,550	-982	-13.0
18-25	6,740	5,473	-1,267	-18.8
26-35	2,926	2,617	-309	-10.6
36-49	2,759	2,361	-398	-14.4
50 and over	2,061	1,937	-124	-6.0
Total	31,347	27,959	-3,388	-10.8
	Females			
15 and under	13,418	13,211	-207	-1.5
16-17	10,293	9,378	-915	-8.9
18-25	9,286	8,101	-1,185	-12.8
26-35	5,296	5,359	63	1.2
36-49	6,130	6,156	26	0.4
50 and over	5,176	5,899	723	14.0
Total	49,599	48,104	-1,495	-3.0
	Total			
15 and under	22,747	22,232	-515	-2.3
16-17	17,825	15,928	-1,897	-10.6
18-25	16,026	13,574	-2,452	-15.3
26-35	8,222	7,976	-246	-3.0
36-49	8,889	8,517	-372	-4.2
50 and over	7,237	7,836	599	8.3
Total	80,946	76,063	-4,883	-6.0

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

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

Month	2024	2025	Change	Percentage change
	Males			
January	528	538	10	1.9
February	1,786	1,446	-340	-19.0
March	3,390	3,062	-328	-9.7
April	2,725	2,018	-707	-25.9
May	2,399	2,520	121	5.0
June	2,398	2,309	-89	-3.7
July	4,862	4,432	-430	-8.8
August	4,373	4,382	9	0.2
September	2,393	2,006	-387	-16.2
October	2,383	2,198	-185	-7.8
November	1,944	1,462	-482	-24.8
December	2,102	1,496	-606	-28.8
Remote learning	64	90	26	40.6
Total	31,347	27,959	-3,388	-10.8
	Females			
January	956	929	-27	-2.8
February	2,391	2,397	6	0.3
March	5,007	4,220	-787	-15.7
April	3,920	3,367	-553	-14.1
May	3,755	4,070	315	8.4
June	3,995	3,996	1	0.0
July	8,864	8,081	-783	-8.8
August	7,402	7,643	241	3.3
September	3,602	3,650	48	1.3
October	3,808	4,152	344	9.0
November	3,040	2,907	-133	-4.4
December	2,752	2,369	-383	-13.9
Remote learning	107	323	216	201.9
Total	49,599	48,104	-1,495	-3.0
	Total			
January	1,484	1,467	-17	-1.1
February	4,177	3,843	-334	-8.0
March	8,397	7,282	-1,115	-13.3
April	6,645	5,385	-1,260	-19.0
May	6,154	6,590	436	7.1
June	6,393	6,305	-88	-1.4
July	13,726	12,513	-1,213	-8.8
August	11,775	12,025	250	2.1
September	5,995	5,656	-339	-5.7
October	6,191	6,350	159	2.6
November	4,984	4,369	-615	-12.3
December	4,854	3,865	-989	-20.4
Remote learning	171	413	242	141.5
Total	80,946	76,063	-4,883	-6.0

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

Table 5. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by type of course and country of citizenship: 2025

Country of citizenship	Type of course					Total
	General English: Standard	General English: Small	Intensive English	English specific purposes ²	Other ³	
Italy	14,804	128	2,033	75	486	17,526
France	5,055	35	2,383	137	276	7,886
Poland	4,062	88	1,137	36	427	5,750
Germany	3,909	152	2,834	448	732	8,075
Spain	1,728	37	536	14	127	2,442
Japan	2,504	79	645	22	115	3,365
Switzerland	1,116	54	662	12	146	1,990
Colombia	2,038	39	448	57	121	2,703
Czech Republic	1,421	82	508	22	171	2,204
Turkey	1,420	9	342	16	85	1,872
Belgium	377	8	162	8	17	572
South Korea	619	3	162	13	39	836
Austria	5,202	92	220	54	35	5,603
Slovakia	817	10	184	11	104	1,126
Hungary	845	36	283	11	81	1,256
Sweden	340	0	33	2	9	384
Netherlands	240	2	88	2	34	366
Denmark	85	1	11	1	6	104
Russia	390	10	93	5	42	540
Portugal	190	8	106	2	28	334
Other countries ⁴	8,270	198	1,725	185	751	11,129
Total	55,432	1,071	14,595	1,133	3,832	76,063

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

² Includes business English.

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

⁴ Includes unspecified country of citizenship.

Table 6. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by sex and type of accommodation: 2025

Type of accommodation	Males	Females	Total ²
Hotel³	5,321	7,335	12,656
5 Star	5	6	11
4 Star	3,135	3,937	7,072
3 Star	2,176	3,383	5,559
Hostel / Residence / Guesthouse	8,435	14,921	23,356
Host family	5,390	8,764	14,154
Holiday Furnished Premises (HFP)	2,308	4,224	6,532
Accommodation not provided by the school	6,498	12,842	19,340
Other	5	14	19
Unknown	2	4	6
Total	27,959	48,104	76,063

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

² Refers to bookings made.

³ Hotel refers to total bookings made by students in hotels including 2 star hotels.

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

Month	Number of student weeks			Average number of student weeks per student ¹		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	2025					
January	4,661	6,891	11,552	8.7	7.4	7.9
February	6,341	9,291	15,631	4.4	3.9	4.1
March	8,994	12,905	21,899	2.9	3.1	3.0
April	8,248	12,771	21,019	4.1	3.8	3.9
May	9,177	14,810	23,987	3.6	3.6	3.6
June	9,571	15,303	24,873	4.1	3.8	3.9
July	15,460	25,397	40,857	3.5	3.1	3.3
August	12,061	19,162	31,223	2.8	2.5	2.6
September	7,712	13,632	21,344	3.8	3.7	3.8
October	8,367	14,322	22,689	3.8	3.4	3.6
November	6,121	10,065	16,186	4.2	3.5	3.7
December	4,102	6,226	10,328	2.7	2.6	2.7
Remote learning	139	527	666	1.5	1.6	1.6
Total	100,952	161,303	262,255	3.6	3.4	3.4
	2024					
January	4,313	6,248	10,561	8.2	6.5	7.1
February	6,164	8,744	14,908	3.5	3.7	3.6
March	8,269	12,051	20,321	2.4	2.4	2.4
April	8,505	12,405	20,910	3.1	3.2	3.1
May	8,615	13,399	22,014	3.6	3.6	3.6
June	8,960	13,952	22,911	3.7	3.5	3.6
July	15,676	25,411	41,087	3.2	2.9	3.0
August	12,078	18,246	30,324	2.8	2.5	2.6
September	8,293	12,436	20,729	3.5	3.5	3.5
October	8,584	13,494	22,078	3.6	3.5	3.6
November	7,244	10,625	17,869	3.7	3.5	3.6
December	5,466	7,283	12,749	2.6	2.6	2.6
Remote learning	143	263	406	2.2	2.5	2.4
Total	102,311	154,557	256,868	3.3	3.1	3.2

¹ Based on student figures as presented in Table 4.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 8. Number of student weeks by age group and country of citizenship: 2025

Country of citizenship	Age group						Total
	15 and under	16-17	18-25	26-35	36-49	50 and over	
Italy	9,759	9,329	4,032	2,272	2,119	2,216	29,727
France	5,679	4,522	8,788	1,331	1,141	1,085	22,545
Poland	6,477	3,700	876	561	1,942	1,351	14,906
Germany	3,906	2,656	3,985	1,365	1,900	2,705	16,518
Spain	1,616	1,020	2,648	1,080	781	763	7,908
Japan	944	656	9,772	2,542	1,232	1,163	16,310
Switzerland	727	1,441	1,843	403	506	977	5,896
Colombia	266	2,221	9,823	13,919	5,483	1,077	32,789
Czech Republic	1,456	1,116	723	376	826	622	5,118
Turkey	780	554	7,224	4,377	1,927	372	15,234
Belgium	168	433	830	187	62	64	1,744
South Korea	137	65	2,807	2,576	793	787	7,165
Austria	3,025	2,545	787	69	132	191	6,751
Slovakia	613	489	243	177	394	284	2,200
Hungary	958	378	387	144	504	352	2,723
Sweden	473	160	217	48	90	44	1,033
Netherlands	127	330	463	48	17	13	998
Denmark	130	54	56	8	21	22	291
Russia	743	121	380	256	493	123	2,115
Portugal	215	291	348	276	323	98	1,551
Other countries ¹	4,636	4,379	20,082	23,867	11,695	4,075	68,733
Total	42,835	36,460	76,314	55,881	32,381	18,383	262,255

¹ Includes unspecified country of citizenship.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 9. Number of student weeks by sex and country of citizenship: 2025

Country of citizenship	Number of student weeks			Average number of student weeks per student ¹		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Italy	12,268	17,459	29,727	1.7	1.7	1.7
France	9,478	13,067	22,545	3.2	2.6	2.9
Poland	5,157	9,749	14,906	3.1	2.4	2.6
Germany	6,506	10,012	16,518	2.1	2.0	2.0
Spain	3,222	4,686	7,908	3.5	3.1	3.2
Czech Republic	1,517	3,601	5,118	2.4	2.3	2.3
Belgium	681	1,063	1,744	3.2	3.0	3.0
Austria	2,917	3,834	6,751	1.2	1.2	1.2
Slovakia	732	1,468	2,200	1.8	2.1	2.0
Hungary	937	1,785	2,723	2.2	2.1	2.2
Other EU countries	1,623	4,524	6,147	3.1	2.7	2.8
Total EU	45,037	71,250	116,287	2.2	2.1	2.1
Japan	4,554	11,756	16,310	4.8	4.9	4.8
Switzerland	2,386	3,509	5,896	2.9	3.0	3.0
Colombia	13,177	19,612	32,789	12.5	11.9	12.1
Turkey	8,176	7,058	15,234	8.8	7.5	8.1
South Korea	1,580	5,584	7,165	8.3	8.7	8.6
Russia	775	1,341	2,115	4.2	3.8	3.9
Brazil	9,733	19,776	29,509	6.4	5.4	5.7
China	1,931	2,646	4,577	8.8	7.7	8.1
Chile	954	1,891	2,845	12.1	11.8	11.9
Ukraine	926	1,028	1,954	3.3	2.9	3.1
Other Non-EU countries	11,721	15,852	27,573	8.8	7.4	7.9
Total Non-EU	55,915	90,053	145,968	7.4	6.5	6.8
Total	100,952	161,303	262,255	3.6	3.4	3.4

¹ Based on student figures as presented in Table 1.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 10. Staff¹ employed in local licensed ELT schools by sex, type of employment and age group: 2025

Age group	Males	Females	Total
	Teaching/Academic staff		
16-17	0	1	1
18-24	44	130	174
25-34	58	96	154
35-44	39	91	130
45-54	36	57	93
55 and over	53	107	160
Total	230	482	712
	Non-teaching staff		
16-17	3	8	11
18-24	42	158	200
25-34	69	132	201
35-44	42	64	106
45-54	25	50	75
55 and over	26	45	71
Total	207	457	664
	Total		
16-17	3	9	12
18-24	86	288	374
25-34	127	228	355
35-44	81	155	236
45-54	61	107	168
55 and over	79	152	231
Total	437	939	1,376

¹ Refer to methodological note 4.

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

Table 11. Staff¹ in local licensed ELT schools by sex and type of employment: 2025

Type of employment	Teaching/Academic staff			Non-teaching staff			Total		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Full-time	47	88	135	149	319	468	196	407	603
Part-time	98	190	288	12	63	75	110	253	363
Casual	85	204	289	46	75	121	131	279	410
Total	230	482	712	207	457	664	437	939	1,376
Full-time	20.4	18.3	19.0	72.0	69.8	70.5	44.9	43.3	43.8
Part-time	42.6	39.4	40.4	5.8	13.8	11.3	25.2	26.9	26.4
Casual	37.0	42.3	40.6	22.2	16.4	18.2	30.0	29.7	29.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Refer to methodological note 4.

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

Methodological Notes

- 1. Data used in this News Release is based on information collected by the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation which was subsequently analysed by NSO.
- 2. Data was collected by the ELT Council during the period January 2026-April 2026. All local licensed English Language Teaching (ELT) schools operating in 2025 responded to this questionnaire. A full list of ELT schools can be accessed [here](#).
- 3. Breakdowns by country are based on the students’ citizenship as provided by the student. Thus, figures for foreign citizens are not directly comparable to other tourism figures published by the NSO.
- 4. Figures on type of course followed and type of accommodation cannot be compared with data of previous years due to methodological enhancements held in 2020.

5. **Definitions:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 6. Number of student weeks by foreign students is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{total number of days}}{7}$$

- 7. Average number of student weeks per student is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{total number of weeks}}{\text{total number of students}}$$

- 8. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately. For guidance on access and re-use of data please visit our [dedicated webpage](#).
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- 10. A detailed news release calendar is available [online](#).