

EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURE PER STUDENT

Policy makers must balance the importance of improving the quality of educational services with the desirability of expanding access to educational opportunities, specifically at the tertiary level. In many OECD countries the expansion of enrolments, particularly in tertiary education, has not been paralleled by similar rises in educational expenditures. In primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education, enrolments are stable but expenditure has increased more than at the tertiary level.

Definition

The indicator shows change in expenditure on educational institutions in relation to the number of full-time equivalent students enrolled in these institutions. The indicator includes only those educational institutions and programmes, both public and private, for which both enrolment and expenditure data are available. Public subsidies for students' living expenses are excluded to ensure international comparability of the data.

Educational expenditure in national currency for 2008 is converted into equivalent USD by dividing the national currency figure by the purchasing power parity (PPP) index for GDP. PPP exchange rates are used because market exchange rates are affected by many factors (e.g. interest rates, trade policies, expectations of economic growth, etc.) that are unrelated to the purchasing power of currencies in different countries.

Comparability

The data on expenditures were obtained by a special survey conducted in 2010 which applied consistent methods and definitions. Expenditure data are based on the definitions and coverage of the UNESCO-OECD-Eurostat data collection programme on education; they have been adjusted to 2008 prices using the GDP price deflator. The use of a common survey and definitions ensures good comparability of results across countries.

Overview

In 2008, the average level of expenditure per tertiary student, across OECD countries, was 13 717 USD. Spending per student at tertiary level ranged from 5 780 USD in Estonia to more than 20 000 USD in Canada, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. OECD countries in which most R&D is performed by tertiary educational institutions tend to report higher tertiary expenditure per student than countries in which a large part of research and development is performed in other public institutions or by industry.

The expenditure for tertiary education increased in real terms across OECD countries by an average of 40% between 2000 and 2008, when student enrolment at this level increased by an average of 24%. Spending per student at tertiary level increased by 14% on average. However, spending per student fell in Chile, Israel, the Netherlands and the United States, and public expenditure per student fell also in Brazil, Hungary and Switzerland (data on private expenditure are not available). In all of these countries the decline was mainly the result of a rapid increase (by 20% or more) in the number of tertiary students. Japan and Spain were the only countries in which the number of tertiary students decreased between 2000 and 2008.

In 2008, the OECD average level of annual expenditure per student for primary, secondary and post-secondary education was 8 169 USD. Between 2000 and 2008, a period of relatively stable student enrolment at these levels, spending per students increased in every country, rising by 34% on average. Over this period, expenditure per student increased by at least 15% in 23 of the 30 OECD and partner countries with available data. The rise exceeded 40% in Brazil, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Korea, Poland, the Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom.

Sources

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Further information

Analytical publications

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Methodological publications

- OECD (2004), *OECD Handbook for Internationally Comparative Education Statistics: Concepts, Standards, Definitions and Classifications*, OECD Publishing.
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), OECD and Eurostat (2011), *UOE Data Collection on Education Systems*, UIS, Montreal.

Online databases

- OECD Education Statistics.

Websites

- OECD Education at a Glance, www.oecd.org/edu/eag2011.



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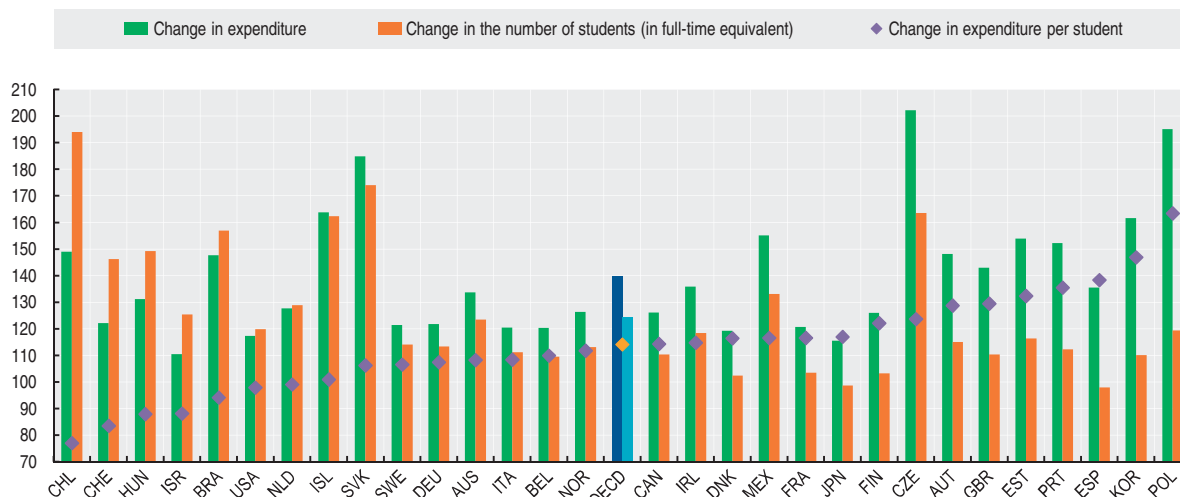
Expenditure on educational institutions per student and change in expenditure due to different factors

Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education							Tertiary education							
Expenditure per student, US dollars, 2008 constant prices and PPPs	Index of change, 2000 = 100						Expenditure per student, US dollars, 2008 constant prices and PPPs	Index of change, 2000 = 100						
	Expenditure		Number of students		Expenditure per student			Expenditure		Number of students		Expenditure per student		
	1995	2008 or latest available year	1995	2008 or latest available year	1995	2008 or latest available year		1995	2008 or latest available year	1995	2008 or latest available year	1995	2008 or latest available year	
Australia	7 814	81	133	94	108	85	123	15 043	90	134	83	123	109	108
Austria	10 994	93	108	..	97	..	112	15 043	97	148	91	115	107	129
Belgium	9 706	..	124	..	106	..	117	15 020	..	120	..	109	..	110
Canada	8 388	106	122	..	101	..	121	20 903	75	126	..	110	..	114
Chile	2 635	54	132	88	98	62	135	6 829	61	149	76	194	80	77
Czech Republic	5 236	116	137	107	86	109	159	8 318	101	202	64	164	159	124
Denmark	10 429	84	115	96	104	87	111	17 634	91	119	96	102	95	116
Estonia	6 054	78	163	96	75	81	219	5 780	69	154	60	116	115	132
Finland	8 068	89	133	93	105	95	126	15 402	90	126	89	103	101	122
France	8 559	90	103	..	98	..	105	14 079	91	121	..	103	..	117
Germany	7 859	94	100	97	93	97	107	15 390	95	122	104	113	91	107
Greece	..	64	..	107	..	60	..	..	66	..	68	..	97	..
Hungary	4 626	100	139	105	86	95	162	7 327	78	131	58	149	135	88
Iceland	9 745	..	146	99	107	..	136	10 429	..	164	79	162	..	101
Ireland	8 915	82	197	105	108	78	183	16 284	56	136	85	118	66	115
Israel	5 780	84	127	89	111	94	115	12 568	71	110	74	125	96	88
Italy	9 071	101	108	102	102	99	106	9 553	79	120	99	111	80	108
Japan	8 301	98	103	113	89	86	115	14 890	87	115	99	99	88	117
Korea	6 723	..	167	107	96	..	175	9 081	..	162	68	110	..	147
Luxembourg	16 909	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mexico	2 284	81	128	93	109	87	117	7 504	77	155	77	133	101	117
Netherlands	9 251	82	127	97	105	84	121	17 245	95	128	96	129	99	99
New Zealand	6 496	71	109	..	..	..	..	10 526	104	156	..	..	..	..
Norway	12 070	83	127	89	108	93	118	18 942	93	126	100	113	93	112
Poland	4 682	70	129	110	76	64	169	7 063	59	195	55	119	107	163
Portugal	6 276	76	98	105	90	72	109	10 373	73	152	77	112	96	136
Slovak Republic	4 006	97	157	105	83	92	189	6 560	81	185	72	174	113	106
Slovenia	8 555	..	..	..	..	..	..	9 263	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spain	8 522	99	123	119	95	84	129	13 366	72	135	100	98	72	138
Sweden	9 524	81	117	86	98	94	119	20 014	81	121	83	114	97	107
Switzerland	13 775	101	120	95	101	107	119	21 648	74	122	95	146	78	84
Turkey	..	57	..	..	..	..	..	..	55	..	..	..	..	..
United Kingdom	9 169	86	139	87	89	99	156	15 310	97	143	89	110	109	130
United States	10 995	80	125	95	108	84	116	29 910	71	117	92	120	77	98
OECD average	8 169	85	129	99	98	87	134	13 717	80	140	83	124	98	114
Brazil	2 098	82	216	85	98	96	221	11 610	78	148	79	157	98	94
Russian Federation	4 071	..	198	..	..	..	..	6 758	..	328	..	..	..	..

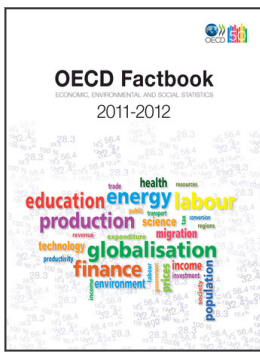
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932506685>

Changes in expenditure on educational institutions in tertiary education by factor

Changes in 2000-08 or latest available period, 2000 = 100



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932506704>



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