

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, notably 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.

Definition

The indicator shows direct 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 2006 is expressed in US dollars at PPP exchange rates. 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.

Expenditure on education per student is obtained by dividing the total expenditure on educational institutions by the number of full-time equivalents students.

Comparability

The data on expenditures were obtained by a special survey conducted in 2008 which applied consistent methods and definitions. Expenditure data are based on the definitions and coverage of the joint UNESCO-OECD-Eurostat data collection programme on education; they have been adjusted to 2006 prices using the GDP price deflator. The use of a common survey and definitions ensures good comparability of results across countries.

Overview

In 2006, the average level of expenditure per tertiary student, across OECD countries, was 12 336 USD. Spending per student at tertiary level student ranges between 4 063 USD in Estonia and more than 20 000 USD in 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 R&D is performed in other public institutions or by industry. On average, for the countries where data are available, expenditure per student on tertiary education increased by 11% in real terms from 2000 to 2006. However, spending per student declined in Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, as well as in Brazil, Chile and Israel. In all of these countries except Germany, this decline was mainly the result of a rapid increase (by 10% or more) in the number of tertiary students.

The OECD average level of expenditure per student for primary, secondary and post-secondary education was 7 283 USD. Between 2000 and 2006, a period of relatively stable student enrolment at these levels, spending per students increased in every country, rising by 24% on average. Over this period, expenditure per student in primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education increased by at least 10% in 22 out of the 30 OECD and partner countries for which data are available. The rise exceeds 30% in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Korea, Poland, the Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom, as well as in Brazil and Estonia.

Sources

- OECD (2009), *Education at a Glance*, OECD, Paris.

Further information

Analytical publications

- OECD (2004), *Internationalisation and Trade in Higher Education: Opportunities and Challenges*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2004), *Quality and Recognition in Higher Education: The Cross-border Challenge*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2006), *Education Policy Analysis: Focus on Higher Education*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2008), *Higher Education Management and Policy*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2008), *Reviews of National Policies for Education*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2008), *Trends Shaping Education – 2008 Edition*, OECD, Paris.

Methodological publications

- OECD (2004), *OECD Handbook for Internationally Comparative Education Statistics: Concepts, Standards, Definitions and Classifications*, OECD, Paris.
- UIS, OECD and Eurostat (2009), *UOE Data Collection – 2009 Data Collection on Education Systems: Definitions, Explanations and Instructions*, OECD, Paris.

Web sites

- OECD Education at a Glance, www.oecd.org/edu/eag2009.



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

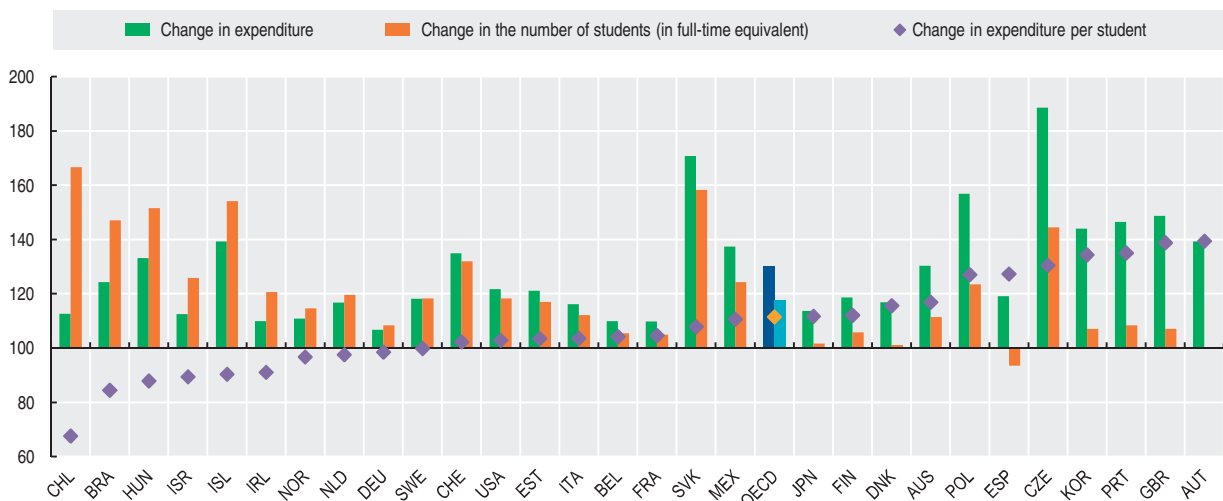
Year 2006

	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education						Tertiary education		
	Expenditure per student US dollars, 2006 constant prices and PPPs	Index of change, year 2000 = 100			Expenditure per student US dollars, 2006 constant prices and PPPs	Index of change, year 2000 = 100			
		Expenditure	Number of students	Expenditure per student		Expenditure	Number of students	Expenditure per student	
Australia	7 459	116	105	111	15 016	130	111	117	
Austria	9 910	106	97	109	15 148	139	100	139	
Belgium	7 980	110	107	102	13 244	110	105	104	
Canada	7 774	119	95	125	22 810	124	..	..
Czech Republic	4 532	137	91	152	7 989	189	145	130	
Denmark	9 270	119	106	112	15 391	117	101	116	
Finland	6 891	125	105	119	12 845	119	106	112	
France	7 712	101	98	103	11 568	110	105	105	
Germany	6 985	100	97	104	13 016	107	108	99	
Hungary	4 188	151	91	167	6 367	133	152	88	
Iceland	8 877	143	106	135	8 579	139	154	90	
Ireland	7 318	165	104	159	11 832	110	121	91	
Italy	8 204	112	102	110	8 725	116	112	104	
Japan	7 661	101	91	112	13 418	114	102	112	
Korea	6 089	155	98	159	8 564	144	107	134	
Luxembourg	15 440	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mexico	2 072	125	107	117	6 462	137	124	111	
Netherlands	8 109	121	104	116	15 196	117	120	98	
New Zealand	5 589	106	..	..	9 288	131	..	..
Norway	10 448	110	107	103	16 235	111	115	97	
Poland	3 568	118	84	141	5 224	157	124	127	
Portugal	5 967	99	89	112	9 724	146	108	135	
Slovak Republic	3 032	140	89	157	6 056	171	158	108	
Spain	7 016	112	94	119	11 087	119	94	127	
Sweden	8 123	114	101	114	16 991	118	118	100	
Switzerland	11 129	109	102	106	22 230	135	132	102	
Turkey	1 286	..	..	..	4 648	..	..	..
United Kingdom	8 306	134	89	150	15 447	149	107	139	
United States	10 267	117	103	114	25 109	122	118	103	
OECD average	7 283	121	98	124	12 336	130	118	111	
Brazil	1 550	171	103	165	10 294	124	147	84	
Chile	2 089	105	102	103	6 292	113	167	68	
Estonia	4 147	140	83	170	4 063	121	117	104	
Israel	5 322	113	108	105	11 132	113	126	89	
Russian Federation	2 399	174	..	..	4 279	258	..	..
Slovenia	7 759	..	..	..	8 251	..	..	..

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/826203021461>

Changes in expenditure on educational institutions in tertiary education by factor

Changes in 2000-2006, year 2000 = 100



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