

Glossary

- Ancillary services:** Ancillary services are services provided by educational institutions that are peripheral to the main educational mission. The two main components of ancillary services are student welfare services and services for the general public.
- Class size:** Class size is the average number of students per class, calculated by dividing the number of students enrolled by the number of classes.
- Completion rates:** Completion rates are based on the proportion of new entrants into a specified level of education who graduate with at least a first degree at this level, in the amount of time normally allocated for completing the programme.
- Compulsory education:** Compulsory education refers to the legal age from which children are no longer compelled to attend school (e.g., 15th birthday).
- Current expenditure:** Current expenditure corresponds to education spending on goods and services consumed within the current year, which needs to be made recurrently to sustain the production of educational services.
- Dropout rate:** Dropout rates correspond to the proportion of students who leave a specified level in the educational system without obtaining a first qualification.
- Educational attainment:** Educational attainment is expressed by the highest completed level of education, defined according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED).
- Educational personnel:** The classification is based on four main functional categories i) Instructional personnel; ii) Professional support for students; iii) Management/Quality control/Administration; and iv) Maintenance and operations personnel. Teaching staff (teachers) and teachers' aides make up the category instructional personnel.
- Education expectancy:** Education expectancy is the average duration of formal education in which a five-year-old child can expect to enrol over his or her lifetime.
- Employment rate:** Employment rates represent the number of persons in employment as a percentage of the working-age population.
- Enrolment rates:** Enrolment rates represent the number of students of a particular age group enrolled in all levels of education as a percentage of the total population of that age group.
- Expenditure on educational core services:** Expenditure on educational core services includes all expenditure that is directly related to instruction and education. This should cover all expenditure on teachers, school buildings, teaching materials, books, tuition outside schools, and administration of schools.
- First-generation students:** First-generation students are those students who reported in PISA that they were born in the country of assessment but whose parents were born in another country.

- Foreign students:** Foreign students are students who do not hold the citizenship of the country for which the data are collected.
- General programmes:** General programmes are programmes that are not designed explicitly to prepare participants for a specific class of occupations or trades or for entry into further vocational or technical education programmes.
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the standard measure of the value of final goods and services produced by a country during a period minus the value of imports.
- Human capital:** Human capital is productive wealth embodied in labour, skills and knowledge.
- Intended instruction time:** Intended instruction time refers to the number of hours per year for which students ought to receive instruction in both the compulsory and non-compulsory parts of the curriculum.
- Lower secondary education:** Lower secondary education completes the provision of basic education, usually in a more subject-oriented way with more specialist teachers. Entry follows 6 years of primary education; duration is 3 years. In some countries, the end of this level marks the end of compulsory education.
- Net graduation rates:** Net graduation rates refer to the estimated percentage of people from a specific age group who will complete tertiary education over their lifetimes, based on current patterns of graduation.
- PISA or Programme for International Student Assessment:** The Programme for International Student Assessment is an international study conducted by the OECD which measures how well young adults, at age 15 and therefore approaching the end of compulsory schooling, are prepared to meet the challenges of today's knowledge societies.
- Post-secondary non-tertiary level of education:** Programmes at this level may be regarded nationally as part of upper secondary or post-secondary education, but in terms of international comparison their status is less clear cut. Programme content may not be much more advanced than in upper secondary, and is certainly lower than at tertiary level. Entry typically requires completion of an upper secondary programme. Duration is usually equivalent to between 6 months and 2 years of full-time study.
- Pre-primary education:** Pre-primary education is the first stage of organised instruction designed to introduce very young children to the school atmosphere (minimum entry age of 3).
- Primary education:** Primary education is designed to provide a sound basic education in reading, writing and mathematics and a basic understanding of some other subjects (entry age: between 5 and 7). Duration is of 6 years.
- Private expenditure:** Private expenditure refers to expenditure funded by private sources, i.e. households and other private entities. "Households" refers to students and their families. "Other private entities" include private business firms and non-profit organisations, including religious organisations, charitable organisations, and business and labour associations.
- Private institution:** An institution is classified as private if it is controlled and managed by a non-governmental organisation (e.g., a Church, Trade Union or business enterprise), or if its Governing Board consists mostly of members not selected by a public agency.
- Private internal rate of return:** The rate of return represents a measure of the returns obtained, over time, relative to the costs of the initial investment in education.

Public institution: An institution is classified as public if it is controlled and managed directly by a public education authority or agency; or is controlled and managed either by a government agency directly or by a governing body (Council, Committee etc.), most of whose members are appointed by a public authority or elected by public franchise.

Teaching time: Teaching time is defined as the scheduled number of hours per year that a full-time teacher teaches a group or class of students as set by policy.

University-level education: “Long-stream” programmes that are theory based and aimed at preparing students for further research or to give access to highly skilled professions, such as medicine or architecture. Entry is preceded by 13 years of education, and students are typically required to have completed upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education. Duration is equivalent to at least 3 years of full-time study, but 4 is more usual.

Upper secondary education: Upper secondary education corresponds to the final stage of secondary education in most OECD countries. Instruction is based on even stronger subject specialisation than at lower-secondary level, and teachers are usually more qualified. Students are typically expected to have completed 9 years of education or lower secondary schooling before entry and are generally around the age of 15 or 16.

Vocationally oriented tertiary education: “Short-stream” programmes that are more practically oriented or focus on the skills needed for students to directly enter specific occupations. Entry is preceded by 13 years of education; duration is equivalent to at least 2 years of full-time study, but 3 is more usual.

Vocational programmes: Vocational education prepares participants for direct entry, without further training, into specific occupations. Successful completion of such programmes leads to a labour-market relevant vocational qualification.



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