

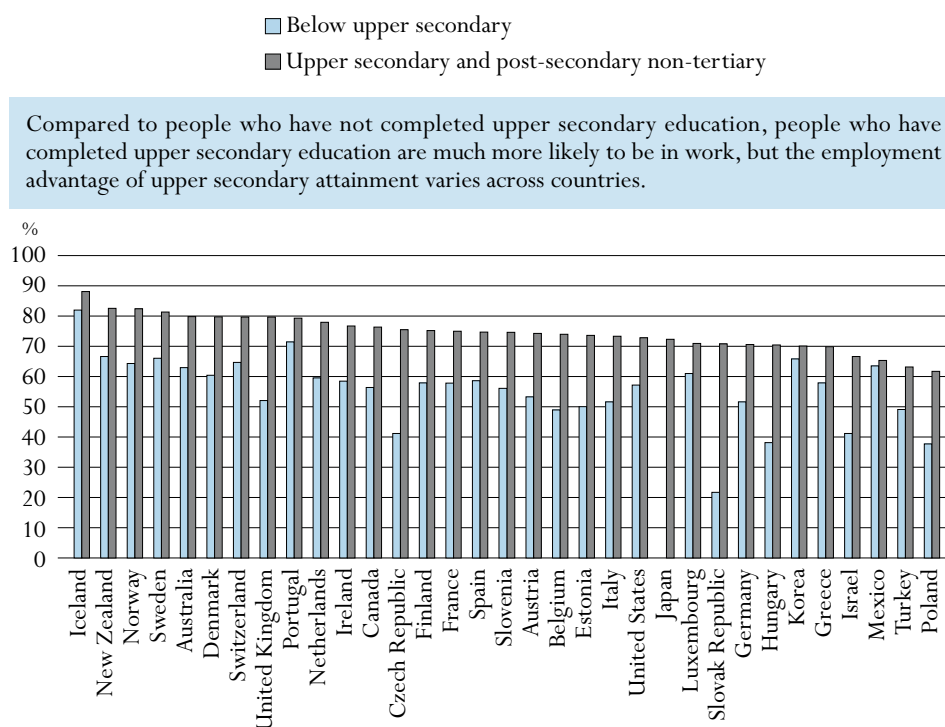
## HOW DOES PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION AFFECT PARTICIPATION IN THE LABOUR MARKET?

This indicator examines relationships between educational attainment and labour force status, for both males and females, and considers changes in these relationships over time.

### Key results

**Chart A8.1. Employment rates by educational attainment (2005)**


This chart shows the percentage of the 25-to-64-year-old population that is employed.



Compared to people who have not completed upper secondary education, people who have completed upper secondary education are much more likely to be in work, but the employment advantage of upper secondary attainment varies across countries.

Countries are ranked in descending order of the employment rates in upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education.

Source: OECD. Table A8.3. See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007)).

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### Other highlights of this indicator

- Employment rates rise with educational attainment in most OECD countries. With few exceptions, the employment rate for graduates of tertiary education is markedly higher than the rate for upper secondary graduates. For males, the gap is particularly wide between upper secondary graduates and those without an upper secondary qualification.
- Higher educated individuals also face a more stable labour market than lower educated individuals. In almost all OECD countries, tertiary-educated adults have had substantially less variation in unemployment rates compared with lower secondary educated adults. This advantage appears to be particularly large in the Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Norway and the Slovak Republic.
- Those with low educational attainment are both less likely to be labour force participants and more likely to be unemployed. Unemployment rates fall with higher educational attainment. The greatest gender differences in unemployment rates are seen among adults with lower levels of education (Chart A8.3).
- Differences in employment rates between males and females are also wider among less educated groups. The chance of being in employment is 23 percentage points higher for males than for females among those without upper secondary qualifications, falling to 10 points for the most highly qualified.

## Policy content

The economies and labour markets of OECD countries depend upon a stable supply of well-educated workers to further their economic development. As levels of skill tend to rise with educational attainment, the costs incurred also rise when those with higher levels of education do not work. As populations in OECD countries age, higher levels of education and longer participation in employment can lower dependency ratios and help to alleviate the burden of financing public pensions.

Employment rates normally rise with educational attainment. This is principally due to the larger investment in human capital made by higher-educated individuals and the need for these individuals to recoup this investment. However, between countries variation in employment rates often reflect cultural differences and, most notably, differences in the labour participation rates among female workers. Similarly, unemployment rates are generally lower for higher-educated individuals, but this is typically because higher educational attainment makes an individual more attractive in the labour market. Unemployment rates thus include information on the individual's desire to work, as well as on the attractiveness of the individual for potential employers.

In this sense, employment rates are more tied to the labour supply while unemployment rates are more tied to the labour demand. Time series on both measures thus carries important information for policy makers about the supply, and potential supply, of skills to the labour market and the demand for these skills by employers.

## Evidence and explanations

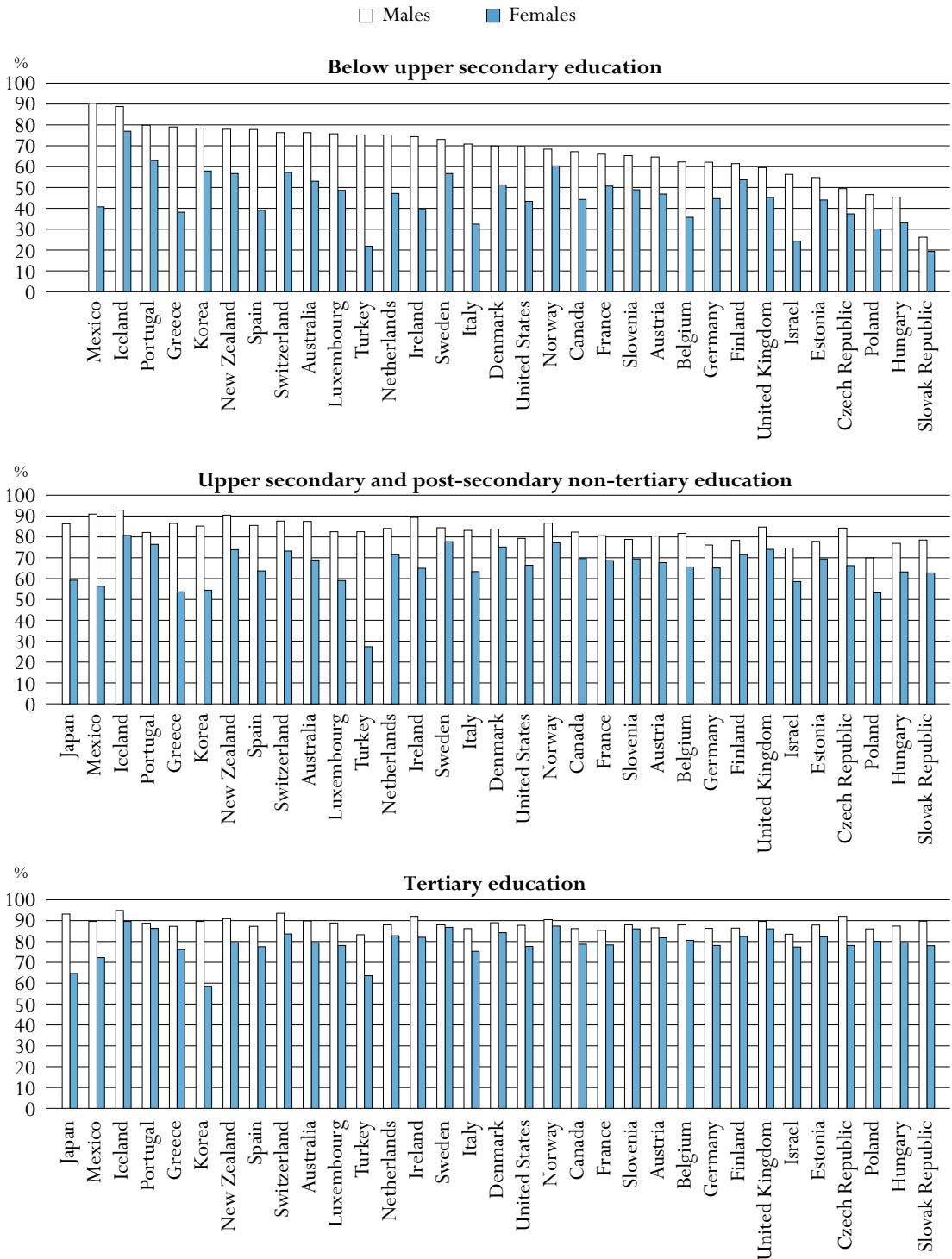
### Employment

Variation among countries in employment among females is a primary factor in the differences in overall employment rates. The seven countries with the highest overall rate of employment for individuals aged 25 to 64 – Denmark, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom – also have among the highest overall rate of employment for females. The overall employment rate for males aged 25 to 64 ranges from 77% or less in Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, and the Slovak Republic to above 85% in Iceland, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Mexico and Switzerland (Table A8.1a). By contrast, employment rates among females range from 55% or less in Greece, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Spain and Turkey, to 77% and more in Iceland, Norway and Sweden, reflecting different cultural and social patterns.

Employment rates for graduates of tertiary education are markedly higher – around 9 percentage points on average for OECD countries – than that for upper secondary graduates. For 2005, the difference ranges from a few percentage points to 12 percentage points or more in Germany, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Mexico, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Turkey (Table A8.3a). While there have been some large changes over time in the employment rates of educational groups within countries, the OECD averages for lower secondary, upper secondary and tertiary educated adults have been rather stable over last decade.

The gap in employment rates of males aged 25 to 64 years is particularly wide between upper secondary graduates and those who have not completed an upper secondary qualification. The extreme cases are the Czech Republic, Hungary and the Slovak Republic, where rates of employment for males with an upper secondary level of education are at least 30 percentage points higher than

**Chart A8.2. Employment rates, by educational attainment (2005)**  
 Percentage of the 25-to-64-year-old population that is employed



Countries are ranked in descending order of the employment rate of males having attained less than upper secondary education. Source: OECD. Table A8.3b and A8.3c. See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007)).

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for a male without such attainment. The gap in employment rates between males with and without upper secondary attainment is 7 percentage points or less in Iceland, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico and Portugal (Chart A8.2 and Table A3b).

In 2005, employment rates for females aged 25 to 64 show more substantial differences, not only between those with below upper secondary and those with upper secondary attainment (15 percentage points or more in 24 out of the 29 OECD countries for which data were available), but also between those with upper secondary and those with tertiary attainment (10 percentage points or more in 20 countries).

Employment rates for females with lower secondary attainment are particularly low, averaging 49% across all OECD countries and standing at 35% or below in Hungary, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Turkey and the partner economies Chile and Israel. Employment rates for females with tertiary-type A attainment equal or exceed 75 % everywhere except Japan, Korea, Mexico and Turkey, but remain below those of males in all countries (Table A8.1a).

On average among OECD countries, at successively higher levels of educational attainment, the difference between the employment rates of males and females decreases significantly: from 23 percentage points at the below upper secondary level to 10 percentage points at the tertiary level (Tables A8.3b and A8.3c).

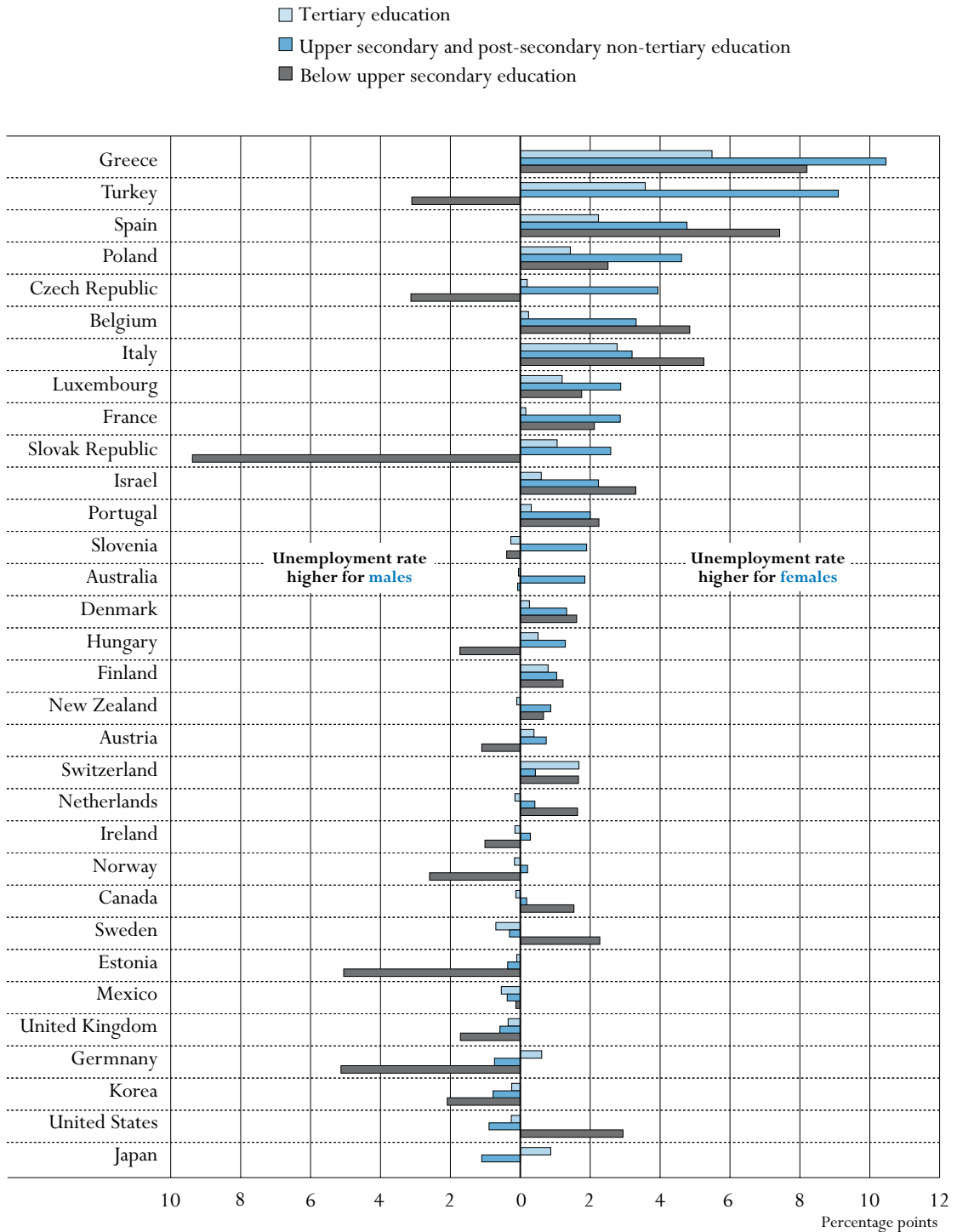
### **Unemployment rates fall with higher educational attainment**

The employment prospects of individuals with varying levels of educational attainment depend largely on the requirements of labour markets and on the supply of workers with different skills. Unemployment rates thus provide a signal of the match between what is produced in the education system and the demand for these skills in the labour market. Those with low educational qualifications are at particular risk of economic marginalisation since they are both less likely to be labour force participants and more likely to be without a job even if they are actively seeking one.

Among OECD countries, an upper-secondary level of education is typically considered to be the minimum level needed to obtain a satisfactory, competitive, position in the labour market. On average, the rate of unemployment among individuals with an upper secondary education is 5 percentage points lower than among individuals who only have not completed upper secondary education (Table A8.4a). Depending on industry composition and levels of economic development, the unemployment risk associated with non-attainment of the upper secondary level varies among countries, being particularly large (at over 10%) in the Czech Republic, Poland, and especially high in the Slovak Republic (36.5%). In only four countries is a lack of upper secondary education not associated with a higher unemployment risk: Greece, Korea, Mexico and Turkey. The unemployment rate for below upper secondary level of education is even lower than for upper.

On average in OECD countries, male labour force participants aged 25 to 64 and with education below the upper secondary level are more than twice as likely to be unemployed as their counterparts who have completed upper secondary education, reflecting the role of upper secondary education as a minimum requirement to meet skills demands in the labour market in most countries (Table A8.4a). The negative association between unemployment rates and educational attainment

**Chart A8.3. Differences between unemployment rates of females and males, by level of educational attainment**



Countries are ranked in descending order of the difference in unemployment rates of females and males who have completed upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education.

Source: OECD, Table A8.4. See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007)).

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is similar among females. Differences in unemployment rates among males and females generally decrease with educational attainment. Among tertiary educated females, unemployment rates are above two percentage points only in Greece, Italy, Spain, and Turkey. In 12 OECD countries and 2 partner economies, unemployment rates for males with below upper secondary education are higher than those for females (Chart A8.3, Tables A8.4b and A8.4c).

### The changes in unemployment

Between 1995 and 2005, on average across OECD countries, the unemployment rates for those with upper secondary education decreased by almost 1.5 percentage points. Among the 15 countries that experienced this decrease, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain and the United Kingdom also decreased the unemployment rates for those with education below the upper secondary level and for those with tertiary education. Although the difference between the unemployment rate among individuals with upper secondary and tertiary levels of education has been stable over the past ten years, achieving an upper secondary education makes less of a difference in the labour market than the achievement of tertiary education since the tertiary-level unemployment rate is almost – except Italy and Mexico – always lower than the upper secondary level rate (Table A8.4a).

The difference in unemployment rates between those with an upper secondary education and those with tertiary education has decreased marginally, from 2.8% to 2.2% during the period 1995 to 2005. In contrast, the difference between upper secondary and lower secondary unemployment rates increased from 3.4% to 5.0% during the same period. Considering the substantial expansion of upper secondary and tertiary attainment levels in most countries during this period, these time series suggest that these increases have been matched by a demand for higher skills in most countries. That it is increasingly difficult for those with a lower secondary education to find employment also suggests that the number of jobs at this level of education is decreasing in most labour markets.

Achieving tertiary education not only means that individuals are more likely to find a job, but also that tertiary educated individuals experience substantially less variation in their employments compared with lower educated individuals, as shown by the trend data in Table A8.4a. The variation in unemployment over the period 1991 to 2005 is higher for lower secondary educated individuals than for tertiary educated individuals in all OECD countries except Turkey where lower and higher educated have experience similar fluctuation in unemployment rates during this period. The advantage of a more stable position in the labour market appears to be particularly large in the Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Norway and the Slovak Republic for individuals with tertiary education as unemployment rates varies substantially less in these countries.


### Definition and methodologies

Under the auspices of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the conferences of labour statisticians, concepts and definitions to measure labour force participation were progressively established and are now used as a common reference (see the “Resolution Concerning Statistics of the Economically Active Population, Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment” (1982), adopted by the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians). The employment rate refers to the number of persons in employment as a percentage of the population of working age. Unemployment rates refer to unemployed persons as a percentage of the civilian labour force.

The unemployed are defined as individuals who are, during the survey reference week, without work, actively seeking employment and currently available to start work. The employed are defined as those who during the survey reference week: *i*) work for pay (employees) or profit (self-employed and unpaid family workers) for at least one hour; or *ii*) have a job but are temporarily not at work (through injury, illness, holiday, strike or lock-out, educational or training leave, maternity or parental leave, etc.).

### Further references

The following additional material relevant to this indicator is available on line at:

**StatLink**  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/068152681851>

- *Employment rates and educational attainment:*  
*Table A8.1b: Total adult population*
- *Unemployment rates and educational attainment:*  
*Table A8.2b: Total adult population*
- *Trends in employment rates by educational attainment, by gender*  
*Table A8.3b: Males*  
*Table A8.3c: Females*
- *Trends in unemployment rates by educational attainment, by gender*  
*Table A8.4b: Males*  
*Table A8.4c: Females*



Table A8.1a.  
**Employment rates and educational attainment, by gender (2005)**

Number of 25-to-64-year-olds in employment as a percentage of the population aged 25 to 64, by level of education attained and gender

OECD countries		Pre- primary and primary education (1)	Lower secondary education (2)	Upper secondary education			Post- secondary non- tertiary education (6)	Tertiary education		All levels of education (9)
				ISCED 3C short (3)	ISCED 3C long/ 3B (4)	ISCED 3A (5)		Type B (7)	Type A and advanced research programmes (8)	
Australia	Males	64	81	a	a	87	90	89	90	85
	Females	36	58	a	a	68	78	75	82	66
Austria	Males	x(2)	65	a	80	77	85	85	89	79
	Females	x(2)	47	a	66	65	78	81	82	65
Belgium	Males	49	72	a	82	81	87	87	89	77
	Females	25	46	a	60	67	73	80	82	60
Canada	Males	56	72	a	x(5)	82	84	87	86	82
	Females	32	51	a	x(5)	69	72	78	80	71
Czech Republic	Males	c	51	a	82	88	x(5)	x(8)	92	83
	Females	c	38	a	61	71	x(5)	x(8)	78	64
Denmark	Males	55	71	82	84	75	94	89	89	83
	Females	42	52	71	76	66	100	81	85	74
Finland	Males	54	71	a	a	78	89	84	88	77
	Females	46	62	a	a	71	95	81	83	72
France	Males	52	75	a	81	81	70	88	84	77
	Females	41	59	a	67	71	66	81	76	65
Germany	Males	52	65	a	76	61	83	84	88	77
	Females	32	47	a	65	52	74	77	79	64
Greece	Males	76	86	85	91	86	88	85	88	84
	Females	36	45	54	57	50	66	74	77	52
Hungary	Males	18	48	a	76	79	84	81	88	72
	Females	7	35	a	59	66	66	89	79	58
Iceland	Males	82	90	92	95	84	94	93	95	92
	Females	79	77	83	84	74	96	92	89	82
Ireland	Males	63	85	78	a	89	90	92	92	84
	Females	31	48	52	a	63	69	78	85	62
Italy	Males	52	78	79	84	83	87	81	86	77
	Females	18	43	51	60	64	70	70	75	50
Japan	Males	x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	86	a	93	93	89
	Females	x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	59	a	64	66	61
Korea	Males	75	81	a	x(5)	85	a	89	90	86
	Females	57	59	a	x(5)	54	a	59	58	57
Luxembourg	Males	71	85	84	81	84	83	85	90	83
	Females	50	47	54	51	66	74	78	78	60
Mexico	Males	89	93	a	91	x(2)	a	93	89	90
	Females	37	48	a	56	x(2)	a	76	72	46
Netherlands	Males	62	80	x(4)	80	87	81	87	88	83
	Females	34	52	x(4)	67	74	74	82	83	67
New Zealand	Males	x(2)	78	a	91	89	92	92	91	88
	Females	x(2)	57	a	75	72	76	78	80	72
Norway	Males	c	69	a	88	84	86	95	90	84
	Females	c	61	a	77	76	84	89	87	77

 Source: OECD. See Annex 3 for a description of ISCED-97 levels, ISCED-97 country mappings and national data sources ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007)).

Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning the symbols replacing missing data.


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Table A8.1a. (continued)  
**Employment rates and educational attainment, by gender (2005)**

Number of 25-to-64-year-olds in employment as a percentage of the population aged 25 to 64, by level of education attained and gender

		Pre- primary and primary education	Lower secondary education	Upper secondary education			Post- secondary non- tertiary education	Tertiary education		All levels of education	
				ISCED 3C short	ISCED 3C long/3B	ISCED 3A		Type B	Type A and advanced research programmes		
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
OECD countries	Poland	Males	x(2)	47	67	a	74	77	x(8)	86	69
		Females	x(2)	30	46	a	57	64	x(8)	80	55
	Portugal	Males	78	85	x(5)	x(5)	82	83	x(8)	89	81
		Females	60	74	x(5)	x(5)	77	69	x(8)	86	68
	Slovak Republic	Males	c	28	x(4)	73	85	x	83	90	75
		Females	c	20	x(4)	56	67	x	75	78	57
	Spain	Males	70	85	a	88	84	87	88	87	82
		Females	31	48	a	63	64	74	73	79	55
	Sweden	Males	63	80	a	x(5)	85	84	84	89	83
		Females	46	64	a	x(5)	78	75	86	87	78
	Switzerland	Males	74	77	82	88	83	88	94	93	89
		Females	51	59	65	74	73	82	87	82	73
	Turkey	Males	75	78	a	84	82	a	x(8)	83	78
		Females	22	19	a	29	26	a	x(8)	64	26
	United Kingdom	Males	c	60	83	84	88	a	88	90	83
		Females	c	45	70	75	80	a	85	87	73
United States	Males	70	69	x(5)	x(5)	79	x(5)	85	89	81	
	Females	39	46	x(5)	x(5)	66	x(5)	77	78	68	
OECD average	Males	64	73		84	82	86	88	89	82	
	Females	39	49		64	66	76	79	79	63	
EU19 average	Males	58	69		82	81	85	86	89	79	
	Females	36	47		63	67	74	79	81	63	
Partner economies	Chile <sup>1</sup>	Males	24	63	x(5)	x(5)	72	a	81	84	74
		Females	9	27	x(5)	x(5)	60	a	69	80	61
	Estonia	Males	16	59	a	64	82	73	86	89	78
		Females	26	45	a	66	68	76	78	85	72
	Israel	Males	x(2)	56	a	x(5)	75	a	81	85	74
		Females	x(2)	24	a	x(5)	59	a	71	81	61
	Slovenia	Males	44	69	a	77	81	a	84	92	78
		Females	26	52	a	67	71	a	82	90	69

Note: Due to incomplete data, some averages have not been calculated.

1. Year of reference 2004.

Source: OECD. See Annex 3 for a description of ISCED-97 levels, ISCED-97 country mappings and national data sources ([www.oecd.org/edu/eqq2007](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eqq2007)).

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Table A8.2a.  
Unemployment rates and educational attainment, by gender (2005)

Number of 25-to-64-year-olds in unemployment as a percentage of the labour force aged 25 to 64, by level of education attained and gender

OECD countries		Pre-primary and primary education	Lower secondary education	Upper secondary education			Post-secondary non-tertiary education	Tertiary education		All levels of education
				ISCED 3C short	ISCED 3C long/3B	ISCED 3A		Type B	Type A and advanced research programmes	
				(1)	(2)	(3)		(4)	(5)	
Australia	Males	7.4	6.0	a	a	2.7	3.6	2.9	2.4	3.7
	Females	9.2	5.7	a	a	4.6	4.5	2.9	2.3	4.3
Austria	Males	x(2)	9.2	a	3.6	c	c	c	3.1	4.0
	Females	x(2)	8.1	a	4.4	c	c	c	c	4.7
Belgium	Males	14.9	8.2	a	7.0	5.0	c	3.3	3.9	6.3
	Females	18.5	13.7	a	12.1	7.4	8.8	3.6	4.3	8.2
Canada	Males	10.8	8.6	a	x(5)	5.9	5.6	4.9	4.5	5.8
	Females	13.7	9.7	a	x(5)	6.0	6.1	4.7	4.4	5.7
Czech Republic	Males	c	26.4	a	5.5	2.8	x(8)	x(8)	1.9	5.2
	Females	c	23.0	a	12.1	5.5	x(8)	x(8)	2.1	9.0
Denmark	Males	c	5.9	c	3.4	c	c	2.9	3.8	3.9
	Females	c	7.6	c	4.7	5.8	c	5.3	3.5	4.8
Finland	Males	8.4	11.9	a	a	6.9	c	4.4	3.7	6.6
	Females	11.4	11.5	a	a	8.0	c	5.1	4.4	7.1
France	Males	12.8	10.7	a	5.6	7.7	6.8	5.3	6.3	7.5
	Females	13.3	13.7	a	9.3	8.0	20.4	5.4	6.6	9.4
Germany	Males	29.2	21.3	a	11.9	11.0	7.2	5.7	5.0	10.9
	Females	25.4	16.4	a	11.3	10.0	6.5	6.1	5.7	10.6
Greece	Males	4.8	6.0	c	c	3.8	6.5	4.4	4.6	4.9
	Females	12.2	16.8	c	23.2	14.0	16.7	10.3	9.9	13.2
Hungary	Males	c	12.5	a	6.5	3.8	c	c	2.0	5.8
	Females	c	11.2	a	9.1	5.4	c	c	2.6	6.5
Iceland	Males	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1.5
	Females	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1.8
Ireland	Males	8.2	5.0	c	a	3.0	2.8	c	1.9	3.9
	Females	5.5	5.2	c	a	3.1	3.7	c	1.7	3.2
Italy	Males	7.9	5.5	7.8	3.0	3.9	6.2	7.4	4.2	4.9
	Females	11.9	11.0	15.9	7.0	6.6	11.6	9.5	7.0	8.4
Japan	Males	x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	5.4	a	3.5	2.5	4.3
	Females	x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	4.3	a	3.9	3.0	4.1
Korea	Males	3.9	4.0	a	x(5)	4.1	a	4.3	2.6	3.6
	Females	1.9	1.9	a	x(5)	3.3	a	3.7	2.3	2.7
Luxembourg	Males	4.3	c	c	c	3.1	c	c	2.4	2.9
	Females	5.7	c	c	7.7	3.1	c	c	5.0	5.0
Mexico	Males	2.3	2.8	a	3.5	a	a	2.6	4.0	2.8
	Females	1.9	3.2	a	3.1	a	a	1.7	3.5	2.6
Netherlands	Males	8.0	4.3	x(4)	4.7	3.4	3.9	2.3	2.9	3.9
	Females	8.9	6.2	x(4)	4.5	4.3	3.9	c	2.8	4.4
New Zealand	Males	x(2)	3.5	a	1.9	2.1	2.2	c	2.0	2.3
	Females	x(2)	4.2	a	3.1	2.3	3.6	1.6	2.0	2.8
Norway	Males	c	8.5	a	2.1	c	c	c	2.4	3.7
	Females	c	6.2	a	2.7	c	c	c	2.2	3.3

Note: c too small sample to provide reliable estimates.

Source: OECD. See Annex 3 for a description of ISCED-97 levels, ISCED-97 country mappings and national data sources ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007)).

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Table A8.2a. (continued)

## Unemployment rates and educational attainment, by gender (2005)

Number of 25-to-64-year-olds in unemployment as a percentage of the labour force aged 25 to 64, by level of education attained and gender

		Pre-primary and primary education	Lower secondary education	Upper secondary education			Post-secondary non-tertiary education	Tertiary education		All levels of education	
				ISCED 3C short	ISCED 3C long/3B	ISCED 3A		Type B	Type A and advanced research programmes		
											(1)
OECD countries	Poland	Males	x(2)	26.0	17.1	a	11.1	11.0	x(8)	5.4	14.3
		Females	x(2)	28.5	24.6	a	16.6	12.7	x(8)	6.8	17.1
	Portugal	Males	6.5	6.8	x(5)	x(5)	5.6	c	x(8)	5.2	6.3
		Females	8.6	9.5	x(5)	x(5)	7.5	c	x(8)	5.5	8.0
	Slovak Republic	Males	85.0	52.7	x(4)	15.8	6.5	a	c	3.9	13.2
		Females	94.6	43.0	x(4)	19.6	10.8	a	c	4.5	15.7
	Spain	Males	7.7	6.0	c	4.8	5.4	c	4.7	5.4	5.8
		Females	13.9	14.3	c	12.1	8.8	c	9.2	6.9	10.6
	Sweden	Males	9.1	6.9	a	x(5)	6.0	7.0	5.8	4.6	6.0
		Females	11.0	9.4	a	x(5)	5.5	8.5	3.7	4.5	5.7
	Switzerland	Males	c	6.9	c	3.2	c	c	c	2.5	3.3
		Females	11.2	7.7	c	3.7	5.3	c	c	4.4	4.5
	Turkey	Males	9.4	9.2	a	7.0	8.2	x(8)	x(8)	5.8	8.5
		Females	5.6	13.5	a	15.5	17.5	x(8)	x(8)	9.4	8.5
United Kingdom	Males	x(2)	7.4	4.0	3.5	2.0	a	1.5	2.2	3.6	
	Females	x(2)	5.7	3.4	2.5	1.6	a	1.5	1.8	3.1	
United States	Males	6.8	8.7	x(5)	x(5)	5.5	x(5)	3.7	2.5	4.7	
	Females	9.0	11.8	x(5)	x(5)	4.6	x(5)	3.4	2.2	4.2	
OECD average	Males	13.0	10.8		5.5	5.2		4.1	3.6	5.5	
	Females	14.7	11.8		8.8	6.9		4.8	4.3	6.6	
EU19 average	Males	15.9	12.9		6.3	5.4		4.4	3.8	6.3	
	Females	18.5	14.2		10.0	7.3		6.0	4.7	8.1	
Partner economies	Chile <sup>1</sup>	Males	5.8	6.9	x(5)	x(5)	6.8	a	12.6	6.0	6.6
		Females	6.1	8.9	x(5)	x(5)	9.2	a	10.7	7.1	8.4
	Estonia	Males	c	12.8	a	10.4	7.6	14.2	c	4.4	7.8
		Females	c	10.2	a	c	8.9	6.1	5.0	3.1	6.4
	Israel	Males	x(2)	13.1	a	a	8.5	a	6.6	3.9	7.6
		Females	x(2)	16.4	a	a	10.8	a	6.6	4.8	8.1
	Slovenia	Males	8.5	8.9	a	5.5	4.2	a	3.2	3.0	5.1
		Females	16.2	8.0	a	7.3	6.5	a	3.3	2.5	6.0

Note: c too small sample to provide reliable estimates. Due to incomplete data, some averages have not been calculated.

1. Year of reference 2004.

Source: OECD. See Annex 3 for a description of ISCED-97 levels, ISCED-97 country mappings and national data sources ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007)).

Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning the symbols replacing missing data.


StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/068152681851>

Table A8.3a.

## Trends in employment rates, by educational attainment (1991-2005)

Number of 25-to-64-year-olds in employment as a percentage of the population aged 25 to 64, by level of educational attainment

		1991	1995	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
OECD countries	<b>Australia</b>										
	Below upper secondary	54	60	59	59	61	60	60	61	61	63
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	71	75	76	76	77	78	78	79	79	80
	Tertiary education	81	83	84	82	83	83	83	83	83	84
<b>Austria</b>	Below upper secondary	52	56	53	53	54	54	55	55	52	53
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	73	77	75	76	75	75	75	75	74	74
	Tertiary education	88	88	86	87	87	86	86	85	82	85
<b>Belgium</b>	Below upper secondary	49	47	47	49	51	49	49	49	49	49
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	75	72	72	75	75	74	74	73	73	74
	Tertiary education	85	84	84	85	85	84	84	84	84	84
<b>Canada</b>	Below upper secondary	55	52	53	54	55	54	55	56	57	56
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	75	73	74	75	76	75	76	76	77	76
	Tertiary education	83	82	82	82	83	82	82	82	82	82
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Below upper secondary	m	56	50	47	47	47	45	44	42	41
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	82	78	76	76	76	76	75	75	75
	Tertiary education	m	92	89	87	87	88	87	86	86	86
<b>Denmark</b>	Below upper secondary	62	61	61	62	62	61	61	61	60	60
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	81	76	79	81	81	81	80	80	80	80
	Tertiary education	89	89	87	88	89	87	86	85	86	86
<b>Finland</b>	Below upper secondary	64	54	56	59	57	58	58	58	57	58
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	78	70	73	74	75	75	74	73	74	75
	Tertiary education	88	81	83	85	84	85	85	85	84	84
<b>France</b>	Below upper secondary	58	57	56	56	57	58	58	58	58	58
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	78	76	75	75	76	77	77	76	75	75
	Tertiary education	85	82	82	82	83	84	83	82	82	82
<b>Germany</b>	Below upper secondary	51	49	46	49	51	52	51	50	49	52
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	74	71	68	70	70	71	70	70	69	71
	Tertiary education	86	84	82	83	83	83	84	83	83	83
<b>Greece</b>	Below upper secondary	m	56	57	56	57	57	57	59	57	58
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	62	66	66	66	66	67	68	69	70
	Tertiary education	m	79	81	81	81	80	81	82	82	82
<b>Hungary</b>	Below upper secondary	m	m	36	36	36	37	37	37	37	38
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	71	72	72	72	72	71	71	70
	Tertiary education	m	m	81	82	82	83	82	83	83	83
<b>Iceland</b>	Below upper secondary	m	m	85	86	87	87	86	82	81	82
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	89	91	89	89	89	89	87	88
	Tertiary education	m	m	95	95	95	95	95	93	92	92
<b>Ireland</b>	Below upper secondary	46	49	53	54	60	57	57	57	57	58
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	63	67	72	75	77	77	77	76	76	77
	Tertiary education	81	83	85	87	87	87	86	86	86	87
<b>Italy</b>	Below upper secondary	54	49	47	48	48	49	50	51	52	52
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	74	70	70	70	71	72	72	72	73	73
	Tertiary education	87	81	81	81	81	82	82	82	81	80
<b>Japan</b>	Below upper secondary	m	m	69	68	67	68	67	67	m	m
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	76	74	74	74	74	74	72	72
	Tertiary education	m	m	79	79	79	80	79	79	79	79
<b>Korea</b>	Below upper secondary	70	71	66	67	68	68	68	67	66	66
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	70	71	66	66	69	69	70	70	70	70
	Tertiary education	80	80	76	75	75	76	76	76	77	77
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	55	58	58	59	59	59	61
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	73	73	74	74	71	69	71
	Tertiary education	m	m	m	85	84	86	85	82	84	84
<b>Mexico</b>	Below upper secondary	m	60	64	64	63	63	64	63	65	63
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	63	64	62	66	64	63	63	64	65
	Tertiary education	m	82	84	83	83	81	82	82	82	82

Source: OECD. See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/edu/eaq2007](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eaq2007)).

Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning the symbols replacing missing data.


StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/068152681851>

Table A8.3a. (continued)

## Trends in employment rates, by educational attainment (1991-2005)

Number of 25-to-64-year-olds in employment as a percentage of the population aged 25 to 64, by level of educational attainment

		1991	1995	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
OECD countries	<b>Netherlands</b>	Below upper secondary	50	52	55	57	58	59	61	59	60	
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	73	74	77	78	79	80	80	79	78	78	
	Tertiary education	85	83	85	87	86	86	86	86	85	86	
	<b>New Zealand</b>	Below upper secondary	57	58	59	60	61	62	64	63	65	67
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	73	80	79	80	80	81	81	82	82	83	
	Tertiary education	80	82	80	81	81	82	82	81	84	84	
	<b>Norway</b>	Below upper secondary	62	61	68	67	65	63	64	64	62	64
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	80	80	84	83	83	83	81	80	79	82	
	Tertiary education	90	89	90	90	90	90	89	89	89	89	
	<b>Poland</b>	Below upper secondary	m	50	49	47	43	41	39	38	37	38
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	70	71	70	67	65	62	62	61	62	
	Tertiary education	m	85	87	87	85	84	83	83	82	83	
	<b>Portugal</b>	Below upper secondary	62	67	72	72	73	73	73	72	72	71
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	84	77	80	82	83	83	82	82	80	79	
	Tertiary education	92	89	89	90	91	91	88	87	88	87	
	<b>Slovak Republic</b>	Below upper secondary	m	39	37	33	31	30	28	29	22	22
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	75	75	72	71	70	70	71	70	70	71
	Tertiary education	m	88	89	87	86	87	87	87	87	84	84
	<b>Spain</b>	Below upper secondary	49	46	49	51	54	55	56	57	57	59
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	72	65	67	70	72	72	72	72	73	75	
	Tertiary education	79	75	76	78	80	81	81	82	82	82	
<b>Sweden</b>	Below upper secondary	83	78	66	66	68	69	68	68	67	66	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	91	84	79	80	82	82	82	81	81	81		
Tertiary education	94	89	85	86	87	87	86	86	85	87		
<b>Switzerland</b>	Below upper secondary	78	67	69	69	66	69	68	66	65	65	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	80	80	81	81	82	81	81	80	80	80		
Tertiary education	92	90	90	91	91	91	91	90	90	90		
<b>Turkey</b>	Below upper secondary	60	64	57	56	53	52	50	49	50	49	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	67	63	66	64	64	62	62	61	62	63		
Tertiary education	87	74	81	79	78	78	76	75	75	76		
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Below upper secondary	61	55	53	53	54	54	53	54	53	52	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	78	77	79	79	79	79	79	80	79	80		
Tertiary education	86	86	87	88	88	88	88	88	88	88		
<b>United States</b>	Below upper secondary	52	54	58	58	58	58	57	58	57	57	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	74	75	76	76	77	76	74	73	73	73		
Tertiary education	85	86	85	85	85	84	83	82	82	82		
<b>OECD average</b>	<i>Below upper secondary</i>		57	57	57	57	57	57	57	56	56	
	<i>Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary</i>		73	74	75	75	75	75	74	74	75	
	<i>Tertiary education</i>		84	84	85	85	85	84	84	84	84	
<b>EU19 average</b>	<i>Below upper secondary</i>		54	52	53	53	54	53	53	52	53	
	<i>Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary</i>		73	74	74	75	75	74	74	74	74	
	<i>Tertiary education</i>		85	85	85	85	85	84	84	84	84	
Partner economies	<b>Estonia</b>	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	m	44	49	51	50
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	72	73	73	74
	tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	82	80	82	84
	<b>Israel</b>	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	m	43	43	40	41
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	67	66	66	67
	tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	79	79	79	80
<b>Slovenia</b>	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	m	56	54	56	56	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	74	73	74	75	
tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	86	86	87	87	

Note: Due to incomplete data, some averages have not been calculated.

Source: OECD. See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007)).

Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning the symbols replacing missing data.


StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/068152681851>

Table A8.4a.

## Trends in unemployment rates by educational attainment (1991-2005)

Number of 25-to-64-year-olds in unemployment as a percentage of the labour force aged 25 to 64, by level of educational attainment

		1991	1995	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
OECD countries	<b>Australia</b>										
	Below upper secondary	9.2	8.7	9.0	8.4	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.0	6.2	6.3
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6.8	6.2	5.8	5.1	4.5	4.7	4.3	4.3	3.9	3.4
	Tertiary education	3.9	4.0	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.1	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.5
	<b>Austria</b>										
	Below upper secondary	4.8	5.7	6.9	6.1	6.3	6.4	6.9	7.9	7.8	8.6
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3.1	2.9	3.6	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.8	3.9
	Tertiary education	1.5	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.9	2.0	2.9	2.6
	<b>Belgium</b>										
	Below upper secondary	11.8	13.4	13.1	12.0	9.8	8.5	10.3	10.7	11.7	12.4
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	4.2	7.5	7.4	6.6	5.3	5.5	6.0	6.7	6.9	6.9
	Tertiary education	2.0	3.6	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.7	3.5	3.5	3.9	3.7
	<b>Canada</b>										
	Below upper secondary	13.8	13.3	11.9	10.8	10.2	10.5	11.0	10.9	10.2	9.8
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	9.0	8.9	7.5	6.7	5.9	6.3	6.7	6.5	6.2	5.9
	Tertiary education	5.8	5.6	4.7	4.5	4.1	4.7	5.1	5.2	4.8	4.6
	<b>Czech Republic</b>										
	Below upper secondary	m	7.7	14.5	18.8	19.3	19.2	18.8	19.8	23.0	24.4
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	2.1	4.6	6.5	6.7	6.2	5.6	6.1	6.4	6.2
	Tertiary education	m	0.7	1.9	2.6	2.5	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0
	<b>Denmark</b>										
Below upper secondary	14.2	14.6	7.0	7.0	6.9	(6)	6.4	7.2	8.6	6.8	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	9.1	9.9	4.6	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.7	4.4	4.8	4.0	
Tertiary education	4.9	4.6	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.6	3.9	4.7	4.4	3.7	
<b>Finland</b>											
Below upper secondary	8.6	21.6	13.8	13.1	12.1	11.4	12.2	11.1	11.3	10.7	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	7.3	16.7	10.6	9.5	8.9	8.5	8.8	9.2	7.9	7.4	
Tertiary education	3.4	9.1	5.8	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.4	
<b>France</b>											
Below upper secondary	10.6	13.7	14.9	15.3	13.9	11.9	11.8	12.1	12.1	12.4	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6.6	9.0	9.6	9.2	7.9	6.9	6.8	7.4	7.5	7.3	
Tertiary education	3.7	6.5	6.6	6.1	5.1	4.8	5.2	6.0	6.1	6.0	
<b>Germany</b>											
Below upper secondary	7.4	13.3	16.5	15.6	13.7	13.5	15.3	18.0	20.4	20.2	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	4.7	7.9	10.3	8.6	7.8	8.2	9.0	10.2	11.2	11.0	
Tertiary education	3.2	4.9	5.5	4.9	4.0	4.2	4.5	5.2	5.6	5.5	
<b>Greece</b>											
Below upper secondary	m	6.3	7.5	8.5	7.9	7.6	7.4	6.9	8.4	8.2	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	9.0	10.4	11.0	11.1	10.1	9.9	9.5	9.6	9.2	
Tertiary education	m	8.1	6.3	7.8	7.4	6.9	6.7	6.1	7.2	7.0	
<b>Hungary</b>											
Below upper secondary	m	m	11.4	11.1	9.9	10.0	10.5	10.6	10.8	12.4	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	6.2	5.8	5.3	4.6	4.4	4.8	5.0	6.0	
Tertiary education	m	m	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.9	2.3	
<b>Iceland</b>											
Below upper secondary	m	m	3.4	2.3	2.5	2.4	3.1	3.7	2.8	c	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	c	c	c	c	2.4	c	c	c	
Tertiary education	m	m	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	
<b>Ireland</b>											
Below upper secondary	20.3	16.4	11.6	9.2	5.9	5.5	5.9	6.3	6.1	6.0	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	7.3	7.6	4.5	3.5	2.3	2.4	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	
Tertiary education	4.1	4.2	3.0	1.7	1.6	1.8	2.2	2.6	2.2	2.0	
<b>Italy</b>											
Below upper secondary	5.7	9.1	10.8	10.6	10.0	9.1	9.0	8.8	8.1	7.7	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	7.2	7.9	8.2	8.0	7.4	6.8	6.4	6.1	5.6	5.3	
Tertiary education	5.0	7.3	6.9	6.9	5.9	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.7	
<b>Japan</b>											
Below upper secondary	m	m	4.3	5.6	6.0	5.9	6.6	6.7	m	m	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	3.3	4.4	4.7	4.8	5.3	5.4	5.1	4.9	
Tertiary education	m	m	2.6	3.3	3.5	3.1	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.1	
<b>Korea</b>											
Below upper secondary	0.9	1.0	6.0	5.4	3.7	3.1	2.2	2.2	2.6	2.9	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	1.9	1.6	6.8	6.4	4.1	3.6	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.8	
Tertiary education	2.7	2.0	4.9	4.7	3.6	3.5	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.9	
<b>Luxembourg</b>											
Below upper secondary	m	m	m	3.7	3.1	1.8	3.8	3.5	5.4	5.0	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	1.1	1.6	1.1	1.2	2.6	4.3	3.5	
Tertiary education	m	m	m	c	c	c	1.8	4.0	3.2	3.2	
<b>Mexico</b>											
Below upper secondary	m	4.2	1.9	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.5	
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	5.2	2.6	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.8	3.2	
Tertiary education	m	4.7	2.5	2.9	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.6	3.0	3.7	

Note: c too small sample to provide reliable estimates.

Source: OECD. See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007)).

Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning the symbols replacing missing data.


StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/068152681851>

Table A8.4a. (continued)  
Trends in unemployment rates by educational attainment (1991-2005)


Number of 25-to-64-year-olds in unemployment as a percentage of the labour force aged 25 to 64, by level of educational attainment

		1991	1995	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
OECD countries	<b>Netherlands</b>	Below upper secondary	8.6	7.9	0.9	4.9	3.9	2.9	3.0	4.5	5.5	5.8
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	4.6	4.8	1.7	2.4	2.3	1.6	2.0	2.8	3.8	4.1
		Tertiary education	1.5	4.1	c	1.7	1.9	1.2	2.1	2.5	2.8	2.8
	<b>New Zealand</b>	Below upper secondary	12.5	8.2	10.5	8.8	7.8	6.7	5.6	4.9	4.2	3.8
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	7.3	3.3	4.7	4.6	3.5	3.2	3.3	2.9	2.4	2.4
		Tertiary education	4.8	3.2	4.5	4.0	3.6	3.2	3.4	3.5	2.4	1.9
	<b>Norway</b>	Below upper secondary	6.7	6.5	2.9	2.5	2.2	3.4	3.4	3.9	4.0	7.3
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	4.4	4.0	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.6	3.8	2.6
		Tertiary education	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.9	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.1
	<b>Poland</b>	Below upper secondary	m	13.9	13.9	16.4	20.6	22.6	25.2	25.9	27.8	27.1
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	11.1	9.1	10.7	13.9	15.9	17.8	17.8	17.4	16.6
		Tertiary education	m	2.8	2.5	3.1	4.3	5.0	6.3	6.6	6.2	6.2
	<b>Portugal</b>	Below upper secondary	5.3	6.2	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.6	4.4	5.7	6.4	7.5
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	4.5	6.4	5.1	4.4	3.5	3.3	4.3	5.1	5.6	6.7
		Tertiary education	c	3.2	2.8	3.0	2.7	2.8	3.9	4.9	4.4	5.4
	<b>Slovak Republic</b>	Below upper secondary	m	24.0	24.3	30.3	36.3	38.7	42.3	44.9	47.7	49.2
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	9.6	8.8	11.9	14.3	14.8	14.2	13.5	14.6	12.7
		Tertiary education	m	2.7	3.3	4.0	4.6	4.2	3.6	3.7	4.8	4.4
<b>Spain</b>	Below upper secondary	13.7	20.6	17.1	14.7	13.7	10.2	11.2	11.2	11.0	9.3	
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	12.2	18.5	15.3	12.9	11.0	8.4	9.5	9.5	9.5	7.3	
	Tertiary education	9.3	14.5	13.1	11.1	9.5	6.9	7.7	7.7	7.3	6.2	
<b>Sweden</b>	Below upper secondary	2.6	10.1	10.4	9.0	8.0	5.9	5.8	6.1	6.5	8.5	
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	2.3	8.7	7.8	6.5	5.3	4.6	4.6	5.2	5.8	6.0	
	Tertiary education	1.1	4.5	4.4	3.9	3.0	2.6	3.0	3.9	4.3	4.5	
<b>Switzerland</b>	Below upper secondary	1.2	5.8	5.6	5.0	5.0	3.7	4.6	6.1	7.3	7.7	
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	1.5	2.8	2.8	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.4	3.2	3.8	3.7	
	Tertiary education	1.3	c	2.8	1.7	1.3	1.3	2.2	2.9	2.8	2.7	
<b>Turkey</b>	Below upper secondary	5.7	4.8	4.4	5.3	4.6	6.7	8.5	8.8	8.1	8.7	
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	7.2	6.9	6.6	8.2	5.5	7.4	8.7	7.8	10.1	9.2	
	Tertiary education	3.1	3.3	4.8	5.1	3.9	4.7	7.5	6.9	8.2	6.9	
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Below upper secondary	10.4	12.8	10.5	10.0	8.9	7.6	8.5	6.9	6.5	6.6	
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6.5	7.5	5.0	4.9	4.6	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.2	
	Tertiary education	3.3	3.7	2.6	2.7	2.1	2.0	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.0	
<b>United States</b>	Below upper secondary	12.3	10.0	8.5	7.7	7.9	8.1	10.2	9.9	10.5	9.0	
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6.5	5.0	4.5	3.7	3.6	3.8	5.7	6.1	5.6	5.1	
	Tertiary education	2.9	2.7	2.1	2.1	1.8	2.1	3.0	3.4	3.3	2.6	
	<b>OECD average</b>		11	10	9	9	9	9	10	10	11	
	<i>Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary</i>		7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
	<i>Tertiary education</i>		5	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	
	<b>EU19 average</b>		13	12	12	11	11	12	12	13	13	
	<i>Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary</i>		9	7	7	7	6	7	7	7	7	
	<i>Tertiary education</i>		5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
Partner economies	<b>Estonia</b>	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	19.0	14.8	15.4	13.0	
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	10.5	9.5	9.5	8.4	
		tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	5.8	6.5	5.0	3.8	
	<b>Israel</b>	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	14.0	15.2	15.6	14.0	
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	9.8	10.3	10.6	9.5	
		Tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	6.4	6.4	6.1	5.1	
<b>Slovenia</b>	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	m	8.4	8.7	8.4	8.7	
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	m	5.2	5.5	5.3	5.7	
	tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	m	2.3	3.0	2.8	3.0	

Note: c too small sample to provide reliable estimates. Due to incomplete data, some averages have not been calculated.

Source: OECD. See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007)).

Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning the symbols replacing missing data.

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/068152681851>



# READER'S GUIDE

## **Coverage of the statistics**

Although a lack of data still limits the scope of the indicators in many countries, the coverage extends, in principle, to the entire national education system (within the national territory) regardless of the ownership or sponsorship of the institutions concerned and regardless of education delivery mechanisms. With one exception described below, all types of students and all age groups are meant to be included: children (including students with special needs), adults, nationals, foreigners, as well as students in open distance learning, in special education programmes or in educational programmes organised by ministries other than the Ministry of Education, provided the main aim of the programme is the educational development of the individual. However, vocational and technical training in the workplace, with the exception of combined school and work-based programmes that are explicitly deemed to be parts of the education system, is not included in the basic education expenditure and enrolment data.

Educational activities classified as “adult” or “non-regular” are covered, provided that the activities involve studies or have a subject matter content similar to “regular” education studies or that the underlying programmes lead to potential qualifications similar to corresponding regular educational programmes. Courses for adults that are primarily for general interest, personal enrichment, leisure or recreation are excluded.

## **Calculation of international means**

For many indicators an OECD average is presented and for some an OECD total.

The OECD average is calculated as the unweighted mean of the data values of all OECD countries for which data are available or can be estimated. The OECD average therefore refers to an average of data values at the level of the national systems and can be used to answer the question of how an indicator value for a given country compares with the value for a typical or average country. It does not take into account the absolute size of the education system in each country.

The OECD total is calculated as a weighted mean of the data values of all OECD countries for which data are available or can be estimated. It reflects the value for a given indicator when the OECD area is considered as a whole. This approach is taken for the purpose of comparing, for example, expenditure charts for individual countries with those of the entire OECD area for which valid data are available, with this area considered as a single entity.

Note that both the OECD average and the OECD total can be significantly affected by missing data. Given the relatively small number of countries, no statistical methods are used to compensate for this. In cases where a category is not applicable (code “a”) in a country or where the data value is negligible (code “n”) for the corresponding calculation, the value zero is imputed for the purpose of calculating OECD averages. In cases where both the numerator and the denominator of a ratio are not applicable (code “a”) for a certain country, this country is not included in the OECD average.

For financial tables using 1995 data, both the OECD average and OECD total are calculated for countries providing both 1995 and 2004 data. This allows comparison of the OECD average and OECD total over time with no distortion due to the exclusion of certain countries in the different years.

For many indicators an EU19 average is also presented. It is calculated as the unweighted mean of the data values of the 19 OECD countries that are members of the European Union for which data are available or can be estimated. These 19 countries are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

### ■ **Classification of levels of education**

The classification of the levels of education is based on the revised International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED-97). The biggest change between the revised ISCED and the former ISCED (ISCED-76) is the introduction of a multi-dimensional classification framework, allowing for the alignment of the educational content of programmes using multiple classification criteria. ISCED is an instrument for compiling statistics on education internationally and distinguishes among six levels of education. The glossary available at [www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007) describes in detail the ISCED levels of education, and Annex 1 shows corresponding typical graduation ages of the main educational programmes by ISCED level.

### ■ **Symbols for missing data**

Six symbols are employed in the tables and charts to denote missing data:

- a* Data is not applicable because the category does not apply.
- c* There are too few observations to provide reliable estimates (*i.e.* there are fewer than 3% of students for this cell or too few schools for valid inferences). However, these statistics were included in the calculation of cross-country averages.
- m* Data is not available.
- n* Magnitude is either negligible or zero.
- w* Data has been withdrawn at the request of the country concerned.
- x* Data included in another category or column of the table (*e.g.* *x*(2) means that data are included in column 2 of the table).
- ~ Average is not comparable with other levels of education.

### ■ **Further resources**

The website [www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007) provides a rich source of information on the methods employed for the calculation of the indicators, the interpretation of the indicators in the respective national contexts and the data sources involved. The website also provides access to the data underlying the indicators as well as to a comprehensive glossary for technical terms used in this publication.

Any post-production changes to this publication are listed at [www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2007).

The website [www.pisa.oecd.org](http://www.pisa.oecd.org) provides information on the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), on which many of the indicators in this publication draw.

*Education at a Glance* uses the OECD's StatLinks service. Below each table and chart in *Education at a Glance 2007* is a url which leads to a corresponding Excel workbook containing the underlying data for the indicator. These urls are stable and will remain unchanged over time. In addition, readers of the *Education at a Glance* e-book will be able to click directly on these links and the workbook will open in a separate window.

### Codes used for territorial entities

These codes are used in certain charts. Country or territorial entity names are used in the text. Note that in the text the Flemish Community of Belgium is referred to as "Belgium (Fl.," and the French Community of Belgium as "Belgium (Fr.)."

AUS Australia	ITA Italy
AUT Austria	JPN Japan
BEL Belgium	KOR Korea
BFL Belgium (Flemish Community)	LUX Luxembourg
BFR Belgium (French Community)	MEX Mexico
BRA Brazil	NLD Netherlands
CAN Canada	NZL New Zealand
CHL Chile	NOR Norway
CZE Czech Republic	POL Poland
DNK Denmark	PRT Portugal
ENG England	RUS Russian Federation
EST Estonia	SCO Scotland
FIN Finland	SVK Slovak Republic
FRA France	SVN Slovenia
DEU Germany	ESP Spain
GRC Greece	SWE Sweden
HUN Hungary	CHE Switzerland
ISL Iceland	TUR Turkey
IRL Ireland	UKM United Kingdom
ISR Israel	USA United States



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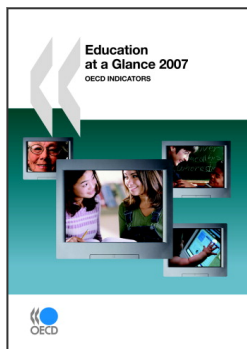
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