

Expenditure per student in public and private institutions, 1997

(US \$ using PPPs)

	Secondary Schools	University
Australia	5 570	11 240
Austria ¹	8 213	9 993
Belgium (F1.) ²	6 938	7 834
Canada	m	14 809
Czech Republic	3 641	5 351
Denmark	7 198	7 294
Finland	5 065	7 145
France	6 564	7 177
Germany	6 149	9 466
Greece ²	2 581	3 990
Hungary	2 093	5 430
Ireland	2 864	7 998
Japan	5 917	10157
Korea	3 518	6 844
Mexico	1 726	4 519
Netherlands	4 992	9 989
Norway ¹	6 972	10 108
Poland	m	4 395
Portugal ¹	4 264	m
Spain	4 274	5 166
Sweden	5 437	12 981
Switzerland ¹	9 045	16 376
Turkey ¹	m	2 397
United Kingdom ²	4 609	8 169
United States	7 230	17 466
Country mean	5 273	8 612
OECD total	5 507	10893

NON-OECD COUNTRIES

Argentina ¹	1 575	11552
Brazil ^{1,3}	1 002	10791
Chile	2 292	8 775
India ¹	253	m
Jordan ¹	807	m
Malaysia ¹	1 334	7 793
Paraguay ¹	690	19 271
Philippines ¹	570	2 170
Uruguay ¹	1 221	2 394
Zimbabwe	647	m

1 - Public Institutions. 2 - Public and government-dependant private institutions. 3 - 1996 data m=missing data

Source: OECD Education Database.

US Education at a Glance

This May, the OECD publishes *Education at a Glance*, a detailed volume setting out indicators of comparative educational policies and statistics for OECD member countries in full, with tables accompanied by graphs and text commentary. Here are some of the report's highlights:

- The United States continues to have high college graduation rates, however, they are no longer the highest in the OECD. Tertiary enrollment has expanded rapidly in many other OECD countries over the last decade and three countries have surpassed the U.S. college graduation rates of 33%: the Netherlands (35%), the United Kingdom (35%) and Norway (37%).
- By any comparison, the United States invests substantial resources on education. At the tertiary level, expenditure per student in the U.S. is higher than in any other OECD country. Also, at middle and high school levels spending per student in the U.S. is higher than the OECD average. (column Table)
- Data show that average teachers' pay is relatively low in the U.S. The average salary of a high school teacher with 15 years of experience (\$35,455) is only slightly above the OECD average (\$33,050). It should be noted that, since teachers' salaries are typically established locally, some variations exist throughout the U.S. If the salary of a high school teacher is compared with GDP per capita, the indicators show that an experienced U.S. high school teacher earns only 1.1 times the GDP per capita of the U.S.

Teacher salaries, 1998

(US \$ using PPPs)

	Starting salary/ minimum training	Salary after 15 years experience/ minimum training	Salary at top of scale/ minimum training	Ratio of starting salary to GDP per capita
Australia	25775	m	m	1.2
England	22661	38010	52023	1
France	22579	29615	42697	1
Germany	35177	43307	47923	1.5
Ireland	23303	36151	40708	1
Italy	21108	25773	33115	1
Japan	21899	41225	54465	0.9
Switzerland	45693	60514	68829	1.7
United States	24869	35455	43457	0.8

Note: Annual statutory teachers' salaries in public institutions at upper secondary level, general programs. m=missing data.

- Low salaries are a concern for attracting and retaining qualified teachers. It is noteworthy that, among U.S. teachers of 8th grade mathematics students, 58% of those teachers 50 years or older hold a MA, PhD or equivalent degree while among teachers between the ages of 30 and 39 years, only 16% have advanced degrees (data expressed as a percentage of 8th grade students taught).
- Australia and the U.S. remain the only countries in which the duration of pre-service training for new senior high school teachers (in terms of the typical number of full-time equivalent years of teacher training formally required) is only four years or less. In most other countries, at least 5 years of training for senior high school teachers are now required.

Continued on page 2

Road fatalities

	1999	% Compared to 1998
Australia	1763	0.5
Austria	1079	12
Czech Republic	1455	7
Denmark	500	0.2
Finland	427	6.8
France	8487	-4.8
Germany(1)	7749	-0.6
Greece	2131	-4.3
Hungary	1306	-4.7
Iceland	21	-22.2
Japan	10372	-4
Netherlands	1090	2.3
Norway	304	-13.6
Poland	6730	-4.9
Spain	5319	-7.4
Sweden	570	7.3
Switzerland	583	-2.3
United States	41345	-0.3
Total	91231	-1.9

Road injury-related accidents

	1999*	% compared to 1998
Austria	42,348	8
Czech Republic	26,918	-1.1
Denmark	7,674	1.6
Finland	6,988	1.2
France	124,524	0.1
Germany	395,355	4.8
Greece	24,231	-2.4
Hungary	18,923	-6.1
Iceland	1,052	4.1
Japan	850,363	5.8
Norway	8,306	-6.3
Poland	55,106	-10.9
Spain	89,854	-2.6
Sweden	15,780	1.7
United States	2,026,000	-0.1
Total	3,693,422	1.5

* Most countries provided provisional data for 1999 (1) Source: Statistisches Bundesamt - SIBA

Outlook Continued Rosy According to the OECD Economic Survey of the United States

The new OECD Economic Survey of the US economy focuses on the transformation that has occurred over the past five years. This report is the first from an international organisation to suggest that the US can maintain a growth rate of over 3* per cent without putting strains on the economy. Indeed, the OECD estimates that the US economy now has the potential to grow faster than any other major economy and at a rate that is exceeded in only a few countries that are members of the OECD. The key to the changed perspective has been the acceleration in technical progress in the information technology sector. This has pushed down prices and boosted capital formation in the IT-using sector of the economy. Labor productivity has been lifted, bringing faster growth in real wages and hence consumption. But the major surprise has been the extent to which the US economy has been able to capitalise on these developments that are, after all, available to be used throughout the world. The report illustrates the extent to which the US economy is ahead in the area of information and communication technology, leading in the production and application of such equipment. The report warns, though, that the economy cannot continue to expand at the pace of the past three trimesters. Already the survey projects that growth in 2000 may be at least 4* per cent. Such rapid growth in demand and output is now beginning to give corporations extra pricing power. A range of indicators suggests that underlying inflation is beginning to edge upwards.

OECD Economic Surveys: United States 2000. OECD Code: 10 2000 02 1 P. Price: \$30.00, ISBN 92 64 175024

Road Deaths Fell in OECD Countries in 1999, but Injuries Rose

The downward trend in road fatalities in 18 OECD countries for which data are available continued in 1999, with a 1.9 % reduction compared with 1998. On average, OECD countries' road safety performance in 1999 followed the trend of a general decline in road fatalities over the past 20 years. Since 1970, despite a 50% jump in the number of registered vehicles and increased usage of individual vehicles, 30% fewer people have been killed on OECD roads.

Even so, despite substantial improvements made in road safety, an estimated total of around 125,000 people were killed in road crashes in the OECD's 29 member countries in 1999, more than enough to fill 300 jumbo jets or a giant football stadium. Also, crashes in which people were injured continue to rise, with a 1.5 % increase in 1999 relative to 1998. During 1970-95, the number of crashes involving injuries rose 12% in 17 OECD countries for which statistics are available. The real situation may well be worse, given the under-reporting of traffic injuries that is suspected in many OECD countries.

US Education at a Glance *Continued from page 1*

- The social sciences, business and law degrees are more popular in the United States than in most other OECD countries. In contrast, the proportion of U.S. students graduating from engineering, manufacturing and construction, as well as from physical sciences is only half the OECD average. (See Table at right)

Treasury Welcomes OECD Report on Access to Bank Information

The Treasury Department welcomed an OECD report calling on member countries to permit access to bank information for tax purposes and setting forth a series of specific measures intended to move toward that goal.

"In today's borderless world, improving access to bank information is vital to administering our tax system, fighting financial crime and maintaining the competitive position of U.S. Banks," Treasury Secretary Lawrence H. Summers said. "This report is a significant step in that direction".

The report "Improving Access to Bank Information for Tax Purposes" was unanimously approved by all 29 OECD member countries and encourages them to eliminate secret accounts, remove domestic tax interest requirements inhibiting information exchanges and allow access to bank information for law enforcement purposes. It calls on countries to continue to develop initiatives to improve access to bank information for tax administration and envisions continuing dialogue between countries on these issues. It complements the OECD's harmful tax competition project, which is examining, among other things, independent information exchange resulting from bank secrecy and other practices.

Improving Access to Bank Information for Tax Purposes, \$66.00, OECD Code: 23 2000 03 1 P, ISBN No. 92 64 176497.

Forum 2000

OECD Forum 2000, a major open international conference, will be held for the first time in conjunction with the 2000 Ministerial Meeting in Paris on the 26-28 June 2000. The conference seminars and workshops will foster discussion and debate about key issues such as: Are we living in a new economy? Should business, non-governmental organizations and civil society more generally be more active partners in public policy-making? Are we moving towards sustainable development? How should trade negotiations progress? What are the main economic and social impacts of electronic commerce?

For more information about the conference, visit www.oecd.org/Forum2000

University degrees, 1998

(% of total)

	Education	Humanities and arts	Social sciences, business and law	Services	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	Agriculture	Other Science
Canada	14.7	14.7	36.7	2.5	8	1.2	19.1
France	8.2	19.9	36.4	1.2	12.9	0.5	18.1
Germany	6.7	13.6	25.1	2.5	20.1	2.7	29.3
Italy	2.6	13.5	35.7	0.3	15.2	2.2	30.6
Japan	6.6	18	37.5	m	21.6	3.4	9.3
United Kingdom	11.9	18.9	27.8	1.7	12.4	1.2	26.2
United States	12.9	14	41.4	2.6	7	2.1	19.3

m = missing data.

Education at a Glance, \$40.00, OECD Code: 96 2000 04 1 P, ISBN 92 64 17199.

OECD Forum 2000 speakers

For a complete updated list of Forum speakers, visit www.oecd.org/Forum2000.

Martin N. Baily, Chairman, US Council of Economic Advisers, United States

Leszek Balcerowicz, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Poland

Jagdish N. Bhagwati, Professor, Economics Department, Columbia University, United States

Maria Cattai, Secretary-General, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

Peter Costello MP, Treasurer, Australia

Peter J. Dey, Managing Director, Morgan Stanley, Canada

Rosario Green Macias, Secretary of Foreign Relations, Mexico

Bill Joy, Chief Scientist and Corporate Executive Officer, Sun Microsystems, United States

Mary Keegan, Head of Global Corporate Reporting, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, United Kingdom

Yotaro Kobayashi, President, Fuji-Xerox, Head of Japan Association of Corporate Executives, Japan

Bruno Lamborghini, Chairman, Olivetti Lexicon, Italy

Luiz Felipe Lampreia, Minister of State for External Relations,

Mike Moore, Director-General, WTO

Mark Pieth, UNI BASEL, (Chairman, OECD Working Group Bribery and Corruption)

Peter Sutherland, Chairman, Goldman Sachs International

John J. Sweeney, President, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)

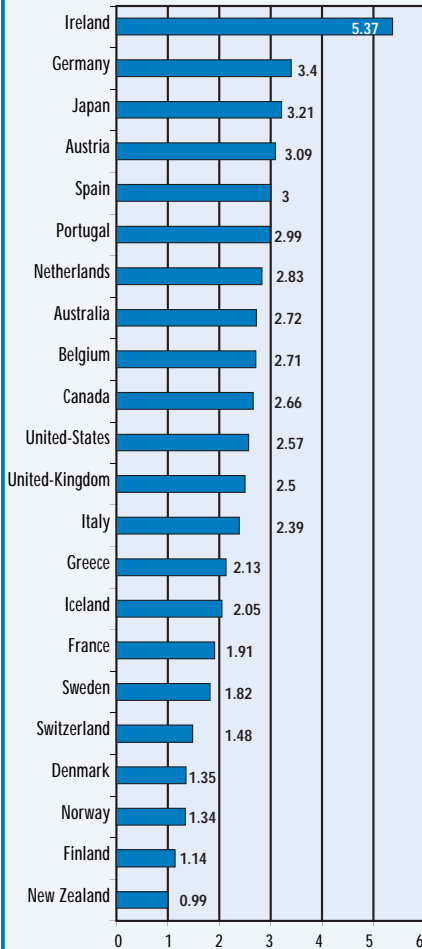
Jeroen van der Veer, Group Managing Director, Royal Dutch Shell, The Netherlands

Malcom Williamson, CEO, Visa International, United States

US potential growth was middling in 1991

Potential GDP growth (%)

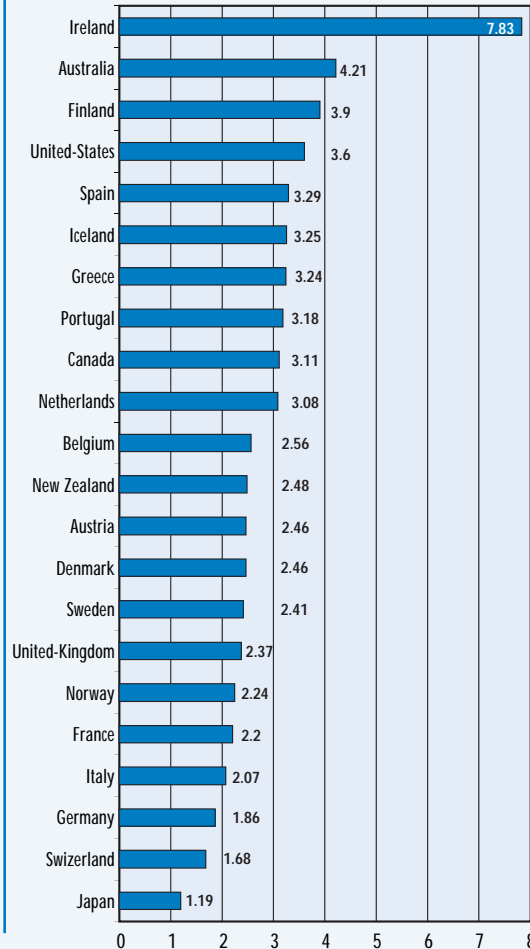
1991



... but has now moved towards the top.

Potential GDP growth (%)

2000



Source: OECD Economic Surveys: United States, 2000.



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