



# **The OECD Education at a Glance Report 2001**

**(A Selection from the many statistics reported)**

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## New Indicators

In the 2001 Edition there are new indicators on:

- the contribution of education to economic growth;
- trends in public and private education payments for education as well as public subsidies for education and their beneficiaries;
- participation in skill improvement among the employed population;
- the incentive structures that governments offer to attract and retain qualified teachers;
- the use of ICT in education;
- trends in student achievement;
- inequality in literacy skills among the adult population.

(Note that Australia has not necessarily reported in all instances).

## Overall Trends

- Although expenditure on education in OECD countries is increasing, public expenditure is generally not keeping up with overall economic growth. (I.e. the proportion of GDP spent on education is generally declining). Exceptions are Turkey, Greece, New Zealand, Portugal Denmark and Italy.
- Expenditure per individual has generally declined even more, as enrollments increase faster than expenditure;
- Generally, public expenditure on education has grown faster than total government spending;
- The OECD points out that some countries with low per student expenditure have done well in TIMSS.
- Private spending on tertiary education exceeds 30% in some half dozen countries, including Australia.
- Privatisation in schooling is increasing - on average 13.% of primary and secondary students are enrolled in private institutions, and 10.6% in schools privately managed but government funded.
- More than 20% of students attend private schools in Australia, Korea, and Spain;
- The connection between education and personal employment rewards is well established;
- “the evidence suggests that investment in education may have beneficial external effects that make social returns to schooling greater than private returns” (p.48)
- It is calculated that increases in educational attainment account for four tenths of a percentage point per capita to growth in most OECD countries;
- Ageing of the teaching force is described as a time bomb in several OECD countries;
- The use of computers, the Internet, and related technologies varies widely.

## Australia and the OECD Figures

The 2001 edition of Education at a Glance gives OECD comparative figures based mostly on 1998 figures for expenditure and 1999 for student data. The Tables below summarise the data.

Figures in brackets are the previous year's figures.

(Note: Where possible, a separate schools figure is given in the table below. However, the OECD now generally reports figures as either "Education", Tertiary Education", "Primary, Secondary and non-Tertiary Post Compulsory Education" (PSNTPC), and "Pre-Primary" rather than simply "schools". The NTPC bit add accounts for around 0.1%. Australia has not reported on several pre-primary indicators).

### Expenditure in Relation to GDP - 1998

#	Indicator	Sector	Australia's Position	Australian Figure	OECD Mean	Source Table
<b>% GDP</b>						
1	%GDP (From Public only)	All Education	22/29 (24=/28 3 below)	4.34% (4.3%)	5% (5.1%)	B2 1a
2	% GDP (From Private only)	All Education	6/24 (6/22)	1.13% (1.09%)	0.66% (0.76%)	B2 1a
3	%GDP (From Public and Private)	All Education	14/27 (14/23)	5.46% (5.6%)	5.66% (5.8%)	B2 1a
4	%GDP (From Public only)	PSNTPC	19/29 (20=/28 6 below)	3.21% (3.3%)	3.47% (3.6%)	B2.1b
5	%GDP (From Private only)	PSNTPC	4/22 (5/20)	0.59% (0.53%)	0.35% (0.36%)	B2.1b
6	% GDP (From Public and Private)	PSNTPC	10/25 (10=/23)	3.74% (3.9%) (3.59%)	3.71% (3.9%)	B2.1b
7	% GDP (From Public and Private)	Pre-Primary	"20/21 (19=/20 = last)	0.1% (0.1%)	0.4% (0.4%)	B2 1c
8	% GDP From Public and Private)	Schools only	9/21 (10=/18)	3.8% (3.8%)	3.6 (3.8%)	B2.1c

- Australian public expenditure on education overall is considerably below the OECD mean at 4.34% compared to 5%. In the school and PSNTPC sector Australia is again at the lower end. It expends 3.21% compared to the OECD mean of 3.47%.
- Private expenditure on education as a whole at 1.13% is well above the OECD mean. In the PSNTPC area it is also high at 0.59% compared to 0.35%. It is also rising from the previous year.
- This high private expenditure results in an overall expenditure of 5.46% compared to the OECD mean of 5.66%. In the PSNTPC area it is above the OECD mean of 3.74%.
- Schools (without the tertiary addition) are also above the OECD mean at 3.8%, compared to 3.6% .
- Expenditure at the pre-primary area is only one quarter of the OECD mean at 0.1%, making it almost last.
- Where Australia has improved relative to the OECD average this is usually because of a general decline in other countries rather than an improvement in Australia's expenditure.
- Not reported in the OECD report, but recorded in an answer to a Senate Estimates question, is the following in regard to **Commonwealth** expenditure:

In 1995/96 Commonwealth expenditure on schools as a proportion of GDP was 0.65%, with public school receiving 0.27% and private schools 0.38%. Since then (by 2000/01) expenditure had improved to 0.75% . But public school expenditure has actually declined to 0.26%, with this decrease and the whole of the increase being wholly attributable to the private school increase to 0.48%.

**In summary, it is clear that any increase in Australian expenditure, as shown as a proportion of GDP is driven by private expenditure and expenditure on private schools.**

## Expenditure Per Student

### In Adjusted \$US

#	Indicator	Sector	Australia's Position	Australian Figure	OECD Mean	Source Table
9	Expenditure in \$US using PPPs	Primary	10/25 (10/23)	\$3981 (\$3633)	\$3940 (\$3851)	B1.1
10	Expenditure in \$US using PPPs	Secondary	12/25 (10/22)	\$5830 (\$5570)	\$5294 (\$5274)	B1.1
11	Expenditure in \$US using PPPs	Post Secondary non tertiary	4/10 (3/11)	\$7218 (\$7437)	\$4404 (\$5337)	B1.1
<b>\$ per Student compared to GDP per Capita</b>						
12	\$ per student/ GDP per capita	Primary	17=/24 (14=/23)	\$16 (\$17)	\$19 (\$19)	B1.2
13	\$ per student/ GDP per capita	Secondary	14=/24 (12=/22)	\$24 (\$25)	\$18 (\$26)	B1.2
14	\$ per student/ GDP per capita	Post Secondary non tertiary	3/10 (2/11)	\$30 (\$34)	\$20 (\$30)	B1.2

- Australian expenditure in \$ per student remains above the OECD mean, except in the PSCNT area..

### Public/Private

#	Indicator	Sector	Australia's Position	Australian Figure	OECD Mean	Source Table
15	Proportion of Expenditure to private schools	PSCNT	4/21	15.9%	9.1%	B3.2
16	Expenditure to private schools as % of GDP	PSCNT	3=/24	0.31%	0.15	B3.2

- this is the first time this figure has been reported, and it confirms Australia's large expenditure on private schooling.

## Completion Rates

The following is an extract from the Australian Financial Review, 14/06/2001, by Leonore Taylor. It refers to Table A2.2a.

...Other countries' schools completion rates have been rapidly overtaking Australia's. A generation ago far more Australians were finishing schools than say, Koreans or Greeks. ...(but now) the Greeks and Koreans have not just caught up: they have overtaken.

Among 24 to 34 year olds, 65% of Australians have finished high school - 7% below the OECD average - and well below the 71% of Greeks and 93% of Koreans with upper secondary qualifications.

The recent report "Australia's Performance as a Knowledge Nation", prepared by Mark Consadine, Simon Marginson and Peter Sheehan is a much deeper analysis of OECD education figures over a longer historical period.

## Teaching Hours, Instruction Time and Student/Teacher Ratio

#	Indicator	Sector	Australia's Position	Australian Figure	OECD Mean	Source Table
17	Teaching Hours p.a. (Contact hours)	Primary (Public)	1/25	996	801	D3.1
18	Teaching Hours p.a. (Contact hours)	Lower Secondary (Public)	2/25	955	716	D3.1
19	Teaching Hours p.a. (Contact hours)	Upper Secondary (Public)	2/25	941	662	D3.1
20	Instruction Time (hours per year)	Age 13	7/26	1013	947	D4 1a
21	Instruction Time (hours per year)	Age 14	6/25	1017	951	D4 1a
22	Student/teacher ratio	Primary	14/28	17.3	18.0	D5.1
23	Student/teacher ratio	Secondary	18/26	12.7	14.6	D5.1

- Australia seems to have exceptionally large contact hours.
- It also has higher than average intended instruction time.
- Student teacher ratios are slightly below the OECD mean despite being in the lower half of the league table. This is mainly due to some exceptionally large student teacher ratios in a small number of countries.

## Expenditure by Resource Category

The following table compares Australian expenditure by resource category with the last edition and the OECD average.

### Australian Expenditure by Resource Category (% of total)

Category	1997 (Table B5.1)	1995 (Table B5.1a)	OECD Mean (1997)
Recurrent	94	92	91
Capital	6	8	9
Teachers	63	64	64
All staff	78	79	80
Non staff	22	21	20

The variations are small and given that this edition's figures include "post secondary non tertiary", which makes direct comparison with the last edition less accurate, it would be unwise to read too much into any changes.