

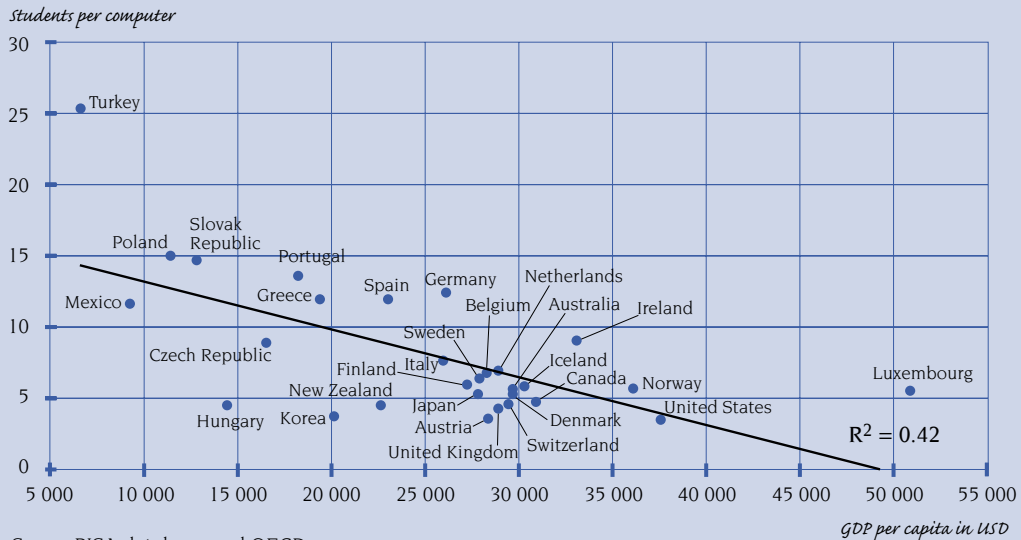
Box 2.2 How much does national income determine investments in educational ICT?

Some countries that have few computers per student have relatively low GDP per capita, and in some that have many, GDP per capita is relatively high. This might seem to suggest that either national income or relative educational expenditure is a significant driving force behind the national investments in educational ICT. However GDP per capita in fact accounts for only 42% of the variation in the number of 15-year-old students per computer in 2003, and national expenditure on non-tertiary education as a percentage of GDP explains even less: only 2%. Figure 2.2 shows that there is wide variation in the number of students per computer, and hence in the level of national investments in educational ICT, at any given level of GDP per capita. For example among pairs of countries with roughly similar GDP per capita:

- Turkey had twice as many students per computer as Mexico.
- Spain had about three times as many as New Zealand.
- Germany had about three times as many as Australia.

Hungary and Korea are other countries in which the level of investment in educational ICT for 15-year-olds is higher than would be expected on the basis of national wealth alone.

Figure 2.2 Students per computer and GDP per capita, 2003



Data for Figure 2.1

Mean number of 15-year-old students per computer, 2003

	Mean number
United States	3
Australia	4
Hungary	4
Korea	4
New Zealand	4
United Kingdom	4
Austria	5
Canada	5
Denmark	5
Japan	5
Luxembourg	5
Finland	6
Iceland	6
Norway	6
Sweden	6
Switzerland	6
Belgium	7
Netherlands	7
Italy	8
Czech Republic	9
Ireland	9
Germany	12
Greece	12
Mexico	12
Spain	12
Portugal	14
Poland	15
Slovak Republic	15
Turkey	25

Source: PISA database.

Data for Figure 2.2

Students per computer and GDP per capita, 2003

	GDP per capita ¹	15-year-old students per computer
Australia	28 500	4
Austria	29 500	5
Belgium	28 400	7
Canada	31 000	5
Czech Republic	16 700	9
Denmark	29 800	5
Finland	27 400	6
Germany	26 300	12
Greece	19 500	12
Hungary	14 600	4
Iceland	29 800	6
Ireland	33 200	9
Italy	26 100	8
Japan	28 000	5
Korea	20 300	4
Luxembourg	50 900	5
Mexico	9 400	12
Netherlands	29 100	7
New Zealand	22 800	4
Norway	36 100	6
Poland	11 500	15
Portugal	18 400	14
Slovak Republic	13 000	15
Spain	23 200	12
Sweden	28 100	6
Switzerland	30 400	6
Turkey	6 800	25
United Kingdom	29 000	4
United States	37 600	3

1. In USD using purchasing power parities.

Source: PISA database and OECD.