

# *Education at a Glance 2008*

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## *OECD Briefing Note For Canada*

Governments are paying increasing attention to international comparisons as they search for effective policies that enhance individuals' social and economic prospects, provide incentives for greater efficiency in the provision of education, and help to mobilise resources to meet rising demands.

In response to this need, the OECD devotes a major effort to the development and analysis of quantitative, internationally comparable indicators, which are published annually in *Education at a Glance*. These indicators enable educational policy makers and practitioners alike to see their education systems in the light of other countries' performances and, together with OECD's country policy reviews, are designed to support and review the efforts that governments are making towards policy reform.

This note contrasts **key findings for Canada** with **global trends among OECD countries**, under the headings: quantity and quality challenges, resource and efficiency challenges and equity challenges.

*Education at a Glance 2008*, as well as its executive summary and the underlying data can be downloaded free of charge at [www.oecd.org/edu/eag2008](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2008)

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## **QUANTITY AND QUALITY CHALLENGES**

*The decades-old expansion in educational participation and outputs continues – and at a pace that outstrips many past projections. With completion of upper secondary education close to universal in most OECD countries, the greatest recent expansion has come in the tertiary sector. While, in 1995, 37% of a cohort went into university-level programmes it is now 57%, on average across OECD countries. It is hard to predict the future from past trends. Will the expansion of tertiary education continue at this rapid pace, driven by an ever-rising demand for the highly skilled? Or will it level off and will relative earnings decline? At the beginning of the 20th century, few would have predicted that, among OECD countries, upper secondary education would be largely universal by the end of the century. So it is equally difficult to predict how tertiary qualifications will have evolved by the end of the 21st century. **Education at a Glance 2008** provides a profile of educational qualifications in populations as well as indicators on trends in the quantity and quality of the output of educational institutions. For the first time, it also relates the qualifications that are produced by the education system to their actual deployment across occupational groups.*

<i>Global trends</i>	<i>Key results for Canada</i>
<p data-bbox="153 356 751 423"><i>Education systems continue to expand at a rapid pace...</i></p> <ul data-bbox="164 443 751 1265" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="164 443 751 913">• Tertiary attainment levels have increased substantially, for the first time reaching one-third of the cohort of 25-to-34-year-olds, on average across OECD countries. In France, Ireland, Japan and Korea, there is a difference of 25 percentage points or more in tertiary attainment between the older and younger age group (Table A1.3a). Between 1995 and 2006 alone, the university-level graduation rate rose, on average across countries, from 20 to 37% (Table A3.2) and more than half of those at the typical age of graduation completed their first tertiary-type A degree in Australia, Finland, Iceland and New Zealand (Table A3.1).</li> <li data-bbox="164 931 751 1265">• The social sciences, business and law are the major educational fields in most countries. Across OECD countries, they constitute 28% of the overall tertiary-type A attainment in the population. On average, there are 3.6 times as many individuals with degrees in these fields in the younger cohort entering the labour market than in the older one nearing retirement age. By contrast, in the field of education, this ratio is close to 1 in the OECD countries (Table A1.5).</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="153 1301 692 1364"><i>...and current entry rates suggest that these trends will continue.</i></p> <ul data-bbox="164 1384 751 1971" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="164 1384 751 1921">• Entry rates in tertiary-type A education increased substantially between 1995 and 2006, by 20 percentage points on average in OECD countries. Between 2000 and 2006, growth exceeded 10 percentage points in 11 of the 25 OECD countries for which data are available. In 2006, in Australia, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Sweden, and the partner country the Russian Federation, it is estimated that 65% or more of young adults will enter tertiary-type A programmes. In almost all countries, the majority of new entrants choose to follow tertiary programmes in the field of social sciences, business, law and services (Tables A2.4, A2.5 and A2.6).</li> <li data-bbox="164 1939 751 1971">• Overall, females represent 54% of new entrants</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="775 356 1417 456"><i>Among OECD countries, Canada continues to have one of the highest tertiary attainment levels in the total population...</i></p> <ul data-bbox="786 477 1417 678" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="786 477 1417 678">• 47% of 25-to-64-year-olds have a tertiary qualification. And progress is evident from the fact that, while 37% of 55-to-64-year-olds have attained a tertiary qualification, the rate is now 55% among 25-to-34-year-olds (OECD average 33%) (Table A1.3a).</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="775 710 1401 810"><i>... but today the tertiary graduation rate in Canada is below the average, as other countries have seen faster progress.</i></p> <ul data-bbox="786 831 1417 1485" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="786 831 1417 1032">• In 2000, the graduation rate for tertiary-type A programmes in Canada, at 28%, was similar to that of the OECD average. While the graduation rate in Canada increased to 35% by 2005, the OECD average increased at a faster rate to 36% (Table A3.2).</li> <li data-bbox="786 1050 1417 1485">• International students make a significant contribution to the tertiary graduate output in Canada. Both in the case of tertiary-type A second degrees (mainly Masters programmes) and in the case of advanced research programmes (including PhDs), some 14% of the graduate output can be attributed to international graduates (Table A3.3). This large contribution of international students to the tertiary graduate output needs to be borne in mind when interpreting human capital formation in Canada, as well as tertiary participation rates. The net impact depends on how many international students leave the country and how many stay.</li> </ul>

in tertiary education in OECD countries. However, the breakdown by gender varies considerably according to the field of education. In the fields of health and welfare, the arts and humanities, and education between 68 and 75% of new entrants are women. The proportion of women choosing science studies (including life sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, computing, engineering, manufacturing and construction and agriculture) ranges from less than 25% in Japan, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland and the partner country Chile, to more than 35% in Denmark, Iceland, Italy and New Zealand (Table A2.6).

***This expansion relates to strong labour-market outcomes for those with advanced qualifications.***

- Earnings increase with each level of education. Those who have attained upper secondary, post-secondary non-tertiary or tertiary education enjoy substantial earnings advantages compared with those of the same gender who have not completed upper secondary education (Table A9.1a). In 15 out of 21 countries with available data, the earnings premium for those with tertiary education increased during the last decade, often despite massive growth in tertiary participation. In Germany, Hungary, and Italy this increase has been between 30 and 40 percentage points (Table A9.2a).
- On average across countries, completion of tertiary education yields a 12 and 11% return for males and females, respectively, and returns are above 22% for males in the Czech Republic, Poland and Portugal. The rewards for tertiary education are relatively small in Germany, Norway, Spain, and Sweden where the rate of return ranges from 5 to 8% (Table A10.2). In most countries, the returns to investment in tertiary education in mid-career are lower, but still substantial enough to motivate the investment without government intervention (Table A10.4).
- Employment rates rise with educational attainment. With few exceptions, the employment rate for graduates of tertiary

***The earnings advantage from completing tertiary education is low compared to other countries...***

- In Canada, among 25-to-64-year-olds, the earnings advantage for tertiary level graduates over persons with an upper secondary qualification is 38%, which is the eighth lowest earnings advantage among countries with data on this indicator (Table A9.1a). However, tertiary graduates in Canada have a much greater chance of finding jobs relative to individuals with lower levels of education, but their employment rates is still the sixth lowest among OECD countries (Table A8.3a).

***...and the earning premium has declined slightly over time in Canada.***

- The earnings advantage of 25-64-year-old tertiary graduates (compared to upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education) decreased slightly in Canada from 41% in 1998 to 38% in 2005 (Table A9.2a). This may be a reflection of younger tertiary educated individuals entering the labour market with relatively low starting salaries.

***The private rates of return education are low in Canada...***

- The low earnings advantage of obtaining a tertiary level degree also manifests itself in relatively low private rates of return for investing in tertiary education. The private rate of return to tertiary education study in Canada, at around 9% for both males and females, are below the OECD average rates (12% for males and 11% for females) (Table A10.2).

<p>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 (Table A8.1a).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those with low educational attainment are both less likely to be labour force participants and more likely to be unemployed. Differences in employment rates between males and females are also wider among less educated groups.</li> <li>• The labour-market penalties for low levels of education are particularly high for females. The chance of being employed is 23 percentage points higher for males than for females among those without upper secondary qualifications but falls to 10 points for the most highly qualified (Tables A8.1a and A8.2a).</li> <li>• Employment rates tend to drop long before the stipulated retirement age in most countries. On average, employment rates among 55-to-64-year-olds are approximately 20 percentage points below those of the total working-age population (25-to-64-year-olds). However, employment rates increase with educational attainment in most countries, and in all countries except Iceland, tertiary attainment provides an important employment advantage at an older age. The advantage is particularly large in the Czech Republic, Italy, Luxembourg and the Slovak Republic (Table A8.4).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The private rate of return to upper secondary education or post-secondary non-tertiary education in Canada, at around 9% for both males and females, is also below the OECD average (Table A10.1).</li> </ul> <p><i>...although in terms of earnings, females are at an advantage over males.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As in Australia, Austria, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the UK, tertiary education enhances earnings relative to upper secondary education more for females than for males in Canada (25-34 year-old age group) (Table A9.1a).</li> </ul> <p><i>The benefits of higher education in Canada are also revealed in improved employment prospects.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment rates for individuals with tertiary education are 4 percentage points higher than for those with post-secondary non-tertiary education, 8 percentage points higher than for those with upper secondary education and 20 percentage points higher than for those without upper secondary education (Table A8.1b web). This difference is more marked for females than for males (Table A8.1a).</li> </ul>
<p><i>There are also marked shifts towards more skilled jobs in labour markets.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Across OECD countries between 1998 and 2006, there was a marked shift from semi-skilled jobs to skilled jobs, with an increase of almost 4 percentage points in skilled occupations and a close to 4 percentage point decline in semi-skilled occupations. In most countries, the decline has not been at the very low end of the skills distribution but among semi-skilled jobs, with the proportion of the population working in unskilled occupations remaining substantially unchanged (Table A1.6).</li> </ul>	<p><i>In line with shifts across the OECD, Canada has seen an increase in skilled occupations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proportion of the workforce in skilled occupations in Canada has increased from 39% to 41% between 1998 and 2006 (the OECD averages were 36% in 1998 and 40% in 2006) while there has been a drop in both semi-skilled and unskilled occupations, by 2 and 1 percentage points respectively (Table A1.6).</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><i>The proportion of skilled jobs is generally larger</i></p>	<p><i>The number of skilled jobs to be filled matches the</i></p>

*than the potential supply of tertiary graduates...*

- In OECD countries, the proportion of skilled jobs in the economy is generally larger than the potential supply of tertiary educated individuals. For countries in which work-based learning is central to occupational advancement, this difference is large. A broader initial skill base might require additional investment in higher education. In a few countries, tertiary attainment matches or marginally exceeds the proportion of skilled jobs, so that further expansion of higher education will to some extent depend on the growth of skilled jobs in the coming years (Tables A1.3a and A1.6).

*...but more recently the growth in the proportion of people with tertiary qualifications has generally been faster than the growth in skilled jobs, suggesting that the gap is closing.*

- The increase in skilled jobs has been met and exceeded in most OECD countries by increases in the proportion of the population with tertiary attainment. However, in most countries, there are still substantially more skilled jobs than tertiary educated individuals. On average, across OECD countries, 69% of all those with a tertiary type 5B qualification and 85% of those with a tertiary 5A/6 qualification have skilled jobs. However the matching of higher education to skilled jobs varies substantially among countries. Those with a tertiary 5A/6 qualification in Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg and the partner country Slovenia do substantially better in finding a skilled job given the labour market conditions for those with tertiary education (Tables A1.6, A1.7 and A3.2).

*The internationalisation of tertiary education is proceeding rapidly.*

- In 2006, over 2.9 million tertiary students were enrolled outside their country of citizenship. This represented a 3% increase from the previous year in total foreign student intake reported to the OECD and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (Box C3.1).
- Student mobility – *i.e.* international students

*supply of tertiary educated individuals.*

- Unlike other countries, the difference between the proportion of 25-to-64-year-olds in skilled jobs and the proportion of 25-to-64-year-olds with tertiary education is only 1 percentage point in Canada indicating that further expansion of tertiary education will to some extent depend on the growth of skilled jobs in the future. (Tables A1.3a and A1.6).
- In Canada, the proportion of the working population with tertiary-type A or advanced research qualifications who are in skilled jobs (79%) is below to the OECD average (Table A1.7).

*Canada captures a relatively large section of the market of international students.*

- Canada remains an attractive destination for international students, with 5% of foreign students worldwide enrolled in the country. This is less than in the United States (20%), the UK (11%), Germany (9%), France (9%), Australia (6%), but remains ahead of Japan (4%) (Chart C3.2 and Table C3.7 on the web).

<p>who travelled to a country different from their own for the purpose of tertiary study – ranges from below 1 to almost 18% of tertiary enrolments across OECD countries. International students are most numerous in tertiary enrolments in Australia, Austria, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United Kingdom (Table C3.1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States receive 49% of all foreign students worldwide. The largest absolute numbers of international students from OECD countries are from France, Germany, Japan and Korea. Students from China and India comprise the largest numbers of international students from partner countries (Chart C3.2).</li> <li>• International students make up 15% or more of the enrolments in tertiary education in Australia and New Zealand and more than 20% of enrolments in advanced research programmes in Belgium, Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States (Table C3.1).</li> <li>• 30% or more of international students are enrolled in sciences, agriculture or engineering in Finland, Germany, Hungary, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States (Table C3.5).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between 2000 and 2006, Canada saw its share of the international student market remaining constant (changing only from 5.0% to 5.1%) while the United States' share fell from 25% to 20% over the same period. The largest increases in market shares took place in Australia, France, Japan and New Zealand (Chart C3.3 and Table C3.7 on the web).</li> <li>• In Canada significant numbers of international students enrol in science and engineering programmes (15.0% and 12.9% of the total respectively). Large numbers of international students also enrol in social sciences, business and law (34.3%) (Chart C3.4 and Table C3.5).</li> <li>• International students provide an important source of income for national universities and especially so in Canada where the fees charged to international students are not only higher than those charged to national students but relatively high compared with other OECD countries (Box C3.3).</li> <li>• Despite high fees, campuses in Canada are relatively internationalised, with international students accounting for 7.4% of total enrolments in the tertiary-type A and advanced research programmes (above the OECD average) (Chart C3.1 and Table C3.1). In Canada, the extent of internationalisation is most pronounced in advanced research programmes, where international students represent 21.4% of enrolments (above the OECD average of 15.9%) (Table C3.1).</li> </ul>
<p><i>New analyses of PISA data provide a first picture of school education from the perspective of parents.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among the 10 OECD countries with available data, on average, 77% of parents “strongly agreed or agreed” that standards of achievement were high in their child’s school. On average, their children scored 20 score points higher on the PISA 2006 assessment than students whose parents “disagreed or strongly disagreed” with that statement. Much of the advantage remains when taking into account socio-economic factors (Table A6.2).</li> <li>• An average of 79% of parents reported being satisfied with the disciplinary atmosphere in their child’s school and 85% felt that the school did a good job of educating students. In both cases, their children had a performance</li> </ul>	<p>[No data available for Canada]</p>

<p>advantage of 12 score points on average (Table A6.2b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On average, 88% of parents “strongly agreed or agreed” that their child’s teachers seemed competent and dedicated, but the relationship to student performance was inconsistent across countries, with an average advantage of 7 score points (Table A6.3a).</li> </ul>	
<p><i>For the first time, the indicators compare approaches to monitoring school standards.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 22 OECD and partner countries undertake student examinations and/or assessments and 17 require schools to be evaluated (either self-evaluations and/or inspections by an external body) at regular intervals. Student assessments (evaluations without civil effect for the student) are practised in 17 OECD and partner countries, whereas national examinations (with a civil effect for the student) are practised in 10 OECD and partner countries (Tables D5.1 and D5.2).</li> <li>• School self-evaluations are required in 14 countries, generally on an annual basis (Table D5.6).</li> <li>• School inspections are required in 14 countries, generally once every three years (Table D5.5). Although school self-evaluations are held more often than school inspections, evaluations by school inspectorates appear in general to have more influence on schools and teachers in terms of the implications of the evaluation and the accountability structure (Tables D5.5 and D5.6).</li> <li>• Both school evaluation and student performance measures are mainly used to provide performance feedback to schools (Tables D5.3 to D5.6). In general, they have relatively little influence on school financing and other financial implications such as changes to the school budget, provision of rewards or sanctions for schools, or remunerations and bonuses received by teachers (Tables D5.3 to D5.6).</li> <li>• In a larger number of countries, the influence of school evaluations is greater than student</li> </ul>	<p>[No data available for Canada]</p>



<p>examinations for the performance appraisals of schools (13 countries, compared to 7 for student examinations), for the appraisal of the performance of school management (9 countries, compared to 1 for student examinations) and the appraisal of the performance of individual teachers (4 countries, compared to 1 for student examinations) (Tables D5.3 to D5.6).</p>	
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## **RESOURCE AND EFFICIENCY CHALLENGES**

*Meeting the demand for more education while improving quality is bound to create pressures for current levels of spending to be maintained or increased and to improve the efficiency of spending on education. Recent years have already seen considerable rises in spending levels, both in absolute terms and as a share of public budgets. The total amount of funds allocated to educational institutions across all levels of education rose in all countries with available data over the last decade, and by 19% on average in real terms between 2000 and 2005 alone. By 2005, OECD countries were spending 6.1% of their collective GDP on education at all levels, of which 86% came from public sources and all but 7 of the 28 OECD countries spent at least 5%. Another visible indication of the efforts made by governments can be found in the fact that from 1995 to 2005, public expenditure on education grew by more than one percentage point as a proportion of all public spending – from 11.9% to 13.2% in 2005. Education spending rose at least as fast as public spending in other sectors in all countries except Canada, France, Hungary, Portugal and Switzerland.*

*Alongside the increase in public spending on education, there has also been a search for new sources of funding to accommodate the rapid growth in student numbers (particularly at the tertiary level) and to increase the resources available to educational institutions. Although 86% of spending on education still originates from public sources for all levels of education combined, private spending increased more rapidly than public spending between 1995 and 2005 in nearly three-quarters of the countries examined. In some, the proportion of private funding of tertiary educational institutions is high enough to challenge the view that tertiary education is solely a state responsibility. In fact, this view is gradually being replaced by the perception that, given the shared public and private returns that education brings, costs and responsibilities for its provision should also be shared between those who directly benefit and society at large (i.e. private households and businesses as well as governments), at least at the tertiary level of education.*

*While significant additional investments in education will be important, it is equally clear that more money alone will not be enough. Investments in education will also need to become more efficient. The education sector has not yet re-invented itself in ways that other professions have done to improve outcomes and raise productivity. Indeed, the evidence suggests the reverse, namely that productivity in education has generally declined because the quality of schooling has broadly remained constant, while the price of the inputs has markedly increased. As the place and mode of educational provision have largely remained unchanged, the labour-intensiveness of education and the predominance of teachers' salaries in overall costs (with pay scales based on qualifications and automatic increases) have made personnel costs rise over time. This edition of *Education at a Glance* provides a first picture of the spending choices that different countries are making.*

*Note: The latest figures on educational finance for Canada are for 2004, one year behind that for other OECD countries. The comparisons in the note do not adjust for this difference and this needs to be borne in mind, particularly in the interpretation of short term trends.*

<i>Global trends</i>	<i>Key results for Canada</i>
<p><i>OECD countries as a whole spend USD 8 553 per student annually between primary and tertiary education: USD 6 173 per primary student, USD 7 736 per secondary student and USD 15 559 per tertiary student. These expenditures continue to rise in real terms.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expenditure on educational institutions per primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary student increased in every country and on average by 35% between 1995 and 2005 during a period of relatively stable student numbers.</li> <li>• The pattern is different at the tertiary level where spending per student has fallen in some cases, as expenditure has not kept up with the expansion in student numbers. However, from 2000 to 2005, expenditure on educational institutions per tertiary student increased by 11 percentage points on average in OECD countries after remaining stable from 1995 to 2000. Only Australia, Austria, Denmark, Greece, Iceland, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom saw a larger increase in expenditure on educational institutions per tertiary student than in GDP per capita (Tables B1.4 and B1.5).</li> <li>• Seven out of the 11 countries in which student enrolments in tertiary education increased by more than 20 percentage points between 2000 and 2005 have increased their expenditure on tertiary educational institutions by at least the same proportion over the period, whereas Hungary, Sweden and the partner countries Brazil and Chile did not (Table B1.5).</li> <li>• Teacher compensation cost per student at the upper secondary level varies from 3.9% of GDP per capita in the Slovak Republic (less than half the OECD average rate of 10.9%) to over five times that rate in Portugal (20.9%, nearly twice the OECD average). Four factors influence these trends – salary levels, the amount of instruction time for students, the amount of teaching time</li> </ul>	<p><i>Spending per student at the primary and secondary level in Canada increased over the 2000-2004 period, though at a slower pace than for the OECD on average.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To assess the potential impact on the quality of educational services, the resources invested in education need to be seen in relation to the number of students enrolled. Different supply and demand factors have influenced variation in spending per student across countries. In Canada, between 2000 and 2004, spending on primary and secondary education increased by 16% while enrolments rose by 1%, resulting in a spending increase per student of 15%. However, that was still less than the OECD average increase of 19% in per-student spending (between 2000 and 2005) (Table B1.5).</li> </ul> <p><i>Total spending at the tertiary level increased at a slower pace to the OECD average.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the tertiary level, between 2000 and 2004, total spending in Canada increased by 17%, lower than the increase observed in the OECD on average (30% between 2000 and 2005) (Table B1.5).</li> </ul> <p><i>High completion rates are an indicator of educational efficiency.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Canada (Quebec) 75% of those who enter tertiary-type A programmes go on to successfully complete with a degree, above the OECD average of 69%. Tertiary-type B completion rates are somewhat lower than those for tertiary-type A programmes, at 62% on average across OECD countries and 63% in the case of Canada (Quebec) (Table A4.1).</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

required of teachers and average class size – so that a given level of compensation cost per student can result from quite different combinations of the four factors. For example, in Korea and Luxembourg, the compensation cost per student (as a percentage of GDP per capita) is 15.5 and 15.2%, respectively, both notably higher than the OECD average.

However, whereas in Korea higher than average teacher salary levels coupled with relatively large class sizes are the main influence on this, in Luxembourg, relatively low class size is the main factor which results in such a high teacher compensation cost per student (as a proportion of GDP per capita) compared to the OECD average (Table B7.2).

- In countries with the lowest compensation cost per student (as a percentage of GDP per capita) at the upper secondary level, low salary levels as a proportion of GDP is usually the main driver. This is the case in Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Sweden. The main exception to this pattern is Mexico where teacher salary costs relative to GDP per capita are well above the OECD average but this is more than compensated for by large class sizes (Table B7.2).
- In contrast, among countries with the highest levels of compensation cost per student (Portugal, Spain, Switzerland), no single factor determines this position, but rather each of the four factors act to increase costs to varying degrees (Table B7.2).
- High spending per student cannot automatically be equated with strong performance by education systems. Spending per student up to the age of 15 in the Czech Republic is roughly one-third of, and in Korea roughly one-half of, spending levels in the United States. However, while both the Czech Republic and Korea are among the top ten performers in the PISA 2006 assessment of science achievement among 15-year-olds, the United States performs below the OECD average. Similarly, Spain and the United States perform almost equally well, but while the United States spends roughly USD 95 600 per student up to the age of 15 years, Spain only spends USD 61 860 (Table B7.1).

***OECD countries spend 6.1% of their collective GDP on educational institutions. However, the increase in spending on educational institutions between 1995 and 2005 fell behind growth in national income in nearly half of the 28 OECD countries for which data are available.***

- The highest spenders on educational institutions are Denmark, Iceland, Korea, the United States and the partner country Israel, with at least 7% of GDP accounted for by public and private spending on educational institutions, followed by Mexico and New Zealand with more than 6.5%. By contrast, seven out of 28 OECD countries for which data are available as well as three out of six partner countries spend less than 5% of GDP on educational institutions; in Greece and in the partner country the Russian Federation, the figure is 4.2 and 3.8%, respectively (Table B2.1).
- Tertiary education accounts for nearly one-third of the combined OECD expenditure on educational institutions (2.0% of the combined GDP). In Canada and the United States, expenditure at this level reaches up to 40% of expenditure on educational institutions (Table B2.1). Relative to GDP, the United States spends over three times more on tertiary education than Italy and the Slovak Republic and nearly four times more than the partner countries Brazil and the Russian Federation.
- On average across OECD countries, expenditure for all levels of education combined increased relatively more than GDP between 1995 and 2005. The increase in expenditure on educational institutions as a proportion of GDP exceeded 0.8 percentage points over this decade in Denmark, Greece, Mexico and the United Kingdom (Table B2.3).

***In all countries, public funding on educational institutions increased between 1995 and 2005. However, private spending increased faster in nearly three-quarters of these countries.***

- On average over 90% of primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education in OECD countries, and other than in Korea, no less than 80%, is paid for publicly (Table B3.2a).
- In tertiary education the proportion funded

***Canada continues to spend one of the highest proportions of its national income on educational institutions.***

- Over the period 2000 to 2004, public and private investment in education (in absolute terms) in Canada increased by 12% (OECD average 21% from 2000 to 2005). (Table B2.3).
- With 6.7% of GDP accounted for by public and private spending on educational institutions in 1995, Canada had the highest spending on education institutions among OECD countries at that time. Although this dropped to 5.9% of GDP in 2000 (still above the OECD average of 5.3%), it increased again to 6.2% of GDP in 2004 (only Denmark, Iceland, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Sweden and the United States spend a higher percentage of GDP on educational institutions) (Table B2.1).
- Canada spends 2.6% of its GDP on tertiary institutions, which accounts for 42% of its expenditure on educational institutions (the highest proportion among OECD countries, relative to GDP) (Table B2.1).

***Private sources of funding provide an above-average share of educational spending in Canada***

- Taking all levels of education together, private expenditure as a proportion of total expenditure in Canada rose between 2000 and 2004 (as was the case in nearly three-quarters of the countries with comparable data), resulting in an increase in the share of private funding of more than 4 percentage points (Table B3.1). [Note that private spending

<p>privately varies widely, from less than 5% in Denmark, Finland and Greece, to more than 40% in Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the United States and in the partner country Israel, and to over 75% in Korea and the partner country Chile. As with tertiary graduation and entry rates, the proportion of private funding can be influenced by the incidence of international students who form a relatively high proportion of the student body in Australia and New Zealand (Table B3.2b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On average among the 18 OECD countries for which trend data are available, the share of public funding in tertiary institutions decreased slightly from 79% in 1995 to 77% in 2000 and to 73% in 2005. However, the increase in private investment has not displaced but complemented public financing, the amount of public funding has simply tended to increase at a lower rate (Table B3.2b).</li> <li>• In eight out of the 11 OECD countries with the largest increases in public expenditure on tertiary education between 2000 and 2005, tertiary institutions charge low or no tuition fees. The exceptions are Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States (Indicator B5).</li> <li>• In tertiary education, households account for most private expenditure in most countries for which data are available. Exceptions are Canada, Greece, Hungary, the Slovak Republic and Sweden where private expenditure from entities other than households is more significant (Table B3.2b).</li> </ul>	<p>originates both in households and other private entities and can go to private as well as public institutions.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking specifically at the primary and secondary levels in Canada over the same period, the private share of funding increased from 7.6% to 10.1% between 2000 and 2005. Canada's public funding proportion at 89.9% is lower than the OECD average of 91.5% (Table B3.2a).</li> <li>• Public spending on tertiary education in Canada rose by 5% between 2000 and 2004. However, this was accompanied by a 34% increase in private spending, with the result that the private share of funding in tertiary education in Canada increased from 39.0% to 44.9% (where Canada continues to have the fifth highest share of private spending among OECD countries) (Table B3.2b and Table B3.3).</li> </ul>
<p><i>On average, OECD countries devote 13.2% of total public expenditure to education, but values for countries range from 10% or below in the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and Japan to more than 23% in Mexico.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between 1995 and 2005, education took a growing share of total public expenditure in most countries, and on average grew at a similar pace than GDP. Denmark, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Slovak Republic, Sweden and the partner country Brazil saw the largest shifts in favour of education (Table B4.1).</li> <li>• On average across OECD countries, 85% of public expenditure on education is transferred to</li> </ul>	<p><i>The share of public expenditure that Canada devotes to education decreased over the 1995-2004 period, which differs from the trend in most OECD countries.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The share of all public spending devoted to educational institutions at all levels in the system, or paid in the form of subsidies to households, decreased in Canada between 1995 and 2004 from 12.7% to 12.3%, while the OECD average increased by 1.3 percentage points (11.9 to 13.2%) between 1995 and 2005 (Table B4.1).</li> <li>• In Canada, 93% of public expenditure on education is on public institutions (above the</li> </ul>

<p>public institutions. In two-thirds of OECD countries, as well as in the partner countries Brazil, Estonia and Slovenia, the share of public expenditure on education going to public institutions exceeds 80%. The share of public expenditure transferred to the private sector is larger at the tertiary level than at primary to post-secondary non-tertiary levels and reaches 26% on average among OECD countries for which data are available (Table B4.2).</p>	<p>OECD average of 85%) (Table B4.2).</p>
<p><b><i>There are large differences among OECD countries in the average tuition fees charged by tertiary-type A public institutions, as well as in how students pay for them.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In eight OECD countries public institutions charge no tuition fees, but in one-third of countries public institutions charge annual tuition fees for national students in excess of USD 1 500. Among the EU19 countries, only the Netherlands and the United Kingdom have annual tuition fees that represent more than USD 1 000 per full-time student; these relate to government-dependent institutions (Table B5.1a).</li> <li>• When tuition fees are charged, tertiary institutions are responsible for setting tuition fee levels in almost all countries. Only the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland have levels of tuition fees set exclusively by educational authorities (at central, regional or local levels) at least for some of their tertiary institutions (Table B5.1d).</li> <li>• An average of 18% of public spending on tertiary education is devoted to supporting students, households and other private entities. In Australia, Denmark, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the partner country Chile, public subsidies to households account for some 27% or more of public tertiary education budgets (Table B5.2).</li> <li>• Low annual tuition fees charged by tertiary-type A institutions are not systematically associated with a low proportion of students who benefit from public subsidies. In tertiary-type A education, the tuition fees charged by public institutions for national students are negligible in the Nordic countries and in the Czech Republic</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Canadian tertiary-type A institutions charge comparatively high tuition fees.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Canada, the tuition fees charged to national students by tertiary-type A institutions are on average USD 3 464. Although these fees are much higher than the EU-19 countries, they are still far below the highest tuition fees charged among some OECD countries, such as in Australia (USD 3855), Japan (USD 3920), Korea (USD 3883) and the United States (USD 5027) (Table B5.1).</li> <li>• Canada is among the countries that not only have comparatively high levels of tuition fees, but also well developed student support measures (including a public loans system to national students). In such systems there are fewer financial barriers for entry to tertiary education (Table B5.1e).</li> </ul>

<p>and are low in Turkey. And yet more than 55% of the students enrolled in tertiary-type A education in these countries can benefit from scholarships/grants and/or public loans. Moreover, Finland, Norway and Sweden are among the seven countries with the highest entry rate to tertiary-type A education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OECD countries in which students are required to pay tuition fees and who can benefit from particularly large public subsidies do not show lower levels of access to tertiary-type A education than the OECD average. For example, Australia (82%) and New Zealand (79%) have among the highest entry rates to tertiary-type A education, and the Netherlands (59%) and the United States (64%) are above the OECD average. The United Kingdom (51%) and partner country Chile (48%) are just below the OECD average (54%), although entry to tertiary-type A education increased by 4 and 6 percentage points, respectively, between 2000 and 2005 in these countries.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Instruction time, teachers' salaries, and student-teacher ratios vary widely among countries, which affects the level of expenditure per student.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The choices countries make about how many hours and years students spend in the classroom and the subjects they study reflect national priorities and preferences. Budgetary considerations also help shape education: Teachers' salaries represent the largest single cost in providing school education and, as such, are a critical consideration for policy-makers striving to both maintain the quality of education and to contain spending. While class size has become a hot topic in many OECD countries, evidence on its impact on student performance is mixed.</li> <li>• Differences in teachers' salaries, along with other factors such as student-to-staff ratios (see Indicator D2), provide some explanation of the differences in expenditure per student (see Indicators B1 and B7).</li> <li>• Salaries of teachers with at least 15 years' experience at the lower secondary level range from less than USD 15 000 in Hungary and in partner countries Chile and Estonia to</li> </ul>	<p>[No data available for Canada]</p>



<p>USD 51 000 or more in Germany, Korea and Switzerland, and exceed USD 90 000 in Luxembourg (Table D3.1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salaries for teachers with at least 15 years' experience in lower secondary education are over twice the GDP per capita in Korea, whereas in Norway, and in partner countries Estonia and Israel, salaries are 75% or less than the GDP per capita.</li> <li>• Teachers' salaries have risen in real terms between 1996 and 2006 in virtually all countries, with the largest increases in Finland, Hungary and Mexico (and in starting salaries in Australia) and in partner country Estonia. Salaries at the primary and upper secondary levels in Spain fell in real terms over the period, although they remain above the OECD average (Tables D3.1 and D3.2).</li> <li>• On average in OECD countries, upper secondary teachers' salaries per teaching hour exceed those of primary teachers by 44%; the difference is 5% or less in New Zealand, Scotland and the partner country Chile and is equal to or greater than 75% in Denmark and the Netherlands (Table D3.2).</li> </ul>	
<p><i>The average class size in primary education is slightly more than 21 students per class, but varies from 32 in Korea, to fewer than half that number in Luxembourg and the partner country the Russian Federation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The average class size in lower secondary education is 24 students per class, but varies from about 30 or more in Japan, Korea and Mexico and the partner countries Brazil, Chile and Israel, to 20 or fewer in Denmark, Iceland, Ireland (public institutions), Luxembourg and Switzerland and the partner country the Russian Federation (Table D2.1).</li> <li>• Between 2000 and 2006, differences in average class sizes among OECD countries have somewhat diminished. Class size tended to decrease in countries that had relatively large class sizes in 2000 (such as Japan, Korea and Turkey) whereas it increased in some of the countries with relatively small class sizes (such as Iceland) (Tables D2.1 and D2.4 available online).</li> </ul>	<p>[No data available for Canada]</p>

*Students in OECD countries are expected to receive, on average, 6 907 hours of instruction between the ages of 7 and 14, of which 1 591 hours take place between ages 7 and 8, 2 518 between ages 9 and 11, and 2 798 between ages 12 and 14. The large majority of intended hours of instruction are compulsory.*

- In OECD countries, 7-to-8-year-olds receive an average of 770 hours per year of compulsory instruction time and 796 hours per year of intended instruction time in the classroom. Those aged 9 to 11 receive about 40 compulsory hours more per year than 7-to-8-year-olds and those aged 12 to 14 receive just over 86 hours more per year than 9-to-11-year-olds (Table D1.1).
- On average across OECD countries, the teaching of reading, writing and literature, mathematics and science represents nearly 50% of the compulsory instruction time for 9-to-11-year-olds and 40% for 12-to-14-year-olds. For 9-to-11-year-olds, the proportion of compulsory curriculum devoted to reading, writing and literature varies widely from 13% in Australia to 30% or more in France, Mexico and the Netherlands (Table D1.2).

[No data available for Canada]

*The number of teaching hours in public lower secondary schools averages 717 hours a year but ranges from 548 hours in Korea to over 1 000 in Mexico (1 047) and the United States (1 080).*

- The number of teaching hours in public primary schools averages 812 per year (9 more than in 2005), but ranges from less than 650 in Denmark, Turkey and the partner country Estonia to 1 080 in the United States (Table D4.1).
- The average number of teaching hours in upper secondary general education is 667, but ranges from 364 in Denmark to 1 080 in the United States (Table D4.1).
- The composition of teachers' annual teaching time, in terms of days, weeks and hours per day, varies considerably. For instance, while teachers in Denmark teach for 42 weeks per year (in primary and secondary education) and teachers in Iceland for 35-36 weeks per year, teachers in Iceland have more total annual teaching time (in

[No data available for Canada]

hours) than teachers in Denmark (Table D4.1).

- Regulations concerning teachers' working time also vary. In most countries, teachers are formally required to work a specific number of hours; in some, teaching time is only specified as the number of lessons per week and assumptions may be made on the amount of non-teaching time required per lesson (at school or elsewhere). For example, in Belgium (French Community), additional non-teaching hours at school are set at the school level; the government only defines the minimum and maximum number of teaching periods per week at each level of education.

## ***EQUITY CHALLENGES***

*On average across OECD countries, close to 8 out of 10 young adults have now a qualification at least at the upper secondary level of education, which was true for little more than half of 55 to 64-year-olds. In the last 11 years alone, the proportion of students graduating from upper secondary programmes has increased by seven percentage points in OECD countries. Despite this rapid progress towards universal upper secondary education **Education at a Glance 2008** also shows that in most countries a significant minority of individuals remain without baseline qualifications at the upper secondary level. In many countries, these individuals are seeing rapidly-deteriorating labour market prospects. **Education at a Glance 2008** also shows that access to education as well as educational success often remain closely tied to socio-economic conditions, which implies that countries do not fully capitalise on their human potential. **Education at a Glance 2008** provides a range of indicators on disparities in educational attainment and their labour-market consequences.*

<b><i>Global trends</i></b>	<b><i>Key results for Canada</i></b>
<p data-bbox="156 360 769 591"><b><i>In most OECD countries, virtually everyone now has access to at least 12 years of formal education and full enrolment (defined here as enrolment rates exceeding 90%) tends to begin between the ages of 5 and 6, but there is significant variability both at the beginning and ending of initial education.</i></b></p> <ul data-bbox="167 613 769 1653" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 90% of students are enrolled in education in an age range spanning 14 or more years in Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Norway and Spain. In contrast, Mexico and Turkey have enrolment rates exceeding 90% for only nine and six years, respectively; the corresponding figure for the partner country the Russian Federation is nine years (Table C2.1).</li> <li>• Enrolment rates for children 4 years or younger range from less than 25% in Korea and Turkey to over 90% in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, New Zealand, Spain and the United Kingdom (Table C2.1). Young children are more likely to be enrolled in the countries of the European Union than in other OECD countries (the enrolment rate for 3-to-4-year-olds averages 76.7% for the EU19, while the OECD average is 69.4%) (Table C2.1).</li> <li>• Enrolment rates for 15-to-19-year-olds increased on average from 74 to 81% from 1995 to 2006. In Belgium, Greece and Poland, and the partner country Slovenia, they reached more than 90% in 2006 (in Belgium they had already reached this level in 1995). The pattern is similar for 20-to-29-year-olds, an age group in which most students are enrolled in tertiary education; between 1995 and 2006, their enrolment rates increased in all OECD countries except Portugal (Table C2.2).</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="794 360 1374 423"><b><i>Enrolment rate for 15-to-19 year olds remained stable between 1995 and 2006.</i></b></p> <ul data-bbox="805 448 1428 864" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The enrolment rate for 15-to-19-year-olds in Canada increased very slightly, from 80 to 81% between 1995 and 2006. While this enrolment rate was above the OECD average (74%) in 1995, it is now similar to the OECD average (81%), as other countries have seen faster increases (Table C2.2).</li> <li>• This pattern is similar for 20-to-29-year-olds, an age group in which most students are enrolled in tertiary education; here Canada's enrolment rate increased on average from 22% in 1995 (above the OECD average of 18%) to 26% in 2006 (similar to the OECD average) (Table C2.2).</li> </ul>
<p data-bbox="156 1706 769 1872"><b><i>The proportion of individuals who have completed upper secondary education has been growing in almost all OECD countries and is now the norm among the younger cohorts, but a significant minority remains left out.</i></b></p> <ul data-bbox="167 1895 769 1986" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the last 11 years, the proportion of students graduating from upper secondary programmes has increased by seven percentage points on</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="794 1706 1374 1769"><b><i>Canada has one of the highest upper secondary attainment levels across OECD countries...</i></b></p> <ul data-bbox="805 1794 1412 1960" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among OECD countries, Canada has, after the United States and the Slovak Republic, the third highest upper secondary attainment rate; 86% of 25-to-64-year-olds in Canada have completed upper secondary education (OECD average 68%)</li> </ul>

average in OECD countries with available data. In 17 of 24 OECD countries, the ratio of upper secondary graduates to the population at the typical age of graduation is 80% or higher and in the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Japan, Korea and Norway it exceeds 90%. However, in Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United States, more than 20% leave school without attaining an upper secondary degree (Tables A1.2 and A2.2).

- Those who have attained at least upper secondary education enjoy substantial earnings advantages (Chart A9.4). For many countries, the earnings disadvantage of those without upper secondary qualifications has significantly worsened (Table A9.2a).
- Gender differences in employment and unemployment rates are largest among those without upper secondary education (Chart A8.1)

(Table A1.2a).

- Upper secondary attainment rates increased steadily in Canada. Whereas 76% of 55-to-64-year-olds (i.e. those who completed school some 40 years ago) had completed upper secondary education, the rate is now 91% among 25-to-34-year-olds (above the OECD average 78%). Note that the individuals (25-to-34-year-olds in 2006) in this analysis passed the age of sixteen in between 1986 and 1996 (Table A1.2a).

*...although upper secondary completion rates are only slightly below the OECD average...*

- The upper secondary graduation rate in Canada is 80%, compared with an OECD average of 83% (Table A2.1).

*Employment prospects for those who have no upper secondary qualification are particularly poor...*

- Employment rates among both university and upper secondary graduates in Canada are at or slightly below the corresponding OECD averages. For those who have completed only lower secondary level, employment rates are 71% for men (below the OECD average of 73%) and 53% for women, (above the OECD average of 50%) (Table A8.1a). Differences in the employment probabilities accruing to different levels of educational attainment have grown over the last decade. For individuals without upper secondary education the employment rate in Canada increased between 1997 and 2006 from 53% to 57%, for individuals with upper secondary education, from 74% to 76%, and for tertiary graduates from 82% to 83% (Table A8.3a).

*The earning disadvantage increased for those without upper secondary education.*

- The penalties for not completing upper secondary education are also visible in the distribution of earnings. The share of 25-to-64-year-olds with low income (defined here as half of the country median or less) is in most countries significantly higher among those without upper secondary qualifications than among upper secondary graduates. For Canada, this share is the third highest of the countries compared, behind the United Kingdom and the United States (Table A9.4a). Among 25-to-64-year-olds in Canada

	<p>without upper secondary qualifications, about 38% earn half or less than the national median (the OECD average is 24%), while 6% (OECD average 3%) are in the group of top earners, whose average earnings exceed twice the country median (Table A9.4a).</p>
<p><i>Some countries have been successful in improving educational opportunities among youths in difficult labour-market situations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most OECD countries have expanded their education system to accommodate more of the younger cohorts. For 15-to-19-year-olds, recruitment to education has largely taken place among individuals outside the labour market (not in education or employment) and to a lesser extent among employed individuals. With few exceptions, policies to expand education systems have thus helped to lower unemployment and inactivity among young adults (Tables C4.1b).</li> <li>• The 15-to-19-year-old population that is not in education is generally associated with being unemployed or out of the labour force. Some countries are better able than others to provide employment for young adults with relatively low educational attainment. In Iceland, Japan and Norway, more than 70% of this age group not in education have employment (Table C4.2a).</li> <li>• On average, completing upper secondary education reduces unemployment among 20-to-24-year-olds by 7.4 percentage points and that of 25-to-29-year-olds by 6.2 percentage points. The lack of an upper secondary qualification is a serious impediment to finding employment, and a tertiary qualification further increases the likelihood of job seekers finding employment (Table C4.3).</li> </ul>	<p><i>The education and labour market situation of young people in Canada remains an issue.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some 18.9% of the population aged 15-19 years is not in education in Canada (OECD average 17.1%). Moreover, only 61% of this group is employed; the other 39% is either unemployed or not engaged in employment, education or training (Table C4.2a and Table C4.4a).</li> <li>• Examining trends in these rates over the period 1995 to 2006 indicates that the situation of young people in Canada based on these measures has only improved slightly (Table C4.4a). In contrast, the labour market situation for those with a tertiary education is substantially better and the unemployment ratio for 25-to-29-year-olds at 3.5% is below the OECD average (4.9%) (Table C4.3)</li> </ul>
<p><i>Continuing education and training often does not reach those who need it most.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In many countries, non-formal continuing education and training now also plays a significant role in raising the stock of knowledge and skills. There are major differences among countries in the number of hours that individuals can expect to spend in non-formal job-related education and training over a typical working life. At the tertiary level, it ranges from less than</li> </ul>	<p><i>The intensity of participation in non-formal job-related education and training is comparatively high in Canada...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Canada, between the ages of 25 and 64, the total expected number of hours in non-formal job-related training per worker is 586, considerably above the OECD average of 389 hours (Table C5.1a).</li> </ul> <p><i>In Canada, those with higher education levels</i></p>

<p>350 hours in Greece, Italy and the Netherlands to more than 1 000 in Denmark, Finland, France and Switzerland (Table C5.1a).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relative intensity (number of hours) of non-formal job-related education and training typically increases sharply with educational attainment (except in the United Kingdom, Italy and the Netherlands). The expected hours in non-formal job-related education and training among 25-64-year-olds with tertiary qualifications is, on average across countries, nearly twice as high as among those with upper secondary qualifications and more than three times as high as among those without upper secondary qualifications (Table C5.1a).</li> <li>• An older worker with tertiary education can expect to receive at least 70% of the education and training of a younger worker in Denmark, Sweden and the United States, but the proportion falls below 20% in France, Hungary and the Netherlands. Adults with higher levels of educational attainment are more likely to participate in non-formal job-related continuing education and training than adults with lower educational attainment (Table C5.1a).</li> </ul>	<p><i>receive more non-formal job-related training.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Canada, the intensity of non-formal job-related education and training increases sharply with education attainment. The intensity of participation among 25-64-year-olds with tertiary qualifications is, on average across countries, four times as high as among those with upper secondary qualifications and more than six times as high as among those without upper secondary qualifications (Table C5.1a). These findings are important because they show continuing inequalities in terms of access to lifelong learning in Canada, as in other countries. They also suggest that continuing education and training currently does not succeed in making up for skill gaps emerging from initial education but, in first, tend to reinforce disparities that result from initial education.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Countries vary greatly in how well they succeed in enabling students from blue-collar backgrounds to participate in higher education.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ireland and Spain stand out as providing the most equitable access to higher education, whereas in Austria, France, Germany and Portugal students from a blue-collar background are about one-half as likely to be in higher education compared with what their proportion in the population would suggest (Indicator A7).</li> <li>• When measuring the socio-economic status of students in higher education by their fathers' educational background large differences between countries emerge. In many countries, students are substantially more likely to be in higher education if their fathers completed higher education. Students from such a background are more than twice as likely to be in higher education in Austria, France, Germany, Portugal and the United Kingdom than are students whose fathers did not complete higher education. In Ireland and Spain this ratio drops</li> </ul>	<p>[No data available for Canada]</p>



<p>to 1.1 and 1.5, respectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among the countries providing information on the socio-economic status of students in higher education it appears that inequalities in previous schooling are reflected in the intake of students from less advantaged backgrounds. The countries providing more equitable access to higher education – such as Finland, Ireland and Spain – were also the countries with the most equal between-school performances, as show by data collected in 2000 by OECD PISA.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><i>In almost half of the countries, the majority of upper secondary students are enrolled in vocational programmes. However, in key subject areas, the performance of students in vocational programmes tends to lag considerably behind student performance in general programmes.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 13 out of 28 OECD countries and the partner country Slovenia, the majority of upper secondary students are enrolled in pre-vocational and vocational programmes. In most OECD countries, a significant proportion of upper secondary vocational education is school-based (Table C1.1).</li> <li>• In OECD countries with available data, vocational qualification is concentrated in engineering, manufacturing and construction at both the upper secondary (34%) and post-secondary non-tertiary (22%) levels (Table C1.2).</li> <li>• The 14 OECD countries for which data are available spend, on average, USD 925 more per student on upper secondary vocational programmes than on general programmes (Table C1.3).</li> <li>• PISA 2006 shows that 15-year-olds in pre-vocational and vocational programmes have statistically significant lower performance in science compared to students enrolled in general programmes in 12 out of the 14 OECD countries for which data are available. On average, 15-year-olds enrolled in general programmes score 35 points higher and after adjusting for socio-economic factors a difference of 24 points still remains (Table C1.4).</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>The majority of upper secondary students are enrolled in general programmes in Canada.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Canada, 94.6% of upper secondary enrolment is in general programmes (OECD average 53.8%), while 5.4% is in vocational programmes (OECD average 44.0%) (Table C1.1).</li> </ul> <p>[No data are available by field of study or by student performance]</p>



## *NOTES*

- “Educational attainment” is defined as the highest grade completed within the most advanced level attended in the educational system of the country where the education was received. Some countries may also find it useful to present data on educational attainment in terms of the highest grade attended.
- “Lower secondary education generally continues the basic programmes of the primary level, although teaching is typically more subject-focused. Lower secondary education may either be “terminal” (i.e. preparing students for entry directly into working life) and/or “preparatory” (i.e. preparing students for upper secondary education). This level usually consists of three years of schooling in OECD countries.
- “Non-formal education” is defined as organised and sustained educational activities that are not typically provided in the system of schools, colleges, universities and other formal institutions that constitutes a continuous ladder of full-time education for children and young people. Non-formal education may take place both within and outside educational institutions, and cater to persons of all ages. For detailed definitions, see Indicator C5 in *Education at a Glance 2008*.
- “Post-secondary non-tertiary education” is defined as programmes straddling the boundary between upper secondary and post-secondary education from an international point of view, even though they might clearly be considered upper secondary or post-secondary programmes in a national context. Although their content may not be significantly more advanced than upper secondary programmes, they serve to broaden the knowledge of participants who have already gained an upper secondary qualification. The students tend to be older than those enrolled at the upper secondary level.
- “Pre-primary education” is defined as the initial stage of organised instruction, designed primarily to introduce very young children to a school-type environment, that is, to provide a bridge between home and a school-based atmosphere. They are centre or school-based, designed to meet the educational and developmental needs of children at least three years of age, and have staff qualified to provide an educational programme for children.
- “Primary education” usually begins at ages five, six or seven and generally lasts six years in OECD countries. Programmes at the primary level generally require no previous formal education, although it is becoming increasingly common for children to have attended a pre-primary programme before entering primary education. The boundary between pre-primary and primary education is typically the beginning of systematic studies characteristic of primary education, i.e. reading, writing and mathematics. It is common, however, for children to begin learning basic literacy and numeracy skills at the pre-primary level.
- “Statutory salaries” refers to teachers’ salaries according to official pay scales. The salaries reported are defined as gross salaries (total sum of money that is paid by the employer for the labour supplied) minus the employer’s contribution to social security and pension (according to existing salary scales). Salaries are “before tax”, i.e. before deductions for income taxes.
- Indicators in *Education at a Glance 2008* cover both the current performance of the HE system and the proportion of the adult population (25-to-64-year-olds) who have attained HE qualifications. Tertiary programmes are generally divided by type of course: “tertiary-type A” (largely theory-based and designed to provide sufficient qualifications for entry to advanced research programmes and professions with high skill requirements, such as medicine, dentistry or architecture) and “tertiary-type B” (typically shorter and focused on practical, technical or occupational skills for direct entry into the labour market). “Graduation rate” is defined as the ratio of tertiary graduates to the population at typical age of graduation.
- “Upper secondary” education corresponds to the final stage of secondary education in most OECD countries. Instruction is often more organised along subject-matter lines. The entrance age to this level is

typically 15 or 16 years.