

Student performance

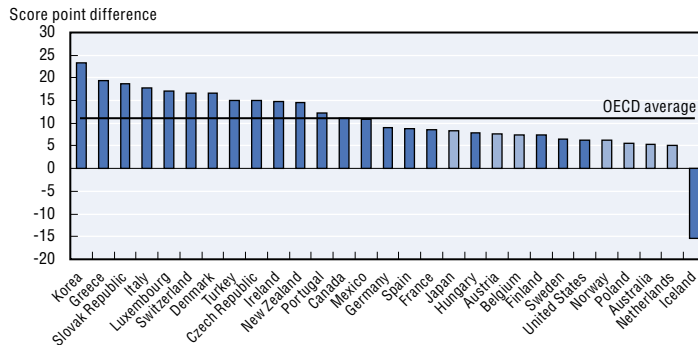
Did you know?

OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) assesses student knowledge and skills in mathematics, reading, and science at age 15.

In general, girls outperform boys in reading by a wide margin while boys outperform girls, by lesser margins, in mathematics and, even less in science.

The chart below shows the gender gaps for scores in mathematics, with in dark colour the significant differences between boys and girls.

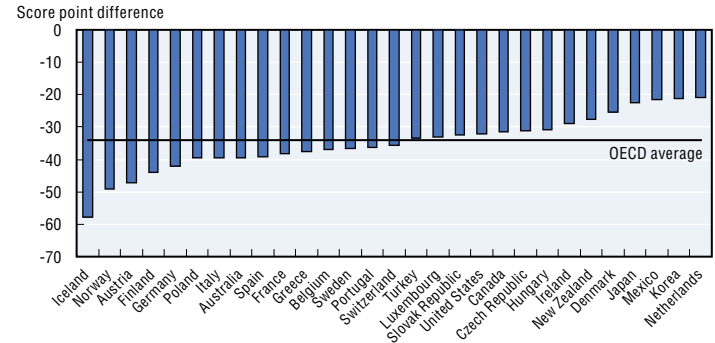
Gender differences (boys-girls) in student performance in mathematics in PISA 2003



Source: OECD (2004), *Learning for Tomorrow's World – First results from PISA 2003*, Table 2.5c, OECD, Paris.

In mathematics the boys score higher than the girls in the majority of the countries except in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and Poland where the advantage for boys is not significant, and in Iceland where the girls outperform the boys.

Gender differences (boys-girls) in student performance in reading in PISA 2003



Source: OECD (2004), *Learning for Tomorrow's World - First results from PISA 2003*, Table 6.3, OECD, Paris.

In the reading assessment, however, the girls come out well ahead of the boys in all countries and the gender gaps were exceptionally large in Iceland, Norway, Austria and Finland as shown in the chart above.

Science shows the smallest average gender differences among all contents assessed. Statistically significant differences in favour of men are found in Canada, Denmark, Greece, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic and Switzerland. On the other hand, women in Finland and Iceland outperform men.

Further reading:

OECD (2004), *Learning for Tomorrow's World: First Results from PISA 2003*, OECD, Paris.