

International Perspective

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE			
Compulsory Attendance (2004)			Education Expectancy (2004)
Starting Age	Ending Age	Expected years of formal education for a 5-year-old during his or her lifetime	
Australia	5	15	20.7
Austria	6	15	16.3
Belgium	6	18	19.6
Canada	6	16	—
Czech Republic	6	15	17.0
Denmark	7	16	19.0
Finland	7	16	20.0
France	6	16	16.8
Germany	6	18	17.4
Greece	6	15	16.9
Hungary	7	16	17.6
Iceland	6	16	19.7
Ireland	6	15	17.2
Italy	6	16	17.0
Japan	6	15	—
Korea (South)	6	15	16.6
Luxembourg	6	15	14.2
Mexico	6	15	13.4
Netherlands	6	17	17.4
New Zealand	5	16	19.1
Norway	6	16	18.4
Poland	7	18	17.0
Portugal	6	15	17.1
Slovak Republic	6	16	15.7
Spain	6	16	17.2
Sweden	7	16	20.3
Switzerland	7	15	16.8
Turkey	6	14	12.6
United Kingdom	5	16	20.7
United States	6	17	16.9
OECD Average			17.4

EDUCATIONAL PARTICIPATION RATES				
Percent of population enrolled in education programs by school level (2004)				
Preprimary	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	
64%	96%	85%	72%	
—	—	90	50	
100	99	97	63	
68	—	—	60	
—	—	90	43	
91	100	92	74	
58	99	94	90	
100	99	96	56	
—	—	—	—	
66	99	87	79	
80	89	91	60	
91	99	86	52	
—	96	87	59	
98	99	92	63	
85	100	100	54	
48	99	90	90	
72	91	79	12	
74	98	64	23	
89	99	89	59	
91	99	95	63	
85	99	96	80	
51	97	90	61	
75	99	82	57	
—	—	90	36	
97	99	97	66	
85	99	98	84	
73	94	83	47	
8	89	—	29	
55	99	95	60	
57	92	90	82	

FOOTNOTES:

Note: A dash (—) indicates data were not available.

In a few countries, the year of reference may vary slightly or data may be based upon estimates by the country or organization compiling the data.

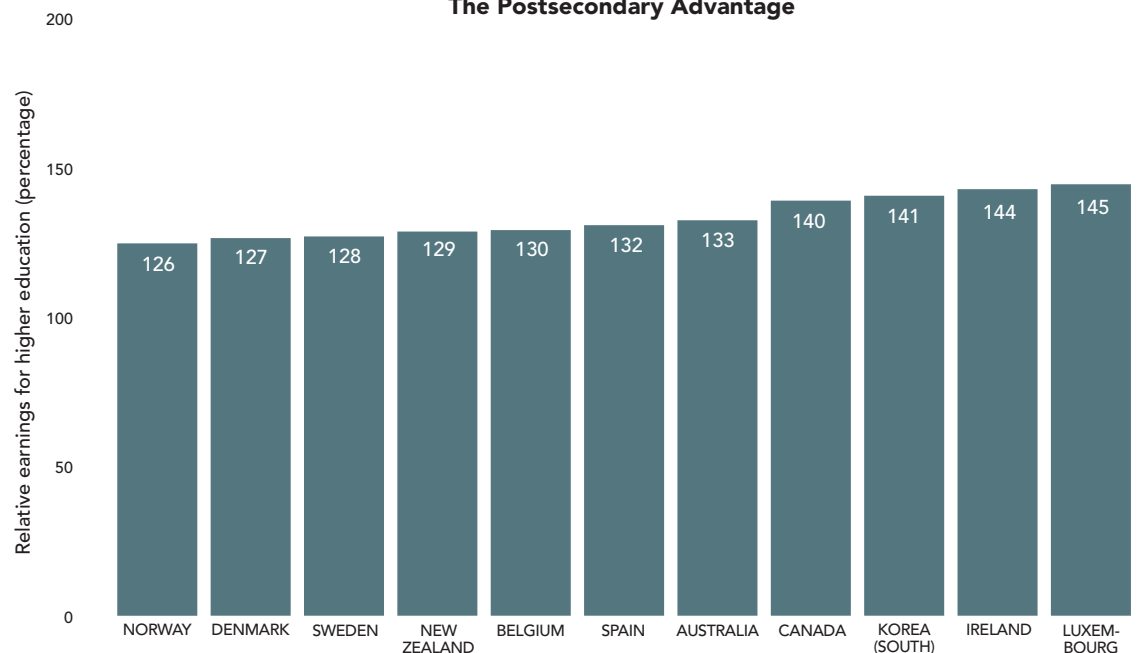
GLOBAL RETURNS

In the United States, the annual earnings of an adult with a college education are about 72 percent higher than those of an individual with only a high school diploma. Among the nations with available data, the higher-education advantage is greatest in Hungary, where college-goers earn over twice as much as those with only a secondary-level education, and smallest in Norway, where higher education increases salaries by about 26 percent.

Note: Data are for most recent year available.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2006

The Postsecondary Advantage



EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES

Total public expenditures on education (2003)		Distribution of expenditures by level of education (2003)				
In billions of U.S. dollars	As percent of gross domestic product	Preprimary	Primary and Secondary	Tertiary	Not allocated by level	
\$29.8	4.8%	2%	71%	27%	0%	Australia
13.8	5.5	10	69	21	0	Austria
19.0	6.1	10	67	21	2	Belgium
48.1	5.0	—	61	39	0	Canada
7.9	4.5	9	65	23	3	Czech Republic
13.7	8.3	12	61	25	3	Denmark
9.6	6.5	6	65	29	0	Finland
103.5	5.9	11	67	22	1	France
107.1	4.7	10	66	23	2	Germany
9.7	4.3	—	67	30	3	Greece
9.0	5.9	15	59	23	4	Hungary
0.7	7.8	11	66	14	9	Iceland
6.0	4.4	—	—	—	—	Ireland
75.6	4.9	9	70	21	0	Italy
132.5	3.7	4	62	26	8	Japan
42.5	4.6	2	58	34	5	Korea (South)
—	—	—	—	—	—	Luxembourg
57.1	5.8	11	66	20	3	Mexico
26.3	5.1	7	67	25	0	Netherlands
6.5	6.8	4	72	22	2	New Zealand
12.9	7.6	5	70	23	2	Norway
25.7	5.8	9	70	21	0	Poland
10.9	5.9	7	70	19	3	Portugal
3.1	4.4	12	65	20	4	Slovak Republic
44.8	4.3	11	63	26	0	Spain
19.8	7.5	7	66	26	0	Sweden
14.8	6.0	4	67	28	2	Switzerland
17.7	3.7	—	71	29	0	Turkey
95.2	5.4	6	75	19	—	United Kingdom
622.4	5.7	6	56	39	—	United States
	5.5%	8%	66%	25%	2%	OECD Average

