

Performances of the Spanish educational system

(EAG 2009 - 2007 data)

1. Access to education

- As far as upper secondary education for the 25-34 year-olds, Spain has one of the lowest attainment rates (64.8% against an OECD average of 79.1%).
- However the situation is much different with regard tertiary education as Spain has an attainment rate higher than the OECD average (38.9% against 34.2%).
- The graduation rate for both upper secondary education and tertiary education (long studies) is below the OECD average (74.3% against 82.1% and 32.4% against 38.7%).

2. Education quality

- In PISA the performances of Spain are below the average with respectively 461 in reading (35th position in 56 countries), 480 in mathematics (32th position) and 488 in sciences (31st position).
- While on average across OECD countries 7.7% of students reach PISA level 5 in science and 1.3% level 6 (the highest), the scores of Spain are respectively 4.5%, and less than 0.3%.

3. Expenditure

- In 2006, OECD countries spend 6.1% of their collective GDP on education. But levels vary greatly with the US spending more than 7%, and Turkey 2.7%. Spain stands at 4.7%
- However, expenditure on educational institutions (tertiary education excluded) increased in OECD countries by 40% between 1995 and 2006. It increased by 42.7% in Spain.
- In 2006, expenditure per student in Spain is lower than OECD average in the three educational sectors (primary, secondary and tertiary).
- The share of private expenditure on education institutions in Spain amounts to 11.1% in 2006 slightly below the OECD average (15.3%).
- Salaries of teachers (after 15 years of service in converted dollar using PPP) are slightly higher in Spain than in the OECD average (USD 39 912 against USD 39 007).

4. Organisation

	Spain	OECD average
Instruction time	6834 hours	6862 hours
Class size primary	21	21
Class size lower secondary	25	24
Teaching time per year	880	798

- In terms of organisation, Spain differs from the OECD average only as far as slightly lower instruction time for students and higher teaching time for teachers.