



Teacher Pay Around the World

By **CATHERINE RAMPELL**

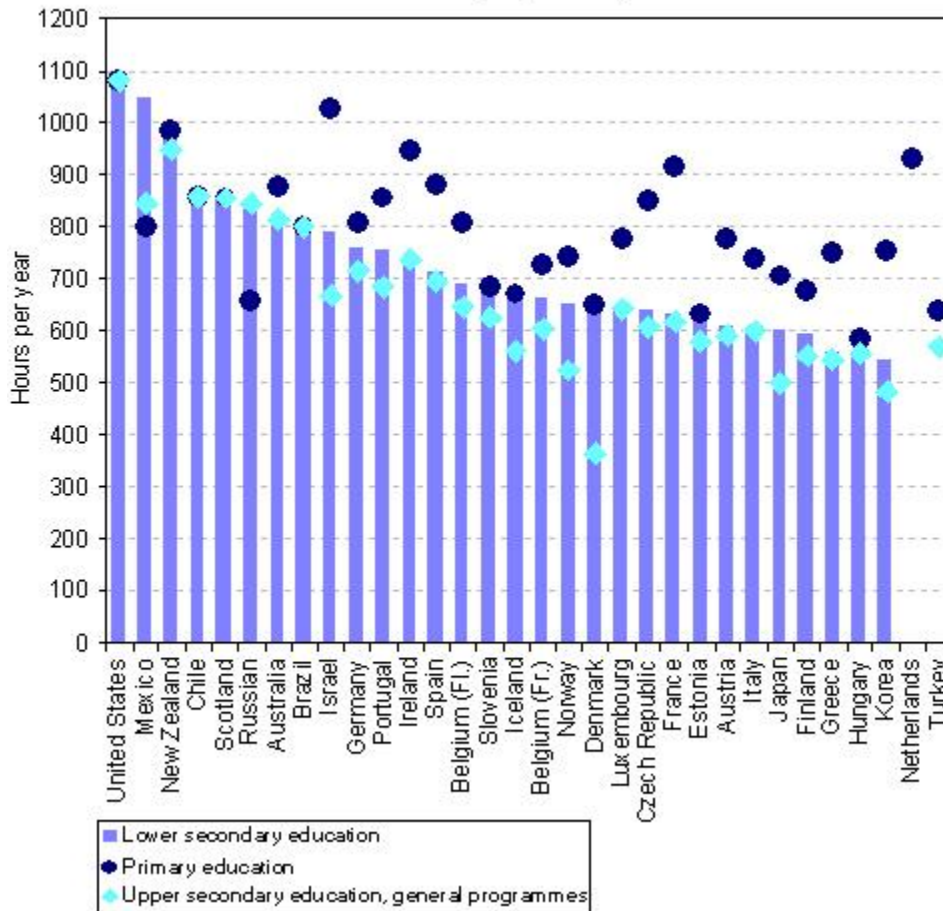
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The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development released a trove of fascinating statistics on [education around the world](#) on Tuesday. Given increasing interest in how well the American education system is [preparing today's students for tomorrow's economy](#), let's look at how measures of United States education stack up alongside the systems of our peer countries.

First let's look at teachers. Compared to other developed countries, in the United States teachers generally spend more time teaching but apparently without an equivalent advantage in pay.

American teachers spend on average 1,080 hours teaching each year. Across the O.E.C.D., the average is 794 hours on primary education, 709 hours on lower secondary education, and 653 hours on upper secondary education general programs.

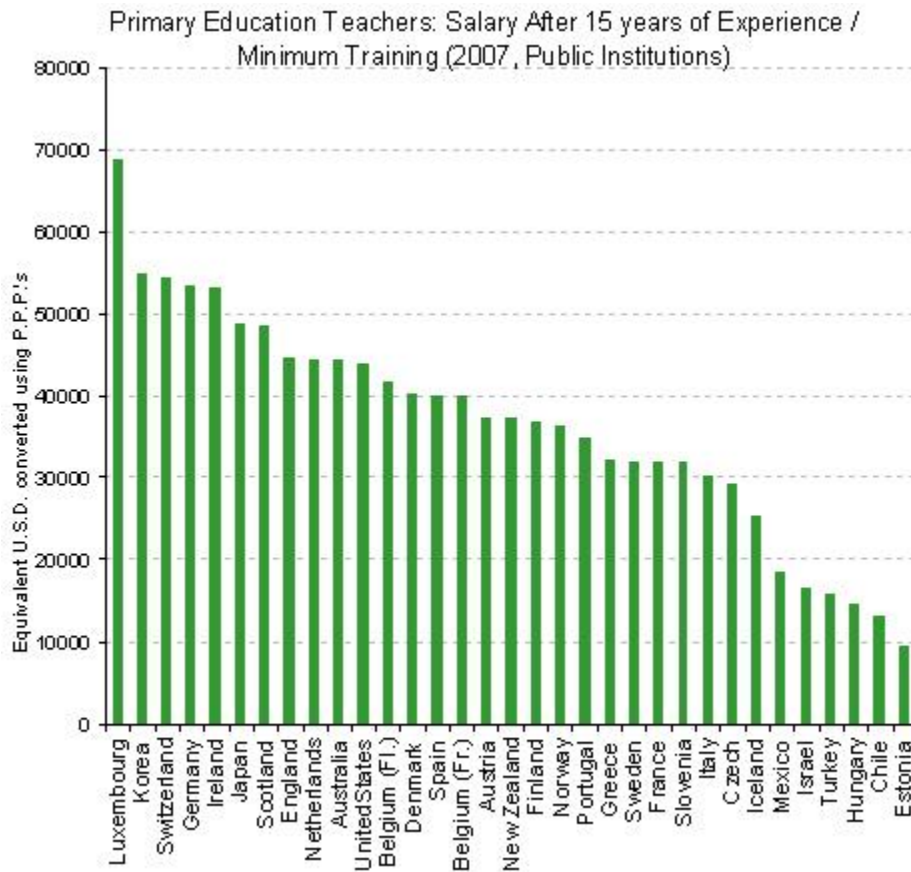
Number of Teaching Hours per Year, by Level of Education (2007)
Net contact time in hours per year in public institutions



Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development



American teachers' pay is more middling. The average public primary-school teacher who has worked 15 years and has received the minimum amount of training, for example, earns \$43,633, compared to the O.E.C.D. average of \$39,007.



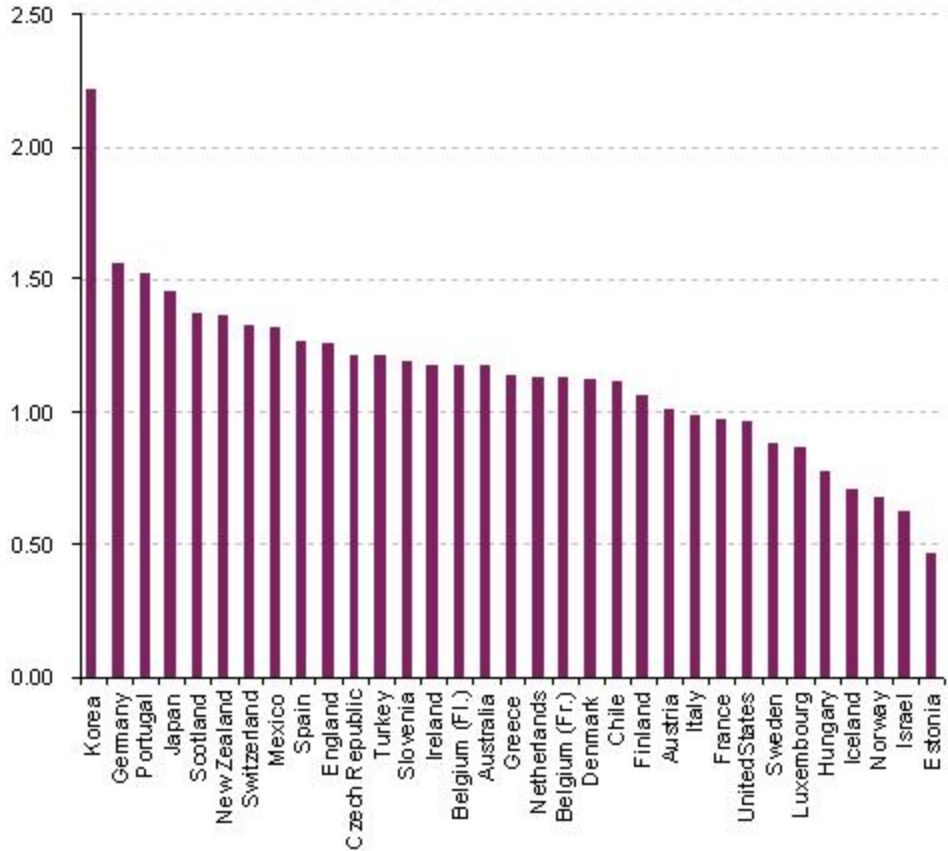
Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Annual statutory teachers' salaries in public institutions in primary education, in equivalent United States dollars converted using purchasing power parities.

Comparing each country's teacher salaries to the wealth of that country makes United States educational salaries appear lower. In the United States, a teacher with 15 years of experience makes a salary that is 96 percent of the country's gross domestic product per capita. Across the O.E.C.D., a teacher of equivalent experience makes 117 percent of G.D.P. per capita. At the high end of the scale, in Korea, the average teacher at this level makes a full 221 percent of the country's G.D.P. per capita.



Primary Education Teachers: Ratio of Salary After 15 Years of Experience to G.D.P. per Capita (2007 , Public Institutions)

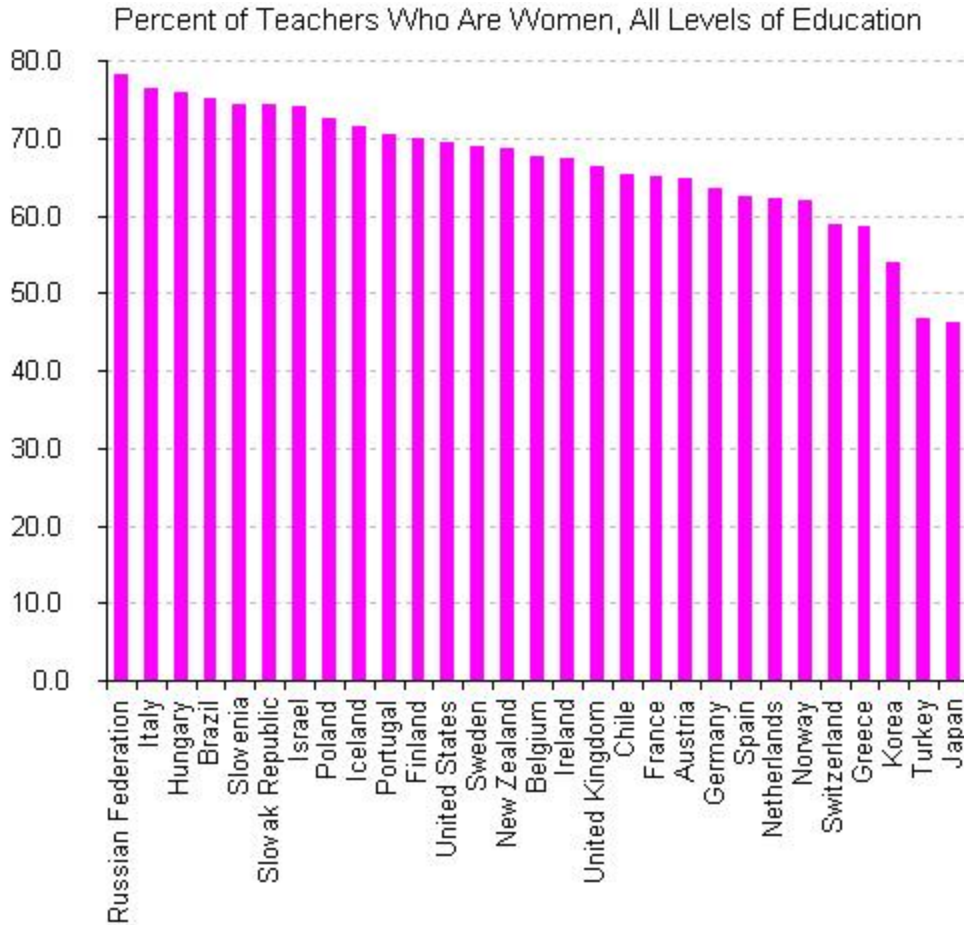


Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Annual statutory teachers' salaries in public institutions in primary education, ratio of salary after 15 years of experience to gross domestic product per capita.

The demographics of teachers in the United States look similar to those of teachers elsewhere in the developed world.

Across public and private institutions at all levels of education, 69.4 percent of teachers are women, compared with 65.1 percent across the O.E.C.D. Among those developed and developing countries covered by this report, the percentage is highest in Russia (78.3 percent, and the share of women reaches 98.7 percent if you look at only primary education), and lowest in Turkey (46.8 percent across all levels of education).



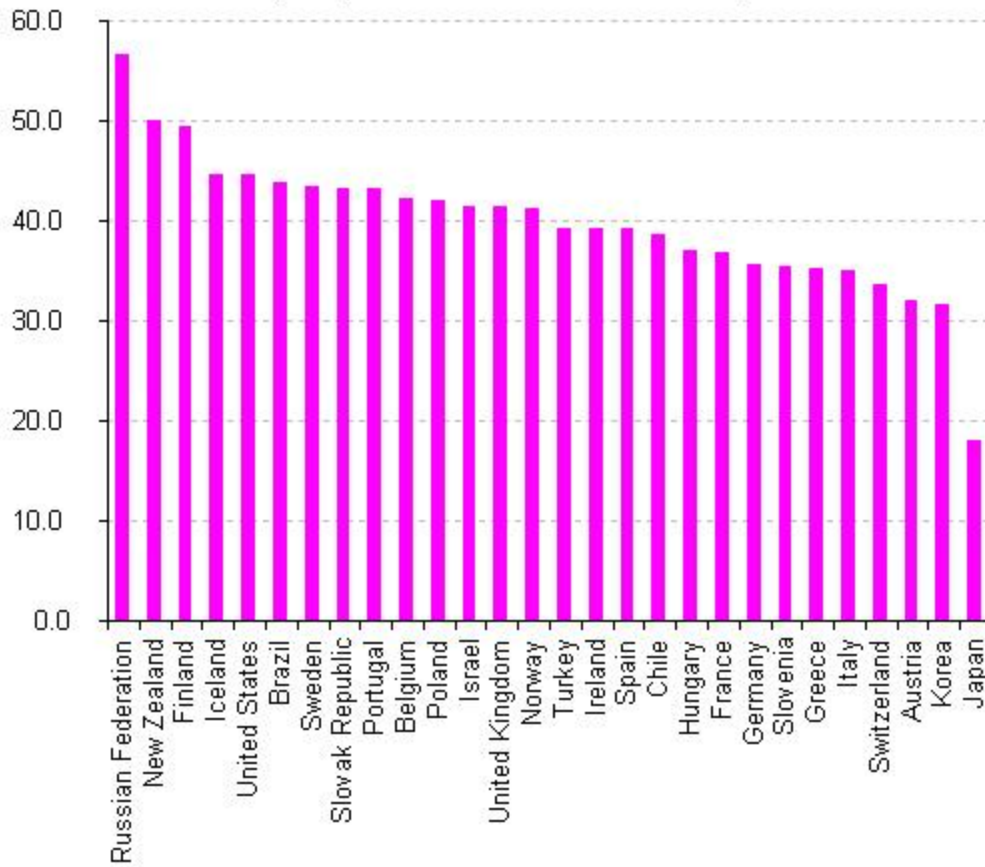
Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Percentage of females among teaching staff in public and private institutions by level of education, based on head counts, 2007.

The percentage of women instructors in post-secondary (also called tertiary) education is 41.6 percent in the United States, compared to 39 percent across the O.E.C.D. Of the countries for which data are available, the share of women teaching higher education is lowest in Japan, at 17.9 percent.



Percentage of Teachers in Tertiary Education Who Are Women
(2007, Public and Private Institutions)



Source:

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

[ECONOMIX, EDUCATION, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, SALARIES, TEACHERS, WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE](#)

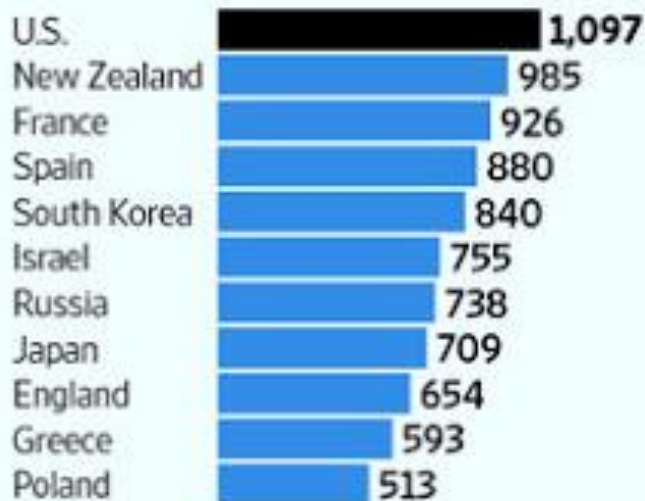


Teachers Work the Same Number of Hours as Average U.S. Worker

As reported by the Wall Street Journal and according to a 2008 report from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), American primary-school educators spend 1,913 hours working a year including hours teachers spend on work at home and outside of the classroom. Data from a Labor Department survey that same year showed that the average full-time employee in the United States worked 1,932 hours spread over 48 weeks. This statistic shows that teachers work about the same number of hours as the average worker in the United States. This fact refutes the argument that teachers should be paid considerably less than other workers because "teachers only work 9 months of the year." Any effective teacher has always known that is simply not true. The OECD reported that primary-school educators spent 1,097 hours a year teaching in the classroom not including the work outside of the classroom--the most of any of the 27 member nations tracked. That same report showed the class sizes in the United States were on average the 10th highest of the 31 nations for which this data was reported. According to data from 2006, salaries for teachers in the United States were ranked 12th when adjusted for purchasing power parity and GDP per capita.

At the Blackboard

Average number of hours primary-school teachers spend per year on instruction



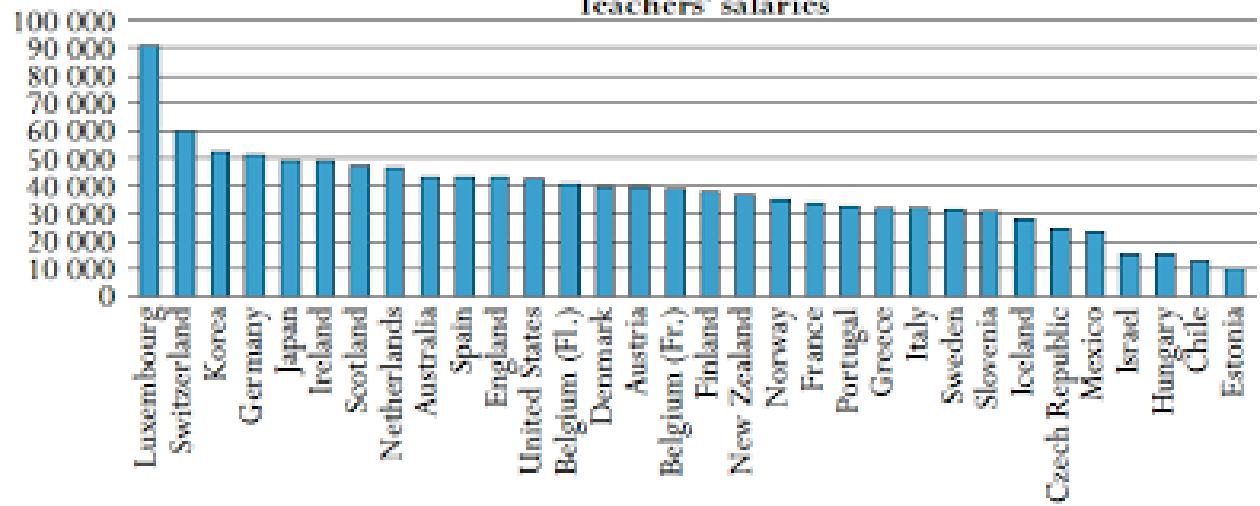
Note: 2008; latest data available

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development



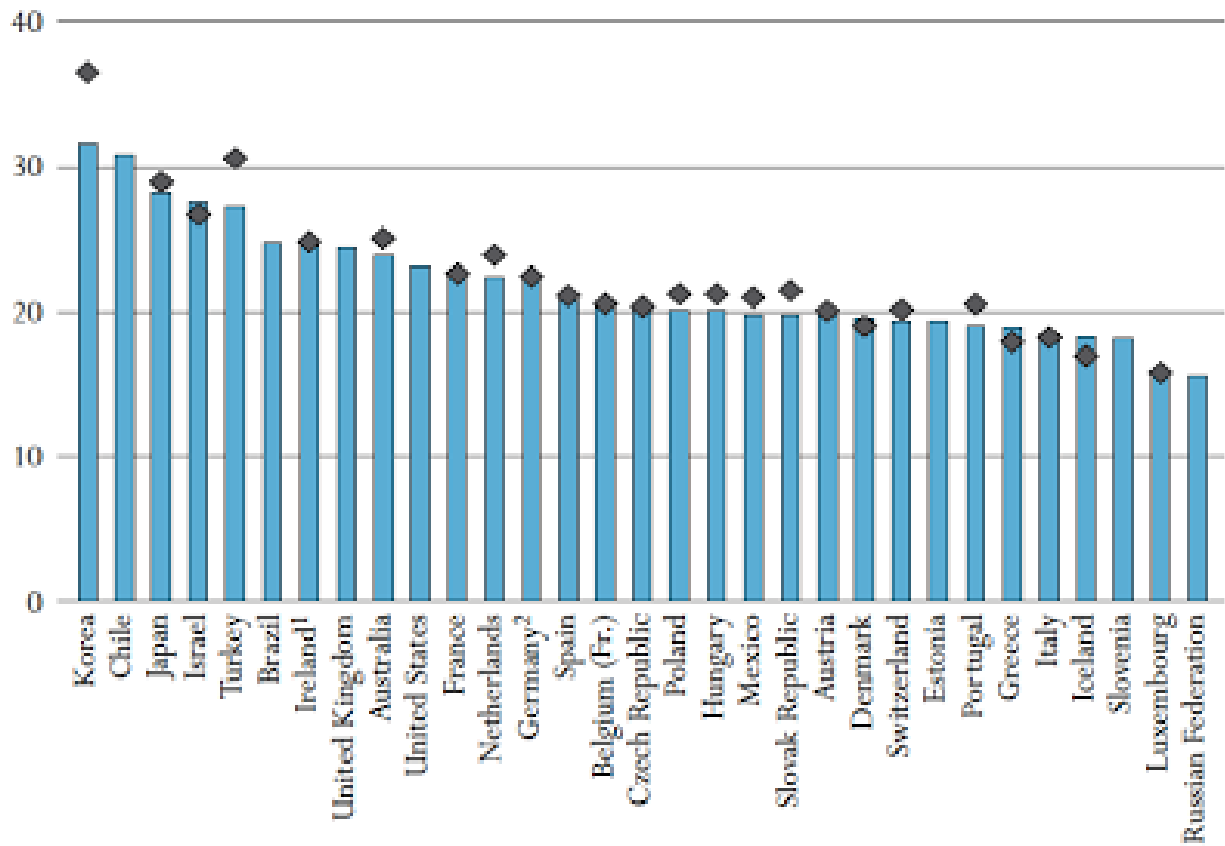
Equivalent USD converted using PPPs

Teachers' salaries



Source: "Education at a Glance 2008," OECD.

Number of students per classroom



Source: "Education at a Glance 2008," OECD.



Link to OECD report: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/23/46/41284038.pdf>

Link to Wall Street Journal Article: "[U.S. Teachers' Hours Among World's Longest](#)"

This post is quoted by *The Atlantic News*

Wire: <http://www.theatlanticwire.com/business/2011/06/us-teachers-work-longest-hours-students-stay-average/39268/>

The Atlantic News Wire story appears on Yahoo News as well:

<http://news.yahoo.com/u-teachers-longest-hours-students-stay-average-225426641.html>