

The Spaces Between Numbers

Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table 1: Accounts of Education Attainment in the United States by the American Community Survey (ACS), 3-year average (2005-2007) and by the Current Population Survey (CPS) in 2008

Age bracket	Population ACS (000)	Population CPS (000)	Some college, no degree (CPS)	Associate's Degree (CPS)	Bachelor's or higher (CPS)	Bachelor's or higher (ACS)
15-19	see note	21,314	11.9%	<0.1%	<0.1%	see note
20-24	see note	20,529	38.6	6.7	13.0	see note
25-34	39,965	40,146	18.4	9.3	32.4	29.0%
35-44	43,622	42,132	16.7	9.9	33.0	29.7%
45-54	see note	43,935	17.5	10.2	29.6	see note
55-64	see note	33,302	18.1	8.9	31.1	see note

Note: The ACS also uses age brackets of 18-24 years and 45-64 years. It indicates bachelor's or higher attainment for these age brackets of 8.7% and 28.6% respectively. ACS identifies Associate's degree holders only for the comprehensive 25 - 64 age group.

Sources: American Community Survey, Factfinder, Table S1501, at www.factfinder.census.gov
Current Population Survey at www.census.gov/hhes/www/cps_table_creator.html

Supplementary Table 2: Comparison of NCES, American Community Survey, and Current Population Survey Accounts of Attainment in Samples of the U.S. Population

	<u>NCES</u> (cohort at age 26/27)	<u>ACS</u> (total population age 25 and up)	<u>CPS</u> (25-34 age group)
<u>Highest degree</u>			
Associate's	5.2%	7.4%	9.3%
Bachelor's or higher	29.4	27.0	32.4
Total:	34.6%	34.4%	41.7%

Sources: [For NCES data] Adelman, C. 2006. *The Toolbox Revisited: Paths to Degree Completion from High School Through College*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Table L12, page 175.; American Community Survey, Factfinder, Table S1501, at www.factfinder.census.gov
Current Population Survey at www.census.gov/hhes/www/cps_table_creator.html

Supplementary Table 3: Sampling Unit and Size of Sample in 14 OECD Countries Using National Labor Force Surveys for Higher Education Data

	<u>Households</u>	<u>Individuals</u>
Australia		44,000
Czech Republic	24,000	53,000
Greece	31,619	
Hungary		64,000
Italy	307,866	
Korea	33,000	
New Zealand	15,000	
Norway	24,000	
Poland	24,700	
Slovak Republic		24,500
Spain	64,878	
Sweden		185,600
Switzerland		48,000
United Kingdom	60,000	

Source: *Education at a Glance 2008*. Annex 3, Chapter A, pp. 7 - 11 (available only on-line through www.oecd.org/edu/eag2008).

Supplementary Table 4: Educational History of Danish Upper Secondary School Graduates of 1998, 9 Years Later

Post-secondary History	Still Enrolled	Graduated	No longer enrolled	Un-known	Row Tot.
Received General Diploma					
Vocational education	397	2623	123		3143
Short-cycle higher education	231	1461	137		1829
Medium-cycle higher education	1149	6059	414		7622
Bachelor's programs	764	518	322		1604
Long-cycle higher education	3369	4646	56		8071
No further education				1151	1151
Sub-totals	5,910	15,307	1,052	1,151	23,420
General Diploma N= 23,420					
Received Vocational Diploma					
Vocational education	202	4,579	140		4921
Short-cycle higher education	92	1,230	144		1466
Medium-cycle higher education	333	1,278	114		1725
Bachelor's programs	142	279	173		594
Long-cycle higher education	568	1,341	28		1937
No further education				876	876
Sub-totals	1,337	8,707	599	876	11,519
Vocational Diploma N=11,519					
Total 2ndary Diplomas (Gen + Voc)					34,939
Total Tertiary 5A graduates (figures in bold in the column, "Graduated.")					14,121

Source: table generator at StatBank.dk

Supplementary Table 5: Relationship of Low Reading Scores on OECD's PISA Examination for 15 Year-olds and Early School Leaving in 20 European Countries

	Low Reading	Early School-Leaving
Romania	53.5%	19.2%
Bulgaria	51.1	16.6
Slovak Republic	27.8	7.2
Greece	27.7	14.3
Italy	26.4	19.3
Spain	26.7	31.0
Portugal	24.9	36.3
Czech Republic	24.8	5.5
France	21.7	12.7
Austria	21.5	10.9
Hungary	20.6	10.9
Germany	20.0	12.7
Belgium	19.4	12.3
United Kingdom	19.0	13.0
Poland	16.2	5.0
Denmark	16.0	12.4
Sweden	15.3	12.0
Netherlands	15.1	12.0
Ireland	12.1	11.5
Finland	4.8	7.9

Source: European Commission 2007, pp. 87 and 118. The relationship sometimes seems random. Most notable are the cases in which the students don't drop out but have miserable reading scores, e.g. both the Czech and Slovak Republics. And it should be noted that, with the exception of Greece and the UK, nearly all event drop out occurs prior to upper secondary education (see p. 120)

Supplementary Table 6: Age of peak participation in tertiary education, median age of all tertiary level students, and age distribution of first tertiary 5A degree graduates in 20 European Countries and the United States, 2006

	<u>Peak age of tertiary participation</u>	<u>Median age of tertiary students</u>	<u>Age distribution of 5A degree recipients</u>		
			<u>20-24</u>	<u>25-29</u>	<u>30+</u>
Austria	22	23.2	36.8	42.5	20.6
Belgium	21	20.7	51.4	14.2	34.4
Czech Rep	20	22.1	46.1	37.4	16.5
Denmark	24	25.6	31.7	40.8	27.5
France	20	20.7	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Germany	22	23.6	21.9	60.8	17.3
Hungary	20	22.6	36.6	35.7	27.7
Ireland	21	20.4	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Italy	20	22.1	40.2	39.2	20.5
Netherlands	22	21.6	63.2	23.4	13.4
Norway	23	24.9	43.5	29.9	26.6
Poland	22	21.5	27.2	55.0	17.8
Portugal	20	22.2	48.1	30.7	21.2
Romania	20	21.5	53.4	32.7	13.9
Slovak Rep	20	21.7	50.2	29.1	20.7
Slovenia	20	22.3	14.9	62.8	22.3
Spain	20	22.2	58.9	25.6	15.5
Sweden	22	25.3	21.7	42.0	38.3
Turkey	20	20.9	63.4	27.7	8.9
UK	21	22.9	77.3	7.7	15.0
United States	N.A.	21.7	71.0	12.0	17.0

Sources: Eurydice and Eurostat 2007. *Key Data on Higher Education in Europe*. Brussels: European Commission, p. 55. Eurostat table generator, "Graduates in ISCED 5 and 6 by age and sex," at <http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu> National Center for Education Statistics Data Analysis System On-line for the 2000 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study base year. For median age of tertiary students at all levels (including U.S. data): Eurostat stable generator and at <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu> (received 4/23/08).