

The Clearinghouse on International Developments in Child, Youth and Family Policies
at Columbia University

In over half of all OECD countries 90% or more of young people continue in education for at least a year after the end of compulsory schooling. In four countries, 20% or more of young people drop out of education within a year of the end of compulsory schooling. In general, young people are staying in school longer and working toward an upper secondary degree. Across OECD countries as a whole, though, some one in four 20 – 24 year-olds still have not completed upper secondary education.

Table. 4.21: Ages and Duration of Schooling

	Beginning Year of Compulsory Education	Ending Age Compulsory Education	Years that 90% of population enrolled	Age Range of that 90% of pop. enrolled	Percent not in education 1 year after ending age compulsory education	Graduation age at upper secondary education
Argentina	<i>m</i>	14	9	5-13	<i>m</i>	18
Australia	<i>m</i>	15	11	6-16	3	19
Austria	6	15	11	5-15	9	17-19
Belgium (FI)	6	18	15	3-17	73	18-19
Brazil	<i>m</i>	14	7	8-14	<i>m</i>	17-18
Canada	<i>m</i>	16	12	6-17	20	18
Chile	<i>m</i>	14	9	6-15	<i>m</i>	18
China	<i>m</i>	14	<i>m</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>m</i>	18
Czech	<i>m</i>	15	12	5-16	1	18-19
Denmark	7	16	12	5-16	18	19-20
Egypt	<i>m</i>	13	5	6-10	<i>m</i>	<i>m</i>
Finland	7	16	10	7-17	8	19
France	<i>m</i>	16	15	3-17	8	18-20
Germany	6	18	12	6-17	65	19
Greece	6	14.5	10	6-15	19	18
Hungary	<i>m</i>	16	12	5-16	26	16-18
Iceland	6	16	10	6-15	<i>m</i>	20
Indonesia	<i>m</i>	15	2	7-12	<i>m</i>	18
Ireland	6	15	12	5-16	10	17-18
Israel	<i>m</i>	14	13	4-16	<i>m</i>	17
Italy	6	14	12	3-14	<i>m</i>	17-19
Japan	<i>m</i>	15	14	4-17	2	18
Jordan	<i>m</i>	15	2	7-8	<i>m</i>	17
Korea	<i>m</i>	14	12	6-17	12	18
Luxembourg	4	15	<i>m</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>m</i>	18-19
Malaysia	<i>m</i>	16	7	6-12	<i>m</i>	19
Mexico	<i>m</i>	16	6	6-11	60	18
Netherlands	5	18	14	4-17	70	18-19
New Zealand	<i>m</i>	16	12	4-15	20	18
Norway	7	16	12	6-17	7	19
Paraguay	<i>m</i>	14	5	7-11	<i>m</i>	17
Philippines	<i>m</i>	12	6	7-17	<i>m</i>	17
Poland	<i>m</i>	15	11	6-16	6	18-20
Portugal	6	14	10	6-15	10	18
Spain	<i>m</i>	16	12	4-15	24	16-18
Sweden	7	16	13	6-18	4	19
Switzerland	<i>m</i>	15	11	6-16	13	18-20
Thailand	<i>m</i>	14	2	5-6	<i>m</i>	17
Turkey	<i>m</i>	14	4	7-10	<i>m</i>	17
UK	4/5	16	12	4-15	26	16-18
USA	<i>m</i>	17	10	6-15	18	18
Uruguay	<i>m</i>	15	8	6-13	<i>m</i>	17

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Sources: OECD education database. For the "Percentage not in education one year after ending age of compulsory education" data comes from the Thematic Review *From Initial Education to Working Life: Making Transitions Work*. Paris: OECD Publications Services. For the "Beginning year of compulsory education, see Eurydice website (<http://www.eurydice.org/documents/time1/en/table%5Fi.htm>).

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