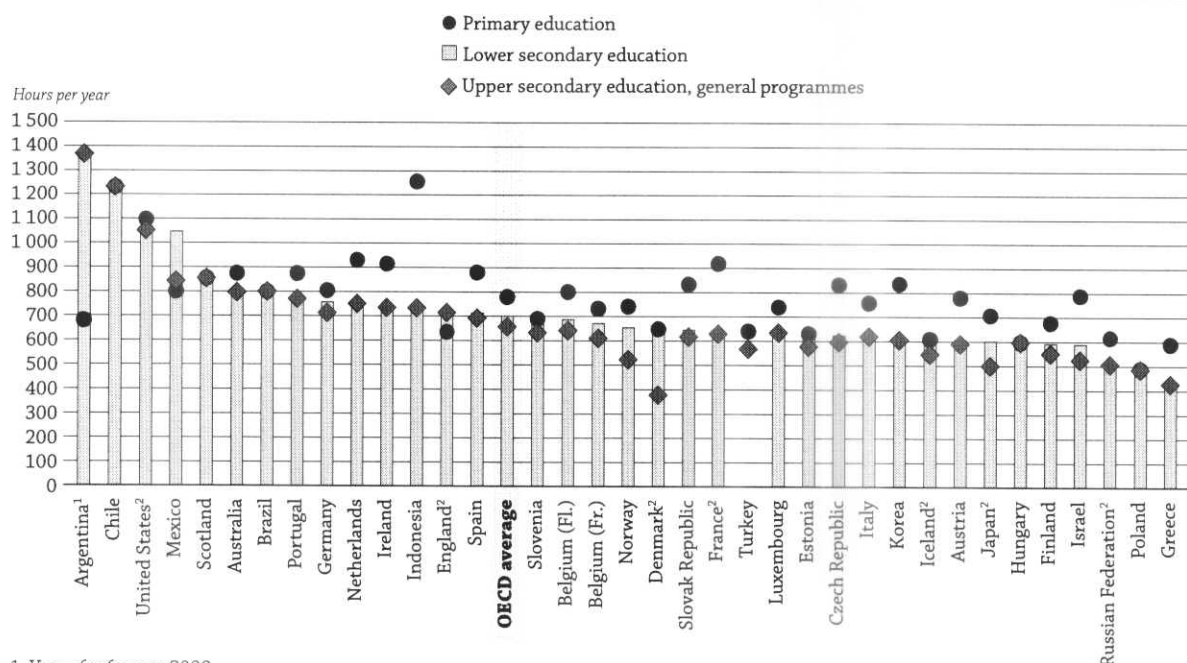


Differences in teaching time between levels of education

In most countries, primary teachers are required to teach more hours per year than secondary school teachers. In the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Israel and Korea, the annual teaching time is at least 30% higher for primary school teachers than for lower secondary school teachers and up to 71% higher in Indonesia. In contrast, the difference does not exceed 3% in Poland and the United States and there is no difference in Brazil, Chile, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Scotland and Slovenia. Argentina, England and Mexico are the only countries in which the teaching load for primary school teachers is lighter than that for lower secondary school teachers (Table D4.1 and Chart D4.2).

D4

Chart D4.2. **Number of teaching hours per year, by level of education (2009)**
Net statutory contact time in hours per year in public institutions




1. Year of reference 2008.

2. Actual teaching hours.

Countries are ranked in descending order of the number of teaching hours per year in lower secondary education.

Source: OECD; Argentina, Indonesia: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (World Education Indicators Programme). Table D4.1. See Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/edu/eag2011).

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In most countries teaching time at the lower and upper secondary levels are similar. However, in Japan, Mexico and Norway, the annual required teaching time at the lower secondary level is at least 20% higher than at the upper secondary level and over 70% higher in Denmark.

Teachers' working time

How teachers' hours of work are regulated varies considerably from country to country. While some countries formally regulate contact time only, others also set total working hours. In some countries, time is allocated for teaching and non-teaching activities within the formally established working time.


In most countries, teachers are formally required to work a specified number of hours per week, including teaching and non-teaching time, to earn their full-time salary. Within this framework, however, countries differ in how they allocate time for each activity (Chart D4.3). The number of hours for teaching is usually specified, except in Sweden; but some countries also regulate the time a teacher has to be present in the school.

Table D4.2. Number of teaching hours per year (2000, 2005-09)
Net statutory contact time in hours per year in public institutions by level of education from 2000, 2005 to 2009

	Primary level						Lower secondary level						Upper secondary level					
	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)
OECD																		
Australia	882	888	884	877	873	874	811	810	818	815	812	812	803	810	817	813	810	797
Austria	m	774	774	774	779	779	m	607	607	607	607	607	m	589	589	589	589	589
Belgium (Fl.)	826	806	797	806	810	801	712	720	684	691	695	687	668	675	638	645	649	642
Belgium (Fr.)	804	722	724	724	724	732	728	724	662	662	662	671	668	664	603	603	603	610
Canada	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Chile	m	m	864	860	m	1 232	m	m	864	860	m	1 232	m	m	864	860	m	1 232
Czech Republic	650	813	854	849	849	832	650	647	640	637	637	624	621	617	611	608	608	595
Denmark ¹	640	640	648	648	648	648	640	640	648	648	648	648	560	560	364	364	364	377
England ¹	m	m	m	631	654	635	m	m	m	714	722	714	m	m	m	714	722	714
Estonia	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	578	578	578	578	578	578
Finland	656	677	677	677	677	677	570	592	592	592	592	592	527	550	550	550	550	550
France ¹	907	918	910	914	926	918	639	639	634	632	644	642	611	625	616	618	630	628
Germany	783	808	810	806	805	805	732	758	758	758	756	756	690	714	714	714	715	713
Greece	609	604	604	590	593	589	426	434	429	426	429	426	429	430	421	423	429	426
Hungary	583	583	583	583	597	597	555	555	555	555	597	597	555	555	555	555	597	597
Iceland ¹	629	671	671	671	671	609	629	671	671	671	671	609	464	560	560	560	560	547
Ireland	915	915	915	915	915	915	735	735	735	735	735	735	735	735	735	735	735	735
Israel	731	731	731	731	731	788	579	579	579	579	579	589	524	524	524	524	524	524
Italy	744	739	735	735	735	757	608	605	601	601	601	619	608	605	601	601	601	619
Japan ¹	635	578	m	705	709	707	557	505	m	600	603	602	478	429	m	498	500	500
Korea	865	883	864	848	840	836	570	621	588	612	616	618	530	605	596	599	604	605
Luxembourg	m	774	774	774	739	739	m	642	642	642	634	634	m	642	642	642	634	634
Mexico	800	800	800	800	800	800	1 182	1 047	1 047	1 047	1 047	1 047	m	848	843	843	848	843
Netherlands	930	930	930	930	930	930	867	750	750	750	750	750	867	750	750	750	750	750
New Zealand	985	985	985	985	985	m	968	968	968	968	968	m	950	950	950	950	950	m
Norway	713	741	741	741	741	741	633	656	654	654	654	654	505	524	523	523	523	523
Poland	m	m	m	m	513	489	m	m	m	m	513	483	m	m	m	m	513	486
Portugal	815	855	860	855	855	875	595	564	757	752	752	770	515	513	688	684	752	770
Scotland	950	893	893	855	855	855	893	893	893	855	855	855	893	893	893	855	855	855
Slovak Republic	m	m	m	m	m	832	m	m	m	m	m	645	m	m	m	m	m	617
Slovenia	m	697	697	682	682	690	m	697	697	682	682	690	m	639	639	626	626	633
Spain	880	880	880	880	880	880	564	713	713	713	713	713	548	693	693	693	693	693
Sweden	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
Switzerland	884	m	m	m	m	m	859	m	m	m	m	m	674	m	m	m	m	m
Turkey	639	639	639	639	639	639	a	a	a	a	a	a	504	567	567	567	567	567
United States ¹	m	1 080	1 080	1 080	1 097	1 097	m	1 080	1 080	1 080	1 068	1 068	m	1 080	1 080	1 080	1 051	1 051
OECD average	773	781	792	780	770	779	693	696	711	706	696	701	620	653	662	657	649	656
OECD average for countries with data available for all reference years	764	772	773	770	771	771	679	681	684	683	685	684	609	625	618	616	622	623
EU21 average for countries with data available for all reference years	770	776	778	775	777	778	659	662	668	665	669	670	629	635	626	623	632	634
Other G20																		
Argentina	m	m	m	m	680	m	m	m	m	m	1 368	m	m	m	m	m	1 368	m
Brazil	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800
China	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
India	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Indonesia	m	m	m	m	1 260	1 255	m	m	m	m	738	734	m	m	m	m	738	734
Russian Federation ¹	m	615	615	615	615	615	m	507	507	507	507	507	m	507	507	507	507	507
Saudi Arabia	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
South Africa	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m

1. Actual teaching and working time.

Source: OECD, Argentina, Indonesia: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (World Education Indicators Programme). See Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/edu/eag2011). Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning the symbols replacing missing data.

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D4