

Table 405.—Average 8th-grade science scores by content areas, and average time spent studying out of school, by country: 1994–95

Country	Average percent correct by content area						Distribution of daily out-of-school study time in all subjects, with mean science scores							
	Overall science scores	Earth science	Life science	Physics	Chemistry	Environmental issues and the nature of science	Less than 1 hour		At least 1, but less than 2 hours		2 to 3 hours		More than 3 hours	
							Percent	Mean score	Percent	Mean score	Percent	Mean score	Percent	Mean score
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
International average percent correct	56 (0.1)	55 (0.1)	59 (0.1)	55 (0.1)	51 (0.2)	53 (0.2)	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Australia ¹	60 (0.7)	57 (0.8)	63 (0.8)	60 (0.7)	54 (0.9)	62 (1.0)	15 (0.9)	505 (6.9)	46 (1.0)	556 (4.1)	22 (0.6)	557 (4.9)	17 (0.7)	546 (5.0)
Austria ¹	61 (0.7)	62 (0.8)	65 (0.7)	62 (0.7)	58 (1.1)	55 (0.9)	9 (0.8)	551 (9.9)	46 (1.3)	563 (4.8)	21 (0.9)	561 (5.0)	24 (1.2)	553 (4.8)
Belgium (Flemish)	60 (1.1)	62 (1.2)	64 (1.1)	61 (1.1)	51 (1.3)	58 (1.5)	2 (0.4)	— —	25 (1.3)	545 (5.0)	28 (1.1)	562 (5.9)	45 (1.6)	547 (3.6)
Belgium (French) ¹	50 (0.7)	50 (0.9)	55 (0.9)	51 (0.7)	41 (0.8)	46 (1.0)	7 (0.8)	428 (6.9)	32 (1.0)	481 (4.7)	21 (1.3)	481 (4.5)	40 (1.5)	467 (4.0)
Bulgaria ¹	62 (1.0)	58 (1.2)	64 (1.0)	60 (1.0)	65 (1.7)	59 (1.5)	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Canada	59 (0.5)	58 (0.6)	62 (0.6)	59 (0.4)	52 (0.7)	61 (0.7)	14 (1.2)	524 (6.1)	47 (1.1)	541 (2.8)	18 (0.7)	531 (3.9)	21 (1.1)	517 (3.6)
Colombia ¹	39 (0.8)	37 (0.8)	44 (0.9)	37 (0.8)	32 (1.0)	40 (1.1)	2 (0.4)	— —	17 (1.1)	421 (5.3)	20 (1.2)	422 (4.9)	61 (1.9)	413 (5.8)
Cyprus	47 (0.4)	46 (0.6)	49 (0.5)	46 (0.4)	45 (0.6)	46 (0.8)	9 (0.5)	430 (7.0)	19 (0.7)	468 (4.4)	26 (0.8)	475 (3.4)	46 (0.9)	466 (2.9)
Czech Republic	64 (0.8)	63 (1.2)	69 (0.8)	64 (0.7)	60 (1.2)	59 (1.1)	13 (1.1)	558 (9.0)	57 (1.1)	579 (3.9)	17 (0.9)	582 (7.2)	13 (0.8)	560 (6.4)
Denmark ¹	51 (0.6)	49 (0.7)	56 (0.7)	53 (0.7)	41 (0.8)	47 (1.0)	39 (1.6)	494 (4.4)	39 (1.4)	479 (4.1)	13 (0.8)	459 (5.5)	9 (0.7)	457 (6.8)
England ¹	61 (0.6)	59 (0.8)	64 (0.8)	62 (0.6)	55 (0.8)	65 (1.0)	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
France	54 (0.6)	55 (0.8)	56 (0.8)	54 (0.5)	47 (0.9)	53 (0.9)	8 (0.7)	481 (6.8)	33 (1.2)	497 (3.3)	28 (1.0)	506 (4.0)	31 (1.2)	499 (3.4)
Germany ¹	58 (1.0)	57 (1.0)	63 (1.1)	57 (1.0)	54 (1.3)	51 (1.3)	14 (1.1)	505 (8.2)	51 (1.2)	541 (4.6)	18 (1.0)	544 (7.0)	17 (0.9)	525 (6.5)
Greece ¹	52 (0.5)	49 (0.6)	54 (0.6)	53 (0.5)	51 (0.5)	51 (1.0)	6 (0.6)	473 (4.8)	14 (0.7)	497 (5.0)	21 (0.7)	500 (3.1)	59 (1.2)	502 (2.5)
Hong Kong	58 (1.0)	54 (1.0)	61 (1.0)	58 (0.9)	55 (1.0)	55 (1.3)	13 (1.0)	489 (7.3)	32 (0.9)	519 (4.7)	25 (0.9)	534 (4.8)	30 (1.1)	534 (5.2)
Hungary	61 (0.6)	60 (0.8)	65 (0.7)	60 (0.6)	60 (0.8)	53 (0.8)	4 (0.4)	519 (10.0)	33 (1.1)	553 (4.4)	22 (0.9)	557 (5.6)	41 (1.3)	557 (3.0)
Iceland	52 (0.9)	50 (1.2)	58 (1.0)	53 (0.9)	42 (0.8)	49 (1.0)	5 (1.0)	470 (8.7)	46 (1.7)	505 (5.6)	25 (1.3)	493 (4.5)	23 (1.4)	488 (7.5)
Iran, Islamic Republic	47 (0.6)	45 (0.6)	49 (0.6)	48 (0.7)	52 (0.8)	39 (1.1)	1 (0.2)	— —	5 (0.5)	476 (6.0)	12 (1.0)	479 (5.2)	82 (1.3)	471 (2.7)
Ireland	58 (0.9)	61 (1.0)	60 (1.1)	56 (0.8)	54 (1.0)	60 (1.1)	5 (0.6)	475 (9.0)	29 (1.0)	529 (5.4)	40 (1.1)	550 (4.7)	26 (1.2)	550 (4.9)
Israel ¹	57 (1.1)	55 (1.1)	61 (1.1)	57 (1.1)	53 (1.5)	52 (1.6)	5 (0.6)	532 (13.5)	36 (2.2)	555 (7.7)	26 (1.5)	523 (6.9)	33 (2.1)	505 (5.2)
Japan	65 (0.3)	61 (0.4)	71 (0.4)	67 (0.3)	61 (0.5)	60 (0.7)	13 (0.8)	551 (4.4)	39 (0.8)	573 (2.2)	20 (0.6)	572 (3.0)	28 (1.0)	577 (2.4)
Korea	66 (0.3)	63 (0.5)	70 (0.4)	65 (0.5)	63 (0.6)	64 (0.8)	15 (0.9)	544 (5.0)	32 (1.1)	564 (2.9)	25 (0.8)	562 (3.1)	29 (1.2)	581 (3.7)
Kuwait ¹	43 (0.9)	43 (1.0)	45 (1.1)	43 (0.7)	40 (1.5)	39 (1.3)	3 (0.6)	400 (10.4)	13 (1.5)	436 (7.8)	19 (1.3)	432 (7.1)	65 (1.8)	431 (3.4)
Latvia (Latvian-speaking schools) ¹	50 (0.6)	48 (0.8)	53 (0.7)	51 (0.7)	48 (0.8)	47 (1.0)	4 (0.5)	468 (8.5)	35 (1.1)	492 (4.1)	32 (1.2)	490 (4.1)	29 (1.2)	481 (3.0)
Lithuania ¹	49 (0.7)	46 (0.9)	52 (0.9)	51 (0.7)	48 (0.9)	40 (1.0)	5 (0.6)	457 (9.1)	39 (1.4)	484 (4.5)	28 (1.0)	483 (3.8)	28 (1.4)	472 (4.7)
Netherlands ¹	62 (1.0)	61 (1.4)	67 (1.4)	63 (0.9)	52 (0.9)	65 (1.6)	3 (0.9)	519 (17.1)	54 (1.7)	559 (6.1)	27 (1.7)	578 (5.4)	16 (0.8)	545 (5.7)
New Zealand	58 (0.8)	56 (0.9)	60 (1.0)	58 (0.7)	53 (1.1)	59 (1.2)	12 (0.9)	488 (7.6)	51 (1.2)	536 (4.6)	21 (1.0)	537 (5.7)	17 (0.9)	516 (5.7)
Norway	58 (0.4)	61 (0.6)	61 (0.5)	57 (0.4)	49 (0.6)	55 (0.8)	6 (0.5)	501 (7.3)	50 (1.2)	533 (2.5)	24 (0.9)	536 (3.4)	21 (0.9)	516 (3.7)
Portugal	50 (0.6)	50 (0.7)	53 (0.6)	48 (0.5)	50 (0.9)	45 (0.8)	3 (0.3)	465 (8.8)	41 (1.1)	488 (2.9)	18 (0.7)	478 (4.1)	38 (1.2)	474 (2.8)
Romania ¹	50 (0.8)	49 (1.0)	55 (1.0)	49 (0.8)	46 (1.0)	42 (1.0)	9 (0.7)	460 (11.7)	16 (1.0)	468 (7.0)	15 (0.7)	487 (5.7)	60 (1.6)	499 (5.2)
Russian Federation	58 (0.8)	58 (0.8)	62 (0.7)	57 (0.9)	57 (1.3)	50 (0.8)	4 (0.5)	511 (10.1)	33 (1.1)	542 (4.4)	25 (1.0)	538 (4.4)	38 (1.4)	543 (4.6)
Scotland ¹	55 (1.0)	52 (1.0)	57 (1.1)	57 (0.8)	51 (1.3)	57 (1.4)	17 (1.4)	470 (5.3)	54 (1.2)	526 (5.1)	17 (1.0)	537 (8.5)	12 (0.8)	532 (6.5)
Singapore	70 (1.0)	65 (1.1)	72 (1.0)	69 (0.8)	69 (1.2)	74 (1.1)	2 (0.3)	— —	7 (0.4)	604 (8.4)	13 (0.6)	617 (7.3)	78 (0.9)	607 (5.4)
Slovak Republic	59 (0.6)	60 (0.7)	60 (0.6)	61 (0.6)	57 (0.8)	53 (0.9)	6 (0.5)	551 (7.1)	46 (0.9)	552 (3.7)	25 (0.7)	541 (3.8)	23 (1.0)	536 (4.7)
Slovenia ¹	62 (0.5)	64 (0.7)	65 (0.6)	61 (0.6)	56 (0.9)	59 (0.9)	5 (0.5)	559 (9.2)	36 (1.0)	580 (3.5)	21 (0.8)	557 (3.2)	37 (1.1)	544 (3.3)
South Africa ¹	27 (1.3)	26 (1.1)	27 (1.3)	27 (1.4)	26 (1.4)	26 (1.3)	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Spain	56 (0.4)	57 (0.5)	58 (0.5)	55 (0.4)	51 (0.7)	53 (0.6)	3 (0.4)	482 (7.9)	26 (1.0)	522 (2.8)	18 (0.9)	522 (3.5)	53 (1.3)	516 (2.2)
Sweden	59 (0.6)	62 (0.7)	63 (0.7)	57 (0.5)	56 (0.7)	52 (0.8)	7 (0.6)	520 (6.0)	55 (1.2)	544 (3.2)	17 (0.8)	539 (4.9)	21 (0.9)	523 (4.9)
Switzerland ¹	56 (0.5)	58 (0.6)	59 (0.6)	58 (0.5)	50 (0.7)	51 (0.8)	4 (0.3)	500 (8.3)	44 (1.2)	530 (3.1)	19 (0.8)	526 (6.2)	33 (1.1)	514 (3.5)
Thailand ¹	57 (0.9)	56 (1.0)	66 (0.9)	54 (0.7)	43 (1.2)	62 (1.1)	3 (0.3)	510 (8.8)	26 (1.0)	520 (4.0)	18 (0.7)	519 (4.3)	54 (1.5)	532 (4.1)
United States	58 (1.0)	58 (1.0)	63 (1.1)	56 (0.8)	53 (1.2)	61 (1.0)	17 (1.1)	507 (9.5)	42 (0.9)	548 (4.1)	17 (0.7)	541 (5.2)	24 (0.8)	533 (5.7)

¹ Countries not meeting all International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement's sampling specifications.

—Data not available or not applicable.

NOTE.—Data are for 8th grade or equivalent in most countries. Standard errors appear in parentheses.

SOURCE: International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, *Science Achievement in the Middle School Years: IEA's Third International Mathematics and Science Study*, 1997, by Albert E. Beaton et al. Copyright © 1996 Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA. (This table was prepared June 1997.)