

Table 406.—Average 4th-grade science scores,¹ by content areas, and average time spent teaching science in school, by country: 1994–95

Country	Science content areas					Average number of hours science is taught weekly to science classes							
	Overall science scores	Earth science	Life science	Physical science	Environmental issues and the nature of science	Less than 1 hour		1 to 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
Australia ^{2,3}	66 (0.5)	61 (0.6)	72 (0.5)	63 (0.7)	63 (0.8)	35 (3.9)	556 (5.0)	55 (4.0)	568 (5.9)	5 (1.5)	562 (18.1)	5 (2.1)	562 (8.4)
Austria ²	66 (0.7)	62 (0.8)	72 (0.7)	64 (0.8)	54 (1.0)	0 (0.0)	—	0 (0.0)	—	97 (1.8)	566 (3.6)	3 (1.8)	540 (30.3)
Canada	64 (0.6)	62 (0.6)	68 (0.6)	61 (0.7)	56 (0.7)	8 (2.0)	536 (10.1)	42 (3.8)	542 (5.1)	27 (3.3)	567 (5.4)	23 (3.2)	550 (4.6)
Cyprus	51 (0.5)	48 (0.7)	55 (0.5)	50 (0.7)	42 (1.0)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Czech Republic	65 (0.5)	64 (0.6)	71 (0.5)	62 (0.7)	56 (0.9)	2 (1.1)	—	79 (3.6)	557 (3.9)	3 (1.4)	572 (6.8)	16 (3.2)	563 (7.3)
England ^{4,5}	63 (0.6)	61 (0.6)	68 (0.6)	60 (0.8)	56 (1.0)	6 (1.7)	540 (8.7)	27 (4.1)	548 (7.5)	44 (4.8)	556 (5.9)	23 (3.8)	550 (8.2)
Greece	54 (0.8)	52 (0.9)	61 (0.9)	49 (0.9)	43 (1.2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hong Kong	62 (0.7)	61 (0.6)	68 (0.7)	60 (0.8)	50 (1.1)	13 (3.4)	530 (13.3)	84 (3.7)	534 (4.3)	2 (1.5)	—	1 (0.8)	—
Hungary ²	62 (0.6)	62 (0.7)	66 (0.6)	59 (0.8)	50 (0.9)	6 (2.2)	556 (13.3)	72 (4.1)	529 (3.7)	8 (3.0)	521 (8.4)	14 (3.1)	549 (10.5)
Iceland ³	55 (0.7)	55 (0.7)	60 (0.8)	52 (0.7)	47 (1.2)	17 (4.1)	513 (7.3)	41 (5.6)	504 (7.7)	30 (5.1)	499 (6.5)	12 (4.3)	523 (6.8)
Iran, Islamic Republic	40 (0.7)	38 (0.7)	44 (0.7)	40 (0.9)	26 (0.9)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ireland	61 (0.6)	60 (0.8)	66 (0.6)	57 (0.7)	55 (0.9)	47 (5.0)	536 (5.6)	40 (4.4)	540 (5.8)	11 (3.1)	550 (7.1)	2 (0.9)	—
Israel ^{2,3,6}	57 (0.8)	51 (0.8)	61 (0.9)	55 (0.9)	51 (1.3)	0 (0.0)	—	53 (5.6)	508 (5.5)	32 (5.8)	494 (6.9)	15 (4.3)	493 (10.6)
Japan	70 (0.3)	66 (0.4)	73 (0.3)	70 (0.4)	62 (0.6)	2 (1.3)	—	1 (0.6)	—	95 (1.8)	575 (1.8)	2 (1.2)	—
Korea	74 (0.4)	72 (0.5)	76 (0.4)	75 (0.5)	70 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	—	1 (0.6)	—	95 (1.8)	597 (1.9)	5 (1.7)	588 (10.3)
Kuwait ^{2,3}	39 (0.5)	36 (0.6)	45 (0.6)	37 (0.5)	25 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	—	1 (0.7)	—	96 (2.0)	402 (3.9)	4 (1.8)	416 (42.2)
Latvia (Latvian-speaking schools) ²	56 (0.8)	57 (1.0)	60 (0.8)	54 (0.9)	46 (1.2)	89 (2.9)	505 (5.7)	5 (2.2)	538 (47.2)	5 (2.2)	532 (11.9)	1 (0.8)	—
Netherlands ²	67 (0.5)	61 (0.6)	73 (0.5)	65 (0.6)	61 (0.9)	38 (5.1)	559 (4.0)	44 (4.8)	556 (4.5)	9 (2.6)	556 (7.2)	9 (2.7)	549 (20.1)
New Zealand ³	60 (0.9)	57 (0.9)	66 (0.9)	57 (1.1)	54 (1.2)	29 (4.2)	542 (8.3)	48 (4.4)	536 (6.1)	14 (3.1)	537 (17.2)	9 (2.6)	509 (21.2)
Norway ³	60 (0.6)	60 (0.6)	67 (0.7)	55 (0.7)	53 (0.9)	73 (5.0)	527 (5.4)	27 (5.0)	535 (7.6)	0 (0.0)	—	0 (0.0)	—
Portugal	50 (0.7)	50 (0.8)	54 (0.8)	49 (0.9)	39 (1.0)	2 (1.1)	—	3 (1.4)	486 (28.2)	12 (3.1)	474 (8.8)	84 (3.6)	481 (4.8)
Scotland ^{3,4}	60 (0.8)	58 (0.9)	65 (0.8)	57 (0.8)	53 (1.2)	35 (4.7)	543 (5.9)	44 (4.7)	534 (6.4)	14 (3.3)	531 (13.2)	7 (2.5)	529 (12.5)
Singapore	64 (0.8)	58 (0.8)	70 (0.8)	64 (0.8)	53 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	—	4 (1.5)	548 (18.9)	96 (1.5)	547 (5.1)	0 (0.0)	—
Slovenia ²	64 (0.7)	64 (0.7)	68 (0.7)	61 (0.8)	54 (0.8)	3 (1.9)	544 (18.9)	60 (5.3)	541 (4.6)	18 (4.0)	550 (9.5)	19 (3.4)	548 (6.8)
Thailand ^{2,3}	49 (0.9)	48 (0.9)	52 (0.8)	46 (1.0)	48 (1.4)	2 (1.2)	—	9 (3.5)	463 (21.5)	17 (6.1)	469 (16.5)	73 (6.6)	477 (6.5)
United States ³	66 (0.5)	64 (0.7)	71 (0.6)	60 (0.6)	65 (0.8)	9 (2.1)	562 (11.5)	16 (2.9)	550 (10.2)	33 (3.8)	578 (5.9)	42 (4.1)	565 (5.1)

—Not available.

¹ Fourth grade or equivalent in most countries.² Did not satisfy one or more guidelines for sample participation rates, age/grade specification, or classroom sampling procedures.³ Teacher response rate for number of hours science is taught is 84 percent or less.⁴ Met guidelines for sample participation rates only after replacement schools were included.⁵ National defined population covers less than 90 percent of international desired population.⁶ National defined population does not cover all of international desired population.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Standard errors appear in parentheses.

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