

Indicator **38. International Comparison of Educational Systems**

**Characteristics of educational systems in selected countries: 1991**

Country	Average days of instruction in the school year <sup>1</sup>	Age for starting school	Average minutes of instruction in the school day <sup>1</sup>	Average number of hours of instruction per school year	Percent of students who spend 2 or more hours on homework daily <sup>2</sup>
China <sup>2,3</sup>	251	6 or 7	305	1,276	35
Korea	222	6	264	977	38
Taiwan	222	6	318	1,177	44
Israel <sup>4</sup>	215	6	278	996	49
Switzerland <sup>5</sup>	207	6 or 7	305	1,052	21
Emilia-Romagna, Italy <sup>2</sup>	204	6	289	983	78
(Former) Soviet Union <sup>6</sup>	198	6 or 7	243	802	52
Jordan	191	6	260	828	54
Scotland	191	6	324	1,031	15
Slovenia	190	5	248	785	27
Canada <sup>7</sup>	188	6	304	953	26
Spain <sup>8</sup>	188	7	285	893	62
United States	178	6	338	1,003	31
Hungary	177	6	223	658	61
France	174	6	370	1,073	55
Ireland	173	6	323	931	66
Portugal <sup>2</sup>	172	6	334	957	30

<sup>1</sup> For 13-year-olds.

<sup>2</sup> Populations with exclusions or low participation.

<sup>3</sup> Includes 20 provinces and cities.

<sup>4</sup> Schools where instruction is in Hebrew.

<sup>5</sup> Fifteen cantons.

<sup>6</sup> Schools in 14 republics, where instruction is in Russian.

<sup>7</sup> Nine provinces.

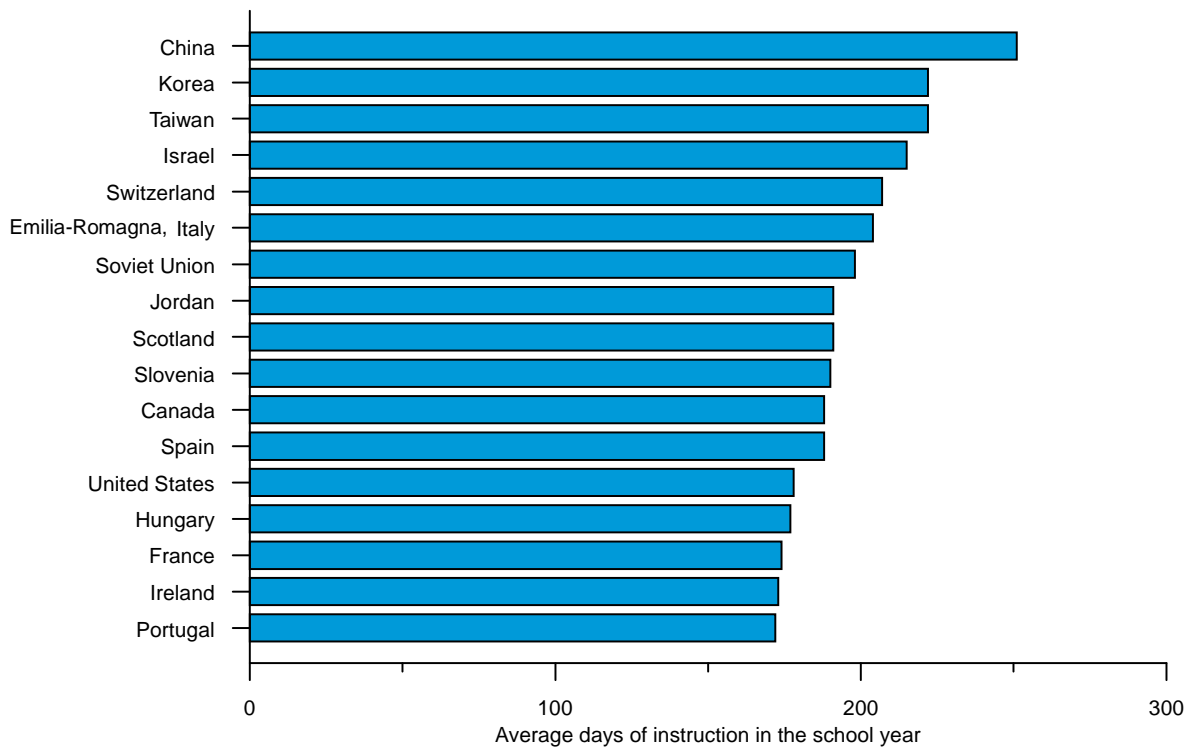
<sup>8</sup> Includes Spanish speaking schools, except in Cataluna.

—Data not available.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, International Assessment of Educational Progress, *Learning Science*.

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Average number of days per school year, by country: 1991



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Learning Science*.

The United States has a shorter school year than many other countries, but the school day is relatively long. In a 1991 study, 12 out of 16 other countries had school years longer than the United States, but only France reported a longer school day. Some countries, such as Korea, averaged an hour less of instructional time per day. Because of the relatively long school day, U.S. schools had more instruction hours per year than 11 out of 16 countries.