

STUDENT/TEACHER RATIOS IN PRIMARY EDUCATION

Key Findings: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States

In 1999, the United States had the second-lowest student/teacher ratio of the countries presented in primary education—16 students per teacher. Only Italy had a lower student/teacher ratio (11 to 1) than the United States (figure 6).

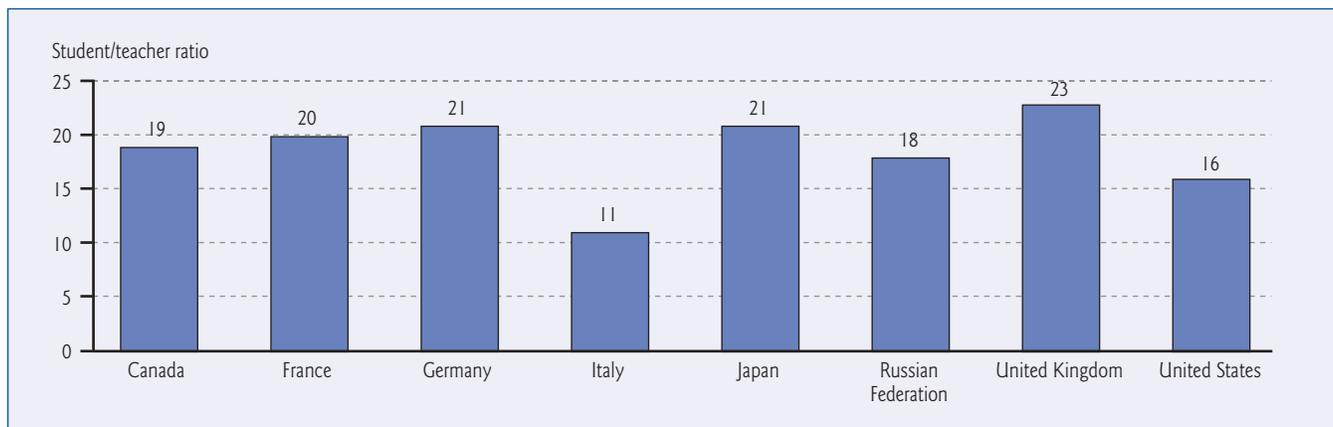
In 1999, the student/teacher ratio in primary education in the United States was 5 students lower than the ratios in Germany and Japan (21 to 1), and 7 students lower than the ratio in the United Kingdom (23 to 1).

Definition and Methodology

Primary student/teacher ratios are obtained by dividing the number of full-time-equivalent students by the number of full-time-equivalent “teaching staff” in public and private primary schools. “Teaching staff” refers to professional personnel directly involved in teaching students. The classification includes classroom teach-

ers, special education teachers, and other teachers who work with students either inside or outside a regular classroom. “Teaching staff” does not refer to non-professional personnel who support teachers in providing instruction to students, such as teachers’ aides and other paraprofessionals.

Figure 6. Ratio of full-time-equivalent students to full-time-equivalent teachers in public and private primary schools, by country: 1999



NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Education at a Glance*, 2001, Table D 5.1.

Student/Teacher Ratios in Primary Education – Data Table

Table A-6. Ratio of full-time-equivalent students to full-time-equivalent teachers in public and private primary schools, by country: 1999

Country	Student/teacher ratio
Canada	18.7:1
France	19.6:1
Germany	21.0:1
Italy	11.3:1
Japan	21.2:1
Russian Federation	17.6:1
United Kingdom	22.5:1
United States	16.3:1

NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Education at a Glance*, 2001, Table D 5.1.