



Education at a Glance 2025

Global Launch

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9 September 2025

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Education pays





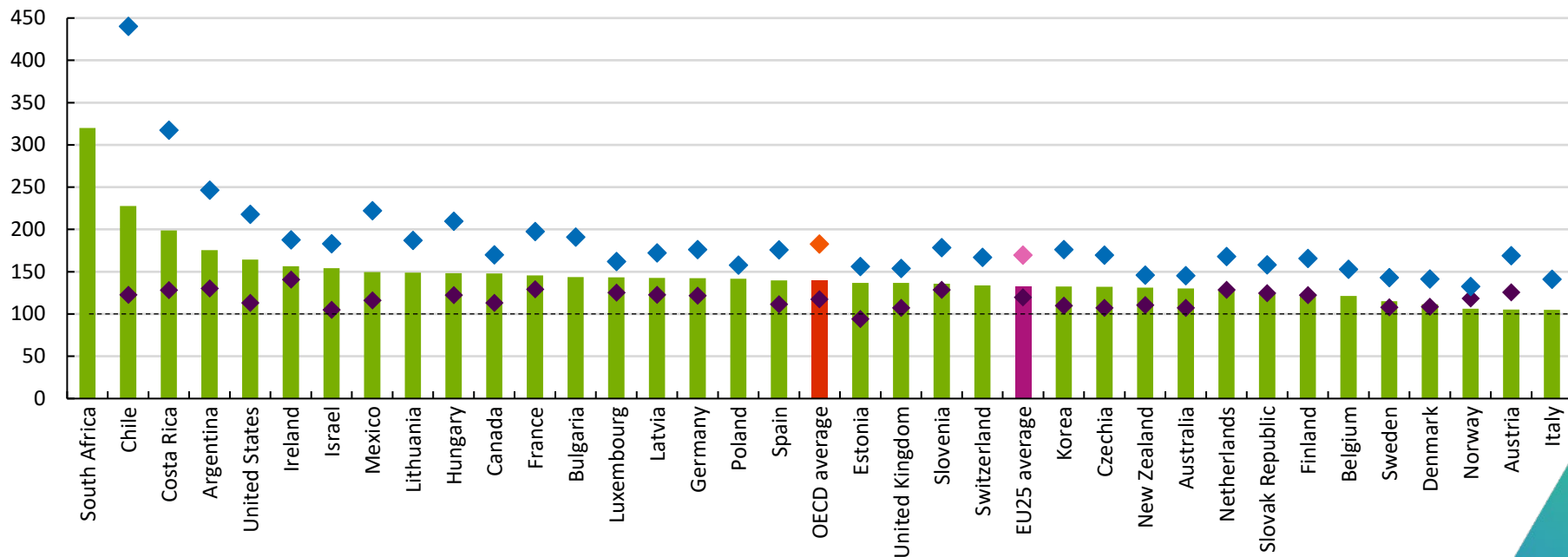
Higher levels of tertiary qualifications are associated with higher earnings

Relative earnings of tertiary-educated workers, by level of educational attainment (2023)

■ Bachelor's

◆ Short-cycle tertiary

◆ Master's and doctoral

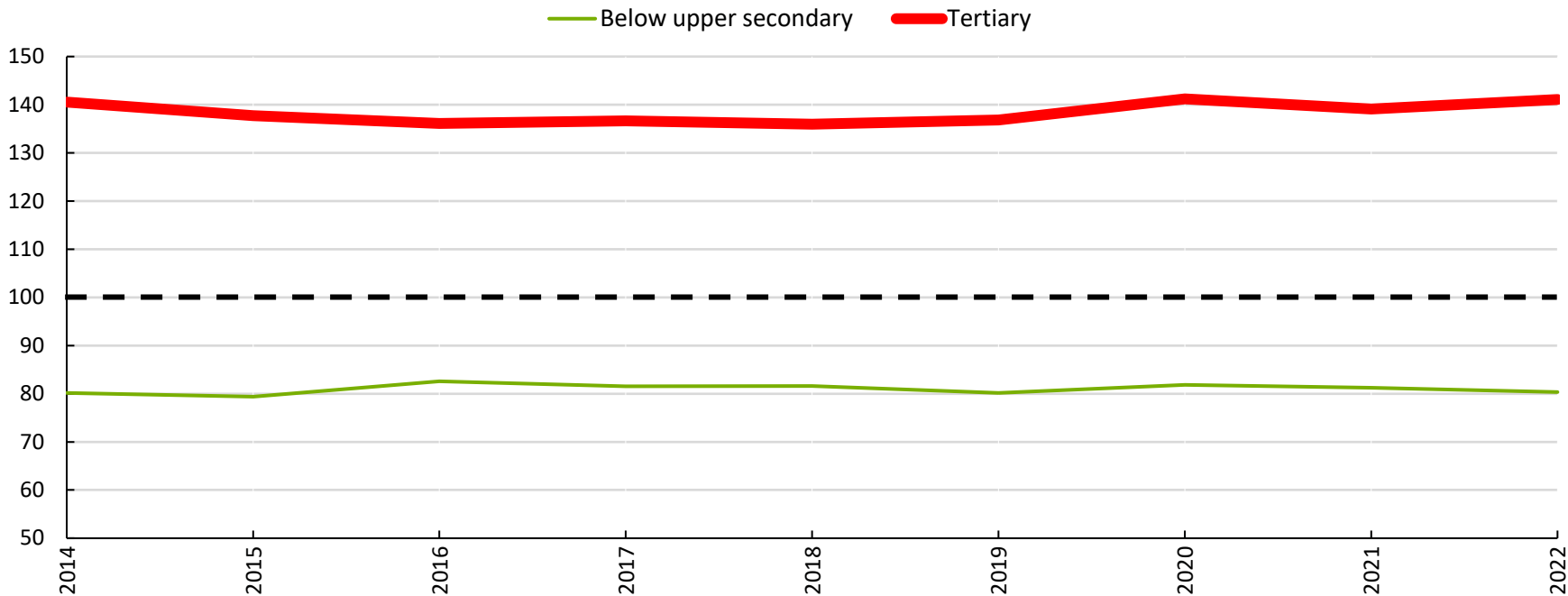




Relative earnings have remained stable on average across the OECD

OECD average earnings of 25 -34 year olds relative to the earnings of their peers with upper secondary education, by attainment level (2014 – 2022)

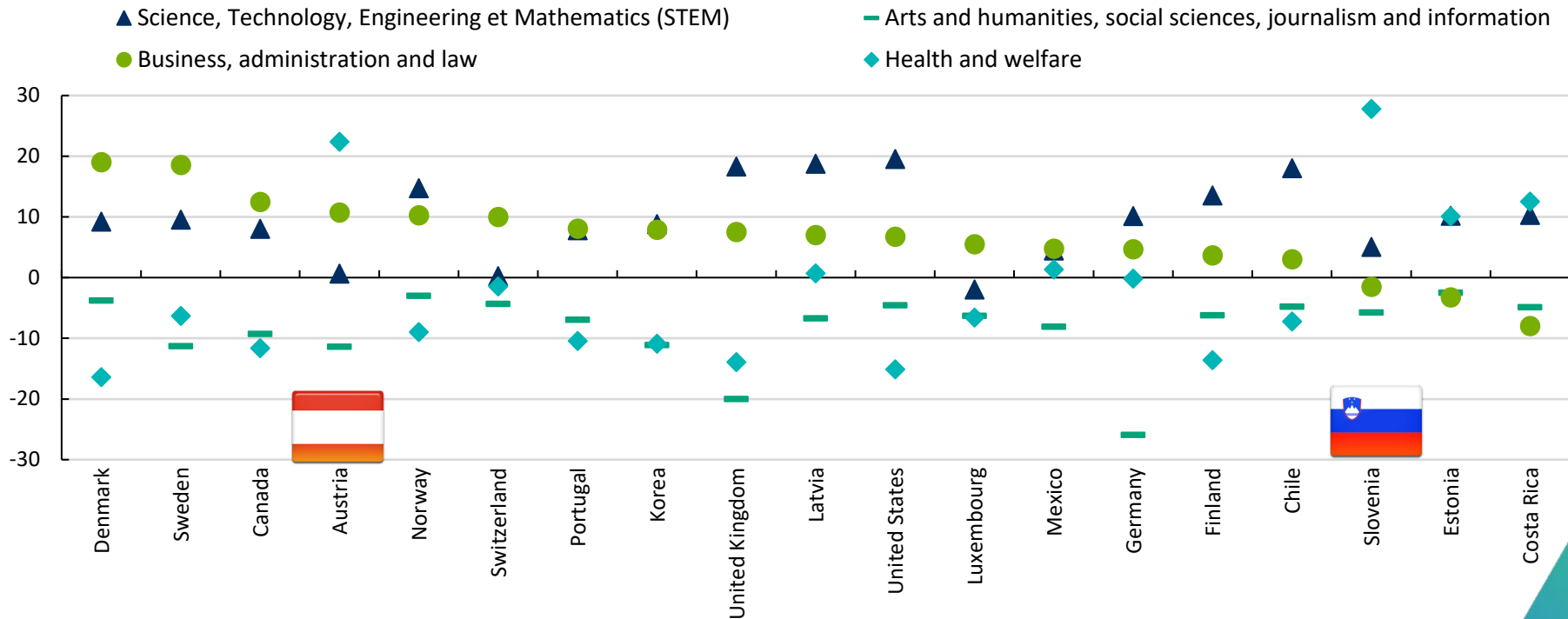
Earnings of adults with upper secondary attainment = 100; 25-34 year-olds





Fields of study have strong effects on earnings

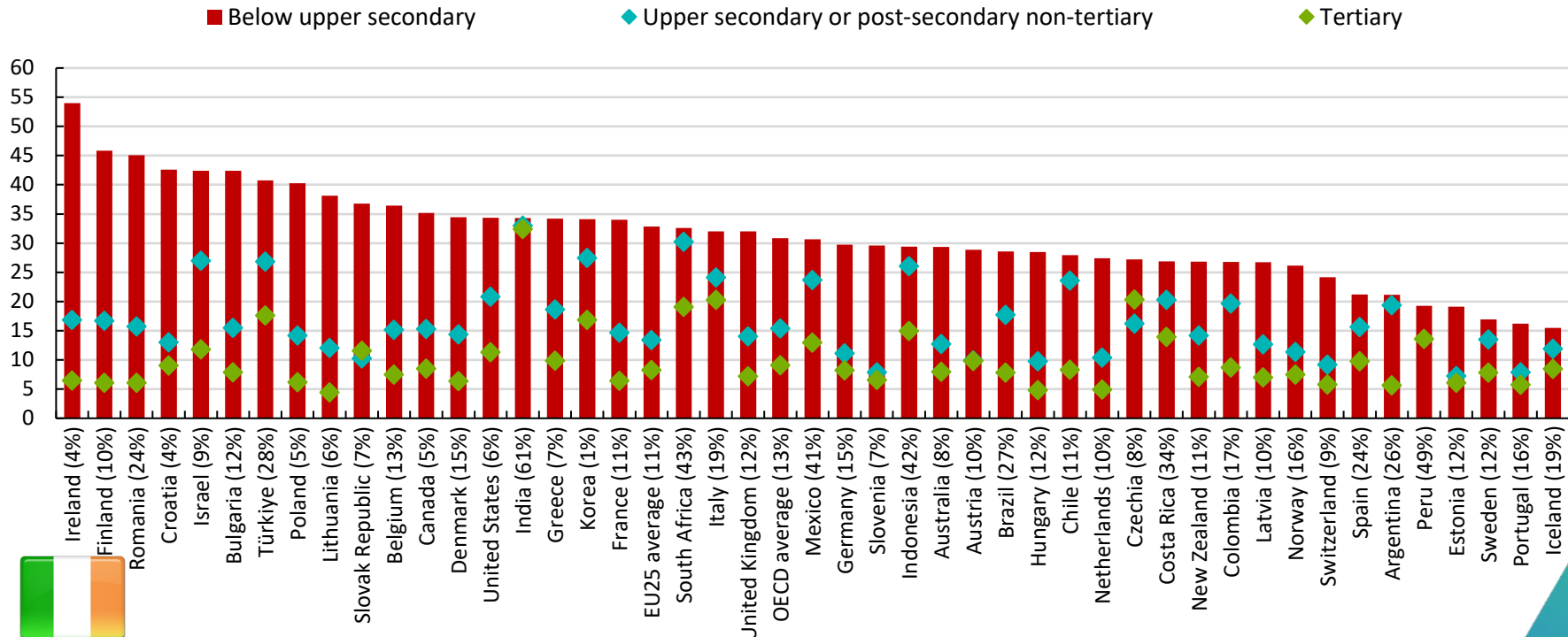
Relative earnings of tertiary-educated adults, by field of study (2023)





Adults without upper secondary attainment are at high risk of dropping out of the labour force

Shares of 25-34 year-olds outside the labour force, by educational attainment (2024)



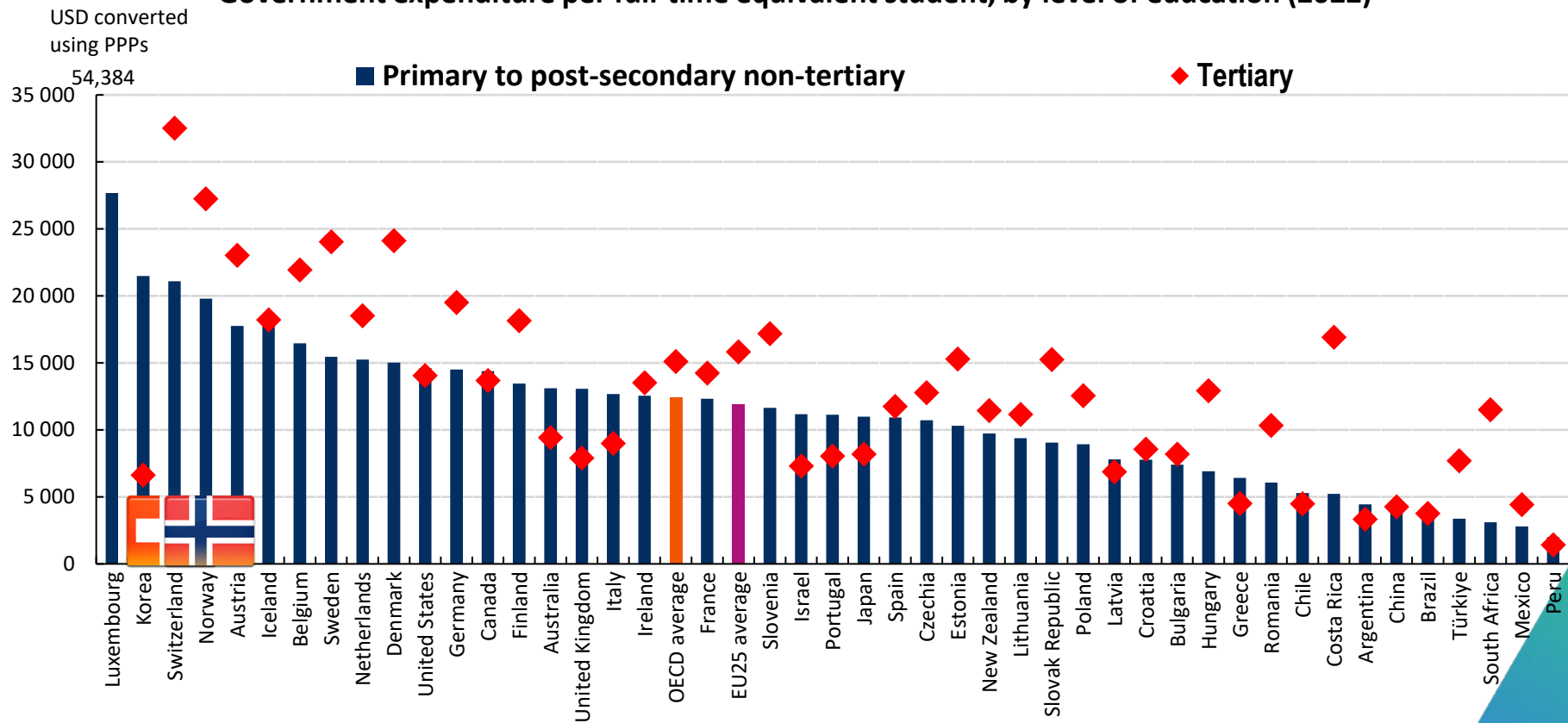
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Higher education can be expensive



Expenditure per student often increases with the level of education

Government expenditure per full-time equivalent student, by level of education (2022)



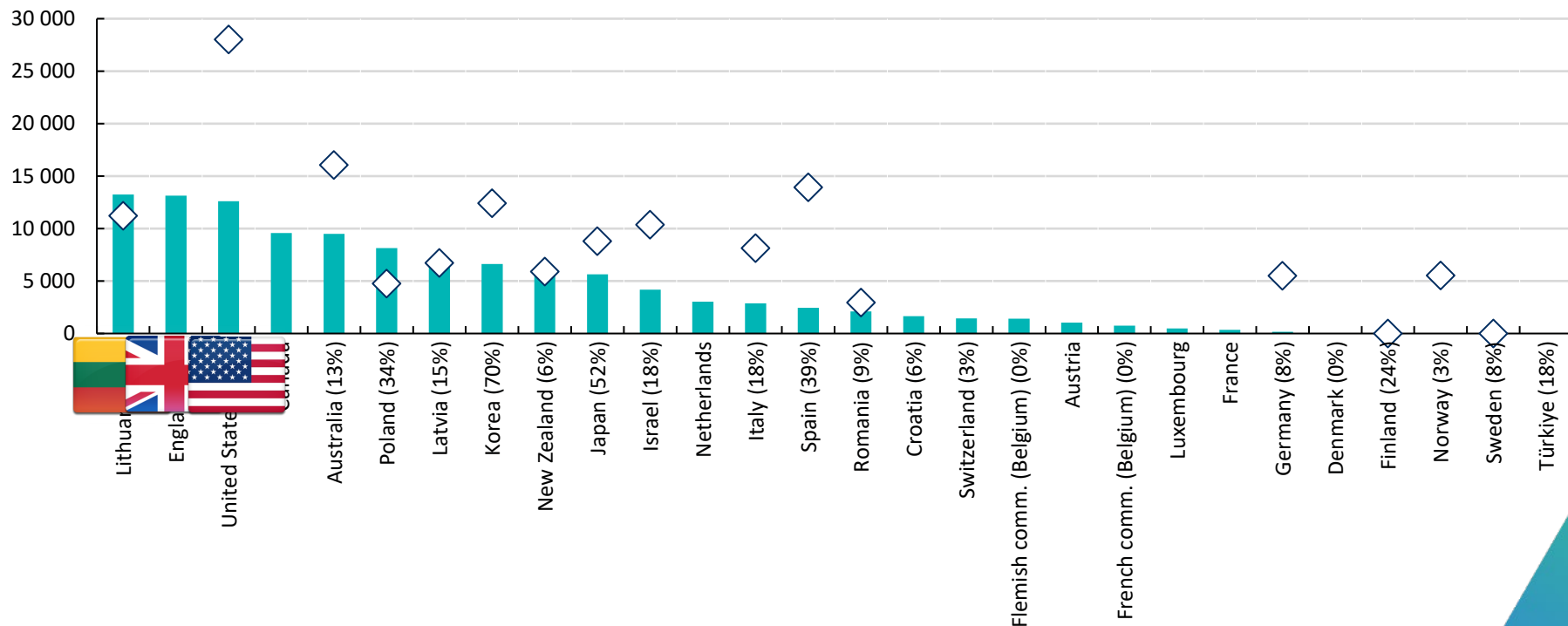


Tuition fees for master's programmes

Annual average tuition fees charged to national students for master's or equivalent programmes, by type of institution (2022/23)

USD converted using PPPs

■ Public institutions ◇ Independent private institutions

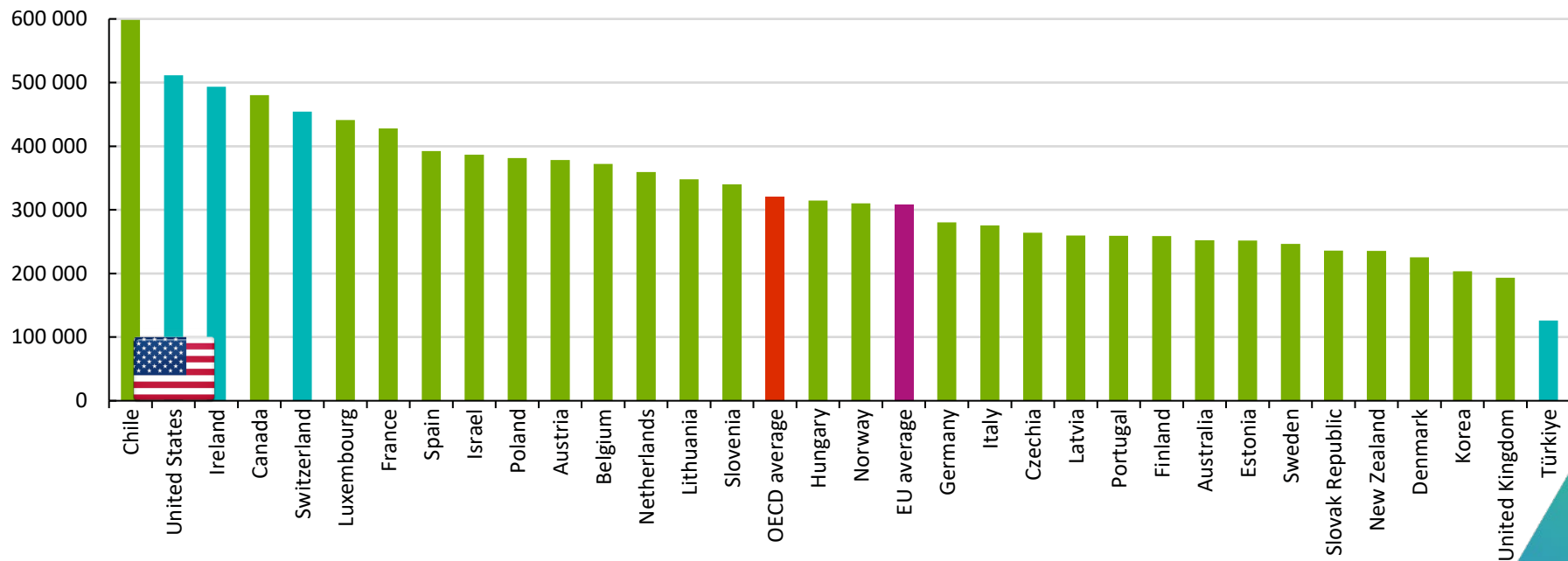




Even when tuition is high, lifetime financial returns are high

Private financial returns for a woman attaining a short-cycle tertiary degree or a bachelor's or higher degree (2022)

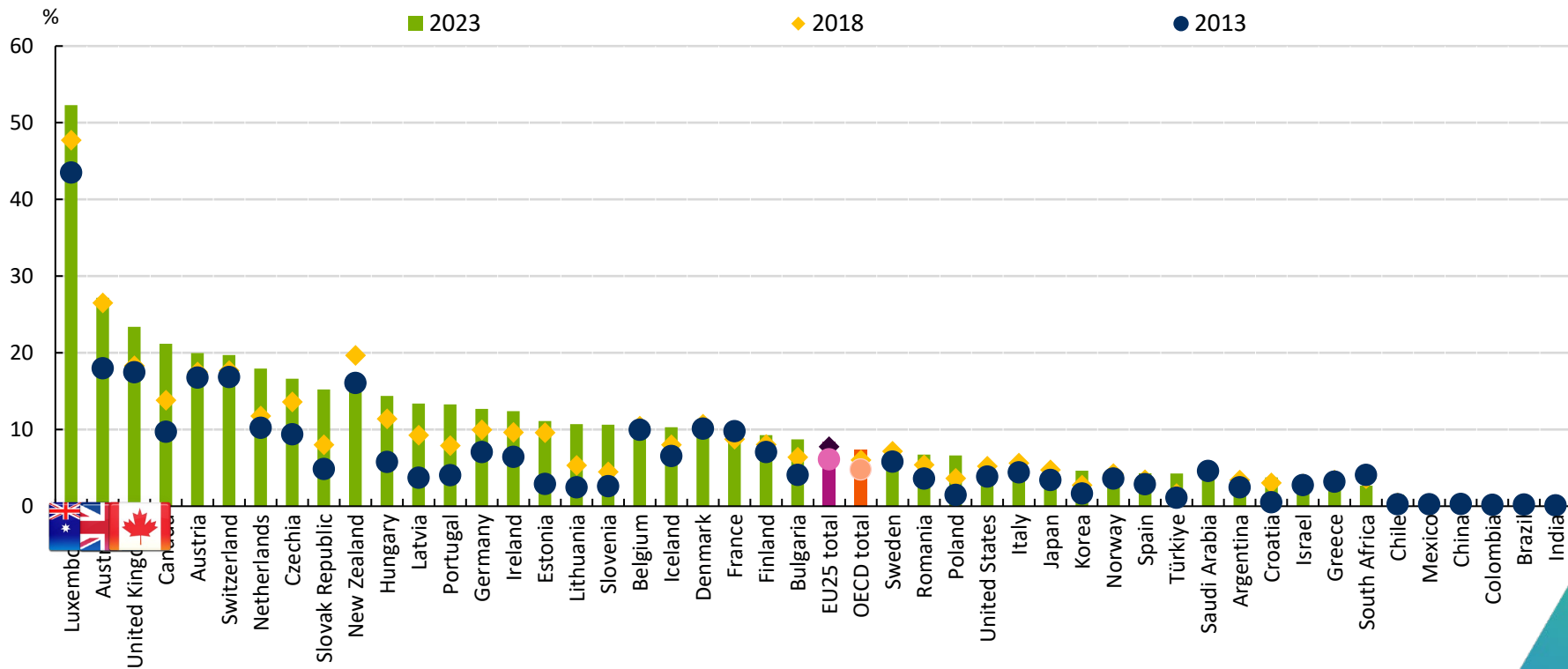
■ Bachelor's, master's and doctoral ■ Tertiary programmes (all combined)





International student mobility continues to increase almost everywhere

Trends in the share of international or foreign students in tertiary education (2013, 2018 and 2023)

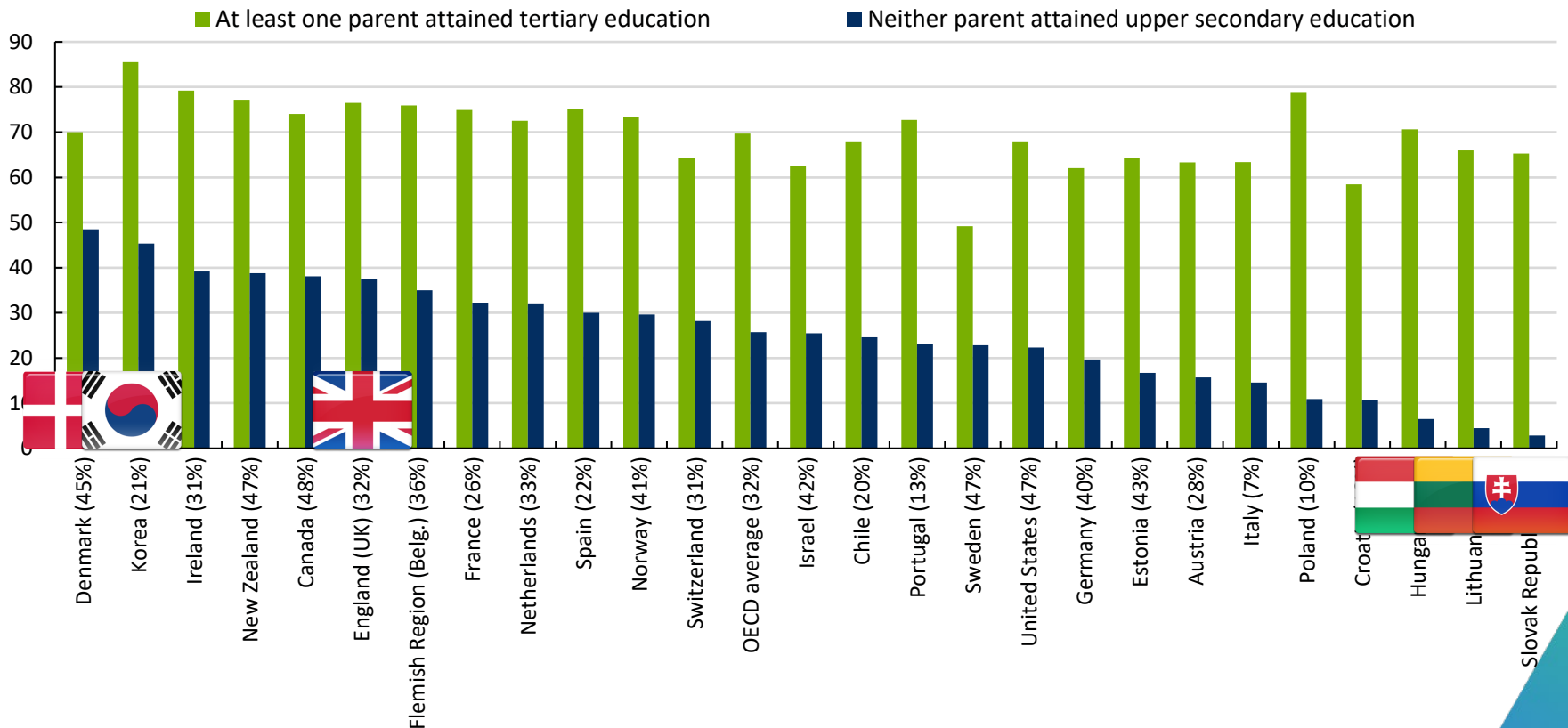


Social mobility is still a distant dream in many countries



Educational attainment is closely linked to socio-economic background

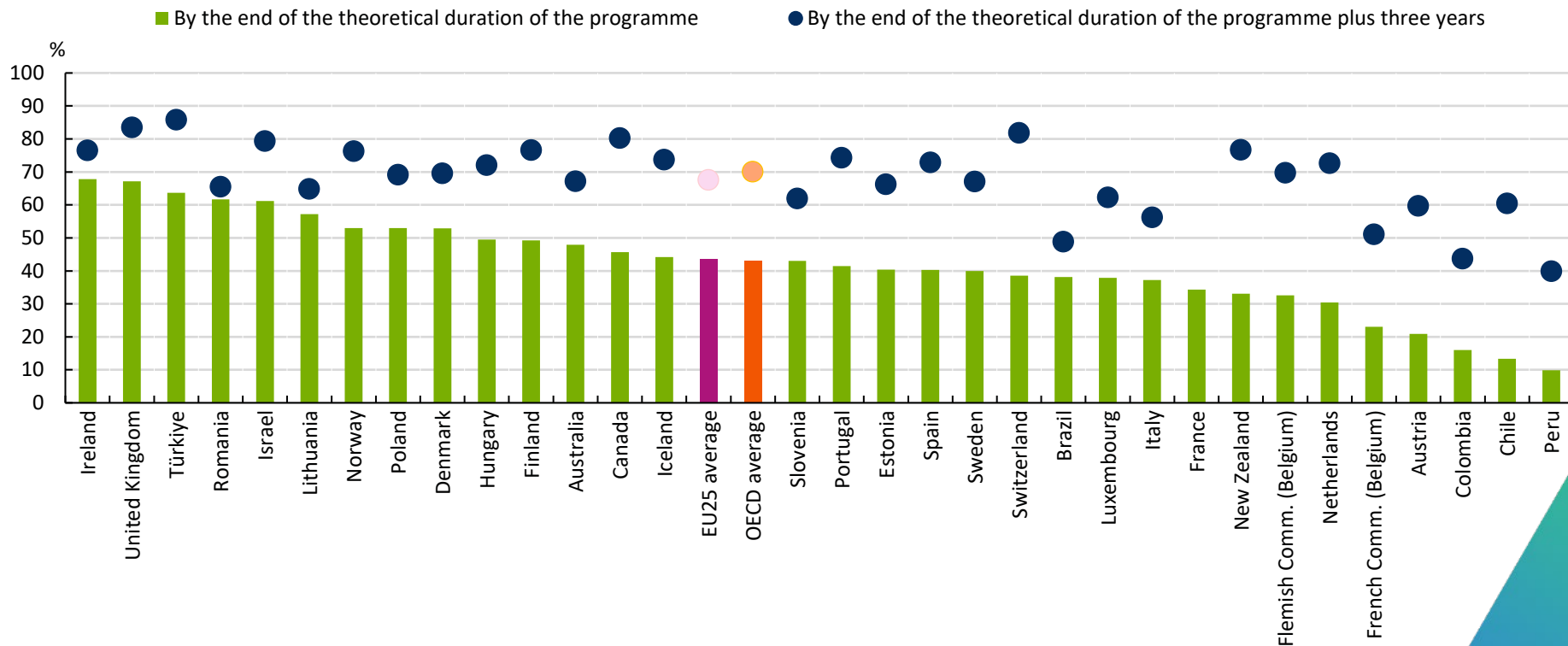
Share of 25-34 year-olds with tertiary education, by parental educational attainment (2023)





Completion rates for bachelor's programmes are low in many countries

Completion rates of new entrants to bachelor's programmes, by timeframe (2023)



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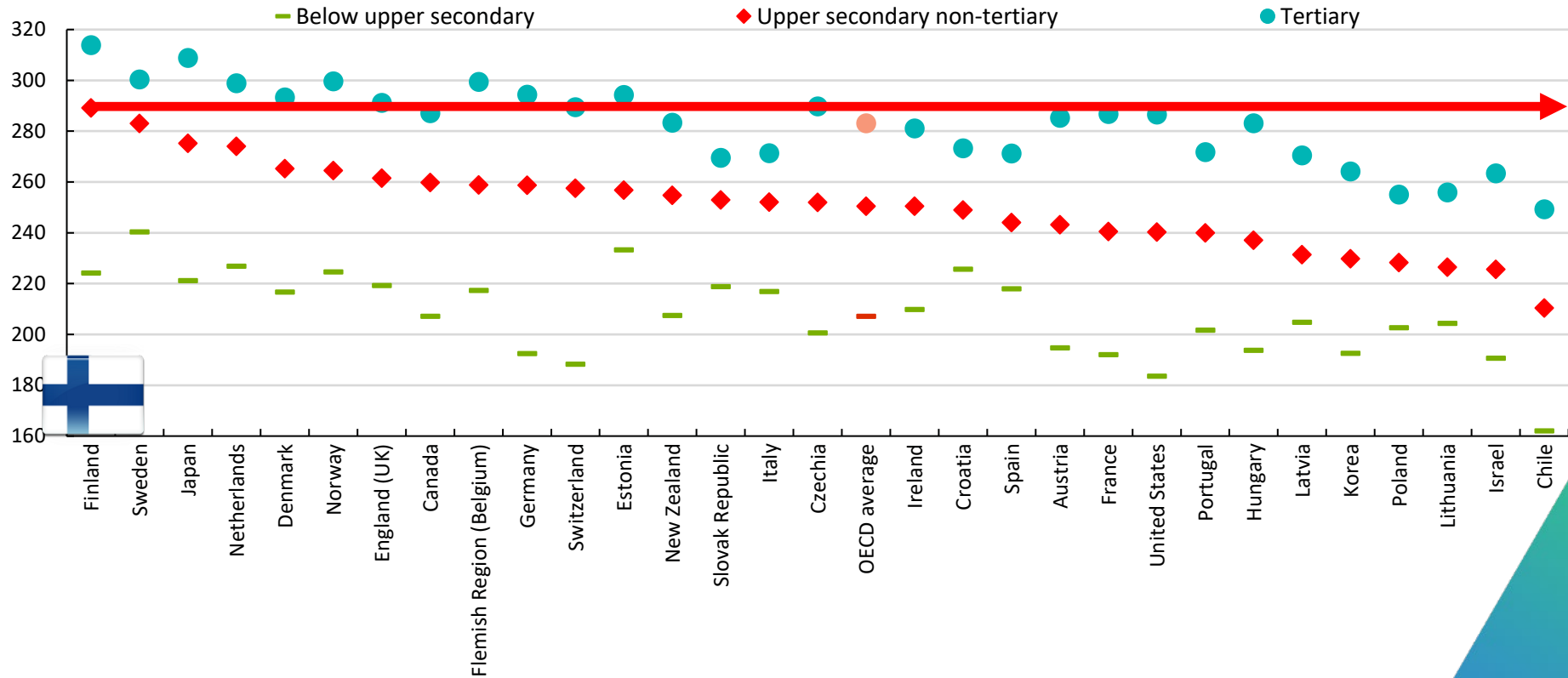
Skills and qualifications are not the same





The skills value of qualifications varies across countries

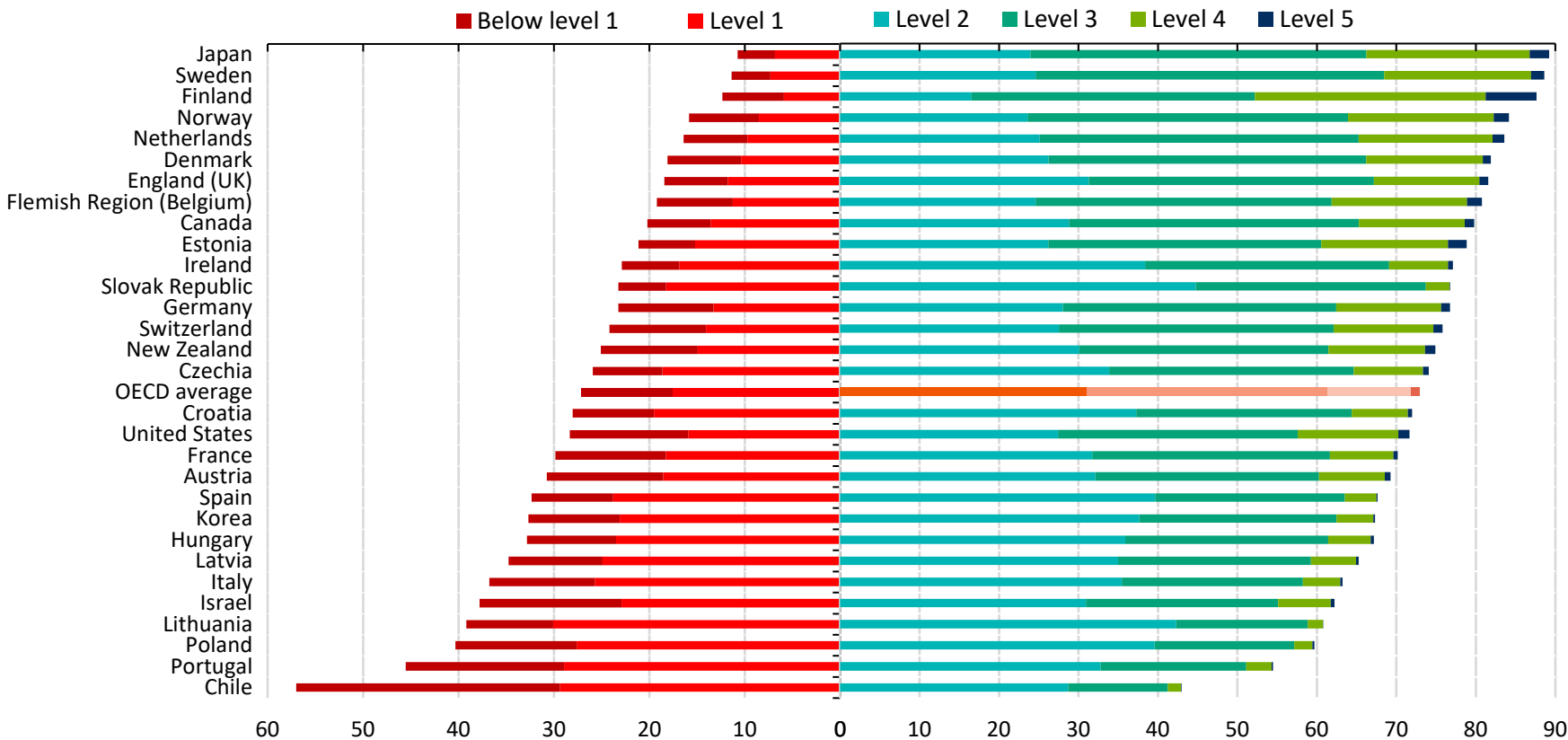
Adults' mean literacy proficiency, by educational attainment (2023)





A large share of adults has low literacy skills

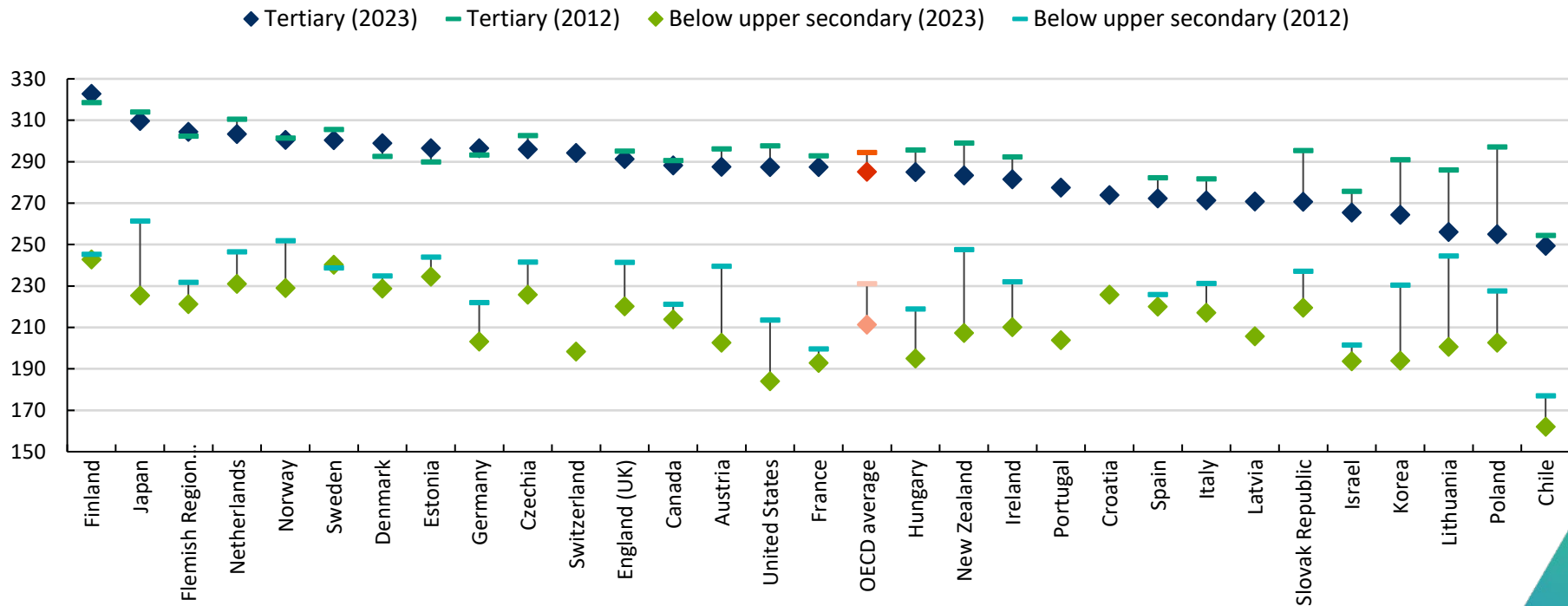
Proficiency in literacy among adults (2023)





Skill levels have been declining among adults with low attainment

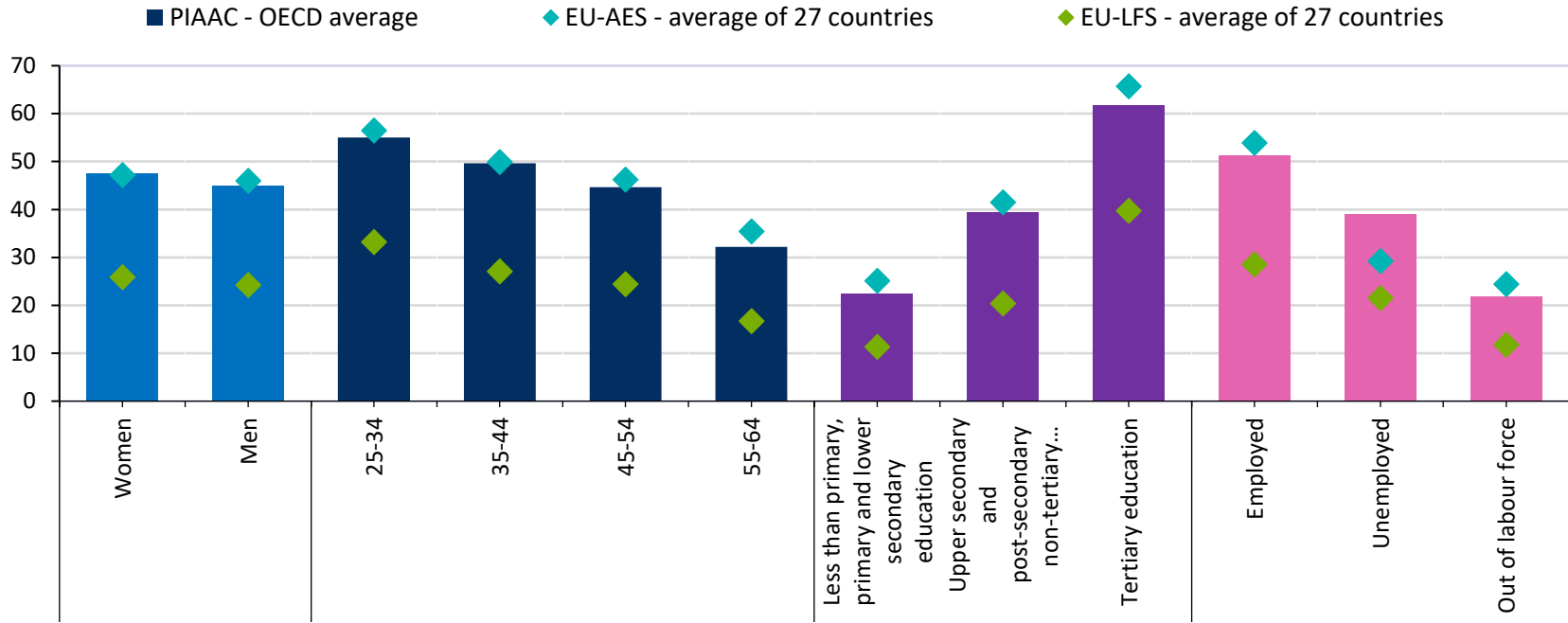
Trends in adults' mean literacy proficiency, by educational attainment (2012 and 2023)





Different surveys show different participation rates in education and training, but patterns are consistent

Average participation in education and training, by survey, gender, age group, educational attainment and labour force status

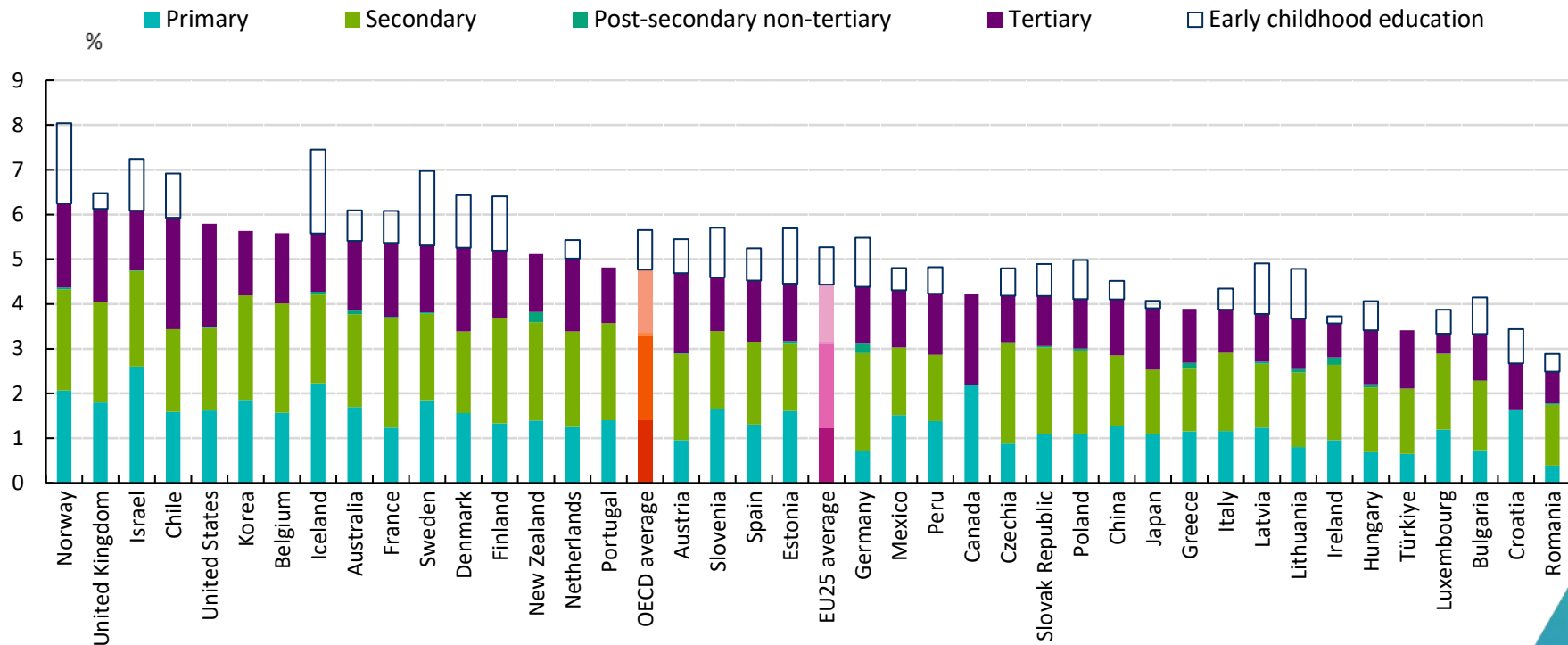


Investment into education



Countries invest between 3% and 8% of GDP into education

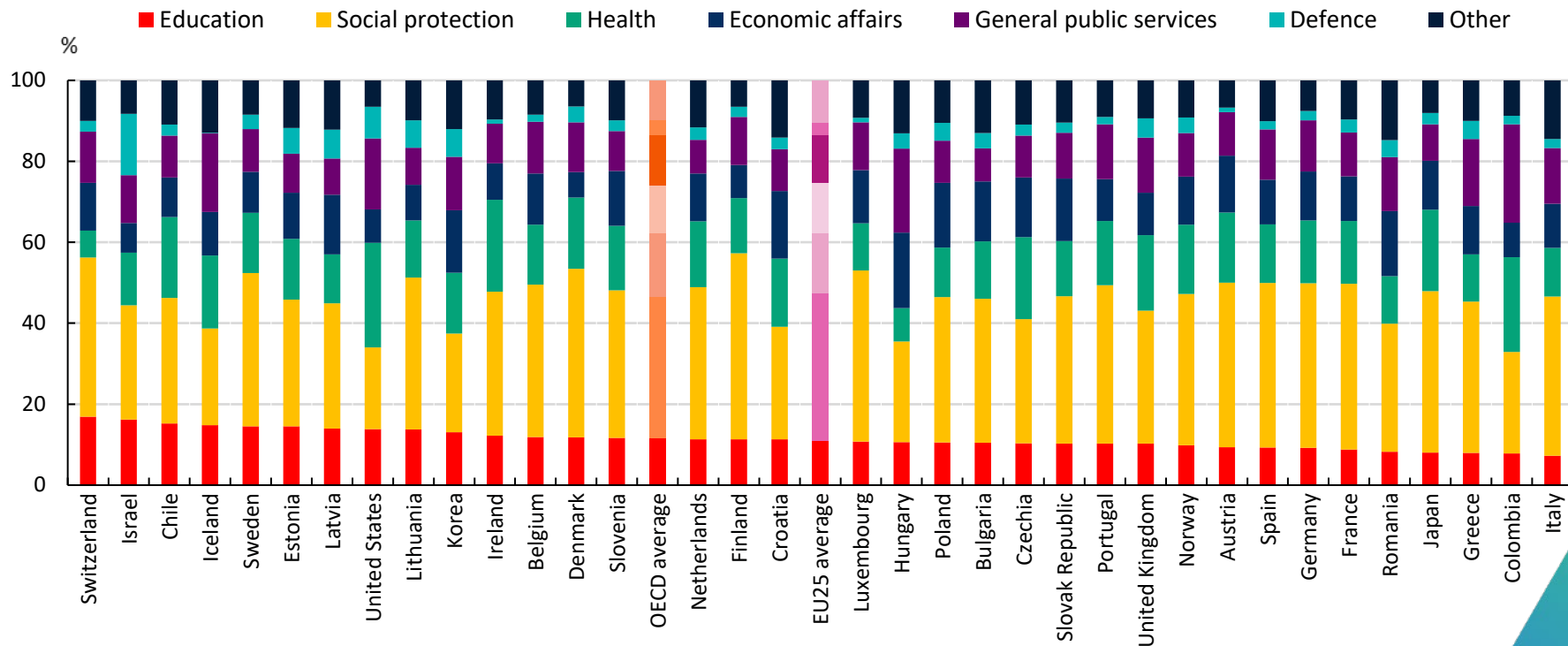
Expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP, by level of education (2022)





In some countries, education is one of the most important items of government expenditure

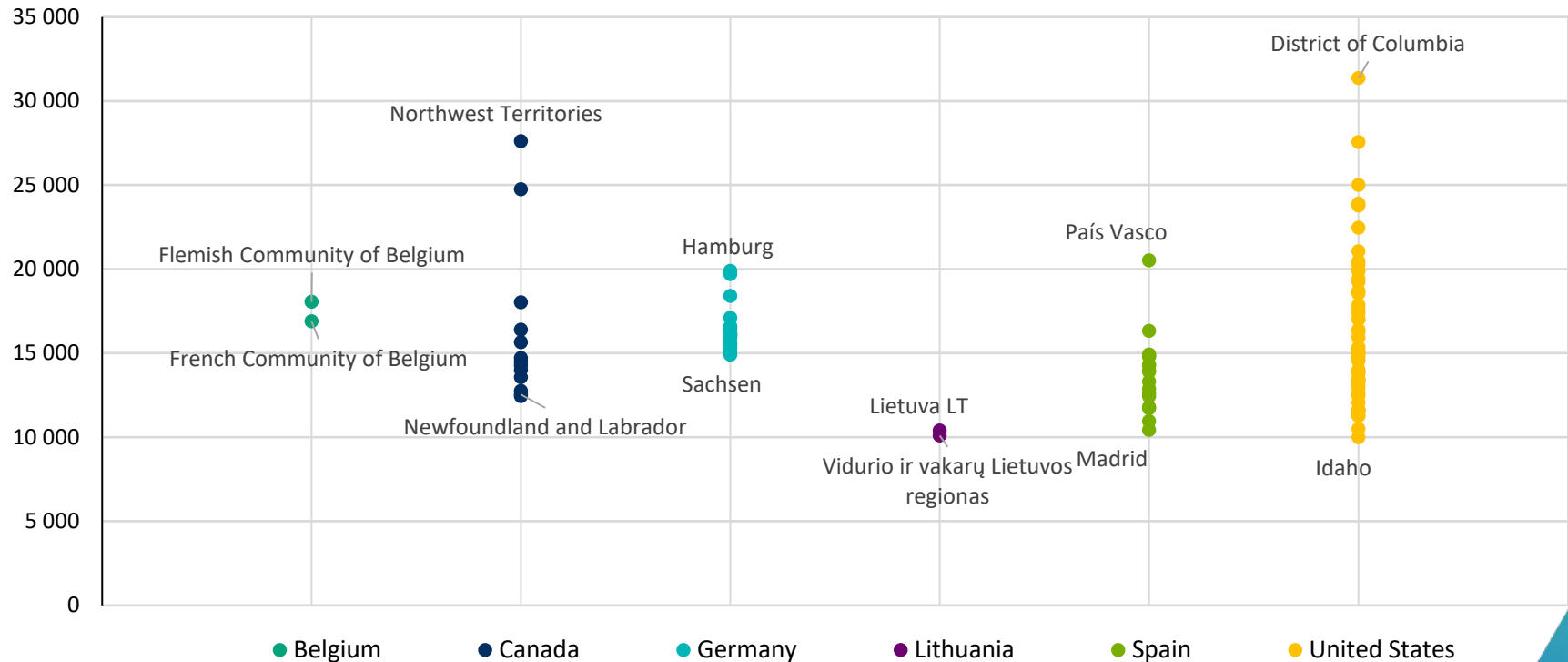
Distribution of government expenditure by function (2023)



Expenditure per student can vary strongly across subnational regions

Regional variation in expenditure on educational institutions per full-time equivalent student (2022)

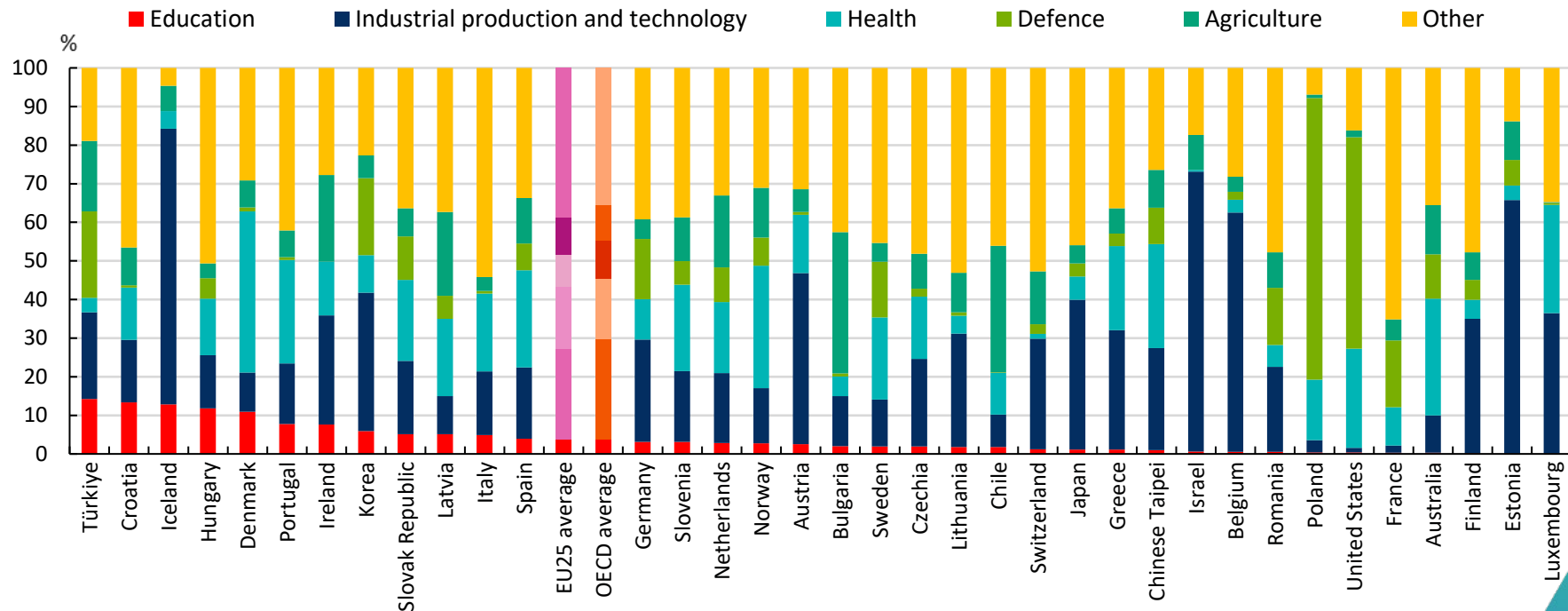
USD converted using PPPs





Only a small fraction of public R&D budgets allocated to education research

Share of government R&D budget allocated to education (2023)



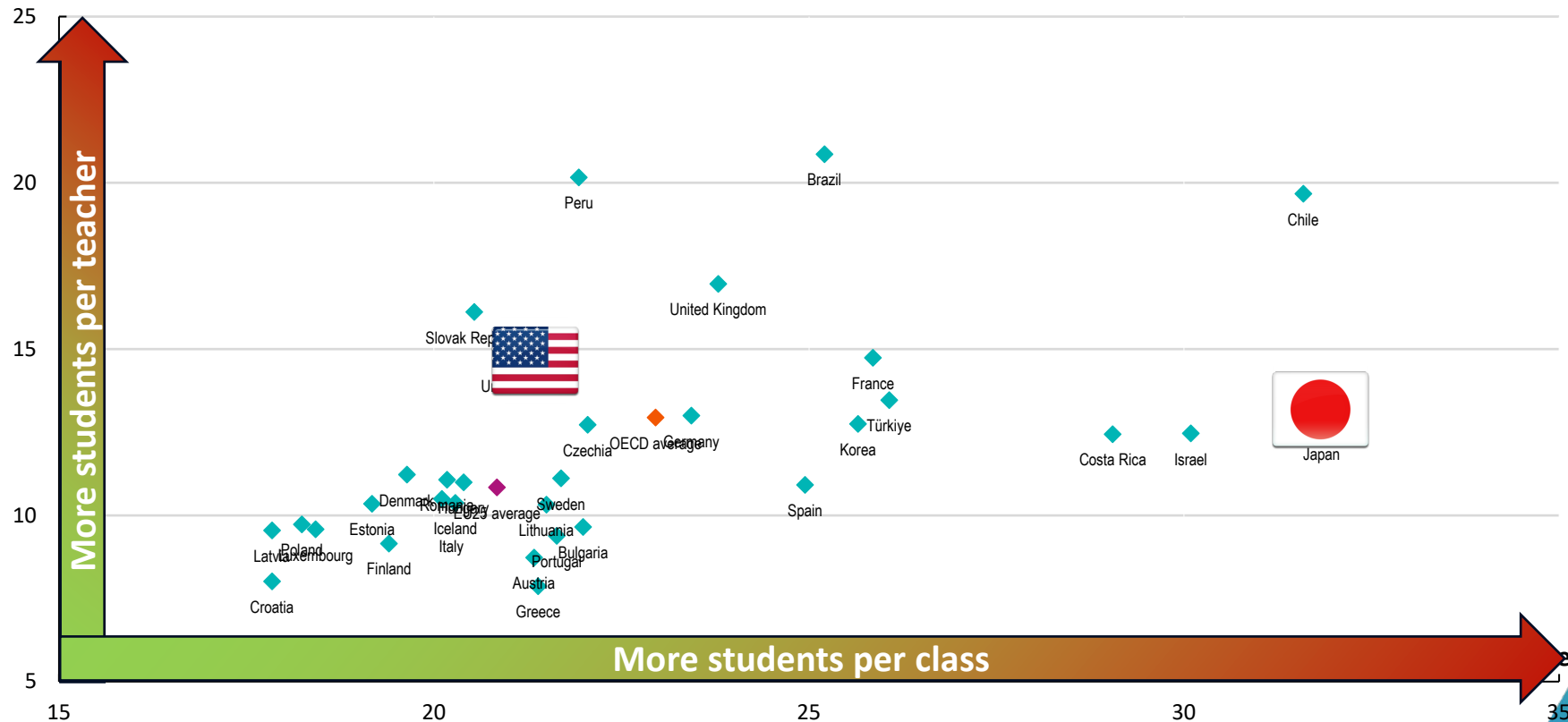
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Countries spend their money differently



Smaller classes or better teachers?

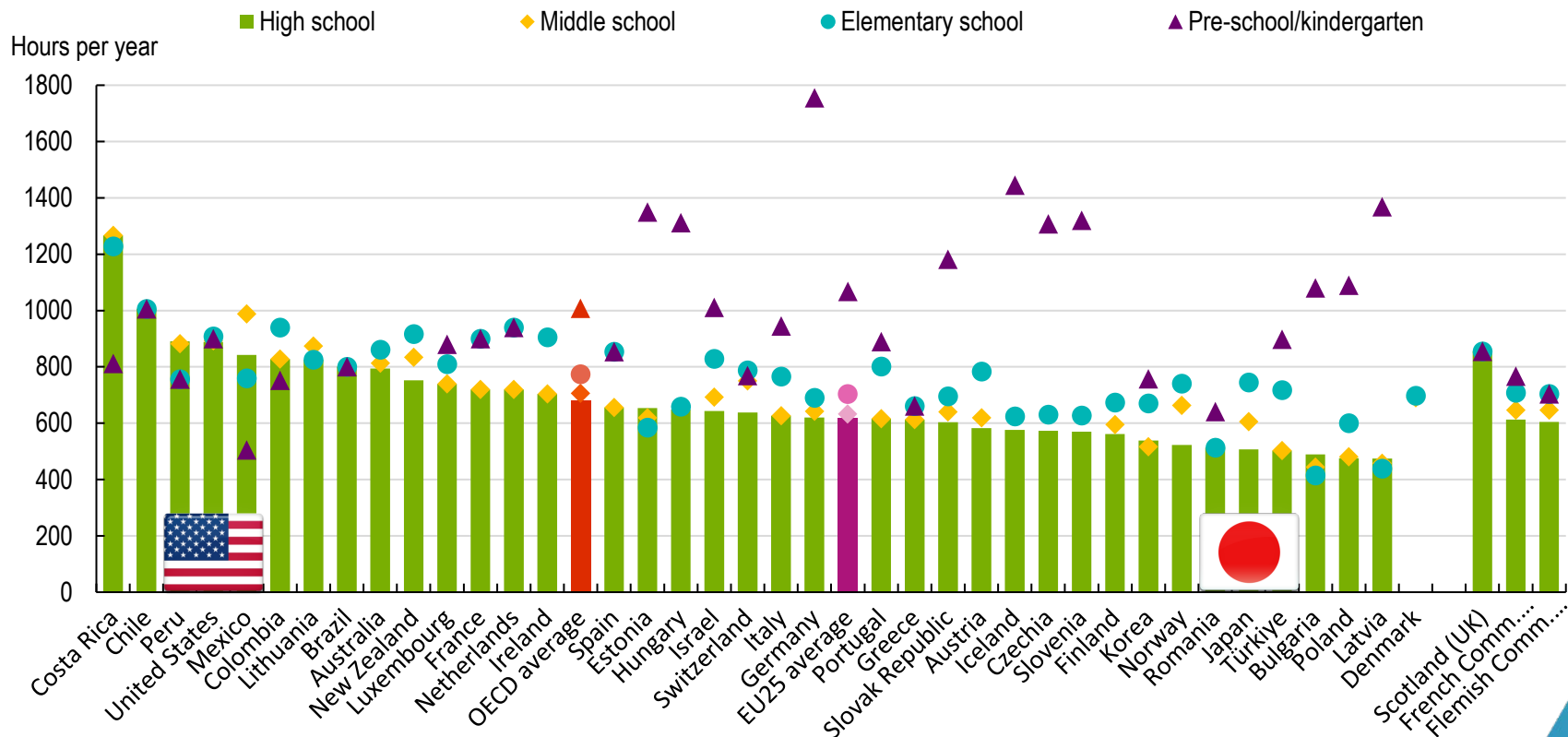
Student-teacher ratio





Annual teaching hours of teachers vary strongly across OECD countries

Teaching time of teachers, by level of education (2023)

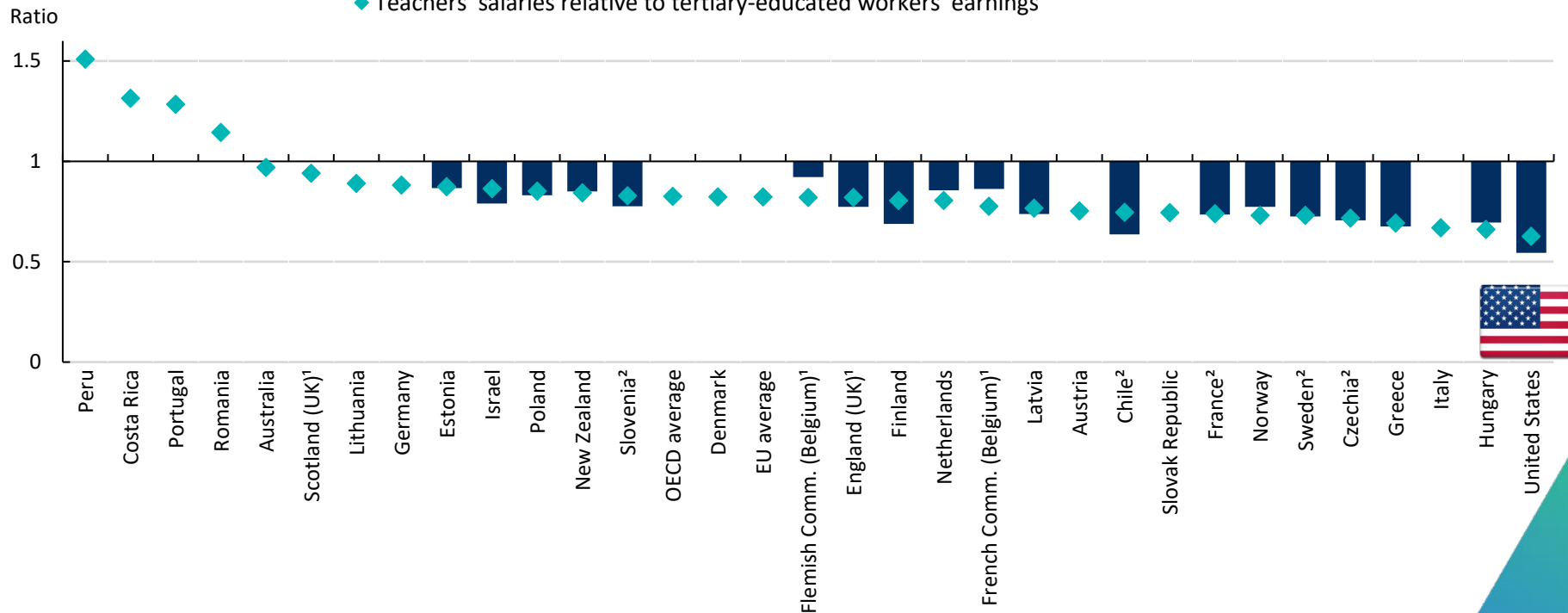




In most OECD countries, teacher salaries are lower than the average salaries of tertiary-educated workers

Actual salaries of primary teachers relative to earnings of tertiary-educated workers (2024)

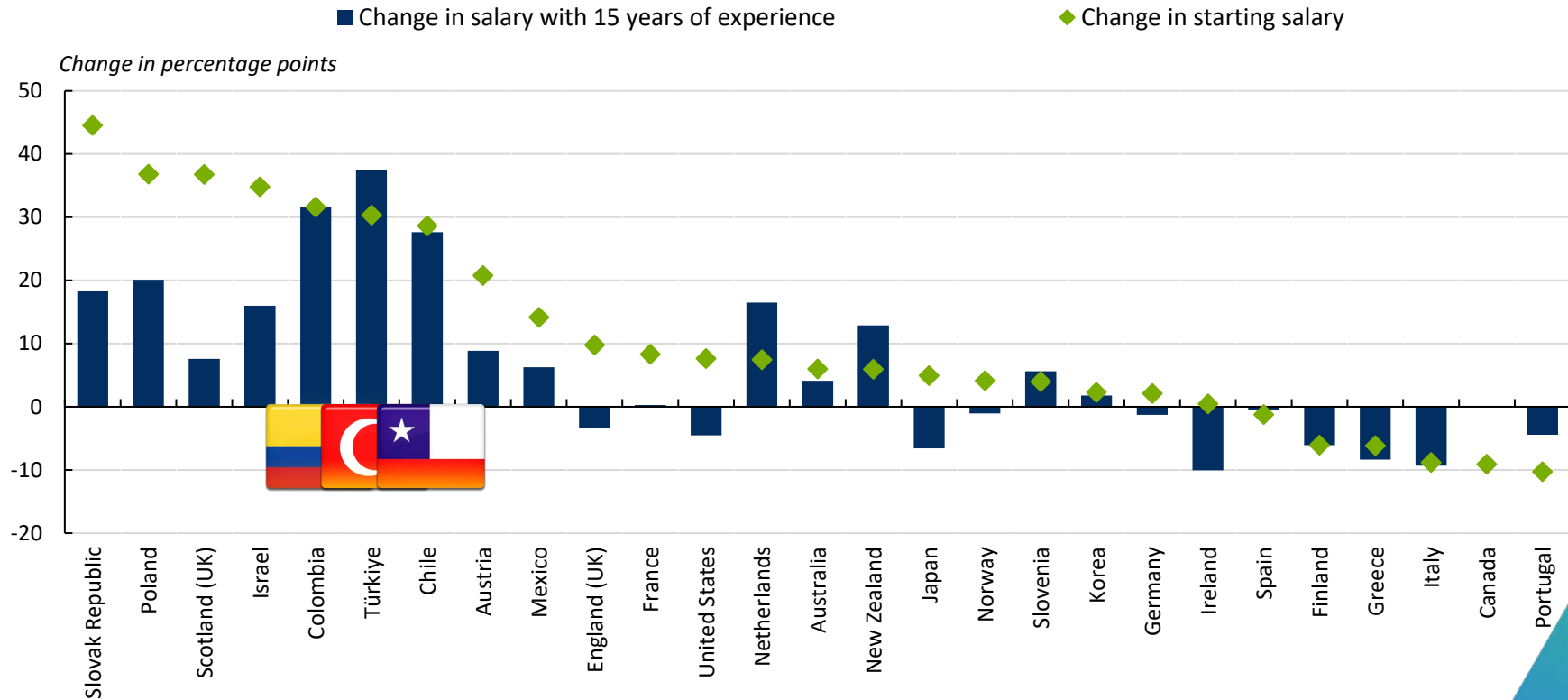
- Teachers' salaries relative to similarly educated workers' earnings (weighted averages)
- ◆ Teachers' salaries relative to tertiary-educated workers' earnings





In some countries, teacher salaries increased substantially

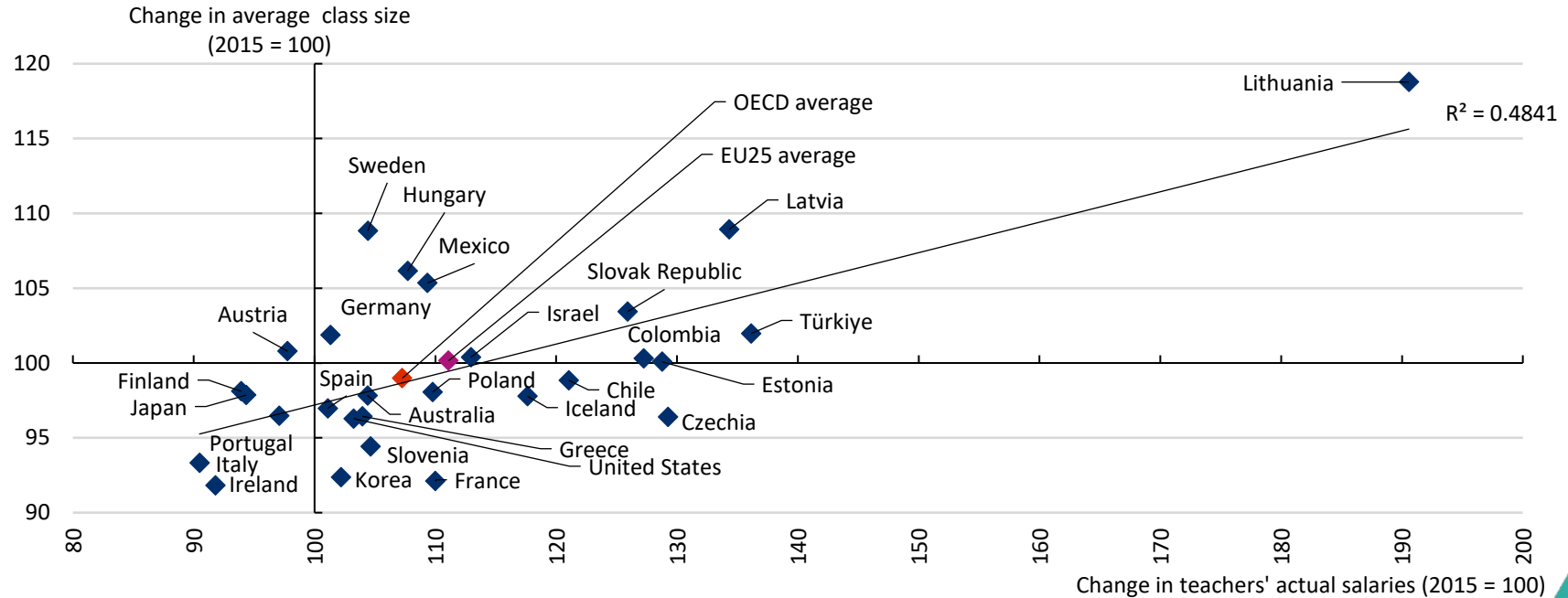
Change in primary teachers' statutory salaries between 2015 and 2024 (most prevalent qualifications after 15 years)





Countries with increasing class size raised teacher salaries more strongly than other countries

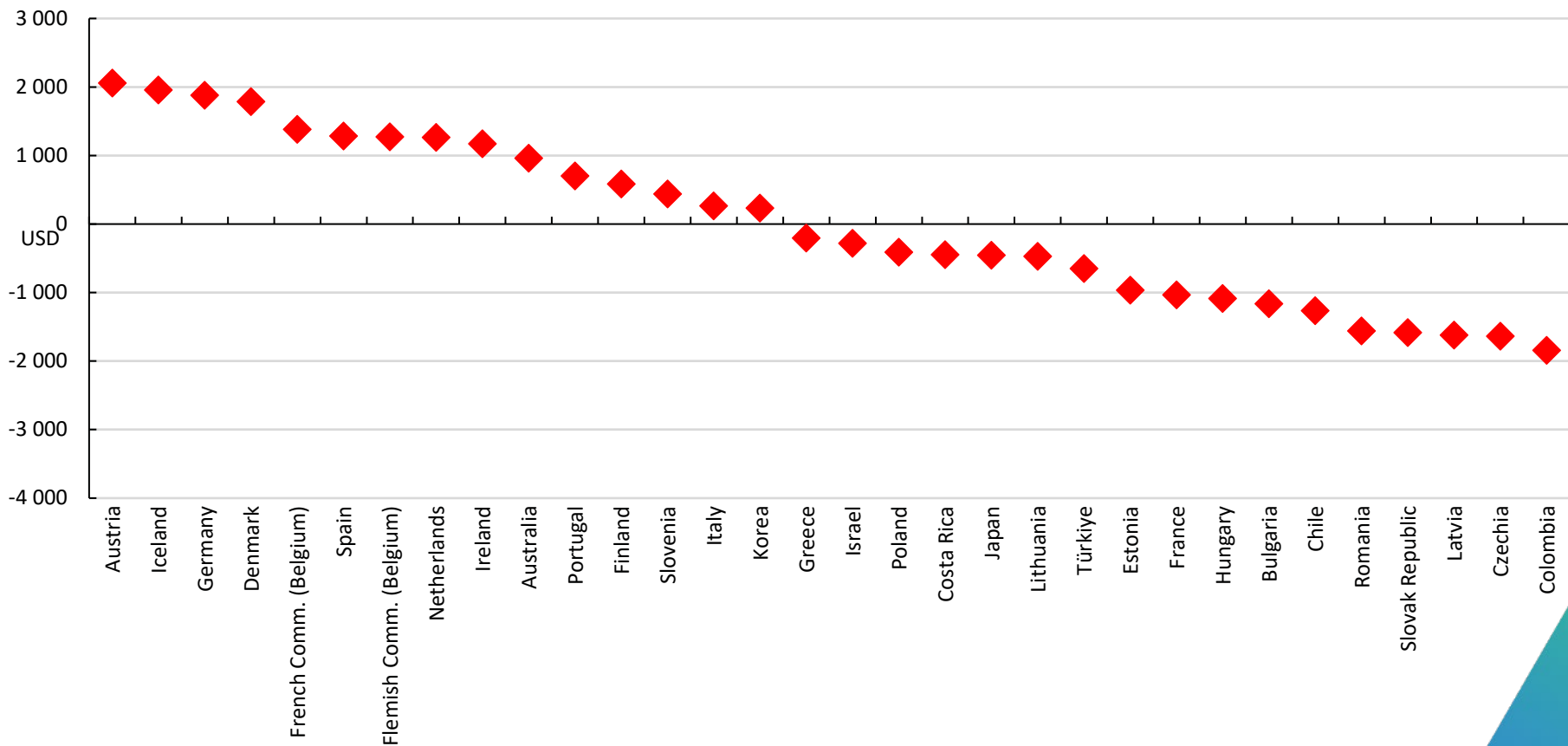
Index of change in teachers' salaries and in average class size in primary education between 2015 and 2023





Multiple factors influence the salary costs per student

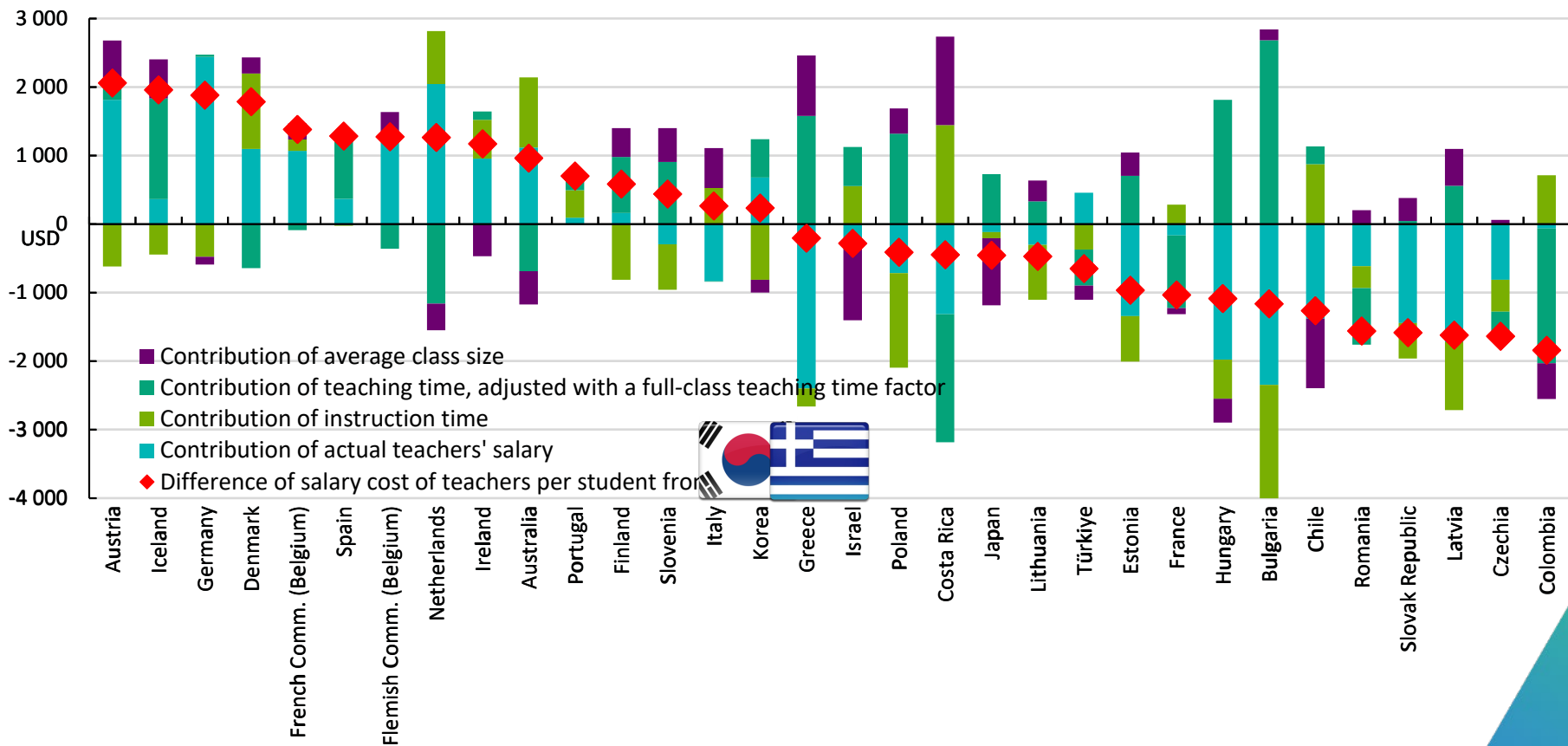
Contribution of various factors to salary cost of teachers per student in public institutions, primary education (2023)





Multiple factors influence the salary costs per student

Contribution of various factors to salary cost of teachers per student in public institutions, primary education (2023)





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Thank you