

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Chapter 8 Schools Libraries

STATISTICAL FEATURES

Population In most cases the UN 5 - 19 population data have been used. The school population reported in the survey differs for only three countries - Iceland, Norway and Sweden where their response is only 50 - 70 per cent of the total (UN) population figure. The advantage of using the UN figures throughout lies in consistency and in discounting differences between countries in school leaving age and the proportions continuing in to attend for education above the age of 14 or 15. The case for using 19 rather than 16 or 17 as an upper age limit rests on two factors: first, Further Education and Technical Colleges below tertiary level are included in this category; second, this statistical series will not need to change as the proportion of older teenagers in further education increases in future years.

The ratios, therefore, reflect the resources devoted to libraries in relation to each state's population rather than in relation to the actual number of students in each country.

Response A poor response was anticipated for this sector. Worldwide there are difficulties in collecting statistics for school libraries. In the event the response to the financial questions was meagre with data from six states only – with limitations that will be discussed below. But the response to the operational and resource questions was better than anticipated – with positive data from 15 states, which typically gave 12 – 14 responses for the main questions and coverage of 30 – 50 per cent. While much lower than the response rates in those sectors already described, in the context of recent history this is distinctly encouraging. There is enough evidence here at least to show that it is practically possible to collect useful statistics in this sector.

Methodology The reasons for difficulty in obtaining financial data are obvious: in many cases the school library is not a separate cost centre within the general school accounts. This applies particularly to costs of premises and overheads, less to the cost of materials acquired specifically for the library.

There is also difficulty in getting separate costs for Staff in school libraries; frequently libraries are run by teachers on a part time basis and the staff costs are not separately reported.

Given these particular difficulties it is worth noting the solution adopted in the UK where useful data have been obtained through a large scale sample survey initiated not by the government but by the Library Association. This approach could well be followed in other states, so it is worthwhile describing it in some detail.

The school library sector in the **United Kingdom** comprises libraries and learning resources centres in three main types of institution:

- Primary schools, teaching children between the ages of 5 and 11 (ISCED[†] level 1).
- Secondary schools, teaching children between the ages of 11 and 16 or 18 (ISCED levels 2 & 3).

[†] ISCED – International Standard Classification of Education

- Further education colleges, providing ISCED level 3 & 4 courses for adults and young people from the age of 16.

There are a number of regional variations on this theme, and education may be provided by the state or in the independent sector at any of these levels. None of the institutions are required to make returns to any central body concerning their libraries. Some information is available, however, for secondary school and further education college libraries, from a series of recently instituted biennial surveys conducted on behalf of the UK Library Association.

Grossed up totals and trends UK data shown in the tables and on the database derive from survey results first reported for 1996. Data for previous years have been derived. This means that trends shown for the UK before 1996 are hypothetical. Data for Poland come from a one off 1991 survey which has not been repeated, so figures for subsequent years have similarly been derived. Data shown in the Tables for each year are meaningful, therefore, only from only those states other than the UK and Poland that reported - i.e. less than 15 per cent coverage. The estimated totals should be regarded as suggestive - not conclusive - indicators. The commentary for this sector will focus on the respondents' data rather than the calculated totals.

OPERATING RESULTS

Administrative units, service points, etc.

The data are restricted in that they relate more to the number of schools. It would be interesting to have data on the number of schools with and without a formal library - by comparing these data with those on the number of schools and colleges in each state.

As an example of this we can see that the average **population per service point** lies between 250 - 600 and there is no trend. This would be more meaningful if we knew the average number of students per school.

Table 8.2 shows the amount of book stock held per service point - with some interesting variations between the high of 12,760 in the large Danish school libraries and the low of 1,002 in Ireland. The average overall was just under 7,785 in 1997.

Table 8.1 Sector Population per Service Point = [UN Pop (aged 5-19) ÷ Line 3]

School		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
1-31	All States	965	965	967	965	958	970	962	970
1	Bulgaria	607	613	613	614	608	613	631	647
2	Czech Republic	396	390	383	376	368	382	368	368
3	Estonia	669	598	701	637	621	609	598	598
4	Hungary	586	574	570	558	545	545	545	545
5	Latvia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Lithuania	370	387	391	379	373	367	359	356
7	Poland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Romania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Slovak Republic	214	214	213	213	207	216	202	221
10	Slovenia	388	396	404	415	420	435	448	463
11	Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Denmark	635	651	652	649	644	642	656	659
15	Ireland	296	311	317	324	278	302	293	292
16	Finland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Greece	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Iceland	708	550	499	463	451	447	413	414
20	Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Netherlands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Norway	301	304	316	312	316	315	332	321
25	Portugal	3,386	3,311	3,087	3,028	2,993	2,999	2,957	3,014
26	Spain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Sweden	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	UK	425	426	425	426	426	426	426	425
31	Germany	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Table 8.2 Volumes per Service Point = [Line 4 ÷ Line 3]

School		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
1-31	All States	4,734	4,775	4,801	4,757	4,796	4,782	4,785	4,840
1	Bulgaria	5,190	5,250	5,257	5,340	5,365	5,397	5,489	5,548
2	Czech Republic	2,734	2,695	2,648	2,597	2,543	2,639	2,543	2,543
3	Estonia	10,703	9,570	11,305	10,752	10,599	10,502	10,695	10,695
4	Hungary	7,303	7,349	7,406	7,386	7,365	7,345	7,345	7,345
5	Latvia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Lithuania	10,739	10,549	10,335	9,915	9,590	9,490	9,526	9,705
7	Poland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Romania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Slovak Republic	1,675	1,675	1,675	1,660	1,673	1,662	1,676	1,693
10	Slovenia	5,546	5,672	5,816	6,023	6,181	6,371	6,532	6,717
11	Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Denmark	11,384	11,526	11,687	11,274	11,922	12,214	12,760	14,573
15	Ireland	731	1,220	1,133	1,180	1,031	1,133	1,002	993
16	Finland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Greece	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Iceland	3,898	4,839	5,009	4,615	4,811	4,697	4,481	4,481
20	Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Netherlands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Norway	2,135	2,225	2,388	2,429	2,468	2,560	2,512	2,587
25	Portugal	5,756	5,696	5,372	5,329	5,669	5,961	6,153	6,303
26	Spain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Sweden	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	UK	3,636	3,662	3,638	3,625	3,653	3,686	3,719	3,665
31	Germany	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Materials

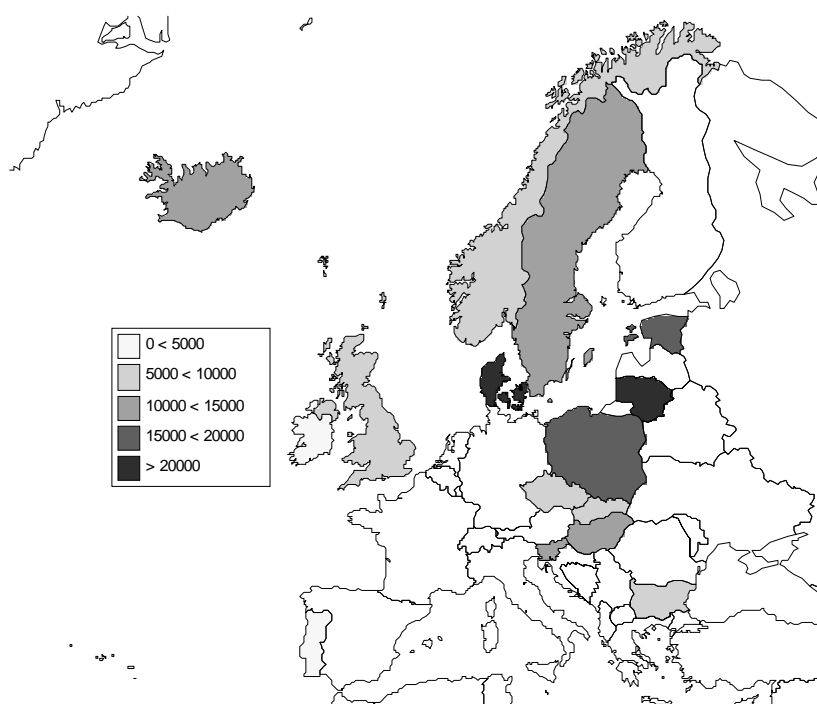
Book stock per 1,000 population is shown in Table 8.3 with a median average of 10.8 books per head. There is the same pattern of inter state variation that is evidenced in other sectors: in other words, countries with well resourced libraries are the same ones in the Schools sector as in other sectors.

There is, however, another possible complication - in that it may be the practice in some countries to include class textbooks in their count. It is **recommended** that this be specifically investigated in the interest of uniform data reporting in future.

Table 8.3 Books and Bound Periodicals per 1,000 Sector Population = [Line 4 ÷ UN Pop (aged 5-19) × 1,000]

School		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
1-31	All States	4,905	4,946	4,965	4,929	5,004	4,931	4,972	4,990
1	Bulgaria	8,550	8,566	8,578	8,694	8,821	8,799	8,693	8,571
2	Czech Republic	6,909	6,909	6,909	6,909	6,909	6,909	6,909	6,909
3	Estonia	16,000	16,001	16,122	16,872	17,055	17,236	17,897	17,897
4	Hungary	12,468	12,796	12,994	13,229	13,506	13,469	13,469	13,469
5	Latvia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Lithuania	29,000	27,293	26,433	26,191	25,735	25,835	26,545	27,255
7	Poland	16,511	16,511	16,511	16,511	16,511	16,511	16,511	16,511
8	Romania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Slovak Republic	7,813	7,819	7,846	7,779	8,092	7,685	8,281	7,668
10	Slovenia	14,285	14,324	14,402	14,527	14,711	14,647	14,583	14,519
11	Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Denmark	17,919	17,705	17,928	17,379	18,499	19,026	19,444	22,130
15	Ireland	2,469	3,929	3,573	3,643	3,715	3,757	3,424	3,400
16	Finland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Greece	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Iceland	5,505	8,790	10,033	9,963	10,665	10,514	10,861	10,826
20	Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Netherlands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Norway	7,097	7,322	7,554	7,797	7,812	8,122	7,564	8,057
25	Portugal	1,700	1,720	1,740	1,760	1,894	1,988	2,081	2,091
26	Spain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Sweden	14,035	14,357	15,171	13,775	15,419	11,632	12,445	12,426
28	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	UK	8,551	8,595	8,551	8,506	8,582	8,652	8,720	8,614
31	Germany	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Map 8.3 Books and Bound Periodicals per 1,000 Sector Population = [Line 4 ÷ UN Pop (aged 5-19) × 1,000]



The acquisition of new material is generally a more reliable statistic than stock figures - which can be distorted by book keeping weaknesses and by failure to weed out old stock. Table 8.4 shows several states where annual book additions have risen notably since 1991: UK, Portugal (from a low base), Norway, Denmark, and Lithuania. They have fallen in Bulgaria. Increased Audio-Visual additions are notable in Portugal and in Denmark.

At the end of the period audio-visual materials represent only 4 per cent of total additions: this compares with 9 per cent in public libraries.

However, the per capita acquisitions are substantial - with Denmark, Lithuania, and Norway well above the average of 0.6 items acquired annually per student.

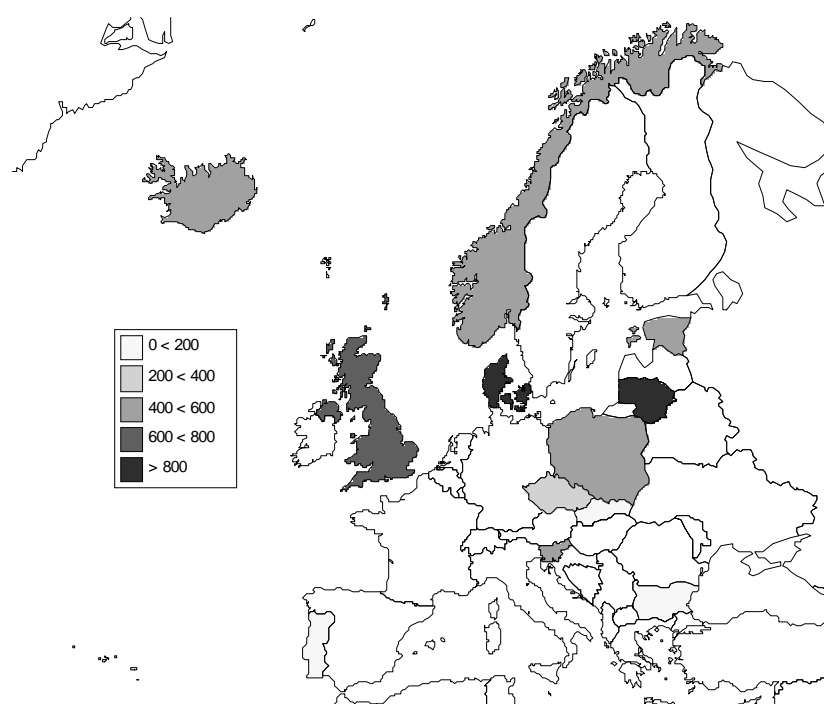
Current periodicals As in other sectors some countries have reported Titles and others Subscriptions under the same heading. That makes the analysis difficult. There is enough evidence, however, when the two questions are taken together, to show that these are significant. In units per 1000 population Denmark has increased from 98 to 171 and Estonia from 67 to 127. In contrast Slovenia has fallen from 197 to 93. It would be interesting to know how dominant are newspapers in this count of "periodicals".

CD ROMs Denmark, Iceland and the UK were the only states to provide separate figures - and these show the expected exponential rate of increase in the most recent years. A similar rate of growth is displayed in the three states' returns on **Workstations for users** (Slovenia, Portugal and the UK).

Table 8.4 Book & Bound Periodical Additions per 1,000 Sector Population = [Line 11 ÷ UN Pop (aged 5-19) × 1,000]

School		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
1-31	All States	561	561	562	564	581	601	612	604
1	Bulgaria	171	223	176	162	143	109	93	96
2	Czech Republic	254	254	254	255	254	254	254	254
3	Estonia	499	500	516	741	715	598	528	528
4	Hungary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Latvia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Lithuania	725	682	665	655	843	646	779	912
7	Poland	568	568	568	568	568	568	568	568
8	Romania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Slovak Republic	181	182	182	183	165	202	189	151
10	Slovenia	616	611	607	608	608	601	594	587
11	Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Denmark	795	721	732	736	799	1,016	979	1,087
15	Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Finland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Greece	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Iceland	374	571	601	531	584	691	507	505
20	Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Netherlands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Norway	382	395	407	420	421	438	407	434
25	Portugal	70	76	89	98	103	107	130	134
26	Spain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Sweden	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	UK	690	692	690	688	707	725	743	715
31	Germany	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Map 8.4 Book & Bound Periodical Additions per 1,000 Sector Population = [Line 11 ÷ UN Pop (aged 5-19) × 1,000]



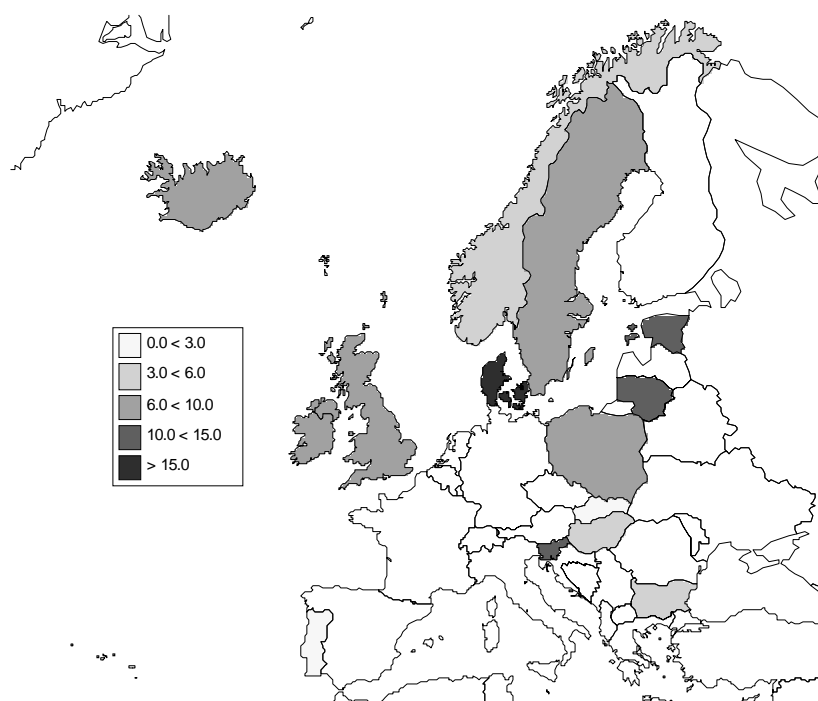
Use

14 states provide data on **Loan Transactions**, only six on **Visits**. Looking at **Loan Transactions per capita** (Table 8.5) we find Denmark (25) again topping the list, followed by Estonia, Lithuania & Slovenia (above 10). There is then a group in the 7 - 9 book issues per student range: UK, Ireland, Sweden, Iceland and Poland - which would be regarded by many as commendably high figures. Norway, Hungary and Bulgaria come in at around 4. There are few marked trends over the years to report: more data are needed from the non responding countries.

Table 8.5 Transactions per 1,000 Sector Population = [Line 17 ÷ UN Pop (aged 5-19) × 1,000]

School		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
1-31	All States	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.3
1	Bulgaria	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.8
2	Czech Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Estonia	11.5	12.3	9.8	9.9	10.2	11.0	13.0	13.0
4	Hungary	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
5	Latvia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Lithuania	11.7	11.1	9.8	10.0	9.6	10.0	10.9	11.7
7	Poland	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1
8	Romania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Slovak Republic	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3
10	Slovenia	10.9	11.3	11.8	12.3	13.0	13.3	13.7	14.2
11	Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Denmark	30.5	28.9	26.0	25.3	24.2	24.0	24.1	25.4
15	Ireland	7.1	9.2	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
16	Finland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Greece	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Iceland	3.8	4.5	5.9	6.0	5.9	6.9	7.1	7.1
20	Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Netherlands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Norway	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.1	4.3
25	Portugal	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
26	Spain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Sweden	9.8	7.6	9.9	8.4	7.9	8.0	8.3	8.3
28	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	UK	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.9	7.0	7.1	6.9
31	Germany	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Map 8.5 Transactions per 1,000 Sector Population = [Line 17 ÷ UN Pop (aged 5-19) × 1,000]



Staff

Within the data reported from eight countries there are almost unbelievably high numbers reported by Lithuania and Poland - which quite dominate the tables. (The Polish data refer to the 1991 situation.) However, when converted to the per capita basis, the picture seems more reasonable. The ratios for Lithuania and for Poland show 219 and 273 per 100,000 - which is between 2 - 3 library staff per 1,000 students. Slovenia and Estonia are not far behind. These ratios are, however, substantially greater than those in Denmark (86) and in the UK (40).

Further investigation would indeed be interesting both as to reasons for such differences and also to relate this to the role school librarians may be required to play as information resources in schools become more involved with IT and networking. There is, of course, always the possibility that the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) formula has not been applied to part time staff equally in each country.

Estonia and Lithuania report the whole of their staff as “trained professionals”. Elsewhere there is a more even distribution with a significantly higher ‘Other Staff’ in Denmark.

Table 8.6 Total Staff in School Libraries = Line 24

School		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<i>1-31</i>	All States	57,092	56,043	55,772	55,980	57,047	57,398	57,626	57,934
1	Bulgaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Czech Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Estonia	485	569	522	474	652	670	534	534
4	Hungary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Latvia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Lithuania	1,758	1,565	1,519	1,682	1,763	1,771	1,810	1,855
7	Poland	26,332	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000
8	Romania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Slovak Republic	100	100	100	100	95	136	155	105
10	Slovenia	810	810	800	790	780	778	780	780
11	Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Denmark	720	760	1,100	1,030	1,080	1,070	990	1,160
15	Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Finland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Greece	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Iceland	30	30	40	40	40	40	44	44
20	Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Netherlands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Norway	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Portugal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Spain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Sweden	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	UK	4,800	4,700	4,200	4,300	4,700	4,900	5,200	5,200
31	Germany	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Table 8.7 Total Staff per 100,000 Sector Population = [Line 24 ÷ UN Pop (aged 5-19) × 100,000]

School		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
1-31	All States	53	52	52	52	53	54	54	54
1	Bulgaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Czech Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Estonia	142	166	152	138	191	196	157	157
4	Hungary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Latvia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Lithuania	214	190	184	204	214	215	219	225
7	Poland	275	270	270	271	273	273	273	273
8	Romania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Slovak Republic	7	7	7	7	7	10	12	8
10	Slovenia	190	191	190	191	191	191	191	191
11	Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Denmark	63	66	96	90	94	93	86	101
15	Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Finland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Greece	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Iceland	162	85	100	99	93	96	106	106
20	Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Netherlands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Norway	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Portugal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Spain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Sweden	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	UK	37	36	32	33	36	38	40	40
31	Germany	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

FINANCIAL RESULTS

As stated above there are real difficulties in many countries in obtaining financial data by conventional means. Only six states provided useable data and that is insufficient for meaningful analysis.

Tables are reproduced for Expenditure per 1,000 population for Staff and for Materials. These suggest target norms of between €12 - €20 per annum on Staff and €10 - €15 for Materials.

Table 8.8 Expenditure on Staff per 1,000 Sector Population = [Line 25 ÷ UN Pop (aged 5-19) × 1,000] (€s)

School		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<i>1-31</i>	All States	2,949	2,519	2,619	2,713	2,792	3,022	3,579	4,038
1	Bulgaria	235	331	436	298	331	308	166	244
2	Czech Republic	155	196	295	294	290	292	280	277
3	Estonia	909	1,000	742	1,555	2,328	3,365	3,285	3,285
4	Hungary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Latvia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Lithuania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Poland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Romania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Slovak Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Slovenia	24,117	9,511	17,680	15,454	15,941	17,091	18,318	19,871
11	Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Denmark	13,917	14,682	16,487	15,341	15,128	15,752	16,783	18,189
15	Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Finland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Greece	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Iceland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Netherlands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Norway	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Portugal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Spain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Sweden	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	UK	9,181	9,238	8,139	8,985	9,294	10,098	12,556	14,345
31	Germany	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Table 8.9 Cost of Stock Acquisition per 1,000 Sector Population = [Line 26 ÷ UN Pop (ages 5 to 19) × 1,000] (€s)

School		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<i>1-31</i>	All States	3,384	3,050	3,657	3,553	3,816	4,492	5,572	5,040
1	Bulgaria	39	71	75	57	67	62	19	43
2	Czech Republic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Estonia	818	909	648	677	1,319	2,622	2,372	2,372
4	Hungary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Latvia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Lithuania	2,900	2,448	1,201	1,315	1,589	3,546	4,091	4,776
7	Poland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Romania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Slovak Republic	2	3	4	4	7	5	8	4
10	Slovenia	16,567	6,534	12,145	10,616	10,951	11,741	12,586	13,656
11	Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Denmark	13,616	12,768	13,145	12,135	13,835	14,369	14,384	14,136
15	Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Finland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Greece	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Iceland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Netherlands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Norway	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Portugal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Spain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Sweden	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	UK	3,370	3,365	4,144	4,111	4,334	5,054	6,734	5,793
31	Germany	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

