

Indicator 4.1.2

Indicator Name, Target and Goal

Indicator 4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)

Target 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Definition and Rationale

○ Definition

This indicator is defined as the percentage of a cohort of children or young people at the intended age for the last grade of each level of education who have completed that grade. In the case of Japan, with respect to the primary and lower secondary education levels, the proportion of the population between the ages of 6 and 14 who are attending school will be taken as the proportion who have completed their grade. With respect to the upper secondary education level, the indicator will be read as the proportion of the population aged 17 who have graduated.

○ Concepts

- ① The intended age for the last grade of each level of education is the age at which pupils would enter the grade if they had started school at the official primary entrance age, had studied full-time and had progressed without repeating or skipping a grade. For the upper secondary education level in Japan, the target group consists of those who graduated from the upper secondary level in the academic year in question.
- ② With respect to the school enrollment rate in the primary and lower secondary levels in Japan, the target group consists of the age group in which children and young people would be expected to attend school, namely those who are aged between 6 and 14 on April 1st of the academic year in question.

- ③ The educational levels correspond to the school categories as mapped according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED). In the case of Japan, this refers to the following types of schools and courses.

Primary education level: primary schools, primary compulsory education curricula, special needs primary schools

Lower secondary education level: junior high schools, secondary education curricula, secondary compulsory education curricula, special needs junior high schools

Upper secondary education level: senior high schools, secondary education curricula, special needs senior high schools, technical schools (1st to 3rd years), vocational schools, correspondence senior high schools

○ Rationale and Interpretation:

This indicator measures the actual status with respect to Target 4.1, which is to “ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education.” The global indicator 4.1.1 (achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics) focuses solely on the “leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes” part of Target 4.1 and only targets children and young people enrolled in schools. This indicator therefore plays a complementary role to Indicator 4.1.1.

A high value for this indicator shows that a large number of children and/or young people are studying at the primary and secondary education levels and progressing through their curricula.

The primary and lower secondary education levels have been designated as compulsory education in Japan according to Article 17 of the School Education Act. In addition, Article 26 of the Enforcement Regulations of the School Education Act does not acknowledge students dropping out from public schools at the primary and lower secondary levels. Therefore, for the population between the ages of 6 and 14, the school attendance rate at these education levels is considered to match up almost exactly with the school completion rate.

Data Sources and Collection Method

- ① School Basic Survey

A fundamental statistical survey based on the Statistics Law covering all schools in Japan and surveying the number of students enrolled in each type of school at the primary and secondary levels.

② Population Estimate

The Population Estimate is created to understand the status of the population at each month and year in the periods between Population Census takings, which are taken every five years as fundamental statistical surveys based on the Statistics Law.

Method of Computation and Other Methodological Considerations

○ Computation Method

① Primary education level

The school attendance rate (c) for this indicator is expressed as a percentage by dividing the total number of school attendees at the primary education level (a) by the population between the ages of 6 and 11 who are expected to attend school at this level of education (b) and multiplying the result by 100.

The equation is expressed as follows.

$$c = \frac{a}{b} \times 100$$

Results higher than 100 will be considered as 100%.

② Lower secondary education level

The school attendance rate (f) for this indicator is expressed as a percentage by dividing the total number of school attendees at the lower secondary education level (d) by the population between the ages of 12 and 14 who are expected to attend school at this level of education (e) and multiplying the result by 100.

The equation is expressed as follows.

$$f = \frac{d}{e} \times 100$$

Results higher than 100 will be considered as 100%.

③ Upper secondary education level

The school attendance rate (i) for this indicator is expressed as a percentage by dividing the total number of upper secondary education graduates (g) by the population aged 17 who are expected to be in the final year of this level of education (h) and multiplying the result by 100.

The equation is expressed as follows.

$$i = \frac{g}{h} \times 100$$

○ Comments and limitations

- ① In the United Nations global metadata, this indicator is defined as the “Percentage of a cohort of children or young people aged 3-5 years above the intended age for the last grade of each level of education who have completed that grade,” but in Japan there is no data on the school completion rate of people age 3-5 years above the intended age, nor is there any data that would enable the calculation of percentages by academic attainment.
- ② Japan does not possess survey data of school attendees and graduates separated by age, so the number of school attendees and graduates at each educational level was used in place of the number of school attendees and graduates at the intended ages. Therefore, there is the possibility that the numbers for school attendees and graduates might include people outside the intended age groups.
- ③ Japan does not possess data on the school completion rates at the primary and lower secondary education levels for graduates at the intended ages, so the school attendance rate is used instead.
- ④ The surveys that have been used as data sources were taken at different times. While the School Basic Survey reflects the situation as of May 1 each year (ages are taken on April 1, the number of graduates is

taken from those who graduated in the preceding academic year), the Population Estimate reflects the situation as of October 1 each year (ages are taken on October 1).

Data Disaggregation

None (no data broken down by sex, region or property)

References

School Basic Survey

<https://www.mext.go.jp/en/publication/statistics/title01/detail01/1373636.htm>

Custodian Ministries of Data

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Custodian Ministries of Related Policies

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

International Organizations

UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UNESCO-UIS)