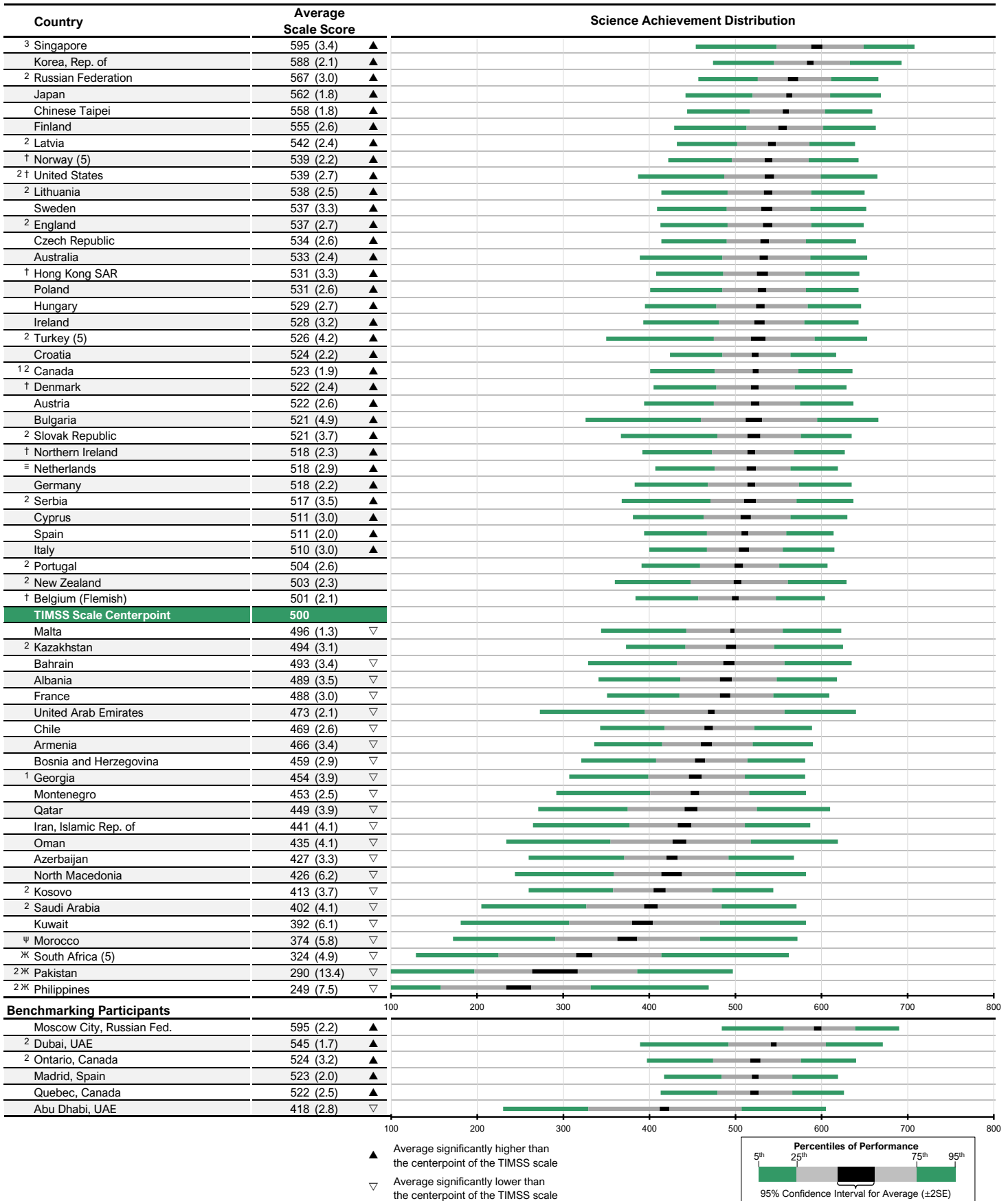


Exhibit 2.1: Average Science Achievement and Scale Score Distributions



The TIMSS achievement scale was established in 1995 based on the combined achievement distribution of all countries that participated in TIMSS 1995. To provide a point of reference for country comparisons, the scale centerpoint of 500 was located at the mean of the combined achievement distribution. The units of the scale were chosen so that 100 scale score points corresponded to the standard deviation of the distribution.

ψ Reservations about reliability because the percentage of students with achievement too low for estimation exceeds 15% but does not exceed 25%.
 ✳ Reservations about reliability because the percentage of students with achievement too low for estimation exceeds 25%.

See Appendix B.2 for population coverage notes 1, 2, and 3. See Appendix B.5 for sampling guidelines and sampling participation notes †, ‡, and ≡.
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.