



EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2014

Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators is the authoritative source for accurate and relevant information on the state of education around the world. It provides data on the structure, finances and performance of the education systems in the 34 OECD member countries, as well as a number of G20 and partner countries.

Estonia

Upper secondary and tertiary education attainment levels are among the highest of the OECD countries.

Estonia has one of the highest levels of educational attainment, with **90% of 25-64 year-olds having at least completed upper secondary education**, against an OECD average of 75% and an EU21* average of 77%. Similarly, **the proportion of 25-64 year-olds with a tertiary qualification is 37%, against an OECD average of 32%**, also one of the highest among OECD countries. Women's and men's tertiary attainments differ markedly however: **45% of 25-64 year-old women had attained tertiary education, against an OECD average of 34%, while men's attainment was 28%, slightly below the OECD average of 30%**. In addition, tertiary education attainment rates have been stable across the generations, ranging from 35% among 55-64 year-olds to 40% among 25-34 year-olds.

Nonetheless, there has been significant upward mobility, above the OECD average, with **42% of 25-64 year-old Estonians attaining a higher level of education than their parents**. This proportion is even higher for women (50%).

Unemployment rates have been decreasing but are still comparatively high.

While unemployment rates in Estonia have been decreasing since 2010 for people at all levels of educational attainment they are still comparatively high. Labour market conditions vary depending on educational attainment. Between 2010 and 2012, **unemployment rates for 25-64 year-olds who had not attained an upper secondary education fell by 5.6 percentage points to 22%**, while the EU21 average kept increasing to reach 17%. On the other hand, **unemployment rates for 25-64 year-olds with a university degree decreased by 3 percentage points between 2010 and 2012 from 9.1% to 6.1%**, while the EU21 average kept increasing to reach 5.7%.

As in other OECD countries, tertiary-educated adults have higher skills than their less educated counterparts.

The levels of skills among Estonian adults are comparable to other OECD countries: in the Survey of Adult Skills **25-64 year-olds scored higher than the OECD average in both literacy (274 versus 272) and numeracy (272 versus 269)**.¹

Among OECD countries, educational attainment not only increases the likelihood of being employed but also increases skills levels, which play an important role in the labour market. As is the case in all countries, young adults (25-34 year-olds) with tertiary attainment in Estonia had higher skills than

¹ The Survey of Adult Skills is a product of the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC).

those with lower levels of education. Their scores ranked alongside their counterparts in other OECD countries in both literacy (304 against an OECD average of 305) and numeracy (301 compared to 302). However, in Estonia **the difference in scores between tertiary-educated adults and their least educated counterparts is the smallest among OECD countries in both literacy (46 points against an OECD average of 62) and numeracy (54 compared with 70)**. Young tertiary-educated adults could also expect to earn 16% more than their counterparts with upper secondary education, which is lower than the OECD average earnings premium of 40%.

Teachers' salaries have increased dramatically but are still not competitive.

Between 2000 and 2012, teachers' salaries increased faster in Estonia than on average in other OECD countries, with an increase of 56% over this period against an OECD average of less than 20%. However, statutory teachers' salaries are still lower than the OECD average at the primary, lower secondary and upper secondary levels. Statutory teacher's salaries, for **upper secondary teachers with 15 years of experience and minimum training, is USD 12 525 which is much lower than the OECD average of USD 42 861**. In contrast, relative earnings for teachers compared with other tertiary-educated, 25-64 year-old full-time, full-year workers are comparable to other OECD countries.

Spending on education has decreased but resources are being used more efficiently.

Public expenditure on education as a share of total public expenditure decreased between 2005 and 2011, from 14.5% (against an OECD average of 13.1%) to 13.7% (OECD average: 12.9%). This reduction was driven by a more efficient use of resources: **between 2005 and 2011, expenditure per student increased by 28% in primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education, and by 61% in tertiary education.**

Other findings

- **Lower secondary schools in Estonia have the smallest class sizes of all OECD countries:** an average of 16 pupils against an OECD average of 24 in 2012.
- **The pupil-teacher ratio in pre-primary schools is one of the smallest in OECD countries,** with an average of 7 pupils per teacher compared with an OECD average ratio of 14:1 in 2012.
- **The share of private expenditure on all levels of education is one of the smallest of the OECD countries:** 6% against an OECD average of 16% in 2011.

* EU21 countries are those that are members of both the European Union and the OECD. These 21 countries are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

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For more information on *Education at a Glance 2014* and to access the full set of Indicators, visit www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm.

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Key Facts for Estonia in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Estonia		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
Educational Access and Output								
	Enrolment rates	2012	2005	2012	2005	2012	2005	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	89%	81%	70%	64%	79%	73%	11 of 37
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	89%	84%	84%	79%	89%	84%	21 of 38
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	95%		98%		98%		33 of 44
	Percentage of population that has only attained below upper secondary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	10%	15%	24%	34%	23%	34%	33 of 36
	Percentage of the population whose highest level of attainment is upper secondary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	53%	56%	44%	44%	48%	46%	11 of 37
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	37%	29%	33%	22%	29%	20%	14 of 37
	25-34 year-olds	40%	31%	40%	26%	37%	24%	20 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	36%	27%	25%	15%	22%	14%	5 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
C3.1b	Youth expected to enter tertiary-type A programmes before turning 25	37%	m	48%	m	48%	m	27 of 35
	Graduation rates	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A2.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime	m	m	84%	76%	83%	77%	
A3.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	m	m	38%	28%	38%	27%	
Economic and Labour Market Outcomes								
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	22%	10%	14%	9%	17%	10%	8 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	10%	5%	8%	5%	9%	5%	7 of 36
	Tertiary	6%	3%	5%	3%	6%	3%	8 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	
A5.4c (Web)	Below upper secondary	19%	10%	13%	9%	16%	11%	7 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	10%	5%	9%	6%	10%	6%	9 of 35
	Tertiary	6%	3%	5%	4%	6%	4%	9 of 35
	Average earnings advantage for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**	2012 or latest year available		2012 or latest year available		2012 or latest year available		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	134		159		159		28 of 33
	Men	137		164		166		29 of 33
	Women	160		162		160		20 of 34
	Average earnings penalty for 25-64 year-olds who have not attained upper secondary education**	2012 or latest year available		2012 or latest year available		2012 or latest year available		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	94		78		79		1 of 33
	Men	89		78		80		3 of 33
	Women	91		75		76		2 of 34
	Percentage of 15-29 year-olds neither employed nor in education or training, by highest level of education	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	
C5.3d (Web)	Below upper secondary	16%	10%	15%	14%	15%	13%	14 of 35
	Upper secondary	17%	13%	16%	14%	16%	12%	15 of 34
	Tertiary	12%	10%	13%	11%	12%	10%	16 of 34

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Financial Investment in Education								
	Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2011		2011		2011		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	2618		7428		7933		31 of 36
	Primary education	5328		8296		8482		28 of 38
	Secondary education	6389		9280		9615		25 of 38
	Tertiary education	7868		13958		13572		33 of 37
	Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
B2.2	Percentage of GDP	6%	m	6%	5%	6%	5%	25 of 37
	Total public expenditure on education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	14%	15%	13%	13%	12%	11%	12 of 34
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2011		2011		2011		
B3.1	Pre-primary education	2%		19%		13%		31 of 33
B3.1	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	1%		9%		6%		33 of 36
B3.1	Tertiary education	20%		31%		21%		22 of 34
B3.1	All levels of education	6%		16%		11%		29 of 33
Schools and Teachers								
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2012		2012		2012		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	7		14		13		28 of 31
	Primary education	13		15		14		24 of 36
	Secondary education	12		13		12		21 of 37
	Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
D4.2	Pre-primary education	1320		1001		988		4 of 28
	Primary education	619	630	782	780	761	776	30 of 33
	Lower secondary education	619	630	694	697	657	658	22 of 33
	Upper secondary education	568	578	655	628	638	635	22 of 33
	Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2005 = 100)	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	
D3.5	Primary school teachers	131	138	103	103	99	103	3 of 26
	Lower secondary school teachers	131	138	102	103	99	103	1 of 25
	Upper secondary school teachers	131	138	101	103	98	103	1 of 25
	Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education	2012		2012		2012		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	0.61		0.80		0.76		20 of 25
	Primary school teachers	0.84		0.85		0.81		14 of 28
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.84		0.88		0.85		15 of 28
	Upper secondary school teachers	0.84		0.92		0.90		16 of 28
New data from the Survey of Adult Skills				Estonia		Average of countries with available data		
	Students in tertiary education... (20-34 year-olds)			2012		2012		
A4.1a	...whose parents have not attained upper secondary education			2%		9%		
	...whose parents have an upper secondary education			31%		37%		
	...whose parents have a tertiary education degree			67%		55%		
	Adults in formal and non-formal education			2012		2012		
C6.1(L)	25-64 year-olds			53%		51%		

* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

** Compared to people with upper secondary education; upper secondary = 100.

The Survey of Adult Skills is a product of the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies

m': data is not available. 'n': magnitude is either negligible or zero. 'c': there are too few observations to provide reliable estimates.