

developing socio-emotional skills and core competencies. In 2012, Mexico made upper secondary education compulsory with the initial goal of attaining universal coverage by 2022. Significant progress has also been made in increasing attainment in upper secondary and tertiary education, and Mexico has one of the largest shares of students entering science-related tertiary education across OECD countries.

Despite this progress, Mexico still faces significant skills challenges. The Skills Strategy Dashboard shows that Mexico's performance on most measures of skills development ranks at the bottom 20% of OECD countries. Results from the OECD Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA), show that the performance of 15-year-old students in reading, mathematics and science remains well below the OECD average. Despite the increase in enrolment rates and education attainment, upper-secondary drop-out rates remains very high and the share of Mexican adults with at least upper secondary education remains below the OECD average. In addition, Mexico has the lowest share of tertiary-educated population across OECD countries.

Mexico would benefit from improving the inclusiveness of its skills development and use. In Mexico, the socio-economic background of youth has a stronger influence on their skills development than in all other OECD countries.

As for skills activation and the inclusiveness of the labour market, Mexico still has much room for improvement. Indeed, labour force participation rates have increased recently but are well below the OECD average and there are large differences between men and women (women have one of the lowest participation rates of the OECD). Moreover, there is a stubbornly large proportion of labour market informality.

Despite some improvements, the share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) is one of the highest among OECD countries and the labour market performs poorly compared with other OECD countries in terms of job quality, equity and of inclusiveness.

Mexico has taken important steps to address many of these challenges; including a legislation reform that has made the question of quality and equity in education a priority for education services.

Still, Mexico could benefit from a renewal of its strategic vision for the future to ensure that all of its people have the skills to respond to the challenges and opportunities of a complex and rapidly changing world. A whole-of-government approach is needed to achieve this aim.

Key recommendations for improving the performance of countries' skills system

Developing relevant skills over the life course: Making skills systems responsive

- Making each stage of learning a foundation for success in the next
- Enabling policies to support learning in adulthood
- Supporting teachers to become lifelong learners
- Financing adult learning
- Harnessing the power of technology as a tool for learning

Using skills effectively in work and society: Making the most of everyone's potential

- Make full use of everyone's skills
- Making the most of migrants' skills
- Activating skills to build more inclusive and cohesive societies
- Making intensive use of skills in work
- Aligning skills with the needs of the economy and society
- Aligning skills policies with industrial and innovation policies

Strengthening the governance of skills systems: Tackling increased complexity

- Promoting co-ordination, co-operation and collaboration across the whole of government
- Engaging stakeholders throughout the policy cycle
- Building integrated information systems
- Aligning and co-ordinating financing arrangements

Further reading

- OECD (2019), *OECD Skills Strategy 2019: Skills to shape a better future*, OECD Publishing, Paris, [//doi.org/10.1787/9789264313835-en](https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264313835-en).
- OECD (2019), *OECD Skills Outlook 2019: Thriving in a Digital World*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/df80bc12-en>.
- OECD(2019), *OECD Economic Surveys: Mexico 2019*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/a536d00e-en>.
- OECD (forthcoming), *Strengthening the Governance of Skills Systems*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

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