

  
EDUCATION  
AT A GLANCE 2013

## POLAND

### Secondary and tertiary education: a safety net in the economic crisis

In Poland, the employment rate for people with an upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education is 26 percentage points higher than for people without an upper secondary education, one of the largest differences among OECD countries. Tertiary education increases the likelihood of being employed even further: 85% of 25-64 year-olds with a tertiary education were employed in 2011, compared with 66% of those with an upper secondary qualification. This is also one of the largest differences among OECD countries.

### Early childhood education: a considerable improvement and a further challenge

Pre-primary education<sup>1</sup> for 5-year-olds became compulsory in 2011 as part of a government strategy to help children to overcome educational disadvantage and to increase female participation in the labor force. As a result, the proportion of 5-year-olds who were enrolled in early childhood education in Poland increased by 33 percentage points between 2005 and 2011, compared with an average increase of 4 percentage points for OECD countries. Some 13% of these children attend independent private institutions and 85% are enrolled in public institutions, in comparison to the OECD average, where 20% of children attend independent private institutions and 68% are enrolled in public institutions.

Between 2005 and 2011 enrolment rates of 3 and 4-year-olds almost doubled in Poland: rates for 3-year-olds increased by 22 percentage points while for 4-year-olds rates increased by 26 percentage points. Despite these increases, enrolment rates of 3 and 4-year-olds still lag behind other OECD countries. In Poland, 50% of 3-year-olds and 64% of 4-year-olds are enrolled in early childhood education, compared with the OECD average of 68% and 85% respectively. To address this gap government is introducing new policies to further strengthen support for pre-primary education.

### Tertiary education: the fastest growth among OECD countries

Poland's annual rate of attainment at tertiary level is growing faster than any other OECD country: between 2000 and 2011, the proportion of young adults with tertiary attainment grew by 9.7% a year, almost three times the OECD average growth rate of 3.5%. There is now a 26 percentage point difference in tertiary attainment between young adults (25-34 years) and older adults (55-64 years), the third highest among OECD countries after Japan and Korea. Poland is catching up; in 2011, 39% of

---

<sup>1</sup>Indicators in EaG 2013 were calculated on the basis of demographic data as of 31 December 2010, based on census results of 2002

25-34 year-olds had a tertiary qualification, the same as the OECD average, and 3 percentage points higher than the average across the EU21 countries (36%).

### Teachers' salaries: still below the OECD average, but rising

Polish teachers' statutory base salaries are among the lowest in OECD countries (2011); however, this ratio is likely to improve as a result of the government's programme to increase teachers' salaries by 50% between 2008 and 2012. Moreover, the importance of bonuses and allowances in Poland tends to narrow the gap with the OECD average. At the pre-primary, primary and lower secondary levels, average teachers' salaries in Poland, including bonuses and allowances, are at least 30% higher than statutory base salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience. However, teachers' salaries remain lower than the earnings of other tertiary-educated workers. A primary teacher in Poland earns on average 76% of what other workers of a similar age and education level earn, against the OECD average of 82%, while upper secondary teachers make 75% of the salaries of other tertiary educated workers in Poland (OECD average: 89%).

### Other findings:

- The picture for Poland's 15-29 year-olds without upper secondary education looks slightly brighter than in other OECD countries. Among this age group, the vast majority were in education in 2011 (80%), against the OECD average of 68%. At the same time, although the proportion of NEETS (neither employed nor in education or training) increased between 2008 and 2011 by 1.7 percentage points reaching 12% in 2011, it remained behind the average for the OECD of 16% among this age group at this level of education.
- Out of the total expenditure on early childhood education in 2010, 79% came from public sources and 21% came from private sources, while the OECD average was of 82% for early-years expenditure coming from public sources and 18% from private sources. In 2010, Poland spent USD 5 737 a year on each pre-primary student, less than the OECD average of USD 6 762. However, since the introduction of compulsory school education for 5-year-olds, a continuous increase is expected in the proportion of total expenditure from public sources over the coming years.
- Poland has the third largest proportion of smokers at the OECD: 35% of Polish adults among 25-64 year-olds smoke. When comparing the smoking levels of individuals who have completed tertiary education with those who have not completed upper secondary education, Poland shows a significant difference with a gap of more than 20 percentage points: 23% for the former and 43% for the latter.

#### Questions can be directed to:

Andreas Schleicher  
 Advisor to the Secretary-General on Education Policy,  
 Deputy Director for Education and Skills  
**Email:** [Andreas.Schleicher@oecd.org](mailto:Andreas.Schleicher@oecd.org)  
**Telephone:** +33 6 07 38 54 64

**For more information on *Education at a Glance 2013*,**  
**visit:** [www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm)

#### Country Note Authors:

Diane Lalancette ([Diane.Lalancette@oecd.org](mailto:Diane.Lalancette@oecd.org))  
 Ignacio Marin ([ignacio.marin@oecd.org](mailto:ignacio.marin@oecd.org))

## Key Facts for Poland in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Poland		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries*
<b>Educational Access and Output</b>								
	<b>Enrolment rates</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2005</b>	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	50%	28%	67%	64%	77%	73%	25 of 36
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	64%	38%	84%	79%	90%	84%	31 of 36
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	95%		99%		98%		33 of 38
	<b>Percentage of population that has attained below upper secondary education</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	11%	20%	26%	34%	25%	34%	31 of 35
	<b>Percentage of population that has attained upper secondary education</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	65%	69%	44%	44%	48%	46%	3 of 36
	<b>Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.3a	25-64 year-olds	24%	11%	32%	22%	28%	20%	27 of 36
	30-34 year-olds	37%		39%		37%		23 of 34
A1.4a	25-34 year-olds	39%	14%	39%	26%	36%	24%	21 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	13%	10%	24%	15%	21%	14%	29 of 36
	<b>Entry rates into tertiary education</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
C3.1a	Vocational programmes (Tertiary-type B)	1%	1%	19%	16%	15%	11%	28 of 32
C3.2a	University programmes (Tertiary-type A)	81%	65%	60%	48%	59%	46%	4 of 36
	<b>Graduation rates</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A2.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime	84%	90%	83%	76%	83%	77%	16 of 27
A3.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	58%	34%	39%	28%	41%	27%	1 of 26
<b>Economic and Labour Market Outcomes</b>								
	<b>Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	
A5.4b	Below upper secondary	16.9%	11.5%	12.6%	8.8%	15.6%	10.4%	8 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	8.8%	6.3%	7.3%	4.9%	8.5%	5.2%	10 of 36
	Tertiary	4.5%	3.1%	4.8%	3.3%	5.2%	3.2%	16 of 36
	<b>Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	
A5.4d	Below upper secondary	17.8%	11.9%	12.2%	9.5%	15.1%	11.0%	7 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	10.3%	7.6%	8.0%	5.7%	9.1%	6.1%	8 of 35
	Tertiary	5.0%	3.4%	5.1%	3.6%	5.5%	3.6%	13 of 36
	<b>Average earnings premium for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**</b>	<b>2011 or latest year available</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
A6.1	Men and women	169		157		158		11 of 33
	Men	186		162		164		6 of 33
	Women	168		161		161		11 of 33
	<b>Average earnings penalty for 25-64 year-olds who have not attained upper secondary education**</b>	<b>2011 or latest year available</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
A6.1	Men and women	83		76		77		6 of 33
	Men	86		77		78		4 of 33
	Women	77		74		75		14 of 33
	<b>Percentage of people not in employment, education or training for 15-29 year-olds, by level of education attained</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	
C5.4d	Below upper secondary	12.2%	10.5%	15.8%	14.4%	15.3%	13.5%	23 of 34
	Upper secondary	20.7%	17.7%	16.2%	13.6%	15.1%	11.8%	10 of 34
	Tertiary	12.8%	11.5%	13.3%	10.6%	12.3%	9.6%	18 of 34

## Key Facts for Poland in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Poland		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries*
<b>Financial Investment in Education</b>								
	<b>Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)</b>	<b>2010</b>		<b>2010</b>		<b>2010</b>		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	5737 USD		6762 USD		7085 USD		19 of 32
	Primary education	5937 USD		7974 USD		8277 USD		23 of 34
	Secondary education	5483 USD		9014 USD		9471 USD		26 of 34
	Tertiary education	8866 USD		13528 USD		12856 USD		24 of 33
	<b>Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	
B2.1	As a percentage of GDP	5.8%	5.6%	6.3%	5.4%	5.9%	5.2%	23 of 33
	<b>Total public expenditure on education</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	
B4.1	As a percentage of total public expenditure	11.4%	12.7%	13.0%	12.6%	11.4%	11.4%	20 of 32
	<b>Share of private expenditure on educational institutions</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	
B3.2a	Pre-primary education	21.0%		17.9%		11.3%		10 of 28
B3.2a	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	6.2%	4.6%	8.5%	7.1%	6.1%	5.6%	19 of 31
B3.2b	Tertiary education	29.4%	33.4%	31.6%	22.6%	22.7%	14.3%	15 of 30
B3.1	All levels of education	13.8%	11.0%	16.4%	12.1%	10.7%	7.9%	16 of 29
<b>Schools and Teachers</b>								
	<b>Ratio of students to teaching staff</b>	<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	16 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		13 students per teacher		12 of 31
	Primary education	11 students per teacher		15 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		31 of 35
	Secondary education	11 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		12 students per teacher		28 of 36
	<b>Total intended instruction time for students (hours)</b>	<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
D1.1	Primary education	4215 hours		4717 hours		m		20 of 31
	Lower secondary education	2399 hours		3034 hours		m		27 of 31
	<b>Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
D4.2	Pre-primary education	1150 hours		994 hours		977 hours		8 of 29
	Primary education	618 hours	m	790 hours	780 hours	777 hours	776 hours	28 of 31
	Lower secondary education	547 hours	m	709 hours	697 hours	669 hours	658 hours	28 of 30
	Upper secondary education	544 hours	m	664 hours	628 hours	651 hours	635 hours	24 of 31
	<b>Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2000 = 100)</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	
D3.4	Primary school teachers	m	m	120	120	121	122	m
	Lower secondary school teachers	m	m	116	116	121	121	m
	Upper secondary school teachers	m	m	117	118	118	119	m
	<b>Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education***</b>	<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	0.66		0.80		0.77		15 of 22
	Primary school teachers	0.76		0.82		0.80		15 of 27
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.77		0.85		0.84		17 of 27
	Upper secondary school teachers	0.75		0.89		0.89		18 of 27

\* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

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

'm': data is not available.