



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.

Switzerland

High levels of upper secondary attainment predominated by vocational programmes.

The large majority of the Swiss population has attained at least upper secondary education: 86% of 25-64 year-olds and 89% of 25-34 year-olds (the OECD average is 75% and 82% respectively). Vocational education plays a major role in the Swiss education system. More than 65% of students in upper secondary education are enrolled in pre-vocational or vocational programmes at the upper secondary level, compared with an average of only 44% across OECD countries. Among those who choose vocational programmes, about 93% of them are enrolled in joint vocational programmes combining school and work-based elements, in contrast with the tendency across other OECD countries, in which vocational education at the upper secondary level is school-based only.

Unlike most OECD countries, where the vast majority of students graduate from upper secondary programmes designed to provide access to academic tertiary education (tertiary-type A programmes), in Switzerland, more young people graduate from an upper secondary education that leads to tertiary-type B or vocational programmes. In fact, **only 31% of young people are expected to graduate from tertiary-type A programmes compared with the OECD average of 39%, one of the lowest percentages of OECD countries, while 14% are expected to graduate from tertiary-type B programmes, above the OECD average of 11%.**

Switzerland is investing heavily in public education in terms of spending per student and as a share of public expenditure.

Yearly spending per student is among the highest of those OECD and EU21* countries with data available. **Based on data from public institutions only, Switzerland spends USD 16 090 per student, compared with the OECD average of USD 9 487 and the EU21 average of USD 9 531.** Secondary education spending (USD 15 891 per student), and tertiary education spending (USD 10 017 per student, excluding research and development) are higher than the OECD average of USD 9 280 and USD 9 635 respectively. Switzerland spends 16% of its total public expenditure on education at all levels combined, compared with the OECD average of 13% and the EU21 average of 12%. The share of education spending has increased from 15% of total public expenditure in 2008 to 16% in 2011. During the same period, the OECD average share of expenditure on education remained steady at 13% while among EU21 countries it decreased by 0.1%.

There are more international tertiary students, as a percentage of total students, in Switzerland than in all but three other OECD countries.

International students make up 16% of all tertiary students in Switzerland; only Australia, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom have a higher percentage. The largest percentage of international students (33%) are enrolled in social sciences, business and law programmes, followed by science at 18%, engineering, manufacturing and construction at 17%, and humanities and arts at 16%. Three-quarters (75%) of international students are in academic tertiary programmes earning a bachelor's degree, a master's degree or the equivalent and 25% are in advanced research programmes. Among OECD countries Austria, France, Germany, and Italy send the most tertiary students to Switzerland with almost half (49%) of Switzerland's international students coming from these neighbouring countries. Half of all students in Switzerland enrolled in advanced research programmes are international students.

Other findings

- **Swiss 15 to 29 year-olds tend to stay in school through upper secondary.** Among 15-29 year-olds without an upper secondary qualification, 79% continued their studies, 12% were employed and 9% were neither employed nor in education or training (NEET), compared with the OECD averages of 69%, 16% and 15% respectively.
- **Switzerland's private expenditure on all levels of education below tertiary is one of the largest.** 12% of primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education spending comes from private sources compared with 9% for the OECD and EU21. This is mainly due to the considerable financial involvement of private firms in vocational education programmes combining school and work-based elements on the upper secondary level.
- The average age of entry in Switzerland into academic and vocational tertiary programmes (at 24 years and 28 years respectively) is high compared to the OECD averages of 22 years and 25 years respectively.
- **Switzerland's teachers' salaries are among the highest of OECD countries.** After 10 years of experience, primary teachers' salaries average USD 61 279, double the average salaries of USD 36 846 for their peers across OECD countries. The picture is similar at the upper secondary level, where teachers earn on average USD 80 956 after 10 years, compared with the OECD average of USD 40 686.

* 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 Switzerland in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Switzerland		OECD average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
Educational Access and Output						
	Enrolment rates	2012	2005	2012	2005	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	3%	8%	70%	64%	*** Not available
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	40%	39%	84%	79%	*** Not available
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	99%		98%		12 of 44
	Percentage of population that has only attained below upper secondary education	2011	2000	2012	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	14%	16%	24%	34%	27 of 36
	Percentage of the population whose highest level of attainment is upper secondary education	2011	2000	2012	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	50%	60%	44%	44%	13 of 37
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2011	2000	2012	2000	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	37%	24%	33%	22%	15 of 37
	25-34 year-olds	41%	26%	40%	26%	18 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	29%	18%	25%	15%	12 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	
C3.1b	Youth expected to enter tertiary-type A programmes before turning 25	35%	m	48%	m	29 of 35
	Graduation rates	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A2.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime	m	88%	84%	76%	
A3.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	31%	12%	38%	28%	20 of 27
Economic and Labour Market Outcomes						
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women	2012	2008	2012	2008	
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	8%	6%	14%	9%	25 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3%	3%	8%	5%	34 of 36
	Tertiary	3%	2%	5%	3%	32 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2012	2008	2012	2008	
A5.4c (Web)	Below upper secondary	8%	7%	13%	9%	24 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3%	3%	9%	6%	33 of 35
	Tertiary	3%	2%	5%	4%	25 of 35
	Average earnings advantage for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**	2012 or latest year available		2012 or latest year available		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	158		159		15 of 33
	Men	145		164		22 of 33
	Women	159		162		21 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		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	77		78		21 of 33
	Men	80		78		13 of 33
	Women	76		75		16 of 34
	Percentage of 15-29 year-olds neither employed nor in education or training, by highest level of education	2012	2008	2012	2008	
C5.3d (Web)	Below upper secondary	9%	11%	15%	14%	32 of 35
	Upper secondary	11%	9%	16%	14%	28 of 34
	Tertiary	8%	7%	13%	11%	29 of 34

Key Facts for Switzerland in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Switzerland		OECD average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
Financial Investment in Education						
	Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2011		2011		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	5267		7428		23 of 36
	Primary education	12907		8296		2 of 38
	Secondary education	15891		9280		2 of 38
	Tertiary education	22882		13958		3 of 37
	Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP	2011	2000	2011	2000	
B2.2	Percentage of GDP	6%	5%	6%	5%	24 of 37
	Total public expenditure on education	2011	2000	2011	2000	
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	16%	14%	13%	13%	6 of 34
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2011		2011		
B3.1	Pre-primary education	m		19%		
B3.1	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	12%		9%		10 of 36
B3.1	Tertiary education	m		31%		
B3.1	All levels of education	m		16%		
Schools and Teachers						
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2012		2012		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	m		14		
	Primary education	m		15		
	Secondary education	m		13		
	Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)	2012	2000	2012	2000	
D4.1	Pre-primary education	m		1001		
	Primary education	m	884	782	780	
D4.2	Lower secondary education	m	859	694	697	
	Upper secondary education	m	674	655	628	
	Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2005 = 100)	2012	2008	2012	2008	
D3.5	Primary school teachers	101	98	103	103	15 of 26
	Lower secondary school teachers	101	98	102	103	14 of 25
	Upper secondary school teachers	100	99	101	103	16 of 25
	Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education	2012		2012		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	m		0.80		
	Primary school teachers	m		0.85		
	Lower secondary school teachers	m		0.88		
	Upper secondary school teachers	m		0.92		

* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

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

*** The ranking is not available because integrated programmes are not included under ISCED 0, leading to an underestimation of enrolment rates compared to other countries.

'm': data is not available. 'n': magnitude is either negligible or zero.