



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.

New Zealand

Investment in early childhood education means more young New Zealanders are getting ready for school.

Investment in early childhood education and care is vital for getting children off to a strong start. **In 2012, 91% of 3-4 year-olds in New Zealand were enrolled in early childhood education, well above the OECD average of 76%.** Spending on early childhood education in New Zealand in 2011 was USD 11 088 per pre-primary student, 0.6% of GDP – well over the OECD average of USD 7 446, but very similar to Australia's. The average pupil-teacher ratio in New Zealand pre-primary education providers of 7 children per teacher is half the OECD average.

High but declining PISA scores conceal a wide variation in student achievement between low and high performers.

In 2012, New Zealand 15-year-old students scored an average of 500 points on the PISA mathematics assessment – above the OECD average of 496 points but representing a decline of 23 points since PISA 2003. **There has been a drop in the number of high-performing maths students** (from 21% to 15%) – those who can develop and work with models for complex situations and demonstrate well-developed thinking and reasoning skills. At the same time there has been **an increase in the proportion of students who failed to reach the baseline level of performance from 15% in 2003 to 23% by 2012.**

Increasing numbers are going on to tertiary education but a high proportion of students are not from New Zealand.

The number of New Zealanders expected to graduate from tertiary education continues to rise. **Some 41% of 25-64 year-olds and 47% of 25-34 year-olds now hold a tertiary degree,** compared with OECD averages of 33% and 40% respectively. Since 2000 the number of adult New Zealanders who have completed a tertiary qualification has increased by 18 percentage points. In 2011, 57% of young people were expected to complete an academic (tertiary-type A) programme, far exceeding the OECD average of 38%. Part of the explanation for this is that in New Zealand a large share of students come from abroad and also that nearly one in three new entrants will enter tertiary-type A programmes after the age of 25. The high proportion of older first-time entrants into both tertiary-type A and type B (vocational) programmes may reflect the flexibility of the programmes and their suitability for those outside the typical student age group, as well as good access to financial support. It may also reflect the value placed on gaining work experience before entering higher education, which is common in Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

Foreign students make up 16% of the New Zealand student population, double the OECD average. Nearly half of the foreign students at New Zealand tertiary institutions come from either the People's Republic of China (28%) or India (18%) – over 25 000 students. The high number of international tertiary students artificially inflates the national estimated graduation rate: when international students are excluded from consideration, New Zealand's first-time tertiary-type A graduation rates drop by 9 percentage points.

Better educated New Zealanders are more likely to be in work, especially among women and young people.

OECD data suggest that **younger New Zealanders with low levels of educational attainment are more vulnerable to unemployment**. Some 10.7% of 25-34 year-olds with below upper secondary school education are unemployed compared with just 6.5% of 35-44 year-olds with the same level of attainment (against 20% and 15% respectively for OECD countries on average). Their more educated peers are far more likely to be in work: the unemployment rate for tertiary-educated 25-34 year-olds is 4.8% and 4.4% for 35-44 year-olds (against 7.4% and 4.1% on average for OECD countries).

Employment rates among women in New Zealand are substantially lower than those among men but the gap varies with educational attainment. The biggest gap lies between women and men with post-secondary, non-tertiary qualifications: in 2012 91% of men with this level of education were in work, but only 74% of similarly qualified women. For those with below upper secondary education 56% of women were employed compared with 74% of men; with upper secondary education the employment rate is 72% for women and 88% for men; and for those with tertiary education it is 79% for women and 89% for men.

Other findings

- **Investment in education in New Zealand has risen:** from 5.1% of GDP in 2005, below the then OECD average of 5.7%, to 7.5% of GDP by 2011 – above both the OECD average (6.0%) and that of neighbouring Australia (5.8%).
- **Teachers earn slightly more than the average:** teachers in New Zealand beginning their careers earn around the OECD average at the primary, lower secondary and upper secondary levels. However, when compared with the earnings of other tertiary-educated, 25-64 year-old full-time workers, teachers' salaries are more competitive than in most OECD countries. At the primary, lower secondary and upper secondary levels, teachers earn slightly more than other 25-64 year-old workers with tertiary education. Depending on the level of education they teach, the average teacher in OECD countries earns between 20% and 8% less than their similarly educated counterparts.
- **Even among the older generation, women are more likely to hold a degree than men:** 39% of 55-64 year-old women hold a tertiary qualification, while 31% of men do. This is the inverse of the usual position in OECD countries where on average 25% of men of that age group hold a tertiary degree compared with 23% of women.

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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 New Zealand in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	New Zealand		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)	87%	84%	70%	64%	12 of 37
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	94%	94%	84%	79%	13 of 38
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	100%		98%		1 of 44
	Percentage of population that has only attained below upper secondary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	26%	37%	24%	34%	13 of 36
	Percentage of the population whose highest level of attainment is upper secondary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	33%	34%	44%	44%	32 of 37
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	41%	29%	33%	22%	9 of 37
	25-34 year-olds	47%	29%	40%	26%	9 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	35%	23%	25%	15%	6 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	
C3.1b	Youth expected to enter tertiary-type A programmes before turning 25	55%	m	48%	m	10 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	85%	80%	84%	76%	17 of 29
A3.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	57%	50%	38%	28%	2 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	6%	4%	14%	9%	29 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	5%	3%	8%	5%	25 of 36
	Tertiary	4%	2%	5%	3%	18 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2012	2008	2012	2008	
A5.4c (Web)	Below upper secondary	7%	3%	13%	9%	28 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6%	3%	9%	6%	23 of 35
	Tertiary	4%	3%	5%	4%	16 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	123		159		33 of 33
	Men	122		164		33 of 33
	Women	127		162		33 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	82		78		11 of 33
	Men	79		78		18 of 33
	Women	84		75		4 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	21%	17%	15%	14%	7 of 35
	Upper secondary	12%	8%	16%	14%	24 of 34
	Tertiary	12%	11%	13%	11%	17 of 34

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Table	Indicator	New Zealand		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	11088		7428		3 of 36
	Primary education	8084		8296		18 of 38
	Secondary education	9312		9280		18 of 38
	Tertiary education	10582		13958		20 of 37
	Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP	2011	2000	2011	2000	
B2.2	Percentage of GDP	7%	m	6%	5%	4 of 37
	Total public expenditure on education	2011	2000	2011	2000	
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	22%	m	13%	13%	1 of 34
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2011		2011		
B3.1	Pre-primary education	15%		19%		18 of 33
B3.1	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	11%		9%		12 of 36
B3.1	Tertiary education	35%		31%		12 of 34
B3.1	All levels of education	16%		16%		12 of 33
Schools and Teachers						
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2012		2012		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	7		14		29 of 31
	Primary education	16		15		14 of 36
	Secondary education	15		13		11 of 37
	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	935	m	782	780	4 of 33
D4.2	Lower secondary education	848	m	694	697	5 of 33
	Upper secondary education	760	m	655	628	6 of 33
	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	104	103	103	103	10 of 26
	Lower secondary school teachers	109	103	102	103	9 of 25
	Upper secondary school teachers	110	103	101	103	6 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	1.04		0.85		7 of 28
	Lower secondary school teachers	1.06		0.88		6 of 28
	Upper secondary school teachers	1.09		0.92		7 of 28

* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

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

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