



## 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.

## Poland

### Tertiary attainment is on the rise in Poland.

Upper secondary education is the most commonly attained level of education in most OECD countries. Poland is no exception: **for more than 60% of the population, upper secondary education is the highest education level attained.** This is one of the highest proportions among OECD countries, where the average is about 46%. Tertiary education attainment is increasing, however, with about **25% of the adults holding a tertiary qualification in 2012, compared with 11% in 2000.** This increase is evidenced by the differences between generations: there are **28 percentage points more tertiary-educated 25-34 year-olds than 55-64 year-olds in Poland.** This is the second largest difference of the OECD countries.

### Education remains a good predictor of employment, yet Poland could capitalise on the potential of highly skilled workers who remain inactive.

In Poland, the chances of employment greatly increase with levels of educational attainment. In 2011, employment was 26 percentage points higher among people with an upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education than among those without an upper secondary education, one of the largest differences among OECD countries. **Tertiary education further increases the chance of employment,** with 85% of 25-64 year-olds with a tertiary education employed compared with 66% of those with secondary education, also one of the highest differences of all OECD countries. Interestingly, the differences in employment between men and women with tertiary education aged 35-44 and 45-64 are minimal in Poland, unlike in most OECD countries. At the same time, **more than 20% of inactive adults with upper secondary education in Poland are highly literate,** as judged by their performance at Level 4 or 5 in the Survey of Adult Skills<sup>1</sup>, the highest proportion among the OECD countries. Moreover, **adult participation in education is limited – only 35% of 25-64 year-olds participate in formal or non-formal education in Poland, against the OECD average of 51%.** This may be a missed opportunity for raising the country's skills capital, as the Survey of Adult Skills data show that participation in education is strongly related to proficiency levels in key skills.

### Poland's expenditure per student has increased at all education levels, boosted by a fall in the student population.

Annual spending per student in 2011 from primary to tertiary education was below the OECD average. **Poland spent USD 6 420 on core services per student, compared with an average of USD 8 002 across OECD countries.** Poland is catching up, however, as expenditure per student has **increased faster than the OECD average for all levels of education** since the beginning of the economic crisis

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

in 2008, boosted by an overall fall in student population. Interestingly, at the tertiary level there was a decrease in total expenditure (with Poland one of only three other countries where expenditure fell), but this was offset by the fall in student numbers, thus ensuring that expenditure per student remained on the increase. Poland is the only country among those with data available, where the **share of private funding on tertiary education institutions decreased both between 2000 and 2008, and 2008 and 2011**, with the largest decrease occurring since 2008. The proportion of private expenditure has dropped by almost 9% in Poland, compared with an increase of 6% on average in OECD countries. In general, **the share of private expenditure on educational institutions in Poland is below the OECD average**, at 6% in primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education and 24% in tertiary education, compared with about 9% and 31% respectively.

### Polish teachers' salaries continue to rise, although they are still below the OECD average.

**Teachers' salaries in Poland have increased by at least 20% at all levels of education since 2005**, the second highest increase among the OECD countries over this period. At the same time, **Polish teachers' statutory base salaries are still below the OECD average** and among the lowest of European countries, although bonuses and allowances considerably increase them. Once bonuses and allowances are included, actual annual salaries of all teachers aged 25-64 are at least 30% higher than statutory base salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience at the pre-primary, primary and lower secondary levels. **In comparison with other 25-64 year-old tertiary-educated workers, teachers' salaries in Poland are not only lower than salaries of other similarly-educated professionals, but also lower than the average in OECD countries.** For instance, a lower secondary school teacher in Poland earns on average 83% of what other workers of a similar age and education level earn, against an OECD average of 88%. However, **teachers' salaries have increased by at least 20% at all levels of education since 2005**, the second highest increase among the OECD countries over this period. This increase is partly the result of a 2007 government reform programme that aimed to increase teachers' salaries successively between 2008 and 2012.

### Other findings

- **Polish primary and secondary teachers teach at least around 100 hours per year less than the OECD average:** average teaching hours for primary, lower secondary and upper secondary are 633, 561 and 558 hours per year respectively, against 782, 694 and 655 hours on average for the OECD. In contrast, pre-primary teachers work 148 hours per year more than the OECD average.
- **Enrolment rates of Polish 3 and 4-year-olds in early education are growing quickly**, with a 13% and 27% increase respectively between 2005 and 2012. For both age groups, participation rates in 2012 were still below the OECD average, with 51% of 3-year-olds enrolled (compared with 70%), and 65% of 4-year-olds (compared with 84%).
- **Poland has improved its performance in PISA<sup>2</sup> between 2003 and 2012:** for instance in mathematics it increased by 2.6 score points per year, while the OECD average remained broadly unchanged. Poland's mean score in PISA 2012 mathematics was 518 points against an OECD average of 494 points, with statistical differences between the performance of girls and boys.

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<sup>2</sup> PISA is the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment

## Key Facts for Poland in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Poland		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
<b>Educational Access and Output</b>								
	<b>Enrolment rates</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2005</b>	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	51%	28%	70%	64%	79%	73%	26 of 37
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	65%	38%	84%	79%	89%	84%	32 of 38
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	96%		98%		98%		32 of 44
	<b>Percentage of population that has only attained below upper secondary education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	10%	20%	24%	34%	23%	34%	32 of 36
	<b>Percentage of the population whose highest level of attainment is upper secondary education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	65%	69%	44%	44%	48%	46%	3 of 37
	<b>Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	25%	11%	33%	22%	29%	20%	27 of 37
	25-34 year-olds	41%	14%	40%	26%	37%	24%	17 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	13%	10%	25%	15%	22%	14%	31 of 36
	<b>Entry rates into tertiary education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
C3.1b	Youth expected to enter tertiary-type A programmes before turning 25	70%	m	48%	m	48%	m	2 of 35
	<b>Graduation rates</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A2.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime	85%	90%	84%	76%	83%	77%	18 of 29
A3.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	53%	34%	38%	28%	38%	27%	3 of 27
<b>Economic and Labour Market Outcomes</b>								
	<b>Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	18%	12%	14%	9%	17%	10%	9 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	9%	6%	8%	5%	9%	5%	9 of 36
	Tertiary	5%	3%	5%	3%	6%	3%	13 of 36
	<b>Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
A5.4c (Web)	Below upper secondary	19%	12%	13%	9%	16%	11%	8 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	11%	8%	9%	6%	10%	6%	8 of 35
	Tertiary	5%	3%	5%	4%	6%	4%	11 of 35
	<b>Average earnings advantage for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**</b>	<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	172		159		159		11 of 33
	Men	188		164		166		6 of 33
	Women	174		162		160		9 of 34
	<b>Average earnings penalty for 25-64 year-olds who have not attained upper secondary education**</b>	<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	85		78		79		5 of 33
	Men	86		78		80		7 of 33
	Women	81		75		76		8 of 34
	<b>Percentage of 15-29 year-olds neither employed nor in education or training, by highest level of education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
C5.3d (Web)	Below upper secondary	12%	10%	15%	14%	15%	13%	22 of 35
	Upper secondary	21%	18%	16%	14%	16%	12%	7 of 34
	Tertiary	14%	11%	13%	11%	12%	10%	13 of 34

# Key Facts for Poland in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Poland		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
<b>Financial Investment in Education</b>								
	<b>Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)</b>	<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	6409		7428		7933		18 of 36
	Primary education	6233		8296		8482		25 of 38
	Secondary education	5870		9280		9615		26 of 38
	Tertiary education	9659		13958		13572		24 of 37
	<b>Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
B2.2	Percentage of GDP	5%	6%	6%	5%	6%	5%	28 of 37
	<b>Total public expenditure on education</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	11%	13%	13%	13%	12%	11%	22 of 34
	<b>Share of private expenditure on educational institutions</b>	<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
B3.1	Pre-primary education	24%		19%		13%		10 of 33
B3.1	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	6%		9%		6%		23 of 36
B3.1	Tertiary education	24%		31%		21%		18 of 34
B3.1	All levels of education	13%		16%		11%		19 of 33
<b>Schools and Teachers</b>								
	<b>Ratio of students to teaching staff</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	16		14		13		9 of 31
	Primary education	11		15		14		31 of 36
	Secondary education	10		13		12		28 of 37
	<b>Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
D4.2	Pre-primary education	1149		1001		988		8 of 28
	Primary education	633	m	782	780	761	776	27 of 33
	Lower secondary education	561	m	694	697	657	658	30 of 33
	Upper secondary education	558	m	655	628	638	635	24 of 33
	<b>Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2005 = 100)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
D3.5	Primary school teachers	123	108	103	103	99	103	4 of 26
	Lower secondary school teachers	121	107	102	103	99	103	2 of 25
	Upper secondary school teachers	120	106	101	103	98	103	2 of 25
	<b>Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education***</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	0.71		0.80		0.76		15 of 25
	Primary school teachers	0.82		0.85		0.81		15 of 28
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.83		0.88		0.85		16 of 28
	Upper secondary school teachers	0.82		0.92		0.90		18 of 28
<b>New data from the Survey of Adult Skills</b>				<b>Poland</b>		<b>Average of countries with available data</b>		
	<b>Students in tertiary education... (20-34 year-olds)</b>			<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		
A4.1a	...whose parents have not attained upper secondary education			1%		9%		
	...whose parents have an upper secondary education			59%		37%		
	...whose parents have a tertiary education degree			39%		55%		
	<b>Adults in formal and non-formal education</b>			<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		
C6.1(L)	25-64 year-olds			35%		51%		

\* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

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

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