

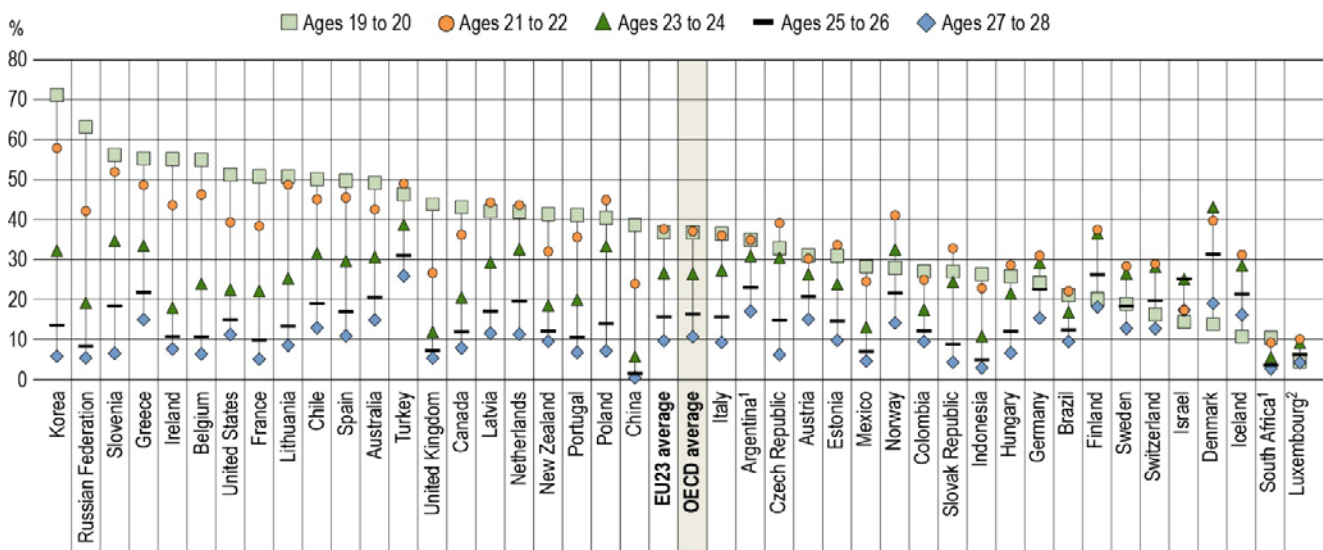
*Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators* (OECD, 2019<sup>[1]</sup>) is the authoritative source for information on the state of education around the world. It provides data on the structure, finances and performance of education systems in OECD and partner countries.

## Greece

- Greece has the **fourth highest tertiary enrolment rate among OECD countries** and has experienced an **increase in tertiary education attainment** over the last decade.
- **Employment rates increase with educational attainment but are lower than the OECD average.** Adults with **bachelor's or master's degrees have the the lowest employment rates** across all OECD countries.
- **Teachers' statutory salaries have been falling** between 2005 and 2018 by almost 30%, while **teaching time has increased** over the same time period by up to 49%.
- **Expenditure on educational institutions per student is lower than both the OECD and European Union (EU) averages** at primary and secondary level.

Figure 1. Tertiary enrolment rates from age 19 to age 28 (2017)

Students in full-time and part-time programmes in both public and private institutions



1. Year of reference 2016.

2. Underestimated due to many resident students enrolled in neighbouring countries.

Countries are ranked in descending order of enrolment rates at ages 19 to 20.

Source: OECD/UIS/Eurostat (2019). See Source section for more information and Annex 3 for notes (<https://doi.org/10.1787/f8d7880d-en>).

## Tertiary attainment has increased in the past decade

- Greece has the highest enrolment rates in bachelor's programmes of all OECD countries among 19-24 year-olds, and the second highest rates among 25-28 year-olds. Enrolment rates in master's programmes, however, are below the OECD and EU averages among 19-28 year-olds. Overall tertiary enrolment rates for 19-20 year-olds and 21-22 year-olds are the fourth highest across OECD countries, and the rate for 23-34 year-olds is the third highest (Figure 1). Women make up 52% of new entrants to tertiary education.
- Between 2008 and 2018, there has been a noticeable increase in the share of 25-34 year-olds with a tertiary education in Greece, from 28% to 43%; the increase was greater among women (from 32% to 51%) than among men (from 25% to 35%), leading to a higher share of tertiary-educated women than men. Women have also a higher completion rate (81% compared to 74%) at the bachelor's level.
- Women account for 45% of doctoral graduates in Greece, which is close to the average share across OECD countries. This share is slightly smaller for the broad field of engineering, manufacturing and construction, and slightly larger in the field of natural sciences, mathematics and statistics. The employment rate among women with a doctorate is slightly higher than for men (93% versus 88%).
- Tertiary education in Greece is free for bachelor's and doctoral programmes, compared to average tuition fee across OECD countries with available data of about USD 2 700<sup>1</sup> for bachelor's programmes and USD 2 200 for doctoral programmes. Admissions to first-degree tertiary programmes are not open: a fixed number of student places is set at the central level and students must perform at a minimum level in compulsory examinations to gain access to tertiary institutions. Students with qualifications from both general and vocational programmes are admitted, although they have to meet the course prerequisites to enter some fields of education.
- The average tuition fee for master's programmes is about USD 4 100 in Greece, higher than the average for countries with available data (about USD 3 400). This might help to explain why only 4% of Greek adults have attained a master's as their highest qualification, below the OECD average of 13%.
- International students in tertiary education pay the same tuition fees as national students. Despite a higher number of applications from international students, only 3% of first-time entrants into bachelor's programmes and 1% of entrants into doctoral programmes are international – as opposed to OECD averages of 8% at bachelor's level and 25% at doctorate level – because there are selection processes and the number of positions available to them (as well as other categories) is specified by the law (numerous *clausus*). At the same time, 5% of national tertiary students are enrolled abroad, more than the OECD average of 2%. This may be due to the limited number of student places in Greece, and the poor performance of the job market. .

## Tertiary-educated adults have smaller labour-market advantages in Greece than in other countries

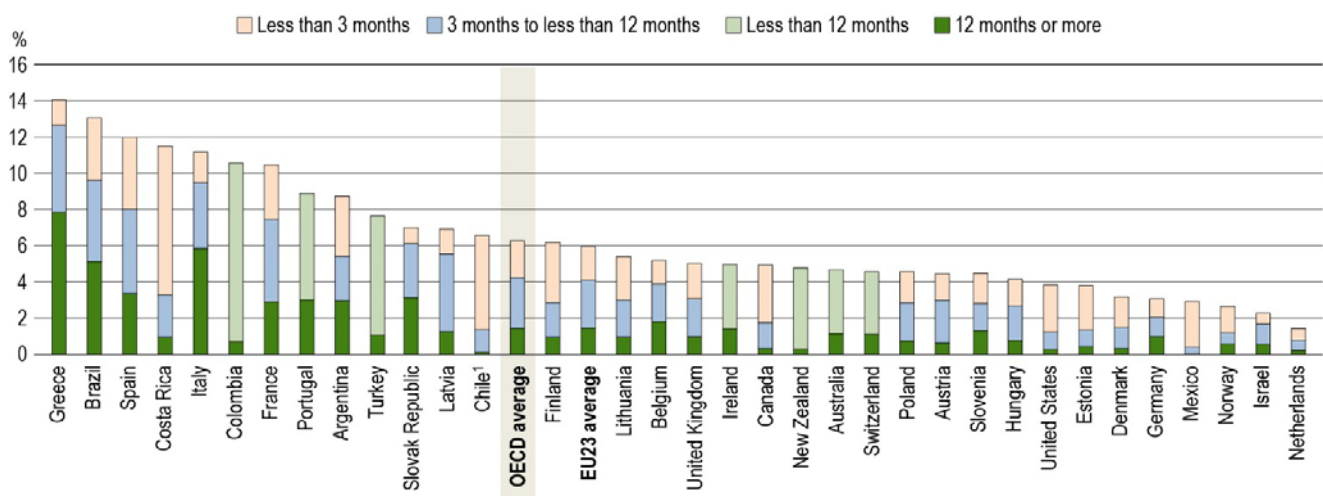
- Employment rates among adults (25-64 year-olds) in Greece increase with the level of educational attainment, but are lower than both the OECD and EU averages at all attainment levels. They range from 50% for adults with below upper secondary education to 90% for adults with a doctorate.
- The employment rates of adults with a bachelor's (73%) or a master's degree (82%) are the lowest across OECD countries; the employment rate for those with a doctorate (90%) is also below the OECD average of 92%, but closer to it. Among young adults (25-34 year-olds), women have lower employment rates than men: only 64% of young tertiary educated women were employed in 2018, compared to 79% of

<sup>1</sup> Values reported in equivalent US dollars (USD) have been converted using purchasing power parities (PPPs) for GDP.

young men. While employment rates have fallen since 2008 for both men and women, women have been affected more.

- Greek workers with bachelor's and with master's or doctoral educational attainment have a smaller earnings advantage over those with an upper secondary education (29% and 76%) than the OECD average (44% and 91%).
- Greece has the fourth highest share of 18-24 year-olds who are neither employed nor in education or training (NEET) across OECD countries, and the second highest in EU, after Italy. This share has increased by about 6 percentage points since 2008. About 8% of unemployed 18-24 year-olds have been unemployed for at least 12 months, which is the highest proportion across OECD countries (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Percentage of unemployed 18-24 year-olds not in education, by duration of unemployment**



**Note:** The distribution of duration of unemployment may not sum up to the share of unemployed as these data were collected separately.

1. Year of reference differs from 2018. Refer to the *Source* table for more details.

Countries are ranked in descending order of the share of unemployed 18-24 year-olds.

**Source:** OECD (2019), Table A2.3. See *Source* section for more information and Annex 3 for notes (<https://doi.org/10.1787/f8d7880d-en>).

## Falling salaries and rising teaching hours reduce the attractiveness of the teaching profession

- Teachers' statutory salaries fell by almost 30% between 2005 and 2018 in Greece for all levels of education taught. In contrast, average salaries across OECD countries increased by up to 13%. Over the same period, teaching hours increased in Greece by 10% for primary teachers, 41% for general lower secondary teachers and 49% for general upper secondary teachers.
- The salaries earned by school heads are higher than those for full-time full-year tertiary-educated workers, ranging from 2% more at pre-primary level to 15% more at secondary. These values are smaller than the OECD averages, which range from 25% more at primary level to 43% at upper secondary level.
- Austerity measures following the economic crisis have affected the recruitment of new teachers. Greece has the smallest share across all OECD countries of teachers aged under 30 at lower secondary (1%) and upper secondary (0%) levels, and at primary level the share is 7%, compared to 13% on average for OECD countries and 10% for the EU.

## Expenditure on educational institutions is lower than in most OECD countries at primary and secondary levels


- Between 2010 and 2016, Greece has experienced a general decrease in total government expenditure (-24%) and of GDP (about -20%). In 2016, expenditure on non-tertiary education accounted for 5.4% of total government expenditure in Greece – the lowest share across OECD countries – and less than 3% of gross domestic product (GDP) – the fourth lowest share.
- Greece spends about USD 6 000 per student on primary institutions and about USD 6 800 on secondary institutions, 60-70% of the OECD average expenditure at these levels. Expenditure per student is higher in private institutions than in public ones, with the smallest amount spent in public upper secondary general programmes (about USD 5 500 per student). Cumulative expenditure per student over the theoretical duration of studies from the age of 6 to 15 is about USD 63 000 in Greece, the third lowest value among OECD countries.

## References

OECD (2019), *Education at a Glance 2019: OECD indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-2019-en>.

[1]

For more information on **Education at a Glance 2019** and to access the full set of Indicators, visit [www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm](http://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm).

Updated data can be found on line at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-data-en> and by following the **StatLinks**  under the tables and charts in the publication.

Explore, compare and visualise more data and analysis using:  **Education GPS**

<http://gpseducation.oecd.org/CountryProfile?primaryCountry=GRC&treshold=10&topic=EO>.

<p><b>Questions can be directed to:</b></p> <p>Daniel Sanchez Serra</p> <p>Directorate for Education and Skills</p> <p><a href="mailto:daniel.sanchezserra@oecd.org">daniel.sanchezserra@oecd.org</a></p>	<p><b>Country note author:</b></p> <p>Andrea Borlizzi</p> <p>Directorate for Education and Skills</p> <p><a href="mailto:andrea.borlizzi@oecd.org">andrea.borlizzi@oecd.org</a></p>
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On 25 May 2018, the OECD Council invited Colombia to become a Member. While Colombia is included in the OECD averages reported in this note, at the time of its preparation, Colombia was in the process of completing its domestic procedures for ratification and the deposit of Colombia's instrument of accession to the OECD Convention was pending.

### Note regarding data from Israel

The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and are under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

## Key Facts for Greece in Education at a Glance 2019

Source	Main topics in <i>Education at a Glance</i>	Greece		OECD average		EU23 average	
<b>Tertiary education</b>							
<b>Educational attainment of 25-64 year-olds</b>							
<b>2018</b>							
Table A1.1	Short-cycle tertiary	2%		7%		5%	
	Bachelor's or equivalent	26%		17%		14%	
	Master's or equivalent	4%		13%		15%	
	Doctoral or equivalent	1%		1%		1%	
<b>Tertiary attainment of 25-34 year-olds, by gender</b>							
<b>2008</b>							
Table A1.2	Men	25%	35%	31%	38%	28%	36%
	Women	32%	51%	40%	51%	38%	50%
	Total	28%	43%	35%	44%	33%	43%
<b>Distribution of first-time tertiary entrants by education level</b>							
<b>2017</b>							
Table B4.1	Short-cycle tertiary	**		17%		12%	
	Bachelor's or equivalent	100%		76%		80%	
	Master's or equivalent	**		7%		8%	
<b>Share of international or foreign students, by education level<sup>1</sup></b>							
<b>2017</b>							
Table B6.1	Bachelor's or equivalent	4%		4%		7%	
	Master's or equivalent	1%		13%		13%	
	Doctoral or equivalent	1%		22%		22%	
	All tertiary levels of education	3%		6%		9%	
<b>Employment rate of 25-64 year-olds, by educational attainment</b>							
<b>2018</b>							
Table A3.1	Short-cycle tertiary	67%		82%		82%	
	Bachelor's or equivalent	73%		84%		84%	
	Master's or equivalent	82%		88%		88%	
	Doctoral or equivalent	90%		92%		93%	
	All tertiary levels of education	74%		85%		86%	
<b>Employment rate of tertiary-educated 25-64 year-olds, by field of study</b>							
<b>2018</b>							
Table A3.4	Education	72%		84%		85%	
	Business and administration and law	76%		86%		87%	
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	77%		89%		89%	
	Health and welfare	81%		87%		88%	
<b>Relative earnings of full-time full-year 25-64 year-old workers, by educational attainment (upper secondary education = 100)</b>							
<b>2017</b>							
Table A4.1	Short-cycle tertiary	170		120		121	
	Bachelor's or equivalent	129		144		138	
	Master's, doctoral or equivalent	176		191		174	
	All tertiary levels of education	137		157		152	
<b>Upper secondary and vocational education and training (VET)</b>							
<b>Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary attainment rate</b>							
<b>2018</b>							
Table A1.2	Share of 25-34 year-olds with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary as their highest attainment	44%		41%		44%	
<b>Percentage of first-time upper secondary graduates with a vocational qualification</b>							
<b>2017</b>							
Table B3.1	Vocational programmes	25%		40%		46%	
<b>Age at graduation from upper secondary education, by programme orientation</b>							
<b>2017</b>							
Figure B3.1	General programmes	17		18		19	
	Vocational programmes	18		21		21	
<b>Share of women among upper secondary graduates, by programme orientation</b>							
<b>2017</b>							
Figure B3.2	General programmes	54%		55%		56%	
	Vocational programmes	36%		46%		46%	
<b>Employment, unemployment and inactivity rates of 25-34 year-olds, with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education</b>							
<b>2018</b>							
Table A3.3	Employment rate	62%		78%		79%	
	Unemployment rate	25%		7%		8%	
	Inactivity rate	17%		16%		14%	
<b>Total expenditure on upper secondary educational institutions, in USD<sup>2</sup> per full-time equivalent student, by programme orientation</b>							
<b>2016</b>							
Table C1.1	General programmes	USD 5 836		USD 9 397		USD 9 671	
	Vocational programmes	USD 8 930		USD 10 922		USD 11 320	
<b>Early childhood education and care (ECEC)</b>							
<b>Enrolment rate of 3-5 year-olds in education</b>							
<b>2017</b>							
Table B2.2	ECEC and primary education	65%		87%		90%	
<b>Share of children enrolled in private institutions</b>							
<b>2017</b>							
Table B2.3	Pre-primary level (ISCED 02)	9%		34%		27%	
<b>Ratio of children to teaching staff</b>							
<b>2017</b>							
Table B2.3	Pre-primary level (ISCED 02)	10		16		15	
<b>Expenditure on children aged 3-5 enrolled in education</b>							
<b>2016</b>							
Table B2.4	Annual expenditure per child, in USD <sup>2</sup> per child	**		USD 8 141		USD 8 926	

Source	Main topics in <i>Education at a Glance</i>	Greece		OECD average		EU23 average	
<b>Social outcomes and adult learning</b>							
<b>Participation in formal and/or non-formal education, by educational attainment<sup>3</sup></b>		<b>2016</b>					
Table A7.1	Below upper secondary	3%		n.a.		26%	
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	16%		n.a.		44%	
	Tertiary	31%		n.a.		66%	
<b>Participation in cultural or sporting activities in the last 12 months, by educational attainment<sup>4</sup></b>		<b>2015</b>					
Table A6.1	Below upper secondary	35%		n.a.		56%	
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	59%		n.a.		77%	
	Tertiary	78%		n.a.		92%	
<b>Financial resources invested in education</b>							
<b>Total expenditure on educational institutions, by level of education<sup>2</sup></b>		<b>2016</b>					
Table C1.1 and C2.1		<b>USD/student</b>	<b>% GDP</b>	<b>USD/student</b>	<b>% GDP</b>	<b>USD/student</b>	<b>% GDP</b>
	Primary	USD 5 973	1.3%	USD 8 470	1.5%	USD 8 548	1.3%
	Lower secondary	USD 6 859	0.7%	USD 9 884	0.9%	USD 10 302	0.9%
	Upper secondary	USD 6 704	0.8%	USD 10 368	1.1%	USD 10 308	1.0%
	Tertiary (including R&D)	**	**	USD 15 556	1.5%	USD 15 963	1.2%
<b>Share of expenditure on educational institutions, by final source of funds</b>		<b>2016</b>					
Table C3.1		<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>
	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	**	**	90%	10%	92%	8%
	Tertiary (including R&D)	**	**	66%	32%	73%	24%
<b>Total public expenditure on primary to tertiary education</b>		<b>2016</b>					
Table C4.1	As a percentage of total government expenditure	**		10.8%		9.6%	
<b>Teachers, the learning environment and the organisation of schools</b>							
<b>Actual salaries of teachers and school heads in public institutions relative to earnings of full-time, full-year workers with tertiary education</b>		<b>2017</b>					
Table D3.2a		<b>Teachers</b>	<b>School heads</b>	<b>Teachers</b>	<b>School heads</b>	<b>Teachers</b>	<b>School heads</b>
	Pre-primary	0.78	1.02	0.78	**	0.78	1.16
	Primary	0.78	1.02	0.84	1.25	0.85	1.24
	Lower secondary (general programmes)	0.83	1.15	0.88	1.34	0.89	1.34
	Upper secondary (general programmes)	0.83	1.15	0.93	1.43	0.95	1.43
<b>Annual statutory salaries of teachers in public institutions, based on most prevalent qualifications, at different points in teachers' careers<sup>2</sup></b>		<b>2018</b>					
Table D3.1a		<b>Starting salary</b>	<b>Salary after 15 years of experience</b>	<b>Starting salary</b>	<b>Salary after 15 years of experience</b>	<b>Starting salary</b>	<b>Salary after 15 years of experience</b>
	Pre-primary	USD 19 825	USD 26 198	USD 31 276	USD 42 078	USD 30 615	USD 41 354
	Primary	USD 19 825	USD 26 198	USD 33 058	USD 45 947	USD 32 987	USD 45 748
	Lower secondary (general programmes)	USD 19 825	USD 26 198	USD 34 230	USD 47 675	USD 34 261	USD 47 772
	Upper secondary (general programmes)	USD 19 825	USD 26 198	USD 35 859	USD 49 804	USD 35 104	USD 49 875
<b>Organisation of teachers' working time in public institutions over the school year</b>		<b>2018</b>					
Tables D4.1a and D4.1b		<b>Net teaching time</b>	<b>Total statutory working time</b>	<b>Net teaching time</b>	<b>Total statutory working time</b>	<b>Net teaching time</b>	<b>Total statutory working time</b>
	Pre-primary	827 hours	**	1 024 hours	1 613 hours	1 062 hours	1 550 hours
	Primary	664 hours	**	783 hours	1 612 hours	754 hours	1 539 hours
	Lower secondary (general programmes)	614 hours	**	709 hours	1 634 hours	673 hours	1 572 hours
	Upper secondary (general programmes)	642 hours	**	667 hours	1 629 hours	643 hours	1 558 hours
<b>Percentage of teachers who are 50 years old or over</b>		<b>2017</b>					
Table D5.1	Primary to upper secondary	48%		36%		39%	
<b>Share of female teachers, in public and private institutions</b>		<b>2017</b>					
Table D5.2	Primary	71%		83%		87%	
	Lower secondary	67%		69%		72%	
<b>Total number of compulsory instruction time, by level of education</b>		<b>2019</b>					
Table D1.1	Primary	4 489 hours		4 568 hours		4 258 hours	
	Lower secondary	2 374 hours		3 022 hours		3 002 hours	
	Upper secondary	**		**		**	
<b>Average class size by level of education</b>		<b>2017</b>					
Table D2.1	Primary	18		21		20	
	Lower secondary	21		23		21	

The reference year is the year cited or the latest year for which data are available.

1. For some countries, data on foreign students are provided instead of international students.

2. Values reported in equivalent US dollars (USD) have been converted using purchasing power parities (PPPs) for GDP

3. EU23 average refers to the average of OECD countries that participated in the Adult Education Survey (AES).

4. EU23 average refers to the average of OECD countries that participated in the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions 2015.

\*\* Please refer to the source table for details on these data.

Cut-off date for the data: 19 July 2019. Any updates on data can be found on line at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-data-en>.