

PF 1.8: Legal age thresholds regarding the transition from child- to adulthood

This indicator presents age thresholds at which individuals are treated as adults by the legal system and for activities related to education and employment, and risky and social behaviours (such as engaging in sexual activity or alcohol use), across OECD countries, its Key Partners, and other EU member states. The indicator is related to the legal system and the age above/below which an individual (or a related partner, for minimum age of sexual consent) may be liable to prosecution for such activities.

The indicator covers 7 legal minimum ages under three main categories:

- Age at which individuals are considered to be adults
 1. Age of majority (age at which individuals are treated as an adult by the legal system)
 2. Age of criminal responsibility (age at which individuals are liable for prosecution)
 3. Minimum age for marriage
- Age threshold related to end of schooling and start of employment
 4. School leaving age (end of compulsory schooling)
 5. Employment age (minimum age for employment)
- Age at which individuals are permitted to engage in various risky and social behaviours
 6. Minimum age for drinking and purchasing alcohol
 7. Minimum age for sexual consent

1) Age of majority

Definitions and methodology

The age of majority (as opposed to being a minor) is the threshold of adulthood as it is stated in law. It refers to the age at which minors cease to legally be considered as children and assume control and full responsibility over their persons, actions, and decisions, thereby terminating the legal control and legal responsibilities of their parents or guardians over and for them; it is also the age from which a person can be prosecuted in court as an adult. In many countries the age of majority also coincides with the voting age. In Japan and New Zealand, the voting age is 18 while the age of majority is 20 (www.soumu.go.jp and www.parliament.nz).

Key findings

The age of majority is 18 years in almost all OECD countries (Table PF1.8.A). The exceptions are Canada (19 in certain territories), Japan (20), Korea (19), New Zealand (20), and the United States (19 in Alabama, Nebraska, Puerto Rico and 21 in Mississippi).

Other relevant indicators: Typology of childcare and early education services (PF4.1), CO1.8 Regular smokers among 15 year olds (CO1.8), Participation in voluntary work (CO4.1), and Substance abuse by young people (CO4.3)

Table PF1.8.A. Age of majority, 2016
The age at which a person can be prosecuted by law as an adult

	Age of majority	Notes
Australia	18	
Austria	18	
Belgium	18	
Canada	18, 19	Age of majority differs by province: 18 in Alberta, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island; 19 in British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nunavut, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador.
Chile	18	
Czech Republic	18	
Denmark	18	
Estonia	18	
Finland	18	
France	18	
Germany	18	
Greece	18	
Hungary	18	
Iceland	18	
Ireland	18	
Israel	18	
Italy	18	
Japan	20	
Korea	19	
Latvia	18	
Luxembourg	18	
Mexico	18	
Netherlands	18	
New Zealand	20	
Norway	18	
Poland	18	
Portugal	18	
Slovak Republic	18	
Slovenia	18	
Spain	18	
Sweden	18	
Switzerland	18	
Turkey	18	
United Kingdom	18	
United States	18, 19, 21	18 in most states; except Alabama (19), Nebraska (19), Puerto Rico (19); and Mississippi (21)
Russian Federation	18	
Brazil	18	
China	18	
India	18	
Indonesia	15	
South Africa	18	
Bulgaria	18	
Croatia	18	
Cyprus	18	
Lithuania	18	
Malta	18	

	Age of majority	Notes
Romania	18	

Source: For EU countries (except Croatia and Romania): <http://www.protection-of-minors.eu>, Accessed July 2016; for other countries: <http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country>, Accessed July 2016; for Canada : <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-minors.asp>

2) Age of criminal responsibility

Definitions and methodology

Adults (ie. those who have reached the *age of majority* – see above) are fully criminally liable and can be prosecuted accordingly. Prior to reaching the age of majority, children (adolescents) reach the *age of criminal responsibility* at which children (adolescents) become criminally responsible, are liable for prosecution as a minor. Children who have not yet reached the age of criminal responsibility are excluded from criminal liability for their actions (the “defense of infancy”) and cannot be prosecuted.

Key findings

The age at which a person becomes criminally responsible varies considerably across OECD countries with no obvious consensus (Table PF1.8.B). It is low in Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom (England and Wales) at age 10.

In the United States, where the minimum age of criminal liability is set at the federal and state level, 33 states set no minimum age of criminal responsibility, and of the States that do set a minimum age of criminal responsibility, North Carolina has the lowest at seven years, while Wisconsin has the highest at ten years.

In Scotland, the United Kingdom, a person under the age of eight can be found guilty of any criminal offence, but no person under the age of 12 may be prosecuted. In Hungary (12-14 years), Poland (15-17 years), Ireland (10-12 years) and New Zealand (10-13 years) the age of criminal responsibility varies by type of crime with more serious crimes, such as homicide and rape, having a lower age of criminal responsibility.

Table PF1.8.B. Age of criminal responsibility, 2016
The age at which a person becomes criminally responsible for their actions

	Age of criminal responsibility	Notes
Australia	10	
Austria	14	
Belgium	12	
Chile	18	Chilean legislation describes the minimum age of criminal responsibility as 18, but child offenders can be subject to “socio-educative measures”, including deprivation of liberty, for criminal offences from the age of 14
Canada	12	
Czech Republic	15	
Denmark	15	
Estonia	14	
Finland	15	
France	13	Children aged 13 to 18 years can be criminally sentenced, including to prison terms and children aged 16 to 18 can in certain circumstances be subjected to adult sentences.
Germany	14	
Greece	15	
Hungary	12-14	People can be held criminally responsible for any offence committed from the age of 14, and from the age of 12 for homicide, voluntary manslaughter, battery, robbery and plundering, provided that the child had the capacity to understand the nature and consequences of his or her act.
Iceland	15	

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	Age of criminal responsibility	Notes
Ireland	10,12	Persons under the age of 12 cannot generally be held liable for any criminal offence, but children aged 10 or 11 can be held criminally liable for murder, manslaughter, rape, rape under section 4 of the Criminal Law (Rape) (Amendment) Act 1990 or aggravated sexual assault.
Israel	12	
Italy	14	
Japan	14	Children as young as 11 to Juvenile Training Schools under the administration of the Ministry of Justice Correction Bureau.
Korea	14	Children can be subject to protection measures from the age of 12, which include placement in child welfare institutions, juvenile protection institutions and juvenile training schools or reformatories
Latvia	14	
Mexico	12	Children under the age of 12 can only be subject to rehabilitation and social assistance. The precise formulation of this system varies between the states.
Netherlands	12	
New Zealand	10	Children aged 10 or 11 can only be prosecuted for murder or manslaughter and can be tried as if they were a "young person" (i.e. aged 14 to 16 inclusive). Children aged 12 or 13 can be held criminally responsible for offences for which the maximum penalty is or includes imprisonment for life or where the maximum penalty is 10 years' imprisonment or more.
Norway	15	
Poland	15, 17	17 in general, but 15 for serious crimes such as murder.
Portugal	16	
Slovak Republic	14	
Slovenia	14	
Spain	14	
Sweden	15	
Switzerland	10	
Turkey	12	
United Kingdom	10, 12	England, Wales and Northern Ireland: 10 In Scotland, no child under the age of eight can be found guilty of any criminal offence, but no person under the age of 12 may be prosecuted for an offence and a person aged 12 or older may not be prosecuted for an offence committed while under the age of 12. The gap between the minimum age of prosecution and the minimum age of criminal liability means that criminal offences committed between the age of 8 and 12 may be included on a child's criminal record, though a prosecution may not take place.
United States	No minimum age, 7, 10	The minimum age of criminal liability is set at the federal and state level in the United States. At the state level, 33 states set no minimum age of criminal responsibility, theoretically allowing a child to be sentenced to criminal penalties at any age, though in most of these states a capacity related test is applied. Of the States that do set a minimum age of criminal responsibility, North Carolina has the lowest at seven years, while Wisconsin has the highest at ten years.
Russian Federation	14, 16	Generally from the age of 16, but a person aged 14 or older can be held criminally liable for a number of offences specifically listed in Criminal Code.
Brazil	18	he minimum age of criminal responsibility is formally 18. If a person is under the age of 18, an alleged criminal offence is considered an infraction and the person would be subject to "socio-educative measures".
China	10-16	Hong Kong 10, Mainland China:14-16 depending on crime, and Macau 16
India	7	
Indonesia	8	
South Africa	10	A child who is older than 10 but younger than 14 is presumed to lack criminal capacity unless the State proves otherwise.
Croatia	14	
Romania	14	

Source: <https://www.crin.org/en/home/ages>, Accessed July 2016..

3) Minimum age for marriage

Definitions and methodology

The marriageable age is the minimum age at which a person is allowed by law to marry independently without a consent from parents/guardians or the court.

Key findings

The marriageable age in OECD countries is mostly set at 18, and is the same for both males and females. Korea and Japan are the only countries with a marriageable age above 18, at age 19 and 20 years respectively (see Table PF1.8.C for more variations across countries).

In most OECD countries persons can marry before the marriageable age, normally at 16, subject to parental consent. In many countries, persons can also marry prior to reaching the common marriageable age with permission from the courts under special circumstances such as pregnancy.

Table PF1.8.C. Minimum age for marriage, 2016

The age at which a person can get married

	Minimum age for marriage	Notes
Australia	18	16 with permission from a court and parents
Austria	18	
Belgium	18	
Canada	18, 19	Varies by province, but generally 18, but 19 in Northwest Territories. Under these minimum ages with parental or judicial consent
Chile	18	Children under sixteen years of age can not get married. Those who have reached the age of eighteen shall not be required to obtain the consent of any person.
Czech Republic	18	
Denmark	18	Under 18 with permission from the County Governor's Office and parents
Estonia	18	15 with court consent.
Finland	18	Under 18 with the consent of the ministry of justice
France	18	Under 18 with consent from or public prosecutor
Germany	18	16 with court permission.
Greece	18	16 with consent from parents or court permission.
Hungary	18	16 with parental consent.
Iceland	18	Under 18 with parental consent and permission of the Ministry
Ireland	18	Under 18 with the court permission.
Israel	18	
Italy	18	16 with court consent.
Japan	20	18 for males and 16 for females with parental consent.
Korea	19	18 with parental consent
Latvia	18	16 with court and/or parental permission.
Luxembourg	18	18 for males and 16 for females. Minors (under 18) need parental consent before they may marry.
Mexico	18	16 for males, 14 for females with parental consent.
Netherlands	18	Under 18 with parental consent; in case of pregnancy or with personal permission from the Minister of Justice.
New Zealand	18	16 with parental consent.
Norway	18	Under 18 with parental (guardian) consent and permission from the County Governor. The county governor may not grant permission if the applicant is under 16 years of age.
Poland	18	16 for women with judicial approval.
Portugal	18	16 with parental consent or court decision.
Slovak Republic	18	16 with court consent.
Slovenia	18	
Spain	18	16 with parental consent.
Sweden	18	Under 18 with permission from the provincial government in a county where the applicant is registered

	Minimum age for marriage	Notes
Switzerland	18	
Turkey	18	16 in special circumstances with court approval
United Kingdom	16, 18	16 in Scotland, 18 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
United States	18	Varies by state, but generally 18
Russian Federation	18	16 in special circumstances; may vary in different regions.
Brazil	18	16 with parental or guardian consent. The marriage of someone who is under 16 years can also be authorized, but only in cases of pregnancy, or to avoid the imposition of a criminal penalty.
China	22(Male), 20 (Female)	
India	21(Male), 18 (Female)	
Indonesia	21	19 for male, 16 for female with parental consent
South Africa	18	Under 18 with parental consent, but special consent of the Minister of Home Affairs is also required for the marriage of a girl under the age of 15 or a boy under the age of 18.
Bulgaria	18	16 with parental consent and permission of the local court
Croatia	18	16 with court permission.
Cyprus	18	
Lithuania	18	15 with court permission. Under 15 if pregnant with court permission.
Malta	18	
Romania	18	

Sources: <http://www.worldpolicycenter.org/topics/marriage/policies>; For Israel, <http://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/israel-minimum-marriage-age-raised-to-18/>; For the UK: <https://www.gov.uk/marriages-civil-partnerships/overview>

4) School leaving age and Employment Age.

Definitions and methodology

The school leaving age is the minimum age at which a person is legally allowed to leave compulsory education. The employment age, is the minimum age at which a person can take up legal employment either full-time or part-time. In many countries the school leaving age and the employment age are synchronised to allow for a smooth transition from education to employment if the person wishes to do so.

Key findings

Table PF1.8.D shows the school leaving age and the employment age for all OECD, Key Partners and other EU member states. In most OECD countries the school leaving age is the same as the employment age so that a person can choose to enter employment should they wish to leave education. However, in a few countries the employment age may not be the same as the school leaving age, for example, to allow a student to work part-time while they are still in education (as for instance in Australia (some territories), Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Israel, the Netherlands, Norway and the Slovak Republic). In Mexico, Portugal and Turkey, the employment age is higher than the school leaving age.

Table PF1.8.D. School leaving age and Employment age, 2016
Age at which a person can leave the education system, and the age at which can have legal employment

	School leaving age	Employment age	Notes
Australia	15	see note	Varies across each state and territory. NSW has no minimum age of employment and employment of children is regulated only in certain industries.[64] Thus, in NSW, employment of children under fifteen years of age in entertainment, exhibition, still photography or door-to-door sales is regulated by the Office for Children - Children's Guardian (OCCG). Employers in these industries must be authorized to employ children and comply with the legislated Code of Practice. in Victoria it is 13, however, any employed child (including children within family businesses) must only perform 'light work', work certain hours and be granted specified rest periods
Austria	15	15	
Belgium	15	15	
Canada		14-17 (see note)	In Canada, most contracts of employment are covered by provincial labor laws. The minimum age for employment extends from fourteen in Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec to seventeen at the federal level and in the territories of the Northwest, Nunavut, and the Yukon.
Chile		15	
Czech Republic	15	15	
Denmark	16	15	
Estonia	15	15	
Finland	16	15	
France	16	16	
Germany	15	15	
Greece	15	15	
Hungary	18	16	
Iceland	18	15	
Ireland	16	16	
Israel	17	15	
Italy	16	16	
Japan	15	15	
Korea	15	15	
Latvia	15	15	
Luxembourg	15	15	
Mexico	14	15	

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	School leaving age	Employment age	Notes
Netherlands	18	15	
New Zealand	16		There is no minimum age at which a young person may start working; however there are restrictions as to the types of work a young person may carry out. Work must not interfere with the schooling of school aged children (6-16), A young person under the age of 16 is not allowed to work between the hours of 10pm and 6am.
Norway	16	15	
Poland	15	15	
Portugal	15	16	
Slovak Republic	16	15	
Slovenia	15	15	
Spain	16	16	
Sweden	16	15	
Switzerland		15	
Turkey	14	15	
United Kingdom	16	16	
United States		14	The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) sets 14 as the minimum age for most non-agricultural work. However, at any age, youth may deliver newspapers; perform in radio, television, movie, or theatrical productions; work in businesses owned by their parents (except in mining, manufacturing or hazardous jobs); and perform babysitting or perform minor chores around a private home. Many states have enacted child labor laws, some of which may have a minimum age for employment which is higher than the FLSA
Russia	15		
Brazil	14	16	
China	15	16	
India	14		
Indonesia		15	
South Africa	15	15	
Bulgaria	16	16	
Croatia	15	15	
Cyprus	15	15	
Lithuania	16	16	
Malta	16	16	
Romania	18	16	

Sources: For school leaving age: <http://www.right-to-education.org/page/comparative-table-minimum-age-legislation>; for employment age : http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11300:0::NO:11300:P11300_INSTRUMENT_ID:312283:NO. For Australia: <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/child-rights/australia.php>; For Canada: <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/child-rights/canada.php>; For New Zealand <http://communitylaw.org.nz/community-law-manual/chapter-9-youth-rights/legal-ages-when-you-can-do-what-chapter-9/>; For the US : <http://webapps.dol.gov/elaws/faq/esa/fisa/026.htm>

6) Minimum age for drinking and purchasing alcohol

Definitions and methodology

The legal drinking age is here defined as the age at which a person can legally consume or purchase alcoholic beverages. The law generally focusses on two different aspects: (i) the age at which alcohol can be consumed at a licensed premise and (ii) the age at which alcohol can be purchased for consumption off-premise (for example, at home). While prosecution for breaking the legal age is mostly directed at the individual, in some cases (often regarding the purchase of alcohol) legal responsibility also lies with individuals/institutions selling alcoholic beverages.

Key findings

In most OECD countries, key Partners and other EU member states the legal minimum age for drinking alcoholic beverages is the same as the legal minimum age for purchasing alcoholic beverages, with 18 being the most common age (Table PF1.8.E). In some countries the legal age is different for different types of alcohol, based on the percentage of alcohol in the alcoholic beverage (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Norway and Sweden). Some countries, mostly federal states, also have different drinking ages in the different regions (Canada and Switzerland).

The lowest legal drinking age, among OECD countries, for the consumption and purchase of all types of alcoholic beverages in licensed premises is 16, as set in Luxembourg. The drinking age for both the consumption and purchase of all types of alcohol is high in Iceland and Japan (both 20), and highest in the United States at age 21. The penalties for non-compliance are usually in the form of monetary fines rather than imprisonment in most countries.

Table PF1.8.E. Minimum age to consume and purchase alcohol, 2016

The age at which a person can consume or purchase alcoholic beverages

	Minimum age for drinking on licensed premises	Minimum age for purchasing alcohol to consume off premise	Notes
Australia	18	18	Regulated at state / territory level. Exceptions may apply if accompanied by a responsible adult.
Austria	16/18 (see notes)	16/18 (see notes)	varies by beverage and jurisdiction 1) by beverage :16 for beer, wine, champagne and 18 for spirits and mixed drinks containing spirits 2) by jurisdiction: Burgenland, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Styria, Salzburg, Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Vienna specifically prohibit serving alcoholic beverages to those under 16 years of age

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	Minimum age for drinking on licensed premises	Minimum age for purchasing alcohol to consume off premise	Notes
Belgium	16 for beer and wine; 18 for spirits	16 for beer and wine; 18 for spirits	
Canada	18/19 (see notes)	18/19 (see notes)	18 in Manitoba , Alberta, and Quebec. 19 in British Columbia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Yukon.
Chile	18	18	
Czech Republic	18	18	
Denmark	18	16/18varies by beverage (see note)	Off premise: 16 for beer and wine; 18 for alcoholic beverages containing 16.5% or more alcohol per volume.
Estonia	18	18	
Finland	18	18/20 varies by beverage (see note)	Off premise: 18 for beverages up to 22% ABV; 20 for other beverages
France	18	18	
Germany	16 for beer and wine;18 for spirits (see note)	16 for beer and wine;18 for spirits	Those below 18 years of age are not permitted in premises licensed as bars, nightclubs and similar entertainment venues.
Greece	18	18/ none (see note)	Off-premise: 18 for spirits at all outlets; 18 for other alcoholic beverages at specialized retailers (not regulated at grocery stores and other types of outlets)
Hungary	18	18	
Iceland	20	20	
Ireland	18	18	
Israel	18	18	
Italy	18	18	
Japan	20	20	
Korea	19 (see note)	19 (see note)	Being 19 is defined, for the purposes of this legislation, as effective from January 1st of 19th year after one's birth
Latvia	18	18	
Luxembourg	16	16	
Mexico	18	18	
Netherlands	18	18	
New Zealand	18	18	Age limit does not apply if accompanied bypermitting parent or legal guardian
Norway	18, but 20 for spirits defined as 22% ABV and above	18, but 20 for spirits defined as 22% ABV and above	
Poland	18	18	
Portugal	18	18	
Slovak Republic	18	18	

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	Minimum age for drinking on licensed premises	Minimum age for purchasing alcohol to consume off premise	Notes
Slovenia	18	18	
Spain	18 (see note)	18 (see note)	Balears Islands autonomous region does not have specific regulation limiting the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors
Sweden	18	18/20 (see note)	18 for beer of 3.5% ABV or lower, 20 otherwise
Switzerland	16/18, depending on the canton, for beer and wine; 18 in all cantons for spirits	16/18, depending on the canton, for beer and wine; 18 in all cantons for spirits	
Turkey	18	18	
United Kingdom	16/18 (see note)	18	16 for beer, cider, and wine with a meal and bought by and accompanied by an adult. This does not apply in Northern Ireland.
United States	21	21	
Russian Federation	18	18	
Brazil	18	18	
China	18	18	
India	18 to 25, depending on state	18 to 25, depending on state	
Indonesia	21	21	
South Africa	18	18	
Bulgaria	18	18	
Croatia	18	18	
Cyprus	17	17	
Lithuania	18	18	
Malta	17	17	
Romania	18	18	

Source: <http://www.iard.org/policy-tables/minimum-legal-age-limits/>, Accessed July 2016

7) Minimum age for sexual consent

Definitions and methodology

The age of sexual consent is the minimum age of a person at which he/she can provide sexual consent to another person, who is older in age, to engage in sexual activities: it is thus implicitly assumed that this is the age at which a young person is legally able to understand and agree to consensual sex. Consequently, anyone who has sex with an underage individual is guilty of a crime: the person below the minimum age is regarded as the victim and their sexual partner as the offender.

Key findings

Among OECD countries the minimum age at which an individual can provide sexual consent for a partner mostly varies between 14 and 16 (Table PF1.8.G). Countries where the age of consent is lower than 14 for all sexual activities are Japan (13) and Korea (13), while the age of consent is higher than 16 in certain states in Australia (17), Ireland (17), and also in certain states in the United States (17 and 18).

Many countries have a “close-in-age exception” where a person below the minimum legal age can give sexual consent to a partner who is within a certain age range, without the partner facing legal prosecution. Such exceptions exist in Austria and Finland, although the age range varies.

Some countries also set up a higher age threshold for sexual consent in the case a person in a supervisory role, such as a teacher, guardian, foster parent etc., is engaged in sexual activities with the minor (Finland and France).

Table PF1.8.G. Minimum age for sexual consent, 2016

The age at which a person can provide sexual consent to an older partner

	Minimum age for sexual consent	Notes
Australia	16-17	The legal age for consensual sex varies across Australian state and territory jurisdictions. The age of consent is 16 years of age in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. In Tasmania and South Australia the age of consent is 17 years of age.
Austria	14	Sexual contacts between two under 14 year old persons are prohibited. Both couldn't be punished because they are non-accountable. If only one of them is under 14 years old, the elderly is culpable. Sexual contacts did not subject to prosecution if their action did not end up in sexual intercourse and the age different wasn't over 4 years and the partner wasn't younger than 12 years. Sexual intercourse of minors will not be punished if the age difference does not amount to 3 years and the younger person already completed their 13th Birthday. From 14 years it is allowed to have sexual relations.
Belgium	16	Under the age of 16, children cannot give their legal consent to sexual acts (Criminal Code art. 371).
Canada	16	
Chile	..	
Czech Republic	15	
Denmark	15	It is considered criminal to have sexual relations with a person under 16 years. However, the sexual relation is not deemed sexual abuse of a child if there is no great difference in the ages or the mental and physical maturity of the persons involved. A person shall also be sentenced for sexual abuse of a child if he/she commits a sexual abuse with a person over sixteen but younger than eighteen years of age, if the offender is the parent of the child or, if living in the same household with the child, the offender is in a position comparable to that of a parent.
Estonia	14	
Finland	16	
France	15	The consensual relationship between a person full of age and a minor over 15 years will prohibit if the person full of age is a person of authority (art. 227-27 Penal Code).
Germany	14	
Greece		

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	Minimum age for sexual consent	Notes
Hungary	14	
Iceland		
Ireland	17	
Israel		According to the Israeli Penal Code of 1977 the age of consent in Israel is 16 for any form of sexual relations involving penetration, 14 if no penetration takes place
Italy	14	
Japan	13	
Korea	13	
Latvia	16	
Luxembourg	16	
Mexico	..	
Netherlands	16	
New Zealand	16	
Norway	..	
Poland	15	
Portugal	16	
Slovak Republic	15	
Slovenia	15	
Spain	16	The age of consent in Spain increased from 13 to 16 on 1 July 2015
Sweden	15	
Switzerland	16	
Turkey	..	
United Kingdom	16-17	16 in England, Scotland and Wales; 17 in Northern Ireland
United States	16-18 (see note)	Varies between 16 and 18 from state to state
Russian Federation	..	
Brazil	..	
China	..	
India	..	
Indonesia	..	
South Africa	..	
Bulgaria	14	
Croatia	..	
Cyprus	16	
Lithuania	18	
Malta	18	
Romania	..	

Sources: For EU countries: <http://www.protection-of-minors.eu>, Accessed July 2016; for Australia, <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/age-consent-laws>; for Canada, <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-46/section-151.html>
 For Japan: <http://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/hourei/data/PC.pdf>; for Korea :criminal act article 305, www.law.go.kr , accessed July 2016; for Spain: <http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2015/03/31/pdfs/BOE-A-2015-3439.pdf>, Spanish Criminal Code Article 183; for Switzerland: <https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19370083/index.html#a187>; for the US; www.age-of-consent.info

Comparability and data issues

All minimum ages outlined in this indicator are based on legislation. In some countries there is no federal law on particular issues and relevant minimum ages are set sub-national legislation and can vary across a country.

Sources and further reading: Child rights International Network (CRIN), <https://www.crin.org/en/home/ages>; World Policy Analysis Center, www.worldpolicycenter.org/topics/marriage/policies; International Alliance for Responsible Drinking (IARD), www.iard.org/policy-tables/minimum-legal-age-limits/; International Labour Organization (ILO) Minimum Age Convention, http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11300:0::NO::P11300_INSTRUMENT_ID:312283