Canada’s overall structural balance improved slightly from 2013 to 2014, but is projected to remain negative through 2016

Canada’s fiscal deficit was equal to 2.7% of GDP in 2013 and 1.6% of GDP in 2014 compared to an average fiscal deficit of 4.2% across the OECD on average. The structural balance, dropped from a 0.9% surplus as a share of potential GDP in 2007, to a 3.1% deficit in 2009. In 2013 (-2.1%) and 2014 (-1.3%), the structural balance deficit of Canada started to decline and is expected to continue to decrease over the medium term to below 1% deficit in 2016. While the structural balance is expected to remain negative, it should be below the OECD average adjusted projections (-2.7% for 2015 and -2.3% for 2016).

Chapter 2: Public finance and economics
- General government structural balance as a percentage of potential GDP
- General government projected structural balance as a percentage of potential GDP

Canada performs well above the OECD average in Open Government Data

By making government data available, easily accessible and reusable by citizens and businesses, the Canadian government improves accountability and transparency, creates new business opportunities and better informs both citizen engagement and its own decision-making. Canada ranks 5th on the Open, Useful, Reusable Government data Index (OURdata Index). This reflects a high level of data availability and accessibility on the national portal and, generally, high support from government to support the reuse of public data.

Chapter 10: Digital government
- Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data Index (OURdata Index)

Canadians’ satisfaction with public services is somewhat higher than the OECD average

According to household surveys, citizen satisfaction with the health care system in Canada (75%) remains slightly higher than the OECD average in 2014 (71%) and has risen between 2007 and 2014. This is despite waiting times for specialist and doctor’s appointments that are higher than in other OECD countries for which data are available. Citizen satisfaction with the education system has remained at high levels and was relatively stable between 2007 and 2014, with approximately 3 Canadian out of 4 reporting a high level of satisfaction with the education system and schools. Citizen confidence with the judicial system, however, has slightly decreased from 60% in 2007 to 55% in 2014. This is just above the OECD average of 54% in 2014.

Chapter 12: Serving Citizens
- Citizens’ satisfaction with the health care system
- Citizens’ satisfaction with the education system
- Citizens’ confidence with the judicial system
- Waiting times for a doctor or nurse appointment and a specialist appointment
**Public Finance and Economics**

**Government revenues (2013, 2014)**

- **Canada**
  - 2013: 37.7%
  - 2014: 38.0%


- **Canada**
  - 2013: 39.4%
  - 2014: 40.7%

**Public investment (2013, 2014)**

- **Canada**
  - 2013: 8.8%
  - 2014: 9.5%

**Government gross debt * (2013)**

- **Canada**
  - 109.3%

**Fiscal balance * (2013, 2014)**

- **Canada**
  - 2013: -4.2%
  - 2014: -2.7%

**Public Employment and Compensation**

**Public sector employment as % of total employment (2013)**

- **Canada**
  - 20.4%

**Public sector employment filled by women (2013)**

- **Canada**
  - 62.8%

**Share of women ministers (2015)**

- **Canada**
  - 30.8%
**Fiscal balance** as reported in the System of National Accounts (SNA) framework, also referred to as net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of government, is calculated as total government revenues minus total government expenditures.

**Structural fiscal balance**, or underlying balance, represents the fiscal balance adjusted for the state of the economic cycle (as measured by the output gap which resulted as the difference between actual and potential GDP) and one-off fiscal operations.

**Government gross debt** is reported according to the SNA definition, which differs from the definition applied under the Maastricht Treaty. It is defined as all liabilities that require payment or payments of interest or principal by the debtor to the creditor at a date or dates in the future. All debt instruments are liabilities, but some liabilities such as shares, equity and financial derivatives are not debt. Government gross debt for Canada is reported on an adjusted basis (i.e. excluding unfunded pension liabilities).

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**Government at a Glance 2015**

With a focus on public administration, OECD Government at a Glance 2015 provides readers with a dashboard of key indicators assembled with the goal of contributing to the analysis and international comparison of public sector performance across OECD countries. Indicators on public finances and employment are provided alongside composite indexes summarising aspects of public management policies, and indicators on services to citizens in health care, education, and justice. Government at a Glance 2015 also includes indicators on key governance and public management issues, such as regulatory management, budgeting practices and procedures, public sector integrity, public procurement and core government results in terms of trust in institutions, income redistribution and efficiency and cost-effectiveness of governments.

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance 2015 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication: http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2015-en

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets: www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm