Colombia’s fiscal position is strong, but increasing pressures to public finances are expected in the coming years

In 2013, Colombia reported a deficit of -0.6% and according to the System of National Accounts definition public debt reached 44% as a share of GDP, both of these figures are significantly below the OECD averages (-4.2% and 117.7% respectively). Moreover, public investment reached 10.9% as a share of total expenditures, increasing by 1.7 p.p. from 2007 to 2013 and displaying an opposite trend to OECD countries where it decreased by 1.3 percentage points for the same period. While public finances currently show a positive outlook, fiscal pressures are expected to augment as oil revenues are foreseen to decline and economic growth is projected to slow down.

Chapter 2: Public finance and economics
General government fiscal balance as a percentage of GDP
General government gross debt as a percentage of GDP
Government investment as a share of total government expenditures

Colombia has a small public sector, with increasing gains in gender parity

In 2013, public employment represented 4.1% of total employment, the lowest reported figure in Government at a Glance. Similarly, public expenditures as a share of GDP reached 35% and are below the OECD average (41.9%). Together, these indicators signal a relatively small public sector. From 2009 to 2013, important progress was made to achieve gender parity as shown by the share of public sector employment filled by women that increased by 9.3 percentage points (from 39.8% to 49.1%) and attained a level close to parity; though, still below the OECD average (58% of total employment filled by women). The share of women parliamentarians reached 22.5% in 2015, increasing by 13.7 p.p. since 2005.

Chapter 3: Public employment and compensation
Public sector employment as a percentage of total employment
Share of public sector employment filled by women and men
Share of women ministers

Satisfaction with public services has decreased in Colombia

From 2007 to 2014, confidence in the judicial system in Colombia decreased by 8 percentage points (from 34% to 26%); during the same period, OECD countries reported an average increase of 2 percentage points (from 52% to 54%). Satisfaction with the health system decreased by 9 percentage points (from 54% to 45%) in Colombia; while it remained stable at around 71% in OECD countries. Starting at 67% (a figure equal to the OECD average), satisfaction with the education system decreased by 5 percentage points in Colombia (from 67% to 62%), while on average it remained stable across the OECD.

Chapter 12: Serving Citizens
Citizens' satisfaction with the health care system
Citizens' satisfaction with the education system
Citizens' confidence with the judicial system
How to read the figures:

- **Colombia** (not represented if not available)
- Average of OECD countries in green
- Range of OECD country values in grey
- Values have been rounded. **n.a.** refers to data not available.

**GOVERNMENT INPUTS: FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

### Public Finance and Economics

- **Government revenues (2013)**
  - % of GDP
  - Colombia: 34.4%
  - Source: OECD National Accounts

- **Government expenditures (2013)**
  - % of GDP
  - Colombia: 35.0%
  - Source: OECD National Accounts

- **Public investment (2013)**
  - % of total govt. expenditures
  - Colombia: 10.9%
  - Source: OECD National Accounts

- **Government gross debt * (2013)**
  - % of GDP
  - Colombia: 44.7%
  - Source: OECD National Accounts

Fiscal balance *

- **(2013)**
  - % of GDP
  - Colombia: -0.6%
  - Source: OECD National Accounts

### Public Employment and Compensation

- **Public sector employment as % of total employment (2013)**
  - Colombia: 4.1%
  - Source: International Labour Organization (database)

- **Public sector employment filled by women (2013)**
  - Colombia: 49.1%
  - Source: International Labour Organization (database)

- **Share of women ministers (2015)**
  - Colombia: 29.4%
  - Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union Parline Database
**GOVERNMENT PROCESSES**

### Institutions

**Level of influence of the Centre of Government over line ministries (2013)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD 2013 Survey on Centre of Government

### Regulatory Governance

**Stakeholder engagement and consultation (2014)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder engagement to inform officials about the problem and possible solutions</th>
<th>Consultation on draft regulations or proposed rules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary laws</td>
<td>Subordinate regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For all primary laws / subordinate regulations</td>
<td>For major primary laws / subordinate regulations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Primary laws</th>
<th>Subordinate regulations</th>
<th>Primary laws</th>
<th>Subordinate regulations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For all primary laws / subordinate regulations: 3% (Colombia)
For major primary laws / subordinate regulations: 6% (Colombia)
For some primary laws / subordinate regulations: 3% (Colombia)
Never: 68% (Colombia)
Not applicable: 53% (Colombia)

Source: OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook (forthcoming)

### Public Procurement

**Procurement expenditure (2013)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of government expenditures</th>
<th>Colombia</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD National Accounts

**Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2014)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support for green public procurement</th>
<th>Support for SMEs</th>
<th>Support for innovative goods and services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support for green public procurement</td>
<td>Support for SMEs</td>
<td>Support for innovative goods and services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Public Procurement

### Digital Gov.

**OURdata Index: Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data (2014)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composite index from 0 lowest to 1 highest</th>
<th>Colombia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High level</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium level</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low level</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Open Government Data

### Public Sector Integrity

**Level of disclosure of private interests across branches of government (2014)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>High level</th>
<th>Medium level</th>
<th>Low level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Branch</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Branch</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Branch</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Managing Conflict of Interest in the Executive Branch and Whistleblower Protection
GOVERNMENT OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Core Government Results and Service Delivery

Satisfaction and confidence across public services (2014)

- Health care: 45% (Colombia), 71% (Average)
- National government: 30% (Colombia), 42% (Range)
- Education system: 62% (Colombia), 67% (Range)
- Judicial system: 26% (Colombia), 54% (Range)

Source: Gallup World Poll

Access to healthcare (2012)

Out of pocket expenditure as a % of final household consumption

- Colombia: n.a.

Equity in learning outcomes (2012)

PISA mathematics score variance by socio economic background

- Colombia: 15.4% (Colombia), 14.8% (Average)

Source: OECD Health Statistics 2014

Changes in household disposable income, by income group (2007-2011)

- Colombia: n.a. n.a. -1.6% -0.8% Bottom 10% Top 10% Bottom 10% Top 10%

Limited government powers (2014)

- Colombia: 0.55

Source: The World Justice Project

Notes

- 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 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