Public finances remain under pressure with high government expenditure, despite rising revenues

In 2014, government expenditure and revenues in France are the fourth highest among OECD countries (57.3% and 53.3% of GDP respectively). Government revenues have been steadily increasing since 2009, at a pace similar to Belgium or Finland (above 3 p.p.), but after improving continuously between 2009 and 2014, the cyclically adjusted fiscal balance has remained stable since 2014, with a net imbalance close to the OECD average (2.8% and 3.1% of potential GDP respectively). This is higher than in the majority of European countries.

Women are making strong progress in public life

In 2013, women accounted for one of the highest shares in total employment across OECD countries, and represent over 62.3% of public sector employees (above the OECD average of 58%). Equality is progressing at top levels of public life, with the share of women in Parliament increasing notably since 2002, to represent about a quarter of Parliament, a situation close to the OECD average and between Australia and Canada. France is topping also the league of OECD countries concerning women in ministerial positions as women represent half of the Ministers, as is the case in Nordic and Northern European countries.

Citizens’ and businesses’ use of electronic government services to complete administrative procedures is higher than in most other OECD countries

In 2014, 44% of citizens and 87% of businesses reported having sent at least one filled form via online government services. This is above the OECD average (33% and 78% respectively). Moreover, about 19% of businesses reported having used the electronic procurement systems to complete a tendering process online which is above most OECD-EU countries. France is also the 2nd top performing OECD countries in this year’s OURdata Index which measures the level of availability and accessibility of public data on the national open data portal and the level of government support to the reuse of public data.
**Public Finance and Economics**

- **Government revenues (2013, 2014)**
  - France: 53.3% (2014), 53.0% (2013)
  - % of GDP
  - Source: OECD National Accounts

- **Government expenditures (2013, 2014)**
  - France: 57.3% (2014), 57.1% (2013)
  - % of GDP
  - Source: OECD National Accounts

- **Public investment (2013, 2014)**
  - France: 6.7% (2014), 7.3% (2013)
  - % of total govt. expenditures
  - Source: OECD National Accounts

  - France: 120.0% (2014)
  - % of GDP
  - Source: OECD/Eurostat National Accounts

- **Fiscal balance * (2013, 2014)**
  - France: -4.0% (2014), -4.3% (2013)
  - % of GDP
  - Source: OECD National Accounts

**Public Employment and Compensation**

- **Public sector employment as % of total employment (2013)**
  - France: 19.8%
  - Source: International Labour Organization (database)

- **Public sector employment filled by women (2013)**
  - France: 62.3%
  - Source: International Labour Organization (database)

- **Share of women ministers (2015)**
  - France: 50.0%
  - Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union Parline Database
Government Outputs and Outcomes

Core Government Results and Service Delivery

**Satisfaction and confidence across public services (2014)**

- Health care: 81% (France), 71%
- National government: 26% (France), 42%
- Education system: 66% (France), 67%
- Judicial system: 48% (France), 54%

**Access to healthcare (2012)**

- Out of pocket expenditure as a % of final household consumption:
  - France: 1.6%
  - Average: 2.8%

**Equity in learning outcomes (2012)**

- PISA mathematics score variance by socio economic background:
  - France: 14.8%

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

- France:
  - Bottom: -1.3%, Top: 1.7%, Bottom: 1.6%, Top: -0.8%

**Limited government powers (2014)**

- France: 0.78

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