Public finances are improving

From a fiscal surplus of 5.1% of GDP (1.9% structural surplus) and according to the System of National Accounts definition a very low debt-to-GDP ratio of 29% in 2007, the global financial crisis led to a deficit reaching 9.4% of GDP (9.6% structural deficit) and the debt ratio rising to 85.7% of GDP in 2009. As a result of the consolidation efforts pursued by the government, the deficit level decreased to 2% of GDP in 2014 (2.9% structural deficit) and is expected to reduce in the coming years. The adjustment occurred mainly through two channels: declining public investment varying from 9.9% as a share of total expenditure in 2007, to 4.8% in 2013 (compared to OECD averages of 9.1% and 7.8% respectively), and increased revenues augmenting from 38.7% as a share of GDP in 2009 to 42% in 2013 (compared to OECD averages of 41% and 42% respectively).

Outside of the legislature, conflict of interest practices are less commonly required

Disclosure of private interest of public officials is one of the tools for managing conflict of interest in government. In 2014, according to the OECD composite on asset disclosure across branches of government, the requirement in Iceland is high for the legislative (75/100 points) branch, relative to the OECD averages (63/100). Inversely, disclosure requirements for the executive (25/100) and judicial (8.3/100) branches are below the OECD average (44/100 and 32/100 respectively). Similarly, for “at risk” areas, such as tax and custom officials, procurement agents and staff of financial authorities, Iceland scores 4.1, eight times lower than the OECD average (32.7).

Icelanders are satisfied with public services

The Icelandic people show among the highest levels of satisfaction across the OECD with public services: 83% are satisfied with the education system compared to an average of 67% across the OECD; they report strong satisfaction with the judicial system (63%), compared to an OECD average of 54%. Citizen satisfaction with the health care system (73%) is slightly above the OECD average of 71%.
How to read the figures:

- Country value in blue (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 & Economics

Government revenues (2013)
% of GDP

Government expenditures (2013)
% of GDP

Public investment (2013)
% of total govt. expenditures

Government gross debt *
% of GDP

How to read the figures:

- Iceland
- Average of OECD countries
- Range of OECD country values
- Source: OECD National Accounts

Fiscal balance *
(2013)
% of GDP

Public Employment & Compensation

Public sector employment as % of total employment (2013)

Public sector employment filled by women (2013)

Share of women ministers (2015)

How to read the figures:

- Iceland
- Average of OECD countries
- Range of OECD country values
- Source: International Labour Organization (database)

How to read the figures:

- Iceland
- Average of OECD countries
- Range of OECD country values
- Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (database)
GOVERNMENT OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Core Government Results and Service Delivery

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

% of citizens expressing confidence/satisfaction

- **Health care**: 73% (71%)
- **National government**: 46% (42%)
- **Education system**: 83% (67%)
- **Judicial system**: 63% (54%)

Source: Gallup World Poll

**Access to healthcare (2012)**

Out of pocket expenditure as a % of final household consumption

- **Iceland**: 3.2%
- **Average**: 2.8%

Source: OECD Health Statistics 2014

**Equity in learning outcomes (2012)**

PISA mathematics score variance by socio economic background

- **Iceland**: 7.7%
- **Average**: 14.8%

Source: OECD, PISA 2012 results: Excellence through equity, 2013

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

Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

- **Iceland**
  - Bottom 10%: -6.4%, -9.7%
  - Top 10%: -1.6%, -0.8%

**Limited government powers (2014)**

- **Iceland**: n.a.
  - [0.37–0.92]

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 gross debt for Iceland is reported on an adjusted basis (i.e. excluding unfunded pension liabilities).

**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](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](http://www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm)