New Zealand public spending is close to the OECD average, despite low public sector employment

In 2013, government expenditures in New Zealand amounted to 40.1% of GDP, close to the OECD average of 41.9%. Out of the public expenditure, the percentage spent on the compensation of employees at 23.5%, was also not far from the OECD average of 22.9%. Total public sector employment, at 12.4% of the general labour force, however, was significantly lower than the OECD average of 21.3%. Intermediate consumption (contracting out) and cash transfers were similar to the OECD average. Public investment attained 9.6 % of GDP in 2013 – which may in part be related to reconstruction after the Christchurch earthquake – compared to the OECD average of 7.8%.

Chapter 2: Public finance and economics
General government expenditures as a percentage of GDP
General government expenditures by economic transaction

Chapter 3: Public employment and compensation
Public sector employment as a percentage of the labour force

Integrity practices are unequal across branches of the New Zealand government

Disclosure of private interest of public officials is one of the tools for managing conflict of interest in government. Disclosure requirements in New Zealand are high for the legislative branch, relative to the OECD average, but do not exist for the judicial branch of government. Disclosure requirements are higher than the OECD average for the Executive branch, but lower in “at risk” areas, such as tax and custom officials, procurement agents and staff of financial authorities.

Chapter 7: Public Sector Integrity
Level of disclosure and public availability of private interests across branches of government

New Zealanders are more satisfied with public services than citizens in most OECD countries

Satisfaction with health care in New Zealand is high – 84% – compared to 71% across the OECD; followed by education – 73% in New Zealand compared to 67% on average in the OECD; while 63% had confidence in the judicial system, compared to an average of 54% in the OECD. Out of pocket expenditure for healthcare as a percentage of final household consumption is relatively low in New Zealand: 1.8% in 2012, compared to 2.8% on average across the OECD. Responsiveness of the health care system to patient needs compares well internationally as expressed by waiting times for health care appointments and the involvement of patients in care and treatment.

Chapter 12: Serving Citizens
Citizens' satisfaction with the health care system
Citizens' satisfaction with the education system
Citizens' confidence with the judicial system
Out-of-pocket medical expenditure as a share of final household consumption
Waiting times for a doctor or nurse appointment and a specialist appointment
Regular doctor providing easy-to-understand explanations
GOVERNMENT PROCESSES

Institutions

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

- New Zealand: High
  - 30% High, 59% Moderate, 11% Low

Source: OECD 2013 Survey on Centre of Government

Regulatory Governance

Stakeholder engagement and consultation (2014)

- Stakeholder engagement to inform officials about the problem and possible solutions:
  - For primary laws:
    - New Zealand: 30% High, 59% Moderate, 11% Low
  - For subordinate regulations:
    - New Zealand: 6% High, 9% Moderate, 23% Low

- Consultation on draft regulations or proposed rules:
  - For primary laws:
    - New Zealand: 68% High, 6% Moderate, 6% Low
  - For subordinate regulations:
    - New Zealand: 53% High, 18% Moderate, 24% Low

Public Procurement

Procurement expenditure (2013)

- New Zealand: 36.3% of government expenditures

Source: OECD National Accounts

Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2014)

- Support for green public procurement:
  - New Zealand: 13
- Support for SMEs:
  - New Zealand: 10
- Support for innovative goods and services:
  - New Zealand: 10

Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Public Procurement

Digital Government

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

- Composite index from 0 lowest to 1 highest
  - New Zealand: 0.59 (High level), 0.58 (Medium level)

Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Open Government Data

Public Sector Integrity

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

- Executive Branch: High level = 50, Medium level = 44, Low level = 32
- Legislative Branch: High level = 88
- Judicial Branch: High level = 64, Medium level = 32, Low level = 21
- "At risk" areas:
  - Executive Branch: 26
  - Legislative Branch: 23
  - Judicial Branch: 21

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)

% of citizens expressing confidence/satisfaction

Health care
84% 71%
National government
63% 42%
Education system
73% 67%
Judicial system
63% 54%

Source: Gallup World Poll

Access to healthcare (2012)

Out of pocket expenditure as a % of final household consumption

New Zealand
1.8%

Source: OECD Health Statistics 2014

Equity in learning outcomes (2012)

PISA mathematics score variance by socio economic background

New Zealand
18.4%

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

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

New Zealand

Bottom Top
-0.9% 2.2%
-1.0% 0.8%
-1.6% 0.1%

Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

Limited government powers (2014)

New Zealand

0.85

[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 debt for Australia 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

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