



The pace of fiscal consolidation has slowed and the underlying fiscal position has slightly improved. Debt burden remains among the highest across the OECD

After several years of a very tight situation for public finances, the government has adopted a more moderate pace of consolidation with a deficit reaching -4.5% of GDP in 2014 (-0.3 p. p compared to the previous year). To further support the economic recovery and investment, tax reforms have reduced the effective corporate tax rate, while the tax base was extended to ensure the revenue neutrality of such measures. The cyclically adjusted deficit has decreased considerably, moving from 8.7% of potential GDP to 1.9% in 2013 and to 0.9% in 2014. This is better (lower) than the OECD average in 2014 (3.1%), reflecting some improvement in the underlying fiscal position of Portugal. According to the *System of National Accounts* definition, the debt burden remains high (141.2% of GDP), however, and well above the OECD average (109.3%) in 2013.



Chapter 2: Public finance and economics

[General government fiscal balance as a percentage of GDP](#)

[General government structural balance as a percentage of potential GDP](#)

[General government gross debt as a percentage of GDP](#)

Portugal performs above OECD average on the *OURdata* Index

The Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data Index measures the level of availability and accessibility of data on the national portal as well as the level of support from the government to foster the reuse of public data. In this year's edition, Portugal performs above the OECD average on this indicator, reflecting the fact that Portugal has been in the group of OECD countries who started working on OGD rather early notably through its national portal, which has existed since 2011.



Chapter 10: Digital government

[OURdata Index: Open, Useful, Reusable government data](#)

Portugal has launched important reforms to improve public service delivery

The Portuguese government developed the “Programa Aproximar”, which aims at creating a new paradigm of public service networks. The existing network of “citizen’s shops” (one-stop shop for public services) is being complemented by local kiosks and mobile units to reach low-density areas. Use of online public services has also been promoted. All these measures may bring in the future substantial savings, more integrated and efficient services.

Despite a general increase in private household spending on health care, the government has protected access to health care for low-income people

In 2012, 4.2% of total household consumption was dedicated to medical spending on average in Portugal compared with 2.8% on average across OECD countries. In some countries which have been hit particularly hard by the crisis, public coverage for certain health services and goods has been reduced in recent years and the share of household spending on health has increased. This has been the case in Portugal where the government has taken a series of measures to reduce public spending on health as part of broader efforts to reduce its budgetary deficits, but these measures have been deliberately designed to protect access to care for low-income groups. While direct out-of-pocket payments for a range of health services increased for most of the population between 2007 and 2012 (+ 0.3 p.p), the number of patients exempted from such co-payments also rose through increases in the income threshold.



Chapter 12: Serving Citizens

[Out-of-pocket \(OOP\) medical expenditure as a share of final household consumption](#)

[Unmet care needs for medical examination by income level](#)

How to read the figures:



Portugal

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

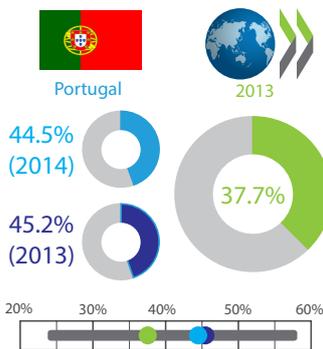
Public Finance & Economics

Public Employment & Compensation

Public Finance and Economics

Government revenues (2013, 2014)

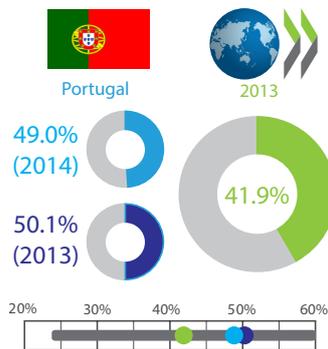
% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts

Government expenditures (2013, 2014)

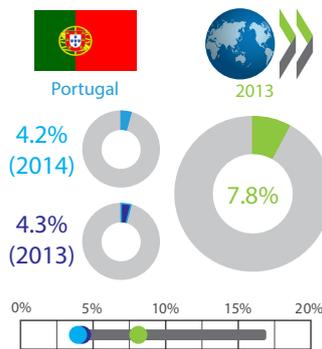
% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts

Public investment (2013, 2014)

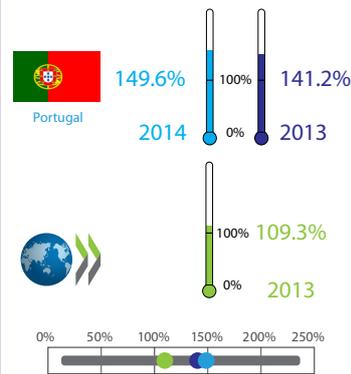
% of total govt. expenditures



Source: OECD National Accounts

Government gross debt (2013, 2014)

% of GDP



Source: OECD/Eurostat National Accounts
* SNA definition, see Notes

Fiscal balance (2013, 2014)

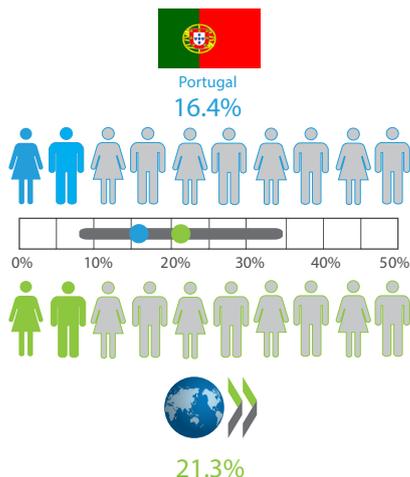
% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts. * See Notes

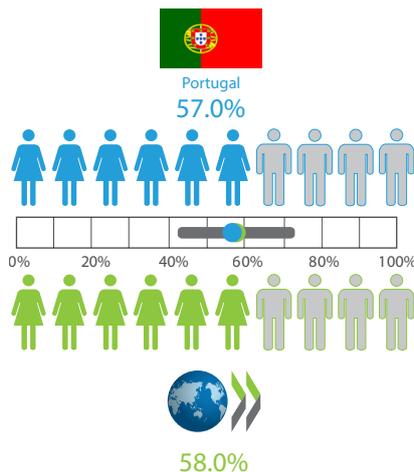
Public Employment and Compensation

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



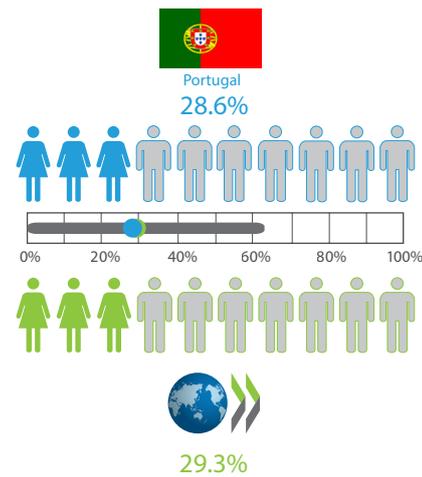
Source: International Labour Organization (database). * See Notes

Public sector employment filled by women (2013) *



Source: International Labour Organization (database). * See Notes

Share of women ministers (2015)



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union Parline Database

GOVERNMENT PROCESSES

Institutions

Regulatory Governance

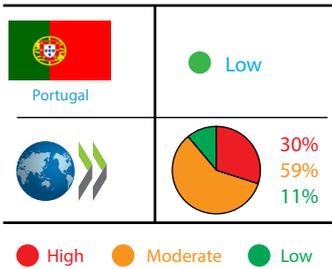
Public Procurement

Public Sector Integrity

Digital Government

Institutions

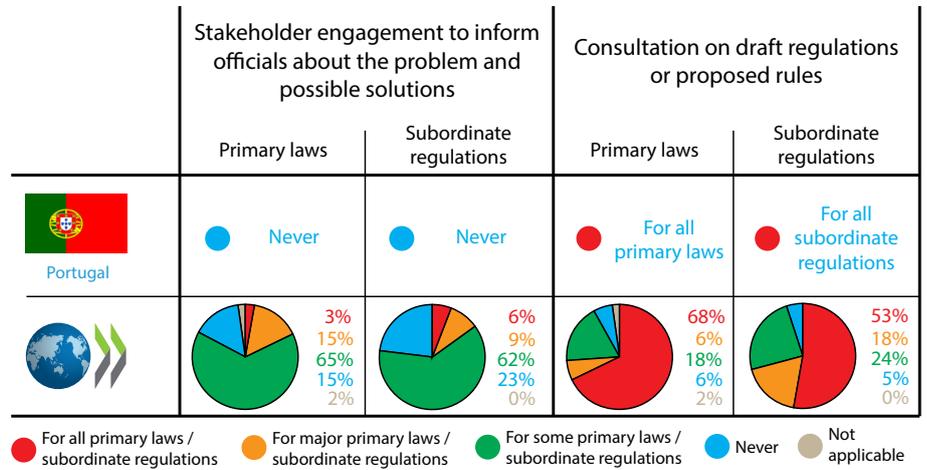
Level of influence of the Centre of Government over line ministries (2013)



Source: OECD 2013 Survey on Centre of Government

Regulatory Governance

Stakeholder engagement and consultation (2014)

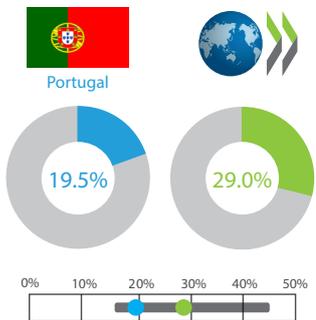


Source: OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook (forthcoming)

Public Procurement

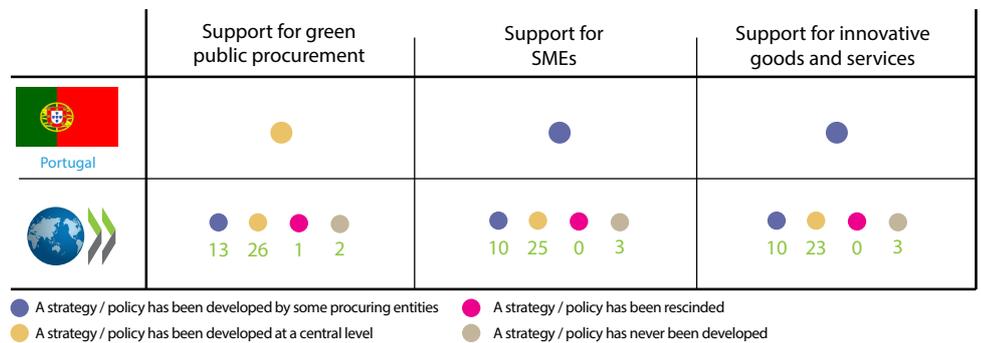
Procurement expenditure (2013)

% of government expenditures



Source: OECD National Accounts

Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2014)

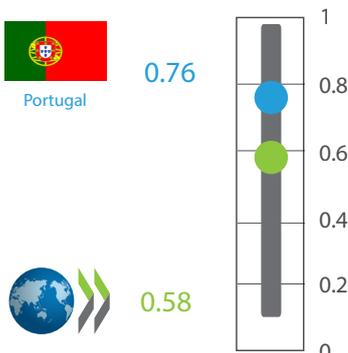


Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Public Procurement

Digital Gov.

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

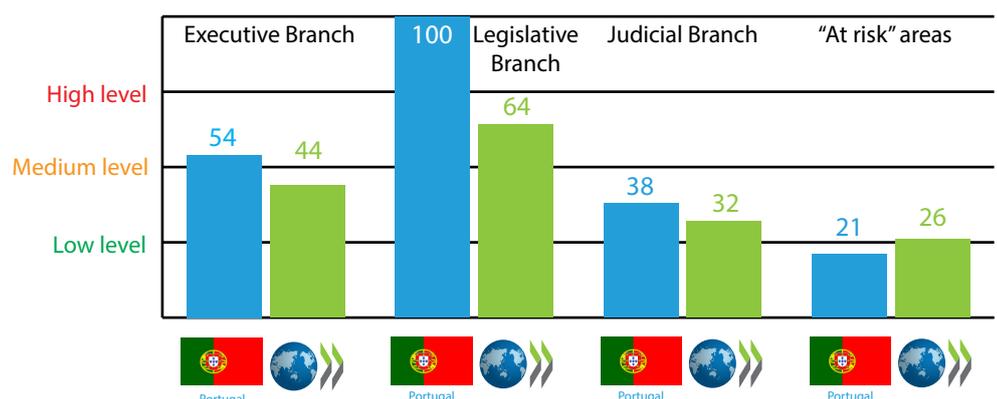
Composite index from 0 lowest to 1 highest



Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Open Government Data

Public Sector Integrity

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



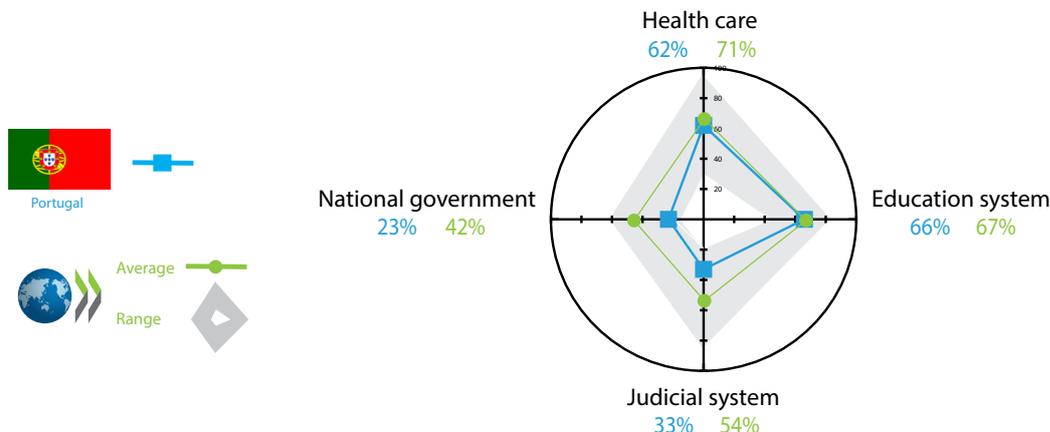
Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Managing Conflict of Interest in the Executive Branch and Whistleblower Protection

GOVERNMENT OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Core Government Results and Service Delivery

Satisfaction and confidence across public services (2014)

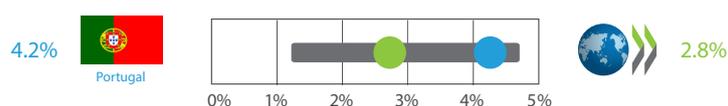
% of citizens expressing confidence/satisfaction



Source: Gallup World Poll

Access to healthcare (2012)

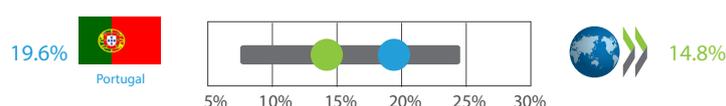
Out of pocket expenditure as a % of final household consumption



Source: OECD Health Statistics 2014

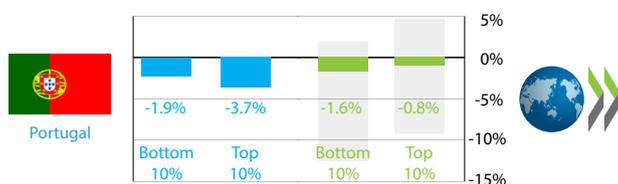
Equity in learning outcomes (2012)

PISA mathematics score variance by socio economic background



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

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



Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

Limited government powers (2014)



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.
- **Public sector employment** data for Portugal are from the the Ministry of Finance.

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/ataglance.htm

