Government investment has declined substantially in Iceland between 2007 and 2017 due to the severe impact of the financial crisis

Government investment as a share of total government expenditures declined by 3.7 percentage points – from 11.5% to 7.8%. However, it has increased to 9% by 2018. In 2017, the OECD average of government investment amounted to 7.7% of total government expenditures, similar to that of Iceland’s.

Chapter 2. Public finance and economics
Figure 2.15. Government fiscal balances across levels of government as percentage of GDP, 2017 and 2018

Iceland has a mainstreamed gender-budgeting practice

Iceland is one of the 17 OECD countries that have implemented gender budgeting and examines the impact of budgetary decision on the genders. More specifically, Iceland has a national gender equality strategy guiding the implementation of gender budgeting; legal provisions underpinning the practice; and general availability of gender-disaggregated data.

Chapter 5. Budgeting practices and procedures
Figure 5.7. Existence of gender budgeting, 2018

In Iceland, the share of the population who believe they can influence government action doubled from 2014 to 2016

The share of the population who believe they can influence government action increased by 24.5 p.p. – from 25.4% in 2014 to 49.9% in 2016, compared to the OECD average of 37.0% in 2014 and 36.8% in 2016.

Chapter 10. Core government results
Figure 10.4. Having a say in what the government does, 2014 and 2016
Human Resource Management

Performance management regime for senior managers (2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existence of a performance-management regime for senior managers</th>
<th>Performance-related pay</th>
<th>Performance agreement with the Minister (at D1)</th>
<th>Performance appraisal system which includes:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD (2019) Survey on Strategic Human Resources Management (SHRM)

Budgeting

Gender budgeting index (2018)

Composite index from 0 (worst) to 1 (best)

| Iceland | 0.70 |
| Global | 0.53* |

Source: OECD (2018) Survey on Gender Budgeting

Regulatory governance

Composite indices on regulatory governance for primary laws (2017)*

Composite index from 0 (worst) to 4 (best)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder engagement in developing regulations</th>
<th>Regulatory Impact Assessment for developing regulations</th>
<th>Ex post evaluation of regulations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>2.64</td>
<td>1.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance Surveys (REG)

Public Procurement

General government procurement expenditures (2017)

% of government expenditures

| Iceland | 32.2% |
| Global | 29.1% |

Source: OECD National Accounts

Mechanisms to prevent and manage conflicts of interests among public procurement officials (2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulatory framework includes a definition of a conflict of interest for public procurement officials</th>
<th>Public procurement officials have to declare their private interests</th>
<th>Public procurement officials have to declare “no conflict of interest” or notify the competent authority in case of potential conflict of interest</th>
<th>Certain public officials and political appointees have certain limitations in participating in public procurement opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Open Data**

**OURdata Index: Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data (2017, 2019)**

Composite index from 0 (worst) to 1 (best)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>0.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Serving Citizens**

**Satisfaction and confidence across public services (2018)**

% of citizens expressing confidence/satisfaction

- **National government**
  - Iceland: 37%
  - Average: 45%
- **Police**
  - Iceland: 93%
  - Average: 77%
- **Health care**
  - Iceland: 37%
  - Average: 70%
- **Judicial system**
  - Iceland: 56%
  - Average: 66%
- **Education system**
  - Iceland: n.a.
  - Average: 66%

Source: Gallup World Poll

**Core Government Results**

**Percentage of individuals economically vulnerable* (2015)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>60%</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* A person is considered vulnerable when, if income were to stop suddenly, that person would not have enough readily available financial assets to keep living above the poverty line for at least three months. Source: OECD Wealth Distribution Database

**Having a say in what the government does (2016)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>60%</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>49.9%</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: European Social Survey

**Notes**

- Data on Public finances and economics and General government employment, which are based on the System of National Accounts (SNA), were extracted on 24 June 2019.
- Fiscal balance 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 is reported according to the SNA definition, which differs from the definition applied under the Maastricht Treaty. It is defined as total government revenues minus total government expenditures.
- 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.
- Regulatory governance indicators: The results for stakeholder engagement and Regulatory Impact Assessment apply exclusively to processes for developing primary laws initiated by the executive. Data is not applicable to the United States, where all primary laws are initiated by Congress. In the majority of countries, most primary laws are initiated by the executive, except for Mexico and Korea, where a higher share of primary laws are initiated by parliament/congress (respectively 90.6% and 84%).

**Government at a Glance 2019**

Government at a Glance provides reliable, internationally comparative data on government activities and their results in OECD countries. In many public governance areas it is the only available source of data. It includes, input, process, output and outcome indicators as well as contextual information for each country. Input indicators are on public finance and employment; while processes in the 2019 edition include data on institutions, budgeting practices and procedures, human resources management, regulatory government, public procurement and digital government and open data. Outcomes cover core government results (e.g. trust, inequality reduction) and indicators on access, responsiveness, quality and citizen satisfaction for the education, health and justice sectors. Governance indicators are needed more than ever, given large number of OECD principles and recommendations that countries signed up to adhere to need regular monitoring; their relationship to Sustainable Development Goals and the unique position of the OECD in collecting vital information on public governance practices from government officials.

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance 2019 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication:

http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2019-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