

OECD Skills Strategy 2019

SKILLS TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE

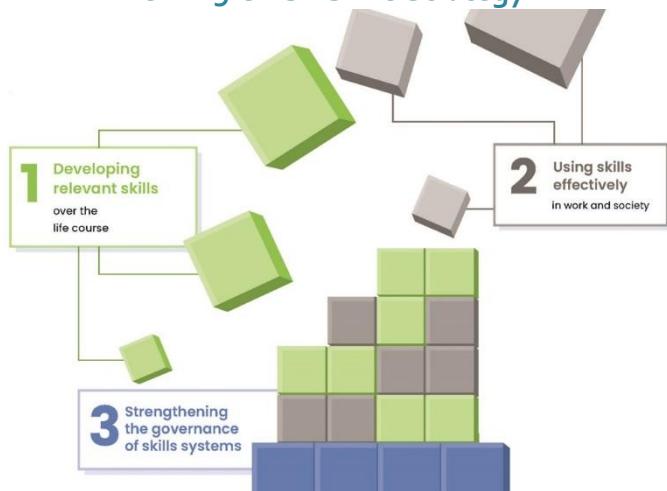
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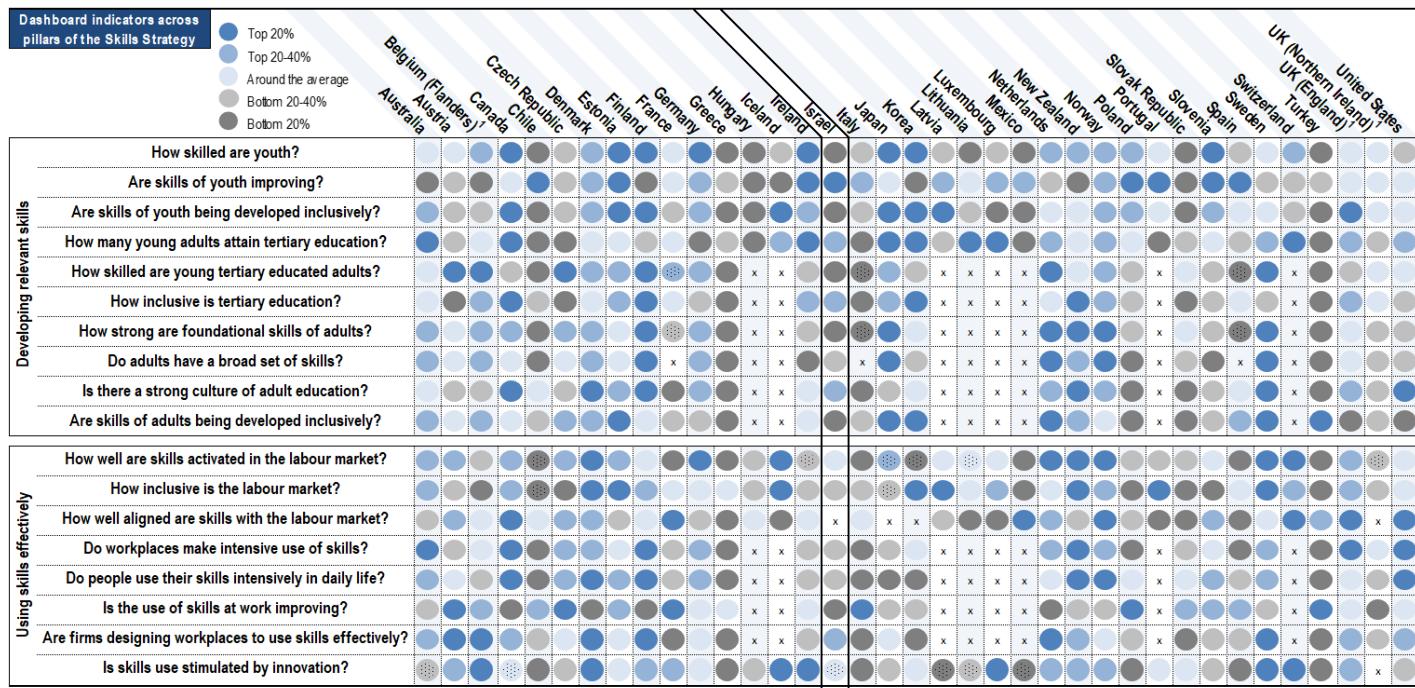
2019 OECD Skills Strategy: Israel

Since its launch in 2012, the OECD Skills Strategy has provided countries with a strategic and comprehensive approach to assessing their skills challenges and opportunities. The 2019 OECD Skills Strategy incorporates lessons learned from applying the OECD Skills Strategy framework in eleven countries, including new evidence about the implications of so-called megatrends, such as globalisation, digitalisation, population ageing or migration. It also accounts for new evidence about skills policies that work under the proper governance arrangements, including effective co-ordination and accountability mechanisms, efficient funding from different sources and information systems. This document describes the key findings for Israel.

The 2019 OECD Skills Strategy



OECD Skills Strategy Dashboard: summary indicators of skills performance



Notes: Indicators are selected, aggregated and normalised in a way to ensure that a higher value and being among the "Top 20%" reflects better performance. Colours in the dashboard represent the quintile position of the country in the ranking, with dark grey indicating performance at the bottom, and dark blue indicating performance at the top of the ranking. The "x" indicates insufficient or no available data for the underlying indicators, and dotted circles indicate missing data for at least one underlying indicator. Only OECD sources have been used (see OECD (2019) for overview).

1. For Belgium (Flanders), United Kingdom (England and Northern Ireland), a combination of regional (PISA and PIAAC) and national data have been used.

Israel's skills performance

Israel has a robust economy with strong economic growth, and a dynamic, internationally competitive high-tech sector. Employment growth is contributing to a higher standard of living, higher incomes for the poor, and life satisfaction above the OECD average. However, Israel's skills system has the potential to improve in a range of areas, leading to a more prosperous and more inclusive

society. The Skills Strategy Dashboard provides a snapshot of Israel's comparative skills performance. When compared with other OECD countries, Israel appears to have room for improvement across different dimensions, in particular raising the level of skills, strengthening the inclusiveness of the skills system and improving the intensity of skills use.

Average PISA skills proficiency scores for 15-year-olds and average PIAAC proficiency scores for tertiary educated adults and for the adult population at large were in the bottom 20% of OECD countries. These outcomes largely reflect existing social and economic heterogeneity. Average PISA scores differ substantially across educational streams, with the Hebrew system performing above the OECD average and the Arab system performing in the bottom 20% of the 72 participating countries. Similarly, the share of adults with high levels of skills is comparable to the OECD average, but the proportion of low-skilled adults is very high, driven mainly by the performance of the Israeli-Arabs. These inequalities in educational outcomes mirror large differences in participation to the labour market. Labour force participation rates for Israeli-Arabs and Haredim remain low. This is particularly concerning, given that the population share of these two groups is expected to increase from one-third to one-half in the next 50 years.

Beside raising skills levels and promoting inclusiveness, Israel could improve the intensity of skills use. Israel is in the top 40% of OECD countries for the adoption of high-

performance workplace practices, which are found to stimulate skills use in the workplace. However, it performs in the bottom 40% of OECD countries for the intensity of skills use. International best practice suggests that spreading effective management and HR practices could further stimulate the use of skills in workplaces.

Israel has taken important steps to deal with many of these challenges. For example, in 2015 the government launched a five-year plan to enhance the economic and social integration of Israeli-Arabs. Under the plan, the Ministry of Education has received extra funding to improve educational attainment and teaching quality in the Arab system. The plan has also led to the opening of twenty-one special employment centres providing one-stop services for Israeli-Arabs, including vocational guidance, training and retraining services.

Still, Israel could benefit from a renewal of its strategic vision for the future to ensure that all of its people have the skills to respond to the challenges and opportunities of a complex and rapidly changing world. A whole-of government approach is needed to achieve this aim.

Key recommendations for improving the performance of countries' skills system

Developing relevant skills over the life course: Making skills systems responsive

- Making each stage of learning a foundation for success in the next
- Enabling policies to support learning in adulthood
- Supporting teachers to become lifelong learners
- Financing adult learning
- Harnessing the power of technology as a tool for learning

Using skills effectively in work and society: Making the most of everyone's potential

- Make full use of everyone's skills
- Making the most of migrants' skills
- Activating skills to build more inclusive and cohesive societies
- Making intensive use of skills in work
- Aligning skills with the needs of the economy and society
- Aligning skills policies with industrial and innovation policies

Strengthening the governance of skills systems: Tackling increased complexity

- Promoting co-ordination, co-operation and collaboration across the whole of government
- Engaging stakeholders throughout the policy cycle
- Building integrated information systems
- Aligning and co-ordinating financing arrangements

Further reading

OECD (forthcoming), *Strengthening the Governance of Skills Systems*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

OECD (2018), *OECD Economic Surveys: Israel 2018*, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/eco_surveys-isr-2018-en.

OECD (2018), *Education at a Glance 2018: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-2018-en>

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Note regarding the data from Israel

The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and are under the responsibility of relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.