

Highlights from the OECD Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2017 - The Digital Transformation: Latvia

Science, innovation and the digital revolution

- **Latvia** had 79 mobile broadband subscriptions for every 100 inhabitants in 2016, similar to penetration in France, Poland and the Slovak Republic [[Scoreboard fig. 1.2 – see below](#)].
- In 2015, **Latvia's** gross domestic expenditures on R&D were 0.6% of GDP, similar to Chile and Mexico [[fig. 1.10](#)].
- **Latvia** has sharply increased the share of its scientific output that is in the 10% most cited publications in their respective scientific fields, an indicator of the quality of scientific production; the share rose from 3.4% in 2005 to 8.7% in 2015 [[fig. 3.1.1](#)].

Growth, jobs and the digital transformation

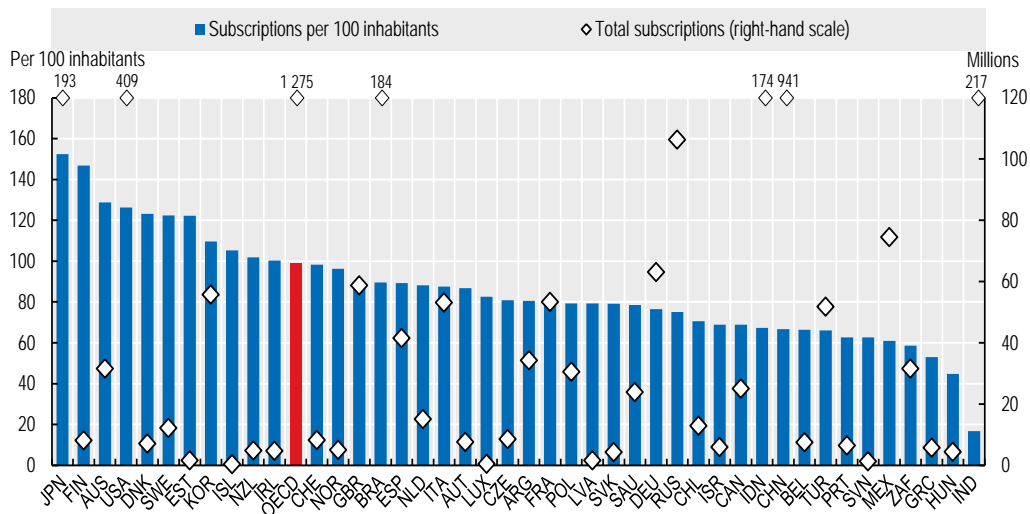
- From 2010 to 2016, **Latvia** experienced net employment gains of 44 000 jobs. The largest net gains were recorded in professional and business services, followed by construction. Job losses occurred mainly in the wholesale, retail, hospitality, and transport sector [[fig. 1.34](#)].
- The share of **Latvia's** business sector jobs sustained by foreign final demand increased from 35% in 2004 to 43% in 2014; the majority of these jobs had high or medium skill intensity [[fig. 1.38 – see below](#)].
- A relatively low share of researchers in **Latvia** work in the business sector compared to other OECD countries - 16.7% in 2015 (up from 14.3% in 2005) [[fig. 2.4.2](#)].

Innovation today - Taking action

- The number of Internet users in **Latvia** leapt between 2006 and 2016, going from 50% to almost 80% of all 16-74-year-olds [[fig. 1.57](#)].
- In **Latvia**, women accounted for about 31% of tertiary graduates in natural sciences, engineering and ICT fields in 2015, above the OECD average of 31%. This share was mainly driven by graduates in science and engineering (27%) rather than ICT (4.5%) [[fig. 1.59 – see below](#)].
- **Latvia** is among the OECD countries where government budgets for R&D have decreased - falling more than 30% from 2008 to 2015 [[fig. 1.62](#)].
- In **Latvia**, small- and medium-sized enterprises receive 71% of R&D tax support and all direct funding support provided by the government [[fig. 1.70 – see below](#)].
- Venture capital (VC) funding can be an important source of equity funding, especially for young technology-based firms; in **Latvia** 19% of VC investment in 2016 went to the ICT sector and 14% to life sciences [[fig. 1.73](#)].
- In **Latvia**, the apps and data & analytics sectors attracted over 80% of equity funding going to young firms in digital-related sectors in the period 2011-2016 [[fig. 1.76](#)].

Figure 1.2 Mobile broadband penetration, OECD, G20 and BRICS, 2016

Total subscriptions and per 100 inhabitants

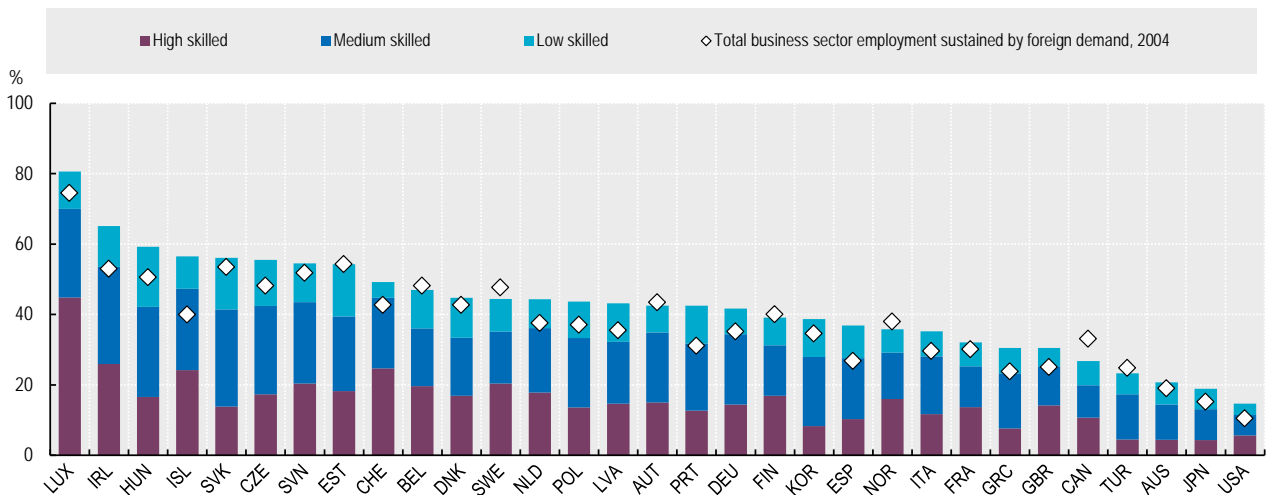


StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933616883>

Source: OECD Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2017: The Digital Transformation, OECD Publishing, Paris, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/sti_scoreboard-2017-en.

Figure 1.38 Business sector jobs sustained by foreign final demand, by skill intensity, 2014

As a percentage of total business sector employment

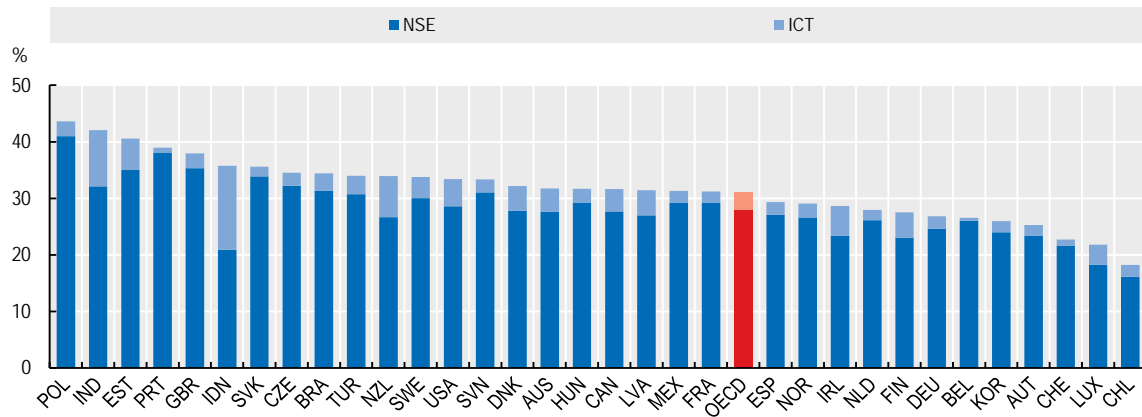


StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933617567>

Source: OECD Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2017: The Digital Transformation, OECD Publishing, Paris, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/sti_scoreboard-2017-en.

Figure 1.59 Women tertiary graduates in natural sciences, engineering and ICTs (NSE & ICT), 2015

As a percentage of all tertiary graduates in NSE & ICT

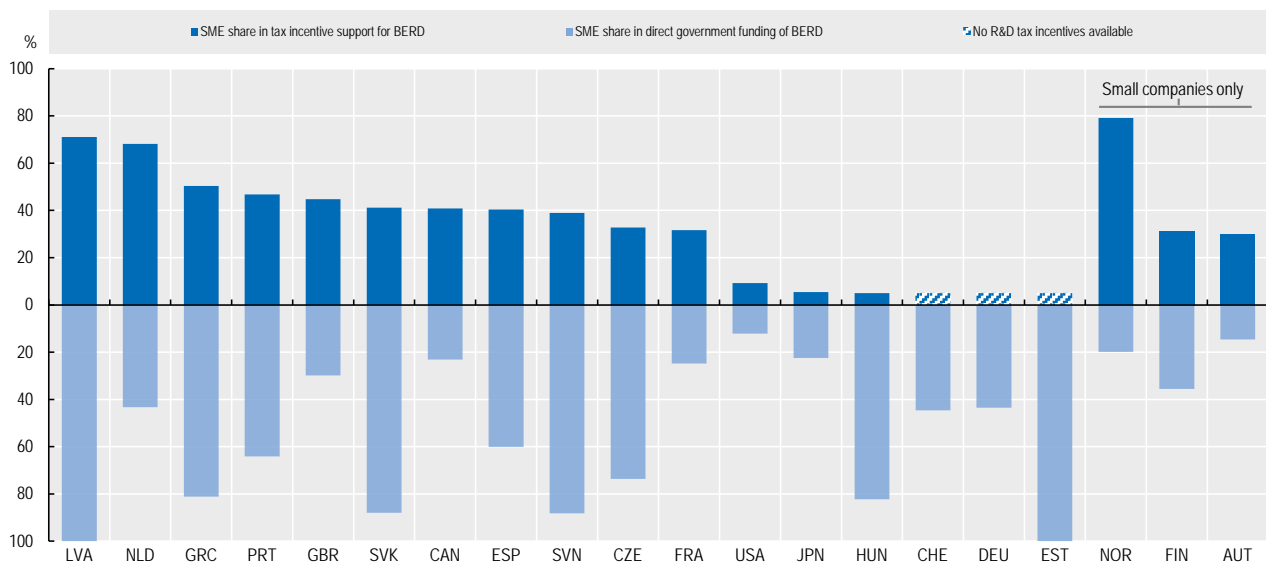


StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933617966>

Source: OECD Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2017: The Digital Transformation, OECD Publishing, Paris, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/sti_scoreboard-2017-en.

Figure 1.70 Direct funding and tax incentive support for business R&D by SMEs, 2015

As a percentage of government support for BERD in each category



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933618175>

Source: OECD Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2017: The Digital Transformation, OECD Publishing, Paris, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/sti_scoreboard-2017-en.

The OECD Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2017: The Digital Transformation



The 2017 edition of the Scoreboard contains over 200 indicators showing how the digital transformation affects science, innovation, the economy, and the way people work and live.

The aim of the STI Scoreboard is not to “rank” countries or develop composite indicators. Instead, its objective is to provide policy makers and analysts with the means to compare economies with others of a similar size or with a similar structure, and monitor progress towards desired national or supranational policy goals.

It draws on OECD efforts to build data infrastructure to link actors, outcomes and impacts, and highlights the potential and limits of certain metrics, as well as indicating directions for further work.

The charts and underlying data in the STI Scoreboard 2017 are available for download and selected indicators contain additional data expanding the time and country coverage of the print edition. For more resources, including online tools to visualise indicators, see the OECD STI Scoreboard webpage (<http://www.oecd.org/sti/scoreboard.htm>).

The OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation

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Discover DSTI at www.oecd.org/sti and the OECD's Going Digital project at www.oecd.org/going-digital.



Further reading

OECD (2017), *OECD Digital Economy Outlook 2017*, OECD Publishing, Paris.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264276284-en>

OECD (2016), *OECD Science, Technology and Innovation Outlook 2016*, OECD Publishing, Paris.
http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/sti_in_outlook-2016-en

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