



## EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2014

*Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators* is the authoritative source for accurate and relevant information on the state of education around the world. It provides data on the structure, finances and performance of the education systems in the 34 OECD member countries, as well as a number of G20 and partner countries.

### Canada

#### Canada has a highly educated population, due in large part to high attainment rates at the college level

In 2012, 53% of Canadian adults held a tertiary qualification, the highest share among OECD countries (OECD average: 32%). The share of Canadians aged 25-64 with tertiary education increased by 13 percentage points between 2000 and 2012. Canada's tertiary attainment rate among 25-34 year-olds (57%) is surpassed by only Japan (59%) and Korea (66%) in the OECD. Canada's high ranking is largely due to its high rates of vocational (tertiary-type B) college-based attainment rather than academic university (tertiary-type A) attainment.<sup>1</sup> Canada ranks first among 34 OECD countries in the proportion of 25-64 year-olds with a college education (24%), but is tied for seventh place (with Korea and Denmark) in the proportion of adults with a university education (28%). As in most OECD countries, women are more likely than men to hold a tertiary qualification. This gender gap is greater amongst 25-34 year-olds (66% for women versus 48% for men) than amongst the broader 25-64 year-old age grouping (58% for women versus 47% for men), reflecting faster attainment growth for women than for men.

#### Canadian adults rank near the OECD average on foundational skills development, while Canadian youth rank above average.

**Canadian adults rank at the OECD average in literacy scores and below average in numeracy scores.** As in other OECD countries, higher education in Canada is associated with higher levels of literacy and numeracy. In Canada, the Survey of Adult Skills<sup>2</sup> found that the average difference in literacy score between adults with tertiary education and those with below upper secondary education is 71 points, similar to the difference found in Germany and the United States, but considerably higher than the OECD average of 62 points. The mean literacy and numeracy scores of Canadian upper secondary and tertiary graduates falls below the OECD average for people with those levels of education.

**Canadian 15-year-olds score significantly above the OECD average in mathematics, but between 2003 and 2012 their average mathematics scores deteriorated, while the share of top performers decreased and the share of low performers increased.** Boys scored higher than girls

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this note, the term "college" refers to both community colleges and polytechnics. It is important to note that many community colleges and polytechnics in Canada offer both tertiary-type 5B and non-tertiary post-secondary type 4 programmes, including occupational preparation and adult education programmes. Statistics Canada data on tertiary education do not distinguish between some adult education and occupational preparation programmes, so international comparisons of tertiary education systems should be handled with some caution.

<sup>2</sup> The Survey of Adult Skills is a product of the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC).

in mathematics, with the difference between their scores being around the OECD average. The strength of the relationship between the performance and socio-economic status in Canada is weaker than the average for OECD countries, indicating that the education system is producing relatively equitable outcomes for students.

### **As in other OECD countries, highly skilled workers are rewarded in the labour market.**

**In 2012, 82% of adults (25-64 year-olds) with tertiary education were employed compared with 75% of those with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education and 56% of those with less than upper secondary education.** Among 25-34 year-olds, employment rates for these educational levels were 84%, 79% and 59% respectively.

In Canada, as in other OECD countries, employment income increases with education. **In 2011, adults (25-64 year-olds) with university education earned approximately 60% more on average than adults with upper secondary education, while adults with college education earned approximately 13% more.** Among 25-34 year-olds, people with university and college education earned 33% and 10% more respectively than those with upper secondary education. These earnings premiums are lower than the OECD average. Adults with less than upper secondary education earned about 13% less on average than those with upper secondary education.

### **Spending on education in Canada is close to the OECD average, with a relatively high share of private funding.**

**In 2011, public spending on all levels of education in Canada represented approximately 13% of total public expenditures and 5.6% of GDP, both of which are close to the OECD average.** Annual expenditure per tertiary student in Canada is one of the highest of all OECD and G20 countries, however. The private share of funding at the tertiary level, at 43% in 2011, is well above the OECD average of 31%, but is considerably less than the share of private funding in the United States (65%) and the United Kingdom (70%). Canada ranks among the countries with the highest tuition fees.

### **Other findings**

- **The proportion of 15-29 year-olds who were neither employed nor in education or training (NEET) increased from 12% in 2008 to 13% in 2012.** The OECD average has remained stable at 17% between 2008 and 2012.
- **The participation rate in formal and/or non-formal education among 25-64 year-olds was 58% in Canada in 2012,** 7 percentage points higher than the OECD average. As in most OECD countries, participation was higher for employed than unemployed people, and increased with the level of educational attainment.
- **Canada's share of international students increased from 4.5% in 2000 to 4.9% in 2012.** In the same period, the United States saw its share of international students decline from 23% to 16%.

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**For more information** on *Education at a Glance 2014* and to access the full set of Indicators, visit [www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm).

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# Key Facts for Canada in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Canada		OECD average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
<b>Educational Access and Output</b>						
	<b>Enrolment rates</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2005</b>	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	m	m	70%	64%	
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	m	m	84%	79%	
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	99%		98%		16 of 44
	<b>Percentage of population that has only attained below upper secondary education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	11%	19%	24%	34%	29 of 36
	<b>Percentage of the population whose highest level of attainment is upper secondary education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	36%	41%	44%	44%	27 of 37
	<b>Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	53%	40%	33%	22%	2 of 37
	25-34 year-olds	57%	48%	40%	26%	3 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	44%	28%	25%	15%	3 of 36
	<b>Entry rates into tertiary education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
C3.1b	Youth expected to enter tertiary-type A programmes before turning 25	m	m	48%	m	
	<b>Graduation rates</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A2.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime	88%	m	84%	76%	
A3.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	35%	27%	38%	28%	
<b>Economic and Labour Market Outcomes</b>						
	<b>Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	11%	9%	14%	9%	20 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	7%	5%	8%	5%	18 of 36
	Tertiary	5%	4%	5%	3%	12 of 36
	<b>Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
A5.4c (Web)	Below upper secondary	11%	8%	13%	9%	20 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	7%	5%	9%	6%	19 of 35
	Tertiary	5%	4%	5%	4%	14 of 35
	<b>Average earnings advantage for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**</b>	<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	139		159		26 of 33
	Men	144		164		23 of 33
	Women	142		162		28 of 34
	<b>Average earnings penalty for 25-64 year-olds who have not attained upper secondary education**</b>	<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	87		78		4 of 33
	Men	86		78		6 of 33
	Women	77		75		14 of 34
	<b>Percentage of 15-29 year-olds neither employed nor in education or training, by highest level of education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
C5.3d (Web)	Below upper secondary	14%	14%	15%	14%	17 of 35
	Upper secondary	14%	13%	16%	14%	21 of 34
	Tertiary	11%	9%	13%	11%	20 of 34

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Table	Indicator	Canada		OECD average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
<b>Financial Investment in Education</b>						
	<b>Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)</b>	<b>2010</b>		<b>2011</b>		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	m		7428		
	Primary education	9232		8296		
	Secondary education	m		9280		
	Tertiary education	23226		13958		
	<b>Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
B2.2	Percentage of GDP	7%	6%	6%	5%	
	<b>Total public expenditure on education</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	13%	12%	13%	13%	
	<b>Share of private expenditure on educational institutions</b>	<b>2010</b>		<b>2011</b>		
B3.1	Pre-primary education	m		19%		
B3.1	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	10%		9%		
B3.1	Tertiary education	43%		31%		
B3.1	All levels of education	24%		16%		
<b>Schools and Teachers</b>						
	<b>Ratio of students to teaching staff</b>	<b>2011</b>		<b>2012</b>		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	m		14		
	Primary education	m		15		
	Secondary education	14		13		
	<b>Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
D4.2	Pre-primary education	792		1001		22 of 28
	Primary education	802	m	782	780	15 of 33
	Lower secondary education	747	m	694	697	9 of 33
	Upper secondary education	751	m	655	628	7 of 33
	<b>Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2005 = 100)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
D3.5	Primary school teachers	m	m	103	103	
	Lower secondary school teachers	m	m	102	103	
	Upper secondary school teachers	m	m	101	103	
	<b>Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	1.05		0.80		6 of 25
	Primary school teachers	1.05		0.85		6 of 28
	Lower secondary school teachers	1.05		0.88		7 of 28
	Upper secondary school teachers	1.06		0.92		9 of 28
<b>New data from the Survey of Adult Skills</b>				<b>Canada</b>	<b>Average of countries with available data</b>	
	<b>Students in tertiary education... (20-34 year-olds)</b>			<b>2012</b>	<b>2012</b>	
A4.1a	...whose parents have not attained upper secondary education			3%	9%	
	...whose parents have an upper secondary education			24%	37%	
	...whose parents have a tertiary education degree			73%	55%	
	<b>Adults in formal and non-formal education</b>			<b>2012</b>	<b>2012</b>	
C6.1(L)	25-64 year-olds			58%	51%	

\* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

\*\* Compared to people with upper secondary education; upper secondary = 100.

The Survey of Adult Skills is a product of the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies

m': data is not available. 'n': magnitude is either negligible or zero. 'c': there are too few observations to provide reliable estimates.