

  
EDUCATION  
AT A GLANCE 2013

## NORWAY

### **Norway has been one of the countries least harmed by the economic crisis**

Norway registered one of the smallest GDP drops of all OECD countries between 2008 and 2009. It fell by 2%, compared with the average decreases of 4% across OECD countries and 5% across the EU21 countries. Between 2009 and 2010, Norway regained 4%, returning its GDP to its level from 2008. Only one-third of OECD countries managed to maintain or increase their GDP between 2008 and 2010, and Norway is one of them.

### **Despite some cuts, Norway is still one of the greatest investors in education**

Norway devotes an annual expenditure of USD 14 081 per student from primary to tertiary education, the third largest within the OECD (OECD average of USD 9 300), which represents 9% of its GDP to education at all levels, one of the highest percentage across OECD countries (6%). At tertiary level, 96% of the total spending comes from public sources, which is much higher than elsewhere: on average across OECD countries, 68% of total expenditure on tertiary education comes from public sources, while for the EU21 countries the proportion is 77%.

### **Notwithstanding increases in unemployment rates, the labour market remains stable...**

The employment rate in Norway for people with all levels of education is 83%, placing it first (together with Iceland, Sweden and Switzerland) among OECD countries. On the other hand, unemployment rates for people with all levels of education have increased between 2008 and 2011. The worsening labour market conditions are affecting people differently, depending on their educational attainment.

Among tertiary-educated adults of working age (25-64 year-olds), the unemployment rate increased at a much slower pace than other OECD countries, growing by 0.2 percentage point compared to 1.5 percentage points among OECD countries on average. The difference was even greater with the EU21 countries, which saw the unemployment rate grow by 2.0 percentage points. On the other hand, Norwegian unemployment rates increased more significantly for the less-educated cohort: between 2008 and 2011 unemployment increased by 1.2 percentage points among those who had not attained upper secondary education, but again lower than the average increase for OECD (3.8 percentage points) and EU21 (5.1 percentage points) countries.

### **Students traditionally graduate at more than 25 years old**

Educational attainment in Norway is high by international standards: 82% of the adult population has at least an upper secondary education (OECD average: 75%), and 38% a tertiary degree (OECD average: 32%). In 2011, 14% of those graduating from an upper secondary programme were more

than 25 years old, one of the highest rates after Iceland, the Netherlands and Portugal, compared with an OECD average of 7%. One of the consequences is that many individuals enter university at a later age. In 2011, among all new entrants into tertiary-type A programmes (i.e. more theoretical university-based courses), more than 30% were more than 25 years old, compared with 19% on average among OECD countries.

## Where are the 15-29 year-olds?

In Norway, the majority of 15-29 year-olds without an upper secondary qualification (62% in 2011) continued their studies, compared with the OECD average of about 68%. Among this level of education, the share of people who were employed in Norway decreased by 5 percentage points between 2008 and 2011 from 33% in 2008 to 28% in 2011, leaving the latest figure still higher than the OECD average of 17%. At the other end of the educational spectrum the situation looks very different. The proportion of Norwegians who were employed among those 15-29 year-olds educated to the tertiary level increased by 8 percentage points since the beginning of the financial crisis (from 63% in 2008 to 71% in 2011), in contrast with the average decrease across the OECD of 4 percentage points. Furthermore, the proportion of 15-29 year-olds with a university degree who decided to continue their studies increased by 2 percentage points between 2008 and 2011, equal to the OECD average increase during the same period.

For all levels of education, only 8% of the 15-29 year-olds in Norway were neither employed nor in education or training (NEET), which is considerably less than the OECD average of 16%. Like most European countries, the proportion of NEETs at all levels of education increased by 2 percentage points between 2008 and 2011.

## Other findings:

- Education in Norway begins for almost all children before they are 5 years old in integrated systems of pre-primary education and care. In Norway, 95% of 3-year-olds (OECD average: 68%) and 97% of 4-year-olds (OECD average: 83%) attend early childhood education, an increase of 12 and 8 percentage points respectively since 2005.
- Teachers in Norway at all levels earn, on average, significantly less than workers with a comparable level of education. For instance, at the lower secondary level, teachers' statutory salaries average 70% of full-time, full-year earnings for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education (OECD average: 85%). Teachers' salary structures in Norway are comparatively flat. The salary at the top of the scale for lower secondary education, which is reached after an average of 16 years teaching, is only 26% higher than starting salaries (OECD average: 61% after 24 years ).

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## Key Facts for Norway in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Norway		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries*
<b>Educational Access and Output</b>								
	<b>Enrolment rates</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2005</b>	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	95%	83%	67%	64%	77%	73%	5 of 36
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	97%	89%	84%	79%	90%	84%	8 of 36
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	100%		99%		98%		10 of 38
	<b>Percentage of population that has attained below upper secondary education</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	18%	m	26%	34%	25%	34%	21 of 35
	<b>Percentage of population that has attained upper secondary education</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	44%	m	44%	44%	48%	46%	14 of 36
	<b>Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.3a	25-64 year-olds	38%	m	31%	22%	28%	20%	11 of 36
	30-34 year-olds	50%		39%		37%		5 of 34
A1.4a	25-34 year-olds	47%	m	39%	26%	36%	24%	7 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	29%	m	24%	15%	21%	14%	11 of 36
	<b>Entry rates into tertiary education</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
C3.1a	Vocational programmes (Tertiary-type B)	n	5%	19%	16%	15%	11%	29 of 32
	University programmes (Tertiary-type A)	76%	67%	60%	48%	59%	46%	6 of 36
	<b>Graduation rates</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A2.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime	90%	m	83%	76%	83%	77%	9 of 27
A3.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	43%	m	39%	28%	41%	27%	8 of 26
<b>Economic and Labour Market Outcomes</b>								
	<b>Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	
A5.4b	Below upper secondary	5.0%	3.8%	12.6%	8.8%	15.6%	10.4%	31 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	2.2%	1.3%	7.3%	4.9%	8.5%	5.2%	36 of 36
	Tertiary	1.5%	1.2%	4.8%	3.3%	5.2%	3.2%	36 of 36
	<b>Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	
A5.4d	Below upper secondary	4.4%	c	12.2%	9.5%	15.1%	11.0%	33 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	2.2%	1.4%	8.0%	5.7%	9.1%	6.1%	35 of 35
	Tertiary	1.5%	1.1%	5.1%	3.6%	5.5%	3.6%	36 of 36
	<b>Average earnings premium for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**</b>	<b>2011 or latest year available</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
A6.1	Men and women	128		157		158		30 of 33
	Men	134		162		164		29 of 33
	Women	134		161		161		30 of 33
	<b>Average earnings penalty for 25-64 year-olds who have not attained upper secondary education**</b>	<b>2011 or latest year available</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
A6.1	Men and women	76		76		76		19 of 33
	Men	76		77		77		18 of 33
	Women	78		74		74		9 of 33
	<b>Percentage of people not in employment, education or training for 15-29 year-olds, by level of education attained</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	
C5.4d	Below upper secondary	9.8%	10.1%	15.8%	14.4%	15.3%	13.5%	28 of 34
	Upper secondary	7.2%	4.3%	16.2%	13.6%	15.1%	11.8%	33 of 34
	Tertiary	6.6%	3.1%	13.3%	10.6%	12.3%	9.6%	29 of 34

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Table	Indicator	Norway		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries*
<b>Financial Investment in Education</b>								
	<b>Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)</b>	<b>2010</b>		<b>2010</b>		<b>2010</b>		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	6610 USD		6762 USD		7085 USD		14 of 32
	Primary education	12255 USD		7974 USD		8277 USD		2 of 34
	Secondary education	13852 USD		9014 USD		9471 USD		3 of 34
	Tertiary education	18512 USD		13528 USD		12856 USD		6 of 33
	<b>Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	
B2.1	As a percentage of GDP	7.6%	6.8%	6.3%	5.4%	5.9%	5.2%	4 of 33
	<b>Total public expenditure on education</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	
B4.1	As a percentage of total public expenditure	15.2%	14.0%	13.0%	12.6%	11.4%	11.4%	9 of 32
	<b>Share of private expenditure on educational institutions</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	
B3.2a	Pre-primary education	15.4%		17.9%		11.3%		15 of 28
B3.2a	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	m	1.0%	8.5%	7.1%	6.1%	5.6%	m
B3.2b	Tertiary education	4.0%	3.7%	31.6%	22.6%	22.7%	14.3%	30 of 30
B3.1	All levels of education	m	5.0%	16.4%	12.1%	10.7%	7.9%	m
<b>Schools and Teachers</b>								
	<b>Ratio of students to teaching staff</b>	<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	m		14 students per teacher		13 students per teacher		m
	Primary education	10 students per teacher		15 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		33 of 35
	Secondary education	10 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		12 students per teacher		31 of 36
	<b>Total intended instruction time for students (hours)</b>	<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
D1.1	Primary education	5234 hours		4717 hours		m		13 of 31
	Lower secondary education	2566 hours		3034 hours		m		24 of 31
	<b>Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
D4.2	Pre-primary education	1508 hours		994 hours		977 hours		3 of 29
	Primary education	741 hours	713 hours	790 hours	780 hours	777 hours	776 hours	20 of 31
	Lower secondary education	663 hours	633 hours	709 hours	697 hours	669 hours	658 hours	14 of 30
	Upper secondary education	523 hours	505 hours	664 hours	628 hours	651 hours	635 hours	26 of 31
	<b>Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2000 = 100)</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	
D3.4	Primary school teachers	m	m	120	120	121	122	m
	Lower secondary school teachers	m	m	116	116	121	121	m
	Upper secondary school teachers	m	m	117	118	118	119	m
	<b>Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education***</b>	<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	0.61		0.80		0.77		17 of 22
	Primary school teachers	0.70		0.82		0.80		18 of 27
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.70		0.85		0.84		19 of 27
	Upper secondary school teachers	0.75		0.89		0.89		19 of 27

\* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

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

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