



EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2013

ITALY

More than a decade of austerity for schools...

Spending per student in primary and secondary schools has remained flat for the past 15 years, increasing by only 0.5% in real terms between 1995 and 2010. Italy is the only OECD country that did not increase spending per student in primary and secondary education since 1995. By contrast, OECD countries increased spending per student at these levels of education by 62%, on average, during this period. While spending per tertiary student rose by 39% over the same 15-year period, well above the 15% OECD average increase, this was largely due to an increase of funding from private sources. Nevertheless, spending for tertiary-level students (USD 9 580, in PPP) remains well below the OECD average (USD 13 528).

Between 2005 and 2011, Italy produced savings in primary and lower secondary education by increasing the number of students per teacher. Average class size did not increase as a result; instead, Italy moved the student/teacher ratio closer to the international average by moderately increasing yearly teaching time for teachers, and by simultaneously reducing students' instruction time. While this could have harmed students' opportunities to learn, so far, savings on school education have not come at the expense of students' learning outcomes: results for Italian 15-year-old students in the PISA 2009 assessment were stable in reading (compared to 2000), and showed significant improvements in mathematics (since 2003) and science (since 2006). The system therefore appears to have moved towards greater efficiency in the use of resources.

...and a waning appetite for higher education among students.

While younger Italians tend to be better educated than their older compatriots, only 15% of 25-64 year-old Italians have a university-level education, compared to the OECD average of 32%. Although entry rates into higher education increased in the early 2000s, the most recent data show that part of the increase was only temporary. Based on entry rates observed during the years in question, the proportion of young people who could be expected to enter a university-level programme during their lifetime increased from 39% in 2000 to 50% in 2002 and 56% in 2006, before dropping back to 48% in 2011 (OECD average: 60%). Are younger Italians losing interest in higher education? Data on 15-year-olds collected through the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) show that the proportion of 15-year-old students who expect to complete a university degree fell by 11 percentage points – from 52.1% to 40.9% – between 2003 and 2009 (OECD [2012], *Grade Expectations: How Marks and Education Policies Shape Students' Ambitions*, PISA, OECD Publishing; Figure 1.2 and Table B1.1).

Italy has the oldest teaching force among OECD countries.

In 2011, 47.6% of teachers in primary education, 61.0% of teachers in lower secondary education, and 62.5% of teachers in upper secondary education were over age 50; and relatively few younger adults

have entered the profession in recent years. Student-teacher ratios are relatively smaller in Italy's primary and secondary schools than in other OECD countries, although at the secondary level, the ratio of students to teaching staff is now in line with the EU21 average.

Other findings:

- Women have made faster progress in higher education than men. While the proportion of 55-64 year-olds with university-level education is almost equal for women and men, one in four 25-34 year-old women (26%) has attained this level of education compared to only one in six men (16%) of the same age.
- As in most other OECD countries, the transition from school to work has been difficult for young Italians during the recent economic crisis, especially among the least-educated youth. Between 2008 and 2011, unemployment among 25-34 year-olds without upper secondary education increased by 3.6 percentage points (the OECD average increase was 4.5 percentage points), while it increased by 2.9 percentage points among secondary school graduates (compared with the OECD average increase of 3.1 percentage points) and by 2.1 percentage points among tertiary-educated young adults (marginally less than the OECD average increase of 2.2 percentage points).
- More than one in five 15-29 year-olds (23.2%) in Italy are neither employed nor in education or training (NEET). Italy has the sixth largest proportion of NEETs in this age group among OECD countries (the OECD average is 15.8%).
- Data on earnings indicate that young graduates of higher education have trouble finding a suitable job. Italians with a tertiary degree aged 25 to 34 earn only 22% more than someone in the same age group with an upper secondary degree (the OECD average is 40% more). By contrast, workers with a tertiary degree aged 55 to 64 earn 68% more than workers in the same age group who have an upper secondary qualification (the OECD average is 73% more).
- Teachers' salaries tend to be lower than in most other OECD countries in real terms; but the gap is small for starting salaries. In 2011, the purchasing power of a starting salary for teachers in Italy was USD 29 418 in upper secondary education (OECD average: USD31 348). For more experienced teachers, the difference with the remaining OECD countries is larger: after 15 years of experience, Italian upper secondary school teachers can expect to earn USD 36 928 (OECD average: USD 41 665).
- Teachers in Italy teach for a similar amount of hours as in other countries, especially in primary schools. While in many systems (e.g. in England, Sweden, Portugal or Spain), teachers are required to remain at school beyond their teaching hours to perform professional duties, in Italy teachers enjoy more freedom in how to organise their non-teaching working hours.

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Key Facts for Italy in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Italy		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries*
Educational Access and Output								
	Enrolment rates	2011	2005	2011	2005	2011	2005	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	92%	97%	67%	64%	77%	73%	6 of 36
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	96%	101%	84%	79%	90%	84%	10 of 36
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	99%		99%		98%		17 of 38
	Percentage of population that has attained below upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	44%	55%	26%	34%	25%	34%	6 of 35
	Percentage of population that has attained upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	41%	36%	44%	44%	48%	46%	18 of 36
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.3a	25-64 year-olds	15%	10%	32%	22%	28%	20%	34 of 36
	30-34 year-olds	20%		39%		37%		31 of 34
A1.4a	25-34 year-olds	21%	11%	39%	26%	36%	24%	34 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	11%	6%	24%	15%	21%	14%	34 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
C3.1a	Vocational programmes (Tertiary-type B)	n	1%	19%	16%	15%	11%	29 of 32
C3.2a	University programmes (Tertiary-type A)	48%	39%	60%	48%	59%	46%	25 of 36
	Graduation rates	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A2.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime	79%	78%	83%	76%	83%	77%	18 of 27
A3.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	32%	19%	39%	28%	41%	27%	19 of 26
Economic and Labour Market Outcomes								
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4b	Below upper secondary	9.4%	7.4%	12.6%	8.8%	15.6%	10.4%	20 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6.0%	4.6%	7.3%	4.9%	8.5%	5.2%	18 of 36
	Tertiary	5.2%	4.3%	4.8%	3.3%	5.2%	3.2%	9 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4d	Below upper secondary	11.3%	10.4%	12.2%	9.5%	15.1%	11.0%	19 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	7.1%	6.1%	8.0%	5.7%	9.1%	6.1%	16 of 35
	Tertiary	6.3%	5.3%	5.1%	3.6%	5.5%	3.6%	8 of 36
	Average earnings premium for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**	2011 or latest year available		2011		2011		
A6.1	Men and women	148		157		158		22 of 33
	Men	160		162		164		14 of 33
	Women	143		161		161		28 of 33
	Average earnings penalty for 25-64 year-olds who have not attained upper secondary education**	2011 or latest year available		2011		2011		
A6.1	Men and women	77		76		77		16 of 33
	Men	76		77		78		17 of 33
	Women	72		74		75		22 of 33
	Percentage of people not in employment, education or training for 15-29 year-olds, by level of education attained	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
C5.4d	Below upper secondary	23.6%	21.3%	15.8%	14.4%	15.3%	13.5%	6 of 34
	Upper secondary	23.0%	17.1%	16.2%	13.6%	15.1%	11.8%	7 of 34
	Tertiary	21.8%	18.6%	13.3%	10.6%	12.3%	9.6%	4 of 34

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Table	Indicator	Italy		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries*
Financial Investment in Education								
	Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2010		2010		2010		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	7177 USD		6762 USD		7085 USD		10 of 32
	Primary education	8296 USD		7974 USD		8277 USD		16 of 34
	Secondary education	8607 USD		9014 USD		9471 USD		18 of 34
	Tertiary education	9580 USD		13528 USD		12856 USD		23 of 33
	Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B2.1	As a percentage of GDP	4.7%	4.5%	6.3%	5.4%	5.9%	5.2%	31 of 33
	Total public expenditure on education	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B4.1	As a percentage of total public expenditure	8.9%	9.8%	13.0%	12.6%	11.4%	11.4%	32 of 32
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B3.2a	Pre-primary education	8.2%		17.9%		11.3%		21 of 28
B3.2a	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	3.4%	2.2%	8.5%	7.1%	6.1%	5.6%	24 of 31
B3.2b	Tertiary education	32.4%	22.5%	31.6%	22.6%	22.7%	14.3%	11 of 30
B3.1	All levels of education	9.9%	5.7%	16.4%	12.1%	10.7%	7.9%	20 of 29
Schools and Teachers								
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2011		2011		2011		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	12 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		13 students per teacher		22 of 31
	Primary education	12 students per teacher		15 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		27 of 35
	Secondary education	12 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		12 students per teacher		19 of 36
	Total intended instruction time for students (hours)	2011		2011		2011		
D1.1	Primary education	4455 hours		4717 hours		m		17 of 31
	Lower secondary education	2970 hours		3034 hours		m		14 of 31
	Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
D4.2	Pre-primary education	950 hours		994 hours		977 hours		15 of 29
	Primary education	770 hours	744 hours	790 hours	780 hours	777 hours	776 hours	19 of 31
	Lower secondary education	630 hours	608 hours	709 hours	697 hours	669 hours	658 hours	19 of 30
	Upper secondary education	630 hours	608 hours	664 hours	628 hours	651 hours	635 hours	15 of 31
	Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2000 = 100)	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
D3.4	Primary school teachers	104	103	120	120	121	122	18 of 23
	Lower secondary school teachers	103	103	116	116	121	121	17 of 22
	Upper secondary school teachers	103	102	117	118	118	119	14 of 22
	Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education	2011		2011		2011		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	0.58		0.80		0.77		18 of 22
	Primary school teachers	0.58		0.82		0.80		23 of 27
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.61		0.85		0.84		23 of 27
	Upper secondary school teachers	0.65		0.89		0.89		22 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. 'n': magnitude is either negligible or zero.