



## 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.

### Netherlands

**Not only have the Dutch achieved high levels of education, they also rank among the most skilled.**

Educational attainment rates in the Netherlands are high compared with other OECD countries. **On average, 32% of Dutch 25-64 year-olds hold a university degree (tertiary-type A), which is significantly above the OECD average of 24%.** Unlike most countries, men are more likely than women to have a university education (33% versus 31%). This is the case in only 10 out of the 34 OECD countries.

At the same time, the skill levels of the Dutch adult population are high compared with other countries. The OECD 2012 Survey of Adult Skills<sup>1</sup> assesses the proficiency of adults in literacy and numeracy skills, which are considered to be foundation skills in that they are essential for other types of learning. **Dutch adults rank third in literacy among OECD countries with a mean score of 282 (OECD average: 272), and fifth in numeracy (280 versus 269) for all levels of education combined.** As in other OECD countries, higher education in the Netherlands is associated with higher levels of literacy. The Netherlands has the fourth highest percentage of adults with tertiary education who reach the highest literacy proficiency levels on the survey (Level 4 or 5): 36% against an OECD average of 24%. These results are partially thanks to the younger generation: whereas in all countries the proportion of adults scoring at Level 4 or 5 for literacy is on average about 10 percentage points greater among younger adults than older adults, in the Netherlands this difference is 20 percentage points.

**Early childhood education is widespread for 3, 4 and 5-year-olds, one of the highest rates among OECD and G20 countries.**

Early childhood education is associated with better performance in school later on. Notably, PISA analyses find that in most countries pupils who had attended at least one year of pre-primary education tend to perform better than those who had not. In the Netherlands, enrolment rates at the age of 3<sup>2</sup> is 13 percentage points higher than the average for the OECD countries (83% compared with 70%). **The Netherlands, together with France, is one of only two countries achieving universal enrolment at the age of 4 and one of only five countries with universal enrolment at the age of 5.**

---

<sup>1</sup> The Survey of Adult Skills is a product of the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC).

<sup>2</sup> The number of 3-year-old children enrolled in pre-primary (private) institutions is the percentage of 3-year old children in daycare and preschools.

## The lowest proportion of young people neither in employment nor in education and training, combined with early inclusion in the labour market.

The proportion of young people neither in employment nor in education or training (NEET) is a good measure of the difficulties young adults face in finding a job, as it includes those who haven't managed to enter the labour force but also haven't continued their studies. In this context, young Dutch people have a more promising outlook than their counterparts across the OECD countries. **The Netherlands has the lowest percentage of young people neither in employment nor in education or training of all OECD countries.** At all levels of education, only 7% of 15-29 year-olds were NEET, compared with an average across OECD countries of 15%.

In most countries, the years spent in education are normally not combined with work. Young people in the Netherlands, however, spend the most number of years both working and studying (including work-study programmes): 5 years on average for 15-29 year-old students versus an average of only 2 years across OECD countries.

### Other findings

- **There has been a positive expansion of access to education.** On average, about 38% of 25-34 year-olds have a higher level of educational attainment than their parents. The average across the OECD is 32%.
- **As in some other European countries, the Netherlands has an ageing teacher population.** Between 2002 and 2012, the proportion of secondary school teachers aged 50 years or older increased from 38% to 46% whereas the increase across OECD countries was from 32% to 36% during the same period.
- **The gross earnings benefits for an individual over his working life for attaining tertiary education are high** compared with an individual who attained only upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education. They amount to USD 442 661 for a man and USD 353 759 for a woman, compared with an OECD average of USD 347 075 and USD 249 434 respectively.
- **The proportion of tertiary-educated women working full time is the lowest of all the OECD countries** – 29% compared with an OECD average of 66%. In fact, the Netherlands has the lowest proportion of women working full time at all levels of education of all the OECD countries: 22%, against an OECD average of 60%.
- **The Netherlands, together with other Nordic countries, is among the most successful in providing opportunities for participation in formal and/or non-formal education to adults:** some 64% adults participated compared with an OECD average of 51%. Compared to other countries, the Dutch system gives more opportunities to unemployed people to join this training: 57% compared with 44% on average.

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

**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)

<b>Questions can be directed to:</b> Corinne Heckmann Directorate for Education and Skills Email: <a href="mailto:Corinne.Heckmann@oecd.org">Corinne.Heckmann@oecd.org</a>	<b>Country Note author:</b> Ignacio Marin Directorate for Education and Skills Email: <a href="mailto:Ignacio.Marin@oecd.org">Ignacio.Marin@oecd.org</a>
---	---

# Key Facts for Netherlands in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Netherlands		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
<b>Educational Access and Output</b>								
	<b>Enrolment rates</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2005</b>	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	83%	m	70%	64%	79%	73%	16 of 37
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	100%	m	84%	79%	89%	84%	2 of 38
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	100%		98%		98%		8 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>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	27%	34%	24%	34%	23%	34%	12 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>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	40%	42%	44%	44%	48%	46%	23 of 37
	<b>Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	33%	24%	33%	22%	29%	20%	20 of 37
	25-34 year-olds	41%	27%	40%	26%	37%	24%	16 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	27%	19%	25%	15%	22%	14%	15 of 36
	<b>Entry rates into tertiary education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</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	59%	m	48%	m	48%	m	5 of 35
	<b>Graduation rates</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</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	94%	m	84%	76%	83%	77%	4 of 29
A3.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	45%	35%	38%	28%	38%	27%	7 of 27
<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>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	7%	3%	14%	9%	17%	10%	28 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	5%	2%	8%	5%	9%	5%	28 of 36
	Tertiary	3%	2%	5%	3%	6%	3%	26 of 36
	<b>Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
A5.4c (Web)	Below upper secondary	6%	4%	13%	9%	16%	11%	31 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	4%	2%	9%	6%	10%	6%	30 of 35
	Tertiary	3%	2%	5%	4%	6%	4%	30 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>		<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	156		159		159		16 of 33
	Men	153		164		166		20 of 33
	Women	162		162		160		16 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>		<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	83		78		79		8 of 33
	Men	85		78		80		9 of 33
	Women	73		75		76		21 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>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
C5.3d (Web)	Below upper secondary	8%	8%	15%	14%	15%	13%	33 of 35
	Upper secondary	6%	4%	16%	14%	16%	12%	34 of 34
	Tertiary	4%	2%	13%	11%	12%	10%	34 of 34

# Key Facts for Netherlands in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Netherlands		OECD average		EU21 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>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	8020		7428		7933		11 of 36
	Primary education	8036		8296		8482		19 of 38
	Secondary education	12100		9280		9615		6 of 38
	Tertiary education	17549		13958		13572		8 of 37
	<b>Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
B2.2	Percentage of GDP	6%	5%	6%	5%	6%	5%	16 of 37
	<b>Total public expenditure on education</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	12%	11%	13%	13%	12%	11%	20 of 34
	<b>Share of private expenditure on educational institutions</b>	<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
B3.1	Pre-primary education	12%		19%		13%		20 of 33
B3.1	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	13%		9%		6%		7 of 36
B3.1	Tertiary education	29%		31%		21%		17 of 34
B3.1	All levels of education	18%		16%		11%		11 of 33
<b>Schools and Teachers</b>								
	<b>Ratio of students to teaching staff</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	16		14		13		13 of 31
	Primary education	16		15		14		18 of 36
	Secondary education	17		13		12		6 of 37
	<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>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
D4.2	Pre-primary education	930		1001		988		15 of 28
	Primary education	930	930	782	780	761	776	5 of 33
	Lower secondary education	750	867	694	697	657	658	8 of 33
	Upper secondary education	750	867	655	628	638	635	8 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>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
D3.5	Primary school teachers	m	m	103	103	99	103	
	Lower secondary school teachers	m	m	102	103	99	103	
	Upper secondary school teachers	m	m	101	103	98	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>		<b>2012</b>		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	0.69		0.80		0.76		16 of 25
	Primary school teachers	0.69		0.85		0.81		22 of 28
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.82		0.88		0.85		18 of 28
	Upper secondary school teachers	0.82		0.92		0.90		17 of 28
<b>New data from the Survey of Adult Skills</b>				<b>Netherlands</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			13%		9%		
	...whose parents have an upper secondary education			25%		37%		
	...whose parents have a tertiary education degree			61%		55%		
	<b>Adults in formal and non-formal education</b>			<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		
C6.1(L)	25-64 year-olds			64%		51%		

\* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

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

\*\*\* Vocational Education and Training teachers are excluded.

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.