France remains the country with the highest share of public expenditures among all OECD countries

With a share of public expenditures at 56.5% of GDP in 2016, France has remained the country with the highest levels of government expenditures between 2007 and 2016 among OECD countries, where on average public expenditures amount to 40.9% of GDP. Moreover, the French primary deficit, which reached 1.7% of GDP in 2015, is foreseen to impact on government debt levels. Social protection represented 43% of government expenditures in France, 10 p.p. above the OECD average, followed by health care with 14%, which is below the OECD average by 4 p.p.

The government has high standards for government data openness and transparency

France has made great strides in preparing and facilitating access to information related to public services and overall government functioning. This is reflected in OECD OURdata (Open-Useful-Reusable data) index, where France achieved the second-highest score. On the other hand, as in most OECD countries, further effort might be needed to address persisting inequalities in access to digital public services by income, education level, age and living area.

Government employment has been quite stable since 2007 in France

The share of general government employment as a percentage of total employment has been close to 22% since 2007 and slightly declined to 21% in 2015, somewhat above OECD’s average of 18%. In 2015, women represented 63% of all public sector employment, above the OECD average of 58%. Moreover, the share of women occupying senior management positions in central government in France reached 32% in 2015, slightly below the OECD average of 33%.
Public Finance and Economics

Fiscal balance* (2015, 2016) % of GDP

-3.4% 2016
-3.6% 2015
-2.8% 2015

Government expenditures (2015, 2016) % of GDP

56.5% 2016
57.0% 2015
40.9% 2015

Government investment (2015, 2016) % of GDP

3.5% 2016
3.6% 2015
3.2% 2015

Government gross debt* (2015, 2016) % of GDP

123.4% 2016
112% 2015

How to read the figures:
Country value in blue (not represented if not available)
Average of OECD countries in red
Range of OECD country values in grey
Values have been rounded.
*n.a. refers to data not available

Public Employment

General government employment as % of total employment (2015)

France 21.4%

Women in the civil service...

France 59.0%

... and in senior positions (2015)

France 32.0%

Percentage of central government employees aged 55 years or older (2015)

France 23.9%

Public Sector Compensation

Annual compensation across central government positions (2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secretarial Positions</th>
<th>Senior Professionals</th>
<th>Middle Managers (D3 positions)</th>
<th>Senior Managers (D1 positions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>72,100</td>
<td>113,100</td>
<td>270,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USD PPP</td>
<td>134,500</td>
<td>190,200</td>
<td>231,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Human Resource Management

Composite indicators on HRM practices in central government (2016)

- Extent of delegation of HRM practices in line ministries: 0.66 (France), 0.64 (Global average)
- Extent of the use of performance assessments in HR decisions: 0.76 (France), 0.64 (Global average)
- Extent of the use of performance related pay: 0.77 (France), 0.66 (Global average)
- Use of separate HRM practices for senior civil servants: 0.95 (France), 0.55 (Global average)
- Collection of administrative data: 0.68 (France), 0.64 (Global average)

Source: OECD (2016) Strategic Human Resources Management Survey

Budgeting

Performance budgeting practices at the central level of government (2016)

- Composite index: France 0.46, Global average 0.41

Source: OECD (2016) Survey of Performance Budgeting

Regulatory governance

Composite indices on regulatory governance for primary laws* (2014)

- Stakeholder engagement in developing regulations: 1.78 (France), 2.09 (Global average)
- Regulatory Impact Assessment for developing regulations: 2.07 (France), 2.05 (Global average)
- Ex post evaluation of regulations: 1.09 (France), 1.54 (Global average)

* See Notes

Source: OECD Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance (iREG)

Public Procurement

General government procurement expenditures (2015)

- France: 25.6%, 29.1%

Source: OECD National Accounts

Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2016)

- Support for green public procurement: France n.a.
- Support for SMEs: France n.a.
- Support for innovative goods and services: France n.a.

Source: OECD (2016) Survey on Public Procurement
**Government at a Glance 2017**

*Government at a Glance* provides readers with a dashboard of key indicators assembled with the goal of contributing to the analysis and international comparison of public sector productivity and performance. Indicators on government revenues, expenditures, and employment are presented, alongside key output and outcome data for education, health and justice. Information on key enablers to increase productivity including on digital government, budget procedures, strategic human resource management, open government data and innovative practices are also included. In a context of tight budget constraints in many member countries, good indicators are needed more than ever, in order to help governments make informed decisions regarding resource allocation and to help restore confidence in government institutions.

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in *Government at a Glance 2017* are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2017-en](http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2017-en)

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets: [www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm](http://www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm)