Germany had a fiscal surplus in both 2015 and 2016, while OECD countries on average continue to register deficits

The overall government balance in 2015 reached 0.7% of GDP, while OECD countries had on average a deficit of 2.8% in 2015, increasing slightly to a surplus of 0.8% of GDP in 2016 in Germany as growth remains solid and the fiscal position of government becomes stronger. The structural primary fiscal balance, adjusted for the economic cycle, one-off fiscal operations and net interest payments, is also positive at 1.5% surplus of potential GDP for 2015, and projected to remain positive through 2017.

Chapter 2. Public finance and economics
- General government fiscal balance as a percentage of GDP
- General government structural primary balance as a percentage of potential GDP
- General government projected structural primary balance as a percentage of potential GDP

Germany has improved the performance information that is provided alongside the budget in recent years

It began by introducing targeting revisions of the budget documentation for three federal ministries aimed at enhancing transparency in regard to the broad objectives of government spending and efficiency in implementation. The reformed structure was positively received by parliamentarians and as a result, was rolled out to other ministries via a step-by-step approach.

Chapter 5. Budgeting practices and procedures
- Features of performance budgeting framework
- Use of performance budgeting practices at the central level of government

Women have a high participation in politics in Germany

The participation of women in politics is an important feature of an inclusive and diverse political system. Both in parliament and legislature bodies, the average share of seats held by women for 2017 across OECD countries was 29%. In Germany, the share of women in parliament is even higher: the proportion of women parliamentarians was 37% for the same year. In addition, within the executive branch, while the share of women ministers in 2017 was 28% on average among all OECD countries, in Germany this share reached 33%.

Chapter 3. Public employment and pay
- Share of women parliamentarians and legislated gender quotas
- Share of women ministers
Public Finance and Economics

Fiscal balance* (2015, 2016) % of GDP

-0.8% 2016
0.7% 2015

Government expenditures (2015, 2016) % of GDP

44.3% 2016
44.0% 2015

Government investment (2015, 2016) % of GDP

2.1% 2016
2.1% 2015

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

76.5% 2016
79.3% 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)

10.6% Germany

Women in the civil service ...

Women in the civil service aged 55 years or older (2015)

44.7% Germany

... and in senior positions (2015)

n.a. Germany

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

20.1% Germany

Public Sector Compensation

Annual compensation across central government positions (2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>2015 USD PPP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secretarial Positions</td>
<td>69,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Professionals</td>
<td>52,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Managers (D3)</td>
<td>130,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Managers (D1)</td>
<td>282,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the compensation of employees in central / federal governments

* See Notes

Source: OECD National Accounts

* SNA definition, see Notes

Source: OECD
Human Resource Management

Composite indicators on HRM practices in central government (2016)

- Extent of delegation of HRM practices in line ministries
- Extent of the use of performance assessments in HR decisions
- Extent of the use of performance related pay
- Use of separate HRM practices for senior civil servants
- Collection of administrative data

Germany

Source: OECD (2016) Strategic Human Resources Management Survey

Budgeting

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

Germany

Source: OECD (2016) Survey of Performance Budgeting

Regulatory governance

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

Stakeholder engagement in developing regulations
Regulatory Impact Assessment for developing regulations
Ex post evaluation of regulations

Germany

* See Notes

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

Public Procurement

General government procurement expenditures (2015)

Germany

Source: OECD National Accounts

Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2016)

Support for green public procurement
Support for SMEs
Support for innovative goods and services

Germany

Source: OECD (2016) Survey on Public Procurement
Fiscal balance as reported in the System of National Accounts (SNA) framework, also referred to as net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of government, is calculated as total government revenues minus total government expenditures.

Regulatory governance indicators: The results for stakeholder engagement and Regulatory Impact Assessment apply exclusively to processes for developing primary laws initiated by the executive. Data is not applicable to the United States, where all primary laws are initiated by Congress. In the majority of countries, most primary laws are initiated by the executive, except for Mexico and Korea, where a higher share of primary laws are initiated by parliament/congress (respectively 90.6% and 84%).

Government gross debt is reported according to the SNA definition, which differs from the definition applied under the Maastricht Treaty. It is defined as all liabilities that require payment or payments of interest or principal by the debtor to the creditor at a date or dates in the future. All debt instruments are liabilities, but some liabilities such as shares, equity and financial derivatives are not debt.

Notes
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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

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