Fiscal balances remained in surplus in Norway in recent years

In 2015, Norway reached a large fiscal surplus of 6% of GDP, and a primary fiscal balance, excluding net interest payments on government debt, of 3.1% of GDP. The structural fiscal balance, adjusted for the economic cycle, one-off fiscal operations, resulted to be also positive at 0.2% of potential GDP in 2015 although it moved to -0.1% in 2016 and it is foreseen to maintain this level in 2017 and 2018.

Norway has taken significant steps to improve its regulatory impact assessment processes since 2015

While Norway scored comparatively low on the iREG indicators for Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) in 2015 (score of 1.1 for primary laws compared to an OECD average of 2.1), it has recently introduced several measures to improve its RIA framework. These include an update of the official guidelines for conducting RIA and stakeholder engagement, and the establishment of the Better Regulation Council in 2016, which provides regulatory oversight and evaluates if RIAs have been carried out in accordance with formal requirements. The implementation of these measures is currently ongoing and their impact should be systematically evaluated in the future to gauge their impact.

Satisfaction with the education system is the highest among all OECD countries

The share of citizens who are satisfied with the country’s education system reached 85% in Norway in 2016, increasing from 77% in 2007, and becoming the highest share among all OECD countries during this period. This is associated with high access to educational institutions and improvements in PISA scores in all three subjects (sciences, mathematics and reading) between 2006 and 2015.
Public Finance and Economics

Fiscal balance* (2015, 2016) % of GDP
-10% 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%
2015 2016 Norway Norway
Source: OECD National Accounts

Government expenditures (2015, 2016) % of GDP
20% 30% 40% 50% 60%
2015 2016 Norway Norway
Source: OECD National Accounts

Government investment (2015, 2016) % of GDP
0% 2% 4% 6% 8%
2015 2015 Norway Norway
Source: OECD National Accounts

Government gross debt* (2015, 2016) % of GDP
0% 50% 100% 150% 200% 250%
2015 2016 Norway Norway
Source: OECD National Accounts

Public Employment

General government employment as % of total employment (2015)
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50%
Norway Norway 30.0%
Source: OECD National Accounts

Women in the civil service ...
0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
Norway Norway 54.7% 53.0%
Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the Composition of the workforce in Central/federal Governments

... and in senior positions (2015)
0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
Norway Norway 43.4% 32.4%
Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the Composition of the workforce in Central/federal Governments

Percentage of central government employees aged 55 years or older (2015)
10% 20% 30% 40% 50%
Norway Norway 24.6% 24.9%
Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the Composition of the workforce in Central/federal Governments

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</td>
<td>76,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>52,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Managers</td>
<td>88,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Managers</td>
<td>216,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Composite indicators on HRM practices in central government (2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composite index from 0 lowest to 1 highest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extent of delegation of HRM practices in line ministries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD (2016) Strategic Human Resources Management Survey

Budgeting

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composite index from 0 lowest to 1 highest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD (2016) Survey of Performance Budgeting

Public Procurement

General government procurement expenditures (2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of government expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD National Accounts

Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support for green public procurement</th>
<th>Support for SMEs</th>
<th>Support for innovative goods and services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD (2016) Survey on Public Procurement

Regulatory governance

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composite index from 0 lowest to 4 highest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder engagement in developing regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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