Portugal has the fourth largest general government gross debt among OECD countries. Public debt level in Portugal was 136% of GDP in 2019. This was the fourth highest among OECD members, and above the OECD average of 109% of GDP. General government gross debt increased to 155% of GDP in 2020, compared to 115% of GDP on average among 22 countries which are EU and OECD members, and for which data is available (Figure 2.8).

Chapter 2 – Public finance and economics

Figure 2.8. General government gross debt as a percentage of GDP, 2007, 2019 and 2020

Portugal has a comprehensive strategy in place on public sector integrity, based on inter-governmental and public consultation. Portugal is one of the four countries that set up an inter-institutional body to prepare an analysis on public integrity risks. However, improvements could be made to carry out integrity risk assessments systematically (Figure 12.1) and to make available the integrity strategy as well the results of public consultation on web portals (Figure 12.2).

Chapter 12 – Public sector integrity

Figure 12.1. Use of evidence-based problem analysis and diagnostics when developing integrity strategies, 2020

Figure 12.2. Inclusiveness and transparency of intergovernmental and public consultations, 2020

Portugal has adopted a national youth strategy to improve access and responsiveness of public services for young people. Portugal was one of the twenty OECD countries with a national youth strategy in 2020, and one of only two OECD countries with a cross-sectoral approach covering all 7 service areas surveyed (education, employment, health, housing, justice, transportation, and sport and culture) (Figure 14.32).

Chapter 14 – Serving citizens

Figure 14.32. Thematic focus of national youth strategies, 2020
Public governance practices

Composite indices of public service leadership and capability (2020)
From 0 (worst) to 1 (best)

- Development of a diverse workforce: 0.43
- Policies to manage senior civil servants: 0.49

Green budgeting tools (2021)

- Ex ante or ex post environmental assessment: YES
- Ex ante or ex post green budget tagging: NO

Objectives included in infrastructure and public procurement strategies (2020)

- Environment
  - Public procurement strategy includes responsible business conduct objectives on: N. A.
  - Infrastructure strategy includes objectives on: 19 YES, 5 NO

- Human rights
  - Public procurement strategy includes responsible business conduct objectives on: 21 YES, 5 NO
  - Infrastructure strategy includes objectives on: N. A.

- Gender
  - Public procurement strategy includes responsible business conduct objectives on: N. A.
  - Infrastructure strategy includes objectives on: 8 YES, 18 NO

Citizen and stakeholder participation (2020 or 2021)

- Early consultation in the regulation-making process: NOT SYSTEMATIC
- Centres of government consulted stakeholders on COVID-19 recovery: YES
- Centres of government consulted stakeholders on strategies to manage the COVID-19 crisis: NO
- Central government portal(s) for carrying out online consultations: YES

Digital government index (2019)
Composite index from 0 (worst) to 1 (best)

- Portugal: 0.58
- OECD: 0.51
- Range of OECD country values: 0.26 to 0.74

Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments and OECD Survey on public service leadership and capability
Source: OECD Survey on centres of government's role in managing the COVID-19 crisis, OECD open government Survey and OECD indicators of regulatory policy and governance (iREG) Survey
Source: OECD Survey on emerging green budgeting practices
Source: OECD Survey on infrastructure governance and OECD Survey on leveraging responsible business conduct through public procurement
Source: OECD Survey on digital government 1.0
Government results

Government provides information on law enforcement, due process and respect of human rights (2020)
Composite index from 0 (worst) to 1 (best)

Citizens who express trust in public institutions (2020)

Citizens who believe they have a say in what government does (2018)

Income inequality before taxes and post taxes and transfers (GINI index, 2018)

Government at a Glance 2021

Published every two years, Government at a Glance provides reliable, internationally comparable indicators on government activities and their results in OECD countries.

The 2021 edition includes input indicators on public finance and employment; while processes include data on institutions, budgeting practices and procedures, human resources management, regulatory governance, public procurement, the governance of infrastructure, public sector integrity, open government and digital government. Outcomes cover core government results (e.g. trust, political efficacy, inequality reduction) and indicators on access, responsiveness, quality and citizen satisfaction for the education, health and justice sectors. Governance indicators are especially useful for monitoring and benchmarking governments’ progress in their public sector reforms.

Each indicator in the publication is presented in a user-friendly format, consisting of graphs and/or charts illustrating variations across countries and over time, brief descriptive analyses highlighting the major findings conveyed by the data, and a methodological section on the definition of the indicator and any limitations in data comparability.

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance 2021 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication: https://doi.org/10.1787/1c258f55-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

Figure notes

Data on Public finance and economics, which are based on the System of National Accounts (SNA), were extracted on 11 May 2021 and data on General government employment were extracted on 12 April 2021. The range of country values refers to year 2019.

Fiscal balance as reported in SNA framework, also referred to as net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of government, is calculated as total government revenues minus total government expenditures.

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.

The range of country values for the central government workforce by age refers to the 18-34 group.

Data on trust in the civil service and parliament are 2018 for most countries.

The range of country values for share of women in management positions in the central government refers to senior management.

Data on employment by age and gender were provided by the Portuguese authorities and correspond to December 31, 2020.

Data on trust in the public service refers to the proportion of citizens who express having confidence in the institution.

The range of country values for income inequality before taxes and post taxes and transfers refers to GINI after taxes and transfers for the working age population.

Source: World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index 2020

Source: World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index 2020

Source: World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index 2020

Source: OECD calculations based on rounds 8 and 9 of the ESS and the 2007-2020 round of the World Values Survey

Source: OECD calculations based on rounds 8 and 9 of the ESS and the 2007-2020 round of the World Values Survey

Source: OECD calculations based on rounds 8 and 9 of the ESS and the 2007-2020 round of the World Values Survey

Source: OECD calculations based on rounds 8 and 9 of the ESS and the 2007-2020 round of the World Values Survey

Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

Source: OECD Income Distribution Database