Switzerland’s public finances remain solid, despite the impact of COVID. Public debt in 2019, pre-COVID, was 41% of GDP, the sixth lowest among OECD countries (Figure 2.8). The primary structural balance is estimated at -0.8% of potential GDP in 2020, substantially above the average of -3.1% of potential GDP (Figure 2.6).

Confidence in the national government in Switzerland is the highest among OECD countries. In 2020, 85% of respondents reported trust in government in Switzerland, in comparison to an average of 51% among OECD countries. This is an increase from 2007, when the share was of 63% (Figure 13.1).

Switzerland is performing well in citizen satisfaction with healthcare, education and justice. In 2020, a larger share of citizens in Switzerland than the OECD average reported being satisfied with healthcare (91% vs. 71% OECD average, Figure 14.1), education (83% vs. 68% OECD average, Figure 14.2) and having confidence in the judiciary (83% vs. 57% OECD average, Figure 14.3).
Government resources

### Government expenditures (2019) % of GDP

- 25% Social protection
- 33% Health
- 41% General public services
- 56% Education
- 1.3% Environmental protection

### Government investment (2019) % of GDP

- 3.1% Social protection
- 3.3% Health
- 6.3% General public services

### Fiscal balance (2019) % of GDP

- 1.4% Switzerland

### Government gross debt (SNA definition, 2019) % of GDP

- 41%

Source: OECD National Accounts

### Government gross debt (SNA definition, 2019) % of GDP

- 109%

Source: OECD National Accounts

Switzerland

OECD

Range of OECD country values

N. A. not available

Values have been rounded

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### Government expenditure by selected functions (2019) % of GDP

- Environmental protection: 0.6%
- Education: 5.4%
- General public services: 4.2%
- Health: 2.1%
- Social protection: 7.9%

Source: OECD National Accounts

### General government employment as a % of total employment (2019)

- 10.1%
- 17.9%
- 30.7%

Source: OECD National Accounts

### Central government workforce by age (2020)

- 18-34: 18%
- 35-54: 57%
- 55+: 25%

Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments

### Share of women in management positions in the central government (2020)

- Senior management: 22%
- Middle management: 37%
- 32%

Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments
Public governance practices

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Development of a diverse workforce</th>
<th>Policies to manage senior civil servants</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range of OECD country values</td>
<td>0.0 - 1.0</td>
<td>0.0 - 1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments and OECD Survey on public service leadership and capability

**Green budgeting tools (2021)**

- **Ex ante or ex post environmental assessment**
  - NO GREEN BUDGETING
  - 12 YES 2 NO

- **Ex ante or ex post green budget tagging**
  - NO GREEN BUDGETING
  - 7 YES 7 NO

Source: OECD and European Commission – Joint survey on emerging green budgeting practices

**Objectives included in infrastructure and public procurement strategies (2020)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public procurement strategy includes responsible business conduct objectives on...</th>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Human rights</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES 21 YES 5 NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>13 YES 13 NO</td>
<td>YES 8 YES 18 NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure strategy includes objectives on...</td>
<td>YES 19 YES 5 NO</td>
<td>YES 5 YES 19 NO</td>
<td>NO 7 YES 17 NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD Survey on infrastructure governance and OECD Survey on leveraging responsible business conduct through public procurement

**Citizen and stakeholder participation (2020 or 2021)**

- **Early consultation in the regulation-making process**
  - NOT SYSTEMATIC
  - 8 SYSTEMATIC 2 NEVER 27 NOT SYSTEMATIC

- **Centres of government consulted stakeholders on strategies to manage the COVID-19 crisis**
  - N. A.
  - 18 YES 8 NO

- **Centres of government consulted stakeholders on COVID-19 recovery**
  - N. A.
  - 13 YES 13 NO

- **Central government portal(s) for carrying out online consultations**
  - N. A.
  - 22 YES 10 NO

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0.26</th>
<th>0.51</th>
<th>0.74</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>N. A.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD Survey on digital government 1.0

Values have been rounded
Government results

Citizens who express satisfaction with public services (2020)

- Police: 92% (38 - 92%)
- Healthcare: 91% (26 - 93%)
- Education: 83% (27 - 92%)
- Judiciary: 83% (15 - 91%)

Citizens who express trust in public institutions (2020)

- Civil service: 67% (8 - 71%)
- Parliament: 59% (5 - 70%)
- Government: 85% (15 - 85%)

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

- 74% (15% - 40%)

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

- Maximum inequality: 0.41
- Minimum inequality: 0.29

Figure notes

- Data on public finance and economics, which are based on the System of National Accounts (SNA), were extracted on 11 May 2021.
- 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.
- Citizens who express satisfaction with public services: for the judiciary and the police, the data reflect 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.

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