



EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2014

Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators is the authoritative source for accurate and relevant information on the state of education around the world. It provides data on the structure, finances and performance of the education systems in the 34 OECD member countries, as well as a number of G20 and partner countries.

Iceland

Iceland continues to have the highest employment rate of OECD countries across all levels of educational attainment.

In 2012, Iceland's employment rate for 25-64 year-olds was one of the highest overall among OECD countries that year; notably, this high rate persists across all levels of educational attainment. **In 2012, Iceland's employment rates for 25-64 year-olds with below upper secondary education (73%), upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education (85%), and tertiary education (91%) were the highest of any OECD country with available data.** Although these rates remained fairly constant between 2009 and 2012 for those who had attained tertiary, upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education, the employment rate for Icelandic individuals with less than secondary education fell by 4 percentage points over that period.

Of the Nordic countries, Iceland spends the least per student on education, with focused investments in pre-primary and primary schooling.

In 2011, Iceland spent USD 9 180 per student per year on education, from primary to tertiary levels, including research and development (R&D) activities. This level of educational spending per student was the lowest of any Nordic country that year, and was also lower than the OECD average of USD 9 487. **In Iceland, total public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP has consistently decreased in recent years; although spending reached a post-2000 peak of 7.8% in 2009, by 2011 it had fallen to 7.4%, though still above the OECD average of 5.6% of GDP.** Iceland ranked second of all Nordic countries on this measure in 2011, although it is the only Nordic country with lower public expenditure as a percentage of GDP in 2011 than in 2008.

Despite comparatively low annual spending per student, Iceland invests strongly in pre-primary and primary education compared with other Nordic countries. In 2011, Iceland spent an average of USD 9 138 per student per year on pre-primary education and USD 10 339 per student per year on primary education, the second-highest expenditure in these categories of any Nordic country that year. In contrast, Iceland had the lowest annual expenditure per student on secondary and tertiary education of any Nordic country (USD 8 470 and USD 8 612 respectively). **This high pre-primary expenditure corresponds to above-average enrolment in early childhood education; of OECD countries, Iceland ties Norway and Spain for the fourth-highest enrolment of 3 and 4-year-olds in early childhood education, with 96% of children enrolled in 2012 (compared with the OECD average of 76%).**

Patterns of tertiary education are different in Iceland than in most OECD countries.

Sixty percent of young people in Iceland are expected to graduate from university at some point in their lifetimes as of 2012. This was the highest projection of any educational system included in this report, and was far higher than the OECD average for that year of 39%. Although both men and women in Iceland expected to graduate from academic (tertiary-type A) institutions at higher rates than the OECD average, women far outperformed men in this regard. **In 2012, the expected tertiary graduation rate of women in Iceland was 78% (compared with an OECD average of 46%), while for men it was just 44% (compared with an OECD average of 31%).**

Icelandic students also enter tertiary education later than students in most OECD countries, due to the fact that the theoretical age for completing general upper secondary education is 20. **In 2012, the average age of entry into tertiary-type A institutions in Iceland was 26, the oldest of any OECD country for which these data are available.** The OECD average was 22 for tertiary-type A institutions in 2012. This phenomenon corresponds to Iceland's tertiary attainment rate among 25-34 year-olds of 38% in 2012 (against an OECD average of 40%), the lowest of any of the Nordic countries.

Other findings

- **In Iceland, compensation for upper secondary teachers continues to fall:** Icelandic upper secondary teachers' salaries reached their peak in 2006 and statutory salaries for upper secondary school teachers with 15 years of experience or minimum training have decreased every year until 2012, the most recent year for which data are available. By 2012, the salaries of Icelandic upper secondary school teachers with 15 years of experience were 13 percentage points less than they were in 2005. In contrast, salaries of primary and lower secondary teachers decreased by just 4 percentage points over this same period.
- **Small class sizes are common in Icelandic pre-primary and primary education:** in 2012, the student-to-teacher ratio for pre-primary education in Iceland was 6:1, tying with Sweden for the lowest ratio among the 27 OECD countries for which data were available. Iceland also had the lowest student-to-teacher ratio in primary education, tying with Norway at a ratio of 10:1.
- **The teaching profession in Iceland is ageing:** in 2012, 43% of secondary teachers in Iceland were over 50 years old, up from 39% in 2002. The OECD averages were 32% in 2002 and 36% in 2012.

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For more information on *Education at a Glance 2014* and to access the full set of Indicators, visit

www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm.

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Key Facts for Iceland in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Iceland		OECD average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
Educational Access and Output						
	Enrolment rates	2012	2005	2012	2005	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	96%	94%	70%	64%	4 of 37
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	96%	95%	84%	79%	11 of 38
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	99%		98%		17 of 44
	Percentage of population that has only attained below upper secondary education	2011	2000	2012	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	29%	44%	24%	34%	9 of 36
	Percentage of the population whose highest level of attainment is upper secondary education	2011	2000	2012	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	36%	32%	44%	44%	29 of 37
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2011	2000	2012	2000	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	35%	24%	33%	22%	18 of 37
	25-34 year-olds	38%	30%	40%	26%	24 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	25%	13%	25%	15%	19 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	
C3.1b	Youth expected to enter tertiary-type A programmes before turning 25	52%	m	48%	m	13 of 35
	Graduation rates	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A2.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime	95%	67%	84%	76%	2 of 29
A3.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	60%	33%	38%	28%	1 of 27
Economic and Labour Market Outcomes						
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women	2012	2008	2012	2008	
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	7%	2%	14%	9%	27 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	4%	m	8%	5%	30 of 36
	Tertiary	3%	m	5%	3%	27 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2012	2008	2012	2008	
A5.4c (Web)	Below upper secondary	8%	m	13%	9%	25 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	9%	6%	
	Tertiary	m	m	5%	4%	
	Average earnings advantage for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**	2012 or latest year available		2012 or latest year available		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	m		159		
	Men	m		164		
	Women	m		162		
	Average earnings penalty for 25-64 year-olds who have not attained upper secondary education**	2012 or latest year available		2012 or latest year available		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	m		78		
	Men	m		78		
	Women	m		75		
	Percentage of 15-29 year-olds neither employed nor in education or training, by highest level of education	2012	2008	2012	2008	
C5.3d (Web)	Below upper secondary	9%	5%	15%	14%	30 of 35
	Upper secondary	8%	m	16%	14%	31 of 34
	Tertiary	m	m	13%	11%	

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Table	Indicator	Iceland		OECD average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
Financial Investment in Education						
	Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2011		2011		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	9138		7428		7 of 36
	Primary education	10339		8296		6 of 38
	Secondary education	8470		9280		22 of 38
	Tertiary education	8612		13958		28 of 37
	Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP	2011	2000	2011	2000	
B2.2	Percentage of GDP	8%	7%	6%	5%	2 of 37
	Total public expenditure on education	2011	2000	2011	2000	
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	16%	16%	13%	13%	7 of 34
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2011		2011		
B3.1	Pre-primary education	24%		19%		9 of 33
B3.1	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	4%		9%		29 of 36
B3.1	Tertiary education	9%		31%		31 of 34
B3.1	All levels of education	10%		16%		25 of 33
Schools and Teachers						
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2012		2012		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	6		14		31 of 31
	Primary education	10		15		35 of 36
	Secondary education	11		13		26 of 37
	Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)	2012	2000	2012	2000	
D4.1	Pre-primary education	1646		1001		2 of 28
	Primary education	624	629	782	780	29 of 33
D4.2	Lower secondary education	624	629	694	697	20 of 33
	Upper secondary education	544	464	655	628	28 of 33
	Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2005 = 100)	2012	2008	2012	2008	
D3.5	Primary school teachers	96	104	103	103	19 of 26
	Lower secondary school teachers	96	104	102	103	17 of 25
	Upper secondary school teachers	87	105	101	103	23 of 25
	Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education	2012		2012		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	m		0.80		
	Primary school teachers	m		0.85		
	Lower secondary school teachers	m		0.88		
	Upper secondary school teachers	m		0.92		

* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

** Compared to people with upper secondary education; upper secondary = 100.

'm': data is not available. 'n': magnitude is either negligible or zero.