

Education

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At a time when the global knowledge economy is expanding and budgets are under pressure, individuals need to acquire the skills demanded in the 21st century while countries need to be able to provide high-quality education and training cost-effectively. International comparisons of education systems offer insights into the education policies that can improve the social and economic prospects of both individuals and societies as a whole.

The *Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)* assesses the extent to which 15-year-old students near the end of compulsory education have acquired the knowledge and skills that are essential for full participation in modern societies. The triennial survey, in which more than 70 countries and economies participate, assesses skills in reading, mathematics and science and increasingly seeks to examine cross-curricular competencies.

Find out more

- OECD (2013), *Trends Shaping Education*.
- OECD (2012), *Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators*.

The *Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)* administered the *OECD Survey of Adult Skills* for the first time in 2011. The survey assesses the level and distribution of skills in the adult population, focusing on key cognitive and workplace skills. The survey also gathers information on the antecedents and outcomes of skills, the use of information technology, and general literacy and numeracy practices.

Education at a Glance offers an annual snapshot of the evolution and impact of education through indicators and analysis. It examines who studies, the investments in and returns from education, and the learning environment.

The *Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS)* focuses on the learning environment and the working conditions of teachers in schools and, in doing so, informs the development of policies and initiatives to improve the quality of teaching.

DID YOU KNOW

...That on average, a person with a tertiary degree can expect to earn 55% more than a person with an upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education?