

Government: Public Management, Finances and Taxation

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Good governance is critical to long-term economic, social and environmental development. International comparisons of economies and societies tend to be undertaken at the country level; however, economic performance and social indicators can vary within countries as much as between them. Evaluating government activities and performance can be challenging due to the limited availability of comparative data.

With a focus on public administration, *OECD Government at a Glance* provides indicators measuring government performance across OECD countries and introduces composite indexes on summarising aspects of public management policies. The indicators compare the political and institutional frameworks of governments as well as government revenues, expenditures,

public finance, employment and compensation. There are also indicators describing government policies and practices on integrity, budgeting, e-government, human resource management, procurement and regulatory management. This unique publication helps to better understand these practices and to assess, plan and measure public sector reforms.

The indicators of *Regulatory Management Systems* offer comprehensive insights into trends in regulatory reform and identify leading regulatory management practices. They cover topics such as administrative simplification, regulatory impact assessments, transparency and access to information, and institutional settings and regulatory oversight bodies.



Find out more

- OECD (2013), *Government at a Glance*.
- OECD (2013), *National Accounts at a Glance*.
- OECD (2013), *Taxing Wages*.
- OECD (2012), *Restoring Public Finances, 2012 Update*.
- OECD (2012), *Revenue Statistics*.
- OECD (2009), *Indicators of Regulatory Management Systems*.
- *OECD National Accounts Statistics* (database).
- *OECD Tax Statistics* (database).

The accumulation of government debt is a major focus presently, and the need for quality statistics vital. The *Annual National Accounts*, the *Annual Financial Balance Sheets*, the *Quarterly Non-Financial and Financial Sector Accounts* databases and the *OECD Restoring Public Finance* publication provide a wealth of information on the health of government finances for member, and selected non-member OECD countries.

DID YOU KNOW ...That in 2011, governments across OECD countries employed on average about 3 out of 20 workers?

In the framework of the G-20 *Data Gaps Initiative* a collaboration of international organisations recently launched the *Quarterly Public Sector Debt* database, as a complement to the financial balance sheet of the general government. The main purpose of this initiative is to facilitate timely dissemination of government public sector debt data to support macroeconomic analysis and cross-country comparisons. It includes debt breakdowns by instrument, maturity, the residence of creditor and currency.

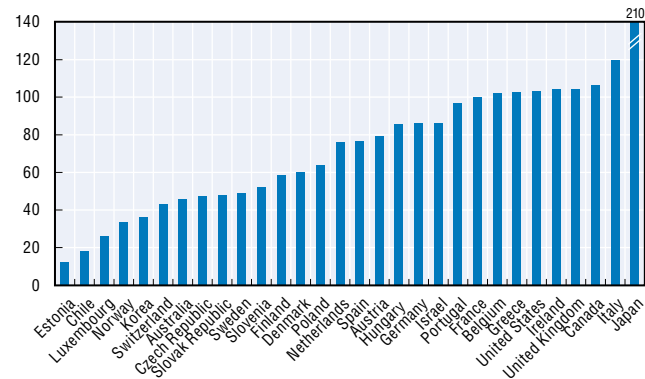
OECD work on taxation covers all aspects of international and domestic taxation, direct and indirect taxes, tax policy and tax administration. Member countries provide a wide range of information on tax revenues and tax systems.

Revenue Statistics presents a unique set of detailed tax data in a common format for all OECD countries. The data enable comparison of tax levels between countries as well as an analysis of tax structures.

Taxing Wages describes how taxes and universal cash benefits impact on the disposable income of different households (varying in income levels and in composition) in OECD countries. It presents information on average tax rates and on marginal effective tax rates applying to additional earnings.

General Government Debt

As percentage of GDP, 2011 or latest year available



Source: OECD (2012), *OECD Financial Dashboard* (database).