



EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2015

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, including countries in the accession process to the OECD.

This Country Note on Costa Rica focuses on four major topics covered in the present edition of *Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators*. These topics, which are the only ones with data for this country, are: the educational attainment of the adult population, labour market outcomes by educational attainment, transition from education to the labour market for young adults, and the gender gap in education and employment.

Costa Rica

Educational attainment and participation in the labour market

In Costa Rica, the attainment level of the population is much lower than in most OECD countries, even if younger adults are more educated than older generations; but as in most OECD countries, increased educational attainment improves labour market prospects.

- On average across OECD countries, about one in five 25-34 year-olds (17%) had not attained upper secondary education in 2014. In Costa Rica, the proportion was 50%, which still represents a significant improvement on the figure for older adults, as 63% of 55-64 year-olds did not have an upper secondary qualification in 2014.
- In Costa Rica 18% of 25-64 year-olds had attained tertiary education in 2014, compared with 32% on average in OECD countries. The percentage of tertiary-educated adults has increased in Costa Rica in the last decades: the tertiary attainment level among 25-34 year-olds (20% in 2014) was higher than among 35-44 year-olds (18%) and among 45-54 year-olds (16%).
- In Costa Rica, as in most OECD and partner countries, a higher educational attainment brings better labour market opportunities. In 2014, employment rates were above the OECD average for adults without an upper secondary qualification (65% compared with 56%), and at the OECD average for adults with an upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary qualification (73% compared with 74%) or a tertiary degree (85% compared with 83%). Unemployment rates, below the OECD average in 2014, decrease as educational attainment increases: from 7.1% for adults without an upper secondary qualification to 4.1% for tertiary-educated adults.

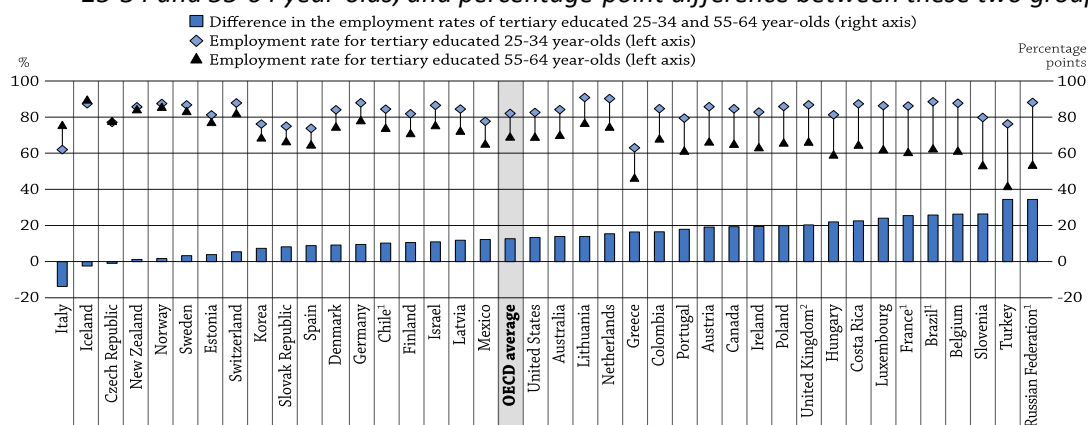
Equity in education and the labour market

While women in Costa Rica have attained higher levels of education than men, their employment rates lag behind their male counterparts. Young women were more than three times more likely than young men to be neither employed nor in education or training.

- Among 15-year-olds, above-average proportions of boys and girls in Costa Rica do not reach the PISA baseline level of proficiency in mathematics, readings and sciences. In every domain, more than half of 15-year-olds are low achievers. There are also significant differences between the proportions of low achievers among boys and girls: 26% of boys and 21% of girls are low achievers in all the three domains, well above the OECD averages for boys (14%) and for girls (9%).
- In Costa Rica, contrary to the situation in most OECD countries, similar proportions of men and women attained at least an upper secondary (39% of men and 41% of women) or a tertiary qualification (17% of men and 19% of women) in 2014.
- Women in Costa Rica have lower employment rates and higher unemployment rates than men, and the gender gap is larger at lower attainment levels. In 2014, 45% of women without an upper secondary qualification were employed, compared with 86% of men with similar qualification (OECD averages of 46% and 66% respectively). Among tertiary-educated adults, 91% of men and 79% of women are employed (OECD averages of 87% and 79% respectively). Similarly, unemployment rates for adults without an upper secondary qualification reached 5.6% for men and 9.9% for women in 2014. For tertiary-educated adults, the rates were 3.1% for men and 5.1% for women.

Those who leave school with low educational attainment may need access to second-chance programmes. In Costa Rica, 21.6% of the 20-24 year-olds were neither employed nor in education or training (NEET) in 2014, above the OECD average of 17.8%. Costa Rica is among the four countries with the largest gender gaps in this area: the share of NEET was almost three times larger amongst 20-24 year-old women (32.7%) than amongst 20-24 year-old men (11.9%).

Figure: Employment rates for younger and older tertiary-educated adults (2014)
25-34 and 55-64 year-olds, and percentage-point difference between these two groups



1. Brazil, Chile, France, the Russian Federation: Data for year 2014 refer to year 2013.
2. The United Kingdom: Data for upper secondary attainment includes completion of a sufficient volume and standard of programmes that would be classified individually as completion of intermediate upper secondary programmes (18% of the adults are under this group).
Countries are ranked in ascending order of the percentage-point difference between the employment rate of the tertiary-educated 25-34 and 55-64 year-olds.

Source: OECD, Table A5.3a.
See Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm).
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933283613> (Education at a Glance 2015, chart A5.2)


Note regarding data from Israel

The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and are under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

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For more information on Education at a Glance 2015 and to access the full set of Indicators, visit www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm.

Updated data can be found on line at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-data-en> and by following the *StatLinks*  under the tables and charts in the publication.

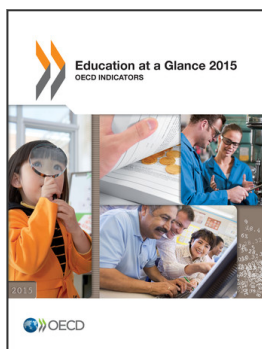
<p>Questions can be directed to: Etienne Albiser Directorate for Education and Skills Etienne.Albiser@oecd.org</p>	<p>Country Note Authors: Simon Normandeau and David Potrel Directorate for Education and Skills Simon.Normandeau@oecd.org David.Potrel@oecd.org</p>
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Key Facts for Costa Rica in Education at a Glance 2015

Table	Indicator	Costa Rica	OECD average
Educational Access and Output			
Enrolment rates			
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	2013 **	2013 74%
Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds			
A1.4a	Below upper secondary	58%	24%
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	22%	43%
	Tertiary	18%	34%
Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds (disaggregation at tertiary level)			
A1.1a	Short cycle tertiary	1%	8%
	Bachelor's or equivalent	15%	16%
	Master's or equivalent	2%	11%
	Doctoral or equivalent	**	1%
Entry and graduation rates			
C3.1	Percentage of today's young people expected to enter tertiary education at least once during their lifetime	2013 **	2013 67%
A3.1	Percentage of today's young people expected to graduate with a bachelor's or equivalent degree in their lifetime	**	36%
Economic and Labour Market Outcomes			
Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds			
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	2014 7.1%	2014 12.8%
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6.6%	7.7%
	Tertiary	4.1%	5.1%
Average earnings premium for tertiary-educated 25-64 year-olds (upper secondary = 100)			
A6.1a	Short cycle tertiary	2013 **	2013 125
	Bachelor's or equivalent	**	157
	Master's, Doctoral or equivalent	**	214
	All tertiary	**	160
Percentage of people not in employment, education or training (NEET) for 15-29 year-olds			
C5.2b	Men	2014 12.2%	2014 13.2%
	Women	26.5%	17.9%
Financial Investment in Education			
Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)			
B1.1a	Primary education	2012 **	2012 8247 USD
	Secondary education	**	9518 USD
	Tertiary (including R&D activities)	**	15028 USD
Total expenditure on primary to tertiary educational institutions			
B2.2	As a percentage of GDP	2012 **	2012 5.2%
Total public expenditure on primary to tertiary education			
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	2012 **	2012 11.6%
Schools and Teachers			
Ratio of students to teaching staff			
D2.2	Primary education	2013 **	2013 15 students per teacher
	Secondary education	**	13 students per teacher
Average actual teachers' salaries			
D3.4	Pre-primary school teachers	2013 **	2013 37798 USD
	Primary school teachers	**	41248 USD
	Lower secondary school teachers (general programmes)	**	43626 USD
	Upper secondary school teachers (general programmes)	**	47702 USD

The reference year is the year cited or the latest year for which data are available.

** Please refer to the source table for details on this data.



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