

## Foreword

**E**ducation at a Glance 2014: Highlights offers a reader-friendly introduction to the OECD's collection of internationally comparable data on education.

As the name suggests, it is derived from Education at a Glance 2014, the OECD's flagship compendium of education statistics. However, it differs from that publication in a number of ways, most significantly in its structure, which is made up of six sections that explore the following topics:

- **Education levels and student numbers:** This section looks at education levels and trends in the general population, early childhood and secondary education systems.
- **Higher education and work:** This section looks at how many students enter and successfully complete tertiary education, as well as young people's transition from school to the world of work.
- **The economic and social benefits of education:** This section looks at the extent to which education brings economic gains to individuals, in the form of higher incomes and lower unemployment rates, and at how these benefits serve as an incentive for people and societies to invest in education. It also examines the societal benefits related to having a highly educated population.
- **Paying for education:** This section looks at how much countries spend on education, the role of private spending, what education money is spent on and whether countries are getting value for money.
- **The school environment:** This section looks at how much time teachers spend at work, how much of that time is spent teaching, class sizes, and teachers and their salaries.
- **Skills for life:** This special section looks at why skills are so important, how do education and socio-economic background affect them, and what is the role of adult learning.

In general, this publication uses the terminology employed in Education at a Glance 2014. However, in one or two places terminology has been simplified. Readers who want to find out more should consult the Reader's guide.

Tables and charts in this volume are accompanied by a dynamic hyperlink, or StatLink, that will direct readers to an Internet site where the corresponding data are available in Excel™ format. In addition, reference is sometimes made in the text to charts and tables that appear in Education at a Glance 2014. This material can generally be accessed via the StatLinks accompanying the tables and charts in the relevant indicator, or at [www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm).

Readers wishing to find out more about the OECD's work on education should go to [www.oecd.org/edu](http://www.oecd.org/edu).



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