



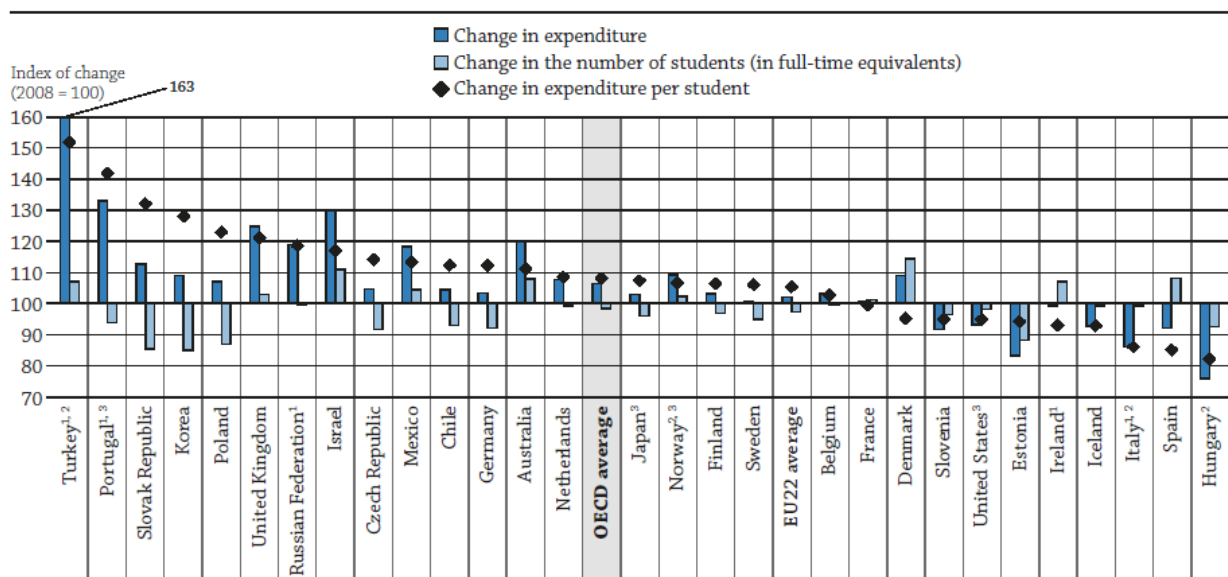
EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2016

Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators is the authoritative source for information on the state of education around the world. It provides data on the structure, finances and performance of education systems in the 35 OECD countries and a number of partner countries.

Korea

- Falling numbers of students in Korea at primary to post-secondary non-tertiary level, combined with a 9% increase in expenditure at these levels has meant a **noticeable increase in expenditure per student**.
- **Korea has high enrolment rates in early childhood and pre-primary education.** More than nine out of ten 3-4 year-olds are enrolled in early childhood education.
- **Although women make up 69% of the teaching workforce in lower secondary education, they represent only 13% of principals** at this level in Korea, the second lowest share of all OECD countries.
- Teachers' starting salaries in Korea are lower than the average of OECD countries, **but after 15 years of experience salaries have risen to much higher than the average.**
- **Korea's new entrants into bachelor's or equivalent programmes are among the youngest** of OECD and partner countries.

Figure 1. Changes in the number of students, expenditure on educational institutions and expenditure per student in primary, secondary and post-tertiary non-tertiary education (2008, 2013)



1. Public institutions only.

2. Public expenditure only.

3. Some levels of education are included with others. Refer to "x" code in Table B1.1 for details.

Countries are ranked in descending order of the change in expenditure per student by educational institutions.

Source: OECD, Table B5.1a. See Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm).

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High-quality education needs sustainable funding

- Korea's expenditure on educational institutions from primary to tertiary level corresponds to 5.9% of its gross domestic product (GDP), compared to 5.2% of GDP on average for OECD countries. However, private funding makes up 36% of total expenditure at these levels, which is the second biggest private share of spending among the OECD and partner countries.
- The economic crisis of 2008 did not have much of an impact on Korea's public expenditure on education between 2008 and 2013. Government spending on primary to tertiary education increased faster than the change in GDP during this period: while spending increased by 25%, Korea's GDP grew by 17%. As a result, expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP increased by 7%.
- Between 2008 and 2013, the number of students enrolled in primary to post-secondary non-tertiary institutions fell by 15% in Korea (Figure 1). However, expenditure on institutions at these levels increased by 9% over the period. This resulted in an increase of 28% in expenditure per student, four times higher than the OECD average increase of 7%. In the same period, the student population in tertiary institutions stayed the same, but expenditure at this level increased by 13%.

Access to high-quality early childhood education makes a difference later on

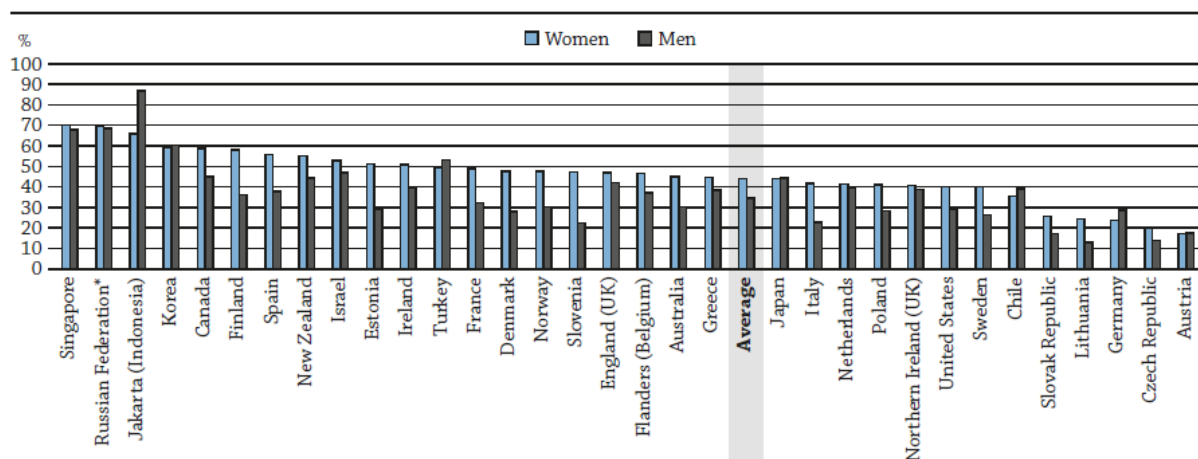
- Enrolment rates in Korea among 3- and 4-year-olds in early childhood education are higher than the OECD average. Nine out of ten 3-year-olds were enrolled in pre-primary education in 2014, way above than the OECD average of 71%. In the same year, the enrolment rate of 4-year-olds was 92%, while the average rate in OECD countries was 86%.
- In Korea, private institutions are prevalent at pre-primary level. The share of pupils enrolled in private pre-primary institutions was 81% in 2014, whereas only 33% of pupils at this level were enrolled in private institutions on average across OECD countries.
- Korea's annual expenditure per student in pre-primary education was USD 6 2271 in 2013, which is lower than the OECD average of USD 8 162. The share of total expenditure from public sources at this level was 78% in Korea, compared to the OECD average of 82%.

Gender gaps in education and employment persist

- As in many other OECD countries, the distribution of students across fields of education shows significant gender disparity in Korea. For example, female tertiary graduates are under-represented in engineering, manufacturing and construction: three men graduated for every woman in this field in 2014, the same as the OECD average. In the field of education, three women graduated for every man whereas across OECD countries, the average was four women for every man.
- On average, 61% of Korean teachers and academic staff in pre-primary to tertiary education combined are female, compared to the OECD average of 69%. Although the proportion of female teachers is high at the primary and lower secondary levels, the shares of male and female teachers at upper secondary level are almost equal in Korea. At tertiary level, women make up only 35% of academic staff, which is lower than the OECD average of 43%.
- Considering the high proportion of female teachers, there are few female principals in Korea. In 2013, only 13% principals at lower secondary level were female. This is the second lowest share after Japan, while the average across OECD countries was 45%.

¹ Values reported in equivalent US dollars (USD) have been converted using purchasing power parities (PPPs).

Figure 2. Upward mobility from upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary to tertiary education, by gender (2012 or 2015)



Note: Chile, Greece, Israel, Jakarta (Indonesia), Lithuania, New Zealand, Singapore, Slovenia, Turkey: Year of reference 2015. All other countries: Year of reference 2012.

* See note on data for the Russian Federation in the Methodology section.

Countries and subnational entities are ranked in descending order of the percentage of upward mobility to tertiary education among women whose parents' highest educational attainment is upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary.

Source: OECD, Table A4.5, available on line. See Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm).

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933396933>

Tertiary education has a strong impact in the labour market

- Korea has achieved one of the highest levels in educational attainment across the OECD and partner countries. In 2015, 45% of 25-64 year-old Korean adults, had attained tertiary education, compared to the OECD average of 35%. The share of the tertiary-educated 25-34 year-olds in Korea was 69%, the highest among OECD countries.
- Korea's employment rate for those with either a short-cycle tertiary qualification or a bachelor's degree is below the OECD average. In 2015, the employment rate among 25-64 year-olds with short-cycle tertiary education was 76%, compared to the OECD average of 80%. The employment rate for the same age group with a bachelor's or equivalent degree was 78%, while the average across OECD countries was 82%.
- In Korea, new entrants into bachelor's programmes are very young. The average age of first-time entrants into bachelor's or equivalent programmes was 19 in 2014, which is among the youngest of OECD and partner countries, alongside Japan (18), Belgium (19) and Indonesia (19). On the other hand, the average ages of new students at master's and doctorate or equivalent level were 31 and 34 respectively, which are among the oldest of the OECD and partner countries. This may be due to the fact that bachelor's and master's programmes in Korea tend to not be connected, so individuals may join the labour force before going back for their master's or doctorate degrees.
- In Korea, tertiary-educated adults earn 38% more than workers with upper secondary education. Those with short-cycle tertiary education earn 12% more, and those with a bachelor's or equivalent degree earn 45% more. Individuals with a master's, doctoral or equivalent degree earn almost twice as much as those with upper secondary education, at 96% more.

Salary, the school environment and workload all influence teachers' decisions to enter - and remain in - the profession

- Korean teachers' starting salaries are lower than the average across OECD countries but their salaries after 15 years of experience are much higher than the average. For instance, lower secondary teachers' starting salaries are USD 26 815, compared to the OECD average of USD 32 485. However, teachers' salaries after 15 years of experience are USD 47 257, while the average across OECD countries is USD 44 407.
- In Korea, salaries of teachers with 15 years of experience are higher relative to earnings of tertiary-educated workers. For example, lower secondary teachers' salary with 15 years of experience is 1.36 times higher than the earnings of workers with tertiary education.

- Between 2005 and 2014, the share of secondary teachers aged 50 or older has risen immensely in Korea. The share of secondary teachers over the age of 50 has grown by 8.34% a year on average over this period, the highest rate among OECD countries. By 2014, the share of secondary teachers aged 50 or older had reached 27%.

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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.

References

OECD (2016), *Education at a Glance 2016: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-2016-en>.

For more information on Education at a Glance 2016 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.

Explore, compare and visualise more data and analysis using:  **EducationGPS**
<http://gpseducation.oecd.org/CountryProfile?primaryCountry=KOR&treshold=10&topic=EQ>.

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Key Facts for Korea in Education at a Glance 2016

Source	Main topics in <i>Education at a Glance</i>	Korea		OECD average	
Gender					
Employment rate of 25-64 year-olds, by educational attainment		2015			
		Men	Women	Men	Women
Chart A5.2	Below upper secondary	77%	59%	66%	46%
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	84%	60%	81%	67%
	Tertiary	90%	63%	88%	80%
Full-year earnings of women as a percentage of men's earnings, by educational attainment (25-64 year-olds)		2014			
		Ratio (women/men)		Ratio (women/men)	
Table A6.2	Below upper secondary	66%		76%	
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	63%		77%	
	Tertiary	69%		73%	
Percentage of people not in employment, nor in education or training (NEET)		2015			
		Men	Women	Men	Women
Table C5.2	15-29 year-olds	17%	19%	12%	17%
Percentage of female graduates, by tertiary levels of education		2014			
		% Women		% Women	
Table A3.4	Short-cycle tertiary	**		56%	
	Bachelor's or equivalent	**		58%	
	Master's or equivalent	**		57%	
	Doctoral or equivalent	35%		47%	
Field of education studied among tertiary-educated adults (25-64 year-old non-students)		2012			
		Men	Women	Men	Women
Table A1.5	Teacher training and education science	4%	16%	7%	18%
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	39%	12%	31%	7%
Vocational Education and Training (VET)					
Distribution of enrolment, by programme orientation		2014			
		General	Vocational	General	Vocational
Table C1.3a	Upper secondary education	82%	18%	56%	44%
Educational attainment, by programme orientation		2015			
		General	Vocational	General	Vocational
Table A1.4	25-34 year-olds with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education	29%	**	17%	26%
Unemployment rate, by programme orientation		2015			
		General	Vocational	General	Vocational
Table A5.5	25-34 year-olds with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education as their highest educational attainment level	6.4%	**	10%	9.2%
Financial Investment in Education					
Annual expenditure per student, by level of education (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)		2013			
		USD		USD	
Table B1.1	Primary education	7 957		8 477	
	Secondary education	8 592		9 811	
	Tertiary (including R&D activities)	9 323		15 772	
Total expenditure on primary to tertiary educational institutions		2013			
		As a percentage of GDP		As a percentage of GDP	
Table B2.2		5.9%		5.2%	
Total public expenditure on primary to tertiary education		2013			
		As a percentage of total public expenditure		As a percentage of total public expenditure	
Table B4.2		12.8%		11.2%	
Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)					
Enrolment rates in early childhood education at age 3		2014			
		ISCED 01 and 02		ISCED 01 and 02	
Table C2.1		90%		71%	
Expenditure on all early childhood educational institutions		2013			
		As a percentage of GDP		As a percentage of GDP	
Table C2.3		**		0.8%	
		Proportions of total expenditure from public sources		81%	
Teachers					
Actual salaries of teachers in public institutions relative to wages of full-time, full-year workers with tertiary education		2014			
		Pre-primary school teachers		0.74	
Table D3.2a		Primary school teachers		0.81	
		Lower secondary school teachers (general programmes)		0.85	
		Upper secondary school teachers (general programmes)		0.89	
Annual statutory salaries of teachers in public institutions, based on typical qualifications, at different points in teachers' careers (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)		2014			
		Starting salary	Salary after 15 years of experience	Starting salary	Salary after 15 years of experience
Table D3.1a	Pre-primary school teachers	USD 26 910	USD 47 352	USD 29 494	USD 39 245
	Primary school teachers	USD 26 910	USD 47 352	USD 31 028	USD 42 675
	Lower secondary school teachers (general programmes)	USD 26 815	USD 47 257	USD 32 485	USD 44 407
	Upper secondary school teachers (general programmes)	USD 26 815	USD 47 257	USD 34 186	USD 46 379

Korea - Country Note - Education at a Glance 2016: OECD Indicators

Source	Main topics in <i>Education at a Glance</i>	Korea		OECD average	
	Mean monthly earnings of tertiary-educated 25-64 year-old, by selected field of education studied	2012		2012¹	
Table A6.4	Teacher training and education science	USD 3 200		USD 3 004	
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	USD 3 600		USD 3 883	
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2014			
Table D2.2	Primary education	17 students per teacher		15 students per teacher	
	Secondary education	15 students per teacher		13 students per teacher	
	Tertiary education	21 students per teacher		17 students per teacher	
Tertiary Education					
	Percentage of adults who have attained tertiary education, by tertiary level of educational attainment and age group	2015			
		25-34 year-olds	25-64 year-olds	25-34 year-olds	25-64 year-olds
Table A1.2	Short-cycle tertiary	22%	13%	8%	8%
	Bachelor's or equivalent	47%	32%	21%	16%
	Master's or equivalent	**	**	14%	11%
	Doctoral or equivalent	**	**	1%	1%
	All tertiary levels of education	69%	45%	42%	35%
	Employment rate of 25-64 year-olds, by tertiary educational attainment	2015			
Tables A5.1 & A5.3	Short-cycle tertiary	76%		80%	
	Bachelor's or equivalent	78%		82%	
	Master's or equivalent	**		87%	
	Doctoral or equivalent	**		91%	
	All tertiary levels of education	77%		84%	
	Relative earnings of full-time full-year 25-64 year-old workers, by tertiary educational attainment (upper secondary education = 100)	2014			
Table A6.1	Short-cycle tertiary	112		120	
	Bachelor's or equivalent	145		148	
	Master's, doctoral or equivalent	196		191	
	All tertiary levels of education	138		155	
	Share of international or foreign students, by level of tertiary education	2014			
Table C4.1.	Bachelor's or equivalent	1%		5%	
	Master's or equivalent	6%		12%	
	Doctoral or equivalent	8%		27%	
	All tertiary levels of education	2%		6%	
	First-time entry rates into tertiary education	2014			
Table C3.1.	All tertiary levels (including international students)	**		68%	
	All tertiary levels (excluding international students)	**		61%	
	All tertiary levels (students younger than 25 years old and excluding international students)	**		51%	
Other: Immigration and intergenerational mobility in education					
	Proportion of adults with same educational attainment levels as their parents, by parents' immigrant status²	2012		2012¹	
		Native-born parents	Foreign-born parents	Native-born parents	Foreign-born parents
Table A4.3	25-44 year-old adults with below upper secondary education as their highest educational attainment level	7%	**	27%	37%
Other: Adult education and learning					
	Participation of 25-64 year-olds in formal and/or non-formal education, by level of education²	2012		2012¹	
Table C6.3	Below upper secondary	21%		26%	
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	43%		46%	
	Tertiary	71%		70%	
Other: Education and social outcomes					
	Percentage of 25-64 year-old adults reporting that they are in good health, by selected literacy proficiency level	2012		2012¹	
Table A8.1 (L)	Low literacy proficiency (Level 1 or below)	31%		67%	
	High literacy proficiency (Level 4 or 5)	60%		90%	
	Life satisfaction today and life satisfaction expected in five years for 25-64 year-olds, by educational attainment³	2015			
		Life satisfaction today	Life satisfaction in 5 years	Life satisfaction today	Life satisfaction in 5 years
Table A8.3a	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	63%	73%	83%	87%
	Tertiary	75%	83%	92%	94%

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

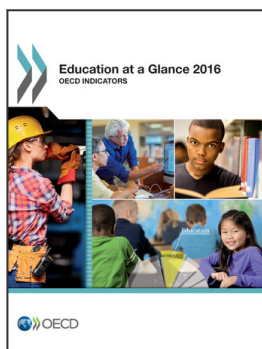
Refer to Annex 3 for notes and for more information on data presented in this key facts table (www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm).

1. OECD average includes some countries with 2015 data.

2. Data refer to ISCED-97 instead of ISCED-A 2011.

3. Educational attainment categories collected by Gallup World Poll may differ from ISCED-A 2011.

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



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