

Foreword

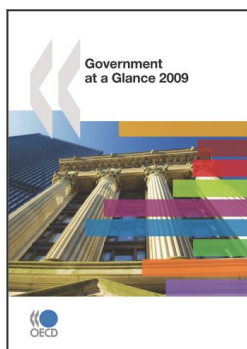
This is the first edition of *Government at a Glance*, a new addition to the OECD's *At a Glance* series. *Government at a Glance* fills an important gap in internationally comparative data and general knowledge on how governments work, providing indicators describing government institutions, structures, inputs and prevailing public management practices in OECD member countries. It also examines public governance issues that are important to governments' capacity to address the long-term effects of the recent crises, and raises some questions facing governments as they look to further transform their public governance practices. This publication is particularly timely as the recent financial and economic crises have heightened the role of government in the economy and society, while requiring governments to be more efficient, effective and citizen-centred.

Government at a Glance shows how OECD countries' governments work and perform compared to other member countries. As such, the publication will interest politicians, policy makers, public sector practitioners, advocacy groups, academics, students and the general public alike. In addition, the indicators included in *Government at a Glance* can help non-OECD member countries identify new ways to track and benchmark where they stand in relation to the development and implementation of policies and reforms.

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