

EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2013

FINLAND

Investing in education despite the global recession

Finland registered the eighth largest drop in GDP among OECD countries between 2008 and 2010: a fall of 5%, a significant decrease when compared with the average decreases across the OECD (1%) and EU21 (3%) countries. Despite this, the country is maintaining its efforts to provide sufficient funds for education. In fact, Finland increased its expenditure on education in absolute terms at all levels by 6% between 2008 and 2010. In 2010, annual expenditure per student by educational institutions for all services for all levels of education was USD 10 157, above the OECD average of USD 9 308. Likewise, levels of expenditure in education relative to GDP (7%) were above the OECD average (6%) the same year, reflecting a real effort by the government to maintain provision for its educational system.

Unemployment increased, but not as much as in other OECD countries

The employment rate in Finland for people with all levels of education is 75%, slightly above the OECD average of 73%. Unemployment rates have increased across the board between 2008 and 2011 but the worsening labour market conditions are affecting people differently, depending on their educational attainment.

Among tertiary-educated adults (25-64 year-olds), the unemployment rate increased at a much slower pace than other OECD countries, growing by 0.7 percentage points against an average of 1.5 percentage points. The difference was even greater with the EU21 countries, which saw the unemployment rate grow by 2.0 percentage points. On the other hand, Finnish unemployment rates increased more significantly for the less-educated cohort: between 2008 and 2011 unemployment increased by 3.3 percentage points (reaching 11.3% by 2011) among those who had not attained upper secondary education, although this was still lower than the average increase for the OECD (3.8 percentage points; 12.6% in 2011) and EU21 (5.1 percentage points; 15.6%) countries.

Improving the employability of young people must be a priority

The percentage of NEETS (neither employed nor in education or training) at all levels of education among Finnish 15-29 year-olds (12%) remained below the OECD average (16%) in 2011. Between 2008 and 2011, the proportion increased by 1.9 percentage points, a low increase when compared with the average increase across the OECD countries of 2.1 percentage points. While the percentage of NEETs among those with upper secondary and tertiary education fell after high peaks in 2009 and 2010, for those with a lower qualification the percentage continues to rise. In 2011, 41% of 15-29 year-olds who were not in education and had an upper secondary qualification were employed, compared with 10% for those with a lower qualification (OECD average: 43% and 17%, respectively).

One of the most well-educated countries

Finland has one of the highest levels of educational attainment among the OECD: 84% of 25-64 year-olds have at least completed upper secondary education (against an OECD average of 75%) and 39% hold a tertiary degree (OECD average: 32%).

Tertiary education attainment in Finland increased by 6 percentage points since 2000, with 39% of its adult population holding a tertiary qualification in 2011. By comparison, the average for the OECD countries was 32% in 2011. Whereas in 2000, men were more likely than women to hold a tertiary degree in many OECD countries, the opposite was true in 2011, by which time more women than men had completed tertiary education. Finland is one of the seven OECD countries where tertiary attainment rates for women are higher than those for men by at least 10 percentage points, with 46% of women holding a tertiary qualification compared with 33% of men.

Other findings:

- In comparison to other OECD countries, Finland spends a larger amount of public resources on tertiary education: the annual expenditure per student in Finland is EUR 16 714 against the OECD average of EUR 13 528. The private share of the total expenditure on tertiary institutions, paid by individuals, businesses and other private sources, including subsidised private payments, is comparatively low; 4.1% compared with the OECD average of 32%.
- There is a large difference between the proportion of students who graduate from programmes designed as preparation for entry into tertiary programmes, and the proportion who actually enter them by the age of 25: 85% of students graduate from programmes which give eligibility for higher education, while the proportion of students under 25 years old who enter university level education is 51%. This is partly due to a *numerus clausus* system in Finnish higher education, which means that the number of entry places is restricted. Graduates from upper secondary general education may have to take a break of two to three years before obtaining a place in a university or polytechnic institution.
- The expected number of years students spend in tertiary education of all types is quite high. Finnish students spend 4.7 years in tertiary education compared with the OECD average of 3.4 years.
- Teachers' salaries decreased by 3 percentage points in real terms for all educational levels between 2009 and 2011. Nonetheless, in 2011, only pre-primary teachers had salaries below the OECD average (USD 29 125 versus USD 36 135). Upper secondary teachers in Finland earn about 10% more than other workers of a similar age and education level. This is in contrast with the average across OECD countries, where teachers earn about 11% less than their similarly educated counterparts.

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Key Facts for Finland in Education at a Glance 2013

| Table | Indicator | Finland | | OECD average | | EU21 average | | Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries* |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--|
| Educational Access and Output | | | | | | | | |
| | Enrolment rates | 2011 | 2005 | 2011 | 2005 | 2011 | 2005 | |
| C2.1 | 3-year-olds (in early childhood education) | 49% | 38% | 67% | 64% | 77% | 73% | 27 of 36 |
| | 4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education) | 57% | 47% | 84% | 79% | 90% | 84% | 32 of 36 |
| C1.1a | 5-14 year-olds (all levels) | 96% | | 99% | | 98% | | 31 of 38 |
| | Percentage of population that has attained below upper secondary education | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | |
| A1.4a | 25-64 year-olds | 16% | 27% | 26% | 34% | 25% | 34% | 24 of 35 |
| | Percentage of population that has attained upper secondary education | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | |
| A1.4a | 25-64 year-olds | 44% | 41% | 44% | 44% | 48% | 46% | 13 of 36 |
| | Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | |
| A1.3a A1.4a | 25-64 year-olds | 39% | 33% | 31% | 22% | 28% | 20% | 9 of 36 |
| | 30-34 year-olds | 46% | | 39% | | 37% | | 11 of 34 |
| | 25-34 year-olds | 39% | 39% | 39% | 26% | 36% | 24% | 19 of 36 |
| | 55-64 year-olds | 31% | 23% | 24% | 15% | 21% | 14% | 8 of 36 |
| | Entry rates into tertiary education | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | |
| C3.1a | Vocational programmes (Tertiary-type B) | m | m | 19% | 16% | 15% | 11% | m |
| | University programmes (Tertiary-type A) | 68% | 71% | 60% | 48% | 59% | 46% | 13 of 36 |
| | Graduation rates | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | |
| A2.1a | Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime | 96% | 91% | 83% | 76% | 83% | 77% | 2 of 27 |
| A3.1a | Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime | 47% | 40% | 39% | 28% | 41% | 27% | 5 of 26 |
| Economic and Labour Market Outcomes | | | | | | | | |
| | Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women | 2011 | 2008 | 2011 | 2008 | 2011 | 2008 | |
| A5.4b | Below upper secondary | 11.3% | 8.1% | 12.6% | 8.8% | 15.6% | 10.4% | 17 of 35 |
| | Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary | 6.9% | 5.4% | 7.3% | 4.9% | 8.5% | 5.2% | 14 of 36 |
| | Tertiary | 4.0% | 3.3% | 4.8% | 3.3% | 5.2% | 3.2% | 18 of 36 |
| | Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women | 2011 | 2008 | 2011 | 2008 | 2011 | 2008 | |
| A5.4d | Below upper secondary | 11.3% | 9.0% | 12.2% | 9.5% | 15.1% | 11.0% | 18 of 35 |
| | Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary | 6.4% | 6.2% | 8.0% | 5.7% | 9.1% | 6.1% | 19 of 35 |
| | Tertiary | 3.7% | 3.6% | 5.1% | 3.6% | 5.5% | 3.6% | 23 of 36 |
| | Average earnings premium for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education** | 2011 or latest year available | | 2011 | | 2011 | | |
| A6.1 | Men and women | 149 | | 157 | | 158 | | 20 of 33 |
| | Men | 162 | | 162 | | 164 | | 12 of 33 |
| | Women | 146 | | 161 | | 161 | | 26 of 33 |
| | Average earnings penalty for 25-64 year-olds who have not attained upper secondary education** | 2011 or latest year available | | 2011 | | 2011 | | |
| A6.1 | Men and women | 93 | | 76 | | 77 | | 1 of 33 |
| | Men | 90 | | 77 | | 78 | | 2 of 33 |
| | Women | 94 | | 74 | | 75 | | 1 of 33 |
| | Percentage of people not in employment, education or training for 15-29 year-olds, by level of education attained | 2011 | 2008 | 2011 | 2008 | 2011 | 2008 | |
| C5.4d | Below upper secondary | 10.7% | 9.0% | 15.8% | 14.4% | 15.3% | 13.5% | 24 of 34 |
| | Upper secondary | 13.0% | 10.7% | 16.2% | 13.6% | 15.1% | 11.8% | 21 of 34 |
| | Tertiary | 10.3% | 9.1% | 13.3% | 10.6% | 12.3% | 9.6% | 23 of 34 |

Key Facts for Finland in Education at a Glance 2013

| Table | Indicator | Finland | | OECD average | | EU21 average | | Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries* |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|--|
| Financial Investment in Education | | | | | | | | |
| | Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs) | 2010 | | 2010 | | 2010 | | |
| B1.1a | Pre-primary education | 5372 USD | | 6762 USD | | 7085 USD | | 21 of 32 |
| | Primary education | 7624 USD | | 7974 USD | | 8277 USD | | 18 of 34 |
| | Secondary education | 9162 USD | | 9014 USD | | 9471 USD | | 16 of 34 |
| | Tertiary education | 16714 USD | | 13528 USD | | 12856 USD | | 8 of 33 |
| | Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP | 2010 | 2000 | 2010 | 2000 | 2010 | 2000 | |
| B2.1 | As a percentage of GDP | 6.5% | 5.6% | 6.3% | 5.4% | 5.9% | 5.2% | 11 of 33 |
| | Total public expenditure on education | 2010 | 2000 | 2010 | 2000 | 2010 | 2000 | |
| B4.1 | As a percentage of total public expenditure | 12.3% | 12.5% | 13.0% | 12.6% | 11.4% | 11.4% | 17 of 32 |
| | Share of private expenditure on educational institutions | 2010 | 2000 | 2010 | 2000 | 2010 | 2000 | |
| B3.2a | Pre-primary education | 9.9% | | 17.9% | | 11.3% | | 19 of 28 |
| B3.2a | Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education | 0.8% | 0.7% | 8.5% | 7.1% | 6.1% | 5.6% | 29 of 31 |
| B3.2b | Tertiary education | 4.1% | 2.8% | 31.6% | 22.6% | 22.7% | 14.3% | 29 of 30 |
| B3.1 | All levels of education | 2.4% | 2.0% | 16.4% | 12.1% | 10.7% | 7.9% | 29 of 29 |
| Schools and Teachers | | | | | | | | |
| | Ratio of students to teaching staff | 2011 | | 2011 | | 2011 | | |
| D2.2 | Pre-primary education | 11 students per teacher | | 14 students per teacher | | 13 students per teacher | | 26 of 31 |
| | Primary education | 14 students per teacher | | 15 students per teacher | | 14 students per teacher | | 22 of 35 |
| | Secondary education | 13 students per teacher | | 14 students per teacher | | 12 students per teacher | | 17 of 36 |
| | Total intended instruction time for students (hours) | 2011 | | 2011 | | 2011 | | |
| D1.1 | Primary education | 3926 hours | | 4717 hours | | m | | 23 of 31 |
| | Lower secondary education | 2740 hours | | 3034 hours | | m | | 21 of 31 |
| | Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions) | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | |
| D4.2 | Pre-primary education | 652 hours | | 994 hours | | 977 hours | | 27 of 29 |
| | Primary education | 680 hours | 656 hours | 790 hours | 780 hours | 777 hours | 776 hours | 23 of 31 |
| | Lower secondary education | 595 hours | 570 hours | 709 hours | 697 hours | 669 hours | 658 hours | 27 of 30 |
| | Upper secondary education | 553 hours | 527 hours | 664 hours | 628 hours | 651 hours | 635 hours | 23 of 31 |
| | Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2000 = 100) | 2011 | 2008 | 2011 | 2008 | 2011 | 2008 | |
| D3.4 | Primary school teachers | 119 | 122 | 120 | 120 | 121 | 122 | 10 of 23 |
| | Lower secondary school teachers | 109 | 112 | 116 | 116 | 121 | 121 | 14 of 22 |
| | Upper secondary school teachers | 110 | 113 | 117 | 118 | 118 | 119 | 11 of 22 |
| | Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education | 2011 | | 2011 | | 2011 | | |
| D3.2 | Pre-primary school teachers | 0.75 | | 0.80 | | 0.77 | | 13 of 22 |
| | Primary school teachers | 0.89 | | 0.82 | | 0.80 | | 11 of 27 |
| | Lower secondary school teachers | 0.98 | | 0.85 | | 0.84 | | 8 of 27 |
| | Upper secondary school teachers | 1.1 | | 0.89 | | 0.89 | | 5 of 27 |

* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

** Compared to people with upper secondary education; upper secondary = 100.



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