

EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2013

ICELAND

Continuing university education later in life is common in Iceland, especially for women

Although the gender gap for people with tertiary education was already in favour of women in Iceland in 2000 (23% for men against 25% for women, compared with 23% for men and 21% for women on average among OECD countries), the gap widened dramatically a decade later. In 2011, among the 25-64 year-old population, 4 out of 10 women in Iceland (40%) had a tertiary degree compared to less than 3 out of 10 men (28%). On average among the OECD countries, the percentages are, respectively, 30% for men and 33% for women. In Iceland, it's common to pursue your studies later in life. Based on the current patterns of graduation, it is estimated that more than 1 out of 3 women will graduate from tertiary level after the age of 30, compared to less than 1 out of 10 on average among OECD countries.

Highest employment rate within the OECD countries, although decreasing

The employment rate in Iceland for people at all levels of education is 83%, placing it first (together with Norway, Sweden and Switzerland) among OECD countries. On the other hand, employment rates have decreased between 2008 and 2011 at all levels of education, although differently depending on educational attainment.

Among tertiary-educated adults of working age (25-64 year-olds), the employment rate decreased at a similar pace to other OECD countries, by 2 percentage points against an OECD average of 1 percentage point. On the other hand, Iceland's employment rate decreased more significantly for the less-educated cohort: between 2008 and 2011 employment fell by 9 percentage points among those who had not attained upper secondary education, higher than the average decrease for the OECD countries (3 percentage points).

In contrast to other OECD countries, the employment rate of those who have attained upper secondary qualifications, at 83%, is only marginally different to the rate for people who have not completed upper secondary education, at 74%, when compared with the OECD average of 74% and 55% respectively. Employment rates only rise significantly for people with a tertiary qualification where the figure is 89%. The picture is similar for unemployment rates.

Where are the 15-29 year-olds?

In Iceland, among 15-29 year-olds, 71% in 2011 continued their studies after completing below upper secondary education, 22% were employed and 7% were unemployed, compared with the OECD average of 68%, 17% and 16%, respectively. The share of this young generation that was employed fell by almost 10 percentage points between 2008 and 2011 from 31% in 2008 to 22% in 2011, although

the latest figure is still higher than the OECD average of 17%. At the other end of the educational spectrum the situation looks slightly better. Among 15-29 year-olds with a tertiary qualification, the share of people who were employed (and no longer in education) decreased by 7 percentage points since the beginning of the financial crisis from 73% in 2008 to 65% in 2011, although this is a higher decrease than the OECD average of 5 percentage points.

For all levels of education, only 8% of the 15-29 year-olds in Iceland were neither employed nor in education or training (NEET), which is considerably less than the OECD average of 15%. Nonetheless, as in most OECD countries, the proportion of NEETs at all levels of education increased by 4 percentage points between 2008 and 2011.

Other findings:

- Upper secondary attainment is low by international standards and Iceland's population continues to be characterised by a gap between the low skilled and the highly skilled. Only 71% of 25-64 year-olds and 75% of the younger generation (25-34 year-olds) hold at least an upper secondary qualification, in comparison with the OECD average of 75% and 82% respectively.
- Iceland is one of the countries where significant numbers of students graduate from upper secondary programmes after the age of 25. Students in Iceland can leave the education system relatively easily and re-enter later on. Based on current patterns of graduation, it is estimated that 20% of today's young adults will graduate from upper secondary programmes after reaching 25.
- Statutory teachers' salaries are well below the OECD average when compared with the earnings of other tertiary-educated, 25-64 year-old full-time, full-year workers. A primary teacher in Iceland could expect to earn, in 2006, about 50% of what other workers of a similar age and education level earn, against the OECD average of 82%. However, average salaries, including bonuses and allowances, are significantly higher than statutory ones: for example upper secondary teachers' average salaries in Iceland are almost 30% higher than statutory salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience.

<p>Questions can be directed to: Andreas Schleicher Advisor to the Secretary-General on Education Policy, Deputy Director for Education and Skills Email: Andreas.Schleicher@oecd.org Telephone: +33 6 07 38 54 64</p>	<p>For more information on <i>Education at a Glance 2013</i>, visit: www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm Country Note Authors: Corinne Heckmann (corinne.heckmann@oecd.org) Ignacio Marin (ignacio.marin@oecd.org)</p>
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Key Facts for Iceland in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Iceland		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)	95%	94%	67%	64%	77%	73%	4 of 36
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	97%	95%	84%	79%	90%	84%	9 of 36
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	99%		99%		98%		19 of 38
	Percentage of population that has attained below upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	29%	44%	26%	34%	25%	34%	8 of 35
	Percentage of population that has attained upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	37%	32%	44%	44%	48%	46%	26 of 36
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	34%	24%	31%	22%	28%	20%	18 of 36
	30-34 year-olds	41%		39%		37%		17 of 34
	25-34 year-olds	39%	30%	39%	26%	36%	24%	20 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	24%	13%	24%	15%	21%	14%	19 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
C3.1a	Vocational programmes (Tertiary-type B)	4%	10%	19%	16%	15%	11%	24 of 32
	University programmes (Tertiary-type A)	81%	66%	60%	48%	59%	46%	3 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	m	67%	83%	76%	83%	77%	m
A3.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	m	33%	39%	28%	41%	27%	m
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	7.3%	2.5%	12.6%	8.8%	15.6%	10.4%	24 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	5.4%	m	7.3%	4.9%	8.5%	5.2%	24 of 36
	Tertiary	4.5%	c	4.8%	3.3%	5.2%	3.2%	17 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4d	Below upper secondary	7.3%	c	12.2%	9.5%	15.1%	11.0%	25 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	c	c	8.0%	5.7%	9.1%	6.1%	m
	Tertiary	4.0%	c	5.1%	3.6%	5.5%	3.6%	19 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	m		157		158		m
	Men	m		162		164		m
	Women	m		161		161		m
	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	m		76		77		m
	Men	m		77		78		m
	Women	m		74		75		m
	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	7.2%	5.0%	15.8%	14.4%	15.3%	13.5%	32 of 34
	Upper secondary	7.4%	4.0%	16.2%	13.6%	15.1%	11.8%	32 of 34
	Tertiary	12.9%	c	13.3%	10.6%	12.3%	9.6%	16 of 34

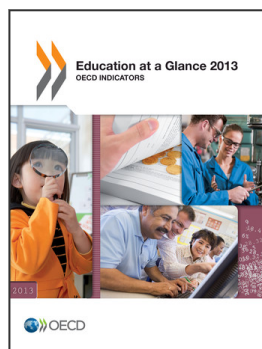
Key Facts for Iceland in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Iceland		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	8606 USD		6762 USD		7085 USD		7 of 32
	Primary education	9482 USD		7974 USD		8277 USD		8 of 34
	Secondary education	7841 USD		9014 USD		9471 USD		22 of 34
	Tertiary education	8728 USD		13528 USD		12856 USD		26 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	7.7%	7.1%	6.3%	5.4%	5.9%	5.2%	2 of 33
	Total public expenditure on education	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B4.1	As a percentage of total public expenditure	14.7%	15.9%	13.0%	12.6%	11.4%	11.4%	10 of 32
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B3.2a	Pre-primary education	24.3%		17.9%		11.3%		8 of 28
B3.2a	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	3.8%	3.6%	8.5%	7.1%	6.1%	5.6%	23 of 31
B3.2b	Tertiary education	8.8%	8.2%	31.6%	22.6%	22.7%	14.3%	27 of 30
B3.1	All levels of education	9.6%	10.0%	16.4%	12.1%	10.7%	7.9%	21 of 29
Schools and Teachers								
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2011		2011		2011		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	6 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		13 students per teacher		31 of 31
	Primary education	10 students per teacher		15 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		34 of 35
	Secondary education	11 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		12 students per teacher		26 of 36
	Total intended instruction time for students (hours)	2011		2011		2011		
D1.1	Primary education	6000 hours		4717 hours		m		5 of 31
	Lower secondary education	2960 hours		3034 hours		m		15 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	1634 hours		994 hours		977 hours		2 of 29
	Primary education	624 hours	629 hours	790 hours	780 hours	777 hours	776 hours	26 of 31
	Lower secondary education	624 hours	629 hours	709 hours	697 hours	669 hours	658 hours	20 of 30
	Upper secondary education	544 hours	464 hours	664 hours	628 hours	651 hours	635 hours	24 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	111	117	120	120	121	122	14 of 23
	Lower secondary school teachers	111	117	116	116	121	121	13 of 22
	Upper secondary school teachers	95	117	117	118	118	119	20 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	m		0.80		0.77		m
	Primary school teachers	0.50		0.82		0.80		26 of 27
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.50		0.85		0.84		26 of 27
	Upper secondary school teachers	0.61		0.89		0.89		25 of 27

* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

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

'm': data is not available; 'c': there are too few observations to provide reliable estimates.



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