

EDUCATION
AT A GLANCE 2013

KOREA

Increasing public investment in early childhood education

Spending on early childhood education in Korea has increased between 2000 and 2010, up to USD 6 739 per pre-primary student, close to the OECD average of USD 6 762. The introduction of a financial support programme that provides tuition fees for all 5-year-olds in 2012, and the extension of this programme to 3 and 4-year-olds this year, is expected to lead to a steady increase in the proportion of total expenditure from public sources over the coming years.

In Korea, the share of public sources for early childhood education has been increased from 42.6% to 52%, compared to the previous year. However, the share of private sources for this level of education (48%) is much higher than elsewhere. On average, across OECD countries, 82% of the total expenditure on early childhood education came from public sources and 18% came from private sources.

In 2010, 83% of 4-year-olds in Korea were enrolled in early childhood education, in line with the OECD average of 83%. Some 80% of these children attend independent private institutions and 17% are enrolled in public institutions. This is very different from most OECD countries, where on average 20% of children attend independent private institutions and 68% are enrolled in public institutions.

Spending increasing at all levels of education

The annual public expenditure per student in Korea is below the OECD average. On average, Korea spent in 2010 USD 8 198 per student from primary to tertiary education, against the USD 9 313 of OECD countries. However, expenditure per student increased significantly between 2005 and 2010: for all levels of education, expenditure increased by 39%, more than doubling the average increase across OECD countries for levels below tertiary (17%) and more than quadrupling the average increase for tertiary education (8%). At the tertiary level, Korea has made a significant effort, increasing public expenditure on tertiary educational institutions by 104 percentage points between 2000 and 2010 against an average increase of 35 percentage points for OECD countries.

A young and well-paid teaching force

Korea has a relatively young teaching force. For example, at the primary level almost 59% of teachers are under 40 years old compared to the OECD average of 41%. Teachers are also well paid in comparison with teachers in other OECD countries. In lower and upper secondary schools, teachers with 15 years experience and minimum training, earn USD 48 146, significantly more than the OECD average of USD 39 934 for lower secondary and USD 41 665 for upper secondary teachers. With the

same level of experience and training, in primary schools, teachers' salaries amount to USD 48 251 , compared to the OECD average of USD 38 136.

However, although teachers in Korea remains among the best paid in OECD countries, their salaries were frozen between 2008 and 2010 as a consequence of the economic downturn, and fell by 6% in real terms during that period. However, in 2011, salaries were slightly increased.

Increasing unemployment, but at a slower pace than other OECD countries

Korea's unemployment rate has increased but at a slower rate than in other OECD countries. For example, unemployment rates among 25-64 year-olds without an upper secondary education only increased by 0.2 percentage points between 2008 and 2011, compared with an OECD-wide increase of 3.8 percentage points for people who had attained the same level of education. For tertiary-educated adults, unemployment rates increased as well, but only by 0.3 percentage points during the same period, in comparison with the OECD average increase of 1.5 percentage points.

At the same time, young adults in Korea face a different situation depending on their level of education. The unemployment rate among 25-34 year-olds who did not attain an upper secondary education decreased by 1.6 percentage points between 2008 and 2011, although it remains the highest unemployment rate for all levels of education (7.0%) (OECD average: 13.6% in 2008 to 18.1% in 2011). Among tertiary-educated young adults, the unemployment rate increased by 0.6 percentage points during the same period against an OECD average increase of 2.2 percentage points. Despite this increase, the unemployment rate of young adults is lowest among those with a tertiary degree (4.6% in 2011).

Other findings:

- The proportion of 15-29 year-olds who had not attained upper secondary education and were neither employed nor in education or training (NEET) increased by 1.1 percentage points between 2008 and 2011 (from 4.8% to 5.9%), similar to the average increase of the OECD countries (from 14.4% to 15.5%).
- Korea has drastically reduced the share of individuals without an upper secondary education over the generations. While 55% of those aged between 55 and 64 lack an upper secondary education, only 2% of young adults aged between 25 and 34 do. The proportion of tertiary-educated individuals has also increased rapidly. While only 13% of 55-to-64 year-olds have a tertiary degree, 64% of the 25-34 age group do.

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Key Facts for Korea in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Korea		OECD average		Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries*
Educational Access and Output						
	Enrolment rates	2011	2005	2011	2005	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	82%	m	67%	64%	16 of 36
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	83%	m	84%	79%	24 of 36
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	99%		99%		15 of 38
	Percentage of population that has attained below upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	19%	32%	26%	34%	19 of 35
	Percentage of population that has attained upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	41%	44%	44%	44%	20 of 36
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	40%	24%	31%	22%	6 of 36
	30-34 year-olds	64%		39%		1 of 34
	25-34 year-olds	64%	37%	39%	26%	1 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	13%	9%	24%	15%	30 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	
C3.1a	Vocational programmes (Tertiary-type B)	37%	51%	19%	16%	4 of 32
	University programmes (Tertiary-type A)	69%	45%	60%	48%	12 of 36
	Graduation rates	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A2.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime	93%	96%	83%	76%	4 of 27
A3.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	m	m	39%	28%	m
Economic and Labour Market Outcomes						
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4b	Below upper secondary	2.7%	2.5%	12.6%	8.8%	35 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3.4%	3.3%	7.3%	4.9%	33 of 36
	Tertiary	2.9%	2.6%	4.8%	3.3%	28 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4d	Below upper secondary	1.8%	1.5%	12.2%	9.5%	35 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	2.9%	2.5%	8.0%	5.7%	34 of 35
	Tertiary	3.0%	2.4%	5.1%	3.6%	31 of 36
	Average earnings premium for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**	2011 or latest year available		2011		
A6.1	Men and women	147		157		23 of 33
	Men	137		162		28 of 33
	Women	153		161		21 of 33
	Average earnings penalty for 25-64 year-olds who have not attained upper secondary education**	2011 or latest year available		2011		
A6.1	Men and women	71		76		23 of 33
	Men	72		77		22 of 33
	Women	78		74		11 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	
C5.4d	Below upper secondary	5.9%	4.8%	15.8%	14.4%	33 of 34
	Upper secondary	27.1%	26.0%	16.2%	13.6%	3 of 34
	Tertiary	24.0%	24.8%	13.3%	10.6%	3 of 34

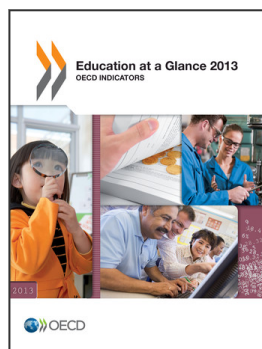
Key Facts for Korea in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Korea		OECD average		Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries*
Financial Investment in Education						
	Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2010		2010		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	6739 USD		6762 USD		12 of 32
	Primary education	6601 USD		7974 USD		22 of 34
	Secondary education	8060 USD		9014 USD		21 of 34
	Tertiary education	9972 USD		13528 USD		21 of 33
	Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B2.1	As a percentage of GDP	7.6%	6.1%	6.3%	5.4%	3 of 33
	Total public expenditure on education	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B4.1	As a percentage of total public expenditure	16.2%	16.6%	13.0%	12.6%	5 of 32
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B3.2a	Pre-primary education	47.5%		17.9%		2 of 28
B3.2a	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	21.5%	19.2%	8.5%	7.1%	1 of 31
B3.2b	Tertiary education	72.7%	76.7%	31.6%	22.6%	3 of 30
B3.1	All levels of education	38.4%	40.8%	16.4%	12.1%	2 of 29
Schools and Teachers						
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2011		2011		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	16 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		10 of 31
	Primary education	20 students per teacher		15 students per teacher		8 of 35
	Secondary education	17 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		6 of 36
	Total intended instruction time for students (hours)	2011		2011		
D1.1	Primary education	3795 hours		4717 hours		25 of 31
	Lower secondary education	2550 hours		3034 hours		25 of 31
	Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)	2011	2000	2011	2000	
D4.2	Pre-primary education	680 hours		994 hours		26 of 29
	Primary education	812 hours	865 hours	790 hours	780 hours	13 of 31
	Lower secondary education	621 hours	570 hours	709 hours	697 hours	21 of 30
	Upper secondary education	609 hours	530 hours	664 hours	628 hours	17 of 31
	Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2000 = 100)	2011	2008	2011	2008	
D3.4	Primary school teachers	119	124	120	120	9 of 23
	Lower secondary school teachers	119	124	116	116	6 of 22
	Upper secondary school teachers	119	124	117	118	7 of 22
	Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education	2011		2011		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	1.31		0.80		1 of 22
	Primary school teachers	1.34		0.82		1 of 27
	Lower secondary school teachers	1.34		0.85		2 of 27
	Upper secondary school teachers	1.34		0.89		2 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.



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