

EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2013

LUXEMBOURG

Upper secondary attainment is high in Luxembourg, with a high proportion in a vocational programme

In 2011, more than three out of four Luxembourgers have at least an upper secondary education: 77% of 25-64 year-olds compared with the OECD average of 75%. The younger generation is doing even better: 83% of 25-34 year-olds hold at least an upper secondary qualification, compared with the OECD average of 82%. If current graduation patterns remain stable, it is expected that almost half of those with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education will graduate from a vocational education and training (VET) programme: 45%, compared with 47% across OECD countries, whereas only 29% will graduate from a general programme.

Programme orientation can make a significant difference when it comes to finding a job. In the context of the economic crisis and worsening labour market conditions, upper secondary VET offers the possibility to acquire the skills, knowledge and practical experience relevant for specialised occupations, and helps to prepare young people for entry into the labour market. In fact, in Luxembourg, there is a 7 percentage points difference in employment rates between those who graduated from vocational programmes and those who hold a general qualification (70% versus 63%).

Furthermore, although the unemployment rate for people who lack an upper secondary education is low in Luxembourg (6%), the labour market imposes a severe earnings penalty. People with this level of education can expect to earn 34% less than those who have completed this level of education (OECD average: 25%).

Standing against unemployment

In Luxembourg, the employment rate at all levels of education is 74%, 1 percentage point higher than the OECD average. However, unemployment rates have increased between 2008 and 2011, depending on age and educational attainment. Among tertiary-educated adults (25-64 year-olds), the unemployment rate increased by 1.3 percentage points between 2008 and 2011 (the EU21 average increase was 2.0 percentage points), while for the youngest adults (25-34 year-olds) with the same level of education, the unemployment rate increased slightly more, by 1.9 percentage points (the EU21 average increase was 2.9 percentage points). By contrast, and unlike other European countries, unemployment rates decreased for those with an upper secondary education by 1.2 percentage points while the EU21 average increased by 3.3 percentage points between 2008 and 2011. More significantly, the unemployment rate among the youngest adults with an upper secondary education decreased by 3.7 percentage points, while the average for the EU21 countries registered an increase of 4.4 percentage points during the same period of time.

Highest expenditure per student among OECD countries

Luxembourg devotes the highest level of resources to education among OECD countries in terms of spending per student¹. At pre-primary level, annual expenditure per student amounts to USD 20 958, more than three times the average expenditure across OECD countries. At the primary level, annual expenditure per student amounts to USD 21 240, again well above the OECD average of USD 7 974. At the secondary level, expenditure is USD 17 633 per student, while the OECD average is about USD 8 998.

Well-paid young teaching force

Luxembourg has a relatively young teaching force with almost half of primary and lower secondary teachers under the age of 40. The high level of teachers' pay in Luxembourg certainly explains the attractiveness of the profession. Teachers are well paid in comparison with teachers in other OECD countries. After 15 years of experience, a Luxembourgian teacher can expect to earn more than twice the amount of the OECD average salary. When compared with the earnings of other tertiary-educated, 25-64 year-old full-time workers, Luxembourgian teachers are also well over the OECD average. Lower and upper secondary teachers in Luxembourg earn on average 24% more than other workers of a similar age and education level. This is in contrast with the average across OECD countries, where lower and upper secondary teachers earn 15% and 11% respectively less than their similarly educated counterparts.

Other findings:

- The average annual growth rate of attainment at tertiary level among women has increased at a significant rate (7.5% over the period from 2000 to 2011) and almost double the OECD average. However, unlike most OECD countries, by 2011, more men than women attained tertiary education (49% versus 45%).
- The average number of years a 15-29 year-old can expect to spend in formal education has increased over the past decade, from 6.6 years in 1999 to 8.2 in 2011. For young women, the increase is particularly significant, since they can expect to spend almost two more years in education in 2011 than they would have in 1999.
- The proportion of 25-64 year-olds with a tertiary education has increased by 6.6% per year between 2000 and 2011, one of the highest growth rates among OECD countries. In 2011, the percentage of people who attained tertiary education was up to 37%, 5 percentage points higher than the OECD average. At the same time, the proportion of people without an upper secondary education decreased by 4.8% between 2000 and 2011.
- Only 7.2% of 15-29 year-olds in Luxembourg are neither in employment nor in education or training (NEET), compared with the OECD average of 15.8%.

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¹ Expenditure data for 2010 includes reimbursements for previous years.

Key Facts for Luxembourg in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Luxembourg		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)	72%	62%	67%	64%	77%	73%	20 of 36
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	95%	96%	84%	79%	90%	84%	14 of 36
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	96%		99%		98%		29 of 38
	Percentage of population that has attained below upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	23%	39%	26%	34%	25%	34%	18 of 35
	Percentage of population that has attained upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	40%	43%	44%	44%	48%	46%	23 of 36
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	37%	18%	32%	22%	28%	20%	13 of 36
	30-34 year-olds	48%		39%		37%		7 of 34
	25-34 year-olds	47%	23%	39%	26%	36%	24%	8 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	28%	13%	24%	15%	21%	14%	12 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
C3.1a C3.2a	Vocational programmes (Tertiary-type B)	m	m	19%	16%	15%	11%	m
	University programmes (Tertiary-type A)	m	m	60%	48%	59%	46%	m
	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	70%	m	83%	76%	83%	77%	23 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%	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	6.1%	4.8%	12.6%	8.8%	15.6%	10.4%	28 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3.7%	4.9%	7.3%	4.9%	8.5%	5.2%	32 of 36
	Tertiary	3.5%	2.2%	4.8%	3.3%	5.2%	3.2%	25 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4d	Below upper secondary	7.9%	5.7%	12.2%	9.5%	15.1%	11.0%	22 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	4.6%	4.9%	8.0%	5.7%	9.1%	6.1%	29 of 35
	Tertiary	4.4%	3.0%	5.1%	3.6%	5.5%	3.6%	17 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	159		157		158		13 of 33
	Men	165		162		164		11 of 33
	Women	166		161		161		12 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	66		76		77		28 of 33
	Men	68		77		78		27 of 33
	Women	68		74		75		26 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	5.4%	12.3%	15.8%	14.4%	15.3%	13.5%	34 of 34
	Upper secondary	8.0%	5.8%	16.2%	13.6%	15.1%	11.8%	31 of 34
	Tertiary	7.8%	3.5%	13.3%	10.6%	12.3%	9.6%	28 of 34

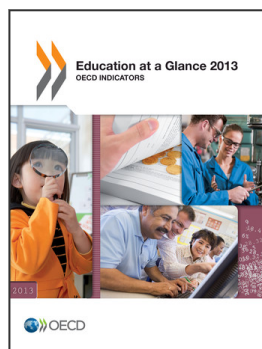
Key Facts for Luxembourg in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Luxembourg		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	20958 USD		6762 USD		7085 USD		1 of 32
	Primary education	21240 USD		7974 USD		8277 USD		1 of 34
	Secondary education	17633 USD		9014 USD		9471 USD		1 of 34
	Tertiary education	m		13528 USD		12856 USD		m
	Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B2.1	As a percentage of GDP	m	m	6.3%	5.4%	5.9%	5.2%	m
	Total public expenditure on education	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B4.1	As a percentage of total public expenditure	m	m	13.0%	12.6%	11.4%	11.4%	m
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B3.2a	Pre-primary education	1.2%		17.9%		11.3%		27 of 28
B3.2a	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	2.2%	m	8.5%	7.1%	6.1%	5.6%	27 of 31
B3.2b	Tertiary education	m	m	31.6%	22.6%	22.7%	14.3%	m
B3.1	All levels of education	m	m	16.4%	12.1%	10.7%	7.9%	m
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		23 of 31
	Primary education	10 students per teacher		15 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		35 of 35
	Secondary education	10 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		12 students per teacher		32 of 36
	Total intended instruction time for students (hours)	2011		2011		2011		
D1.1	Primary education	5544 hours		4717 hours		m		9 of 31
	Lower secondary education	3600 hours		3034 hours		m		9 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	880 hours		994 hours		977 hours		19 of 29
	Primary education	810 hours	m	790 hours	780 hours	777 hours	776 hours	14 of 31
	Lower secondary education	739 hours	m	709 hours	697 hours	669 hours	658 hours	10 of 30
	Upper secondary education	739 hours	m	664 hours	628 hours	651 hours	635 hours	9 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	m	m	120	120	121	122	m
	Lower secondary school teachers	m	m	116	116	121	121	m
	Upper secondary school teachers	m	m	117	118	118	119	m
	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	1.08		0.80		0.77		4 of 22
	Primary school teachers	1.08		0.82		0.80		4 of 27
	Lower secondary school teachers	1.24		0.85		0.84		3 of 27
	Upper secondary school teachers	1.24		0.89		0.89		3 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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