

# PORTUGAL

## EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2013

### **The lower the attainment, the higher the risk of unemployment**

Between 2008 and 2011, the rise in unemployment affected individuals unevenly depending on their level of education. The unemployment rate among 25-64 year-olds without an upper secondary education increased by 5.7 percentage points to reach 13.3% (OECD average increased by 3.8 percentage points to reach 12.6%). At the other end of the spectrum, unemployment rate among 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education increased by 2.2 percentage points to reach 8.0% (OECD average increased by 1.5 percentage points to reach 4.8%).

The economic crisis has been even worse for young adults. Again, those who had attained a tertiary education were less vulnerable to unemployment. Between 2008 and 2011, the unemployment rate among 25-34 year-olds without an upper secondary education increased by 6.9 percentage points to reach 16.1% (OECD average increased by 4.5 percentage points to reach 18.1%) and unemployment rate among 25-34 year-olds with a tertiary education increased by 3.7 percentage points to reach 12.7% (OECD average increased by 2.2 percentage points to reach 6.8%).

### **The challenge is still to increase low rates of educational attainment**

Portugal is among the five OECD countries with the largest proportion of adults (25-64 year-olds) without an upper secondary diploma (65%, in contrast with the OECD average of 25%). Portugal is among the three OECD countries with the lowest proportion of adults (25-64 year-olds) with tertiary education (17%, in contrast with the OECD average of 32%). It should also be pointed out that between 2000 and 2011, the proportion of 25-34 year-olds with at least an upper secondary qualification increased from 32% to 56% and the rate of tertiary attainment among 25-64 year-olds almost doubled in the same period.

One of the major issues of educational policy in the last decades has been improving the attainment levels of the population, i.e. the successful completion of a given level of education. Since 2005, due to specific policy measures aimed at the recognition and improvement of skills, more than 230 000 adults have obtained upper secondary qualifications through these initiatives. In 2011, almost three out of ten (30%) graduates from upper secondary education in Portugal were older than 25 years old. Indeed, Portugal has the highest graduation rate of adults at this level among the OECD countries (21%).

### **Higher earnings premium from tertiary education than OECD countries**

Higher educational attainment decreases the likelihood of being unemployed and increases earnings compared to those with lower levels of education. In 2010, a tertiary-educated worker in Portugal could expect to earn 70% more than a worker with an upper secondary education (OECD average: +64% in 2011). The earnings premium of tertiary-educated workers has decreased by 8% from 2004 to 2010. This trend may indicate an adjustment of the earnings premium in Portugal, which may be a response to the changing conditions in the national labour market.

## Tertiary-educated youth are less likely to become NEET

In 2011, Portugal reported 15.3% of 15-29 year-olds were neither employed nor in education or training (NEET), comparable to the EU21 average of 14.8%. Interestingly, the trend between 2008 and 2011 varied widely with levels of education, and in Portugal, unlike all the OECD countries except Austria, Germany, Korea, Sweden and Switzerland, the NEET population at tertiary level decreased.

Between 2008 and 2011, the proportion of NEETs among 15-29 year-olds who had not completed secondary education increased by 3.9 percentage points from 14.2% to 18.1% (while the EU21 average increased by 1.8 percentage points from 13.5% to 15.3%). Over the same period among 15-29 year-olds who had completed secondary education, the proportion of NEETs increased by 4.2 percentage points from 7.2% to 11.4% (while the EU21 average increased by 3.3 percentage points from 11.8% to 15.1%). Last but not least, over the same period, the proportion of NEETs among 15-29 year-olds who had completed tertiary education decreased by 0.3 percentage points from 14.5% to 14.2% (while the EU21 average increased by 2.7 percentage points from 9.6% to 12.3%).

## Teachers' salaries rose... but so did their teaching hours

Between 2005 and 2011, teachers' salaries at all levels of education rose 12%, four times more than the average increase in OECD countries of 3%. Teachers' salaries rose to the point where in 2011 they were around 19% higher than those of many workers with similar tertiary education in other sectors. On the other hand, working hours have also been extended. Teachers spent 880 hours teaching in the classroom in public primary schools in 2011, almost 100 hours more than the average in OECD countries and 65 hours more than in 2005. In public secondary schools, the increase has been even more drastic. From 2005 to 2011 teaching time increased in 210 hours for lower secondary teachers and 265 hours for upper secondary, up to 774 teaching hours per year in both cases, exceeding the OECD average of 65 and 111 hours respectively.

## Other findings

- Portugal shows one of the largest cross-generational differences in the level of attainment among OECD countries. While less than 20% of 55-64 year-olds attained at least upper secondary education, for 25-34 year-olds the proportion has tripled for women (60%) and more than doubled for men (50%).
- According to 2009 data, a Portuguese woman with a university-level degree can expect a net gain of EUR 134 000 over a peer with only upper secondary education during her working life –one of the highest economic benefits from attaining this level of education in OECD countries, where the average premium is EUR 93 000. By contrast, the benefits of attaining tertiary level for men are smaller, roughly EUR 132 700, which is slightly above the OECD average of EUR 131 800.
- Women are more likely to complete their tertiary studies than men. Some 73% of Portuguese women who enter a tertiary programme for the first time complete their degrees while a 59% of men do.

### Questions can be directed to:

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# Key Facts for Portugal in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Portugal		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)	75%	61%	67%	64%	77%	73%	18 of 36
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	88%	84%	84%	79%	90%	84%	22 of 36
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	100%		99%		98%		3 of 38
	Percentage of population that has attained below upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	65%	81%	26%	34%	25%	34%	2 of 35
	Percentage of population that has attained upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	18%	11%	44%	44%	48%	46%	36 of 36
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	17%	9%	32%	22%	28%	20%	33 of 36
	30-34 year-olds	26%		39%		37%		27 of 34
	25-34 year-olds	27%	13%	39%	26%	36%	24%	29 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	11%	5%	24%	15%	21%	14%	33 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
C3.1a C3.2a	Vocational programmes (Tertiary-type B)	n	m	19%	16%	15%	11%	29 of 32
	University programmes (Tertiary-type A)	98%	m	60%	48%	59%	46%	1 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	89%	52%	83%	76%	83%	77%	10 of 27
A3.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	39%	23%	39%	28%	41%	27%	14 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	13.3%	7.6%	12.6%	8.8%	15.6%	10.4%	12 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	10.9%	6.6%	7.3%	4.9%	8.5%	5.2%	6 of 36
	Tertiary	8.0%	5.8%	4.8%	3.3%	5.2%	3.2%	3 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4d	Below upper secondary	14.0%	8.8%	12.2%	9.5%	15.1%	11.0%	10 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	11.8%	7.8%	8.0%	5.7%	9.1%	6.1%	6 of 35
	Tertiary	7.3%	6.8%	5.1%	3.6%	5.5%	3.6%	5 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	170		157		158		10 of 33
	Men	173		162		164		10 of 33
	Women	171		161		161		9 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	69		76		77		24 of 33
	Men	67		77		78		28 of 33
	Women	68		74		75		27 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	18.1%	14.2%	15.8%	14.4%	15.3%	13.5%	14 of 34
	Upper secondary	11.4%	7.2%	16.2%	13.6%	15.1%	11.8%	23 of 34
	Tertiary	14.2%	14.5%	13.3%	10.6%	12.3%	9.6%	13 of 34

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Table	Indicator	Portugal		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	5977 USD		6762 USD		7085 USD		18 of 32
	Primary education	5922 USD		7974 USD		8277 USD		24 of 34
	Secondary education	8882 USD		9014 USD		9471 USD		17 of 34
	Tertiary education	10578 USD		13528 USD		12856 USD		19 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	5.8%	5.2%	6.3%	5.4%	5.9%	5.2%	22 of 33
	Total public expenditure on education	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B4.1	As a percentage of total public expenditure	11%	12.7%	13.0%	12.6%	11.4%	11.4%	23 of 32
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B3.2a	Pre-primary education	m		17.9%		11.3%		m
B3.2a	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	n	0.1%	8.5%	7.1%	6.1%	5.6%	30 of 31
B3.2b	Tertiary education	31.0%	7.5%	31.6%	22.6%	22.7%	14.3%	12 of 30
B3.1	All levels of education	7.4%	1.4%	16.4%	12.1%	10.7%	7.9%	24 of 29
Schools and Teachers								
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2011		2011		2011		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	16 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		13 students per teacher		13 of 31
	Primary education	11 students per teacher		15 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		29 of 35
	Secondary education	8 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		12 students per teacher		36 of 36
	Total intended instruction time for students (hours)	2011		2011		2011		
D1.1	Primary education	5544 hours		4717 hours		m		8 of 31
	Lower secondary education	2851 hours		3034 hours		m		17 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	965 hours		994 hours		977 hours		14 of 29
	Primary education	880 hours	815 hours	790 hours	780 hours	777 hours	776 hours	7 of 31
	Lower secondary education	774 hours	595 hours	709 hours	697 hours	669 hours	658 hours	6 of 30
	Upper secondary education	774 hours	515 hours	664 hours	628 hours	651 hours	635 hours	5 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	126	111	120	120	121	122	6 of 23
	Lower secondary school teachers	126	111	116	116	121	121	4 of 22
	Upper secondary school teachers	126	111	117	118	118	119	5 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	1.17		0.80		0.77		3 of 22
	Primary school teachers	1.17		0.82		0.80		3 of 27
	Lower secondary school teachers	1.17		0.85		0.84		4 of 27
	Upper secondary school teachers	1.17		0.89		0.89		4 of 27

\* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

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

Note: Enrolment rates above 100% in the calculation are shown in italics.

'm': data is not available. 'n': magnitude is either negligible or zero.



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