

EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2013

SWEDEN

Sweden has one of the highest employment rates within the OECD, although it is decreasing

The employment rate in Sweden for people with all levels of education is 83%, placing it first (together with Iceland, Norway and Switzerland) among OECD countries. On the other hand, unemployment rates for people with all levels of education have increased between 2008 and 2011. The worsening labour market conditions are affecting people differently, depending on their educational attainment.

Among tertiary-educated adults of working age (25-64 year-olds), the unemployment rate increased at a much slower pace than other OECD countries, growing by 0.6 percentage points against an average of 1.5 percentage points. The difference was even greater with the EU21 countries, which saw the unemployment rate grew by 2 percentage points. On the other hand, Swedish unemployment rates increased more significantly for the less-educated cohort: between 2008 and 2011 unemployment increased by 3.7 percentage points among those who had not attained upper secondary education but, again, slower than the average increase for OECD (3.8 percentage points) and EU21 (5.1 percentage points) countries.

Earnings premium from education is below the average

The average difference in earnings between people with tertiary education and those with upper secondary education is relatively small compared with other OECD countries. The difference in earnings is 25 percentage points, which is less than half of the OECD average difference of 57 percentage points. As in all Nordic countries this is partly due to tax policies and flat income distribution.

Furthermore, as in all Nordic countries, the earnings premium for people with tertiary education over those with upper secondary education has slightly decreased over time, from 31 percentage points in 2001 to 25 percentage points in 2010. These figures might reflect the fact that younger tertiary-educated individuals have entered the labour market on relatively low starting salaries.

One of the largest public investments in education, and the lowest private expenditure of OECD

In 2010, Sweden devoted an annual expenditure of USD 11 700 per student from primary to tertiary education, compared with an OECD average of USD 9 300, which represents 7% of its GDP to education at all levels, one of the highest percentages across OECD countries (average: 6%). Research and development accounted for more than 53% of total expenditure per student in tertiary education.

The share of private expenditure on all levels of education (2.5%) is the lowest of the OECD countries and well below the OECD average of 16%. At tertiary level, 91% of the total spending comes from public sources, which is a particularly high share: on average across OECD countries, 68% of total expenditure on tertiary education comes from public sources, while for the EU21 countries the proportion is 77%.

Getting a tertiary-level degree

Based on 2011 patterns of graduation, 38% of young people in Sweden will graduate from tertiary-type A first-degree programmes, close to the average for the OECD of 39%. Sweden has, together with Hungary and the United States, the lowest completion rate at tertiary level across the OECD countries. In 2011, 53% of students graduated from the programme they entered, in comparison with the OECD average of 68%. Students in Sweden do not always need the graduation document to enter the labour market. The summary record of their completed courses is recognised as equivalent to a diploma for many types of education.

Other findings:

- Tertiary attainment rates for 25-64 year-old women are higher than those for men by 11 percentage points (41% versus 30%). The tertiary attainment rates for young women (25-34 year-olds) are even higher with 51% of them attaining a tertiary qualification.
- In 2010, the average salary for 25-29 year-old graduates in engineering was 90% higher than the average for students who had majored in arts and humanities.
- The annual income for primary school teachers who are at the maximum teaching salary is USD 39 865, compared with the OECD average of USD 49 609. At all levels of education, the starting salary is within the OECD average but drops significantly below when it comes to the mid-career and top scale salaries.
- Some 9% of 15-29 year-olds in Sweden are neither in employment, nor in education or training (NEET) – one of the smallest percentages across OECD countries (OECD average: 16%).

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Key Facts for Sweden in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Sweden		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)	92%	84%	67%	64%	77%	73%	7 of 36
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	94%	89%	84%	79%	90%	84%	15 of 36
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	97%		99%		98%		25 of 38
	Percentage of population that has attained below upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	13%	22%	26%	34%	25%	34%	28 of 35
	Percentage of population that has attained upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	52%	47%	44%	44%	48%	46%	10 of 36
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	35%	30%	32%	22%	28%	20%	16 of 36
	30-34 year-olds	48%		39%		37%		9 of 34
	25-34 year-olds	43%	34%	39%	26%	36%	24%	14 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	28%	23%	24%	15%	21%	14%	13 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
C3.1a C3.2a	Vocational programmes (Tertiary-type B)	11%	7%	19%	16%	15%	11%	21 of 32
	University programmes (Tertiary-type A)	72%	67%	60%	48%	59%	46%	9 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	75%	75%	83%	76%	83%	77%	21 of 27
A3.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	41%	28%	39%	28%	41%	27%	11 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	10.8%	7.1%	12.6%	8.8%	15.6%	10.4%	19 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	5.2%	4.1%	7.3%	4.9%	8.5%	5.2%	26 of 36
	Tertiary	3.8%	3.3%	4.8%	3.3%	5.2%	3.2%	22 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4d	Below upper secondary	13.3%	8.9%	12.2%	9.5%	15.1%	11.0%	12 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	5.4%	4.5%	8.0%	5.7%	9.1%	6.1%	25 of 35
	Tertiary	3.6%	3.1%	5.1%	3.6%	5.5%	3.6%	25 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	125		157		158		32 of 33
	Men	133		162		164		31 of 33
	Women	127		161		161		32 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	82		76		77		8 of 33
	Men	81		77		78		10 of 33
	Women	80		74		75		8 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	8.1%	8.6%	15.8%	14.4%	15.3%	13.5%	31 of 34
	Upper secondary	11.8%	12.0%	16.2%	13.6%	15.1%	11.8%	22 of 34
	Tertiary	4.9%	5.8%	13.3%	10.6%	12.3%	9.6%	33 of 34

Key Facts for Sweden in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Sweden		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	6582 USD		6762 USD		7085 USD		15 of 32
	Primary education	9987 USD		7974 USD		8277 USD		7 of 34
	Secondary education	10185 USD		9014 USD		9471 USD		13 of 34
	Tertiary education	19562 USD		13528 USD		12856 USD		4 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%	6.3%	6.3%	5.4%	5.9%	5.2%	13 of 33
	Total public expenditure on education	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B4.1	As a percentage of total public expenditure	13.4%	13.0%	13.0%	12.6%	11.4%	11.4%	13 of 32
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B3.2a	Pre-primary education	n		17.9%		11.3%		28 of 28
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	9.4%	8.7%	31.6%	22.6%	22.7%	14.3%	26 of 30
B3.1	All levels of education	2.5%	3.0%	16.4%	12.1%	10.7%	7.9%	28 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		30 of 31
	Primary education	11 students per teacher		15 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		28 of 35
	Secondary education	12 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		12 students per teacher		20 of 36
	Total intended instruction time for students (hours)	2011		2011		2011		
D1.1	Primary education	4444 hours		4717 hours		m		18 of 31
	Lower secondary education	2222 hours		3034 hours		m		30 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	1792 hours		994 hours		977 hours		1 of 29
	Primary education	m	m	790 hours	780 hours	777 hours	776 hours	m
	Lower secondary education	m	m	709 hours	697 hours	669 hours	658 hours	m
	Upper secondary education	m	m	664 hours	628 hours	651 hours	635 hours	m
	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	109	m	120	120	121	122	15 of 23
	Lower secondary school teachers	113	m	116	116	121	121	11 of 22
	Upper secondary school teachers	112	m	117	118	118	119	10 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		11 of 22
	Primary school teachers	0.82		0.82		0.80		13 of 27
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.82		0.85		0.84		14 of 27
	Upper secondary school teachers	0.87		0.89		0.89		12 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. 'n': magnitude is either negligible or zero.



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