

## EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2014

*Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators* is the authoritative source for accurate and relevant information on the state of education around the world. It provides data on the structure, finances and performance of the education systems in the 34 OECD member countries, as well as a number of G20 and partner countries.

### Austria

#### Austria's relative spending on individuals' tertiary education is among the highest in the OECD.

Austria puts great emphasis on tertiary education which is reflected in the level of public investment: its spending on individuals' tertiary education relative to lower levels of education is among the highest of the OECD countries. Considering public direct spending and indirect costs, **Austria spends USD 68 000 more per tertiary student than on students at the upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary level.** Only Denmark and the Netherlands show a greater difference; across the OECD, the average difference is USD 38 000.<sup>1</sup>

#### Labour market incentives for tertiary education are particularly strong.

Across all OECD countries, greater educational attainment means better chances for the individual in the labour market. On average, over 80% of tertiary-educated people are employed compared with less than 60% of people with below upper secondary education. In Austria, this gap is even larger: **since 2000, employment rates for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary attainment have consistently been more than 30 percentage points more** than for those with below upper secondary attainment.

#### Enrolment and graduation rates for young Austrians are below OECD averages.

On average, 83% of 15-19 year-olds in OECD countries are enrolled in an education programme, typically at the upper secondary level, or in transition to higher levels of education. However, **Austria's enrolment rates are below average: 79% of young Austrians participate in formal education.** Austria also has **one of the lowest graduation rates** for upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary programmes designed to prepare students under 25 for tertiary-type A education (38.9%, ranking 25 of 27).

#### Literacy skills are unsatisfactory for younger and older adults alike.

While performing above the OECD average in numeracy, Austria has a low share of younger adults (25-34 year-olds) who reached Level 4 or 5 in literacy in the Survey of Adult Skills:<sup>2</sup> **only 13% of**

<sup>1</sup> For further information on direct and indirect costs see Annex 3, Indicator A7.4b, available only online at: <http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> The Survey of Adult Skills is a product of the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC).

Austrians in this age group managed to achieve the necessary scores, compared with an average of 18% across the OECD. The results are similar for older adults: 2% of 55-64 year-olds in Austria scored at the highest proficiency levels, whereas across the OECD the average share is 5%. This is particularly worrying as Austria is one of the countries in which low levels of skills have a significant impact on career chances: **employment rates for individuals scoring at literacy proficiency Level 4 or 5 (89%) are almost 17 percentage points higher than among those scoring at Level 2 (73%).**

### Upward mobility in educational attainment is particularly difficult in Austria, especially for women.

The familial background of individuals can have a significant impact on their educational attainment and **in Austria this correlation is particularly strong: only 29% 25-64 year-old non-students have a higher educational attainment than that of their parents.** Austria ranks 21<sup>st</sup> out of the 23 countries for which data are available on this measure. Unusually, **Austrian men are considerably more upwardly mobile in educational attainment than women** (33% versus 25%), in contrast to the large majority of OECD countries, in which slightly more women (40%) than men (38%) attain a higher education level than their parents. **It seems to be particularly difficult in Austria to attain tertiary education if one's parents ended their schooling before completing upper secondary education:** while in the OECD on average 20% manage to do so, in Austria the figure is only 10%. **Austria is also the country with the greatest downward mobility at the highest educational levels:** while in all other OECD countries, at least 50% of adults with tertiary-educated parents have also attained tertiary education, only 42% of their Austrian counterparts have managed to do so.

### Other findings

- **Vocational education remains an important pillar of the Austrian education system:** in 2012, 76% of students who were enrolled in upper secondary education participated in pre-vocational or vocational programmes, the second highest percentage in the OECD.
- **Austria has a low share of young people (15-29 year olds) neither in employment nor in education or training (NEET):** 9.7% compared with an OECD average of 15.0%.
- **Austrian university programmes are very attractive to international students:** Austria shows one of the highest concentrations of international students in the tertiary sector, with 15% of all students coming from abroad.
- **Despite high salaries, the teaching profession in Austria is ageing rapidly:** lower secondary school teachers at the top of the salary scale and with maximum qualifications are paid over USD 78 500, one of the highest salaries across the OECD (average: USD 53 686). At the same time, almost half of Austria's secondary teachers are over 50 years old (OECD average: 36%), and few young people are entering the profession: 24% of secondary teachers are under 40 years old compared with an OECD average of 36%.

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**For more information** on *Education at a Glance 2014* and to access the full set of Indicators, visit [www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm).

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Key Facts for Austria in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Austria		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
Educational Access and Output								
	Enrolment rates	2012	2005	2012	2005	2012	2005	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	65%	47%	70%	64%	79%	73%	23 of 37
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	91%	82%	84%	79%	89%	84%	19 of 38
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	98%		98%		98%		22 of 44
	Percentage of population that has only attained below upper secondary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	17%	24%	24%	34%	23%	34%	22 of 36
	Percentage of the population whose highest level of attainment is upper secondary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	63%	62%	44%	44%	48%	46%	4 of 37
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	20%	14%	33%	22%	29%	20%	29 of 37
	25-34 year-olds	23%	14%	40%	26%	37%	24%	33 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	17%	10%	25%	15%	22%	14%	26 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
C3.1b	Youth expected to enter tertiary-type A programmes before turning 25	41%	m	48%	m	48%	m	23 of 35
	Graduation rates	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A2.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime***	68%	m	84%	76%	83%	77%	27 of 29
A3.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	39%	15%	38%	28%	38%	27%	16 of 27
Economic and Labour Market Outcomes								
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	8%	6%	14%	9%	17%	10%	26 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3%	3%	8%	5%	9%	5%	33 of 36
	Tertiary	2%	2%	5%	3%	6%	3%	35 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	
A5.4c (Web)	Below upper secondary	6%	6%	13%	9%	16%	11%	29 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3%	3%	9%	6%	10%	6%	32 of 35
	Tertiary	2%	2%	5%	4%	6%	4%	34 of 35
	Average earnings advantage for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**	2012 or latest year available		2012 or latest year available		2012 or latest year available		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	171		159		159		12 of 33
	Men	171		164		166		12 of 33
	Women	174		162		160		10 of 34
	Average earnings penalty for 25-64 year-olds who have not attained upper secondary education**	2012 or latest year available		2012 or latest year available		2012 or latest year available		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	70		78		79		26 of 33
	Men	74		78		80		24 of 33
	Women	76		75		76		18 of 34
	Percentage of 15-29 year-olds neither employed nor in education or training, by highest level of education	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	
C5.3d (Web)	Below upper secondary	12%	13%	15%	14%	15%	13%	23 of 35
	Upper secondary	9%	9%	16%	14%	16%	12%	30 of 34
	Tertiary	6%	6%	13%	11%	12%	10%	30 of 34

# Key Facts for Austria in Education at a Glance 2014

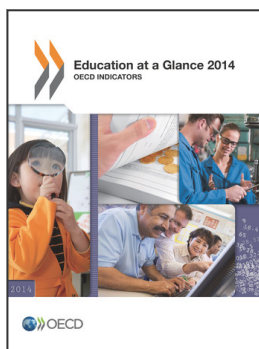
Table	Indicator	Austria		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
Financial Investment in Education								
	Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2011		2011		2011		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	8933		7428		7933		8 of 36
	Primary education	10600		8296		8482		5 of 38
	Secondary education	13607		9280		9615		4 of 38
	Tertiary education	14895		13958		13572		15 of 37
	Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
B2.2	Percentage of GDP	6%	6%	6%	5%	6%	5%	23 of 37
	Total public expenditure on education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	11%	11%	13%	13%	12%	11%	21 of 34
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2011		2011		2011		
B3.1	Pre-primary education	28%		19%		13%		7 of 33
B3.1	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	4%		9%		6%		26 of 36
B3.1	Tertiary education	13%		31%		21%		28 of 34
B3.1	All levels of education	9%		16%		11%		26 of 33
Schools and Teachers								
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2012		2012		2012		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	14		14		13		15 of 31
	Primary education	12		15		14		27 of 36
	Secondary education	9		13		12		34 of 37
	Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
D4.2	Pre-primary education	779		1001		988		23 of 28
	Primary education	779	m	782	780	761	776	17 of 33
	Lower secondary education	607	m	694	697	657	658	25 of 33
	Upper secondary education	589	m	655	628	638	635	20 of 33
	Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2005 = 100)	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	
D3.5	Primary school teachers	101	101	103	103	99	103	14 of 26
	Lower secondary school teachers	102	101	102	103	99	103	13 of 25
	Upper secondary school teachers	102	102	101	103	98	103	14 of 25
	Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education	2012		2012		2012		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	0.55		0.80		0.76		22 of 25
	Primary school teachers	0.55		0.85		0.81		25 of 28
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.60		0.88		0.85		25 of 28
	Upper secondary school teachers	0.61		0.92		0.90		25 of 28

\* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

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

\*\*\* Programmes spanning ISCED levels 3 and 4 (Höhere berufsbildende Schule) are not included.

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



From:

## Education at a Glance 2014

OECD Indicators

Access the complete publication at:

<https://doi.org/10.1787/eag-2014-en>

### Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2014), "Austria", in *Education at a Glance 2014: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/eag-2014-42-en>

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