

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.

Estonia

Upper secondary and tertiary education attainment levels are among the highest of the OECD countries.

Estonia has one of the highest levels of educational attainment, with **90% of 25-64 year-olds having at least completed upper secondary education**, against an OECD average of 75% and an EU21* average of 77%. Similarly, **the proportion of 25-64 year-olds with a tertiary qualification is 37%, against an OECD average of 32%**, also one of the highest among OECD countries. Women's and men's tertiary attainments differ markedly however: **45% of 25-64 year-old women had attained tertiary education, against an OECD average of 34%, while men's attainment was 28%, slightly below the OECD average of 30%**. In addition, tertiary education attainment rates have been stable across the generations, ranging from 35% among 55-64 year-olds to 40% among 25-34 year-olds.

Nonetheless, there has been significant upward mobility, above the OECD average, with **42% of 25-64 year-old Estonians attaining a higher level of education than their parents**. This proportion is even higher for women (50%).

Unemployment rates have been decreasing but are still comparatively high.

While unemployment rates in Estonia have been decreasing since 2010 for people at all levels of educational attainment they are still comparatively high. Labour market conditions vary depending on educational attainment. Between 2010 and 2012, **unemployment rates for 25-64 year-olds who had not attained an upper secondary education fell by 5.6 percentage points to 22%**, while the EU21 average kept increasing to reach 17%. On the other hand, **unemployment rates for 25-64 year-olds with a university degree decreased by 3 percentage points between 2010 and 2012 from 9.1% to 6.1%**, while the EU21 average kept increasing to reach 5.7%.

As in other OECD countries, tertiary-educated adults have higher skills than their less educated counterparts.

The levels of skills among Estonian adults are comparable to other OECD countries: in the Survey of Adult Skills **25-64 year-olds scored higher than the OECD average in both literacy (274 versus 272) and numeracy (272 versus 269)**.¹

Among OECD countries, educational attainment not only increases the likelihood of being employed but also increases skills levels, which play an important role in the labour market. As is the case in all countries, young adults (25-34 year-olds) with tertiary attainment in Estonia had higher skills than

¹ The Survey of Adult Skills is a product of the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC).

those with lower levels of education. Their scores ranked alongside their counterparts in other OECD countries in both literacy (304 against an OECD average of 305) and numeracy (301 compared to 302). However, in Estonia **the difference in scores between tertiary-educated adults and their least educated counterparts is the smallest among OECD countries in both literacy (46 points against an OECD average of 62) and numeracy (54 compared with 70)**. Young tertiary-educated adults could also expect to earn 16% more than their counterparts with upper secondary education, which is lower than the OECD average earnings premium of 40%.

Teachers' salaries have increased dramatically but are still not competitive.

Between 2000 and 2012, teachers' salaries increased faster in Estonia than on average in other OECD countries, with an increase of 56% over this period against an OECD average of less than 20%. However, statutory teachers' salaries are still lower than the OECD average at the primary, lower secondary and upper secondary levels. Statutory teacher's salaries, for **upper secondary teachers with 15 years of experience and minimum training, is USD 12 525 which is much lower than the OECD average of USD 42 861**. In contrast, relative earnings for teachers compared with other tertiary-educated, 25-64 year-old full-time, full-year workers are comparable to other OECD countries.

Spending on education has decreased but resources are being used more efficiently.

Public expenditure on education as a share of total public expenditure decreased between 2005 and 2011, from 14.5% (against an OECD average of 13.1%) to 13.7% (OECD average: 12.9%). This reduction was driven by a more efficient use of resources: **between 2005 and 2011, expenditure per student increased by 28% in primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education, and by 61% in tertiary education.**

Other findings

- **Lower secondary schools in Estonia have the smallest class sizes of all OECD countries:** an average of 16 pupils against an OECD average of 24 in 2012.
- **The pupil-teacher ratio in pre-primary schools is one of the smallest in OECD countries,** with an average of 7 pupils per teacher compared with an OECD average ratio of 14:1 in 2012.
- **The share of private expenditure on all levels of education is one of the smallest of the OECD countries:** 6% against an OECD average of 16% in 2011.

* EU21 countries are those that are members of both the European Union and the OECD. These 21 countries are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries. This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Questions can be directed to: Corinne Heckmann Directorate for Education and Skills Email: Corinne.Heckmann@oecd.org | Country Note author: Francesc Masdeu Directorate for Education and Skills Email: Francesc.Masdeu@oecd.org |
|---|---|

Key Facts for Estonia in Education at a Glance 2014

| Table | Indicator | Estonia | | 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) | 89% | 81% | 70% | 64% | 79% | 73% | 11 of 37 |
| | 4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education) | 89% | 84% | 84% | 79% | 89% | 84% | 21 of 38 |
| C1.1a | 5-14 year-olds (all levels) | 95% | | 98% | | 98% | | 33 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 | 10% | 15% | 24% | 34% | 23% | 34% | 33 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 | 53% | 56% | 44% | 44% | 48% | 46% | 11 of 37 |
| | Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education | 2012 | 2000 | 2012 | 2000 | 2012 | 2000 | |
| A1.3a A1.4a | 25-64 year-olds | 37% | 29% | 33% | 22% | 29% | 20% | 14 of 37 |
| | 25-34 year-olds | 40% | 31% | 40% | 26% | 37% | 24% | 20 of 36 |
| | 55-64 year-olds | 36% | 27% | 25% | 15% | 22% | 14% | 5 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 | 37% | m | 48% | m | 48% | m | 27 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 | m | m | 84% | 76% | 83% | 77% | |
| A3.2a | Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime | m | m | 38% | 28% | 38% | 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 | 22% | 10% | 14% | 9% | 17% | 10% | 8 of 35 |
| | Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary | 10% | 5% | 8% | 5% | 9% | 5% | 7 of 36 |
| | Tertiary | 6% | 3% | 5% | 3% | 6% | 3% | 8 of 36 |
| | Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women | 2012 | 2008 | 2012 | 2008 | 2012 | 2008 | |
| A5.4c (Web) | Below upper secondary | 19% | 10% | 13% | 9% | 16% | 11% | 7 of 35 |
| | Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary | 10% | 5% | 9% | 6% | 10% | 6% | 9 of 35 |
| | Tertiary | 6% | 3% | 5% | 4% | 6% | 4% | 9 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 | 134 | | 159 | | 159 | | 28 of 33 |
| | Men | 137 | | 164 | | 166 | | 29 of 33 |
| | Women | 160 | | 162 | | 160 | | 20 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 | 94 | | 78 | | 79 | | 1 of 33 |
| | Men | 89 | | 78 | | 80 | | 3 of 33 |
| | Women | 91 | | 75 | | 76 | | 2 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 | 16% | 10% | 15% | 14% | 15% | 13% | 14 of 35 |
| | Upper secondary | 17% | 13% | 16% | 14% | 16% | 12% | 15 of 34 |
| | Tertiary | 12% | 10% | 13% | 11% | 12% | 10% | 16 of 34 |

Key Facts for Estonia in Education at a Glance 2014

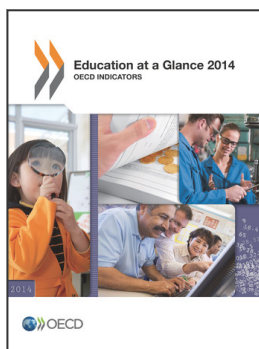
| Table | Indicator | Estonia | | OECD average | | EU21 average | | Rank among OECD countries and partner countries* |
|--|--|---------|------|--------------|------|--|------|--|
| Financial Investment in Education | | | | | | | | |
| | Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs) | 2011 | | 2011 | | 2011 | | |
| B1.1a | Pre-primary education | 2618 | | 7428 | | 7933 | | 31 of 36 |
| | Primary education | 5328 | | 8296 | | 8482 | | 28 of 38 |
| | Secondary education | 6389 | | 9280 | | 9615 | | 25 of 38 |
| | Tertiary education | 7868 | | 13958 | | 13572 | | 33 of 37 |
| | Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | |
| B2.2 | Percentage of GDP | 6% | m | 6% | 5% | 6% | 5% | 25 of 37 |
| | Total public expenditure on education | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | |
| B4.2 | As a percentage of total public expenditure | 14% | 15% | 13% | 13% | 12% | 11% | 12 of 34 |
| | Share of private expenditure on educational institutions | 2011 | | 2011 | | 2011 | | |
| B3.1 | Pre-primary education | 2% | | 19% | | 13% | | 31 of 33 |
| B3.1 | Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education | 1% | | 9% | | 6% | | 33 of 36 |
| B3.1 | Tertiary education | 20% | | 31% | | 21% | | 22 of 34 |
| B3.1 | All levels of education | 6% | | 16% | | 11% | | 29 of 33 |
| Schools and Teachers | | | | | | | | |
| | Ratio of students to teaching staff | 2012 | | 2012 | | 2012 | | |
| D2.2 | Pre-primary education | 7 | | 14 | | 13 | | 28 of 31 |
| | Primary education | 13 | | 15 | | 14 | | 24 of 36 |
| | Secondary education | 12 | | 13 | | 12 | | 21 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 | 1320 | | 1001 | | 988 | | 4 of 28 |
| | Primary education | 619 | 630 | 782 | 780 | 761 | 776 | 30 of 33 |
| | Lower secondary education | 619 | 630 | 694 | 697 | 657 | 658 | 22 of 33 |
| | Upper secondary education | 568 | 578 | 655 | 628 | 638 | 635 | 22 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 | 131 | 138 | 103 | 103 | 99 | 103 | 3 of 26 |
| | Lower secondary school teachers | 131 | 138 | 102 | 103 | 99 | 103 | 1 of 25 |
| | Upper secondary school teachers | 131 | 138 | 101 | 103 | 98 | 103 | 1 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 | 0.61 | | 0.80 | | 0.76 | | 20 of 25 |
| | Primary school teachers | 0.84 | | 0.85 | | 0.81 | | 14 of 28 |
| | Lower secondary school teachers | 0.84 | | 0.88 | | 0.85 | | 15 of 28 |
| | Upper secondary school teachers | 0.84 | | 0.92 | | 0.90 | | 16 of 28 |
| New data from the Survey of Adult Skills | | | | Estonia | | Average of countries with available data | | |
| | Students in tertiary education... (20-34 year-olds) | | | 2012 | | 2012 | | |
| A4.1a | ...whose parents have not attained upper secondary education | | | 2% | | 9% | | |
| | ...whose parents have an upper secondary education | | | 31% | | 37% | | |
| | ...whose parents have a tertiary education degree | | | 67% | | 55% | | |
| | Adults in formal and non-formal education | | | 2012 | | 2012 | | |
| C6.1(L) | 25-64 year-olds | | | 53% | | 51% | | |

* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

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

The Survey of Adult Skills is a product of the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies

m': data is not available. 'n': magnitude is either negligible or zero. 'c': there are too few observations to provide reliable estimates.



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

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/eag-2014-49-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.