

## 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.

### Sweden

#### Sweden values lifelong learning for both employed and unemployed people.

As in other Scandinavian countries, lifelong learning is very well developed in Sweden, and contributes to making the system inclusive. **The level of participation in formal and non-formal education – the latter referring to open or distance learning, private lessons, workshops, etc. – among 25-64 year-olds is 66%**, the highest across OECD countries alongside Denmark and Finland. Generally, most people engaged in lifelong learning are employed and this is also the case in Sweden with **71% of those in employment participating in formal and/or non-formal education**. Still, **the participation rate of inactive people** – i.e. people not looking for a job – **is 36% in Sweden**, the highest rate of all OECD countries. To this extent lifelong learning can be an effective way to reintegrate the labour market.

The willingness to take part in learning activities is also well developed among the adult population. Thus one in three 25-64 year-olds in Sweden report wanting to participate in education, while one in four neither participate nor want to.

#### Sweden enjoys high employment rates in a homogenous labour market.

**Sweden enjoys an 82% employment rate for all levels of education** – the third highest rate of all OECD countries after Iceland and Switzerland. Employment rates are way above the OECD average for all levels of attainment; for people with tertiary education, it reaches 90%.

The labour market is quite homogenous in that the difference in earnings between adults with a tertiary education and those with an upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education is quite low compared with other OECD and partner countries. **Among 25-34 year-olds, the tertiary earnings premium is the second lowest across OECD countries, after Norway.**

Gender equity is another hallmark of the Swedish system. **The difference in employment rates between men and women is less than 3 percentage points**, ranking Sweden alongside Iceland, Norway and Portugal.

#### Investment in education remained stable throughout the economic crisis.

The level of expenditure for core services, ancillary services and R&D is among the highest across OECD countries at USD 10 548 per student per year for primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education. Over the period 2008-11, **combined public and private spending per student slightly increased at the primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary levels of education**, in line with the OECD average, as the result of a decrease in the number of students and stable expenditure

levels. This increase is mainly supported by public spending which makes up the large majority of spending on educational institutions. At tertiary level, including research and development, expenditure per student remained stable, as both enrolment rates and expenditure increased substantially. By comparison, 12 countries out of 31 decreased their expenditure per student at tertiary level.

Public expenditure on educational institutions, slightly but steadily increased over both 2008-09 and 2009-11, while GDP fell over the period 2008-09. Still, the expenditure on education institutions as a share of GDP remained stable over the whole period, while the OECD average increased by 5 percentage points.

It is also worth stressing that over the period 2008-11, Sweden prioritised education as a key public sector. As in about half of all OECD countries, public expenditure on education in Sweden grew faster than public expenditure on all services, while in the other half of countries the share decreased. **In 2011, Sweden's education budget amounted to 13.2% of total public expenditure**, above the OECD average of 12.9%.

### **An ageing teaching workforce paid less than their peers and fellow citizens with tertiary education.**

Even though the share of teachers over 50 decreased from 44% to 39% between 2002 and 2012, **15% of teachers in Sweden were aged over 60** in 2012 at secondary level, the second-highest share, along with Norway and New Zealand, and well above the OECD average of 8%.

At the other end of the age spectrum, **the proportion of young teachers – those under 30 – is only 7%, while 11% of secondary teachers were under 30 in 2002**. Teachers' salaries relative to earnings for full-time, full-year workers with tertiary education are quite low: 82% for primary education, compared with the OECD average of 85%. This ratio is slightly under the OECD average at every level of education.

At every level of education, only teachers' starting salaries, with minimum training, are above the OECD average in Sweden. **Salaries after 10 years, 15 years and at the top of scale fall behind the OECD average.**

### **Other findings**

- **Sweden spends USD 12 426 per student from primary to tertiary education**, more than the OECD average of USD 9 487, reaching USD 20 818 per student at tertiary level, compared to USD 13 958 across OECD countries. In Sweden more than 50% of the expenditure at tertiary level is for R&D.
- **Some 6.8% of Sweden's GDP is devoted to public spending on education**, compared with an average across OECD countries of 5.6.
- **The average share of private expenditure on all levels of education is 3%**, one of the smallest among OECD and G20 countries with available data.

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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).

**Questions can be directed to:**  
Corinne Heckmann  
Directorate for Education and Skills  
**Email:** [Corinne.Heckmann@oecd.org](mailto:Corinne.Heckmann@oecd.org)

**Country Note Author:**  
Joris Ranchin  
Directorate for Education and Skills  
**Email:** [Joris.Ranchin@oecd.org](mailto:Joris.Ranchin@oecd.org)

Key Facts for Sweden in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Sweden		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)	93%	84%	70%	64%	79%	73%	8 of 37
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	94%	89%	84%	79%	89%	84%	14 of 38
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	99%		98%		98%		15 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	12%	22%	24%	34%	23%	34%	28 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	52%	47%	44%	44%	48%	46%	12 of 37
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	36%	30%	33%	22%	29%	20%	16 of 37
	25-34 year-olds	43%	34%	40%	26%	37%	24%	13 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	29%	23%	25%	15%	22%	14%	14 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	44%	m	48%	m	48%	m	22 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	77%	75%	84%	76%	83%	77%	23 of 29
A3.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	39%	28%	38%	28%	38%	27%	17 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	12%	7%	14%	9%	17%	10%	15 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6%	4%	8%	5%	9%	5%	21 of 36
	Tertiary	4%	3%	5%	3%	6%	3%	19 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	
A5.4c (Web)	Below upper secondary	14%	9%	13%	9%	16%	11%	15 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6%	5%	9%	6%	10%	6%	24 of 35
	Tertiary	4%	3%	5%	4%	6%	4%	22 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	128		159		159		31 of 33
	Men	136		164		166		30 of 33
	Women	129		162		160		32 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	82		78		79		10 of 33
	Men	83		78		80		10 of 33
	Women	79		75		76		11 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	8%	7%	15%	14%	15%	13%	34 of 35
	Upper secondary	14%	12%	16%	14%	16%	12%	22 of 34
	Tertiary	5%	6%	13%	11%	12%	10%	33 of 34

Key Facts for Sweden in Education at a Glance 2014

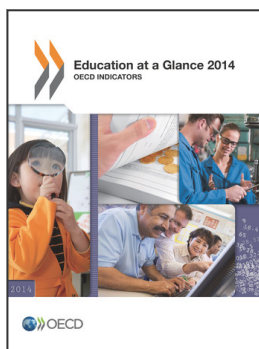
Table	Indicator	Sweden		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
Financial Investment in Education								
	Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2011		2011		2011		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	6915		7428		7933		13 of 36
	Primary education	10295		8296		8482		7 of 38
	Secondary education	10938		9280		9615		10 of 38
	Tertiary education	20818		13958		13572		5 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%	15 of 37
	Total public expenditure on education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	13%	13%	13%	13%	12%	11%	15 of 34
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2011		2011		2011		
B3.1	Pre-primary education	0%		19%		13%		33 of 33
B3.1	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	0%		9%		6%		35 of 36
B3.1	Tertiary education	10%		31%		21%		29 of 34
B3.1	All levels of education	3%		16%		11%		32 of 33
Schools and Teachers								
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2012		2012		2012		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	6		14		13		30 of 31
	Primary education	12		15		14		29 of 36
	Secondary education	12		13		12		20 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	1792		1001		988		1 of 28
	Primary education	m	m	782	780	761	776	
	Lower secondary education	m	m	694	697	657	658	
	Upper secondary education	m	m	655	628	638	635	
	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	m	m	103	103	99	103	
	Lower secondary school teachers	m	m	102	103	99	103	
	Upper secondary school teachers	m	m	101	103	98	103	
	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	0.75		0.80		0.76		12 of 25
	Primary school teachers	0.82		0.85		0.81		16 of 28
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.82		0.88		0.85		17 of 28
	Upper secondary school teachers	0.87		0.92		0.90		15 of 28
New data from the Survey of Adult Skills				Sweden		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			6%		9%		
	...whose parents have an upper secondary education			26%		37%		
	...whose parents have a tertiary education degree			68%		55%		
	Adults in formal and non-formal education			2012		2012		
C6.1(L)	25-64 year-olds			66%		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), "Sweden", in *Education at a Glance 2014: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/eag-2014-73-en>

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