



EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2015

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

Belgium

Early childhood through upper secondary education

Students in Belgium begin education very young and the majority of them are enrolled in government-dependent private institutions at every level from pre-primary through to upper secondary education.

- In a number of OECD countries, including Belgium, education for most children now starts well before they are 5 years old. Indeed in Belgium education starts relatively early, with more than 50% of all 2-year-olds enrolled in pre-primary education programmes (in Belgium, pre-primary education starts at 2.5). This is the second highest enrolment rate for this level at this age among OECD and partner countries with available data. By the age of 4, 98% of children are enrolled in early childhood education programmes in 2013. In comparison, the OECD average enrolment rate for this age in both early childhood and primary education is 88%.
- Only 8% of Belgian 15-19 year-olds are not enrolled in any education in 2013. Belgium has one of the highest enrolment rates for this age group among OECD and partner countries with available data, after Ireland, Slovenia and Latvia. These figures reflect the fact that compulsory education for all children in Belgium is from 6 to 18 years old and that 30% of 18 year-olds are already enrolled in tertiary education, well above the OECD average of 17%.
- The majority of students, from primary to upper secondary education, are enrolled in government-dependent private institutions in Belgium. Indeed, Belgium has the highest share of students enrolled in government-dependent private institutions in these levels of education of all OECD countries (between 54% at primary to 59% at upper secondary).
- Still, public expenditure on educational institutions from primary to secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary in Belgium amounts to 4.3% of the country's GDP, which is well above the OECD average of 3.5%.

Tertiary education: Short-cycle, bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes

Students start tertiary education in Belgium relatively young and a large share of them come from other countries, especially at the higher levels.

- In Belgium, 96% of new entrants to bachelor's programmes are less than 25 years old. Among OECD countries, only Korea has a higher rate (98%).

- New entrants to master's programmes are also relatively young: 95% of new entrants to master's programmes are less than 30 years old, the highest rate among OECD countries and well above the average of 73%.
- International students make up 17% of new entrants into Belgian tertiary education. Among countries with available data, only Austria (23%), Iceland (18%), Luxembourg (41%) and New Zealand (26%) have higher rates.
- Most of the international tertiary students in Belgium study either health and welfare (34%) or social sciences, business and law (23%). They come mainly from France, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Cameroon.

The teaching profession

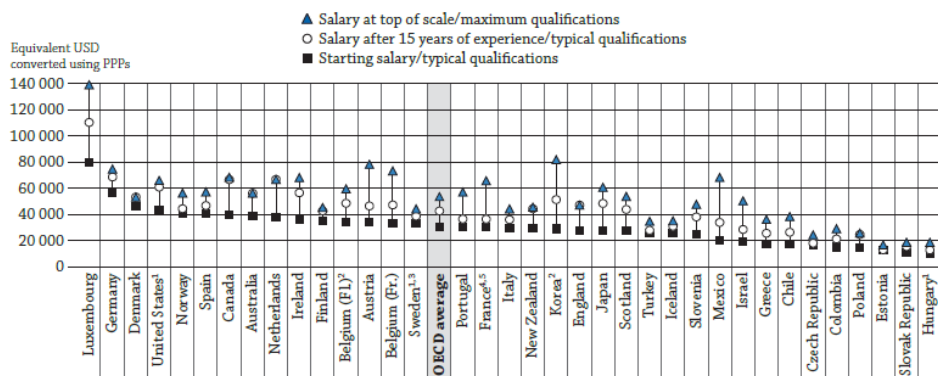
Teachers in Belgium have relatively low ratios of students to teaching staff and above-average salaries in all levels from pre-primary to tertiary education.

- In primary education, Belgium has an average of 13 students per teaching staff member,¹ below the OECD average of 15. At secondary level the ratio is 10:1, against 13:1 on average across OECD countries, while in post-secondary non-tertiary education the Belgian ratio is again below the OECD average at 15:1 versus 16:1.
- When it comes to tertiary education, the pattern is reversed: Belgium has 21 students for every teaching staff member, the second highest ratio across OECD countries after the Czech Republic, which has a ratio of 22:1. The OECD average student-teacher ratio for tertiary education is 16:1.
- Both the Flemish and French communities of Belgium pay salaries which are above the OECD average to teachers at pre-primary, primary, lower secondary and upper secondary levels. Salaries also remain above the OECD average throughout teachers' careers. Pay rates after 10 years of experience, 15 years of experience and at the top of the scale are all considerably higher in both communities in Belgium than the OECD average.
- In fact, teachers' salaries in Belgium increase more over the course of their career than the OECD average for all levels from pre-primary to upper-secondary education. For example, upper secondary teachers at the top of the salary scale in Flemish and French communities earn, respectively, 76% and 75% more than those starting out compared to 66% on average among OECD countries.

¹ The indicator relative to students per teaching staff differs from class size in terms of definition. For more information, please see Indicator D2.

Figure1: Lower secondary teacher's salaries at different points in teachers' careers (2013)

Annual statutory salaries of teachers in public institutions, in equivalent USD converted using PPPs



1. Actual base salaries.

2. Salaries at top of scale and typical qualifications, instead of maximum qualifications.

3. Salaries at top of scale and minimum qualifications, instead of maximum qualifications.

4. Includes average bonuses for overtime hours.

5. The typical qualification of starting teachers differ substantially from the typical qualification of all the current teachers.

Countries are ranked in descending order of starting salaries for lower secondary teachers with typical qualifications.

Source: OECD. Table D3.1a, and Table D3.6a, available on line.

See Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm).StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933284469> (Education at a Glance 2015, Chart D3.2)**Sub-national comparisons**

Education at a Glance provides an authoritative compilation of international comparisons of key education statistics. While countries attain specific values in these comparisons, readers should not assume that countries themselves are homogeneous. The country averages include significant variations among sub-national jurisdictions.

Regional policy makers can benefit most from the comparisons presented in *Education at a Glance* when they can compare the results from their own sub-national areas with national and sub-national data from other countries. To this end, the OECD, with support from the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics, is, for the first time, releasing select sub-national data for six *Education at a Glance* Indicators in this edition (see <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/annualreports/oecd/index.asp>).

References


OECD (2015), *Education at a Glance 2015: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-2015-en>.

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Note regarding data from Israel

The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and are under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

For more information on Education at a Glance 2015 and to access the full set of Indicators, visit www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm.

Updated data can be found on line at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-data-en> and by following the **StatLinks**  under the tables and charts in the publication.

Explore, compare and visualise more data and analysis using:



<http://gpseducation.oecd.org/CountryProfile?primaryCountry=BEL&treshold=10&topic=EO>

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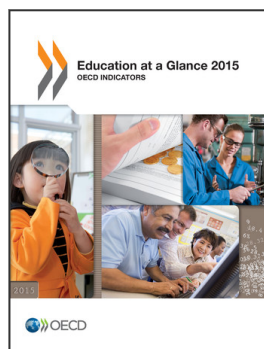
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Key Facts for Belgium in Education at a Glance 2015

Table	Indicator	Belgium		OECD average
	Educational Access and Output			
	Enrolment rates	2013		2013
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	98%		74%
	Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds	2014		2014
A1.4a	Below upper secondary	26%		24%
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	37%		43%
	Tertiary	37%		34%
	Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds (disaggregation at tertiary level)	2014		2014
A1.1a	Short cycle tertiary	0%		8%
	Bachelor's or equivalent	20%		16%
	Master's or equivalent	16%		11%
	Doctoral or equivalent	1%		1%
	Entry and graduation rates	2013		2013
C3.1	Percentage of today's young people expected to enter tertiary education at least once during their lifetime	67%		67%
A3.1	Percentage of today's young people expected to graduate with a bachelor's or equivalent degree in their lifetime	42%		36%
	Economic and Labour Market Outcomes			
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds	2014		2014
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	14.3%		12.8%
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	7.3%		7.7%
	Tertiary	4.2%		5.1%
	Average earnings premium for tertiary-educated 25-64 year-olds (upper secondary = 100)	2013		2013
A6.1a	Short cycle tertiary	**		125
	Bachelor's or equivalent	**		157
	Master's, Doctoral or equivalent	**		214
	All tertiary	141		160
	Percentage of people not in employment, education or training (NEET) for 15-29 year-olds	2014		2014
C5.2b	Men	14.7%		13.2%
	Women	15.3%		17.9%
	Financial Investment in Education			
	Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2012		2012
B1.1a.	Primary education	9581 USD		8247 USD
	Secondary education	12025 USD		9518 USD
	Tertiary (including R&D activities)	15503 USD		15028 USD
	Total expenditure on primary to tertiary educational institutions	2012		2012
B2.2	As a percentage of GDP	5.7%		5.2%
	Total public expenditure on primary to tertiary education	2012		2012
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	11%		11.6%
	Schools and Teachers			
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2013		2013
D2.2	Primary education	13 students per teacher		15 students per teacher
	Secondary education	10 students per teacher		13 students per teacher
	Average actual teachers' salaries	2013		2013
D3.4		Belgium (Fl.)	Belgium (Fr.)	
	Pre-primary school teachers	49573 USD	46924 USD	37798 USD
	Primary school teachers	50162 USD	46881 USD	41248 USD
	Lower secondary school teachers (general programmes)	49268 USD	46429 USD	43626 USD
	Upper secondary school teachers (general programmes)	64471 USD	59375 USD	47702 USD

The reference year is the year cited or the latest year for which data are available.

** Please refer to the source table for details on this data.



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