



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.

Finland

Educational attainment, skills and participation in the labour market

Finland's educational attainment rates are high, but unemployment rates have increased over the past decade, especially among those with the least education.

- The percentage of Finnish adults (25-64 year-olds) with at least an upper secondary qualification reached 87% in 2014. This represents one of the highest share (6th position among OECD countries. The tertiary attainment level among adults is 42%, which is also one of the highest among OECD and partner countries with available data and higher than Scandinavian neighbours like Denmark (36%) and Sweden (39%).
- In Finland, 41% of young people are expected to enter tertiary education before the age of 25 compared to 50% at the OECD average. This is partly due to the mandatory military or civil service for men, and the *numerus clausus* system in Finnish higher education, which restricts the number of places. Graduates from upper secondary education may have to take two or three gap years before obtaining a place in a university.
- The overall unemployment rate was 7.1% in 2014 which is similar to the OECD average of 7.3%. Young adults with below upper secondary education are most at risk: the unemployment rate for young adults (25-34 year-olds) with a below upper secondary education was three times higher (18.1%) than for those with a tertiary education (6.2%) in 2014. On average amongst OECD countries, a young adult with a below secondary education is 2.5 times as likely (19.1%) to be unemployed than one with a tertiary education (7.5%).

Equity in education and the labour market

Finnish women do well in the labour market, especially those with tertiary education, but Finland is still behind its Nordic neighbours and the gender imbalance in some fields of study raises concern.

- Tertiary-educated Finnish women have a strong presence in the job market. However, Finland shows a gender gap of 6 percentage points between the employment rates of men and women with a master's degree: 89% for men, slightly below the OECD average of 90%, and 83% for women, also below the OECD average of 84%.
- Study areas in tertiary education remain highly gendered. Men are under-represented in humanities, arts and education, where 73% and 82% of graduates, respectively, are women; and health and welfare (85% women). In contrast, just 22% of graduates in engineering,

manufacturing and construction are women, one of the lowest shares among OECD and partner countries.

- The share of women teaching in tertiary education is the third largest among OECD and partner countries with available data, at 51% against an OECD average of 42%. This may reflect the fact that the public sector is a major employer of women: some 41% of women work in the public sector (Statistics Finland, 2009).

Early childhood education

Enrolment rates for early childhood education remain low, especially compared with Finland's Nordic neighbours.

- Perhaps because parents have the right to stay at home until their youngest child reaches the age of 3, enrolment in early childhood education remains comparatively low. Just 68% of 3-year-olds are enrolled, compared to an OECD average of 74%, and rates of 96% in Denmark, 95% in Norway, 93% in Sweden and 87% in Estonia. By the age of 4, the enrolment rate increases to 75%, which is still one of the lowest rates among OECD countries.
- Early childhood education is particularly beneficial for students with an immigrant background. Among 15-year-old immigrant students who arrived in their OECD host country before the age of 6, the performance gap between those who had attended pre-primary education and those who had not is 75 points in the PISA 2012 reading test, equivalent to around two years of schooling. Immigrant children who had attended pre-primary education score 104 points higher than their immigrant peers who had not attended.

Financing of education

Although almost all education at all levels is publicly funded, Finland dedicates a smaller share of its budget to education than OECD countries on average – but a larger share of its total wealth.

- Education in Finland is almost entirely publicly funded. The share of private expenditure on all levels of education is one of the lowest among OECD and partner countries: just 1% for below tertiary education, and 4% for tertiary education – the lowest share among all countries with available data.
- Finland dedicates 11% of total public expenditure to education, slightly less than the OECD average of 12%. Neighbouring countries, including all Scandinavian countries, led by Iceland and Norway at 14% show larger shares. However, as a share of gross domestic product (GDP), Finland's expenditure ranks among the highest at 6.1%. After an increase between 2000 and 2010 the share spent on education has stabilised.

The teaching profession

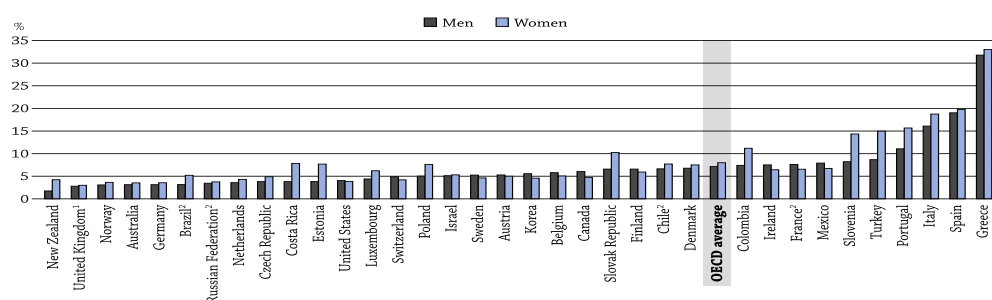
Early childhood teachers are particularly poorly paid compared to their peers in OECD and partner countries.

- Teachers in pre-primary education have comparatively low statutory salaries. A pre-primary teacher earns just 68% of a full-time, full-year, similarly educated workers' salary, compared to the OECD average of 81%. But after including bonuses, Finnish teachers earn 5 percentage points less than the OECD average (73% to 78%, respectively). The top of the salary scale for these

teachers is only 1.08 times the starting salary, compared to the OECD average of 1.64, the lowest increase among all OECD and partner countries with available data.

- While primary and secondary teachers with typical qualifications enjoy higher starting salaries than teachers in the OECD (USD 32 356¹ vs. USD 29 807 for primary teachers, and USD 37 056 vs. USD 32 260 for upper secondary teachers), the salaries at the top of scale fall behind the OECD average, especially for the primary teachers (USD 42 083 vs. USD 48 706).

Figure 1: Unemployment rates for 25-34 year-olds with tertiary education by gender (2014)




1. The United Kingdom: Data for upper secondary attainment includes completion of a sufficient volume and standard of programmes that would be classified individually as completion of intermediate upper secondary programmes (18% of the adults are under this group).

2. Brazil, Chile, France, the Russian Federation: Data for year 2014 refer to year 2013.

Countries are ranked in ascending order of the unemployment rate of tertiary-educated 25-34 year-old men.

Source: OECD. Tables A5.4b and c, available on line.

See Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm).

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933283632> (Education at a Glance 2015, Chart A5.4)

References:

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

Statistics Finland (2009), "Suomen virallinen tilasto (SVT): Työssäkäynti. Ammatti ja sosioekonominen asema 2009, 1 Naisten ja miesten työt 2009" [Official Statistics of Finland: Employment. Occupation and socioeconomic status 2009, 1 Occupations for women and men 2009], Statistics Finland, Helsinki, www.stat.fi/til/tyokay/2009/04/tyokay_2009_04_2011-11-28_kat_001_fi.html (accessed 22 October 2015).

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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=FIN&threshold=10&topic=EO>

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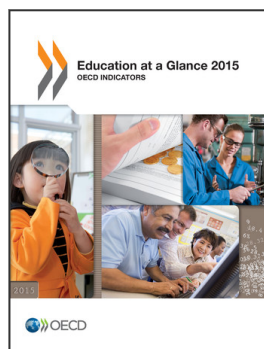
¹ Values reported in equivalent US dollars (USD) have been converted using purchasing power parities (PPPs).

Key Facts for Finland in Education at a Glance 2015

Table	Indicator	Finland	OECD average
Educational Access and Output			
	Enrolment rates	2013	2013
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education) ¹	68%	74%
	Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds	2014	2014
A1.4a	Below upper secondary	13%	24%
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	45%	43%
	Tertiary	42%	34%
	Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds (disaggregation at tertiary level)	2014	2014
A1.1a	Short cycle tertiary	12%	8%
	Bachelor's or equivalent	15%	16%
	Master's or equivalent	13%	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	55%	67%
A3.1	Percentage of today's young people expected to graduate with a bachelor's or equivalent degree in their lifetime	46%	36%
Economic and Labour Market Outcomes			
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds	2014	2014
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	12.5%	12.8%
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	8.1%	7.7%
	Tertiary	5.1%	5.1%
	Average earnings premium for tertiary-educated 25-64 year-olds (upper secondary = 100)	2013	2013
A6.1a	Short cycle tertiary	129	125
	Bachelor's or equivalent	127	157
	Master's, Doctoral or equivalent	187	214
	All tertiary	148	160
	Percentage of people not in employment, education or training (NEET) for 15-29 year-olds	2014	2014
C5.2b	Men	12.8%	13.2%
	Women	13.1%	17.9%
Financial Investment in Education			
	Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2012	2012
B1.1a.	Primary education	8316 USD	8247 USD
	Secondary education	9985 USD	9518 USD
	Tertiary (including R&D activities)	17863 USD	15028 USD
	Total expenditure on primary to tertiary educational institutions	2012	2012
B2.2	As a percentage of GDP	5.8%	5.2%
	Total public expenditure on primary to tertiary education	2012	2012
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	11.2%	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	13 students per teacher	13 students per teacher
	Average actual teachers' salaries	2013	2013
D3.4	Pre-primary school teachers	31907 USD	37798 USD
	Primary school teachers	43538 USD	41248 USD
	Lower secondary school teachers (general programmes)	47898 USD	43626 USD
	Upper secondary school teachers (general programmes)	54128 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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