



## 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.

# Ireland

### Early childhood through upper-secondary education

*As in most European countries, early childhood education in Ireland starts from age 3 and the majority of students are enrolled in either early childhood or primary education at age 4. Among this age group, Ireland surpasses its European neighbours in school enrolment.*

- Enrolment in pre-primary education at age 3 is significantly lower than average in Ireland compared to its European counterparts. However, at age 4, the number of students enrolled in education (pre-primary and primary combined) jumps to an above-average 95%
- Among 5-year-olds, enrolment is 100%. Ireland is one of only seven OECD countries to achieve this.
- Ireland has the highest rate of all OECD countries of children attending pre-primary education in private, non-government-dependent institutions, at 98%.

### Educational attainment, skills and participation in the labour market

*While unemployment has become a greater problem overall in the last 15 years, rates can vary significantly between men and women and across age groups. Ireland shows strong differences in employment rate by educational attainment level.*

- The unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds with below upper secondary education is about 13 percentage points higher than for those who have attained tertiary education, compared to an OECD average difference of about 8 percentage points. Only four other OECD countries show a greater disparity.
- While employment rates for men fell across OECD countries between 2000 and 2014, the change has been more significant in Ireland, particularly among those with only a lower secondary education: 58% of such men aged 25-64 were employed in 2014, down from 74% in 2000. The change has been even more drastic for young people. Among men aged 25-34 with only a lower secondary education, the employment rate fell from 82% in 2000 to 48% in 2014.
- For women without a tertiary education, employment rates were generally lower than the OECD average in 2000. For example, for women of all age groups with only a lower secondary education, the employment rate in 2000 was at 36% against the OECD average of 44%. This rate fell to 32% in 2014, while the OECD average increased slightly to 46%.

- For women with a tertiary education, employment rates in 2014 were only slightly below the OECD average (only a 2 percentage-points difference), although it is worth noting that in 2000 their employment rates were above the OECD average. As of 2014, young tertiary-educated Irish women were slightly more likely to be employed than their OECD counterparts (81% vs. 78%).
- It is worth noting that women aged 55-64 with an upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education, have made the largest jump in employment, from 31% in 2000 to 53% in 2014.

## Financing of education

*Education in Ireland is mainly publicly funded.*

- Ireland spends USD 10 740<sup>1</sup> per student on primary, secondary and tertiary education, which is slightly above the OECD average of USD 10 220.
- Expenditure from public sources is relatively high in Ireland, including in the tertiary sector where 81.8% of educational expenditure comes from public sources. This compares to an EU21\* average of 78.1%, or an OECD average of 69.7% in tertiary education.
- Of the private sources of expenditure, household expenditure on education is low in Ireland, at 4.3% of all expenditure on education from primary to post-secondary non-tertiary education (compared to the OECD average of 7.9%). Even in the tertiary sector, household expenditure is lower than the OECD average (15.8% compared to 21.7%), although slightly higher than the EU21 average of 14%.

## The teaching profession

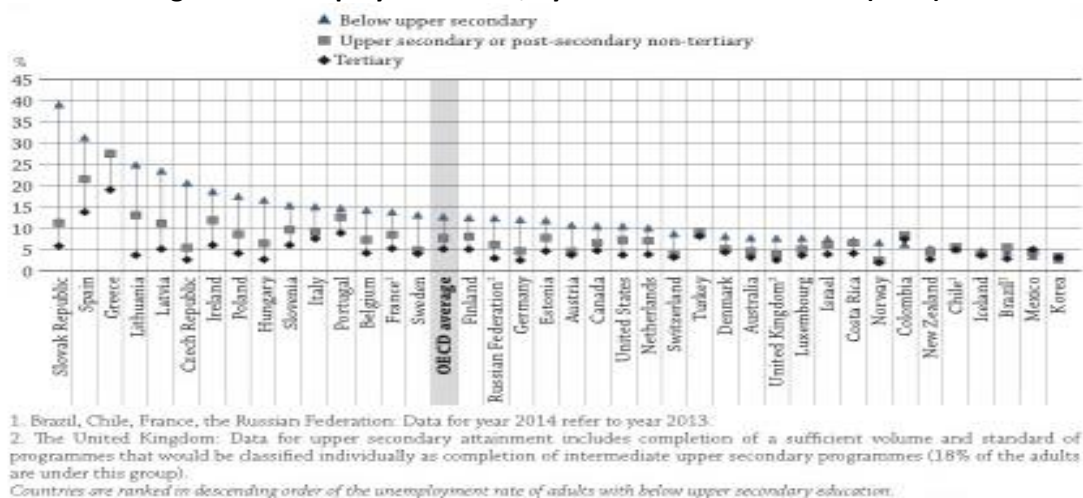
*Teachers in Ireland are generally well paid compared to other countries. They are however expected to spend more time in the classroom.*

- Teachers in Ireland at all levels of education are among the highest paid in the OECD. The average starting salary at primary level in Ireland is USD 34 899 compared with an OECD average of USD 29 807. The top paid upper secondary school teachers can earn USD 63 774 against an OECD average of USD 52 822.
- Class sizes are higher than the OECD average, although by no means the highest. Class sizes in primary and lower secondary school have fallen on average since 2005.
- Teachers in Ireland work a higher net average of teaching hours than their OECD counterparts, with the difference being greatest at the primary level (915 hours vs. the OECD average of 772). The number of required teaching hours has remained unchanged in Ireland since 2000.
- Ireland has the highest rate of working time spent teaching of all OECD countries.

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<sup>1</sup> Values reported in equivalent US dollars (USD) have been converted using purchasing power parities (PPPs)

Figure 1: Unemployment rates, by educational attainment (2014)



Source: OECD. Table A5.4a.

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

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933283600> (Education at a Glance, Chart A5.1)

\* 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, Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

## 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](http://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=IRL&treshold=10&topic=EO>

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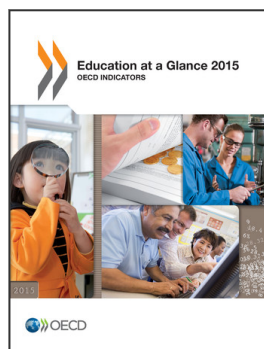
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## Key Facts for Ireland in Education at a Glance 2015

Table	Indicator	Ireland	OECD average
<b>Educational Access and Output</b>			
	<b>Enrolment rates</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2013</b>
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	46%	74%
	<b>Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2014</b>
A1.4a	Below upper secondary	21%	24%
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	38%	43%
	Tertiary	41%	34%
	<b>Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds (disaggregation at tertiary level)</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2014</b>
A1.1a	Short cycle tertiary	12%	8%
	Bachelor's or equivalent	21%	16%
	Master's or equivalent	8%	11%
	Doctoral or equivalent	1%	1%
	<b>Entry and graduation rates</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2013</b>
C3.1	Percentage of today's young people expected to enter tertiary education at least once during their lifetime	**	67%
A3.1	Percentage of today's young people expected to graduate with a bachelor's or equivalent degree in their lifetime	**	36%
<b>Economic and Labour Market Outcomes</b>			
	<b>Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2014</b>
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	18.7%	12.8%
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	11.9%	7.7%
	Tertiary	6.1%	5.1%
	<b>Average earnings premium for tertiary-educated 25-64 year-olds (upper secondary = 100)</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2013</b>
A6.1a	Short cycle tertiary	144	125
	Bachelor's or equivalent	204	157
	Master's, Doctoral or equivalent	**	214
	All tertiary	184	160
	<b>Percentage of people not in employment, education or training (NEET) for 15-29 year-olds</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2014</b>
C5.2b	Men	17.2%	13.2%
	Women	18.8%	17.9%
<b>Financial Investment in Education</b>			
	<b>Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2012</b>
B1.1a	Primary education	8681 USD	8247 USD
	Secondary education	11298 USD	9518 USD
	Tertiary (including R&D activities)	14922 USD	15028 USD
	<b>Total expenditure on primary to tertiary educational institutions</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2012</b>
B2.2	As a percentage of GDP	5.6%	5.2%
	<b>Total public expenditure on primary to tertiary education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2012</b>
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	14.2%	11.6%
<b>Schools and Teachers</b>			
	<b>Ratio of students to teaching staff</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2013</b>
D2.2	Primary education	16 students per teacher	15 students per teacher
	Secondary education	14 students per teacher	13 students per teacher
	<b>Average actual teachers' salaries</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2013</b>
D3.4	Pre-primary school teachers	**	37798 USD
	Primary school teachers	**	41248 USD
	Lower secondary school teachers (general programmes)	**	43626 USD
	Upper secondary school teachers (general programmes)	**	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.



From:

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<https://doi.org/10.1787/eag-2015-en>

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