

## 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.

### Latvia

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

*Young people in Latvia are increasingly gaining tertiary qualifications, reducing their chances of unemployment and building the highly skilled workforce the economy needs.*

- In 2013, Latvia reached the EU 2020 educational target of 40% of 30-34 year-olds having tertiary qualifications.
- Based on current patterns, an average of 58% of today's young people in Latvia are expected to graduate from at least one tertiary qualification, against an OECD average of 49%. However, only 14% of young people are expected to graduate at master's level over their lifetime, below the OECD average of 17%.
- Educational attainment reduces the risk of being unemployed. The gap in unemployment rates between high- and low-qualified adults in Latvia is one of the largest of all OECD and partner countries: 24% of adults with below secondary education are unemployed compared with 11% of adults with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education as their highest level of attainment and 5% of adults with tertiary education. The averages for the OECD are 13%, 11% and 5% respectively.

#### Initial education

*While most of Latvians have at least upper secondary education, vocational attainment has lagged behind. Reforms in vocational secondary education may provide the skills students and employers need.*

- Among working-age adults (25-64 year olds), 90% have upper secondary education or higher, compared with 76% on average in the OECD.
- In 2014, the share of upper secondary students in vocational education and training (VET) was 39%, lower than the OECD average of 46%. VET has suffered from a poor reputation and high dropout rates (OECD, 2015). The authorities implemented the reforms for the Optimisation of the Network of Vocational Education Institutions (2010-2015) which consisted of developing modern VET competence centres and measures to promote VET programmes. The government plans to increase the share of upper secondary students in VET to 50% in 2020, in line with the EU21\* share (OECD, 2015).

*The proportion of children attending early childhood education is slightly higher than the OECD average and new financial supports will help reduce inequality in early childhood access.*

- Early childhood education can mitigate social inequalities and promote better student outcomes later on. In Latvia, 83% of 3-year-olds and 89% of 4-year-olds are enrolled in early childhood education, while the OECD average is 72% and 85% respectively. In September 2013, Latvia introduced a new equal access principle to early childhood education and care, providing financial support to families whose children could not get a place in publicly subsidised early childhood education.

## Equity in education and the labour market

*Although Latvia shows a large education gender gap in favour of women, there is near gender parity in employment on the labour market.*

- In Latvia, 19% of 25-34 year old men lack an upper secondary qualification, against 9% of women of the same age. This gap is higher than in the OECD where the figures are 18% for younger men and 15% for younger women.
- For tertiary education, Latvia has one of the largest gender gaps among 25-34 year-olds: 51% of young women have attained tertiary education (OECD average: 46%) but just 28% of young men (OECD average: 35%).
- On the labour market, the gender gap is smaller than in other OECD and partner countries: 83% of adult women with tertiary education are employed (OECD average: 79%) compared with 87% of adult men (OECD average: 88%). Among young people (15-29 year olds) who are employed and no longer in education, men and women have the same likelihood of finding a full-time job: 95% of women and 96% of men have a full-time job, compared to 82% of young men and 67% of young women across OECD countries.

## Financing of education

*Expenditure on primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary educational institutions remains below the OECD average except for expenditure on tertiary education which has reached the OECD average.*

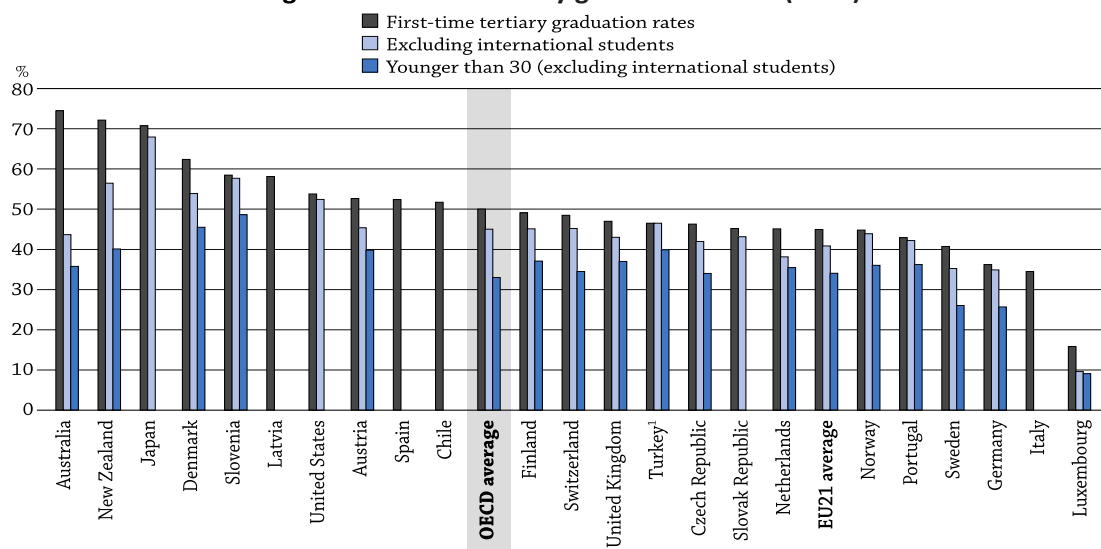
- At 2.8% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2012, the share of public and private expenditure on primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary educational institutions remains considerably below the OECD average of 3.7% of GDP.
- Public and private expenditure on tertiary educational institution is 1.4% of GDP, almost on a par with the OECD average (1.5% of GDP).

## The teaching profession

*The proportion of teachers aged 50 years or older is particularly high, with efforts being made to attract young people to the profession. Despite teaching longer hours, teachers earn less than their counterparts in OECD countries.*

- In Latvia, 46% of teachers in upper secondary education are over the age of 50, compared with an OECD average of 38%. To attract young people in the profession, Latvia is widening access to students with non-pedagogic training through Programme “Mission Possible”. Latvian teachers teach 1 260 hours a year at pre-primary level (OECD average: 1 005 hours), 825 hours at primary and lower secondary level (OECD average: 772 hours and 694 hours respectively) and 990 hours at tertiary level (OECD average: 643 hours).

- Annual teachers' salaries are the lowest among OECD and partner countries. After 15 years of experience, an upper secondary teachers earn USD 5 289<sup>1</sup>, compared with an OECD average of USD 43 076.

**Figure: First-time tertiary graduation rates (2013)**


**Note:** Mismatches between the coverage of the population data and first-time graduates data mean that the graduation rates for those countries that are net exporters of students may be underestimated and those that are net importers may be overestimated. The first-time tertiary graduation rate excluding international students accounts for this.

1. Year of reference 2012.

Countries are ranked in descending order of the first time tertiary graduation rates.

Source: OECD. Table A3.1.

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/10.1787/888933283460> (Education at a Glance 2015, Chart A3.1)

\* 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), *OECD Economic Surveys: Latvia 2015*, OECD Publishing, Paris,

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264228467-en>.

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

Programme Mission Possible (*Iespējamā misija*) [www.iespejamamisija.lv/lv/](http://www.iespejamamisija.lv/lv/).

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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=LVA&treshold=10&topic=EO>

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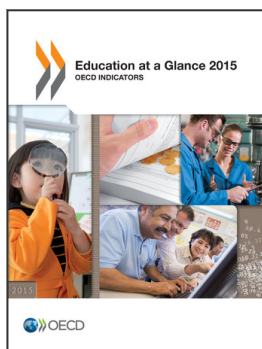
<sup>1</sup> Values reported in equivalent US dollars (USD) have been converted using purchasing power parities (PPPs).

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

Table	Indicator	Latvia	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)	83%	74%
	<b>Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2014</b>
A1.4a	Below upper secondary	10%	24%
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	59%	43%
	Tertiary	30%	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	2%	8%
	Bachelor's or equivalent	17%	16%
	Master's or equivalent	10%	11%
	Doctoral or equivalent	0%	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	42%	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	23.6%	12.8%
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	11.2%	7.7%
	Tertiary	5.1%	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	**	125
	Bachelor's or equivalent	**	157
	Master's, Doctoral or equivalent	**	214
	All tertiary	**	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	13%	13.2%
	Women	16.1%	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	3489 USD	8247 USD
	Secondary education	3610 USD	9518 USD
	Tertiary (including R&D activities)	5262 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	4.2%	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	**	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	11 students per teacher	15 students per teacher
	Secondary education	9 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:

## Education at a Glance 2015

OECD Indicators

Access the complete publication at:

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

### Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2015), "Latvia", in *Education at a Glance 2015: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/eag-2015-67-en>

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