



## 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.

# New Zealand

## Early childhood through upper secondary education

*Participating in early childhood education plays a significant role in young people's cognitive development and in later school performance. New Zealand's per child investment is high, participation too, and child-teacher ratios are low.*

- The percentage of 3-4 year-olds participating in early childhood education in New Zealand is amongst the highest across OECD and partner countries with available data: New Zealand is in a group of 7 countries where more than 95% of 3 and 4 year-olds participate in early childhood education programmes.
- Any child up to their sixth birthday can attend early childhood education in New Zealand. While around 40% of children under the age of three attend some form of early childhood programme, children usually attend between ages 3 and 4, before starting primary education at age 5. Early childhood education plays an important role in improving the school performance of students.
- The ratio of children to teaching staff is an indicator of the resources devoted to early childhood education. The child-teacher ratio at the pre-primary level, excluding non-teaching staff (e.g. teachers' aides), is 4 children per teaching staff at early childhood education level, and 8 at pre-primary level, amongst the lowest in the OECD countries and well below the OECD average of 14 (for both levels). Additionally, annual expenditure per child in early childhood educational development was USD 12 656,<sup>1</sup> in line with the OECD average of USD 12 324. At pre-primary level, the expenditure per pupil was USD 9 670 compared to an OECD average of USD 8 008. This is mainly publicly funded in New Zealand (80%), unlike countries with similar levels of expenditure such as Australia, where public funding amounts to only 21%.

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

*Computers and the use of information and communications technology (ICT) in education are now widespread with children in New Zealand getting online young and most using the Internet extensively at school.*

- Children in New Zealand are introduced to computers early: nearly one-quarter (24%) had accessed the Internet before they were 6 years old, well above the OECD average of 15%.
- While on average 47% of students across the OECD spend up to one hour at school using the Internet, in New Zealand the proportion is 62%, and some students are online even more often in the course of the school week. Just 22% of students in New Zealand do not spend any time using the Internet at school, compared with an average of 36% in the OECD.

### **Tertiary education: short-cycle, bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes**

*New Zealand continues to attract many international students, particularly at higher levels of tertiary education*

- Distance has proved no barrier to New Zealand attracting international students at all levels of tertiary education. The proportion of international students remains high at every level: in 2013 they made up 21% of those enrolled in short-cycle tertiary programmes, 13% of bachelor's or equivalent students, 20% of master's students and 43% of doctoral students. These figures are all considerably above the OECD averages of 5%, 6%, 14% and 24%, respectively.
- Higher tuition fees for international students have proved no barrier either. Fees for bachelor's or equivalent level programmes in public institutions can be up to USD 16 957 for international students. As for international students enrolling in PhD programmes, they pay the same fees as domestic students.
- Nearly half of the international students at New Zealand tertiary institutions come from either the People's Republic of China (30%) or India (17%) – over 19 000 students.
- When international students are excluded from consideration, New Zealand's bachelor's or equivalent graduation rates are above the OECD average (respectively 44% and 34%). Nevertheless the graduation rates of those younger than 30 is much more in line with the OECD average (32% vs 27%), showing that a relatively larger share of the bachelor's graduates are older than 30. At master's or equivalent level, graduation rates are way below the OECD average (respectively 5% and 15%), especially for students below 35 year old (3% vs 13%). In New Zealand, 10% of 30-39 year olds were enrolled in education in 2013, well above the OECD average of 6%.

### **Financing of education**

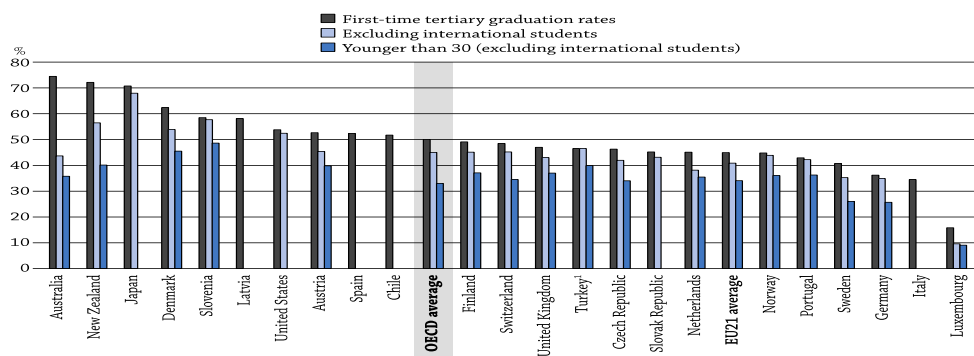
*Students in New Zealand face potentially high financial obstacles to entry into tertiary education, but significant public support is also available.*

- Public tertiary institutions in New Zealand charge tuition fees of USD 4 133<sup>2</sup> on average for bachelor's programmes, but 87% of students benefit from public loans or scholarships/grants and 37% benefit from both.

<sup>2</sup> Values reported in equivalent US dollars (USD) have been converted using purchasing power parities (PPPs).

- During their studies, students in New Zealand are charged no interest on public loans, and loans remain interest-free for borrowers who continue to reside in New Zealand after their studies. For those borrowers that go overseas interest is currently charged at 5.9%.
- New Zealand makes the repayment of loans dependent on graduates' level of income – the minimum annual income threshold above which borrowers have to reimburse the loan being about USD 13 000.
- While institutional expenditure per student at tertiary level (USD 13 740) is below the OECD average (USD 15 028), more public funding is directed towards households in the form of loans and grants. The share of public expenditure on tertiary education as a percentage of total public expenditure is the highest across OECD countries with 5.2%. Similarly, public expenditure on tertiary education as a percentage of GDP is among the highest across OECD countries, reaching 1.7%.

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)

## References

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

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

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

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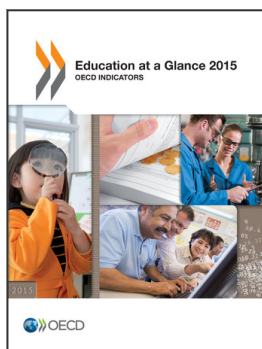
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## Key Facts for New Zealand in Education at a Glance 2015

Table	Indicator	New Zealand	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)	96%	74%
	<b>Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2014</b>
A1.4a	Below upper secondary	26%	24%
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	38%	43%
	Tertiary	36%	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	5%	8%
	Bachelor's or equivalent	26%	16%
	Master's or equivalent	4%	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	92%	67%
A3.1	Percentage of today's young people expected to graduate with a bachelor's or equivalent degree in their lifetime	54%	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	5.2%	12.8%
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	4.5%	7.7%
	Tertiary	2.7%	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	114	125
	Bachelor's or equivalent	135	157
	Master's, Doctoral or equivalent	186	214
	All tertiary	139	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	8.7%	13.2%
	Women	17.2%	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	7069 USD	8247 USD
	Secondary education	9409 USD	9518 USD
	Tertiary (including R&D activities)	13740 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	6.9%	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	18.4%	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	15 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.



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