

## 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.

### Norway

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

*Norway has a highly educated and highly skilled population that continues to enjoy above-average employment rates.*

- In Norway, the employment rate among 25-64 year-olds with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education is comparatively high at 81%, compared with an OECD average of 74%. Similarly, the employment rate for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education is also one of the highest among OECD countries, at 90% compared with the OECD average of 83%.
- The share of the population without upper secondary education fell by 5 percentage points between 2005 and 2014, from 23% to 18%. Still, in the younger cohorts, 25-34, the share of the population without upper secondary education increased with 2 percentage points (from 17% to 19%). Similarly, the share of the population whose highest attainment level is upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education fell from 45% to 40%. Meanwhile, the percentage of tertiary-educated people significantly increased over the same period, from 33% in 2005 to 42% in 2014.
- Taking all education levels together, Norway has one of the highest proportions of adults with at least moderate information and communications technology (ICT) and problem-solving skills: 72% compared with an OECD average of 61%.

#### Equity in education and the labour market

*In Norway the majority of tertiary educated adults are women, but their salaries lag behind those of their male counterparts.*

- Women in Norway tend to be more educated than men: 46% of women in Norway have attained tertiary education against only 38% of men. More women than men have attained a Bachelor degree (26% vs. 13%) while an equally large proportion of men and women hold a Master or Doctoral degree (11%).
- Despite their higher qualifications, women's economic outcomes lag behind men's. Tertiary educated women between the ages of 25 and 64 working full time earn only 75% of what similarly educated men earn. This rate is below that of Sweden (83%) and Finland (76%), but is still above the OECD average of 73%.
- The gender gap in economic outcomes can to a large part be explained by traditional career choices and a higher share of women in part-time employment.

## Financing education

*Norway maintains a high level of spending per student in a system that is characterised by public funding.*

- While the number of students enrolled in primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education increased by about 4% between 2005 and 2012, expenditure per student increased by 8%. This increase is below the OECD average increase of 21% for that period. Still, expenditure per student in Norway ranges among the highest across all OECD countries, at USD 15 500.<sup>1</sup>
- The total share of private expenditure from all sources is very low in Norway, with the public sector responsible for 96% of expenditure at the tertiary level.

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

*Norwegians have a long tradition of tertiary education, although they are more likely to stop at bachelor's level than their Scandinavian peers.*

- Among all adults (25-64 year-olds) 42% have a tertiary qualification in Norway, against an OECD average of 33%. Norway also has relatively high attainment levels among older age groups (55-64 year-olds): 32% compared to an OECD average of 25%.
- Though a high percentage of Norwegian adults have a tertiary education, only a few go further than bachelor's level. While 19% of all Norwegians hold a bachelor's degree, only 10% of them have a master's or equivalent, which is below the rates of all Scandinavian countries as well as the OECD average of 11%.
- Based on current graduation patterns, 37% of today's young people in Norway are expected to graduate from a bachelor's or equivalent programme level over their lifetime. However, the expected rate for a master's or equivalent qualification is 17% and for a doctorate or equivalent it is 1.9% – both of which are well below all other Scandinavian countries, although they are either at or slightly above the OECD average.

## The teaching profession

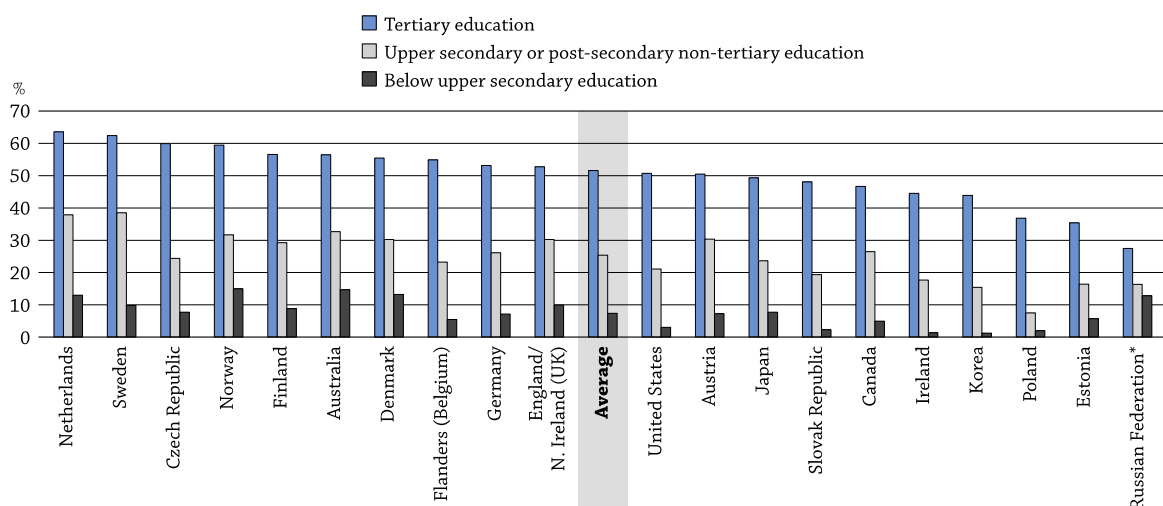
*Despite low student-teacher ratios and high starting salaries, the teaching profession in Norway may not be attractive enough to young graduates to replace an ageing teaching workforce.*

- Teachers in Norway benefit from one the lowest ratio of students to teaching staff: 10:1 at primary and secondary level, compared to averages of 15:1 and 13:1 respectively among OECD countries. At primary and lower secondary level, the number of teaching hours per year in public institutions are at about the average for OECD countries. However, at upper secondary level the number of hours is well below the OECD average (523 hours compared to 643).
- Teachers in Norway tend to have a higher starting salary than teachers in other OECD countries. Starting salaries for general upper secondary teachers are the fourth highest in the OECD, at USD 45 601, compared to USD 32 260 on average across OECD countries. However, salaries do not increase as much with experience as in other countries, and salaries at the top of the scale are only slightly above the OECD average (USD 56 452 compared to USD 52 822).
- Despite above-average salaries, upper secondary teachers earn only 65% of what other full-time workers with tertiary education earn on average in Norway, well below the OECD average of 82%. This could decrease the attractiveness of the teaching profession, which may be of particular

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

concern given the ageing of Norway's teaching workforce. At the upper secondary level, 45% of teachers are over 50, compared to 38% on average among OECD countries.

**Figure: Percentage of adults with good information and communication technologies and problem-solving skills, by educational attainment (2012)**  
Survey of Adult Skills, 25-64 year-olds




**Note:** Data on educational attainment are based on ISCED-97.

\* See note on data for the Russian Federation in the *Methodology* section.

Countries are ranked in descending order of the percentage of adults with tertiary education and with good ICT and problem-solving skills (Group 4).

Source: OECD, Table 1.6a.

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/10.1787/888933283415> (Education at a Glance 2015, Chart A1.4)

## 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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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.

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<http://gpseducation.oecd.org/CountryProfile?primaryCountry=NOR&threshold=10&topic=EO>

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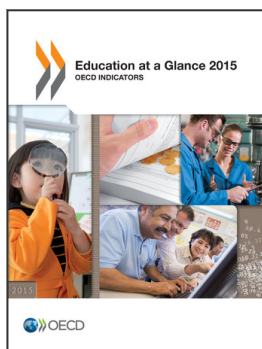
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## Key Facts for Norway in Education at a Glance 2015

Table	Indicator	Norway	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)	95%	74%
	<b>Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2014</b>
A1.4a	Below upper secondary	18%	24%
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	40%	43%
	Tertiary	42%	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	19%	16%
	Master's or equivalent	10%	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	37%	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	6.7%	12.8%
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	2.4%	7.7%
	Tertiary	1.9%	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	120	125
	Bachelor's or equivalent	116	157
	Master's, Doctoral or equivalent	166	214
	All tertiary	128	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%	13.2%
	Women	9%	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	12728 USD	8247 USD
	Secondary education	14450 USD	9518 USD
	Tertiary (including R&D activities)	20016 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	6.2%	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	14.1%	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	10 students per teacher	15 students per teacher
	Secondary education	10 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	43082 USD	37798 USD
	Primary school teachers	48923 USD	41248 USD
	Lower secondary school teachers (general programmes)	48923 USD	43626 USD
	Upper secondary school teachers (general programmes)	52072 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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