



## 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.

# Portugal

## Educational attainment and the labour market

*Although educational attainment among older generations is far lower in Portugal than in other OECD countries, the country has caught up in recent years and has achieved the highest increase in educational attainment between generations.*

- The increase in educational attainment between the generations in Portugal is the highest across OECD countries. Among those aged 55 to 64, only 23% attained at least upper secondary education but the rate jumps to 65% among 25-34 year-olds. Nevertheless, this is still below the OECD average of 83%.
- Educational attainment is quite uneven in Portugal. At 36%, Portugal has the second highest share of the population without lower secondary education, behind only Turkey. However, 17% of the population have a master's degree or higher qualification, well above the OECD average of 11%.
- Moreover, educational attainment makes a large difference in labour-market participation. Although the unemployment rate in Portugal is substantially higher than in other OECD countries, it decreases sharply for those with higher levels of educational attainment. In 2014, the unemployment rate for 25-64 year olds with below upper secondary was 14.8%, for those with upper secondary was 12.6% and was at 8.9% for those with tertiary education. The corresponding figures for OECD averages were respectively 12.8%, 7.7% and 5.1%.
- Portugal has a high earnings premium for tertiary education (see below), reflecting its comparatively low tertiary attainment rate. In fact, only 31% of young adults (25-34 year-olds) in Portugal have a tertiary qualification.

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

*Despite a very high earning premium from tertiary education, attainment and graduation rates at tertiary level still lag behind most OECD countries.*

- Portugal has a very high earnings premium for tertiary education. Men and women in Portugal who have attained tertiary education earn, on average, 68% more than those with only upper secondary education. Moreover, 44% of people with tertiary degrees earn at least twice the median earnings, compared with only 15% of the total population.
- Those who attained a bachelor's or equivalent degree earn on average 69% more than those with an upper secondary education, which is above the OECD average of 57%.

- First-time graduation rates for Portugal are on par with or above the OECD average at bachelor's, master's level and doctoral programmes, at 36%, 20% and 1.7% respectively.
- Overall, 43% of young adults in Portugal are expected to graduate at from at least one tertiary programme, which is well below the OECD average of 50%.

## The teaching profession

*At the lower levels of education, teachers are better paid in Portugal than in most OECD countries, although this trend is reversed at the higher levels given the flat-pay system. At every level, however, there are comparatively more teachers per student than in most other countries.*

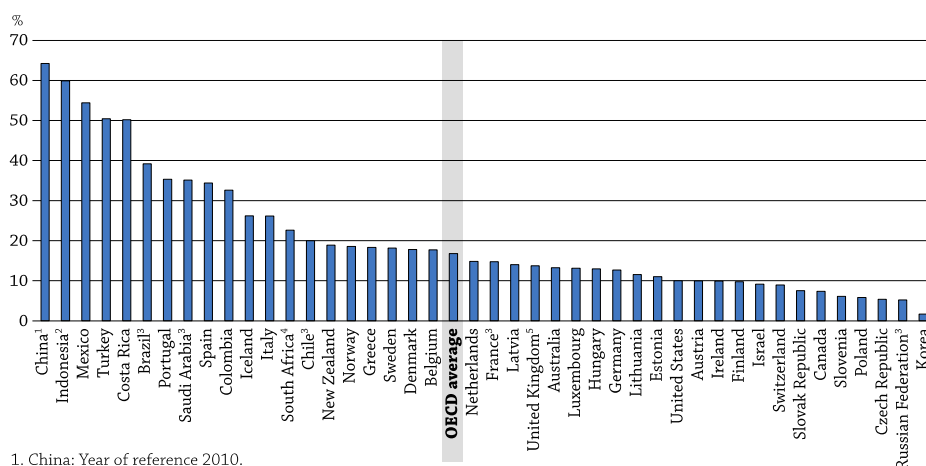
- Teachers in Portugal have the same pay scales from pre-primary to upper secondary education, in contrast to most OECD countries where teachers at higher education levels are paid more. As a result, on average pre-primary and primary teachers are paid well above OECD average, while secondary school teachers are paid a bit below the OECD average.
- Student-teacher ratios in Portugal are, on average, smaller than in other OECD countries. There are 13 students per teacher in primary education, compared with an OECD average of 15 and in secondary education the ratio is 9:1, compared with an OECD average of 13:1.
- Portugal is also one of the very few countries where the student-teacher ratios in public schools are on average smaller than those in private schools at secondary level.

## Financing of education

*Portugal was severely hit by the financial crisis and reduced its expenditure on education sharply in the recession that followed. Private money is a significant source of education funding at all levels.*

- In the years immediately following the financial crisis, total public expenditure on education in Portugal increased 14% between 2008 and 2010 only to fall 14% again between 2010 and 2012.
- Portugal was one of the countries which reduced its public expenditure on educational institutions the most over that period, which is consistent with the fact that it also suffered from one of the strongest recessions in the OECD.
- Expenditure per student in Portugal stands at 7.444 euros, below OECD average of 8.982 euros in 2012. However the expenditure per student increased by 26% in Portugal between 2005 and 2012, a higher rate than the 21% for the OECD.

Figure: Percentage of 25-34 year-olds with attainment below upper secondary education (2014)



1. China: Year of reference 2010.

2. Indonesia: Year of reference 2011.

3. Brazil, Chile, France, Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia: Year of reference 2013.


4. South Africa: Year of reference 2012.

5. 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).

Countries are ranked in descending order of the percentage of 25-34 year-olds with attainment below upper secondary education.

Source: OECD, Table A1.4a.

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/10.1787/888933283386> (Education at a Glance, Chart A1.1)

## 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.

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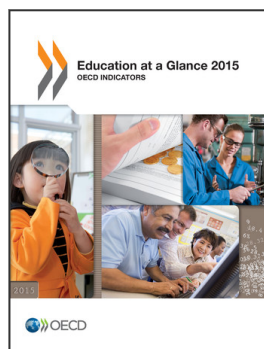
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## Key Facts for Portugal in Education at a Glance 2015

Table	Indicator	Portugal	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)	78%	74%
	<b>Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2014</b>
A1.4a	Below upper secondary	57%	24%
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	22%	43%
	Tertiary	22%	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	**	8%
	Bachelor's or equivalent	5%	16%
	Master's or equivalent	17%	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	64%	67%
A3.1	Percentage of today's young people expected to graduate with a bachelor's or equivalent degree in their lifetime	36%	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	14.8%	12.8%
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	12.6%	7.7%
	Tertiary	8.9%	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	162	125
	Bachelor's or equivalent	169	157
	Master's, Doctoral or equivalent	**	214
	All tertiary	168	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	17.8%	13.2%
	Women	17.6%	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	6105 USD	8247 USD
	Secondary education	8691 USD	9518 USD
	Tertiary (including R&D activities)	9196 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	5.8%	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	9.8%	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	13 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), "Portugal", in *Education at a Glance 2015: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/eag-2015-75-en>

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