

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.

Switzerland

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

Students in Switzerland enter tertiary education (academic and professional education and training on the tertiary level) later than in other OECD countries. A large proportion of those tertiary students are international and, unusually, women seem to be in minority.

- A little over 80% of new entrants into tertiary education are younger than 25, but they only represent 64% of new entrants in Switzerland, the lowest rate in OECD and partner countries. This is mainly due to higher professional education, which requires working experience of several years.
- International students make up 17% of all tertiary students in Switzerland, rising to 27% at master's or equivalent level, and 52% for doctoral programmes. More than half of those students come from neighbouring countries (56%).
- Although women make up the majority of entrants into tertiary education in almost all OECD and EU21* countries (54% and 55% on average respectively), this is not the case in Switzerland where 49% of students at tertiary level are women, 48% at master's level (54% in OECD countries).

Upper secondary education

In Switzerland, young people are more likely to graduate from vocational upper secondary education programmes, most of them from programmes that combine school and work.

- In Switzerland, only 40% of young people are expected to graduate from general upper secondary programmes compared with an OECD average of 52%, one of the lowest rates among OECD countries. However, 71% are expected to graduate from vocational upper secondary programmes, well above the OECD average of 46%. In most countries, vocational education at the upper secondary level is purely school based. However, some countries offer programmes that combine both school and work, including Switzerland where 60% of all upper secondary students are enrolled in such combined vocational programmes.
- In Switzerland, 25% of 20-year-olds are still enrolled in upper secondary education and 80% of young people (15-29 years old) who have not finished upper secondary education are still in school, compared with an OECD average of 69%.

Educational attainment and the labour market

The large majority of the Swiss population has attained at least upper secondary education and employment rates are high for those with a vocational qualification. Even those below that level of education still have a fair chance of finding employment easily.

- The rate of upper secondary attainment of Swiss 25-64 year-olds and 25-34 year-olds is quite high, at 88% and 91% respectively. This is higher than the OECD averages of 76% and 83% and the EU21 averages of 78% and 85%.
- The employment rate for adults with below upper secondary education is high in Switzerland, meaning that at least two-thirds of adults (69%) with low educational attainment are employed whereas across OECD countries the figure is only about one in two (56%).
- In Switzerland, 83% of individuals with a vocational upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary qualification are employed – 5 percentage points more than for individuals with a general upper secondary education as their highest qualification (78%). A similar pattern can be observed in OECD countries, where the rates are 77% and 70% respectively, a difference of 7 percentage points.

Financing of education

Annual spending per student is high in Switzerland, especially in tertiary education and general programmes. Although total public expenditure is also high, the share of initial public funds from the central government is quite low since the constitution delegates the authority for the school system mainly to the cantons.

- Annual spending from primary through tertiary education in Switzerland is among the highest of those OECD and EU21 countries with data available. Based on data from public institutions only, Switzerland spent USD 17 485¹ per student compared with the OECD average of USD 10 220, and USD 10 361 for EU21 countries.
- Spending per student by educational institutions on average across OECD country amounts to USD 8 247 at the primary level, USD 9 518 at the secondary level, and USD 15 028 at the tertiary level. Switzerland has the highest level of expenditures per student at tertiary level among OECD countries, reaching more than USD 25 264. Spending per student is USD 13 889 at primary level and USD 16 731 for secondary. However, while expenditure per tertiary student increased in most countries between 2005 and 2012, over this period it fell in Switzerland by 13%.
- Most OECD countries spend slightly more per student on vocational programmes than on general ones at upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary level, a difference of USD 328 on average. In Switzerland, expenditure per student is higher for general than vocational programmes, and the difference is much greater (USD 7 349).
- Switzerland is one of five countries with the highest total public expenditure on primary to tertiary education as a percentage of total public expenditure, at 15.3% in 2012, but is at the OECD average in terms of spending as a percentage of GDP (4.9%).
- In 2012, on average across OECD countries, 52.6% of public funds for primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education combined came from the central government, before

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

transfers. However the figure for Switzerland was only 3.6%, making it one of only six countries with a share of less than 10%. The other countries are Canada (3.6%), Denmark (5.8%), Germany (7.4%), Norway (9.3%) and Poland (4.8%), all sharing a similar decentralised model to Switzerland.

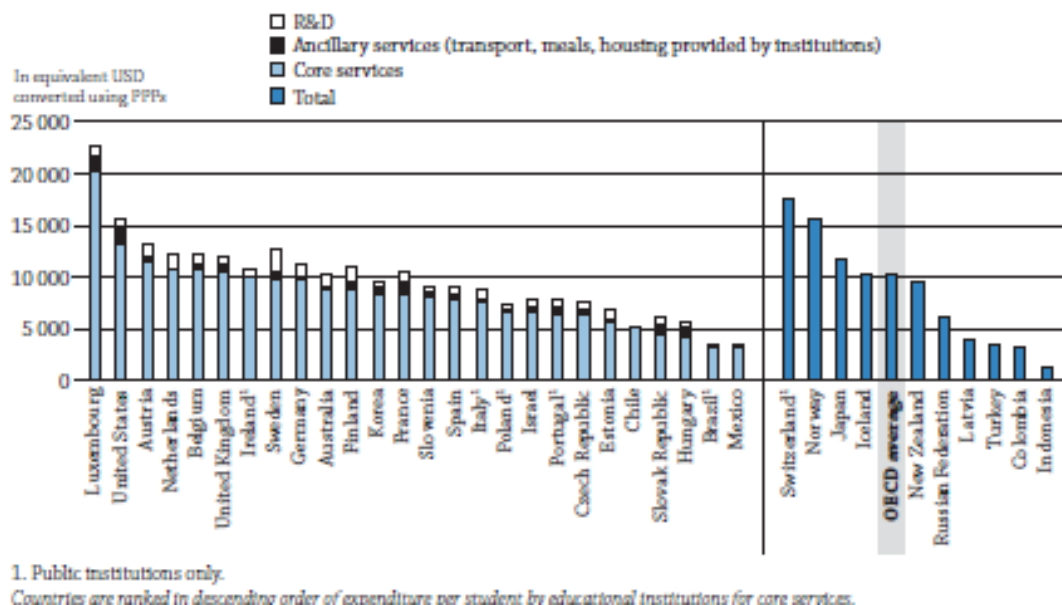
The teaching profession

Teachers' salaries in Switzerland are among the highest among OECD countries across all levels, particularly at the top of the scales.

- After 10 years of experience, primary teachers' salaries average USD 63 504, almost double the average salaries for their peers across OECD countries of USD 37 556.
- The picture is similar at the upper secondary level, where teachers earn on average USD 83 153 after 10 years compared with the OECD average of USD 41 160.
- Switzerland ranks second after Luxembourg when it comes to salaries at the top of the scale at both primary and secondary levels: about USD 78 000 for primary level, about 88 000 for lower secondary level and about 99 000 for upper secondary level. However it takes 26 years for teachers in Switzerland to reach the top compared with 30 years in Luxembourg, 2 years more than the OECD average of 24 years.


Figure: Annual expenditure by educational institutions per student, by types of service, from primary to tertiary education (2012)

In equivalent USD converted using PPPs, based on full-time equivalents, for primary through tertiary education



Source: OECD, Table B1.2.

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

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933283897> (Education at a Glance 2015, chart B1.1)


* 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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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

Updates of the 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=CHE&treshold=10&topic=EO>

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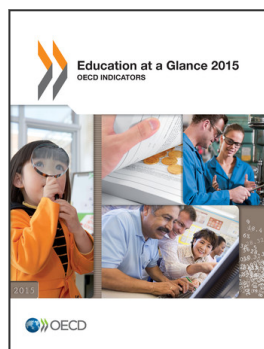
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Key Facts for Switzerland in Education at a Glance 2015

Table	Indicator	Switzerland	OECD average
Educational Access and Output			
	Enrolment rates	2013	2013
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	3%	74%
	Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds	2014	2014
A1.4a	Below upper secondary	12%	24%
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	48%	43%
	Tertiary	40%	34%
	Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds (disaggregation at tertiary level)	2014	2014
A1.1a	Short cycle tertiary	**	8%
	Bachelor's or equivalent	20%	16%
	Master's or equivalent	17%	11%
	Doctoral or equivalent	3%	1%
	Entry and graduation rates	2013	2013
C3.1	Percentage of today's young people expected to enter tertiary education at least once during their lifetime	76%	67%
A3.1	Percentage of today's young people expected to graduate with a bachelor's or equivalent degree in their lifetime	46%	36%
Economic and Labour Market Outcomes			
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds	2014	2014
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	8.8%	12.8%
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3.8%	7.7%
	Tertiary	3.2%	5.1%
	Average earnings premium for tertiary-educated 25-64 year-olds (upper secondary = 100)	2013	2013
A6.1a	Short cycle tertiary	**	125
	Bachelor's or equivalent	**	157
	Master's, Doctoral or equivalent	**	214
	All tertiary	156	160
	Percentage of people not in employment, education or training (NEET) for 15-29 year-olds	2014	2014
C5.2b	Men	9.3%	13.2%
	Women	10.5%	17.9%
Financial Investment in Education			
	Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2012	2012
B1.1a	Primary education	13889 USD	8247 USD
	Secondary education	16731 USD	9518 USD
	Tertiary (including R&D activities)	25264 USD	15028 USD
	Total expenditure on primary to tertiary educational institutions	2012	2012
B2.2	As a percentage of GDP	4.8%	5.2%
	Total public expenditure on primary to tertiary education	2012	2012
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	15.3%	11.6%
Schools and Teachers			
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2013	2013
D2.2	Primary education	15 students per teacher	15 students per teacher
	Secondary education	**	13 students per teacher
	Average actual teachers' salaries	2013	2013
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)	83412 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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