

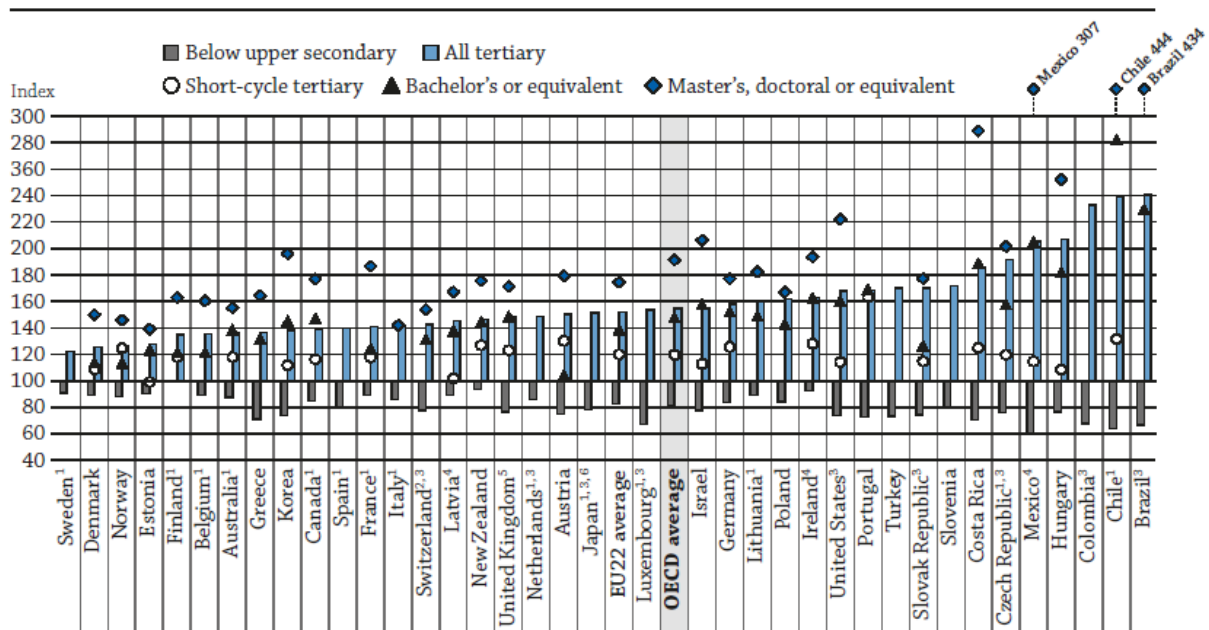
EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2016

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 35 OECD countries and a number of partner countries.

Belgium

- **Teachers in Belgium are relatively young and well paid compared to OECD countries on average** but the profession still displays considerable gender imbalances. While most of the teachers at earlier levels of education are women, they make up only a minority of tertiary teachers and school principals.
- **Only 26% of bachelor's graduates in the field of science, mathematics and computing in Belgium are women**, compared with an OECD average of 40%. This is the third lowest share of all OECD and partner countries with available data.
- Tertiary graduates in Belgium receive one of the smallest earnings advantages of all the OECD countries. Those with a bachelor's degree earn 21% more than those with only upper secondary education whereas the OECD average is 48%.
- **The public sector in Belgium is responsible for 95% of all expenditure on education from primary to tertiary level**, and over 70% of that comes from the regional governments, as education is under the authority of the Communities.

Figure 1. Relative earnings of adults working full time, by educational attainment (2014)



Note: Tertiary education includes short-cycle tertiary, bachelor's, master's, doctoral or equivalent degrees.

1. Year of reference differs from 2014. Refer to Table A6.1 for details.

2. Some levels of education are included with others. Refer to "x" code in Table A6.1 for details.

3. Index 100 refers to the combined ISCED levels 3 and 4 of the educational attainment levels in the ISCED 2011 or ISCED-97 classification.

4. Earnings net of income tax.

5. Data for upper secondary attainment include 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).

6. Data refer to all earners.

Countries are ranked in ascending order of the relative earnings of 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education.

Source: OECD, Table A6.1. See Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm).

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933397166>

Salary, the school environment and workload may influence teachers' decisions to enter – and remain in – the profession

- Teachers and principals in Belgium are relatively young. At the secondary level, about 16% of teachers are under the age of 30, which is double the EU22* average at this level. The share of secondary teachers over 50 is also considerably below the EU22 average, and has remained stable at 30% since 2005. In the Flemish Community,¹ principals also tend to be younger – nearly 11% of principals are under the age of 40, compared to an OECD average of 6%, and only 5% are over 60, compared to an OECD average of 17%.
- Between 2005 and 2014, the statutory salaries of public school teachers with 15 years of experience in the Flemish Community increased by 3% at both primary and secondary levels. In the French Community it increased by 6% at the primary level and by 5% at the secondary level.
- Teachers' salaries in the French and Flemish Communities are above the OECD and EU22 averages for all levels from pre-primary to upper secondary. The actual salary of upper secondary teachers in Belgium is higher than the average for tertiary-educated full-time full-year workers in the country, which is true in only four other OECD countries (Finland, Germany, Greece and Luxembourg). This may be explained, at least in part, by the fact that the commonest requirement for teaching at upper secondary level is a master's degree, while most of the tertiary-educated population in the country have a bachelor's degree as their highest level of attainment.

Tertiary education is related to better outcomes in the labour market

- Some 37% of 25-64 year-olds in Belgium had attained tertiary education in 2015. This is higher than the EU22 average of 33% and the OECD average of 36%. Nearly all of the tertiary graduates in Belgium have attained either a bachelor's or equivalent degree (21%) or a master's or equivalent degree (15%).
- Students enter tertiary education at a relatively young age in Belgium. Some 95% of first-time entrants into a tertiary programme are below the age of 25. This share is considerably above the EU22 average of 84%. Indeed, the average age of new entrants in Belgium is 19 for bachelor's or equivalent programmes and 23 for master's or equivalent programmes – the youngest of all EU22 countries at both levels.
- In the Flemish Community, 38% of full-time students who start a bachelor's or equivalent programme complete it within three years, which is the theoretical duration of the programme for a full-time student. The completion rate increases to 73% within six years. Of the remaining 27% of students, 5% are still enrolled and 22% are either enrolled in an educational level other than bachelor's or master's, or have left the educational system without graduating. The sharp increase in completion within the longer time frame is partially explained by the Flemish Community's relatively broad access to tertiary education coupled with a flexible system that allows students more time to meet the demands of the educational institutions. Nevertheless, measures have recently been implemented to reduce the amount of time students take to graduate, such as improving guidance and support to students when they are choosing their higher education path and allowing higher education institutions to have stricter policies regarding students' progress.
- As is the case on average across OECD countries, tertiary-educated adults in Belgium face a considerably lower unemployment rate than those with lower levels of educational attainment. In 2015, the unemployment rate among those without upper secondary education was 15% for 25-64 year-olds (the OECD average was 12%) and 25% for the younger cohort of 25-34 year-olds (the OECD average was 17%). Among those with tertiary education, the unemployment rate was 4% for 15-64 year-olds and 6% for 25-34 year-olds.
- Belgium has one of the lowest earnings advantages for those with tertiary degrees across OECD countries (Figure 1). Compared to adults with upper secondary education, those with a bachelor's degree earn 21% more (the OECD average is 48%) and those with a master's, doctoral or equivalent degree earn 60% more (the OECD average is 91%).
- International students make up 14% of the new entrants to tertiary education in Belgium. At the doctoral level they make up 38% of graduates, considerably above the OECD average of 26%. The large share of international students at this level may be due to the country's high level of expenditure on research and development (R&D) per student (USD 5 672²). Doctoral students tend to study in countries investing substantial resources in R&D in tertiary educational institutions.

Gender gaps in education and employment persist

- On average across OECD countries, women have a higher unemployment rate than men across all levels of educational attainment. In Belgium, however, the unemployment rate for tertiary-educated women is lower than that of men. This result is entirely driven by the lower unemployment rate among women with a bachelor's or equivalent education. Among those with a master's or equivalent degree, men and women have similar

¹ Please note that some data in *Education at a Glance* are only available for the Flemish Community. Therefore, the presentation of results about the Flemish Community should not be interpreted as specific characteristics true only of the Flemish Community, but could also apply to the other Communities of Belgium.

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

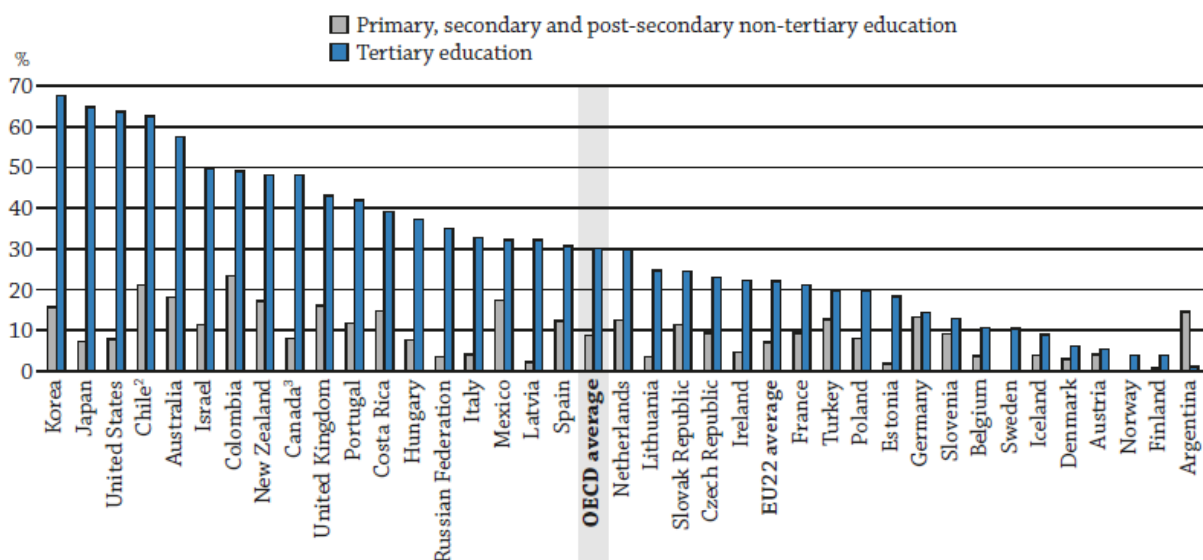
unemployment rates and among those with a doctoral or equivalent degree, women actually have a higher unemployment rate than men.

- The gender imbalance in the sciences is even more pronounced in Belgium than it is on average across the OECD. Whereas women make up on average 40% of bachelor's graduates in the field of science, mathematics and computing across OECD countries, in Belgium the figure drops to 26% – the third lowest of all OECD and partner countries with available data. The share of female graduates in this field is also considerably lower than the OECD average at the master's and doctoral or equivalent levels.
- In Belgium, as in most OECD countries, the share of female teachers tends to decrease as the educational level increases, ranging from 97% in pre-primary education to 48% in tertiary. The gender imbalance in the profession is also reflected among principals: women make up 63% of lower secondary teachers, but less than 40% of principals at this level. This is especially concerning given that principals are often recruited from the ranks of teachers.

High-quality education needs sustainable funding

- Belgium's total expenditure on primary to tertiary education corresponds to 5.8% of the country's GDP, above the OECD average of 5.2%. Between 2008 and 2013, expenditure on primary to post-secondary non-tertiary education increased by 3% and the number of students remained stable, meaning expenditure per student also increased by 3% over that period. In tertiary education, expenditure increased by even more (15%), but was matched by a similar increase in the number of students of 18%, leading to a total decrease of 3% in the expenditure per student in the same period.
- Private expenditure makes up 5% of spending on education from primary to tertiary level in Belgium, considerably below the OECD average of 16% (Figure 2). At the earlier levels of education – primary to post-secondary non-tertiary education – the share of private expenditure has in fact decreased by 21% between 2008 and 2013. At the tertiary level, however, the share of private expenditure increased by 20% over the same period, reaching 11% in 2013 (Figure 2).
- Education from primary to tertiary levels is mostly funded by regional governments in Belgium, as education is under the authority of the Communities. Even in tertiary education, which tends to be more centralised across OECD countries, 70% of the initial funding in Belgium comes from regional governments (compared to an OECD average of 13%), and very little is transferred to central or local governments.

Figure 2. Share of private expenditure on educational institutions (2013)



How to read this figure

The figure shows private spending on educational institutions as a percentage of total spending on educational institutions. This includes all money transferred to educational institutions from private sources, including public funding via subsidies to households, private fees for educational services or other private spending (e.g. on accommodation) which goes through the institution.


1. Including subsidies attributable to payments to educational institutions received from public sources.

2. Year of reference 2014.

3. Year of reference 2012.

Countries are ranked in descending order of the share of private expenditure on educational institutions for tertiary education.

Source: OECD, Table B3.1b. See Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm).

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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.

Subnational comparisons

Education at a Glance provides an authoritative compilation of international comparisons of key education statistics. While these comparisons give countries specific values, readers should not assume that countries themselves are homogeneous. Country averages can conceal significant variations between subnational jurisdictions.


Regional policy makers can benefit most from the comparisons presented in *Education at a Glance* when they can compare the results from their own subnational areas with national and subnational data from other countries. To this end, the OECD, with support from the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics, is releasing updated subnational data for six indicators with this edition of *Education at a Glance*. The updated subnational data are available at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/annualreports/oecd/index.asp>.

* EU22 countries are those that are members of both the European Union and the OECD. These 22 countries are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

References

OECD (2016), *Education at a Glance 2016: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-2016-en>.

For more information on **Education at a Glance 2016** and to access the full set of Indicators, visit 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=BEL&treshold=10&topic=EQ>.

Questions can be directed to:

Camila de Moraes and Corinne Heckmann
Directorate for Education and Skills
camila.demoraes@oecd.org
corinne.heckmann@oecd.org

Country note author:

Camila de Moraes
Directorate for Education and Skills
joao.collet@oecd.org

Key Facts for Belgium in Education at a Glance 2016

Source	Main topics in <i>Education at a Glance</i>	Belgium				OECD average		EU22 average	
	Gender								
Chart A5.2.	Employment rate of 25-64 year-olds, by educational attainment	2015							
		Men	Women		Men	Women	Men	Women	
	Below upper secondary	54%	38%		66%	46%	62%	44%	
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	78%	66%		81%	67%	79%	68%	
	Tertiary	87%	83%		88%	80%	88%	80%	
Table A6.2	Full-year earnings of women as a percentage of men's earnings, by educational attainment (25-64 year-olds)	2014							
		Ratio (women/men)				Ratio (women/men)		Ratio (women/men)	
	Below upper secondary	85%				76%		77%	
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	87%				77%		79%	
	Tertiary	82%				73%		74%	
Table	Percentage of people not in employment, nor in education or training (NEET)	2015							
		Men	Women		Men	Women	Men	Women	
	15-29 year-olds	13%	15%		12%	17%	13%	16%	
		2014							
Table A3.4	Percentage of female graduates, by tertiary levels of education	% Women				% Women		% Women	
	Short-cycle tertiary	**				56%		59%	
	Bachelor's or equivalent	61%				58%		60%	
	Master's or equivalent	56%				57%		58%	
	Doctoral or equivalent	42%				47%		49%	
Table A1.5.	Field of education studied among tertiary-educated adults (25-64 year-old non-students)	2012				2012 ¹		2012	
		Men		Women		Men	Women	Men	Women
		Belgium (Fl.)	Belgium (Fr.)	Belgium (Fl.)	Belgium (Fr.)				
	Teacher training and education science	10%	n.a.	24%	n.a.	7%	18%	n.a.	n.a.
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	22%	n.a.	3%	n.a.	31%	7%	n.a.	n.a.	
Vocational Education and Training (VET)									
Table C1.3a	Distribution of enrolment, by programme orientation	2014							
		General		Vocational		General	Vocational	General	Vocational
	Upper secondary education	40%		60%		56%	44%	52%	48%
Table A1.4.	Educational attainment, by programme orientation	2015							
		General		Vocational		General	Vocational	General	Vocational
	25-34 year-olds with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education	11%		28%		17%	26%	13%	30%
Table A5.5	Unemployment rate, by programme orientation	2015							
		General		Vocational		General	Vocational	General	Vocational
	25-34 year-olds with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education as their highest educational attainment level	12.8%		9.8%		10%	9.2%	11.7%	10.8%
Financial Investment in Education									
Table B1.1	Annual expenditure per student, by level of education (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2013							
	Primary education	USD 9 957				USD 8 477		USD 8 545	
	Secondary education	USD 12 763				USD 9 811		USD 10 053	
	Tertiary (including R&D activities)	USD 15 911				USD 15 772		USD 15 664	
Table B2.2	Total expenditure on primary to tertiary educational institutions	2013							
	As a percentage of GDP	5.8%				5.2%		5%	
Table B4.2	Total public expenditure on primary to tertiary education	2013							
	As a percentage of total public expenditure	10.4%				11.2%		9.9%	
Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)									
Table C2.1	Enrolment rates in early childhood education at age 3	2014				2014			
	ISCED 02	98%				69%		76%	
Table C2.3	Expenditure on pre-primary institutions	2013				2013			
	As a percentage of GDP	0.7%				0.6%		0.6%	
	Proportions of total expenditure from public sources	96%				83%		87%	
Teachers									
Table D3.2a	Actual salaries of teachers in public institutions relative to wages of full-time, full-year workers with tertiary education	2014				2014			
		Belgium (Fl.)		Belgium (Fr.)		0.74	0.81	0.74	0.81
	Pre-primary school teachers	0.89		0.85					
	Primary school teachers	0.91		0.85					
	Lower secondary school teachers (general programmes)	0.89		0.84					
Upper secondary school teachers (general programmes)	1.15		1.04		0.89	0.92			
Table D3.1a	Annual statutory salaries of teachers in public institutions, based on typical qualifications, at different points in teachers' careers (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2014				Starting salary	Salary after 15 years of experience	Starting salary	Salary after 15 years of experience
		Starting salary		Salary after 15 years of experience					
		Belgium (Fl.)	Belgium (Fr.)	Belgium (Fl.)	Belgium (Fr.)				
	Pre-primary school teachers	USD 34 459	USD 33 690	USD 48 757	USD 47 435	USD 29 494	USD 39 245	USD 28 934	USD 38 992
	Primary school teachers	USD 34 459	USD 33 690	USD 48 757	USD 47 435	USD 31 028	USD 42 675	USD 30 745	USD 42 285
Lower secondary school teachers (general programmes)	USD 34 459	USD 33 690	USD 48 757	USD 47 435	USD 32 485	USD 44 407	USD 32 274	USD 44 204	
Upper secondary school teachers (general programmes)	USD 43 056	USD 41 915	USD 62 699	USD 60 934	USD 34 186	USD 46 379	USD 33 420	USD 46 420	

Belgium - Country Note - Education at a Glance 2016: OECD Indicators

Source	Main topics in <i>Education at a Glance</i>	Belgium		OECD average		EU22 average	
	Mean monthly earnings of tertiary-educated 25-64 year-old, by selected field of education studied	2012		2012¹		2012	
		Belgium (Fl.)	Belgium (Fr.)				
Table A6.4	Teacher training and education science	USD 3 500	n.a.	USD 3 004		n.a.	
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	USD 4 800	n.a.	USD 3 883		n.a.	
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2014					
Table D2.2	Primary education	13 students per teacher		15 students per teacher		14 students per teacher	
	Secondary education	10 students per teacher		13 students per teacher		12 students per teacher	
	Tertiary education	22 students per teacher		17 students per teacher		17 students per teacher	
	Tertiary Education	2015					
	Percentage of adults who have attained tertiary education, by tertiary level of educational attainment and age group	25-34 year-olds	25-64 year-olds	25-34 year-olds	25-64 year-olds	25-34 year-olds	25-64 year-olds
Table A1.2	Short-cycle tertiary	0%	0%	8%	8%	5%	6%
	Bachelor's or equivalent	23%	21%	21%	16%	18%	13%
	Master's or equivalent	19%	15%	14%	11%	16%	13%
	Doctoral or equivalent	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	All tertiary levels of education	43%	37%	42%	35%	40%	32%
	Employment rate of 25-64 year-olds, by tertiary educational attainment	2015					
Tables A5.1 & A5.3	Short-cycle tertiary	78%		80%		80%	
	Bachelor's or equivalent	84%		82%		81%	
	Master's or equivalent	86%		87%		86%	
	Doctoral or equivalent	91%		91%		91%	
	All tertiary levels of education	85%		84%		84%	
	Relative earnings of full-time full-year 25-64 year-old workers, by tertiary educational attainment (upper secondary education = 100)	2014					
Table A6.1	Short-cycle tertiary	**		120		120	
	Bachelor's or equivalent	121		148		139	
	Master's, doctoral or equivalent	160		191		175	
	All tertiary levels of education	135		155		152	
	Share of international or foreign students, by level of tertiary education	2014					
Table C4.1.	Bachelor's or equivalent	8%		5%		6%	
	Master's or equivalent	20%		12%		13%	
	Doctoral or equivalent	37%		27%		22%	
	All tertiary levels of education	11%		6%		8%	
	First-time entry rates into tertiary education	2014					
Table C3.1.	All tertiary levels (including international students)	67%		68%		63%	
	All tertiary levels (excluding international students)	58%		61%		57%	
	All tertiary levels (students younger than 25 years old and excluding international students)	57%		51%		50%	
	Other: Immigration and intergenerational mobility in education	2012		2012¹		2012	
	Proportion of adults with same educational attainment levels as their parents, by parents' immigrant status²	Native-born parents	Foreign-born parents	Native-born parents	Foreign-born parents	Native-born parents	Foreign-born parents
		Belgium (Fl.)	Belgium (Fr.)	Belgium (Fl.)	Belgium (Fr.)		
Table A4.3	25-44 year-old adults with below upper secondary education as their highest educational attainment level	13%	n.a.	29%	n.a.	27%	37%
	Other: Adult education and learning	2012		2012¹		2012	
	Participation of 25-64 year-olds in formal and/or non-formal education, by level of education²	Belgium (Fl.)	Belgium (Fr.)				
Table C6.3	Below upper secondary	20%	n.a.	26%		n.a.	
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	41%	n.a.	46%		n.a.	
	Tertiary	69%	n.a.	70%		n.a.	
	Other: Education and social outcomes	2012		2012¹		2012	
	Percentage of 25-64 year-old adults reporting that they are in good health, by selected literacy proficiency level	Belgium (Fl.)	Belgium (Fr.)				
Table A8.1 (L)	Low literacy proficiency (Level 1 or below)	76%	n.a.	67%		n.a.	
	High literacy proficiency (Level 4 or 5)	91%	n.a.	90%		n.a.	
	Life satisfaction today and life satisfaction expected in five years for 25-64 year-olds, by educational attainment³	Life satisfaction today	Life satisfaction in 5 years	Life satisfaction today	Life satisfaction in 5 years	Life satisfaction today	Life satisfaction in 5 years
Table A8.3a	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	87%	88%	83%	87%	83%	86%
	Tertiary	95%	96%	92%	94%	92%	93%

The reference year is the year cited or the latest year for which data are available.

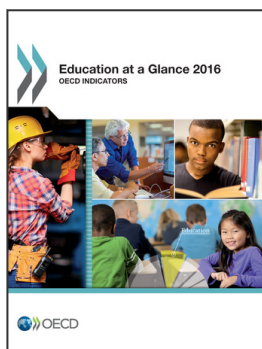
Refer to Annex 3 for notes and for more information on data presented in this key facts table (www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm).

1. OECD average includes some countries with 2015 data.

2. Data refer to ISCED-97 instead of ISCED-A 2011.

3. Educational attainment categories collected by Gallup World Poll may differ from ISCED-A 2011.

** Please refer to the source table for details on this data.



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