

EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2016

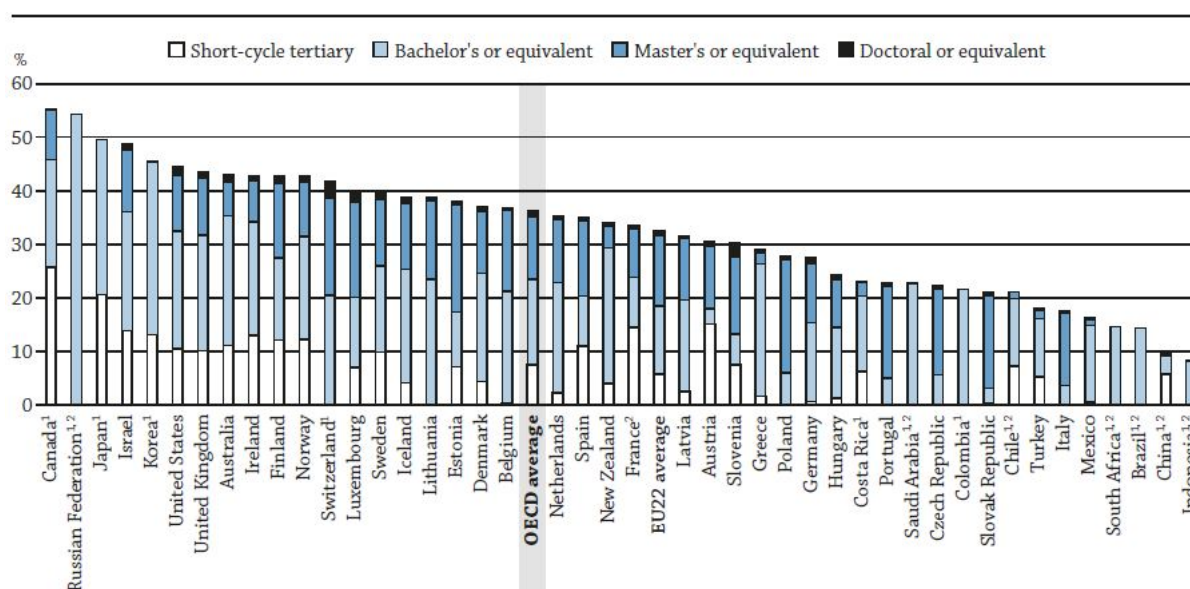
Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators is the authoritative source for information on the state of education around the world. It provides data on the structure, finances and performance of education systems in the 35 OECD countries and a number of partner countries.

The topics covered in this country note were selected according to data availability.

People's Republic of China (China)

- Although the share of adults with tertiary education remains low in the People's Republic of China (hereafter "China"), it has significantly increased in the past decades.
- Half of all first-time graduates with tertiary education in China were female in 2013.
- Although only 2% of Chinese national students were enrolled abroad for tertiary education, they make up the largest share of international students in countries like the United Kingdom and the United States.

Figure 1. Percentage of 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education, by level of tertiary education (2015)



1. Some levels of education are included in others. Refer to the source table for more details.

2. Reference year differs from 2015. Refer to the source table for more details.

Countries are ranked in descending order of the percentage of 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education, regardless of the level of tertiary attainment.

Source: OECD, Table A1.1. See Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm).

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933396600>

Gender gaps in education persist

- In 2013, in China, about half (51%) of all first-time tertiary graduates were female. For bachelor's or equivalent programmes the share was 52%, 49% for master's or equivalent and 38% for doctoral or equivalent programmes. This is slightly lower than the average across G20 countries (55% at bachelor's or equivalent level, 52% at master's or equivalent and 44% at doctoral or equivalent).
- In 2014, 55% of all new entrants into bachelor's or equivalent programmes were women in China, while the figure was 46% for master's or equivalent programmes.

Vocational programmes are less attractive to students than general ones

- China's first-time graduation rate for upper secondary education is lower for vocational programmes (39%) than general programmes (47%), while the average across G20 countries is 32% and 55% respectively.
- China's graduation rate for post-secondary non-tertiary vocational programmes is 2%, comparable to countries such as Denmark, India and Italy, which all have a rate of 1%.
- In China, women make up 46% of all upper-secondary graduates from vocational programmes, while for post-secondary non-tertiary vocational programmes the share is 25%.

Tertiary education is still expanding in and outside of China

- Although only 10% of all adults in China had attained tertiary education in 2010, the share has significantly increased in the past decades: the tertiary attainment level among 25-34 year-olds is 18%, 4.5 times higher than among 55-64 year-olds (4%).
- In 2010, 6% of 25-64 year-olds in China had short-cycle tertiary degree, while 3% had a bachelor's or equivalent degree and a combined 0.4% had a master's or doctoral or equivalent degree.
- The first-time tertiary graduation rate in China is 23%, the second lowest among all OECD and partner countries. The average first-time graduation rate for tertiary education across the G20 economies is 45%.
- China has a very small share of foreign students in tertiary programmes. Although the share grew by 12% between 2013 and 2014, they still made up less than 1% of those enrolled in bachelor's or equivalent programmes in China in 2014, 1% at master's level and 3% at doctoral level.
- About 2.1% of Chinese national tertiary students are enrolled abroad. The United States receives over 40% of Chinese master's or doctoral students, the largest share, followed by Australia (13.1%) and the United Kingdom (16%). Moreover, Chinese students represent the largest share of international students in master's and doctoral or equivalent programmes in these countries: 35.2% of international students in Australia, 35.1% in the United States and 23.8% in the United Kingdom.
- Compared to other G20 countries, Chinese students are more likely to enrol part time in tertiary programmes, thus combining both work and study. In 2014, 30% of students enrolled in bachelor's and 3% of those enrolled in master's or equivalent programmes, were enrolled part time, compared to 12% and 19% respectively across the G20 countries on average.
- In 2015, about 85% of tertiary-educated adults in China reported being satisfied with their lives and 97% expected to be satisfied in five years time. This is similar to the pattern observed in other emerging economies such as Argentina and South Africa.

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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.

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:  **Education GPS**
<http://gpseducation.oecd.org/CountryProfile?primaryCountry=CHN&treshold=10&topic=EO>.

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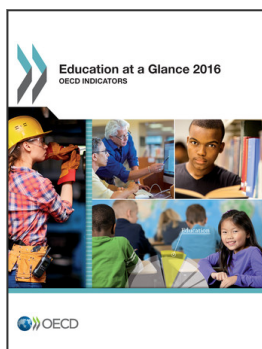
Key Facts for China in Education at a Glance 2016

Source	Main topics in <i>Education at a Glance</i>	China		OECD average	
Gender					
Chart A5.2.	Employment rate of 25-64 year-olds, by educational attainment	2015			
		Men	Women	Men	Women
	Below upper secondary	**	**	66%	46%
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	**	**	81%	67%
	Tertiary	**	**	88%	80%
Table C5.2	Percentage of people not in employment, nor in education or training (NEET)	2015			
		Men	Women	Men	Women
	15-29 year-olds	**	**	12%	17%
Table A3.4	Percentage of female graduates, by tertiary levels of education	2014			
		% Women		% Women	
	Short-cycle tertiary	51%		56%	
	Bachelor's or equivalent	52%		58%	
	Master's or equivalent	49%		57%	
	Doctoral or equivalent	38%		47%	
Vocational Education and Training (VET)					
Table C1.3a	Distribution of enrolment, by programme orientation	2014			
		General	Vocational	General	Vocational
	Upper secondary education	56%	44%	56%	44%
Financial Investment in Education					
Table B1.1	Annual expenditure per student, by level of education (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2013			
	Primary education	**		USD 8 477	
	Secondary education	**		USD 9 811	
	Tertiary (including R&D activities)	**		USD 15 772	
Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)					
Table C2.3	Expenditure on all early childhood educational institutions	2013			
	As a percentage of GDP	**		0.8%	
Teachers					
Table D2.2	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2014			
	Primary education	16 students per teacher		15 students per teacher	
	Secondary education	14 students per teacher		13 students per teacher	
	Tertiary education	20 students per teacher		17 students per teacher	
Tertiary Education					
Table A1.2	Percentage of adults who have attained tertiary education, by tertiary level of educational attainment and age group	2015			
		25-34 year-olds	25-64 year-olds	25-34 year-olds	25-64 year-olds
	Short-cycle tertiary	10%	6%	8%	8%
	Bachelor's or equivalent	7%	3%	21%	16%
	Master's or equivalent	1%	0%	14%	11%
	Doctoral or equivalent	**	**	1%	1%
Other: Education and Social Outcomes					
Table A8.3a	Life satisfaction today and in five years for 25-64 year-olds, by educational attainment ¹	2015			
		Life satisfaction today	Life satisfaction in 5 years	Life satisfaction today	Life satisfaction in 5 years
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	68%	87%	83%	87%
	Tertiary	85%	97%	92%	94%

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

1. 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.



From:

Education at a Glance 2016

OECD Indicators

Access the complete publication at:

<https://doi.org/10.1787/eag-2016-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2016), “China”, in *Education at a Glance 2016: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/eag-2016-47-en>

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