

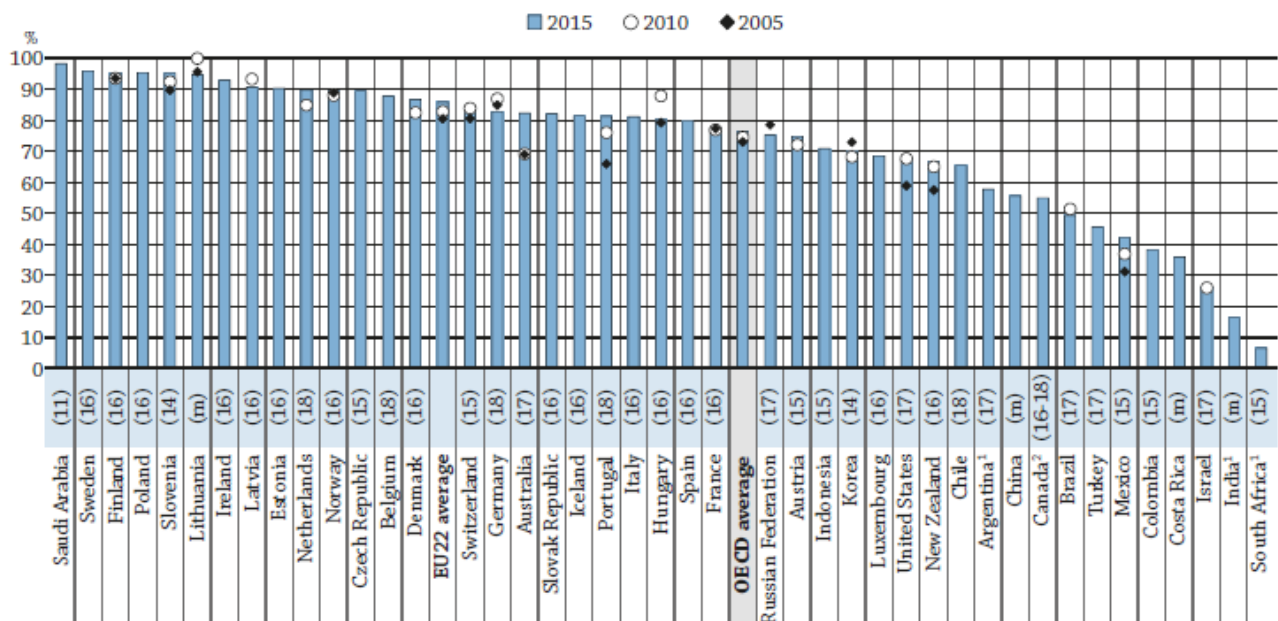
EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2017

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.

Saudi Arabia

- Although educational attainment is expanding, 31% of 25-34 year-olds had attained less than upper secondary education in Saudi Arabia in 2014, twice the OECD average (16% in 2015), and 26% had attained tertiary education (42% on average across OECD countries in 2015).
- On the Saudi Arabian labour market, 25-34 year-olds with below upper secondary education are in 2014 more likely to be employed (65%) than 25-34 year-olds with tertiary education (62%).
- The proportion of women in the teaching profession falls with rising levels of education: 52% of primary teachers are women (OECD average, 83%), compared with 40% at tertiary level (OECD average, 43%).
- 98% of Saudis at age 18 are in secondary, post-secondary non-tertiary or tertiary programmes, the highest rate of all countries (OECD average, 76%).

Figure 1. Enrolment rate at age 18 (2005, 2010 and 2015)
Secondary, post-secondary non-tertiary and tertiary programmes



Note: The number in parentheses corresponds to the ending age of compulsory education.

1. Year of reference 2014.

2. Excludes post-secondary non-tertiary education.

Countries are ranked in descending order of the enrolment rate at age 18 in 2015.

Source: OECD (2017), Education at a Glance Database, <http://stats.oecd.org/>. See Source section for more information and Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm).

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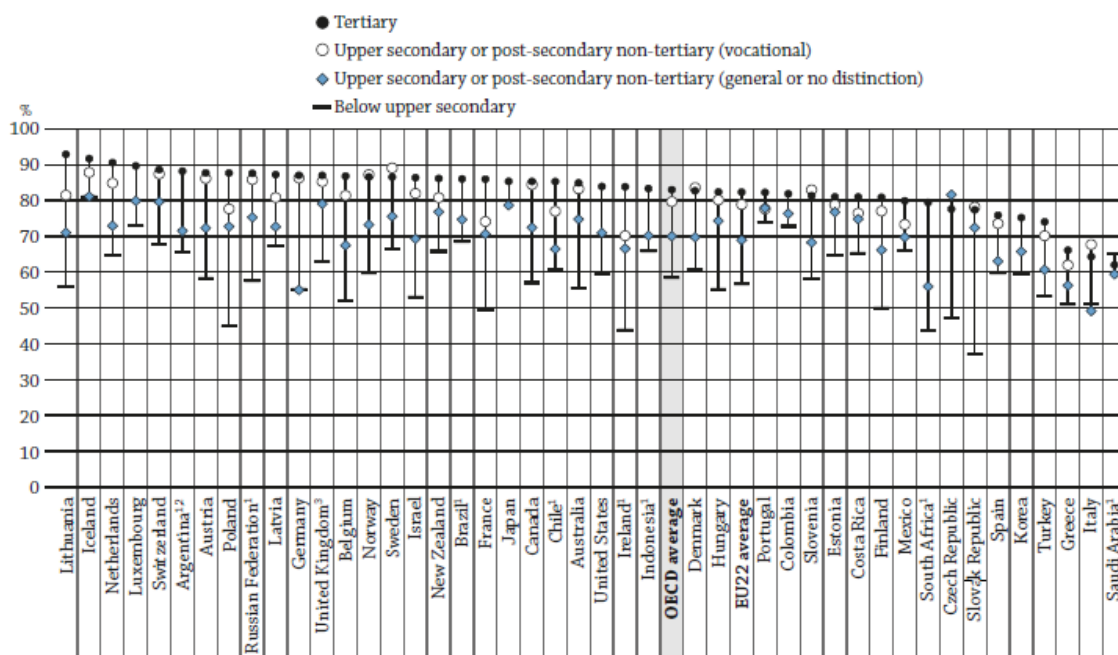
Educational attainment is expanding but remains below the OECD average

- In Saudi Arabia, 46% of 25-64 year-olds had below upper secondary education in 2014, compared to the OECD average of 22% (in 2016). Among 25-34 year-olds the proportion falls to 31%, mainly due to an increase in the proportion who had attained upper secondary education. In 2015, the proportion of 25-34 year-olds in Saudi Arabia with below upper secondary remains one of the highest among the OECD countries with Mexico (55%), Portugal (33%), Spain (34%), and Turkey (48%) (OECD average, 16%). While 32% of 25-64 year-olds have an upper secondary education (OECD average, 44%), the share is 43% for the younger generation (OECD average, 42%).
- 93% of 5-14 year-olds were in education in Saudi Arabia, below the OECD average of 97%, but enrolment rates reached or exceeded the OECD average for older age groups (Figure 1). The enrolment rate for 15-19 year-olds in Saudi Arabia was 94% (OECD average, 85%), and the rate for 20-24 year-olds was 39% (OECD average, 42%). Despite recent renewed interest in vocational education and training (VET) programmes, in Saudi Arabia the share of students enrolled in upper secondary vocational education in 2014 hardly exceeded 6%.
- In Saudi Arabia, 23% of the adult population (25-64 year-olds) had attained a tertiary qualification (excluding Short-cycle tertiary) in 2014. Although this is low compared to the OECD average of 29% (in 2016), is equal or above the share in some OECD countries such as Chile (15%), Italy (18%), Mexico (16%), the Slovak Republic (22%) and Turkey (14%), but below partner countries such as Lithuania (40%) and the Russian Federation (30%). Tertiary education is expanding, especially among young adults. In 2014, 26% of 25-34 year-olds had completed tertiary education in Saudi Arabia, lower than the OECD average of 43% (in 2016) but 3 percentage points more than the rate for adults overall.
- In 2015, the profile of new entrants to tertiary education is similar to the OECD average, with 80% of new entrants under 25 years old (OECD average, 82% in 2016). Saudi Arabia has one of the highest percentages of adults entering tertiary education for the first time, at 73%, above the OECD average of 66%, with the highest new entry rate at bachelor's or equivalent level, at 59% (OECD average, 57%).
- More women in Saudi Arabia are entering tertiary education, although current levels are still low. In 2015, 46% of new entrants into tertiary education were women compared with an OECD average of 54%. Among countries with available data, Saudi Arabia reports the lowest rates of female participation in tertiary education alongside India, Mexico, Switzerland and Turkey, all of which were below 50%.

Higher levels of education do not lead to higher employment rates in the labour market, particularly for young adults

- Adult employment rates are low in Saudi Arabia compared to the OECD average but, as in OECD countries, employment rates increase with education. In 2014, 65% of 25-64 year-olds were employed in Saudi Arabia, compared with 75% on average for OECD countries (in 2016).
- Lower employment rates are also observed at each level of education, except for adults with below upper secondary education. In 2014, 65% of adults with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education were employed in Saudi Arabia (OECD average, 75% in 2016) and 75% of adults with tertiary education (OECD average, 84% in 2016). Among adults with below upper secondary education, 60% were employed, slightly more than the OECD average of 57% in 2016.
- Employment rates for young adults in Saudi Arabia lag even further behind OECD averages. In 2014, 62% of 25-34 year-olds with tertiary education were employed, compared to the OECD average of 83% (in 2016). The difference was smaller for those with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education: 59% are employed, 17 percentage points above the OECD average of 76%. Only young adults with below upper secondary education do better, with a 65% employment rate, compared to 58% on average for OECD countries in 2016. As Figure 2 shows, young adults in Saudi Arabia experience almost no difference in employment rates whatever their level of education.

Figure 2. Employment rates of 25-34 year-olds, by educational attainment and orientation (2016)



Note: The label upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary (general or no distinction) refers to "general" for countries with a value for "vocational" and to "no distinction" for the others.

1. Year of reference differs from 2016. Refer to the Table A5.1 for more details.

2. Data should be used with caution. See Methodology section for more information.

3. 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 (16% of the adults aged 25-64 are in this group).

Countries are ranked in descending order of the employment rate of tertiary-educated 25-34 year-olds.

Source: OECD/ILO (2017), Education at a Glance Database, <http://stats.oecd.org/>. See Source section for more information and Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm).

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933557280>

- Contrary to the pattern in most OECD countries' labour market, in Saudi Arabia unemployment rates are higher for adults with higher education levels. In 2014, 20% of 25-34 year-olds with tertiary education were unemployed (OECD average, 7% in 2016), compared to 8% of those with upper secondary education (OECD average, 9% in 2016) and 2% of those with below upper secondary education (OECD average, 17% in 2016). Such results suggest a need for the education system in Saudi Arabia to provide appropriately trained individuals who meet the requirements of the labour market.
- Interestingly, inactivity rates in Saudi Arabia are more in line with the OECD trends as the rate for tertiary-educated young adults is lower than for those with lower levels of education. However, the inactivity rate for tertiary-educated young adults in Saudi Arabia is still very high, more than twice the OECD average. In 2014, 23% of 25-34 year-olds with tertiary education were inactive (OECD average, 11% in 2016), rising to 35% among those with upper secondary education (OECD average, 16% in 2016) and 33% among those with below upper secondary education (OECD average, 30% in 2016).

Concentration of women teachers falls with rising levels of education and ratio of students to teachers increases

- Saudi Arabia has the highest share of female teachers in pre-primary education of all countries with available data: in 2015, 100% of pre-primary teachers were women, compared with 97% on average for OECD countries. As in OECD countries, the proportion of women in teaching profession decreases with rising education levels. For instance, 52% of primary teachers are women (OECD average, 83%) and 40% of tertiary teachers (OECD average, 43%).
- The ratio of students to teachers in Saudi Arabia also increases with education level, whereas across OECD countries this ratio is almost stable. At primary level there are 11 students for every teacher in Saudi Arabia, below the OECD average of 15, but at tertiary level this rises to 20 students for every teacher (OECD average, 16).

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Note regarding data from Israel

The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and 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 (2017), *Education at a Glance 2017: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-2017-en>.

For more information on Education at a Glance 2017 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 [OECD.Stat](http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-data-en) as well as by following the *StatLinks*  under the tables and charts in the publication <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-data-en>.

Explore, compare and visualise more data and analysis using:  <http://gpseducation.oecd.org/CountryProfile?primaryCountry=SAU&treshold=10&topic=EO>.

Questions can be directed to:	Country note author:
Marie-Hélène Doumet	Karinne Logez
Senior analyst	Directorate for Education and Skills
Directorate for Education and Skills	karinne.logez@oecd.org
Marie-Helene.Doumet@oecd.org	

Key Facts for Saudi Arabia in Education at a Glance 2017

Source	Main topics in <i>Education at a Glance</i>	Saudi Arabia		OECD average		G20 average	
Fields of study							
New entrants to tertiary education							
2015							
		%	% Women	%	% Women	%	% Women
Table C3.1	Education	**	**	9%	78%	9%	72%
	Business, administration and law	**	**	23%	54%	23%	48%
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	**	**	16%	24%	18%	23%
Early childhood education							
Expenditure on all early childhood educational institutions							
2014							
Table C2.3	As a percentage of GDP	**		0.8%		**	
	Proportions of total expenditure from public sources	**		82%		**	
Vocational education and training (VET)							
Enrolment in upper secondary education, by programme orientation							
2015							
		General	Vocational	General	Vocational	General	Vocational
Table C1.3	Enrolment rate among population aged 15-19 year-olds	61%	**	37%	25%	38%	18%
Tertiary education							
Educational attainment of 25-64 year-olds							
2016							
Table A1.1	Short-cycle tertiary	**		8%		10%	
	Bachelor's or equivalent	23%		16%		16%	
	Master's or equivalent	**		12%		9%	
	Doctoral or equivalent	**		1%		**	
Employment rate of 25-64 year-olds, by educational attainment							
2016							
Table A5.1	Short-cycle tertiary	**		81%		**	
	Bachelor's or equivalent	75%		83%		**	
	Master's or equivalent	**		87%		**	
	Doctoral or equivalent	**		91%		**	
	All tertiary levels of education	75%		84%		**	
Financial investment in education							
Annual expenditure per student, by level of education (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)							
2014							
Table B1.1	Primary education	**		USD 8 733		**	
	Secondary education	**		USD 10 106		**	
	Tertiary (including R&D activities)	**		USD 16 143		**	
Total expenditure on primary to tertiary educational institutions							
2014							
Table B2.1	As a percentage of GDP	**		5.2%		**	
Total public expenditure on primary to tertiary education							
2014							
Table B4.1	As a percentage of total public expenditure	**		11.3%		12.3%	
Teachers							
Share of female teachers in public and private institutions							
2015							
Table D5.2	Primary education	52%		83%		76%	
	Upper secondary education	**		59%		54%	
	Tertiary education	40%		43%		42%	
Ratio of students to teaching staff							
2015							
Table D2.2	Primary education	11		15		19	
	Secondary education	**		13		16	
	Tertiary education	20		16		18	

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

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

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

Cut-off date for the data: 19 July 2017. Any updates on data can be found on line at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-data-en>



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