

## Reader's guide

In order to accurately interpret the data included in *Government at a Glance*, readers need to be familiar with the following methodological considerations that cut across a number of indicators. As in previous editions, the standard format for the presentation of indicators is on two pages, except for a few indicators – such as indicators on the rule of law and on the quality of public services – that are presented on four pages. For the two-page format, the first page contains text that explains the relevance of the topic and highlights some of the major differences observed across OECD countries. It is followed by a “Methodology and definitions” section, which describes the data sources and provides important information necessary to interpret the data. Closing the first page is the “Further reading” section, which lists useful background literature providing context to the data displayed. The second page showcases the data. These figures show current levels and, where possible, trends over time. A “Glossary” of the main definitions of the publication can be found in the final chapter of the book.

### Calendar year/fiscal year in National Accounts data

Unless specified, data from the OECD National Accounts are based on calendar years.

Data for Australia and New Zealand refer to fiscal years: 1 July of the year indicated to 30 June for Australia and 1 April of the year indicated to 31 March for New Zealand. For Japan, data regarding sub-sectors of general government and expenditures by COFOG (Classification of the Functions of Government) refer to fiscal year.

The data based on the *System of National Accounts* (SNA) were extracted from the *OECD National Accounts Statistics* (database) on 12 August 2013.

### Country coverage

*Government at a Glance 2013* includes data for all 34 OECD member countries based on available information. 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.

Some additional countries, such as the Russian Federation (currently in the process of accession to the OECD) and others that have participant status to the Public Governance Committee of the OECD (Brazil, Egypt, South Africa, Ukraine) also supplied data for some indicators. Data for non-member countries are presented separately at the end of tables and figures.

## Country codes (ISO codes)

<b>OECD member countries</b>		Poland	POL
Australia	AUS	Portugal	PRT
Austria	AUT	Slovak Republic	SVK
Belgium	BEL	Slovenia	SVN
Canada	CAN	Spain	ESP
Chile	CHL	Sweden	SWE
Czech Republic	CZE	Switzerland	CHE
Denmark	DNK	Turkey	TUR
Estonia	EST	United Kingdom	GBR
Finland	FIN	United States	USA
France	FRA		
Germany	DEU	<b>OECD accession country</b>	
Greece	GRC	Russian Federation	RUS
Hungary	HUN		
Iceland	ISL	<b>Other major economies</b>	
Ireland	IRL	Brazil (participant to the OECD Public Governance Committee)	BRA
Israel	ISR	China	CHN
Italy	ITA	India	IND
Japan	JPN	Indonesia	IDN
Korea	KOR	South Africa (participant to the OECD Public Governance Committee)	ZAF
Luxembourg	LUX		
Mexico	MEX	<b>Other participants to the OECD Public Governance Committee</b>	
Netherlands	NLD	Egypt	EGY
New Zealand	NZL	Ukraine	UKR
Norway	NOR		

## OECD averages and totals

### Averages

In figures and text, the OECD average refers to the unweighted, arithmetic mean of the OECD member countries for which data are available. It does not include data for non-member countries. In the notes, OECD member countries with unavailable data are listed.

When a figure depicts information for one or more years, the OECD average includes all member countries with available data. For instance, an OECD average for 2009 includes all current OECD member countries with available information for that year, even if at that time they were not members of the OECD.

### Totals

OECD totals are most commonly found in tables and represent the sum of data in the corresponding column for the OECD countries for which data are available. Totals do not include data for non-member countries. In the notes, OECD member countries with unavailable data are mentioned.

## Online supplements

Several indicators include online additional tables and figures that present country-specific data. When available, these are noted in the “Methodology and definitions” section of the indicator. *Government at a Glance 2013* also offers access to *StatLinks*, a service that allows readers to download the corresponding Excel files of the data featured. *StatLinks* is found at the bottom right-hand corner of the tables or figures and can be typed into a web browser or, in an electronic version of the publication, clicked on directly.

In addition, the following supplementary material are available on line at [www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm](http://www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm):

- Country fact sheets that present key data by country compared with the OECD average.
- The *Government at a Glance* statistical database that includes regularly updated data for a selection of indicators (via OECD.Stat).
- Country contextual notes that present contextual information describing some key features of the political and administrative structures for each member country.

## Per capita indicators

Some indicators (e.g. expenditures, revenues and government debt) are shown on a per capita (e.g. per person) basis. The underlying population estimates are based on the *System of National Accounts* notion of residency. They include persons who are resident in a country for one year or more, regardless of their citizenship, and also include foreign diplomatic personnel and defense personnel together with their families, students studying and patients seeking treatment abroad, even if they stay abroad for more than one year. The one-year rule means that usual residents who live abroad for less than one year are included in the population, while foreign visitors (for example, vacationers) who are in the country for less than one year are excluded. An important point to note in this context is that individuals may feature as employees of one country (contributing to the GDP of that country via production), but residents of another (with their wages and salaries reflected in the gross national income of their resident country).

## Purchasing Power Parities

Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) are the rates of currency conversion that equalise the purchasing power of different countries by eliminating differences in price levels between countries. When converted by means of PPPs, expenditures across countries are in effect expressed at the same set of prices, meaning that an equivalent bundle of goods and services will have the same cost in both countries, enabling comparisons across countries that reflect only the differences in the volume of goods and services purchased.

2001 and 2009: PPPs for all European countries are annual benchmark results provided by Eurostat. PPPs for non-European countries and the Russian Federation are OECD estimates.

2011: PPPs for all OECD member countries and the Russian Federation are preliminary benchmark results calculated by the OECD. Estimates and preliminary results should be interpreted with caution as they are subject to revision.

More information is available on the OECD PPP Internet site: [www.oecd.org/std/prices-ppp](http://www.oecd.org/std/prices-ppp).

## Composite indicators

The publication includes several descriptive composite indexes in narrowly defined areas related to conflict of interest and budget practices and procedures. These composite indexes are a practical way of summarising discrete, qualitative information. The composites presented in this publication were created in accordance with the steps identified in the *Handbook on Constructing Composite Indicators* (Nardo et al., 2008).

Details about the variables and weights used to construct the budget practices and procedures and conflict of interests' composites are available in Annex C and Annex E respectively. While the composite indicators were developed in co-operation with member countries and are based on theory and/or best practices, the variables composing the indexes and their relative weights are based on expert judgments and, as a result, may

change over time. The composites on budget practices and procedures are not comparable with those in the 2009 edition of *Government at a Glance*, as the latest Budget Practices and Procedures and Performance Budgeting surveys (2012) include questions that are worded slightly differently from the 2007 survey versions. Moreover, additional questions were included and some of the weights have been redefined.

### Signs and abbreviations

- .. Missing value or not available
- x Not applicable
- EUR Euros
- USD US dollars
- p.p. Percentage points



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