

EDUCATION
AT A GLANCE 2013

SWITZERLAND

A strong upper secondary and vocational tradition

A large percentage of the Swiss population has traditionally attained at least upper secondary education, and the figure remained high in 2011; 86% of 25-64 year-olds – and 89% of 25-34 year-olds – have obtained at least an upper secondary qualification (the OECD average is 75% and 82% respectively). As in other German-speaking countries, and given current patterns of graduation, it is expected that a young person in Switzerland has a 73% chance of completing an upper secondary level vocational qualification in his/her lifetime, almost always combining school- and work-based elements, which is high compared with the OECD average of 47%.

Programme orientation can make a significant difference when it comes to finding a job. In the context of the economic crisis and worsening labour market conditions, upper secondary vocational education and training (VET) offers young people the chance to acquire the skills, knowledge and practical experience relevant for specialised occupations, and helps them prepare for entry into the labour market. In fact, in Switzerland, the unemployment rate for those who graduated from vocational programmes is 2 percentage points lower than the unemployment rate for those with a general education (3.1% versus 5.1%). The OECD unemployment rate for those with a general education is 8.3%, for those with a vocational education 7.3%.

Where are the 15-29 year-olds?

In Switzerland, among 15-29 year-olds without an upper secondary qualification, 77% continued their studies, 13% were employed and 10% were neither employed nor in education or training (NEET), compared with the OECD averages of 68%, 17% and 16%, respectively. The share of young adults at this level of education that continued in education increased by 2 percentage points between 2008 (75%) and 2011 (77%).

At the other end of the educational spectrum, among 15-29 year-olds with a tertiary qualification, the share of people who were employed (and no longer in education) decreased by 7 percentage points since the beginning of the financial crisis (from 73% in 2008 to 66% in 2011), a higher decrease than the average decrease across the OECD of 5 percentage points. Furthermore, the proportion of 15-29 year-olds with a tertiary degree who continued their studies increased by 8 percentage points between 2008 and 2011 (from 19% to 27%), a significant increase when compared to the OECD average increase of only 1 percentage points during the same period (from 22% to 23%). This situation may also be an effect of the implementation of the Bologna system and the introduction of

the Bachelor's degree, which made more young people continue to remain at the university until completion of Master's level.

One of the highest employment rates across OECD countries, although unemployment is increasing

The employment rate in Switzerland for people with all levels of education is 83%, placing it first (together with Iceland, Norway and Sweden) among OECD countries. On the other hand, unemployment rates for people with all levels of education have increased between 2008 and 2011. Worsening labour market conditions are affecting people differently, depending on their educational attainment.

Among tertiary-educated adults of working age (25-64 year-olds), the unemployment rate increased at a much slower pace than other OECD countries, growing by 0.8 percentage points (from 1.8% to 2.6%) against an average increase of 1.5 percentage points from 3.3% to 4.8% across OECD countries between 2008 and 2011. The difference was even greater with the EU21 countries, which saw the unemployment rate grow by 2.0 percentage points, from 3.2% to 5.2%. On the other hand, Swiss unemployment rates increased more significantly for the less-educated cohort: between 2008 and 2011 unemployment increased by 1.6 percentage points among those who had not attained upper secondary education (from 6.0 to 7.6%), but still smaller than the average increase for OECD (3.8 percentage points increase, from 8.8% to 12.6%) and EU21 countries (5.1 percentage points increase, from 10.4% to 15.6%).

Other findings:

- Those with a tertiary education earn, on average, 55% more than their counterparts with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education (OECD average: 57% more). Relative earnings tend to increase with age in Switzerland. While tertiary-educated 25-35 year-olds earn 35% more than their peers with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education, 55-64 year-old tertiary-educated earn 64% more than their peers without that level of education.
- Tertiary attainment is above the OECD average, with 35% of working-age adults (25-64 year-olds) gaining a tertiary qualification (compared with 32% across the OECD).
- Enrolment in early childhood education is very low in Switzerland. Only 3% of 3-year-olds and 40% of 4-year-olds are enrolled in such programmes, compared with an average of 78% and 87% for the EU21 countries.
- Swiss teachers' salaries are among the highest of OECD countries. After 11 years of experience, lower secondary teachers earn almost USD 68 000 compared to the OECD average of USD 37 213. However, teachers' salaries in Switzerland have remained stable in real terms since 2000, while they increased in most OECD countries.

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Key Facts for Switzerland in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Switzerland		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries*
Educational Access and Output								
	Enrolment rates	2011	2005	2011	2005	2011	2005	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	3%	8%	67%	64%	77%	73%	***Not available
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	41%	39%	84%	79%	90%	84%	***Not available
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	99%		99%		98%		11 of 38
	Percentage of population that has attained below upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	14%	16%	26%	34%	25%	34%	26 of 35
	Percentage of population that has attained upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	50%	60%	44%	44%	48%	46%	11 of 36
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.3a	25-64 year-olds	35%	24%	32%	22%	28%	20%	15 of 36
	30-34 year-olds	44%		39%		37%		14 of 34
A1.4a	25-34 year-olds	40%	26%	39%	26%	36%	24%	17 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	27%	18%	24%	15%	21%	14%	15 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
C3.1a	Vocational programmes (Tertiary-type B)	22%	14%	19%	16%	15%	11%	15 of 32
C3.2a	University programmes (Tertiary-type A)	44%	29%	60%	48%	59%	46%	28 of 36
	Graduation rates	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A2.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime	m	88%	83%	76%	83%	77%	m
A3.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	32%	12%	39%	28%	41%	27%	18 of 26
Economic and Labour Market Outcomes								
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4b	Below upper secondary	7.6%	6%	12.6%	8.8%	15.6%	10.4%	23 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3.3%	2.9%	7.3%	4.9%	8.5%	5.2%	34 of 36
	Tertiary	2.6%	1.8%	4.8%	3.3%	5.2%	3.2%	33 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4d	Below upper secondary	7.8%	6.7%	12.2%	9.5%	15.1%	11.0%	23 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3.2%	3.1%	8.0%	5.7%	9.1%	6.1%	33 of 35
	Tertiary	3.4%	2.3%	5.1%	3.6%	5.5%	3.6%	28 of 36
	Average earnings premium for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**	2011 or latest year available		2011		2011		
A6.1	Men and women	155		157		158		17 of 33
	Men	144		162		164		23 of 33
	Women	155		161		161		18 of 33
	Average earnings penalty for 25-64 year-olds who have not attained upper secondary education**	2011 or latest year available		2011		2011		
A6.1	Men and women	76		76		77		18 of 33
	Men	80		77		78		12 of 33
	Women	75		74		75		17 of 33
	Percentage of people not in employment, education or training for 15-29 year-olds, by level of education attained	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
C5.4d	Below upper secondary	10.1%	10.6%	15.8%	14.4%	15.3%	13.5%	27 of 34
	Upper secondary	8.9%	9.5%	16.2%	13.6%	15.1%	11.8%	29 of 34
	Tertiary	6.2%	7.0%	13.3%	10.6%	12.3%	9.6%	30 of 34

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Table	Indicator	Switzerland		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and other G20 countries*
Financial Investment in Education								
	Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2010		2010		2010		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	5186 USD		6762 USD		7085 USD		22 of 32
	Primary education	11513 USD		7974 USD		8277 USD		3 of 34
	Secondary education	14972 USD		9014 USD		9471 USD		2 of 34
	Tertiary education	21893 USD		13528 USD		12856 USD		3 of 33
	Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B2.1	As a percentage of GDP	5.6%	5.4%	6.3%	5.4%	5.9%	5.2%	27 of 33
	Total public expenditure on education	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B4.1	As a percentage of total public expenditure	15.8%	14.4%	13.0%	12.6%	11.4%	11.4%	6 of 32
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B3.2a	Pre-primary education	m		17.9%		11.3%		m
B3.2a	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	11.9%	11.1%	8.5%	7.1%	6.1%	5.6%	9 of 31
B3.2b	Tertiary education	m	m	31.6%	22.6%	22.7%	14.3%	m
B3.1	All levels of education	m	8.2%	16.4%	12.1%	10.7%	7.9%	m
Schools and Teachers								
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2011		2011		2011		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	m		14 students per teacher		13 students per teacher		m
	Primary education	m		15 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		m
	Secondary education	m		14 students per teacher		12 students per teacher		m
	Total intended instruction time for students (hours)	2011		2011		2011		
D1.1	Primary education	m		4717 hours		m		m
	Lower secondary education	m		3034 hours		m		m
	Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
D4.2	Pre-primary education	m		994 hours		977 hours		m
	Primary education	m	884 hours	790 hours	780 hours	777 hours	776 hours	m
	Lower secondary education	m	859 hours	709 hours	697 hours	669 hours	658 hours	m
	Upper secondary education	m	674 hours	664 hours	628 hours	651 hours	635 hours	m
	Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2000 = 100)	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
D3.4	Primary school teachers	103	100	120	120	121	122	20 of 23
	Lower secondary school teachers	98	96	116	116	121	121	19 of 22
	Upper secondary school teachers	96	95	117	118	118	119	19 of 22
	Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education	2011		2011		2011		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	m		0.80		0.77		m
	Primary school teachers	m		0.82		0.80		m
	Lower secondary school teachers	m		0.85		0.84		m
	Upper secondary school teachers	m		0.89		0.89		m

* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

** Compared to people with upper secondary education; upper secondary = 100.

*** The ranking is not available because integrated programmes are not included under ISCED 0, leading to an underestimation of enrolment rates compared to other countries.

'm': data is not available.