



EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2014

Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators is the authoritative source for accurate and relevant information on the state of education around the world. It provides data on the structure, finances and performance of the education systems in the 34 OECD member countries, as well as a number of G20 and partner countries.

Norway

Norway invested steadily in education throughout the economic crisis.

Over the period 2008-2011, at the primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary levels of education, expenditure per student in Norway – combining private and public spending – increased slightly while the number of students remained stable. In 2011, **it reached USD 13 219 per student**. On the other hand, at tertiary level expenditure per student decreased slightly, as expenditure grew more slowly than the number of students. Overall, expenditure per student from primary to tertiary level is USD 14 288, the third highest across OECD countries, after Switzerland and the United States. **Expenditure per student is way above the OECD average for primary through to tertiary education.** It is also worth stressing that over the period 2008-2011, the education budget lost ground with public expenditure on all services growing faster than public expenditure on education. Still, **the public expenditure on all services remains the highest across OECD countries, at 59% of mainland GDP.**

Norway enjoys high employment rates, consolidated by a well-developed lifelong learning system.

The 2012 employment rate in Norway for people with all levels of education was 82%, one of the highest rates across OECD countries together with Iceland, Sweden and Switzerland, and rates are way above the OECD average at every level of attainment. For people with tertiary type-A education, the employment rate reached 90%.

According to the Survey of Adult Skills, the level of skills increases with the level of education, as would be expected.¹ However in Norway, people with no upper secondary education are more proficient in literacy skills than in any other country with comparable data, except for Japan.

In Norway, as in Iceland, Portugal and Sweden, **the difference in employment rates between the genders is low** – 6 percentage points for people at all levels of education in Norway, while the OECD average is 15 percentage points. At tertiary levels of education the gender gap is only 2 percentage points, compared with an OECD average of 9 percentage points.

¹ The Survey of Adult Skills is a product of the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC).

Lifelong learning is also very well developed in Norway, especially for economically inactive and unemployed people, in comparison to the other OECD countries. **The level of participation in formal and non-formal education among 25-64 year-olds is among the highest across OECD countries, at 64%.** Generally, most people engaged in lifelong learning are employed and this is also the case in Norway with **70% of the population employed in formal and/or non-formal education.** Still, the participation rate of unemployed people in education in Norway is among the highest across OECD countries, at 56% compared with 44% on average for countries with comparable data. To this extent lifelong learning can be an opportunity to reintegrate into the labour market

Teachers are paid less than their fellow citizens with tertiary education.

Based on 2012 data, **teachers in Norway at all levels earn, on average, significantly less than workers with a comparable level of education.** For instance, at the lower secondary level, teachers' statutory salaries average 71% of full-time, full-year earnings for 25-64 year-olds with a tertiary education, compared with an OECD average of 88%. At the pre-primary level, this percentage falls to 63% compared with 80% on average for OECD countries.

Teachers' salary structures in Norway are comparatively flat. The salary at the top of the scale for lower secondary education, which is reached after an average of 16 years of teaching, is only 26% higher than starting salaries, whereas the OECD average is 61%, reached after 24 years. For pre-primary teachers, the top salary is only 16% higher than the starting one, compared with 58% on average for OECD countries.

Other findings

- **A high proportion of older students:** in 2012, 15% of those graduating from an upper secondary programme were over 25 years old, one of the highest rates in the OECD and compared with an average of 5%. As a consequence, many individuals enter university at a later age. In 2012, 24% of all new entrants into tertiary-type A programmes were over 25 years old, compared with an OECD average of 18%.
- **A low share of private expenditure on tertiary education:** at 4%, Norway has one of the smallest shares of all OECD and partner countries with available data, the OECD average being 31%.
- **A low earnings premium:** the difference in earnings between adults with a tertiary education and those with an upper secondary is quite low; for 25-34 year-olds it is the lowest across all OECD countries.

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For more information on *Education at a Glance 2014* and to access the full set of Indicators, visit www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm.

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Key Facts for Norway in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Norway		OECD average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
Educational Access and Output						
	Enrolment rates	2012	2005	2012	2005	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	95%	83%	70%	64%	6 of 37
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	97%	89%	84%	79%	7 of 38
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	99%		98%		9 of 44
	Percentage of population that has only attained below upper secondary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	18%	15%	24%	34%	19 of 36
	Percentage of the population whose highest level of attainment is upper secondary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	43%	57%	44%	44%	16 of 37
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	39%	28%	33%	22%	13 of 37
	25-34 year-olds	45%	35%	40%	26%	10 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	30%	20%	25%	15%	11 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	
C3.1b	Youth expected to enter tertiary-type A programmes before turning 25	59%	m	48%	m	6 of 35
	Graduation rates	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A2.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime	88%	99%	84%	76%	14 of 29
A3.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	42%	37%	38%	28%	12 of 27
Economic and Labour Market Outcomes						
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women	2012	2008	2012	2008	
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	4%	4%	14%	9%	32 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	2%	1%	8%	5%	36 of 36
	Tertiary	2%	1%	5%	3%	36 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2012	2008	2012	2008	
A5.4c (Web)	Below upper secondary	4%	m	13%	9%	33 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	2%	1%	9%	6%	35 of 35
	Tertiary	1%	1%	5%	4%	35 of 35
	Average earnings advantage for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**	2012 or latest year available		2012 or latest year available		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	130		159		29 of 33
	Men	137		164		28 of 33
	Women	135		162		30 of 34
	Average earnings penalty for 25-64 year-olds who have not attained upper secondary education**	2012 or latest year available		2012 or latest year available		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	78		78		17 of 33
	Men	78		78		19 of 33
	Women	80		75		10 of 34
	Percentage of 15-29 year-olds neither employed nor in education or training, by highest level of education	2012	2008	2012	2008	
C5.3d (Web)	Below upper secondary	10%	10%	15%	14%	29 of 35
	Upper secondary	7%	4%	16%	14%	32 of 34
	Tertiary	6%	3%	13%	11%	31 of 34

Key Facts for Norway in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Norway		OECD average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
Financial Investment in Education						
	Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2011		2011		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	6730		7428		15 of 36
	Primary education	12459		8296		3 of 38
	Secondary education	13939		9280		3 of 38
	Tertiary education	18840		13958		6 of 37
	Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP	2011	2000	2011	2000	
B2.2	Percentage of GDP	7%	7%	6%	5%	5 of 37
	Total public expenditure on education	2011	2000	2011	2000	
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	15%	14%	13%	13%	9 of 34
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2011		2011		
B3.1	Pre-primary education	7%		19%		27 of 33
B3.1	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	m		9%		
B3.1	Tertiary education	4%		31%		34 of 34
B3.1	All levels of education	m		16%		
Schools and Teachers						
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2012		2012		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	m		14		
	Primary education	10		15		34 of 36
	Secondary education	10		13		31 of 37
	Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)	2012	2000	2012	2000	
D4.2	Pre-primary education	1508		1001		3 of 28
	Primary education	741	713	782	780	20 of 33
	Lower secondary education	663	633	694	697	14 of 33
	Upper secondary education	523	505	655	628	29 of 33
	Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2005 = 100)	2012	2008	2012	2008	
D3.5	Primary school teachers	109	103	103	103	7 of 26
	Lower secondary school teachers	109	103	102	103	7 of 25
	Upper secondary school teachers	110	103	101	103	5 of 25
	Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education	2012		2012		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	0.63		0.80		19 of 25
	Primary school teachers	0.71		0.85		21 of 28
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.71		0.88		22 of 28
	Upper secondary school teachers	0.76		0.92		22 of 28
New data from the Survey of Adult Skills				Norway	Average of countries with available data	
	Students in tertiary education... (20-34 year-olds)			2012	2012	
A4.1a	...whose parents have not attained upper secondary education			6%	9%	
	...whose parents have an upper secondary education			21%	37%	
	...whose parents have a tertiary education degree			73%	55%	
	Adults in formal and non-formal education			2012	2012	
C6.1(L)	25-64 year-olds			64%	51%	

* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

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

The Survey of Adult Skills is a product of the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies

m': data is not available. 'n': magnitude is either negligible or zero. 'c': there are too few observations to provide reliable estimates.