



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.

Ireland

A promising outlook: as of 2012, 93% of young people in Ireland were expected to graduate from upper secondary education in their lifetimes.

In 2012, 100% of 5-14 year-olds in Ireland were enrolled in education. Of these young people, **93% are expected to obtain an upper secondary diploma in their lifetimes, while 46% are expected to graduate from university as of 2012.** These expected graduation rates are far higher than the OECD averages; in 2012, the OECD average graduation rate for secondary education was 84%, while the graduation rate for tertiary education was 39%. Graduation rates in Ireland for both upper secondary and tertiary education are slightly higher for women than for men, with an upper secondary graduation rate in 2012 of 95% for women compared with 92% for men, and a university graduation rate of 52% for women and 39% for men.

Despite these projected gains in education, unemployment continues to remain at high levels.

Despite high rates of educational achievement, Ireland still faces higher unemployment rates than most OECD and EU21* countries, with an unemployment rate of 13% for 25-64 year-olds across all levels of education in 2012. **Ireland had the fifth highest unemployment rates of OECD countries for 25-64 year-olds with less than secondary (23%) or tertiary (7%) education, and the third-highest unemployment rate for 25-64 year-olds with upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (15%).** Irish women had slightly lower rates of unemployment than the population as a whole, with 2012 unemployment rates of 15% for women with less than secondary education, 12% for women with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education, and 6% for women with tertiary education.

In addition to these comparatively high unemployment rates for all ages, **as of 2012 the proportion of young people in Ireland who were neither employed nor in education or training (NEETs) was well above average for EU21 and OECD countries.** Although the percentage of Irish 15-29 year-old NEETs decreased slightly from 2011 to 2012 (from 22% to 21%), this proportion is still far higher than the EU21 and OECD average of 15%. While individuals with tertiary education experienced the largest change in this phenomenon after the onset of the global economic crisis, 2012 marked the third straight year in which the proportion of NEET tertiary education graduates decreased (from 13.9% to 13.5%). Between 2010 and 2012, NEET rates for individuals with less than a secondary education were between 23% and 24%, compared with EU21 and OECD averages of 15% to 16% for this group over the same period.

Ireland invests more in education per student than most OECD countries.

Ireland had the third greatest annual expenditure per student in all OECD countries by public educational institutions for all services excluding research and development (R&D). In 2011, Irish educational institutions spent USD 11 938 per student on average, compared with an OECD average of USD 9 635 and an EU21 average of USD 8 741. The only OECD countries with greater educational expenditure per student were Canada (USD 17 006) and the United States (USD 23 094). In 2011, public expenditure on educational institutions represented 6.2% of Ireland's GDP, an increase from 4.2% in 2000 and 5.7% in 2008. While this expenditure is slightly above the average share of GDP expenditure for OECD countries of 5.6% in 2011, it is far below the highest values, which were in the Scandinavian countries (spending between 6.8% and 8.8% of GDP in 2011).

Other findings

- **Teachers in Ireland are well paid by OECD and EU21 standards:** in 2012, the statutory salaries for primary, lower secondary and upper secondary teachers in Ireland were higher than OECD and EU21 averages at all levels of experience (given minimum training).
- **Early childhood education (ECE) enrolment in Ireland defies EU21 and OECD norms:** in 2012, 42% of 3-year-olds in Ireland participated in early education, an enrolment rate far lower than the EU21 average of 79% and the OECD average of 70% in the same year. For 4-year-olds, however, Ireland's enrolment rate was far higher than the average for OECD or EU21 countries; in 2012, 97% of Irish 4-year-olds were enrolled in ECE, while the EU21 and OECD country enrolment averages were 89% and 84% respectively.
- **In Ireland, the earnings premium from tertiary education is greater for women than for men:** in 2011, the earnings premium for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education (as compared to individuals with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education at a value of 100) was 169 for men and 190 for women, compared with OECD average earning premiums of 164 and 162, respectively. Of the 32 OECD countries for which these data are available in 2012, 14 countries (in addition to Ireland) reported earnings premiums of tertiary education to be higher for women than for men.

* EU21 countries are those that are members of both the European Union and the OECD. These 21 countries are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

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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 Ireland in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Ireland		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
Educational Access and Output								
	Enrolment rates	2012	2005	2012	2005	2012	2005	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	42%	m	70%	64%	79%	73%	29 of 37
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	97%	m	84%	79%	89%	84%	8 of 38
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	100%		98%		98%		1 of 44
	Percentage of population that has only attained below upper secondary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	25%	43%	24%	34%	23%	34%	14 of 36
	Percentage of the population whose highest level of attainment is upper secondary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	35%	36%	44%	44%	48%	46%	31 of 37
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	40%	22%	33%	22%	29%	20%	10 of 37
	25-34 year-olds	49%	30%	40%	26%	37%	24%	6 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	25%	13%	25%	15%	22%	14%	20 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
C3.1b	Youth expected to enter tertiary-type A programmes before turning 25	50%	m	48%	m	48%	m	16 of 35
	Graduation rates	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
A2.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime	93%	74%	84%	76%	83%	77%	6 of 29
A3.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	46%	30%	38%	28%	38%	27%	6 of 27
Economic and Labour Market Outcomes								
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	23%	8%	14%	9%	17%	10%	5 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	15%	5%	8%	5%	9%	5%	4 of 36
	Tertiary	7%	3%	5%	3%	6%	3%	5 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	
A5.4c (Web)	Below upper secondary	15%	5%	13%	9%	16%	11%	11 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	12%	4%	9%	6%	10%	6%	7 of 35
	Tertiary	6%	3%	5%	4%	6%	4%	8 of 35
	Average earnings advantage for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**	2012 or latest year available		2012 or latest year available		2012 or latest year available		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	175		159		159		7 of 33
	Men	169		164		166		15 of 33
	Women	190		162		160		4 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		2012 or latest year available		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	84		78		79		7 of 33
	Men	80		78		80		14 of 33
	Women	70		75		76		26 of 34
	Percentage of 15-29 year-olds neither employed nor in education or training, by highest level of education	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	
C5.3d (Web)	Below upper secondary	23%	18%	15%	14%	15%	13%	6 of 35
	Upper secondary	23%	13%	16%	14%	16%	12%	3 of 34
	Tertiary	13%	7%	13%	11%	12%	10%	14 of 34

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Financial Investment in Education								
	Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)	2011		2011		2011		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	m		7428		7933		
	Primary education	8520		8296		8482		14 of 38
	Secondary education	11502		9280		9615		8 of 38
	Tertiary education	16095		13958		13572		12 of 37
	Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
B2.2	Percentage of GDP	6%	4%	6%	5%	6%	5%	18 of 37
	Total public expenditure on education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	13%	14%	13%	13%	12%	11%	16 of 34
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2011		2011		2011		
B3.1	Pre-primary education	m		19%		13%		
B3.1	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	4%		9%		6%		24 of 36
B3.1	Tertiary education	20%		31%		21%		23 of 34
B3.1	All levels of education	8%		16%		11%		27 of 33
Schools and Teachers								
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2012		2012		2012		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	m		14		13		
	Primary education	16		15		14		15 of 36
	Secondary education	15		13		12		10 of 37
	Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)	2012	2000	2012	2000	2012	2000	
D4.2	Pre-primary education	m		1001		988		
	Primary education	915	915	782	780	761	776	7 of 33
	Lower secondary education	735	735	694	697	657	658	11 of 33
	Upper secondary education	735	735	655	628	638	635	10 of 33
	Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2005 = 100)	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	
D3.5	Primary school teachers	112	107	103	103	99	103	6 of 26
	Lower secondary school teachers	112	107	102	103	99	103	5 of 25
	Upper secondary school teachers	112	107	101	103	98	103	4 of 25
	Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education	2012		2012		2012		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	m		0.80		0.76		
	Primary school teachers	0.81		0.85		0.81		17 of 28
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.81		0.88		0.85		19 of 28
	Upper secondary school teachers	0.81		0.92		0.90		19 of 28
New data from the Survey of Adult Skills				Ireland		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			16%		9%		
	...whose parents have an upper secondary education			33%		37%		
	...whose parents have a tertiary education degree			51%		55%		
	Adults in formal and non-formal education			2012		2012		
C6.1(L)	25-64 year-olds			51%		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.