

## EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2015

*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 34 OECD countries and a number of partner countries.

# Denmark

### The teaching profession

*Danish teachers earn more than the OECD average at nearly every stage in their careers and across all levels from pre-primary to upper secondary education, but teach much longer hours.*

- Starting salaries for teachers from pre-primary to upper secondary level in Denmark are among the highest of all OECD countries, although salaries start high and then do not increase by much with experience. This explains why the ratios of salaries between the top and bottom of the scales are comparatively low. Denmark ranks third lowest in pre-primary salary progression (1.14:1), the lowest in primary education (1.15); and the second lowest in lower secondary (1.16) and upper secondary (1.19) education. As a result, salaries at the top of scale are closer to the OECD average, and even below the average for pre-primary teachers.
- Teacher's salaries in Denmark are also relatively competitive when compared to similarly-educated workers. The statutory salaries of female public school teachers in lower and upper secondary education are the same or higher than those of similarly-educated women. However, male teachers in lower and upper secondary levels earn considerably less (respectively 14% and 26%) than similarly educated men earn. This difference is explained by gender imbalances in the labour market rather than in the teaching profession, where men and women are almost equally paid.
- Following the *folkeskolereformen* reform, total compulsory instruction time for primary and lower secondary public education went from 8 070 hours in 2014 to 10 040 hours per year in 2015. This sharp increase makes of Denmark the country with by far the highest figure among OECD, for which average is of 7 570 hours.

### Educational attainment

*The majority of young people (15-29 year-olds) in Denmark are still in education, and a large share of them is both in education and employed.*

- The percentage of 15-29 year-olds in education in Denmark is 62.1%, the second highest among OECD and partner countries with available data, just after Japan. Nearly half of those who are in education are also employed. In fact, at 30%, the percentage of individuals in this age group who combine work and study is the third highest among all OECD countries.
- As a result, the percentage of 15-29 year-olds not in education, employment, or training (NEET) in Denmark is comparatively small at 10.7%, well below the OECD average of 15.5%.

## Financing of education

*Despite sharp reductions in expenditure on educational institutions, Denmark continues to be the OECD country that invests the greatest share of its wealth in primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education.*

- Between 2005 and 2011, the number of students in primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education in Denmark increased by 11%. As total expenditure on educational institutions remained constant during this period, the expenditure per student decreased by 10%.
- Nevertheless, in 2012 Denmark was the OECD country that spent the largest share of its wealth on primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education, even though it did not rank highest for spending at any single educational level. Denmark spent 5% of its gross domestic product (GDP) on educational institutions, closely followed by Norway (4.9%), Iceland (4.5%), Ireland (4.5%) and New Zealand (4.4%), with consistently high spending at all levels of non-tertiary education.
- In upper secondary education, Denmark had the third highest expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP (1.6%), behind only Belgium (1.9%) and Finland (1.6%). For lower secondary and primary education Denmark ranked fourth, with expenditure comprising 1.2% and 2.2% of GDP respectively.

## Equity in education and labour market

*In contrast to other Nordic countries, Denmark displays a slight gender gap in favour of men in the labour market despite very high graduation rates and a better balance of fields of study.*

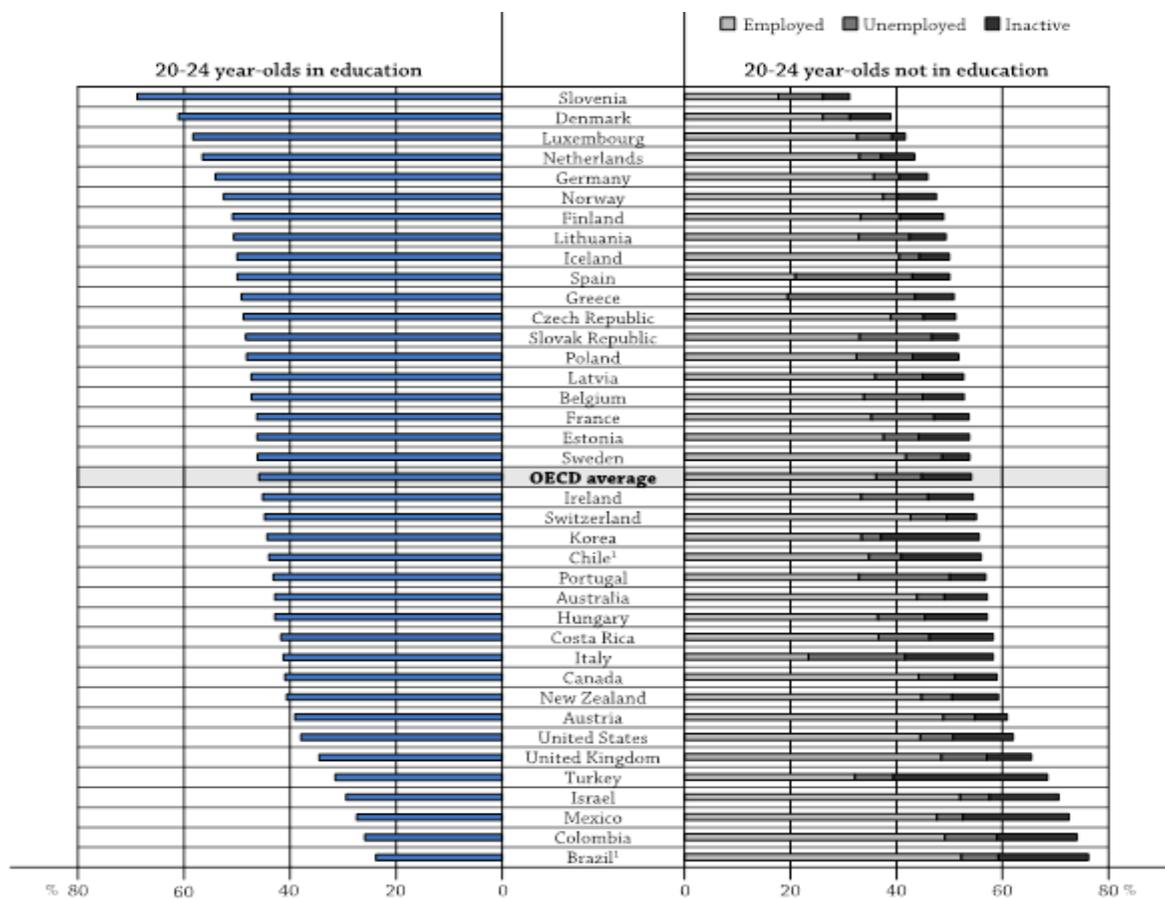
- In 2014, the Danish unemployment rate for 25-64 year-old women with any level of education was 5.7%, while the figure for men was of 5.0%. This difference stands in stark contrast to the situation in other Nordic countries. In Sweden the unemployment rate was 5.6% for women and 6.0% for men and in Finland 6.5% for women and 7.7% for men. Denmark's 0.7 percentage point difference is higher than the OECD average of 0.5 percentage points. Within the working age population in Denmark, the employment rate among women is 74%, against 82% for men, whereas Finland has an employment rate of 74% for women and 76% for men, and Norway 79% for women and 84% for men.
- The proportion of female doctoral graduates in Denmark is 45%, below the OECD average of 47%, and also behind Sweden (46%), Norway (48%) and Finland (51%).
- Women make up 80% of Denmark's health and welfare graduates, a better balance than some of its neighbouring countries such as Norway (84%) and Finland (85%), but still higher than the OECD average of 77%. Moreover, the proportion of female tertiary graduates in engineering, manufacturing and construction was 35.3% in 2013, the highest share among OECD and partner countries.

## Early childhood through upper-secondary education

*Denmark has the second highest enrolment rate among children aged 2 years-old across the OECD and partner countries.*

- 92% of 2 year-old Danish children are enrolled in early childhood education, the vast majority of whom are in early childhood development programmes, a much higher figure than the 39% total enrolment for the same age group on average for the OECD.
- Four-fifths of all pupils in pre-primary schools attend public institutions, while it is the case of only 61% of students on average across the OECD.

Figure: Percentage of 20-24 year-olds in education/not in education, by work status (2014)



1. Brazil, Chile: Year of reference 2013.  
 Countries are ranked in ascending order of the percentage of 20-24 year-olds not in education.

Source: OECD. Table C5.2a.

See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm](http://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm)).

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933284290> (Education at a Glance, Chart C5.2)

## References

OECD (2015), *Education at a Glance 2015: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-2015-en>.

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## Note regarding data from Israel

The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and are 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.

For more information on Education at a Glance 2015 and to access the full set of Indicators, visit [www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm](http://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm).

Updated data can be found on line at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-data-en> and by following the StatLinks  under the tables and charts in the publication.

Explore, compare and visualise more data and analysis using:



<http://gpseducation.oecd.org/CountryProfile?primaryCountry=DNK&treshold=10&topic=EO>

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## Key Facts for Denmark in Education at a Glance 2015

Table	Indicator	Denmark	OECD average
<b>Educational Access and Output</b>			
<b>Enrolment rates</b>			
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	2013 96%	2013 74%
<b>Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds</b>			
A1.4a	Below upper secondary	20%	24%
	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	44%	43%
	Tertiary	36%	34%
<b>Highest educational attainment level of 25-64 year-olds (disaggregation at tertiary level)</b>			
A1.1a	Short cycle tertiary	4%	8%
	Bachelor's or equivalent	19%	16%
	Master's or equivalent	11%	11%
	Doctoral or equivalent	1%	1%
<b>Entry and graduation rates</b>			
C3.1	Percentage of today's young people expected to enter tertiary education at least once during their lifetime	2013 87%	2013 67%
A3.1	Percentage of today's young people expected to graduate with a bachelor's or equivalent degree in their lifetime	52%	36%
<b>Economic and Labour Market Outcomes</b>			
<b>Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds</b>			
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	2014 8.2%	2014 12.8%
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	5.1%	7.7%
	Tertiary	4.4%	5.1%
<b>Average earnings premium for tertiary-educated 25-64 year-olds (upper secondary = 100)</b>			
A6.1a	Short cycle tertiary	2013 114	2013 125
	Bachelor's or equivalent	111	157
	Master's, Doctoral or equivalent	166	214
	All tertiary	129	160
<b>Percentage of people not in employment, education or training (NEET) for 15-29 year-olds</b>			
C5.2b	Men	2014 9.5%	2014 13.2%
	Women	12%	17.9%
<b>Financial Investment in Education</b>			
<b>Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)</b>			
B1.1a	Primary education	2012 10953 USD	2012 8247 USD
	Secondary education	10632 USD	9518 USD
	Tertiary (including R&D activities)	**	15028 USD
<b>Total expenditure on primary to tertiary educational institutions</b>			
B2.2	As a percentage of GDP	2012 **	2012 5.2%
<b>Total public expenditure on primary to tertiary education</b>			
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	**	11.6%
<b>Schools and Teachers</b>			
<b>Ratio of students to teaching staff</b>			
D2.2	Primary education	2013 **	2013 15 students per teacher
	Secondary education	**	13 students per teacher
<b>Average actual teachers' salaries</b>			
D3.4	Pre-primary school teachers	2013 45867 USD	2013 37798 USD
	Primary school teachers	55305 USD	41248 USD
	Lower secondary school teachers (general programmes)	56025 USD	43626 USD
	Upper secondary school teachers (general programmes)	62390 USD	47702 USD

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

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