



## 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.

## Denmark

**Denmark continues to be the OECD country that invests the greatest share of its wealth in education.**

As in 2010, in 2011 **Denmark was the OECD country that spent the largest share of its wealth on education with a total expenditure on educational institutions of 7.9% of its GDP**, closely followed by Iceland (7.7%), South Korea (7.6%) and New Zealand (7.5%). Denmark's expenditure on education – which covers public and private expenditure on institutions at all levels of education – has increased by 6.2% of its wealth in 1995. Remarkably, expenditure on education even grew during the financial crisis, rising by 1 percentage point between 2008 and 2010 from 7.0% to 8.0%.

**Denmark's relative position in terms of unemployment rates deteriorated between 2008 and 2012.**

In 2008 Denmark was one of the OECD countries with the lowest unemployment rates for each level of educational attainment – ranking fifth for adults (25-64 year-olds) with a below upper secondary education level (3.6%), third for those with an upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education level (2.3%) and sixth for those with a tertiary education level (2.2%). By 2012, its position has dropped considerably and it ranked 22nd (9.6%), 19th (6.2%) and 14th (4.7%) respectively. Nonetheless, although **the Danish unemployment rates for each of these education attainment levels were at least twice as high in 2012 as in 2008** they were still lower than the OECD average.

Among the younger generation, the unemployment rate of 24-35 year-old Danish tertiary graduates reached 7.7% in 2012, which was higher than that of their Swedish (5.4%), Finnish (4.5%) and Norwegian (2.6%) counterparts. This rate is however close to the OECD average of 7.4%.

**Tertiary attainment rates in Denmark have increased but more slowly than other countries.**

**Between 2008 and 2012, the proportion of Danes with a tertiary education grew both among the young (aged 25-34) and older adults (aged 55-64), from 36% to 40% and from 26% to 29% respectively.** However, these increases in tertiary attainment rates, although close to those in other Nordic countries, are much lower compared to other OECD countries, yet the reason for this may be caused by historical high attainment levels compared to other OECD countries. In 2012, **48% of Danes had the same level of education as their parents and only 36% reached a better level**

and 16% a lower level. In comparison, the averages across 24 OECD countries were 49%, 39% and 12%, respectively.

## Danish teachers earn more than the OECD average at all stages of their career.

Teachers' statutory salaries in Denmark were higher than the average across OECD countries, especially **starting salaries, which range from USD 42 200 to USD 45 500 depending on the level of education, which is 40-50% higher than the OECD average.** Teachers' salaries were not that different from those of other tertiary-educated Danes: in 2012, teachers in primary and lower secondary education earned 92% of the average tertiary-educated workers' salary, and those in upper secondary education earned 106%, higher than the OECD average of 85%, 88% and 92% for primary, lower secondary and upper secondary respectively.

## Other findings

- **Teachers in Denmark spend less time teaching than those in most OECD countries.** In 2012, the number of teaching hours per year, for Danish teachers in public institutions, was markedly lower than the average across OECD countries especially at the upper secondary level of education. The difference amounted to 123 hours in primary education (659 versus 782), 35 hours in lower secondary education (659 versus 694), and 286 hours in upper secondary education (369 versus 655).
- **The compulsory instruction time for students in public primary schools in Denmark is considerably higher than the OECD average:** 5 280 versus 4 553 hours, but it is lower for students in public lower secondary education (2 790 versus 2 922 hours).
- **The proportion of young Danes who are expected to graduate from either an upper secondary education or an academic (type A) tertiary education is higher than the OECD average.** In 2012 the expected graduation rate from an upper secondary education reached 92% in Denmark, compared with the OECD average of 84%. The graduation rate from tertiary-type A education was 49%, 10 percentage points above the OECD average of 39%.
- **Two out of three adult Danes participate in formal and/or non-formal education.** This participation rate is considerably above the average of 51% across 22 OECD countries and is in fact the joint highest with Finland and Sweden.

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# Key Facts for Denmark in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Denmark		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
<b>Educational Access and Output</b>								
	<b>Enrolment rates</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2005</b>	
C2.1	3-year-olds (in early childhood education)	97%	91%	70%	64%	79%	73%	3 of 37
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	98%	93%	84%	79%	89%	84%	6 of 38
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	99%		98%		98%		11 of 44
	<b>Percentage of population that has only attained below upper secondary education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	22%	20%	24%	34%	23%	34%	16 of 36
	<b>Percentage of the population whose highest level of attainment is upper secondary education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	43%	54%	44%	44%	48%	46%	17 of 37
	<b>Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A1.3a A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	35%	26%	33%	22%	29%	20%	19 of 37
	25-34 year-olds	40%	29%	40%	26%	37%	24%	19 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	29%	18%	25%	15%	22%	14%	13 of 36
	<b>Entry rates into tertiary education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
C3.1b	Youth expected to enter tertiary-type A programmes before turning 25	56%	m	48%	m	48%	m	8 of 35
	<b>Graduation rates</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
A2.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete upper secondary education in their lifetime	92%	95%	84%	76%	83%	77%	11 of 29
A3.2a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	49%	37%	38%	28%	38%	27%	4 of 27
<b>Economic and Labour Market Outcomes</b>								
	<b>Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Men and Women</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
A5.4a	Below upper secondary	10%	4%	14%	9%	17%	10%	23 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6%	2%	8%	5%	9%	5%	19 of 36
	Tertiary	5%	2%	5%	3%	6%	3%	14 of 36
	<b>Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
A5.4c (Web)	Below upper secondary	9%	3%	13%	9%	16%	11%	23 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6%	3%	9%	6%	10%	6%	21 of 35
	Tertiary	5%	2%	5%	4%	6%	4%	13 of 35
	<b>Average earnings advantage for 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education**</b>	<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	128		159		159		32 of 33
	Men	138		164		166		27 of 33
	Women	126		162		160		34 of 34
	<b>Average earnings penalty for 25-64 year-olds who have not attained upper secondary education**</b>	<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		<b>2012 or latest year available</b>		
A6.1a A6.1b (Web)	Men and women	81		78		79		13 of 33
	Men	79		78		80		17 of 33
	Women	82		75		76		7 of 34
	<b>Percentage of 15-29 year-olds neither employed nor in education or training, by highest level of education</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
C5.3d (Web)	Below upper secondary	11%	8%	15%	14%	15%	13%	26 of 35
	Upper secondary	12%	6%	16%	14%	16%	12%	25 of 34
	Tertiary	11%	5%	13%	11%	12%	10%	22 of 34

# Key Facts for Denmark in Education at a Glance 2014

Table	Indicator	Denmark		OECD average		EU21 average		Rank among OECD countries and partner countries*
<b>Financial Investment in Education</b>								
	<b>Annual expenditure per student (in equivalent USD, using PPPs)</b>	<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
B1.1a	Pre-primary education	14148		7428		7933		2 of 36
	Primary education	9434		8296		8482		9 of 38
	Secondary education	10937		9280		9615		11 of 38
	Tertiary education	21254		13958		13572		4 of 37
	<b>Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
B2.2	Percentage of GDP	8%	7%	6%	5%	6%	5%	1 of 37
	<b>Total public expenditure on education</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2000</b>	
B4.2	As a percentage of total public expenditure	15%	15%	13%	13%	12%	11%	8 of 34
	<b>Share of private expenditure on educational institutions</b>	<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2011</b>		
B3.1	Pre-primary education	8%		19%		13%		26 of 33
B3.1	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	3%		9%		6%		30 of 36
B3.1	Tertiary education	5%		31%		21%		32 of 34
B3.1	All levels of education	5%		16%		11%		30 of 33
<b>Schools and Teachers</b>								
	<b>Ratio of students to teaching staff</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	m		14		13		
	Primary education	m		15		14		
	Secondary education	m		13		12		
	<b>Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2000</b>	
D4.2	Pre-primary education	m		1001		988		
	Primary education	659	640	782	780	761	776	26 of 33
	Lower secondary education	659	640	694	697	657	658	15 of 33
	Upper secondary education	369	m	655	628	638	635	33 of 33
	<b>Index of change in statutory teachers' salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience/minimum training (2005 = 100)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2008</b>	
D3.5	Primary school teachers	114	104	103	103	99	103	5 of 26
	Lower secondary school teachers	114	104	102	103	99	103	4 of 25
	Upper secondary school teachers	108	103	101	103	98	103	9 of 25
	<b>Ratio of teachers' salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year adult workers with tertiary education</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		
D3.2	Pre-primary school teachers	0.83		0.80		0.76		9 of 25
	Primary school teachers	0.92		0.85		0.81		9 of 28
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.92		0.88		0.85		12 of 28
	Upper secondary school teachers	1.06		0.92		0.90		8 of 28
<b>New data from the Survey of Adult Skills</b>				<b>Denmark</b>		<b>Average of countries with available data</b>		
	<b>Students in tertiary education... (20-34 year-olds)</b>			<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		
A4.1a	...whose parents have not attained upper secondary education			7%		9%		
	...whose parents have an upper secondary education			30%		37%		
	...whose parents have a tertiary education degree			63%		55%		
	<b>Adults in formal and non-formal education</b>			<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		
C6.1(L)	25-64 year-olds			66%		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.