

EDUCATION
AT A GLANCE 2013

LUXEMBOURG

Upper secondary attainment is high in Luxembourg, with a high proportion in a vocational programme

In 2011, more than three out of four Luxembourgers have at least an upper secondary education: 77% of 25-64 year-olds compared with the OECD average of 75%. The younger generation is doing even better: 83% of 25-34 year-olds hold at least an upper secondary qualification, compared with the OECD average of 82%. If current graduation patterns remain stable, it is expected that almost half of those with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education will graduate from a vocational education and training (VET) programme: 45%, compared with 47% across OECD countries, whereas only 29% will graduate from a general programme.

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 VET offers the possibility to acquire the skills, knowledge and practical experience relevant for specialised occupations, and helps to prepare young people for entry into the labour market. In fact, in Luxembourg, there is a 7 percentage points difference in employment rates between those who graduated from vocational programmes and those who hold a general qualification (70% versus 63%).

Furthermore, although the unemployment rate for people who lack an upper secondary education is low in Luxembourg (6%), the labour market imposes a severe earnings penalty. People with this level of education can expect to earn 34% less than those who have completed this level of education (OECD average: 25%).

Standing against unemployment

In Luxembourg, the employment rate at all levels of education is 74%, 1 percentage point higher than the OECD average. However, unemployment rates have increased between 2008 and 2011, depending on age and educational attainment. Among tertiary-educated adults (25-64 year-olds), the unemployment rate increased by 1.3 percentage points between 2008 and 2011 (the EU21 average increase was 2.0 percentage points), while for the youngest adults (25-34 year-olds) with the same level of education, the unemployment rate increased slightly more, by 1.9 percentage points (the EU21 average increase was 2.9 percentage points). By contrast, and unlike other European countries, unemployment rates decreased for those with an upper secondary education by 1.2 percentage points while the EU21 average increased by 3.3 percentage points between 2008 and 2011. More significantly, the unemployment rate among the youngest adults with an upper secondary education decreased by 3.7 percentage points, while the average for the EU21 countries registered an increase of 4.4 percentage points during the same period of time.

Highest expenditure per student among OECD countries

Luxembourg devotes the highest level of resources to education among OECD countries in terms of spending per student¹. At pre-primary level, annual expenditure per student amounts to USD 20 958, more than three times the average expenditure across OECD countries. At the primary level, annual expenditure per student amounts to USD 21 240, again well above the OECD average of USD 7 974. At the secondary level, expenditure is USD 17 633 per student, while the OECD average is about USD 8 998.

Well-paid young teaching force

Luxembourg has a relatively young teaching force with almost half of primary and lower secondary teachers under the age of 40. The high level of teachers' pay in Luxembourg certainly explains the attractiveness of the profession. Teachers are well paid in comparison with teachers in other OECD countries. After 15 years of experience, a Luxembourgian teacher can expect to earn more than twice the amount of the OECD average salary. When compared with the earnings of other tertiary-educated, 25-64 year-old full-time workers, Luxembourgian teachers are also well over the OECD average. Lower and upper secondary teachers in Luxembourg earn on average 24% more than other workers of a similar age and education level. This is in contrast with the average across OECD countries, where lower and upper secondary teachers earn 15% and 11% respectively less than their similarly educated counterparts.

Other findings:

- The average annual growth rate of attainment at tertiary level among women has increased at a significant rate (7.5% over the period from 2000 to 2011) and almost double the OECD average. However, unlike most OECD countries, by 2011, more men than women attained tertiary education (49% versus 45%).
- The average number of years a 15-29 year-old can expect to spend in formal education has increased over the past decade, from 6.6 years in 1999 to 8.2 in 2011. For young women, the increase is particularly significant, since they can expect to spend almost two more years in education in 2011 than they would have in 1999.
- The proportion of 25-64 year-olds with a tertiary education has increased by 6.6% per year between 2000 and 2011, one of the highest growth rates among OECD countries. In 2011, the percentage of people who attained tertiary education was up to 37%, 5 percentage points higher than the OECD average. At the same time, the proportion of people without an upper secondary education decreased by 4.8% between 2000 and 2011.
- Only 7.2% of 15-29 year-olds in Luxembourg are neither in employment nor in education or training (NEET), compared with the OECD average of 15.8%.

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¹ Expenditure data for 2010 includes reimbursements for previous years.

Key Facts for Luxembourg in Education at a Glance 2013

| Table | Indicator | Luxembourg | | 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) | 72% | 62% | 67% | 64% | 77% | 73% | 20 of 36 |
| | 4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education) | 95% | 96% | 84% | 79% | 90% | 84% | 14 of 36 |
| C1.1a | 5-14 year-olds (all levels) | 96% | | 99% | | 98% | | 29 of 38 |
| | Percentage of population that has attained below upper secondary education | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | |
| A1.4a | 25-64 year-olds | 23% | 39% | 26% | 34% | 25% | 34% | 18 of 35 |
| | Percentage of population that has attained upper secondary education | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | |
| A1.4a | 25-64 year-olds | 40% | 43% | 44% | 44% | 48% | 46% | 23 of 36 |
| | Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | |
| A1.3a | 25-64 year-olds | 37% | 18% | 32% | 22% | 28% | 20% | 13 of 36 |
| | 30-34 year-olds | 48% | | 39% | | 37% | | 7 of 34 |
| A1.4a | 25-34 year-olds | 47% | 23% | 39% | 26% | 36% | 24% | 8 of 36 |
| | 55-64 year-olds | 28% | 13% | 24% | 15% | 21% | 14% | 12 of 36 |
| | Entry rates into tertiary education | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | |
| C3.1a | Vocational programmes (Tertiary-type B) | m | m | 19% | 16% | 15% | 11% | m |
| C3.2a | University programmes (Tertiary-type A) | m | m | 60% | 48% | 59% | 46% | m |
| | 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 | 70% | m | 83% | 76% | 83% | 77% | 23 of 27 |
| A3.1a | Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime | m | m | 39% | 28% | 41% | 27% | m |
| 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 | 6.1% | 4.8% | 12.6% | 8.8% | 15.6% | 10.4% | 28 of 35 |
| | Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary | 3.7% | 4.9% | 7.3% | 4.9% | 8.5% | 5.2% | 32 of 36 |
| | Tertiary | 3.5% | 2.2% | 4.8% | 3.3% | 5.2% | 3.2% | 25 of 36 |
| | Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women | 2011 | 2008 | 2011 | 2008 | 2011 | 2008 | |
| A5.4d | Below upper secondary | 7.9% | 5.7% | 12.2% | 9.5% | 15.1% | 11.0% | 22 of 35 |
| | Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary | 4.6% | 4.9% | 8.0% | 5.7% | 9.1% | 6.1% | 29 of 35 |
| | Tertiary | 4.4% | 3.0% | 5.1% | 3.6% | 5.5% | 3.6% | 17 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 | 159 | | 157 | | 158 | | 13 of 33 |
| | Men | 165 | | 162 | | 164 | | 11 of 33 |
| | Women | 166 | | 161 | | 161 | | 12 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 | 66 | | 76 | | 77 | | 28 of 33 |
| | Men | 68 | | 77 | | 78 | | 27 of 33 |
| | Women | 68 | | 74 | | 75 | | 26 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 | 5.4% | 12.3% | 15.8% | 14.4% | 15.3% | 13.5% | 34 of 34 |
| | Upper secondary | 8.0% | 5.8% | 16.2% | 13.6% | 15.1% | 11.8% | 31 of 34 |
| | Tertiary | 7.8% | 3.5% | 13.3% | 10.6% | 12.3% | 9.6% | 28 of 34 |

Key Facts for Luxembourg in Education at a Glance 2013

| Table | Indicator | Luxembourg | | 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 | 20958 USD | | 6762 USD | | 7085 USD | | 1 of 32 |
| | Primary education | 21240 USD | | 7974 USD | | 8277 USD | | 1 of 34 |
| | Secondary education | 17633 USD | | 9014 USD | | 9471 USD | | 1 of 34 |
| | Tertiary education | m | | 13528 USD | | 12856 USD | | m |
| | Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP | 2010 | 2000 | 2010 | 2000 | 2010 | 2000 | |
| B2.1 | As a percentage of GDP | m | m | 6.3% | 5.4% | 5.9% | 5.2% | m |
| | Total public expenditure on education | 2010 | 2000 | 2010 | 2000 | 2010 | 2000 | |
| B4.1 | As a percentage of total public expenditure | m | m | 13.0% | 12.6% | 11.4% | 11.4% | m |
| | Share of private expenditure on educational institutions | 2010 | 2000 | 2010 | 2000 | 2010 | 2000 | |
| B3.2a | Pre-primary education | 1.2% | | 17.9% | | 11.3% | | 27 of 28 |
| B3.2a | Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education | 2.2% | m | 8.5% | 7.1% | 6.1% | 5.6% | 27 of 31 |
| B3.2b | Tertiary education | m | m | 31.6% | 22.6% | 22.7% | 14.3% | m |
| B3.1 | All levels of education | m | m | 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 | 11 students per teacher | | 14 students per teacher | | 13 students per teacher | | 23 of 31 |
| | Primary education | 10 students per teacher | | 15 students per teacher | | 14 students per teacher | | 35 of 35 |
| | Secondary education | 10 students per teacher | | 14 students per teacher | | 12 students per teacher | | 32 of 36 |
| | Total intended instruction time for students (hours) | 2011 | | 2011 | | 2011 | | |
| D1.1 | Primary education | 5544 hours | | 4717 hours | | m | | 9 of 31 |
| | Lower secondary education | 3600 hours | | 3034 hours | | m | | 9 of 31 |
| | Number of hours of teaching time per year (for teachers in public institutions) | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | 2011 | 2000 | |
| D4.2 | Pre-primary education | 880 hours | | 994 hours | | 977 hours | | 19 of 29 |
| | Primary education | 810 hours | m | 790 hours | 780 hours | 777 hours | 776 hours | 14 of 31 |
| | Lower secondary education | 739 hours | m | 709 hours | 697 hours | 669 hours | 658 hours | 10 of 30 |
| | Upper secondary education | 739 hours | m | 664 hours | 628 hours | 651 hours | 635 hours | 9 of 31 |
| | 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 | m | m | 120 | 120 | 121 | 122 | m |
| | Lower secondary school teachers | m | m | 116 | 116 | 121 | 121 | m |
| | Upper secondary school teachers | m | m | 117 | 118 | 118 | 119 | m |
| | 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 | 1.08 | | 0.80 | | 0.77 | | 4 of 22 |
| | Primary school teachers | 1.08 | | 0.82 | | 0.80 | | 4 of 27 |
| | Lower secondary school teachers | 1.24 | | 0.85 | | 0.84 | | 3 of 27 |
| | Upper secondary school teachers | 1.24 | | 0.89 | | 0.89 | | 3 of 27 |

* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

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

'm': data is not available.