



EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2013

DENMARK

The OECD country investing the most of its wealth in education

In 2010, Denmark was the OECD country investing the highest proportion of its wealth in education, followed by Iceland, Korea (which came first in 2009) and Norway. Denmark invested 8.0% of its GDP in education in 2010, having steadily increased from 6.2% in 1995, 6.6% in 2000, and 7.4% in 2005. These figures cover public and private expenditure on institutions at all levels of education, but not public subsidies to households for living costs (scholarships and student loans).

Public expenditure on educational institutions increased by 12% from 2008 to 2010, despite a 4% fall in GDP due to the financial crisis.

Unemployment rates more than doubled between 2008 and 2011

In 2008, Denmark had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the OECD for each level of education: it ranked fifth for those with below upper secondary education, third for upper secondary, and sixth for tertiary level education. By 2011, even though the Danish unemployment rates remained below the OECD or the EU21 averages for those with below upper and upper secondary level education, its position in the unemployment rankings has dramatically changed: 14th for those with below upper secondary education, 20th for upper secondary, 25th for tertiary education.

In fact, by 2011, more than 7% of 25-34 year-old tertiary graduates were unemployed, compared to 5.3% in Finland, 2.4% in Norway, 5.1% in Sweden and 6.8% for OECD countries on average.

A worrying increase in young people neither in education nor in employment

In Denmark, as in most OECD countries, the percentage of 15-29 year-olds neither employed nor in education or training (NEET) increased between 2008 and 2011. As with the unemployment rates, although the numbers remain below both the OECD and the EU21 averages, their rapid growth is worrying. In 2011, in Denmark, on average across OECD countries, some 16% of 15-29 year-olds were neither employed nor in education or training (NEET).

The main concern is young people with upper secondary attainment. The proportion who were NEET doubled during that period, growing from 5.5% to 11.1%. These rises are the result of the decrease in employment among this group, which fell by 7.2 percentage points, compared with an OECD average fall of 4.5 percentage points. Nevertheless, this “employment crisis” had a slight positive effect on school enrolment. For example, the percentage of 15-29 year-olds enrolled at the tertiary level rose by 12.1 percentage points during the crisis.

Fewer hours in the classroom than in other countries

The average intended instruction time per year in primary education is 754 hours per year, 48 hours less than the OECD average of 802 hours per year. This gap between Denmark and the OECD average is widest for students in the first three grades of compulsory education. In lower secondary education, however, the average intended instruction time is 930 hours per year, just above the OECD average of 924 hours per year.

Danish teachers spend the same time working , but less time teaching than in other countries

In 2011, the net teaching time for teachers in primary and lower secondary education in Denmark was 650 hours per year, unchanged from the previous year. The net teaching time in Denmark is 140 hours below the OECD average for teachers in primary education and 59 hours below the OECD average for teachers in lower secondary education.

Other findings:

- **Class sizes in primary education are growing in Denmark, but are still smaller than the average across OECD countries.** The average class size in public primary schools was 20.6 students in 2011, up from 19.9 the previous year and from 19.0 in 2000. Smaller classes are often favoured by parents and teachers alike, but findings from the OECD PISA studies suggest that systems that spend their resources on higher teacher salaries rather than smaller classes tend to perform better. Despite the recent increases, class sizes are smaller in Denmark than the OECD average.
- **One in two young Danes is expected to graduate from a theory-based tertiary education.** While 27% of 25-64 year-olds in Denmark have attained a tertiary type A education (i.e. more theoretical programmes at bachelor or master level), it is estimated that 50% of today's young people will graduate from such a programme. However, Danish students are almost a year and half older than in other OECD countries when they graduate, being on average 28 years old, compared with the OECD average of 26.6 years.
- **A rather low wage premium for tertiary education in Denmark.** By international standards, a person with a tertiary degree in Denmark can expect to earn 28% more than a person with an upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education. The OECD average is a premium of 57%.

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Key Facts for Denmark in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Denmark		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)	90%	91%	67%	64%	77%	73%	8 of 36
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	98%	93%	84%	79%	90%	84%	6 of 36
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	99%		99%		98%		14 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%	20%	26%	34%	25%	34%	17 of 35
	Percentage of population that has attained upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	43%	54%	44%	44%	48%	46%	16 of 36
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.3a	25-64 year-olds	34%	26%	31%	22%	28%	20%	19 of 36
	30-34 year-olds	41%		39%		37%		18 of 34
A1.4a	25-34 year-olds	39%	29%	39%	26%	36%	24%	24 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	28%	18%	24%	15%	21%	14%	14 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
C3.1a	Vocational programmes (Tertiary-type B)	26%	28%	19%	16%	15%	11%	12 of 32
	University programmes (Tertiary-type A)	71%	52%	60%	48%	59%	46%	11 of 36
	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	90%	95%	83%	76%	83%	77%	8 of 27
A3.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	50%	37%	39%	28%	41%	27%	4 of 26
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	8.9%	3.6%	12.6%	8.8%	15.6%	10.4%	21 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6.0%	2.3%	7.3%	4.9%	8.5%	5.2%	17 of 36
	Tertiary	5.0%	2.2%	4.8%	3.3%	5.2%	3.2%	10 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4d	Below upper secondary	8.7%	3.5%	12.2%	9.5%	15.1%	11.0%	21 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6.0%	2.7%	8.0%	5.7%	9.1%	6.1%	21 of 35
	Tertiary	5.3%	2.2%	5.1%	3.6%	5.5%	3.6%	10 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	128		157		158		31 of 33
	Men	138		162		164		27 of 33
	Women	126		161		161		33 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	81		76		77		9 of 33
	Men	79		77		78		13 of 33
	Women	83		74		75		5 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	10.3%	7.8%	15.8%	14.4%	15.3%	13.5%	26 of 34
	Upper secondary	11.1%	5.5%	16.2%	13.6%	15.1%	11.8%	25 of 34
	Tertiary	8.2%	5.3%	13.3%	10.6%	12.3%	9.6%	26 of 34

Key Facts for Denmark in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Denmark		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	9454 USD		6762 USD		7085 USD		4 of 32
	Primary education	10935 USD		7974 USD		8277 USD		5 of 34
	Secondary education	11747 USD		9014 USD		9471 USD		7 of 34
	Tertiary education	18977 USD		13528 USD		12856 USD		5 of 33
	Total expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B2.1	As a percentage of GDP	8.0%	6.6%	6.3%	5.4%	5.9%	5.2%	1 of 33
	Total public expenditure on education	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B4.1	As a percentage of total public expenditure	15.3%	15.4%	13.0%	12.6%	11.4%	11.4%	7 of 32
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B3.2a	Pre-primary education	13.3%		17.9%		11.3%		17 of 28
B3.2a	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	2.4%	2.2%	8.5%	7.1%	6.1%	5.6%	26 of 31
B3.2b	Tertiary education	5.0%	2.4%	31.6%	22.6%	22.7%	14.3%	28 of 30
B3.1	All levels of education	5.5%	4.0%	16.4%	12.1%	10.7%	7.9%	26 of 29
Schools and Teachers								
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2011		2011		2011		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	m		14 students per teacher		13 students per teacher		m
	Primary education	m		15 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		m
	Secondary education	m		14 students per teacher		12 students per teacher		m
	Total intended instruction time for students (hours)	2011		2011		2011		
D1.1	Primary education	5280 hours		4717 hours		m		11 of 31
	Lower secondary education	2790 hours		3034 hours		m		19 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	m		994 hours		977 hours		m
	Primary education	650 hours	640 hours	790 hours	780 hours	777 hours	776 hours	24 of 31
	Lower secondary education	650 hours	640 hours	709 hours	697 hours	669 hours	658 hours	16 of 30
	Upper secondary education	369 hours	m	664 hours	628 hours	651 hours	635 hours	31 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	124	111	120	120	121	122	7 of 23
	Lower secondary school teachers	124	111	116	116	121	121	5 of 22
	Upper secondary school teachers	123	114	117	118	118	119	6 of 22
	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	0.83		0.80		0.77		8 of 22
	Primary school teachers	0.91		0.82		0.80		10 of 27
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.91		0.85		0.84		11 of 27
	Upper secondary school teachers	1.1		0.89		0.89		6 of 27

* Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

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