

EDUCATION
AT A GLANCE 2013

SLOVENIA

Upper secondary attainment is high in Slovenia, where most students will graduate from a vocational and technical programme

A large percentage of the Slovenian population has traditionally attained at least an upper secondary education. The figures remained high in 2011: 84% of 25-64 year-olds and virtually all (94%) of the younger generation (25-34 year-olds) hold at least an upper secondary qualification. By contrast, the OECD average is 75% and 82% respectively. Given current patterns of graduation, it is expected that three out of four (75%) of those whose highest level of attainment is upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education will graduate from a vocational education and training (VET) programme, in contrast with only 47% across the OECD countries.

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 opportunity to acquire the skills, knowledge and practical experience relevant for specialised occupations, and helps young people prepare for entry into the labour market. In Slovenia the unemployment rate (among 25-64 year-olds) for those who graduated from a vocational programme is more than 5 percentage points lower than for those from a general programme (7.8% versus 12.9%). The OECD unemployment rate for those who hold a general qualification is 8.3%.

Tertiary attainment is low, but Slovenia is catching up with the average

In countries where VET programmes are well established, people tend to leave education after attaining upper secondary qualifications. This is the case in Slovenia, where the majority of the population (59%) only attained an upper secondary education, in contrast with the OECD average of 44%. Just 25% of the working-age population has a tertiary education, below the OECD average of 32%, although the rate has improved for the younger cohorts. Furthermore, tertiary attainment rate of Slovenians aged 25-34 is 34%, significantly higher than those of the 55-64 year-old cohort (16%) and the entry rate into tertiary-type A programmes (more theoretical university-based courses) is relatively high (75%) compared with the OECD average (60%).

Besides the earning premiums that come with a university degree, a tertiary education also represents a safety net against economic downturns. In the financial crisis, between 2008 and 2011, unemployment rates for adults (25-64 year-olds) with a university degree only increased by 1.6 percentage points, similar to the OECD average increase of 1.5 percentage points. On the other hand, unemployment rates for the upper secondary educated population increased by 4.7 percentage points, which was higher than the OECD average rise of 2.4 percentage points. The picture is even worse for the younger cohort (25-34 year-olds). Those without a tertiary education experienced a rise in their unemployment rate of at least 7.5 percentage points during the same period.

Earnings premium increases with the level of education

To be educated up to tertiary level makes a significant difference to wages. Adults aged 25-64 with tertiary education can expect to earn 83% more than their counterparts with only upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education. This earnings premium is higher in Slovenia than the OECD average, where the average earnings premium is “only” about 57% more for those who hold a tertiary degree. At the same time, those without an upper secondary education earn, on average, 24% less than their peers educated to upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary level.

Other findings:

- Despite experiencing a 7% decrease in GDP between 2008 and 2010 – one of the five largest falls in the OECD – the proportion of young adults (15-29 year-olds) neither in employment nor in education or training (NEET) in Slovenia remained largely unchanged; the percentage of NEETs increased by 0.3 percentage points to 8.8%, compared with an increase of 2.1 percentage points across OECD countries to 15.7%.
- In 2010, Slovenia’s expenditure per student from primary to tertiary education was USD 8 933, compared with an OECD average of USD 9 313. Expenditure per student on primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education was USD 8 505, similar to the OECD average of USD 8 550, while the expenditure per tertiary student was USD 9 693, compared with USD 13 528 on average across the OECD.
- Slovenia has made considerable efforts to make early childhood education more affordable with the amendment of the Pre-School Institutions Act (2008). In 2011, 83% of 3-year-olds in Slovenia were enrolled in early childhood education, well above the OECD average of 68%. Among 4-year-olds, Slovenia’s enrolment rate of 89% also compares favourably to an OECD average of 85%.
- Gender differences in upper secondary education have disappeared over the generations to the point where the gender gap has reversed for the youngest cohort. Among the older generation (55-54 year-olds), there was about a 14 percentage point difference in attainment rates at upper secondary education between men and women, higher than the average for both OECD and EU21 countries of 8 percentage points. In contrast, attainment levels were 6 percentage points higher for women than for men in the youngest cohort (25-34 year-olds).

Questions can be directed to:

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Key Facts for Slovenia in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Slovenia		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)	83%	67%	67%	64%	77%	73%	15 of 36
	4-year-olds (in early childhood and primary education)	89%	76%	84%	79%	90%	84%	21 of 36
C1.1a	5-14 year-olds (all levels)	97%		99%		98%		26 of 38
	Percentage of population that has attained below upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	16%	25%	26%	34%	25%	34%	25 of 35
	Percentage of population that has attained upper secondary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.4a	25-64 year-olds	59%	59%	44%	44%	48%	46%	6 of 36
	Percentage of population that has attained tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
A1.3a	25-64 year-olds	25%	16%	32%	22%	28%	20%	26 of 36
	30-34 year-olds	38%		39%		37%		22 of 34
A1.4a	25-34 year-olds	34%	19%	39%	26%	36%	24%	25 of 36
	55-64 year-olds	16%	12%	24%	15%	21%	14%	25 of 36
	Entry rates into tertiary education	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	
C3.1a	Vocational programmes (Tertiary-type B)	18%	m	19%	16%	15%	11%	18 of 32
C3.2a	University programmes (Tertiary-type A)	75%	m	60%	48%	59%	46%	7 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	99%	m	83%	76%	83%	77%	1 of 27
A3.1a	Percentage of today's young people expected to complete university education (tertiary-type A) in their lifetime	37%	m	39%	28%	41%	27%	16 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	12.7%	5.9%	12.6%	8.8%	15.6%	10.4%	14 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	8.2%	3.5%	7.3%	4.9%	8.5%	5.2%	11 of 36
	Tertiary	4.7%	3.1%	4.8%	3.3%	5.2%	3.2%	15 of 36
	Unemployment rate of 25-64 year-olds - Women	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	
A5.4d	Below upper secondary	11.6%	6.3%	12.2%	9.5%	15.1%	11.0%	17 of 35
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	9.0%	4.2%	8.0%	5.7%	9.1%	6.1%	11 of 35
	Tertiary	4.6%	3.4%	5.1%	3.6%	5.5%	3.6%	16 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	183		157		158		4 of 33
	Men	197		162		164		4 of 33
	Women	180		161		161		7 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	76		76		77		17 of 33
	Men	77		77		78		16 of 33
	Women	76		74		75		15 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	8.5%	6.6%	15.8%	14.4%	15.3%	13.5%	30 of 34
	Upper secondary	11.1%	8.4%	16.2%	13.6%	15.1%	11.8%	26 of 34
	Tertiary	14.1%	12.9%	13.3%	10.6%	12.3%	9.6%	14 of 34

Key Facts for Slovenia in Education at a Glance 2013

Table	Indicator	Slovenia		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	7744 USD		6762 USD		7085 USD		8 of 32
	Primary education	8935 USD		7974 USD		8277 USD		11 of 34
	Secondary education	8187 USD		9014 USD		9471 USD		19 of 34
	Tertiary education	9693 USD		13528 USD		12856 USD		22 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	5.9%	m	6.3%	5.4%	5.9%	5.2%	21 of 33
	Total public expenditure on education	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B4.1	As a percentage of total public expenditure	11.4%	m	13.0%	12.6%	11.4%	11.4%	21 of 32
	Share of private expenditure on educational institutions	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	
B3.2a	Pre-primary education	20.9%		17.9%		11.3%		11 of 28
B3.2a	Primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	8.7%	m	8.5%	7.1%	6.1%	5.6%	13 of 31
B3.2b	Tertiary education	15.3%	m	31.6%	22.6%	22.7%	14.3%	23 of 30
B3.1	All levels of education	11.6%	m	16.4%	12.1%	10.7%	7.9%	18 of 29
Schools and Teachers								
	Ratio of students to teaching staff	2011		2011		2011		
D2.2	Pre-primary education	9 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		13 students per teacher		27 of 31
	Primary education	16 students per teacher		15 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		16 of 35
	Secondary education	11 students per teacher		14 students per teacher		12 students per teacher		27 of 36
	Total intended instruction time for students (hours)	2011		2011		2011		
D1.1	Primary education	3986 hours		4717 hours		m		21 of 31
	Lower secondary education	2451 hours		3034 hours		m		26 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	1314 hours		994 hours		977 hours		5 of 29
	Primary education	690 hours	m	790 hours	780 hours	777 hours	776 hours	22 of 31
	Lower secondary education	690 hours	m	709 hours	697 hours	669 hours	658 hours	13 of 30
	Upper secondary education	633 hours	m	664 hours	628 hours	651 hours	635 hours	14 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	0.81		0.80		0.77		10 of 22
	Primary school teachers	0.81		0.82		0.80		14 of 27
	Lower secondary school teachers	0.81		0.85		0.84		15 of 27
	Upper secondary school teachers	0.81		0.89		0.89		16 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.