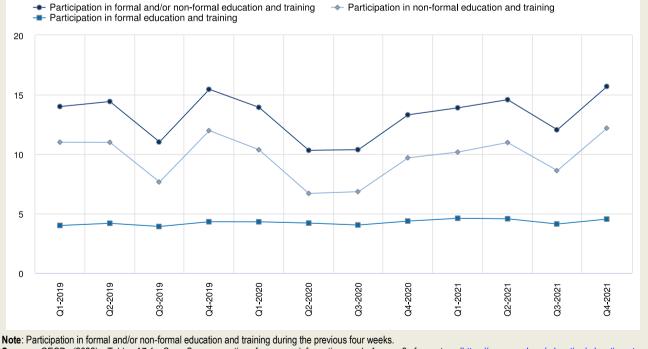
Indicator A7. To what extent do adults participate in education and training?

Highlights

- On average, across OECD countries with available data, the share of adults participating in formal and/or nonformal education and training in the previous four weeks fell from 14% in 2019 to 12% in 2020, but recovered to 14% in 2021.
- Tertiary-educated adults have a higher participation rate in non-formal education and training than those with a
 lower level of educational attainment. On average 16% of 25-64 year-olds with tertiary attainment had participated
 in non-formal education and training in the four weeks preceding the survey in 2021, compared to only 4% of their
 peers with below upper secondary attainment.
- Financial support for learners is mostly only available for traditional higher education programmes. At least 19 out
 of the 28 OECD countries and subnational jurisdictions surveyed offer support for full-time learners on these
 programmes, while financial support for short education programmes lasting less than two years is only available
 in 8 countries and subnational jurisdictions.

Figure A7.1. Trends in participation in formal and/or non-formal education and training, by quarter (2019, 2020 and 2021)

European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) or national surveys; OECD average; 25-64 year-olds



Source: OECD (2022), Table A7.1. See Source section for more information and Annex 3 for notes (<u>https://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance/EAG2022 X3-A.pdf</u>).

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Context

The completion of initial education should not be the end of the road for learning: investing in adult learning is essential to upgrade and adapt the skills of the workforce to labour-market needs. In light of a number of large-scale global trends, adult learning is becoming a crucial tool if OECD economies and societies are to adapt to emerging challenges and benefit from new opportunities. Globalisation and technological change mean an increasing number of jobs can be offshored or automated. Demographic change will mean fewer young people entering the labour market, so satisfying demands for skills will mean upgrading the skills of the existing workforce. These trends are already having a major impact on labour markets, and analyses suggest skill needs will continue to change rapidly over the next decades (OECD, 2019[1]).

Adults with low educational attainment are most likely to have low literacy and numeracy skills, and face a high risk of seeing their job offshored or automated. Holding positions with few opportunities for development, they often find themselves in a "low-skill trap" (OECD, 2019[1]). While they are most in need of skills development, they are much less likely to engage in adult learning than those with higher levels of education (OECD, 2021[2]).

The benefits of adult learning are not just economic. It can also contribute to personal fulfilment, improved health, civic participation and social inclusion (Ruhose, Thomsen and Weilage, 2019_[3]). However, the wide differences in adult learning activities and participation among OECD countries at similar levels of economic development suggest that there are significant differences in learning cultures, learning opportunities at work and in adult education systems (Borkowsky, 2013_[4]).

The indicator explores one facet of adult learning: participation patterns in adult education (both formal and non-formal) and training, with particular focus on who is pursuing education and training opportunities. It looks at the association between participation in adult learning and tertiary education, as well as the determinants of adult education and training, the information and communication technologies (ICT) skills needed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and the emerging importance of micro-credentials in adult education and training.

Other findings

- Across all OECD countries, regardless of survey method, adults' participation in non-formal education and training decreases with age. Similarly, when it comes to enrolment in formal tertiary education, the share among 25-29 year-olds is higher than it is among 40-64 year-olds.
- In most OECD countries with available data, job-related characteristics are the main determinant for participation in adult education and training, outweighing personal characteristics and educational attainment.
- A lack of ICT skills continues to be one of the key barriers keeping people from fully benefiting from the potential of digital technologies, including opportunities for online learning.

Note

Different sources are used for adult participation in formal and/or non-formal education and training. The main difference between the surveys used is the reference period for participation – whether it was in the previous 4 weeks or the 12 months prior to the survey; this leads to big differences in participation rates. In addition, some sources use annual data, which do not capture the fluctuations that may occur within a year, while others use quarterly data that are more relevant to the analysis of the impact of COVID-19.

In the SDG 4 monitoring framework, each target has at least one global indicator and a number of related thematic indicators designed to complement the analysis and measurement of the target. The SDG 4 monitoring framework has a total of 11 global indicators and 32 thematic indicators. A list of all the indicators and their methodologies is available at http://SDG4monitoring.uis.unesco.org. This indicator presents the proportion of youth and adults with ICT skills, by type of skill.

Analysis

Trends in participation in formal and/or non-formal education and training

Adult learning, also known as lifelong learning, can help individuals progress in their careers, and adapt to a fast-changing and uncertain world. This indicator looks at the adult learning without taking into account the labour force status of the individuals. Adult learning often takes the form of non-formal and/or informal education and training, in contrast to participation in formal education, which is more common among young people (Table A7.1). Although participation in formal education and training was largely stable between the first quarter of 2019 and the fourth quarter of 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic clearly affected participation in non-formal education and training. A dip in the third quarter of each year reflects a natural decline in participation rates during this period (the summer months in most OECD countries). However, in 2020 the drop occurred earlier, in the second quarter of the year reflecting the impact of the pandemic (Figure A7.1).

Overall, participation rates of adults in both formal and non-formal education and training had returned to their pre-pandemic levels by 2021 (with the data also showing the usual decline during summer months). On average, across OECD countries with available data in 2021, 14% of adults had participated in either formal or non-formal education and training in the preceding four weeks (Figure A7.1). In Greece, Poland and the Slovak Republic 5% or less of adults had participated, while the share reached 25% or above in Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden (Table A7.1). Box A7.1 analyses the determinants of participation in formal and/or non-formal education and training across European Union member states.

Non-formal education was the most important contributor to adult education and training between 2019 and 2021 (Figure A7.1). In 2021, on average over a four-week reference period, 10% of adults participated in non-formal education and training. Over this period, 22% of adults participated in non-formal education and training in Finland and 28% in Sweden, but only 1% participated in non-formal education and training in Costa Rica, Greece and the Republic of Türkiye. Adult participation in formal education and training is less common: on average 4% of adults participated in formal education across countries during the reference period. Finland (12%) and Sweden (10%) were the countries with the highest adult participation rate in formal education and training (Table A7.1, available on line).

Among countries that reported participation in the 12-month reference period preceding the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) in 2019, the share of adults participating in non-formal education and training was also larger than the share participating in formal education. Participation by adults in formal and/or non-formal education and training was at least 50% in Canada, Israel, Korea and New Zealand (Table A7.1).

Box A7.1. Determinants of participation in adult education and training

Previous editions of *Education at a Glance* have explored the factors that affect the likelihood of participating in adult education and training, such as job-relatedness, firm size, employment sector, gender and the presence of young children in the household. The analysis here explores the impact of each type of determinant, when different factors are considered together.

Using data from the 2016 wave of the Adult Education Survey, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre analysed the proportion of workers aged between 25 and 64 who reported having participated in formal or non-formal adult education and training in the preceding 12 months. Determinants are divided into three categories: personal characteristics (gender, age, migrant status, married/cohabiting status and degree of urbanisation of place of residence), educational attainment (low, medium and high) and job-related characteristics (occupation, firm size, work situation, professional status and sector).

Overall, job-related characteristics tend to predominate, compared to personal characteristics and educational attainment. However, in some countries job-related characteristics are not as prevalent as in others. For instance, in Germany and Sweden, education and personal characteristics are more important than job-related characteristics, which are mostly defined by occupation and firm size. In contrast, in Finland and France, job-related characteristics are prevalent and mostly defined by professional status (Figure A7.2).

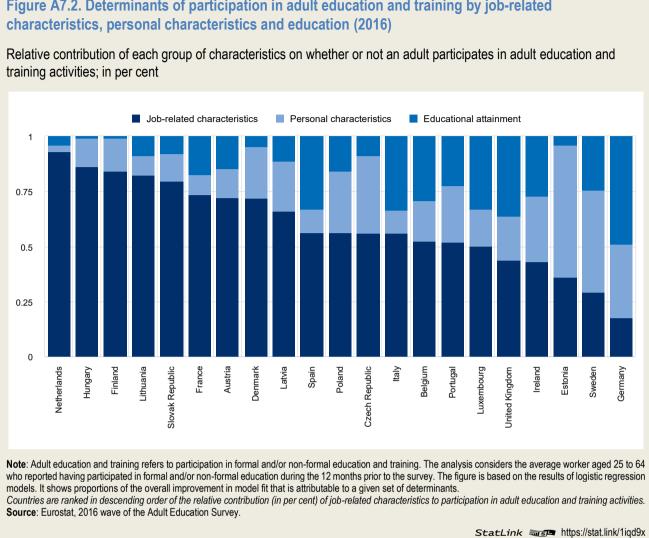


Figure A7.2. Determinants of participation in adult education and training by job-related

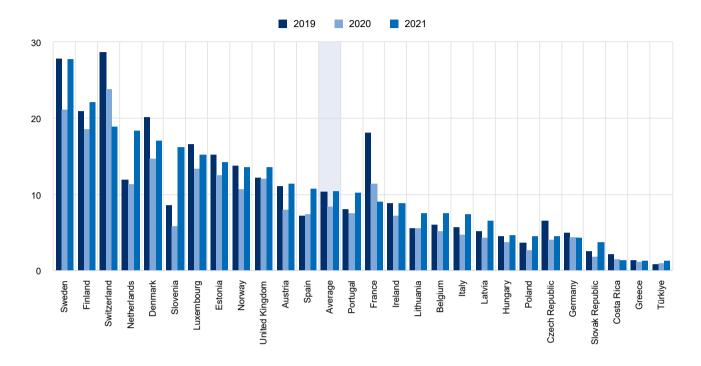
Participation in non-formal education and training in the context of COVID-19

The implementation of social distancing measures during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic led to strict shutdowns and extensive use of remote working arrangements. In 2020, across OECD countries, the average share of people aged 25-64 who had participated in non-formal education and training in the last four weeks fell by 2 percentage points compared with 2019 (Figure A7.3). On average across the countries that collected data using a four-week reference period, adult participation in non-formal education and training fell by 4 percentage points between the first and second quarter of 2020. Trends in participation in both formal and/or non-formal education and training highlight the decrease in participation during the first quarters of 2020, and the drop in non-formal education and training accounts for most of this decline. This reflects the adult learning losses induced by the first phases of the COVID-19 pandemic (Table A7.1, available on line).

In 2021, adult participation in non-formal education and training returned to pre-pandemic levels in most countries. The extensive use of remote education and training may have benefited by the expansion of digital technologies. In addition, the reopening of schools may have removed a barrier to education and training for adults with young children at home. On average, the share of adults who had participated in non-formal education and training in the last four weeks increased by 2 percentage points between 2020 and 2021. In 12 out of 28 countries participation rates in non-formal education and training in 2021 even exceeded their pre-pandemic levels. However, participation rates have not returned to their pre-pandemic levels in all countries (Figure A7.3).

Figure A7.3. Trends in participation in non-formal education and training (2019, 2020 and 2021)

European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) or national surveys; annual average of quarterly data; 25-64 year-olds



Note: Participation in non-formal education and training during the previous four weeks in EU-FLS, Costa Rica, Türkiye and the United Kingdom national surveys. *Countries are ranked in descending order of the participation of 25-64 year-olds in non-formal education and training in 2021.* **Source:** OECD (2022), Table A7.1. See Source section for more information and Annex 3 for notes (<u>https://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance/EAG2022_X3-A.pdf</u>).

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The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on non-formal education and training opportunities has been uneven, with adults with lower levels of educational attainment being hardest hit. Participation in non-formal education and training is largely driven by employment, which has also been affected by the pandemic. In 2020, workers without an upper secondary qualification were more likely to lose their jobs or see a reduction in their hours worked than their peers with upper secondary attainment, while those with a tertiary qualification were least affected (OECD, 2021_[5]). Workers without tertiary attainment were also more commonly employed in the sectors most affected by widespread lockdown scenarios than those with a tertiary qualification – 25% of those without tertiary education, compared to 22% of tertiary-educated workers. The differences are even larger across countries, reaching at least 10 percentage points in Australia and Norway (OECD, 2021_[6]).

The impact of the pandemic and the associated lockdowns on employment has also varied with the ability to work from home, which is in turn associated with educational attainment. On average, only 18% of workers without tertiary attainment are able to work from home, compared to 54% of tertiary-educated workers among countries taking part in the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) between 2011 and 2017 (Espinoza and Reznikova, 2020[7]). Likewise, according to the analysis included in Indicator A6, just 10% of employed adults with below upper secondary attainment reported usually or sometimes working from home in 2021, compared to 46% of those with tertiary attainment (see Indicator A6).

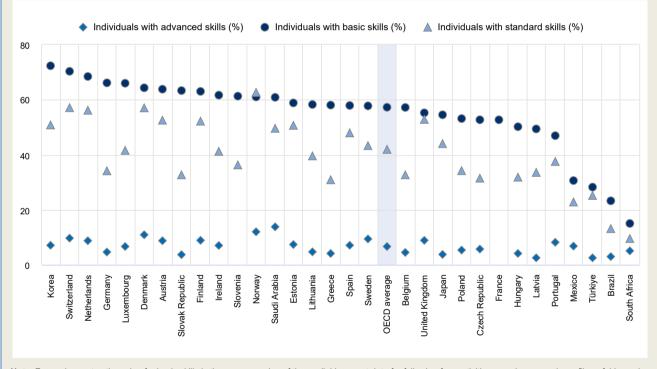
An additional challenge is that a large share of adults with lower educational attainment lack the skills needed to benefit from digital learning opportunities. While the capacity to pursue online education might have been useful before the pandemic, once learning activities moved, at least partly, from training rooms to online platforms, it became a pre-requisite for education in many cases. Adults without a tertiary qualification are least prepared to benefit from the digital transition (see Indicator A6). With the widespread use of ICT across all economic sectors, ICT skills are an essential requirement for the majority of job roles. Assessing youth and adults' proficiency in such skills helps governments to develop targeted policies to improve them (Box A7.2). Ensuring that most individuals are equipped with at least basic ICT skills is a critical challenge.

Box A7.2. Measuring information and communication technologies skills

The lack of ICT skills continues to be one of the key barriers keeping people from fully benefiting from the potential of digital technologies. Indicator 4.4.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) measures the proportion of youth and adults with ICT skills, by type of skill. The indicator is calculated as the percentage of people in a given population who responded "yes" to a selected number of questions such as the use of ICT skills in various subject areas or learning domains, and the use of ICT skills regardless of where that activity took place, as well as the minimum amount of time spent using ICT skills and the availability of Internet access inside or outside their school or workplace, over the previous three months.

Because self-reporting may be subjective, the indicator measures ICT skills based on whether an individual has recently performed certain activities that require different levels of skill. To facilitate reporting, these activities have been grouped into three broader categories: basic, standard and advanced skills. Basic skills are relatively simple tasks, such as moving a file or folder, or sending an e-mail with an attachment. Standard skills include working with spreadsheets, creating electronic presentations or installing and configuring software. Advanced skills are being able to programme or code.

Figure A7.4. Proportion of youth and adults with information and communication technologies (ICT) skills, by skill level



SDG Indicator 4.4.1, in per cent

Note: For each country, the value for basic skills is the average value of the available recent data for following four activities: copying or moving a file or folder, using copy and paste tools to duplicate or move information within a document, sending e-mails with attached files, and transferring files between a computer and other devices. The value for standard skills is the average value of the available recent data for following four activities: using basic arithmetic formula in a spreadsheet; connecting and installing new devices; creating electronic presentations with presentation software; and finding, downloading, installing and configuring software. The value for advanced skills is the value for writing a computer program using a specialized programming language.

The age range for this indicator is 16-74 years except for Brazil and Japan (15-74 years) and Korea (15-49 years).

ITU data for European countries are provided by Eurostat. Differences between Eurostat digital skills data and ITU data may be found, due to differences in how skills are grouped, and the nature of the different skills included in the calculation.

Countries are ranked in descending order of proportion of youth and adults with basic ICT skills.

Source: International Telecommunication Union (ITU). See Source section for more information and Annex 3 for notes (<u>https://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance/EAG2022_X3-A.pdf</u>).

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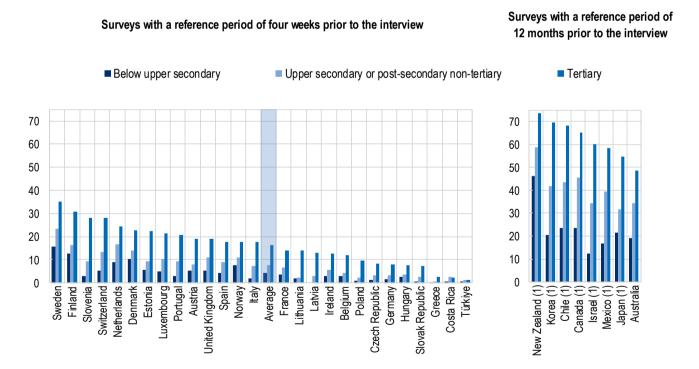
On average among OECD countries with available data, 55% of individuals reported having carried out one of the activities that comprise the basic skills category, e.g. sending an e-mail with an attachment, in the previous three months. In Korea and Switzerland, an average of at least 70% of individuals reported having these basic skills, compared to less than 30% in Brazil, South Africa and Türkiye. On average of 42% had used the standard skill components across OECD countries in that time. In Norway, more than 60% of individuals reported performing some of those activities, while only 13% did so in Brazil, and 10% in South Africa. In contrast, only 7% of individuals reported using advanced skills, such as writing a computer program using a specialised programming language in that time, ranging from 3% in Brazil, Latvia and Türkiye to more than 10% in Denmark, Norway and Saudi Arabia (Figure A7.4).

Participation in non-formal education and training, by gender, age group and educational attainment

Tertiary-educated adults have a higher participation rate in non-formal education and training than those with a lower levels of educational attainment. On average across OECD countries with available data, in 2021, 4% of 25-64 year-olds with below upper secondary attainment had participated in non-formal education and training in the four weeks preceding the survey. This rate increases to 8% for those with upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary attainment and reaches 16% for those with a tertiary attainment. Participation across countries varies greatly even among tertiary-educated adults: ranging from 3% or less in Costa Rica, Greece and Türkiye to 35% in Sweden (Figure A7.5).

Figure A7.5. Participation in non-formal education and training, by educational attainment (2021)

In per cent; 25-64 year-olds



Note: The left panel presents data with a four-week reference period (from the EU-LFS and national surveys for Costa Rica, Türkiye and the United Kingdom). The right panel presents data with a 12-month reference period (from PIAAC and a national survey for Australia). 1. Reference year differs from 2021. Refer to the source table for more details.

Countries are ranked in descending order of the participation of tertiary-educated 25-64 year-olds in non-formal education and training.

Source: OECD (2022), Table A7.2. See Source section for more information and Annex 3 for notes (https://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance/EAG2022_X3-A.pdf).

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Even within the category of tertiary-educated adults, participation in non-formal education and training increases with educational attainment. In the four weeks prior to the survey, 22% of adults with doctoral or equivalent degrees participated in non-formal education and training, compared to 12% of those with a short-cycle tertiary degree. Similar findings are observed in participation rates among surveys using the preceding 12 months as a reference period (Table A7.2). The difference in the reference period for participation (the previous 4 weeks or the previous 12 months), as well as the frequency of date (annual or by quarter) explain the large differences in participation rates in adult education and training between countries participating in EU-FLS, Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) or in national surveys (Table A7.2; Figure A7.5).

As the analysis of the participation in adult education and training by gender with data from the Adult Education Survey (AES) in *Education at a Glance 2021* has shown, participation rates in non-formal education and training do not differ much by gender (OECD, 2021_[8]). On average over a four-week reference period, the participation of women in non-formal education and training is about 2 percentage points higher than the participation of men. The gender gap exceeds 7 percentage points (in favour of women) only in Denmark, Finland and Sweden. In countries that collected data using a 12-month reference period such as Canada, Chile, Japan, Korea, Mexico and New Zealand, the gender gap is reversed. On average, 23% of women and 25% of men had taken part in non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months (Table A7.2).

Older adults are less likely to participate in non-formal education and training than the younger ones regardless their labour force status (OECD, 2021_[6]). Across all countries, regardless of whether surveys have a reference period of 4 weeks or 12 months, participation in non-formal education and training decreases from the age of 40 onwards. For instance, on average, 12% of 25-34 year-olds reported participating in non-formal education and training in the four weeks prior to the survey compared with 7% of 55-64 year olds (Table A7.2).

Box A7.3 considers the support available for learners to access innovative alternatives to traditional formal education programmes such as micro-credentials. Studies suggest that learners in higher education micro-credential courses tend to be more educated and more skilled (OECD, 2021^[9]).

Box A7.3. Micro-credentials, an alternative to traditional formal education programmes

The accelerating skills obsolescence and the increasing cost of higher education for both learners and providers in many countries are pushing education systems to develop more flexible learning opportunities. In this context, a proliferation of learning programmes and credentials have been positioned as "alternatives" to traditional formal programmes. Alternative credentials include academic certificates, industry certifications and digital badges. One form of alternative credentials gaining increasing policy attention is the micro-credential. Many definitions of micro-credentials are currently in use, but most denote an organised education or training programme associated with a credential, which validates a specific skill, knowledge or experience (OECD, 2021[9]). The term "micro-credential" is commonly understood to refer to both the credential itself and the education or training programme which leads to the credential award.

The OECD identified 8 types of micro-credential programmes based on the features of the 118 programmes identified in a sample of European institutions. These are:

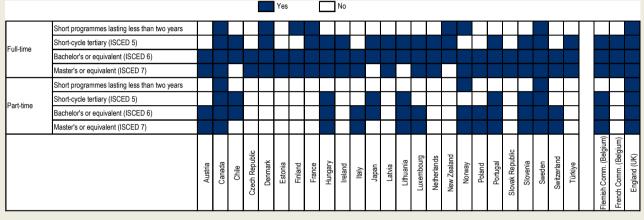
- individual courses and modules from larger programmes
- extension and complementary courses for existing students
- specialisations for the acquisition of specific knowledge and/or skills
- continuing professional development and training courses
- continuing education and lifelong learning courses
- massive open online courses (MOOCs) and asynchronous learning programmes
- institution-specific degrees and diplomas
- postgraduate sub-degree programmes.

The 2020 OECD Higher Education Policy Survey (HEPS) aimed to advise policy makers on how financial and human resources could be allocated, managed and used in higher education systems to improve performance in higher education (Golden, Troy and Weko, 2021_[10]). Policy makers have come to see micro-credentials as a way to provide learners with important opportunities for academic advancement, personal development, upskilling and reskilling. Micro-credentials are also recognised by governments as a potential means to support improved access to higher education, including for learners from underserved groups. Micro-credentials may be offered by a range of organisations, not all of which are

traditional providers of training and education. They include schools, higher education institutions, and private education and training providers. In general, micro-credential learners are likely to be of working age, tend to already have a higher education degree, tend to be from more privileged socio-demographic groups, generally have a higher level of digital competence, and are likely to already have some knowledge related to the course topic,

Comprehensive public financial support can help to improve access to micro-credentials for learners in less advantaged circumstances. However, currently, support for learners to acquire micro-credentials appears far from comprehensive – at least through established higher education financial support policies. The 2020 OECD Higher Education Policy Survey showed that financial supports for learners are mostly available for traditional higher education programmes.

Figure A7.6. Countries and subnational jurisdictions providing grant support to students, by programme type and study intensity (2020)



Source: Higher Education Policy Survey, 2020. See Source section for more information and Annex 3 for notes (<u>https://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance/EAG2022_X3-A.pdf</u>).

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In most countries and subnational jurisdictions student grants are far more likely to be available to support learners taking traditional full-time bachelors' programmes than short, non-degree programmes. Such support also tends to be less accessible for part-time students, which is the likely mode of study for micro-credentials (Figure A7.6).Flexible and targeted non-degree learning opportunities in higher education thus often tend to be fee-based, funded by either learners or their employers, rather than public financial support programmes. Consequently, there is a risk that the swift expansion of micro-credential opportunities will further widen gaps in skills and advancement, permitting relatively affluent learners employed in firms with generous support for reskilling to capitalise on micro-credential opportunities that others lack.

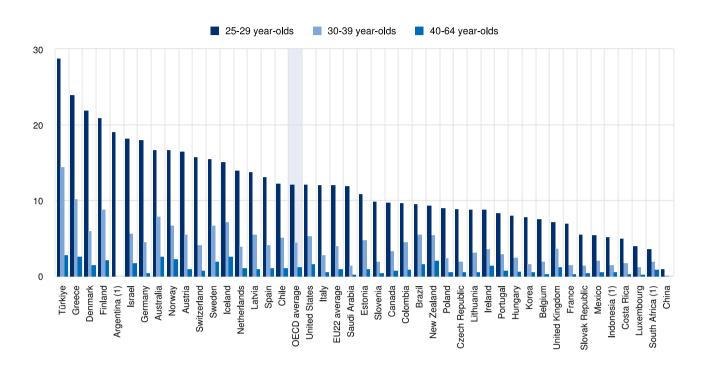
Enrolment in formal education, by age group and educational attainment

Enrolment in formal education is less common among the older population, as students graduate leaving the formal education system and entering the labour market. Enrolment in formal tertiary education tends to occur at a younger age (see Indicator B1). On average across OECD countries, in 2020, 12% of 25-29 year-olds are enrolled in formal tertiary education, falling to 4% among 30-39 year-olds and to less than 1% among 40-64 year-olds. Across OECD and partner countries, enrolment in formal tertiary education among 25-29 year-olds ranges from 4% in Luxembourg and South Africa to over 25% in Türkiye. In Australia, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Türkiye, at least 7% of 30-39 year-olds are enrolled in formal tertiary education across OECD countries, such as in Australia, Greece, Iceland and Türkiye (Figure A7.7).

Adults are more likely to pursue higher levels of education than lower levels. On average across OECD countries with available data, less than 1% of the 25-64 year-olds are enrolled in formal education below upper secondary level, 1% in upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education and 3% in tertiary education (Table A7.3). Participation rates in programmes below tertiary level may reflect the extent to which adult education provides second chances.

Figure A7.7. Enrolment rates in formal tertiary education, by age group (2020)





1. Reference year differs from 2020. Refer to the source table for more details.

Countries are ranked in descending order of the percentage of 25-29 year-olds in tertiary education.

Source: OECD (2022), Table A7.3. See Source section for more information and Annex 3 for notes (<u>https://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance/EAG2022_X3-A.pdf</u>).

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Definitions

Adults refer to 25-64 year-olds; younger adults refer to 25-34 year-olds; older adults refer to 55-64 year-olds.

Adult education and training (adult learning) means the participation of adults in lifelong learning. Adult learning usually refers to learning activities after the end of initial education. The participation rate in education and training covers participation in both formal and non-formal education and training.

Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education successfully completed by an individual.

Learning activities are any activities of an individual organised with the intention to improve their knowledge, skills, and competences. There are two fundamental criteria that distinguish learning activities from non-learning activities: they must be intentional and organised. Intentional learning (as opposed to random learning) is defined as a deliberate search for knowledge, skills or competences or attitudes of lasting value. Organised learning is defined as learning planned in a pattern or sequence with explicit or implicit aims.

The learning activities are defined within a classification named classification of learning activities (CLA) (EUROSTAT, 2016_[11]). The current version of the CLA (2016 edition) is aligned with ISCED 2011:

Formal education and training is defined as "education that is institutionalised, intentional and planned through
public organisations and recognised private bodies, and - in their totality - constitute the formal education system of
a country. Formal education programmes are thus recognised as such by the relevant national education or

equivalent authorities, e.g. any other institution in cooperation with the national or sub-national education authorities. Formal education consists mostly of initial education [...]. Vocational education, special needs education and some parts of adult education are often recognised as being part of the formal education system. Qualifications from formal education are by definition recognised and, therefore, are within the scope of ISCED. Institutionalised education occurs when an organisation provides structured educational arrangements, such as student-teacher relationships and/or interactions, that are specially designed for education and learning" (UIS, 2012_[12]).

- Non-formal education and training is defined as "education that is institutionalised, intentional and planned by an education provider. The defining characteristic of non-formal education is that it is an addition, alternative and/or complement to formal education within the process of lifelong learning of individuals. It is often provided in order to guarantee the right of access to education for all. It caters to people of all ages but does not necessarily apply a continuous pathway structure; it may be short in duration and/or low-intensity; and it is typically provided in the form of short courses, workshops or seminars. Non-formal education mostly leads to qualifications that are not recognised as formal or equivalent to formal qualifications by the relevant national or sub-national education authorities or to no qualifications at all. Nevertheless, formal, recognised qualifications may be obtained through exclusive participation in specific non-formal education programmes; this often happens when the non-formal programme completes the competencies obtained in another context" (UIS, 2012_[12]).
- Informal learning is "intentional, but it is less organised and less structured ... and may include for example learning events (activities) that occur in the family, in the workplace, and in the daily life of every person, on a self-directed, family-directed or socially-directed basis" (EUROSTAT, 2016[11]).
- Job-related non-formal education and training: taking part in non-formal education and training activity in order to
 obtain knowledge and/or learn new skills needed for a current or future job, to increase earnings, to improve job
 and/or career opportunities in a current or another field and generally to improve their opportunities for advancement
 and promotion.
- Employer-sponsored job-related non-formal education and training: all job-related non-formal education and training activities paid for at least partially by the employer and/or done during paid working hours.

Levels of education: See the Reader's Guide at the beginning of this publication for a presentation of all ISCED 2011 levels.

Lifelong learning encompasses all learning activities undertaken throughout life with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and competences, within personal, civic, social or employment-related perspectives. The intention or aim to learn is the critical point that distinguishes these activities from non-learning activities, such as cultural or sporting activities.

Methodology

For data from the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC), observations based on a numerator with fewer than 5 observations or on a denominator with fewer than 30 observations times the number of categories have been replaced by "c" in the tables.

This indicator includes data on participation in formal and/or non-formal education and training from different sources that have different reference period: either 4 weeks or 12 months before the survey.

The European Union-Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) is held quarterly and measures participation in formal and/or non-formal education and training during a four-week period excluding guided on-the-job training. The EU-LFS methodology can be found at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU labour force survey - methodology.

National surveys in Costa Rica, Türkiye and the United Kingdom also use a four-week reference period, while the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) as well as the national surveys of Australia and Colombia measure participation in formal and/or non-formal education and training during a 12-month period.

The data presented in Figure A7.2 refer to the results of a logistic regression (run for each country separately) where the dependent variable captures participation and non-participation in adult learning activities. The independent variables are grouped into the three categories: personal characteristics, educational attainment and job-related characteristics. The relative importance of each of these three categories in accounting for participation in adult learning activities is identified by comparing the reduction in deviance attributable to all the independent variables belonging to each category. The relative contribution of each group of determinants could not be presented in terms of the "proportion of variance explained", because this concept is not well defined in the context of logistic regression (European Commission, 2020_[13]).

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The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) methodology can be found at: <u>https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/publications/manual/ITUManualHouseholds2020 E.pdf</u> (ITU, 2020[14]).

The Higher Education Policy Survey (HEPS) used in Figure A7.6 refers to the Higher Education Policy data collection that occurred during the second half of 2020 and which was administrated by the OECD Higher Education Policy team. In total, 29 OECD countries and other participants responded to at least one of the survey modules, and 27 jurisdictions completed the entire survey (Golden, Troy and Weko, 2021_[10]).

Source

- For Tables A7.1 and A7.2 on participation in formal and/or non-formal education and training: the EU-LFS for European OECD countries (i.e. Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland); the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) for Canada, Chile, Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico and New Zealand; and national data sources for Australia (ABS survey of Work-Related Training and Adult Learning), Costa Rica (Continuous Employment Survey), Colombia (Great Integrated Household Survey), Türkiye (Labour Force Survey) and the United Kingdom (Labour Force Survey).
- For Table A7.3 on enrolment rates in formal education: The UNESCO-UIS/OECD/EUROSTAT data collection on education statistics administered by the OECD in 2020 for all countries; all data refer to the academic year 2019/20 (for details, see Annex 3 at <u>https://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance/EAG2022_X3-A.pdf</u>).
- For Figure A7.2 on the determinants of adult learning: the Adult Education Survey (AES) for European OECD countries.
- For Figure A7.4 on the proportion of youth and adults with ICT skills: the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database for all countries.
- For Figure A7.6 on jurisdictions providing grant support to students: the Higher Education Policy Survey (HEPS) for 28 OECD countries and subnational jurisdictions.

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Indicator A7 tables

Tables Indicator A7. To what extent do adults participate in education and training?

Table A7.1	Trends in participation in formal and/or non-formal education and training, by year and quarter (2019, 2020 and 2021)
Table A7.2	Participation in non-formal education and training, by gender, age group and educational attainment (2021)
Table A7.3	Enrolment rates in formal education, by level of education and age group (2020)

StatLink ans https://stat.link/aj6ef5

Cut-off date for the data: 17 June 2022. Any updates on data can be found on line at: <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-data-en</u>. More breakdowns can also be found at <u>http://stats.oecd.org</u>, *Education at a Glance Database*.

Table A7.1. Trends in participation in formal and/or non-formal education and training, by year and guarter (2019, 2020 and 2021)

In per cent, 25-64 year-olds

	Surveys with a reference period of four weeks prior to the interview														
					Partici	pation in f	formal and	d/or non-f	ormal edu	cation an	d training				
			2019			2020					2021				
	Annual average	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Annual average	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Annual average	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
	(1)	(3)	(5)	(7)	(9)	(11)	(13)	(15)	(17)	(19)	(21)	(23)	(25)	(27)	(29)
Countries Austria															
ษ์ Austria	15	16	16	11	16	12	14	9	10	13	15⁵	14 ^b	16	12	16
Belgium	8	9	9	5	10	7	9	7	6	9	10 ^b	10 ^b	11	8	11
Costa Rica	9	8	9	10	9	8	9	8	9	8	8	7	8	8	8
Czech Republic	8	9	9	6	8	6	8	4	5	5	6 ^b	5⁵	6	6	7
Denmark	25	27	26	21	27	20	25	15	18	22	22 ^b	17 ^₅	22	22	28
Estonia	20	19	22	16	24	17	20	13	15	21	18 ^b	19 ^₅	18	16	20
Finland	29	30	29	23	33	27	30	25	22	33	31 [⊾]	32 ^b	32	25	34
France	20	21	21	14	23	13	21	8	10	13	11 ^b	11 ^b	11	9	14
Germany	8	8	9	7	9	8	9	8	7	8	8 ^b	7 ^b	8	7	8
Greece	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3⁵	4 ^b	4	3	3
Hungary	6	7	5	4	7	5	6	4	4	7	6 ^b	6 ^b	5	5	6
Ireland	13	12	13	11	15	11	14	9	9	12	14 ^b	15⁵	14	12	13
Italy	8	9	9	6	9	7	8	7	6	8	10 ^b	11 ^b	11	7	10
Latvia	7	8	7	6	8	7	8	4	6	8	9 ^b	10 ^b	9	7	9
Lithuania	7	8	7	5	7	7	8	7	6	7	8 ^b	9 ^b	10	7	9
Luxembourg	19	20	20	14	22	16	18	15	12	20	18 [⊾]	19 [⊳]	19	13	20
Netherlands	19	20	20	18	21	19	20	18	18	20	27 ^b	27 ^b	28	24	28
Norway	19	20	21	14	23	16	19	15	12	20	20 ^b	19 ^₅	19	16	24
Poland	5	5	5	4	5	4	5	3	3	3	5⁵	5⁵	5	5	6
Portugal	11	11	12	8	12	10	10	9	9	12	13 ^₅	13⁵	14	11	14
Slovak Republic	4	5	3	3	4	3	4	2	2	3	5⁵	4 ^b	5	5	5
Slovenia	11	12	12	8	13	8	11	6	8	9	19 ^ь	17⁵	21	15	22
Spain	11	11	12	8	12	11	11	11	9	13	14 ^b	15⁵	15	12	16
Sweden	34	37	35	27	38	29	34	27	24	30	35⁵	33 [⊳]	36	29	41
Switzerland	32	31	35	26	37	28	31	23	25	32	23 ^b	21 ^b	24	20	26
Türkiye	6	6	6	5	6	6	6	5	5	6	6	7	6	6	7
United Kingdom	15	15	15	14	16	15	15	14	15	16	17	17	16	16	17
Average	14	14	14	11	15	12	14	10	10	13	14 ^b	14 ^b	15	12	16

	Surveys with a reference period of twelve months prior to the interview															
	Participation in formal and/or non-formal education and training															
	2019						2020					2021				
	Annual average				Fourth quarter					Fourth quarter	Annual average	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
	(1)	(3)	(5)	(7)	(9)	(11)	(13)	(15)	(17)	(19)	(21)	(23)	(25)	(27)	(29)	
Countries																
Australia	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	39	m	m	m	m	
Canada ¹	58	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Chile 1	47	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Israel ¹	53	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Japan ¹	42	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Korea ¹	50	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
Mexico ¹	31	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
New Zealand ¹	68	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	

Note: Participation in formal and/or non-formal education and training during previous 4 weeks in EU-LFS, Costa Rica, Türkiye and the United Kingdom national surveys, and previous 12 months in Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) and Australia national survey. See *Definitions* and *Methodology* sections for more information. Note that the average differs from the one published by Eurostat as this is an unweighted average and the country coverage is different.

Additional columns showing standard errors (S.E.) as well as data by type of education and training are available for consultation on line (see StatLink below). 1. Year of reference differs from 2019: 2017 for Mexico; 2015 for Chile, Israel and New Zealand; and 2012 for Canada, Japan and Korea.

Source: OECD (2022). See Source section for more information and Annex 3 for notes (https://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance/EAG2022_X3-A.pdf). Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning symbols for missing data and abbreviations.

StatLink msp https://stat.link/vkpuob

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Table A7.2. Participation in non-formal education and training, by gender, age group and educational attainment (2021)

In per cent

		Surveys with a reference period of four weeks prior to the interview														
					Age	group										
		Ge	Gender		Gender						lary Iary		1	Tertiary		
	Total	Men	Women	25-34 year-olds	35-44 yearolds	45-54 yearolds	55-64 yearolds	Below upper secondary	Upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary	Short-cycle tertiary	Bachelor's or equivalent	Master's or equivalent	Doctoral or equivalent	Total		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%		
	(1)	(3)	(5)	(7)	(9)	(11)	(13)	(15)	(17)	(19)	(21)	(23)	(25)	(27)		
Countries Austria						10	_	_								
Mustria	11	10	13	15	13	12	7	5	8	14	22	24	23	19		
Belgium	8	8	7	9	10	7	5	3	4	8 ^r	10	15	20	12		
Costa Rica	1	1	2	3	2	1	0	1	3	2	2	4	m	2		
Czech Republic	5	5	5	6	5	5	3	1 ^r	3	6	6	9	8 ^r	8		
Denmark	17	14	21	18	18	18	15	10	14	20	22	24	28	23		
Estonia	14	11	17	16	16	14	10	6 ^r	9	13 ^r	23	25	C	22		
Finland	22	18	27	22	25	25	17	13	16	24	29	36	43	31		
France	9	8	10	11	11	9	5	4	7	12	14	17	15	14		
Germany	4	4	5	6	5	4	3	2	3	5	6	10	13	8		
Greece	1	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	4	5	3		
Hungary	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	3	4	7	7	8	13	8		
Ireland	9	8	10	10	10	9	7	3	6	9	12	16	19	13		
Italy	7	8	7	7	8	8	6	2	7	9	13	19	24	18		
Latvia	7	4	9	7	8	7	4	C	3	10 ^r	12	15	C	13		
Lithuania		6	9		10	7	5	2		C	11	20	28	14 21		
Luxembourg	15	15 18	16	18	18 20	13 19	с 16	5' 9	10 ^r 17	11	23	22	22 24	21		
Netherlands				19						25				18		
Norway Poland	14	13	14	15 5	15 6	14 5	11	8	11 2	15 3	18	21	19 18	10		
Poland Portugal	10	4	11	12	12	11	6	1	9	3 18	15	10 23	26	21		
	4	9			4		2	1				23		7		
Slovak Republic		15	4	4	20	4	10	3	3 9	6 19	6 27	31	9 37	28		
Slovenia Spain	16	10	18	18	13	17 11	6	3	9	13	19	20	22	18		
Sweden	28	23	33	28	29	31	24	16	23	31	36	37	38	35		
Switzerland	19	18	19	20	29	20	14	5	13		25	29	42	28		
Türkiye	1	10	19	21	1	20	0) 1	13	с 2	25	29	42	20		
United Kingdom	14	12	15	15	15	14	10	5	11	17	18	22	23	19		
•																
Average	10	9	12	12	12	11	7	4	8	12	15	18	22	16		
				Su	veys with	a referenc	e period o	f twelve me	onths prior	to the inte	erview					
		Ge	nder		Age	group										
									ary			Tertiary	y			
				34 year-olds	44 yearolds	54 yearolds	64 yearolds	ow upper ondary	oer secondary ost-secondary i-tertiary	rt-cycle ary	helor's quivalent	ter's quivalent	toral quivalent			

		Total	Men	Women	25-34 year-	35-44 yea⊭c	45-54 yea⊭c	55-64 yea⊮c	Below uppe secondary	Upper seco or post-sec non-tertiar	Short-cycle tertiary	Bachelor's or equivaler	Master's or equivaler	Doctoral or equivaler	Total
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
		(1)	(3)	(5)	(7)	(9)	(11)	(13)	(15)	(17)	(19)	(21)	(23)	(25)	(27)
5	Countries														
0EC	Austrialia ¹	39	37	42	47	41	37	30	19	35	44	49	54	51	49
0	Canada ²	54	54	53	59	59	55	41	23	46	m	m	m	m	65
	Chile ²	44	50	38	57	47	39	29	24	44	m	m	m	m	68
	Israel ²	45	43	46	47	47	44	39	12	34	m	m	m	m	60
	Japan ²	41	47	35	48	43	45	30	21	32	m	m	m	m	55
	Korea ²	49	53	45	60	55	44	32	21	42	m	m	m	m	70
	Mexico ²	29	32	26	36	29	27	15	17	39	m	m	m	m	59
	New Zealand ²	63	64	63	65	67	64	57	46	59	m	m	m	m	74

New Zealand² | 63 | 64 | 63 | 65 | 67 | 64 | 57 | 46 | 59 | m | m | m | m | 4 Note: The reference period for the participation in non-formal education and training is the previous 4 weeks for the EU-LFS, Costa Rica, Türkiye and the United Kingdom national surveys, and it is the previous 12 months for the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) and Australia national survey. See *Definitions* and *Methodology* sections for more information. Note that the average differs from the one published by Eurostat as this is an unweighted average and the country coverage is different. Additional columns showing standard errors (S.E.) are available for consultation on line (see StatLink below). 1. Data for upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education refer to post-secondary non-tertiary education. 2. Year of reference differs from 2021: 2017 for Mexico; 2015 for Chile, Israel and New Zealand; and 2012 for Canada, Japan and Korea. **Source:** OECD (2022). See *Source* section for more information and Annex 3 for notes (<u>https://www.oecd.org/education-eta-a-glance/EAG2022_X3-A.pdf</u>).

Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning symbols for missing data and abbreviations.

StatLink msp https://stat.link/gkve42

Table A7.3. Enrolment rates in formal education, by level of education and age group (2020)

Percentage of students enrolled over the total population

			Below uppe	er secondary		Upper sec	ondary or po	st-secondary	non-tertiar	r Tertiary					
		25-64 year-olds	25-29 year-olds	30-39 year-olds	40-64 year-olds	25-64 year-olds	25-29 year-olds	30-39 year-olds	40-64 year-olds	25-64 year-olds	25-29 year-olds	30-39 year-olds	40-64 year-olds		
	ountries	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)		
	ountries Istralia	1	1	1	1	5	8	6	3	6	17	8	3		
Ö 📶	stria	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	16	6	1		
	lgium	1	2	2	1	2	3	3	2	2	8	2	0		
	nada	0	0	0	0	m	m	m	m	3	10	3	1		
Ch		0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	12	5	1		
	lombia	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	10	5	1		
	sta Rica	m	m	m	m	0	3	0	1	0	5	2	0		
	ech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	9	2	1		
	nmark	0	0	0	0	2	6	3	1	5	22	6	2		
	tonia	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	1	3	11		2		
					-							5			
	land	0	0	0	0	5	8	7	3	6	21	9	2		
	ance	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	7	2	0		
	rmany	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	3	18	5	0		
	eece	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	7	24	10	3		
	ngary	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	8	2	1		
	land	0	0	0	0	2	6	3	1	6	15	7	3		
	land	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	1	3	9	4	1		
Isra		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	18	6	2		
Ital		0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	12	3	1		
Jap	pan	0	0	0	0	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m		
Ko	rea	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	2	1		
Lat	tvia	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	14	6	1		
Litl	huania	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	9	3	1		
Lux	xembourg	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	1	0		
Me	xico	2	2	2	1	0	2	0	0	2	5	2	1		
Net	therlands	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	1	3	14	4	1		
Nev	w Zealand	0	0	0	0	5	8	6	3	4	9	5	2		
No	rway	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	5	17	7	2		
	land	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	9	2	1		
	rtugal	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	8	3	1		
	ovak Republic	0	0	Ő	0	0	1	1	0	1	6	1	0		
	ovenia	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	10	2	0		
	ain	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	3	13	4	1		
	veden	3	5	5	2	3	6	4	1	5	16	7	2		
	vitzerland	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	16	4	1		
	rkiye	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	0	10	29	14	3		
	ited Kingdom	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	3	7	4	1		
	ited States	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	12	5	2		
-								1							
	CD average	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	3	12	4	1		
EU	22 average	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	3	12	4	1		
2 Arg	gentina¹ azil ina	m	m	m	m	m	1	0	0	m	19	m	m		
្មី Bra	azil	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	4	10	6	2		
hC 🖉	ina	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	1	0	0		
_ Inc	dia	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m		
Ind	lonesia ¹	m	m	m	m	m	0	0	0	m	5	2	1		
	udi Arabia	m	m	m	m	m	1	0	0	m	12	1	0		
	uth Africa ¹	m	m	m	m	m	3	0	0	m	4	2	1		
00	0														
G2	0 average	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m		

Note: See *Definitions* and *Methodology* sections for more information. Data and more breakdowns are available at http://stats.oecd.org/, *Education at a Glance Database*. 1. Year of reference differs from 2020: 2019 for Argentina, Indonesia and South Africa.

Source: OECD/UIS/Eurostat (2022). See Source section for more information and Annex 3 for notes (<u>https://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance/EAG2022_X3-A.pdf</u>).

Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning symbols for missing data and abbreviations.

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