

Tertiary Education in OECD Regions

OECD Regions at a Glance 2013– The interactive edition

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The skills attained by the workforce through formal and informal education are crucial for the accumulation of knowledge, the creation of innovation and in turn for the economic competitiveness of a country. In an increasingly knowledge-based economy, secondary and tertiary education has become more important to stay competitive in the global markets.

People with university degrees have suffered far fewer job losses during the global economic crisis than those who left school without qualifications. A positive association between disposable income and the share of labour force with tertiary education attainments is shown in OECD regions.

OECD countries show large differences in the tertiary educational attainment of their labour force. In Israel more than half of the workforce has completed tertiary education, while in Austria, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and Turkey the percentage is below 20. Differences among countries also hide large internal disparities, particularly in the United States, Spain, the Czech Republic and Turkey.

Links:

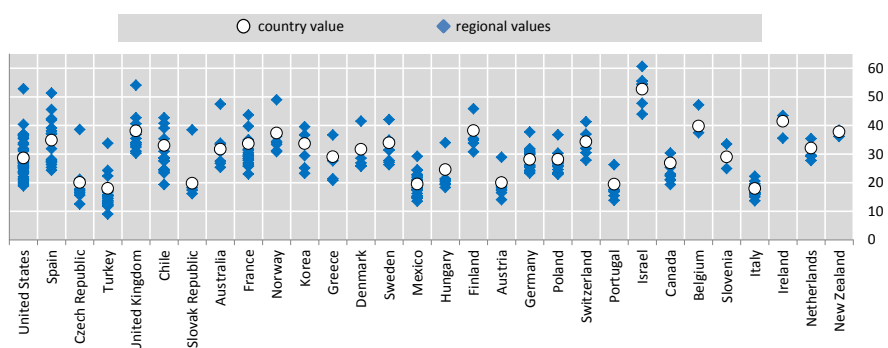
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Definitions

The **labour force with advanced educational qualifications** is defined as the labour force aged 15 and over that has completed tertiary educational programmes.

Tertiary education includes both university qualifications and advanced professional programmes (ISCED 5 and 6).

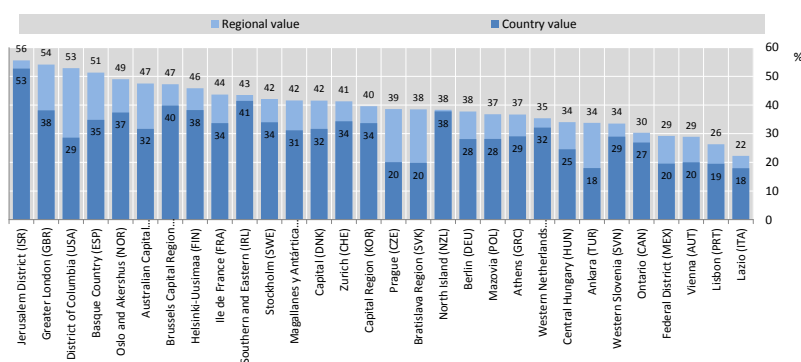
Range of labour force with tertiary educational attainment in TL2 regions, ranked by regional range, 2012



Source: OECD Regions at a Glance 2013

Across the OECD, generally the capital region is generally the region with the highest share of people with tertiary education. Jerusalem in Israel is the OECD region with the highest percentage of skilled labour force (56%), followed by Greater London in the United Kingdom, the District of Columbia in the United States and the Basque Country in Spain.

Top TL2 region within each country with the highest percentage of labour force with tertiary educational attainment compared to their country average, 2012



Source: OECD Regions at a Glance 2013