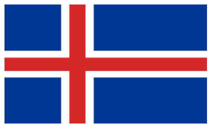
OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

Government at a Glance 2015

www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm

Country Fact Sheet

Iceland



Public finances are improving

From a fiscal surplus of 5.1% of GDP (1.9% structural surplus) and according to the *System of National Accounts* definition a very low debt-to-GDP ratio of 29% in 2007, the global financial crisis led to a deficit reaching 9.4% of GDP (9.6 % structural deficit) and the debt ratio rising to 85.7% of GDP in 2009. As a result of the consolidation efforts pursued by the government, the deficit level decreased to 2% of GDP in 2014 (2.9% structural deficit) and is expected to reduce in the coming years. The adjustment occurred mainly through two channels: declining public investment varying from 9.9% as a share of total expenditure in 2007, to 4.8% in 2013 (compared to OECD averages of 9.1% and 7.8% respectively), and increased revenues augmenting from 38.7% as a share of GDP in 2009 to 42% in 2013 (compared to OECD averages of 41% and 42% respectively.

Chapter 2: Public finance and economics
General government fiscal balance as a percentage of GDP
General government gross debt as a percentage of GDP
General government investment as a share of total investment
General government structural balance as a percentage of potential GDP
General government revenues as a percentage of GDP

Outside of the legislature, conflict of interest practices are less commonly required

Disclosure of private interest of public officials is one of the tools for managing conflict of interest in government. In 2014, according to the OECD composite on asset disclosure across branches of government, the requirement in Iceland is high for the legislative (75 /100 points) branch, relative to the OECD averages (63/100). Inversely, disclosure requirements for the executive (25/100) and judicial (8.3/100) branches are below the OECD average (44/100 and 32/100 respectively). Similarly, for "at risk" areas, such as tax and custom officials, procurement agents and staff of financial authorities, Iceland scores 4.1, eight times lower than the OECD average (32.7).

Chapter 7: Public Sector Integrity
Level of disclosure and public availability of private interests across branches of government

Icelanders are satisfied with public services

The Icelandic people show among the highest levels of satisfaction across the OECD with public services: 83 % are satisfied with the education system compared to an average of 67% across the OECD; they report strong satisfaction with the judicial system (63%), compared to an OECD average of 54%. Citizen satisfaction with the health care system (73%) is slightly above the OECD average of 71%.

Chapter 12: Serving Citizens
Citizens' satisfaction with the health care system
Citizens' satisfaction with the education system
Citizens' confidence with the judicial system

How to read the figures:

Iceland — Country value in **blue** (not represented if not available)

Average of OECD countries in **green**

Range of OECD country values in **grey**

Values have been rounded.
n.a. refers to data not available

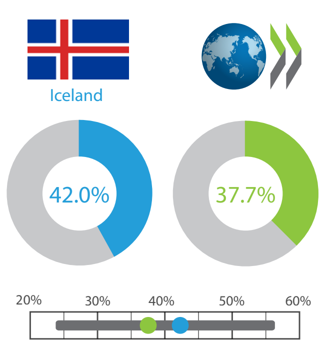
GOVERNMENT INPUTS: FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Public Finance & Economics | Public Employment & Compensation

Public Finance and Economics

Government revenues (2013)

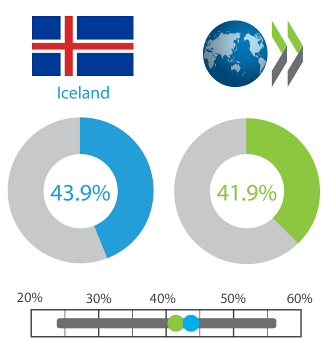
% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts

Government expenditures (2013)

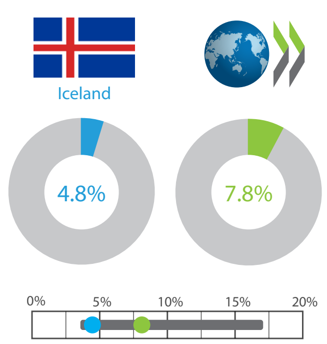
% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts

Public investment (2013)

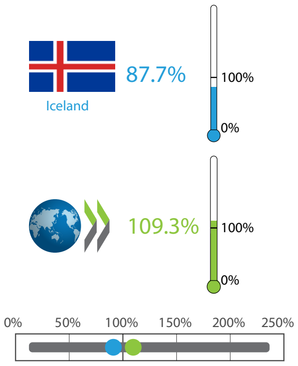
% of of total govt. expenditures



Source: OECD National Accounts

Government gross debt * (2013)

% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts
* *SNA definition, see Notes*

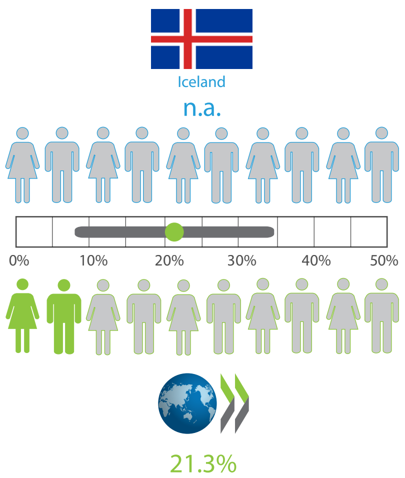
Fiscal balance * (2013)

% of GDP

Source: OECD National Accounts. * *See Notes*

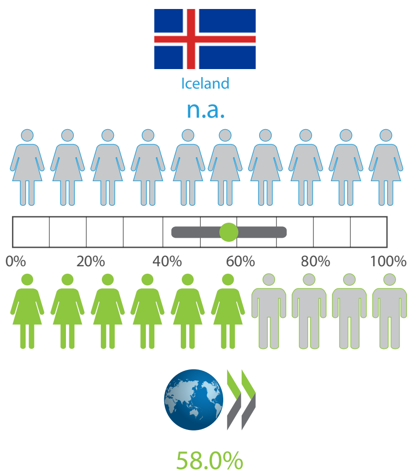
Public Employment and Compensation

Public sector employment as % of total employment (2013)



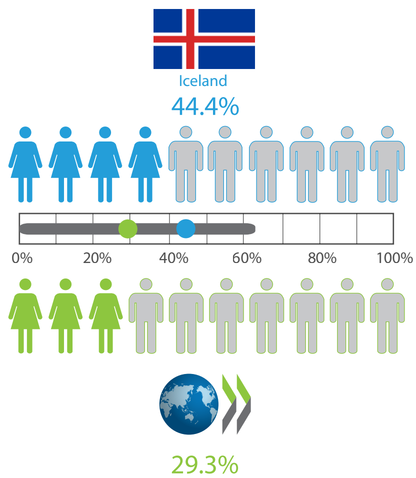
Source: International Labour Organization (database)

Public sector employment filled by women (2013)



Source: International Labour Organization (database)

Share of women ministers (2015)



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union Parline Database

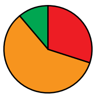
GOVERNMENT PROCESSES

Institutions | Regulatory Governance | Public Procurement | Public Sector Integrity | Digital Government

Institutions

Level of influence of the Centre of Government over line ministries (2013)

Iceland	Moderate
OECD	30% 59% 11%



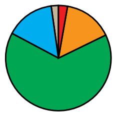
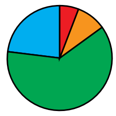
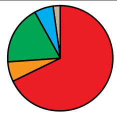
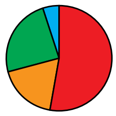
High Moderate Low

Source: OECD 2013 Survey on Centre of Government

Regulatory Governance

Stakeholder engagement and consultation (2014)

	Stakeholder engagement to inform officials about the problem and possible solutions		Consultation on draft regulations or proposed rules	
	Primary laws	Subordinate regulations	Primary laws	Subordinate regulations
Iceland	For some primary laws	For some subordinate regulations	For some primary laws	For some subordinate regulations
OECD	3% 15% 65% 15% 2%	6% 9% 62% 23% 0%	68% 6% 18% 6% 2%	53% 18% 24% 5% 0%

For all primary laws / subordinate regulations For major primary laws / subordinate regulations For some primary laws / subordinate regulations Never Not applicable

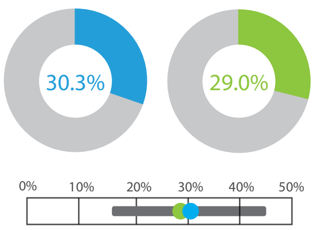
Source: OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook (forthcoming)

Public Procurement

Procurement expenditure (2013)

% of government expenditures

Iceland OECD



Source: OECD National Accounts

Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2014)

	Support for green public procurement	Support for SMEs	Support for innovative goods and services
Iceland	A strategy / policy has been developed at a central level	A strategy / policy has never been developed	A strategy / policy has never been developed
OECD	13 26 1 2	10 25 0 3	10 23 0 3

A strategy / policy has been developed by some procuring entities
A strategy / policy has been developed at a central level
A strategy / policy has been rescinded
A strategy / policy has never been developed

Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Public Procurement

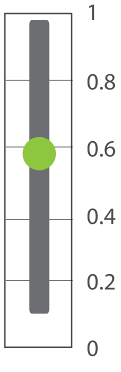
Digital Gov.

OURdata Index: Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data (2014)

Composite index from 0 lowest to 1 highest

Iceland n.a.

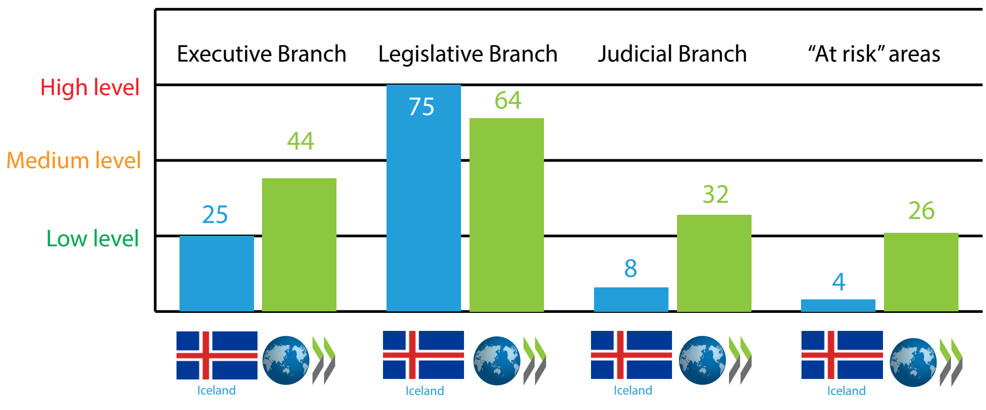
OECD 0.58



Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Open Government Data

Public Sector Integrity

Level of disclosure of private interests across branches of government (2014)



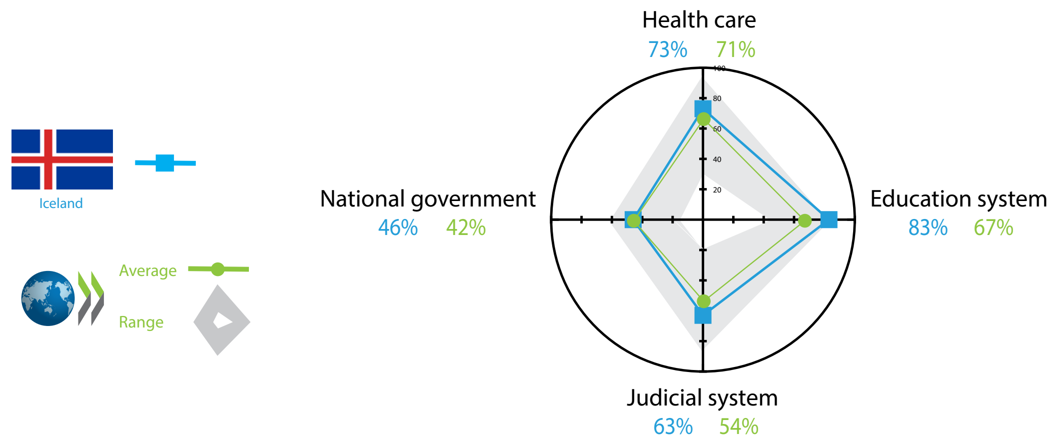
Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Managing Conflict of Interest in the Executive Branch and Whistleblower Protection

GOVERNMENT OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Core Government Results and Service Delivery

Satisfaction and confidence across public services (2014)

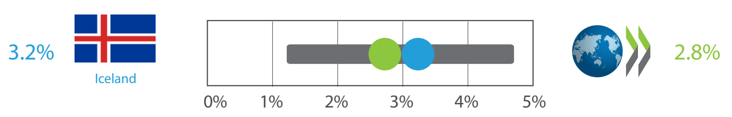
% of citizens expressing confidence/satisfaction



Source: Gallup World Poll

Access to healthcare (2012)

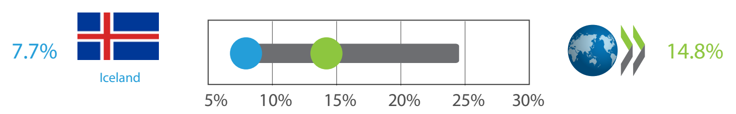
Out of pocket expenditure as a % of final household consumption



Source: OECD Health Statistics 2014

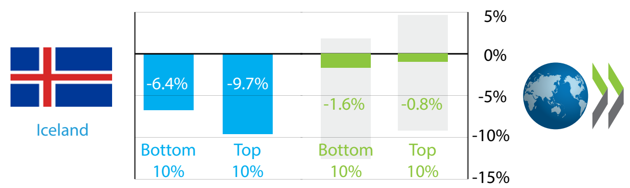
Equity in learning outcomes (2012)

PISA mathematics score variance by socio economic background



Source: OECD, PISA 2012 results: Excellence through equity, 2013

Changes in household disposable income, by income group (2007-2011)



Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

Limited government powers (2014)

Source: The World Justice Project

Notes

- **Fiscal balance** as reported in the System of National Accounts (SNA) framework, also referred to as net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of government, is calculated as total government revenues minus total government expenditures.
- **Structural fiscal balance**, or underlying balance, represents the fiscal balance adjusted for the state of the economic cycle (as measured by the output gap which resulted as the difference between actual and potential GDP) and one-off fiscal operations.
- **Government gross debt** is reported according to the SNA definition, which differs from the definition applied under the Maastricht Treaty. It is defined as all liabilities that require payment or payments of interest or principal by the debtor to the creditor at a date or dates in the future. All debt instruments are liabilities, but some liabilities such as shares, equity and financial derivatives are not debt. Government gross debt for Iceland is reported on an adjusted basis (i.e. excluding unfunded pension liabilities).

Government at a Glance 2015

With a focus on public administration, OECD Government at a Glance 2015 provides readers with a dashboard of key indicators assembled with the goal of contributing to the analysis and international comparison of public sector performance across OECD countries. Indicators on public finances and employment are provided alongside composite indexes summarising aspects of public management policies, and indicators on services to citizens in health care, education, and justice. Government at a Glance 2015 also includes indicators on key governance and public management issues, such as regulatory management, budgeting practices and procedures, public sector integrity, public procurement and core government results in terms of trust in institutions, income redistribution and efficiency and cost-effectiveness of governments.

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance 2015 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication:

http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2015-en

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets: www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm