



Small annual budget surpluses have helped to decrease Swiss government debt to one of the lowest levels across OECD countries

Switzerland employs a fiscal “debt-brake” rule that requires the federal government to balance its budget over the business cycle. Between 2007 and 2013, the general government debt (according to the *System of National Accounts* definition) decreased by 5 p.p., reaching a level of 46% of the GDP, 40 p.p. lower than the OECD average. This reduction was mainly supported by small general government surpluses over the same period of time. The Swiss fiscal balance presented a surplus level of 0.9% of the GDP in the year 2007, and 0.1% of the GDP in 2013.



Chapter 2: Public finance and economics

[General government fiscal balance as a percentage of GDP](#)

[General government gross debt as a percentage of GDP](#)

Despite noticeable progress, women are still underrepresented in Swiss public life

In 2013, women are overrepresented in public sector employment, accounting for 57% of the total public sector workforce, close to the OECD average (58%). Additionally, between 2009 and 2013, female employment in the public sector grew faster than in the economy as a whole. Public sector employment has also grown. Between 2009 and 2013, Switzerland experienced one of the largest increases in the share of public sector employment over total employment, going from 15% of 18% of the total employment. Nevertheless, in 2013 the public sector is still small (18% of the total employment), relative to the OECD average (21%).



Chapter 3: Public employment and compensation

[Share of public sector employment filled by women and men](#)

[Public sector employment as a percentage of total employment](#)

Integrity practices could be improved by increasing the level of disclosure of public servants

Conflict of interest in government can be managed by the disclosure of private interest of public officials. In 2014, the level of disclosure remained low across all branches of the Swiss government, and all them remind lower than the OECD average. The major differences with respect to the OECD average are observed in the legislative and judicial branches, while the least differences are in the executive branch and “at risk” areas, including tax and customs officials, procurement agents and financial authorities.



Chapter 7: Public Sector Integrity

[Level of disclosure and public availability of private interests across branches of government](#)

How to read the figures:



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

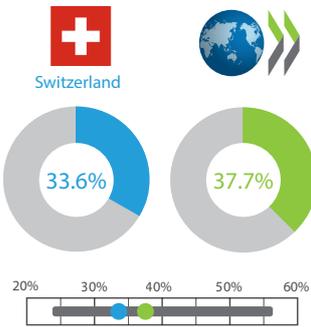
Public Finance & Economics

Public Employment & Compensation

Public Finance and Economics

Government revenues (2013)

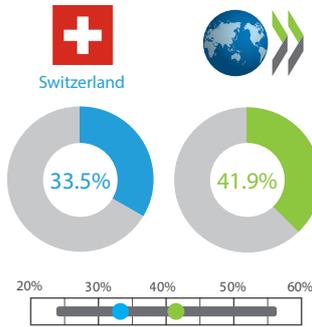
% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts

Government expenditures (2013)

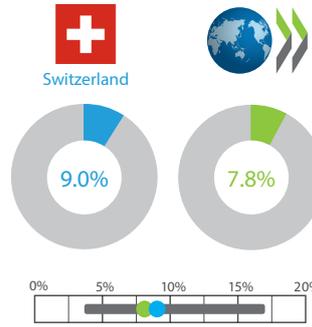
% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts

Public investment (2013)

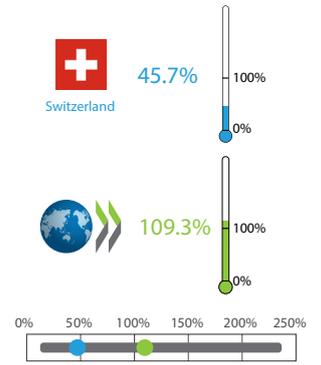
% of total govt. expenditures



Source: OECD National Accounts

Government gross debt* (2013)

% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts
* SNA definition, see Notes

Fiscal balance* (2013)

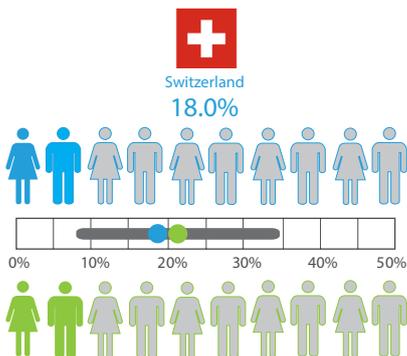
% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts. * See Notes

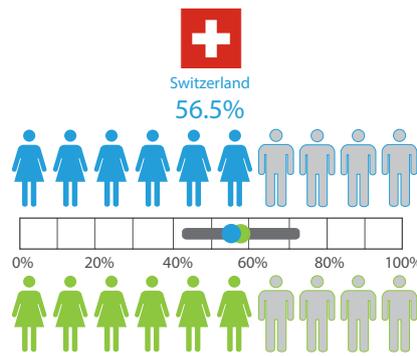
Public Employment and Compensation

Public sector employment as % of total employment (2013)



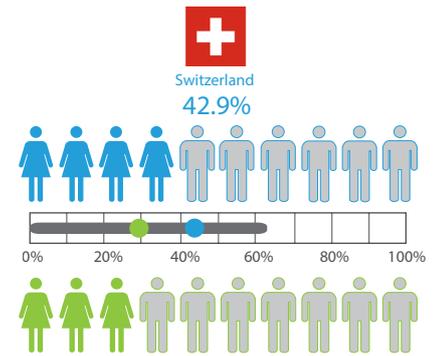
Source: International Labour Organization (database)

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

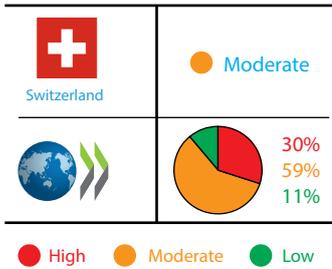
Public Procurement

Public Sector Integrity

Digital Government

Institutions

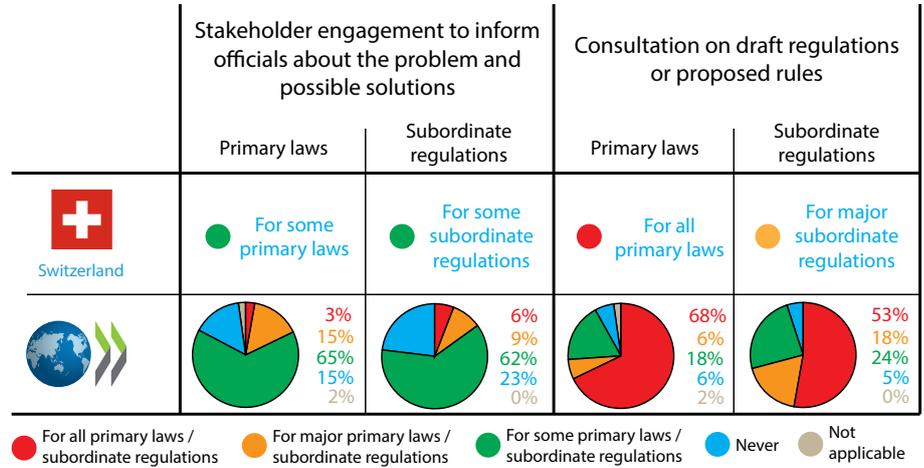
Level of influence of the Centre of Government over line ministries (2013)



Source: OECD 2013 Survey on Centre of Government

Regulatory Governance

Stakeholder engagement and consultation (2014)

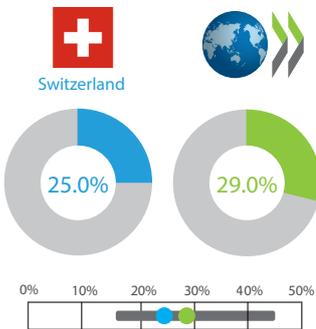


Source: OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook (forthcoming)

Public Procurement

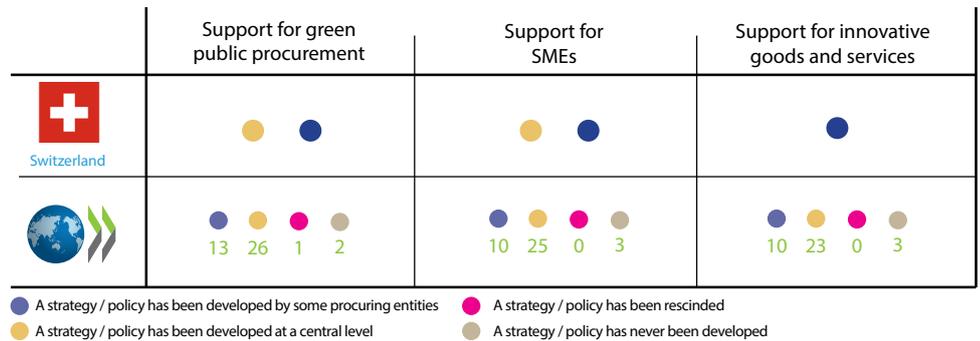
Procurement expenditure (2013)

% of government expenditures



Source: OECD National Accounts

Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2014)

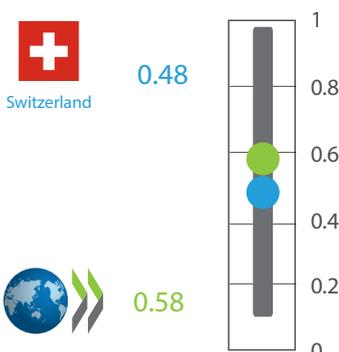


Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Public Procurement

Digital Gov.

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

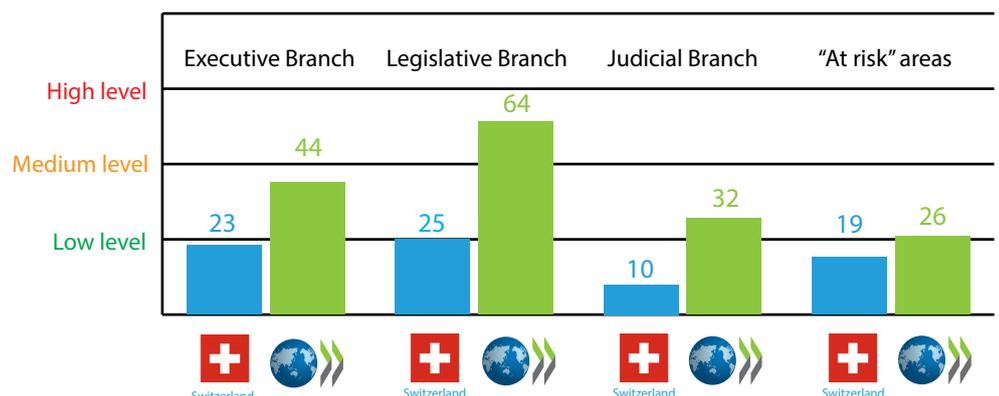
Composite index from 0 lowest to 1 highest



Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Open Government Data

Public Sector Integrity

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



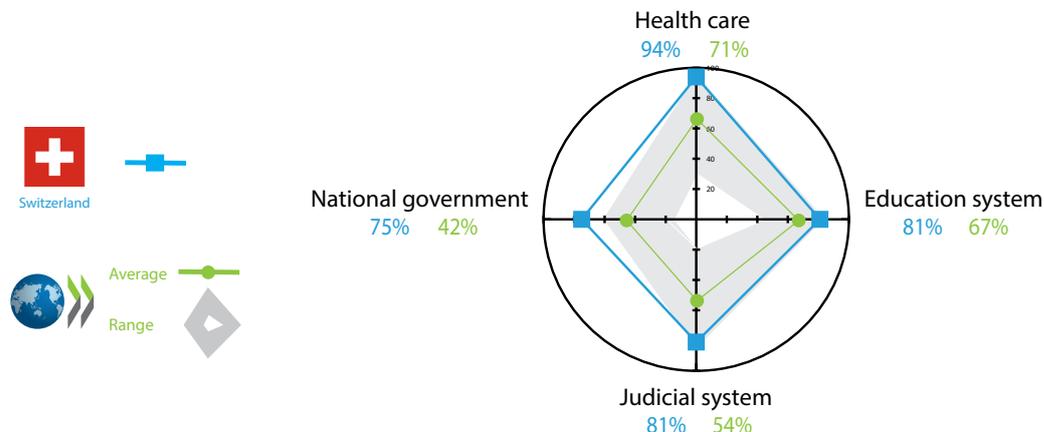
Source: 2014 OECD Survey on Managing Conflict of Interest in the Executive Branch and Whistleblower Protection

GOVERNMENT OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Core Government Results and Service Delivery

Satisfaction and confidence across public services (2014)

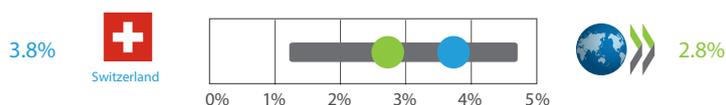
% of citizens expressing confidence/satisfaction



Source: Gallup World Poll

Access to healthcare (2012)

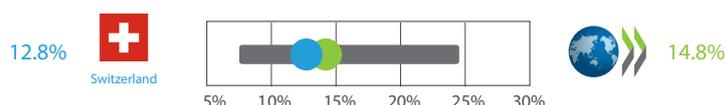
Out of pocket expenditure as a % of final household consumption



Source: OECD Health Statistics 2014

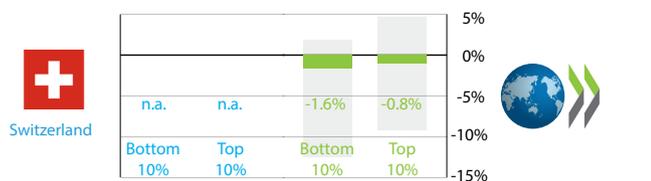
Equity in learning outcomes (2012)

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 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/ataglance.htm

