

Release
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「OECD Education at a Glance 2023」 Results Announced

- Per-student public education spending increased by 2% to \$14,113 compared to the previous year, surpassing the OECD average
- Relative wage gaps between education levels decreased compared to the previous year
- The high school completion rate for young adults (aged 25-34) is 69.6%, making Korea the top country among OECD nations

The Ministry of Education (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho) together with the Korean Educational Development Institute (KEDI, President Ryu Bangran) will present the key findings of the OECD Education at a Glance 2023, which will be published by OECD at 11 a.m. CEST/Paris time on September 12, 2023.

The OECD provides international compendium of comparable national statistics on education through the Education at a Glance, supporting member countries to utilize it as a pertinent resource for education policy and research.

「OECD Education at a Glance 2023」

- **(Agreement)** OECD Agreement (December 18, 1996, Treaty No. 1358)
- **(Participating Countries)** 49 countries (38 OECD member countries, 11 non-member countries)
- **(Indicators)** Information on students, teachers, education finances, education participation, and other aspects of education
 - ※ Some figures are rounded, and the sum of parts may differ from the whole Figures denoted in US dollars are based on Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) in US dollars.
- **(Survey Reference Years)** Education finances (2020), education participation and

outcomes (2021-2023)

- **(Participating Institutions)** Korean Educational Development Institute, Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Statistics Korea, etc.
- **(Announcing Results)** OECD website (<https://oecd.org>), Translation of OECD Education at a Glance to be published in December

The key findings of the OECD Education at a Glance 2023 are as follows:

1 Teacher, the Learning Environment and the Organization of Schools

① Student-to-Teacher Ratio

- ◆ The student-to-teacher ratio in elementary and high schools has decreased compared to 2019
- ◆ The student-to-teacher ratio in vocational high schools is lower than the OECD average

- In 2021, the student-to-teacher ratio in South Korea was 16.1 students in elementary schools and 13.3 students in middle schools, which was higher than the OECD average. In high schools, it was 10.7 students, which was lower than the OECD average.
 - * Compared to 2019, there was a decrease of 0.5 students in elementary schools, an increase of 0.3 students in middle schools, and a decrease of 0.6 students in high schools
- In 2021, the student-to-teacher ratio in vocational high schools was 8.5 students, which was lower than 11.3 students in general high schools and the OECD average of 15 students.

< Student-to-Teacher Ratio >

(Unit : Students)

Year	Category	Elementary School	Middle School	High School		
				Overall	General	Vocational
2021	Korea	16.1	13.3	10.7	11.3	8.5
	OECD Average	14.6	13.2	13.3	13.6	15.0

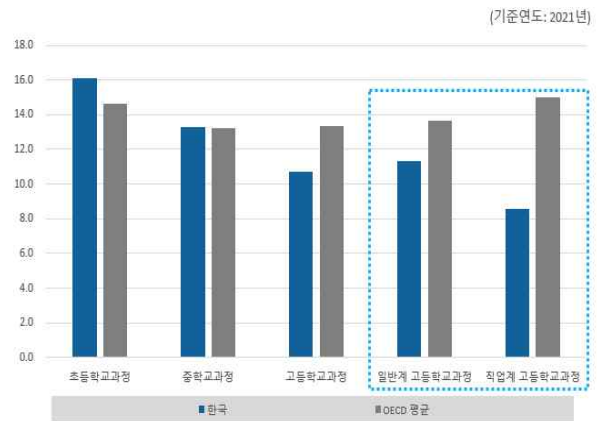
※ According to OECD standards, “teacher” refers to instructional staff, including contract

teachers and teachers on leave (e.g., head teachers, administrative teachers, etc.) and exclude administrative staff, guidance counselors, librarians, health workers, nutritionists, and others whose primary duties are not teaching.

Student-to-Teacher Ratio 2015-2021



Student-to-Teacher Ratio in 2021



② Statutory Salaries of Public School Teachers

◆ The statutory salaries of entry-level teachers in public schools are lower than the OECD average, while the statutory salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience are higher than the OECD average.

- In 2022, the statutory salaries for entry-level teachers in South Korea's public schools were lower than the OECD average, while the statutory salaries for teachers with 15 years of experience were higher than the OECD average.

< Statutory Salaries of Public School Teachers >

(Unit : \$(PPP))

Year	Category	Elementary School		Middle School		High School	
		Entry-level	<15 years	Entry-level	<15 years	Entry-level	<15 years
2022	Korea	33,615	59,346	33,675	59,406	33,675	59,406
	OECD Average	36,367	49,968	37,628	51,613	39,274	53,456

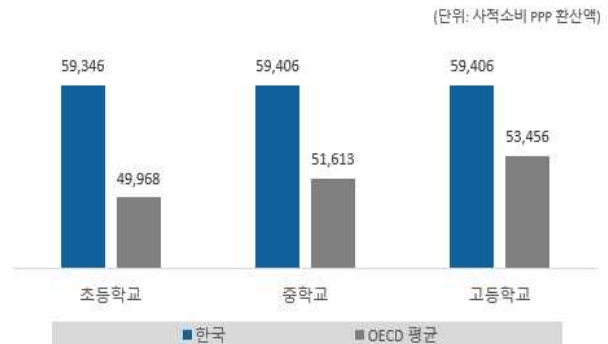
※ Purchasing Power Parity (PPP): (2022) 995.28 Korean Won per US Dollar

※ PPP: The relative price ratio expressed by converting the cost required to purchase the same goods and services into a specific currency

Statutory Salaries of Entry-level Teachers (2022)



Statutory Salaries of Teachers with more than 15 years of experience (2022)



2 Financial Investment in Education

- ◆ The ratio of public education expenditure to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 5.1%, which is at the OECD average level
- ◆ Per-student expenditure on public education has increased by 2% compared to the previous year, reaching \$14,113, surpassing the OECD average
 - Elementary school spending is \$13,278, a 0.5% decrease; middle school spending is \$17,038, a 0.2% decrease, both surpassing the OECD average
 - High school spending is \$12,225, an 8% increase, but it falls below the OECD average

① Ratio of Public Education Expenditure to GDP

- In 2020, the ratio of public education expenditure to GDP for all levels of education in Korea, from elementary to high school, was 5.1%, a 0.2% decrease from 2019, and it was at the OECD average level.

* { (Government Funds + Private Funds + Overseas Funds for Public Education) / GDP } × 100

< Ratio of Public Education Expenditure to GDP >

(Unit: %)

Year	Category	Primary & Secondary Education			Higher Education			Primary-Higher Education		
		Government	Public	Total	Government	Public	Total	Government	Public	Total
2020	Korea	3.3	0.2	3.5	0.7	0.9	1.6	4.0	1.1	5.1
	OECD Average	3.3	0.3	3.6	1.0	0.5	1.5	4.3	0.8	5.1

※ Korea's GDP : (2020) 1,940.7 trillion KRW

※ Korea includes foreign aid in private funding, but according to OECD standards, private funding and foreign aid are calculated separately. Therefore, the "total" in OECD may include foreign aid, which may not match the sum of government funding and private funding

※ These figures are rounded values, and the sum of parts may differ from the total. These figures are based on final funding.

- In 2020, Korea's government expenditure on public education as a percentage of GDP was 4.0%, maintaining the same level as 2019 and lower than the OECD average.
- The government expenditure on public education as a percentage of GDP for primary and secondary education levels was 3.3%, a 0.1% decrease from 2019, and similar to the OECD average.
- * (Note) Special Account for Education Budget Transfer to Central Government
Revenue: 64.6 trillion KRW in 2019 → 59.4 trillion KRW in 2020 (-7.94%) → 65.6 trillion KRW in 2021
- On the other hand, the government expenditure on public education as a percentage of GDP for higher education was 0.7%, a 0.1% increase from 2019 but still lower than the OECD average.

② Relative Ratio of Government Expenditure to Private Expenditure on Public Education

- In 2020, the relative ratio of government expenditure to private expenditure on public education for all levels from primary to higher education in Korea was 78.9%, a 3.5% increase from 2019.
- The relative ratio of government expenditure for primary and secondary education levels was 94.7%, higher than the OECD average,

while for higher education, it was 43.3%, lower than the OECD average.

< Relative Ratio of Government Expenditure to Private Expenditure on Public Education >

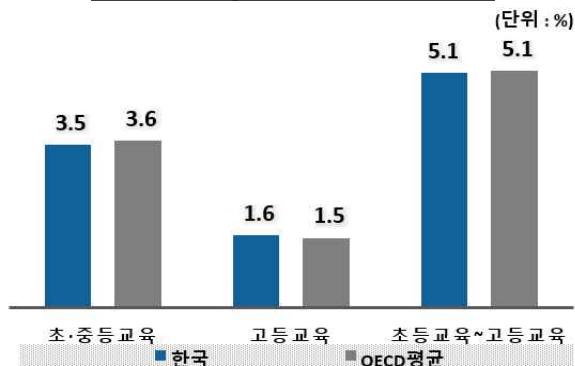
(Unit : %)

Year	Category	Primary & Secondary Education		Higher Education		Primary to Higher Education	
		Government	Private	Government	Private	Government	Private
2020	Korea	94.7	5.3	43.3	56.7	78.9	21.1
	OECD Average	91.2	8.6	67.1	29.9	83.6	15.3

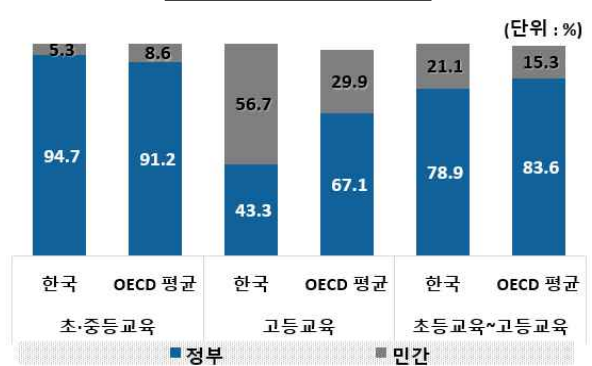
※ Korea includes foreign aid in private funding, but according to OECD standards, private funding and foreign aid are calculated separately

※ These figures are based on final funding

Public Education Expenses as a Percentage of GDP (2020)



Relative Ratio of Government/Private Investment (2020)



③ Per-Student Public Education Expenditure

- In 2020, Korea's per-student public education expenditure was \$14,113, which was a 2% (\$294) increase from 2019 and higher than the OECD average.

* { (Government Funds + Private Funds + Overseas Funds for Public Education) / Number of Enrolled Students (including current and on leave students) } / PPP

- For primary and secondary education levels, the per-student expenditure was \$13,278 and \$17,038, respectively, which represented a 0.5% (\$64) and 0.2% (\$40) decrease from 2019, but still higher than the OECD average.

- For higher education, the per-student expenditure was \$12,225, an 8% (\$938) increase from 2019, but lower than the OECD average.

< Per-Student Public Education Expenditure >

(Unit : \$(PPP))

Year	Category	Primary Education	Secondary Education	Higher Education	Primary to Higher Education
2020	Korea	13,278	17,038	12,225	14,113
	OECD Average	10,658	11,942	18,105	12,647

※ PPP for GDP: (2020) 837.67 KRW per US Dollar

③ Access to and Participation in Education, and Educational Institutions' Outputs and Outcomes

◆ The higher education attainment rate of young adults (aged 25-34) at 69.3%, ranks first among OECD countries

① Age-specific Enrollment Rates

- In 2021, Korea's age-specific enrollment rates were as follows: age 3 at 96.1%, age 4 at 97.5%, ages 6-14 at 98.7%, ages 15-19 at 85.8%, ages 20-24 at 50.7%. These rates were higher than the OECD average. However, the enrollment rates for age 5 and ages 25-29 were 93.3% and 7.9%, respectively, which were lower than the OECD average.

< Age-specific Enrollment Rates >

(Unit: %)

Year	Category/ Age	3	4	5	6-14	15-19	20-24	25-29
2021	Korea	96.1	97.5	93.3	98.7	85.8	50.7	7.9
	OECD Average	73.7	88.0	95.1	98.4	83.9	42.4	16.2

※ Age 3 corresponds to early childhood education and daycare, ages 4 and 5 to early childhood education and daycare, and elementary education level, and the ages 6 to 29 corresponds to all educational levels

② Higher Education Attainment Rate

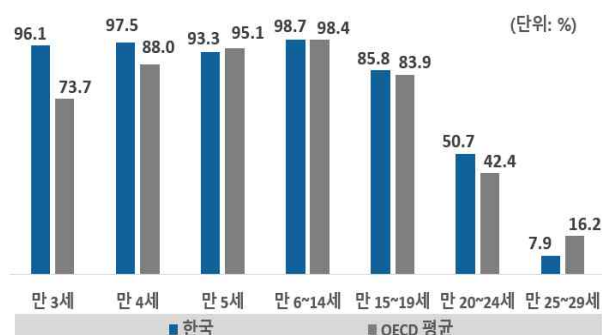
- In 2022, Korea's adults (aged 25-64) had a higher education attainment rate of 52.8%, which was higher than the OECD average.
- In particular, the higher education attainment rate of young adults (aged 25-34) was 69.6%, raking first among OECD countries.

< Higher Education Attainment Rate >

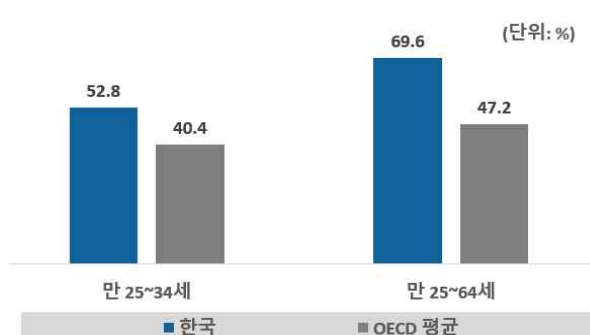
(Unit: %)

Year	Category/ Age	25-64	25-34
2022	Korea	52.8	69.6
	OECD Average	40.4	47.2

Age-Specific Enrollment Rates (2021)



Higher Education Attainment Rate (2022)



③ Employment Rate by Education Level

- In 2022, the overall employment rate for adults in Korea (aged 25-64) was 74.8%, which increased by 1.8%p compared to 2021 but remained lower than the OECD average.

< Employment Rate by Education Level >

(Unit: %)

Year	Category	High School	Junior College	University	All Levels*
2022	Korea	71.7	77.3	78.9	74.8
	OECD Average	76.5	81.9	85.2	77.9

* All levels include individuals with less than elementary education up to those who have completed postgraduate (master's or doctoral) studies

④ Relative Wages by Education Level

- In 2021, the relative wages of adults in Korea (aged 25-64) by education level (with high school graduates' wages as a reference = 100) were as follows: vocational college graduates 111.2%, university graduates 134.9%, graduate school (master's or doctoral) graduates 176.6%. Overall, relative wage disparities decreased compared to 2020.

< Relative Wages by Education Level >

(Unit : %)

Year	Category	Junior College	University	Graduate School (master's or doctoral)
2021	Korea	111.2	134.9	176.6
	OECD Average	122.3	142.6	187.7

※ High school graduates' wages as a reference = 100

The results of this survey will be uploaded on the OECD website (www.oecd.org) in September. The Ministry of Education and the Korean Educational Development Institute plan to publish the translated version of the OECD Education at a Glance 2023 in December, and make it available

on the KEDI's education statistics website (<https://www.kess.kedi.re.kr>).

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