

Abstract: Finnish Education and Research Field Overview and Barometer 2019

This publication consists of two parts: a barometer and a field overview. A number of points have been selected from various statistics that have been compiled into the field overview. The points have mainly been selected from statistics compiled by Statistics Finland (<http://www.tilastokeskus.fi/>) and the OECD (<https://stats.oecd.org/>).

The material for **the barometer** was collected on forms from members of the Finnish Education Employers. Each private education provider has received one link. The representatives of the providers have been asked to assess the actualized and future developments (positive, no change, negative) according to certain criteria. The balance figure has been determined by subtracting the proportion of negative estimates from the positive estimates. Thus, the balance figure indicates the percentage difference between the positive and negative estimates. This time, the response was received from 106 private education providers (one third) between the middle to the end of September.

The general overview of the development of the past 12 months is considered to be weakening. Expectations of the general overview for the next 12 months are parallel to those that have actualized, but not as weakening as the development of the past.

As a whole, funding is perceived to have remained at its former level. More see funding as having decreased than increased in vocational education, basic education in the arts, and universities. Amongst general education and especially in universities of applied sciences, more have increased their overall funding than have decreased. The decrease in public funding has been patched up with other funding and income, especially in vocational education, non-formal adult education, and universities.

Expectations, in terms of overall funding and public funding, are stronger for the upcoming 12 months than were for the past 12 months. Approximately half of the respondents estimated that the funding will remain unchanged. Growth is expected, especially in universities and universities of applied sciences. On the other hand, the expectations were weaker when concerning public funding for vocational education and non-formal adult education specifically.

From the latest financial statements of the respondents, 35 % have been in surplus, 25% in balance, and 40 % in deficit.

Overall, the deficit has remained unchanged in the latest financial statements, when compared to the previous one. In relation to the deficit of the current fiscal year, attitudes are more pessimistic. 19 % of the respondents expect the surplus to increase or the deficit to decrease, instead of the actualized 30 %. On the other hand, those expecting an increase in the deficit or a decrease in the surplus are 26 %, instead of the actualized 29 %.

Out of the respondents, 38% reported an increased number of employees over the past 12 months and 16% reported a decrease. Growth has been more regular amongst education and research staff than with other staff.

Expectations of growth in staff over the upcoming 12 months are lower than what was actualized over the past 12 months.

Around half of all respondents see the need for the number of places available as having increased over the past 12 months in their educational structure and half also see the need to grow over the next 12 months. About 45 % have experienced the need for the number of

places available as having remained unchanged and see it as remaining so. The willingness and readiness to increase the number of places available is even more common than the need. 80 % of the respondents are ready to increase the number of places available, and the rest want that the number of places available is at least continued at the current level.

Out of the education institutions, roughly a fifth more have increased rather than decreased their student numbers over the past 12 months. The number of students has decreased in 19 % of the educational institutions. More common than the actualized growth will be increased or unchanged growth of the number of students over the next 12 months.

In addition to the themes mentioned above, the barometer has questioned the situation concerning collaboration with other educational and research organizations, enterprises, and other professional spheres, recruitment problems, investments, international students, and educational exports, in the recent past and near future.

The field overview highlights the latest statistics on education provider, funding and staff, students, access to studies, study progress, education level, employment, research and development activities. Three fresh studies concerning the fields of education and research are also brought up, which look at the impacts of the benefits gained from education and the changes in the accessibility of education.

At the end of 2018, there were 715 educational providers operating with 3 236 educational institutions. 184 000 people are employed in education, representing around 7.5 % of all those employed. Private education providers employ about a third of the personnel in education.

Currently, public investment in education is about 5.5 % of GDP and about 10.5 % of general government finances. As an estimate based on statistics, roughly 2 million Finns participate in education annually as degree students or adult students. If the education arranged by others and more non-formal forms of education, such as individual lectures and presentations, are taken into account, more than half of Finns educate themselves annually.

In 2017, only 0.4 % of those who completed their basic education did not immediately apply for further education. 6% did not continue to degree studies. 75 % of new high-school graduates applied for further education. However, 72 % did not continue with degree studies the year after graduating from high school. During the academic year 2016/2017, 6.1 % of the students discontinued their studies. However, 1 % applied to another educational sector.

At the end of 2018, of the population of people 15 years and over, 3 399 532, i.e. 73 % had completed a degree after the basic education. The proportion of graduates grew by one percentage point compared to the previous year. In Finland, the participation in education of people aged 25 to 64 is at the top level in Europe: 28.5 % of adults from that age group participated in education inside the four weeks preceding the study in 2018.

Research expenditure in higher education has more than doubled since the beginning of the millennium. The trend slowed between 2010 and 2016, but returned to growth in 2017. In 2018, research expenditure for higher education amounted to EUR 1.62 billion. 46 % of this funding came from the state budget and the remaining 52 % from external funding.

Overall, research and development expenditure amounted to EUR 6.4 billion in 2018. The ratio of research and development expenditure to GDP was 2.7 %. In 2018, 73 900 people were working in R&D, of whom 40 % were in the higher-education sector. A total of 65 % of companies employing at least 10 people carried out innovation activities between 2014 and 2016.