



A fiscal surplus of 17.2% resulted from one-off extraordinary revenues in Iceland in 2016

Estate contributions from banks involved in the country's financial crisis increased by 52% overall fiscal revenues, lifting the primary balance from +2.9% in 2015 to +20.6% in 2016. As growth recovered following the crisis, the structural primary balance – a measure that distinguishes between one-off operations, the economic cycle and long-term trends- also improved and was estimated at 5.1% of potential GDP for 2015.



Chapter 2. Public finance and economics

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

[General government primary balance and net interest spending as a percentage of GDP](#)

[General government structural primary balance as a percentage of potential GDP](#)

The central government workforce is ageing rapidly in Iceland

In 2015, the share of central government employees 55 years or older was 40%, a 7 p.p. increase since 2010. This calls for a careful workforce planning so that the mass retirement of employees will not result in loss of institutional memory or affect the quality of public services.



Chapter 3. Public employment and pay

[Percentage of central government employees aged 55 years or older](#)

Income inequality in Iceland, after taxes and transfers, is the lowest among OECD countries

The value of the Gini coefficient calculated after taxes and transfers amounted to 0.24 in Iceland in 2013, significantly lower than the OECD average of 0.32.. Most notably, between 2007 and 2013 post-tax and transfers income inequality decreased the most in Iceland among OECD countries: the Gini coefficient decreased from 0.29 to 0.24 during this period as the financial crisis reduced substantially the income of the individuals and households with the highest earnings.



Chapter 13. Core government results

[Differences in income inequality pre- and post-tax and government transfers](#)

How to read the figures:



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



Average of OECD countries
in **red**



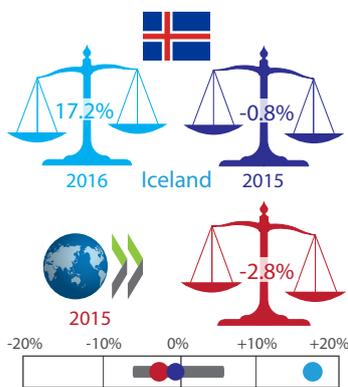
Range of OECD country
values in **grey**

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

Public Finance and Economics

Fiscal balance* (2015, 2016)

% of GDP

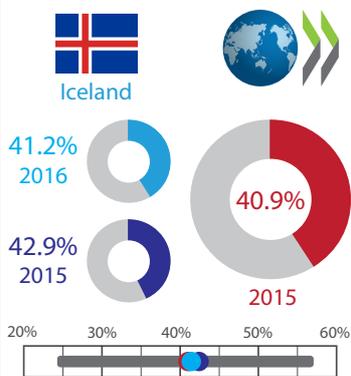


* See Notes

Source: OECD National Accounts

Government expenditures (2015, 2016)

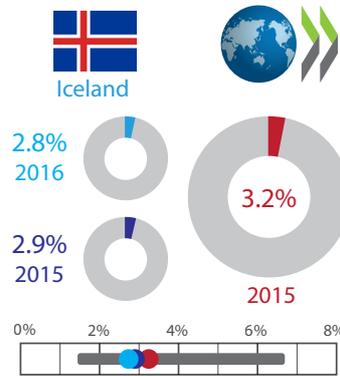
% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts

Government investment (2015, 2016)

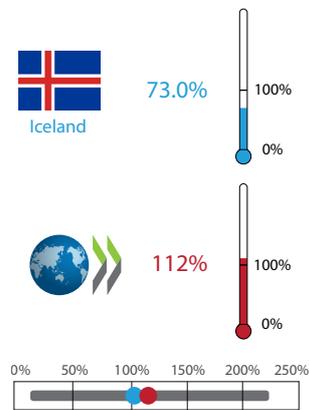
% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts

Government gross debt* (2015)

% of GDP

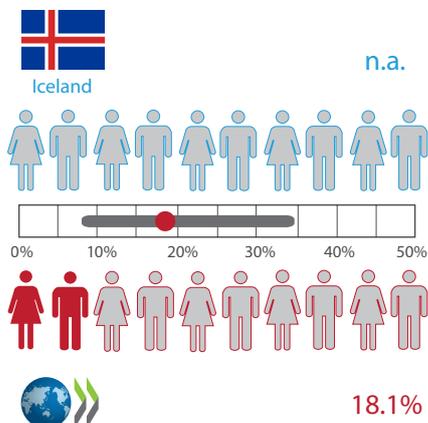


* SNA definition, see Notes

Source: OECD National Accounts

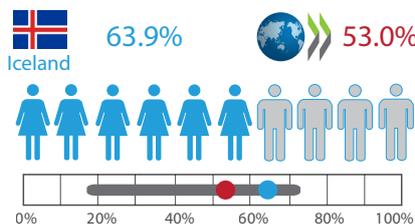
Public Employment

General government employment as % of total employment (2015)

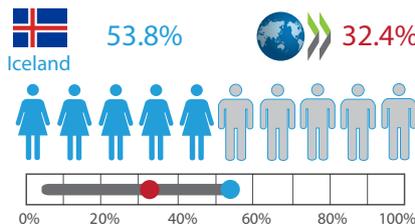


Source: OECD National Accounts

Women in the civil service ...

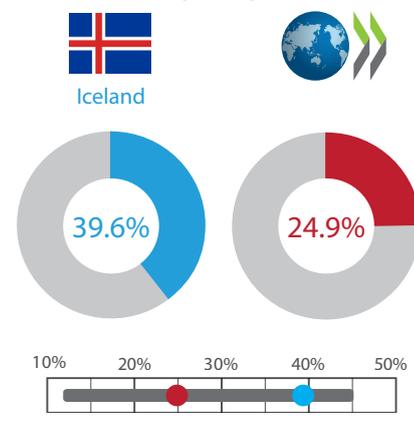


... and in senior positions (2015)



Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the Composition of the workforce in Central/federal Governments

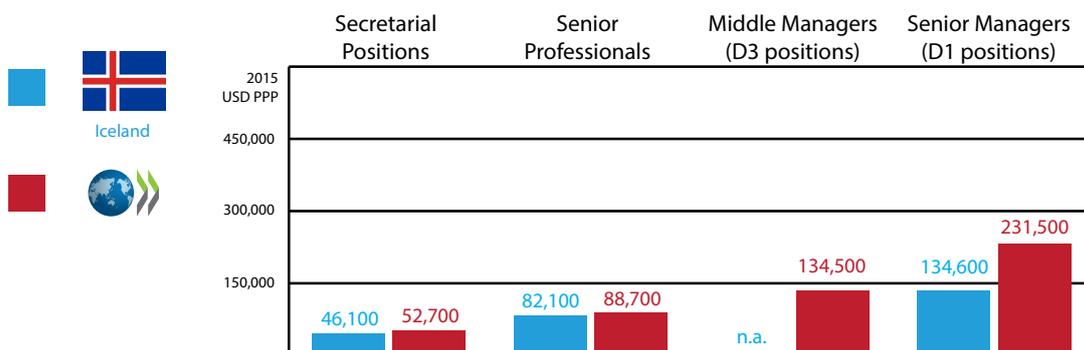
Percentage of central government employees aged 55 years or older (2015)



Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the Composition of the workforce in Central/federal Governments

Public Sector Compensation

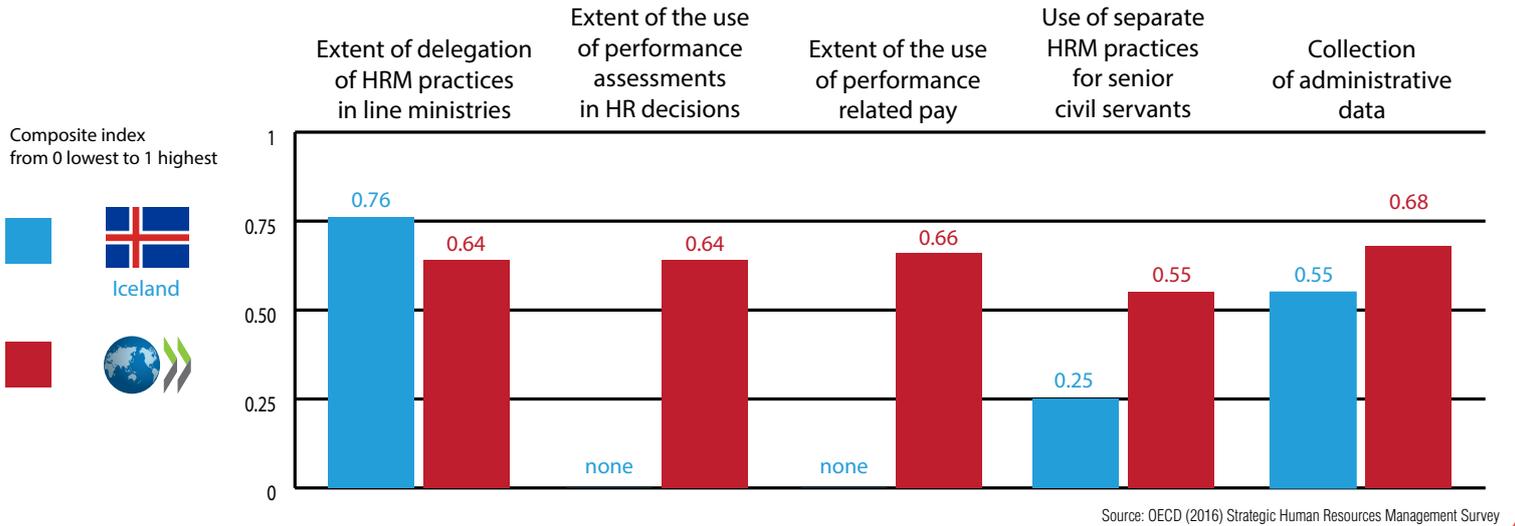
Annual compensation across central government positions (2015)



Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the compensation of employees in central / federal governments

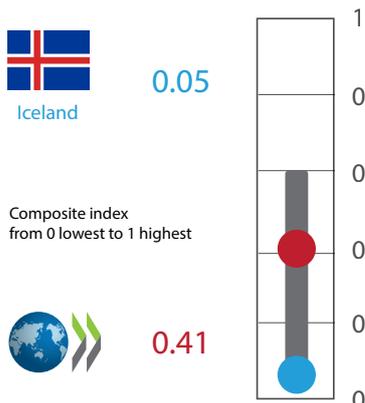
Human Resource Management

Composite indicators on HRM practices in central government (2016)



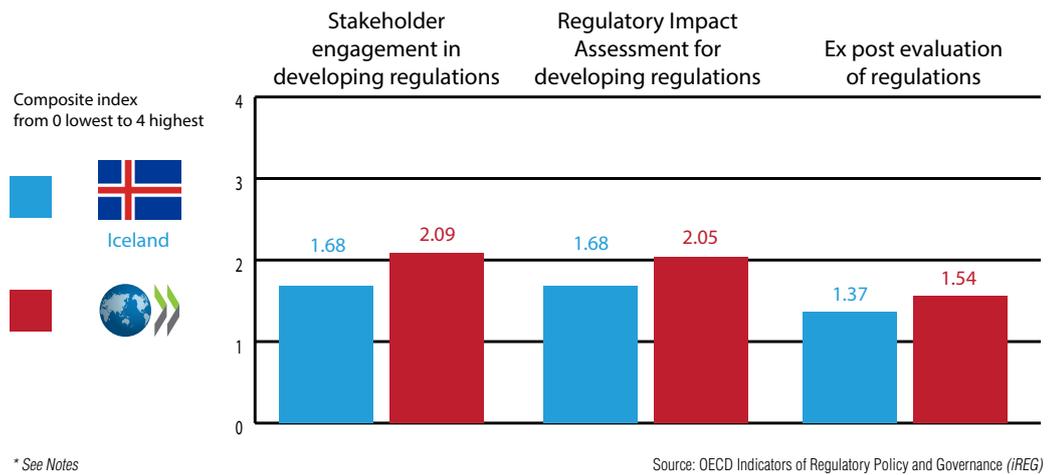
Budgeting

Performance budgeting practices at the central level of government (2016)



Regulatory governance

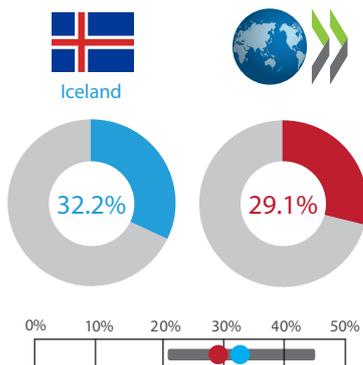
Composite indices on regulatory governance for primary laws* (2014)



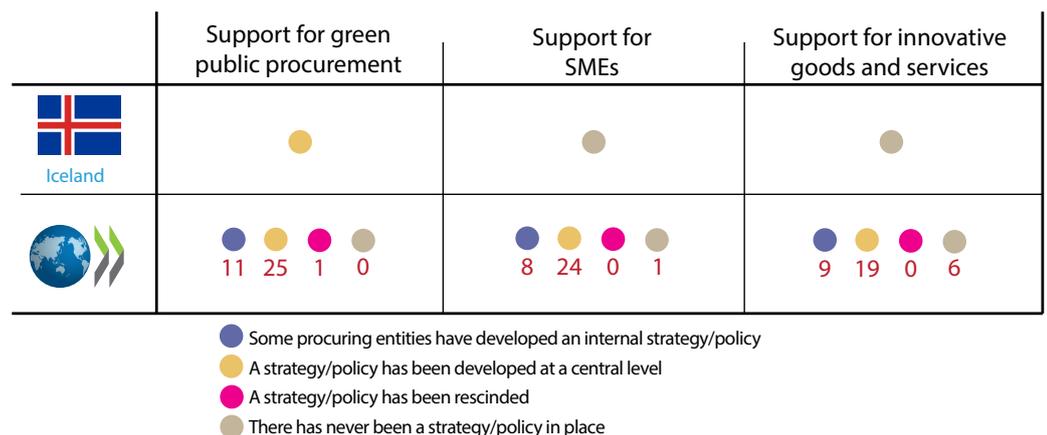
Public Procurement

General government procurement expenditures (2015)

% of government expenditures



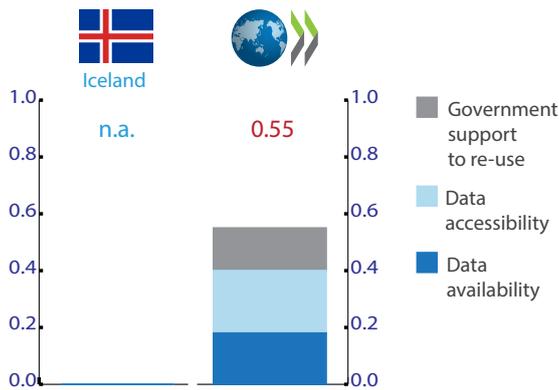
Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2016)



Open Data

OURdata Index: Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data (2017)

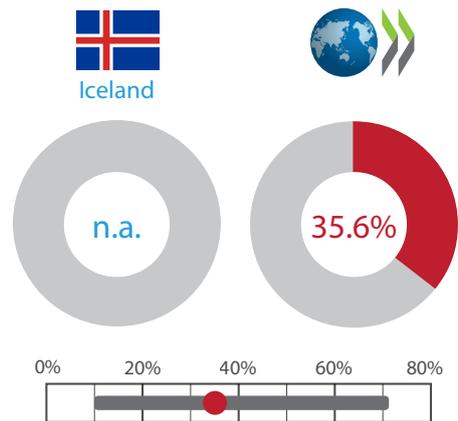
Composite index: from 0 lowest to 1 highest



Source: OECD (2017) Survey on Open Government Data

Digital Government

Individuals using the Internet for sending filled forms via public authorities websites in the past 12 months (2016)

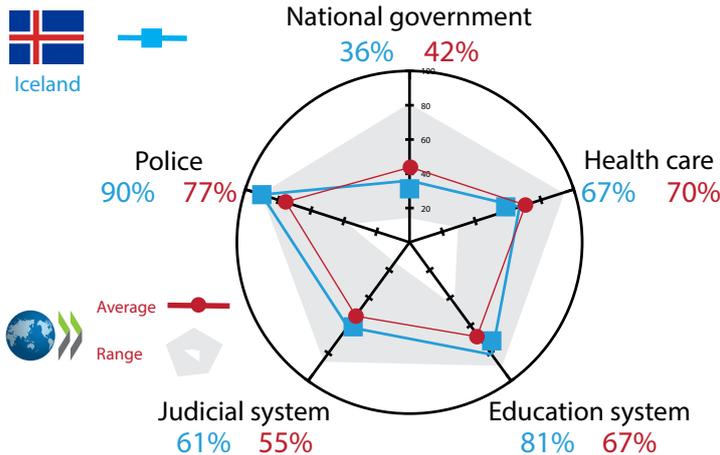


Source: OECD, ICT database; and Eurostat, Information Society database

Core Government Results

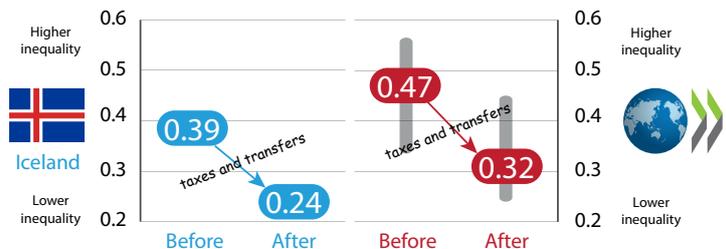
Satisfaction and confidence across public services (2016)

% of citizens expressing confidence/satisfaction



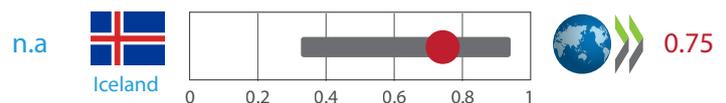
Source: Gallup World Poll

Differences in income inequality pre and post-tax and government transfers (2013)



Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

Limited government powers (2016)



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.
- Regulatory governance indicators:** The results for stakeholder engagement and Regulatory Impact Assessment apply exclusively to processes for developing primary laws initiated by the executive. Data is not applicable to the United States, where all primary laws are initiated by Congress. In the majority of countries, most primary laws are initiated by the executive, except for Mexico and Korea, where a higher share of primary laws are initiated by parliament/congress (respectively 90.6% and 84%).
- 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 2017

Government at a Glance provides readers with a dashboard of key indicators assembled with the goal of contributing to the analysis and international comparison of public sector productivity and performance. Indicators on government revenues, expenditures, and employment are presented, alongside key output and outcome data for education, health and justice. Information on key enablers to increase productivity including on digital government, budget procedures, strategic human resource management, open government data and innovative practices are also included. In a context of tight budget constraints in many member countries, good indicators are needed more than ever, in order to help governments make informed decisions regarding resource allocation and to help restore confidence in government institutions.

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in *Government at a Glance 2017* are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication:

http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2017-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

