

Greece



Greece achieved its first fiscal surplus in 2016 since the crisis

Since 2009, Greece has been mired in a deep fiscal and economic crisis, yet in 2016 the country registered a positive fiscal balance of 0.7% of GDP, as economic growth was positive and fiscal consolidation continued. The composition of government expenditures has also changed: between 2007 and 2015, government expenditures as a share of GDP in health care decreased by -1.5 p.p., from 6.8% to 5.3% of GDP, while general government services, which include debt servicing, decreased by -1.8 p.p., from 11.7% to 9.9% of GDP following adjustment programs. Over this period government spending in defence, housing and community amenities remained unchanged as a share of GDP, while expenditures in social protection and economic affairs increased by 4.8 p.p. and 4.7 p.p. respectively.



Chapter 2. Public finance and economics

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

[Change in the structure of general government expenditures by function](#)

Greece has started to conduct public spending reviews

Given the economic crisis originated in unsustainable public spending, between 2008 and 2016 Greece conducted 2 comprehensive spending reviews. Comprehensive spending reviews can cover 20 to 100% of all public expenditures, and often involve an evaluation of programme efficiency in order to help prioritise resources in a way that improve the effectiveness and sustainability of public spending.



Chapter 5. Budgeting practices and procedures

[Frequency and scope of spending reviews](#)

Government employment has decreased substantially since the beginning of the crisis in Greece

As part of fiscal consolidation, a substantial reduction in employment in general government was implemented after the crisis erupted in 2007. Although employment reduction started slowly, as between 2007 and 2009 government employment fell by close to 1%, annually between 2011 and 2012 government employment fell by 7%. In contrast, government employment grew by 0.6% between 2007 and 2009 annually on average across all OECD countries, and decreased by 0.4% on average between 2011 and 2012 when the sovereign debt crisis occurred. From 2014 to 2015 there has been no change in government employment in Greece while on average in the OECD government employment increased by 0.5%.



Chapter 3. Public employment and pay

[Annual growth rate of government employment](#)

How to read the figures:



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



Average of OECD countries
in **red**



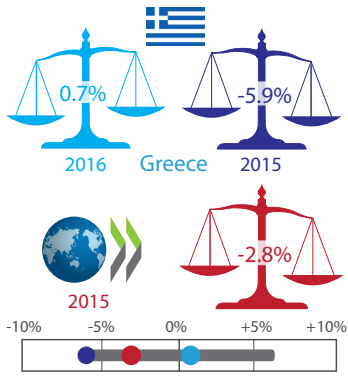
Range of OECD country
values in **grey**

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

Public Finance and Economics

Fiscal balance* (2015, 2016)

% of GDP

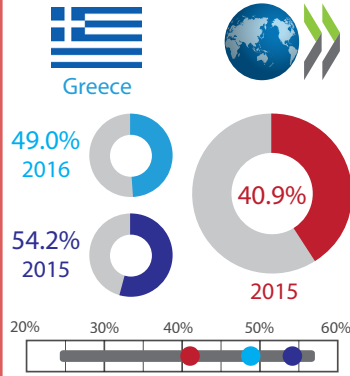


* See Notes

Source: OECD National Accounts

Government expenditures (2015, 2016)

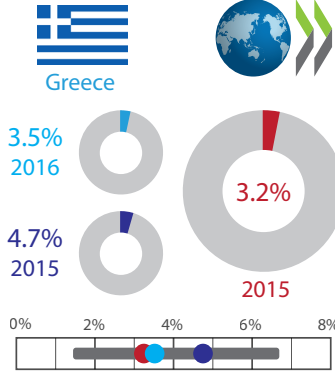
% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts

Government investment (2015, 2016)

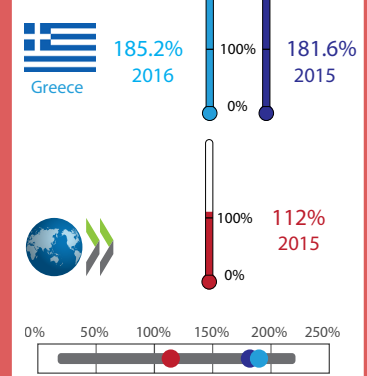
% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts

Government gross debt* (2015, 2016)

% of GDP

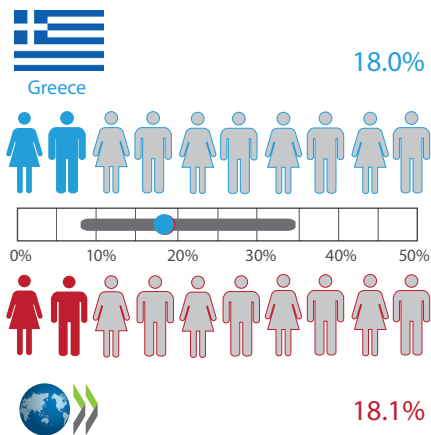


* SNA definition, see Notes

Source: OECD National Accounts

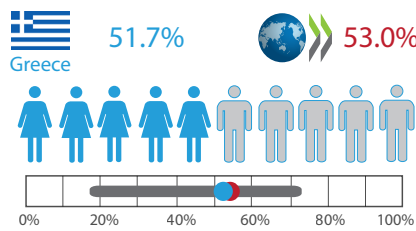
Public Employment

General government employment as % of total employment (2015)

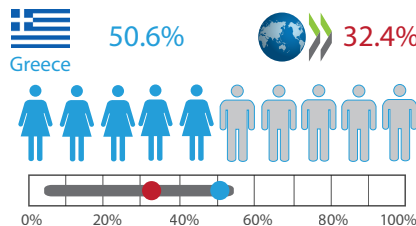


Source: OECD National Accounts

Women in the civil service ...

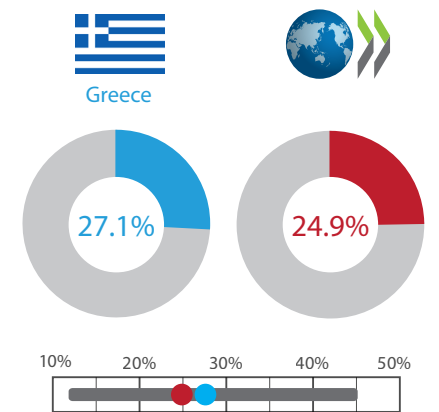


... and in senior positions (2015)



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

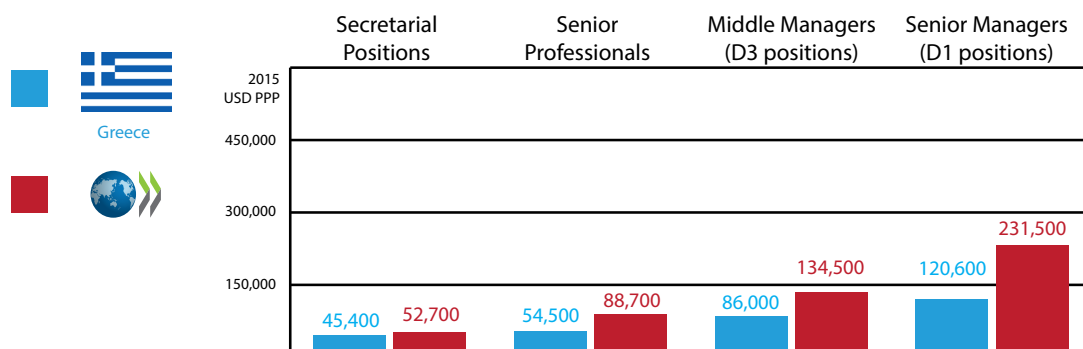
Percentage of central government employees aged 55 years or older (2015)



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

Public Sector Compensation

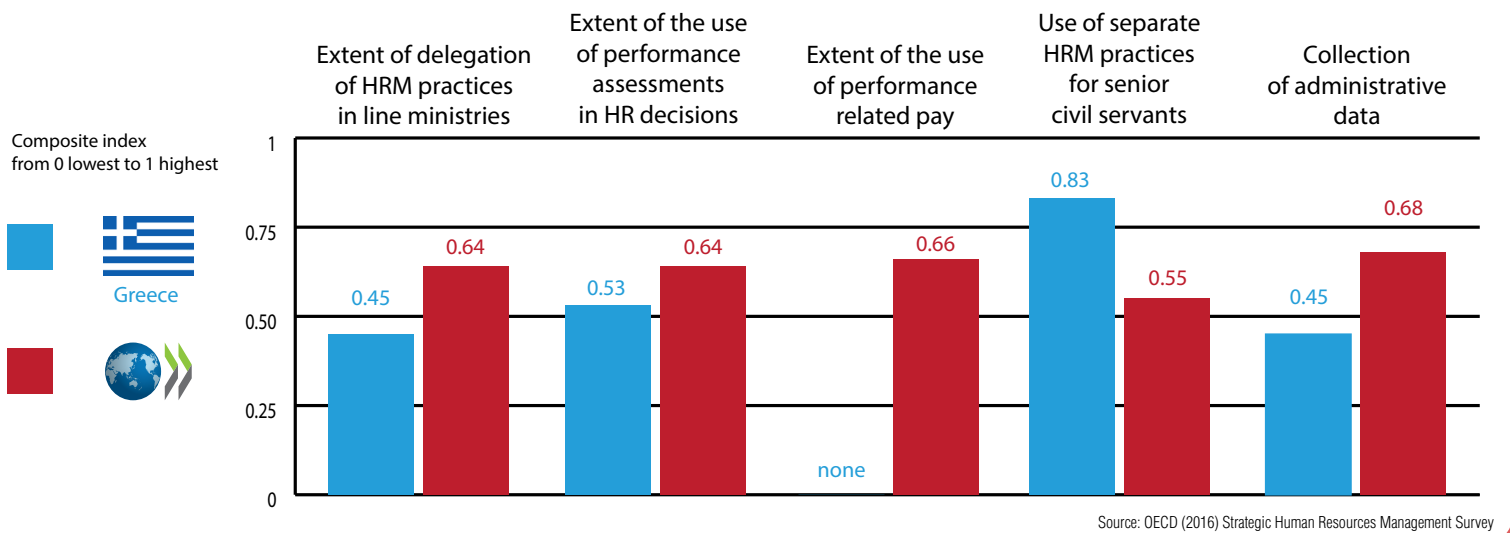
Annual compensation across central government positions (2015)



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

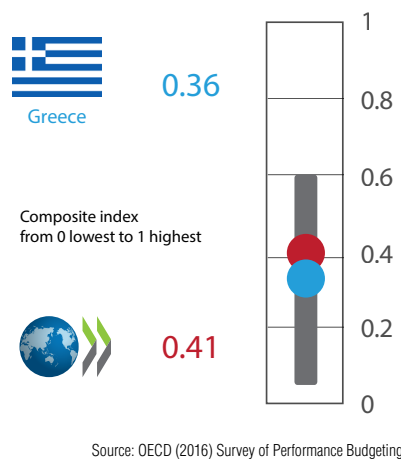
Human Resource Management

Composite indicators on HRM practices in central government (2016)



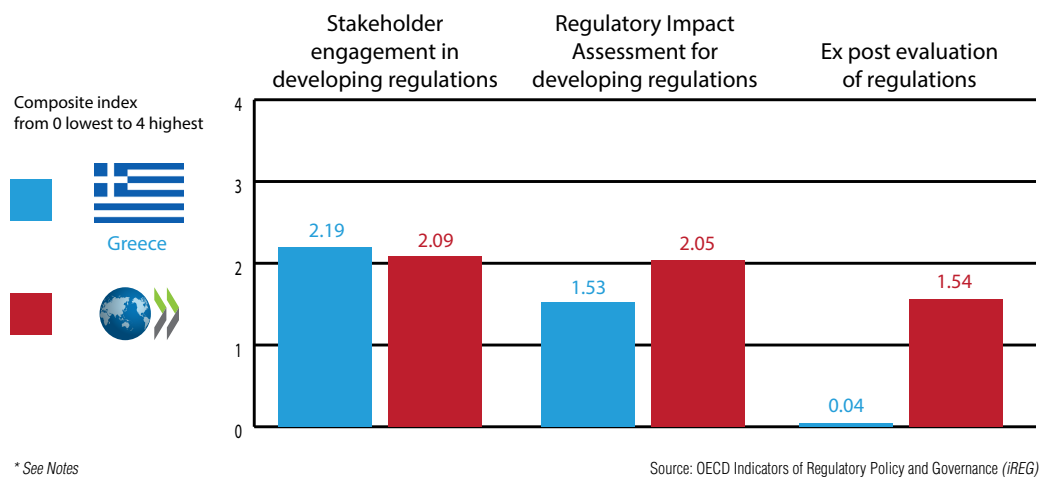
Budgeting

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



Regulatory governance

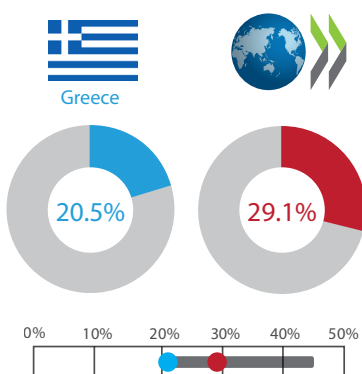
Composite indices on regulatory governance for primary laws* (2014)



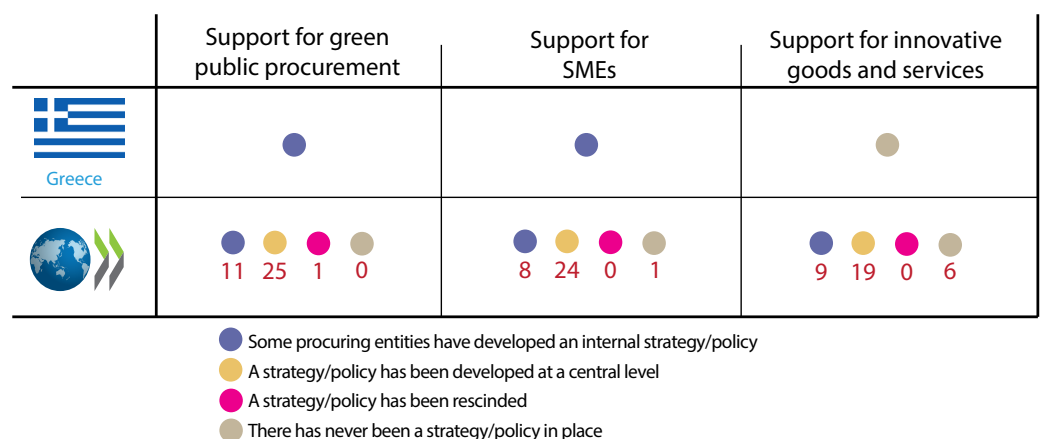
Public Procurement

General government procurement expenditures (2015)

% of government expenditures



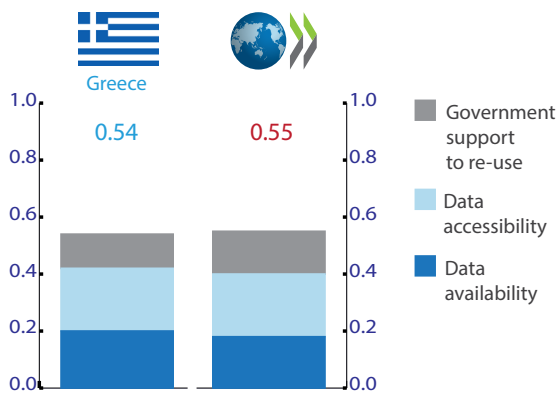
Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2016)



Open Data

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

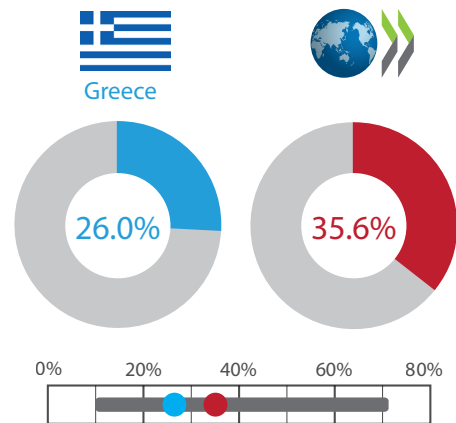
Composite index: from 0 lowest to 1 highest



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)

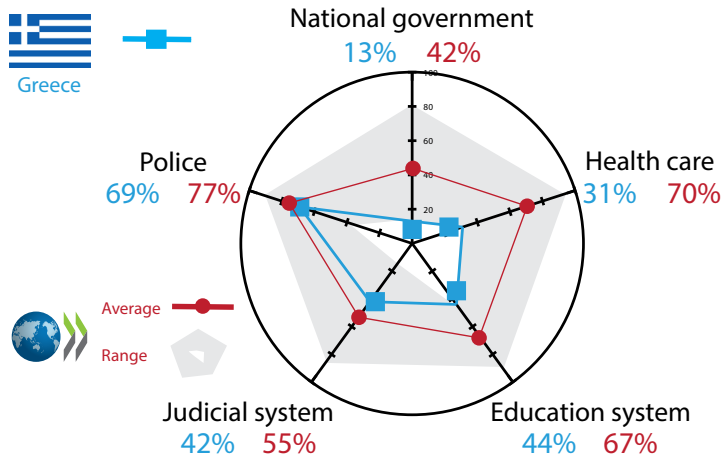


Source: OECD, ICT database; and Eurostat, Information Society database

Core Government Results

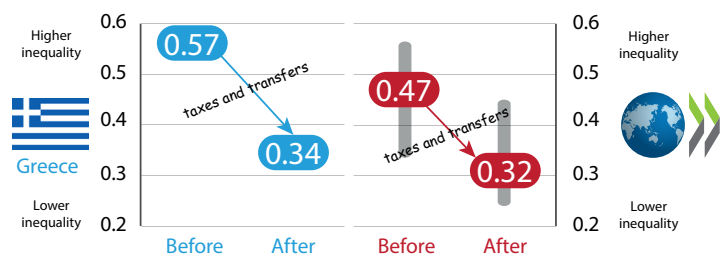
Satisfaction and confidence across public services (2016)

% of citizens expressing confidence/satisfaction



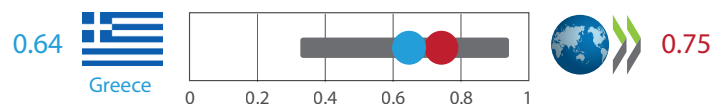
Source: Gallup World Poll

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

