

# Finland



### Finland has the second-highest public spending as a share of GDP among OECD countries

The fiscal balance in Finland in 2015 reached a deficit of 2.7% of GDP in 2015, close to the -2.8% average level among OECD countries for that year. Between 2009 and 2015, government expenditures have increased by 9.3 p.p., from 46.8% of GDP to 56.1%, making Finland the country with second-highest public spending levels. During the same period, revenues increased only by 2 p.p. from 52.2% of GDP to 54.2%. Because of this, the fiscal balance continue to be in deficit in 2016 and the structural primary balances, have been estimated by the OECD to remain in deficit as well in 2017 and 2018.



Chapter 2. Public finance and economics

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

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

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

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

### Finland has used spending review to help prioritize public expenditures after the financial crisis

The comprehensive spending review it undertook in 2015 helped identify consolidation measures that would reduce public expenditures and increase revenues.



Chapter 5. Budgeting practices and procedures

[Frequency and scope of spending reviews](#)

### Trust in the government decreased significantly in Finland

The percentage of citizens expressing confidence in government decreased by close to 30 p.p. between 2007 and 2016, a period covering the economic downturns in 2009 and between 2012 and 2014. Even though confidence in government remains at around 50%, well above the OECD average of 42%, this decline in Finland has been the largest among OECD countries in this period.



Chapter 13. Core government results

[Confidence in national government in 2016 and its change since 2007](#)

## How to read the figures:



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



Average of OECD countries  
in **red**



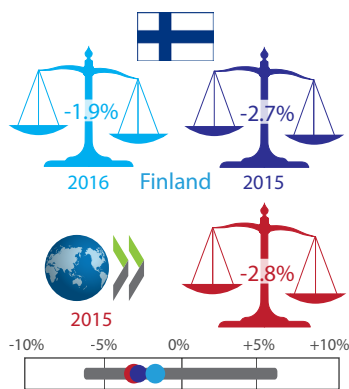
Range of OECD country  
values in **grey**

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

## Public Finance and Economics

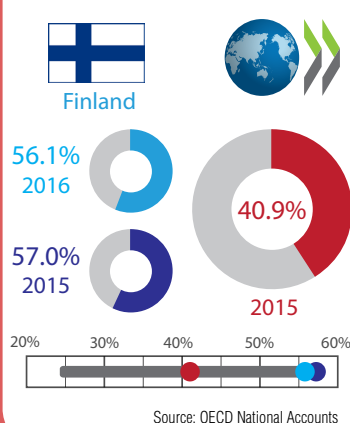
### Fiscal balance\* (2015, 2016)

% of GDP



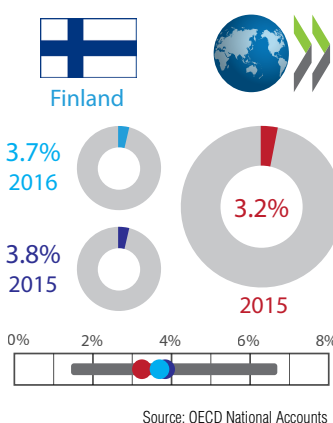
### Government expenditures (2015, 2016)

% of GDP



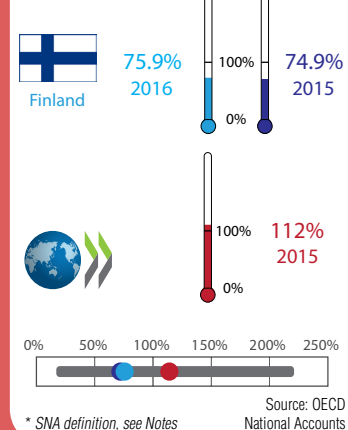
### Government investment (2015, 2016)

% of GDP



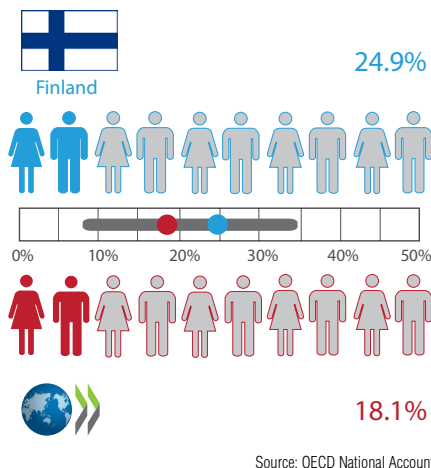
### Government gross debt\* (2015, 2016)

% of GDP

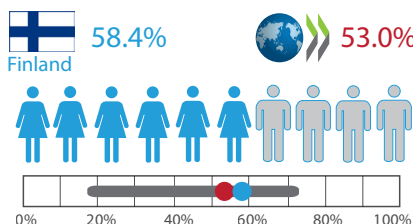


## Public Employment

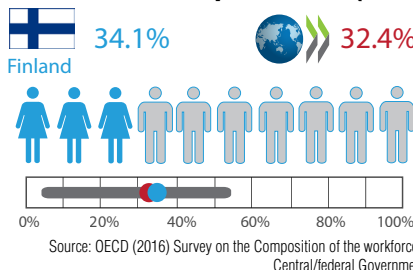
### General government employment as % of total employment (2015)



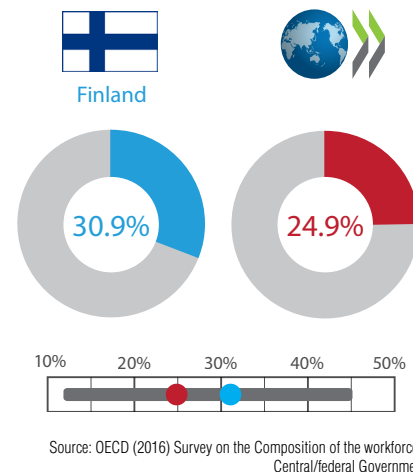
### Women in the civil service ...



### ... and in senior positions (2015)

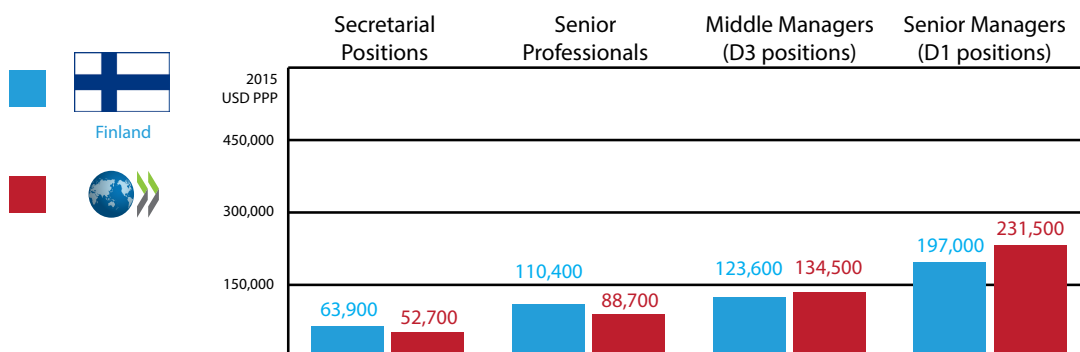


### Percentage of central government employees aged 55 years or older (2015)



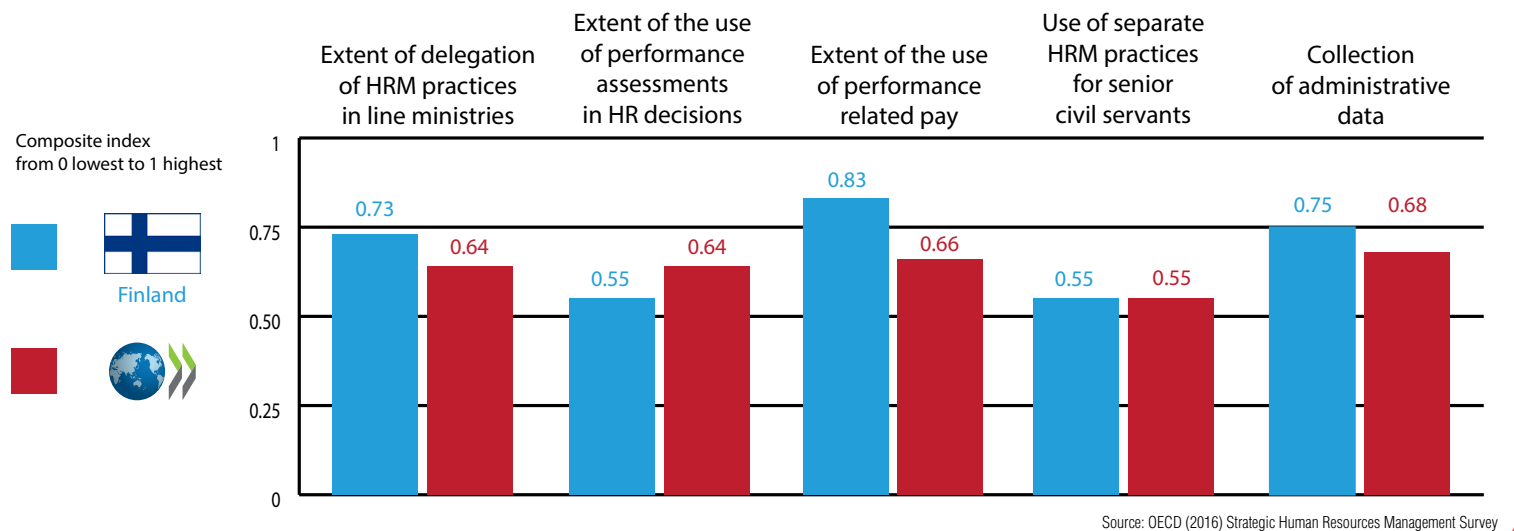
## Public Sector Compensation

### Annual compensation across central government positions (2015)



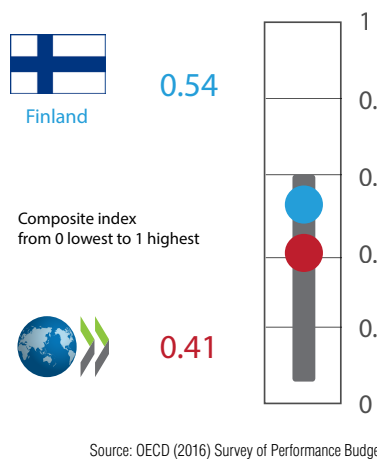
# Human Resource Management

## Composite indicators on HRM practices in central government (2016)



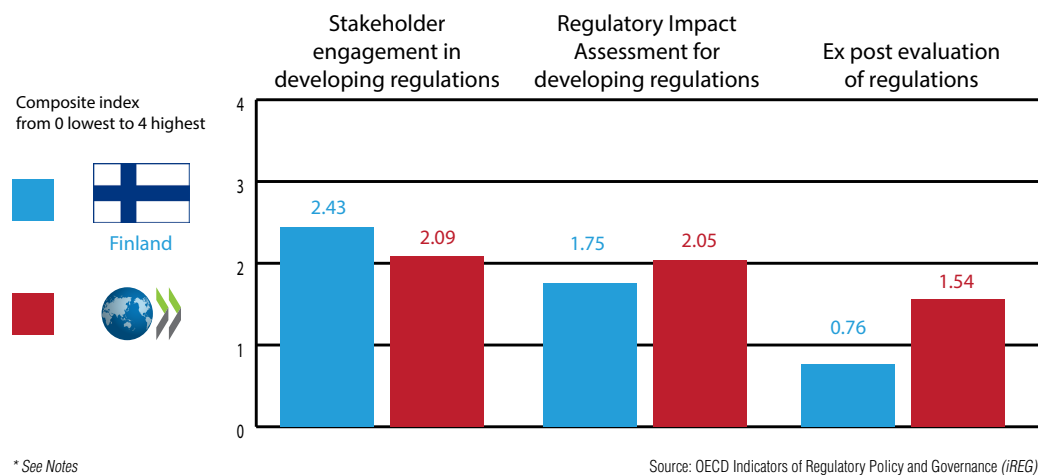
## Budgeting

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



## Regulatory governance

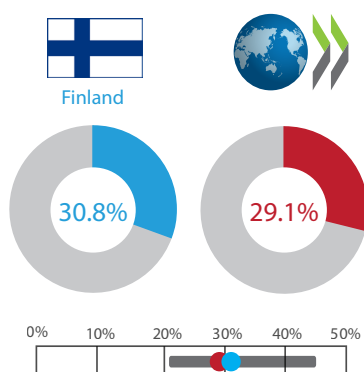
### Composite indices on regulatory governance for primary laws\* (2014)



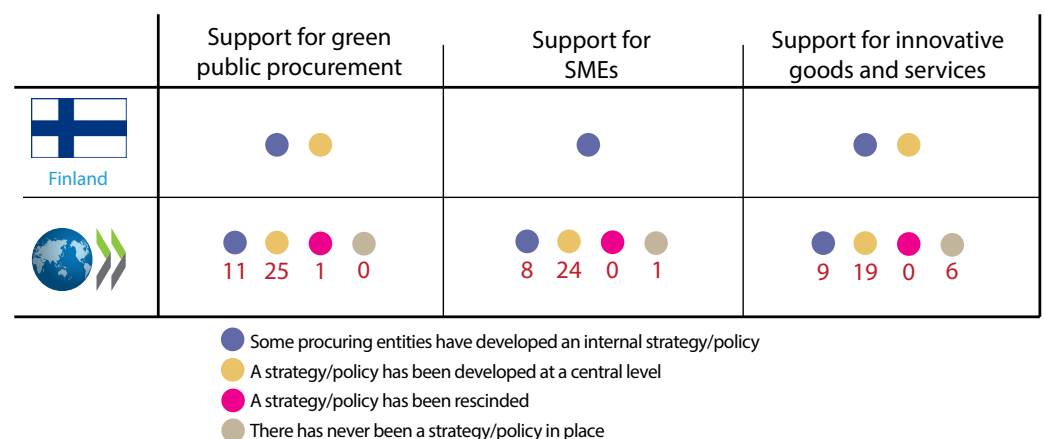
## Public Procurement

### General government procurement expenditures (2015)

% of government expenditures



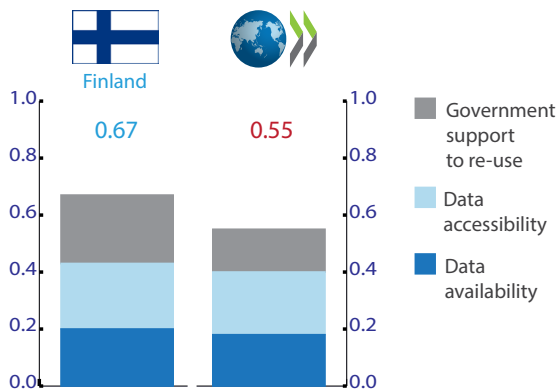
### Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2016)



## Open Data

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

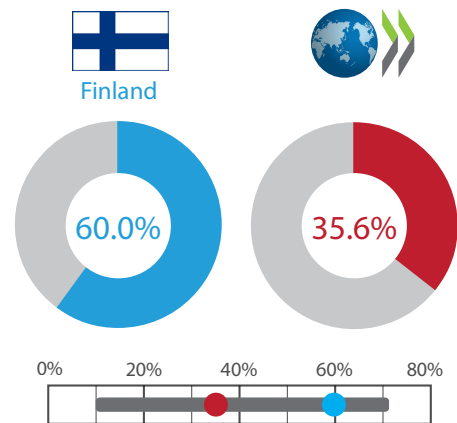
Composite index: from 0 lowest to 1 highest



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)

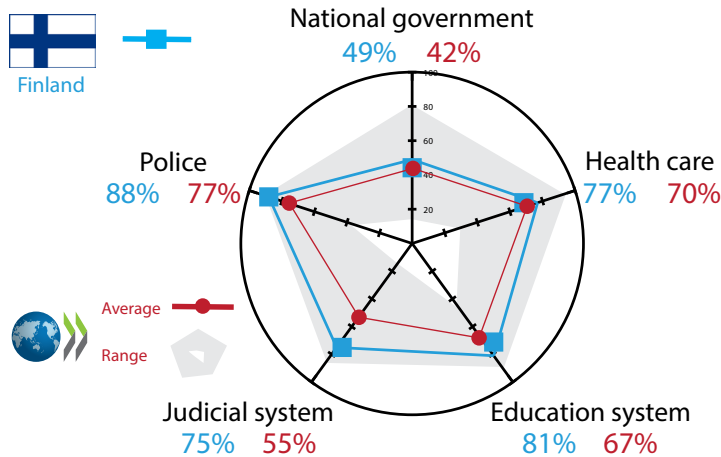


Source: OECD, ICT database; and Eurostat, Information Society database

## Core Government Results

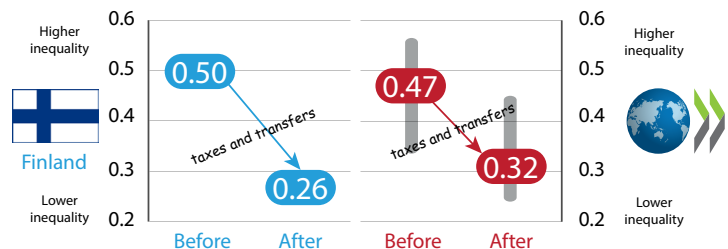
### Satisfaction and confidence across public services (2016)

% of citizens expressing confidence/satisfaction



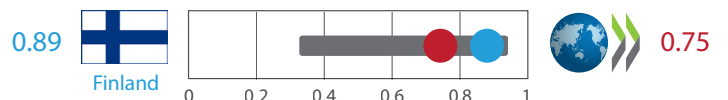
Source: Gallup World Poll

### 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](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](http://www.oecd.org/gov/ataglance.htm)

