

Education at a Glance 2025

Highlights for Latvia

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Presentation outline



Tertiary attainment and labour market outcomes



Adult skills



International student mobility



Investment in education



Teaching workforce



Demographic trends

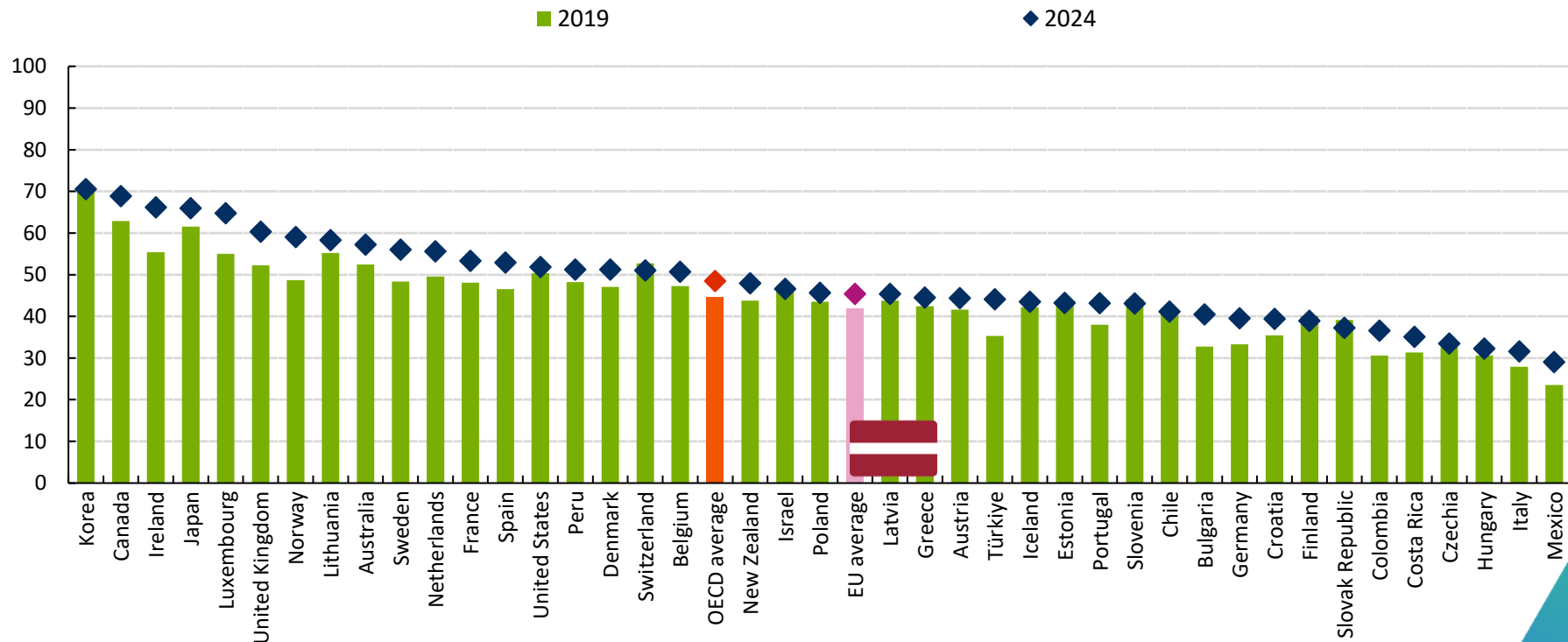
1

**Tertiary attainment is increasing, with notable variation
in qualification types and labour market outcomes**



The share of young adults with tertiary attainment is increasing slowly...

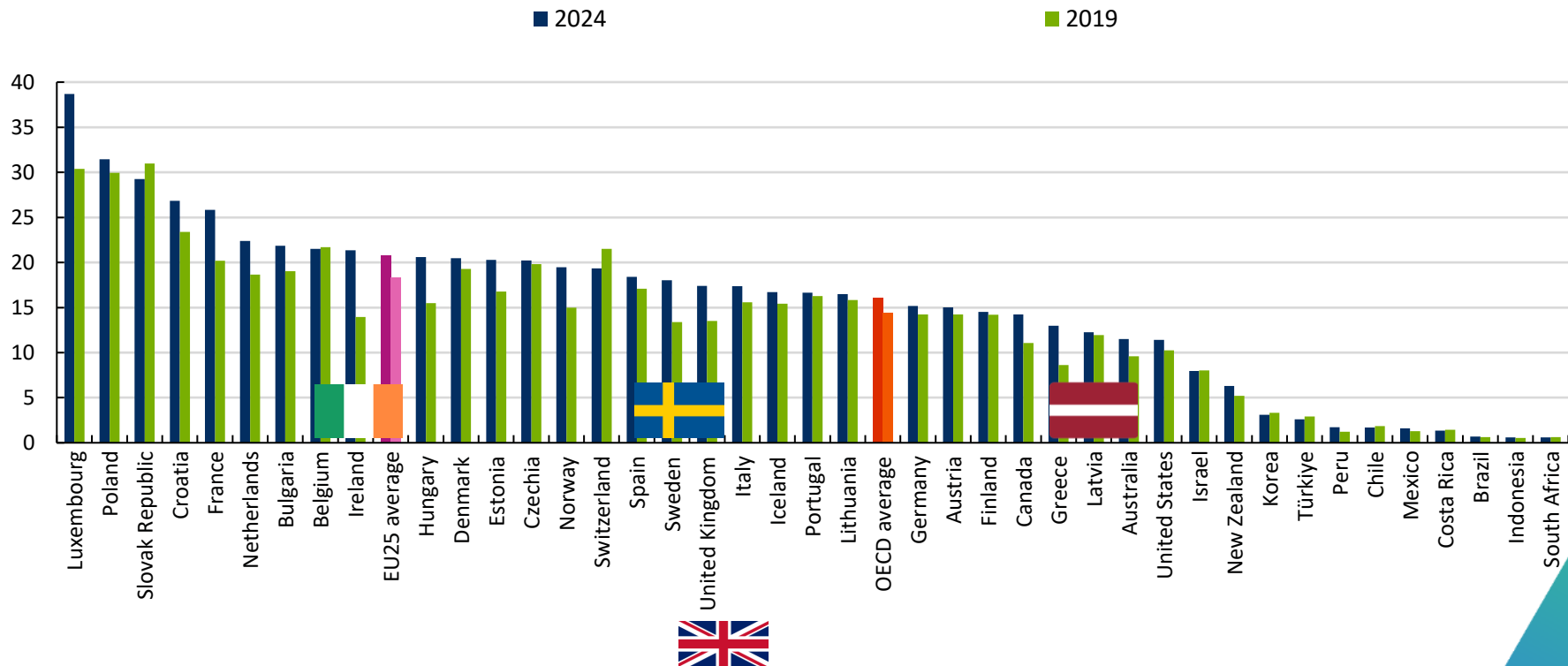
Trends in the share of 25-34 year-olds with tertiary attainment (2019 and 2024)





...while the share with a master's degree has stagnated in Latvia

Trends in the share of 25-34 year-olds with a master's or equivalent degree (2019 and 2024)





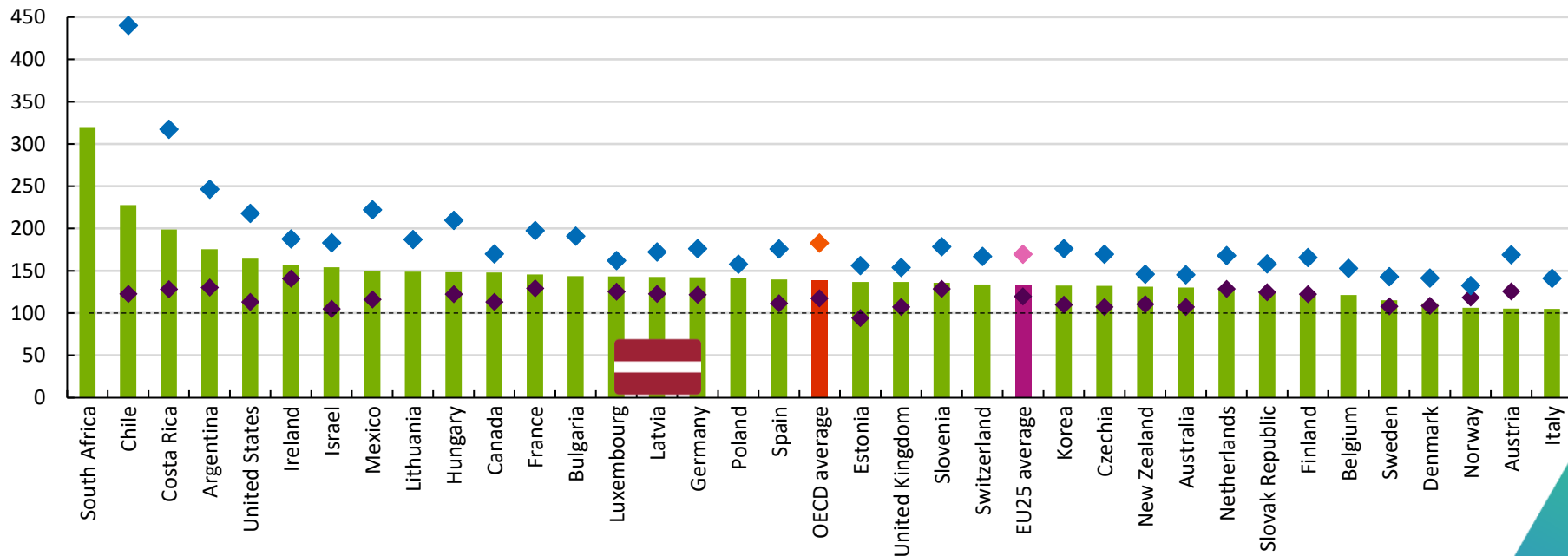
Higher levels of tertiary qualifications are associated with higher earnings

Relative earnings of tertiary-educated workers, by level of educational attainment (2023)

■ Bachelor's

◆ Short-cycle tertiary

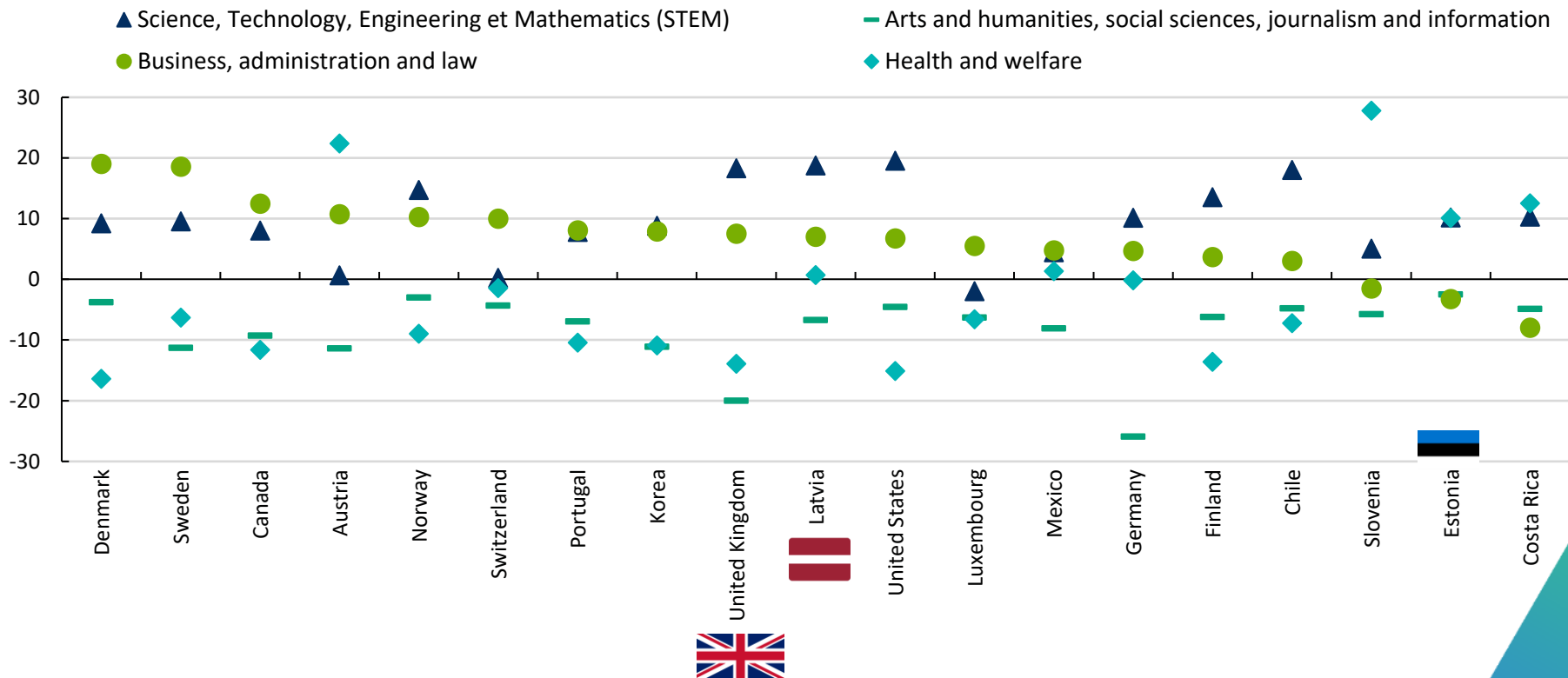
◆ Master's and doctoral





STEM graduates earning the most in Latvia, as in many other countries

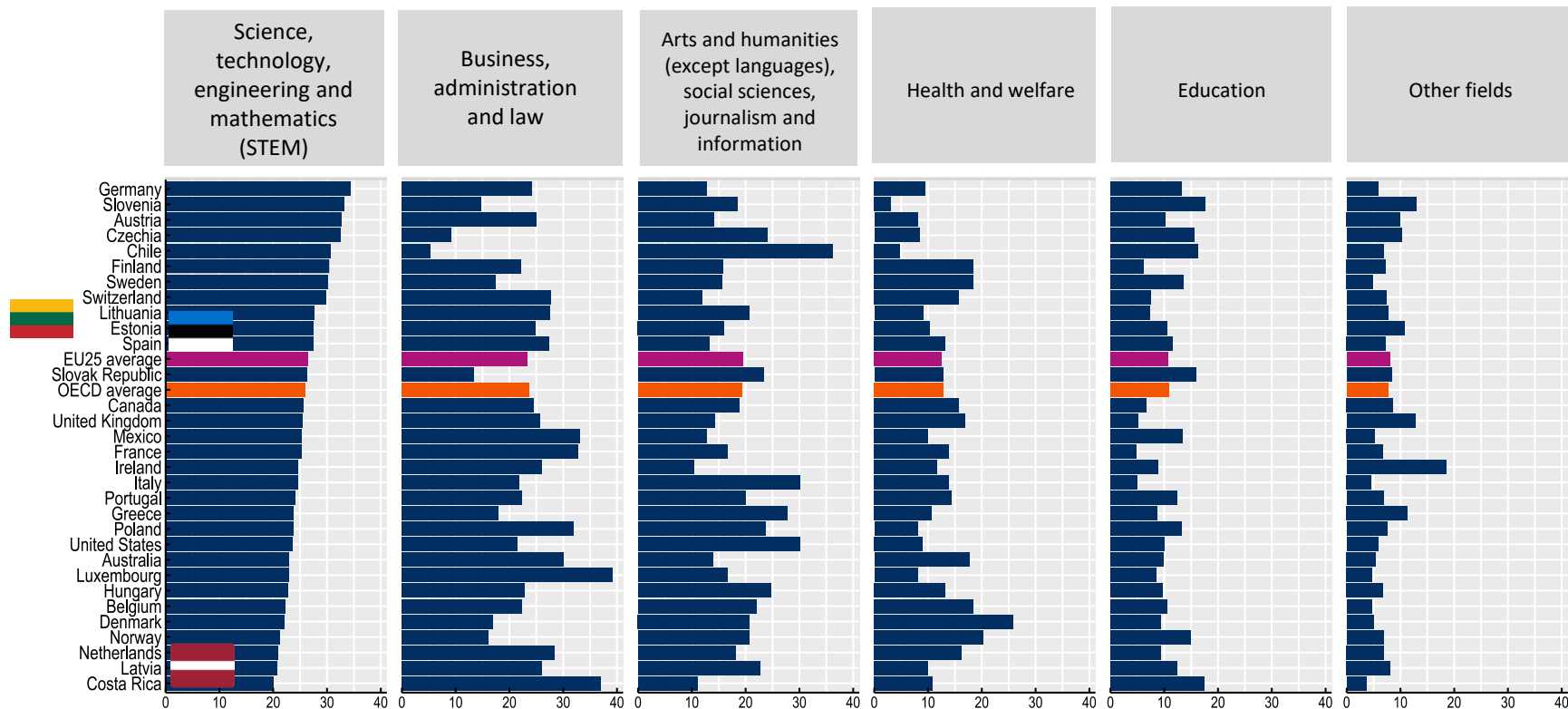
Relative earnings of tertiary-educated adults, by field of study (2023)





Attainment in STEM fields in Latvia is lower than in neighbouring countries

Field of study among 25-64 year old tertiary-educated adults (2024)



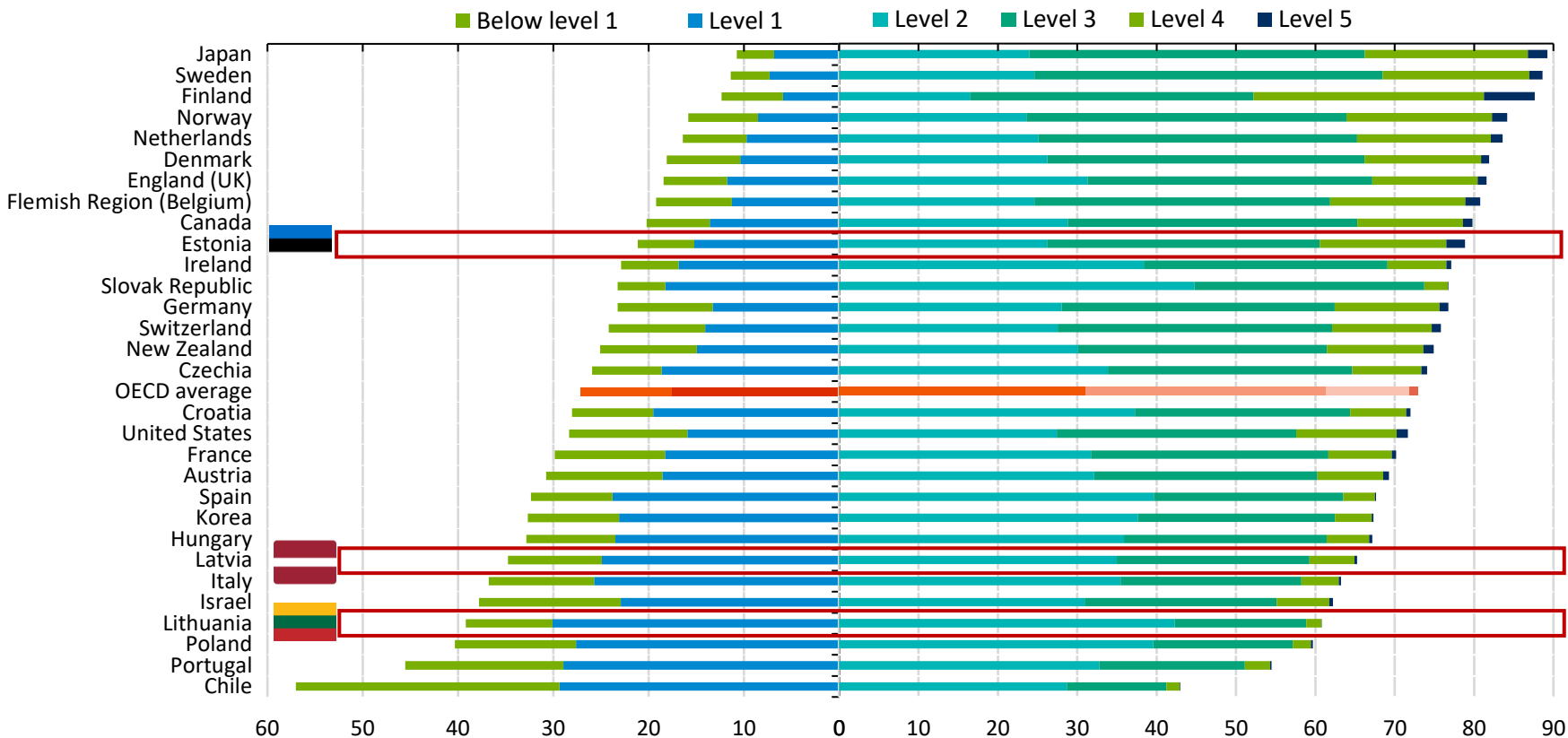
2

**Skills tend to rise with attainment, yet gaps
remain across groups**



A large share of adults has low literacy skills

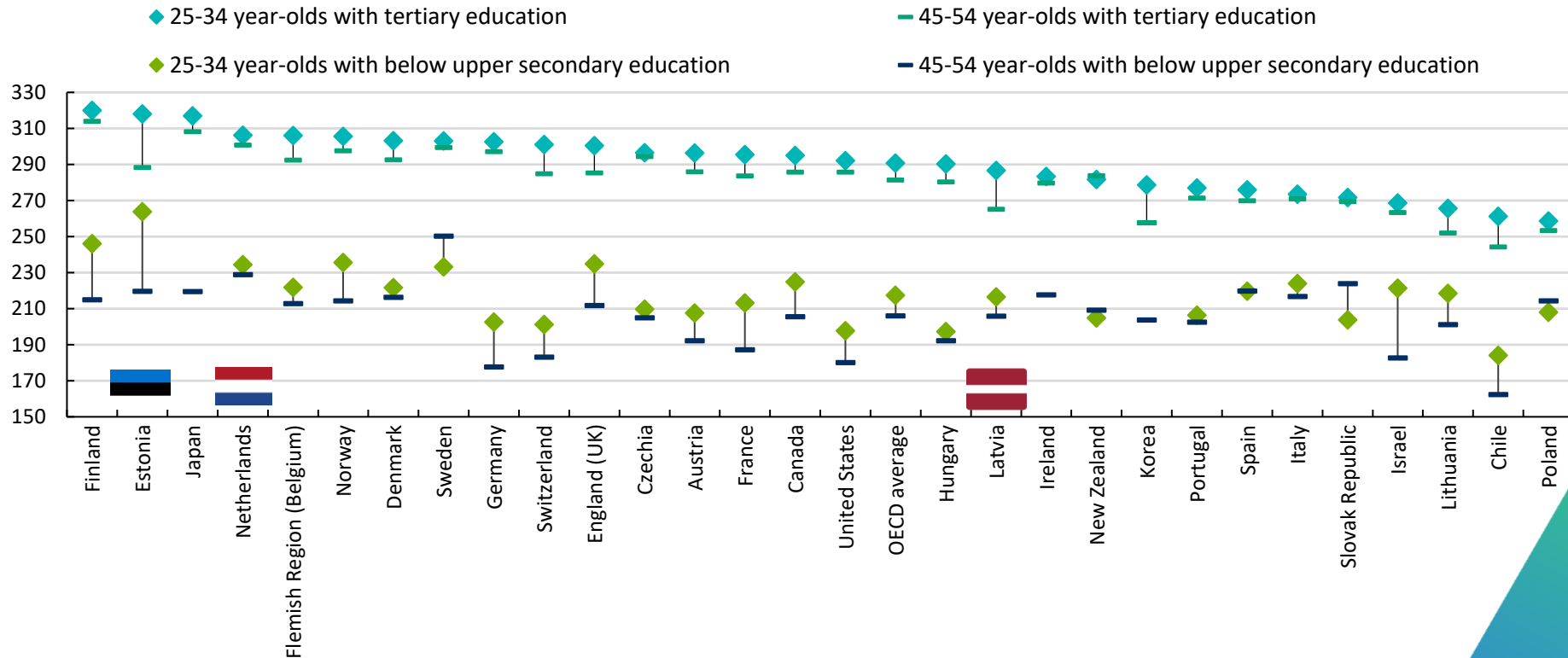
Proficiency in literacy among adults (2023)





Younger adults tend to have slightly higher skill levels

Adults' mean literacy proficiency, by educational attainment and age group (2023)



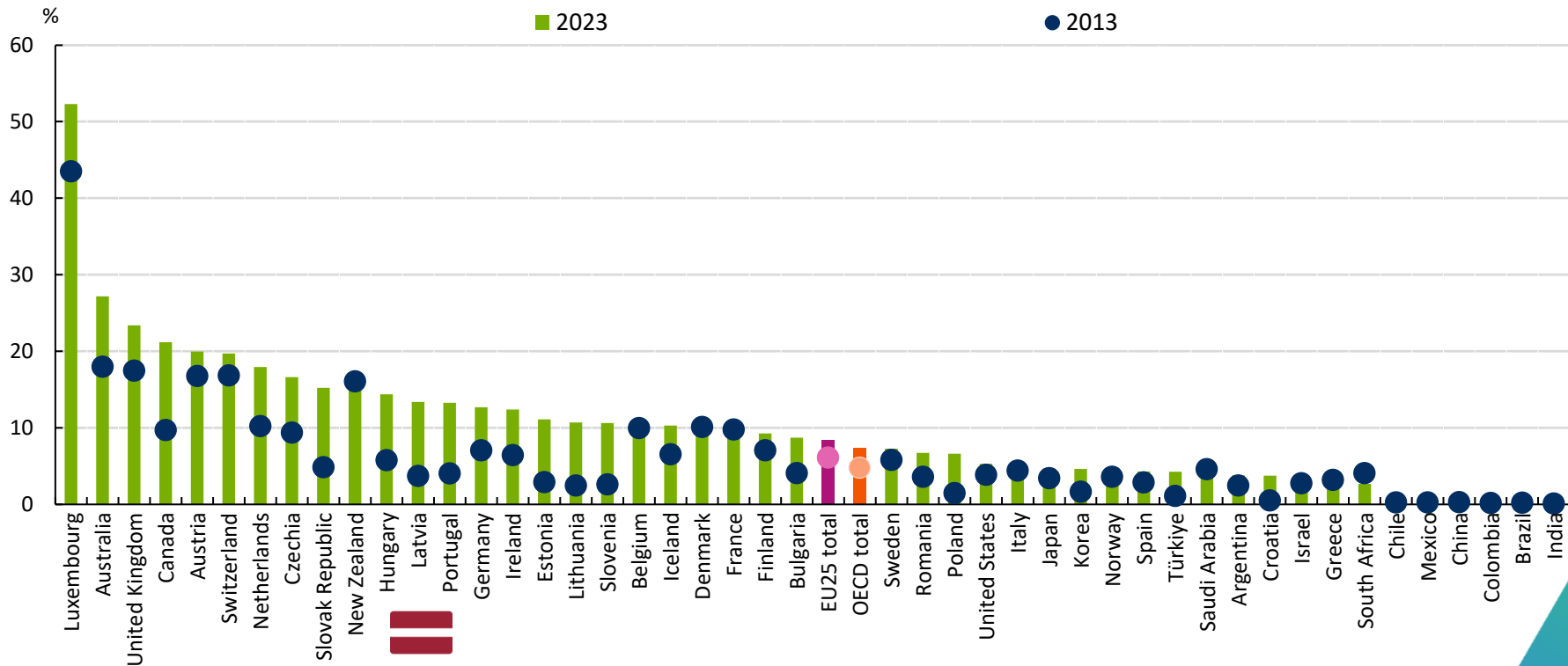
3

**International student mobility is rising,
despite high tuition costs for foreign students**



International student mobility continues to increase almost everywhere...

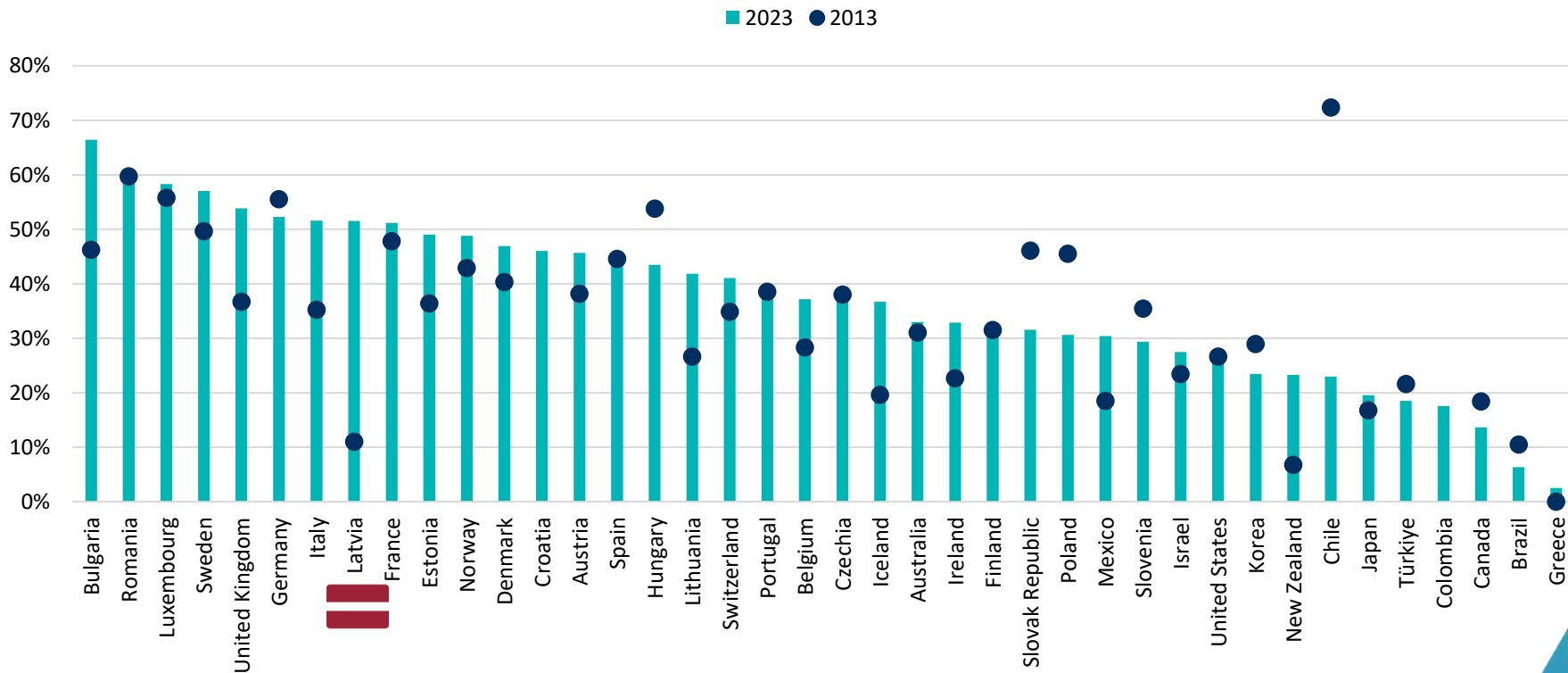
Trends in the share of international or foreign students in tertiary education (2013 and 2023)





...this increase is very prominent for international students in master's programmes in Latvia

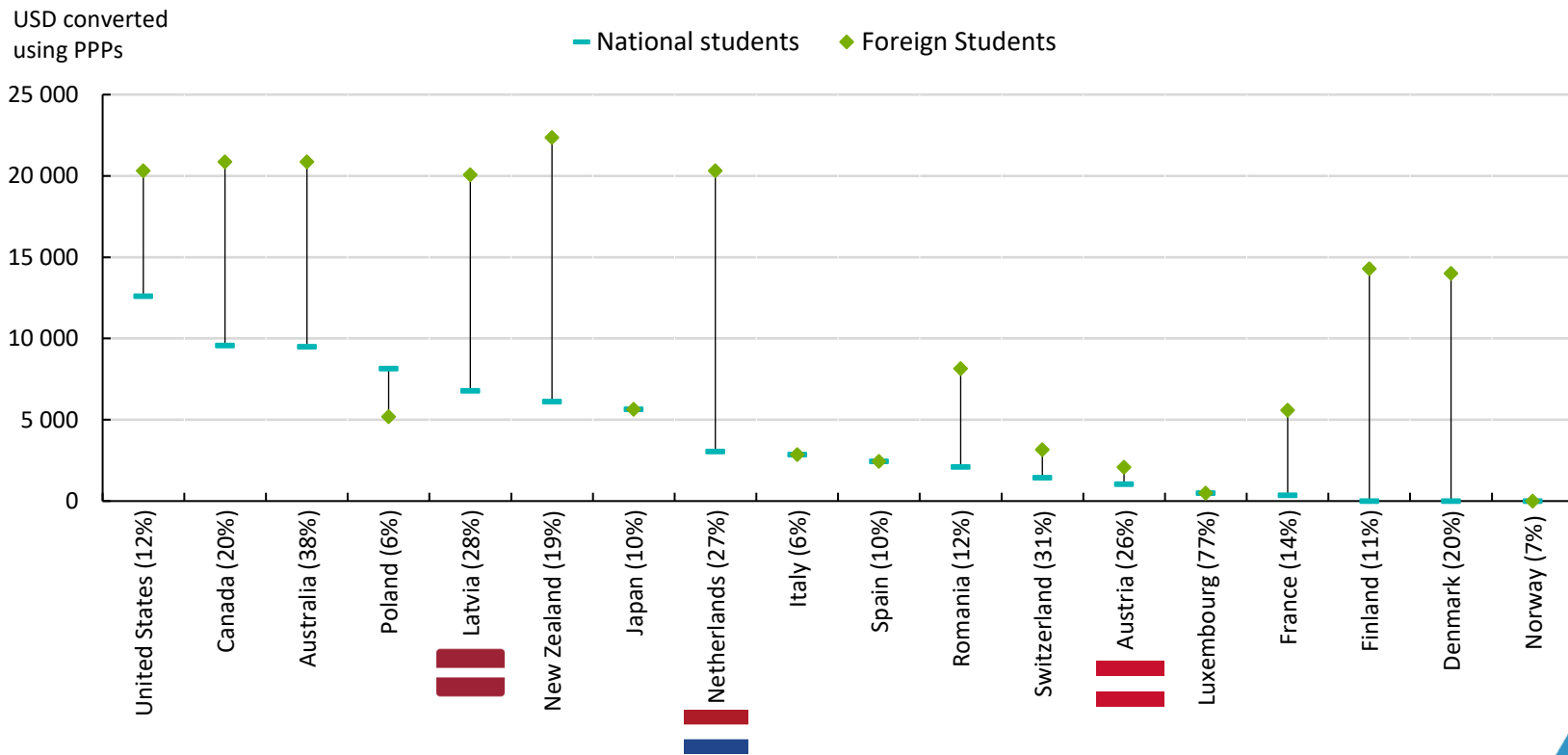
Trends in the share of international students in master's or equivalent degree within tertiary education (2013 and 2023)





Tuition fees are often much higher for foreign students outside EU/EEA in Latvia

Annual average tuition fees charged by public institutions to national and foreign students for master's or equivalent programmes (2022/23)



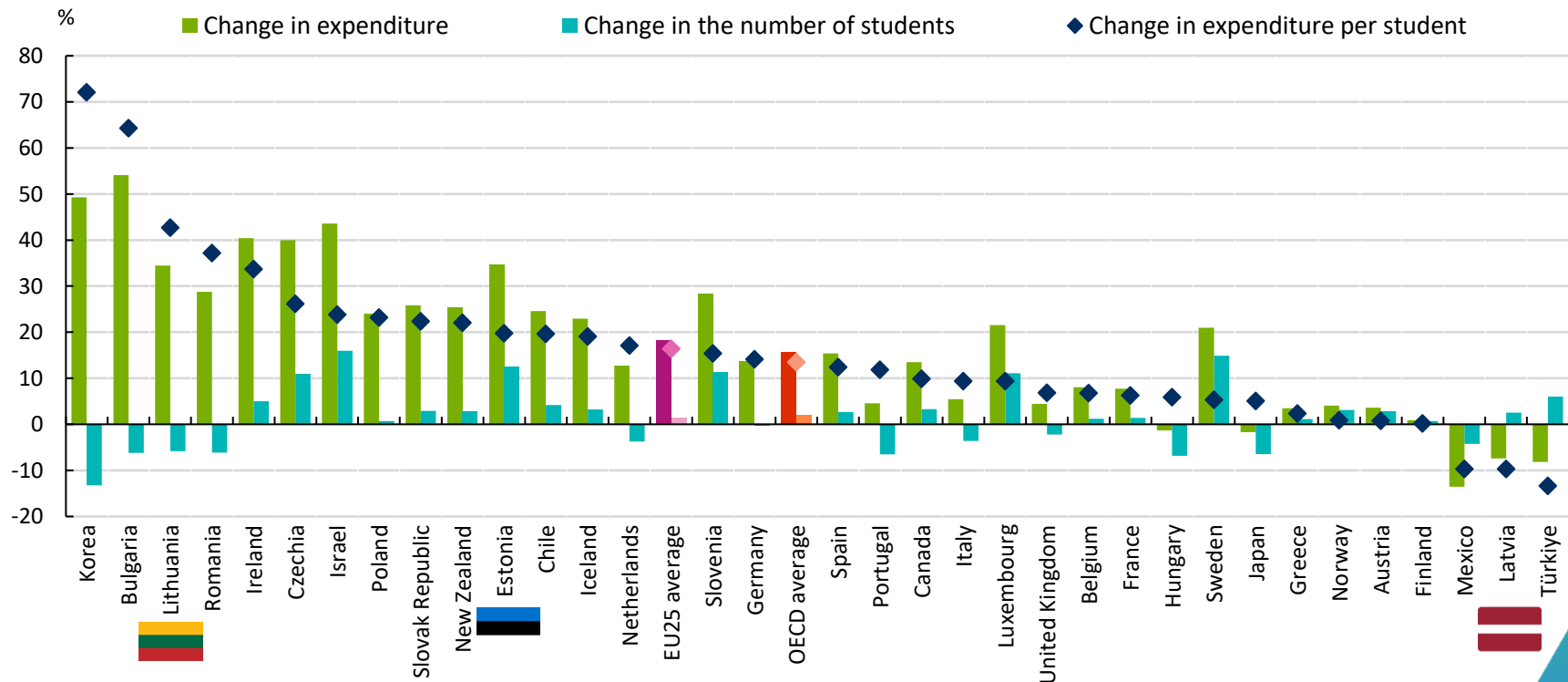
4

Investment in education grows in many countries, yet efficiency matters



While education expenditure is rising in many countries, Latvia's spending is declining

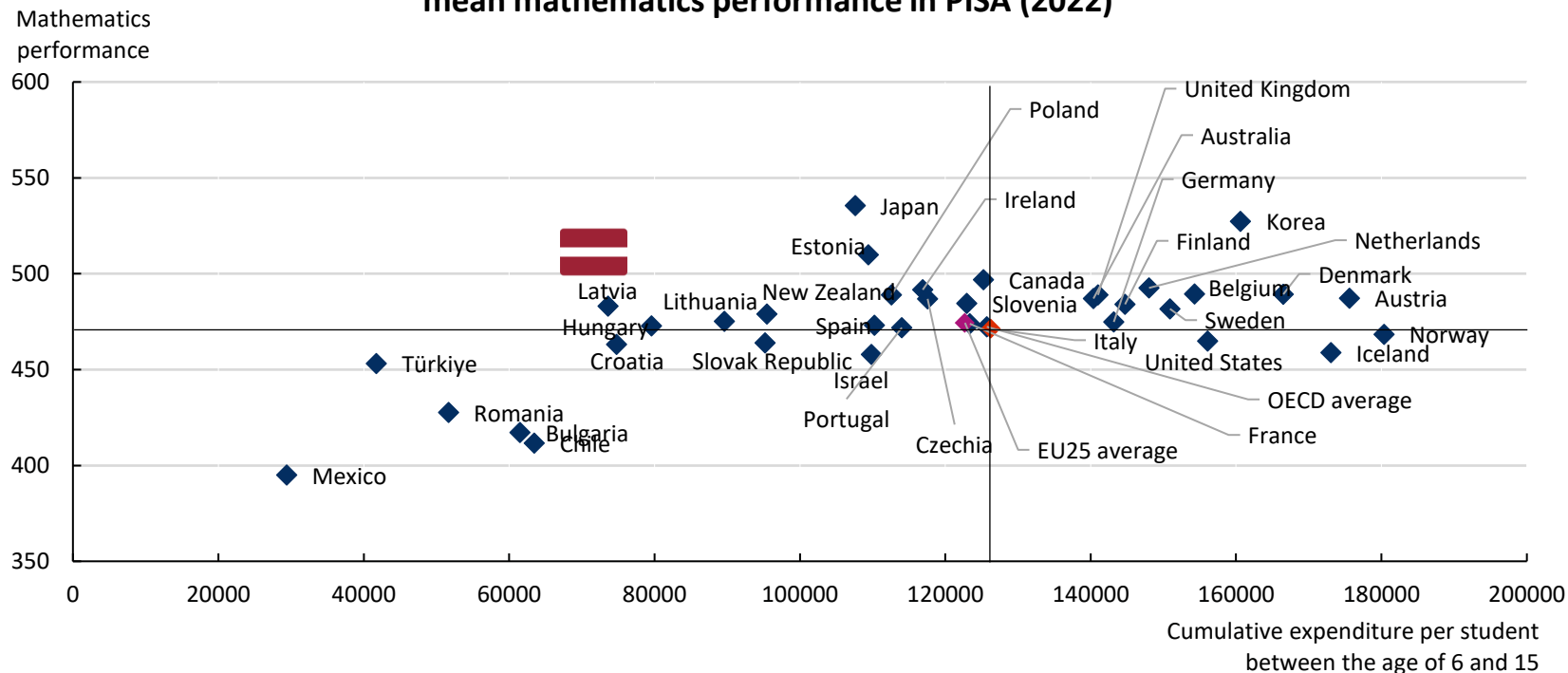
Change in the number of students, expenditure on primary to post-secondary non-tertiary educational institutions and expenditure per student (2015 to 2022)





Shrinking budgets may create challenges, but more spending does not ensure better learning either

Cumulative expenditure per student between the age of 6 and 15 (2021) and mean mathematics performance in PISA (2022)



5

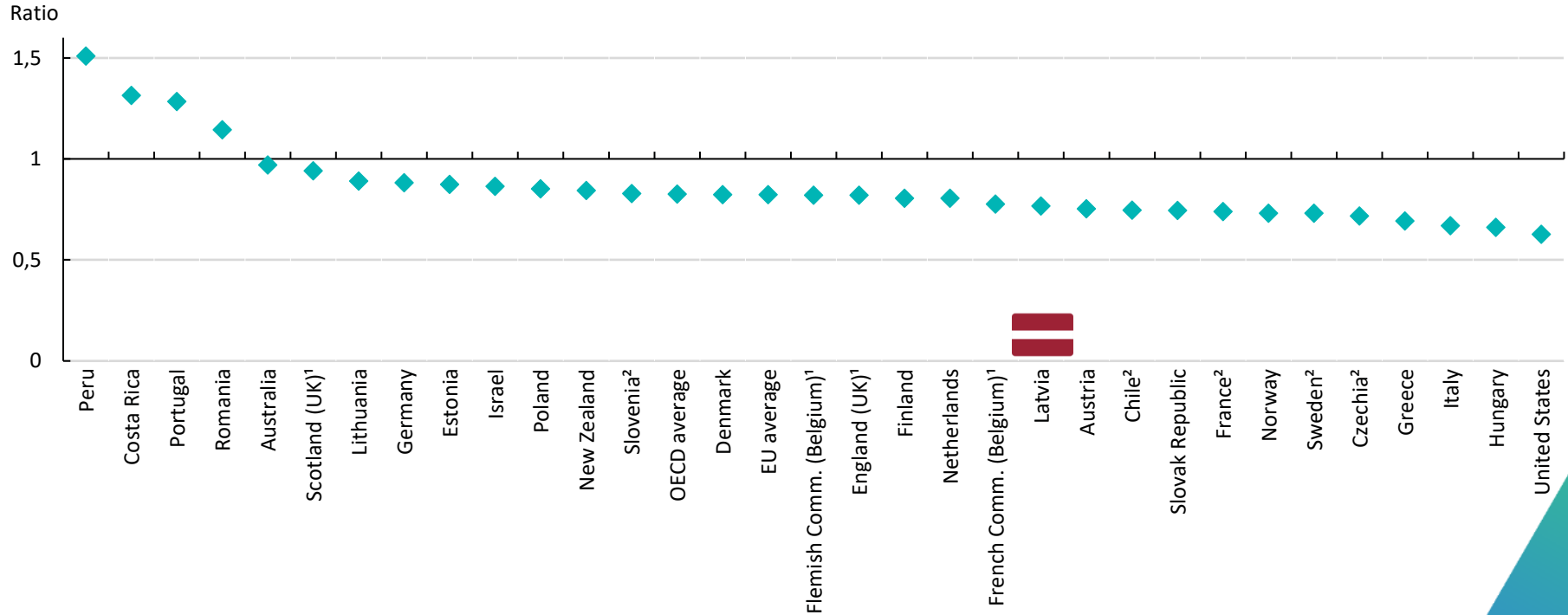
**Attracting and retaining qualified teachers
remains a key policy priority**



Teacher salaries are lower than the average salaries of tertiary-educated workers

Actual salaries of primary teachers relative to earnings of tertiary-educated workers (2024)

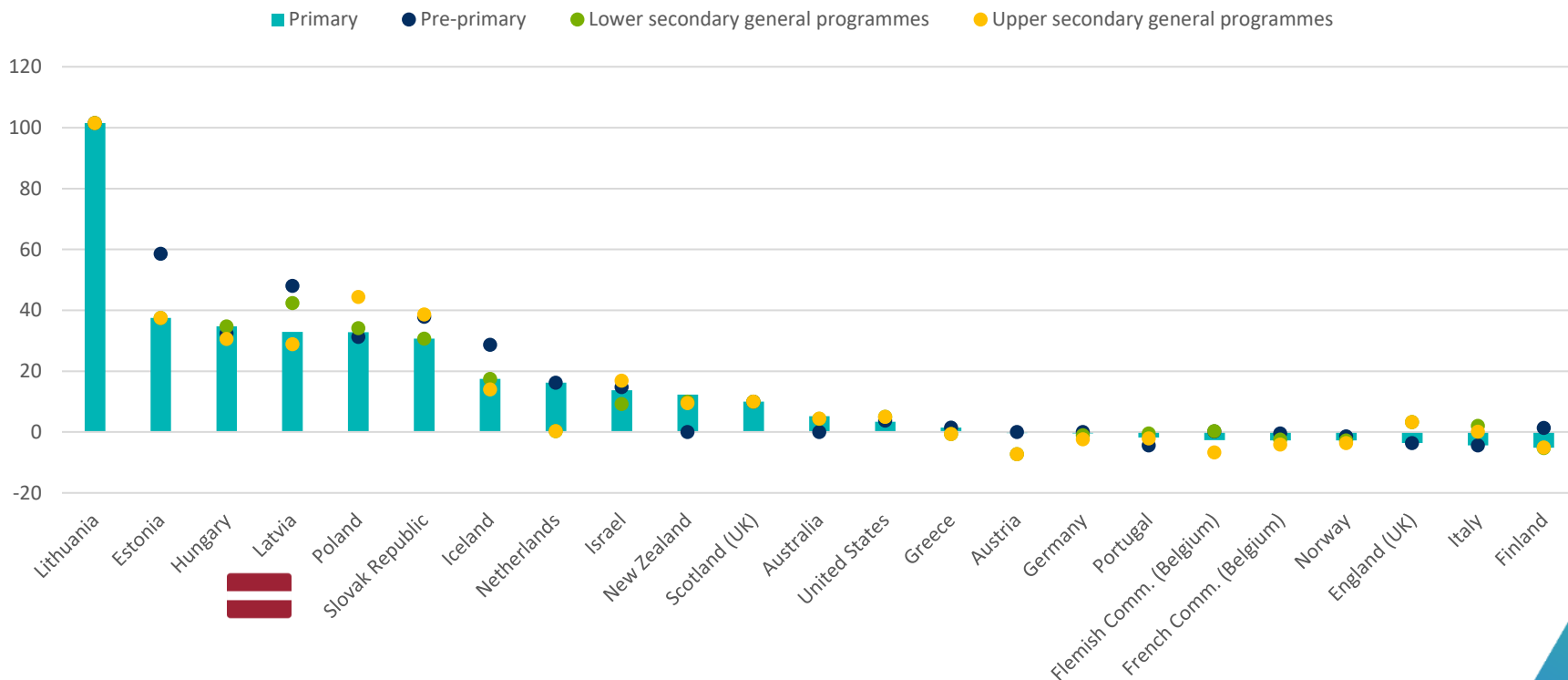
◆ Teachers' salaries relative to tertiary-educated workers' earnings





Some countries, including Latvia, have compensated teacher salaries over the last decade

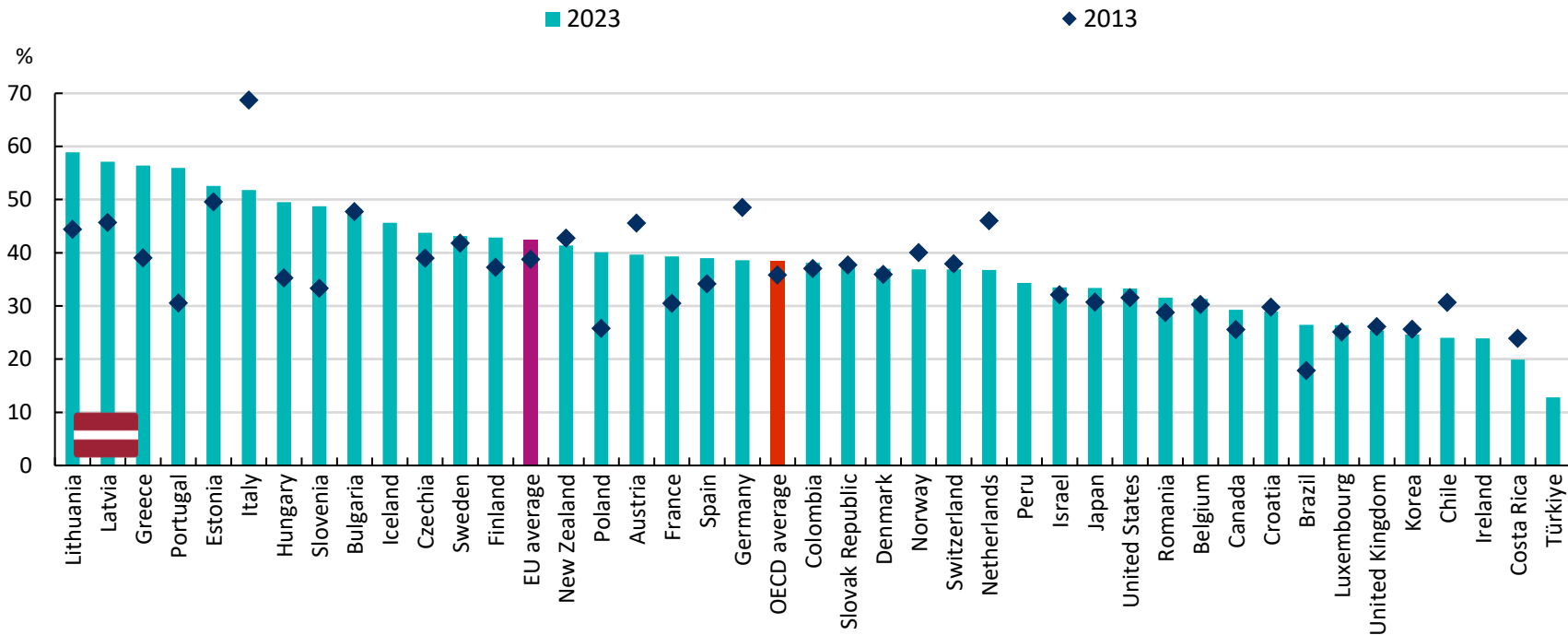
Index of change in annual average salaries (including bonuses and allowances) of teachers aged 25-64 (2015 = 100, constant prices using deflators for private consumption), by level of education





In Latvia, the teaching workforce is among the oldest

Trends in the share of teachers aged 50 and over in secondary education (2013 and 2023)



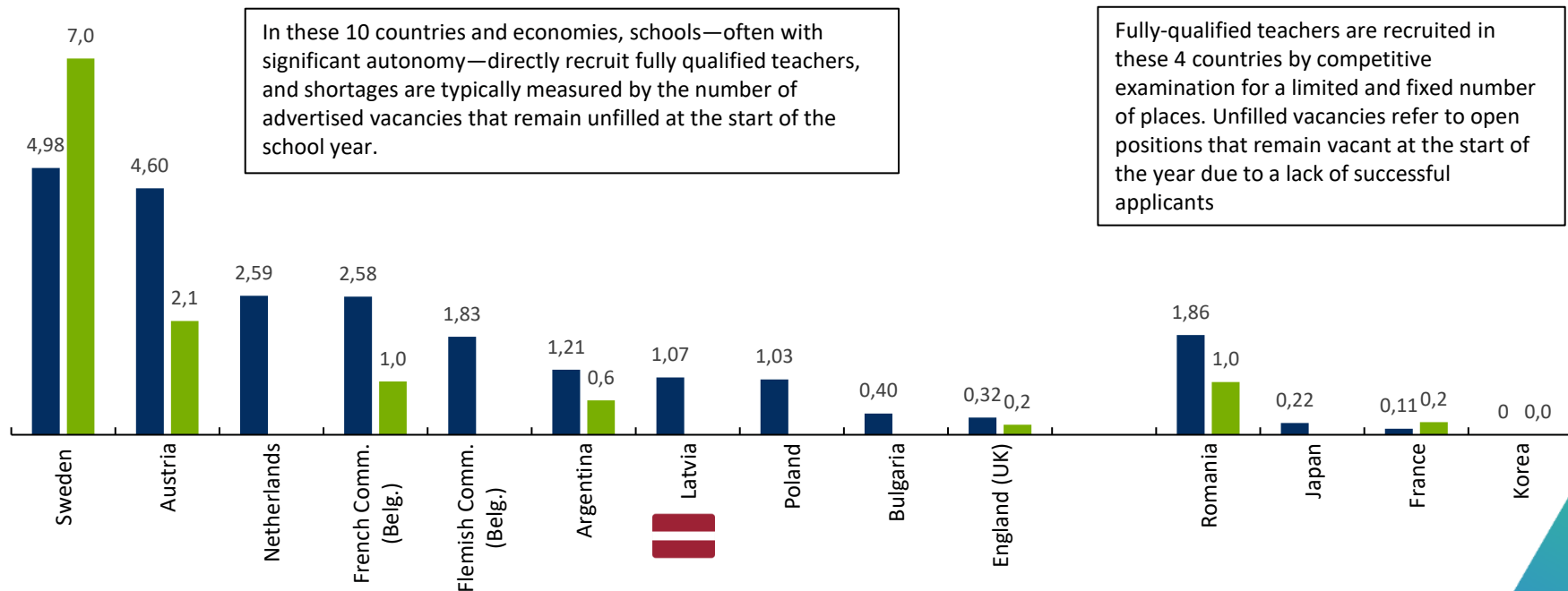


The number of unfilled teacher vacancies remains moderate in most countries

Vacancies not filled by fully-qualified teachers at the start of the school year as a percentage of the total number of teaching positions (whether filled by fully qualified teachers or not), 2022/23

■ 2022/23

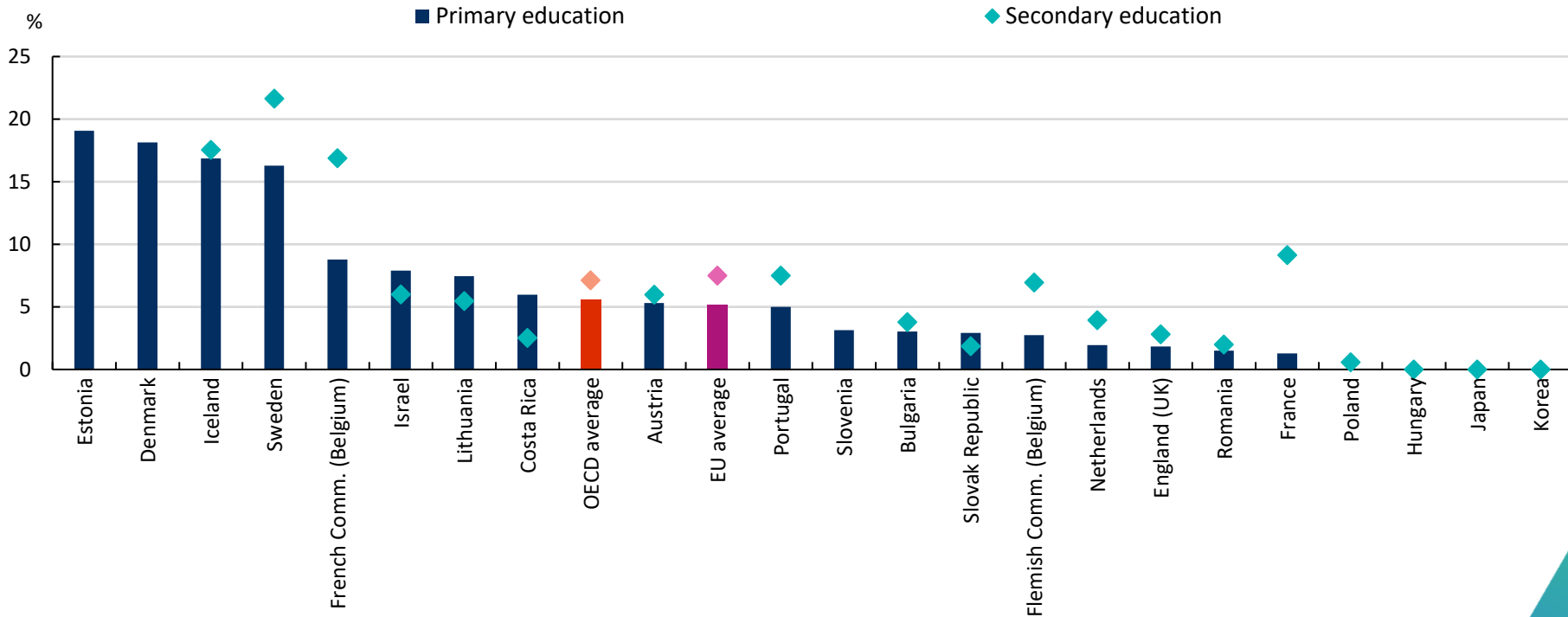
■ 2014/15





Some countries have a high share of non-fully qualified teachers

Share of non-fully qualified teachers, by level of education (2022/23)





Some countries offer dedicated pathways to attract second career teachers

Pathways for second-chance career teachers to become fully qualified

Existence of alternative pathways for second-career teachers, OECD and partner countries and other economies

	(a) There are established pathways for second-career teachers to obtain required qualifications and become fully-qualified.	(b) Second-career teachers must follow the same qualification process as other teacher candidates if they want to be fully-qualified.	(c) Both
	14 countries and other economies	12 countries and other economies	2 countries and other economies
OECD countries	Australia, Austria, Finland, Hungary, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Slovak Republic, Sweden, Switzerland	Costa Rica, Estonia, Iceland, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Türkiye	Denmark
Other economies	Flemish Community (Belgium)	England, French Community (Belgium)	
Partner and/or accession countries	Argentina, Bulgaria	Romania	Brazil

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**Adapting education systems to demographic
change will be key for sustainable provision**

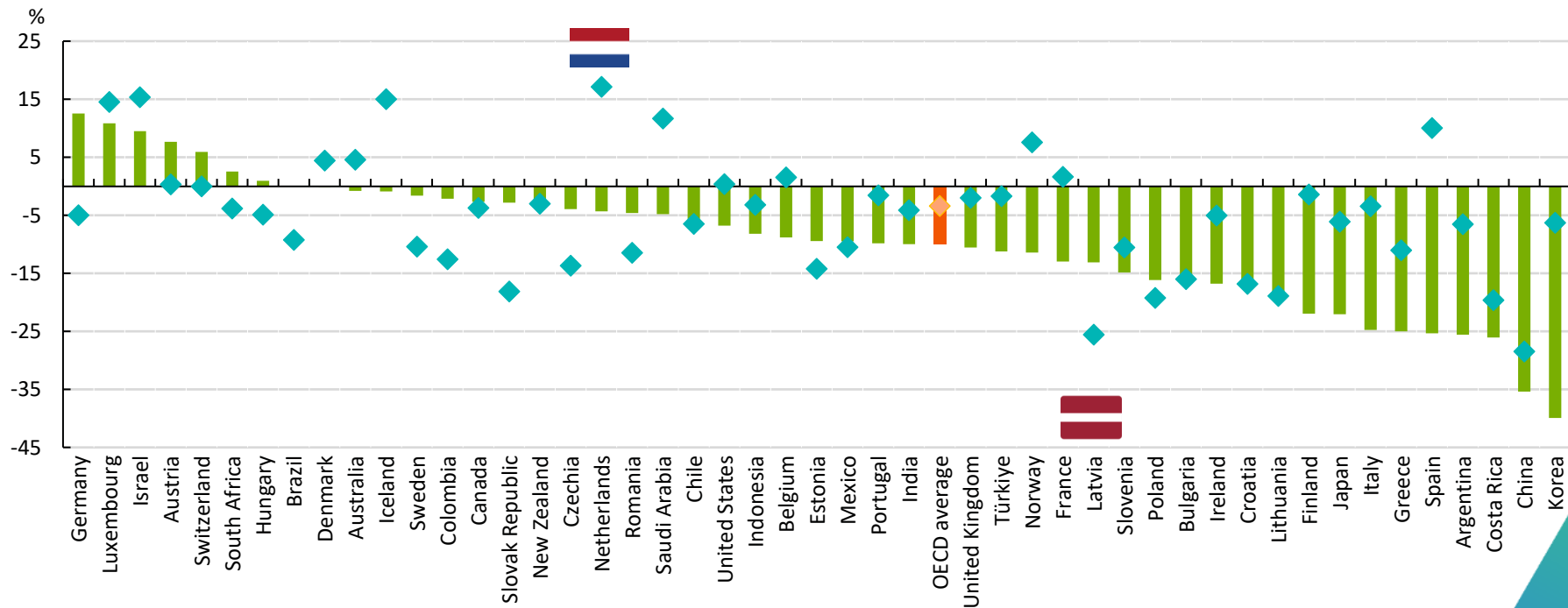


ECEC systems need to adapt to demographic trends

Historical and projected changes in the population of 0-4 year-olds (2013 to 2023 and 2023 to 2033)

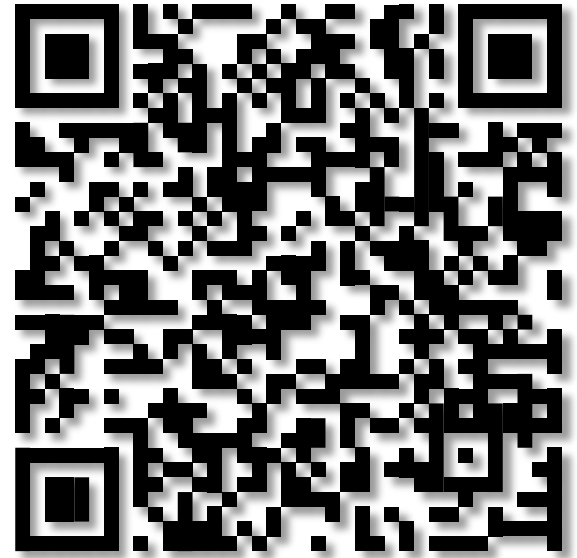
■ 2013-2023

◆ 2023-2033





Download Education at a Glance 2025



https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/education-at-a-glance-2025_1c0d9c79-en.html



Other materials to explore

Country notes:

Latvia

This country note provides an overview of the key characteristics of the education system in Latvia based on data from Education at a Glance 2025. In line with this year's thematic focus, it emphasises tertiary education while also covering other parts of the education system. The data in this note are provided for the latest available year. Readers interested in the reference years for the data should refer to the corresponding tables in Education at a Glance 2025.

Highlights

- In Latvia, adults aged 25-34 with vocational upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education have an employment rate of 80% compared to an employment rate of 77% among adults with general upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary attainment. However, employment rates are highest among tertiary-educated adults, reaching 89% in Latvia, slightly above the OECD average of 87%, highlighting the continued value of tertiary attainment in improving employability.
- In Latvia, adults aged 25-34 with tertiary education earn on average 35% more than those with upper secondary education, slightly below the OECD average of 38%. However, larger gender pay gaps persist. Based on the estimates of the OECD, women in Latvia aged 25-34 with tertiary attainment earn just 67% of what their male peers earn, compared to an OECD average of 83%. While the OECD average shows a narrowing gender gap with age, women aged 45-54 with tertiary education earn 75% of what men earn. Latvia shows no change across these age groups, women aged 25-34 and 45-54 still earn just 67% of men's earnings.
- Participating in the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) for the first time, results show that 35% of adults aged 25-64 in Latvia have low literacy and problem-solving skills (defined as at or below Level 1 (on a scale of 0-5) in the OECD Survey of Adult Skills), above the OECD average of 27%. Only 6% of adults reached the highest literacy levels. However, younger adults (aged 25-34) achieved literacy and problem-solving scores close to the OECD average.
- As part of a key government initiative to reduce early school leaving, Latvia now allows students who fail one centralised 9th-grade exam to enrol in vocational education and training programmes, leading to the creation of a third-level vocational certification, while allowing for individualised

INES: Indicators of Education Systems Programme | OECD

Dashboards

See the series ¹

ECEC systems

This dashboard displays the structure of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) programmes and their...

Upper Secondary Education Systems

This dashboard provides an overview of the organisation and characteristics of upper secondary education...

Ensuring continued learning for Ukrainian refugee students

This dashboard covers policy responses of OECD host countries to ensure the lasting inclusion of...

Compulsory education

This dashboard displays the starting and ending ages, the duration of compulsory and free education, as...

data-explorer.oecd.org

New dashboard on tertiary education systems:

Thank you

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