## Foreword

 $\mathbf{E}_{ ext{ducation}}$  at a Glance 2011: Highlights offers a reader-friendly introduction to the OECD's collection of internationally comparable data on education.

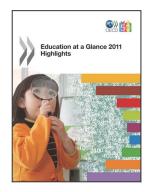
As the name suggests, it is derived from Education at a Glance 2011, the OECD's flagship compendium of education statistics. However, it differs from that publication in a number of ways, most significantly in its structure, which is made up of five sections that explore the following topics:

- **Education levels and student numbers:** This section looks at education levels in the general population, how and where young people are studying, when they graduate, and how well they make the transition into the world of work.
- The economic and social benefits of education: This section looks at the extent to which
  education brings economic gains to individuals, in the form of higher incomes and lower
  unemployment rates, and at how these benefits serve as an incentive for people and societies to
  invest in education. It also examines the societal benefits related to having a highly educated
  population.
- Paying for education: This section looks at how much countries spend on education, the role of
  private spending, what education money is spent on and whether countries are getting value for
  money.
- The school environment: This section looks at how much time teachers spend at work, and how much of that time is spent teaching, class size, teachers' salaries and the age and gender distribution of teachers.
- PISA: This special section introduces findings from the 2009 round of the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which examines the abilities of 15-year-old students in dozens of countries around the world.

In general, this publication uses the terminology employed in Education at a Glance 2011. However, in one or two places terminology has been simplified. Readers who want to find out more should consult the Reader's Guide.

Tables and charts in this volume are all accompanied by a dynamic hyperlink, or StatLink, that will direct readers to an Internet site where the corresponding data are available in Excel<sup>TM</sup> format. In addition, reference is sometimes made in text to charts and tables that appear in Education at a Glance 2011. This material can generally be accessed via the StatLinks accompanying the tables and charts in the relevant indicator, or at www.oecd.org/edu/eag2011.

Readers wishing to find out more about the OECD's work on education should go to www.oecd.org/edu.



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