

# OECD ECONOMIC SURVEYS

## GREECE

ISSN 0376-6438, e-ISSN 1609-7513

Issue 5, March 2016

[Consulta en línea desde MEYSS](#)

### Table of contents

<b>Basic statistics of Greece, 2014</b> .....	7
<b>Acronyms</b> .....	8
<b>Executive summary</b> .....	9
The economy is gradually recovering from a deep recession but high social costs persist .....	10
Significant structural reforms have been legislated, but their mix and implementation were uneven .....	10
Stronger exports and investment are a key to sustained recovery .....	10
<b>Assessment and recommendations</b> .....	13
Signs of a turnaround are accumulating .....	14
Improving employment opportunities .....	24
Strengthening fiscal policy is crucial for a sustained and inclusive recovery .....	26
Getting credit growth started again .....	38
Stronger structural reforms bring higher growth and jobs .....	43
Reforms so far have not boosted growth as expected .....	44
Improving the business environment .....	51
Bibliography .....	53
<b>Annex 1. Progress in structural reform</b> .....	55

### Thematic chapters

<b>Chapter 1. Structural reforms to boost inclusive growth</b> .....	65
Greece has undertaken important reforms but progress has been uneven .....	66
Structural reforms will lift output .....	71
Further reforms especially in product markets are key to stronger and more inclusive growth .....	73
Labour market reforms are bearing some fruits already .....	84
Tax and benefit reforms should aim at supporting more inclusive growth .....	93
<i>Recommendations on structural reforms for inclusive growth</i> .....	97
Bibliography .....	98
<i>Annex A.1.1. Technical Annex: Simulating the long-run impact of structural     reforms on output</i> .....	100
<b>Chapter 2. How to boost export performance</b> .....	103
The nature and performance of Greek exports .....	104
Policies to enhance export performance .....	113
Some sectors and products' comparative advantages could be better exploited ..	129
<i>Recommendations on boosting export performance</i> .....	133
Bibliography .....	133

## Boxes

1. Possible shocks to the Greek economy .....	20
2. The effects of the crisis on potential output .....	43
3. OECD work with Greece regarding structural reforms .....	48
1.1. The OECD Competition Assessment Reviews of Greece .....	69
1.2. The 2012 Law on Better Regulation .....	76
2.1. How much could policy reforms raise exports? .....	117
2.2. How deregulation in upstream services has an impact of export performance in downstream manufacturing industries .....	121
2.3. Tourism governance and policies .....	131

## Tables

1. Macroeconomic projections .....	20
2. Estimated impact of major reforms on real GDP over a 10-year horizon .....	46
1.1. Estimated benefits from lifting the specific regulations .....	69
1.2. Estimated impact of major reforms on real GDP over a 10-year horizon .....	72
1.3. The effect of individual fiscal consolidation policies on inequality .....	94
2.1. Baseline regression results .....	121

## Figures

1. Unsustainable macroeconomic imbalances built up during the 2000s .....	15
2. Well-being in Greece is significantly below the OECD average in several dimensions .....	16
3. Life satisfaction has declined significantly since the beginning of the crisis ..	16
4. The social cost of the crisis has been very high .....	17
5. Youth unemployment remains very high .....	17
6. Confidence remains weak although tail risks have receded .....	19
7. Trade openness is low compared to OECD countries .....	21
8. Participation in global value chains is weak .....	21
9. Export performance has been weak, but export growth excluding shipping has been in line with euro area exports since 2009 .....	22
10. Foreign direct investment in Greece is low .....	23
11. Labour market regulations have eased .....	24
12. The minimum wage in Greece is relatively low .....	25
13. Female labour market participation in Greece continues to be low .....	27
14. Fiscal consolidation has been large .....	27
15. The pace of fiscal consolidation is projected to slow .....	28
16. The composition of social expenditures does not match the changing social challenges .....	29
17. Housing problems among the vulnerable population are widespread .....	31
18. Pension reforms have improved the system's long-term sustainability .....	32
19. Public expenditure on pensions remains very high .....	33
20. Strengthening the tax administration would increase compliance .....	35
21. Debt will remain high and gross financing needs will increase significantly in the long run .....	37
22. Loans to the private sector grew sharply before the crisis .....	39
23. Non-performing loans increased significantly during the crisis .....	40
24. Non-performing loans have increased and are fairly concentrated .....	41
25. Bankruptcy procedures in Greece are time consuming and recovery rates are low .....	42
26. The impact of the crisis on potential output has been sizable .....	43

27. There is room to further ease product market regulations .....	44
28. Reform implementation has been weaker in Greece than in other EU countries.....	45
29. Regulation in the energy and transport sectors .....	49
30. Energy prices for industry.....	50
31. Contract enforcement remains costly.....	51
1.1. Greece has undertaken many reforms in recent years .....	66
1.2. The depth of the recession was initially underestimated .....	67
1.3. Reform implementation has been weaker in Greece than in other EU countries.....	68
1.4. There is room to further ease product market reforms .....	73
1.5. Network sectors are still subject to restrictive regulation in Greece .....	74
1.6. Profit margins in several sectors remain high.....	75
1.7. Regulations to open a business have eased, but other regulatory barriers remain high.....	76
1.8. The use of regulatory impact assessments and evaluations could be expanded and improved .....	77
1.9. Competition law and policy in Greece is relatively strong.....	78
1.10. High costs of closing a business lead to lower efficiency in the allocation of resources.....	79
1.11. Bankruptcy procedures in Greece are time consuming and recovery rates are low .....	80
1.12. Contract enforcement remains costly.....	81
1.13. Pension reforms have improved the system's long-term sustainability .....	83
1.14. Public expenditure on pensions remains very high .....	85
1.15. Labour market performance was weak before the crisis.....	86
1.16. Employment protection legislation was restrictive before recent reforms....	87
1.17. Taxation on labour is still relatively high in Greece .....	88
1.18. The tax treatment of double-income households is favourable and childcare is affordable, but low expenditure on childcare reduces its availability.....	89
1.19. The minimum wage in Greece is relatively low.....	90
1.20. The effects of tax-benefit reforms and the recession on inequality and poverty.....	93
1.21. The composition of social expenditures does not match the changing social challenges .....	95
1.22. Housing problems among the vulnerable population are widespread .....	97
2.1. Export performance has been weak, but export growth excluding shipping has been in line with euro area exports since 2009 .....	105
2.2. Trade openness is low and the trade deficit is persistent .....	106
2.3. Exports of goods are dominated by refined oil .....	107
2.4. Greece's main export partner is the European Union.....	107
2.5. Low-technology products dominate exports.....	108
2.6. The number of jobs integrated in GVCs is low.....	108
2.7. Participation in global value chains is weak .....	109
2.8. Exports by SMEs are relatively sizeable .....	110
2.9. Barriers faced by exporting firms are still important.....	111
2.10. Increased competitiveness boosts exports only slightly .....	112
2.11. Price competitiveness has improved only marginally .....	112
2.12. Many barriers to trade remain.....	114
2.13. Some sectors are still more regulated than the OECD average .....	115

2.14. The potential effect of changes in policies on total exports can be large . . . . .	117
2.15. Regulation in some network sectors is higher than the OECD average . . . . .	120
2.16. Energy prices for industry are high . . . . .	122
2.17. Investment and quality in transport infrastructure could be enhanced . . . . .	123
2.18. Logistics performance lags behind the OECD average . . . . .	124
2.19. Venture capital investment is low . . . . .	126
2.20. Gross domestic expenditure on R&D is low . . . . .	128
2.21. Investment in KBC is low in Greece . . . . .	129
2.22. E-commerce is not well developed . . . . .	130
2.23. Tourism represents a large part of the economy . . . . .	131

# OECD ECONOMIC SURVEYS

## POLAND

ISSN 0376-6438, e-ISSN 1609-7513

Issue 8, March 2016

[Consulta en línea desde MEYSS](#)

### Table of contents

<b>Basic Statistics of Poland, 2014</b> .....	10
<b>Executive summary</b> .....	11
Growth is robust, and unemployment has declined .....	12
Education reforms would strengthen skills .....	12
Greening infrastructure would improve public health .....	12
<b>Assessment and recommendations</b> .....	15
Moving towards higher-technology production would raise living standards. ....	16
Growth is solid, and the labour market situation has improved significantly ....	18
Macroeconomic policies .....	21
Enhancing employment and access to high-quality jobs .....	27
Ensuring efficient public infrastructure and better conditions for private investment .....	32
Further improving education to boost productivity and the ability to adopt innovations .....	42
Making better use of migrants' skills .....	48
Bibliography .....	51
<b>Annex. Progress in structural reform</b> .....	55

### Thematic chapters

<b>Chapter 1. Making better use of skills and migration</b> .....	61
Raising skill levels .....	62
Improving skill matches .....	74
Promoting a better use of skills through labour market policies .....	76
Migration and skills .....	78
<i>Recommendations to strengthen workers' skills and profit more from mig</i> .....	88
Bibliography .....	89
<b>Chapter 2. Improving transport and energy infrastructure investment</b> .....	93
Infrastructure is key for productivity and social welfare .....	94
An overarching strategy and a sound institutional framework are key to improving infrastructure .....	97
Improving transport infrastructure would strengthen productivity and health outcomes .....	113
Promoting appropriate energy infrastructure investment .....	123
<i>Recommendations for improving transport and energy infrastructure investment</i> .....	134
Bibliography .....	135

## Boxes

1. Possible shocks to the Polish economy . . . . .	20
2. The new government's tax and spending plans . . . . .	21
1.1. Initial vocational education in Poland . . . . .	64
1.2. Basic skills strategies in OECD countries . . . . .	71
2.1. Government transport programmes . . . . .	100
2.2. EU initiatives to attract private infrastructure investment and the EFSI . . . . .	111
2.3. The state-owned development bank (BGK), the Polish Investments for Development (PIR) and the Polish Development Fund (PFR) . . . . .	112

## Tables

1. Macroeconomic indicators and projections . . . . .	19
2.1. Structure of responsibilities for the road network, 2005-13 . . . . .	115

## Figures

1. GDP growth has been robust, but productivity and exports' technological content have stayed weak . . . . .	17
2. The working-age population is set to decline sharply . . . . .	17
3. The OECD Better Life Index for Poland . . . . .	18
4. Macroeconomic indicators . . . . .	20
5. Debt is on a declining path . . . . .	23
6. VAT revenue shortfall due to tax breaks . . . . .	23
7. VAT revenue shortfall due to evasion . . . . .	24
8. Inflation and monetary policy . . . . .	26
9. Financial sector developments . . . . .	26
10. Foreign-currency-denominated and non-performing loans . . . . .	27
11. Employment rates are low in the context of rapid ageing, and in-work poverty is relatively high . . . . .	28
12. Enrolment rates in pre-primary and early childhood education have been weak but increasing . . . . .	29
13. Reduction in gross average replacement rates of public pensions, 2013-60 . . . . .	29
14. Temporary employment . . . . .	30
15. Average tax wedges on labour income . . . . .	31
16. Public and private investment . . . . .	33
17. GHG emissions and deaths from ambient air pollution . . . . .	34
18. The effective tax rate on CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from energy use is low . . . . .	34
19. Transport infrastructure . . . . .	35
20. Electricity generation capacity . . . . .	37
21. Energy prices . . . . .	38
22. International interconnection capacity in the electricity market . . . . .	39
23. Fixed broadband penetration and ICT use . . . . .	41
24. Procedures to start a business and resolve insolvency remain long and costly . . . . .	42
25. Skill test scores of adults, including those with tertiary education, are below the OECD average . . . . .	43
26. The skills of students and graduates from basic vocational schools are weak . . . . .	44
27. Qualification mismatches have important consequences . . . . .	45
28. Participation in continuing education is poor . . . . .	46
29. Qualifications are valued more than skills . . . . .	47

30. Tertiary education boomed and students abandoned vocational education until recently .....	48
31. Emigration from Poland is significant. ....	49
32. Skills of Polish emigrants are low and they tend to perform simple jobs abroad	50
1.1. Skill test scores of adults, including those with tertiary education, are below the OECD average. ....	63
1.2. First-year students in upper secondary school by type of education. ....	65
1.3. Labour market outcomes of vocational school leavers are weaker than in other OECD countries .....	66
1.4. The skills of students and graduates from basic vocational schools are weak.	66
1.5. Participation in continuing education .....	69
1.6. Many adults have weak computer skills. ....	70
1.7. Qualifications are valued more than skills. ....	71
1.8. Tertiary education attainment rates of individuals aged 25 to 34 .....	72
1.9. Poland's tertiary education institutions .....	73
1.10. Evaluation results for higher education institutions in Poland, 2008-11. ....	73
1.11. Qualification mismatches have important consequences. ....	75
1.12. Temporary employment .....	77
1.13. Emigration from Poland is significant. ....	79
1.14. Immigration has been rising rapidly, though from a low level .....	80
1.15. Unemployment in Poland. ....	81
1.16. Social protection of the unemployed is relatively limited .....	82
1.17. The working-age population is set to decline sharply .....	83
1.18. Both emigrants and immigrants are relatively high-skilled, 2011 .....	84
1.19. Skills of Polish emigrants are low, and they tend to perform simple jobs abroad.	85
2.1. Public investment has been significant but bottlenecks remain .....	95
2.2. Regional disparities and residential mobility .....	95
2.3. Land transport safety and urban air pollution .....	96
2.4. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the energy sector .....	96
2.5. Indicators of the adequacy of infrastructure planning and financing. ....	98
2.6. Land administration, urban sprawl and duration of urbanism procedures ...	102
2.7. Fixed broadband penetration and ICT use .....	103
2.8. Green taxes .....	104
2.9. EU structural and cohesion funds, 2007-13 and 2014-20 .....	105
2.10. Public procurement procedures in 2014 .....	106
2.11. The perceived risks of corruption are high, 2013. ....	108
2.12. Large public-private-partnership projects have been difficult to complete ...	109
2.13. Assets of pension funds in selected OECD countries, 2013-14 .....	112
2.14. Regulation in network industries made significant progress, but bottlenecks remain .....	113
2.15. Public investment in transport has increased but remains unbalanced .....	114
2.16. The maintenance needs of the road network are set to increase rapidly .....	116
2.17. The share of rail transport is declining. ....	118
2.18. The quality of the rail infrastructure and services is perceived as low .....	119
2.19. Density of the railway network .....	120
2.20. Rail access charges for freight are high by international standards. ....	121

2.21. The perceived quality of seaport infrastructure remains low, but spending is rising .....	122
2.22. Airport infrastructure spending and air traffic .....	123
2.23. Electricity generation capacity .....	124
2.24. Share of coal and emissions from the power sector .....	124
2.25. The draft Energy Policy of Poland until 2050 .....	125
2.26. The EU Emissions Trading System (EU-ETS) .....	126
2.27. International interconnection capacity in the electricity market .....	127
2.28. Retail and wholesale prices of electricity .....	128
2.29. Renewable energy sources .....	129
2.30. Household energy consumption .....	131
2.31. The gas sector .....	133