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Colombia

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COLOMBIA

Colombia has achieved high economic growth during the past decade and shown resilience during the global financial crisis, although it faces still the challenges to boost productivity growth and diversify the economy. In this context, the government has established the following STI hot issues in its National Innovation Strategy (2010-14).

Hot issue 1: Innovation to contribute to addressing social challenges (including inclusiveness). Following the guidelines set out by the national STI strategic plan, several public bodies prioritise the allocation of resources in regions, sectors and knowledge areas considered strategic for social as well as economic development. In 2012, the Administrative Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (Colciencias) created the Ideas for Change programme to support innovative solutions that address societal and environmental challenges at low cost. In 2012, the programme focused on access to water in remote Colombian regions, funding 11 projects for USD 754 000 (COP 948.6 million). The programme currently focuses on the generation of clean and renewable energy in regions that are not connected to the central electrical grid.

In addition, Colciencias carried out in 2012 and 2013 a call for a dialogue on encouraging the development of research from an intercultural perspective. This should

create opportunities for generating relevant knowledge in academic, ethnic, territorial and social communities, promote traditional community knowledge, recover the role of knowledge in constructing a social identity and diversify options for socio-economic development.

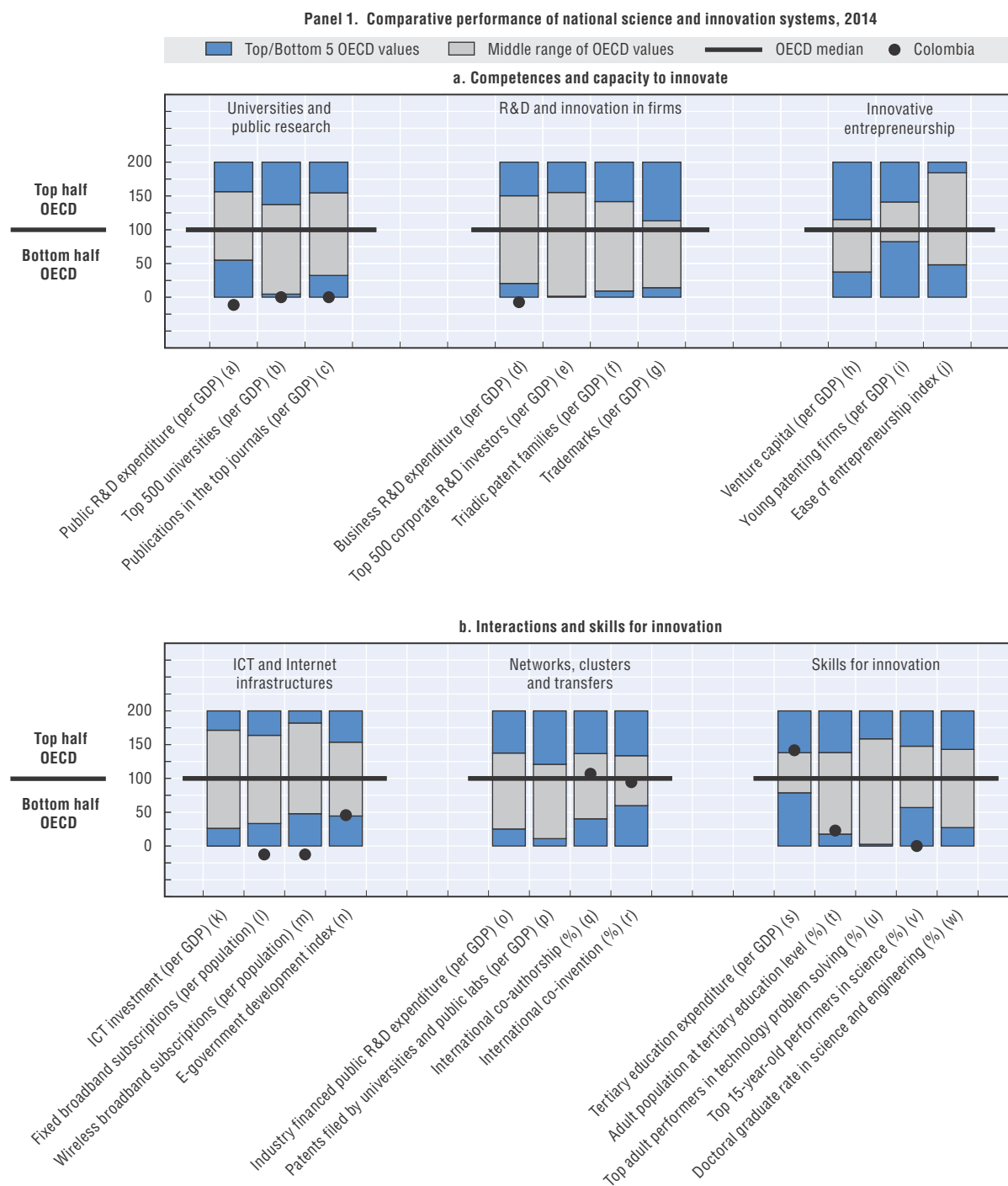
Moreover, Colombia is integrating its socially focused STI efforts in the design of a social innovation policy, the aim of which is to create a favourable environment for developing social innovation.

Hot Issue 2: Improving the governance of innovation system and policy. Colombia's innovation system is coordinated by the National Planning Department (DNP) and Colciencias which is an agency that encompasses the roles of science ministry, research council and innovation agency. These two bodies were responsible for Colombia's National Innovation Strategy for 2010-14. In response to the growing importance of innovation in the national development strategy, in 2012 the government created iNNpulsa Colombia, within the National Development Bank (Bancóldex) to promote high-growth innovative companies and to support competitiveness by a more integrated business support system and by interacting with other actors in Colombia's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems. Colciencias has adopted a new business model, using online tools to enhance transparency and effectiveness in managing calls for grants.

Key figures, 2013

Economic and environmental performance	COL	OECD	Gross domestic expenditure on R&D	COL	OECD
Labour productivity			GERD		
GDP per hour worked, USD PPP, 2013	n.a.	47.7	Million USD PPP, 2011	857	1 107 398
(annual growth rate, 2008-13)	n.a.	(+0.8)	As a % of total OECD, 2011	0.1	100
Green productivity			GERD intensity and growth		
GDP per unit of CO ₂ emitted, USD, 2011	6.3	3.0	As a % of GDP, 2011	0.18	2.40
(annual growth rate, 2007-11)	(+1.2)	(+1.8)	(annual growth rate, 2007-11)	(+5.5)	(+2.0)
Green demand			GERD publicly financed		
NNI per unit of CO ₂ emitted, USD, 2011	7.8	3.0	As a % of GDP, 2011	0.10	0.77
(annual growth rate, 2007-11)	(+1.0)	(+1.6)	(annual growth rate, 2007-11)	(+3.4)	(+2.8)

Figure 9.9. Science and innovation in Colombia



Note: Normalised index of performance relative to the median values in the OECD area (Index median = 100).

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933152090>

Hot Issue 3: Strengthening public R&D capacity and infrastructure. Colombia's publicly funded GERD is only 0.08% of GDP (2011), well below the OECD median (Panel 1^a) and that of other Latin American countries for instance Argentina (0.57%) and Chile (0.14%). Colombia's STI strategic plan for 2010-14 sets the goal to increase GERD to 0.5% of GDP. The government has allocated 10% of the royalties from the exploitation of non-renewable resources to an STI fund. Between 2012 and 2020, the fund aims to disburse up to USD 636 million (COP 800 billion) per year for S&T projects (including R&D activities). With regard to education, the Ministry of National Education aims to promote international exchange programmes and accreditations to Colombia's HEIs. By positioning Colombia's HEIs in an international context, the Ministry aims to improve the quality of higher education, increase international knowledge transfer and raise the mobility of researchers.

Colciencias has been strengthening the capacity and public infrastructure for R&D through strategic actions such as support for the standardisation and accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories, and the strengthening of research centres. Between 2010 and 2012, Colciencias supported 90 standardisation and accreditation projects with USD 14.5 million (COP 16 500 million) and between 2010 and 2013, it supported 74 projects targeted at strengthening research centres, with USD 51.8 million (COP 59 030 million).

Highlights of the Colombian STI system

New sources of growth: The Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies (MinCIT) has devoted USD 281 million (COP 320 billion) during 2010-13 in two programmes: *Vive Digital* and *APPS.co*. The former supports projects promoting regional innovation and technological development through ICTs, while the latter fosters the creation of ICT companies that aim to develop mobile applications, software and Internet content.

Innovation in firms: At 0.05% of GDP, BERD is not only below all of the OECD countries (Panel 1^d), but also that of other Latin American countries such as Argentina (0.16%). To address this situation, the government uses three main mechanisms to support business R&D investments. First, at the guidance of Colciencias and other relevant government bodies, Bancóldex provides preferential credits at below market interest rates for innovation projects. Secondly, a tax incentive scheme

offers tax exemptions of up to 175% of R&D investments made during the taxable period. Thirdly, a variety of government agencies provide subsidies for firms' STI activities. iNNpulsa provides non-refundable grants of up to USD 278 000 (COP 350 million) per beneficiary. Colciencias recently expanded its Innovation Management programme to further support the development of innovative capabilities in Colombian firms. In 2013, it allocated around USD 19 million (COP 21.4 billion) to fund knowledge-intensive business services from international entities specialising in business innovation.

Innovative entrepreneurship: With a budget of USD 138 million (COP 174 billion) for 2012-13, iNNpulsa Colombia seeks to promote business growth and to build an innovation culture in the Colombian society. 70% of Colciencias' Innovation Management programme, with a budget of USD 20 million (COP 22.4 billion) in 2013, was directed to micro and SMEs, while Colombia's business environment has improved in recent years.

ICT and Internet infrastructures: While the numbers of fixed and wireless broadband subscriptions remain well below the OECD level (Panel 1^{l, m}), much progress has been made in this area in recent years. MinCIT is on its way to meet the target of quadrupling connections across all regions between 2010 and 2014. In addition, a broadband infrastructure is being deployed throughout the country. Under this initiative, the number of connected municipalities grew from about 200 in 2010 to 777 by mid-2013.

Technology transfer and commercialisation: Colciencias organises regional Innovation Business Conferences, aiming to strengthen technology transfer and university-industry linkages. Colciencias also allocates up to USD 510 000 (COP 550 million) per year since 2009 to support collaborative projects between companies and universities or research centres.

Clusters and smart specialisation: Since 2005, Colciencias organised 25 regional Innovation Business Conferences in 9 regions. Furthermore, the Regional Innovation Alliances (also coordinated by Colciencias) initiative aims to foster public-private partnerships within regions. In collaboration with the DNP and several ministries, iNNpulsa designed Competitive Routes, a regional programme that designs roadmaps to support productivity growth and cluster formation in key sectors (e.g. ceramics, tourism, coffee, leather and agribusiness). This programme has covered 18 of Colombia's 32 administrative divisions.

Skills for innovation: The Colombian government prioritises increases in the number of researchers. In particular, two programmes promote the education of PhDs and their employments in the economy. Colciencias' Doctoral Training Support Programme funds graduate studies both domestically and abroad. It aims to double the current number of 7 000 PhDs by awarding 1 000 scholarships per year during the next four years. The programme will allo-

cate USD 678 million (COP 752 billion) during 2011-14, targeting researchers in the business sector, academics and those who work in strategic technology areas. Colciencias will also launch in 2014 the Brain Repatriation Programme that aims to attract 500 diaspora doctorate holders of Colombian origin in the next four years. This initiative provides subsidies to companies and universities so that they can offer internationally competitive salaries.

STI country profiles reader's guide

The country profiles (CPs) in the 2014 *OECD STI Outlook* (STIO) are designed to provide a concise overview of science, technology and innovation (STI) policy and performance in OECD members and selected non-OECD economies. Each country profile is based on information gathered from the country's response to the OECD STIO policy questionnaires 2012 and 2014, as well as various additional OECD and non-OECD sources.

Headings in the country profiles are linked to the STIO policy profiles, which examine the main global STI policy trends across countries. Issues featuring in both the policy and country profiles are: i) innovation policy governance; ii) new sources of growth; iii) new challenges; iv) universities and public research; v) innovation in firms; vi) innovative entrepreneurship; vii) technology transfer and commercialisation; viii) clusters and smart specialisation; ix) globalisation; and x) skills for innovation.

The table of key figures presents indicators on the country's economic performance (labour productivity), environmental performance (green productivity and demand), the size of its R&D system as measured by gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD), the degree of public commitment to S&T as measured by the share of GERD that is publicly financed, and the changes in these indicators over the past five years. In the text, all amounts are given both in USD in purchasing power parities (PPP) of the relevant year (if available) and in national currencies.

Panel 1 contains a double figure that sheds light on the strengths and weaknesses of the country's STI performance. It uses indicators on the country's national innovation system and performance with respect to: universities and public research, business R&D and innovation, innovative entrepreneurship, information and communication technology (ICT) and Internet infrastructure, networks, clusters and transfers, and skills for innovation. The dot for each indicator positions the country relative to the OECD median and to the top and bottom five OECD countries. Non-OECD countries are also compared to the OECD benchmarks, and may fall out of the range indicated in the figure (e.g. below the lowest OECD country). All indicators are normalised (by GDP and population cohorts) to take account of the size of the economy and the relevant population cohorts, and are presented as indices (OECD median = 100) for benchmarking purposes.

Panel 2 shows the structural composition of business expenditure on R&D (BERD) in terms of performance of the main industry sectors, firm size and firms' national affiliation. It reflects the country's industry structure and its business innovation efforts. Panel 3 presents the country's revealed technological advantage (RTA), as measured by international patent applications filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in three key technology fields (bio- and nano-technology, ICTs, and environment-related technologies). It also shows the number of patents filed by universities and public research institutions in these fields.

Panel 4 gives an overview of the country's policy mix for public R&D, i.e. the orientation and funding modes of public research. It also illustrates changes in the policy mix for R&D over the past five years. Finally, Panel 5, a new feature in STIO 2014, reflects the balance and relative importance of various government measures to support business R&D and innovation. It is based on the country's self-assessment in its reply to the OECD STIO 2014 policy questionnaire.

Further details on the methodology, data sources and descriptions of indicators used in the country profile are provided in Annex 9.A. Data, metadata as well as the original sources and databases of the indicators used in the STIO 2014 are accessible at the statistical portal IPP.Stat (cut-off date: 8 July 2014).

Abbreviations used in the country profiles

BERD:	Business expenditure on research and development
EU:	European Union
FDI:	Foreign direct investment
GDP:	Gross domestic product
GERD:	Gross expenditure on research and development
HEIs:	Higher education institutions
IPRs:	Intellectual property rights
MNEs:	Multinational enterprises
PRIs:	Public research institutes
R&D:	Research and development
S&E:	Science and engineering
SSS:	Smart specialisation strategy (also known as 3S)
STI:	Science, technology and innovation
S&T:	Science and technology
3S:	See SSS
STEM:	Science, technology, engineering and mathematics
USD:	United States dollars (converted using the purchasing power parities of the relevant year)
VC:	Venture capital

Synthetic table

Table 9.1. Comparative performance of national science and innovation systems, 2014

Country relative position: in the top 5 OECD or above (★), in the middle range on par or above OECD median (▲), in the middle range below OECD median (△) and in the bottom 5 OECD or below (○)

		Competences and capacity to innovate									
		Universities and public research			R&D and innovation in firms				Innovative entrepreneurship		
		Public R&D expenditure (per GDP)	Top 500 universities (per GDP)	Publications in the top-quartile journals (per GDP)	Business R&D expenditure (per GDP)	Top 500 corporate R&D investors (per GDP)	Triadic patent families (per GDP)	Trademarks (per GDP)	Venture capital (per GDP)	Young patenting firms (per GDP)	Ease of entrepreneurship index
		PUB_XGDP	UNI500_GDP	PUB25_GDP	BE_XGDP	CORPRD500_GDP	PTRIAD_GDP	TRDMRK_GDP	VC_XGDP	PTYG_GDP	EASE_I
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Argentina	ARG	△	△	○	○	○	○	○			
Australia	AUS	▲	▲	▲	▲	△	△	▲	△		▲
Austria	AUT	▲	★	▲	▲	▲	▲	△	△	★	▲
Belgium	BEL	△	▲	▲	▲	△	▲	△	▲	△	△
Brazil	BRA		△	○		△	○	○			△
Canada	CAN	▲	▲	▲	△	△	▲	★	★	○	▲
Chile	CHL	○	△	○	○	○	○	△			△
China	CHN	△	△	○	▲	△	△	○			○
Colombia	COL	○	○	○	○						
Costa Rica	CRI	○	○	○	○	○					
Czech Republic	CZE	▲	△	△	△	△	△	△	○		△
Denmark	DNK	★	▲	★	▲	★	▲	▲	▲		▲
Estonia	EST	▲		▲	▲	○	△	△	▲		▲
Finland	FIN	★	★	▲	★	★	★	▲	★	★	▲
France	FRA	▲	△	△	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	△	▲
Germany	DEU	★	▲	△	▲	▲	★	▲	▲	★	▲
Greece	GRC	○	△	△	○	△	○	○	○		△
Hungary	HUN	○	△	△	△	△	△	○	△		△
Iceland	ISL	★	○	★	▲	▲	△	★			△
India	IND	△	○	○	○	○	△	○			○
Indonesia	IDN		○	○	○		○	○			△
Ireland	IRL	△	▲	▲	△	▲	▲	▲	★	○	△
Israel	ISR	△	★	▲	★	▲	▲	▲	★		○
Italy	ITA	△	△	△	△	△	△	△	○	▲	★
Japan	JPN	▲	△	○	★	▲	★	△	△	○	▲
Korea	KOR	▲	△	△	★	▲	▲	▲	▲		△
Latvia	LVA	△	○	○	○		△				
Lithuania	LTU	△	○	○	○		△				
Luxembourg	LUX	○	○	△	△	★	▲	★	△		△
Malaysia	MYS	△	△	○	△	△					
Mexico	MEX	○	○	○	○	○	○	△			○
Netherlands	NLD	▲	▲	★	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	★
New Zealand	NZL	△	★	▲	△	△	△	★	△		★
Norway	NOR	▲	▲	△	△	▲	△	△	△	▲	△
Poland	POL	△	△	△	○	○	△	○	○		○
Portugal	PRT	△	▲	▲	△	△	△	△	△		▲
Russian Federation	RUS	△	○	○	△	△	○	○	△		△
Slovak Republic	SVK	△	○	○	○	○	○	○			★
Slovenia	SVN	△	▲	▲	▲	△	△	△	△		△
South Africa	ZAF	○	△	○	△	△	△	△	△		○
Spain	ESP	△	△	△	△	△	△	△	○	○	○
Sweden	SWE	★	★	★	★	★	★	▲	▲	★	△
Switzerland	CHE	▲	▲	★	▲	★	★	★	▲	★	▲
Turkey	TUR	△	○	○	△	△	○	○			○
United Kingdom	GBR	△	▲	▲	△	▲	▲	▲	▲	△	▲
United States	USA	▲	△	△	▲	▲	▲	▲	★	○	★
EU28	EU28	▲	▲	★	▲	△	▲	△	▲	▲	

Table 9.1. **Comparative performance of national science and innovation systems, 2014** (cont.)

Country relative position: in the top 5 OECD or above (★), in the middle range on par or above OECD median (▲), in the middle range below OECD median (△) and in the bottom 5 OECD or below (○)

		Interactions and skills for innovation												
		ICT and Internet infrastructures				Networks, clusters and transfers				Skills for innovation				
		ICT investment (per GDP)	Fixed broadband subscribers (per population)	Wireless broadband subscribers (per population)	E-government readiness index	Industry financed public R&D expenditure (per GDP)	Patents filed by universities and public labs (per GDP)	International co-authorship (%)	International co-invention (%)	Tertiary education expenditure (per GDP)	Adult population at tertiary education level (%)	Top adult performers in technology problem solving (%)	Top 15 year-old performers in science (%)	Doctoral graduate rate in science and engineering (%)
		ICTINV_XGDP	FBBAND_HAB	WBBAND_HAB	EGOV_I	PUB_BEF_XGDP	PATPRI_XGDP	INTCOA_XSA	COPAT_XPCT	TER_XGDP	ADTERPOP_XT	TOPAD_PST_XAD	TOP15_SCI_XT	PHDR_SCIENG_XCOH
		(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(o)	(p)	(q)	(r)	(s)	(t)	(u)	(v)	(w)
Argentina	ARG	○	○	○	○	○		△	★	▲	○		○	○
Australia	AUS	▲	△	★	▲	▲	▲	△	△	▲	▲	▲	★	▲
Austria	AUT	▲	△	▲	△	▲	△	★	▲	△	△	△	△	▲
Belgium	BEL	▲	▲	△	△	▲	▲	★	★	△	▲		▲	▲
Brazil	BRA		○	△	○		△	○	△	○	○		○	○
Canada	CAN	△	▲	△	▲	▲	▲	△	▲	★	★	▲	▲	▲
Chile	CHL		○	○	△	○	△	▲	△	★	○		○	○
China	CHN		○	○	○	▲	△	○	○		○			○
Colombia	COL		○	○	△			▲	△	★	△		○	
Costa Rica	CRI		○	○	○			★	★		△		○	
Czech Republic	CZE	△	△	△	○	△	△	△	▲	△	△	△	△	△
Denmark	DNK	★	★	★	★	△	★	▲	▲	▲	△	★	△	▲
Estonia	EST		△	▲	△	△		▲	★	▲	▲	○	★	△
Finland	FIN	△	▲	★	▲	★	▲	▲	△	★	▲	★	★	★
France	FRA	△	★	△	▲	△	★	▲	△	▲	△		▲	▲
Germany	DEU	△	▲	△	▲	★	▲	△	△	△	△	▲	▲	★
Greece	GRC	○	△	△	△	△	○	△	▲	▲	△		○	△
Hungary	HUN		△	○	△	▲	○	▲	▲	○	△		△	○
Iceland	ISL		▲	▲	△	★		★	▲	○	▲		△	△
India	IND		○	○	○		△	○	▲	○				
Indonesia	IDN		○	○	○			▲	★	○	○		○	○
Ireland	IRL	○	△	▲	△	○	★	▲	▲	▲	▲	○	▲	▲
Israel	ISR		△	△	▲	▲	★	△	△	▲	★		△	▲
Italy	ITA	△	△	△	△	○	△	△	○	○	○		△	△
Japan	JPN	★	▲	▲	▲	△	▲	○	○	▲	★	▲	★	△
Korea	KOR	▲	★	★	★	▲	★	○	○	★	★	○	▲	△
Latvia	LVA		△	△	△	▲		△	★	▲	△		○	△
Lithuania	LTU		△	○	△	★		△	△		▲		△	
Luxembourg	LUX	○	▲	▲	▲	△	△	★	★	○	▲		▲	
Malaysia	MYS		○	○	△			△	△	★	○		○	
Mexico	MEX	○	○	○	○	○	○	△	▲	△	○		○	○
Netherlands	NLD	▲	★	▲	★	★	▲	▲	△	▲	△	★	▲	△
New Zealand	NZL	★	▲	▲	▲	★	△	▲	△	▲	▲		★	▲
Norway	NOR		▲	▲	▲	▲	△	▲	△	▲	▲	★	△	▲
Poland	POL		○	▲	○	△	△	○	★	△	△	○	▲	○
Portugal	PRT	▲	△	○	△	○	○	△	▲	△	○		○	△
Russian Federation	RUS		○	△	△	★	○	○	△	△	★		○	○
Slovak Republic	SVK	○	○	△	○	△		△	▲	○	△	○	△	▲
Slovenia	SVN	△	△	△	△	▲	△	△	△	△	△		▲	▲
South Africa	ZAF		○	○	○	△	△	△	△	○	○			○
Spain	ESP	△	△	△	△	▲	▲	△	△	△	△		△	△
Sweden	SWE	★	▲	★	▲	▲	○	▲	△	▲	▲	★	△	★
Switzerland	CHE	★	★	△	▲	▲	▲	★	★	△	▲		▲	★
Turkey	TUR		○	○	○	▲	○	○	○	△	○		○	○
United Kingdom	GBR	▲	▲	▲	★	△	▲	△	▲	△	▲		▲	★
United States	USA	▲	▲	▲	★	△	▲	○	○	★	★	△	△	△
EU28	EU28	△	▲	▲		△	▲	▲	▲		△		△	▲

Note: Non-OECD countries are also compared to OECD countries and may therefore be out of range (e.g. lower than the lowest OECD country). They appear in this table with top five and bottom five OECD values

Israel: "The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law."

Source: See references and methodological annex of the OECD STI Outlook 2014 country profiles.

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