

Serbia

The OECD Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) is the largest international survey of teachers and principals. By collecting internationally comparable information, it ensures their voices are represented in education policy making.

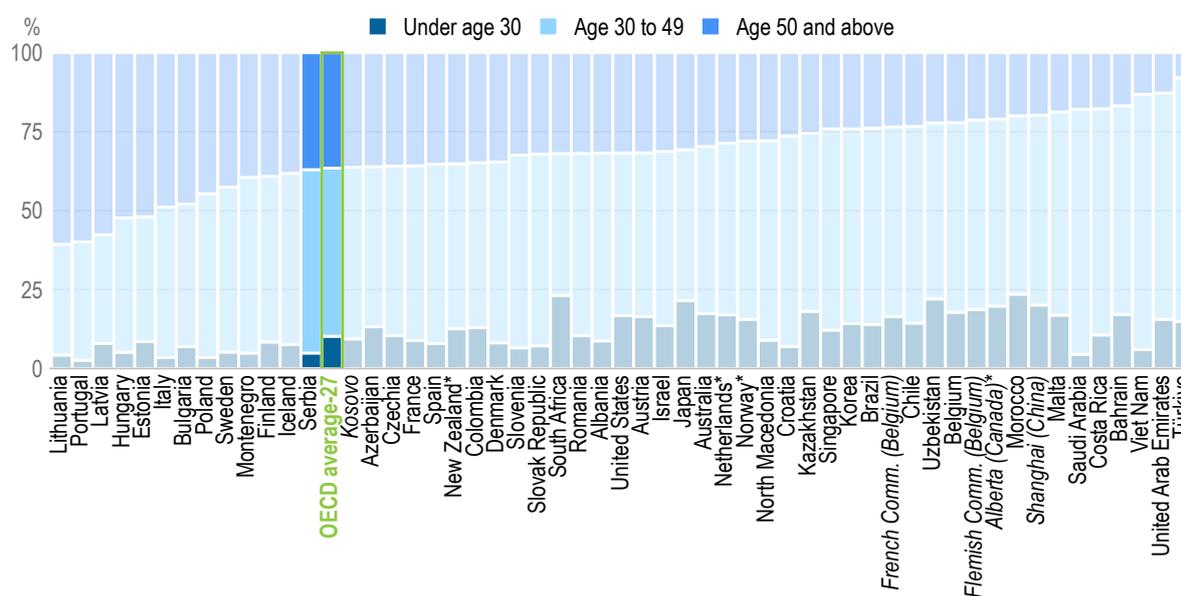
TALIS relies solely on self-reports, which reflect perceptions but may be shaped by social and cultural context. Therefore, cross-country comparisons should be interpreted with caution.

This note presents findings based on responses collected in 2024 from lower secondary teachers and principals. It only comments on statistically significant differences or changes.

Teachers' background

Figure 1. Teachers' age

Percentage of lower secondary teachers, by age group



Note: * Estimates should be interpreted with caution due to higher risk of non-response bias.

Source: OECD, TALIS 2024 Database, Table 1.3.

Age

- In Serbia, teachers are, on average, 46 years old, which is higher than the average age of teachers across OECD countries and territories with available data (hereafter, "OECD average") (45 years

old). Furthermore, 37% of teachers are aged 50 and above (similar to the OECD average: 37%) and 5% of teachers are aged below 30 (lower than the OECD average: 10%).

Gender

- 70% of teachers are women (similar to the OECD average: 70%).

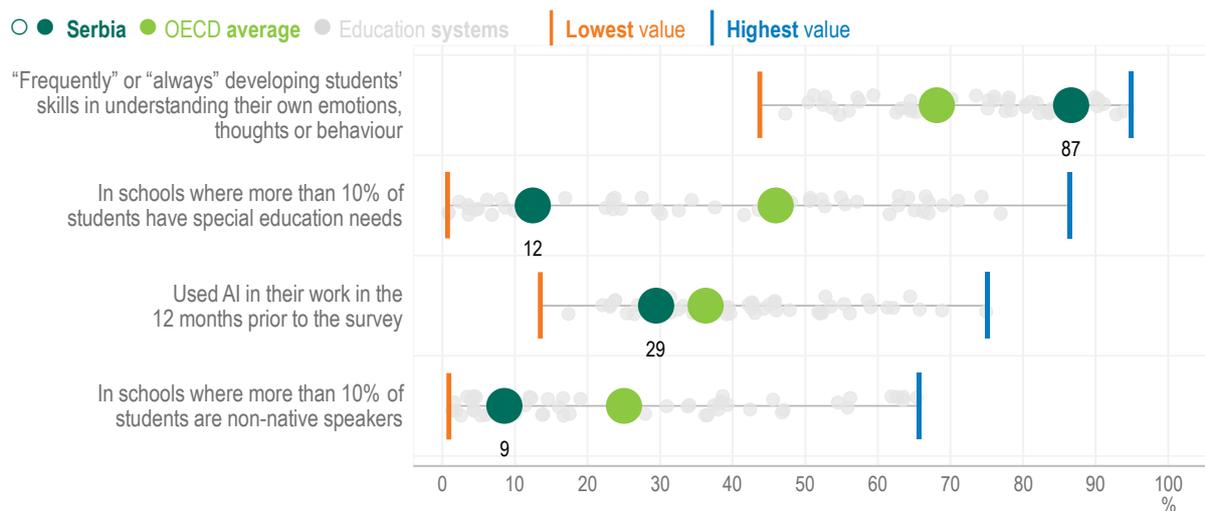
Experience

- 41% of teachers have non-teaching work experience (lower than the OECD average: 57%). The share of second-career teachers (those with at least ten years of work experience in non-education roles and for whom teaching was not their first career choice) is 4% (lower than the OECD average: 8%).

Teaching for today's world

Figure 2. Teaching for today's world

Percentage of lower secondary teachers



Statistically significant differences from the OECD average are highlighted with filled circles.

Source: OECD, TALIS 2024 Database, Tables 1.25, 1.42 and 1.59.

Student diversity

- In Serbia, 9% of teachers work in schools where the share of students whose first language is not the language of instruction is above 10% (lower than the OECD average: 25%) and 14% teach in schools with at least 1% of students who are refugees (lower than the OECD average: 47%).
- The share of teachers who feel they can adapt their teaching to the cultural diversity of students "quite a bit" or "a lot" is 72% (higher than the OECD average: 63%), and the share of those who can ensure that students with different cultural or ethnic backgrounds work together "quite a bit" or "a lot" is 81% (higher than the OECD average: 74%).

Special education needs

- The share of teachers who teach in schools where more than 10% of students have special education needs is 12% (lower than the OECD average: 46%). To note, in certain countries, the term has shifted from special education needs to learning support needs. This needs to be considered when examining trend data on special education needs in schools.
- The share of teachers who feel they can design learning tasks to accommodate students with special education needs “quite a bit” or “a lot” is 55% (lower than the OECD average: 62%), while the share of those reporting that they can work jointly with other professionals and staff to teach students with special education needs in the classroom “quite a bit” or “a lot” is 51% (lower than the OECD average: 72%).

Social and emotional skills

- Social and emotional skills are vital for academic, professional, health, and societal outcomes, making it essential to understand teachers’ competencies and confidence in teaching them. In Serbia, 80% of teachers feel they can support students’ social and emotional learning “quite a bit” or “a lot” (higher than the OECD average: 73%), and 91% report being comfortable providing instruction on social and emotional skills to students (higher than the OECD average: 86%).
- 87% of teachers report “frequently” or “always” developing students’ skills in understanding their own emotions, thoughts or behaviour (higher than the OECD average: 68%), and 90% report that they “frequently” or “always” focus on developing student skills in empathising with others (higher than the OECD average: 82%).

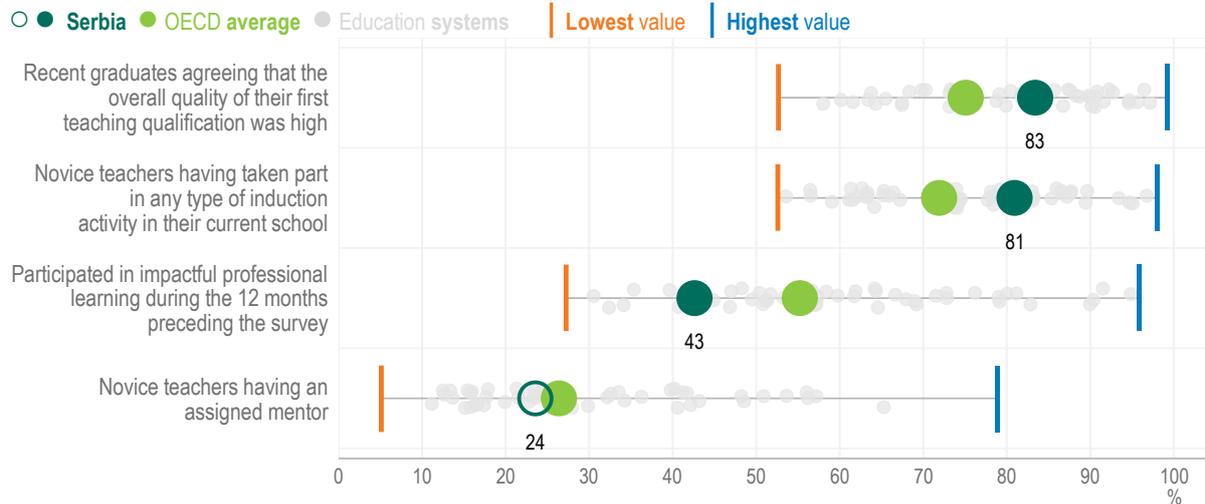
Technology

- Many education systems were forced to use online or hybrid learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, and some systems have maintained those methods. In Serbia, 11% of teachers work in schools where at least one lesson was taught as hybrid or on line in the last month (lower than the OECD average: 16%).
- 29% of teachers report having used artificial intelligence (AI) in their work (lower than the OECD average: 36%). Teachers tend to use AI to efficiently learn about and summarise a topic (81%), help students practice new skills in real-life scenarios (66%), and generate lesson plans or activities (59%). The least frequent use of AI is to generate text for student feedback or parent/guardian communications (48%), automatically adjust the difficulty of lesson materials according to students’ learning needs (45%), and assess or mark student work (37%).
- Among teachers who report that they have not used AI in their teaching in the 12 months prior to the survey, 61% report that they do not have the knowledge and skills to teach using AI (lower than the OECD average: 75%) and 43% say that their schools lack the infrastructure to use AI (higher than the OECD average: 37%).

Teachers' learning opportunities

Figure 3. Opportunities to learn

Percentage of lower secondary teachers



Statistically significant differences from the OECD average are highlighted with filled circles.

Source: OECD, TALIS 2024 Database, Tables 4.3, 4.7, 4.10 and 4.24.

Initial teacher education

- In Serbia, 83% of recent graduates (teachers who have completed their initial teacher education in the five years prior to the survey) “agree” or “strongly agree” that the quality of their initial education was high overall (higher than the OECD average: 75%).
- The following shares of recent graduates report that their initial teacher education prepared them well for: subject content (81%), general pedagogy (70%), teaching in a multicultural or multilingual setting (41%), using digital resources and tools for teaching (74%), and supporting students’ social and emotional development (74%).

Induction and mentoring

- Among teachers who have recently joined their current school (within five years prior to the survey), 81% report having taken part in either formal or informal induction in their school (higher than the OECD average: 72%).
- 24% of novice teachers (with up to five years of teaching experience) have an assigned mentor (similar to the OECD average: 26%), and 92% work in schools offering some mentoring programmes (higher than the OECD average: 81%).

Continuous professional learning

- 43% of teachers report that the professional learning activities they participated in during the 12 months preceding the survey had a positive impact on their teaching (lower than the OECD average: 55%). The share of novice teachers who find professional learning impactful is 15 percentage points higher compared to what experienced teachers report.

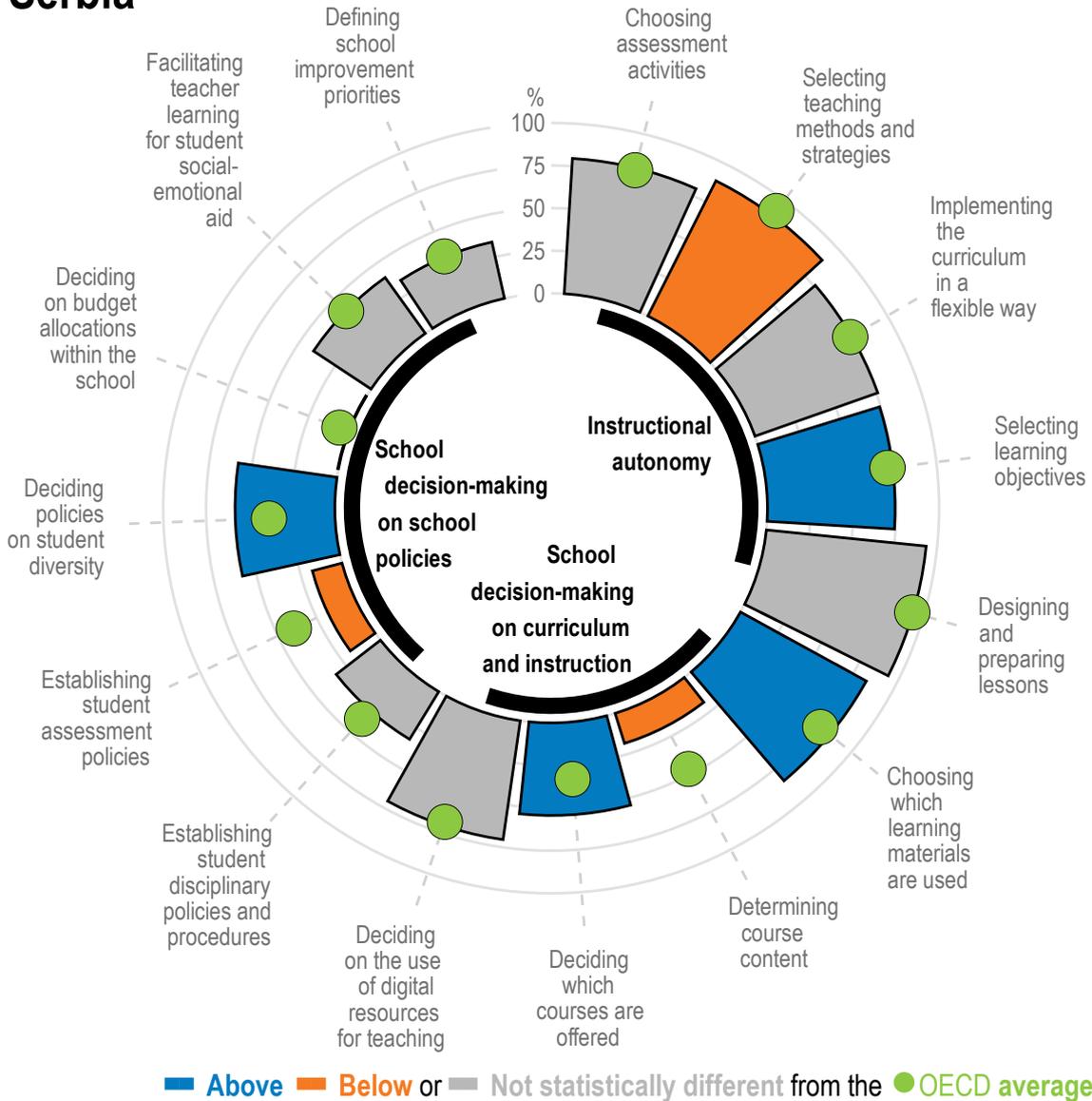
- The areas for which teachers most commonly report high level of professional learning needs include: teaching students with special education needs (32%), skills for using artificial intelligence for teaching and learning (24%), and methods for supporting students' social and emotional learning (23%). The areas most commonly indicated by novice teachers in relation to high level of professional learning needs are: teaching students with special education needs (34%), classroom management for student behaviour (28%), and methods for supporting students' social and emotional learning (24%).
- Teachers most commonly identify the following barriers to engaging in professional learning: not having time due to other commitments or responsibilities (47%), professional learning is too expensive (45%), and lack of relevant professional learning offered (41%). The barriers that novice teachers are most likely to report as preventing them from participating in professional learning include: not having time due to other commitments or responsibilities (47%), lack of relevant professional learning offered (32%), and professional learning is too expensive (30%).

Teacher leadership and autonomy

Figure 4. Teachers' decision making authority

Percentage of lower secondary teachers

Serbia



Statistically significant differences from the OECD average are highlighted with filled circles.

Source: OECD, TALIS 2024 Database, Tables 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.31.

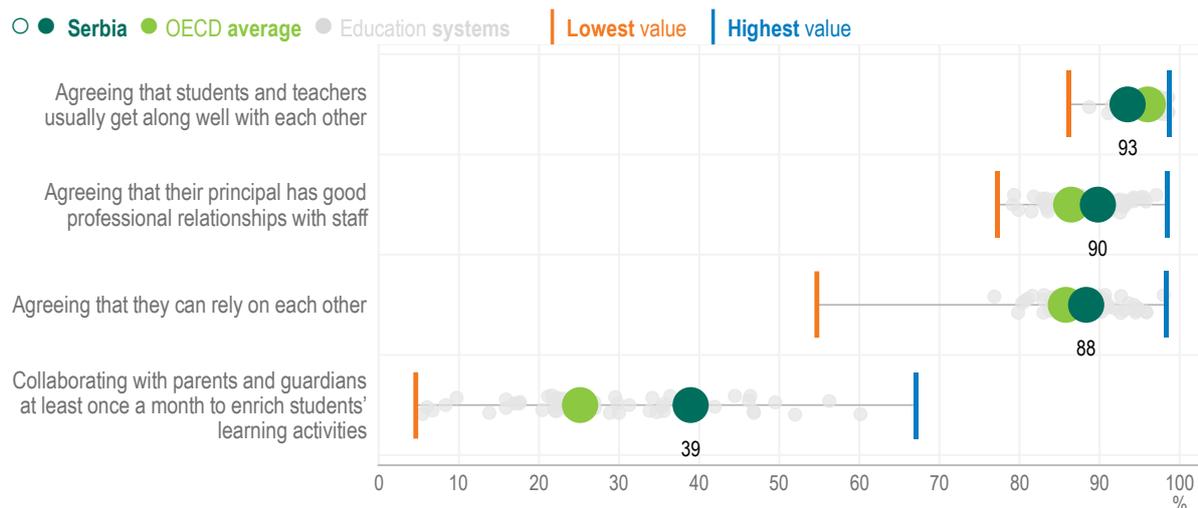
- In Serbia, levels of instructional autonomy – reported by teachers – and involvement in school-level decision making on curriculum, instruction, and other school policies – reported by principals – are close to the OECD average, with no consistent pattern of being above or below it across items.
- Teacher appraisal not only serves a formative role by supporting professional growth but also a summative role by assessing effectiveness and ensuring accountability. Among teachers who

report having “substantial” or “full” autonomy in curriculum implementation in Serbia, 2% work in schools where they are appraised less than once per year, or not at all.

Teachers’ professional relationships

Figure 5. Professional relationships

Percentage of lower secondary teachers



Statistically significant differences from the OECD average are highlighted with filled circles.

Source: OECD, TALIS 2024 Database, Tables 6.8, 6.17, 6.27 and 6.36.

Between teachers

- In Serbia, the most frequent forms of collaboration among teachers include: engaging in discussions about the learning development of specific students (54%), working with other teachers in the school to ensure common standards in evaluations for assessing student progress (47%), and taking part in collaborative professional learning (35%).
- 88% of teachers “agree” or “strongly agree” that, at their school, teachers can rely on each other (higher than the OECD average: 86%).

With the principal

- 90% of teachers “agree” or “strongly agree” that their principal has good professional relationships with staff (higher than the OECD average: 86%), 90% report that their principal provides useful feedback to teachers and staff (higher than the OECD average: 77%), and 94% agree that their principal has confidence in the expertise of the teachers at their school (higher than the OECD average: 92%).

With students

- 93% of teachers “agree” or “strongly agree” that students and teachers usually get along well with each other (lower than the OECD average: 96%), while 67% agree that, in their school, teachers

are valued by students (lower than the OECD average: 71%). Teachers in socio-economically disadvantaged schools (i.e. those with more than 30% of students from socio-economically disadvantaged homes) are equally likely to feel valued by students than teachers in advantaged schools.

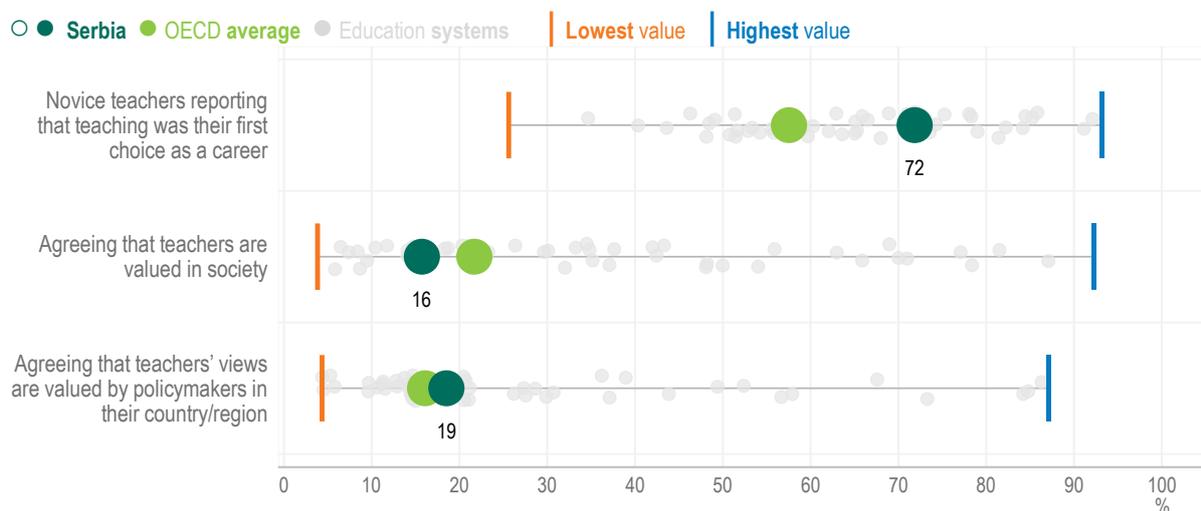
With parents and guardians

- While 61% “agree” or “strongly agree” that in their school, teachers are valued by parents and guardians (lower than the OECD average: 65%), 39% of teachers report collaborating with parents and guardians to enrich students’ learning activities at least once a month (higher than the OECD average: 25%).

Status of the teaching profession

Figure 6. Status of the teaching profession

Percentage of lower secondary teachers



Statistically significant differences from the OECD average are highlighted with filled circles.

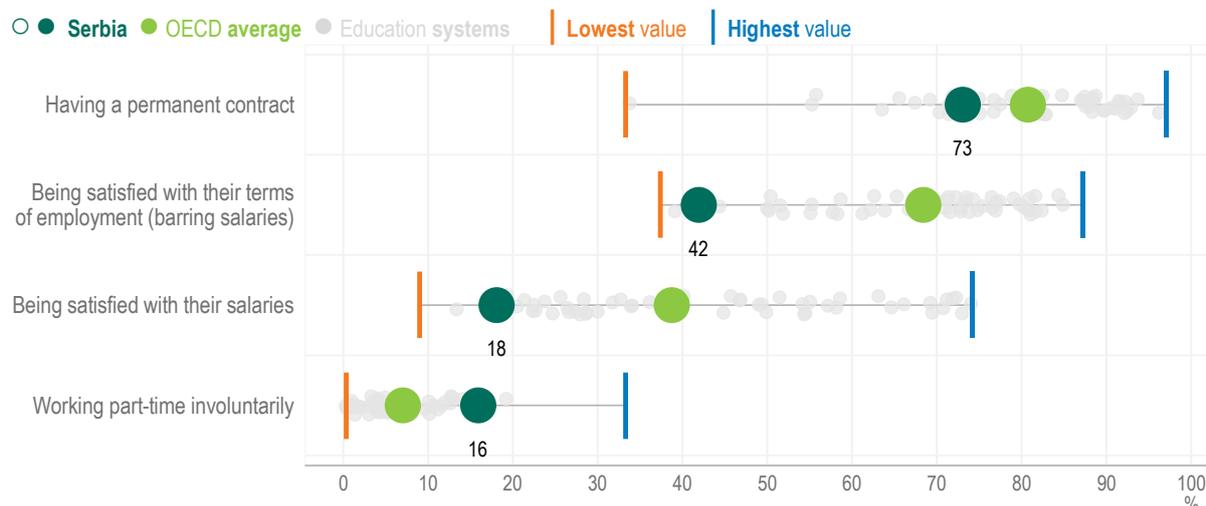
Source: OECD, TALIS 2024 Database, Tables 7.24 and 7.31.

- Higher social status of the teaching profession can help attract high-calibre candidates to the profession and retain experienced teachers. In Serbia, 16% of teachers “agree” or “strongly agree” that teachers are valued in society (lower than the OECD average: 22%).
- 19% of teachers “agree” or “strongly agree” that teachers’ views are valued by policymakers in their country/region (higher than the OECD average: 16%).
- 72% of novice teachers report that teaching was their first choice as a career (higher than the OECD average: 58%).

Teachers' terms of employment

Figure 7. Terms of employment

Percentage of lower secondary teachers



Statistically significant differences from the OECD average are highlighted with filled circles.

Source: OECD, TALIS 2024 Database, Tables 7.35, 7.50, 7.52 and 7.63.

Contracts and hours

- In Serbia, 73% of teachers have a permanent contract (lower than the OECD average: 81%). Novice teachers are more likely to have a fixed-term contract than their experienced peers. The share of teachers who are employed on a fixed-term contract while reporting job security as highly important is 10% (higher than the OECD average: 9%).
- 37% of teachers are employed part-time (working up to 90% of full-time hours) (higher than the OECD average: 19%). Novice teachers are more likely to be employed part-time than their experienced colleagues. The share of teachers who work part-time but do not consider job flexibility highly important is 16% (higher than the OECD average: 7%).
- 42% of teachers “agree” or “strongly agree” that they are satisfied with their terms of employment (barring salaries) (lower than the OECD average: 68%).

Salary

- 18% of teachers “agree” or “strongly agree” that they are satisfied with their salaries (lower than the OECD average: 39%).

Demands of teaching

Figure 8. Most common sources of teachers' stress in Serbia

Percentage of lower secondary teachers who report that the following are sources of stress “quite a bit” or “a lot”



Statistically significant differences from the OECD average are highlighted with filled circles.

Source: OECD, TALIS 2024 Database, Table 3.16.

Sources of stress

- In Serbia, the most commonly reported sources of stress are: maintaining classroom discipline (65%), being held responsible for student achievement (65%), and having too much administrative work to do (64%).

Working hours

- Full-time teachers report that their total working hours per week is 41.8 hours (similar to the OECD average: 41).
- Full-time teachers report spending 22.1 hours per week on teaching (lower than the OECD average: 22.7).
- Full-time teachers report spending 7.5 hours per week on preparing lessons (similar to the OECD average: 7.4).
- Full-time teachers report spending 4.4 hours per week on marking and correcting of student work (lower than the OECD average: 4.6).
- Full-time teachers report spending 2.9 hours per week on administrative work (similar to the OECD average: 3).

Classroom management and student behaviour

- 42% of teachers report that in a randomly chosen class the share of students is at least 1% in more than one of the following categories: students with behavioural problems; students with difficulties understanding the language of instruction; students with special education needs (lower than the

OECD average: 77%). Novice teachers are equally likely to report teaching such diverse classes as their experienced peers.

- 8% of teachers report losing quite a lot of time because students interrupt the lessons (lower than the OECD average: 18%) and spending 13% of class time on keeping order in the classroom (lower than the OECD average 15%).

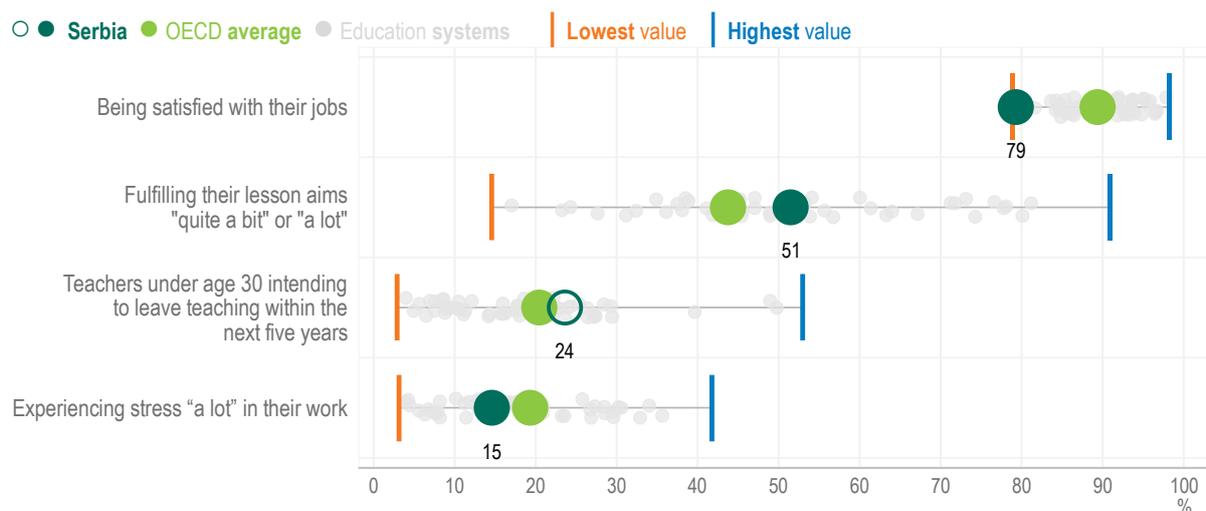
Appraisal

- The most commonly reported appraisal methods (as reported by principals) are: observations of classroom teaching (100%), school-based and classroom-based results (99%), and student survey responses related to teaching (98%).
- The most frequently reported consequences of appraisal include: discussing with the teacher measures to remedy any weaknesses in teaching (87%), developing a development/training plan (67%), and appointing a mentor to help the teacher improve his/her teaching (33%).

Teachers' professional outcomes

Figure 9. Professional outcomes

Percentage of lower secondary teachers



Statistically significant differences from the OECD average are highlighted with filled circles.

Source: OECD, TALIS 2024 Database, Tables 2.1, 2.3, 2.14 and 7.1.

Achieving lesson aims

- In Serbia, 51% of teachers report meeting their lesson aims "quite a bit" or "a lot" across all seven areas – teaching clarity, cognitive activation, feedback, support for consolidation, adapting teaching to the different needs of students, supporting students' social and emotional learning, classroom management – covered by TALIS (higher than the OECD average: 44%). Among teachers' lesson goals, engaging students in work that challenges them (73%) is the least likely to be achieved.

- The share of novice teachers (with up to five years of teaching experience) who report fulfilling lesson aims across all seven areas covered by TALIS (52%) is similar to that of experienced teachers (50%).

Well-being

- 15% of teachers experience stress “a lot” in their work (lower than the OECD average: 19%); 8% say their job negatively impacts their mental health “a lot” (lower than the OECD average: 10%), and 8% report that it negatively impacts their physical health “a lot” (similar to the OECD average: 8%).
- Teachers under age 30 are equally likely to report feeling stressed “a lot” as their colleagues aged 50 and above.

Satisfaction and retention

- The share of teachers who report that, all in all, they are satisfied with their jobs is 79% (lower than the OECD average: 89%).
- Teachers in rural schools tend to be more satisfied with their jobs than their peers in urban schools.
- 24% of teachers under age 30 express their intention of leaving teaching within the next five years (similar to the OECD average: 20%).

Data sources

All data reported in this note come from the tables accompanying the report (OECD, 2025):

- Teachers’ background: Tables 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.12 and 1.14.
- Teaching for today’s world: Tables 1.25, 1.26, 1.27, 1.29, 1.42, 1.45, 1.53, 1.59, 1.60 and 1.63.
- Teachers’ learning opportunities: Tables 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.10, 4.11, 4.24, 4.27 and 4.41.
- Teacher leadership and autonomy: Tables 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.31 and 5.40.
- Teachers’ professional relationships: Tables 6.3, 6.7, 6.8, 6.9, 6.17, 6.18, 6.27, 6.29, 6.30, 6.36 and 6.38.
- Status of the teaching profession: Tables 7.24, 7.26, 7.29, 7.31 and 7.32.
- Teachers’ terms of employment: Tables 7.35, 7.36, 7.37, 7.41, 7.44, 7.46, 7.47, 7.50, 7.52, 7.54, 7.63 and 7.67.
- Demands of teaching: Tables 3.8, 3.10, 3.16, 3.20, 3.34, 3.36, 3.37, 3.38, 3.48, 3.50 and 3.54.
- Teachers’ professional outcomes: Tables 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.7, 2.13, 2.14, 2.15, 2.27, 7.1 and 7.2.

References

OECD (2025), *Results from TALIS 2024: The State of Teaching*, TALIS, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/90df6235-en>.

OECD (forthcoming), *Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) 2024 Technical Report*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

OECD (forthcoming), *Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) 2024 User Guide*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

For more information about TALIS 2024 visit www.oecd.org/en/about/programmes/talis.

Explore, compare and visualise more data and analysis using <http://gpseducation.oecd.org>.

Questions can be directed to the TALIS team at the Directorate for Education and Skills: edutaliscontact@oecd.org.

This note was written by Gabor Fülöp and Rodolfo Ilizaliturri, Directorate for Education and Skills.

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Member countries of the OECD.

This document, as well as any data and map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

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.

Note by the Republic of Türkiye

The information in this document with reference to "Cyprus" relates to the southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriot people on the Island. Türkiye recognises the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of the United Nations, Türkiye shall preserve its position concerning the "Cyprus issue".

Note by all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Union

The Republic of Cyprus is recognised by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Türkiye. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Kosovo: This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99 and the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on Kosovo's declaration of independence.

The full book is available in English: OECD (2025), Results from TALIS 2024: The State of Teaching, TALIS, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/90df6235-en>

© OECD 2025



Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)

This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. By using this work, you accept to be bound by the terms of this licence (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Attribution – you must cite the work.

Translations – you must cite the original work, identify changes to the original and add the following text: In the event of any discrepancy between the original work and the translation, only the text of the original work should be considered valid.

Adaptations – you must cite the original work and add the following text: This is an adaptation of an original work by the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed in this adaptation should not be reported as representing the official views of the OECD or of its Member countries.

Third-party material – the licence does not apply to third-party material in the work. If using such material, you are responsible for obtaining permission from the third party and for any claims of infringement.

You must not use the OECD logo, visual identity or cover image without express permission or suggest the OECD endorses your use of the work.

Any dispute arising under this licence shall be settled by arbitration in accordance with the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) Arbitration Rules 2012. The seat of arbitration shall be Paris (France). The number of arbitrators shall be one.