

PIAAC: International Results Summary

Literacy

Overall, Canadian adults (16-65) performed about average on the literacy assessment relative to other OECD countries. However, young adults (16-24) in the Canadian sample scored below average with a mean score of 276 compared to the OECD average of 280. It should also be noted that Canada has a high variance between highest and lowest scores relative to other OECD countries.

-  Among adults aged 16-65, Canada is slightly above average proficiency levels in literacy among OECD countries. Canada ranks 10th in terms of the percentage of the population that scored at level 3 and level 4/5
-  Canada ranks 11th in terms of mean proficiency scores on literacy with a mean score of 273 (which is the OECD average). The means scored ranged from 294 (Japan) to 236 (Cyprus)
-  Canada is slightly below average in mean literacy proficiency scores among young adults (16-24), with an average score of 276. The average score among OECD countries is 280.
-  There is a large variation between highest and lowest percentile rankings in Canada. 163 points separate the highest and lowest scores in Canada - the OECD average is 152.

Numeracy

In terms of the numeracy scores Canadian adults (16-64) and young adults (16-24) performed below the OECD average, although in both cases the average scores in Canada were only slightly below the OECD average. As with literacy scores, there is a larger than average difference between the highest and lowest scores in Canada, with 180 points separating the 5th and 95th percentiles compared to the OECD average of 167.

-  Canada is below the OECD average in terms of percentage of adults scoring at levels 3, 4 and 5 in numeracy proficiency
-  The average score in numeracy proficiency among adults (16-65) in Canada is 265. This is below the OECD average of 269
-  The average numeracy proficiency scores for youth (16-24) in Canada is 268, which is below the OECD average of 271

- ◆ There is a wide gap between the highest and lowest scores in numeracy proficiency among adults in Canada, with 180 points separating the highest and lowest scores.
- ◆ Canada has a larger proportion of adults in the highest (5th) and lowest (95) percentile rankings than the OECD average

Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments (PS-TRE)

Overall, Canada fared well in the problem solving in technology rich environments, finishing well above average among adults (16-65) and around average for young adults (16-24) (though it should be noted that comparisons to the OECD average are limited due to large variations in completion between countries). However, there are large discrepancies between adults in Canada that performed well and those that received poor scores. For example, 14.8% of adults (16-65) scored below level one, which is among the highest in the OECD. Yet Canada also had among the highest proportion of adults among OECD countries scoring at level 3 (7.1% compared to the OECD average of 5.8%).

- ◆ Canada ranks 7th in terms of the proportion of adults (16-65) that scored level 2 and 3 on the proficiency in problem solving in technology rich environments. However, these comparisons are not meaningful due to the large variations in the percentage of adults who completed the assessment between countries
- ◆ 14.8% of adults in the Canadian sample scored below a level one, compared to the OECD average of 12.3%. Canada, the US, UK and Flanders (Belgium) have the highest proportion of adults finishing below level one in the OECD
- ◆ 30% scored a level one compared to the OECD average of 29.4%
- ◆ 29.4% scored a level 2 compared to the OECD average of 28.2%
- ◆ 7.1% scored a level three compared to the OECD average of 5.8%. Canada, along with Germany, Netherlands, Japan and Finland has the highest proportion of adults at level 3
- ◆ 10.4% of adults in the Canadian sample did not complete the problem solving component because they failed the Information Communication Technologies core assessment or did not have sufficient computer experience. 6.3% opted out of the computer based assessment. Two percent did not complete the assessment due to technical problems, language difficulties or learning/mental disabilities.

- ◆ In terms of youth (16-24) 9% finished below level 1 compared to the OECD averaged of 7.5%
- ◆ 32% of youth in Canada finished at level 1 compared to the OECD average of 32.4%
- ◆ 40.9% scored level 2 and 9.9% scored a level 3, both of which are close to the OECD average
- ◆ 4.8% did not complete the assessment due to insufficient computer experience and/or failing the ICT core assessment

