Table 1312. **Educational Performance: 2002 and 2003**

[Tertiary-type A includes education leading to a BA, Master's, or equivalent degree, and advanced research programs. Performance figures were gathered from the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), an internationally standardized assessment jointly developed by participating countries, which takes place in three-yearly cycles. To implement PISA, each of the participating countries selects a nationally representative sample of 15-year-olds, regardless of grade level. In the United States, 5,456 students from public and private schools took the PISA assessment in 2003. Tests are typically administered to between 4,500 and 10,000 students in each country]

Country	Student performance on the combined reading, scientific, and mathematical literacy scales, (**2003**)			Educational attainment of adult population and current graduation rates, (**2002**) (percent)	
	Mean score on the combined reading literacy scale [1]	Mean score on the mathematical literacy scale [2]	Mean score on the scientific literacy scale [3]	Upper secondary or higher attainment (25-64 year-olds) [4]	Tertiary-type A attainment (25-64 year-olds)
Australia	525.4	524.3	525.1	60.9	20.0
Austria	490.7	505.6	491.0	77.9	7.0
Canada	527.9	532.5	518.7	82.6	21.0
Czech Republic	488.5	516.5	523.3	87.9	[5]11.9
Finland	543.5	544.3	548.2	74.8	15.6
France	496.2	510.8	511.2	64.8	12.4
Germany	491.4	503.0	502.3	83.0	13.4
Greece	472.3	444.9	481.0	50.5	12.7
Italy	475.7	465.7	486.5	44.4	[5]10.4
Japan	498.1	534.1	547.6	83.7	20.1
Korea	534.1	542.2	538.4	70.8	18.5
Luxembourg	479.4	493.2	482.8	56.6	11.6
Mexico	399.7	385.2	404.9	12.6	2.5
Poland	496.6	490.2	497.8	47.0	[5]12.1
Spain	480.5	485.1	487.1	41.3	17.3
Sweden	514.3	509.0	506.1	81.6	17.7
Switzerland	499.1	526.6	513.0	82.4	16.2
United Kingdom	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	64.3	18.6
United States	**495.2**	**482.9**	**491.3**	**87.3**	**29.0**
Country mean	494.2	500.0	499.6	64.9	15.5

NA Not available. [1] Reading literacy is understanding, using, and reflecting on written texts in order to achieve one's goals, to develop one's knowledge and potential, and to participate in society. [2] Mathematical literacy is an individual's capacity to identify and understand the role that mathematics plays in the world, to make well-founded judgements, and to use and engage with mathematics in ways that meet the needs of that individual's life. [3] Scientific literacy is the capacity to use scientific knowledge to identify questions and to draw evidence-based conclusions in order to understand and help make decisions about the natural world and the changes made to it through human activity. [4] Excluding ISCED 3C short programs. [5] All tertiary levels: type A and type B (focus on practical, technical, or occupational skills).

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Paris, France, *OECD in Figures*, 2005 (copyright). See also <http://www.oecd.org/document/62/0,2340,en_2649_34489_2345918_1_1_1_1,00.html>.