

Table 1333. Educational Performance: 2006

[Tertiary-type A includes education leading to a Bachelor's, 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 3-year cycles. To implement PISA, each of the participating countries selects a nationally representative sample of 15-year-olds, regardless of grade level. 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			Educational attainment of adult population and current graduation rates (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 to 64 years old) ⁴	Tertiary-type A attainment (25 to 64 years old) ⁵
Australia	513	520	527	67	24
Austria	490	505	511	80	10
Canada	527	527	534	86	24
Czech Republic	483	510	513	90	14
Finland	547	548	563	80	19
France	488	496	495	67	16
Germany	495	504	516	83	15
Greece	460	459	473	59	15
Italy	469	462	475	51	12
Japan	498	523	531	(NA)	23
Korea	556	547	522	77	23
Luxembourg	479	490	486	66	16
Mexico	410	406	410	32	14
Poland	508	495	498	53	18
Spain	461	480	488	50	20
Sweden	507	502	503	84	22
Switzerland	499	530	512	85	20
United Kingdom	495	495	515	69	22
United States	(NA)	474	489	88	30
OECD mean	492	498	500	68	19

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 evidencebased 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 Includes advanced research programs.

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Paris, France, *OECD Factbook*, 2009 and *Education at a Glance*, 2008 (copyright). See also <<http://www.oecd.org>>.