

TABLE 1-12 

Average mathematics literacy assessment scores for 15-year-olds participating in PISA, by education system: 2015

(Average score)

Education system	Score	OECD member
Score higher than U.S. score of 470		
Singapore	564	N
Hong Kong (China)	548	N
Macau (China)	544	N
Taiwan (China)	542	N
Japan	532	Y
Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, and Guangdong (China)	531	N
South Korea	524	Y
Switzerland	521	Y
Estonia	520	Y
Canada	516	Y
Netherlands	512	Y
Denmark	511	Y
Finland	511	Y
Slovenia	510	Y
Belgium	507	Y
Germany	506	Y
Poland	504	Y
Ireland	504	Y
Norway	502	Y
Austria	497	Y
New Zealand	495	Y
Vietnam	495	N
Russia	494	N



Education system	Score	OECD member
Sweden	494	Y
Australia	494	Y
France	493	Y
United Kingdom	492	Y
Czech Republic	492	Y
Portugal	492	Y
OECD average	490	-
Italy	490	Y
Iceland	488	Y
Spain	486	Y
Luxembourg	486	Y
Latvia	482	Y
Malta	479	N
Lithuania	478	N
Score not statistically different from U.S. score of 470		
Hungary	477	Y
Slovakia	475	Y
Israel	470	Y
United States	470	Y
Croatia	464	N
Buenos Aires (Argentina)	456	N
Score lower than U.S. score of 470 (selected education systems)		
Greece	454	Y
Romania	444	N
Bulgaria	441	N
Cyprus	437	N
United Arab Emirates	427	N



Education system	Score	OECD member
Chile	423	Y
Turkey	420	Y
Moldova	420	N
Uruguay	418	N
Montenegro	418	N

N = no; Y = yes.

OECD = Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; PISA = Program for International Student Assessment.

Note(s)

Education systems are ordered by 2015 average score. The OECD average is the average of the national averages of the OECD member countries, with each country weighted equally. Scores are reported on a scale from 0 to 1,000. All average scores reported as higher or lower than the U.S. average score are different at the .05 level of statistical significance. Although Argentina, Malaysia, and Kazakhstan participated in PISA 2015, technical problems with their samples prevent results from being discussed in this report. The countries shown in the Score lower than U.S. score section are the 10 with the highest average scores below the United States.

Source(s)

Kastberg D, Chan JY, Murray G, *Performance of U.S. 15-Year-Old Students in Science, Reading, and Mathematics Literacy in an International Context: First Look at PISA 2015*, NCEES 2017-048 (2016). See Appendix Table 1-20.

Science and Engineering Indicators 2018