

Background of PISA 2015

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2015 was conducted under the auspices of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), with 72 countries/regions participating in the study. The international study aimed to assess the reading, mathematical and scientific literacy of young adults aged 15, collect data on factors that could help to explain differences in performance, and evaluate the effectiveness of the education system in each participating country/region.

PISA had been conducted a three-year cycles since 2000. PISA 2015 was the sixth cycle. The main study of Hong Kong PISA 2015 was conducted in April to May 2015. A total of about 5,000 students aged 15 from 138 secondary schools participated in the study. PISA moved from a paper-based to a computer-based assessment in 2015.

Ranking of Students' Reading Literacy

Reading Literacy			
PISA 2012		PISA 2015	
Country/Region	Mean Score	Country/Region	Mean Score
Shanghai-China	570	Singapore	535
Hong Kong-China	545	Hong Kong-China	527
Singapore	542	Canada	527
Japan	538	Finland	526
Korea	536	Ireland	521
Finland	524	Estonia	519
Ireland	523	Korea	517
Chinese Taipei	523	Japan	516
Canada	523	Norway	513
Poland	518	New Zealand	509
Estonia	516	Germany	509
Liechtenstein	516	Macao-China	509
New Zealand	512	Poland	506
Australia	512	Slovenia	505
Netherlands	511	Netherlands	503
Belgium	509	Australia	503
Switzerland	509	Sweden	500
Macao-China	509	Denmark	500
Vietnam	508	France	499
Germany	508	Belgium	499
France	505	Portugal	498
Norway	504	United Kingdom	498
United Kingdom	499	Chinese Taipei	497
United States	498	United States	497
Denmark	496	Spain	496
OECD average	496	Russian Federation	495
Czech Republic	493	China (B-S-J-G) (Note)	494
Italy	490	OECD Average	493
Austria	490	Switzerland	492
Latvia	489	Latvia	488
Hungary	488	Czech Republic	487
Spain	488	Croatia	487
Luxembourg	488	Viet Nam	487
Portugal	488	Austria	485
Israel	486	Italy	485
Croatia	485	Iceland	482
Sweden	483	Luxembourg	481

Reading Literacy			
PISA 2012		PISA 2015	
Country/Region	Mean Score	Country/Region	Mean Score
Iceland	483	Israel	479
Slovenia	481	Lithuania	472
Lithuania	477	Hungary	470
Greece	477	Greece	467
Turkey	475	Chile	459
Russian Federation	475	Slovak Republic	453
Slovak Republic	463	Malta	447
Cyprus	449	Cyprus	443
Serbia	446	Uruguay	437
United Arab Emirates	442	Romania	434
Chile	441	United Arab Emirates	434
Thailand	441	Bulgaria	432
Costa Rica	441	Malaysia	431
Romania	438	Turkey	428
Bulgaria	436	Costa Rica	427
Mexico	424	Trinidad and Tobago	427
Montenegro	422	Kazakhstan	427
Uruguay	411	Montenegro	427
Brazil	410	Argentina	425
Tunisia	404	Colombia	425
Colombia	403	Mexico	423
Jordan	399	Moldova	416
Malaysia	398	Thailand	409
Indonesia	396	Jordan	408
Argentina	396	Brazil	407
Albania	394	Albania	405
Kazakhstan	393	Qatar	402
Qatar	388	Georgia	401
Peru	384	Peru	398
		Indonesia	397
		Tunisia	361
		Dominican Republic	358
		Republic of Macedonia	352
		Algeria	350
		Kosovo	347
		Lebanon	347

Note: The four participating regions of Mainland China were Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, and Guangdong.

Ranking of Students' Mathematical Literacy

Mathematical Literacy			
PISA 2012		PISA 2015	
Country/Region	Mean Score	Country/Region	Mean Score
Shanghai-China	613	Singapore	564
Singapore	573	Hong Kong-China	548
Hong Kong-China	561	Macao-China	544
Chinese Taipei	560	Chinese Taipei	542
Korea	554	Japan	532
Macao-China	538	China (B-S-J-G) (Note)	531
Japan	536	Korea	524
Liechtenstein	535	Switzerland	521
Switzerland	531	Estonia	520
Netherlands	523	Canada	516
Estonia	521	Netherlands	512
Finland	519	Denmark	511
Canada	518	Finland	511
Poland	518	Slovenia	510
Belgium	515	Belgium	507
Germany	514	Germany	506
Vietnam	511	Poland	504
Austria	506	Ireland	504
Australia	504	Norway	502
Ireland	501	Austria	497
Slovenia	501	New Zealand	495
Denmark	500	Viet Nam	495
New Zealand	500	Russian Federation	494
Czech Republic	499	Sweden	494
France	495	Australia	494
United Kingdom	494	France	493
OECD average	494	United Kingdom	492
Iceland	493	Czech Republic	492
Latvia	491	Portugal	492
Luxembourg	490	Italy	490
Norway	489	OECD Average	490
Portugal	487	Iceland	488
Italy	485	Spain	486
Spain	484	Luxembourg	486
Russian Federation	482	Latvia	482
Slovak Republic	482	Malta	479
United States	481	Lithuania	478
Lithuania	479	Hungary	477

Mathematical Literacy			
PISA 2012		PISA 2015	
Country/Region	Mean Score	Country/Region	Mean Score
Sweden	478	Slovak Republic	475
Hungary	477	Israel	470
Croatia	471	United States	470
Israel	466	Croatia	464
Greece	453	Kazakhstan	460
Serbia	449	Greece	454
Turkey	448	Malaysia	446
Romania	445	Romania	444
Cyprus	440	Bulgaria	441
Bulgaria	439	Cyprus	437
United Arab Emirates	434	United Arab Emirates	427
Kazakhstan	432	Chile	423
Thailand	427	Turkey	420
Chile	423	Moldova	420
Malaysia	421	Uruguay	418
Mexico	413	Montenegro	418
Montenegro	410	Trinidad and Tobago	417
Uruguay	409	Thailand	415
Costa Rica	407	Albania	413
Albania	394	Argentina	409
Brazil	391	Mexico	408
Argentina	388	Georgia	404
Tunisia	388	Qatar	402
Jordan	386	Costa Rica	400
Colombia	376	Lebanon	396
Qatar	376	Colombia	390
Indonesia	375	Peru	387
Peru	368	Indonesia	386
		Jordan	380
		Brazil	377
		Republic of Macedonia	371
		Tunisia	367
		Kosovo	362
		Algeria	360
		Dominican Republic	328

Note: The four participating regions of Mainland China were Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, and Guangdong.

Ranking of Students' Scientific Literacy

Scientific Literacy			
PISA 2012		PISA 2015	
Country/Region	Mean Score	Country/Region	Mean Score
Shanghai-China	580	Singapore	556
Hong Kong-China	555	Japan	538
Singapore	551	Estonia	534
Japan	547	Chinese Taipei	532
Finland	545	Finland	531
Estonia	541	Macao-China	529
Korea	538	Canada	528
Vietnam	528	Viet Nam	525
Poland	526	Hong Kong-China	523
Canada	525	China (B-S-J-G) (Note)	518
Liechtenstein	525	Korea	516
Germany	524	New Zealand	513
Chinese Taipei	523	Slovenia	513
Netherlands	522	Australia	510
Ireland	522	United Kingdom	509
Australia	521	Germany	509
Macao-China	521	Netherlands	509
New Zealand	516	Switzerland	506
Switzerland	515	Ireland	503
Slovenia	514	Belgium	502
United Kingdom	514	Denmark	502
Czech Republic	508	Poland	501
Austria	506	Portugal	501
Belgium	505	Norway	498
Latvia	502	United States	496
OECD average	501	Austria	495
France	499	France	495
Denmark	498	Sweden	493
United States	497	Czech Republic	493
Spain	496	Spain	493
Lithuania	496	OECD Average	493
Norway	495	Latvia	490
Hungary	494	Russian Federation	487
Italy	494	Luxembourg	483
Croatia	491	Italy	481
Luxembourg	491	Hungary	477
Portugal	489	Lithuania	475
Russian Federation	486	Croatia	475

Scientific Literacy			
PISA 2012		PISA 2015	
Country/Region	Mean Score	Country/Region	Mean Score
Sweden	485	Iceland	473
Iceland	478	Israel	467
Slovak Republic	471	Malta	465
Israel	470	Slovak Republic	461
Greece	467	Kazakhstan	456
Turkey	463	Greece	455
United Arab Emirates	448	Chile	447
Bulgaria	446	Bulgaria	446
Chile	445	Malaysia	443
Serbia	445	United Arab Emirates	437
Thailand	444	Uruguay	435
Romania	439	Romania	435
Cyprus	438	Cyprus	433
Costa Rica	429	Argentina	432
Kazakhstan	425	Moldova	428
Malaysia	420	Albania	427
Uruguay	416	Turkey	425
Mexico	415	Trinidad and Tobago	425
Montenegro	410	Thailand	421
Jordan	409	Costa Rica	420
Argentina	406	Qatar	418
Brazil	405	Colombia	416
Colombia	399	Mexico	416
Tunisia	398	Montenegro	411
Albania	397	Georgia	411
Qatar	384	Jordan	409
Indonesia	382	Indonesia	403
Peru	373	Brazil	401
		Peru	397
		Lebanon	386
		Tunisia	386
		Republic of Macedonia	384
		Kosovo	378
		Algeria	376
		Dominican Republic	332

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