



# Reader's Guide

## **Data underlying the figures**

Detailed data tables corresponding to the figures presented in the main body of the report can be found in Annex A. These figures and tables share a common reference number, are numbered according to the corresponding chapters, and include an abbreviation in brackets to denote one of the three direct measures of skills for which there are data in the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) – literacy (L), numeracy (N) and problem solving in technology-rich environments (P). As an example, Figure 3.1 (L) denotes the first figure in Chapter 3 based on the literacy scale and it has Table A3.1 (L) as a corresponding data table in Annex A.

Annex B includes other detailed data tables that either correspond to figures included in boxes or to citations in the main body of the report, but for which no figure was provided.

Unless otherwise stated, the population underlying each of the figures and tables covers adults aged 16-65.

## **Web package**

Figures included in Chapters 3 through 6 and the corresponding data tables contained in Annex A present data for only one of the three direct measures of skills, either literacy (L), numeracy (N) or problem solving in technology-rich environments (P). A more comprehensive set of tables (and figures, when available) can be found on the web at [www.oecd.org/site/piaac/](http://www.oecd.org/site/piaac/). This more comprehensive web package includes all the figures and tables included in the report as well as data tables for the other skills domains referred to but not examined in the report. The package consists of Excel® workbooks that can be viewed and downloaded by chapter.

## **StatLinks**

A *StatLink* URL address is provided under each figure and table. Readers using the pdf version of the report can simply click on the relevant *StatLinks* url to either open or download an Excel® workbook containing the corresponding figures and tables. Readers of the print version can access the Excel® workbook by typing the *StatLink* address in their Internet browser.

## **Calculating international averages (means)**

Most figures and tables presented in this report and in the web package include a cross-country average in addition to values for individual countries or sub-national entities. The average in each figure or table corresponds to the arithmetic mean of the respective estimates for each of the OECD member countries included in the figure or table. As partner countries, Cyprus\* and the Russian Federation are not included in the cross-country averages presented in any of the figures or tables.

## **Standard error (S.E.)**

The statistical estimates presented in this report are based on samples of adults, rather than values that could be calculated if every person in the target population in every country had answered every question. Therefore, each estimate has a degree of uncertainty associated with sampling and measurement error, which can be expressed as a standard error. The use of confidence intervals provides a way to make inferences about the population means and proportions in a manner that reflects the uncertainty associated with the sample estimates. In this report, confidence intervals are stated at 95% confidence level. In other words, the result for the corresponding population would lie within the confidence interval in 95 out of 100 replications of the measurement on different samples drawn from the same population.

## **Statistical significance**

Differences considered to be statistically significant from either zero or between estimates are based on the 5% level of significance, unless otherwise stated. In the figures, statistically significant estimates are denoted in a darker tone.

**Symbols for missing data and abbreviations**

a	Data are not applicable because the category does not apply.
c	There are too few observations or no observation to provide reliable estimates (i.e. there are fewer than 30 individuals). Also denotes unstable odds ratios which may occur when probabilities are very close to 0 or 1.
m	Data are not available. The data are not submitted by the country or were collected but subsequently removed from the publication for technical reasons.
w	Data have been withdrawn at the request of the country concerned.
S.E.	Standard Error
S.D.	Standard Deviation
Score dif.	Score-point difference between x and y
% dif.	Difference in percentage points between x and y
(L)	Literacy domain
(N)	Numeracy domain
(P)	Problem solving in technology-rich environments domain
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations

**Country coverage**

This publication features data on 20 OECD countries: Australia, Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden and the United States. Three OECD sub-national entities include: Flanders (Belgium), England (United Kingdom), and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom). In addition, two countries that are not members of the OECD participated in the survey: Cyprus\* and the Russian Federation\*\*.

Data estimates for England (UK) and Northern Ireland (UK) are presented separately as well as combined in the data tables, but only as combined (i.e. England/N. Ireland [UK]) in the figures.

Data estimates for France are included only in Chapters 2 and 3 of the report. Data estimates for the Russian Federation are included only in the data tables of Chapter 2 in Annex A of the report due to the timing of the availability of a final data set. Comprehensive data for both countries are expected to be available as part of the web package (see web package section in this Guide).

The Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) is being implemented in nine additional countries: Chile, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Lithuania, New Zealand, Singapore, Slovenia and Turkey. Data collection will take place in 2014 and the results will be released in 2016.

**Rounding**

Data estimates, including mean scores, proportions, odds ratios and standard errors, are generally rounded to one decimal place. Therefore, even if the value (0.0) is shown for standard errors, this does not necessarily imply that the standard error is zero, but that it is smaller than 0.05.

**Education levels**

The classification of levels of education is based on the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 1997).



### **Further documentation and resources**

The details of the technical standards guiding the design and implementation of the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) can be found at ([www.oecd.org/site/piaac/](http://www.oecd.org/site/piaac/)). Information regarding the design, methodology and implementation of the Survey of Adult Skills can be found in summary form in *The Survey of Adult Skills: Reader's Companion* (OECD, 2013) and, in detail, in the *Technical Report of the Survey of Adult Skills* (OECD, 2013, forthcoming).

### **\*Notes regarding Cyprus**

Readers should note the following information provided by Turkey and by the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Union regarding the status of Cyprus:

#### **Note by Turkey**

The information in this document with reference to "Cyprus" relates to the southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriot people on the Island. Turkey recognises the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of the United Nations, Turkey shall preserve its position concerning the "Cyprus issue".

#### **Note by all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Union**

The Republic of Cyprus is recognised by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Turkey. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Throughout this report, including the main body, boxes and annexes, Cyprus is accompanied by a symbol pointing to these notes.

### **\*\*A note regarding the Russian Federation**

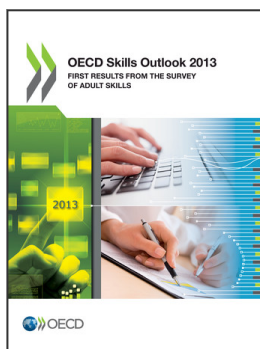
The data from the Russian Federation are *preliminary* and may be subject to change. Readers should note that the sample for the Russian Federation does not include the population of the Moscow municipal area. The data published, therefore, do not represent the entire resident population aged 16-65 in Russia but rather the population of Russia *excluding* the population residing in the Moscow municipal area.

More detailed information regarding the data from the Russian Federation as well as that of other countries can be found in the *Technical Report of the Survey of Adult Skills* (OECD, 2013, forthcoming).

### **References**

OECD (2013), *The Survey of Adult Skills: Reader's Companion*, OECD Publishing.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264204027-en>

OECD (2013, forthcoming), *Technical Report of the Survey of Adult Skills*, OECD Publishing.



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