

Reader's Guide

Data underlying the figures

Two symbols are used to denote missing data:

- c There are too few observations or no observations to provide reliable estimates (i.e. there are fewer than 30 students or fewer than 5 schools with valid data).
- m Data are not available. These data were not submitted by the country or were collected but subsequently removed from the publication for technical reasons.

Country coverage

Analyses based on data from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) presented in this publication feature results on all countries and economies that are present in the PISA Public Use Databases (various years), including all 35 OECD countries. Analyses based on European Social Survey data feature results on those countries that took part in at least two ESS rounds and for which at least 30 immigrants could be identified in the pooled sample.

The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

B-S-J-G (China) refers to the four PISA-participating China provinces: Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu and Guangdong.

FYROM refers to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Only data for the adjudicated region of Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires (CABA) are reported in figures and in the text.

Results for Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Argentina are reported only in tables available on line.

Because life satisfaction was not asked to students participating in PISA in 2015 in the Flemish Community of Belgium, whenever analyses involve self-reported life satisfaction, results for Belgium exclude the sample of students from the Flemish Community.

International averages

The OECD and EU averages correspond to the arithmetic mean of the respective country estimates. They were calculated for most indicators presented in this report.

In this publication, the OECD and EU averages are generally used when the focus is on comparing characteristics of education systems. In the case of some countries, data may not be available for specific indicators, or specific categories may not apply. Readers should, therefore, keep in mind that the terms "OECD average" and "EU average" refer to the OECD/EU countries included in the respective comparisons. In cases where data are not available or do not apply for all sub-categories of a given population or indicator, the "OECD average" and "EU average" may be consistent within each column of a table but not necessarily across all columns of a table. In analyses involving data from multiple years, the OECD and EU averages are reported on consistent sets of OECD and EU countries.

Rounding figures

Because of rounding, some figures in tables may not add up exactly to the totals. Totals, differences and averages are always calculated on the basis of exact numbers and are rounded only after calculation. All standard errors in this publication have been rounded to one or two decimal places. Where the value 0.0 or 0.00 is shown, this does not imply that the standard error is zero, but that it is smaller than 0.05 or 0.005, respectively.

Reporting student data

The report uses “15-year-olds” as shorthand for the PISA target population. PISA covers students who are aged between 15 years 3 months and 16 years 2 months at the time of assessment and who are enrolled in school and have completed at least 6 years of formal schooling, regardless of the type of institution in which they are enrolled, and whether they are in full-time or part-time education, whether they attend academic or vocational programmes, and whether they attend public or private schools or foreign schools within the country.

Reporting school data

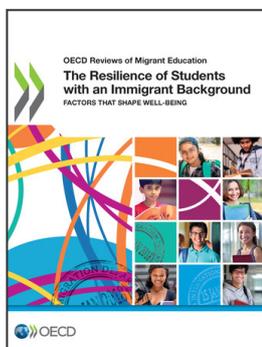
The principals of the schools in which students were assessed provided information on their schools' characteristics by completing a school questionnaire. Where responses from school principals are presented in this publication, they are weighted so that they are proportionate to the number of 15-year-olds enrolled in the school.

Focusing on statistically significant differences

This volume discusses only differences or changes that are significant at the 5% level ($p < 0.05$). These are denoted in darker colours in figures and in bold font in tables.

Abbreviations used in this report

% point diff.	Percentage-point difference
Mean diff.	Mean difference
S.E.	Standard Error
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ESCS	PISA index of economic, social and cultural status



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