



Reader's Guide

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.

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- w Data have been withdrawn at the request of the country concerned.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
- 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 – and three OECD sub-national entities – Flanders (Belgium), England (United Kingdom), and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom). In addition, two partner countries participated in the survey: Cyprus* and the Russian Federation.

Due to the late processing of data from the Russian Federation, it was not possible to include information regarding Russia in this report. Information regarding the implementation of the Survey of Adult Skills in the Russian Federation can be found in the Technical Report (OECD, 2013, forthcoming).

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/). Information regarding the design, methodology and implementation of the Survey of Adult Skills can be found in this volume 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”.

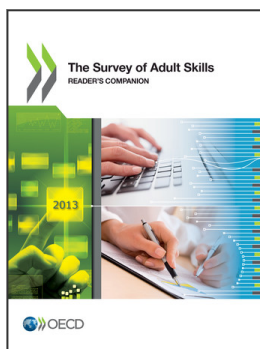
Note by all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Union

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.

Reference

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



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