



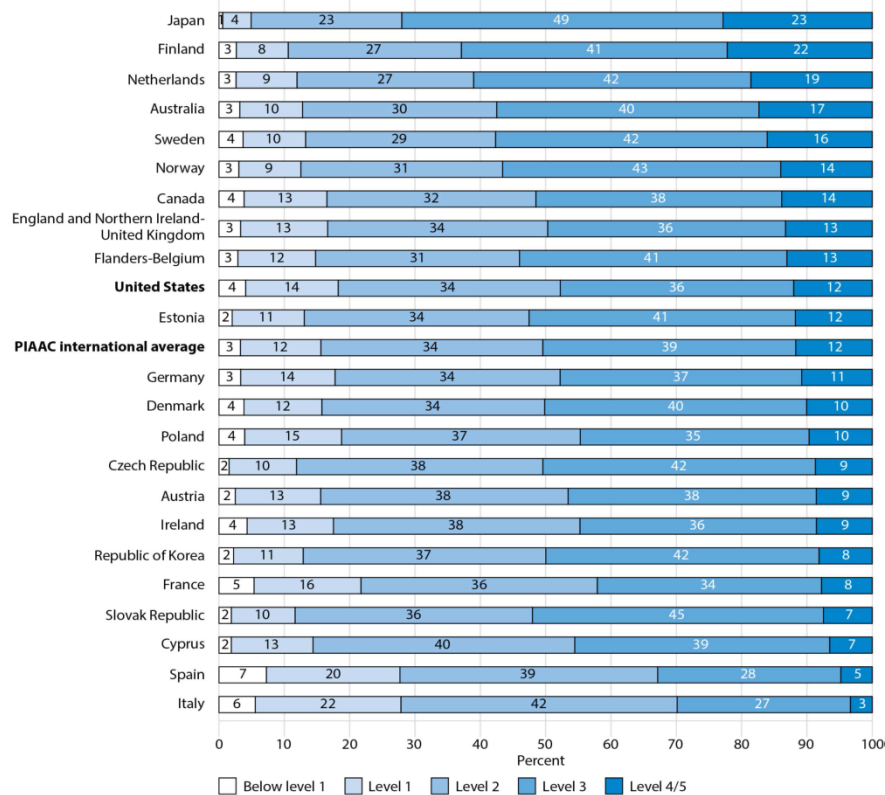
NCL Fact Sheet on NCES PIAAC First Look

On October 18, 2013, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released *Literacy, Numeracy, and Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments Among US Adults* (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2014/2014008.pdf>). Key findings from the report are below. Approximately 5,000 US adults aged 16-65 participated in the PIAAC survey.

The PIAAC definition of literacy is: *understanding, evaluating, using and engaging with written text to participate in society, to achieve one's goals and to develop one's knowledge and potential.*

- The average literacy score for adults in the US was 270.
- 12% of adults in the US performed at the highest proficiency level on the literacy scale.
- The percent of Black and Hispanic adults in the US who performed at the highest proficiency level on the literacy scale was lower than the percent of White adults.

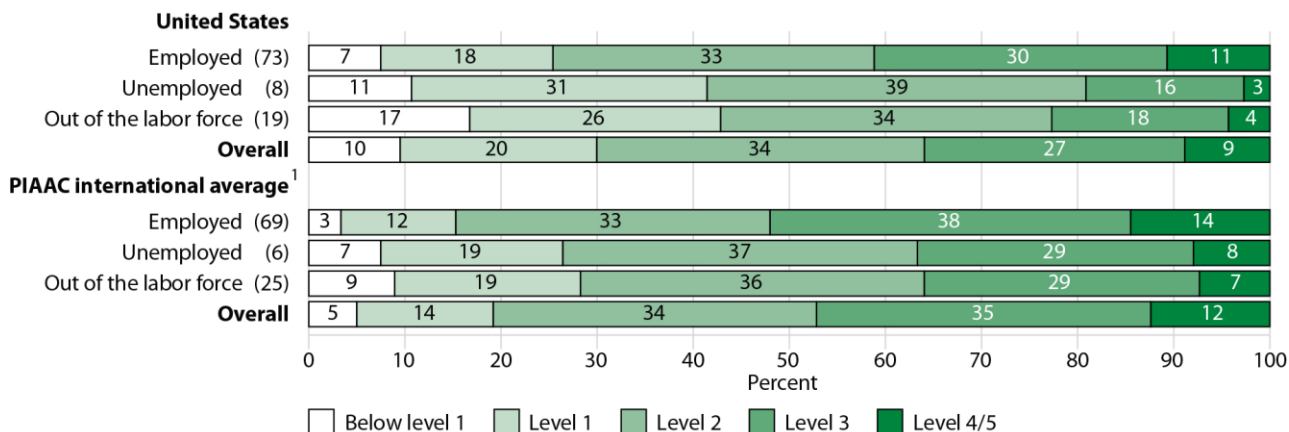
Percent of adults at each level of proficiency on the literacy scale



The PIAAC definition of numeracy is: *the ability to access, use, interpret, and communicate mathematical information and ideas, to engage in and manage mathematical demands of a range of situations in adult life.*

- The average numeracy score for adults in the US was 253.
- 9% of adults in the US performed at the highest proficiency level on the numeracy scale.
- The percent of employed adults who performed at the highest proficiency level was lower than the international average of employed adults.

Percent of adults at each level of proficiency on the numeracy scale by employment status



The PIAAC defines using problem solving in technology-rich environments as *using digital technology, communication tools, and networks to acquire and evaluate information, communicate with others, and perform practical tasks.*

- The average score for adults in the US on the problem solving in technology-rich environments was 277.
- 6% of adults in the US and 8% of adults under 35 in the US performed at the highest proficiency level on the technology scale.

Percentage of adults at each level of proficiency on the problem solving in technology-rich environments scale

