



# 2.14

## Education completion and outcomes

	Primary completion rate						Youth literacy rate				Adult literacy rate	
	1991	Total 2007 <sup>a</sup>	% of relevant age group		Female		% ages 15–24				% ages 15 and older	
			1991	Male 2007 <sup>a</sup>	1991	2007 <sup>a</sup>	1990	Male 2005–07 <sup>b</sup>	1990	Female 2005–07 <sup>b</sup>	Male 2005–07 <sup>b</sup>	Female 2005–07 <sup>b</sup>
Afghanistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Albania	..	96	..	97	..	96	..	99	..	99	99	99
Algeria	80	95	86	94	73	96	86	94	62	91	84	66
Angola	35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Argentina	..	97	..	95	..	99	98	99	99	99	98	98
Armenia	..	98	..	96	..	100	100	100	100	100	100	99
Australia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Austria	..	103	..	103	..	102	..	..	..	..	..	..
Azerbaijan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	..	100	100	99
Bangladesh	..	72	..	70	..	74	52	71	38	73	59	48
Belarus	94	92	..	93	..	92	100	100	100	100	100	100
Belgium	79	87	76	86	82	88	..	..	..	..	..	..
Benin	21	64	28	76	13	52	55	63	27	41	53	28
Bolivia	71	101	78	102	64	100	96	100	92	99	96	86
Bosnia and Herzegovina	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Botswana	89	95	82	91	97	98	86	93	92	95	83	83
Brazil	90	106	..	..	..	..	..	97	..	99	90	90
Bulgaria	90	98	88	98	92	98	..	98	..	97	99	98
Burkina Faso	20	33	24	37	15	29	27	47	14	33	37	22
Burundi	46	39	49	42	43	36	59	..	48	..	..	..
Cambodia	..	85	..	85	..	85	..	90	..	83	86	68
Cameroon	53	55	57	61	49	50	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Central African Republic	27	24	35	30	18	19	63	..	35	..	..	..
Chad	18	31	29	41	7	21	..	53	..	35	43	21
Chile	..	95	..	96	..	95	98	99	99	99	97	96
China	105	..	..	..	..	..	97	99	91	99	96	90
Hong Kong, China	102	102	..	104	..	99	..	..	..	..	..	..
Colombia	70	107	67	105	73	109	89	97	92	98	92	93
Congo, Dem. Rep.	46	51	58	61	34	41	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congo, Rep.	54	72	59	75	49	70	..	..	..	..	..	..
Costa Rica	79	91	77	90	81	93	..	98	..	98	96	96
Côte d'Ivoire	43	45	55	53	32	36	60	..	38	..	..	..
Croatia	..	96	..	97	..	95	100	100	100	100	99	98
Cuba	99	93	..	93	..	93	..	100	..	100	100	100
Czech Republic	..	94	..	95	..	93	..	..	..	..	..	..
Denmark	98	101	98	101	98	102	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dominican Republic	62	89	..	87	..	91	..	95	..	97	89	90
Ecuador	..	106	..	105	..	107	97	95	96	96	87	82
Egypt, Arab Rep.	..	98	..	101	..	96	71	88	54	82	75	58
El Salvador	61	91	60	89	62	93	85	93	85	94	85	80
Eritrea	..	46	..	52	..	41	..	..	..	..	..	..
Estonia	..	100	..	102	..	98	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ethiopia	..	46	..	51	..	41	39	..	28	..	..	..
Finland	97	97	98	97	97	97	..	..	..	..	..	..
France	104	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gabon	..	..	..	..	..	..	94	98	92	96	90	82
Gambia, The	..	72	..	70	..	73	..	..	..	..	..	..
Georgia	..	92	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Germany	..	97	..	97	..	98	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ghana	61	71	69	73	54	68	..	80	..	76	72	58
Greece	..	103	..	104	..	103	99	99	99	99	98	96
Guatemala	..	77	..	80	..	74	82	88	71	83	79	68
Guinea	17	64	25	73	9	55	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guinea-Bissau	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Haiti	27	..	29	..	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

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	Primary completion rate						Youth literacy rate				Adult literacy rate	
	1991	% of relevant age group		Female		% ages 15-24		% ages 15 and older		2005-07 <sup>b</sup>	2005-07 <sup>b</sup>	
		Total	2007 <sup>a</sup>	1991	2007 <sup>a</sup>	1991	2007 <sup>a</sup>	1990	2005-07 <sup>b</sup>			1990
Honduras	64	88	67	85	61	90	..	93	..	95	84	83
Hungary	87	96	93	96	95	96	99	98	99	99	99	99
India	64	86	75	88	52	83	74 <sup>c</sup>	87	49 <sup>c</sup>	77	77	54
Indonesia	91	99	..	99	..	99	97	97	95	96	95	89
Iran, Islamic Rep.	91	105	97	98	85	113	92	97	81	96	87	77
Iraq	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ireland	..	96	..	91	..	101	..	..	..	..	..	..
Israel	..	101	..	100	..	101	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italy	104	100	104	100	104	99	..	100	..	100	99	99
Jamaica	90	82	86	81	94	84	..	91	..	98	81	91
Japan	101	..	101	..	102	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Jordan	101	99	101	100	101	98	..	99	..	99	95	87
Kazakhstan	..	104 <sup>d</sup>	..	104 <sup>d</sup>	..	105 <sup>d</sup>	100	100	100	100	100	99
Kenya	..	93	..	94	..	92	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea, Dem. Rep.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea, Rep.	98	101	98	106	98	95	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kuwait	..	98	..	98	..	98	..	98	..	99	95	93
Kyrgyz Republic	..	95	..	95	..	94	..	100	..	100	100	99
Lao PDR	45	77	..	81	..	72	..	89	..	79	82	63
Latvia	..	92	..	93	..	91	100	100	100	100	100	100
Lebanon	..	82	..	80	..	83	..	98	..	99	93	86
Lesotho	59	78	42	65	76	92	..	..	..	..	..	..
Liberia	..	55 <sup>d</sup>	..	60 <sup>d</sup>	..	50 <sup>d</sup>	56	68	47	76	60	51
Libya	..	..	..	..	..	..	99	100	91	98	94	78
Lithuania	89	93	..	92	..	93	100	100	100	100	100	100
Macedonia, FYR	..	97	..	96	..	98	99	99	99	99	99	95
Madagascar	33	62	33	62	34	61	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malawi	29	55	36	55	21	56	70	84	49	82	79	65
Malaysia	91	98	91	98	91	98	96	98	95	98	94	90
Mali	13	49	15	59	10	40	..	47	..	31	35	18
Mauritania	34	59	41	59	27	60	..	70	..	62	63	48
Mauritius	107	94	107	92	107	95	91	95	92	97	90	85
Mexico	88	104	..	104	..	104	96	98	95	98	94	91
Moldova	..	93	..	93	..	93	100	100	100	100	100	99
Mongolia	..	110	..	108	..	113	..	94	..	97	97	98
Morocco	48	83	57	87	39	79	71	84	46	67	69	43
Mozambique	26	46	32	53	21	39	..	58	..	47	57	33
Myanmar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Namibia	..	77	..	73	..	81	86	91	90	94	89	87
Nepal	51	78 <sup>d</sup>	..	79 <sup>d</sup>	..	78 <sup>d</sup>	68	85	33	73	70	44
Netherlands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Zealand	100	..	101	..	99	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nicaragua	42	73	..	70	..	77	..	85	..	89	78	78
Niger	18	40	22	47	13	32	..	52	..	23	43	15
Nigeria	..	72	..	80	..	65	81	89	62	85	80	64
Norway	100	96	100	95	100	97	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oman	74	88	78	88	70	88	..	99	..	98	89	77
Pakistan	..	62	..	70	..	53	..	79	..	58	68	40
Panama	..	99	..	98	..	99	95	97	95	96	94	93
Papua New Guinea	46	..	51	..	42	..	..	63	..	65	62	53
Paraguay	68	95	68	94	69	96	96	99	95	99	96	93
Peru	..	101	..	101	..	101	97	98	94	97	95	85
Philippines	88	94	..	90	..	97	96	94	97	95	93	94
Poland	96	97	..	..	..	..	100	100	100	99	100	99
Portugal	95	104	94	102	95	107	99	100	99	100	97	93
Puerto Rico	..	..	..	..	..	..	92	..	94	..	..	..



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	Total		% of relevant age group		Female		% ages 15–24		% ages 15 and older			
	1991	2007 <sup>a</sup>	1991	2007 <sup>a</sup>	1991	2007 <sup>a</sup>	1990	2005–07 <sup>b</sup>	1990	2005–07 <sup>b</sup>	2005–07 <sup>b</sup>	2005–07 <sup>b</sup>
Romania	100	101	100	101	100	101	99	97	99	98	98	97
Russian Federation	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	100	100	100	100	99
Rwanda	35	35	40	36	31	35	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saudi Arabia	55	93	60	96	51	91	94	98	81	96	89	79
Senegal	43	49	52	51	33	47	49	58	28	45	52	33
Serbia	..	..	..	..	..	..	99 <sup>e</sup>	..	98 <sup>e</sup>	..	..	..
Sierra Leone	..	81	..	92	..	70	..	64	..	44	50	27
Singapore	..	..	..	..	..	..	99	100	99	100	97	92
Slovak Republic	..	93	..	94	..	92	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slovenia	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	100	100	100	100	100
Somalia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Africa	76	92	71	92	80	92	..	95	..	96	89	87
Spain	103	99	104	99	103	99	100	100	100	100	99	97
Sri Lanka	102	106	103	106	102	107	..	97	..	98	93	89
Sudan	42	50	47	54	37	46	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swaziland	60	67	57	64	63	69	83	..	84	..	..	..
Sweden	96	..	96	..	96	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Switzerland	53	88	53	88	54	89	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syrian Arab Republic	89	114	94	116	84	113	..	95	..	92	90	76
Tajikistan	..	95	..	..	..	..	100	100	100	100	100	100
Tanzania	62	112 <sup>d</sup>	62	115 <sup>d</sup>	63	109 <sup>d</sup>	86	79	78	76	79	66
Thailand	..	101	..	99	..	104	..	98	..	98	96	93
Timor-Leste	..	69	..	69	..	69	..	..	..	..	..	..
Togo	35	57	48	67	22	48	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trinidad and Tobago	101	88	98	86	104	90	99	100	99	100	99	98
Tunisia	74	120	79	122	70	117	..	97	..	94	86	69
Turkey	90	96	93	101	86	91	97	99	88	94	96	81
Turkmenistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	..	100	100	99
Uganda	..	54	..	57	..	51	77	88	63	84	82	66
Ukraine	94	101	..	101	..	101	..	100	..	100	100	100
United Arab Emirates	103	105	104	103	103	106	..	94	..	97	89	91
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
United States	..	95	..	94	..	96	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uruguay	94	99	91	98	96	100	..	98	..	99	97	98
Uzbekistan	..	97	..	99	..	96	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venezuela, RB	81	98	76	96	86	100	95	98	96	99	95	95
Vietnam	..	..	..	..	..	..	94	..	93	..	..	..
West Bank and Gaza	..	83	..	83	..	83	..	99	..	99	97	90
Yemen, Rep.	..	60	..	74	..	46	83	93	35	67	77	40
Zambia	..	88	..	94	..	83	67	82	66	68	81	61
Zimbabwe	97	..	99	..	96	..	97	94	94	88	94	88
<b>World</b>	<b>79 w</b>	<b>86 w</b>	<b>86 w</b>	<b>88 w</b>	<b>75 w</b>	<b>84 w</b>	<b>88 w</b>	<b>91 w</b>	<b>79 w</b>	<b>87 w</b>	<b>88 w</b>	<b>79 w</b>
<b>Low income</b>	..	65	..	70	..	60	70	79	56	69	72	55
<b>Middle income</b>	84	93	90	94	79	92	90	94	81	91	90	80
Lower middle income	83	91	90	93	76	90	89	93	78	89	88	77
Upper middle income	90	101	90	101	90	101	96	98	96	98	95	93
<b>Low &amp; middle income</b>	78	85	85	87	73	83	97	90	92	85	86	75
East Asia & Pacific	101	98	105	98	97	98	99	98	98	98	96	90
Europe & Central Asia	93	98	93	99	92	96	93	99	94	99	99	90
Latin America & Carib.	84	100	84	100	85	101	86	97	76	97	92	90
Middle East & N. Africa	78	90	84	93	72	88	85	93	69	86	82	65
South Asia	62	80	75	83	52	77	71	84	48	74	74	52
Sub-Saharan Africa	51	60	57	65	47	55	71	77	59	67	71	54
<b>High income</b>	..	97	..	97	..	97	100	100	99	100	99	99
Euro area	101	..	100	..	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

a. Provisional data. b. Data are for the most recent year available. c. Includes the Indian-held part of Jammu and Kashmir. d. Data are for 2008. e. Includes Montenegro.

## About the data

Many governments publish statistics that indicate how their education systems are working and developing—statistics on enrollment and such efficiency indicators as repetition rates, pupil-teacher ratios, and cohort progression. The World Bank and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics jointly developed the primary completion rate indicator. Increasingly used as a core indicator of an education system's performance, it reflects an education system's coverage and the educational attainment of students. The indicator is a key measure of education outcome at the primary level and of progress toward the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All initiative. However, because curricula and standards for school completion vary across countries, a high primary completion rate does not necessarily mean high levels of student learning.

The primary completion rate reflects the primary cycle as defined by the International Standard Classification of Education, ranging from three or four years of primary education (in a very small number of countries) to five or six years (in most countries) and seven (in a small number of countries).

The table shows the proxy primary completion rate, calculated by subtracting the number of repeaters in the last grade of primary school from the total number of students in that grade and dividing by the total number of children of official graduation age. Data limitations preclude adjusting for students who drop out during the final year of primary school. Thus proxy rates should be taken as an upper estimate of the actual primary completion rate.

There are many reasons why the primary completion rate can exceed 100 percent. The numerator may include late entrants and overage children who have repeated one or more grades of primary school as well as children who entered school early, while the denominator is the number of children of official completing age. Other data limitations contribute to completion rates exceeding 100 percent, such as the use of population estimates of varying reliability, the conduct of school and population surveys at different times of year, and other discrepancies in the numbers used in the calculation.

Basic student outcomes include achievements in reading and mathematics judged against established standards. In many countries national assessments are enabling the ministry of education to monitor progress in these outcomes. Internationally comparable assessments are not yet available, except for a few, mostly industrialized, countries. The UNESCO

Institute for Statistics has established literacy as an outcome indicator based on an internationally agreed definition.

The literacy rate is the percentage of people who can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement about their everyday life. In practice, literacy is difficult to measure. To estimate literacy using such a definition requires census or survey measurements under controlled conditions. Many countries estimate the number of literate people from self-reported data. Some use educational attainment data as a proxy but apply different lengths of school attendance or levels of completion. Because definitions and methodologies of data collection differ across countries, data should be used cautiously.

The reported literacy data are compiled by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics based on national censuses and household surveys during 1985–2007. For countries that have not reported national estimates, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics derived the modeled estimates. For detailed information on sources, definitions, and methodology, consult the original source.

Literacy statistics for most countries cover the population ages 15 and older, but some include younger ages or are confined to age ranges that tend to inflate literacy rates. The literacy data in the narrower age range of 15–24 better captures the ability of participants in the formal education system and reflects recent progress in education. The youth literacy rate reported in the table measures the accumulated outcomes of primary education over the previous 10 years or so by indicating the proportion of people who have passed through the primary education system and acquired basic literacy and numeracy skills.

## Definitions

• **Primary completion rate** is the percentage of students completing the last year of primary school. It is calculated by taking the total number of students in the last grade of primary school, minus the number of repeaters in that grade, divided by the total number of children of official completing age. • **Youth literacy rate** is the percentage of people ages 15–24 that can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement about their everyday life. • **Adult literacy rate** is the literacy rate among people ages 15 and older.

## Data sources

Data on primary completion rates and literacy rates are from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.