

Measuring up: Canadian Results of the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Study

The Performance of Canada's Youth (age 15) in Science, Reading, and Mathematics

Overall message

PISA results show that Alberta is a high performing and equitable school system.

General PISA 2015 information

- 15-year old students from 72 Countries participated in a 2-hour computer-based test.
- In Canada, about 20,000 15-year-olds from about 900 schools across the 10 provinces participated.
- The "major" focus in 2015 was Science (only the 2nd time that Science has been the major focus).
- Optional additions in 2015 included a one-hour financial literacy assessment and 5 minutes of additional questions seeking information about student attitudes toward the trades. Alberta did not participate in either optional assessment.

Science Results

- Canada ranked 7th among the countries participating in PISA.
- Alberta ranked 1st among the Canadian provinces (an improvement from 2nd among the provinces in 2012).
- If each Canadian province was considered a country Alberta would have ranked 2nd among the countries, scoring behind only Singapore.
- Alberta had a better equity rating than Singapore; Alberta's equity rating was above the overall Canadian equity rating.
- No gender gap exists in the success of Alberta or overall Canadian student group in the PISA Science scores.
- 9% of Alberta students were considered to be low-performing and 16% of students achieved at the highest levels.

Science	2012		2015	
	Average Score	Rank	Average Score	Rank
Canada	525	-	528	-
Alberta	539	2	541	1
British Columbia	544	1	539	2
Manitoba	503	9	499	9
New Brunswick	507	8	506	7
Newfoundland &	514	7	506	8
Nova Scotia	516	5	517	5
Ontario	527	3	524	4
Prince Edward Island	490	10	515	6
Quebec ¹	516	6	537	3
Saskatchewan	516	4	496	10

Reading Results

- Canada ranked 3rd among the countries participating in PISA.
- Alberta ranked 2nd among the Canadian provinces (an improvement from 3rd among the provinces in 2012).
- If each Canadian province was considered a country Alberta would have ranked 3rd among the countries, scoring behind only British Columbia and Singapore.
- Canada was one of the few countries with above-average performance and above-average equity. Alberta shared this pattern.
- Females in Alberta scored higher in Reading than males.

Reading	2012		2015	
	Average Score	Rank	Average Score	Rank
Canada	523	-	527	-
Alberta	525	3	533	2
British Columbia	535	1	536	1
Manitoba	495	9	498	9
New Brunswick	497	8	505	7
Newfoundland &	503	7	505	8
Nova Scotia	508	5	517	5
Ontario	528	2	527	4
Prince Edward Island	490	10	515	6
Quebec ¹	520	4	532	3
Saskatchewan	505	6	496	10

Mathematics Results

- Canada ranked 10th among the countries participating in PISA.
- Alberta ranked 3rd among the Canadian provinces (the same position as in 2012).
- If each Canadian province was considered a country Alberta would have ranked 14th among the countries. Quebec, British Columbia, Singapore, 4 jurisdictions within China, Japan, Korea, Switzerland, Estonia and The Netherlands would be ranked higher.
- Canada was one of the few countries with above-average performance and above-average equity. Alberta shared this pattern.
- Males in Alberta scored higher in Mathematics than females.

Mathematics	2012		2015	
	Average	Rank	Average	Rank
Canada	518	-	516	-
Alberta	517	3	511	3
British Columbia	522	2	522	2
Manitoba	492	8	489	8
New Brunswick	502	6	493	7
Newfoundland &	490	9	486	9
Nova Scotia	497	7	497	6
Ontario	514	4	509	4
Prince Edward Island	479	10	499	5
Quebec ¹	536	1	544	1
Saskatchewan	506	5	484	10

¹ Quebec non-response analysis revealed potential bias in 2015 so their results should be treated with caution.