

# Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), 2015

## Highlights of Ontario Student Results

### About PISA

PISA is an international program initiated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and undertaken every three years to assess the achievement of 15-year-old students in three domains: reading, mathematics and science.

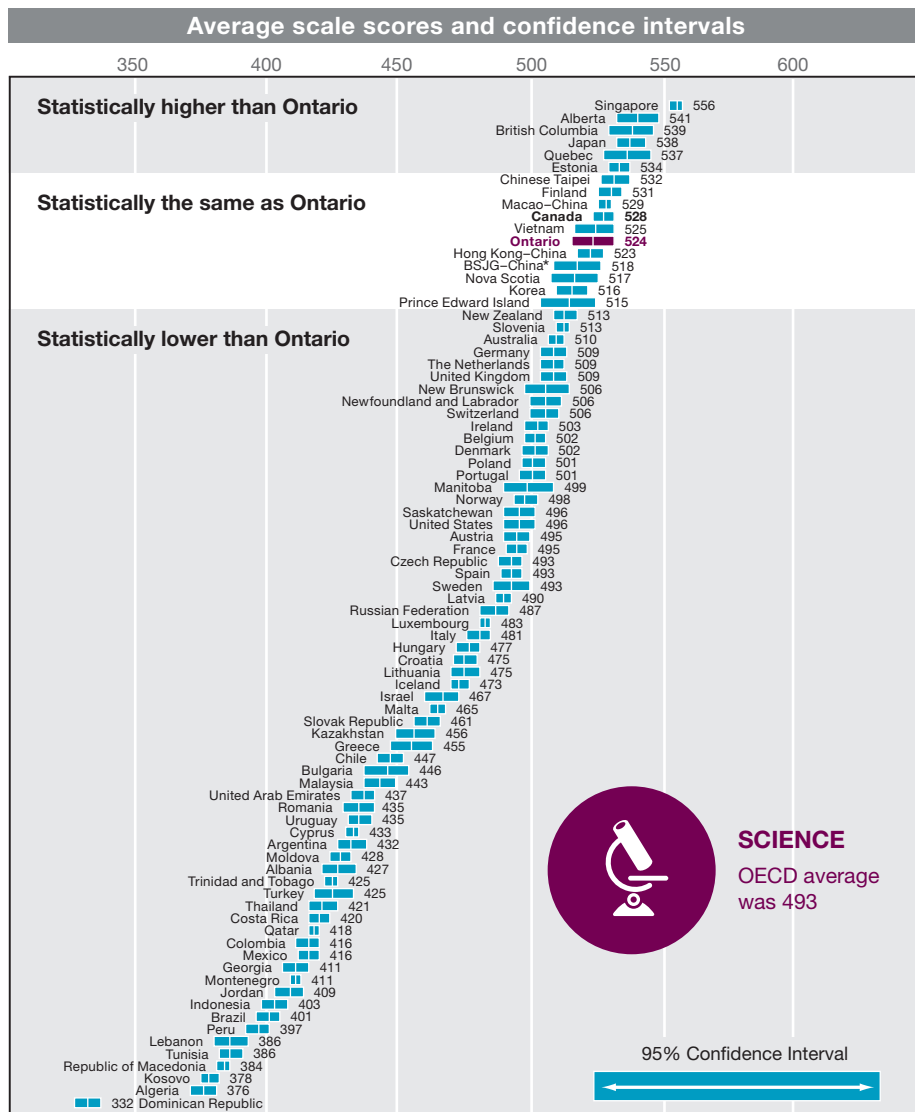
Each PISA administration focuses on one major assessment domain. In 2015, science was the major domain, whereas reading and mathematics were the minor domains.

In 2015, 72 countries and economies participated, including 35 OECD countries. In Canada, approximately 20 000 15-year-olds from approximately 900 schools participated across the 10 provinces. Of those students, 4123 were from Ontario.

The 2015 PISA results reveal that Ontario students are generally performing well in all three academic domains. Their science, reading and mathematics achievement on the 2015 administration was similar to that in 2012.



### SCIENCE—Estimated average scores and confidence intervals



### Ontario Highlights

- Ontario science achievement remained similar to what it was on the 2012, 2009 and 2006 assessments.
- Ontario students matched the Canadian average for both the test overall and all the science subskills evaluated.
- Six jurisdictions (Singapore, Alberta, British Columbia, Japan, Quebec and Estonia) had results statistically higher than Ontario's in science overall.
- In Ontario, there was a difference between the performance of the two language systems in overall science and on the subskills. Students in Ontario's English-language school system achieved higher science scores (526) than students in the French-language school system (486). British Columbia and New Brunswick were the only two provinces where there were no differences between the two language systems in overall science or on the subskills.
- As in all Canadian provinces, no gender differences in overall science were observed in Ontario. However in the competency subskill "evaluate and design scientific inquiry" and in the knowledge subskill "procedural and epistemic," Ontario girls performed significantly better than boys.



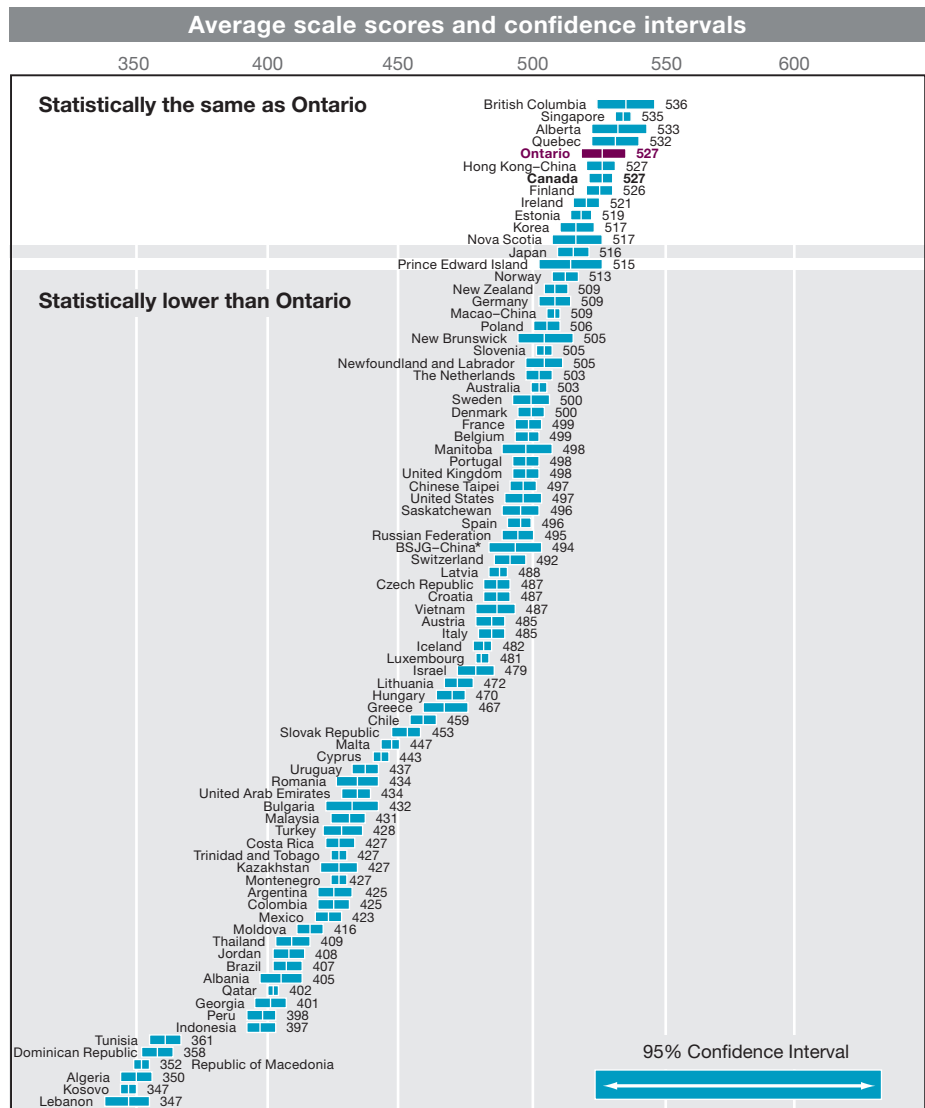
## Ontario Highlights

- Ontario reading achievement remained similar to what it was on the previous PISA assessments.
- Ontario students' reading achievement matched the Canadian average.
- No jurisdictions had results statistically higher than Ontario's. In 2012, three countries performed better than Ontario; in 2009, there was one.
- Students in Ontario's English-language school system achieved higher reading scores (529) than students in the French-language school system (476).
- In all Canadian provinces, girls performed significantly better than boys on the reading assessment. In Ontario, the average score for girls was 542, and for boys the average score was 512.

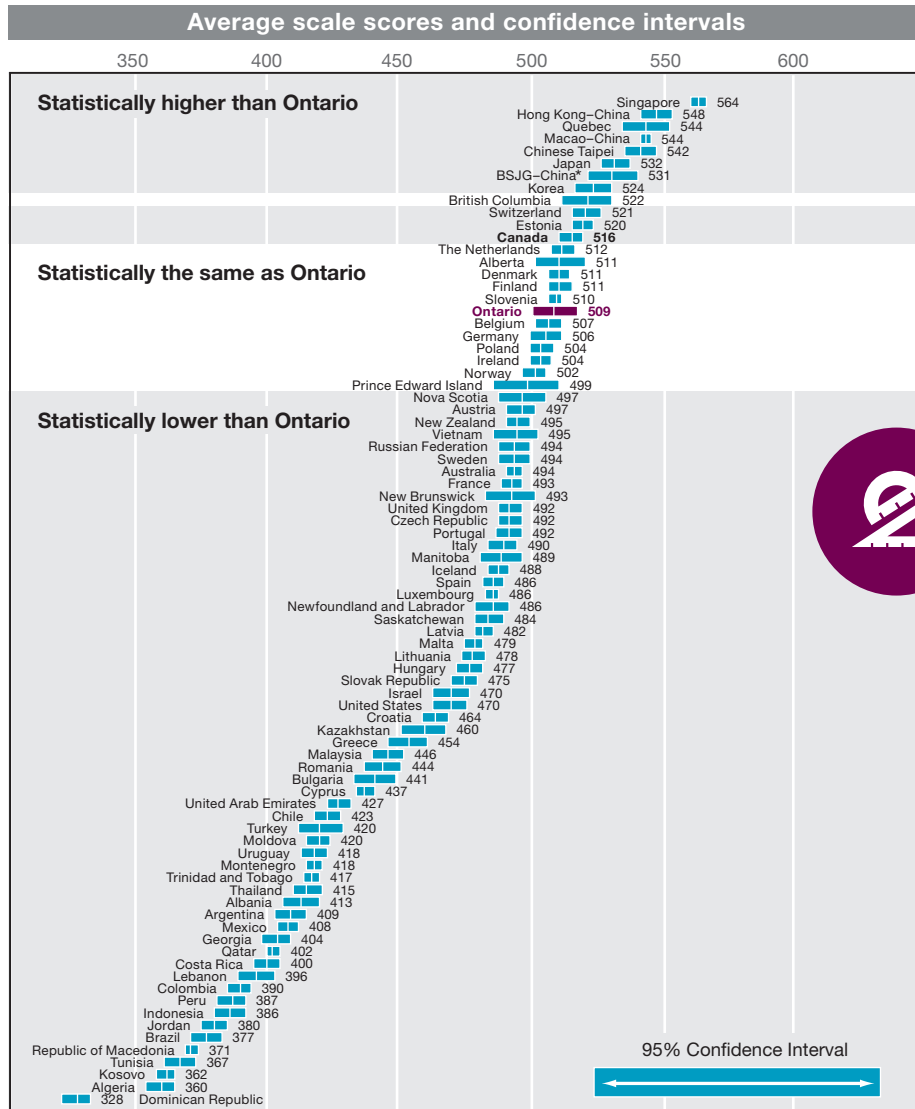


**READING**  
OECD average  
was 493

## READING—Estimated average scores and confidence intervals



## MATHEMATICS—Estimated average scores and confidence intervals



### MATHEMATICS

OECD average was 490



### Ontario Highlights

- After a decline between 2003 and 2012, the performance of Ontario students remained stable in 2012 and 2015.
- Among Canadian provinces, only Quebec had results statistically higher than Ontario's. Ontario students performed just below the Canadian average, and they are still among the top 25% of participating jurisdictions.
- Eleven jurisdictions (Singapore, Hong Kong-China, Quebec, Macao-China, Chinese Taipei, Japan, BSJG-China\*, Korea, Switzerland, Estonia and Canada) had results statistically higher than Ontario's.
- Students in Ontario's English- and French-language school systems achieved the same in mathematics.
- In Ontario, as well as in Canada overall and in four other provinces, boys performed significantly better (514) than girls (505) on the mathematics assessment.

## Estimated Average PISA Scores Over Time

	Jurisdiction	2015	2012	2009	2006	2003	2000
SCIENCE	Singapore	556	551	542	DNP	DNP	DNP
	Alberta	541	539	545	550	539	546
	British Columbia	539	544	535	539	527	533
	Japan	538	547	539	531	548	550
	Quebec	537	516	524	531	520	541
	Estonia	534	541	528	531	DNP	DNP
	Canada	528	525	529	534	519	529
	<b>Ontario</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>522</b>
	Nova Scotia	517	516	523	520	505	516
	Prince Edward Island	515	490	495	509	489	508
READING	British Columbia	536	535	525	528	535	538
	Alberta	533	525	533	535	543	550
	Quebec	532	520	522	522	525	536
	<b>Ontario</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>533</b>
	Canada	527	523	524	527	528	534
	Nova Scotia	517	508	516	505	513	521
	Prince Edward Island	515	490	486	497	495	521
MATHEMATICS	Singapore	564	573	562	DNP	DNP	DNP
	Hong Kong–China	548	561	555	547	550	DNP
	Quebec	544	536	543	540	537	550
	Macao–China	544	538	525	525	527	DNP
	Chinese Taipei	542	560	543	549	DNP	DNP
	Japan	532	536	529	523	534	557
	BSJG–China*	531	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
	Korea	524	554	546	547	542	547
	British Columbia	522	522	523	523	538	534
	Switzerland	521	531	534	530	527	529
	Estonia	520	521	512	515	DNP	DNP
	Canada	516	518	527	527	532	533
	The Netherlands	512	523	526	531	538	DNP
	Alberta	511	517	529	530	549	547
	<b>Ontario</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>524</b>
Belgium	507	515	515	520	529	520	
Germany	506	514	513	504	503	490	
Prince Edward Island	499	479	487	501	500	512	

2015 Scale Scores Statistically Higher Than Ontario

2015 Scale Scores Statistically the Same as Ontario

(Due to space restrictions, of jurisdictions that have the same average as Ontario, only G10 countries are listed.)

Note: All other countries and provinces were significantly below Ontario.

For a full list of all the participating jurisdictions, please visit [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org).

DNP: Did not participate.

NDA: No data available.

\* Results for the municipalities of Beijing and Shanghai and for the provinces of Jiangsu and Guangdong in China will be reported as BSJG–China.



**About EQAO:** The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) acts as a catalyst for increasing the success of Ontario students by measuring their achievement in reading, writing and mathematics against a common curriculum benchmark. As an independent provincial agency, EQAO plays a pivotal role by conducting province-wide tests at key points in every student's primary, junior and secondary education and reporting the results. The objective and reliable facts obtained add to the current knowledge about student learning and are an important tool for improvement at the individual, school and provincial levels.