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

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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—Estimated average scores and confidence intervals

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OECD average was 493
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.
### 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.

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#### Estimated Average PISA Scores Over Time

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*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.*