

SDG Goal 4 Quality education

SDG Target 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

SDG Indicator 4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex

Time series Adults with a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills

1. General information on the time series

- Date of national metadata: 19 May 2022
- National data: <http://sdg-indicators.de/4-6-1/>
- Definition: The time series measures the share of adult population who achieve a minimum level in literacy or numeracy skills. The population aged 16-65 years is defined as adults. The achievement is assessed by the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The minimum level is set to be level 2 of the PIAAC scale.
- Disaggregation: skill; level of proficiency

2. Comparability with the UN metadata

- Date of UN metadata: March 2022
- UN metadata: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-04-06-01.pdf>
- The time series is compliant with the UN metadata. The required level of proficiency is level 2 of PIAAC. The figures for level 1 are additional information.

3. Data description

- The “Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies” (PIAAC) is an international comparative study of the competencies of the adult population. The study takes place simultaneously in several countries and is repeated at regular intervals. PIAAC is initiated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The study examines key competencies that are necessary to successfully meet everyday and professional challenges. These include reading literacy, everyday mathematical skills and adaptive problem solving.

The PIAAC study is conducted at 10-year intervals. About 40 countries worldwide participated in PIAAC Cycle 1. Data collection took place in 2011/12 for the majority of participating countries. Preparation for the current second cycle of PIAAC began in 2018, with 33 countries participating. The eight-month main study, involving about 5,000 randomly selected adults per participating country aged 16-65 years, is scheduled for 2022/23. The results are planned to be published at the end of 2024.

4. Access to data source

- Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC, 2012 Results):
<http://gpseducation.oecd.org/CountryProfile?plotter=h5&primaryCountry=DEU&treshold=10&topic=AS>

5. Metadata on source data

- Technical Report of the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC):
<https://www.oecd.org/skills/piaac/publications/>

6. Timeliness and frequency

- Timeliness: t + 24 months
- Frequency: Every 10 years

7. Calculation method

- Unit of measurement: Percentage
- Calculation:

$$\text{Adult population achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in } i_k = \frac{\text{Adults achieving PIAAC level of proficiency } k \text{ or above in } i}{\text{Total adults [number]}} \cdot 100 [\%]$$

$i \in \{\text{functional literacy skills; numeracy skills}\}$
 $k \in \{I; II\}$