

Important note regarding the United States

The United States has collected three waves of data using the PIAAC instruments. It collected data as part of Round 1 of Cycle 1 of PIAAC in 2011-12. It then collected additional data for targeted population groups as part of a National PIAAC Supplement (Rampey et al., 2016) in 2014 and participated in Round 3 of Cycle 1. Details of the PIAAC data collection in the United States can be found in the technical reports for the survey and the National PIAAC Supplement (Hogan et al., 2016)

In this report (Skills Matter: Additional Results from the Survey of Adult Skills, OECD 2019), the United States is reported using the combined data from 2012 and 2014 and the 2017 data collection conducted as part of Round 3. The 2012/14 data set has been used as this is believed to provide a more accurate representation of the proficiency of the working-age population at that point in time than the original 2011-12 data reported in the first two international reports on PIAAC. In addition to the increased sample size, the 2012/14 data have been weighted to control totals related to the 2010 census whereas the 2011-12 data were weighted to totals related to the census in 2000.

Results are presented in the charts and tables as separated observations (United States 2012/2014 and United States 2017) but the United States contributes to the OECD average as one observation (taking the average of the two US observations).

Rampey, B. et al. (2016), *Skills of US Unemployed, Young, and Older Adults in Sharper Focus: Results from the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) 2012/2014. First Look*. NCES 2016-039. National Center for Education Statistics Institute of Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

Hogan, J. et al. (2016), *Main Study and National Supplement Technical Report (NCES 2016-036REV)*, U.S. Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) 2012/2014, National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, D.C., https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2016/2016036_rev.pdf.

OECD (2019), *Technical Report of the Survey of Adult Skills, Third Edition*, http://www.oecd.org/skills/piaac/publications/PIAAC_Technical_Report_2019.pdf.

OECD (2019), *The Survey of Adult Skills: Reader's Companion, Third Edition*, OECD Skills Studies, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/f70238c7-en>.