

ASSESSING ADULT SKILLS IN NEW BRUNSWICK: AN INTRODUCTION TO PIAAC



Why are PIAAC results important to New Brunswick?

PIAAC can help us understand:

- Where skills and learning challenges may exist
- How we compare to other provinces and internationally
- Where the opportunities are in our education and trainings programs

...Which helps us to improve!


How did New Brunswick perform?

- Average numeracy and literacy scores are within the same level as Canada as a whole (Level 2).




What skills does PIAAC measure?


PIAAC measures the following skills, as defined by OECD (2012):



Literacy: “the ability to understand, evaluate, use and engage with written texts to participate in society, to achieve one’s goals, and to develop one’s knowledge and potential”



Numeracy: “the ability to access, use, interpret and communicate mathematical information and ideas, in order to engage in and manage the mathematical demands of a range of situations in adult life”



Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments: “the ability to use digital technology, communication tools and networks to acquire and evaluate information, communicate with others and perform practical tasks”

What is PIAAC?

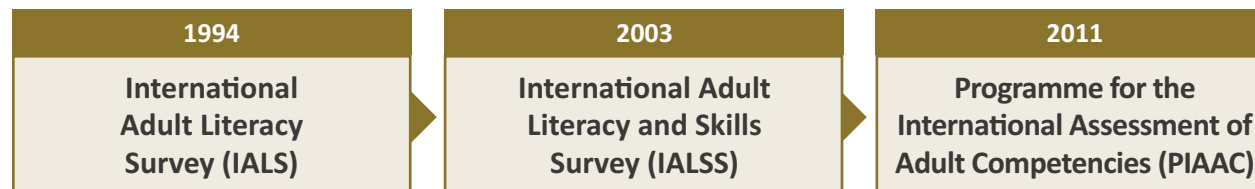
- PIAAC: Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies
- An international study of key cognitive and workplace skills
- Organized by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Designed to be valid cross-culturally and cross-nationally, and to provide an international benchmark for adult skills
- Data collection began in Canada in 2011, and first results were released in 2013. The next PIAAC survey will begin in 2021.
- The survey is designed to be repeated over time to monitor the development of skills.
- Represents adults aged 16-65 in 33 countries and sub-national regions

Who uses PIAAC data and results?

Educators, policy makers, researchers and labour economists most commonly use PIAAC data in order to support the development of economic, education, and social policies.



A timeline of surveys



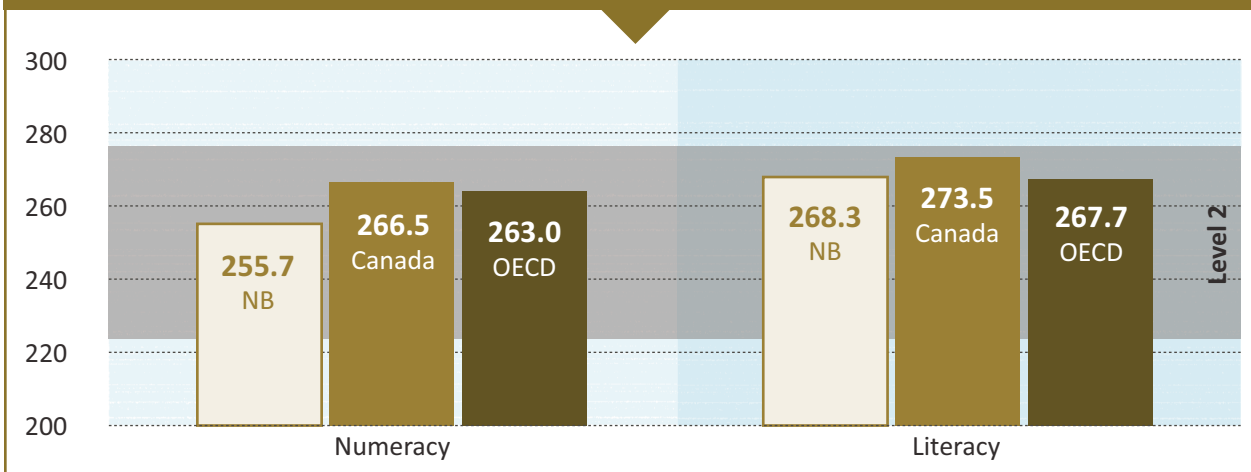
Although results between these existing studies are not directly comparable, second round PIAAC results in 2021 are expected to be comparable to the first round results. Note: survey dates correspond with the year Canadian data was collected.

Proficiency Levels for Literacy and Numeracy

Level	< 1	1	2	3	4	5
Actual Score	0-175	176-225	226-275	276-325	326-375	376-500

For more information on proficiency levels and testing, go to <https://www.oecd.org/skills/piaac/>

Average Numeracy & Literacy Scores



- New Brunswick's averages in numeracy and literacy are within the same level (level 2) as the Canadian and OECD averages.
- The province is on par with the OECD average score for literacy, but below the OECD average score for numeracy.
- Both numeracy and literacy scores are higher on average among those with post-secondary education.
- Both numeracy and literacy scores are higher on average among the employed population.
- The older population (55 to 65), on average, scores lower on both numeracy and literacy than the younger population.
- At the national level, men score higher than women in both numeracy and literacy, but in New Brunswick this difference is only pronounced in numeracy.

Proficiency Levels for Problem Solving in Technology Rich Environments (PS-TRE)

< 1	1	2	3
0-240	241-290	291-340	341-500

Problem Solving in Technology Rich Environments (PS-TRE) includes a category of non-respondents: individuals with no computer experience, those who did not pass the ICT core test, and anyone that chose not to be assessed by a computer-based test.

PS-TRE scores

- Due to the additional category for non-respondents, PS-TRE results cannot be presented in the same manner as numeracy and literacy results.
- 30.4% of New Brunswick respondents obtained either a level 2 or 3 PS-TRE score, compared to 36.6% in Canada and 31.1% in all OECD countries combined.
- Just over 3/4 of New Brunswick PIAAC respondents chose and successfully completed the computer-based assessment instead of the paper-based assessment, which is slightly better than the OECD average.
- Further results on PS-TRE are available through the Department of Post-Secondary Education Training and Labour.

Links and other resources:

PIAAC

- OECD's PIAAC website: www.oecd.org/skills/piaac/
- Canadian PIAAC website: www.piaac.ca

Literacy in New Brunswick

- Literacy Coalition of New Brunswick: www.nbliteracy.ca
- CODAC NB: www.codacnb.ca
- Laubach Literacy NB: www.llnb.ca
- Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour: www.gnb.ca/post-secondary

Questions? Contact Imi@gnb.ca

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