

# Adult Literacy and Numeracy Snapshot CALIFORNIA



*U.S. PIAAC Skills Map: State and County Indicators of Adult Literacy and Numeracy*

The Skills Map provides the most comprehensive snapshot of key workforce skills in every state and county in the United States. Users can easily access information about the literacy and numeracy proficiency of adults aged 16-74 and compare performance between individual states and counties. Results are reported as the state or county average score on a scale of 0-500 and as the percentage of adults at the lowest levels of proficiency (at or below Level 1), medium proficiency (at Level 2), and the highest levels of proficiency (at or above Level 3).

The data in the tool are generated by a technique called small area estimation. The statistical models used to calculate the state and county estimates relied on combined data from the 2012, 2014, and 2017 Program of the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) in conjunction with 2013-2017 data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) to produce reliable estimates. The estimates are predictions of how the adults in a given state or county would have performed had they taken the PIAAC assessments. For more information on the tool, please visit the PIAAC State and County Estimates page: [nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/state-county-estimates.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/state-county-estimates.asp)

## Literacy

### Average scale score:

National	California
<b>264</b>	<b>257</b>
	↓ (below national average)

### California proficiency level results:

At or below Level 1 (Below 226)	Level 2 (226-275)	At or above Level 3 (Above 275)
<b>28%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>46%</b>

*Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.*

### States sorted by average literacy scale score:

New Hampshire	279	Connecticut	271	Oklahoma	263
Minnesota	279	Kansas	271	South Carolina	263
Vermont	277	South Dakota	271	Arizona	262
District of Columbia	277	Michigan	271	Kentucky	261
Alaska	277	Hawaii	270	Georgia	260
North Dakota	276	Virginia	270	Tennessee	260
Washington	275	Idaho	270	West Virginia	260
Utah	274	Ohio	268	New York	260
Iowa	273	Maryland	268	Florida	259
Oregon	273	Indiana	266	Alabama	259
Maine	273	Pennsylvania	266	Arkansas	259
Wisconsin	273	Rhode Island	266	<b>California</b>	<b>257</b>
Massachusetts	273	Missouri	266	Nevada	255
Montana	273	Illinois	266	Texas	254
Wyoming	272	North Carolina	265	Mississippi	252
Colorado	272	New Jersey	264	New Mexico	252
Nebraska	271	Delaware	264	Louisiana	252

## Counties sorted by average literacy scale score:

Marin	286	Riverside	247
Placer	282	Stanislaus	246
Nevada	280	San Joaquin	246
San Francisco	278	San Bernardino	245
El Dorado	278	Fresno	242
Sierra	275	Glenn	241
San Mateo	274	Kern	240
Plumas	273	Monterey	240
Santa Clara	273	Kings	238
San Luis Obispo	272	Madera	237
Contra Costa	271	Colusa	237
Calaveras	270	Merced	234
Alameda	270	Tulare	231
Shasta	270	Imperial	225
Humboldt	269		
Sonoma	269		
Santa Cruz	268		
Siskiyou	268		
Amador	268		
Butte	268		
San Diego	267		
Tuolumne	266		
Yolo	265		
Napa	264		
Orange	264		
Mariposa	264		
Sacramento	263		
Solano	263		
Inyo	262		
Modoc	262		
Alpine <sup>1</sup>	262		
Ventura	262		
Trinity	261		
Mendocino	261		
Mono	260		
Yuba	257		
Santa Barbara	256		
Lake	254		
Tehama	253		
Sutter	253		
Lassen	250		
Los Angeles	248		
Del Norte	248		
San Benito	247		

## Numeracy

## Average scale score:

National  
**249**California  
**244**  
↓ (below national average)

## California proficiency level results:

At or below Level 1  
(Below 226)  
**36%**Level 2  
(226-275)  
**26%**At or above Level 3  
(Above 275)  
**38%***Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.*

## States sorted by average numeracy scale score:

New Hampshire	268	South Dakota	259	Arizona	247
Minnesota	268	Hawaii	259	Oklahoma	247
Vermont	265	Kansas	258	Kentucky	247
North Dakota	264	Connecticut	258	South Carolina	246
Alaska	264	Virginia	257	New York	245
Washington	262	Idaho	256	West Virginia	245
Utah	262	Michigan	256	Tennessee	245
Iowa	261	Maryland	255	<b>California</b>	<b>244</b>
Massachusetts	261	Ohio	254	Georgia	243
Oregon	260	Rhode Island	253	Florida	243
Maine	260	Pennsylvania	252	Arkansas	243
Montana	260	Missouri	252	Alabama	242
District of Columbia	260	Illinois	252	Nevada	240
Colorado	260	Indiana	252	Texas	238
Wyoming	260	New Jersey	250	New Mexico	235
Nebraska	259	North Carolina	249	Mississippi	234
Wisconsin	259	Delaware	249	Louisiana	233

## Counties sorted by average numeracy scale score:

Marin	277	Shasta	256	Mendocino	246
Placer	271	Humboldt	254	Trinity	246
Nevada	268	Siskiyou	254	Alpine <sup>1</sup>	246
San Francisco	268	Napa	254	Yuba	243
El Dorado	267	Butte	254	Santa Barbara	243
Santa Clara	265	San Diego	253	Sutter	240
San Mateo	264	Tuolumne	253	Tehama	238
Sierra	262	Orange	252	Lake	238
Plumas	261	Yolo	251	Lassen	236
Contra Costa	260	Mariposa	250	Los Angeles	235
San Luis Obispo	259	Inyo	250	San Benito	234
Alameda	258	Solano	249	Del Norte	232
Calaveras	258	Ventura	249	Stanislaus	231
Sonoma	258	Sacramento	249	Riverside	231
Amador	256	Mono	248	San Joaquin	231
Santa Cruz	256	Modoc	248	San Bernardino	229

**Counties sorted by average numeracy scale score (continued):**

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Monterey	227
Glenn	227
Fresno	225
Colusa	224
Kern	224
Kings	222
Madera	222
Merced	218
Tulare	214
Imperial	207