

Adult Literacy and Numeracy Snapshot

MASSACHUSETTS



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

Literacy

Average scale score:

National	Massachusetts
264	273
	↑ (above national average)

Massachusetts proficiency level results:

At or below Level 1 (Below 226)	Level 2 (226-275)	At or above Level 3 (Above 275)
17%	29%	54%

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	California	257
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:

Dukes	286
Norfolk	285
Middlesex	281
Barnstable	281
Nantucket	281
Hampshire	280
Franklin	277
Plymouth	275
Berkshire	271
Worcester	271
Essex	270
Bristol	265
Suffolk	259
Hampden	258

Numeracy

Average scale score:

National
249Massachusetts
261
↑ (above national average)

Massachusetts proficiency level results:

At or below Level 1
(Below 226)
25%Level 2
(226-275)
30%At or above Level 3
(Above 275)
45%*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	California	244
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:

Norfolk	276
Dukes	276
Middlesex	271
Barnstable	270
Nantucket	268
Hampshire	267
Franklin	265
Plymouth	263
Berkshire	259
Worcester	259
Essex	258
Bristol	253
Suffolk	243
Hampden	243