

# Adult Literacy and Numeracy Snapshot

## SOUTH CAROLINA



*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

**264**

South Carolina

**263**

■ (same as national average)

#### South Carolina proficiency level results:

At or below Level 1  
(Below 226)

**22%**

Level 2  
(226-275)

**35%**

At or above Level 3  
(Above 275)

**42%**

*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	<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>263</b>
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:**

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York	275	Marlboro	235
Beaufort	273	Allendale	227
Charleston	272		
Lexington	271		
Dorchester	269		
Greenville	269		
Richland	268		
Berkeley	266		
Pickens	266		
Spartanburg	264		
Anderson	263		
Oconee	263		
Horry	262		
Lancaster	262		
Aiken	262		
Georgetown	261		
Kershaw	259		
Greenwood	255		
Florence	254		
Sumter	254		
Calhoun	253		
Edgefield	252		
Laurens	252		
Cherokee	251		
Union	251		
Darlington	250		
Abbeville	250		
Orangeburg	250		
Newberry	249		
McCormick	249		
Colleton	248		
Chester	248		
Saluda	246		
Barnwell	245		
Clarendon	245		
Bamberg	244		
Fairfield	244		
Chesterfield	243		
Marion	241		
Hampton	240		
Jasper	240		
Dillon	237		
Williamsburg	236		
Lee	235		

Numeracy

Average scale score:



South Carolina proficiency level results:



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	<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>246</b>
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:

York	260	Kershaw	242	Colleton	227
Beaufort	259	Greenwood	236	Clarendon	224
Lexington	257	Florence	236	Barnwell	224
Charleston	256	Edgefield	235	Chesterfield	224
Greenville	255	Laurens	235	Bamberg	222
Dorchester	254	Cherokee	234	Fairfield	222
Pickens	252	Sumter	234	Hampton	219
Richland	250	Union	233	Marion	219
Berkeley	250	Calhoun	233	Jasper	218
Spartanburg	249	Abbeville	232	Dillon	215
Anderson	248	Newberry	231	Marlboro	214
Oconee	248	Darlington	230	Williamsburg	212
Lancaster	246	McCormick	230	Lee	212
Aiken	245	Chester	229	Allendale	202
Horry	245	Saluda	228		
Georgetown	243	Orangeburg	228		