



Results of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2012 – Financial Literacy Assessment

Background

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) created the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) as part of an ongoing program of reporting on educational outcomes across countries. PISA is a triennial program designed to monitor trends in the performance of 15-year-olds in mathematical, scientific and reading literacy over time. The 2012 PISA financial literacy assessment was an optional assessment conducted in 18 participating countries and economies.

With support from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission as the Australian Government agency responsible for financial literacy, this supplementary assessment measured 15-year-olds' knowledge of personal finances and ability to apply it to financial problems.

A total of 29 000 students internationally participated in this assessment, including approximately 3300 Australian students across 768 schools (Western Australia – 90 schools).

Students answered a pen-and-paper assessment and completed a questionnaire about their background.

Results are reported using statistics such as mean scores and measures of distribution of performance and as percentages of students who attain the international proficiency levels (Level 1 to Level 5) for countries and specific groups of students within Australia. Students who achieve Level 5 are considered *top performers* in financial literacy, while students who fail to reach Level 2, the international baseline proficiency level, are considered *low performers*.

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Key findings Australia

- Australian students achieved an average score of 526, significantly above the OECD average of 500 points.
- Australia performed equal third, behind Shanghai – China, with an average score of 603 points, and the Flemish community of Belgium, with an average score of 541 points. Estonia and New Zealand performed at a similar level to Australia.
- Australia's performance was significantly higher than 13 countries.
- Almost 90 per cent of Australian students met or exceeded the baseline proficiency (Level 2), the level of performance that will enable students to actively participate in life situations.
- The average Australian student achieved at PISA's proficiency Level 3, compared to Level 4 in Shanghai – China.
- Sixteen per cent of Australian students were top performers (Level 5), compared to 43 per cent of students in Shanghai – China, 20 per cent in Belgium and 10 per cent of students across the OECD.
- Australian students in metropolitan schools achieved an average score of 535, significantly higher by 32 score points than students in provincial schools and higher by 69 score points than students in remote schools.
- Students in the highest socioeconomic quartile achieved an average score of 569 points, 87 score points on average higher than students in the lowest socioeconomic quartile.