

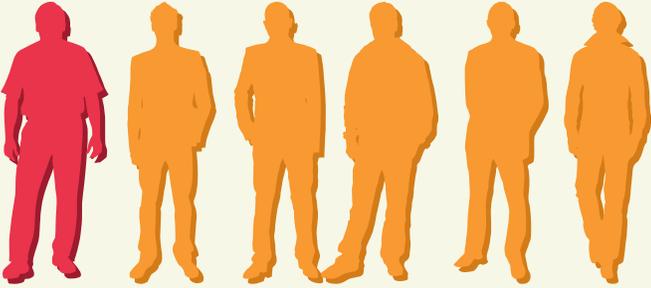


# PIAAC Fact Sheet

New Data on the Skills of American Adults

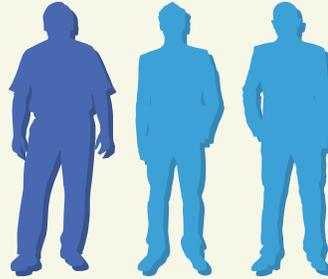
The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) released an assessment of the basic skills of adults in 24 OECD member countries, including the United States, in October 2013. The results from the survey, known as the Program for International Assessment of Adult Competencies, indicate that a significant number of U.S. adults lack basic skills, and America lags behind other member countries in literacy, numeracy, and problem solving in technology-rich environments.

## Key Findings



### 1 in 6 American Adults Have Less-Than-Basic Literacy

Roughly 36 million U.S. adults have only basic vocabulary knowledge and struggle when working with anything other than short texts.



### Nearly 1 in 3 Have Less-Than-Basic Numeracy Skills

Almost 30 percent of U.S. adults have difficulty solving anything beyond simple mathematical operations involving counting, sorting, and basic arithmetic.



### The U.S. Lags Behind in Digital Literacy, Problem Solving

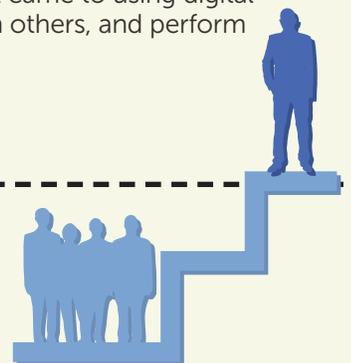
American adults performed below the international average when it came to using digital technology to acquire and evaluate information, communicate with others, and perform practical tasks.

## What PIAAC Tells Us About Individuals With Low Basic Skills



### Many Have Earned a High School Diploma

20 percent of adults with a high school diploma have less-than-basic literacy skills and 35 percent of adults with a high school degree have less-than-basic numeracy skills.

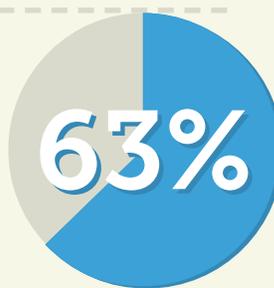


### Skill Levels of Young Adults Are Slipping

Unlike most other countries surveyed, the skills of younger adults in the U.S. are not surpassing those of older Americans, raising concerns about our ability to maintain a skilled workforce.

### Most Are Underemployed

63 percent of U.S. adults with low skill levels are employed, but earn low wages and lack the skills necessary to go to college or advance in their careers.



### Rates Are Higher Among Minorities, Immigrants

Hispanics and blacks in the U.S. are 3 to 4 times more likely to have low literacy skills than whites. One-third of low-skilled adults are immigrants.

### ...As Well as Those With Learning Disabilities

Nearly 35 percent of U.S. adults with a learning disability scored at the lowest levels in literacy on the PIAAC survey. In math, that figure was nearly 50 percent.

## Millions Are Unable to Find Help

Almost 3 million U.S. adults are not enrolled in an adult education program, but would like to be.