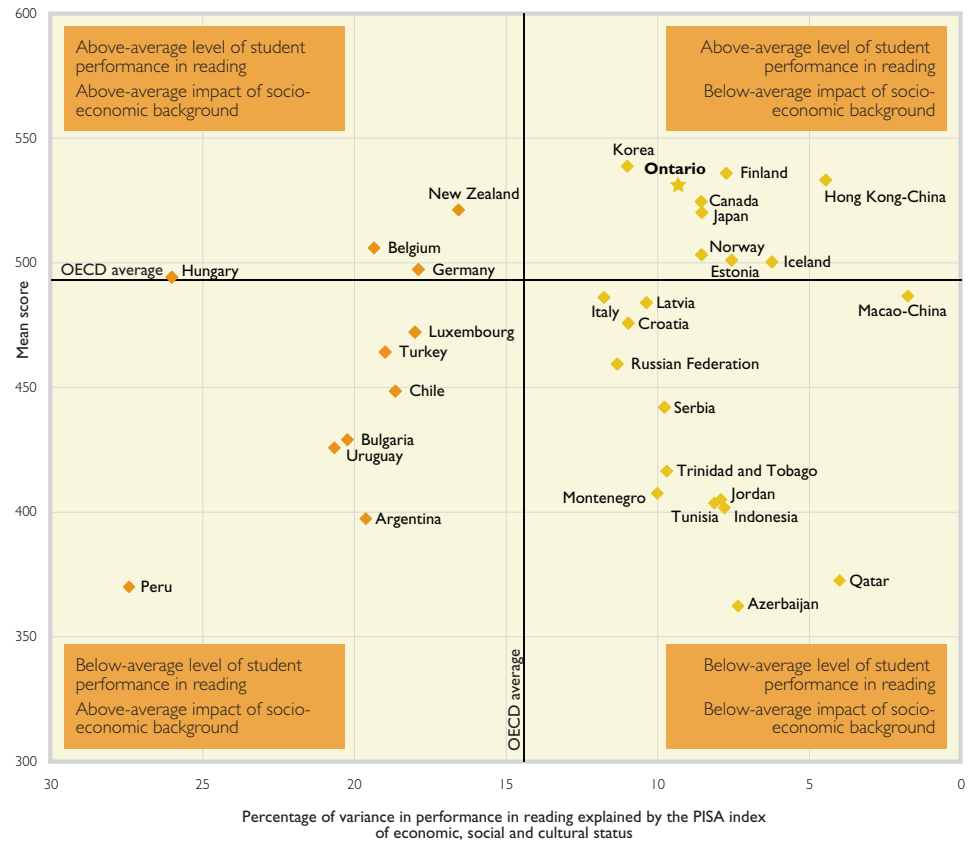


Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), 2009 Highlights of Ontario Student Results



The top right quadrant of the following chart shows the countries that have a higher-than-average level of achievement in reading and a smaller-than-average achievement gap between students in the upper and lower quarters of the socio-economic index.

Relationship Between Performance and Socio-Economic Background



- ◆ Impact of socio-economic background below the OECD average.
 - ◆ Impact of socio-economic background above the OECD average.
- Countries not identified on this chart were not significantly different from the OECD average.*

About PISA

PISA is an international program initiated by the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) and undertaken every three years to assess the achievement of 15-year-old students in three domains: reading, mathematics and science.

Each PISA administration focuses on one major assessment domain. In 2009, reading was the major domain, whereas mathematics and science were minor domains.

In 2009, 65 countries participated, including all 33 OECD countries. In Canada, 22 383 15-year-old students from 10 provinces participated, of whom 4083 were from Ontario.

Excellence and Equity—Hallmarks of Ontario’s Education System

Ontario is among the few jurisdictions in the world that demonstrate both higher achievement in reading and a smaller performance gap between high- and low-income students when compared to the OECD average. This is a characteristic of education systems that deliver both excellence and equity—a distinction that few of the countries participating in PISA 2009 can claim.

This is an indication that Ontario has been more successful than many other jurisdictions at developing strong reading skills among its students while also reducing the effects of socio-economic challenges on student learning.

Ontario Students Among Best in the World in Reading

Overall Reading Achievement

Statistically Higher Than Ontario

Shanghai-China

Statistically the Same as Ontario

Alberta
British Columbia
Finland
Hong Kong-China
Ontario
Korea
Singapore

Statistically Lower Than Ontario

Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dubai (UAE), Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao-China, Manitoba, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Zealand, Norway, Nova Scotia, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Prince Edward Island, Qatar, Quebec, Romania, Russian Federation, Saskatchewan, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay



Note: "Statistically the same" means the same level of achievement when accounting for standard error, which exists due to the fact that only a sample of students was tested.

Countries and provinces are listed in alphabetical order within each range.

Ontario Highlights

- Ontario was among the top-achieving jurisdictions of the 75 that participated in the 2009 PISA reading assessment.
- Only Shanghai, China had results that were significantly higher (statistically) than those of Ontario and the six other jurisdictions with the same results.
- Of students in all Canadian provinces, Ontario's were the only ones whose achievement was significantly higher (statistically) than the Canadian average.
- Ontario students performed significantly better than the Canadian average on all five reading subscales (accessing and retrieving, integrating and interpreting, reflecting and evaluating, continuous text, non-continuous text).
- Of Ontario students, 92% met or exceeded PISA's achievement benchmark at which students begin to demonstrate the kind of knowledge and skills needed to use reading competencies effectively. This compares to the 91% of students in Alberta and British Columbia, the 90% of Canadian students and the 81% of students across the OECD that achieved this benchmark.

Ontario Students Achieving Well in Mathematics and Science

Overall Mathematics Achievement

Statistically Higher Than Ontario

Chinese Taipei
Finland
Hong Kong-China
Korea
Quebec
Shanghai-China
Singapore

Statistically the Same as Ontario

Alberta
British Columbia
Canada
Japan
Liechtenstein
Macao-China
Netherlands
New Zealand
Ontario
Switzerland

Statistically Lower Than Ontario

Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dubai (UAE), Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Manitoba, Mexico, Montenegro, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Prince Edward Island, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saskatchewan, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay

Ontario Highlights

- Of the 75 jurisdictions participating in the 2009 PISA math assessment, seven had results that were significantly higher (statistically) than Ontario's.
- Ontario student achievement in mathematics was at the Canadian average, along with that of students in British Columbia and Alberta.
- Of the Canadian provinces, only Quebec performed significantly better (statistically) than Ontario.

Note: "Statistically the same" means the same level of achievement when accounting for standard error, which exists due to the fact that only a sample of students was tested.

Countries and provinces are listed in alphabetical order within each range.

Overall Science Achievement

Statistically Higher Than Ontario

Alberta
Finland
Hong Kong-China
Shanghai-China
Singapore

Statistically the Same as Ontario

Australia
British Columbia
Canada
Estonia
Japan
Korea
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nova Scotia
Ontario
Quebec

Statistically Lower Than Ontario

Albania, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dubai (UAE), France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao-China, Manitoba, Mexico, Montenegro, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Prince Edward Island, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saskatchewan, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay

Ontario Highlights

- Of the 75 jurisdictions participating in the 2009 PISA science assessment, five had results that were significantly higher (statistically) than Ontario's.
- Ontario student achievement in science was at the Canadian average, along with that of students in British Columbia, Quebec and Nova Scotia.
- Of the Canadian provinces, only Alberta performed significantly better (statistically) than Ontario.

Note: "Statistically the same" means the same level of achievement when accounting for standard error, which exists due to the fact that only a sample of students was tested.

Countries and provinces are listed in alphabetical order within each range.

Ontario Students Maintain High Achievement While That of Students in Some Canadian Provinces Declines

Ontario students performed at or above the Canadian average in all three domains. While students in many provinces have recorded significant declines in achievement, Ontario students have maintained their high performance over the years. This is an indication of the effectiveness of the teaching and learning programs in place across the province.

	Country or Province	2009	2006	2003	2000	Change Since 2000	
READING	Shanghai-China	556	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	Ontario students have sustained high average scale scores in overall reading achievement since 2000. Five Canadian provinces saw significant decreases in reading achievement during the same period. Only the changes in performance since 2000 for Korea and Alberta are statistically significant.
	Korea	539	556	534	525	+15	
	Finland	536	547	543	546	-11	
	Hong Kong-China	533	536	510	525	+8	
	Alberta	533	535	543	550	-17	
	Ontario	531	534	530	533	-2	
	Singapore	526	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	
	British Columbia	525	528	535	538	-13	
MATHEMATICS	Shanghai-China	600	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	Ontario students' achievement in mathematics has remained relatively unchanged since 2000. Six Canadian provinces saw significant decreases in mathematics achievement during this period. Only the changes in performance since 2000 for Liechtenstein, Japan, Alberta and New Zealand are statistically significant.
	Singapore	562	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	
	Hong Kong-China	555	547	550	-	-	
	Korea	546	547	542	547	-1	
	Chinese Taipei	543	549	DNP	DNP	-	
	Quebec	543	540	537	550	-7	
	Finland	541	548	544	536	+5	
	Liechtenstein	536	525	536	514	-18	
	Switzerland	534	530	527	529	+5	
	Japan	529	523	534	557	-28	
	Alberta	529	530	549	547	-18	
	Canada	527	527	532	533	-6	
	Ontario	526	526	530	524	+2	
	Netherlands	526	531	538	DNP	-	
	Macao-China	525	525	527	DNP	-	
	British Columbia	523	523	538	534	-11	
	New Zealand	519	522	523	537	-18	
SCIENCE	Shanghai-China	570	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	The average scale score in overall science achievement among Ontario students increased from 522 in 2000 to 531 in 2009. This nine-point increase is the largest by any Canadian province during the same period, although it is not statistically significant. Only the changes in performance since 2000 for Finland, Korea and Quebec are statistically significant.
	Finland	554	563	548	538	+16	
	Hong Kong-China	549	542	539	-	-	
	Alberta	545	550	539	546	-1	
	Singapore	542	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	
	Japan	539	531	548	550	-11	
	Korea	538	522	538	552	-14	
	British Columbia	535	539	527	533	+2	
	New Zealand	532	530	521	528	+4	
	Ontario	531	537	515	522	+9	
	Canada	529	534	519	529	0	
	Estonia	528	531	DNP	DNP	-	
	Australia	527	527	525	528	-1	
	Quebec	524	531	520	541	-17	
	Nova Scotia	523	520	505	516	+7	
Netherlands	522	525	524	DNP	-		

DNP: Did not participate.

2009 Scale Scores Statistically Higher Than Ontario

2009 Scale Scores Statistically the Same as Ontario

About EQAO: The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) acts as a catalyst for increasing the success of Ontario students by measuring their achievement in reading, writing and mathematics against a common curriculum benchmark. As an independent provincial agency, EQAO plays a pivotal role by conducting province-wide tests at key points in every student's primary, junior and secondary education and reporting the results. The objective and reliable facts obtained add to the current knowledge about student learning and are an important tool for improvement at the individual, school and provincial levels.