

Literacy rate, adult total (% of people ages 15 and above)

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Production date

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Version

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Version notes

Updated title formatting for consistency.

Version date

2025-03-17

Indicator description

Title statement

Indicator code

WB_HNP_SE_ADT_LITR_ZS

Indicator name

Literacy rate, adult total (% of people ages 15 and above)

Alternate identifiers

Type	Identifier	Database	URL
SE.ADT.LITR.ZS	Indicator ID	HNP	https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/search/dataset/0037652/Health-Nutrition-and-Population-Statistics

Database ID

WB_HNP

Database name

Health Nutrition and Population Statistics

Version date

2024-09-23

Description**Definition**

Adult literacy rate is the percentage of people ages 15 and above who can both read and write with understanding a short simple statement about their everyday life.

Development relevance

Literacy rate is an outcome indicator to evaluate educational attainment. This data can predict the quality of future labor force and can be used in ensuring policies for life skills for men and women.

It can be also used as a proxy instrument to see the effectiveness of education system; a high literacy rate suggests the capacity of an education system to provide a large population with opportunities to acquire literacy skills. The accumulated achievement of education is fundamental for further intellectual growth and social and economic development, although it doesn't necessarily ensure the quality of education.

Literate women implies that they can seek and use information for the betterment of the health, nutrition and education of their household members. Literate women are also empowered to play a meaningful role.

Measurement unit

Percent

Periodicity

Annual

Release calendar

April (all data), July (population data).

Links

Type	Description	URL
website	DDH	https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/search/dataset/0037652/Health-Nutrition-and-Population-Statistics

Concepts and methods**Methodology**

Literacy statistics for most countries cover the population ages 15 and older, but some include younger ages or are confined to age ranges that tend to inflate literacy rates. The youth literacy rate for ages 15-24 reflects recent progress in education. It measures the accumulated outcomes of primary education over the previous 10 years or so by indicating the proportion of the population who have passed through the primary education system and acquired basic literacy and numeracy skills. Generally, literacy also encompasses numeracy, the ability to make simple arithmetic calculations.

Data on literacy are compiled by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics based on national censuses and household surveys and, for countries without recent literacy data, using the Global Age-Specific Literacy Projection Model (GALP). For detailed information, see www.uis.unesco.org.

Geographic and time coverage

Time coverage

Start	End
1960	2023

Economies

Name	Code
Afghanistan	AFG
Albania	ALB
Algeria	DZA
American Samoa	ASM
Andorra	AND
Angola	AGO
Antigua and Barbuda	ATG
Argentina	ARG
Armenia	ARM
Aruba	ABW
Australia	AUS
Austria	AUT
Azerbaijan	AZE
Bahamas, The	BHS
Bahrain	BHR
Bangladesh	BGD
Barbados	BRB
Belarus	BLR
Belgium	BEL
Belize	BLZ
Benin	BEN
Bermuda	BMU
Bhutan	BTN
Bolivia	BOL
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH
Botswana	BWA
Brazil	BRA
British Virgin Islands	VGB
Brunei Darussalam	BRN
Bulgaria	BGR
Burkina Faso	BFA
Burundi	BDI
Cabo Verde	CPV
Cambodia	KHM

Cameroon	CMR
Canada	CAN
Cayman Islands	CYM
Central African Republic	CAF
Chad	TCD
Channel Islands	CHI
Chile	CHL
China	CHN
Colombia	COL
Comoros	COM
Congo, Dem. Rep.	COD
Congo, Rep.	COG
Costa Rica	CRI
Côte d'Ivoire	CIV
Croatia	HRV
Cuba	CUB
Curaçao	CUW
Cyprus	CYP
Czechia	CZE
Denmark	DNK
Djibouti	DJI
Dominica	DMA
Dominican Republic	DOM
Ecuador	ECU
Egypt, Arab Rep.	EGY
El Salvador	SLV
Equatorial Guinea	GNQ
Eritrea	ERI
Estonia	EST
Eswatini	SWZ
Ethiopia	ETH
Faroe Islands	FRO
Fiji	FJI
Finland	FIN
France	FRA
French Polynesia	PYF
Gabon	GAB
Gambia, The	GMB
Georgia	GEO
Germany	DEU
Ghana	GHA
Gibraltar	GIB

Greece	GRC
Greenland	GRL
Grenada	GRD
Guam	GUM
Guatemala	GTM
Guinea	GIN
Guinea-Bissau	GNB
Guyana	GUY
Haiti	HTI
Honduras	HND
Hong Kong SAR, China	HKG
Hungary	HUN
Iceland	ISL
India	IND
Indonesia	IDN
Iran, Islamic Rep.	IRN
Iraq	IRQ
Ireland	IRL
Isle of Man	IMN
Israel	ISR
Italy	ITA
Jamaica	JAM
Japan	JPN
Jordan	JOR
Kazakhstan	KAZ
Kenya	KEN
Kiribati	KIR
Korea, Dem. People's Rep.	PRK
Korea, Rep.	KOR
Kosovo	XXK
Kuwait	KWT
Kyrgyz Republic	KGZ
Lao PDR	LAO
Latvia	LVA
Lebanon	LBN
Lesotho	LSO
Liberia	LBR
Libya	LBY
Liechtenstein	LIE
Lithuania	LTU
Luxembourg	LUX
Macao SAR, China	MAC

Madagascar	MDG
Malawi	MWI
Malaysia	MYS
Maldives	MDV
Mali	MLI
Malta	MLT
Marshall Islands	MHL
Mauritania	MRT
Mauritius	MUS
Mexico	MEX
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	FSM
Moldova	MDA
Monaco	MCO
Mongolia	MNG
Montenegro	MNE
Morocco	MAR
Mozambique	MOZ
Myanmar	MMR
Namibia	NAM
Nauru	NRU
Nepal	NPL
Netherlands	NLD
New Caledonia	NCL
New Zealand	NZL
Nicaragua	NIC
Niger	NER
Nigeria	NGA
North Macedonia	MKD
Northern Mariana Islands	MNP
Norway	NOR
Oman	OMN
Pakistan	PAK
Palau	PLW
Panama	PAN
Papua New Guinea	PNG
Paraguay	PRY
Peru	PER
Philippines	PHL
Poland	POL
Portugal	PRT
Puerto Rico	PRI
Qatar	QAT

Romania	ROU
Russian Federation	RUS
Rwanda	RWA
Samoa	WSM
San Marino	SMR
São Tomé and Príncipe	STP
Saudi Arabia	SAU
Senegal	SEN
Serbia	SRB
Seychelles	SYC
Sierra Leone	SLE
Singapore	SGP
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	SXM
Slovak Republic	SVK
Slovenia	SVN
Solomon Islands	SLB
Somalia	SOM
South Africa	ZAF
South Sudan	SSD
Spain	ESP
Sri Lanka	LKA
St. Kitts and Nevis	KNA
St. Lucia	LCA
St. Martin (French part)	MAF
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	VCT
Sudan	SDN
Suriname	SUR
Sweden	SWE
Switzerland	CHE
Syrian Arab Republic	SYR
Tajikistan	TJK
Tanzania	TZA
Thailand	THA
Timor-Leste	TLS
Togo	TGO
Tonga	TON
Trinidad and Tobago	TTO
Tunisia	TUN
Türkiye	TUR
Turkmenistan	TKM
Turks and Caicos Islands	TCA
Tuvalu	TUV

Uganda	UGA
Ukraine	UKR
United Arab Emirates	ARE
United Kingdom	GBR
United States	USA
Uruguay	URY
Uzbekistan	UZB
Vanuatu	VUT
Venezuela, RB	VEN
Vietnam	VNM
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	VIR
West Bank and Gaza	PSE
Yemen, Rep.	YEM
Zambia	ZMB
Zimbabwe	ZWE

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Confidentiality status

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API documentation

Description	URL
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Sources and citation

Sources of data

Sources of data

Title

UIS.Stat Bulk Data Download Service

Author (Organization)

UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

Electronic location or identifier

<https://apiportal.uis.unesco.org/bdds>

Notes

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Additional Fields

Visualization

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Chart type
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