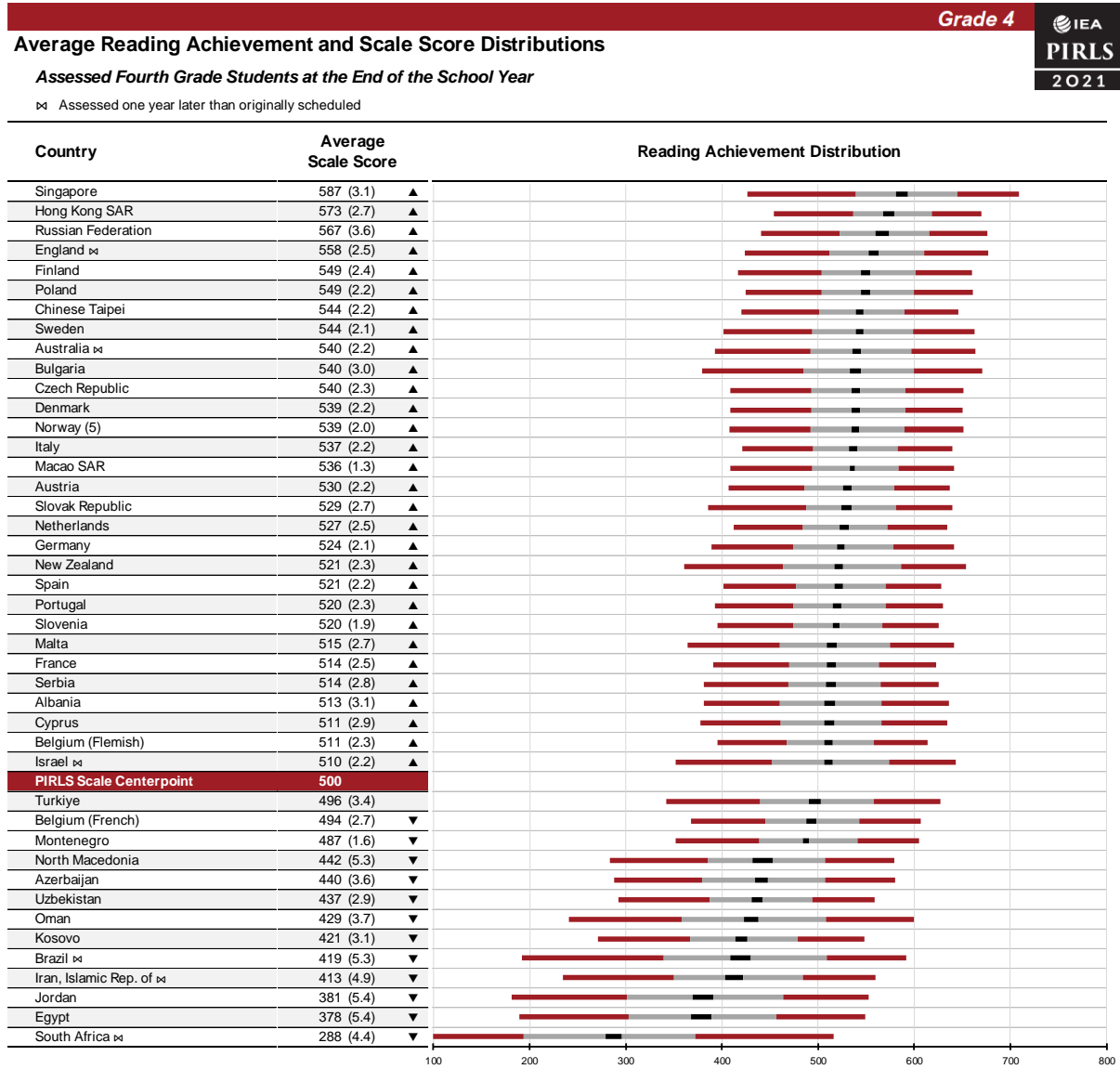


Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2021

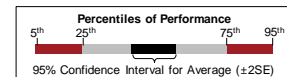
International Report (HKSAR) Press Release

Appendix Tables and Figures

Table 1: Average Reading Achievement and Scale Score Distributions (Fourth Grade students of Waves 1 and 3 only)



- ▲ Average significantly higher than the centerpoint of the PIRLS scale
- ▼ Average significantly lower than the centerpoint of the PIRLS scale



The PIRLS achievement scale was established in 2001 based on the combined achievement distribution of all countries that participated in PIRLS 2001. To provide a point of reference for country comparisons, the scale centerpoint of 500 was located at the mean of the combined achievement distribution. The units of the scale were chosen so that 100 scale score points corresponded to the standard deviation of the distribution.

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

Table 2: Hong Kong Students' Trends in Average Reading Achievement in PIRLS (Hong Kong Students)

Year	Average Score of Hong Kong Students	Ranking
2021	573	2*
2016	569	3
2011	571	1
2006	564	2
2001	528	14

Remark: The average score of Hong Kong students ranked the second among 43 P4 assessed countries and areas

Figure 1: Trend Plots of Average Reading Achievement in PIRLS (Hong Kong Students)

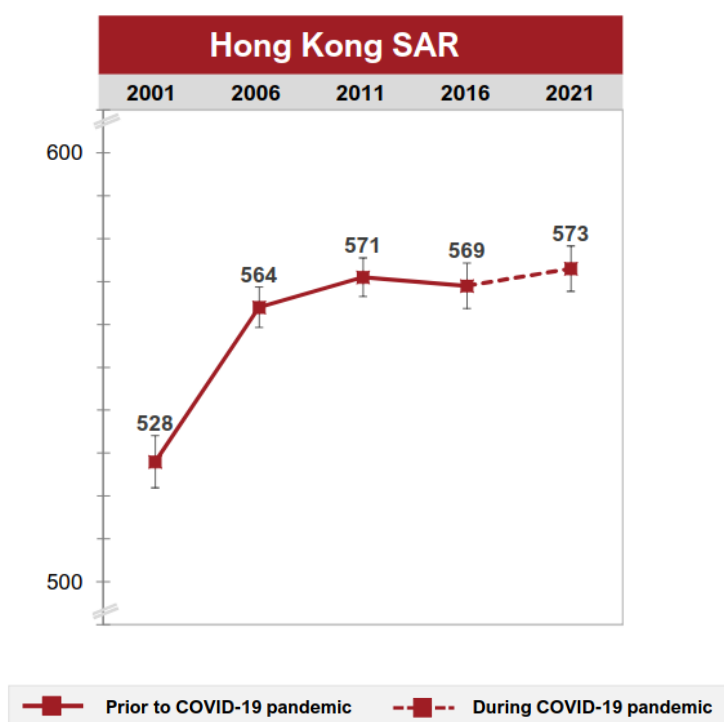
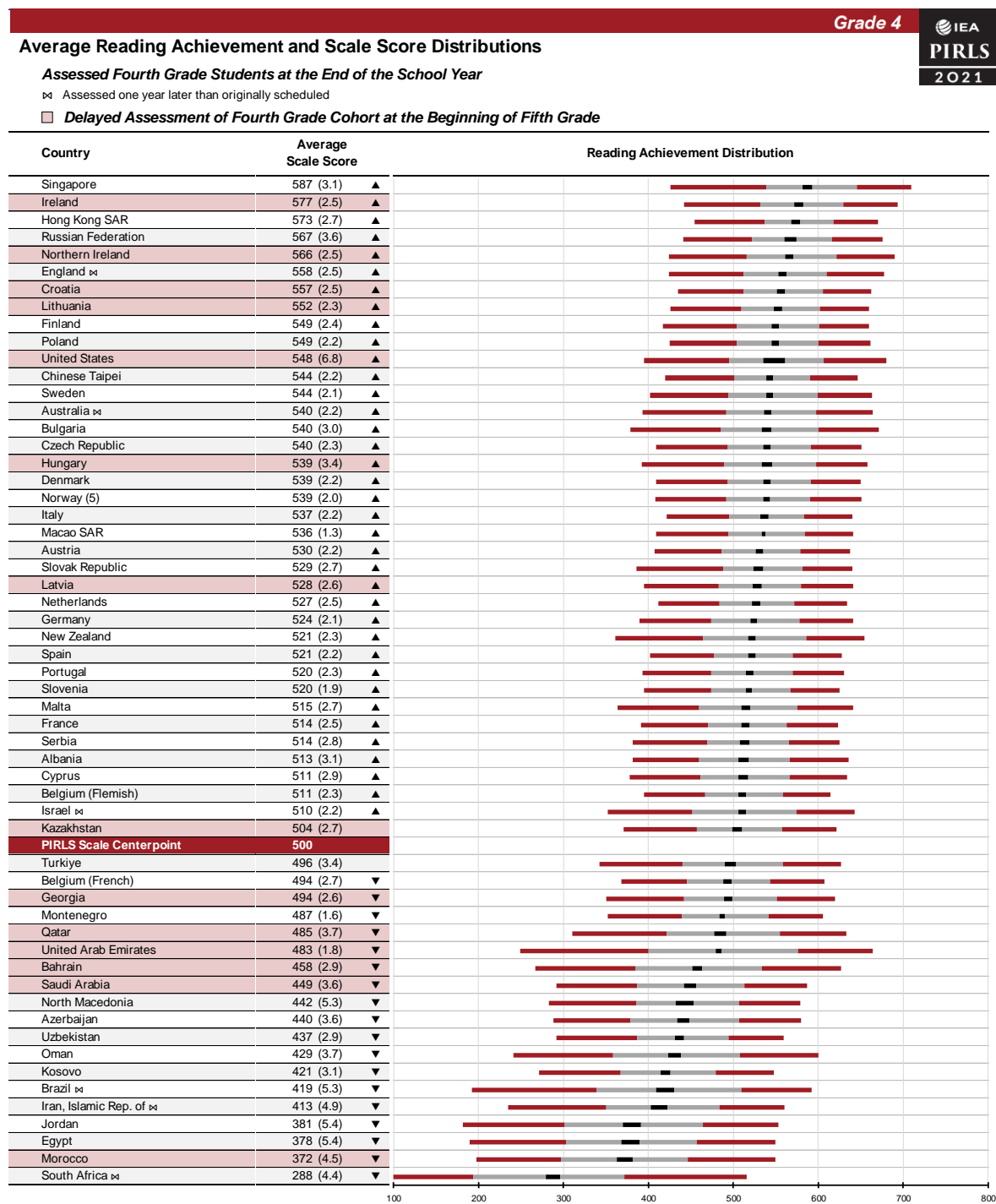
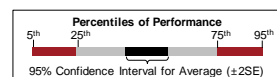


Table 3: Average Reading Achievement and Scale Score Distributions (Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade students of Waves 1, 2 and 3)



▲ Average significantly higher than the centerpoint of the PIRLS scale
 ▼ Average significantly lower than the centerpoint of the PIRLS scale



The PIRLS achievement scale was established in 2001 based on the combined achievement distribution of all countries that participated in PIRLS 2001. To provide a point of reference for country comparisons, the scale centerpoint of 500 was located at the mean of the combined achievement distribution. The units of the scale were chosen so that 100 scale score points corresponded to the standard deviation of the distribution.

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study - PIRLS 2021

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Table 4: Hong Kong Students' Trends of Average Reading Achievement in PIRLS: by Reading Purposes

Year	Average Reading Achievement	Literary	Informational
2021	573	564	582
2016	569	562	576
2011	571	565	578
2006	564	559	570
2001	528	520	537

Table 5: Hong Kong Students' Trends of Average Reading Achievement in PIRLS: by Comprehension Processes

Year	Average Reading Achievement	Retrieving and Straightforward Inferencing	Interpreting, Integrating and Evaluating
2021	573	577	572
2016	569	568	568
2011	571	562	578
2006	564	561	566
2001	528	525	530

Table 6: Average Reading Achievement by Gender (Fourth Grade Students of Waves 1 and 3 only)

						Grade 4	IEA PIRLS 2021
Average Reading Achievement by Gender							
Assessed Fourth Grade Students at the End of the School Year							
☒ Assessed one year later than originally scheduled							
Country	Girls		Boys		Difference	Gender Difference	
	Percent of Students	Average Scale Score	Percent of Students	Average Scale Score		Girls Scored Higher	Boys Scored Higher
Spain	47 (0.9)	522 (2.6)	53 (0.9)	520 (2.5)	2 (2.6)		
Czech Republic	49 (0.9)	541 (2.8)	51 (0.9)	538 (2.7)	4 (3.0)		
Israel ☒	50 (1.1)	512 (2.8)	50 (1.1)	508 (2.6)	4 (3.0)		
Portugal	48 (0.7)	523 (2.3)	52 (0.7)	517 (2.7)	6 (2.0)		
Malta	46 (3.4)	518 (3.6)	54 (3.4)	512 (3.2)	6 (4.1)		
Italy	49 (0.6)	541 (2.4)	51 (0.6)	534 (2.4)	7 (2.0)		
Belgium (Flemish)	49 (0.8)	515 (2.6)	51 (0.8)	507 (2.8)	8 (2.8)		
Hong Kong SAR	51 (1.0)	577 (2.8)	49 (1.0)	569 (3.3)	8 (2.8)		
Slovak Republic	52 (0.9)	533 (2.9)	48 (0.9)	525 (3.2)	8 (2.8)		
Cyprus	51 (0.7)	515 (3.2)	49 (0.7)	506 (3.1)	9 (2.7)		
Serbia	49 (0.8)	518 (3.4)	51 (0.8)	509 (3.2)	9 (3.5)		
Macao SAR	50 (0.7)	540 (1.5)	50 (0.7)	531 (1.9)	10 (2.2)		
England ☒	51 (0.9)	562 (3.1)	49 (0.9)	553 (3.1)	10 (3.7)		
Belgium (French)	49 (0.8)	499 (3.2)	51 (0.8)	489 (2.9)	10 (3.2)		
Denmark	52 (0.6)	545 (2.5)	48 (0.6)	533 (2.8)	12 (3.0)		
Netherlands	50 (0.8)	534 (2.9)	50 (0.8)	521 (2.8)	13 (2.6)		
Chinese Taipei	48 (0.5)	551 (2.5)	52 (0.5)	537 (2.4)	13 (2.3)		
Russian Federation	49 (0.7)	574 (3.4)	51 (0.7)	561 (4.5)	13 (3.7)		
France	50 (0.7)	521 (3.0)	50 (0.7)	507 (2.7)	14 (2.6)		
Austria	49 (0.9)	537 (2.6)	51 (0.9)	523 (2.6)	14 (2.7)		
Sweden	50 (0.9)	551 (2.5)	50 (0.9)	536 (2.3)	15 (2.3)		
Bulgaria	48 (0.9)	548 (3.0)	52 (0.9)	533 (4.0)	15 (3.9)		
Germany	49 (0.8)	532 (2.5)	51 (0.8)	516 (2.5)	15 (2.6)		
Egypt	49 (1.5)	386 (5.7)	51 (1.5)	370 (6.4)	16 (5.6)		
Norway (5)	49 (0.7)	547 (2.3)	51 (0.7)	531 (2.4)	16 (2.4)		
Iran, Islamic Rep. of ☒	46 (2.3)	422 (7.5)	54 (2.3)	405 (5.9)	17 (9.1)		
Turkiye	49 (0.6)	505 (3.8)	51 (0.6)	488 (3.6)	17 (2.8)		
Australia ☒	50 (0.7)	549 (2.5)	50 (0.7)	532 (2.8)	17 (3.0)		
Finland	50 (0.8)	558 (2.7)	50 (0.8)	541 (2.7)	18 (2.7)		
Singapore	49 (0.6)	596 (3.0)	51 (0.6)	578 (3.7)	18 (2.7)		
Azerbaijan	47 (0.8)	450 (4.1)	53 (0.8)	432 (4.0)	18 (3.7)		
Slovenia	49 (0.7)	529 (2.1)	51 (0.7)	511 (2.3)	18 (2.3)		
New Zealand	49 (0.7)	531 (2.9)	51 (0.7)	512 (2.7)	19 (3.2)		
Montenegro	48 (0.6)	497 (2.0)	52 (0.6)	478 (2.2)	20 (2.6)		
Poland	47 (1.0)	560 (2.5)	53 (1.0)	540 (2.7)	20 (2.9)		
Albania	49 (1.0)	523 (3.5)	51 (1.0)	503 (3.4)	20 (3.2)		
Kosovo	51 (0.9)	431 (3.1)	49 (0.9)	410 (3.8)	21 (3.1)		
Brazil ☒	49 (1.1)	431 (6.0)	51 (1.1)	408 (6.1)	23 (6.0)		
Uzbekistan	48 (0.9)	449 (3.1)	52 (0.9)	425 (3.5)	24 (3.4)		
North Macedonia	51 (1.0)	454 (5.8)	49 (1.0)	429 (6.0)	25 (5.2)		
Oman	50 (0.6)	447 (4.2)	50 (0.6)	412 (4.1)	36 (3.8)		
Jordan	51 (2.6)	398 (6.8)	49 (2.6)	362 (7.9)	36 (10.3)		
South Africa ☒	49 (0.6)	317 (4.4)	51 (0.6)	260 (5.0)	57 (3.6)		
International Average	49 (0.2)	509 (0.5)	51 (0.2)	493 (0.6)			

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

■ Difference statistically significant
 ■ Difference not statistically significant

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study - PIRLS 2021

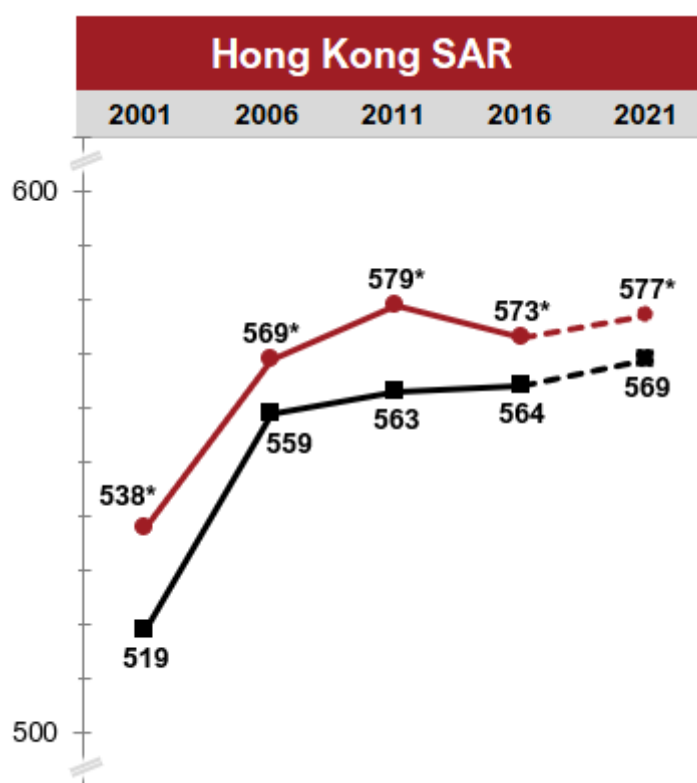
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Table 7: Hong Kong Students' Trends and Difference of Average Reading Achievement by Gender

Year	Average score of Girls	Average score of Boys	Difference between Girls and Boys
2021	577	569	8
2016	573	564	9
2011	579	563	16
2006	569	559	10
2001	538	519	19

Figure 2: Trend Plots of Average Reading Achievement by Gender (Hong Kong Students)



*Average Achievement of Girls is significantly higher than Boys

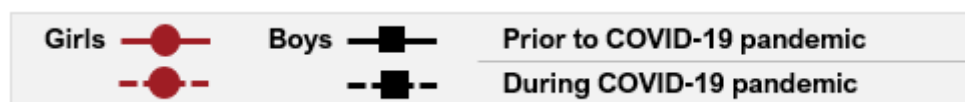
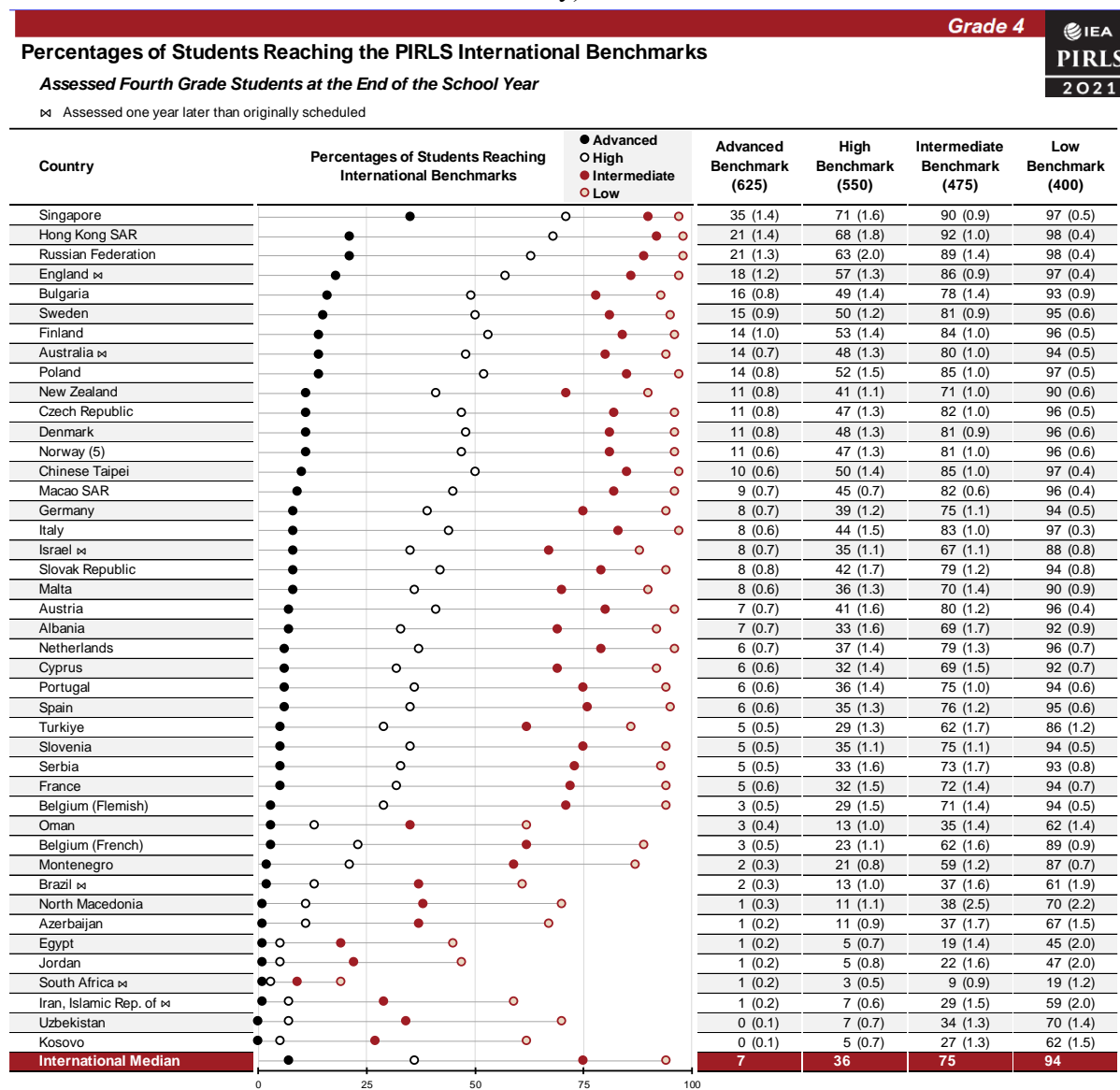


Table 8: Percentages of Students Reaching the PIRLS International Benchmarks (Fourth Grade Students of Waves 1 and 3 only)



() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study - PIRLS 2021

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Table 9: Hong Kong Students' Trends in the Distribution of Reaching the PIRLS

International Benchmarks (Student percentage)					
Year	Advanced Benchmark (625 or above)	High Benchmark (550 or above)	Intermediate Benchmark (475 or above)	Low Benchmark (400 or above)	400 or below
2021	21%	68%	92%	98%	2%
2016	18%	65%	93%	99%	1%
2011	18%	67%	93%	99%	1%
2006	15%	62%	92%	99%	1%
2001	5%	39%	81%	97%	3%

Figure 3 : Hong Kong Students' Trends in the Distribution of Reaching the PIRLS International Benchmarks (Student percentage)

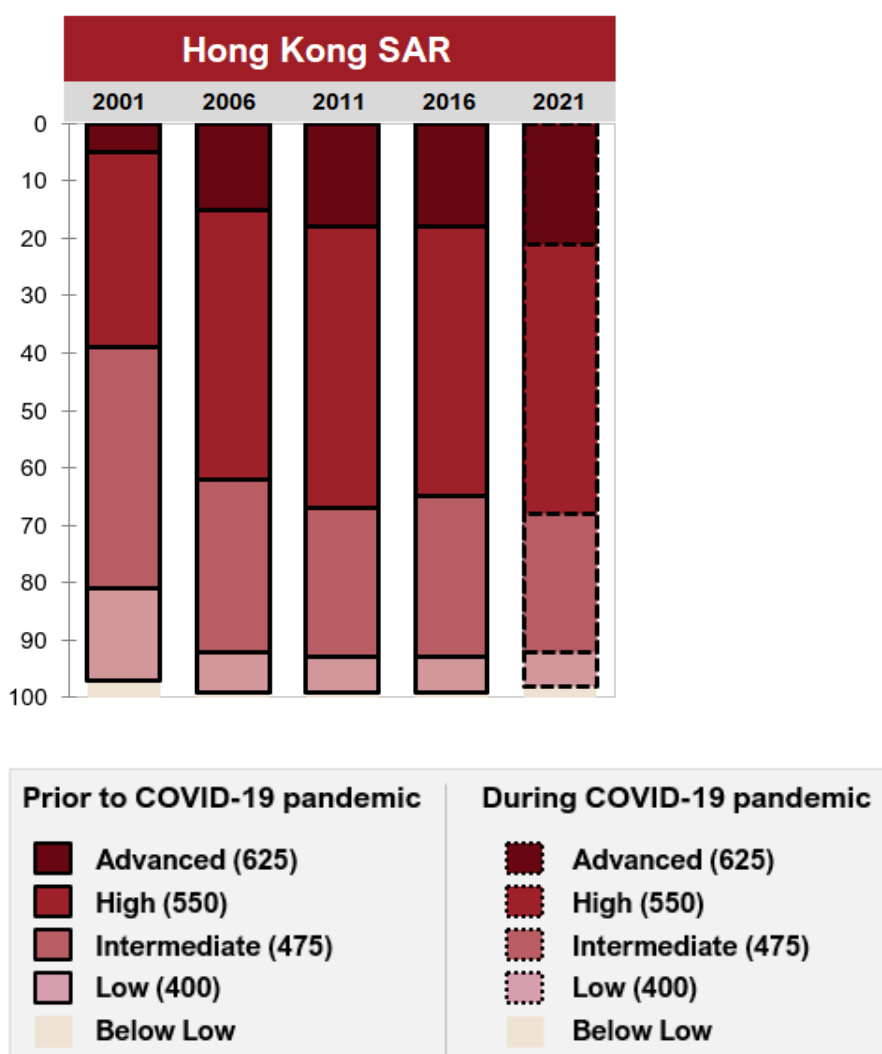


Table 10: Students Confident in Reading

Grade 4							IEA PIRLS 2021
Students Confident in Reading							
Students' Reports							
Assessed Fourth Grade Students at the End of the School Year							
☒ Assessed one year later than originally scheduled							
☐ Delayed Assessment of Fourth Grade Cohort at the Beginning of Fifth Grade							
Country	Very Confident in Reading		Somewhat Confident in Reading		Not Confident in Reading		Average Scale Score
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	
Bulgaria	61 (1.0)	567 (2.6)	26 (0.9)	521 (3.8)	13 (0.9)	460 (7.8)	10.5 (0.05)
Kosovo	59 (1.0)	445 (2.8)	25 (0.9)	412 (4.9)	16 (0.8)	360 (5.3)	10.7 (0.05)
Serbia	58 (1.2)	537 (2.9)	29 (1.1)	500 (4.0)	14 (0.7)	452 (5.4)	10.4 (0.05)
Finland	57 (0.8)	574 (2.3)	30 (0.6)	534 (2.5)	13 (0.6)	488 (4.8)	10.5 (0.03)
Albania	56 (1.4)	535 (2.8)	26 (1.1)	502 (5.4)	18 (0.9)	467 (4.9)	10.5 (0.06)
Sweden	56 (0.9)	573 (2.3)	32 (0.7)	526 (2.2)	12 (0.6)	478 (3.9)	10.5 (0.04)
Montenegro	56 (0.7)	515 (2.0)	28 (0.7)	477 (2.6)	16 (0.6)	430 (3.5)	10.3 (0.03)
North Macedonia	56 (1.9)	473 (4.8)	26 (1.2)	437 (5.6)	19 (1.3)	382 (8.9)	10.5 (0.08)
Poland	55 (1.2)	572 (2.1)	34 (1.2)	539 (2.7)	11 (0.7)	482 (5.3)	10.5 (0.05)
Cyprus	55 (0.8)	537 (2.8)	30 (0.6)	496 (3.2)	15 (0.7)	449 (4.5)	10.4 (0.04)
Germany	53 (1.0)	561 (2.2)	31 (0.8)	513 (2.9)	16 (0.6)	469 (3.6)	10.3 (0.04)
Austria	51 (0.9)	560 (2.2)	34 (0.7)	514 (2.4)	15 (0.7)	469 (3.1)	10.3 (0.04)
Singapore	51 (0.9)	622 (2.6)	33 (0.7)	574 (3.1)	16 (0.7)	514 (4.8)	10.3 (0.04)
Iran, Islamic Rep. of ☒	50 (1.2)	454 (4.0)	31 (1.0)	391 (6.5)	19 (1.2)	346 (7.6)	10.2 (0.06)
Italy	49 (1.0)	560 (2.2)	36 (0.8)	529 (2.6)	15 (0.7)	489 (2.8)	10.2 (0.04)
Ireland	49 (1.2)	609 (2.6)	34 (1.0)	564 (3.0)	17 (0.7)	516 (3.6)	10.1 (0.05)
Turkiye	48 (1.0)	529 (3.3)	36 (0.9)	484 (3.8)	17 (0.7)	435 (4.5)	10.0 (0.04)
Uzbekistan	47 (1.4)	461 (3.1)	32 (1.1)	440 (3.3)	21 (0.9)	384 (4.1)	10.1 (0.06)
Northern Ireland	47 (1.1)	603 (3.0)	37 (1.0)	550 (2.8)	16 (0.6)	501 (4.4)	10.1 (0.04)
Netherlands	47 (1.0)	556 (2.5)	32 (1.0)	516 (2.9)	21 (0.8)	482 (3.5)	9.9 (0.04)
Slovenia	46 (0.7)	550 (2.0)	37 (0.7)	512 (2.5)	17 (0.6)	462 (2.9)	10.2 (0.03)
Croatia	46 (1.0)	583 (2.8)	38 (0.9)	552 (2.6)	16 (0.9)	503 (4.1)	10.0 (0.04)
Qatar	46 (1.0)	533 (3.3)	32 (0.9)	480 (4.3)	23 (1.0)	423 (3.9)	10.1 (0.05)
Denmark	45 (0.9)	576 (2.1)	36 (0.9)	530 (2.8)	19 (0.8)	479 (3.4)	10.1 (0.04)
England ☒	45 (1.2)	594 (2.6)	34 (1.0)	544 (3.2)	21 (0.7)	504 (3.7)	9.9 (0.05)
Israel ☒	45 (1.0)	561 (2.0)	30 (0.8)	501 (2.5)	25 (0.9)	449 (3.2)	9.9 (0.04)
Norway (5)	44 (0.9)	575 (2.1)	36 (0.8)	530 (2.2)	19 (0.7)	484 (3.2)	10.0 (0.04)
United Arab Emirates	44 (0.5)	552 (1.7)	30 (0.3)	483 (2.1)	26 (0.5)	404 (2.8)	9.9 (0.02)
United States	44 (2.4)	594 (5.4)	36 (2.0)	542 (4.7)	21 (1.4)	486 (9.8)	9.9 (0.09)
Belgium (French)	44 (0.9)	531 (2.4)	36 (0.9)	483 (3.7)	20 (0.8)	439 (3.6)	9.9 (0.04)
Slovak Republic	43 (1.0)	559 (2.3)	33 (1.1)	530 (3.1)	24 (1.0)	486 (4.8)	9.8 (0.05)
France	43 (0.9)	543 (2.9)	40 (0.9)	509 (2.5)	17 (0.7)	458 (4.0)	9.9 (0.03)
Kazakhstan	43 (0.9)	526 (2.7)	34 (0.8)	509 (2.9)	24 (0.8)	465 (3.5)	9.9 (0.04)
Hungary	43 (0.9)	579 (2.8)	35 (0.8)	533 (3.4)	23 (0.9)	481 (4.9)	9.9 (0.04)
Australia ☒	43 (1.0)	582 (2.2)	38 (0.8)	528 (2.5)	19 (0.8)	477 (4.5)	9.9 (0.04)
Georgia	42 (0.9)	531 (2.7)	33 (0.8)	487 (3.0)	24 (0.9)	456 (4.5)	9.8 (0.04)
Belgium (Flemish)	42 (1.0)	540 (2.5)	34 (0.8)	507 (2.5)	23 (0.8)	466 (2.6)	9.9 (0.04)
Portugal	42 (0.8)	554 (2.2)	37 (0.7)	513 (2.5)	21 (0.7)	465 (3.0)	9.8 (0.04)
Bahrain	42 (1.1)	510 (3.5)	35 (0.9)	455 (4.1)	23 (0.7)	386 (4.1)	9.9 (0.04)
Malta	40 (1.1)	557 (2.2)	36 (1.0)	508 (3.3)	23 (0.8)	464 (3.8)	9.8 (0.04)
Czech Republic	39 (0.8)	571 (2.4)	39 (0.8)	539 (2.2)	21 (0.6)	494 (4.1)	9.7 (0.03)
Spain	39 (0.9)	554 (2.3)	41 (0.9)	517 (2.7)	20 (0.7)	474 (3.0)	9.7 (0.03)
Azerbaijan	39 (1.3)	475 (4.0)	35 (1.0)	443 (4.2)	26 (1.0)	406 (4.4)	9.7 (0.06)
Russian Federation	39 (1.0)	596 (3.3)	40 (0.8)	569 (3.6)	21 (1.0)	520 (4.5)	9.7 (0.04)
Saudi Arabia	38 (1.4)	498 (3.6)	31 (0.8)	458 (4.0)	30 (1.2)	425 (5.1)	9.7 (0.07)
Lithuania	38 (0.9)	590 (2.6)	38 (0.9)	552 (2.2)	25 (0.8)	503 (2.7)	9.7 (0.03)
Oman	36 (1.1)	478 (4.7)	37 (0.9)	427 (3.8)	27 (1.0)	382 (4.7)	9.6 (0.05)
New Zealand	34 (0.9)	577 (2.4)	38 (0.7)	527 (2.9)	28 (0.8)	466 (3.1)	9.5 (0.03)
Hong Kong SAR	32 (1.0)	605 (2.9)	39 (0.9)	573 (3.0)	29 (0.9)	539 (3.7)	9.4 (0.04)
Chinese Taipei	31 (0.9)	580 (2.0)	38 (0.7)	545 (2.4)	31 (0.7)	506 (3.0)	9.4 (0.04)
Morocco	31 (1.4)	420 (4.6)	42 (1.5)	378 (6.8)	27 (1.5)	312 (5.7)	9.4 (0.05)
Brazil ☒	29 (1.2)	496 (4.4)	37 (1.3)	445 (4.5)	34 (1.3)	357 (6.8)	9.2 (0.06)
Jordan	27 (1.3)	425 (6.6)	39 (1.4)	390 (7.0)	33 (1.5)	341 (7.5)	9.2 (0.06)
Latvia	24 (0.9)	567 (2.9)	43 (0.9)	539 (2.3)	32 (1.0)	489 (3.5)	9.1 (0.04)
Macao SAR	22 (0.6)	575 (2.0)	43 (0.8)	542 (1.9)	35 (0.7)	503 (1.7)	9.0 (0.02)
Egypt	22 (1.2)	435 (5.4)	37 (1.0)	385 (5.9)	41 (1.4)	359 (6.9)	9.0 (0.05)
South Africa ☒	18 (0.9)	402 (6.4)	35 (0.6)	301 (5.1)	47 (1.0)	247 (4.6)	8.8 (0.04)
International Average	43 (0.1)	541 (0.4)	35 (0.1)	498 (0.5)	22 (0.1)	449 (0.6)	

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study - PIRLS 2021

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Table 11: Student Like Reading

Grade 4							IEA PIRLS 2021
Students Like Reading							
Students' Reports							
Assessed Fourth Grade Students at the End of the School Year							
☒ Assessed one year later than originally scheduled							
☐ Delayed Assessment of Fourth Grade Cohort at the Beginning of Fifth Grade							
Country	Very Much Like Reading		Somewhat Like Reading		Do Not Like Reading		Average Scale Score
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	
Kosovo	85 (0.9)	426 (3.0)	13 (0.8)	407 (5.9)	2 ~	~ ~	12.4 (0.05)
Uzbekistan	83 (0.9)	446 (2.8)	15 (0.8)	403 (5.2)	2 ~	~ ~	12.5 (0.07)
Albania	81 (0.7)	517 (3.2)	17 (0.6)	503 (5.0)	2 ~	~ ~	12.1 (0.05)
North Macedonia	70 (1.3)	446 (6.4)	24 (1.0)	443 (5.2)	6 (0.6)	435 (10.2)	11.5 (0.07)
Iran, Islamic Rep. of ☒	66 (1.2)	424 (4.2)	29 (1.0)	400 (7.7)	5 (0.6)	356 (15.1)	11.2 (0.06)
Azerbaijan	63 (1.1)	446 (3.8)	32 (0.9)	439 (4.5)	5 (0.5)	421 (10.3)	11.2 (0.05)
Turkiye	62 (1.2)	503 (3.3)	32 (1.0)	486 (4.9)	6 (0.4)	487 (6.4)	11.2 (0.06)
Morocco	62 (1.7)	388 (4.4)	33 (1.6)	353 (6.8)	5 (0.9)	318 (10.6)	11.1 (0.08)
Saudi Arabia	61 (1.2)	462 (3.6)	32 (1.1)	432 (5.2)	7 (0.5)	438 (6.7)	11.1 (0.06)
Portugal	60 (1.0)	520 (2.6)	34 (0.8)	518 (3.0)	6 (0.4)	525 (4.9)	11.0 (0.04)
Montenegro	59 (0.8)	495 (2.1)	33 (0.7)	483 (2.3)	8 (0.6)	472 (4.4)	11.0 (0.04)
Georgia	59 (1.2)	498 (2.9)	34 (0.9)	493 (2.9)	7 (0.7)	504 (8.6)	10.9 (0.05)
Oman	58 (1.1)	447 (4.0)	36 (1.0)	415 (4.6)	6 (0.4)	387 (8.5)	10.9 (0.06)
Jordan	55 (1.5)	394 (5.7)	34 (1.1)	369 (6.7)	10 (1.1)	356 (13.3)	10.7 (0.07)
Spain	54 (1.0)	527 (2.6)	35 (0.8)	517 (2.7)	11 (0.5)	509 (3.8)	10.7 (0.05)
Kazakhstan	53 (1.0)	501 (2.6)	39 (0.8)	504 (3.4)	7 (0.4)	518 (5.8)	10.6 (0.04)
United Arab Emirates	53 (0.5)	501 (1.9)	37 (0.4)	469 (2.5)	10 (0.2)	464 (3.8)	10.6 (0.02)
Bahrain	51 (1.0)	474 (3.7)	39 (0.9)	452 (3.9)	10 (0.5)	437 (6.9)	10.6 (0.04)
Bulgaria	51 (1.4)	548 (3.4)	37 (1.3)	541 (4.2)	12 (0.7)	511 (5.5)	10.6 (0.06)
South Africa ☒	50 (1.6)	312 (4.6)	40 (1.3)	275 (5.5)	11 (0.6)	262 (10.5)	10.6 (0.09)
Qatar	49 (1.1)	500 (4.0)	40 (0.9)	477 (4.6)	11 (0.6)	467 (5.5)	10.5 (0.05)
Brazil ☒	47 (1.6)	425 (6.0)	39 (1.3)	426 (6.2)	14 (0.8)	436 (7.9)	10.4 (0.07)
Malta	46 (1.2)	516 (3.6)	39 (0.9)	517 (3.5)	15 (0.9)	510 (4.1)	10.3 (0.06)
Serbia	45 (1.5)	516 (4.3)	40 (1.5)	514 (3.4)	16 (1.1)	508 (4.6)	10.2 (0.06)
Egypt	44 (1.6)	406 (5.8)	45 (1.5)	370 (6.2)	12 (0.7)	346 (8.1)	10.3 (0.06)
Italy	41 (0.9)	541 (2.6)	42 (0.8)	536 (2.6)	17 (0.7)	533 (3.0)	10.0 (0.04)
Israel ☒	40 (1.0)	519 (2.6)	41 (0.8)	507 (2.9)	19 (0.8)	507 (3.1)	9.9 (0.05)
Chinese Taipei	39 (1.0)	560 (2.3)	43 (0.9)	537 (2.5)	19 (0.8)	526 (3.2)	9.9 (0.05)
New Zealand	38 (0.8)	532 (3.2)	44 (0.7)	521 (3.0)	18 (0.7)	511 (2.8)	9.9 (0.04)
Cyprus	37 (1.0)	517 (3.2)	41 (0.7)	511 (3.8)	21 (0.9)	501 (3.7)	9.8 (0.05)
France	36 (1.1)	526 (2.8)	47 (0.9)	514 (2.8)	17 (0.7)	490 (3.7)	9.9 (0.05)
Russian Federation	35 (1.4)	564 (5.6)	47 (1.0)	570 (3.5)	18 (0.9)	567 (3.4)	9.8 (0.06)
Germany	34 (0.9)	544 (3.2)	44 (0.9)	530 (2.5)	22 (0.7)	509 (3.1)	9.6 (0.04)
Singapore	33 (0.8)	607 (4.1)	47 (0.8)	586 (3.3)	20 (0.6)	560 (3.8)	9.6 (0.03)
Austria	32 (1.1)	539 (2.6)	46 (1.0)	530 (2.9)	22 (1.1)	517 (3.1)	9.6 (0.05)
Belgium (French)	31 (1.1)	498 (3.9)	45 (0.9)	498 (3.2)	24 (1.0)	484 (3.2)	9.6 (0.06)
Ireland	31 (1.0)	593 (3.6)	45 (0.9)	578 (2.9)	23 (0.9)	556 (3.1)	9.5 (0.04)
Macao SAR	31 (0.6)	553 (1.9)	48 (0.6)	535 (1.6)	21 (0.5)	512 (2.7)	9.6 (0.02)
Hong Kong SAR	30 (0.9)	590 (2.9)	47 (0.8)	573 (3.0)	23 (0.8)	550 (4.0)	9.6 (0.05)
Slovak Republic	29 (1.0)	530 (3.4)	45 (1.1)	534 (3.5)	26 (1.0)	523 (3.7)	9.4 (0.04)
Australia ☒	29 (0.9)	562 (3.8)	45 (1.0)	542 (2.8)	26 (0.9)	517 (3.2)	9.4 (0.05)
England ☒	29 (0.8)	570 (3.7)	48 (0.9)	562 (2.8)	24 (1.1)	536 (3.4)	9.4 (0.05)
Northern Ireland	28 (1.0)	585 (3.7)	47 (0.9)	570 (2.8)	25 (1.0)	542 (3.2)	9.4 (0.05)
Slovenia	28 (0.7)	530 (2.8)	50 (0.9)	521 (2.3)	23 (1.0)	507 (2.8)	9.4 (0.04)
Czech Republic	27 (1.0)	540 (4.1)	49 (1.1)	545 (2.3)	23 (0.8)	530 (3.0)	9.4 (0.04)
Belgium (Flemish)	27 (0.9)	516 (3.3)	43 (0.7)	512 (2.8)	29 (1.0)	505 (2.6)	9.3 (0.05)
Hungary	27 (1.0)	555 (4.7)	46 (0.9)	539 (4.0)	28 (0.9)	527 (3.7)	9.3 (0.04)
United States	25 (1.4)	559 (8.6)	50 (1.4)	557 (6.3)	24 (1.4)	530 (6.7)	9.4 (0.06)
Finland	23 (0.8)	563 (3.9)	46 (0.8)	555 (2.6)	30 (0.9)	533 (2.5)	9.1 (0.04)
Poland	23 (1.1)	555 (4.0)	49 (1.2)	556 (2.5)	28 (1.0)	536 (3.3)	9.2 (0.05)
Croatia	23 (0.9)	560 (4.5)	52 (1.1)	557 (2.7)	25 (1.1)	554 (3.5)	9.3 (0.05)
Lithuania	22 (0.8)	555 (3.6)	48 (0.9)	555 (2.8)	30 (1.0)	548 (2.5)	9.1 (0.04)
Sweden	18 (0.6)	544 (4.1)	47 (0.9)	550 (2.6)	35 (0.9)	539 (2.5)	8.8 (0.04)
Netherlands	17 (0.9)	543 (3.9)	46 (1.0)	535 (2.7)	37 (1.1)	511 (3.4)	8.8 (0.04)
Latvia	16 (0.8)	538 (5.3)	47 (1.2)	533 (2.7)	37 (1.0)	520 (2.8)	8.8 (0.03)
Denmark	14 (0.7)	566 (4.2)	50 (0.9)	545 (2.5)	36 (1.1)	524 (3.0)	8.7 (0.04)
Norway (5)	13 (0.6)	556 (4.2)	46 (0.8)	547 (2.4)	41 (1.1)	528 (2.4)	8.6 (0.04)
International Average	42 (0.1)	513 (0.5)	40 (0.1)	501 (0.5)	18 (0.1)	491 (0.8)	

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.
A tilde (~) indicates insufficient data to report result.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study - PIRLS 2021

Downloaded from <https://pirls2021.org/results>

Table 12: Students Confident in Reading: Trends of Hong Kong Students

Year	Very Confident in Reading		Somewhat Confident in Reading		Not Confident in Reading	
	Student %	Average score	Student %	Average score	Student %	Average score
2021	32%	605	39%	573	29%	539
2016	36%	596	38%	568	26%	534
2011	20%	601	62%	571	18%	538
2006	48%	585	50%	545	2%	~ ~
2001	23%	549	69%	525	9%	509

Table 13: Students Like Reading: Trends of Hong Kong Students

Year	Very Much Like Reading		Somewhat Like Reading		Do Not Like Reading	
	Student %	Average score	Student %	Average score	Student %	Average score
2021	30%	590	47%	573	23%	550
2016	36%	583	44%	567	21%	549
2011	21%	596	62%	568	16%	550
2006	55%	579	41%	546	4%	539
2001	49%	545	46%	525	5%	510

Table 14: Hong Kong Students' Reading Habits in School (Student Questionnaire) (Student percentage)

In school, how often do these things happen?		Every day or almost every day	Once or twice a week	Once or twice a month	Never or almost never
a) I read silently on my own (n=3777)	Student %	31.9%	34.1%	21.5%	12.5%
	Avg. score	582	575	568	556
b) I read things that I choose myself (n=3775)	Student %	35.9%	31.0%	19.7%	13.4%
	Avg. score	584	571	569	556

Table 15: Could Do Early Literacy Tasks When Beginning Primary School (Home Questionnaire) (Student percentage)

Literacy ability when Beginning Primary 1	Student %	Average score
Very Well	45.8%	596
Moderately Well	42.8%	565
Not Well	11.4%	525
(n=3745)		

Table 16: Number of Books in Students' Home (Student Questionnaire) (Student percentage)

About how many books are there in your home? (Do not count magazines, newspapers, or your school books.)	Student %	Average score
0–10 books	11.5%	529
11–25 books	19.9%	559
26–100 books	36.0%	578
101–200 books	18.6%	592
more than 200 books	14.1%	591
<i>(n=3799)</i>		

Table 17: Number of Books in Students' Home (Home Questionnaire) (Student percentage)

About how many books are there in your home?	Student %	Average score
0–10 books	18.9%	559
11–25 books	22.2%	566
26–100 books	35.7%	578
101–200 books	12.0%	583
more than 200 books	11.2%	596
<i>(n=3743)</i>		

Table 18: Number of Children's Books in Students' Home (Home Questionnaire) (Student percentage)

About how many children's books are there in your home?	Student %	Average score
0–10 books	13.9%	544
11–25 books	18.6%	558
26–100 books	24.3%	573
101–200 books	20.8%	587
more than 200 books	22.5%	596
<i>(n=3744)</i>		

Table 19: School Composition by Socioeconomic Background of the Student Body (School Questionnaire) (Student percentage)

Grade 4						
School Composition by Socioeconomic Background of the Student Body						
Students' Results based on Principals' Reports						
Assessed Fourth Grade Students at the End of the School Year						
☒ Assessed one year later than originally scheduled						
☐ Delayed Assessment of Fourth Grade Cohort at the Beginning of Fifth Grade						
Country	More Affluent		Neither More Affluent Nor More Disadvantaged		More Disadvantaged	
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement
Kazakhstan	78 (3.0)	509 (3.0)	20 (3.1)	481 (5.8)	2 ~	~
Lithuania	78 (4.0)	555 (2.7)	18 (3.5)	532 (5.6)	4 (2.0)	525 (11.1)
Russian Federation	77 (2.8)	576 (3.7)	19 (2.8)	538 (7.1)	5 (1.7)	547 (17.8)
Uzbekistan	73 (3.9)	442 (3.6)	24 (3.8)	430 (5.5)	3 (1.4)	426 (15.0)
Qatar	66 (3.5)	491 (5.0)	26 (3.5)	483 (7.9)	8 (1.9)	461 (12.1)
North Macedonia	64 (5.3)	453 (5.9)	27 (4.3)	436 (14.0)	9 (3.8)	402 (21.2)
Sweden	63 (4.0)	560 (3.7)	26 (4.1)	524 (4.6)	10 (2.5)	514 (8.5)
Croatia	61 (4.1)	561 (3.0)	33 (4.0)	555 (3.9)	6 (1.9)	521 (16.8)
Spain	61 (3.0)	530 (2.4)	28 (3.2)	515 (4.0)	11 (2.1)	483 (6.9)
Denmark	60 (3.9)	550 (2.8)	32 (3.8)	521 (4.3)	8 (1.9)	525 (6.5)
Netherlands	58 (4.4)	536 (3.6)	24 (4.3)	518 (5.0)	19 (3.5)	506 (8.6)
Singapore	57 (0.0)	600 (3.6)	36 (0.0)	573 (5.5)	7 (0.0)	552 (16.6)
Saudi Arabia	57 (5.4)	456 (5.4)	25 (4.7)	441 (10.2)	18 (3.9)	450 (13.4)
United Arab Emirates	56 (1.4)	519 (3.2)	27 (1.5)	510 (4.5)	17 (1.2)	479 (8.6)
Belgium (Flemish)	56 (4.3)	518 (3.1)	29 (4.5)	512 (3.8)	15 (3.4)	479 (5.7)
Hungary	53 (4.0)	563 (3.6)	27 (4.3)	528 (7.0)	20 (3.3)	488 (8.1)
Slovenia	51 (4.8)	524 (3.0)	36 (4.7)	517 (3.1)	13 (3.0)	508 (6.1)
Kosovo	50 (5.6)	423 (5.4)	34 (5.0)	415 (7.2)	16 (4.0)	412 (5.9)
Norway (5)	49 (4.1)	548 (2.7)	45 (4.0)	533 (2.4)	6 (2.1)	513 (12.8)
Czech Republic	48 (3.5)	550 (3.4)	43 (3.5)	535 (3.7)	10 (2.1)	506 (9.0)
Montenegro	47 (0.7)	492 (2.0)	34 (0.8)	486 (3.3)	19 (0.6)	475 (3.6)
Belgium (French)	47 (3.3)	511 (3.7)	26 (3.8)	484 (5.2)	28 (3.4)	475 (5.1)
France	46 (3.5)	530 (3.1)	26 (3.6)	516 (6.0)	27 (3.2)	485 (4.6)
Cyprus	46 (4.0)	529 (4.3)	41 (3.9)	501 (3.4)	13 (2.2)	471 (5.2)
Israel ☒	44 (3.5)	537 (3.7)	26 (3.6)	520 (4.2)	30 (2.9)	465 (5.8)
Ireland	42 (4.8)	595 (3.3)	33 (4.3)	582 (3.9)	25 (3.2)	550 (4.9)
Oman	41 (3.7)	435 (5.9)	36 (3.5)	440 (6.9)	24 (3.4)	403 (8.5)
Australia ☒	40 (3.8)	562 (3.0)	34 (3.6)	540 (3.4)	26 (3.1)	508 (5.6)
Macao SAR	39 (0.1)	546 (1.9)	35 (0.1)	526 (1.7)	26 (0.1)	532 (2.1)
Northern Ireland	38 (4.5)	587 (4.1)	31 (4.8)	564 (4.1)	31 (3.5)	543 (5.2)
New Zealand	38 (3.7)	553 (3.9)	36 (3.8)	528 (4.7)	27 (3.3)	483 (6.5)
Serbia	37 (4.1)	524 (4.2)	43 (4.0)	513 (4.7)	20 (3.5)	494 (7.0)
Albania	37 (4.2)	527 (5.6)	30 (3.6)	516 (5.6)	33 (4.3)	495 (4.6)
Finland	37 (4.3)	561 (3.1)	52 (3.9)	548 (2.6)	11 (2.7)	518 (9.4)
Bulgaria	37 (4.1)	572 (4.1)	45 (4.1)	550 (4.1)	18 (2.7)	483 (9.5)
Italy	35 (4.0)	548 (3.4)	44 (3.8)	540 (3.1)	22 (3.0)	517 (6.3)
Malta	33 (5.4)	538 (4.2)	61 (5.4)	506 (4.0)	6 (2.6)	458 (13.3)
Brazil ☒	32 (4.7)	473 (9.6)	16 (3.9)	438 (14.5)	51 (5.0)	389 (11.5)
Georgia	32 (3.5)	502 (3.8)	36 (3.7)	490 (4.9)	32 (3.8)	489 (3.7)
Latvia	32 (4.0)	531 (5.3)	61 (4.1)	528 (3.3)	7 (1.8)	509 (12.5)
United States	32 (5.0)	587 (8.0)	12 (4.1)	555 (12.2)	56 (5.0)	524 (9.2)
Portugal	32 (2.9)	537 (3.6)	37 (3.4)	517 (2.8)	32 (3.3)	506 (4.5)
England ☒	32 (4.1)	578 (5.0)	25 (4.3)	565 (3.8)	43 (4.4)	539 (3.7)
Austria	30 (3.7)	543 (3.1)	43 (4.1)	537 (3.5)	26 (3.1)	504 (5.0)
Germany	29 (3.6)	543 (3.9)	36 (3.4)	533 (3.5)	35 (2.8)	501 (4.4)
Iran, Islamic Rep. of ☒	29 (3.5)	458 (8.0)	21 (2.8)	422 (6.9)	50 (3.6)	382 (6.7)
Poland	29 (3.9)	555 (3.7)	65 (4.2)	547 (3.0)	7 (2.3)	537 (7.3)
Bahrain	28 (2.6)	494 (8.4)	27 (2.9)	449 (8.5)	44 (3.1)	439 (5.1)
Turkiye	28 (3.3)	530 (5.3)	21 (3.3)	505 (7.3)	51 (3.4)	474 (4.6)
Hong Kong SAR	28 (3.5)	588 (4.3)	28 (4.1)	572 (6.7)	45 (4.3)	564 (4.1)
Egypt	27 (3.3)	410 (7.6)	25 (3.8)	389 (10.7)	49 (3.7)	359 (8.8)
Chinese Taipei	25 (3.2)	558 (3.2)	67 (3.7)	540 (2.4)	8 (2.1)	521 (9.3)
Azerbaijan	13 (2.8)	410 (11.6)	22 (3.3)	450 (10.4)	64 (4.1)	444 (5.2)
Jordan	13 (3.1)	423 (13.3)	33 (4.2)	385 (10.6)	55 (4.3)	367 (9.0)
South Africa ☒	11 (1.9)	420 (22.2)	16 (2.7)	331 (15.2)	73 (3.1)	264 (5.7)
Morocco	7 (1.6)	452 (20.1)	7 (2.0)	402 (15.8)	86 (2.1)	363 (5.7)
International Average	43 (0.5)	521 (0.9)	32 (0.5)	502 (0.9)	25 (0.4)	479 (1.2)
Slovak Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent. A tilde (~) indicates insufficient data to report result. A dash (-) indicates comparable data not available.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study - PIRLS 2021

Downloaded from <https://pirls2021.org/results>

Table 20: Parents Like Reading

Grade 4							IEA PIRLS 2021
Parents Like Reading							
Students' Results based on Parents' Reports							
Assessed Fourth Grade Students at the End of the School Year							
☒ Assessed one year later than originally scheduled							
☐ Delayed Assessment of Fourth Grade Cohort at the Beginning of Fifth Grade							
Country	Very Much Like Reading		Somewhat Like Reading		Do Not Like Reading		Average Scale Score
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	
Serbia	51 (1.2)	532 (3.0)	39 (1.1)	497 (3.6)	10 (1.0)	492 (6.5)	10.4 (0.05)
Montenegro	51 (0.8)	505 (2.1)	43 (0.7)	472 (2.3)	6 (0.4)	455 (5.4)	10.5 (0.03)
Azerbaijan	46 (1.1)	451 (4.2)	46 (1.1)	437 (4.5)	8 (0.6)	409 (7.6)	10.4 (0.04)
Georgia	44 (1.0)	511 (3.0)	50 (1.0)	486 (3.0)	6 (0.6)	471 (12.9)	10.2 (0.04)
Kosovo	42 (1.3)	441 (3.7)	53 (1.2)	410 (3.6)	5 (0.6)	385 (7.6)	10.3 (0.04)
Ireland	42 (1.2)	599 (2.7)	42 (1.1)	574 (2.8)	16 (0.7)	555 (3.8)	10.0 (0.05)
Italy	41 (1.0)	553 (2.6)	45 (0.8)	531 (2.4)	13 (0.6)	520 (3.2)	10.1 (0.04)
North Macedonia	41 (1.2)	467 (4.7)	49 (1.1)	432 (5.5)	10 (1.0)	406 (10.2)	10.1 (0.08)
Bulgaria	41 (1.3)	570 (3.2)	41 (1.2)	537 (4.0)	18 (1.4)	481 (7.0)	9.8 (0.07)
Spain	40 (0.9)	540 (2.7)	44 (0.8)	517 (2.4)	16 (0.6)	498 (3.3)	10.0 (0.03)
Uzbekistan	39 (1.4)	449 (3.1)	57 (1.3)	431 (3.2)	4 (0.3)	404 (8.8)	10.3 (0.04)
Northern Ireland	39 (1.1)	595 (3.9)	42 (1.2)	569 (4.0)	19 (0.9)	556 (5.0)	9.8 (0.05)
Denmark	39 (1.0)	557 (2.6)	42 (0.9)	539 (2.6)	19 (0.7)	514 (3.4)	9.8 (0.04)
Finland	38 (0.8)	573 (2.6)	44 (0.8)	547 (2.6)	18 (0.8)	522 (3.2)	9.9 (0.04)
Malta	37 (1.0)	539 (3.7)	47 (1.0)	515 (2.7)	15 (0.9)	514 (4.8)	9.8 (0.04)
Cyprus	37 (0.8)	535 (3.5)	49 (0.9)	505 (2.9)	14 (0.6)	491 (4.2)	9.9 (0.03)
Poland	36 (1.1)	566 (3.1)	47 (1.0)	546 (2.2)	17 (0.9)	529 (4.8)	9.8 (0.05)
Austria	36 (1.1)	559 (2.5)	44 (1.1)	524 (2.6)	20 (0.8)	504 (3.4)	9.7 (0.05)
Albania	35 (1.4)	535 (3.6)	56 (1.3)	504 (3.5)	9 (1.2)	493 (7.6)	10.0 (0.05)
Sweden	34 (1.2)	575 (3.7)	50 (1.1)	551 (3.6)	16 (0.8)	541 (4.0)	9.7 (0.04)
Germany	33 (1.0)	562 (3.4)	47 (1.0)	540 (3.4)	20 (0.9)	504 (4.6)	9.6 (0.04)
Czech Republic	33 (0.9)	564 (2.9)	45 (0.8)	543 (2.8)	22 (0.7)	522 (3.1)	9.6 (0.04)
Norway (5)	32 (1.0)	560 (2.4)	48 (0.9)	540 (2.5)	19 (0.8)	520 (2.7)	9.6 (0.04)
Slovak Republic	32 (1.0)	554 (3.1)	47 (1.3)	528 (3.1)	21 (1.6)	504 (6.6)	9.5 (0.09)
Israel ☒	32 (1.0)	542 (3.6)	51 (1.1)	503 (3.4)	17 (0.8)	497 (4.9)	9.7 (0.04)
Turkiye	31 (1.2)	531 (3.2)	48 (1.4)	497 (3.4)	21 (1.8)	453 (6.4)	9.5 (0.09)
Hungary	30 (0.9)	569 (3.6)	50 (1.0)	541 (4.3)	20 (1.0)	509 (6.0)	9.5 (0.04)
Portugal	30 (0.9)	543 (2.2)	52 (0.8)	516 (2.4)	18 (0.6)	501 (3.5)	9.6 (0.03)
Belgium (French)	28 (0.9)	529 (3.6)	48 (1.1)	496 (3.2)	24 (1.0)	470 (3.4)	9.3 (0.04)
Belgium (Flemish)	27 (1.0)	535 (2.6)	46 (0.9)	513 (2.8)	27 (0.9)	498 (2.9)	9.2 (0.05)
Bahrain	27 (0.8)	488 (4.3)	60 (0.9)	458 (3.4)	14 (0.5)	427 (4.7)	9.6 (0.02)
Croatia	26 (1.3)	575 (3.3)	56 (1.0)	557 (2.8)	18 (1.2)	535 (4.0)	9.5 (0.05)
Slovenia	26 (0.8)	544 (2.8)	57 (0.7)	520 (1.9)	17 (0.7)	501 (3.2)	9.4 (0.03)
Latvia	24 (0.9)	553 (3.4)	54 (0.9)	529 (3.0)	22 (0.9)	507 (4.9)	9.3 (0.04)
South Africa ☒	24 (0.8)	342 (6.8)	62 (0.8)	283 (4.8)	15 (0.5)	270 (9.4)	9.6 (0.03)
Iran, Islamic Rep. of ☒	24 (1.0)	449 (4.4)	62 (0.9)	405 (5.5)	14 (0.8)	385 (7.0)	9.5 (0.04)
Saudi Arabia	23 (0.8)	469 (4.6)	62 (1.0)	451 (3.8)	15 (0.8)	448 (5.7)	9.5 (0.04)
Qatar	22 (0.9)	512 (5.6)	63 (1.2)	491 (4.7)	15 (0.9)	485 (6.2)	9.4 (0.03)
France	22 (0.8)	546 (3.1)	57 (0.9)	514 (2.8)	21 (0.7)	500 (3.4)	9.3 (0.03)
Oman	22 (0.9)	451 (6.0)	68 (1.0)	428 (3.8)	10 (0.6)	407 (8.7)	9.5 (0.03)
United Arab Emirates	21 (0.5)	534 (4.0)	65 (0.6)	491 (2.5)	13 (0.4)	488 (3.7)	9.5 (0.01)
Russian Federation	21 (0.9)	587 (2.8)	58 (1.1)	566 (4.3)	21 (0.9)	550 (4.6)	9.2 (0.04)
Singapore	21 (0.6)	622 (3.4)	57 (0.7)	589 (3.2)	23 (0.6)	571 (3.8)	9.2 (0.03)
Morocco	20 (1.1)	410 (5.0)	53 (1.7)	377 (5.6)	27 (2.1)	338 (6.5)	9.1 (0.07)
Brazil ☒	19 (0.9)	456 (7.5)	51 (0.8)	423 (5.8)	29 (1.1)	401 (8.2)	9.0 (0.04)
Macao SAR	17 (0.6)	551 (2.5)	61 (0.7)	535 (1.6)	22 (0.6)	526 (2.2)	9.1 (0.02)
Kazakhstan	17 (0.7)	527 (3.8)	70 (0.7)	501 (2.7)	13 (0.6)	493 (4.6)	9.4 (0.03)
Chinese Taipei	15 (0.6)	564 (3.3)	62 (0.8)	545 (2.2)	23 (0.8)	528 (3.3)	9.1 (0.03)
Jordan	15 (0.9)	416 (6.4)	62 (1.2)	382 (5.8)	23 (1.2)	358 (8.2)	9.1 (0.04)
Hong Kong SAR	14 (0.8)	592 (3.7)	63 (0.9)	573 (2.7)	24 (0.7)	567 (3.8)	9.0 (0.03)
Egypt	14 (0.7)	416 (7.4)	60 (1.4)	379 (5.7)	27 (1.5)	367 (7.7)	8.9 (0.04)
International Average	31 (0.1)	526 (0.5)	52 (0.1)	498 (0.5)	17 (0.1)	479 (0.8)	
New Zealand	44 (1.4)	563 (3.4)	40 (1.2)	532 (4.5)	17 (0.8)	508 (5.7)	10.0 (0.06)
Netherlands	39 (1.2)	557 (3.3)	41 (1.3)	541 (3.6)	21 (1.2)	516 (4.5)	9.6 (0.06)
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Australia ☒	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
England ☒	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
United States	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.
A dash (-) indicates comparable data not available.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study - PIRLS 2021

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Table 21: School Discipline and Safety

Grade 4							IEA PIRLS 2021
School Discipline – Principals' Reports							
Students' Results based on Principals' Reports							
Assessed Fourth Grade Students at the End of the School Year							
☒ Assessed one year later than originally scheduled							
☐ Delayed Assessment of Fourth Grade Cohort at the Beginning of Fifth Grade							
Country	Hardly Any Problems		Minor Problems		Moderate to Severe Problems		Average Scale Score
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	
Hong Kong SAR	93 (2.2)	574 (2.7)	7 (2.2)	550 (11.7)	0 ~	~ ~	12.0 (0.11)
Malta	87 (4.8)	515 (3.3)	12 (4.4)	496 (14.3)	2 ~	~ ~	11.4 (0.17)
Bahrain	85 (2.1)	462 (3.6)	9 (1.7)	445 (11.9)	6 (1.4)	426 (12.0)	11.1 (0.10)
Qatar	84 (2.3)	487 (3.9)	12 (2.5)	473 (14.8)	4 (1.5)	486 (7.8)	11.1 (0.10)
Northern Ireland	84 (3.3)	571 (3.1)	15 (3.2)	540 (6.6)	1 ~	~ ~	11.1 (0.11)
Montenegro	83 (0.3)	489 (1.7)	14 (0.3)	486 (4.8)	2 ~	~ ~	11.4 (0.02)
Albania	82 (3.3)	515 (3.5)	11 (2.7)	502 (7.1)	8 (1.8)	512 (15.6)	11.1 (0.16)
Czech Republic	81 (2.9)	542 (2.7)	17 (2.7)	526 (6.2)	1 ~	~ ~	10.8 (0.10)
Chinese Taipei	81 (3.1)	545 (2.4)	18 (3.0)	541 (3.8)	1 ~	~ ~	11.2 (0.13)
Singapore	81 (0.0)	589 (3.5)	19 (0.0)	580 (8.1)	0 ~	~ ~	11.1 (0.00)
Spain	80 (2.8)	524 (2.6)	14 (2.6)	504 (8.3)	5 (1.1)	511 (9.3)	11.0 (0.11)
Bulgaria	80 (2.7)	549 (3.4)	15 (2.8)	515 (11.3)	4 (1.7)	458 (34.0)	11.0 (0.12)
Serbia	80 (3.2)	516 (3.1)	20 (3.2)	506 (7.8)	0 ~	~ ~	11.0 (0.13)
United Arab Emirates	79 (1.9)	523 (2.5)	14 (1.5)	449 (8.8)	7 (1.3)	474 (10.8)	10.8 (0.10)
Ireland	79 (3.0)	584 (2.8)	20 (3.2)	552 (6.7)	2 ~	~ ~	10.9 (0.10)
Macao SAR	77 (0.1)	539 (1.4)	13 (0.1)	531 (3.0)	9 (0.1)	515 (3.1)	10.9 (0.00)
Croatia	77 (3.8)	559 (2.7)	20 (3.7)	554 (7.0)	3 (1.4)	521 (24.7)	10.7 (0.13)
Kazakhstan	77 (2.8)	504 (2.8)	9 (2.1)	512 (11.9)	13 (2.4)	496 (7.4)	10.8 (0.16)
Georgia	77 (2.8)	494 (2.7)	15 (2.4)	495 (6.3)	7 (2.0)	500 (12.5)	10.7 (0.14)
North Macedonia	77 (4.0)	451 (5.2)	18 (4.1)	422 (12.4)	5 (2.2)	396 (25.4)	11.1 (0.17)
England ☒	76 (3.2)	564 (3.0)	22 (3.1)	542 (4.8)	2 ~	~ ~	10.5 (0.11)
Lithuania	75 (4.4)	550 (2.9)	24 (4.4)	547 (5.5)	1 ~	~ ~	10.7 (0.13)
Slovak Republic	74 (3.5)	536 (2.9)	22 (3.3)	515 (8.4)	4 (1.6)	504 (24.5)	10.6 (0.12)
Brazil ☒	72 (4.4)	427 (5.8)	25 (4.3)	397 (16.2)	3 (1.0)	411 (26.3)	10.7 (0.16)
United States	69 (5.6)	566 (6.7)	30 (5.5)	506 (13.8)	1 ~	~ ~	10.3 (0.17)
Australia ☒	69 (3.6)	548 (2.8)	29 (3.6)	525 (4.2)	2 ~	~ ~	10.4 (0.10)
Azerbaijan	69 (3.6)	436 (5.3)	14 (2.8)	469 (11.0)	18 (3.1)	431 (10.0)	10.1 (0.20)
Finland	68 (3.5)	554 (2.5)	30 (3.4)	541 (4.6)	2 ~	~ ~	10.3 (0.10)
Russian Federation	68 (3.4)	568 (4.5)	30 (3.4)	568 (5.2)	2 ~	~ ~	10.4 (0.10)
Slovenia	65 (4.3)	519 (2.6)	31 (3.9)	517 (3.8)	4 (2.3)	535 (6.9)	10.3 (0.14)
Iran, Islamic Rep. of ☒	65 (3.5)	421 (6.5)	28 (3.1)	395 (9.3)	7 (1.6)	410 (13.8)	10.3 (0.14)
Cyprus	62 (4.5)	518 (4.0)	34 (4.6)	498 (4.2)	4 (1.6)	502 (13.1)	10.0 (0.13)
Latvia	62 (4.1)	529 (3.2)	37 (4.0)	525 (4.5)	1 ~	~ ~	10.2 (0.10)
Denmark	62 (3.7)	543 (3.3)	36 (3.6)	532 (3.6)	3 (1.1)	514 (20.0)	10.2 (0.10)
Poland	61 (3.8)	551 (2.7)	37 (3.8)	546 (3.9)	2 ~	~ ~	10.1 (0.10)
Belgium (French)	59 (4.1)	503 (3.8)	37 (4.2)	485 (4.9)	4 (1.4)	467 (8.1)	10.2 (0.11)
France	59 (4.0)	523 (3.6)	37 (3.9)	505 (3.9)	4 (1.5)	466 (17.6)	10.2 (0.13)
Hungary	58 (4.2)	554 (3.2)	36 (4.1)	522 (6.7)	7 (2.6)	492 (29.0)	10.0 (0.14)
Uzbekistan	58 (4.1)	435 (3.6)	7 (2.2)	455 (7.3)	35 (4.0)	438 (5.2)	9.3 (0.28)
Belgium (Flemish)	57 (4.8)	517 (3.3)	37 (4.7)	506 (3.9)	6 (2.2)	477 (9.7)	10.2 (0.14)
Portugal	55 (3.9)	525 (3.1)	37 (3.8)	514 (3.1)	8 (2.2)	510 (12.6)	10.0 (0.15)
Oman	55 (3.5)	438 (5.1)	22 (2.8)	416 (6.6)	23 (3.0)	423 (7.6)	9.5 (0.19)
New Zealand	54 (4.2)	540 (4.3)	40 (4.5)	503 (5.6)	6 (2.0)	470 (10.1)	10.1 (0.12)
Austria	53 (4.0)	534 (3.5)	42 (4.1)	524 (3.1)	4 (1.7)	529 (15.6)	10.0 (0.11)
Italy	53 (4.0)	543 (2.8)	31 (3.5)	535 (3.8)	16 (2.8)	522 (6.3)	9.6 (0.16)
Norway (5)	49 (4.2)	544 (2.9)	48 (4.3)	535 (3.1)	3 (1.4)	534 (5.8)	9.8 (0.10)
Kosovo	48 (5.2)	426 (6.2)	32 (4.7)	417 (5.3)	20 (3.2)	413 (9.8)	9.4 (0.19)
Israel ☒	46 (4.0)	519 (5.3)	43 (3.6)	506 (4.8)	11 (2.6)	489 (10.3)	9.5 (0.14)
Saudi Arabia	45 (4.7)	463 (5.7)	13 (3.1)	430 (9.5)	41 (4.9)	439 (6.8)	9.0 (0.28)
Turkiye	43 (4.0)	504 (5.0)	27 (3.8)	492 (7.7)	30 (3.8)	489 (7.0)	8.9 (0.21)
Netherlands	43 (5.3)	529 (4.2)	50 (5.6)	524 (5.3)	7 (2.4)	518 (6.5)	9.5 (0.13)
Germany	42 (3.5)	538 (3.9)	52 (3.6)	516 (3.2)	6 (1.6)	492 (9.7)	9.6 (0.09)
Sweden	42 (5.0)	555 (4.9)	58 (5.0)	540 (3.7)	0 ~	~ ~	9.6 (0.12)
Jordan	30 (3.3)	399 (10.0)	41 (3.7)	363 (9.3)	30 (3.8)	386 (11.0)	8.6 (0.15)
South Africa ☒	30 (4.0)	347 (13.6)	55 (4.0)	268 (6.9)	15 (2.2)	240 (8.5)	9.0 (0.09)
Egypt	24 (3.0)	406 (10.2)	40 (3.5)	362 (7.2)	37 (3.4)	378 (9.7)	8.3 (0.17)
Morocco	16 (2.7)	367 (9.4)	23 (3.1)	378 (9.6)	61 (3.4)	373 (6.1)	7.2 (0.16)
International Average	64 (0.5)	510 (0.6)	27 (0.5)	493 (1.0)	9 (0.3)	465 (2.3)	

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.
A tilde (~) indicates insufficient data to report result.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study - PIRLS 2021

Downloaded from <https://pirls2021.org/results>

Table 22: Changes in the Reading Achievement Compared to the Previous Cycle (Fourth Grade Students of Wave 1 and 3 Countries and Areas only)

Increase in Achievement (Significantly level)	Increase in Achievement	Same Achievement
Cyprus (+17) (Compared with 2001)	France (+2)	North Macedonia (0) (Compared with 2006)
Egypt (+48)	Hong Kong SAR (+4)	
Oman (+11)		
Turkiye (+47) (Compared with 2001)		
Singapore (+11)		
Decrease in Achievement (Significantly level)	Decrease in Achievement	
Austria (-11)	Australia (-4)	
Azerbaijan (-32)	Belgium (French) (-3)	
Belgium (Flemish) (-14)	Czech Republic (-4)	
Bulgaria (-12)	England (-1)	
Chinese Taipei (-15)	New Zealand (-1)	
Denmark (-8)	Slovak Republic (-6)	
Finland (-17)		
Germany (-13)		
Iran, Islamic Rep. of (-15)		
Israel (-20)		
Italy (-11)		
Macao SAR (-10)		
Netherlands (-18)		
Norway (-20)		
Poland (-16)		
Portugal (-8)		
Russian Federation (-14)		
Slovenia (-23)		
South Africa (-31)		
Spain (-7)		
Sweden (-12)		

Remarks: Alphabetical order by country or area name

The value in () is the difference between the average reading score of the previous study

Table 23: Students stay home because of COVID-19 and Students' Home Socioeconomic Status (Home Questionnaire) (Student percentage)

Did your child stay home at any time because of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes	No
Higher Home Socioeconomic Status (<i>n</i> =1406)	93.0%	7.0%
Middle Home Socioeconomic Status (<i>n</i> =1731)	87.4%	12.6%
Lower Home Socioeconomic Status (<i>n</i> =603)	85.6%	14.4%

Table 24: PIRLS 2021 participating countries and regions and demographic information (in chronological order of data collection)

Waves	Main data collection period	Students' grade	No. of countries or regions	No. of students	(%)	Average age of students
Wave 1: according to original plan	Southern Hemisphere : October-November 2020 Northern Hemisphere : March-June 2021	Fourth grade students at the end of the school year	37	215,279	(67.2)	10.2
Wave 2: delayed assessment (half year)	Northern Hemisphere: August-December 2021	Fourth grade cohort at the beginning of the fifth grade	14	110,891	(28.0)	10.8
Wave 3: assessed one year later	Southern Hemisphere : August-December 2021 Northern Hemisphere : March-July 2022	Fourth grade students at the end of the school year	6	14,992	(4.8)	10.2

Table 25: PIRLS 2021 participating countries and regions in “wave 1” (37 countries and areas conducted the assessments at the end of the fourth grade school year., according to the original plan)

East Asia, Southeast Asia (4)	Chinese Taipei region	Hong Kong SAR	Macao SAR	Singapore				
Oceania (1)	New Zealand							
Middle East, Central Asia (6)	Azerbaijan	Cyprus	Jordan	Oman	Türkiye	Uzbekistan		
Europe (25)	Albania	Austria	Belgium (Flemish)	Belgium (French)	Bulgaria	Czech Republic	Denmark	Finland
	France	Germany	Italy	Kosovo	Malta	Montenegro	Netherlands	North Macedonia
	Norway	Poland	Portugal	Russian Federation	Serbia	Slovak Republic	Slovenia	Spain
	Sweden							
Africa (1)	Egypt							

Remark: country or region are listed in alphabetical order

Table 26: PIRLS 2021 participating countries and regions in “wave 2” (14 countries and areas delayed the assessments half year, assessed fourth grade cohort at the beginning of the fifth grade)

Middle East, Central Asia (5)	Bahrain	Kazakhstan	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	United Arab Emirates		
Europe (7)	Croatia	Georgia	Hungary	Ireland	Latvia	Lithuania	Northern Ireland
Africa (1)	Morocco						
Americas (1)	United States						

Remark: country or region are listed in alphabetical order

Table 27: PIRLS 2021 participating countries and regions in “wave 3” (6 countries and regions delayed the assessments one year later, assessed fourth grade students at the end of the school year)

Oceania (1)	Australia	
Middle East, Central Asia (2)	Iran, Islamic Rep. of	Israel
Europe (1)	England	
Africa (1)	South Africa	
Americas (1)	Brazil	

Remark: country or region are listed in alphabetical order

Table 28: The average reading achievement of Hong Kong students and ranking of previous PIRLS cycles

Cycle	Year	Average reading score of Hong Kong students	Ranking	No. of participating countries or regions
4	2016	569	3	50
3	2011	571	1	49
2	2006	564	2	40
1	2001	528	14	35