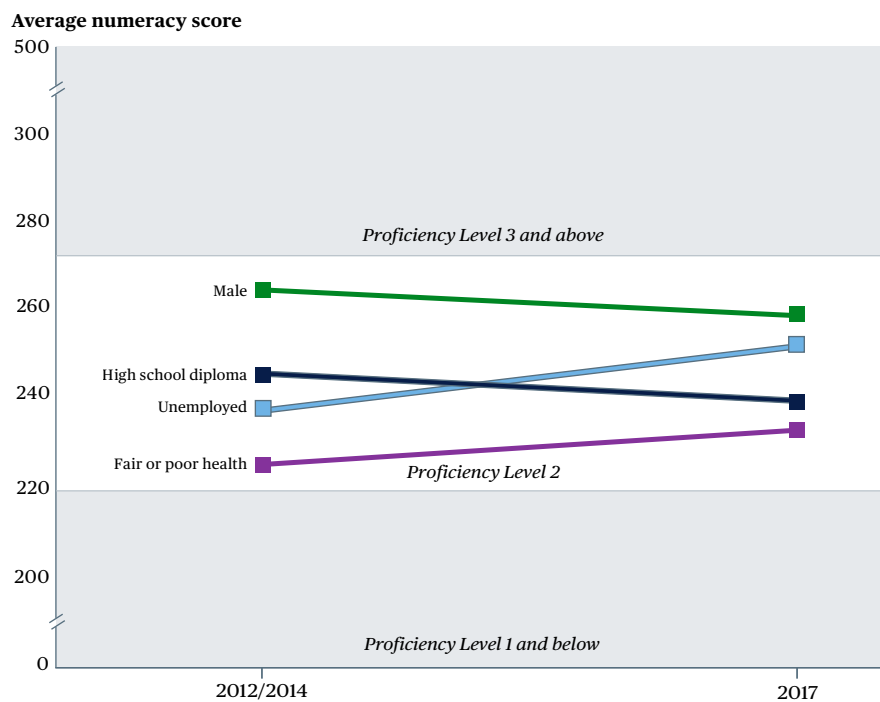


# Latest Numeracy Results from the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)

A Publication of the National Center for Education Statistics at IES

**Numeracy** is the ability to use basic mathematical and computational skills.

**Figure N. Average scores on PIAAC numeracy for U.S. adults ages 16 to 65, by selected population groups: 2012/14 and 2017**



NOTE: The PIAAC numeracy scales range from 0 to 500. There are six levels of proficiency for numeracy (from below Level 1 to Level 5). At numeracy proficiency level 2 adults can be considered nearing proficiency but still struggling to perform tasks involving numeric information. All differences highlighted in this brochure are average score differences between 2012/2014 and 2017, are based on unrounded estimates, and are statistically significant at the  $p < .05$  level. Unemployed adults are those that during the reference period were without paid work, were available for work, and actively seeking work. Fair or poor health is a self-reported health status. High school refers to adults who have attained a high school diploma or credential but have not yet earned an associate's degree.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), U.S. PIAAC 2017, U.S. PIAAC 2012/2014.

**↑ Scores increased for:**

- **Unemployed** adults from 238 to 252: 14 points
- Adults with **fair or poor health** from 226 to 233: 7 points

**↓ Scores decreased for:**

- **Males** from 265 to 259: 6 points
- Adults with a **high school diploma** from 246 to 240: 6 points

**↔ No measurable difference for:**

- Overall for U.S. adults (ages 16-65), and by age, race/ethnicity, and nativity

## Learn More

**PIAAC National Center:**  
[nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac](https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac)

**PIAAC International Center:**  
[oecd.org/skills/piaac](https://oecd.org/skills/piaac)

**PIAAC Gateway:** [piaacgateway.com](https://piaacgateway.com)

The **Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)** is an international, large-scale study of adults' skills in literacy, numeracy, and digital problem solving. This publication highlights several key results for U.S. adults ages 16-65 from the U.S. PIAAC 2017 data collection in comparison to the combined U.S. PIAAC 2012/2014 results. For more detailed results, see the **U.S. PIAAC 2017 Web Report:** [nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/national\\_results.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/national_results.asp)