

In relation to figures for Inactivity rates for prime-aged people by level of education (persons aged 25-54) in 2011, *Eurostat* showed the following for Ireland and the average across the EU 27:

Educational levels	EU 27 (average)	Ireland
Low (ISCED 0-2)	27%	22%
Medium (ISCED 3-4)	14%	21%
High (ISCED 5-6)	8%	11%

Furthermore, *Eurostat* figures for unemployment rates by highest level of educational attainment (persons aged 25-64) in 2011 showed the following for Ireland and the average across the EU 27:

Educational levels	EU 27 (average)	Ireland
Low (ISCED 0-2)	14.9%	35%
Medium (ISCED 3-4)	7.5%	15%
High (ISCED 5-6)	5%	7.5%

The CSO's PIAAC 2012 Survey results for Ireland from the OECD's Programme for International Assessment of Adult competencies report placed Ireland 17th out of 24 participating countries.

At or Below Level 1 on Literacy Scale

The Average across the countries who participated in PIAAC is 16.7% - of adults score at or below Level 1 for literacy proficiency, when literacy-related non-response is taken into account. Ireland has 17.9% of adults at this level (0.5% literacy-related non-response, 4.3% below Level 1 and 13.2% at Level 1), giving a rank of 15 out of 24 countries.

Literacy – Levels 3, 4 and 5: At the upper end of the literacy scale on average half (50.0%) of adults score at Levels 3, 4 or 5, compared to 44.5% in Ireland.

Numeracy mean proficiency score: On the numeracy scale, Irish adults aged 16–65 achieved an adjusted scale score of 255 which, in statistical terms, was significantly below the PIAAC country average score of 266, and placed Ireland 19th out of 24 participating countries.

At or below Level 1: Just over 25% of Irish adults score at or below Level 1 for numeracy compared to just over 20% (20.2%) on average across participating countries, when literacy-related non-response is accounted for. This places Ireland 18th out of 24 countries.

Numeracy - Levels 3, 4 and 5: At the upper end of the numeracy proficiency scale 36.3% of Irish adults are at Levels 3, 4 and 5 compared to 46.8% on average across participating countries.

At or below Level 1 in problem solving in technology-rich environments

Just over two-fifths (42.0%) of Irish adults score at or below Level 1 (29.5% at Level 1, 12.6% below Level 1) on the problem solving scale, which is the same as the country average (41.7%).

At Levels 2 and 3 of problem solving in technology-rich environments: At the top end of problem solving proficiency 25.3% of Irish adults are at Levels 2 and 3 compared to 34% on average internationally.