

Achievement of 15 year olds in Wales: PISA 2012 National Report (Revised)

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a survey of the educational achievement in Reading, Mathematics and Science of 15 year olds organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

PISA is carried out on a three year cycle. The first PISA study was in 2000; Wales participated for the first time in 2006. In 2012, results were submitted by 137 schools for 3,305 pupils in Wales. A total of 65 countries were involved in the study, including 34 OECD member countries.

Reasons for the revision

Due to an error in the layout of the Welsh language version of the PISA 2012 student questionnaire, some of the information on pupil gender within the Wales sample in the PISA 2012 international database for the United Kingdom is incorrect. The impact of this error is not large enough to have any substantial impact on the UK PISA 2012 results. However, the error does impact slightly on certain overall scores for Wales, Northern Ireland and England and calculations of gender differences in mathematics, science and reading. The data for Scotland is not affected by this revision as data for Scotland was collected, coded and analysed separately.

Key points

Mathematics

- The mean score attained by pupils in Wales was 469 (r); significantly below the OECD average mean score of 494. The Welsh mean score was 472 in 2009 and 484 in 2006.
- Internationally, the performance in mathematics in 38 of the other 64 participating countries (excluding the UK and component parts of the UK) was significantly higher than that in Wales.

Reading

- The mean score attained by pupils in Wales was 480; significantly below the OECD average mean score of 496. The Welsh mean score was 476 in 2009 and 481 in 2006.
- Internationally, the performance in reading in 31 of the other 64 participating countries (excluding the UK and component parts of the UK) was significantly higher than that in Wales.

Science

- The mean score attained by pupils in Wales was 491; significantly below the OECD average mean score of 501. The Welsh mean score was 496 in 2009 and 505 in 2006.
- Internationally, the performance in science in 25 of the other 64 participating countries (excluding the UK and component parts of the UK) was significantly higher than that in Wales.

Gender differences

- Boys outperformed girls in Mathematics and Science, but not in Reading.

(r) Revised

This amendment was published in March 2015.

Note

The above figures are based on comparing Wales with other participating countries, excluding the UK and component parts of the UK. This is consistent with the national report produced by NFER, below. It does mean that the figures provided on this website for the 2009 data are based on a different coverage of countries.

Further information

The PISA 2012 report for Wales is available on the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) website:

<http://www.nfer.ac.uk/pisa>

The PISA 2012 international report, and additional information, can be found on the OECD website:

<http://www.pisa.oecd.org>

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