

Adult illiteracy rate

<i>Economy</i>	% of people 15 and above		% of people 15 and above		% of people 15 and above	
	<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
	1980	1999	1980	1999	1980	1999
Afghanistan	82	64	70	50	95	80
Albania	33	16	21	9	46	23
Algeria	61	33	46	23	76	44
American Samoa	..	..	..	..	..	..
Andorra	..	..	..	..	..	..
Angola	..	..	..	..	..	..
Antigua and Barbuda	..	..	..	..	..	..
Argentina	6	3	5	3	6	3
Armenia	4	2	2	1	6	3
Aruba	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
Austria /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
Azerbaijan	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bahamas, The	7	4	7	5	6	4
Bahrain	29	13	21	10	41	18
Bangladesh	71	59	59	48	83	71
Barbados	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belarus	1	1	0	0	2	1
Belgium /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belize	17	7	15	7	20	7
Benin	82	61	73	45	90	76
Bermuda	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bhutan	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bolivia	31	15	20	8	42	21
Bosnia and Herzegovina	..	..	..	..	..	..
Botswana	42	24	44	26	41	21
Brazil	25	15	23	15	27	15
Brunei	23	9	15	6	33	13
Bulgaria	5	2	3	1	7	2
Burkina Faso	89	77	82	67	96	87
Burundi	71	53	57	44	83	61
Cambodia	78	61	61	41	92	79
Cameroon	53	25	41	19	65	31
Canada /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cape Verde	50	26	36	16	61	35
Cayman Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..
Central African Republic	77	55	64	41	89	67
Chad	83	59	75	50	91	68
Channel Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chile	8	4	8	4	9	5
China	35	17	22	9	48	25
Colombia	16	9	15	9	17	9
Comoros	52	41	44	34	61	48
Congo, Dem. Rep.	66	40	52	28	79	51
Congo, Rep.	50	21	37	13	62	27
Costa Rica	8	5	8	5	9	5
Cote d'Ivoire	76	54	66	46	87	63
Croatia	6	2	2	1	9	3
Cuba	7	3	7	3	8	4
Cyprus	10	3	4	1	15	5
Czech Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..
Denmark /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
Djibouti	60	37	44	25	74	47
Dominica	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dominican Republic	26	17	25	17	27	17
Ecuador	18	9	15	7	22	11
Egypt, Arab Rep.	61	45	47	34	75	57
El Salvador	34	22	29	19	39	24
Equatorial Guinea	40	18	23	8	56	27
Eritrea	67	47	51	33	82	61
Estonia
Ethiopia	80	63	72	57	89	68

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	1980	1999	1980	1999	1980	1999
Faeroe Islands
Fiji	18	7	13	5	22	10
Finland /a
France /a
French Polynesia	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gabon	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gambia, The	84	64	79	57	88	72
Georgia	..	..	..	..	..	..
Germany /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ghana	56	30	43	21	70	39
Greece	9	3	4	2	14	4
Greenland	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grenada	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guam	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guatemala	47	32	39	24	55	40
Guinea	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guinea-Bissau	81	62	67	42	93	82
Guyana	5	2	4	1	7	2
Haiti	69	51	66	49	73	53
Honduras	39	26	37	26	40	26
Hong Kong, China	15	7	6	4	24	10
Hungary	1	1	1	1	2	1
Iceland /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
India	59	44	45	32	74	56
Indonesia	31	14	21	9	40	19
Iran, Islamic Rep.	49	24	38	17	61	31
Iraq	65	45	53	35	78	55
Ireland /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
Isle of Man	..	..	..	..	..	..
Israel	9	4	5	2	13	6
Italy	4	2	3	1	5	2
Jamaica	24	14	28	18	20	10
Japan /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
Jordan	32	11	18	6	46	17
Kazakhstan	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kenya	44	19	30	12	57	25
Kiribati	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea, Dem. Rep.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea, Rep.	7	2	3	1	11	4
Kuwait	31	18	26	16	39	21
Kyrgyz Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lao PDR	74	53	59	37	90	68
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	28	14	17	8	37	20
Lesotho	29	17	42	28	17	7
Liberia	72	47	58	31	86	63
Libya	47	21	29	10	70	33
Liechtenstein	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lithuania	1	1	1	0	2	1
Luxembourg /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
Macao, China	..	..	..	..	..	..
Macedonia, FYR	..	..	..	..	..	..
Madagascar	52	34	43	27	61	41
Malawi	56	41	36	26	73	55
Malaysia	29	13	20	9	37	17
Maldives	10	4	9	4	10	4
Mali	86	60	81	53	92	67
Malta	16	8	17	9	16	8
Marshall Islands
Mauritania	69	58	59	48	79	69
Mauritius	26	16	19	12	33	19
Mayotte

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	1980	1999	1980	1999	1980	1999
Mexico	18	9	14	7	22	11
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.
Moldova	5	1	2	1	8	2
Monaco	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mongolia	58	38	44	27	72	48
Morocco	72	52	58	39	85	65
Mozambique	76	57	62	41	89	72
Myanmar	24	16	15	11	34	20
Namibia	34	19	29	18	38	20
Nepal	77	60	62	42	93	77
Netherlands /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
Netherlands Antilles	6	4	6	4	6	4
New Caledonia	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Zealand /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nicaragua	39	32	39	33	39	30
Niger	92	85	87	77	97	92
Nigeria	67	37	55	29	78	46
Northern Mariana Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norway /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oman	64	30	49	21	84	40
Pakistan	72	55	59	41	86	70
Palau	..	..	..	..	..	..
Panama	15	8	14	8	16	9
Papua New Guinea	50	36	41	29	61	44
Paraguay	14	7	11	6	18	8
Peru	21	10	12	6	29	15
Philippines	11	5	10	5	12	5
Poland	1	0	1	0	1	0
Portugal	18	8	13	6	23	11
Puerto Rico	11	7	11	7	12	6
Qatar	30	19	28	20	35	17
Romania	5	2	2	1	7	3
Russian Federation	1	1	1	0	2	1
Rwanda	60	34	48	27	71	41
Samoa	29	20	25	19	33	21
San Marino	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saudi Arabia	48	24	33	17	67	34
Senegal	79	64	70	54	88	73
Seychelles	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sierra Leone	..	..	..	..	..	..
Singapore	17	8	9	4	26	12
Slovak Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slovenia	1	0	1	0	1	0
Solomon Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..
Somalia	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Africa	24	15	22	14	25	16
Spain	6	2	3	2	8	3
Sri Lanka	15	9	9	6	21	11
St. Kitts and Nevis	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Lucia	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sudan	65	43	49	31	81	55
Suriname	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swaziland	40	21	36	20	44	22
Sweden /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
Switzerland /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syrian Arab Republic	47	26	28	12	66	41
Tajikistan	4	1	2	1	7	1
Tanzania	50	25	33	16	66	34
Thailand	12	5	8	3	17	7
Togo	65	44	48	26	81	60

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	1980	1999	1980	1999	1980	1999
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago	12	6	7	5	16	8
Tunisia	55	30	42	20	69	41
Turkey	31	15	17	7	46	24
Turkmenistan	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uganda	54	34	39	23	69	45
Ukraine	1	0	0	0	1	1
United Arab Emirates	35	25	33	26	42	22
United Kingdom /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
United States /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uruguay	5	2	6	3	5	2
Uzbekistan	25	12	17	7	33	16
Vanuatu	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venezuela, RB	16	8	14	7	18	8
Vietnam	13	7	7	5	19	9
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	..	..	..	..	..	..
West Bank and Gaza	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen, Rep.	80	55	62	33	95	76
Yugoslavia, FR (Serbia/Montenegro)	..	..	..	..	..	..
Zambia	41	23	29	15	53	30
Zimbabwe	30	12	22	8	38	16
World	..	..	..	..	..	..
Low income	54	39	43	29	65	48
Middle income	27	15	19	9	35	20
Lower middle income	30	16	20	9	39	22
Upper middle income	17	10	14	9	19	11
Low & middle income	38	25	29	18	48	32
East Asia & Pacific	31	15	20	8	43	22
Europe & Central Asia	6	3	3	2	8	5
Latin America & Caribbean	20	12	18	11	23	13
Middle East & North Africa	58	36	44	25	72	47
South Asia	61	46	48	34	75	58
Sub-Saharan Africa	62	39	51	31	72	47
High income /a	..	..	..	..	..	..
European EMU /a	..	..	..	..	..	..

.. Not available.

a. UNESCO estimates illiteracy to be less than 5 percent.