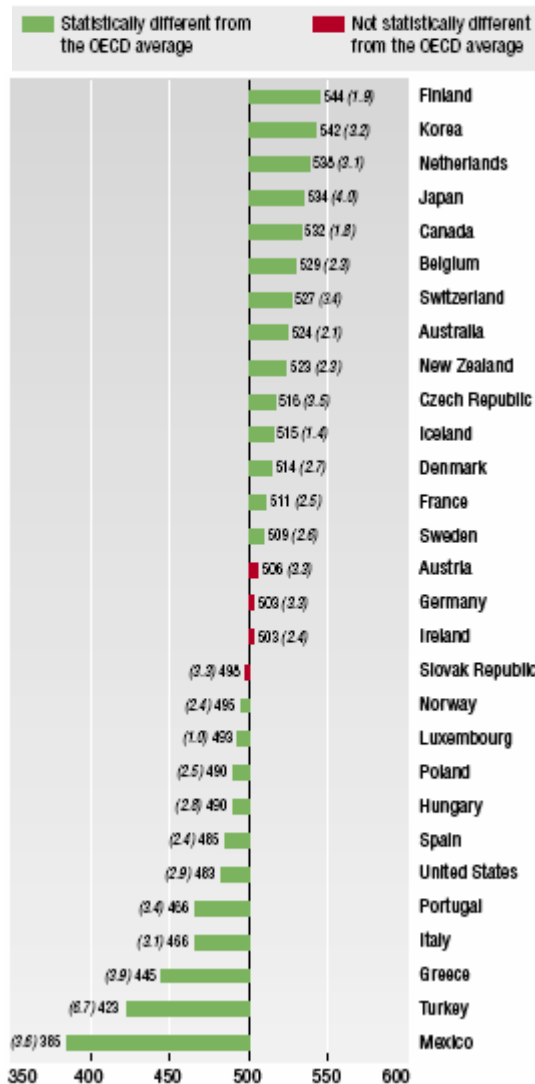


Table 3.33: Mean scores on the reading and science scales in PISA 2000 and PISA 2003

	Reading scale				Science scale			
	PISA 2000		PISA 2003		PISA 2000		PISA 2003	
	Mean score	S.E.	Mean score	S.E.	Mean score	S.E.	Mean score	S.E.
Australia	528	(3.5)	525	(2.1)	528	(3.5)	525	(2.1)
Austria	507	(2.4)	491	(3.8)	519	(2.6)	491	(3.4)
Belgium	507	(3.6)	507	(2.6)	496	(4.3)	509	(2.4)
Canada	534	(1.6)	528	(1.7)	529	(1.6)	519	(2.0)
Czech Republic	492	(2.4)	489	(3.5)	511	(2.4)	523	(3.4)
Denmark	497	(2.4)	492	(2.8)	481	(2.8)	475	(3.0)
Finland	546	(2.6)	543	(1.6)	538	(2.5)	548	(1.9)
France	505	(2.7)	496	(2.7)	500	(3.2)	511	(3.0)
Germany	484	(2.5)	491	(3.4)	487	(2.4)	502	(3.6)
Greece	474	(5.0)	472	(4.1)	461	(4.9)	481	(3.8)
Hungary	480	(4.0)	482	(2.5)	496	(4.2)	503	(2.8)
Iceland	507	(1.5)	492	(1.6)	496	(2.2)	495	(1.5)
Ireland	527	(3.2)	515	(2.6)	513	(3.2)	505	(2.7)
Italy	487	(2.9)	476	(3.0)	478	(3.1)	486	(3.1)
Japan	522	(5.2)	498	(3.9)	550	(5.5)	548	(4.1)
Korea	525	(2.4)	534	(3.1)	552	(2.7)	538	(3.5)
Luxembourg	441	(1.6)	479	(1.5)	443	(2.3)	483	(1.5)
Mexico	422	(3.3)	400	(4.1)	422	(3.2)	405	(3.5)
Netherlands	..	..	513	(2.9)	..	..	524	(3.1)
New Zealand	529	(2.8)	522	(2.5)	528	(2.4)	521	(2.4)
Norway	505	(2.8)	500	(2.8)	500	(2.8)	484	(2.9)
Poland	479	(4.5)	497	(2.9)	483	(5.1)	498	(2.9)
Portugal	470	(4.5)	478	(3.7)	459	(4.0)	468	(3.5)
Slovak Republic	..	..	469	(3.1)	..	..	495	(3.7)
Spain	493	(2.7)	481	(2.6)	491	(3.0)	487	(2.6)
Sweden	516	(2.2)	514	(2.4)	512	(2.5)	506	(2.7)
Switzerland	494	(4.3)	499	(3.3)	496	(4.4)	513	(3.7)
Turkey	..	..	441	(5.8)	..	..	434	(5.9)
United Kingdom	523	(2.6)	..	..	532	(2.7)	..	..
United States	504	(7.1)	495	(3.2)	499	(7.3)	491	(3.1)
OECD total	499	(2.0)	488	(1.2)	502	(2.0)	496	(1.1)
OECD average	500	(0.6)	494	(0.6)	500	(0.7)	500	(0.6)

Performance on the mathematics scale in PISA 2003

(OECD average = 500)



Source: OECD (2005). *OECD Factbook 2005: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics*. Paris, France: OECD.

Note: Definition. The PISA survey covers mathematics, reading, science and problem solving. PISA considers students' ability to reflect on their knowledge and experience in these areas and to apply them to real world issues. For the 2003 round of PISA, three and a half hours of testing time was in mathematics, plus one hour each for reading, science and problem solving. Each student spent two hours carrying out a combination of the assessment items.

Mathematical literacy is defined as students' capacity to identify, understand and engage in mathematics as well as to make well-founded judgements about the role that mathematics plays in an individual's current and future life as a constructive, concerned and reflective citizen.

Scientific literacy is defined as students' capacity to use scientific knowledge and to draw evidence-based conclusions in order to understand and help make decisions about the natural world and human interactions with it.

Reading literacy is defined as students' capacity to access, manage, interpret and reflect on written texts in order to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, and to participate effectively in society.