

There are particularly large proportions of adults in England and Northern Ireland with poor numeracy skills.

England and Northern Ireland have some of the highest proportions of adults scoring at or below Level 1 in numeracy. In fact, 24.1% of adults, around 8.5 million people, score at that level compared to the average of 19.0%. At Level 1 in numeracy, adults can perform basic mathematical processes in common, concrete contexts.

Some 16.4% of adults, or around 5.8 million people, in England and Northern Ireland score at the lowest level of proficiency in literacy (at or below Level 1), similar to the average of 15.5% of adults among all participating countries. At Level 1 in literacy, adults can read brief texts on familiar topics and locate a single piece of specific information identical in form to information in the question or directive.

Some 49.0% of adults in England and Northern Ireland score at or below Level 1 in problem solving in technology-rich environments. Adults at that level can complete tasks in which the goal is explicitly stated and for which the necessary operations are performed in a single and familiar environment. Some 10.1% of adults in England and Northern Ireland indicated that they had no prior experience with computers or lacked very basic computer skills. This compares favourably with the average of 14.2% among all countries that participated in the survey.