

## List of Countries by Literacy Rate

The rate of literacy refers to the ability to sufficiently read and write. Many factors, such as accessibility and quality of education, can contribute to these rates.



Government spending on education is one of the main factors involved in the nearly 100% literacy rates of countries like Finland.

Over the past several decades, global literacy rates have significantly increased. The main reasons for such an upward trend stems from the evolution of the educational system of many developing countries, and an increased acknowledgement of the importance of education to these societies in their respective entirety. Still, many nations are struggling with the provision of educational resources to better their populations, building the necessary infrastructure it requires and ensuring regular enrollment of students within their schools. Nonetheless, even those countries lagging well behind global norms realize how necessary it is to supply high quality education to the masses in order to compete and succeed in the global market.

According to the latest research on literacy and learning, we find many countries from all around the world with a literacy rate of more than 95 percent. To help readers learn more about the world leaders in this field, we have highlighted the countries with the highest literacy rates from across the globe.

### **Making 100% Literacy Rates Happen**

High educational standards are seen in countries all around the world, but the literacy rate in some countries, like [Andorra](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Norway](#), [Liechtenstein](#) and a few others can't be ignored. Within these, literacy reaches virtually 100 percent.

[Andorra](#) is one such country with virtually 100% of its populace being literate.

A part of Southwestern Europe, its government directs by law that every child between the ages of 6 and 16 is required to submit to compulsory attendance within its school systems. The Andorran government has managed to provide free schooling up to the secondary level of education. This, along with a percentage of its GDP being allotted for the education sector, has resulted in very high literacy rates in

Andorra. Similar practices are observed in other countries, such as [Finland](#), where around 7% of GDP is spent on education.

### Other Nations with Near-Complete Literacy

A literacy rate that hovers around 100% is seen in quite a few other countries of the world, including [Azerbaijan](#) and Cuba. Countries such as Georgia, [Tajikistan](#), [Russia](#), [Poland](#), and Slovenia have also all achieved literacy rates on or near 100%. Focusing on [Russia](#), it is estimated that 53% of the population there receives some form of tertiary education. The government believes in free educational deliverance systems, and the fields greatly focused on therein are in “STEM” fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

Turning towards countries like [Slovakia](#), [Turkmenistan](#), [Uzbekistan](#), and Kyrgyzstan, they remain in the range near 100%. [Slovakia](#) has 20 publicly operated universities and 10 private universities. Indeed, citizens from many of the countries constituting the former Soviet Union and “[Eastern Bloc](#)” countries can lay claim to having some of the highest access to tertiary level educational opportunities in the world.

### Should Other Countries Follow the Leaders?

The decrements seen as we move from the top of the list for countries with the highest literacy rates down to the bottom can be largely explained by the percentage of these countries’ respective GDPs that are apportioned to the education sector. A lack of educational infrastructure, as well as how important the population of a country considers attaining education, greatly influences literacy rates. From the countries where literacy rates are the highest, we see that proactive public instruction policies and the emphasizing of educational spending within government budgets can go a long way in increasing a population’s knowledge base.

### Which Country Has the Highest Literacy Rate?

Some countries that have a 100% literacy rate include Andorra, Finland, Vatican City, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, and Norway.

### Literacy Rate by Country

Rank	Country	Literacy Rate (Rounded)
1	Andorra	100.0 %
2	Finland	100.0 %
3	Holy See	100.0 %
4	Liechtenstein	100.0 %
5	Luxembourg	100.0 %
6	Norway	100.0 %
7	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	100.0 %

Rank	Country	Literacy Rate (Rounded)
8	Latvia	100.0 %
9	Estonia	100.0 %
10	Lithuania	100.0 %
11	Azerbaijan	100.0 %
12	Poland	100.0 %
13	Cuba	100.0 %
14	Tajikistan	100.0 %
15	Georgia	100.0 %
16	Armenia	100.0 %
17	Ukraine	100.0 %
18	Kazakhstan	100.0 %
19	Slovenia	100.0 %
20	Barbados	100.0 %
21	Russian Federation	100.0 %
22	Turkmenistan	100.0 %
23	Belarus	100.0 %
24	Slovakia	100.0 %
25	Palau	100.0 %
26	Uzbekistan	100.0 %
27	Tonga	99.0 %

Rank	Country	Literacy Rate (Rounded)
28	Kyrgyzstan	99.0 %
29	Republic of Moldova	99.0 %
30	Croatia	99.0 %
31	Italy	99.0 %
32	Hungary	99.0 %
33	Australia	99.0 %
34	Belgium	99.0 %
35	Canada	99.0 %
36	Czech Republic	99.0 %
37	Denmark	99.0 %
38	France	99.0 %
39	Germany	99.0 %
40	Iceland	99.0 %
41	Ireland	99.0 %
42	Japan	99.0 %
43	Monaco	99.0 %
44	Netherlands	99.0 %
45	New Zealand	99.0 %
46	Sweden	99.0 %
47	Switzerland	99.0 %

Rank	Country	Literacy Rate (Rounded)
48	Tuvalu	99.0 %
49	United Kingdom	99.0 %
50	Samoa	99.0 %
51	Antigua and Barbuda	99.0 %
52	Trinidad and Tobago	99.0 %
53	Micronesia (Federated States of)	99.0 %
54	Cyprus	99.0 %
55	Romania	99.0 %
56	Montenegro	98.0 %
57	Maldives	98.0 %
58	Bulgaria	98.0 %
59	Marshall Islands	98.0 %
60	Bosnia and Herzegovina	98.0 %
61	Mongolia	98.0 %
62	Uruguay	98.0 %
63	Austria	98.0 %
64	Argentina	98.0 %
65	Serbia	98.0 %
66	Republic of Korea	98.0 %
67	Grenada	98.0 %

Rank	Country	Literacy Rate (Rounded)
68	Israel	98.0 %
69	Spain	98.0 %
70	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	98.0 %
71	Greece	97.0 %
72	Costa Rica	97.0 %
73	Saint Kitts and Nevis	97.0 %
74	Albania	97.0 %
75	Chile	97.0 %
76	Thailand	96.0 %
77	Qatar	96.0 %
78	Brunei Darussalam	96.0 %
79	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	96.0 %
80	San Marino	96.0 %
81	Singapore	96.0 %
82	Kuwait	96.0 %
83	Bahamas	96.0 %
84	Philippines	95.0 %
85	Nauru	95.0 %
86	China	95.0 %
87	Cook Islands	95.0 %

Rank	Country	Literacy Rate (Rounded)
88	State of Palestine	95.0 %
89	Equatorial Guinea	95.0 %
90	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	95.0 %
91	Suriname	95.0 %
92	Bahrain	95.0 %
93	Portugal	94.0 %
94	Saudi Arabia	94.0 %
95	Panama	94.0 %
96	Seychelles	94.0 %
97	Paraguay	94.0 %
98	Peru	94.0 %
99	Fiji	94.0 %
100	Viet Nam	94.0 %
101	Colombia	93.0 %
102	Malta	93.0 %
103	Malaysia	93.0 %
104	Mexico	93.0 %
105	South Africa	93.0 %
106	Indonesia	93.0 %
107	Myanmar	93.0 %

Rank	Country	Literacy Rate (Rounded)
108	Turkey	93.0 %
109	Jordan	93.0 %
110	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	92.0 %
111	Ecuador	92.0 %
112	Dominica	92.0 %
113	Sri Lanka	91.0 %
114	Brazil	90.0 %
115	Libya	90.0 %
116	United Arab Emirates	90.0 %
117	Lebanon	90.0 %
118	Dominican Republic	90.0 %
119	Saint Lucia	90.0 %
120	Mauritius	89.0 %
121	Jamaica	88.0 %
122	Botswana	87.0 %
123	Burundi	87.0 %
124	Oman	87.0 %
125	United States	86.0 %
126	Syrian Arab Republic	86.0 %
127	Cabo Verde	85.0 %



Rank	Country	Literacy Rate (Rounded)
128	Guyana	85.0 %
129	Honduras	85.0 %
130	El Salvador	84.0 %
131	Vanuatu	84.0 %
132	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	84.0 %
133	Zimbabwe	84.0 %
134	Swaziland	83.0 %
135	Belize	83.0 %
136	Gabon	82.0 %
137	Congo	79.0 %
138	Iraq	79.0 %
139	Tunisia	79.0 %
140	Guatemala	78.0 %
141	Nicaragua	78.0 %
142	Solomon Islands	77.0 %
143	Comoros	77.0 %
144	Namibia	76.0 %
145	Lesotho	76.0 %
146	Democratic Republic of the Congo	75.0 %
147	Sudan	74.0 %

Rank	Country	Literacy Rate (Rounded)
148	Cambodia	74.0 %
149	Uganda	73.0 %
150	Lao People's Democratic Republic	73.0 %
151	Algeria	73.0 %
152	Kenya	72.0 %
153	Egypt	72.0 %
154	Eritrea	72.0 %
155	Ghana	71.0 %
156	Cameroon	71.0 %
157	Angola	71.0 %
158	Sao Tome and Principe	70.0 %
159	India	69.0 %
160	United Republic of Tanzania	68.0 %
161	Yemen	68.0 %
162	Morocco	67.0 %
163	Rwanda	66.0 %
164	Madagascar	64.0 %
165	Papua New Guinea	63.0 %
166	Zambia	61.0 %
167	Malawi	61.0 %

Rank	Country	Literacy Rate (Rounded)
168	Togo	60.0 %
169	Bangladesh	60.0 %
170	Nepal	60.0 %
171	Timor-Leste	58.0 %
172	Guinea-Bissau	58.0 %
173	Pakistan	55.0 %
174	Gambia	53.0 %
175	Bhutan	53.0 %
176	Senegal	52.0 %
177	Nigeria	51.0 %
178	Mozambique	51.0 %
179	Haiti	49.0 %
180	Sierra Leone	46.0 %
181	Mauritania	46.0 %
182	Liberia	43.0 %
183	Côte d'Ivoire	41.0 %
184	Somalia	39.0 %
185	Ethiopia	39.0 %
186	Chad	38.0 %
187	Central African Republic	37.0 %

Rank	Country	Literacy Rate (Rounded)
188	Afghanistan	32.0 %
189	Mali	31.0 %
190	Burkina Faso	29.0 %
191	Benin	29.0 %
192	South Sudan	27.0 %
193	Guinea	25.0 %
194	Niger	15.0 %
195	Djibouti	NA
196	Kiribati	NA
197	Niue	NA

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#### CITATIONS

- MLA
- APA
- Chicago
- Harvard

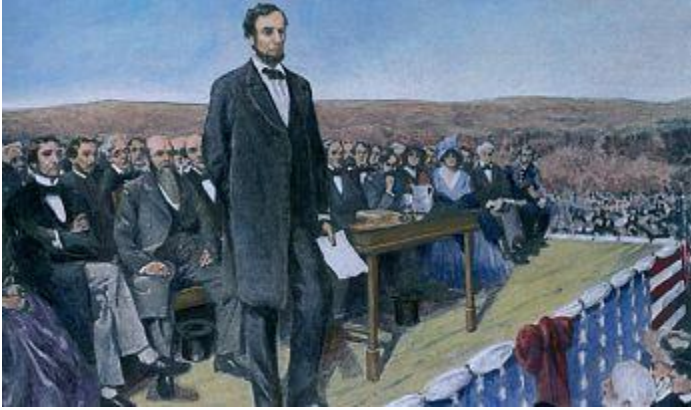
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