

Table 2

YOUTH LITERACY RATE (15-24) (%)									YOUTH ILLITERATES (15-24)						Country or territory
1990			2000-2004 ¹			Projected 2015			1990		2000-2004 ¹		Projected 2015		
Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total (000)	% Female	Total (000)	% Female	Total (000)	% Female	
Arab States															
77	86	68	90*	94*	86*	94	94	94	1 174	69	705	69	381	51	Algeria
96	96	95	97*	97*	97*	100	100	100	3.5	54	3	43	0.14	48	Bahrain
73	82	64	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	67	...	...	...	...	Djibouti
61	71	51	85*	90*	79*	88	91	86	3 975	62	2 382	67	1 810	60	Egypt
41	56	25	85*	89*	80*	84	87	82	2 260	62	765	63	1 159	57	Iraq
97	98	95	99*	99*	99*	100	100	100	23	66	10	61	6	37	Jordan
88	88	87	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	46	51	1	38	0.07	44	Kuwait
92	95	89	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	72	...	...	...	...	Lebanon
91	99	83	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	94	...	...	...	...	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
46	56	36	61*	68*	55*	66	70	63	214	59	199	58	258	56	Mauritania
55	68	42	70*	81*	60*	82	89	74	2 265	64	1 888	67	1 147	69	Morocco
86	95	75	97*	98*	97*	99	100	99	43	82	14	59	3	66	Oman
...	...	...	99*	99*	99*	99	99	100	...	...	7	57	7	29	Palestinian Autonomous Territories
90	88	93	96*	95*	98*	100	100	99	5.7	29	4	24	1	55	Qatar
85	91	79	96*	98*	94*	100	100	100	446	68	157	75	12	49	Saudi Arabia
65	76	54	77*	85*	71*	82	85	78	1 804	65	1 468	64	1 622	59	Sudan ²
80	92	67	92*	94*	90*	97	98	97	523	81	333	62	121	58	Syrian Arab Republic
84	93	75	94*	96*	92*	98	98	98	263	77	118	67	40	53	Tunisia
85	82	89	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	28	...	...	...	...	United Arab Emirates
50	74	25	72	86	58	...	...	...	1 148	73	1 242	74	...	...	Yemen
Central and Eastern Europe															
95	97	92	99*	99*	99*	99	99	99	34	75	3	46	3	42	Albania
100	100	100	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	2.7	50	3	40	2	49	Belarus
...	...	...	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	...	...	1	38	0.46	49	Bosnia and Herzegovina
99	100	99	98*	98*	98*	97	98	97	7.1	59	20	52	19	53	Bulgaria
100	100	100	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	2.3	52	2	48	2	37	Croatia
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Czech Republic
100	100	100	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	0.5	42	0.5	40	0.27	49	Estonia
100	100	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.9	56	...	...	...	...	Hungary
...	...	...	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	...	...	1	43	1	33	Latvia
100	100	100	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	1.2	46	1	43	1	49	Lithuania
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Poland
100	100	100	100*	99*	100*	100	99	100	1.3	48	4	47	2	0	Republic of Moldova
99	99	99	98*	98*	98*	97	97	97	28	54	77	49	64	45	Romania
100	100	100	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	42	47	67	41	44	33	Russian Federation
...	...	...	99*	99*	99*	99	99	99	...	...	7	52	8	48	Serbia and Montenegro ²
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Slovakia
100	100	100	100	100	100	...	...	...	0.7	44	1	49	...	...	Slovenia
...	...	...	99*	99*	98*	99	99	99	...	...	4	59	4	56	TFYR Macedonia
93	97	88	96*	98*	93*	96	98	95	843	79	583	77	519	71	Turkey
100	100	100	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	11	43	14	42	10	49	Ukraine
Central Asia															
100	100	99	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	2.6	63	1	37	0.45	48	Armenia
...	...	...	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	...	...	2	43	2	49	Azerbaijan
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Georgia
100	100	100	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	5.9	45	4	40	4	49	Kazakhstan
...	...	...	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	...	...	3	42	4	49	Kyrgyzstan
...	...	...	98*	97*	98*	96	95	98	...	...	12	34	19	30	Mongolia
100	100	100	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	2.2	55	2	49	2	49	Tajikistan
...	...	...	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	...	...	2	49	1.8	46	Turkmenistan
100	100	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	57	...	...	...	...	Uzbekistan
East Asia and the Pacific															
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Australia
98	98	98	99*	99*	99*	100	100	100	1.0	43	1	49	0.08	97	Brunei Darussalam
73	81	66	83*	88*	79*	90	93	88	479	66	543	63	323	62	Cambodia
95	97	93	99*	99*	99*	100	100	100	11 709	72	2 260	63	980	47	China
...	Cook Islands
...	Democratic People's Republic of Korea

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1990			2000-2004 ¹			Projected 2015			1990		2000-2004 ¹		Projected 2015		
Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total (000)	% Female	Total (000)	% Female	Total (000)	% Female	
98	98	98	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.9	54	...	...	...	...	Fiji
95	97	93	99*	99*	99*	99	99	99	1872	65	549	56	322	38	Indonesia
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Japan
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Kiribati
70	79	61	78*	83*	75*	84	87	81	235	66	225	59	238	59	Lao People's Democratic Republic
97	99	96	100*	99*	100*	100	100	100	1.6	88	0.25	26	0	50	Macao, China
95	95	94	97*	97*	97*	99	99	99	179	55	120	48	66	45	Malaysia
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Marshall Islands
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Micronesia (Federated States of)
88	90	86	95*	96*	93*	97	96	97	973	58	524	60	333	41	Myanmar
47	67	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nauru
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	New Zealand
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Niue
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Palau
69	74	62	67*	69*	64*	68	66	69	277	60	342	52	496	46	Papua New Guinea
97	97	97	95*	94*	96*	95	94	96	342	46	759	43	947	40	Philippines
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Republic of Korea
99	99	99	100	99	100	...	...	...	0.3	49	0.2	39	...	...	Samoa
99	99	99	100*	99*	100*	100	99	100	5.6	39	2	38	2	16	Singapore
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Solomon Islands
...	...	...	98*	98*	98*	99	99	99	...	...	223	53	143	50	Thailand
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Timor-Leste
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Tokelau
...	...	...	99*	99*	99*	100	100	100	...	...	0.13	46	0.02	72	Tonga
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Tuvalu
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Vanuatu
94	94	94	94*	94*	94*	96	95	96	802	54	956	52	734	44	Viet Nam
Latin America and the Caribbean															
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Anguilla
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Antigua and Barbuda
98	98	98	99*	99*	99*	99	99	99	97	44	71	40	55	43	Argentina
...	...	...	99*	99*	99*	...	...	...	...	...	0.11	43	...	...	Aruba
96	95	98	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.9	34	...	...	...	...	Bahamas
100	100	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.1	49	...	...	...	...	Barbados
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Belize
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Bermuda
93	96	89	97*	99*	96*	99	99	99	98	74	43	72	22	49	Bolivia
92	91	93	97*	96*	98*	99	98	100	2363	42.0	1123	33	309	17	Brazil
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	British Virgin Islands
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Cayman Islands
98	98	98	99*	99*	99*	99	99	99	48	44	26	40	20	42	Chile
95	94	96	98*	98*	98*	99	98	100	369	44	167	39	106	19	Colombia
97	97	98	98*	97*	98*	98	98	98	15	43	18	40	16	41	Costa Rica
99	99	99	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	17	51	1	51	0	0	Cuba
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Dominica
87	87	88	94*	93*	95*	96	94	98	190	47	102	39	76	24	Dominican Republic
95	96	95	96*	96*	96*	97	96	97	95	56	88	49	91	43	Ecuador
84	85	83	90	91	89	96	95	96	172	55	132	53	64	44	El Salvador
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Grenada
73	80	66	82*	86*	78*	87	89	85	461	63	421	62	425	60	Guatemala
100	100	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.3	51	...	...	...	...	Guyana
55	56	54	...	...	...	...	...	...	578	51	...	...	...	...	Haiti
80	78	81	89*	87*	91*	91	88	94	201	47	152	40	159	32	Honduras
91	87	95	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	28	...	...	...	...	Jamaica
95	96	94	98*	98*	98*	99	98	99	897	59	492	49	284	40	Mexico
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Montserrat
97	97	98	98	98	99	...	...	...	0.7	46	0.4	44	...	...	Netherlands Antilles
68	68	69	86*	84*	89*	91	87	95	254	49	154	40	124	28	Nicaragua
95	96	95	96*	97*	96*	96	97	96	24	54	21	55	23	52	Panama
96	96	95	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	53	...	...	...	...	Paraguay
94	97	92	97*	98*	96*	98	98	98	243	71	174	66	124	49	Peru
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Saint Kitts and Nevis

Table 2 (continued)

Country or territory	ADULT LITERACY RATE (15 and over) (%)									ADULT ILLITERATES (15 and over)					
	1990			2000-2004 ¹			Projected 2015			1990		2000-2004 ¹		Projected 2015	
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total (000)	% Female	Total (000)	% Female	Total (000)	% Female
Saint Lucia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suriname	...	...	...	90*	92*	87*	93	95	92	...	...	32	62	23	62
Trinidad and Tobago	97	98	96	99	99	98	...	...	...	26	70	13	69	...	...
Turks and Caicos Islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Uruguay	97	96	97	98	98	98	...	...	...	80	46	53	42	...	...
Venezuela	89	90	88	93*	93*	93*	96	95	96	1358	55	1166	52	973	47
North America and Western Europe															
Andorra	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Austria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Canada	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cyprus	94	98	91	97*	99*	95*	99	99	98	29	80	18	79	10.7	74
Denmark	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Finland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Germany	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Greece	95	98	92	96*	98*	94*	98	99	97	419	77	375	73	231.8	69
Iceland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Israel	91	95	88	97*	98*	96*	99	99	98	267	71	136	74	81	77
Italy	...	...	...	98*	99*	98*	99	99	99	...	...	785	64	427	64
Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malta	88	88	89	88*	86*	89*	93	91	94	32	49	36	45	26	39
Monaco	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Netherlands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Norway	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Portugal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
San Marino	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sweden	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South and West Asia															
Afghanistan	...	...	...	28*	43*	13*	36	52	19	...	...	9048	59	14585	61
Bangladesh	34	44	24	43	52	33	...	...	...	40405	56	52530	57	...	...
Bhutan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
India	49	62	36	61*	73*	48*	70	80	60	273066	61	268426	65	274871	66
Iran, Islamic Republic of	63	72	54	77*	84*	70*	...	...	...	11501	61	10509	64	...	...
Maldives	95	95	95	96*	96*	96*	98	97	98	6.0	50	6	47	6.7	45
Nepal	30	47	14	49*	63*	35*	63	76	52	7718	62	7661	65	7923	68
Pakistan	35	49	20	50*	63*	36*	61	72	50	40817	60	48818	62	49413	63
Sri Lanka ²	89	93	85	91*	92*	89*	93	94	92	1342	67	1380	57	1262	54
Sub-Saharan Africa															
Angola	...	...	...	67*	83*	54*	70	81	60	...	...	2401	74	3403	69
Benin	26	38	15	35*	48*	23*	43	56	30	2014	59	2718	60	3718	61
Botswana	68	66	70	81*	80*	82*	87	86	88	249	49	206	50	146	46
Burkina Faso	...	...	...	22*	29*	15*	32	37	27	...	...	5052	55	6554	53
Burundi	37	48	27	59*	67*	52*	70	74	66	1950	61	1373	62	1724	58
Cameroon	58	69	48	68*	77*	60*	...	...	...	2699	64	2764	64	...	...
Cape Verde	64	76	54	78	87	71	...	...	...	67	71	68	71	...	...
Central African Republic	33	47	21	49*	65*	33*	56	69	44	1132	63	1107	67	1218	66
Chad	28	37	19	26*	41*	13*	38	54	22	2375	58	3206	61	4166	64
Comoros	54	61	46	...	...	...	...	...	...	129	59	...	...	...	...
Congo	67	77	58	...	...	...	...	...	...	440	66	...	...	...	...
Côte d'Ivoire	39	51	26	49*	61*	39*	58	67	49	4151	57	4733	59	5567	60
D. R. Congo	47	61	34	67*	81*	54*	67	76	58	10519	64	8901	71	13353	64
Equatorial Guinea	73	86	61	87*	93*	80*	92	94	90	55	74	33	76	28	63

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Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total (000)	% Female	Total (000)	% Female	Total (000)	% Female	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Saint Lucia
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
...	...	...	95*	96*	94*	96	97	95	...	...	5	57	3	58	Suriname
100	100	100	100	100	100	...	...	...	0.8	51	1	50	...	...	Trinidad and Tobago
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Turks and Caicos Islands
99	98	99	99	99	100	...	...	...	6	34	4	32	...	...	Uruguay
96	95	97	97*	96*	98*	98	97	99	155	42	137	34	120	27	Venezuela
North America and Western Europe															
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Andorra
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Austria
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Belgium
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Canada
100	100	100	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	0.3	29	0.25	40	0.12	49	Cyprus
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Denmark
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Finland
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	France
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Germany
100	99	100	99*	99*	99*	100	100	100	7	37	16	45	5	57	Greece
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Iceland
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ireland
99	99	98	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	10	61	2	100	.	.	Israel
...	...	...	100*	100*	100*	100	100	100	...	...	12	47	7	57	Italy
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Luxembourg
98	96	99	96*	94*	98*	97	96	99	1.3	18	2	27	1.3	20	Malta
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Monaco
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Netherlands
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Norway
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Portugal
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	San Marino
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Spain
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Sweden
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Switzerland
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	United Kingdom
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	United States
South and West Asia															
...	...	...	34*	51*	18*	49	66	30	...	...	2889	61	4259	66	Afghanistan
42	51	33	51	59	43	...	...	...	12240	56	13941	57	...	...	Bangladesh
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Bhutan
64	73	54	76*	84*	68*	84	88	79	59032	61	46290	66	37689	62	India
86	92	81	...	...	...	...	...	...	1424	68	...	...	...	...	Iran, Islamic Republic of
98	98	98	98*	98*	98*	98	98	99	0.7	48	1	46	1	41	Maldives
47	67	27	70*	81*	60*	83	88	77	1921	68	1437	66	1193	65	Nepal
47	63	31	65*	76*	55*	74	80	68	10787	63	11612	64	10039	60	Pakistan
95	96	94	96*	95*	96*	97	97	98	171	57	168	43	99	39	Sri Lanka ²
Sub-Saharan Africa															
...	...	...	72*	84*	63*	70	77	64	...	...	749	70	1256	61	Angola
40	57	25	45*	59*	33*	53	65	40	569	63	828	61	1065	62	Benin
83	79	87	94*	92*	96*	97	95	100	50	38	26	36	11	2	Botswana
...	...	...	31*	38*	25*	40	41	39	...	...	1725	54	2199	50	Burkina Faso
52	58	45	73*	77*	70*	78	78	78	517	57	348	57	440	49	Burundi
81	86	76	...	...	...	...	...	...	414	64	...	...	...	...	Cameroon
81	87	76	91	93	88	...	...	...	13	65	11	62	...	...	Cape Verde
52	66	39	59*	70*	47*	62	70	54	262	65	315	65	397	62	Central African Republic
48	58	38	38*	56*	23*	46	61	31	592	60	955	64	1375	65	Chad
57	64	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	58	...	...	...	...	Comoros
93	95	90	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	66	...	...	...	...	Congo
53	65	40	61*	71*	52*	66	72	59	1052	62	1349	62	1611	59	Côte d'Ivoire
69	80	58	70*	78*	63*	67	71	62	2226	68	3013	63	5091	57	D. R. Congo
93	97	89	95*	95*	95*	95	93	97	4.7	77	4	49	7	33	Equatorial Guinea

Table 2 (continued)

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	1990			2000-2004 ¹			Projected 2015			1990		2000-2004 ¹		Projected 2015	
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total (000)	% Female	Total (000)	% Female	Total (000)	% Female
Eritrea	46	58	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	874	64	...	...	...	...
Ethiopia	29	37	20	45	52	38	...	...	...	19815	57	23554	57	...	...
Gabon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gambia	26	32	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	397	55	...	...	...	...
Ghana	58	70	47	58*	66*	50*	58	64	51	3546	64	4894	60	7306	57
Guinea	27	42	13	29*	43*	18*	52	63	40	2545	59	3507	58	3293	61
Guinea-Bissau	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kenya	71	81	61	74*	78*	70*	77	78	77	3508	68	4480	58	5755	51
Lesotho	78	65	89	82*	74*	90*	...	...	...	183	29	182	32	755	...
Liberia	39	55	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	690	64	...	...	...	...
Madagascar	58	66	50	71*	77*	65*	71	74	68	2780	60	2609	60	4150	55
Malawi	52	69	36	64*	75*	54*	75	81	69	2429	69	2133	66	2190	62
Mali	...	...	...	19*	27*	12*	26	34	18	...	...	4601	56	7131	56
Mauritius	80	85	75	84*	88*	81*	90	91	88	150	62	138	63	109	59
Mozambique	33	49	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	4850	65	...	...	...	...
Namibia	75	77	72	85*	87*	83*	90	90	91	197	56	163	57	142	48
Niger	11	18	5	29*	43*	15*	40	52	26	3821	53	5033	59	6061	60
Nigeria	49	59	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	25081	61	...	...	...	...
Rwanda	53	63	44	65*	71*	60*	73	76	71	1661	62	1471	61	1757	57
Sao Tome and Principe	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Senegal	28	38	19	39*	51*	29*	46	56	37	3058	59	3672	61	4780	61
Seychelles	...	...	...	92*	91*	92*	...	...	...	...	...	5	50	...	...
Sierra Leone	...	...	...	35*	47*	24*	33	44	22	...	...	1972	60	2656	59
Somalia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Africa	81	82	80	82*	84*	81*	92	92	91	4252	54	4867	56	2839	51
Swaziland	72	74	70	80*	81*	78*	86	86	87	130	59	118	57	85	49
Togo	44	60	29	53*	69*	38*	71	81	61	1183	65	1391	67	1379	67
Uganda	56	69	43	67*	77*	58*	79	85	74	3987	65	4230	65	4318	63
United Republic of Tanzania	63	76	51	69*	78*	62*	75	80	71	5277	68	6194	63	6858	59
Zambia	68	79	59	68*	76*	60*	69	73	64	1413	67	1797	63	2441	57
Zimbabwe	81	87	75	...	...	...	...	...	...	1101	66	...	...	...	...

	Weighted average									Sum	%F	Sum	%F	Sum	%F
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female						
World	75	82	69	82	87	77	87	91	84	874019	63	780657	64	684160	65
Countries in transition	99	100	99	99	100	99	100	100	100	1757	78	1340	76	599	61
Developed countries	98	99	98	99	99	99	99	100	99	14855	64	9062	63	9318	75
Developing countries	67	76	58	77	83	70	84	88	79	857407	63	770255	64	674244	65
Arab States	50	64	36	66	77	55	79	86	71	63659	63	57812	66	55111	67
Central and Eastern Europe	96	98	95	97	99	96	98	99	97	11494	75	9320	79	6871	78
Central Asia	99	99	98	99	100	99	100	100	100	569	79	382	72	232	57
East Asia and the Pacific	82	89	75	92	95	88	96	97	94	232691	69	125359	71	80765	71
East Asia	...	...	...	92	95	88	96	97	94	...	...	123758	71	78907	71
Pacific	...	...	...	93	94	93	93	94	93	...	...	1600	57	1858	54
Latin America and the Caribbean	85	87	83	90	91	89	94	95	94	41838	57	38572	55	26225	54
Caribbean	...	...	...	70	70	70	97	96	97	...	...	2935	51	1027	46
Latin America	...	...	...	90	91	90	94	95	94	...	...	35637	55	25198	54
North America and Western Europe	98	98	97	99	99	99	100	100	100	11324	64	6312	62	2422	63
South and West Asia	47	60	34	59	71	46	68	78	58	379849	60	399016	63	344529	66
Sub-Saharan Africa	50	60	40	61	70	53	67	73	61	132597	61	143885	61	168007	59

Note: For countries indicated with (*), national observed literacy data are used. For all others, UIS literacy estimates are used. The estimates were generated in July 2002, using the previous UIS assessment model. They are based on observed data for years between 1990 and 1994.

The population used to generate the number of illiterates is from the United Nations Population Division 2004 estimates (2005). For countries with national observed literacy data, the population corresponding to the year of the census or survey was used. For countries with UIS estimates, the population used was that of 2005.

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Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total (000)	% Female	Total (000)	% Female	Total (000)	% Female	
61	73	49	...	...	...	...	...	...	234	65	...	...	...	...	Eritrea
43	52	34	61	66	56	...	...	...	5 587	58	6 098	56	...	...	Ethiopia
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Gabon
42	50	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	95	58	...	...	...	...	Gambia
82	88	75	71*	76*	65*	70	73	67	537	67	1 200	58	1 590	54	Ghana
44	62	26	47*	59*	34*	65	75	55	647	65	908	60	834	63	Guinea
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Guinea-Bissau
90	93	87	80*	80*	81*	77	74	80	477	65	1 349	49	1 966	43	Kenya
87	77	97	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	12	...	...	...	...	Lesotho
57	75	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	176	71	...	...	...	...	Liberia
72	78	67	70*	73*	68*	69	69	68	645	60	923	54	1 555	51	Madagascar
63	76	51	76*	82*	71*	84	85	83	655	68	525	62	573	52	Malawi
...	...	...	24*	32*	17*	32	39	24	...	...	1 692	54	2 565	54	Mali
91	91	91	95*	94*	95*	97	95	98	18	49	12	42	7	29	Mauritius
49	66	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 358	68	...	...	...	...	Mozambique
87	86	89	92*	91*	93*	93	91	95	36	44	29	42	39	37	Namibia
17	25	9	37*	52*	23*	48	58	39	1 350	53	1 667	60	1 980	58	Niger
74	81	66	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 445	63	...	...	...	...	Nigeria
73	78	67	78*	79*	77*	78	78	79	362	60	382	53	495	50	Rwanda
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Sao Tome and Principe
40	50	30	49*	58*	41*	53	60	46	912	58	1 142	59	1 421	57	Senegal
...	...	...	99*	99*	99*	...	...	...	...	...	0.13	35	...	...	Seychelles
...	...	...	48*	59*	37*	48	58	39	...	...	522	61	691	59	Sierra Leone
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Somalia
88	89	88	94*	93*	94*	97	96	98	865	51	531	47	299	33	South Africa
85	85	85	88*	87*	90*	89	87	91	26	52	26	45	30	42	Swaziland
63	79	48	74*	84*	64*	84	87	80	275	72	288	69	265	60	Togo
70	80	60	77*	83*	71*	88	89	86	1 034	66	1 216	62	998	55	Uganda
83	89	77	78*	81*	76*	78	78	78	853	68	1 628	55	2 170	49	United Republic of Tanzania
81	86	76	69*	73*	66*	67	68	65	315	64	663	55	1 042	52	Zambia
94	97	91	...	...	...	...	...	...	130	72	...	...	...	...	Zimbabwe

Weighted average									Sum	%F	Sum	%F	Sum	%F	
84	88	80	87	90	84	90	92	89	157 212	62	138 973	62	114 256	58	World
99	99	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	332	49	122	45	88	38	Countries in transition
100	100	100	99	99	99	99	100	99	471	51	768	50	770	61	Developed countries
81	86	76	85	89	81	89	91	87	156 410	62	138 083	62	113 399	58	Developing countries
67	77	55	82	88	77	89	92	87	14 426	65	9 426	67	7 508	60	Arab States
98	99	97	99	99	98	98	99	98	1 019	75	823	68	777	64	Central and Eastern Europe
98	98	98	100	100	100	100	100	100	280	50	47	48	59	38	Central Asia
95	97	94	98	98	98	99	99	99	17 420	68	6 767	57	4 756	46	East Asia and the Pacific
...	...	...	98	98	98	99	99	99	...	...	6 375	57	4 234	46	East Asia
...	...	...	92	93	92	90	90	90	...	...	392	52	522	46	Pacific
93	93	93	96	96	96	98	98	98	6 369	50	4 109	45	2 129	38	Latin America and the Caribbean
...	...	...	77	76	78	98	97	99	...	...	745	47	164	25	Caribbean
...	...	...	97	96	97	98	98	98	...	...	3 364	44	1 965	39	Latin America
100	100	100	99	100	99	100	100	100	310	48	493	50	118	46	North America and Western Europe
61	71	51	72	80	63	82	86	76	86 921	61	80 415	63	46 697	64	South and West Asia
67	75	60	73	78	68	72	74	69	30 468	61	36 894	59	52 212	55	Sub-Saharan Africa

1. Data are for the most recent year available during the period specified. See the introduction to the statistical tables for a broader explanation of national literacy definitions, assessment methods, sources and years of data.
2. Literacy data for the most recent year do not include some geographic regions.