

Metadata for literacy statistics

Country	Year	Type of data	Data Source	Literacy Definition	Mode
Afghanistan	2000	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Albania	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	A person is literate who acquires the capacities of reading and writing by him/herself and never attended any kind of educational programme. Also a person who acquired those capacities from schooling or literacy programmes is considered literate	Household declaration
Algeria	1987	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Algeria	2006	UIS Estimate	2002 Health Survey	The capacity to read and write	Self-declaration
Angola	2001	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	...
Argentina	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Argentina	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	Literate is a person who can read and write	Household declaration
Armenia	1989	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Armenia	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	Literates correspond to those individuals aged 7+ who can read and understand in any language	Household declaration
Aruba	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	A literate is a person able to read text and write a letter	Household declaration
Azerbaijan	2006	UIS Estimate	1999 Population Census	Literates are persons who can read and write, with understanding, a text. Literacy is acceptable for any language having written form	Household declaration
Bahrain	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration

Country	Year	Type of data	Data Source	Literacy Definition	Mode
Bahrain	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	Illiterates are persons who cannot read or write, as well as persons who can read only, for example a person who studied Koran	Household declaration
Bangladesh	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Bangladesh	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	A literate is a person who is able to write a letter in any language	Self declaration
Barbados	...	...	...	...	...
Belarus	1989	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his everyday life	Household declaration
Belarus	2006	UIS Estimate	1999 Population Census	Persons aged 15+ who could neither read nor write were referred to the category of the illiterate	Household declaration
Belgium	...	...	...	...	...
Belize	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Benin	1992	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/she everyday life	Household declaration
Benin	2006	UIS Estimate	2002 Population Census	A person is literate who can, with understanding, both read and write a short simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Bermuda	...	...	...	...	...
Bhutan	2006	UIS Estimate	2005 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	...
Bolivia	1992	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/she everyday life	Household declaration
Bolivia	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	If the person responds that he/she knows how to read and to write, he/she is literate and if he/she does not know how to read and to write, he/she is illiterate. The survey languages were Spanish and native languages in regions of indigenous speech	Household declaration

Country	Year	Type of data	Data Source	Literacy Definition	Mode
Bosnia & Herzegovina	2000	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Botswana	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Botswana	2006	UIS Estimate	2003 Literacy Survey	Literacy is a responsive and context-specific multi-dimensional lifelong learning process designed to equip beneficiaries with specialised knowledge, skills, attitudes and techniques to independently engage in practices and genres involving listening, speaking, reading, writing, numeracy, technical functioning and critical thinking required in real life	Self-declaration
Brazil	2006	National observed data	Household Survey	A literate is a person who can both read and write at least a simple statement in a language he or she knows	Self-declaration
British Virgin Islands	...	...	...	...	...
Brunei Darussalam	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Brunei Darussalam	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	Literacy is the ability of a person to read and write a simple letter or to read a newspaper column in one or two languages	Household declaration
Bulgaria	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	Literates are persons who can read and write	...
Burkina Faso	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his everyday life	Household declaration
Burkina Faso	2006	UIS Estimate	2005 and 2007 Household Life Conditions surveys	Literates are persons who declare that they can read and write in any language	Self-declaration
Burundi	1990	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Burundi	2000	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	...

Country	Year	Type of data	Data Source	Literacy Definition	Mode
Cambodia	2006	UIS Estimate	2004 Inter-censal Population Survey	Literacy the ability to read and write with understanding in any language. A person is literate when he/she can read and write a simple message in any language or dialect. A person who both cannot read and write a simple message is considered illiterate. Also to be considered illiterate is a person who is capable of reading only his/her own name or number, as well as persons who can read but not write. Children aged 0-9 were treated as illiterate by definition even if a few of them could read and write	Self-declaration
Cameroon	2001	National observed data	Second Household Survey - ECAMII	Literacy is the ability of people aged 15+ to read and write in French or in English	Self-declaration
Canada	...	...	...	...	...
Cape Verde	1990	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Cape Verde	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Cayman Islands	...	...	...	...	...
Central African Republic	1988	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Central African Republic	2000	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Chad	1993	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Chad	2000	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Chile	1992	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Chile	2006	UIS Estimate	2002 Population Census	A person is literate who knows how to write and to read (Spanish)	Household declaration

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China	1990	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
China	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	In urban areas: literate refers to a person who knows a minimum of 2,000 characters. In rural areas: literate refers to a person who knows a minimum of 1,500 characters	Household declaration
Colombia	1993	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Colombia	2006	National observed data	Labour force survey	Literacy is the capacity to read and to write in one's mother tongue	Self-declaration
Comoros	...	...	...	...	...
Congo	1994	UIS Estimate	1984 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Congo	2006	UIS Estimate	1984 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Cook Islands	...	...	...	...	...
Costa Rica	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	In the census it was asked whether the person knows how to read or write, from that we concluded literacy and illiteracy if the answer were yes or no, respectively	Household declaration
Côte d'Ivoire	1988	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Côte d'Ivoire	2000	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Croatia	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Croatia	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	A literate person is one who can read and write a simple statement on his/her everyday life; i.e. who can read and write a letter no matter what language or letters he/she uses	Household declaration
Cuba	2006	UIS Estimate	2002 Population Census	The people who were able to read and to write at least a simple text of facts relative to their daily life were considered literate. The people who did not fulfil that condition were regarded as illiterate	Household declaration

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Cyprus	1992	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Cyprus	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	Literates are persons who can read and write simple sentences	Household declaration
Czech Republic	...	...	...	...	...
DPR of Korea	...	...	...	...	...
Democratic Republic of Congo	2001	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	...
Denmark	...	...	...	...	...
Djibouti	...	...	...	...	...
Dominica	...	...	...	...	...
Dominican Republic	2006	UIS Estimate	2002 Population Census	Literates are all the people aged 10 and + who know how to read and to write	Household declaration
Ecuador	1990	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Ecuador	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	Literacy is the capacity to read and write	Household declaration
Egypt	1986	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Egypt	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Social contract survey	Illiterate persons were those persons who had not completed primary education and that could not read or write	Household declaration
El Salvador	1992	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
El Salvador	2006	National observed data	MICS	Literates are all the people aged 10 or older who know how to read and to write	Household declaration
Equatorial Guinea	2000	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Eritrea

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Estonia	1989	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Estonia	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	“Illiterate” was recorded for a person who had not completed the level corresponding to primary education and who cannot, with understanding, both read and write a simple text on his/her everyday life at least in one language	Household declaration
Ethiopia	1994	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Ethiopia	2004	National observed data	Welfare Monitoring survey	A literate is anybody who passed the test of reading and writing	Self-declaration
Fiji	...	...	...	...	...
Finland	...	...	...	...	...
France	...	...	...	...	...
Gabon	1993	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Gabon	2006	UIS Estimate	1993 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Gambia	...	...	...	...	...
Georgia	...	...	...	...	...
Germany	...	...	...	...	...
Ghana	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	Literacy is the ability to read and write any language with understanding. The languages in question are English and Ghanaian languages	Household declaration
Greece	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Greece	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	Literacy is defined as the ability both to read and to write	Household declaration
Grenada	...	...	...	...	...
Guatemala	1994	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration

Country	Year	Type of data	Data Source	Literacy Definition	Mode
Guatemala	2006	UIS Estimate	2002 Population Census	Literate: a person who can read and write in a specific language. This capacity includes persons who are aged 7+	Household declaration
Guinea	2003	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Guinea-Bissau	...	...	...	...	...
Guyana	...	...	...	...	...
Haiti	...	...	...	...	...
Honduras	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	Literate refers to those who can read and write	Household declaration
Hong Kong (China)	...	...	...	...	...
Hungary	...	...	...	...	...
Iceland	...	...	...	...	...
India	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
India	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	A Literate is a person aged 7+ who can both read and write with understanding in any language	Household declaration
Indonesia	1990	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his everyday life	Household declaration
Indonesia	2006	UIS Estimate	2004 National socio-Economic Survey	A literate is someone who can read and write at least a simple sentence in Bahasa Indonesia	Self-declaration
Iran, Islamic Republic of	1991	National observed data	Multi-Round Population Survey	...	Self-declaration
Iran, Islamic Republic of	2006	UIS Estimate	2005 Labour force survey	Literates are all persons who can read and write a text in Farsi (Persian) or in any other language, whether or not they had an educational certificate, and all students including those in the first year of elementary school or in literacy campaign	Self-declaration
Iraq	2000	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Ireland

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Israel
Italy	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	Literacy is defined as the ability both to read and to write	Household declaration
Jamaica	2006	UIS Estimate	1999 Jamaica Adult Literacy survey	Illiterate persons are those considered to have a very limited knowledge of the alphabetic system and so may be able to identify (read) a few frequently used words but cannot understand a group of words in a phrase or a sentence. Such persons may write a few letters of the alphabet	Self-declaration
Japan	...	...	...	...	...
Jordan	2006	UIS Estimate	2005 Employment and Unemployment Survey	...	...
Kazakhstan	1989	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Kazakhstan	2006	UIS Estimate	1999 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Kenya	2000	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Kiribati	...	...	...	...	...
Kuwait	1985	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on hi/her everyday life	Household declaration
Kuwait	2006	National observed data	Labour force survey	A literate is a person aged 15 and over who can read or write in any language either his original language or the language of the countryh he/she is from	...
Kyrgyzstan	2006	UIS Estimate	1999 Population Census	The literate population is those aged 6+ who are able to read and write or only to read	Household declaration
Lao PDR	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 National Literacy Survey	A literate person was defined as a person who can read, write and understand simple sentences in Lao, and perform simple arithmetic calculations (numeracy). All household members aged 6+ were asked whether they can read, write and perform simple calculations	Self-declaration

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Latvia	1989	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Latvia	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	A person is illiterate who cannot, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement or a person who can read but not write	Household declaration
Lebanon	...	...	...	...	...
Lesotho	2001	National observed data	Demographic survey	Literates are persons who can read and write	Self-declaration
Liberia	1994	UIS Estimate	1984 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Liberia	2006	UIS Estimate	1984 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1994	UIS Estimate	1984 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	2006	UIS Estimate	1984 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Liechtenstein	...	...	...	...	...
Lithuania	1989	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Lithuania	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	Literate (no formal schooling) is a person who does not attend school but can read (with understanding) and/or write a simple sentence on topics of everyday life	Household declaration
Luxembourg	...	...	...	...	...
Macao, China	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Madagascar	2000	UIS Estimate	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Malawi	1987	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration

Country	Year	Type of data	Data Source	Literacy Definition	Mode
Malawi	2006	UIS Estimate	1998 Population Census	Literates are persons able to write and read English, chichewa or other language	Household declaration
Malaysia	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Malaysia	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	Illiterates are persons aged 10+ who have never been to school in any language	Household declaration
Maldives	1990	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Maldives	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	A literate is a person who can read and write with understanding in any language: Maldivian language (Dhivehi), English, Arabic, etc.	Household declaration
Mali	2006	UIS Estimate	1998 Population Census	An illiterate is a person who never attended school even if that person can read and write	Household declaration
Malta	1985	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Malta	2006	UIS Estimate	1995 Population Census	Literacy is defined as the ability both to read and to write. A person, who can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life is literate. A person who cannot, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life is illiterate	Household declaration
Marshall Islands	...	...	...	...	...
Mauritania	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	Literates are all persons who are able to read and write in the language specified	Household declaration
Mauritius	1990	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Mauritius	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	A person was considered as literate if he/she was able, with understanding, to both read and write a simple statement in his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Mexico	1990	National observed data	Population Census	A person was considered as literate if he/she was able, with understanding, to both read and write a simple statement in his/her everyday life	Household declaration

Country	Year	Type of data	Data Source	Literacy Definition	Mode
Mexico	2006	National observed data	National Survey of Household Income and Expense	Literacy: Situation that distinguishes all people aged 15+, according to whether they can read and write a brief message or not. A literate is a person 15+ who can read and write a brief message. An illiterate is a person 15+ who can not read and write a brief message	Self-declaration
Micronesia (Federal State of)	...	...	...	...	...
Monaco	...	...	...	...	...
Mongolia	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	Literacy is the ability to read and write simple statements in Mongolian or any other language with understanding	Household declaration
Montenegro	...	...	...	...	...
Montserrat	...	...	...	...	...
Morocco	1994	National observed data	Population Census	A person was considered as literate if he/she was able, with understanding, to both read and write a simple statement in his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Morocco	2006	UIS Estimate	2004 Population Census	A literate is any individual "able to read and write, with understanding, a simple and short statement related to his/her daily life". The reference population is those aged 10+.	Household declaration
Mozambique	2006	UIS Estimate	1997 Population Census	A person was considered as literate if he/she was able, with understanding, to both read and write a simple statement in his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Myanmar	2006	UIS Estimate	MICS 2000	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Namibia	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person was considered as literate if he/she was able, with understanding, to both read and write a simple statement in his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Namibia	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	Literacy is the ability to write and read with understanding in any language. Persons who could read and not write were classified as non-literate. Similarly, persons who were able to write and not read were classified as non-literate	Household declaration
Nauru	...	...	...	...	...
Nepal	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person was considered as literate if he/she was able, with understanding, to both read and write a simple statement in his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Nepal	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	A person age 6+ who can read and write a simple letter, with understanding, in any language and have simple knowledge of arithmetic is considered as literate	Household declaration

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Netherlands Antilles	1992	National observed data	Population Census	A person was considered as literate if he/she was able, with understanding, to both read and write a simple statement in his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Netherlands Antilles	2006	UIS Estimate	1992 Population Census	A person was considered as literate if he/she was able, with understanding, to both read and write a simple statement in his/her everyday life	Household declaration
New Zealand	...	...	...	...	...
Nicaragua	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	A literate is a person who can read and write; an illiterate is a person who can only read or who cannot read and write	Self-declaration
Niger	2006	UIS Estimate	2005 Survey on Basic Indicators of Well-being	A literate is a person who knows how to read and write in any language	Self-declaration
Nigeria	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person was considered as literate if he/she was able, with understanding, to both read and write a simple statement in his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Nigeria	2006	UIS Estimate	1991 Population Census	A person was considered as literate if he/she was able, with understanding, to both read and write a simple statement in his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Niue	...	...	...	...	...
Norway	...	...	...	...	...
Oman	2006	UIS Estimate	2003 Population Labour Force Survey	A literate is an individual who is capable of both reading and writing but does not hold an academic qualification of any kind	Household declaration
Pakistan	2006	National observed data	Labour Force Survey	A literate is one who can read newspaper and write a simple letter in any language	Self-declaration
Palau	...	...	...	...	...
Palestinian Autonomous Territories	2006	UIS Estimate	2004 Labour force survey	A literate person is one who can both read and write a short, simple statement on his or her everyday life	Self-declaration
Panama	1990	National observed data	Population Census	A person was considered as literate if he/she was able, with understanding, to both read and write a simple statement in his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Panama	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	Literacy is the person's aptitude to read and to write in any language	Household declaration
Papua New Guinea	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	A literate is a person who can read and write, with understanding, at least one language (English, Motu, or Tokples)	Household declaration

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Paraguay	1992	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Paraguay	2006	UIS Estimate	1992 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Peru	1993	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Peru	2006	National observed data	MICS	A literate is a person aged 15+ who declares that he/she can read and write	Household declaration
Philippines	1990	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Philippines	2006	UIS Estimate	2003 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey	Basic and simple literacy is the ability of a person to read and write, with understanding, a simple message in any language or dialect	Household/ Self-declaration
Poland	...	...	...	...	...
Portugal	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Portugal	2006	UIS Estimate	1991 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Qatar	1986	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Qatar	2006	UIS Estimate	2004 Population Census	Literacy is the ability to read and write	...
Republic of Korea	...	...	...	...	...
Republic of Moldova	1989	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration

Country	Year	Type of data	Data Source	Literacy Definition	Mode
Republic of Moldova	2006	UIS Estimate	1989 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Romania	1992	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Romania	2006	UIS Estimate	2002 Population Census	A person aged 10+ who graduated from an educational institution , or who didn't graduate from any educational institution but is attending one, or is able to read and write is considered as a literate person. A person of 10+ who is not able to read and write, or is able to read or write only is an illiterate person	Household declaration
Russian Federation	1989	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Russian Federation	2006	UIS Estimate	2002 Population Census	Persons having indicated some level of literacy were considered as literate. Persons, who have indicated that they are unable to read and write, were considered as illiterate	Household declaration
Rwanda	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Rwanda	2000	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Saint Kitts and Nevis	...	...	...	...	...
Saint Lucia	...	...	...	...	...
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	...	...	...	...	...
Samoa	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Samoa	2006	UIS Estimate	1991 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
San Marino	...	...	...	...	...
Sao Tome and Principe	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration

Country	Year	Type of data	Data Source	Literacy Definition	Mode
Sao Tome and Principe	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Saudi Arabia	1992	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Saudi Arabia	2006	UIS Estimate	2004 Population Census	A person is considered literate if he/she can read and write in any language. A blind person is considered literate if he/she can read and write the 'Brail' method	Self-declaration
Senegal	1988	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Senegal	2006	UIS Estimate	2002 Household Survey	Literate: persons who are able to read and write in any language	Self-declaration
Serbia	...	...	...	...	...
Seychelles	1994	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Seychelles	2002	National observed data	Population Census	Literacy is the ability to read or write a simple sentence in English, French or Creole	Household declaration
Sierra Leone	2006	UIS Estimate	2004 Population Census	Literacy was defined as the ability to read and write in any language	Household declaration
Singapore	1990	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Singapore	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	Literacy refers to a person's ability to read with understanding, e.g. a newspaper, in the language specified	Household declaration
Slovakia	...	...	...	...	...
Slovenia	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Slovenia	2006	UIS Estimate	1991 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Solomon Islands	...	...	...	...	...

Country	Year	Type of data	Data Source	Literacy Definition	Mode
Somalia	...	...	...	...	...
South Africa	2006	UIS Estimate	1996 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Spain	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Spain	2006	UIS Estimate	1991 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Sri Lanka	2006	National observed data	Labour Force Survey	A person who can both read and write with understanding a short statement is considered as "Literate". A person who can read and write only his name, figures or memorised phrase should not be considered as "Literate".	Self-declaration
Sudan	2000	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Suriname	2006	UIS Estimate	2004 Population Census	A person is considered literate if he/she can write a simple note or phrase	Household declaration
Swaziland	1986	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Swaziland	2000	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Sweden	...	...	...	...	...
Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...
Syrian Arab Republic	2006	UIS Estimate	2004 Population Census	A literate is an individual male or female capable of reading and writing in Arabic	Household declaration
Tajikistan	1989	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Tajikistan	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	Literates are persons who can write and read regardless of the language	Household declaration

Country	Year	Type of data	Data Source	Literacy Definition	Mode
Thailand	2006	UIS Estimate	2000 Population Census	Literate persons are defined as persons aged 5+ who are able to read and write simple statements with understanding, in any language. If a person can read but cannot write, then he/she is classified as illiterate	Household declaration
The FYR of Macedonia	1994	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
The FYR of Macedonia	2006	UIS Estimate	2002 Population Census	Each person having completed more than three grades of primary school shall be considered literate. In addition, a person without school qualification and with one to three grades of primary school will be considered literate if he/she can read and write a composition (text) in relation to everyday life (i.e. read and write a letter regardless of the language and alphabet he/she uses). However, if the person without education or with completed one to three grades of primary school cannot read and write a composition (text) about everyday life, i.e. read and write a letter, he/she will be considered illiterate	Household declaration
Timor-Leste	...	...	...	...	...
Togo	2000	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Tokelau	...	...	...	...	...
Tonga	2006	UIS Estimate	1996 Population Census	For a person to be considered as literate in a language, that person must be able to read and write in that Language	Household declaration
Trinidad and Tobago	1990	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Trinidad and Tobago	2006	UIS Estimate	1990 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Tunisia	2006	UIS Estimate	2004 Population Census	Literate is a person who knows how to read and write at least one language	Household declaration
Turkey	1990	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Turkey	2006	National observed data	Labour Force Survey	A literate is a person who know both how to read and write	Self-declaration

Country	Year	Type of data	Data Source	Literacy Definition	Mode
Turkmenistan	2006	UIS Estimate	1995 Population Census	Literate are persons aged 7+ who are able to write and read	Household declaration
Turks and Caicos Islands	...	...	...	...	...
Tuvalu	...	...	...	...	...
Uganda	1991	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Uganda	2006	UIS Estimate	2002 Population Census	Literacy is the ability to meaningfully write or read with understanding in any language	Household declaration
Ukraine	2006	UIS Estimate	2001 Population Census	2001 Population Census: A person who has any level of education or can read (for 6 year old people and older)	Household declaration
United Arab Emirates	1985	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
United Arab Emirates	2006	UIS Estimate	1985 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	...
United Republic of Tanzania	1988	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
United Republic of Tanzania	2006	UIS Estimate	2002 Population Census	Literacy is defined as the ability both to read and to write with understanding, a short, simple statement on everyday life. The ability to read and write may be in any language	Household declaration
United States of America	...	...	...	...	...
Uruguay	1985	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Uruguay	2006	National observed data	National Household Survey	A literate is a person who knows how to read and write (both things), at least one complete paragraph	Household declaration
Uzbekistan	2000	UIS Estimate	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Vanuatu	...	...	...	...	...

Country	Year	Type of data	Data Source	Literacy Definition	Mode
Venezuela	1990	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Venezuela	2001	National observed data	Population Census	...	...
Viet Nam	1989	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Viet Nam	1999	National observed data	Population Census	A literate is a person who knows how to read and write with understanding simple sentences in his/her national or ethnic language or foreign language	...
Yemen	1994	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Yemen	2006	UIS Estimate	1994 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Zambia	1990	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Zambia	1999	National observed data	MICS	Literacy is defined as the ability to read easily or with difficulty a letter or a newspaper	Self-declaration
Zimbabwe	1992	National observed data	Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Zimbabwe	2006	UIS Estimate	1992 Population Census	A person is defined as literate if he/she can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement on his/her everyday life	Household declaration
Symbols Used:					
MICS: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (UNICEF: http://www.unicef.org/statistics)					
... Missing information					