

Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALL)

The entity that has organized the survey and is responsible for data collection – as well as key data on the entity's membership, governance arrangements, source of funding etc.

The Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALL) was co-ordinated by several different bodies, including:

- the Statistics Canada and Educational Testing Service (ETS)
- the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the U.S. Department of Education
- the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (OREALC)
- the Institute for Statistics (UIS) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

Financing was provided by the Canadian and U.S. governments (SC & OECD 2005: 15).

A historical sketch of the initiation and origin of the survey

The ALL was built on the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) which was conducted between 1994 and 1998.

Internet links to the website of the responsible organization

[The website of the ETS](#)

[The website of the NCES](#)

[The website of the OECD](#)

[The website of the UIS](#)

[The website of the ALL Survey](#)

The frequency or repetitions of the survey. Possible explanation of this.

ALL was conducted first in 2003 and then had a second round between 2006-2008. No more rounds are planned.

A description of the survey's content, i.e. both focused rotational and / or core modules of the survey

The survey focuses on information about the skills of the adult populations of the participating countries. Especially literacy and numeracy skills were emphasized, but also measures of problem-solving skills and the familiarity with IT and communication technologies. All these skills were then related to economic, social and personal characteristics of the respondents.

An outline of the type of sample and the main data collection methods used

Nationally representative samples of 16- to 65-year olds in participating countries, ensured through a stratified multi-stage probability sample design. The recommended sample size in each official language was between 3,420 and 5,400. Institutionalized persons and non-civilians were excluded.

Data was collected face-to-face in the participants' homes. For more details on the administration of the survey, please [click here](#).

An account of the availability of the data to researchers, restrictions on access, etc.

There is no information about this on their website. Some of the national micro-data is accessible from some of the national statistical institutes.

Questionnaires, English version

[The Background Questionnaire of the ALL](#)

The countries included in the different rounds

Round 1, 2003: Bermuda, Canada, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, and the United States.

Round 2, 2006-08: Australia, Hungary, Netherlands, and New Zealand.

Cumulative file of the various rounds

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Publications based on the data

There is no list of publications based on the data, however two main texts are referred to; namely:

- [Learning a Living: First results of the adult literacy and life skills survey](#)
- Literacy for Life: Further results from the adult literacy and life skills survey (Statistics Canada and OECD 2011 – no link is provided)

Analytical summary...**Sources**

Unless otherwise noted, all information is extracted from the website of the ALL.

SC & OECD .(2005). *Learning a Living: First results of the adult literacy and life skills survey*. Statistics Canada and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Paris, accessible at <http://www.oecd.org/education/country-studies/34867438.pdf> [27.06.2013]