TIMSS 2011

TIMSS 2011 Target Populations

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As described in the **Sample Design in TIMSS and PIRLS**, the *international target populations* for the TIMSS 2011 fourth and eighth grade assessments were defined as the grades that represented 4 and 8 years of formal schooling, respectively, counting from the first year of primary or elementary schooling.[1] Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2 present the grades identified as the target grades for sampling by each country, and include the number of years of formal schooling that the grades represent and the average age of students in the target grades at the time of testing.

For most countries participating in TIMSS, the target grades did indeed turn out to be the grades with 4 and 8 years of schooling, i.e., fourth and eighth grades, respectively. However, in England, Malta, and New Zealand, children begin primary school at an early age. Therefore, these countries administered the TIMSS fourth grade assessment in the fifth year of schooling and England and New Zealand administered the TIMSS eighth grade assessment in the ninth year of schooling. Despite assessing a higher grade, the students in these countries were among the youngest in TIMSS 2011.

To provide a better match with the demands of the assessments, several countries, including Botswana, Honduras, Yemen, and South Africa, availed of the option to assess students at a higher grade. Botswana, Honduras, and Yemen administered the fourth grade assessment at sixth grade, and Botswana, Honduras, and South Africa administered the eighth grade assessment at ninth grade. Yemen also administered the fourth grade assessment at the fourth grade.

1 Given the cognitive demands of the assessments, TIMSS and PIRLS want to avoid assessing very young students. Thus, TIMSS recommends assessing the next higher grade (i.e., fifth grade for fourth grade TIMSS and ninth grade for eighth grade TIMSS) if, for fourth grade students, the average age at the time of testing would be less than 9.5 years and, for eighth grade students, less than 13.5 years.

Exhibit 1: National Grade Definitions - TIMSS 2011 - Fourth Grade

Country	Country's Name for Grade Tested	Years of Formal Schooling	Average Age at Time of Testing
Armenia	Grade 4	4	10.0
Australia	Year 4	4	10.0
Austria	Grade 4	4	10.3
Azerbaijan	Grade 4	4	10.2
Bahrain	Grade 4[1]	4	10.4
Belgium (Flemish)	Grade 4	4	10.0
Chile	Grade 4	4	10.1
Chinese Taipei	Grade 4	4	10.2
Croatia	Grade 4	4	10.7
Czech Republic	Grade 4	4	10.4
Denmark	Grade 4	4	11.0
England	Year 5	5	10.2
Finland	Grade 4	4	10.8
Georgia	Grade 4	4	10.0
Germany	Grade 4	4	10.4
Hong Kong SAR	Primary 4	4	10.1
Hungary	Grade 4	4	10.7
Iran, Islamic Rep. Of	Grade 4	4	10.2
Ireland	Fourth Class	4	10.3
Italy	Grade 4	4	9.7
Japan	Grade 4	4	10.5
Kazakhstan	Grade 4	4	10.4
Korea, Repubic of	Grade 4	4	10.4
Kuwait	Grade 4	4	9.7
Lithuania	Grade 4	4	10.7
Malta	Year 5	5	9.8
Morocco	Grade 4	4	10.5
Netherlands	Group 6	4	10.2
New Zealand	Year 5[2]	4.5 - 5.5	9.9
Northern Ireland	Year 6	4	10.4
Norway	Grade 4 (4. trinn)	4	9.7
Oman	Grade 4	4	9.9
Poland	Grade 3	4	9.9
Portugal	Grade 4	4	10.0
Qatar	Grade 4	4	10.0
Romania	Grade 4	4	10.9
Russian Federation	Grade 4	4	10.8

Exhibit1: National Grade Definitions - TIMSS 2011 - Fourth Grade (Continued)

Country	Country's Name for Grade Tested	Years of Formal Schooling	Average Age at Time of Testing
Saudi Arabia	Grade 4	4	10.0
Serbia	Grade 4	4	10.8
Singapore	Primary 4	4	10.4
Slovak Republic	Grade 4	4	10.4
Slovenia	Grade 4	4	9.9
Spain	Year 4	4	9.8
Sweden	Grade 4	4	10.7
Thailand	Primary 4	4	10.5
Tunisia	Year 4 of primary education	4	10.0
Turkey	Grade 4	4	10.1
United Arab Emirates	Grade 4	4	9.8
United States	Grade 4	4	10.2
Yemen	Grade 4	4	11.2
Sixth Grade Participants			
Botswana	Standard 6	6	12.8
Honduras	Grade 6	6	12.7
Yemen	Grade 6	6	13.2
Benchmarking Participants			
Alberta Province, Canada	Grade 4	4	9.9
Ontario Province, Canada	Grade 4	4	9.8
Quebec Province, Canada	Grade 4	4	10.1
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	Grade 4	4	9.7
Dubai, United Arab Emirates	Grade 4	4	9.8
Florida, United States	Grade 4	4	10.4
North Carolina, United States	Grade 4	4	10.2

1 Bahrain assessed the same cohort of students as other countries, but in October 2011 at the beginning of the next school year.

2 New Zealand administered the TIMSS fourth grade assessment in October 2011, one year later than other southern hemisphere countries.

Exhibit 2: National Grade Definitions - TIMSS 2011 - Eighth Grade

Country	Country's Name for Grade Tested	Years of Formal Schooling	Average Age at Time of Testing
Armenia	Grade 9[1]	8	14.6
Australia	Year 8	8	14.0
Bahrain	2nd Intermediate[2]	8	14.4
Chile	Grade 8	8	14.2
Chinese Taipei	Grade 8	8	14.2
England	Year 9	9	14.2
Finland	Grade 8	8	14.8
Georgia	Grade 8	8	14.2
Ghana	Junior High School Form 2	8	15.8

Exhibit 2: National Grade Definitions - TIMSS 2011 - Eighth Grade (Continued)

Country	Country's Name for Grade Tested	Years of Formal Schooling	Average Age at Time of Testing
Hong Kong SAR	Secondary 2	8	14.2
Hungary	Grade 8	8	14.7
Indonesia	Grade 8	8	14.3
Iran, Islamic Rep. Of	Grade 8	8	14.3
Israel	Grade 8	8	14.0
Italy	Grade 8	8	13.8
Japan	Grade 8	8	14.5
Jordan	Grade 8	8	13.9
Kazakhstan	Grade 8	8	14.6
Korea, Repubic of	Grade 8	8	14.3
Lebanon	Grade 8	8	14.3
Lithuania	Grade 8	8	14.7
Macedonia, Republic of	Grade 8	8	14.7
Malaysia	Form 2	8	14.4
Morocco	Grade 8	8	14.7
New Zealand	Year 9	8.5 - 9.5	14.1
Norway	Grade 8 (8. trinn)	8	13.7
Oman	Grade 8	8	14.1
Palestinian Natl Auth.	Grade 8	8	13.9
Qatar	Grade 8	8	14.0
Romania	Grade 8	8	14.9
Russian Federation	Grade 8	8	14.7
Saudi Arabia	Intermediate Year 2	8	14.1
Singapore	Secondary 2	8	14.4
Slovenia	Grade 8	8	13.9
Sweden	Grade 8	8	14.8
Syrian Arab Republic	Grade 8	8	13.9
Thailand	Middle School 2	8	14.3
Tunisia	Year 8 of basic education	8	14.3
Turkey	Grade 8	8	14.0
Ukraine	Grade 8	8	14.2
United Arab Emirates	Grade 8	8	13.9
United States	Grade 8	8	14.2
Out of Grade Participants			
Botswana	Form 2	9	15.8
Honduras	Grade 9	9	15.7
South Africa	Grade 9	9	16.0
Benchmarking Participants			
Alberta Province, Canada	Grade 8	8	13.9
Ontario Province, Canada	Grade 8	8	13.8
Quebec Province, Canada	Secondary 2	8	14.2
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	Grade 8	8	13.8

Exhibit 2: National Grade Definitions - TIMSS 2011 - Eighth Grade (Continued)

Country	Country's Name for Grade Tested	Years of Formal Schooling	Average Age at Time of Testing
Dubai, United Arab Emirates	Grade 8	8	13.9
Alabama, United States	Grade 8	8	14.4
California, United States	Grade 8	8	14.1
Colorado, United States	Grade 8	8	14.2
Connecticut, United States	Grade 8	8	14.1
Florida, United States	Grade 8	8	14.4
Indiana, United States	Grade 8	8	14.4
Massachusetts, United States	Grade 8	8	14.2
Minnesota, United States	Grade 8	8	14.3
North Carolina, United States	Grade 8	8	14.2

1 Armenia in 2011 was in the process of adding an extra grade to compulsory schooling and starting primary school one year earlier than previously. As part of the transition, many of the students in grade 9 in 2011 had skipped a grade and gone directly from grade 3 to grade 5. Accordingly, Grade 9 was assessed as the eighth year of formal schooling. However, this grade contained students with either 8 or 9 years of schooling.

2 Bahrain assessed the same cohort of students as other countries, but in October 2011 at the beginning of the next school year.