TAKEAWAYS

- Trinidad and Tobago participated for the second time in the PISA assessments, and its average performance is third in the region (out of 9 countries with valid results) behind Chile and Uruguay. Since 2009 the country has made notable improvements in science, this year’s main assessment area, and in reading (see Figure 1).
- However, the achievement gap between Trinidad and Tobago and OECD countries is the equivalent of slightly more than two years of schooling (Figure 2).
- As in other countries in the region, poverty is a large predictor of achievement. Students in the bottom quintile by socioeconomic status (ESCS) score close to three years of schooling below those in the top quintile (Figure 4).
- As in other parts of the Caribbean, male underachievement is a stubborn challenge tied to student motivation and educational relevance, and, in the case of Trinidad and Tobago, relatively attractive low-skill jobs in the petrochemical industry. Males in Trinidad and Tobago perform about two thirds of a year of schooling below females in science (Figure 4), and this disparity is the fourth largest among all 72 PISA participants.
- Males are overrepresented among low achievers in all subjects. In science, for example, 51 percent for males score below the basic level of proficiency, compared to 41 percent of females. In reading, the contrast is starker: 52 percent below proficient for males and only 33 percent for females—see Figure 3 for aggregate results.

PISA: Program for International Student Assessment
PISA is the OECD’s benchmarking tool to assess achievement and application of key knowledge and skills of 15-year-olds. Launched in 2000 and administered every three years, PISA tests proficiency in mathematics, reading, science, and problem-solving. In 2015, representative samples from 72 countries and economies (9 LCR client countries) included 540,000 students.

† Statistically significant change

1 Chile is included for comparison as the LCR country with the highest score in 2015

* LCR-6 includes the six countries in the region with results from 2009 to 2015
Latin America & Caribbean Region

Figure 3
STUDENT PERFORMANCE

- High Proficiency
- Basic Proficiency
- Below Basic Proficiency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Science</td>
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<td>Reading</td>
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Figure 4
EQUITY PROFILE

- Top 20% ESCS
- Bottom 20% ESCS
- Urban
- Rural
- Preschool (2+ years)
- Preschool (0 or 1 year)
- Males
- Females

Clear bars represent LCR averages

Figure 5
GDP PER CAPITA AND PISA PERFORMANCE

- WESTERN EUROPE, US & CANADA
- EAST ASIA & PACIFIC
- EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA
- LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN
- MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

GDP Per capita in 2015 or latest, PPP (constant 2011 USD); World Bank ICP

Figure 6
ANALYTICAL: Education Chapter in Trinidad & Tobago PER (also covers Health and Labor), planned for delivery in August 2017