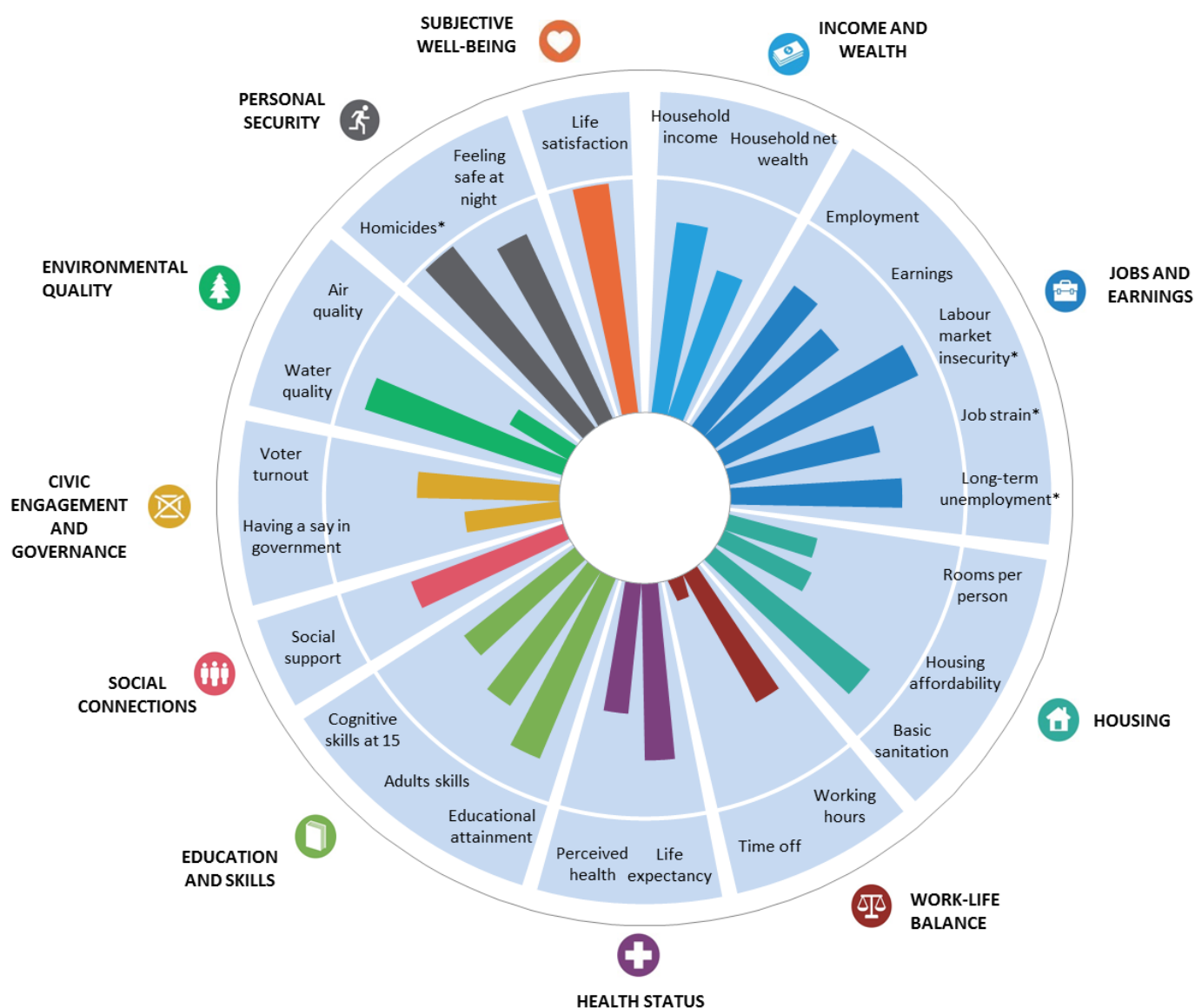


How's Life in Austria?

Austria performs close to the OECD average in many well-being dimensions, and exceeds it in several cases. For example, in 2015, **household net adjusted disposable income** was in the top tier of the OECD, and **labour market insecurity** was relatively low. However, Austrian full-time employees reported having less **time off** (i.e. time spent on leisure and personal care) than in most other OECD countries. While on average 93% of Austrians were satisfied with **water quality** in the period 2014-16, **air quality** (assessed in terms of PM_{2.5} air pollution) was among the bottom tier of OECD countries. In terms of health status, 70% of Austrians **perceived their health** as “good” or “very good”, close to the OECD average of 69%, and **life expectancy at birth** is 81 years, one year more than the OECD average. **Personal security** and **life satisfaction** are also areas of comparative strength, with Austria falling in the top third of OECD countries across these measures.

Austria's average level of current well-being: Comparative strengths and weaknesses



































Note: This chart shows Austria's relative strengths and weaknesses in well-being when compared with other OECD countries. For both positive and negative indicators (such as homicides, marked with an "*"), longer bars always indicate better outcomes (i.e. higher well-being), whereas shorter bars always indicate worse outcomes (i.e. lower well-being). If data are missing for any given indicator, the relevant segment of the circle is shaded in white.

Additional information, including the data used in this country note, can be found at:


www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2017-country-notes-data.xlsx


Change in Austria's average well-being over the past 10 years

Dimension	Description	Change
 Income and wealth	<p>In Austria, household net adjusted disposable income is, in real terms, at a level very similar to that in 2005. Over the decade, it peaked in 2008 and has gradually fallen since, despite some recovery in 2012. Household net wealth remained relatively stable between 2010 and 2014 in Austria.</p>	 
 Jobs and earnings	<p>After a sharp increase from 2005 to 2008, the employment rate has risen steadily since 2009, and is now 4 percentage points higher than in 2005. Although earnings have also risen, they peaked in 2009, fell slightly during the crisis, and resumed growth in 2012. Labour market insecurity and long-term unemployment levels have both climbed since 2005, and while the former has shown signs of progress in recent years, the latter has gone up by more than half since reaching its lowest point of the decade in 2008. The share of employees experiencing job strain has remained relatively stable over the past decade.</p>	    
 Housing conditions	<p>The number of rooms per person in Austria has decreased very slightly since 2005-10, and remains just below the OECD average. Housing has become less affordable since 2005, with the share of household disposable income spent on housing costs up by 1 percentage point. The percentage of people living without basic sanitary facilities has meanwhile remained stably low at just 1%.</p>	  
 Work-life balance	<p>Over the past decade there has been a large fall in the percentage of employees working 50 hours or more per week, from 11% in 2005 to 6.8% in 2016.</p>	
 Health status	<p>Despite a slight fall between 2014 and 2015, life expectancy at birth has increased overall by 1.9 years since 2005. On the other hand, perceived health status has remained relatively stable over the past decade.</p>	 
 Education and skills	<p>The share of adults with at least an upper secondary level of education increased at a steady pace, with current levels 7.6 percentage points higher than in 2005.</p>	
 Social connections	<p>The percentage of people who have relatives or friends whom they can count on to help in case of need is, at 91%, similar to the level reported 10 years previously.</p>	
 Civic engagement	<p>Voter turnout among the population registered to vote decreased by almost 4 percentage points between the 2006 and 2013 parliamentary elections in Austria.</p>	
 Environmental quality	<p>The percentage of people satisfied with local water quality in Austria has been among the highest in the OECD over the last decade, with little change since 2005. Between 2005 and 2011, air pollution in Austria showed signs of sustained improvement, with levels of exposure to PM_{2.5} concentrations falling by 8%. However, they have since picked up again, almost returning to the previous (2005) high.</p>	 
 Personal security	<p>The rate of deaths due to assault has halved in Austria compared to 2005. The proportion of people who feel safe when walking alone at night has increased gradually, from 75% in 2005-2007 to 81% in 2014-16.</p>	 
 Subjective well-being	<p>Current life satisfaction levels in Austria are very similar to those reported a decade earlier. Despite a cumulative improvement of 0.4 scale points (on a 0-10 scale) up to 2013, this indicator has since dropped back to 2005 levels in the last 3 years.</p>	


Note: For each indicator in every dimension: ↗ refers to an improvement; ↔ indicates little or no change; and ↘ signals deterioration. This is based on a comparison of the starting year (2005 in most cases) and the latest available year (usually 2015 or 2016). The order of the arrows shown in column three corresponds to that of the indicators mentioned in column two.


Austria's resources and risks for future well-being: Illustrative indicators

 Natural capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Greenhouse gas emissions from domestic production	2	↗ 2005-2015
CO ₂ emissions from domestic consumption	3	↔ 2001-2011
Exposure to PM _{2.5} air pollution	3	↔ 2005-2013
Forest area	2	↔ 2005-2014
Renewable freshwater resources	2	.. Long-term annual avg
Threatened birds	3	.. Latest available
Threatened mammals	3	.. Latest available
Threatened plants	3	.. Latest available
No data available on freshwater abstractions.		

 Economic capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Produced fixed assets	1	↗ 2005-2015
Gross fixed capital formation	1	↗ 2005-2016
Financial net worth of total economy	2	↗ 2005-2016
Intellectual property assets	1	↗ 2005-2015
Investment in R&D	1	↗ 2005-2015
Household debt	2	↔ 2005-2015
Household net wealth	1	↔ 2010-2014
Financial net worth of government	2	↘ 2005-2015
Banking sector leverage	1	↔ 2005-2015

1	Top-performing OECD tier, latest available year
2	Middle-performing OECD tier, latest available year
3	Bottom-performing OECD tier, latest available year

 Human capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Young adult educational attainment	2	↗ 2005-2016
Educational expectancy	2	.. 2015
Cognitive skills at age 15	2	.. 2015
Adult skills	2	.. 2011/2012
Long-term unemployment	2	↘ 2005-2016
Life expectancy at birth	2	↗ 2005-2015
Smoking prevalence	3	↘ 2006-2014
Obesity prevalence	1	↘ 2006-2014

 Social capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Trust in others	2	.. 2013
Trust in the police	1	.. 2013
Trust in the national government	2	↘ 2005-2016
Voter turnout	2	↘ 2006-2013
Government stakeholder engagement	3	.. 2014
Volunteering through organisations	1	.. 2011/2012

↗	Improving over time
↘	Worsening over time
↔	No change
..	No data available

HOW LARGE ARE WELL-BEING INEQUALITIES IN AUSTRIA?

What is inequality and how is it measured? Measuring inequality means trying to describe **how unevenly distributed** outcomes are in society. *How's Life? 2017* adopts several different approaches:

- Measures of “**vertical**” inequalities address how unequally outcomes are spread across all people in society – for example, by looking at the size of the gap between people at the bottom of the distribution and people at the top.
- Measures of “**horizontal**” inequalities focus on the gap between population groups defined by specific characteristics (such as men and women, young and old, people with higher and lower levels of education).
- Measures of “**deprivation**” report the share of people who live below a certain level of well-being (such as those who face income poverty or live in an overcrowded household).

Austria has mixed outcomes in terms of **vertical inequalities**, even within the same well-being dimension. For instance, although the distribution of household income is more equal than in many OECD countries, it isn't for household wealth. In terms of education, while the gaps in cognitive skills at age 15 are large compared to those in other OECD countries, the differences in adult skills are comparatively small.

The **gender divide** in Austria is comparatively large for a variety of indicators. For example, Austrian women are more than twice as likely as men to be employed in low paid jobs. There are also comparatively large gender gaps (in favour of men) in educational attainment and adult skills - although 15-year-old girls in Austria perform better than boys in tests of cognitive skills.

In all OECD countries, **young people** are at disadvantage on the job market, compared to **middle-aged adults**. However, in Austria age-related gaps in both employment and unemployment are smaller than for the OECD on average. Nonetheless, young Austrians experience larger gaps than their peers in most OECD countries in terms of wealth and earnings.

In most OECD countries, people with a **tertiary education** tend to fare better than those with only a **secondary education** across a range of well-being outcomes. In Austria, this gap is often comparatively small – with the exception of net wealth, where it is one of the largest in the OECD.

Most indicators of **deprivation** for Austria are classified in the top or middle third of OECD countries, although in terms of incidence of overcrowding (12.7%), low cognitive skills at age 15 (13.5%) and low confidence in having a say in government (58.2%), the country is lagging behind the OECD average.

Well-being inequalities in Austria

		Vertical inequality	Horizontal inequality by			Deprivation
			Gender	Age	Education	
			Women relative to men	Young relative to middle-aged	Secondary relative to tertiary	
	Household income	●		●		●
	Household net wealth	●		●	●	●
	Earnings	●	●	●	●	
	Low pay		●			●
	Employment		●	●	●	
	Unemployment		●	●	●	●
	Housing affordability					●
	Rooms per person					●
	Life expectancy	●				
	Perceived health		●	●	●	●
	Working hours	●	●	●	●	●
	Time off		●	●		
	Educational attainment		●	●		●
	Cognitive skills at 15	●	●		●	●
	Adult skills	●	●	●	●	●
	Time spent socialising		●	●		
	Social support		●	●	●	●
	Voter turnout		●	●	●	●
	Having a say in government	●	●	●	●	●
	Air quality					●
	Water quality		●	●	●	●
	Homicides		●			●
	Feeling safe at night		●	●	●	●
	Life satisfaction	●	●	●	●	●
	Negative affect balance					●

Legend:

- top third of OECD countries
- middle third of OECD countries
- bottom third of OECD countries
- data gaps
- no measures

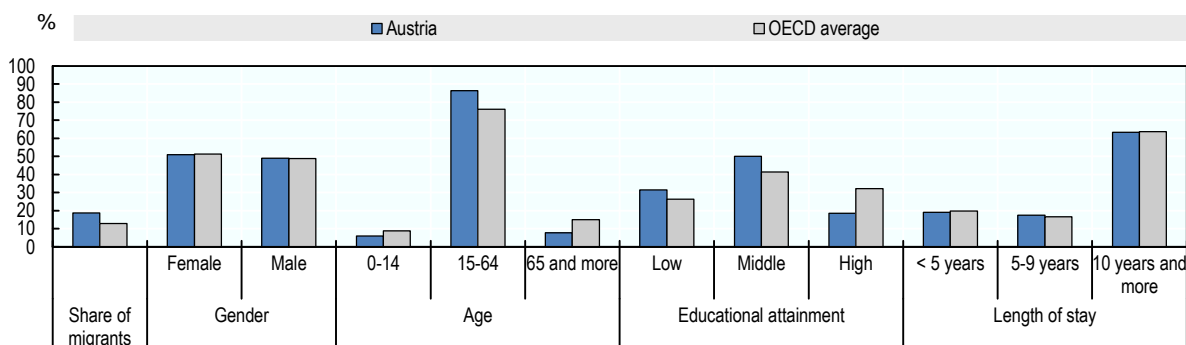
HOW'S LIFE FOR MIGRANTS IN AUSTRIA?

Migrants (defined as people living in a different country from the one in which they were born) represent an important share of the population in most OECD countries. Capturing information about their well-being is critical for gaining a fuller picture of how life is going, and whether it is going equally well for all members of society.

Who are the migrants in Austria and OECD?

One in five people living in Austria (19%) were born elsewhere, above the OECD average (13%), and 51% of them are women (the same as the OECD average). Migrants in Austria are more likely to be of working age than in the OECD on average (86% of them are aged 15 to 64, as compared to 76% across the OECD), and they are more likely to have a middle educational attainment than a low or a high level. Two in three migrants arrived in Austria ten years ago or more.

Share of migrants in the total population and selected characteristics

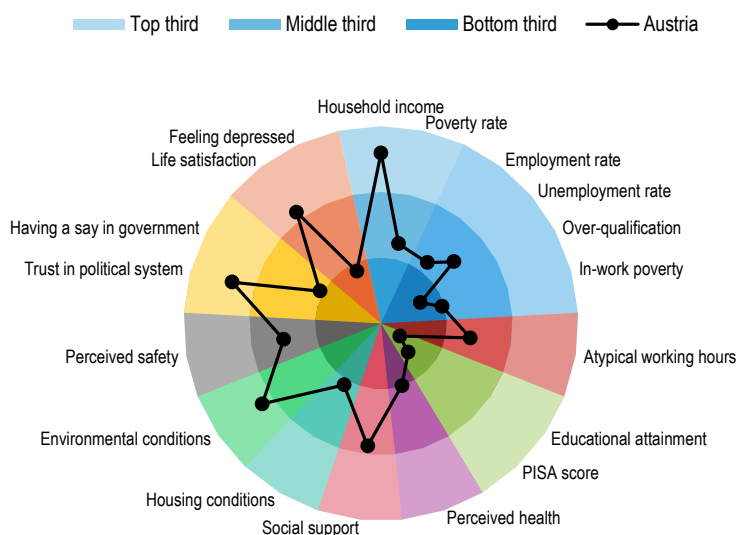


How is migrants' well-being in Austria?

Compared with the migrant populations of other OECD countries, migrants living in Austria have a relatively good situation regarding household income, trust in the political system, environmental conditions and life satisfaction. Moreover, migrants settled in Austria rank in the middle third of OECD-country migrants for 7 out of 17 selected well-being indicators. They are in the bottom third for over-qualification, in-work poverty, educational attainment, perceived health, PISA performance and feeling depressed.

As in many other OECD countries, migrants in Austria tend to experience lower well-being outcomes than the native-born population: in Austria, this is the case for 13 out of 15 selected well-being indicators. However, migrants in Austria are just as likely as the native-born to feel they have a say in government, while reporting a higher level of trust in the political system.

Comparing well-being outcomes for migrants in Austria with the migrant populations of other OECD countries



Comparison of migrants' and native-born well-being in Austria

	Migrants have a worse situation	Same situation	Migrants have a better situation
Household income	▲		
Wealth	▲		
Physical health risks at work	▲		
Atypical working hours	▲		
Literacy scores	▲		
PISA score	▲		
Perceived health	▲		
Social support	▲		
Housing conditions	▲		
Environmental conditions	▲		
Perceived safety	▲		
Trust in political system			▲
Having a say in government		▲	
Life satisfaction	▲		
Feeling depressed	▲		

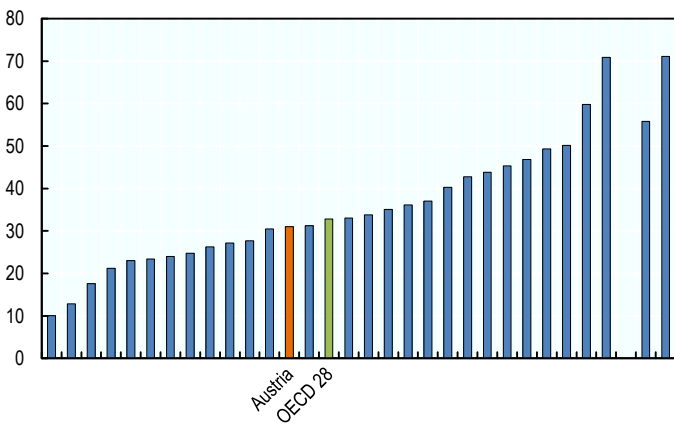
GOVERNANCE AND WELL-BEING IN AUSTRIA

Public institutions play an important role in well-being, both by guaranteeing that people's fundamental rights are protected, and by ensuring the provision of goods and services necessary for people to thrive and prosper. How people experience and engage with public institutions also matters: people's political voice, agency and representation are outcomes of value in their own right.

In Austria, 31% of the population feels that they have a say in what the government does, which is slightly lower than the OECD average of 33%. In recent years, voter turnout has fallen, from almost 79% in 2006, to 75% in 2013. When asked about whether or not corruption is widespread across government, 50% of Austrians answered "yes", as compared to an OECD average of 56%. Since around 2006, the share of people in the OECD who report that they have confidence in their national government has fallen from 42% to 38%.

Having a say in what the government does

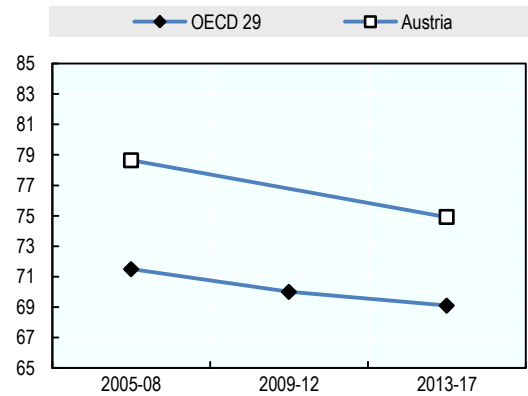
Percentage of people aged 16-65 who feel that they have a say in what the government does, around 2012



Source: OECD Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC database)

Voter turnout

Percentage of votes cast among the population registered to vote



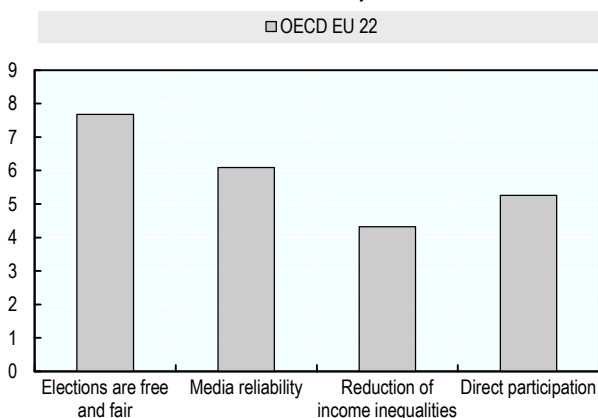
Note: Data refers to parliamentary elections. If more than one election took place over the time period indicated, the simple average voter turnout from all elections is shown. The OECD average sums elections that occurred over the time periods shown in 29 OECD countries.

Source: IDEA dataset

In the 22 European OECD countries where it can be assessed, satisfaction with democracy varies, depending on which aspect is considered. While Europeans tend to be reasonably satisfied with the way elections are held (7.7 on a 0-10 scale), they are relatively less satisfied with policies to reduce inequalities (4.3) or the existence of direct participation mechanisms at the local level (5.3). Meanwhile, satisfaction with public services varies according to whether people have used those services in the last year: people with direct recent experience of using health and education services tend to be more satisfied than those without. In Austria, while satisfaction with education services is very similar to the European OECD average level, that with health services is higher than average.

OECD EU average satisfaction with different elements of democracy

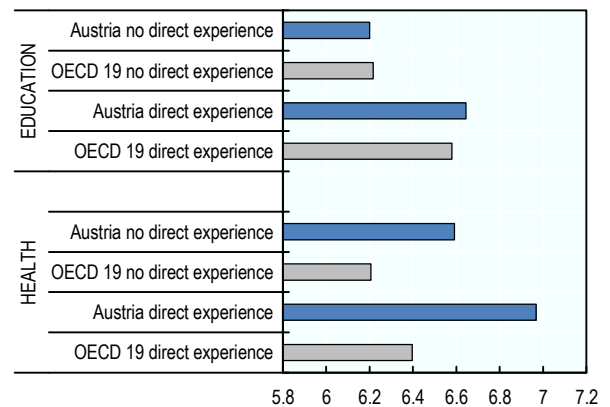
Mean score on a 0-10 scale, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction with elements of democracy, 2012



Source: OECD calculations based on wave 6 of the European Social Survey (ESS), special rotating module on citizens' valuations of different elements of democracy.

Satisfaction with public services by direct experience

Mean score on a 0-10 scale, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction, 2013



Source: OECD calculations based on the EU Quality of Government (QoG) for 19 European OECD countries.

BETTER LIFE INDEX

The **Better Life Index** is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in *How's Life?*. Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and then see how countries perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.

11 topics to define well-being

 Housing	 Community	 Health
 Income	 Education	 Life Satisfaction
 Jobs	 Environment	 Safety
	 Civic Engagement	 Work-Life Balance



Each flower represents a country and each petal represents a topic

Rate the topics according to their importance to you

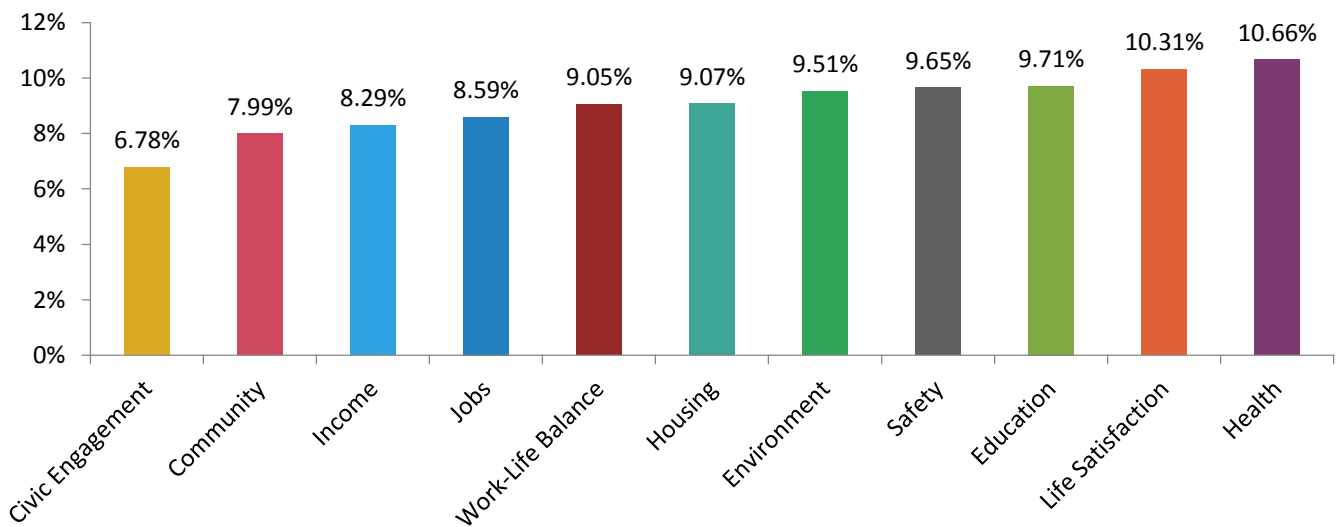


Users can also share their index with other people in their networks, as well as with the OECD. This allows the OECD to gather valuable information on the importance that users attach to various life dimensions, on how these preferences differ across countries, and on the demographic characteristics of users.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO PEOPLE IN AUSTRIA?

Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over ten million visits from just about every country on the planet** and has received over **22 million page views**. To date, over 100,000 people in Austria have visited the website making Austria the 24th country overall in traffic to the website. The top cities are Vienna (59% of visits), Graz, Linz, Innsbruck, and Salzburg.

The following country findings reflect the ratings voluntarily shared by 2,500 website visitors in Austria. Findings are only indicative and are not representative of the population at large. For Austrian users of the Better Life Index, **health, life satisfaction and education** are the three most important topics (shown below).¹ Up to date information, including a breakdown of participants in each country by gender and age can be found here: www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/responses/#AUT.



¹ User information for Austria is based on shared indexes submitted between May 2011 and September 2017.

The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter the most to people and that shape the quality of their lives. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an in-depth analysis of specific topics, published in the *How's Life?* report. It also includes an interactive web application, the *Better Life Index*, and a number of *methodological and research projects* to improve the information base available to understand well-being levels, trends and their drivers.

The OECD Better Life Initiative:

- Helps to inform policy making to improve quality of life.
- Connects policies to people's lives.
- Generates support for needed policy measures.
- Improves civic engagement by encouraging the public to create their own *Better Life Index* and share their preferences about what matters most for well-being.
- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This note presents **selected findings for Austria from the *How's Life? 2017* report** (pages 1-6) and shows what **Austrian users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (page 7).

HOW'S LIFE?



How's Life?, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD and selected partner countries by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It considers eleven dimensions of current well-being including: income and wealth; jobs and earnings; housing; health status; work-life balance; education and skills; social connections; civic engagement and governance; environmental quality; personal security; and subjective well-being. It also looks at four types of resources that help to sustain well-being over time: natural, human, economic and social capital.

The *How's Life? 2017* report presents the latest data on well-being in OECD and partner countries, including how lives have changed since 2005. It includes a special focus on inequalities, the well-being of migrants in OECD countries, and the issue of governance – particularly how people experience and engage with public institutions. To read more, visit: www.oecd.org/howslife.

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