

How's Life in Chile?

Relative to other OECD countries, Chile has a mixed performance across the different well-being dimensions. Although performing well in terms of **housing affordability** and the number of **rooms per person**, a relatively high proportion of Chileans (9.4% in 2001) live in housing without basic sanitation. Only 69% are satisfied with their local **water quality**, one of the lowest shares in the OECD, and **air quality** in Chile is below the OECD average level. With voting no longer compulsory since 2012, **voter turnout** dropped sharply in the 2013 parliamentary elections, with only 49.4% of those registered to vote casting a ballot, the second lowest voter turnout rate in the OECD. However, almost 60% of Chileans feel that they **have a say in what the government does**, one of the highest shares in the OECD. Chile performs comparatively poorly in terms of personal safety: the **homicide rate** is in the top OECD tier, and only 51% of Chileans feel **safe walking alone at night**, one of the lowest shares in the OECD.

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














Note: This chart shows Chile'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 Chile's average well-being over the past 10 years








Dimension	Description	Change
 Income and wealth	Household net wealth grew by 41% cumulatively between 2011 and 2014.	↗
 Jobs and earnings	Earnings have improved consistently, and in 2016 were 25% higher than in 2005 (in real terms). The employment rate increased by 3 percentage points in 2010 but then stabilised from 2011 onwards.	↗ ↗
 Housing conditions	Housing has become slightly less affordable in Chile in recent years, with the share of household income spent on housing costs rising from 18.1% in 2013 to 18.5% in 2015 (comparable data for 2005 to 2012 are not available).	↘
 Work-life balance	The percentage of employees working 50 hours or more per week in Chile fell from 17% in 2010 to around 10% in 2016.	↗
 Health status	Despite falling by more than half a year between 2014 and 2015, life expectancy at birth remains a year and a half higher than it was a decade ago in Chile. The share of adults reporting to be in “good” or “very good” health declined by 7 percentage points between 2013 and 2015 (the only 2 years for which comparable data are available).	↗ ↘
 Education and skills	The 10-year change in upper secondary educational attainment cannot be assessed, due to a recent break in the data. However, between 2013 and 2015, attainment rates in Chile increased by 3.5 percentage points.	↗
 Social connections	In Chile, the share of people with friends or relatives whom they can count on to help in case of need remained relatively stable since 2005, whereas the OECD average has decreased by just over 3 percentage points.	↔
 Civic engagement	Voter turnout remained stable in Chile between the 2005 and 2009 presidential elections. In 2013, with voting no longer mandatory, the percentage of votes cast fell by almost 40 percentage points.	↘
 Environmental quality	The share of people who are satisfied with their local water quality fell by nearly 15 percentage points in Chile since the beginning of the past decade. Annual exposure to PM _{2.5} air pollution in 2013 was similar to 2005 levels, and above the OECD average.	↘ ↔
 Personal security	Compared to 2005, deaths due to assault have fallen by one-fifth in Chile. The share of the population feeling safe when walking alone at night has increased by 12 percentage points relative to 2005 levels – one of the largest increases in the OECD.	↗ ↗
 Subjective well-being	Average levels of life satisfaction have increased from 5.9 (on a 0 to 10 scale) to 6.7 over the past decade.	↗



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.

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




 Natural capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Greenhouse gas emissions from domestic production	1	 2005-2013
CO ₂ emissions from domestic consumption	1	 2001-2011
Exposure to PM _{2.5} air pollution	3	 2005-2013
Forest area	1	 2005-2014
Renewable freshwater resources	1	.. Long-term annual avg
Threatened birds	1	.. Latest available
Threatened mammals	3	.. Latest available
No data available on freshwater abstractions and threatened plants.		

 Human capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Young adult educational attainment	3	 2013-2015
Educational expectancy	2	.. 2015
Cognitive skills at age 15	3	.. 2015
Adult skills	3	.. 2014/2015
Life expectancy at birth	3	 2005-2015
Smoking prevalence	3	.. 2009
Obesity prevalence	3	.. 2009
No data available on long-term unemployment.		

 Economic capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Gross fixed capital formation	3	 2005-2016
Financial net worth of total economy	2	 2005-2015
Household debt	1	 2005-2015
Household net wealth	3	 2011-2014
Financial net worth of government	1	 2005-2016
Banking sector leverage	2	 2005-2016
No data available on produced fixed assets, intellectual property assets and investment in R&D.		

 Social capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Trust in the national government	2	 2005-2016
Voter turnout	3	.. 2013
Government stakeholder engagement	3	.. 2014
Volunteering through organisations	2	.. 2014/2015
No data available on trust in others and trust in the police.		

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

	Improving over time
	Worsening over time
	No change
..	No data available

HOW LARGE ARE WELL-BEING INEQUALITIES IN CHILE?

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).

Vertical inequalities in Chile are relatively high when it comes to household income, wealth, earnings and adult skills. But average gaps in life expectancy and having a say in government are smaller in Chile than in the OECD on average.

The **gender gap** in terms of jobs and earnings is large in Chile. Women earn on average around 20% less than men, are twice as likely to be in low-paid jobs, have a lower level of employment, and are more likely to be unemployed. However, Chilean girls fare slightly better than boys on tests of cognitive skills at 15 years of age. And while women feel less safe at night than men do, the gap between Chilean men and women is smaller than the OECD average gap.

In all OECD countries, **younger people** are at a disadvantage relative to **middle-aged adults** in terms of income, wealth, jobs and earnings. Compared to other OECD countries, these age-related gaps are moderately sized in Chile, although the income gap is large. By contrast, younger Chileans have better outcomes than the middle-aged in terms of educational attainment, adult skills, and social support.

People with a **tertiary education** tend to fare better than those with only a **secondary education** across a range of well-being outcomes. These education-related gaps are often wide in Chile, relative to other OECD countries – including comparatively large differences in wealth, earnings, employment, education and skills, social support and water quality. Compared to those with only a secondary education, tertiary-educated Chileans are also more likely to feel that they have a say government, and are less likely to be unemployed – but these inequalities are smaller than the OECD average differences.

Chile has a comparatively high share of people suffering from well-being **deprivations**; it falls in the bottom third of the OECD on deprivations in income and wealth, education and skills, social support and personal security. Finally, the country shows the highest incidence of asset-based poverty (74.8%) and low adult skills (48.2%).

Well-being inequalities in Chile

	Vertical inequality	Horizontal inequality by			Deprivation
		Gender Women relative to men	Age Young relative to middle-aged	Education 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

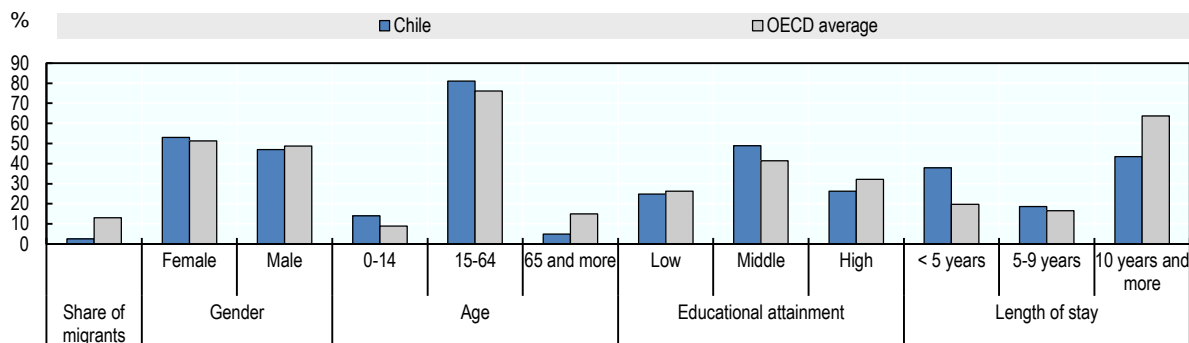
HOW'S LIFE FOR MIGRANTS IN CHILE?

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 migrants in Chile and the OECD?

Only 3% of people living in Chile were born elsewhere, far below the OECD average (13%), and 53% of them are women (51% for the OECD average). Migrants in Chile are more likely to be of working age than in the OECD on average (81% 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. More than two in five migrants arrived in Chile ten years ago or more.

Share of migrants in the total population and selected characteristics

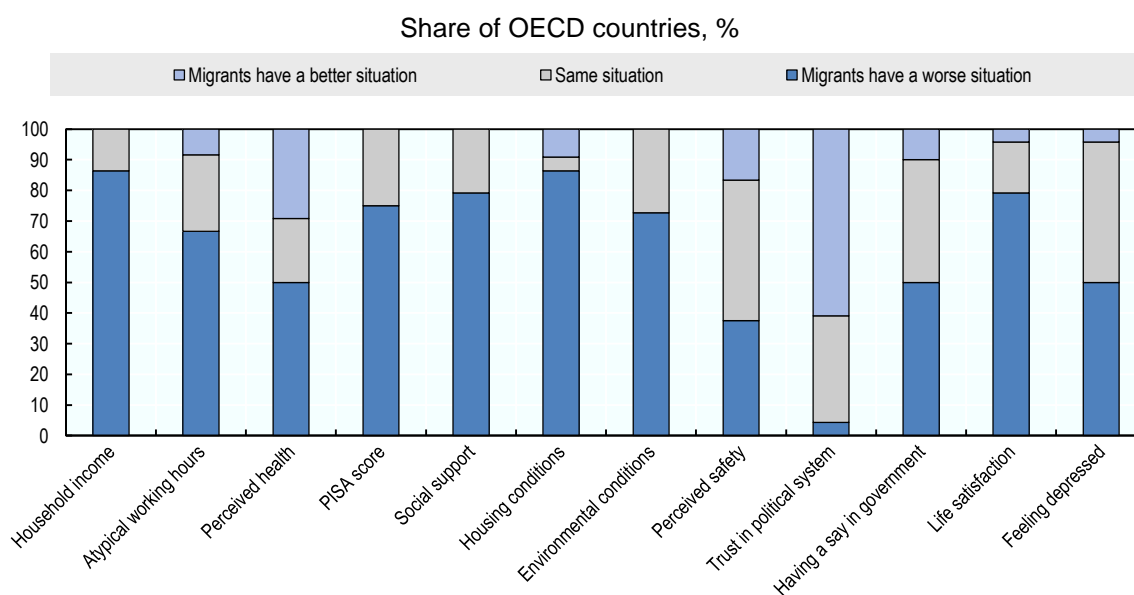


How is migrants' well-being in OECD countries?

While detailed information on migrants' well-being in Chile is not available, in a majority of OECD countries migrants have a worse situation than the native-born population for 10 out of 12 selected well-being indicators. Migrants in at least 75% of OECD countries with available data report lower outcomes than the native-born population for household income, housing conditions, life satisfaction, social support and PISA performance.

Trust in the political system is the only indicator where migrants report having a better situation than the native-born for a majority of OECD countries.

Relative outcomes for migrants and the native-born population for selected well-being outcomes



Note: Results are based on the analysis of the confidence intervals at 90%

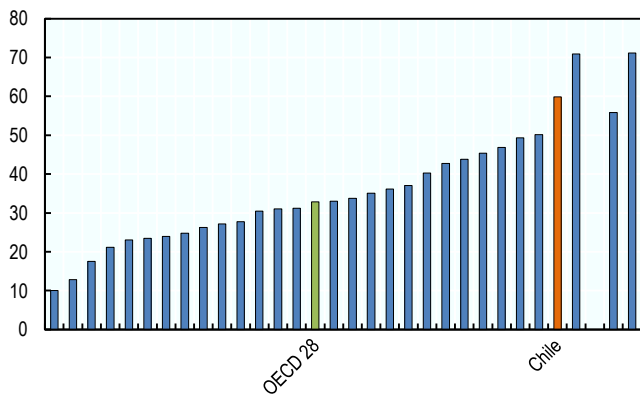
GOVERNANCE AND WELL-BEING IN CHILE

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 Chile, almost 60% of people feel that they have a say in what the government does, which is much higher than the OECD average of 33%. While voter turnout in Chile was at 88% in 2005, only 49% of eligible voters cast a ballot in 2013. This reflects the end of compulsory voting in Chile in 2012. When asked about whether or not corruption is widespread across government, 82% of Chileans answered “yes”, which is higher than the 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

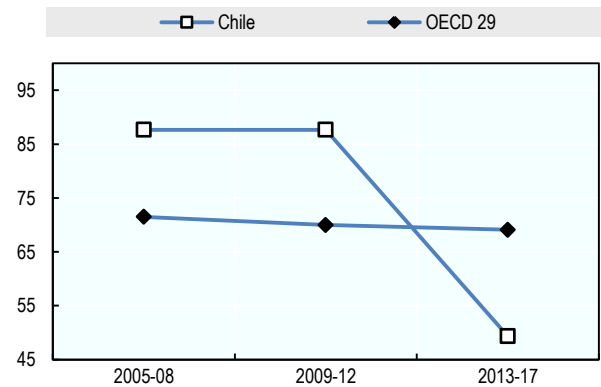
Percentage of people aged 16-65 who feel that they have a say in what the government does, around 2012



Source: OECD Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC database)

Voter turnout

Percentage of votes cast among the population registered to vote



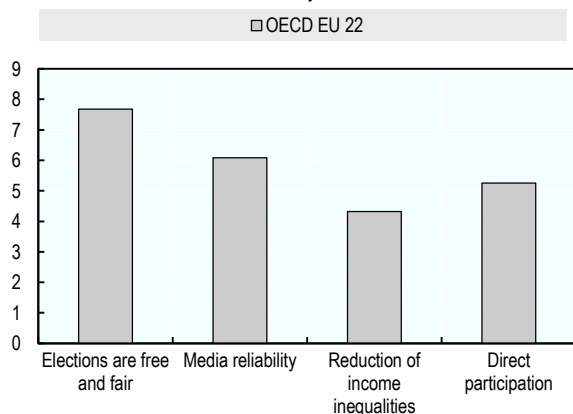
Note: Data refers to parliamentary elections. If more than one election took place over the time period indicated, the simple average voter turnout from all elections is shown. The OECD average sums elections that occurred over the time periods shown in 29 OECD countries.

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). Europeans’ satisfaction with public services varies according to whether people have used those services in the last year. For example, satisfaction with education is higher among those with direct recent experience (6.6 vs 6.2 on average), and this is also true of the health system (6.4 vs 6.2 on average). These data relate to 19 European countries only, and unfortunately no comparable data are available for Chile.

OECD EU average satisfaction with different elements of democracy

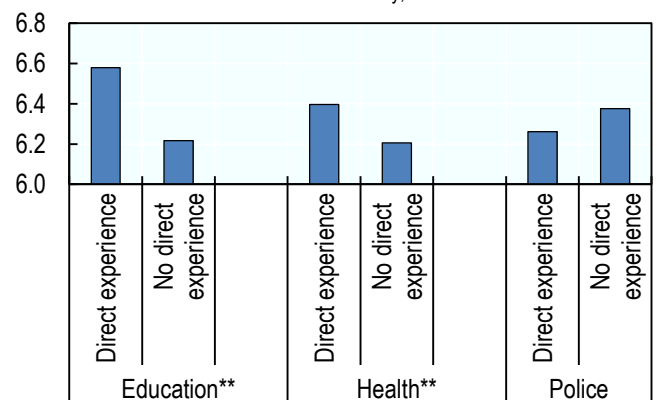
Mean score on a 0-10 scale, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction with elements of democracy, 2012



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

OECD EU average satisfaction with public services

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

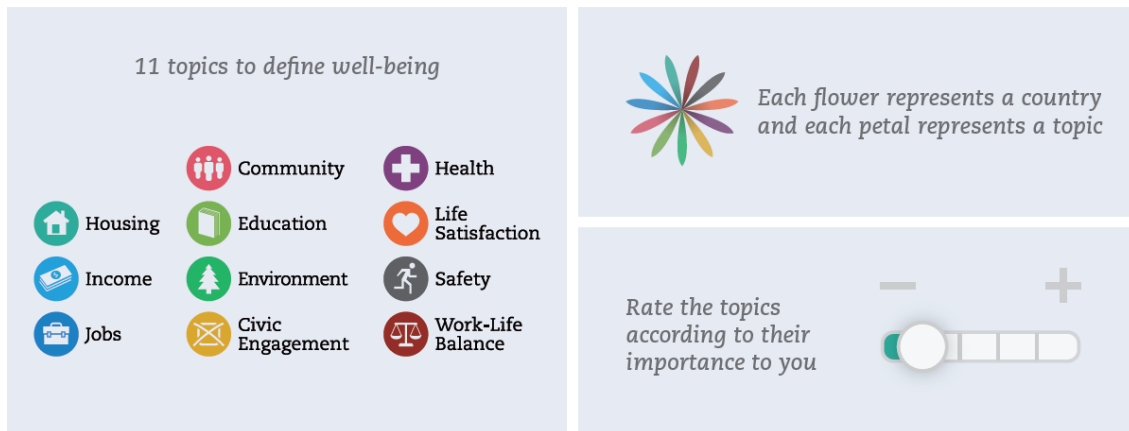


Note: ** Difference is statistically significant at 95%

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 allows users to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators used 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.

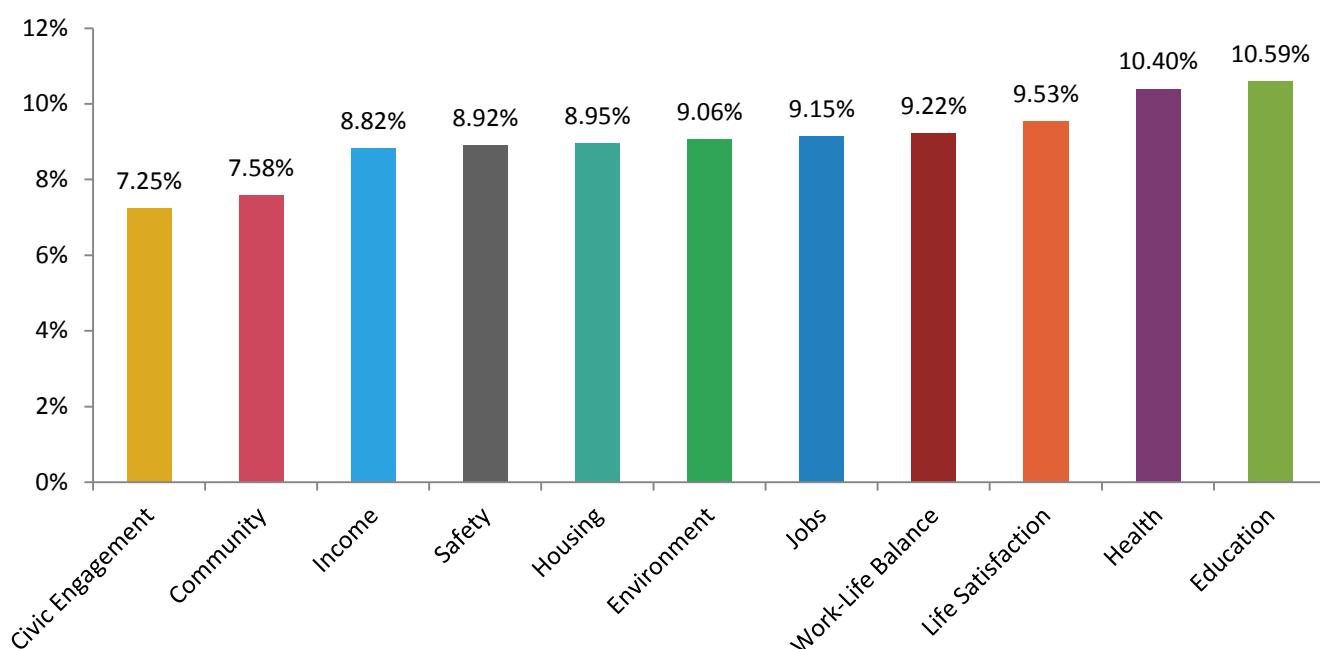


Users can also share their index with other people in their networks, as well as with the OECD. This allows the OECD to gather valuable information on the importance that users attach to various life dimensions, and how these preferences differ across countries and population groups.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO PEOPLE IN CHILE?

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 137,000 people in Chile have visited the website making Chile the 17th country overall in traffic to the website. The top cities are Santiago (69% of visits), Concepcion and Valparaiso.

The following country findings reflect the ratings voluntarily shared with the OECD by 1349 website visitors in Chile. Findings are only indicative and are not representative of the population at large. **For Chilean users of the Better Life Index, education, health and life satisfaction 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/#CHL.



¹ User information for Chile 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 Chile from the *How's Life? 2017* report** (pages 1-6) and shows what **Chilean 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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