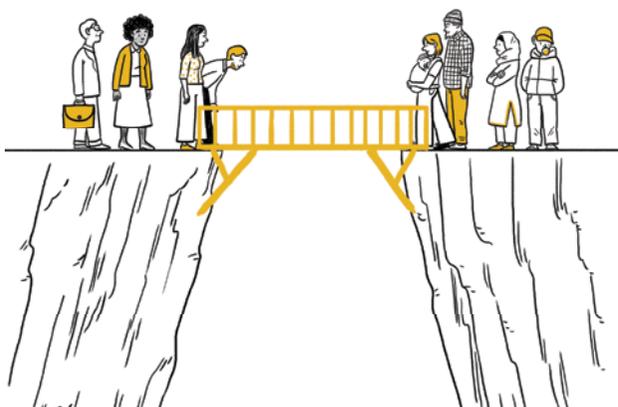


How's Life? 2017

MEASURING WELL-BEING

The 60-second guide



www.oecd.org/howslife



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How can we measure people's well-being?

The fourth edition *How's Life?* was released in November 2017. It provides evidence on well-being in 35 OECD countries and 6 partner countries. To understand people's current well-being, it looks at 11 dimensions of life:



Resources for future well-being include 4 different "capital stocks":



How has life changed for the average OECD resident since 2005?

- Income and earnings have risen cumulatively by 8% and 7% respectively. This is half the growth rate seen between 1995 – 2005.
- The employment rate has gone up by 1.3 percentage points.
- Life expectancy at birth has increased by 1.7 years.
- The share of people who feel safe when walking alone at night has gone up from 66% to 69%.
- Voter turnout has fallen from 72% to 69%.
- Labour-market insecurity has increased by 32%, and long-term unemployment has worsened in half of all OECD countries.
- The share of people with friends or family they can count on has fallen from 92% to 89%.
- Average life satisfaction has fallen from 6.7 (out of 10) to 6.5.

Resources and risks for future well-being:

- OECD average greenhouse gas emissions per capita have fallen by around 14% since 2005. However, forest area per capita has also fallen by around 5%.
- OECD countries invest a higher share of their GDP in R&D than in 2005. However, the financial net worth of OECD governments has fallen by 30 percentage points, and households have experienced rising debt in over half of all OECD countries.
- Since 2005, the share of people who smoke has fallen from 22% to 18%. However, the share of people who are obese has risen from 22% to 24%.
- Voter turnout and trust in government have fallen in more than half of all OECD countries since 2005.

The many faces of inequality

Income and wealth disparities play an important role in shaping people's opportunities in life:

- More than 1 in 3 people would fall into poverty if they had to forgo 3 months of their income.
- The wealthiest 10% of households own more than half of the average OECD country's wealth.
- While more than half of households in the top 20% wealth bracket receive inheritances or gifts, only 1 in 10 of those in the bottom 20% bracket do.

MORE THAN ONE IN THREE



But differences in people's well-being within OECD countries go well beyond the divides between rich and poor. Fault lines of inequality exist in many aspects of people's lives, and among many groups of people:

Women with only primary education live almost 5 years less on average than university-educated women; the gap goes up to almost 8 years for men.

Compared to those with a university education, people with only primary education are over 60% more likely to be unemployed and 40% less likely to feel they have a say in what the government does

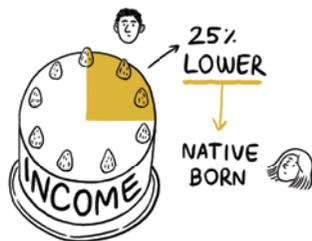
People in the top 20% income bracket are twice as likely as those in the bottom 20% to report a high life satisfaction.

People with a high life satisfaction are 4 times more likely to report being in good health when compared to those with low life satisfaction.

Young people are more than twice as likely to be unemployed than those aged over 25, and with less career experience, people under 30 earn 30% less than middle-aged workers.

Migrants face many disadvantages

13% of the population in OECD countries were born abroad. Migrants are a diverse group but compared to the native-born on average in OECD countries:



- The median income of migrants is 25% lower, and median average wealth is 50% lower.
- Migrants are more likely to work antisocial hours, to be in low-paid jobs, and to be exposed to risky or harmful working conditions.
- Almost 30% of migrants with a tertiary degree are overqualified for their jobs, compared to 20% of the native-born.
- 1 in 4 migrants report being exposed to air and noise pollution in the area where they live, compared to 1 in 5 of the native-born.
- Migrants also report worse health, lower social support, and lower life satisfaction than the native-born in most OECD countries assessed.

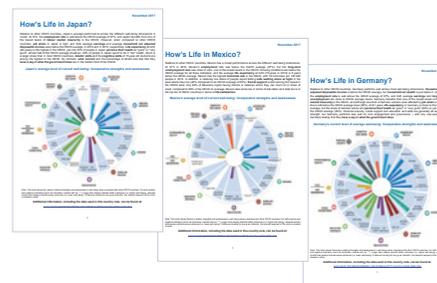
Governance and well-being

How public institutions function, what they deliver, and the extent to which people feel engaged in them are important for well-being.

- Only 1 in 3 people in the OECD feel that they have a say in what the government does, and over half believe that corruption is widespread in their government.
- 38% of people say that they have confidence in their national government.
- In 11 OECD countries assessed, manual workers make up 44% of the population, but only 13% of members of parliament.
- Voter turnout is 13 percentage points lower for people in the bottom 20% income bracket than for those in the top 20%.
- Compared to those with a university education, people with only primary education are 40% less likely to feel they have a say in what the government does.

Country profiles: How's Life in your country?

What is true for the OECD on average is not always true for individual countries. *How's Life? 2017* includes 41 country profiles describing levels of current well-being, change since 2005, and resources for future well-being.



Read at:
www.oecd.org/howslife

What does well-being mean to you?

The *OECD Better Life Index* is an interactive website that lets you create your own index of well-being. By rating the importance of 11 different aspects of life, you can see which countries have the highest well-being, according to your own priorities.



Rate the topics according to their importance to you



WELL BEING

Create your *Better Life Index*
www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org



Questions?
You can write to us at:
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OECD, Statistics Directorate
Paris, November 2017



Drawings by Giulia Sagromola