



# Your Better Life Index

COUNTRY NOTES

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## Australia

Australia performs exceptionally well in measures of well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top countries in a large number of topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Australia, the average household earned 27 039 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD a year.

In terms of employment, nearly 72% of people aged 15 to 64 in Australia have a paid job, above the OECD employment average of 65%. People in Australia work 1690 hours a year, less than most people in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 71% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, above the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Australia, 70% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, lower than the OECD average of 73%. Australia is a top-performing country in terms of the quality of its educational system. The average student scored 515 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, higher than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Australia is 81.5 years, more than two years above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 14 micrograms per cubic meter, much lower than OECD average of 22 micrograms per cubic meter.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in Australia. 95% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, higher than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 95% during recent elections; this figure is the highest in the OECD. The average is 72%.

When asked, 75% of people in Australia said they were satisfied with their life, much higher than the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Austria

Austria performs very well in overall well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top ten countries in several topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Austria, the average household earned 27 670 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD a year.

In terms of employment, nearly 72% of people aged 15 to 64 in Austria have a paid job, above the OECD average of 65%. People in Austria work 1621 hours a year, less than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 71% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, just above the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Austria, 81% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, more than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 470 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, below the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Austria is 80.5 years, one year above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 29 micrograms per cubic meter, higher than the OECD average of 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in Austria. 95% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, higher than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 82% during recent elections; this figure is also higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 73% of people in Austria said they were satisfied with their life, much higher than the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Belgium

Belgium performs very well in many measures of well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top ten countries in several topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Belgium, the average household earned 26 008 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD a year.

In terms of employment, nearly 62% of people aged 15 to 64 in Belgium have a paid job, slightly lower than the OECD employment average of 65%. People in Belgium work 1550 hours a year, one of the lowest rates of the OECD and much less than the average of 1739 hours. 63% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, slightly less than the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Belgium, 70% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, around the OECD average of 73%. Belgium is a top-performing country in terms of the quality of its educational system. The average student scored 506 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, higher than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Belgium is 79.8 years, close to the OECD average of 80. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 21 micrograms per cubic meter, and is close to levels found in most OECD countries of 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in Belgium. 93% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, just above the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 91% during recent elections; this figure is one of the highest in the OECD. The average is 72%.

When asked, 76% of people in Belgium said they were satisfied with their life, much higher than the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Canada

Canada performs exceptionally well in measures of well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top countries in a large number of topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Canada, the average household earned 27 015 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD a year.

In terms of employment, nearly 72% of people aged 15 to 64 in Canada have a paid job, above the OECD average of 65%. People in Canada work 1699 hours a year, less than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 71% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, above the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Canada, 87% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, much higher than the OECD average of 73%. Canada is a top-performing country in terms of the quality of its educational system. The average student scored 524 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, higher than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Canada is 80.7 years, more than one year above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 15 micrograms per cubic meter, lower than the OECD average of 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community but only moderate levels of civic participation in Canada. 95% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, higher than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 60% during recent elections; this figure is lower than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 78% of people in Canada said they were satisfied with their life, much higher than the OECD of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Chile

Chile has made tremendous progress over the last decade in terms of improving the quality of life of its citizens. Since the 1990s, the country has seen a track record of robust growth and poverty reduction. Notwithstanding, Chile ranks low in a large number of topics relative to most other countries in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Chile, the average household earned 8 712 USD in 2008, less than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 59% of people aged 15 to 64 in Chile have a paid job, slightly less than the OECD average of 65%. 51% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, much lower than the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women encounter difficulties when balancing family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Chile, 68% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, slightly lower than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 449 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme; this figure is lower than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Chile is 77.8 years, just below the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 61.5 micrograms per cubic meter, and is by far the highest level in the OECD. The average is 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in Chile. 85% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, lower than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 88% during recent elections; this figure is higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 66% of people in Chile said they were satisfied with their life, just above the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Czech Republic

The Czech Republic performs favourably in several measures of well-being, and ranks close to the average in a large number of topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In the Czech Republic, the average household earned 16 690 USD in 2008, less than the OECD average of 22 284 USD a year.

In terms of employment, nearly 65% of people aged 15 to 64 in the Czech Republic have a paid job, the same as the OECD average. People in the Czech Republic work 1942 hours a year however, one of the highest rates in the OECD. The average is 1739 hours. 71% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, higher than the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In the Czech Republic, 94% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, one of the highest rates in the OECD. The average is 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 478 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, slightly lower than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in the Czech Republic is 77.3 years, nearly two years below the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 19 micrograms per cubic meter, and is lower than the OECD average of 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and moderate levels of civic participation in the Czech Republic. 90% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, close to the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 64% during recent elections; this figure is lower than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 56% of people in the Czech Republic said they were satisfied with their life, just below the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Denmark

Denmark performs exceptionally well in measures of well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top countries in a large number of topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Denmark, the average household earned 22 929 USD in 2008, slightly more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 73% of people aged 15 to 64 in Denmark have a paid job, higher than the OECD average of 65%. People in Denmark work 1563 hours a year, less than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 71% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, higher than the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Denmark, 75% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, just above the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student in Denmark scored 495 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, close to the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Denmark is 78.8 years, nearly one year below the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 16 micrograms per cubic meter, and is lower than the OECD average of 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in Denmark. 97% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, one of the highest rates in the OECD. The OECD average is 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 87% during recent elections; this figure is also higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 90% of people in Denmark said they were satisfied with their life, much higher than the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Estonia

Estonia has made progress over the last decade in terms of improving the quality of life of its citizens. Until the financial crisis of 2008, the economy had seen record-breaking growth. Notwithstanding, Estonia still ranks low in a large number of topics relative to most other countries in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Estonia, the average household earned 13 486 USD in 2008, less than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 61% of people aged 15 to 64 in Estonia have a paid job, less than the OECD average of 65%. People in Estonia work 1969 hours a year, one of the highest rates in the OECD. The average is 1739 hours. 74% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, higher than the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Estonia, 88% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, much higher than the OECD average of 73%. Estonia is a high-performing country in terms of the quality of its educational system. The average student scored 501 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, higher than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Estonia is 74 years, more than five years below the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 13 micrograms per cubic meter, and is one of the lowest levels in the OECD. The average is 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a good sense of community and moderate levels of civic participation in Estonia. 85% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, lower than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 62% during recent elections; this figure is lower than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, only 24% of people in Estonia said they were satisfied with their life, one of the lowest rates in the OECD and below the average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Finland

Finland performs very well in many measures of well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top countries in a large number of topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Finland, the average household earned 24 246 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 68% of people aged 15 to 64 in Finland have a paid job, just above the OECD average of 65%. People in Finland work 1652 hours a year, less than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 76% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, higher than the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Finland, 81% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, higher than the OECD average of 73%. Finland is a top-performing country in terms of the quality of its educational system. The average student scored 536 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, the second strongest score in the OECD.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Finland is 80 years, slightly above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 15 micrograms per cubic meter, and is lower than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in Finland. 93% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, higher than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 74% during recent elections; this figure is slightly higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 86% of people in Finland said they were satisfied with their life, much higher than the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## France

France performs very well in many measures of well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top ten countries in several topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In France, the average household earned 27 508 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD a year.

In terms of employment, nearly 64% of people aged 15 to 64 in France have a paid job, slightly higher than the OECD employment average of 65%. People in France work 1554 hours a year, much less than the OECD average of 1739 hours. 66% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, exactly the same as the OECD average, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In France, 70% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, lower than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 496 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, slightly above the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in France is 81 years, more than one year above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 13 micrograms per cubic meter, much lower than the OECD average of 22 micrograms per cubic meter.

There is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in France. 94% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, higher than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 84% during recent elections; this figure is higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 51% of people in France said they were satisfied with their life, below the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Germany

Germany performs very well in many measures of well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top ten countries in several topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Germany, the average household earned 27 665 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 71% of people aged 15 to 64 in Germany have a paid job, above the OECD average of 65%. People in Germany work 1390 hours a year, one of the lowest rates in the OECD. The average is 1739 hours. 66% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, exactly the same as the OECD average, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Germany, 85% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, higher than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 497 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, close to the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Germany is 80 years, around the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 16 micrograms per cubic meter, and is lower than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in Germany. 94% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, higher than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 78% during recent elections, higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 56% of people in Germany said they were satisfied with their life, just below the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Greece

Greece performs moderately well in overall measures of well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks close to the average in a large number of topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Greece, the average household earned 21 515 USD in 2008, slightly less than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 60% of people aged 15 to 64 in Greece have a paid job, below the OECD average of 65%. People in Greece work 2119 hours a year, much more than most in the OECD where the average is 1739 hours. Only 52% of mothers are employed after their children begin school however, lower than the average of 66%, suggesting that women encounter difficulties when balancing family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Greece, 61% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, lower than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 483 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, slightly lower than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Greece is 80 years, slightly above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 32 micrograms per cubic meter, and is one of highest levels in the OECD. The average is 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a moderate sense of community and civic participation in Greece. 86% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, lower than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 74% during recent elections; this figure is slightly higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 43% of people in Greece said they were satisfied with their life, below the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Hungary

Hungary performs only moderately well in overall well-being, as it ranks lower or close to the average in a large number of topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Hungary, the average household earned 13 858 USD in 2008, less than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 55% of people aged 15 to 64 in Hungary have a paid job, lower than the OECD average of 65%. People in Hungary work 1989 hours a year, much more than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours and one of the highest rates. 59% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, lower than the average of 66%, suggesting that women encounter difficulties when balancing family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Hungary, 80% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, higher than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 494 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, around the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Hungary is 74 years, more than five years below the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 16 micrograms per cubic meter, and is lower than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a moderate sense of community and civic participation in Hungary. 89% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, just lower than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 64% during recent elections; this figure is also lower than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 23% of people in Hungary said they were satisfied with their life, much lower than the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Iceland

Iceland performs very well in many measures of well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top countries in several topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Iceland, the average household earned 20 989 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 78% of people aged 15 to 64 in Iceland have a paid job, well above the OECD average of 65%. People in Iceland work 1716 hours a year, less than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 87% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, much higher than the average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Iceland, 64% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, lower than the OECD average of 73%. Iceland is a well-performing country in terms of the quality of its educational system. The average student scored 500 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, slightly higher than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Iceland is 81 years, nearly two years above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 14.5 micrograms per cubic meter, and is lower than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a very strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in Iceland. 98% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, the highest rate in the OECD. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 84% during recent elections; this figure is higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 66% of people in Iceland said they were satisfied with their life, above the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Ireland

Ireland performs very well in overall well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top ten countries in several topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Ireland, the average household earned 24 312 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 60% of people aged 15 to 64 in Ireland have a paid job, less than the OECD average of 65%. People in Ireland work 1549 hours a year, less than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 51% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, much lower than the average of 66%, suggesting that women encounter difficulties when balancing family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Ireland, 69% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, close to the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 496 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, close to the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Ireland is 80 years, slightly above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 13 micrograms per cubic meter, and is lower than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a very strong sense of community and moderate levels of civic participation in Ireland. 97% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, higher than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 67% during recent elections; this figure is lower than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 73% of people in Ireland said they were satisfied with their life, above the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Israel

Israel performs favourably in several measures of well-being, and ranks close to the average or higher in several topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Israel, the average household earned 19 456 USD in 2008, less than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 59% of people aged 15 to 64 in Israel have a paid job, slightly below the OECD average of 65%. 55% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, however, below the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women encounter difficulties when balancing family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Israel, 81% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, higher than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 474 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, lower than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Israel is 80.7 years, more than one year above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 28 micrograms per cubic meter, and is higher than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and moderate levels of civic participation in Israel. 93% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, close to the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 65% during recent elections; this figure is lower than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 72% of people in Israel said they were satisfied with their life, above the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Italy

Italy performs favourably in several measures of well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks close to the average in several topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Italy, the average household earned 24 383 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 57% of people aged 15 to 64 in Italy have a paid job, below the OECD average of 65%. People in Italy work 1773 hours a year, more than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. Only 49% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, however, much lower than the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women encounter difficulties when balancing family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Italy, 53% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, much lower than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 486 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, also lower than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Italy is 81.5 years, more than two years above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 23 micrograms per cubic meter, and is slightly higher than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in Italy. 86% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, lower than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 81% during recent elections; this figure is higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 54% of people in Italy said they were satisfied with their life, just below the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Japan

Japan performs favourably in several measures of well-being, and ranks close to the average or higher in several topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Japan, the average household earned 23 210 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 70% of people aged 15 to 64 in Japan have a paid job, above the OECD average of 65%. People in Japan work 1714 hours a year, less than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 66% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, same as the OECD average, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Japan, 87% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, one of the best rates in the OECD. Japan is also a top-performing country in terms of the quality of its educational system. The average student scored 520 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, higher than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Japan is 82.7 years, the highest rate in the OECD. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 27 micrograms per cubic meter, and is higher than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and moderate levels of civic participation in Japan. 90% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, close to the OECD average. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 67% during recent elections; this figure is lower than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 40% of people in Japan said they were satisfied with their life, below the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Korea

Korea performs moderately well in overall measures of well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks higher than average in several topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Korea, the average household earned 16 254 USD in 2008, less than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 63% of people aged 15 to 64 in Korea have a paid job, slightly below the OECD average of 65%. People in Korea work 2256 hours a year, much higher than the OECD average of 1739 hours and the highest rate in the OECD. 60% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, just below the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Korea, 79% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, higher than the OECD average of 73%. Korea is an exceptionally well-performing country in terms of the quality of its educational system. The average student scored 539 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, the strongest performance in the OECD.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Korea is 80 years, slightly above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 31 micrograms per cubic meter, and is much higher than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a moderate sense of community and civic participation in Korea. 80% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, one of the lowest rates in the OECD where the average is 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 63% during recent elections, below the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 36% of people in Korea said they were satisfied with their life, much lower than the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Luxembourg

Luxembourg performs very well in many measures of well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top countries in several topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Luxembourg, the average household earned 44 212 USD in 2008, the highest figure in the OECD. The average is 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 65% of people aged 15 to 64 in Luxembourg have a paid job, the same as the OECD average. People in Luxembourg work 1601 hours a year, less than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 57% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, below the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women encounter difficulties when balancing family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Luxembourg, 68% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, lower than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 472 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, lower than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Luxembourg is 80.6 years, more than one year above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 13 micrograms per cubic meter, and is lower than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community but low levels of civic participation in Luxembourg. 95% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, higher than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 57% during recent elections; this figure is lower than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 66% of people in Luxembourg said they were satisfied with their life, above the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Mexico

Mexico has made tremendous progress over the last decade in terms of improving the quality of life of its citizens, especially in the areas of education, health and jobs. Notwithstanding, Mexico ranks low in a large number of topics relative to most other countries in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Mexico, the average household earned 12 182 USD in 2008, less than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 60% of people aged 15 to 64 in Mexico have a paid job, just below the OECD average of 65%. People in Mexico work 1857 hours a year, more than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 57% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, below the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women encounter difficulties when balancing family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Mexico, 34% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, much lower than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 425 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, also lower than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Mexico is 75 years, or four years below the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 33 micrograms per cubic meter, and is higher than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and moderate levels of civic participation in Mexico. 87% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, near the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 59% during recent elections; this figure is lower than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 66% of people in Mexico said they were satisfied with their life, above the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Netherlands

The Netherlands performs very well in overall well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top countries in a large number of topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In the Netherlands, the average household earned 25 997 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 75% of people aged 15 to 64 in the Netherlands have a paid job, well above the OECD average of 65%. People in the Netherlands work 1378 hours a year, the lowest rate in the OECD. 75% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, above the average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In the Netherlands, 73% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, the same as the OECD average. The Netherlands is a top-performing country in terms of the quality of its educational system. The average student scored 508 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, higher than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in the Netherlands is 80.2 years, more than one year above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 31 micrograms per cubic meter, and is higher than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in the Netherlands. 95% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, higher than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 80% during recent elections; this figure is also higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 91% of people in the Netherlands said they were satisfied with their life, much higher than the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## New Zealand

New Zealand performs exceptionally well in overall well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top countries in a large number of topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In New Zealand, the average household earned 18 996 USD in 2008, less than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 72% of people aged 15 to 64 in New Zealand have a paid job, above the OECD average of 65%. People in New Zealand work 1729 hours a year, close to the OECD average of 1739 hours. 75% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, above the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In New Zealand, 72% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, close to the OECD average. New Zealand is a top-performing country in terms of the quality of its educational system. The average student scored 521 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, higher than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in New Zealand is 80.4 years, or one year above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 12 micrograms per cubic meter, and is lower than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in New Zealand. 97% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, higher than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 79% during recent elections; this figure is higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 77% of people in New Zealand said they were satisfied with their life, above the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Norway

Norway performs exceptionally well in overall well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top countries in a large number of topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Norway, the average household earned 29 365 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 75% of people aged 15 to 64 in Norway have a paid job, above the OECD average of 65%. People in Norway work 1407 hours a year, much less than most in the OECD who work in 1739 hours. 79% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, more than the OECD average of 72%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Norway, 81% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, higher than the OECD average of 73%. Norway is also a top-performing country in terms of the quality of its educational system. The average student scored 503 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, higher than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Norway is 80.6 years, more than one year above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 16 micrograms per cubic meter, and is lower than the OECD average of 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in Norway. 93% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, higher than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 77% during recent elections; this figure is higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 84% of people in Norway said they were satisfied with their life, much higher than the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Poland

Poland performs moderately well in overall measures of well-being, and ranks higher than average in some of the topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Poland, the average household earned 13 811 USD in 2008, less than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 59% of people aged 15 to 64 in Poland have a paid job, less than the OECD average of 65%. People in Poland work 1966 hours a year, more than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 60% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, lower than the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women encounter difficulties when balancing family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Poland, 87% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, much higher than the OECD average of 73%. Poland is a well-performing country in terms of the quality of its educational system. The average student scored 500 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, higher than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Poland is 75.6 years, nearly four years below the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 35 micrograms per cubic meter, and is much higher than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and low levels of civic participation in Poland. 92% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, close to the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 54% during recent elections; this figure is much lower than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 35% of people in Poland said they were satisfied with their life, much lower than the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Portugal

Portugal has made significant progress over the last few years in modernising its economy and improving the living standards of its citizens, however the global financial crisis has surely weakened its growth. Portugal performs only moderately well in overall measures of well-being, as it ranks lower or close to the average in a large number of topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Portugal, the average household earned 18 540 USD in 2008, less than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 66% of people aged 15 to 64 in Portugal have a paid job, close to the OECD average. People in Portugal work 1719 hours a year, close to the OECD average of 1739. 67% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, just above the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Portugal, only 28% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, the lowest rate in the OECD which stands at 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 489 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, close to the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Portugal is 79.3 years, close to the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 21 micrograms per cubic meter, and is also close to the OECD average of 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a moderate sense of community and civic participation in Portugal. 83% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, lower than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 64% during recent elections; this figure is also lower than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 36% of people in Portugal said they were satisfied with their life, well below the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Slovak Republic

The Slovak Republic performs only moderately well in overall measures of well-being, as it ranks lower or close to the average in a large number of topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In the Slovak Republic, the average household earned 15 487 USD in 2008, less than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 59% of people aged 15 to 64 in the Slovak Republic have a paid job, just below the average of 65%. People in the Slovak Republic work 1693 hours a year, less than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 65% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, same as the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In the Slovak Republic, 90% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, much higher than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 477 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, lower than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in the Slovak Republic is 74.8 years, more than four years below the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 13 micrograms per cubic meter, and is lower than in most OECD countries which stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and low levels of civic participation in the Slovak Republic. 90% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, close to the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 55% during recent elections; this figure is much lower than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 27% of people in the Slovak Republic said they were satisfied with their life, much lower than the average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Slovenia

Slovenia performs favourably in several measures of well-being, and ranks close to the average or higher in several topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Slovenia, the average household earned 19 891 USD in 2008, less than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 66% of people aged 15 to 64 in Slovenia have a paid job, close to the OECD average. People in Slovenia work 1687 hours a year, less than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 74% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, above the average of 66 hours, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Slovenia, 82% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, higher than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 483 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, lower than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Slovenia is 78.8 years, slightly below the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 29 micrograms per cubic meter, and is higher than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and moderate levels of civic participation in Slovenia. 91% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, same as the OECD average. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 63% during recent elections; this figure is lower than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 39% of people in Slovenia said they were satisfied with their life, much lower than the average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Spain

Spain performs favourably in several measures of well-being, and ranks close to the average or higher in several topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Spain, the average household earned 22 972 USD in 2008, slightly more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 59% of people aged 15 to 64 in Spain have a paid job, slightly below the OECD average of 65%. People in Spain work 1654 hours a year, less than most in the OECD. 57% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, close to the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women encounter difficulties when balancing family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Spain, 51% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, much lower than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 481 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, just below the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Spain is 81.2 years, nearly two years above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 28 micrograms per cubic meter, and is higher than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in Spain. 94% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, higher than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 75% during recent elections; this figure is slightly higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 49% of people in Spain said they were satisfied with their life, below the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Sweden

Sweden performs exceptionally well in overall well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top countries in a large number of topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Sweden, the average household earned 26 543 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 73% of people aged 15 to 64 in Sweden have a paid job, higher than the OECD average of 65%. People in Sweden work 1610 hours a year, less than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 76% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, higher than the OECD average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Sweden, 85% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, higher than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 497 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, slightly higher than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Sweden is 81.2 years, nearly two years above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 11 micrograms per cubic meter, and is the lowest level in the OECD.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in Sweden. 96% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, higher than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 82% during recent elections; this figure is much higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 83% of people in Sweden said they were satisfied with their life, much higher than the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Switzerland

Switzerland performs very well in overall well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top countries in a large number of topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Switzerland, the average household earned 27 542 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 79% of people aged 15 to 64 in Switzerland have a paid job, much higher than the average of 65%. People in Switzerland work 1640 hours a year, less than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 79% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, above the average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Switzerland, 87% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, higher than the OECD average of 73%. Switzerland is a well-performing country in terms of the quality of its educational system. The average student scored 501 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, higher than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Switzerland is 82.2 years, nearly three years above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 22 micrograms per cubic meter, and is close to the OECD average.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and low levels of civic participation in Switzerland. 93% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, higher than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 48% during recent elections; this figure is the lowest in the OECD.

When asked, 77% of people in Switzerland said they were satisfied with their life, above the average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## Turkey

Turkey has made considerable progress in improving the quality of life of its citizens over the last two decades. Notwithstanding, Turkey ranks low in a large number of topics relative to most other countries in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In Turkey, the average household earned 11 081 USD in 2008, less than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 46% of people aged 15 to 64 in Turkey have a paid job, lower than the OECD average of 65%. People in Turkey work 1918 hours a year, more than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 24% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, much lower than the average of 66%, suggesting that women encounter difficulties when balancing family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In Turkey, only 30% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, much lower than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 464 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, also lower than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in Turkey is 73.6 years, nearly six years below the OECD average. However, Turkey registered one of the greatest gains in life expectancy between 1960 and 2008, with an overall increase in longevity of 25 years. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 37 micrograms per cubic meter, and is much higher than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a moderate sense of community and high levels of civic participation in Turkey. 79% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, lower than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 84% during recent elections; this figure is higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 28% of people in Turkey said they were satisfied with their life, much lower than the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## United Kingdom

The United Kingdom performs very well in overall well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top countries in several topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In the United Kingdom, the average household earned 27 208 USD in 2008, more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 70% of people aged 15 to 64 in the United Kingdom have a paid job, above the OECD average of 65%. People in the United Kingdom work 1646 hours a year, less than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 67% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, around the OECD average, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In the United Kingdom, 70% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, close to the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 494 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, around the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in the United Kingdom is 79.7 years, slightly above the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 13 micrograms per cubic meter, and is lower than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and low levels of civic participation in the United Kingdom. 95% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, higher than the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 61% during recent elections; this figure is lower than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 68% of people in the United Kingdom said they were satisfied with their life, above the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*

## United States

The United States performs very well in overall measures of well-being, as shown by the fact that it ranks among the top countries in a large number of topics in the Better Life Index.

Money, while it cannot buy happiness, is an important means to achieving higher living standards. In the United States, the average household earned 37 690 USD in 2008, much more than the OECD average of 22 284 USD.

In terms of employment, nearly 67% of people aged 15 to 64 in the United States have a paid job, slightly higher than the OECD average of 65%. People in the United States work 1768 hours a year, more than most in the OECD who work 1739 hours. 73% of mothers are employed after their children begin school, above the average of 66%, suggesting that women are able to successfully balance family and career.

Having a good education is an important requisite to finding a job. In the United States, 89% of adults aged 25 to 64 have earned the equivalent of a high-school diploma, higher than the OECD average of 73%. As to the quality of its educational system, the average student scored 500 out of 600 in reading ability according to the latest PISA student-assessment programme, slightly higher than the OECD average of 493.

In terms of health, life expectancy at birth in the United States is 77.9 years, more than one year below the OECD average. The level of atmospheric PM10 – tiny air pollutant particles small enough to enter and cause damage to the lungs – is 19 micrograms per cubic meter, and is lower than in most OECD countries where it stands at 22.

Concerning the public sphere, there is a strong sense of community and high levels of civic participation in the United States. 92% of people believe that they know someone they could rely on in a time of need, just above the OECD average of 91%. Voter turnout, a measure of public trust in government and of citizens' participation in the political process, was 90% during recent elections; this figure is also higher than the OECD average of 72%.

When asked, 70% of people in the United States said they were satisfied with their life, well above the OECD average of 59%.

*These findings are based on data from 2008 or later.*