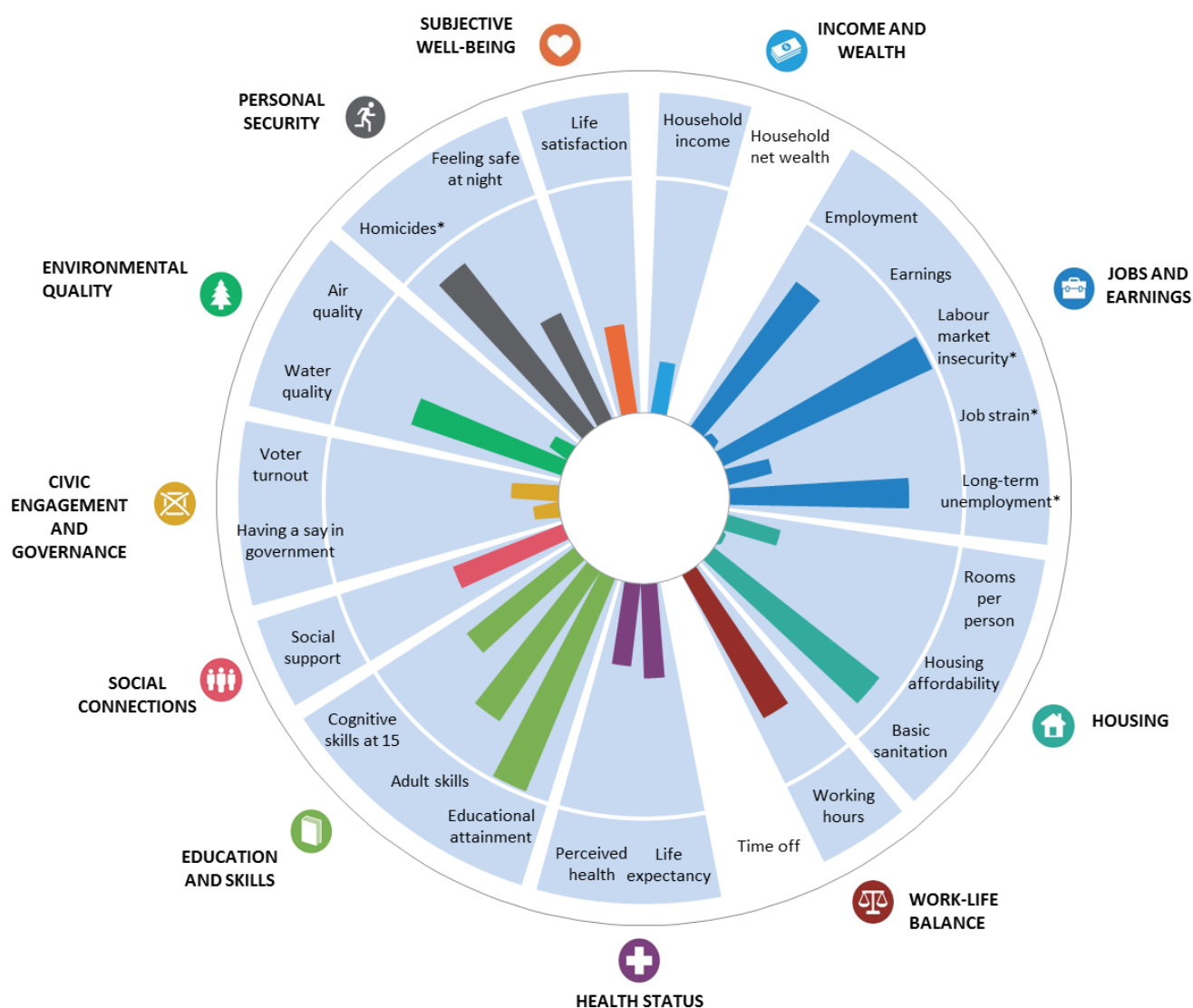


How's Life in the Czech Republic?

Relative to other OECD countries, the Czech Republic has mixed outcomes across the different well-being dimensions. **Average earnings** are in the bottom tier of the OECD, and the average **household net adjusted disposable income** remains below the OECD average. However, the **employment rate** (72%) is above the OECD average (67%), and **labour market insecurity** is among the lowest in the OECD. **Life expectancy** at birth (79 years) is one year below the OECD average, and only 61% of Czech adults **perceive their health** as “good” or “very good”, compared to 69% in the OECD on average. **Educational attainment** is the highest in the OECD: 93% of the Czech adult working-age population have attained at least an upper secondary education, compared to an OECD average of 75%. The Czech Republic also performs relatively well in terms of personal security. Although well below the OECD average, **life satisfaction** is among the highest in East European OECD countries.

The Czech Republic's average level of current well-being: Comparative strengths and weaknesses














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

Dimension	Description	Change
 Income and wealth	Household net adjusted disposable income in 2015 was 12% higher than in 2005 – more than the average cumulative gain for the OECD over the decade. This is despite a period of declining or stable levels from 2010 to 2013.	↗
 Jobs and earnings	At 72%, the Czech employment rate in 2016 was 7 percentage points higher than in 2005. Earnings have increased steadily despite minor falls in 2009 and 2012, and are now 18% higher than in 2005. However, labour market insecurity has also increased by more than one-third. The long-term unemployment rate has improved, overall, in the last 10 years: despite a sharp rise in 2010, it now stands at around one-third of the 2005 level. Finally, the Czech Republic has witnessed one of the strongest improvements in the OECD in terms of job strain; while around 57% of employees experienced job strain in 2005, this has fallen to 46% in 2015.	↗ ↗ ↘ ↗ ↗
 Housing conditions	The average number of rooms per person has risen over the past decade but is still slightly below the OECD average. Housing affordability worsened significantly between 2005 and 2010, but has remained stable in recent years. The percentage of people living in dwellings without basic sanitary facilities has been cut by one-third since 2005.	↗ ↘ ↗
 Work-life balance	The percentage of employees working very long hours has steadily fallen since 2008, and is approximately one-third lower than it was a decade ago.	↗
 Health status	Despite a small fall between 2014 and 2015, life expectancy in the Czech Republic has increased by two-and-a-half years overall since 2005. There has been little change in the percentage of adults reporting to be in “good” or “very good” health since 2005.	↗ ↔
 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 2014 and 2016, attainment rates in the Czech Republic remained broadly stable at 93%.	↔
 Social connections	In the Czech Republic, there has been little variation in the share of people who report having relatives or friends whom they can count on to help in case of need over the last decade. This is in contrast with the OECD average trend, which decreased by 3.1 percentage points.	↔
 Civic engagement	Voter turnout has fallen more steeply than the OECD average in the last decade. The percentage of votes cast among the population registered to vote in legislative elections fell by 5 points from 2006 to 2013.	↘
 Environmental quality	The percentage of Czechs satisfied with their local water quality is currently 9 points higher than 10 years ago. Air pollution in 2013 is close to the level recorded in 2005.	↗ ↔
 Personal security	Although the rate of deaths due to assault has remained relatively stable over the last 10 years, the share of people who report feeling safe when walking alone at night has improved significantly, from 53% to 68%.	↔ ↗
 Subjective well-being	The life satisfaction of the Czech people has remained broadly stable over the 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.


The Czech Republic's resources and risks for future well-being: Illustrative indicators

 Natural capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Greenhouse gas emissions from domestic production	3	↗ 2005-2015
CO ₂ emissions from domestic consumption	2	↗ 2001-2011
Exposure to PM _{2.5} air pollution	3	↔ 2005-2013
Forest area	2	↔ 2005-2014
Renewable freshwater resources	3	.. Long-term annual avg
Freshwater abstractions	1	.. 2015
Threatened birds	3	.. Latest available
Threatened mammals	2	.. Latest available
Threatened plants	3	.. Latest available

 Economic capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Produced fixed assets	2	↗ 2005-2016
Gross fixed capital formation	3	↘ 2005-2016
Financial net worth of total economy	2	↔ 2005-2016
Intellectual property assets	2	↗ 2005-2016
Investment in R&D	2	↗ 2005-2016
Household debt	1	↘ 2005-2015
Financial net worth of government	2	↘ 2005-2015
Banking sector leverage	2	↔ 2005-2014
No data available on household net wealth.		

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

 Human capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Young adult educational attainment	1	↘ 2014-2016
Educational expectancy	2	.. 2015
Cognitive skills at age 15	2	.. 2015
Adult skills	2	.. 2011/2012
Long-term unemployment	2	↗ 2005-2016
Life expectancy at birth	3	↗ 2005-2015
Smoking prevalence	2	↗ 2005-2015
Obesity prevalence	2	↘ 2005-2010

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

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

HOW LARGE ARE WELL-BEING INEQUALITIES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC?

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).

Compared to other OECD countries, **vertical inequalities** in the Czech Republic are narrower than average for household income, long working hours and adult skills. By contrast, there are comparatively large disparities in having a say in government and life satisfaction.

Compared to the average **gender divide** in OECD countries, Czech **women** are at a larger disadvantage (**relative to men**) in their earnings, employment, unemployment, educational attainment, voter turnout, having a say in government, and feelings of safety. However, men and women are almost equal in terms of social support, and Czech women are much less likely than men to work very long hours.

When the gaps in well-being between the **young** and the **middle-aged** are considered, Czech young people are more disadvantaged than the OECD average in employment and unemployment. Unlike in most OECD countries, they also fare slightly worse than the middle aged in terms of educational attainment and perceived health. By contrast, the extent of their earnings gap is narrower than the OECD average, and young people rate their satisfaction with life higher than the middle-aged.

People with a **tertiary education** tend fare better than those without across a wide range of well-being outcomes. Compared to other OECD countries, these education-related gaps are comparatively large for unemployment, perceived health, skills, social support, voter turnout, feelings of safety and life satisfaction in the Czech Republic. However, the gap is comparatively narrow for employment. Meanwhile, Czechs with less than a tertiary education rate their water quality better, and are a lot less likely to work very long hours, compared to those with a tertiary education.

Most **deprivation** indicators in the Czech Republic fall within the bottom or middle third of OECD countries. For example, the country records a high incidence of low pay (20.3%). However, there are fewer deprivations in adult skills, educational attainment, unemployment, and income, when compared to the OECD average levels.

Well-being inequalities in the Czech Republic

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

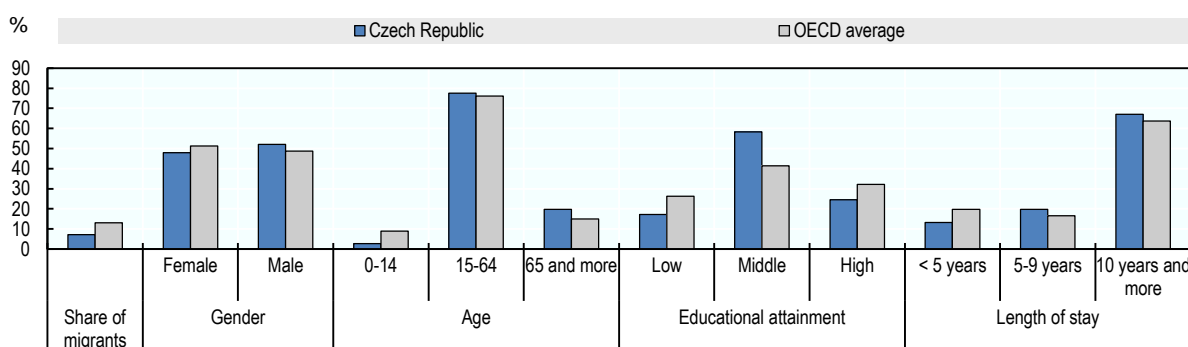
HOW'S LIFE FOR MIGRANTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC?

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

Who are the migrants in the Czech Republic and OECD?

Less than one in ten people living in the Czech Republic (7%) were born elsewhere, far below the OECD average (13%), and 48% of them are women (51% for the OECD average). Migrants in the Czech Republic are about as likely to be of working age as the in the OECD on average (78% of them are aged 15 to 64, as compared to 76% across the OECD). Migrants in the Czech Republic are more likely to have a middle educational attainment than a low or a high level. Two in three migrants arrived in the Czech Republic ten years ago or more.

Share of migrants in the total population and selected characteristics

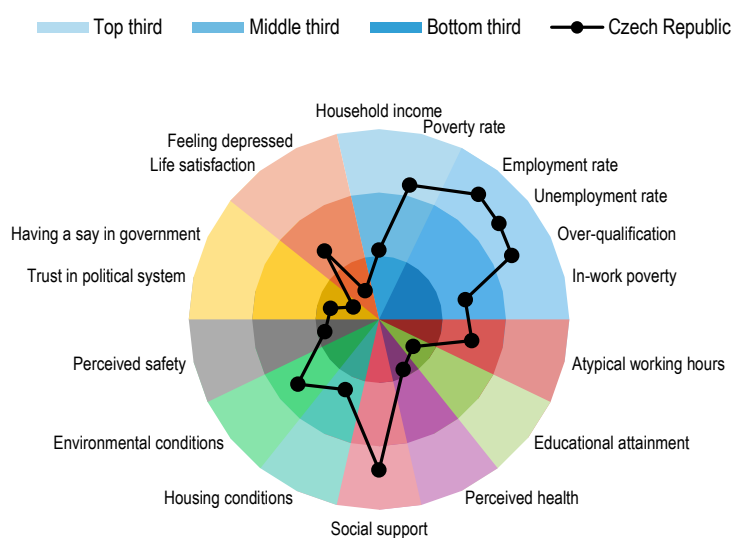


How is migrants' well-being in the Czech Republic?

When compared with the migrant populations of other OECD countries, migrants living in the Czech Republic have a relatively good situation regarding poverty, employment, unemployment, over-qualification and social support. Migrants settled in the Czech Republic rank in the middle third of OECD-country migrants for household income, in-work poverty, atypical working hours, housing and environmental conditions, and life satisfaction. They are in the bottom third for 6 out of 17 selected well-being indicators.

Migrants in the Czech Republic experience lower well-being outcomes to the native-born population for 5 out of 11 selected well-being indicators. However, migrants in the Czech Republic report similar levels to the native-born population in perceived health, social support, environmental conditions, trust in the political system, life satisfaction and feeling depressed.

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



Comparison of migrants' and native-born well-being in the Czech Republic

	Migrants have a worse situation	Same situation	Migrants have a better situation
Household income	▲		
Atypical working hours	▲		
Perceived health		▲	
Social support		▲	
Housing conditions	▲		
Environmental conditions		▲	
Perceived safety	▲		
Trust in political system		▲	
Having a say in government	▲		
Life satisfaction		▲	
Feeling depressed		▲	

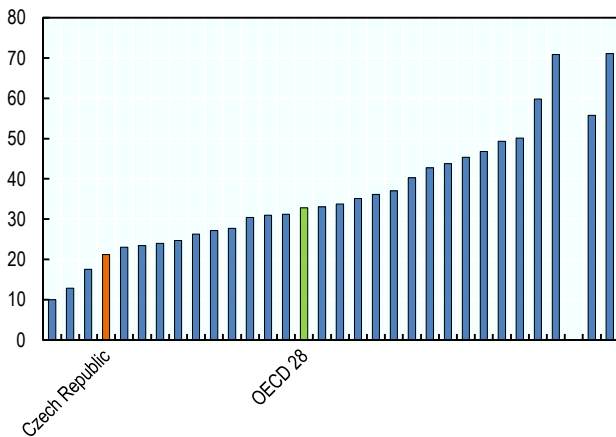
GOVERNANCE AND WELL-BEING IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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 the Czech Republic, 21% of the population feel that they have a say in what their government does, lower than the OECD average of 33%. In recent years, voter turnout has declined, with almost 60% of eligible voters casting a ballot in 2013, compared to slightly below 65% in 2006. When asked about whether or not corruption is widespread across government, 81% of Czechs answered "yes", while the OECD average is 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

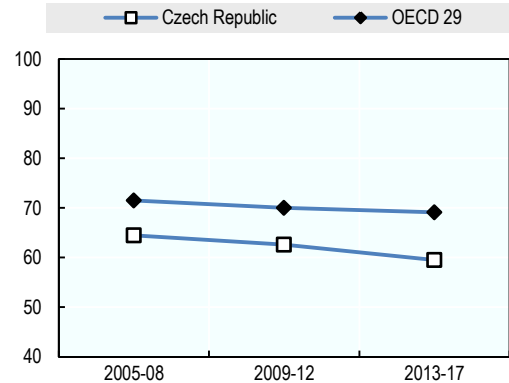
Percentage of people aged 16-65 who feel that they have a say in what the government does, around 2012



Source: OECD Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC database)

Voter turnout

Percentage of votes cast among the population registered to vote



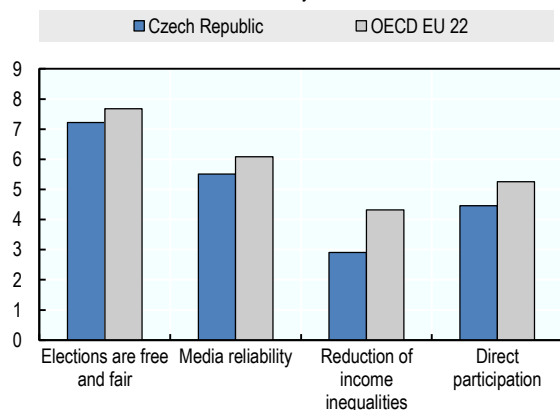
Note: Data refers to parliamentary elections. If more than one election took place over the time period indicated, the simple average voter turnout from all elections is shown. The OECD average sums elections that occurred over the time periods shown in 29 OECD countries.

Source: IDEA dataset

Overall, Czech's satisfaction with the way democracy works in their country is consistently below the OECD European average. People in the Czech Republic tend to be reasonably satisfied with the freedom and fairness of elections (7.2 on a 0-10 scale), while they are much less satisfied with policies to reduce inequalities (2.9) or the existence of direct participation mechanisms at the local level (4.5). Meanwhile, satisfaction with public services varies according to whether people have used those services in the last year: people with recent direct experience of using health and education services tend to be more satisfied than those without. Generally, satisfaction with both health and education services in the Czech Republic is higher than the European OECD average levels, with the exception of people without recent experience of using those services.

People's satisfaction with different elements of democracy

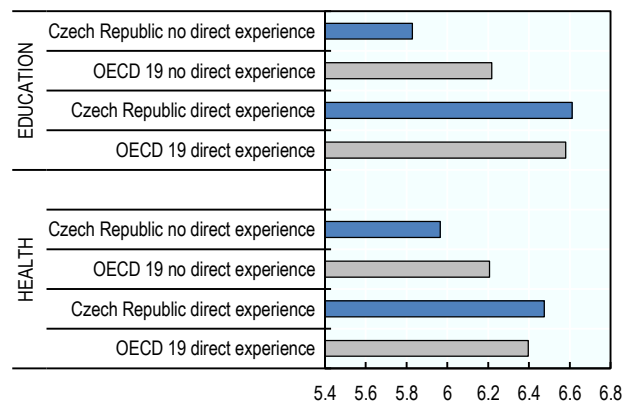
Mean score on a 0-10 scale, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction with elements of democracy, 2012



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

Satisfaction with public services by direct experience

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



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

BETTER LIFE INDEX

The **Better Life Index** is an interactive web application that 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.

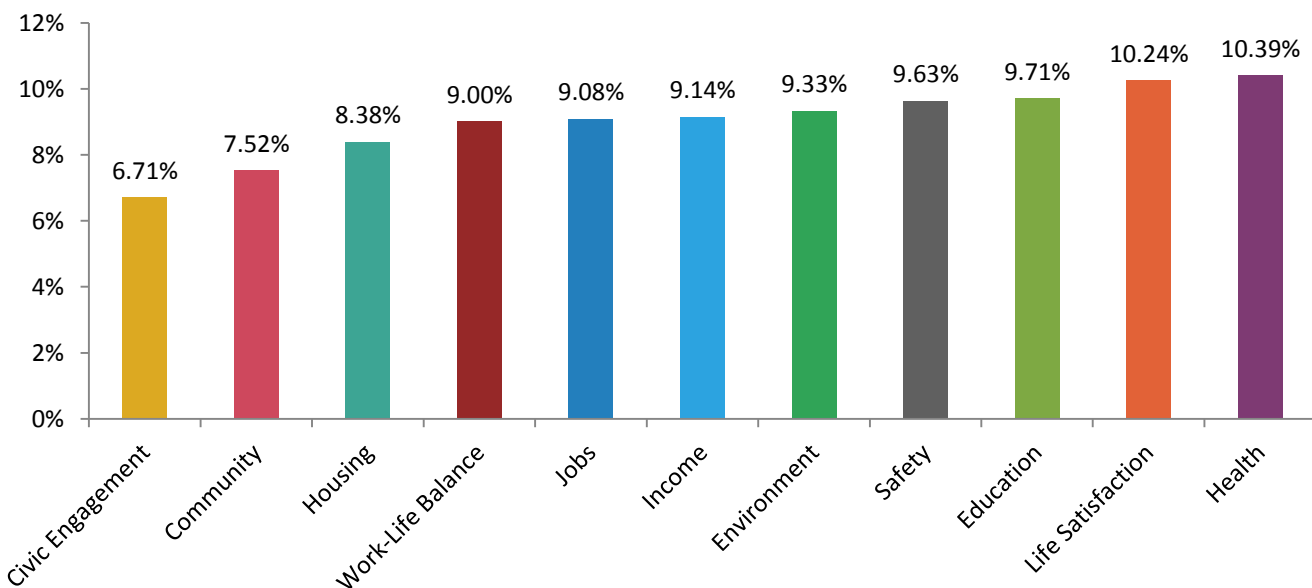


Users can also share their index with other people in their networks, as well as with the OECD. This allows the OECD to gather valuable information on the importance that users attach to various life dimensions, and how these preferences differ across countries and population groups.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO PEOPLE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC?

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 50,600 people in Czech Republic have visited the website making Czech Republic the 37th country overall in traffic to the website. The top cities are Prague (55% of visits), Brno (11%), Ostrava, Pilsen and Olomouc.

The following country findings reflect the ratings voluntarily shared with the OECD by 681 website visitors in the Czech Republic. Findings are only indicative and are not representative of the population at large. **For Czech users of the Better Life Index, health, life satisfaction and education are the three most important topics** (shown below).¹ Up to date information, including a breakdown of participants in each country by gender and age can be found here: www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/responses/#CZE.



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

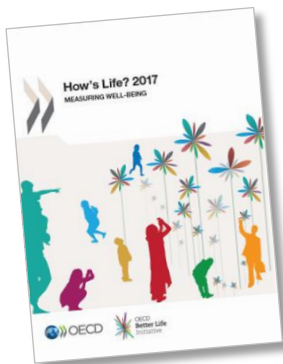
The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter the most to people and that shape the quality of their lives. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an in-depth analysis of specific topics, published in the *How's 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 the Czech Republic from the *How's Life? 2017* report** (pages 1-6) and shows what **Czech 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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