

Danes satisfied with social protection overall, but want more support for older people

The OECD's cross-national Risks that Matter (RTM) survey examines people's perceptions of social and economic risks and how well they feel their government reacts to their concerns. RTM polled a representative sample of 27 000 18-64 year-olds in 27 OECD countries to better understand what citizens want and need from social policy.

Denmark has the lowest proportion of respondents worried about their finances (49%) across RTM countries (Fig 1). Correspondingly, fewer than on average cross-nationally worry about inflation (84%) and their ability to pay their bills (52%). However, worries about finding adequate housing have increased more in Denmark than other countries (9 p.p. since 2020).

Respondents in Denmark tend to be relatively happy with social protection. A slight majority (56%) think that the government did enough to handle the COVID-19 pandemic, and one-third (32%) think they could easily receive benefits if they needed them, compared with 25% cross-nationally (Fig 2).

Fewer than average think that income support is inadequate, for instance due to illness (40%), unemployment (41%) or retirement (42%). Many feel that they receive a fair share of public benefits (35%), compared to the cross-national average (23%) (Fig 3).

Unlike in many other RTM countries, respondents think that government's immediate priority should be helping vulnerable older people (64%) rather than dealing with inflation. Similarly, in the longer term, health is the policy area garnering the greatest support for higher spending (67%), but long-term care (LTC) for elderly people is a close second: 62% of respondents in Denmark call for greater government spending on LTC for the elderly, bearing in mind the potential taxes/contributions costs and benefits.

Apart from these areas, most Danish respondents are generally satisfied with current levels of social protection. Just 42% call for more redistribution from the rich to the poor, which is among the lowest across RTM countries.

Fig. 2. Proportion who thinks they could receive public benefits if they needed, by country, 2022

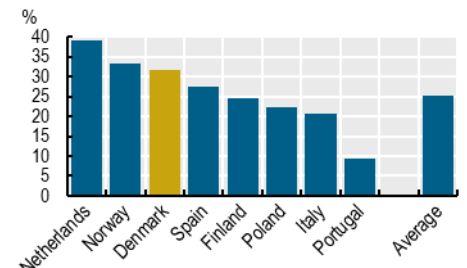


Fig. 3. Proportion who agrees that "I feel that I receive a fair share of public benefits, given the taxes and social contributions I pay and/or have paid in the past", by country, 2022

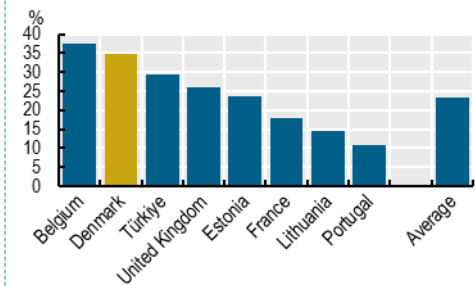
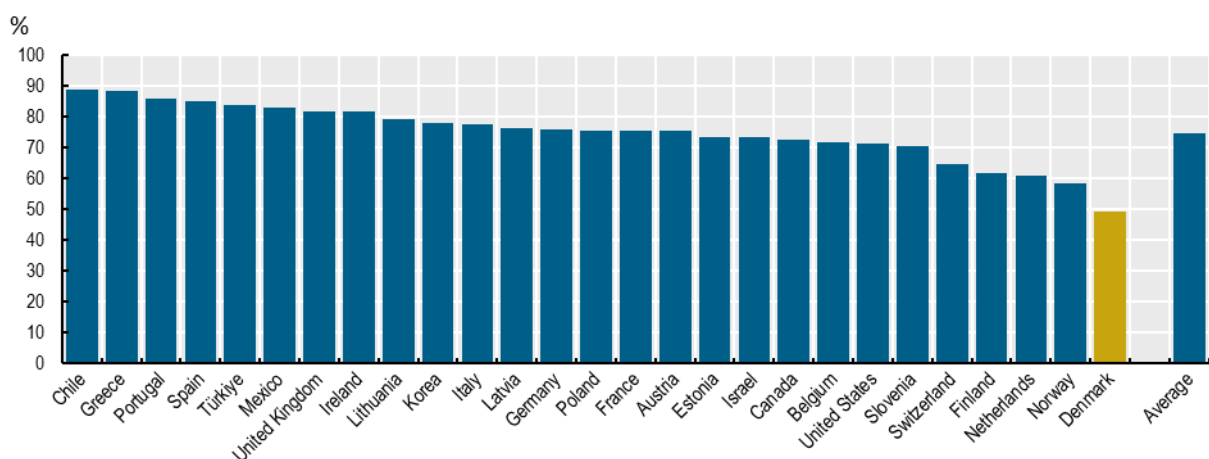


Fig. 1. Proportion who are concerned about their household's finances and overall social and economic well-being, by country, 2022



Notes: Average refers to the unweighted average of the 27 OECD countries for which data are available. Respondents were asked: "In general, thinking about the next year or two, how concerned are you about your household's finances and overall social and economic well-being?". They could choose between: "Not at all concerned"; "Not so concerned"; "Somewhat concerned"; "Very concerned"; "Can't choose". Data present the share of respondents who report "somewhat concerned" or "very concerned." For full notes see report.

Source: OECD Risks that Matter Survey 2022, <http://oe.cd/rtm>.

The OECD Risks That Matter survey is a cross-national survey examining people's social and economic concerns, how well they think government responds to their needs and expectations, and what policies they would like to see in the future. The survey was conducted for the first time in 2018, to support the OECD Social Policy Ministerial, and subsequently in 2020. The 2022 survey, conducted in October-December 2022, draws on nationally representative samples in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States.