

Finnish respondents are relatively satisfied with public services, but households that lost jobs during COVID-19 seek more support

The OECD's cross-national Risks that Matter survey examines people's perceptions of social and economic risks and how well they feel their government reacts to their concerns. The survey polled a representative sample of 25000 people aged 18 to 64 years old in 25 OECD countries to understand better what citizens want and need from social policy – particularly in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In line with most other countries, Finnish respondents are most worried in the short run about becoming ill or disabled (Fig. 1), though the share that is concerned in Finland (47%) is still well below the OECD average (62%). Looking beyond the next decade, 57% of Finnish respondents are worried about financial security in old age – the top concern in the country. While this is much lower than the OECD average of 72%, this worry about long-run financial security is slightly higher than the other Nordic countries in the sample.

People in Finland are most satisfied with access to education, with over 60% saying they have access to good-quality and affordable education. This is noteworthy: it is the highest degree of public satisfaction for any single policy area across the 25 countries surveyed. It also accompanies Finland's

consistently high scores in the OECD Programme of International Student Assessment (PISA).

A slim majority of respondents in Finland also agree with having good access to healthcare – a favourable outcome considering the health exigencies of the pandemic and the stressors facing healthcare providers in this period. At the same time, there is a relatively strong willingness to invest more in public health. 49% of Finnish respondents say they would pay an additional 2% of their income in taxes to ensure better health services provision (Fig. 2).

While people in Finland are fairly satisfied with their country's public services, at least relative to the rest of the OECD, experiences vary. People whose household lost a job during COVID-19, in particular, are calling for more support (Figure 3). 53% of respondents in Finland say that they want government to do more to ensure their social and economic insecurity, but rates rise to 56% for respondents whose household lost a job. This is a sizeable divergence in preferences following COVID insecurity.

Fig. 1. Percent identifying 'becoming ill or disabled' as the top short-term risk to themselves or their family

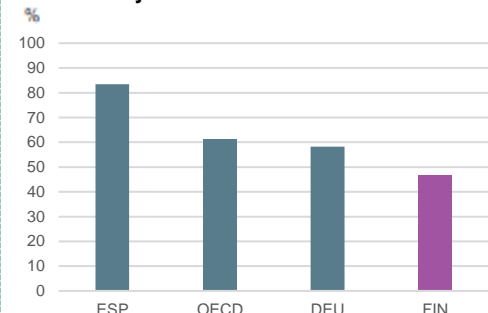


Fig. 2. Percent identifying 'health supports' as a policy area they would pay an additional 2% of their income to support

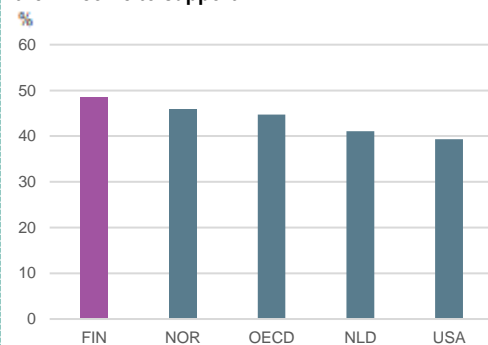
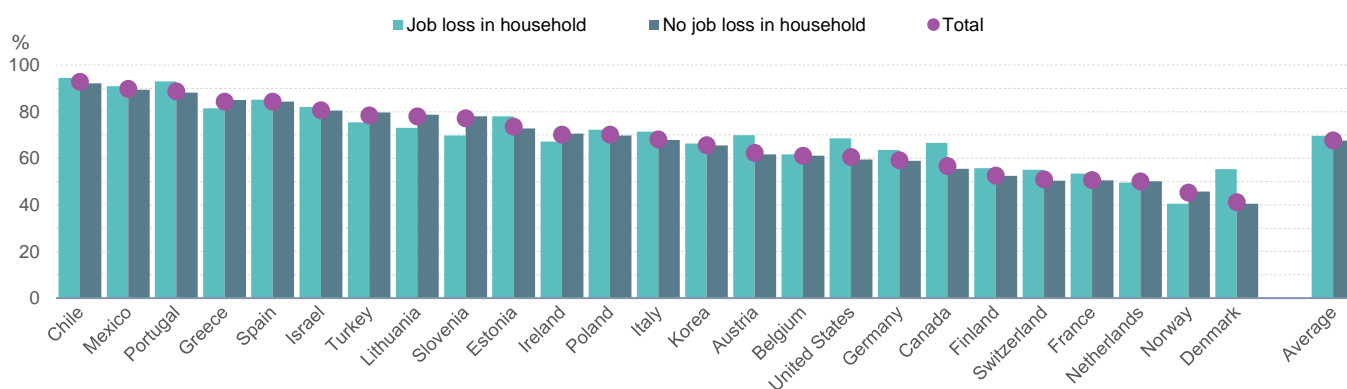


Fig. 3. Half of Finnish respondents want government to do more to ensure their economic and social security



Notes: Respondents were asked whether they thought the government should be doing less, more, or the same as they are currently doing to ensure their economic and social security. Possible response options were "much less", "less", "about the same as now", "more" and "much more". Respondents could also choose "don't know". "Job loss in household" refers to respondents reporting that either they or any member of their household have/had either "Lost their job or been laid off permanently by their employer" and/or "Lost their self-employed job or their own business", since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Source: OECD Secretariat estimates based on the OECD Risks That Matter 2020 survey, <https://www.oecd.org/social/risks-that-matter.htm>

The OECD Risks that Matter (RTM) 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. The 2020 survey, conducted in September-October 2020, draws on nationally-representative samples in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Korea, Lithuania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States.