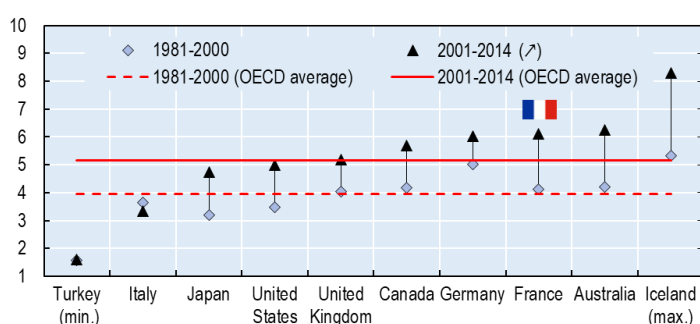




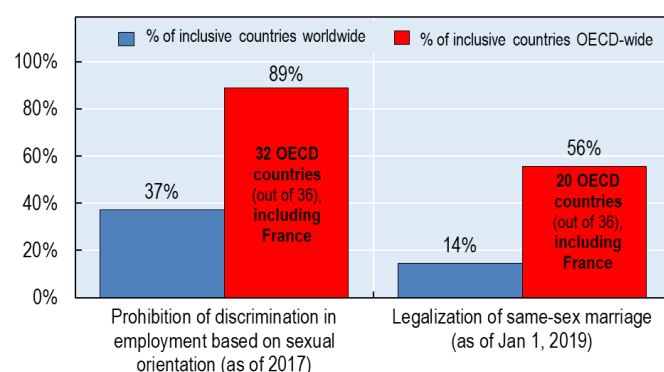
The 2019 edition of *Society at a Glance* examines trends in social well-being across the OECD. It features a special chapter on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people: their numbers, how they fare in terms of their economic situation and well-being, and what policies can improve LGBT inclusivity. It also includes a special chapter based on the 2018 OECD Risks That Matter Survey on people's perceptions of social and economic risks and the extent to which they think governments address those risks. The publication also presents 25 indicators on general context, self-sufficiency, equity, health and social cohesion.

Fig.1. Despite improvements, acceptance of homosexuality remains limited



Note: Acceptance of homosexuality is measured on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that homosexuality is never justifiable and 10 means that it is always justifiable. Source: [Figure 1.6 of OECD Society at a Glance 2019].

Fig.2. There is still a long way before sexual and gender minorities meet full-fledged legal recognition



Source: [Figure 1.18 of OECD Society at a Glance 2019].

A SPOTLIGHT ON LGBT PEOPLE

France is one of the 15 OECD countries that have included a question on self-identification as heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual in at least one of their nationally representative surveys. According a survey on sexuality conducted by the National Research Agency on AIDS and Viral Hepatitis, the share of LGB people in France amounted to 1.8% in 2006. In other OECD countries where estimations from different survey rounds are available, the share of LGB people has risen by 50% over the past decade [Figure 1.4 of the OECD publication *Society at a Glance 2019*]. Increasing disclosure of an LGB identity is likely to continue in the future since it is driven by younger cohorts. As most OECD countries, France does not yet collect information on the share of transgender people among the adult population.

Attitudes toward LGBT people are improving worldwide and have consistently been more positive in OECD countries than elsewhere. However, there remains substantial room for progress. France performs slightly better than the OECD average regarding acceptance of homosexuality: French citizens score six on a 1-to-10 acceptance scale, one point above the average OECD

score [Fig.1 above]. However, only a minority of French respondents (36%) would accept that a child dresses and expresses herself/himself as a child of the other gender [Figure 1.8, Panel B].

Low acceptance of LGBT people puts them at risk of discrimination. Representative survey data reveal that LGBT people are penalised with respect to employment status and labour earnings [Figure 1.12]. Experimental data confirm that this penalty at least partly reflects labour market discrimination: with the same curriculum vitae, homosexual applicants are 1.5 times less likely to be invited to a job interview than heterosexual applicants when their sexual orientation is conveyed through their volunteer engagement or work experience in a gay and lesbian organisation [Figure 1.13].

A range of policies can help improve LGBT inclusivity. Making LGBT individuals and the penalties they face visible in national statistics is a prerequisite for their inclusion, suggesting that France could collect information on sexual orientation on a regular basis, and in a broader range of surveys, including the French labour force survey and the French census, and start collecting information on gender identity as well.

Legally prohibiting anti-LGBT discrimination and ensuring equal rights for LGBT individuals is also essential to improve their situation. France has a proud record in this area, being one of the 32 OECD countries that prohibit discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation, and one of the 20 OECD countries that have legalized same-sex marriage [Fig.2 above].

Finally, educating people in countering their unconscious bias is a key component of any policy package aiming for better LGBT inclusion. Evidence shows that these interventions can be highly effective, even when they are short.

OECD Risks that Matter survey suggests French people worry about financial security

People in France are worried about their financial security, in both the short and long run. About 51% of French people say making ends meet is a top-three concern in the next couple of years [Figure 3.1], and 67% say financial security in old age is a top-three worry beyond the next decade [Figure 3.2].

In the face of these concerns, many French people doubt their ability to access government support. Only 17% of the French think that they could easily access public benefits if they needed them, compared to a cross-country average of 20% [Figure 3.3]. French people feel this way even as France has one of the largest social safety nets in the world (both in per capita spending and as a percentage of GDP). About half of French people want government to do more to ensure their economic and social security [Figure 3.6].

OVERVIEW OF OTHER SOCIAL INDICATORS

Extensive social protection system

France reports the highest level of public social expenditure in the OECD at 31% of GDP [Figure 6.10]. The average expenditure across OECD countries was just over 20% in 2018. France also has the third highest coverage rate for out-of-work benefits: more than 12% of all working-age individuals received social cash benefits in 2017, a share that is twice the OECD average. [Figure 6.7].

Income inequality and poverty in France are slightly lower than the OECD average. About 8% of the French population lives below the poverty line, compared with an OECD average of 12% [Figure 6.4]. While 14% of French youth (18-25 years old) are poor, this is the case for only 3% of older people (over 65 years) [Figure 6.6]. The French social protection system plays an important role in cushioning inequalities and poverty.

Low social mobility

Social mobility is relatively low in France. Considering the current level of inter-generational mobility, it would take an average of six generations for children in a family in the poorest 10% of the income distribution to reach the average income in France [Figure 6.3]. The average across OECD countries is four to five generations.

Housing conditions

More than one in three French households (35%) rent their home, which is a relatively high share across OECD countries (placing France ninth in the ranking) [Figure 6.13]. About one in five low-income households spend more than 40% of disposable income on rent, compared with more than one in three in OECD countries on average. However, this share rises to more than one in four for low-income homeowners with mortgage [Figure 6.14].

Social cohesion

Confidence in the government is below the OECD average (32% vs. 43%) [Figures 8.4] and more than two-thirds of the French population (65%) perceive corruption in their government, compared with an average of 56% in OECD countries [Figures 8.6]. On the other hand, the participation rate in 2017 elections (68%) was close to the OECD average of 65% [Figure 8.10]. French people tend to trust the local police and army more than the national government: 84% and 87%, respectively, both shares are considerably higher than the respective OECD averages.

Internet use

In 2018, 88% of the adult population had Internet access in France, slightly above the OECD average (86%). However, while the adoption of the Internet by young people is almost universal in France (97%), it remains relatively low among those aged 55 to 74 (74%). The proportion of adolescents who report being cyber bullied by messages or images is lower in France (8%) than in most OECD countries (OECD average is 14%) [Figure 8.15].

Contact:

OECD Social Policy Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs [@OECD_Social](https://twitter.com/OECD_Social)

Marie-Anne Valfort +33 (0)1 45 24 98 65
Marie-Anne.VALFORT@oecd.org