

# How's Life in Australia?





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This brochure presents **selected findings for Australia from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Australians **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

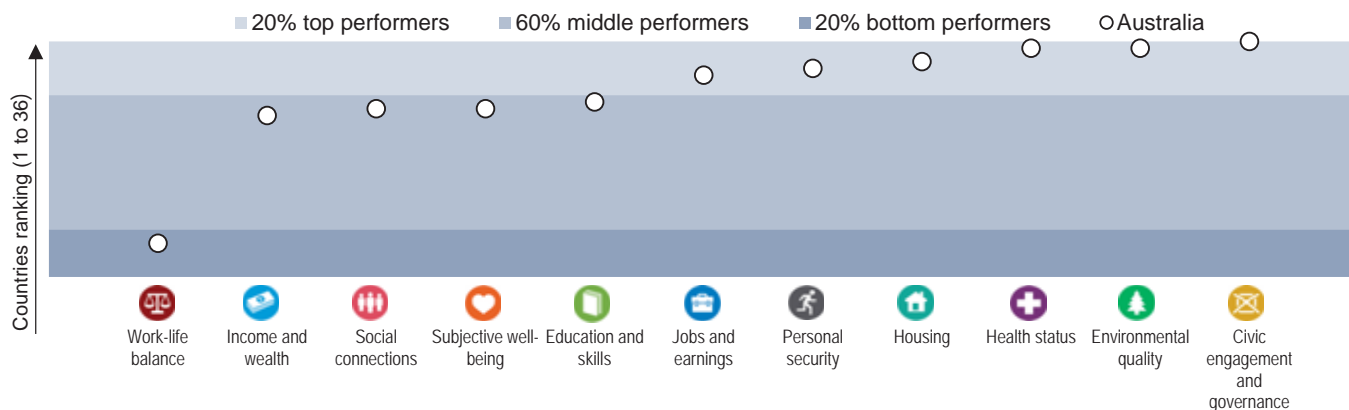
The following are findings for **Australia** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN AUSTRALIA IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Australia** performs very well in many of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Australia** ranks at the top in civic engagement and above the average of the 36 countries in environmental quality, health status, housing, personal security, jobs and earnings, education and skills, subjective well-being, social connections, and income and wealth, but below average in work-life balance.

**Figure 1 - How does Australia compare?**

*Australia's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Australian household** has generally been spared by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, Australia recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 9%, one of the largest increases in the OECD, while in the Euro area income dropped on average by 1% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011. Market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) remained unchanged while it increased by 1.2% on average in the OECD.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. The **employment rate** decreased by only 0.5 percentage point in Australia while the long-term unemployment rate remained stable between 2007 and 2012.

In the OECD as a whole, the poor employment situation had a major impact on life satisfaction. Amid a favourable labour market situation, the percentage of Australian people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 76% to 77% between 2007 to 2012.

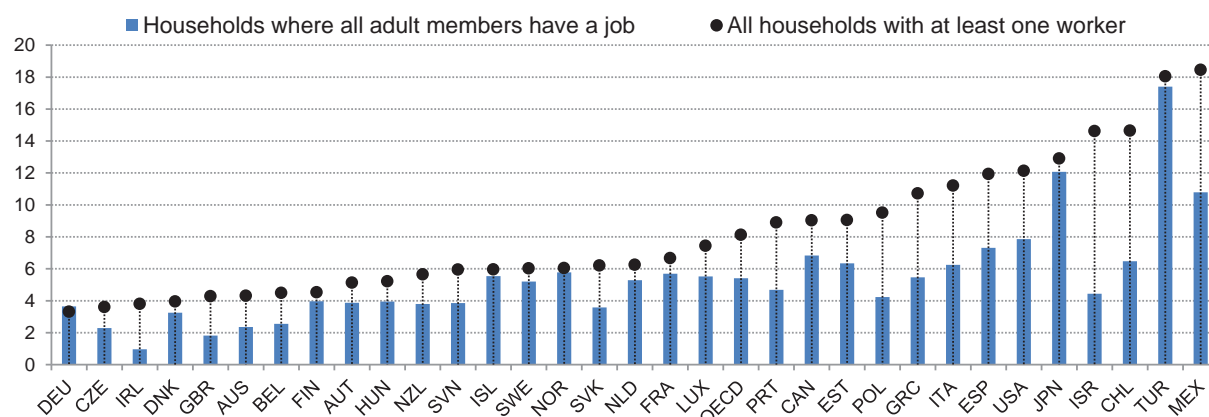
People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Australian** people reporting that they trust the government declined from 53% to 46% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In **Australia**, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time remained stable between 2007 and 2013.

## QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND WELL-BEING

From a well-being perspective, what matters is to have a job of good quality. Quality of employment encompasses many elements, one being that paid work ensure adequate standards of living. In-work poverty reflects different forms of precarious employment (e.g. low working hours and hourly pay among full-time workers, frequent moves between low-paid work and joblessness, etc), and its incidence informs about quality of employment. In 2010, **4% of Australian people living in households with at least one worker experienced in-work poverty, while 2% of those living in households with all adult members employed were in poverty**, both shares being well below the OECD average. Strategies to fight in-work poverty are at the forefront of the policy agenda in many countries, particularly in the context of the economic crisis.

**Figure 2 –In-work poverty in Australia, 2010**  
Poverty based on a threshold set at 50% of median household disposable income














## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **Australia**. Despite these gains, **Australian women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A significant share of Australian women also report having experienced intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN AUSTRALIA?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	84	80	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	85%	85%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	57%	43%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	79%	90%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+14%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	-	-	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	36	28	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	25%	-	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence	27%			
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	51%	78%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.5	7.2	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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

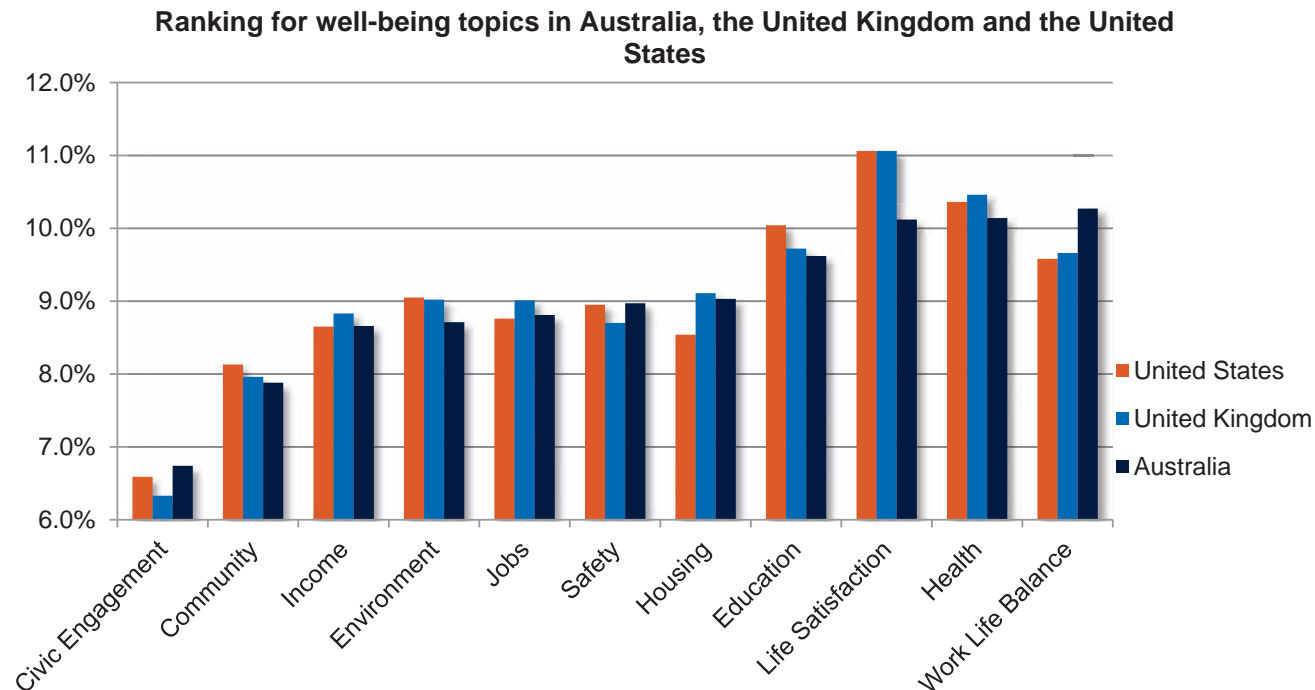
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



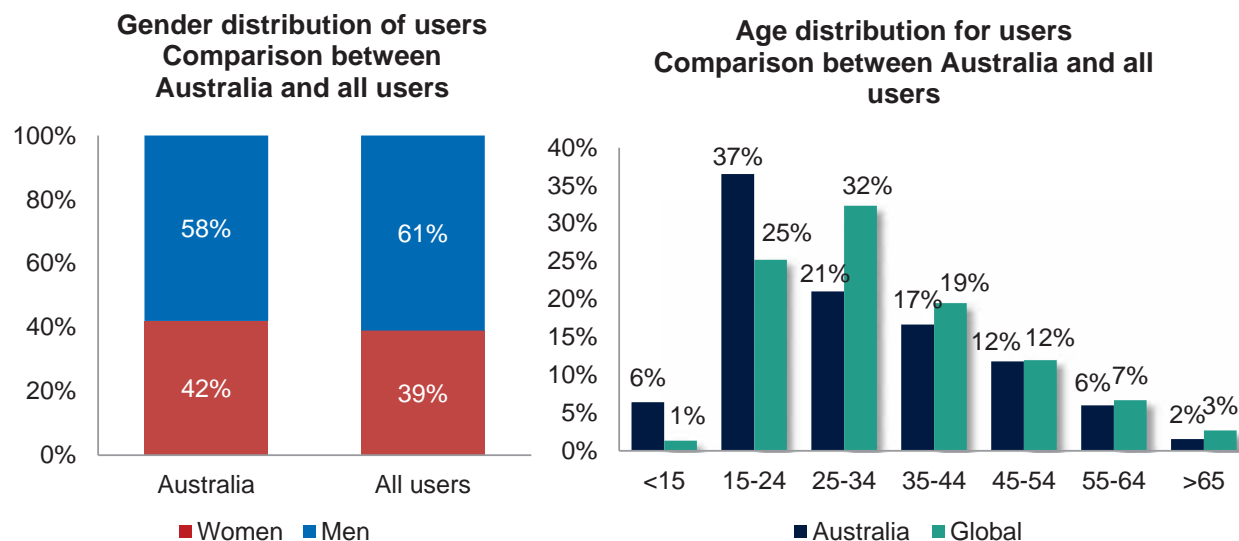
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR AUSTRALIA

**Work-Life Balance, Health and Life Satisfaction** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Australia.<sup>1</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.



Australia is currently **6th** in number of visits (over 155,900) to the BLI site, up 100% or over 78,200 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Sydney, with over 54,400 visits followed by Melbourne, (+37,800) and Brisbane (+23,700).



<sup>1</sup> Preferences for Australia based on 2,382 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Austria?





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This brochure presents **selected findings for Austria from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Austrian **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

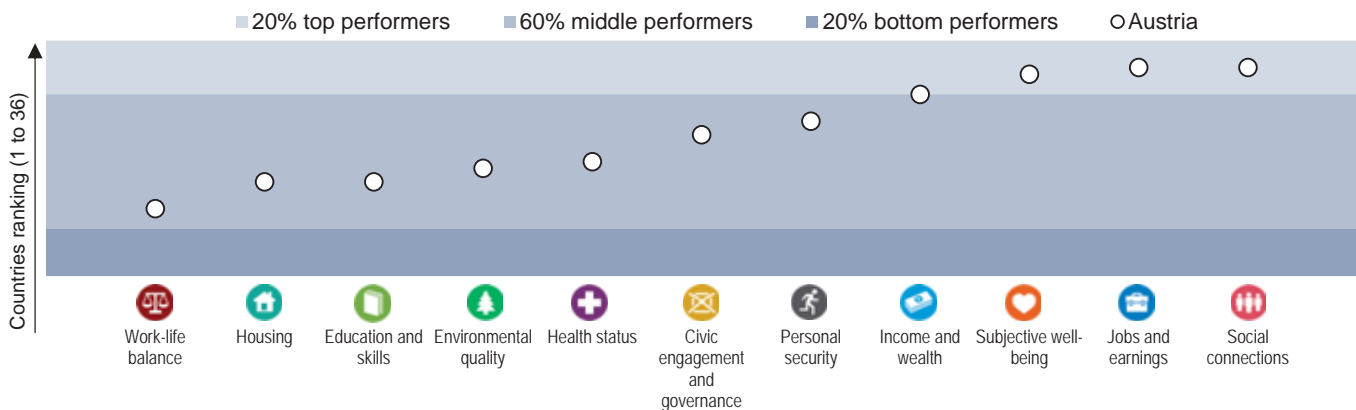
The following are findings for **Austria** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN AUSTRIA IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Austria** performs well in many of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Austria** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of social connections, jobs and earnings, subjective well-being, income and wealth, personal security, civic engagement, health status, environmental quality, education and skills, and housing, but below average in work-life balance.

**Figure 1 - How does Austria compare?**

*Austria's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Austrian household** has been only marginally affected by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, Austria recorded a cumulative decline in real **household disposable income** of around 1%, as on average in the Euro area over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011. Market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) remained unchanged between 2007 and 2010 while it increased by 1.2% on average in the OECD.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In contrast to the general trend, the **employment rate** increased by 1 percentage point in Austria while the long-term unemployment rate remained stable between 2007 and 2012.

In the OECD as a whole, the poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. Conversely, the percentage of **Austrian** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 67% to 77% from 2007 to 2013, while this percentage dropped in the countries most affected by the crisis.

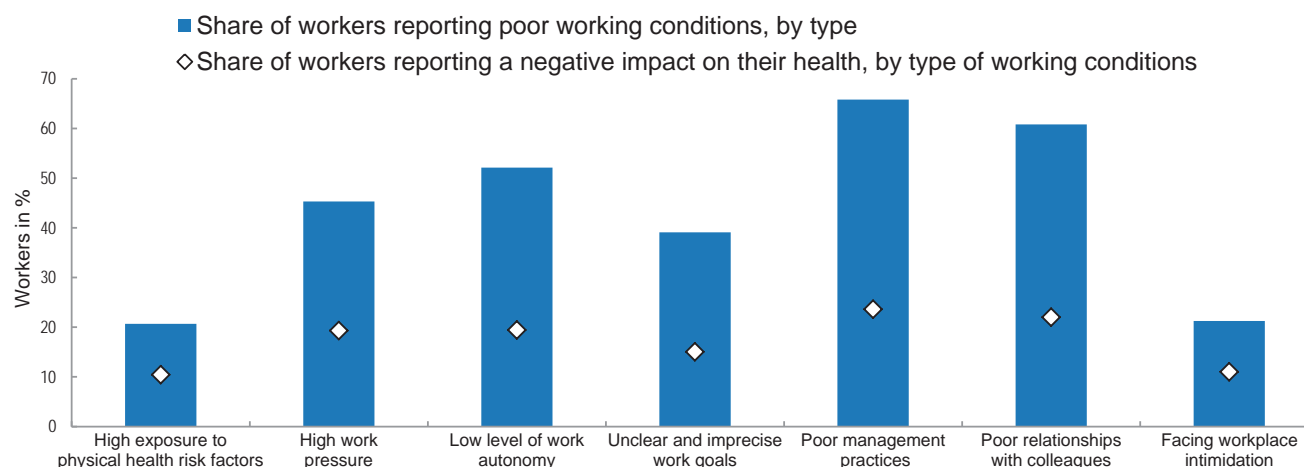
In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. Conversely, the percentage of **Austrian** people reporting that they trust the government increased from 26% to 42% between 2008 and 2013.

Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries most impacted by the crisis. In contrast to the general trend, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time decreased by 1 and 2 percentage points respectively between 2008 and 2013 in **Austria**.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **21% of Austrian workers reported being in a poor working environment**, a share slightly above the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.











Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Austrian workers' health, 2010



Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **Austria**. Despite these gains, **Austrian women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to be over-represented among poor households or to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN AUSTRIA?			AND IN THE OECD?	
				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	84	78	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	68%	71%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	53%	47%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	81%	89%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+19%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	39%	23%	37%	30%
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	28%	72%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	75%	90%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.6	7.4	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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

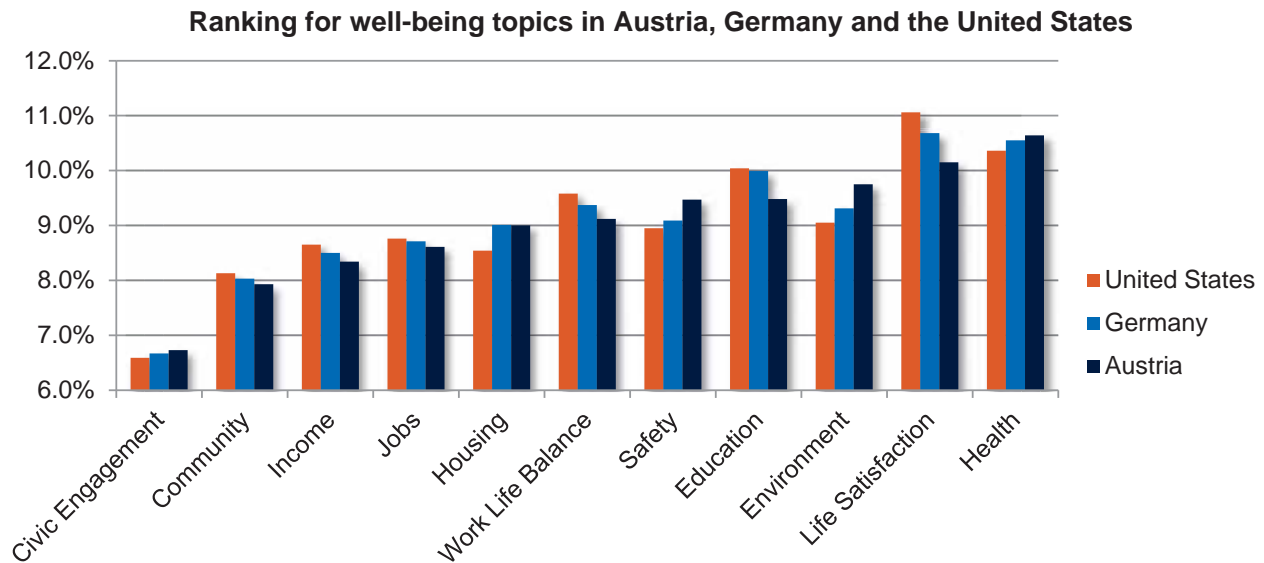
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



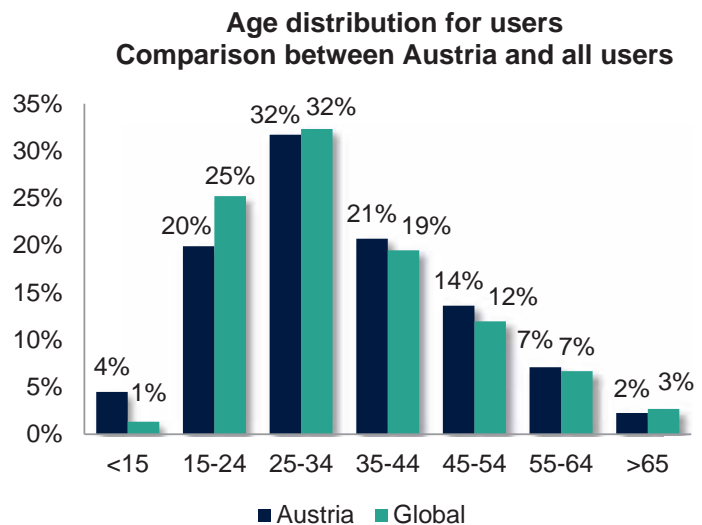
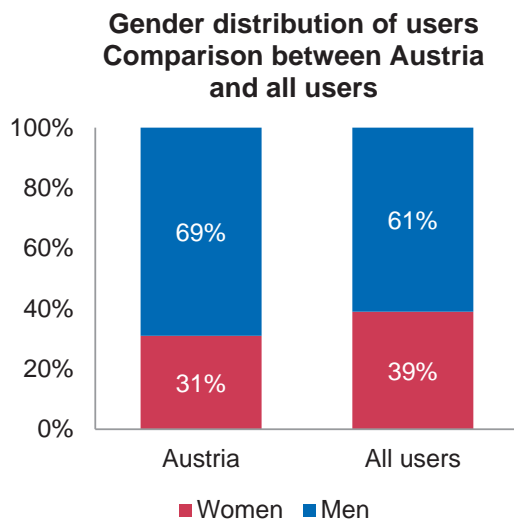
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: USER FINDINGS FOR AUSTRIA

**Health, Life Satisfaction, Environment** are the three highest ranked topics for users based in Austria.<sup>2</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Austria, Germany and the United States.



Austria is currently **17th** in number of visits (over 46,900), to the BLI site, up 76% or over 20,257 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Vienna with over 27,800 visits, followed by Graz (+3,500) and Linz (+3,400).



<sup>2</sup> Preferences for Austria based on 1,381 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Belgium?





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This brochure presents **selected findings for Belgium from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Belgian **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



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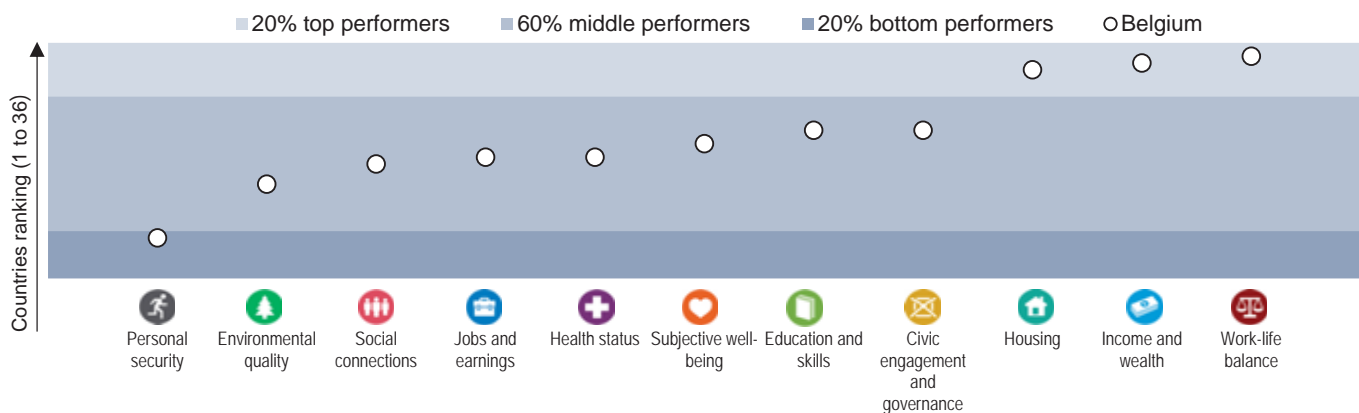
The following are findings for **Belgium** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN BELGIUM IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Belgium** performs well in many of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Belgium** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of work-life balance, income and wealth, housing, civic engagement, education and skills, subjective well-being, health status, jobs and earnings, and social connections, but below average in environmental quality, and personal security.

**Figure 1 - How does Belgium compare?**

*Belgium's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Belgian household** has been modestly affected by the crisis, which in the OECD has been particularly visible when looking at household income, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

Since the start of the crisis, real **household disposable income** remained stable in Belgium from 2007 to 2011 while in the Euro area, income dropped by 1% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011. However, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 1% between 2007 and 2010, in line with the OECD average of 1.2%.

In OECD countries severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In contrast to this general trend, the **employment rate** and the long-term unemployment rate remained stable in **Belgium** between 2007 and 2012.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction** in countries most affected by the crisis. In Belgium, the percentage of people declaring being very satisfied with their lives fell from 78% to 73% from 2007 to 2013 despite sustained employment conditions.

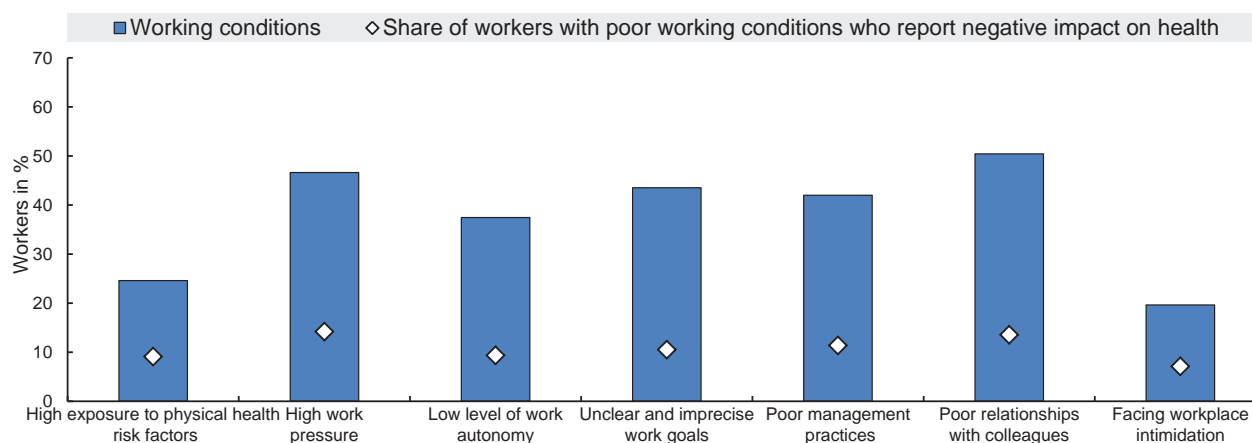
People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Belgian** people reporting that they trust the government decreased from 60% to 55% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period, however, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. However, this trend is less clear cut in Belgium. The percentage of people reporting having helped someone increased by 5 percentage point while the share of people reporting having volunteered their time decreased by 5 percentage points between 2007 and 2013.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **21% of Belgian workers reported being in a poor working environment**, a share slightly above the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.












Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Belgian workers' health, 2010



Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries including in **Belgium**. Compared to men, **Belgian women** are less likely to have a paid job or be elected in Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN BELGIUM?			AND IN THE OECD?	
				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	83	78	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	72%	76%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	55%	45%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	82%	87%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	9%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	44%	31%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	29	23	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	38%	62%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	58%	75%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.1	7.1	6.7	6.6



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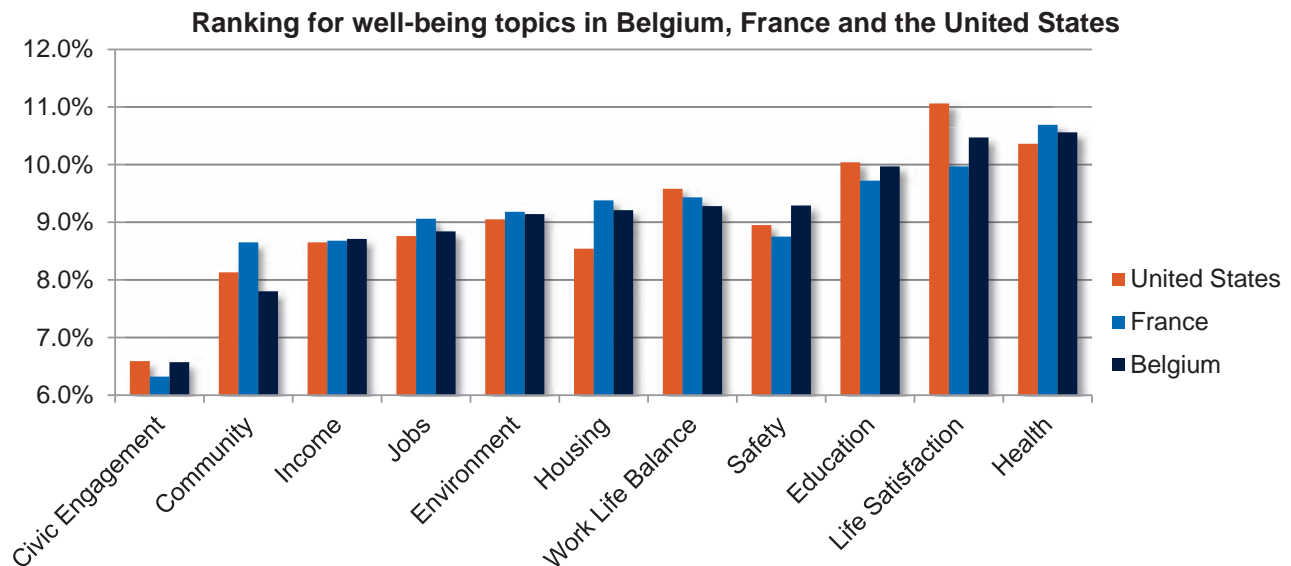
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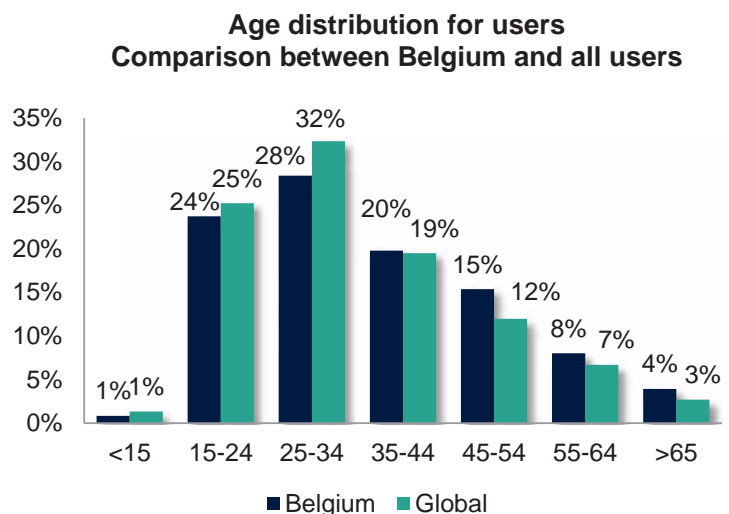
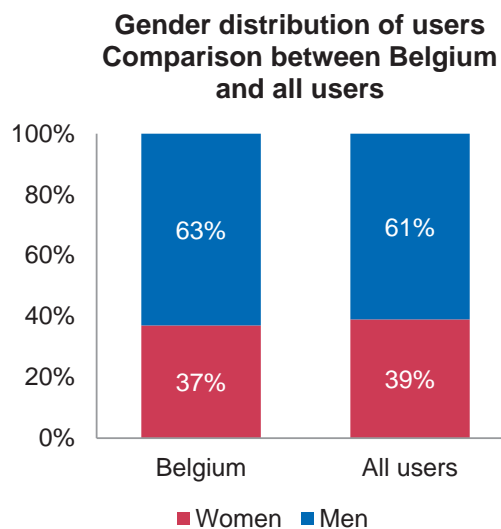
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## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR BELGIUM

**Health, Life Satisfaction and Education** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Belgium.<sup>3</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Belgium, France and the United States.



Belgium is currently **15th** in number of visits (over 54,800) to the BLI site, up 88% or over 25,600 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cites are Brussels with over 17,800 visits followed by Ghent (+3,700) and Antwerp (+3,400),



<sup>3</sup> Preferences for Belgium based on 1,198 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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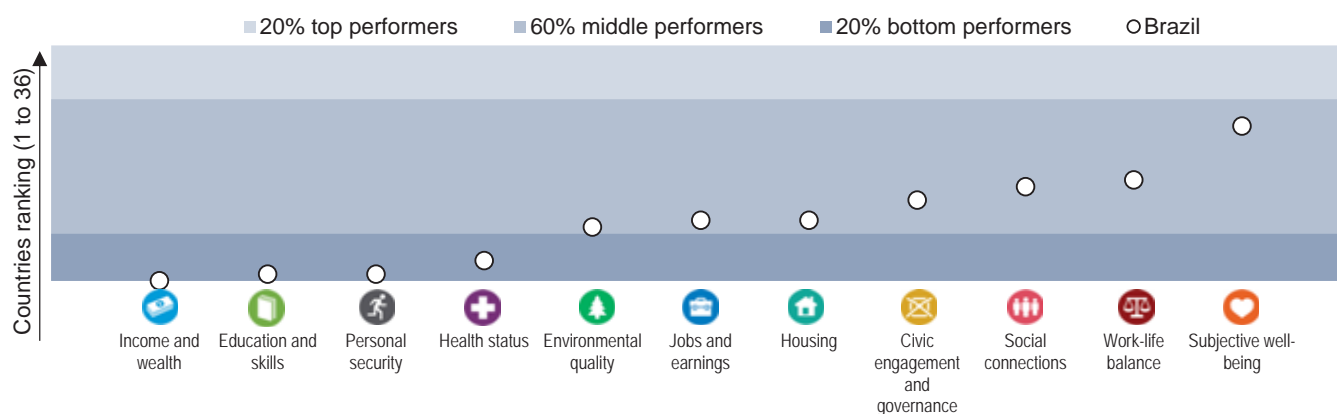
The following are findings for **Brazil** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN BRAZIL IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries and the Russian Federation, **Brazil** performs well in only a few of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Brazil** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of subjective well-being, work-life balance, and social connections, but below average in the dimensions of civic engagement, housing, jobs and earnings (estimated), environmental quality, health status, personal security, education and skills, and income and wealth (estimated).

**Figure 1 - How does Brazil compare?**

*Brazil's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



Note: For details on estimated values, please refer to the [BLI FAQ page](#) and the [BLI database](#)



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Brazilian household** has been affected by the crisis very modestly, which in OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In contrast to the general trend, the **employment rate** decreased only by 0.5 percentage points in Brazil between 2007 and 2011.

In the OECD as a whole, the poor employment situation had a major impact on life satisfaction. In contrast to the general trend, the percentage of Brazilian people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 47% to 68% from 2007 to 2013, one of the highest increases in the OECD and major economies.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. Contrary to this trend, the percentage of **Brazilian** people reporting that they trust the government increased from 38% to 45% between 2007 and 2013.










Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In **Brazil**, by contrary, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time decreased by 10 and 4 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2013.

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries. In **Brazil**, **women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely feel insecure when walking alone at night. A significant proportion of Brazilian women also report having experienced various forms of intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN BRAZIL?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	77	70	83	77
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	81%	91%	79%	88%
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	9%	91%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence*	37%	-	-	-
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	40%	57%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.2	7.2	6.7	6.6

\*This percentage includes physical, sexual and emotional or psychological violence

## BETTER LIFE INDEX

The *Better Life Index* is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in *How's Life?* Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and therefore see how countries' perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.



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

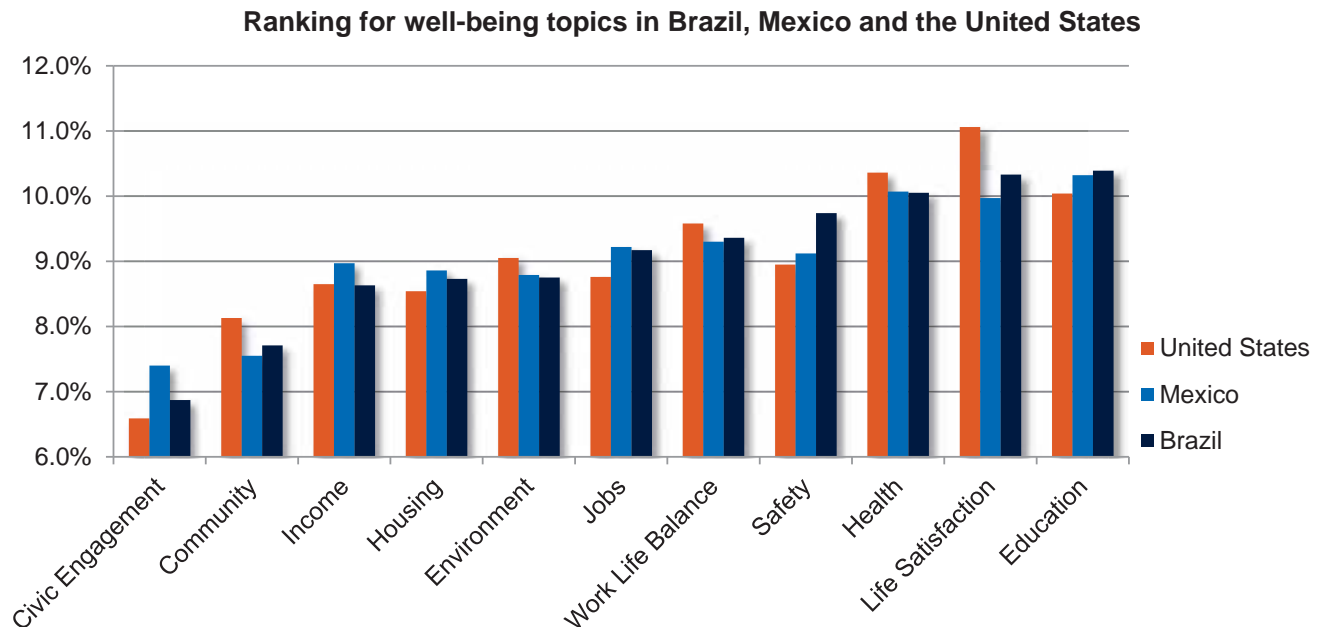
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



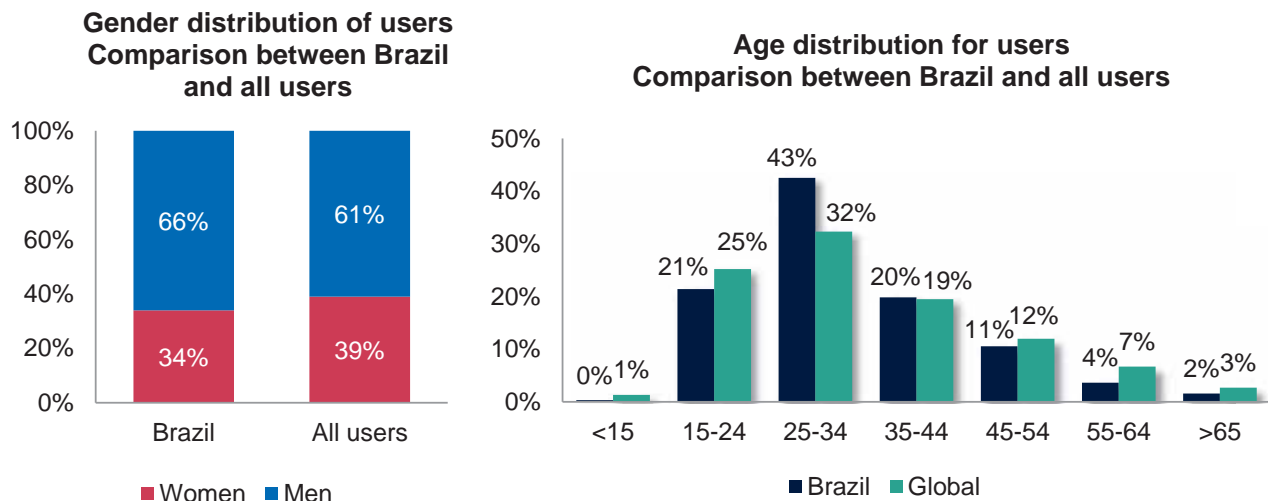
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR BRAZIL

**Education, Life Satisfaction and Health** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Brazil.<sup>4</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Brazil, Mexico and the United States.



Brazil is currently **32nd** in number of visits (over 29,200) to the BLI site, up 97% or over 14,000 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Sao Paulo with over 8,500 visits followed by Rio de Janeiro (+3,800) and Belo Horizonte (+1,800).



<sup>4</sup> Preferences for Brazil based on 635 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Canada?





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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 index and share their preferences.
- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for Canada from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Canadian **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

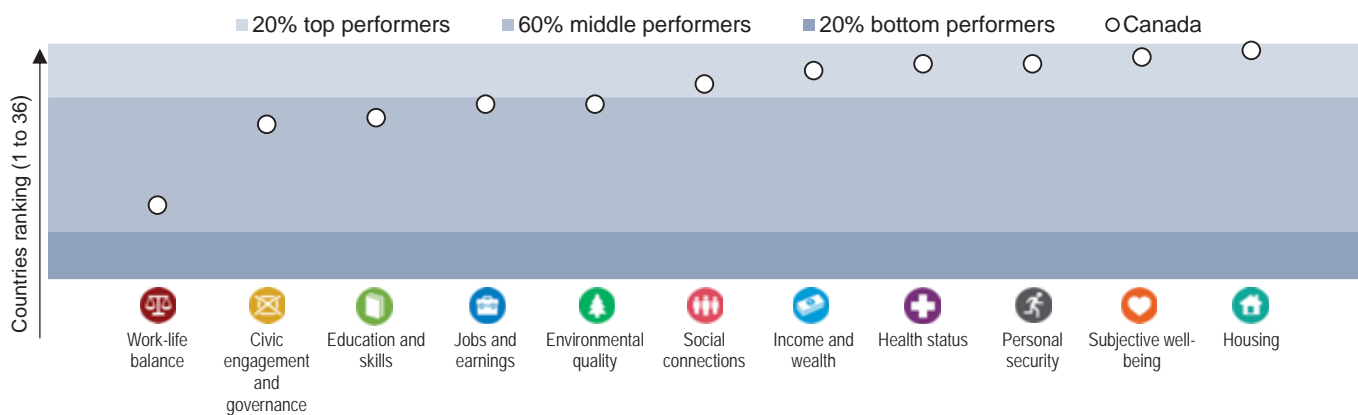
The following are findings for **Canada** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN CANADA IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Canada** performs very well in many of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Canada** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of housing, subjective well-being, personal security, health status, income and wealth, social connections, environmental quality, jobs and earnings, education and skills, and civic engagement, and below average in work-life balance.

**Figure 1 - How does Canada compare?**

*Canada's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Canadian household** has been modestly affected by the crisis, with impacts that are particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

Since the start of the crisis, Canada recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 5% from 2007 to 2010 while in the Euro area, income dropped on average by 1% between 2007 and 2011, with the largest decline occurring in 2011 for the Euro area. However, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 1%, in line with the OECD average increase of 1.2%.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. The **employment rate** decreased by 1 percentage point in Canada while the long-term unemployment rate increased by 0.5 percentage point between 2007 and 2012.

In the OECD as a whole, the poor employment situation had a major impact on life satisfaction. Conversely, the percentage of Canadian people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 78% to 80% between 2007 and 2013.

People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Canadian** people reporting that they trust the government fell from 64% to 51% between 2007 and 2013.

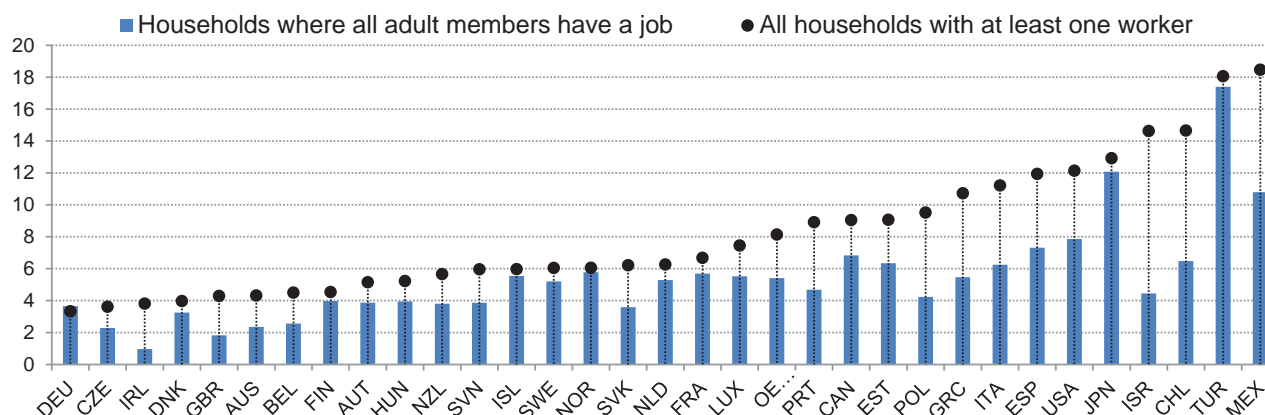
Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In **Canada**, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time increased by 3 and 4 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2013,.

## QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND WELL-BEING

From a well-being perspective, what matters is to have a job of good quality. Quality of employment encompasses many elements, one being that paid work ensure adequate standards of living. In-work poverty reflects different forms of precarious employment (e.g. low working hours and hourly pay among full-time workers, frequent moves between low-paid work and joblessness, etc), and its incidence informs about quality of employment. In 2010, **9% of Canadian people living in households with at least one worker experienced in-work poverty, while 7% of those living in households with all adult members employed were in poverty**, both shares being slightly above the OECD average. Strategies to fight in-work poverty are at the forefront of the policy agenda in many countries, particularly in the context of the economic crisis.

**Figure 2 - Quality of employment and in-work poverty in Canada, 2010**

Poverty based on a threshold set at 50% of median household disposable income














## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **Canada**. Despite these gains, **Canadian women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A small share of Canadian women report having experienced intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN CANADA?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	83	79	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	88%	89%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	60%	40%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	79%	85%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+19%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	-	-	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	35	20	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	25%	75%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence	6%	-	-	-
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	77%	91%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.6	7.6	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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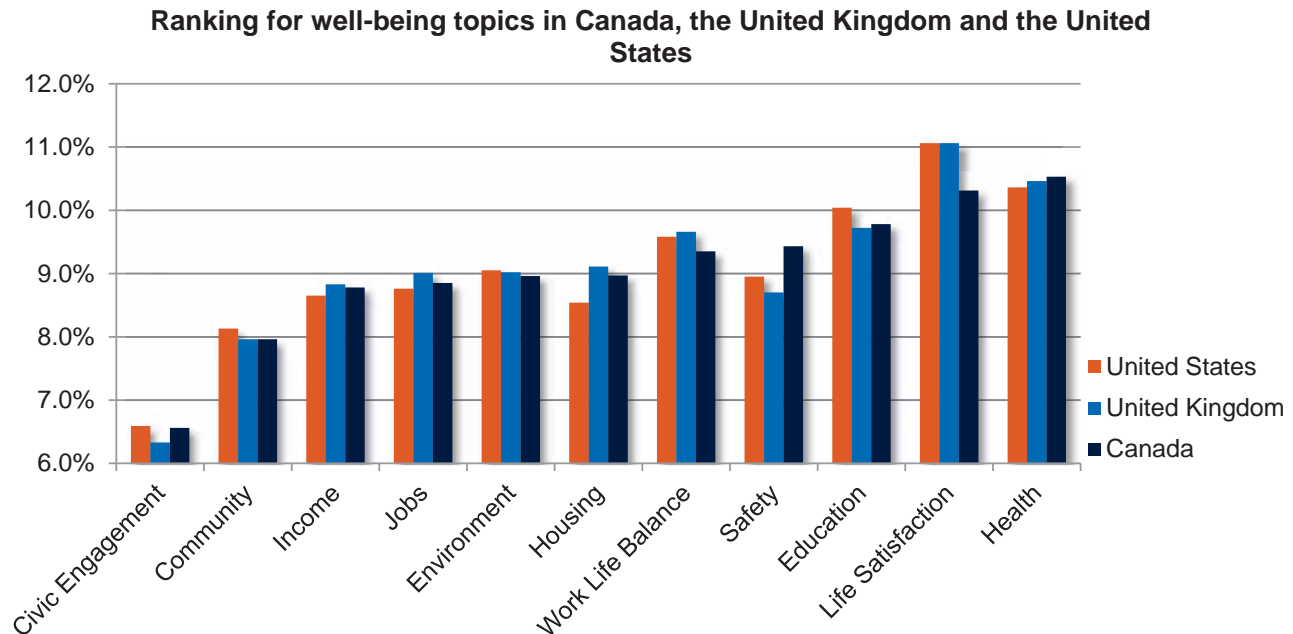
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



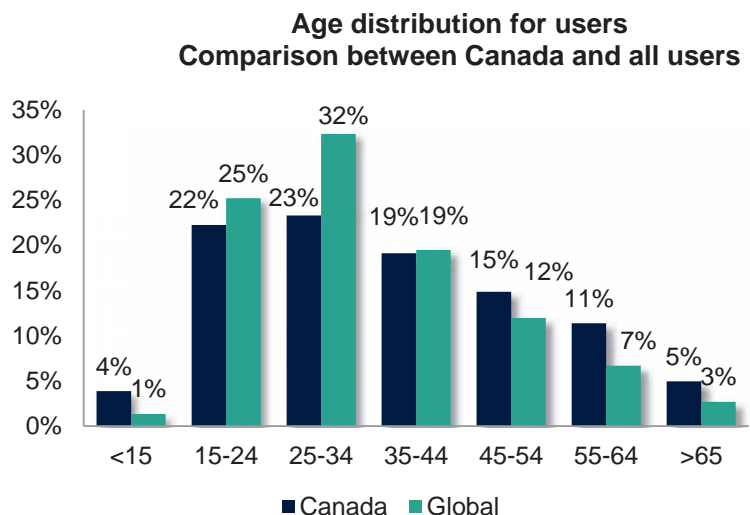
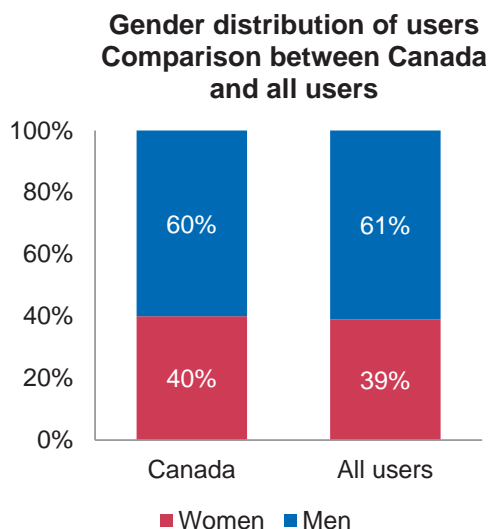
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR CANADA

**Health, Life Satisfaction and Education** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Canada.<sup>5</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.



Canada is currently **4th** in number of visits (over 235,200) to the BLI site, up 97% or over 115,800 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Toronto with over 37,800 visits followed by Montreal (+25,100) and Ottawa (+15,500).



<sup>5</sup> Preferences for Canada based on 3,358 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Chile?





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- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for Chile from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Chileans **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

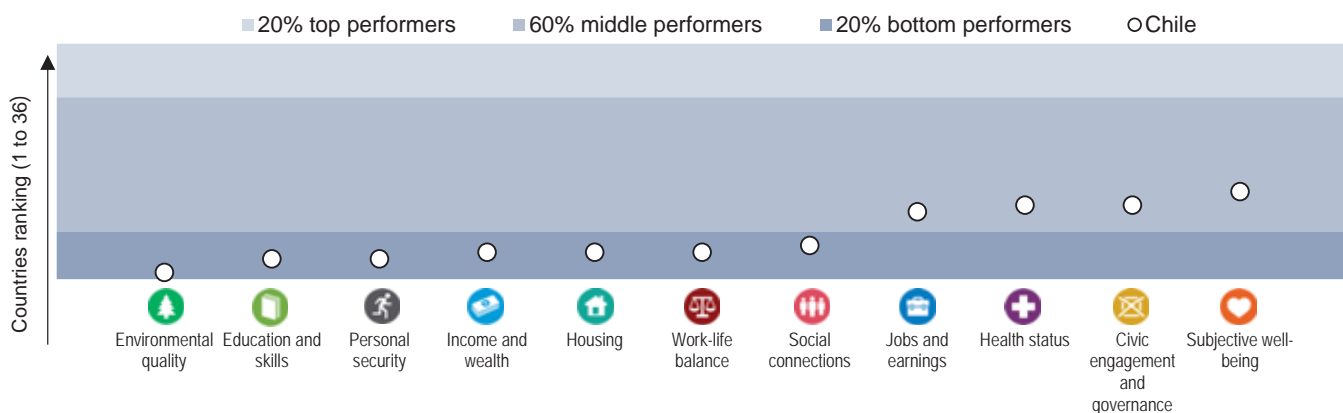
The following are findings for **Chile** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN CHILE IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Chile** performs well in only a few of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Chile** ranks close to the average of the 36 countries in the dimension of subjective well-being, and ranks below the average in civic engagement, health status, jobs and earnings, social connections, work-life balance, housing, income and wealth, personal security, education and skills, and environmental quality.

**Figure 1 - How does Chile compare?**

*Chile's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Chilean household** has been modestly affected by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, the OECD area recorded a cumulative increase in real household disposable income of around 2%, while no data is available for Chile. In the country, however, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) remained unchanged while it increased by 1.2% on average in the OECD.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In contrast to the general trend, the **employment rate** increased by almost 6 percentage points in Chile between 2007 and 2012, one of the highest increase in the OECD.

In the OECD as a whole, the poor employment situation had a major impact on life satisfaction. Amid a favourable labour market situation, the percentage of Chilean people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 42% to 55% from 2007 to 2012.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. This decline extended to Chile where the percentage of **Chilean** people reporting that they trust the government fell from 43% to 34% between 2007 and 2012.

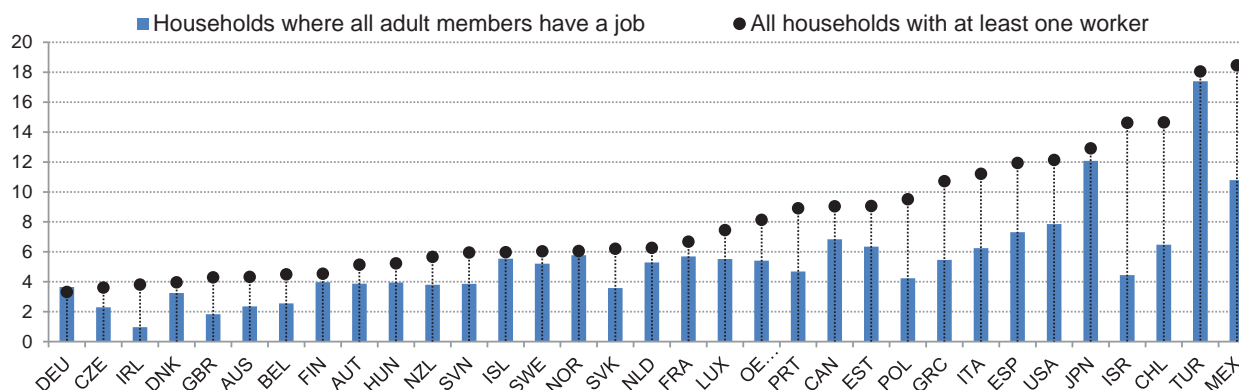
Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In contrast to this trend, the percentage of Chilean people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time decreased by 7 and 1 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2012.

## QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND WELL-BEING

From a well-being perspective, what matters is to have a job of good quality. Quality of employment encompasses many elements, one being that paid work ensure adequate standards of living. In-work poverty reflects different forms of precarious employment (e.g. low working hours and hourly pay among full-time workers, frequent moves between low-paid work and joblessness, etc), and its incidence informs about quality of employment. In 2010, **15% of Chilean people households with at least one worker experienced in-work poverty, while 7% of those living in households with all adult members employed were in poverty**. Strategies to fight in-work poverty are at the forefront of the policy agenda in many countries, particularly in the context of the economic crisis.

**Figure 2 - In-work poverty in Chile, 2010**

Poverty based on a threshold set at 50% of median household disposable income













## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **Chile**. Despite these gains, **Chilean women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A significant proportion of Chilean women also report having experienced various forms of intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN CHILE?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	81	76	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	51%	67%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	57%	43%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	71%	87%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+9%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	24%	52%	37%	30%
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	14%	86%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence*	36%	-	-	-
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	49%	60%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.6

\*This percentage includes physical, sexual and emotional or psychological violence



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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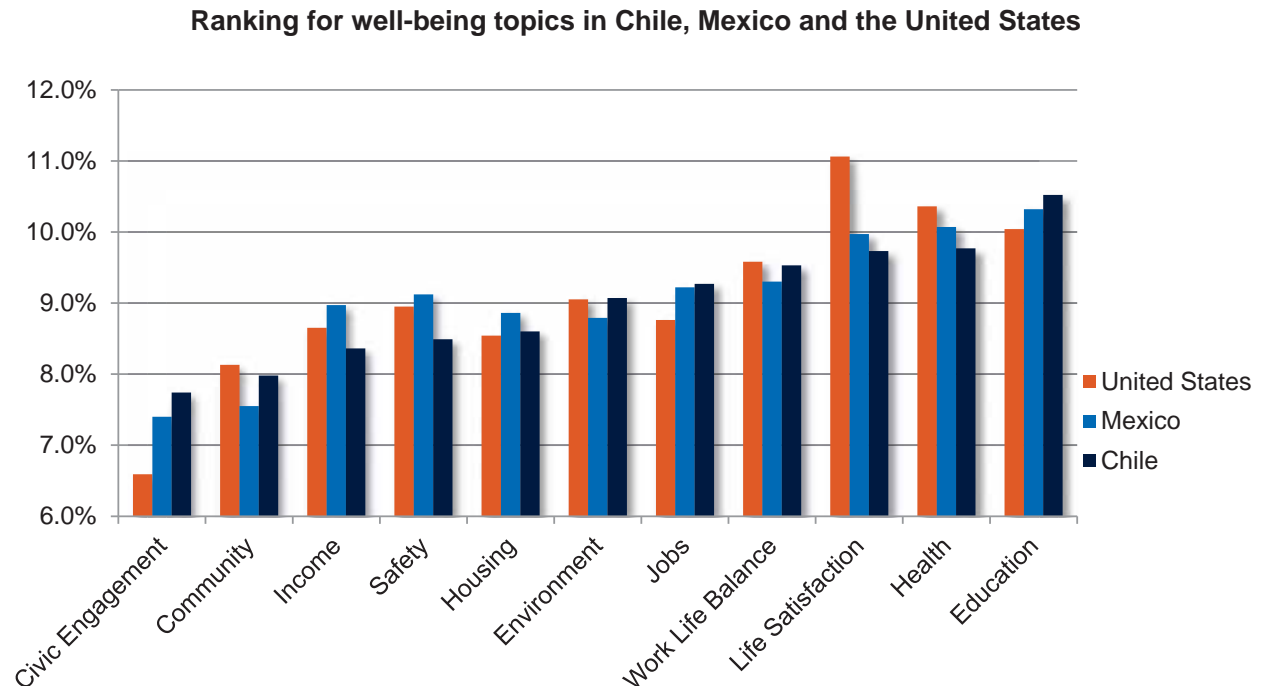
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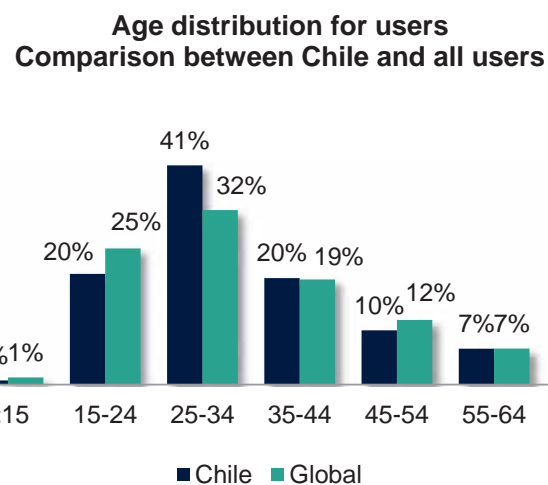
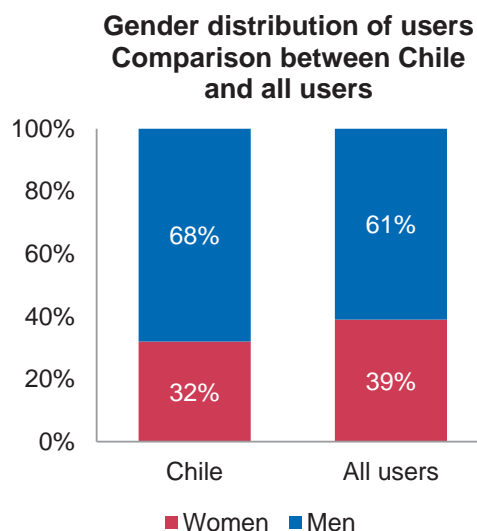
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR CHILE

**Education, Health and Life Satisfaction** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Chile.<sup>6</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Chile, Mexico and the United States.



Chile is currently **21st** in number of visits (over 39,900) to the BLI site, up 130% or over 22,600 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Santiago with over 29,700 visits followed by Valparaíso (+2,300) and Concepción (+2,100).



<sup>6</sup> Preferences for Chile based on 527 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in the Czech Republic?





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- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for the Czech Republic from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what **Czech Republic users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



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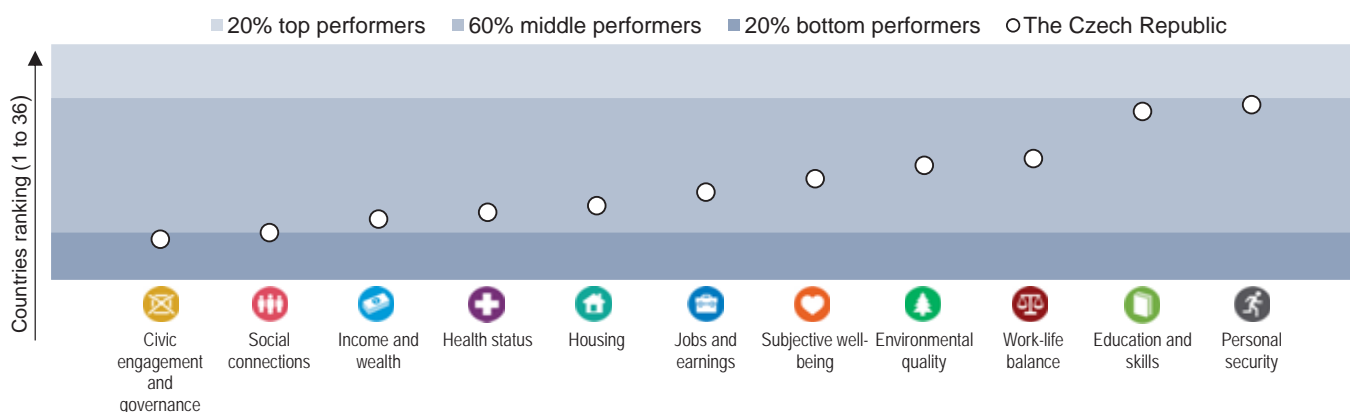
The following are findings for the **Czech Republic** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, the **Czech Republic** performs well in some of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. The **Czech Republic** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of personal security, education and skills, work-life balance, environmental quality, and subjective well-being, but below average in jobs and earnings, housing, health status, income and wealth, social connections, and civic engagement and governance.

**Figure 1 - How does the Czech Republic compare?**

*The Czech Republic's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Czech Republic household** has been affected by the crisis very modestly. In other OECD countries, the impact of the crisis has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, the **Czech Republic** recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 3%, while in the Euro area, income dropped on average by 1% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011. Market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) remained stable between 2007 and 2010, while it increased by 1.2% in the OECD on average.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In contrast to the general trend, the **employment rate** and the long-term unemployment rate remained stable in the **Czech Republic** between 2007 and 2012.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. In contrast to the general trend, the percentage of people from the **Czech Republic** declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 55% to 61% between 2007 and 2013.

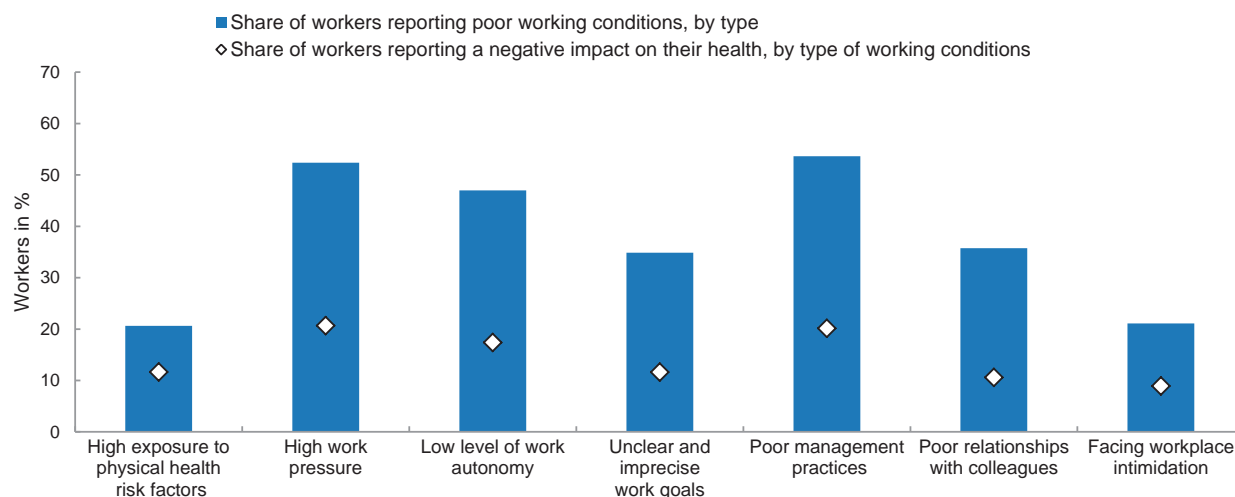
People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of people from the **Czech Republic** reporting that they trust the government fell from 27% to 24% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period, however, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged. Conversely, in the **Czech Republic**, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time decreased by 6 and 4 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2012.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **22% of Czech Republic workers reported being in a poor working environment**, a share slightly above the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Czech Republic workers' health, 2010













Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries over the past few decades. Despite these gains, compared to men, **women** from the **Czech Republic** are less likely to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A sizeable share of **women** from the **Czech Republic** also report having experienced intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	81	75	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	57%	63%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	59%	41%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	75%	91%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+18%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	42%	18%	37%	30%
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	22%	78%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence	37%	-	-	-
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	47%	72%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

The *Better Life Index* is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in *How's Life?* Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and therefore see how countries' perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.



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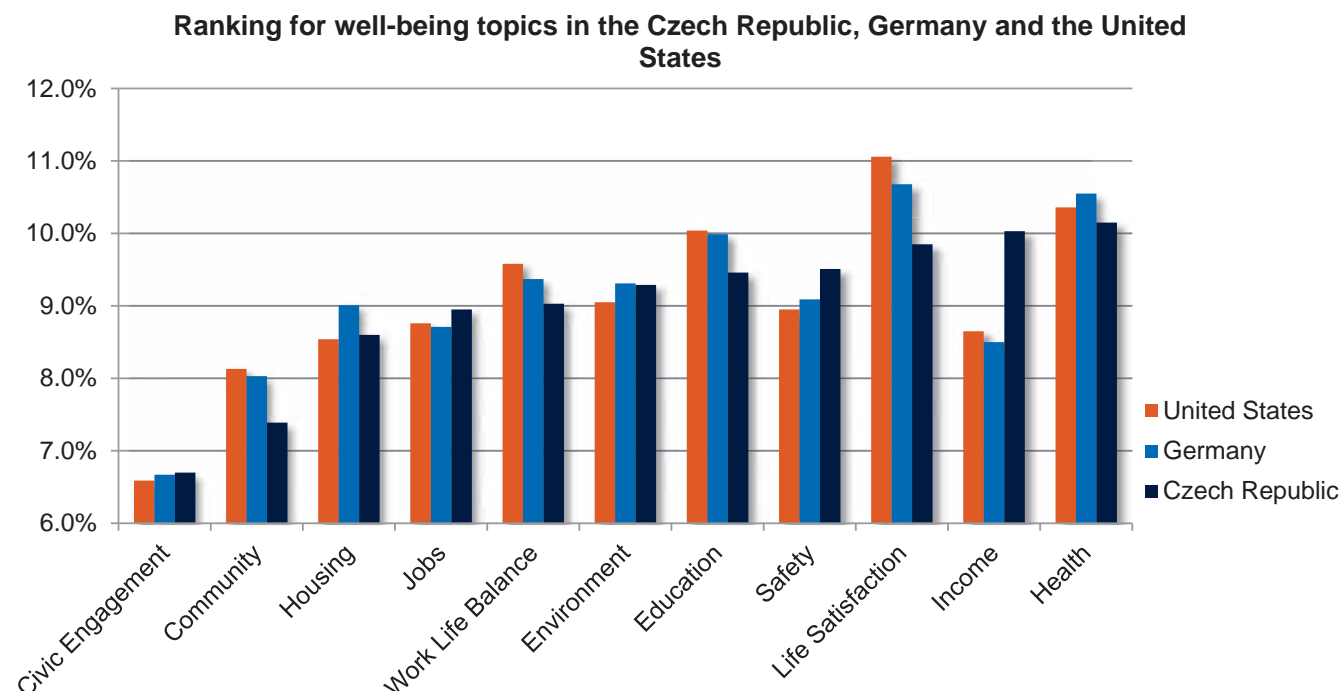
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



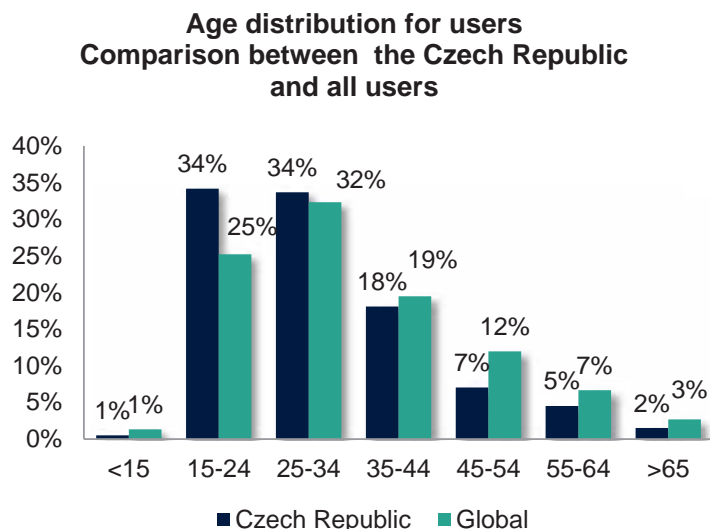
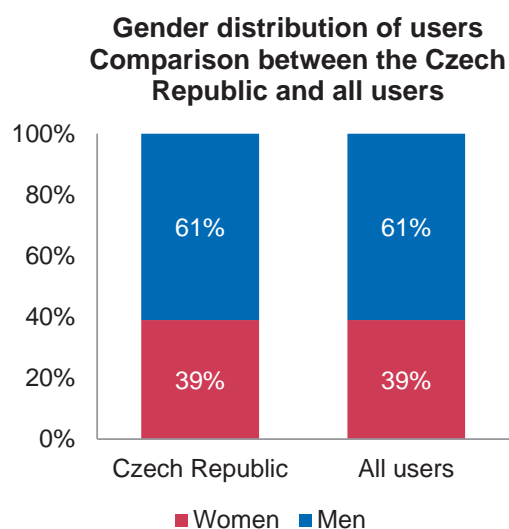
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR THE CZECH REPUBLIC

**Health, Income and Life Satisfaction** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in the Czech Republic.<sup>7</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in the Czech Republic, Germany and the United States.



The Czech Republic is currently **34th** in number of visits (over 21,200) to the BLI site, up 88% or over 9,900 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Prague with over 12,000 visits and Brno (+2,600).



<sup>7</sup> Preferences for the Czech Republic based on 199 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life In Denmark?





The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter to people and that shape their quality of life. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an analysis, published in the ***How's Life?*** report as well as an interactive web application, the ***Better Life Index***. It also includes a number of methodological and research projects to improve the information base towards a better understanding of well-being trends and their drivers.

The OECD Better Life Initiative:

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- Connects policies to people's lives.
- Generates support for needed policy measures.
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- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for Denmark from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Danish **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

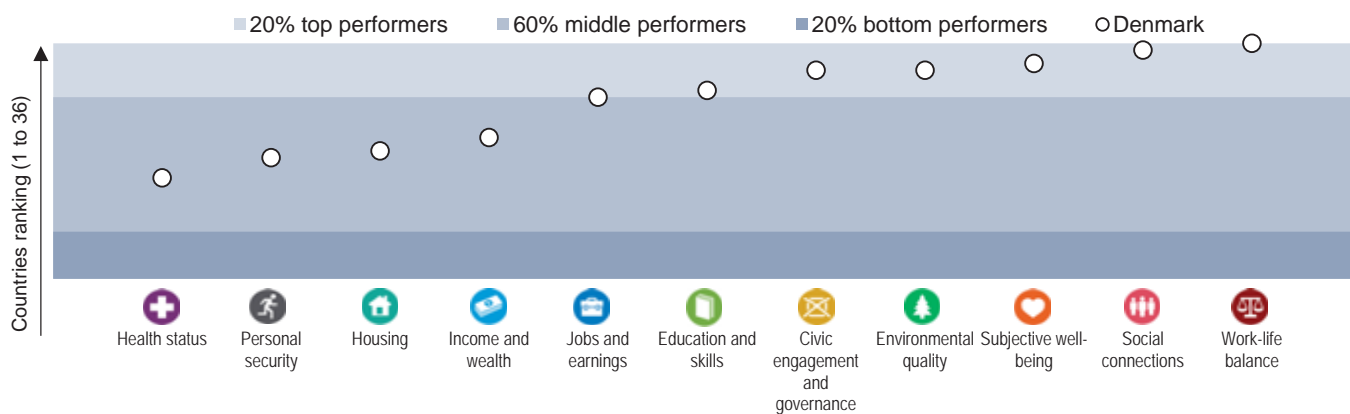
The following are findings for **Denmark** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN DENMARK IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Denmark** performs very well in most of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Denmark** ranks at the top in work-life balance, and also ranks at the top, along with New Zealand and Iceland, in social connections. It ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of social connections, subjective well-being, environmental quality, civic engagement, education and skills, jobs and earnings, income and wealth, housing, personal security, and health status.

**Figure 1 - How does Denmark compare?**

*Denmark's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Danish household** has been only modestly affected by the crisis, with impacts that are particularly visible when looking at jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, Denmark recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 4%, while in the Euro area income dropped by more than 1% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011. However, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 1% between 2007 and 2010, in line with the OECD average of 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. Between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** decreased by more than 4 percentage points in **Denmark**, while the long-term unemployment rate increased by 2 percentage points.

In the countries mostly hit by the crisis the poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. From 2007 to 2013, the percentage of **Danish** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives fell from 85% to 82%, although this value remains one of the highest in the OECD.

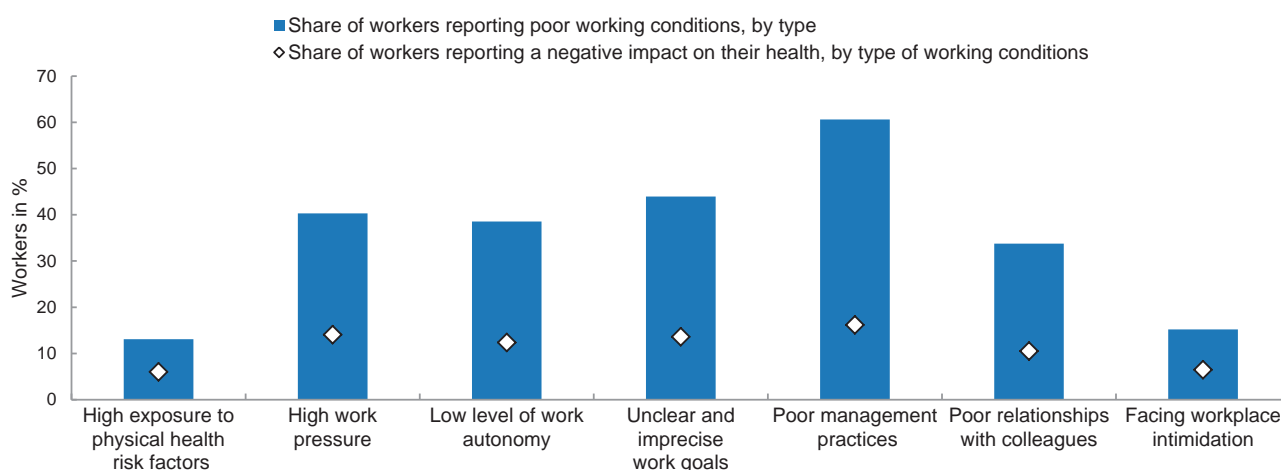
In OECD countries severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Danish people** reporting that they trust the government also fell from 59% to 39% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged. In **Denmark**, this trend is less clear cut. The percentage of people reporting having helped someone increased by 3 percentage points while it decreased by 1 percentage points for people reporting having volunteered their time between 2007 and 2013.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **10% of Danish workers reported being in a poor working environment**, the lowest share in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Denmark workers' health, 2010














Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **Denmark**. Despite these gains, **Danish women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A sizeable share of Danish women also report having experienced intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN DENMARK?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	82	78	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	69%	73%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	60%	40%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	84%	88%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+12%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	22%	22%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	28	25	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	39%	61%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence	22%	-		
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	69%	91%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.6	7.6	6.7	6.6



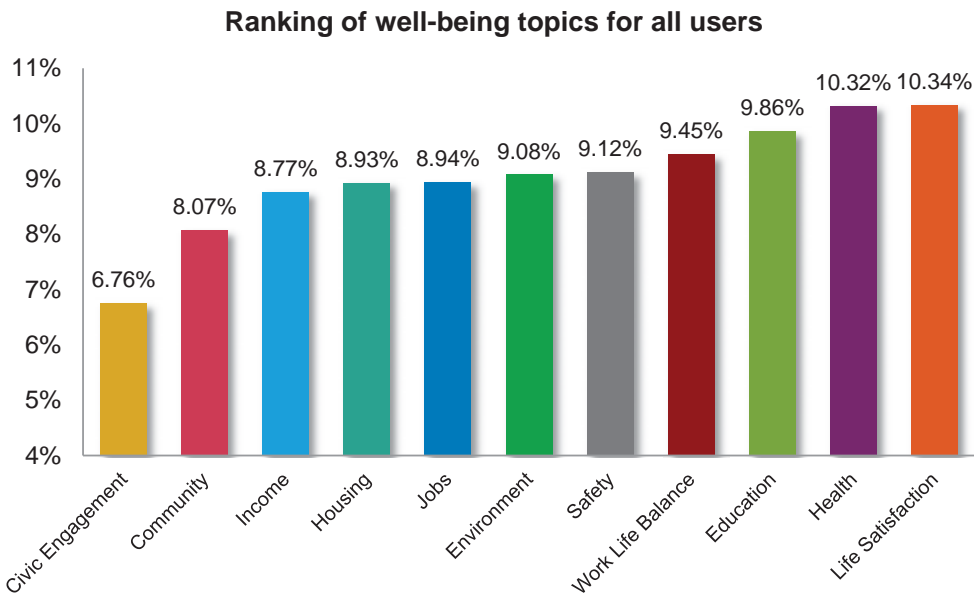
# BETTER LIFE INDEX

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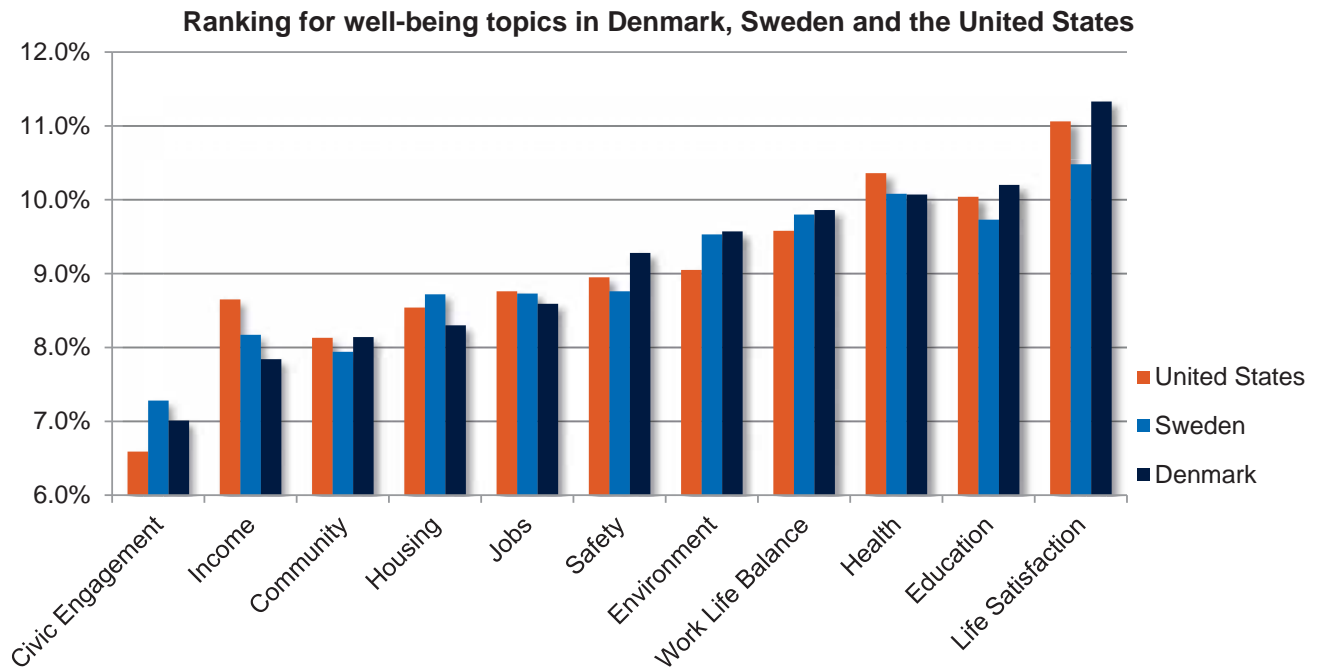
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



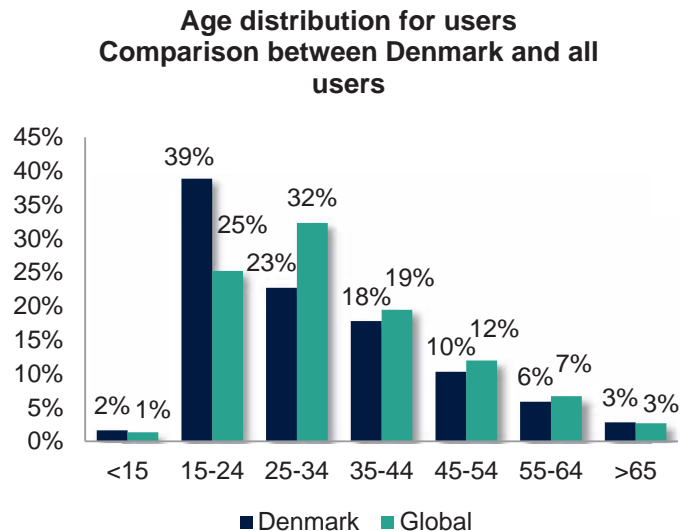
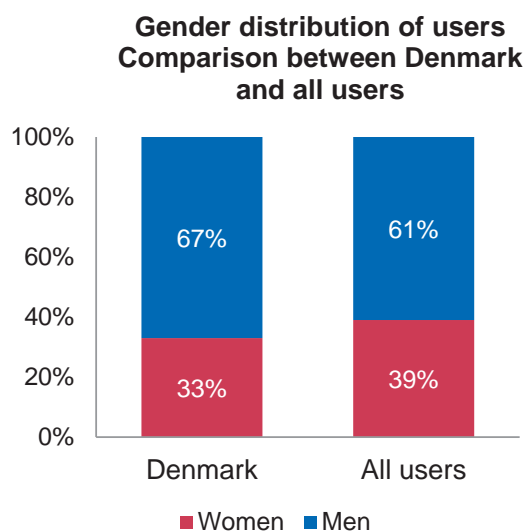
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR DENMARK

**Life Satisfaction, Education and Health** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Denmark.<sup>8</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Denmark, Sweden and the United States.



Denmark is currently **24th** in number of visits (over 38,800) to the BLI site, up 84% or over 17,700 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Copenhagen with over 14,200 visits followed by Aarhus (+3,300) and Odense (+2,100).



<sup>8</sup> Preferences for Denmark based on 427 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Estonia?





The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter to people and that shape their quality of life. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an analysis, published in the ***How's Life?*** report as well as an interactive web application, the ***Better Life Index***. It also includes a number of methodological and research projects to improve the information base towards a better understanding of well-being trends and their drivers.

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- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for Estonia from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Estonian **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

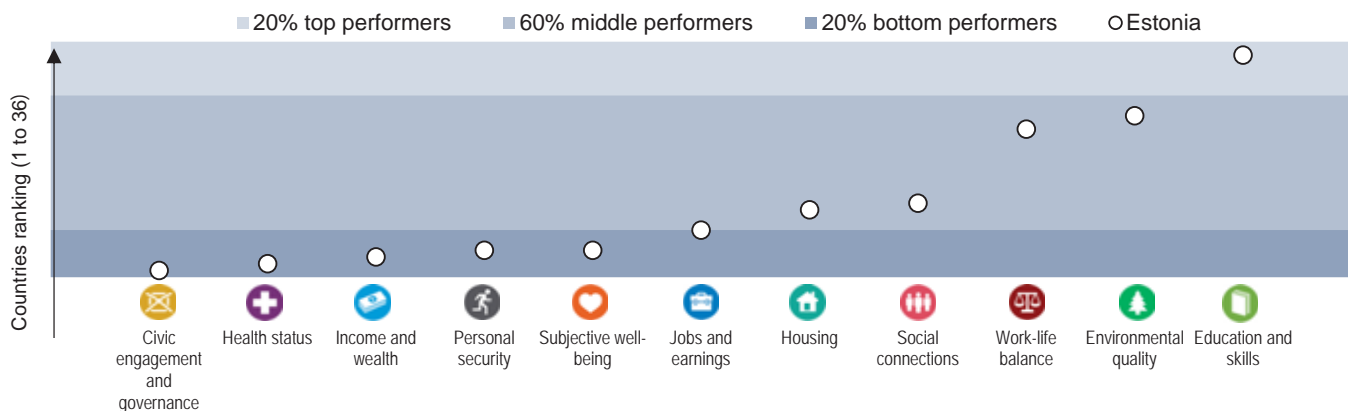
The following are findings for **Estonia** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN ESTONIA IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Estonia** performs well in only a few of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Estonia** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of education and skills, environmental quality, and work-life balance, but below average in social connections, housing, jobs and earnings, subjective well-being, personal security, income and wealth, health status, and civic engagement and governance.

**Figure 1 - How does Estonia compare?**

*Estonia's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Estonian household** has been severely affected by the crisis, with impacts that are particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, **Estonia** recorded a cumulative decline in real **household disposable income** of around 2%. Between 2007 and 2010, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 4%, well above the OECD average of 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. Between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** decreased by 2 percentage points in **Estonia**, while the long-term unemployment rate increased by 3 percentage points.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. In contrast to the general trend, the percentage of **Estonian** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 25% to 28%, from 2007 to 2013.

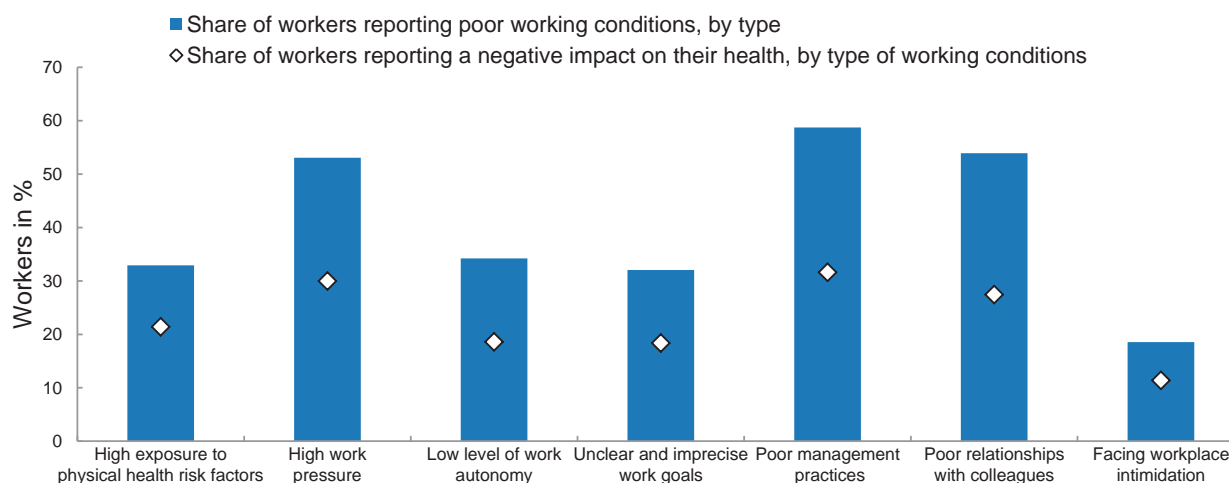
People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Estonian people** reporting that they trust the government fell from 42% to 26% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In **Estonia**, this trend is less clear cut as the percentage of people reporting having helped someone decreased by 1 percentage point, while the share of people reporting having volunteered their time increased by 2 percentage points between 2007 and 2013.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **18% of Estonian workers reported being in a poor working environment**, a share slightly below the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Estonian workers' health, 2010



Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries over the past few decades, including in Estonia. Despite these gains, **Estonian women** are still less likely than men to be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN ESTONIA?



### AND IN THE OECD?



#### Women and men throughout their lifetime

##### Health status

Life expectancy at birth (years)

81

71

83

77

Share of people in good/very good health conditions

50%

55%

67%

72%

##### Education and skills

Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)

69%

31%

58%

42%

#### Women and men in paid and unpaid work

##### Jobs and earnings

Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)

79%

81%

79%

88%

Wage gap between men and women

-

-

-

+16%

Share of poor single-adult households

44%

48%

37%

30%

##### Work-Life balance

Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)

28

17

32

21

#### Women and men in society

##### Civic Engagement and governance

Share of seats in national parliament

21%

79%

27%

73%

##### Personal security

Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night

52%

73%

61%

79%

##### Subjective well-being

Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale

5.4

5.4

6.7

6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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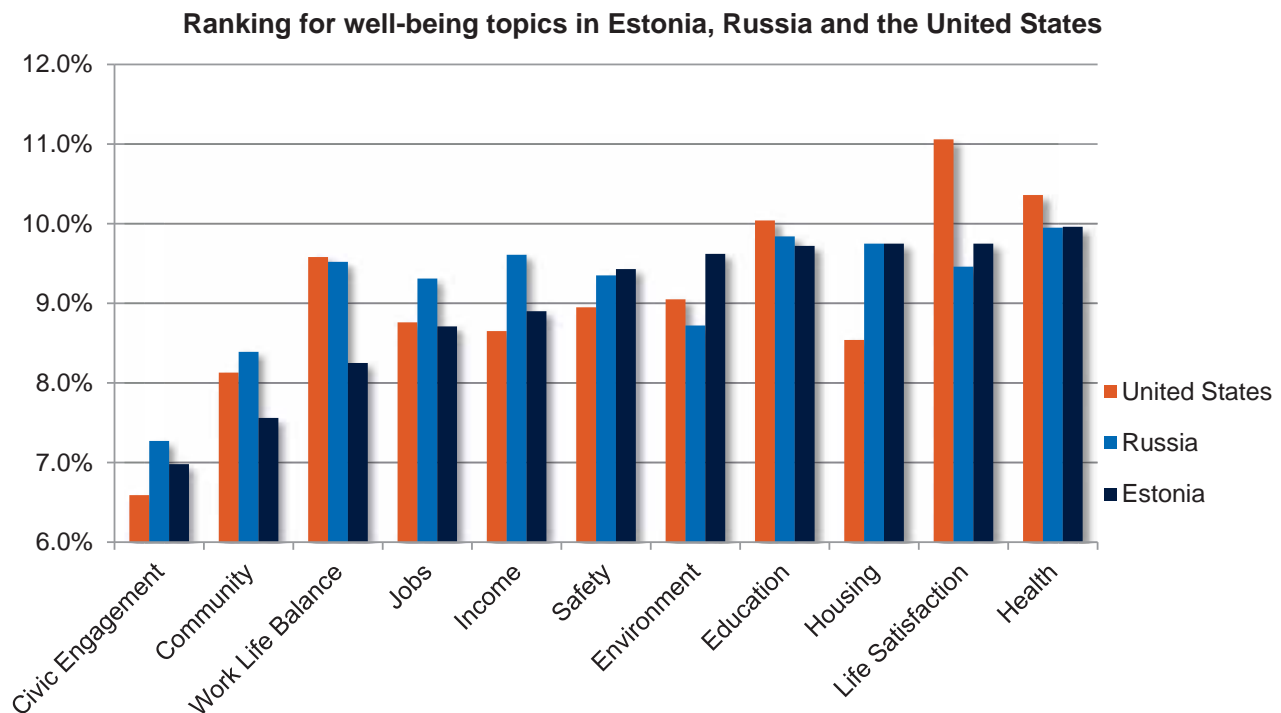
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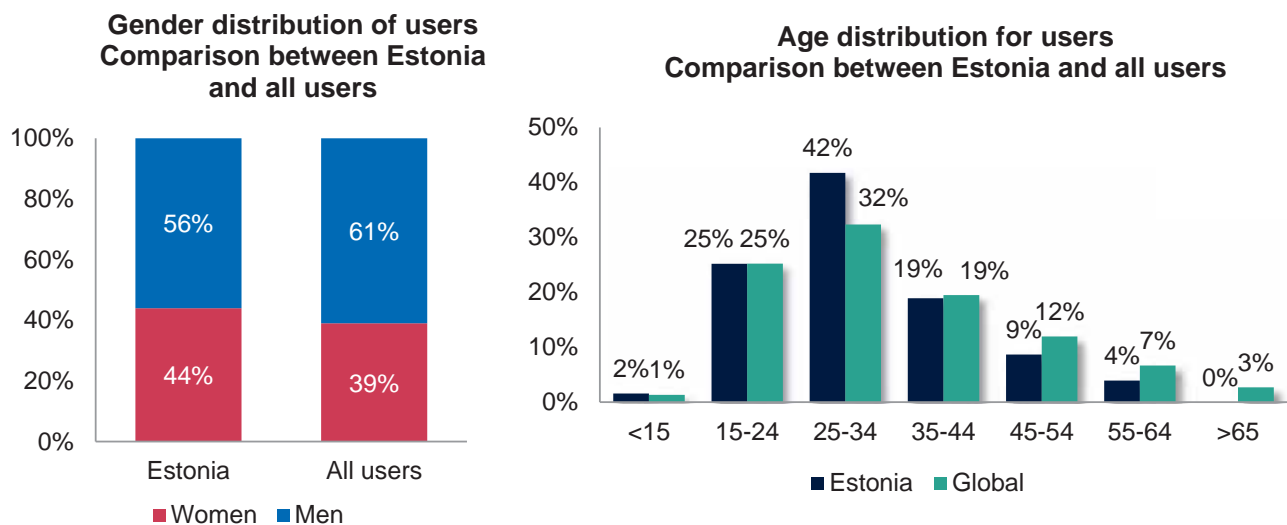
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR ESTONIA

**Health, Life Satisfaction and Housing** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Estonia.<sup>9</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Estonia, Russia and the United States.



Estonia is currently **38th** in number of visits (over 16,500) to the BLI site, up 40% or over 4,700 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Tallinn with over 11,700 visits and Tartu (+2,600).



<sup>9</sup> Preferences for Estonia based on 127 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Finland?





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## HOW'S LIFE?



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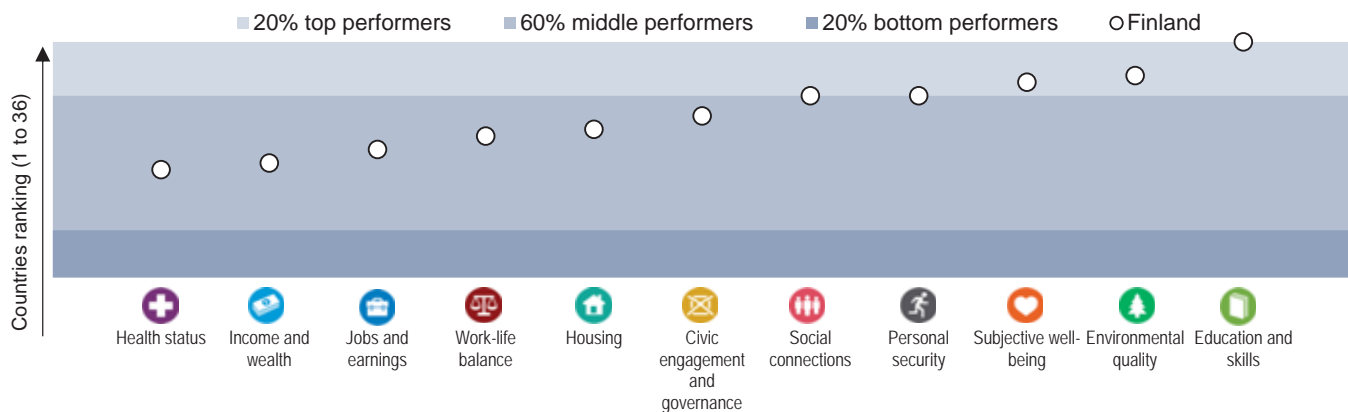
The following are findings for **Finland** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN FINLAND IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Finland** performs very well in most of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Finland** ranks at the top in education and skills, it ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of environmental quality, subjective well-being, personal security, social connections, civic engagement, housing, work-life balance, jobs and earnings, and health status.

**Figure 1 - How does Finland compare?**

*Finland's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Finnish household** has been only modestly affected by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, Finland recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 4%, while in the Euro area income dropped by more than 1% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011. However, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 1% between 2007 and 2010, in line with the OECD average of 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. Between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** decreased by less than 1 percentage point in **Finland**, while the long-term unemployment rate remained stable.

In the countries mostly hit by the crisis the poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. From 2007 to 2013, the percentage of **Finnish** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives fell from 85% to 80%, although this value remains one of the highest in the OECD.

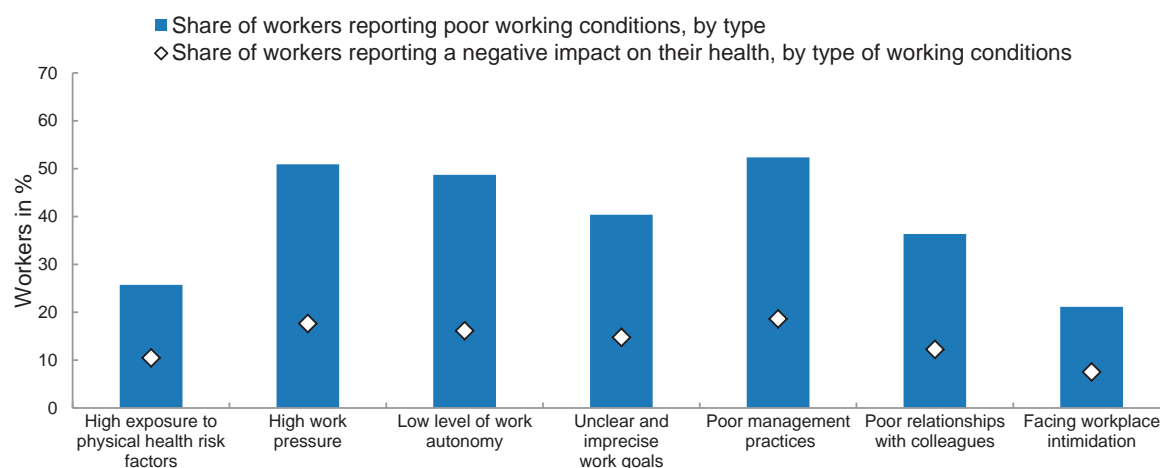
In OECD countries severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Finnish people** reporting that they trust the government also fell from 76% to 42% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged. In **Finland**, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time increased by 12 and 4 percentage points, respectively, between 2008 and 2013.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **13% of Finnish workers reported being in a poor working environment**, one of the lowest shares in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.












Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Finland workers' health, 2010



Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **Finland**. Despite these gains, **Finnish women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN FINLAND?			AND IN THE OECD?	
				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	84	77	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	68%	71%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	60%	40%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	82%	87%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+20%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	41%	39%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	26	17	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	43%	57%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	65%	89%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.5	7.4	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.

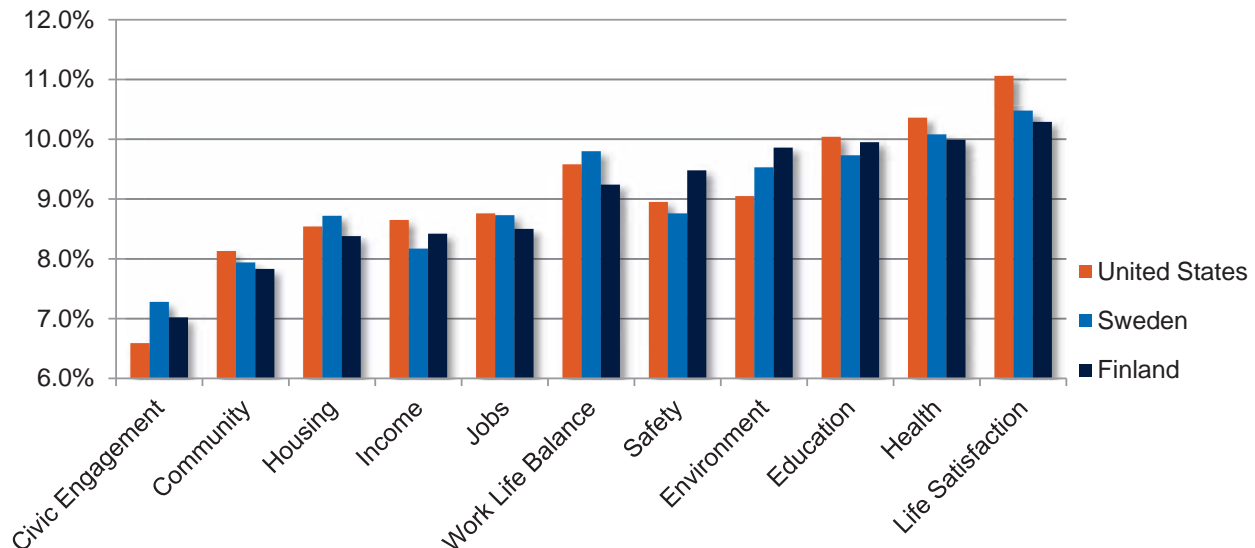


**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR FINLAND

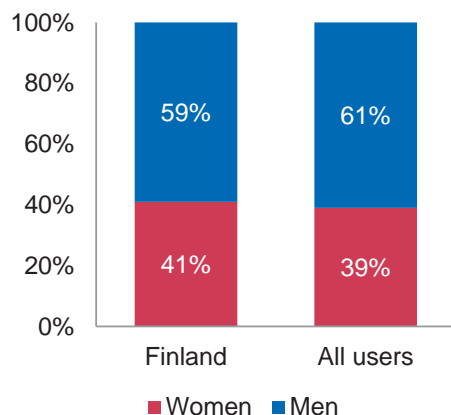
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Finland.<sup>10</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Finland, Sweden and the United States.

Ranking for well-being topics in Finland, Sweden and the United States

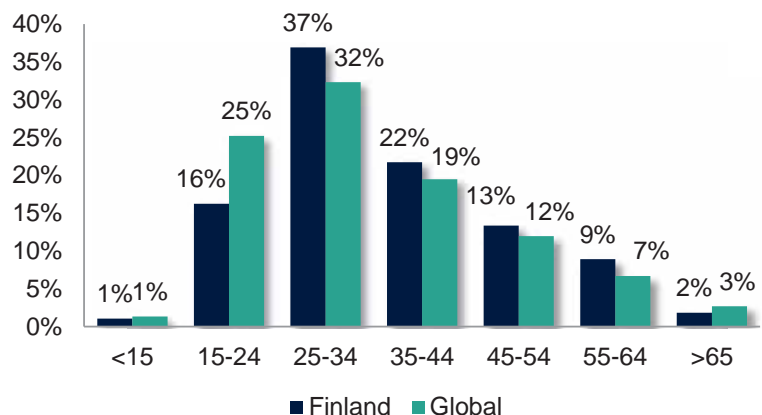


Finland is currently **32nd** in number of visits (over 29,200) to the BLI site, up 81% or over 13,000 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Helsinki with over 14,100 visits followed by Espoo (+3,000) and Tampere (+2,000).

Gender distribution of users  
Comparison between  
Finland and all users



Age distribution for users  
Comparison between Finland and all users



<sup>10</sup> Preferences for Finland based on 382 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in France?





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- Connects policies to people's lives.
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- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for France from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what French **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

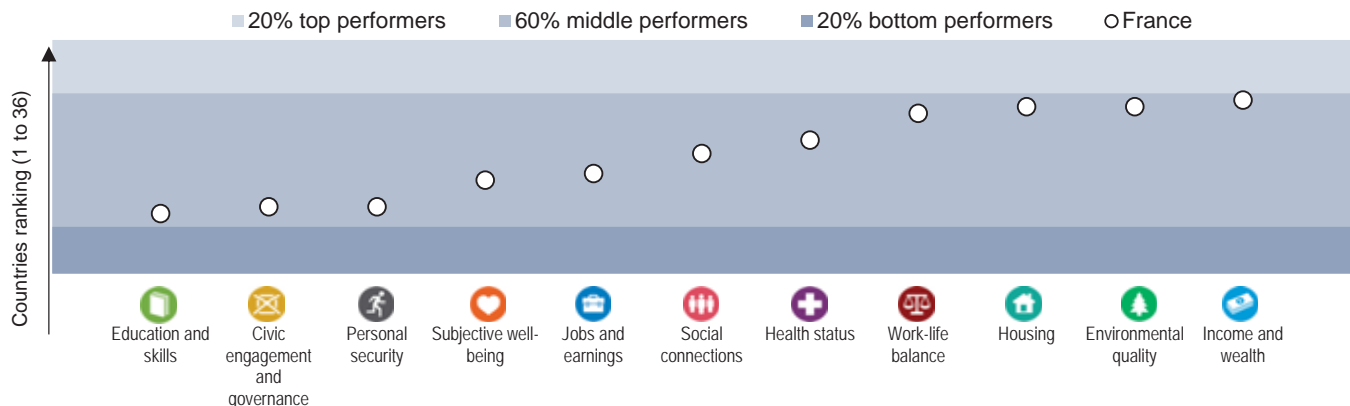
The following are findings for **France** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN FRANCE IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **France** performs well in many of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **France** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of income and wealth, environmental quality, housing, work-life balance, health status, social connections, but below average in civic engagement, and education and skills.

**Figure 1 - How does France compare?**

*France's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

Against this relatively good performance, the average **French household** has been modestly affected by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

During the crisis, **France** recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 2% from 2007 to 2011 while in the Euro area, income dropped by 1% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011 for the Euro area. However, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 2%, well above the OECD average of 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. However, in **France**, between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** remained almost stable, while the long-term unemployment rate increased by nearly 1 percentage point.

In the OECD as a whole, the poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. From 2007 to 2013, the percentage of **French** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives fell from 59% to 57%.

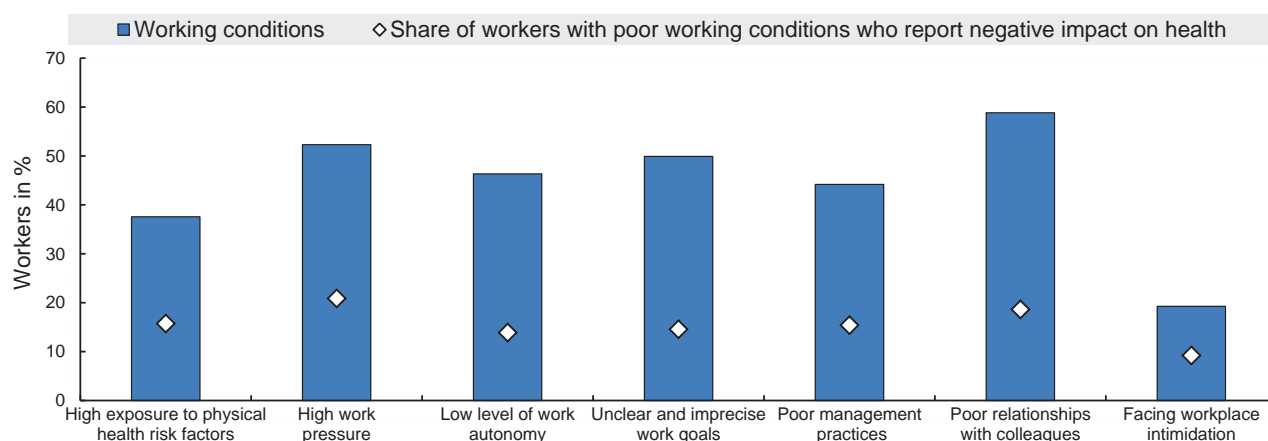
In OECD countries severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. Contrary to the general trend, the percentage of **French** people reporting that they trust the government increased from 36% to 40% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period, however, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In contrast to this trend, the percentage of French people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time decreased by 2 and 5 percentage points, respectively, between 2008 and 2013.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **33% of French workers reported being in a poor working environment**, the highest share in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on French workers' health, 2010














Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries over the past few decades. This trend is less clear cut in **France**, however. For example, the gender gap in wages has broadened over the last decade. Compared to men, **French women** are less likely to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN FRANCE?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	86	79	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	64%	71%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	55%	45%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	81%	87%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+13%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	30%	22%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	28	16	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	27%	73%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	57%	78%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

The *Better Life Index* is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in *How's Life?* Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and therefore see how countries' perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.



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

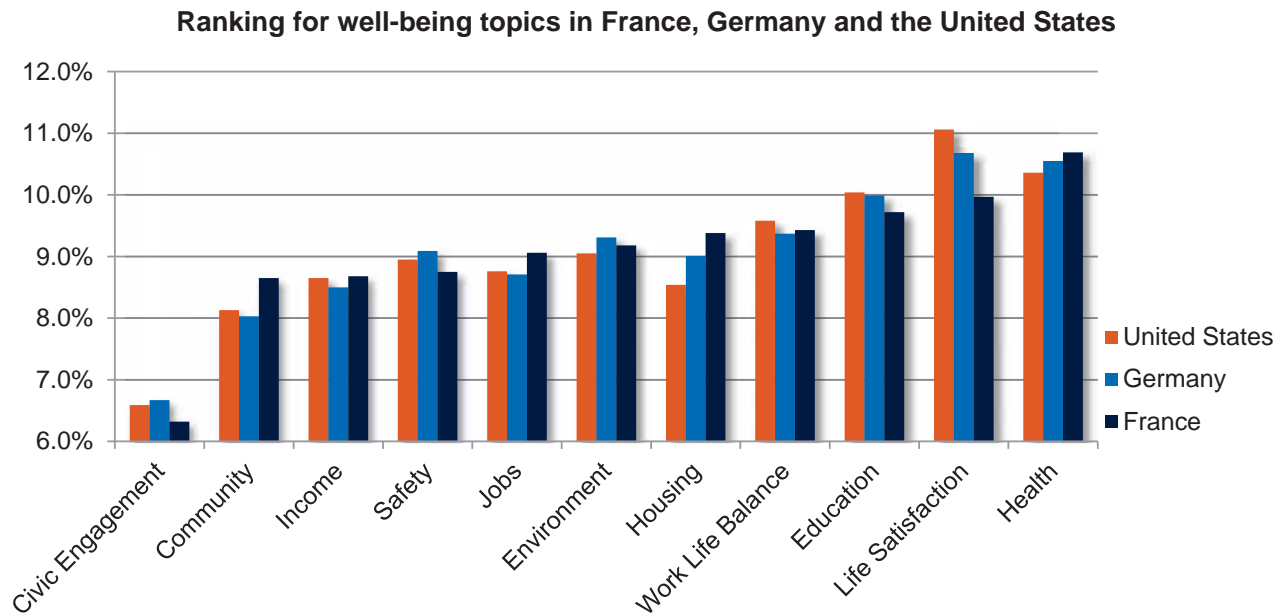
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



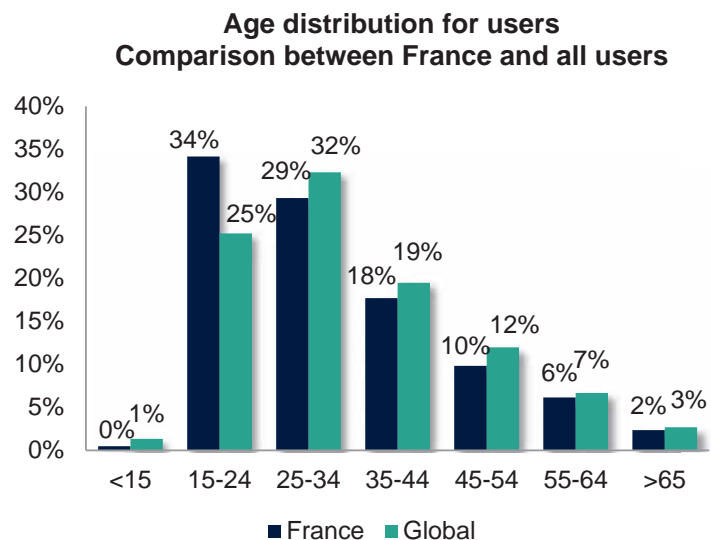
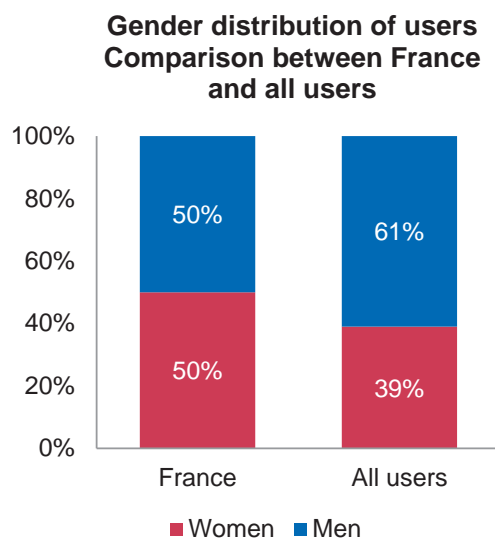
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR FRANCE

**Health, Life Satisfaction and Education** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in France.<sup>11</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in France, Germany and the United States.



France is currently **2nd** in number of visits (over 262,400) to the BLI site, up 69% or over 107,200 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Paris with over 92,000 visits followed by Lyon (+9,200) and Toulouse (+7,000).



<sup>11</sup> Preferences for France based on 7,473 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Germany?





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This brochure presents **selected findings for Germany from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what German **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

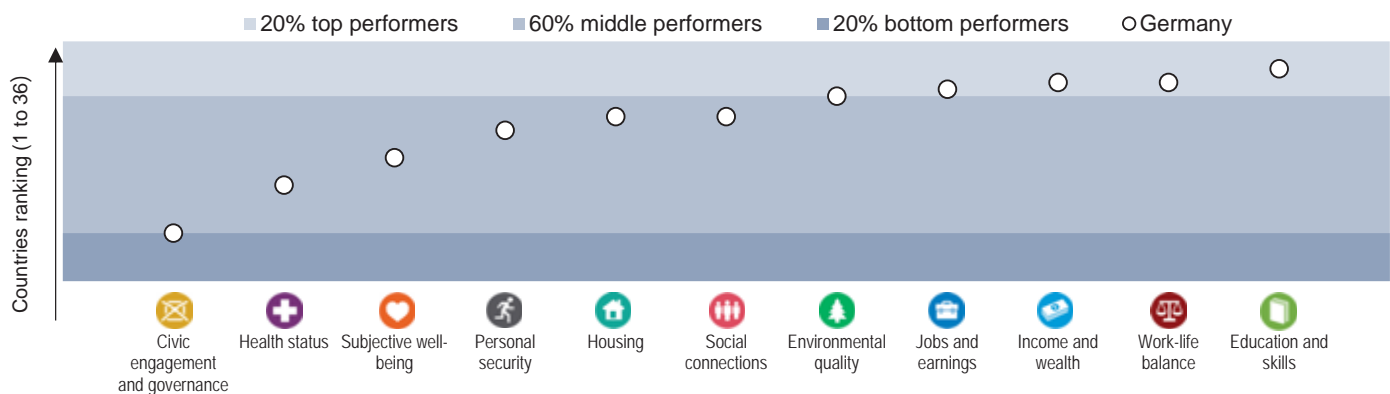
The following are findings for **Germany** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN GERMANY IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Germany** performs well in many of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Germany** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of education and skills, work-life balance, income and wealth, jobs and earnings, environmental quality, social connections, housing, personal security, subjective well-being, and health status, but below average in civic engagement.

**Figure 1 - How does Germany compare?**

*Germany's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average German household** has not been affected by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, Germany recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 5%, while in the Euro area, income dropped on average by 1% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011. Market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) remained stable between 2007 and 2010, as compared to an average increase of 1.2% for the OECD area as a whole.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In contrast to the general trend, the **employment rate** increased by almost 4 percentage points in Germany while the long-term unemployment rate decreased by 2 percentage points between 2007 and 2012.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on life satisfaction for countries most affected by the crisis. Amid good labour market performance, the percentage of German people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 53% to 68% between 2007 and 2013.

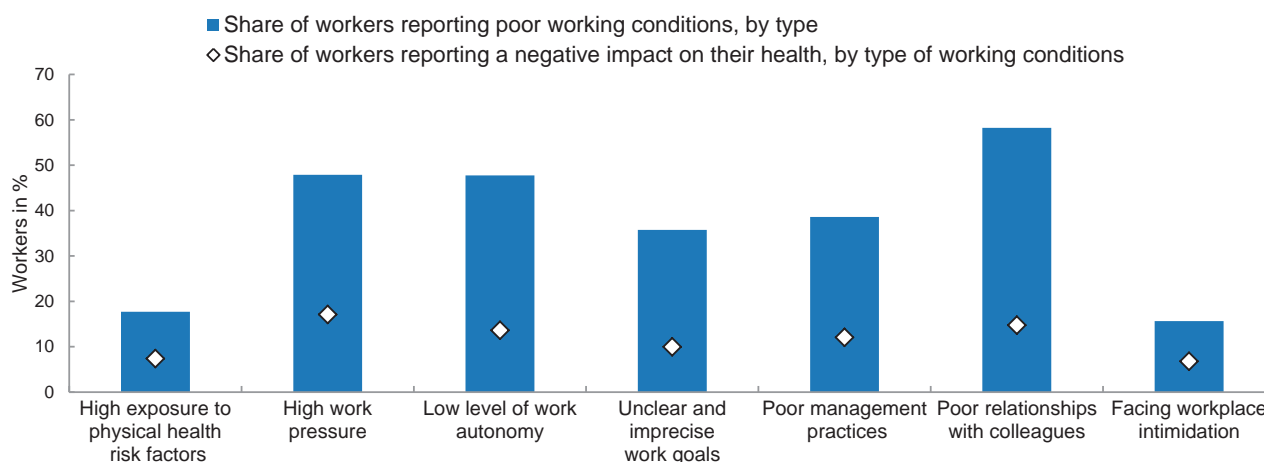
In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. Contrary to this trend, the percentage of **German** people reporting that they trust the government increased from 35% to 56% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period, however, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged. In **Germany**, the percentage reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time increased by 11 and 2 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2013.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **22% of German workers reported being in a poor working environment**, a share slightly above the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on German workers' health, 2010














Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **Germany**. Compared to men, **German women** are less likely to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A sizeable share of German women also report having experienced intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN GERMANY?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	83	78	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	63%	66%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	55%	45%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	83%	90%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+22%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	36%	30%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	31	25	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	33%	67%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence	25%	-	-	-
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	71%	90%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.1	6.9	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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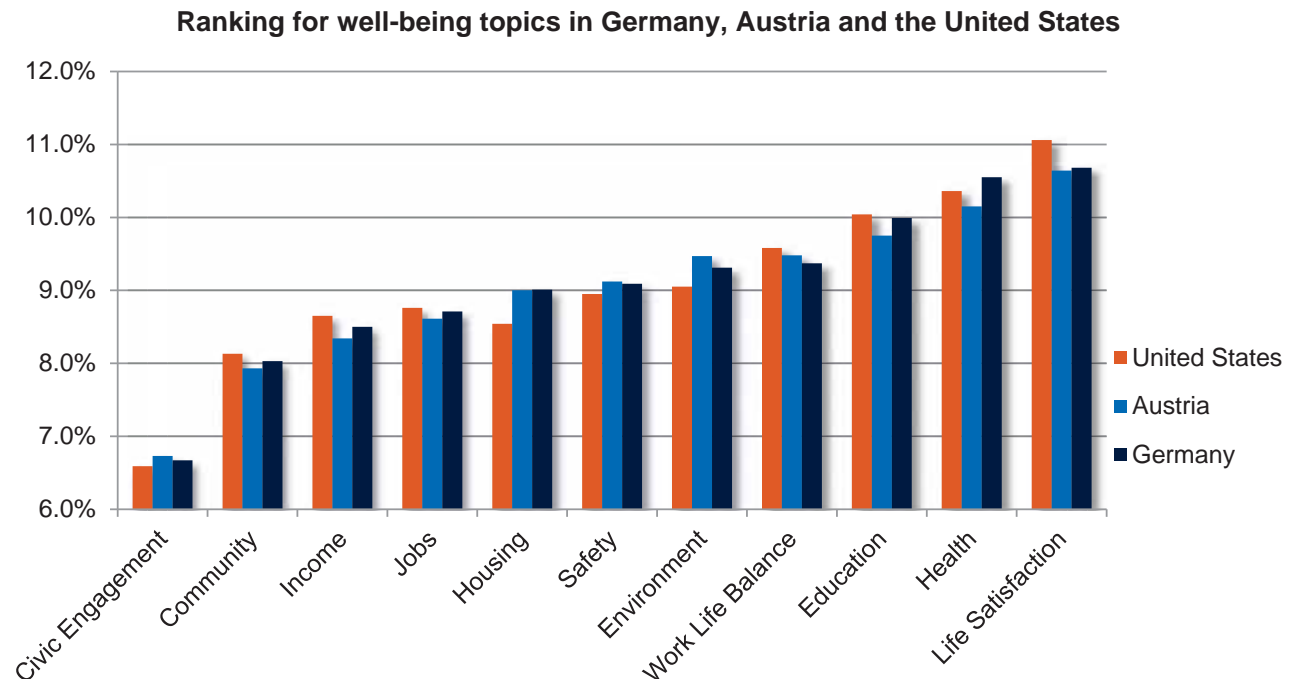
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



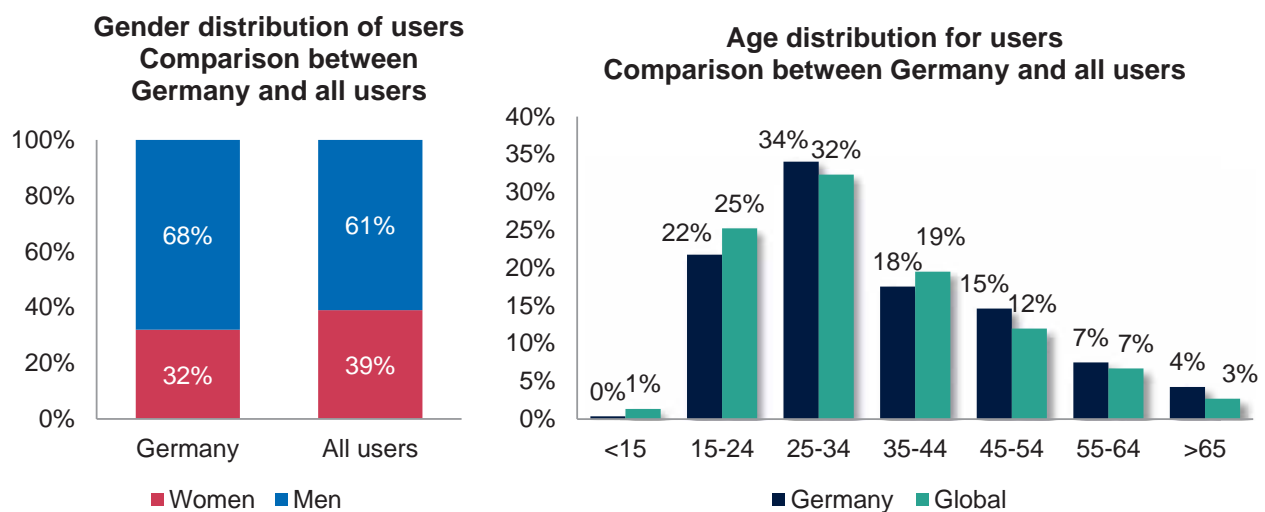
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR GERMANY

**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Germany.<sup>12</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Germany, Austria and the United States.



Germany is currently **5th** in number of visits (over 176,200) to the BLI site, up 14% or over 21,500 new visits since the launch of the German language version on January, 2014. The top cities are Berlin with over 24,636 visits followed by Munich (+14,200), Hamburg (+8,300), and Frankfurt (+8,200).



<sup>12</sup> Preferences for Germany based on 5,395 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Greece?





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This brochure presents **selected findings for Greece from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Greek **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



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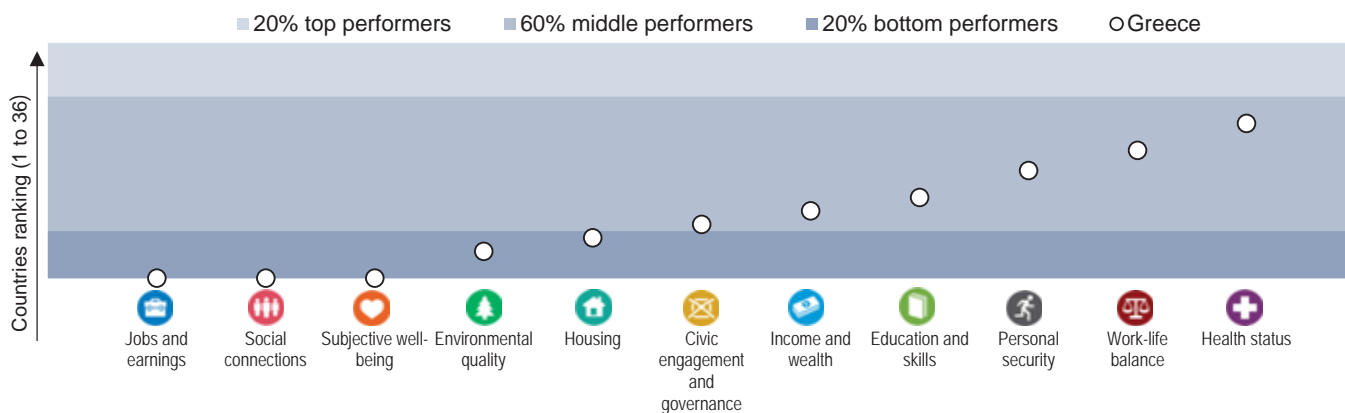
The following are findings for **Greece** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN GREECE IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Greece** performs well in only a few of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Greece** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of health status, work-life balance, and personal security, but below average in education and skills, income and wealth, civic engagement, housing, environmental quality, subjective well-being, social connections, and jobs and earnings.

**Figure 1 - How does Greece compare?**

*Greece's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Greek household** has been severely affected by the crisis, with impacts that are particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, **Greece** recorded a cumulative decline in real **household disposable income** of around 23%, the largest decline among the OECD countries. Between 2007 and 2010, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 2%, well above the OECD average of 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. Between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** decreased by almost 10 percentage points in **Greece**, while the long-term unemployment rate increased by 10 percentage points.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on life satisfaction. From 2007 to 2013, the percentage of **Greek** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives fell from 59% to 23%, the lowest share in the OECD area.

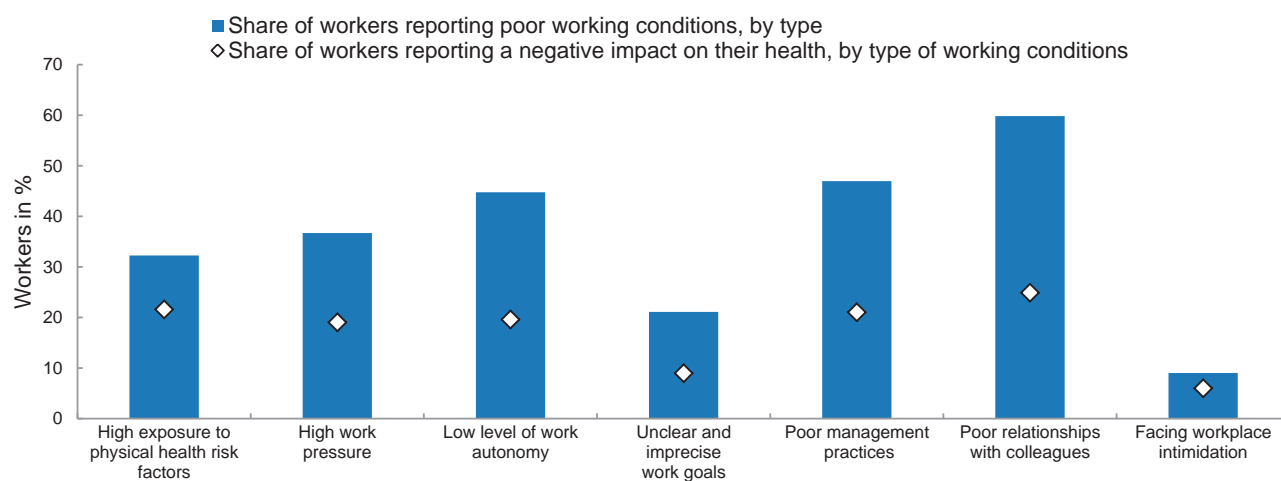
People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Greek people** reporting that they trust the government fell from 38% to 14% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In **Greece**, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time increased by 9 and 2 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2013.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **31% of Greek workers reported being in a poor working environment**, a share significantly above the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.












Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Greek workers' health, 2010



Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries over the past few decades, including in Greece. Despite these gains, **Greek women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to be over-represented among poor households or to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN GREECE?			AND IN THE OECD?	
				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	83	79	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	74%	79%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	62%	38%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	75%	84%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+10%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	41%	34%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	-	-	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	21%	79%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	39%	54%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	4.8	4.6	6.7	6.6



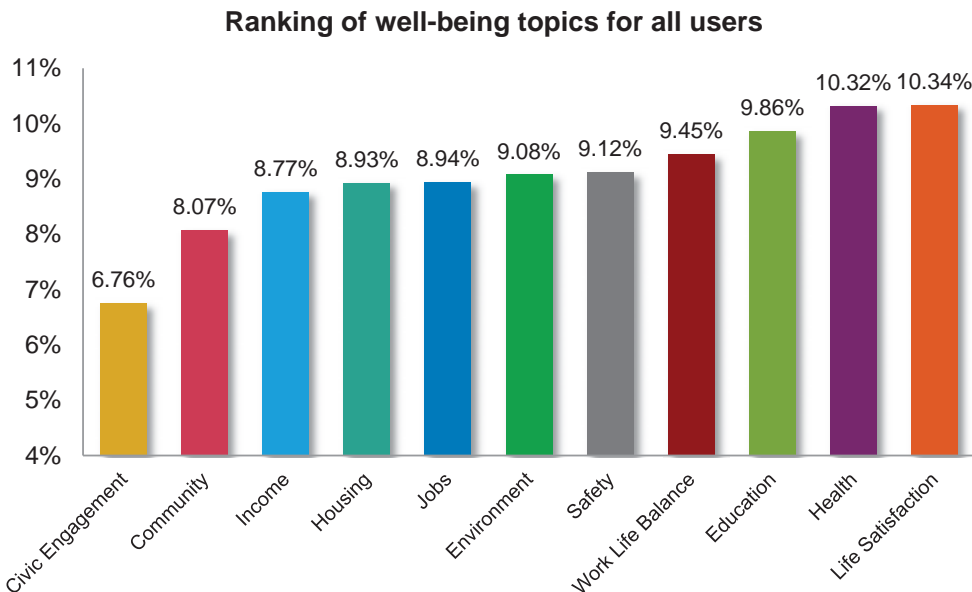
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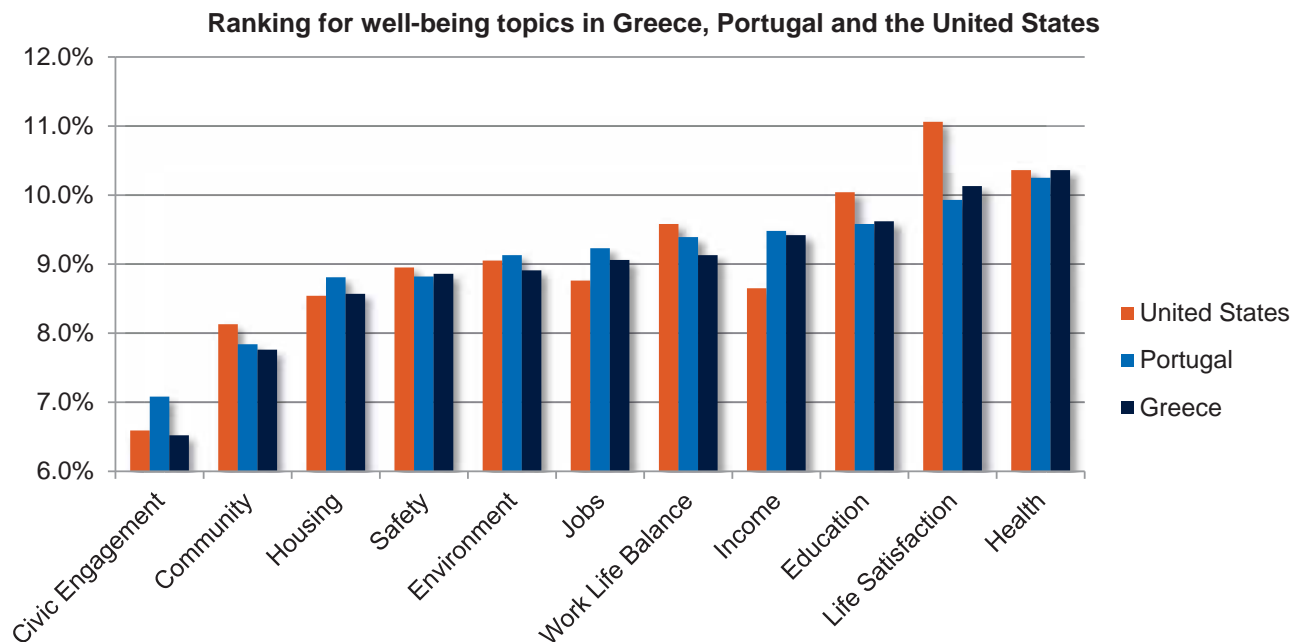
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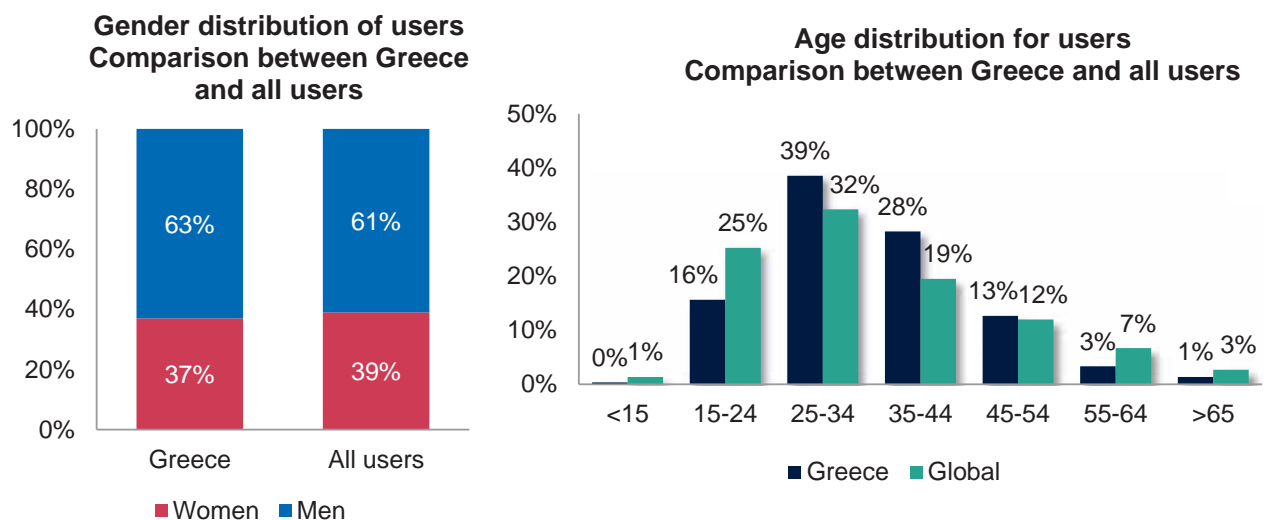
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR GREECE

**Health, Life Satisfaction and Education** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Greece.<sup>13</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Greece, Portugal and the United States.



Greece is currently **35th** in number of visits (over 18,600) to the BLI site, up 75% or over 8,000 new visits since the update of the Index at the OECD Forum in May 2013. The top cities are Athens with over 13,600 visits followed by Thessaloniki (+2,100).



<sup>13</sup> Preferences for Greece based on 301 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Hungary?





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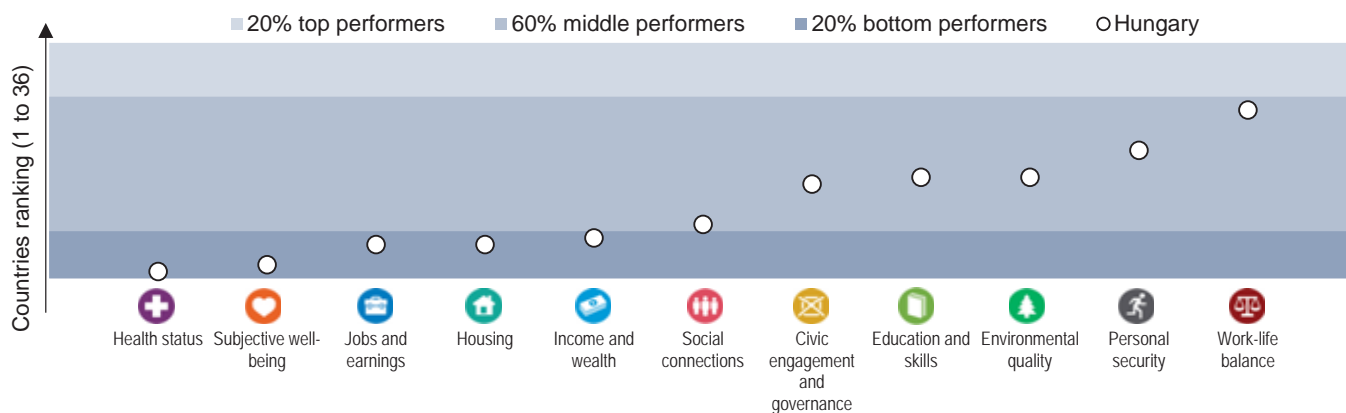
The following are findings for **Hungary** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN HUNGARY IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Hungary** performs well in a few of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Hungary** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of work-life balance, and personal security. It ranks below average in social connections, income and wealth, housing, jobs and earnings, subjective well-being, and health status.

**Figure 1 - How does Hungary compare?**

*Hungary's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Hungarian household** has been severely affected by the crisis, with impacts that are particularly visible when looking at household income and jobs.

From 2007 to 2011, **Hungary** recorded a cumulative decline in real **household disposable income** of around 5% while, between 2007 and 2010, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) was stable, when it increased by 1.2% in the OECD area.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. Between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** remained stable in **Hungary**, while the long-term unemployment rate increased by 2 percentage points.

In countries mostly hit by the crisis the poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. In contrast to the general trend, the percentage of **Hungarian** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives rose from 22% to 26%, from 2007 to 2013.

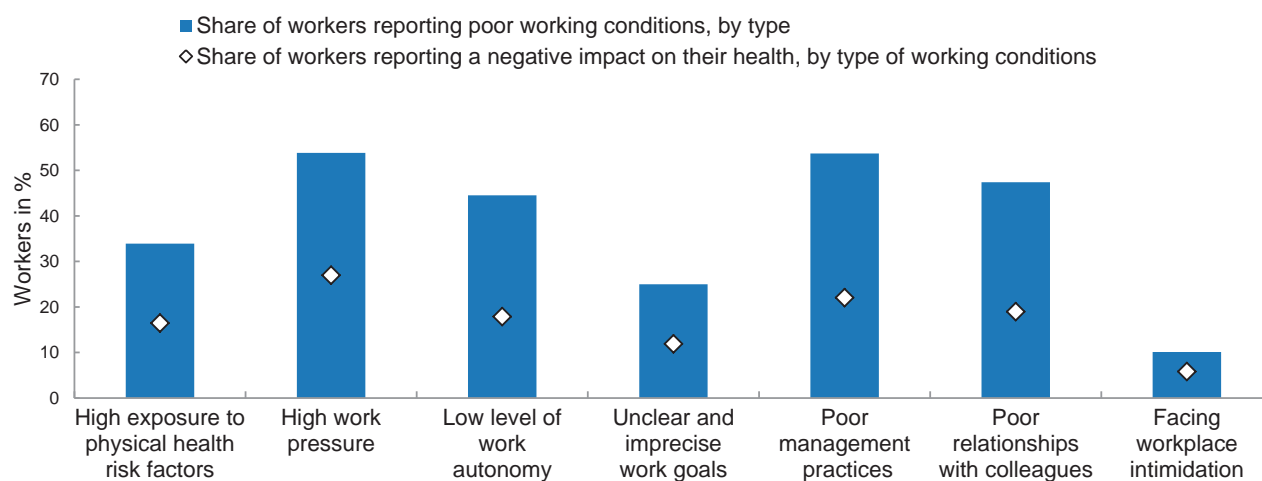
People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. Contrary to this trend, the percentage of **Hungarian people** reporting that they trust the government increased from 25% to 33% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged, in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In **Hungary**, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time increased by 13 and 6 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2013.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **23% of Hungarian workers reported being in a poor working environment**, a share slightly above the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Hungarian workers' health, 2010














Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries over the past few decades. This trend is less clear cut in **Hungary**, however, where the number of women elected in Parliament has decreased over the last decade. Compared to men, **Hungarian women** are less likely to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN HUNGARY?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	79	71	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	53%	60%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	63%	37%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	75%	83%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+7%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	28%	30%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	31	23	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	9%	91%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	45%	70%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	4.8	5.1	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

The *Better Life Index* is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in *How's Life?* Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and therefore see how countries' perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.



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

Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.

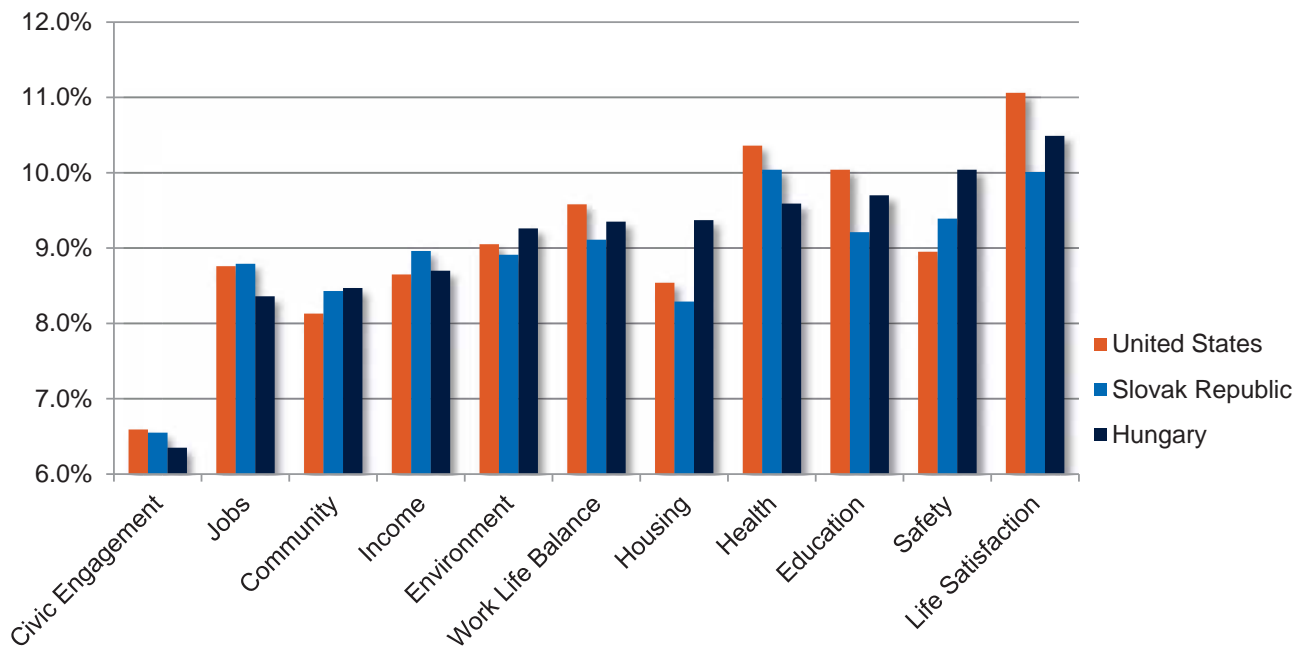


**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR HUNGARY

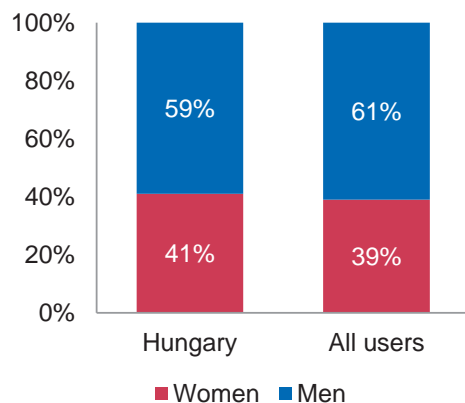
**Life Satisfaction, Safety and Education** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Hungary.<sup>14</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Hungary, the Slovak Republic and the United States.

**Ranking for well-being topics in Hungary, the Slovak Republic and the United States**

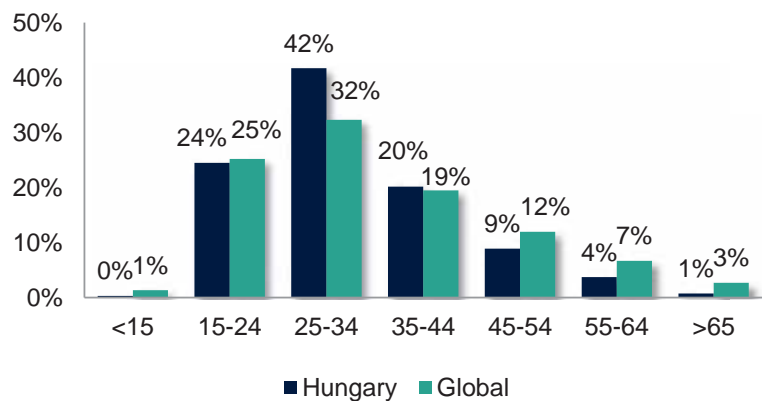


Hungary is currently **27th** in number of visits (over 35,000) to the BLI site, up 73% or over 14,000 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top city is Budapest with over 23,700 visits.

**Gender distribution of users  
Comparison between  
Hungary and all users**



**Age distribution for users  
Comparison between Hungary and all users**



<sup>14</sup> Preferences for Hungary based on 674 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Iceland?





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This brochure presents **selected findings for Iceland from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Icelandic **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



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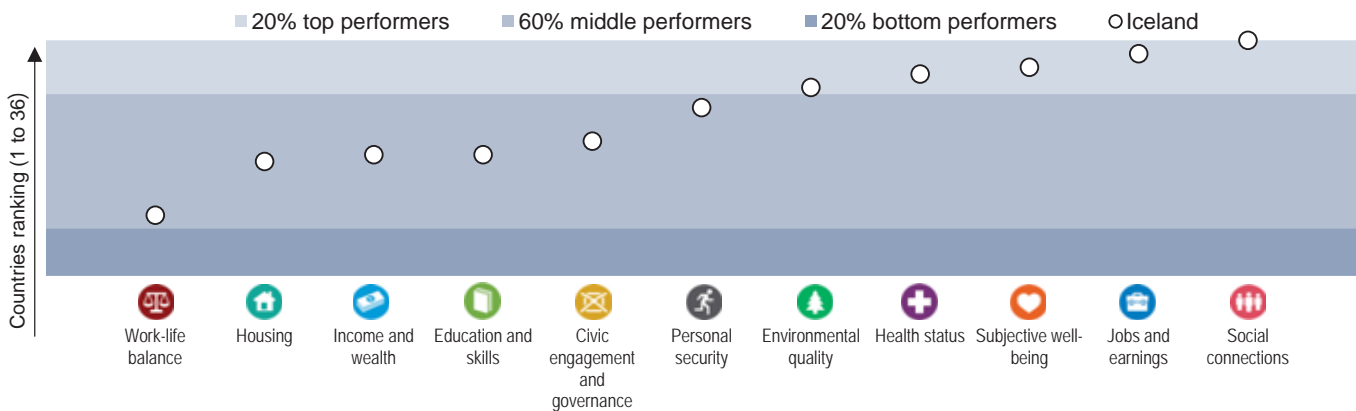
The following are findings for **Iceland** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN ICELAND IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Iceland** performs very well in many of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Iceland** ranks at the top, along with New Zealand and Denmark, in social connections, and above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of jobs and earnings, subjective well-being, health status, environmental quality, personal security, civic engagement, education and skills, income and wealth, and housing. It ranks below average in work-life balance (estimated).

**Figure 1 - How does Iceland compare?**

*Iceland's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



Note: For details on estimated values, please refer to the [BLI FAQ page](#) and the [BLI database](#)



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement, has not spared the **average Icelandic household**,

Between 2007 and 2010, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 2%, while it increased by 1.2% on average in the OECD. Data for real **household disposable income** are not available for Iceland, but in the OECD area income dropped by 2% from 2007 to 2011.

In OECD countries severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In Iceland, the **employment rate** decreased by almost 6 percentage points and the long-term unemployment rate increased by 1.5 percentage point between 2007 and 2012.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. In contrast to this general trend, the percentage of people in Iceland reporting that they trust the government increased from 24% to 46% between 2008 and 2013.

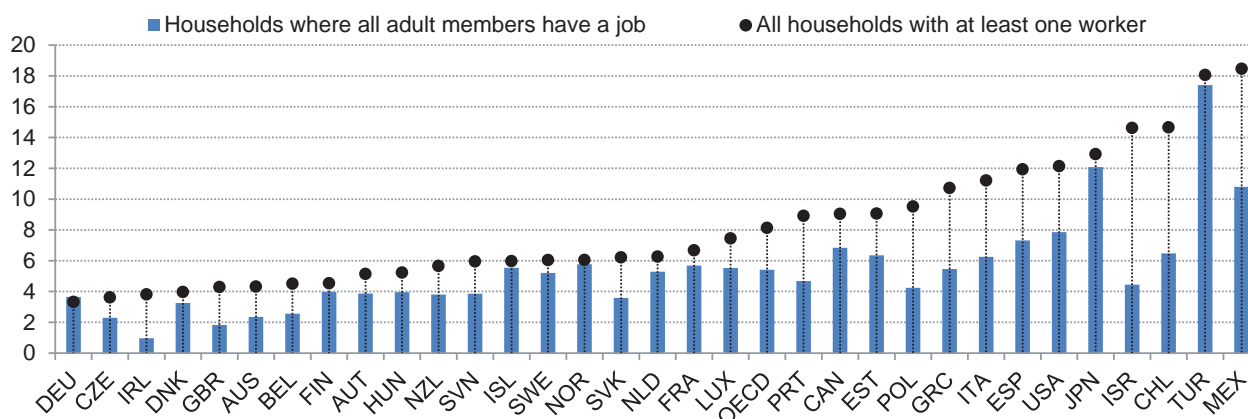
Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In **Iceland**, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time increased by 6 and 3 percentage points, respectively, between 2008 and 2013.

## QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND WELL-BEING

From a well-being perspective, what matters is to have a job of good quality. Quality of employment encompasses many elements, one being that paid work ensure adequate standards of living. In-work poverty reflects different forms of precarious employment (e.g. low working hours and hourly pay among full-time workers, frequent moves between low-paid work and joblessness, etc), and its incidence informs about quality of employment. In 2010, **6% of Icelandic people living in households with at least one worker experienced in-work poverty, while 5.5% of those living in households with all adult members employed were in poverty**, both shares being well below the OECD average. Strategies to fight in-work poverty are at the forefront of the policy agenda in many countries, particularly in the context of the economic crisis.












**Figure 2 – In-work poverty in Iceland, 2010**

Poverty based on a threshold set at 50% of median household disposable income



## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **Iceland**. Despite these gains, **Iceland** **women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN ICELAND?			AND IN THE OECD?	
				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	84	81	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	76%	79%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	67%	33%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	87%	91%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+13%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	38%	32%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	-	-	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	40%	60%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	72%	87%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.6	7.4	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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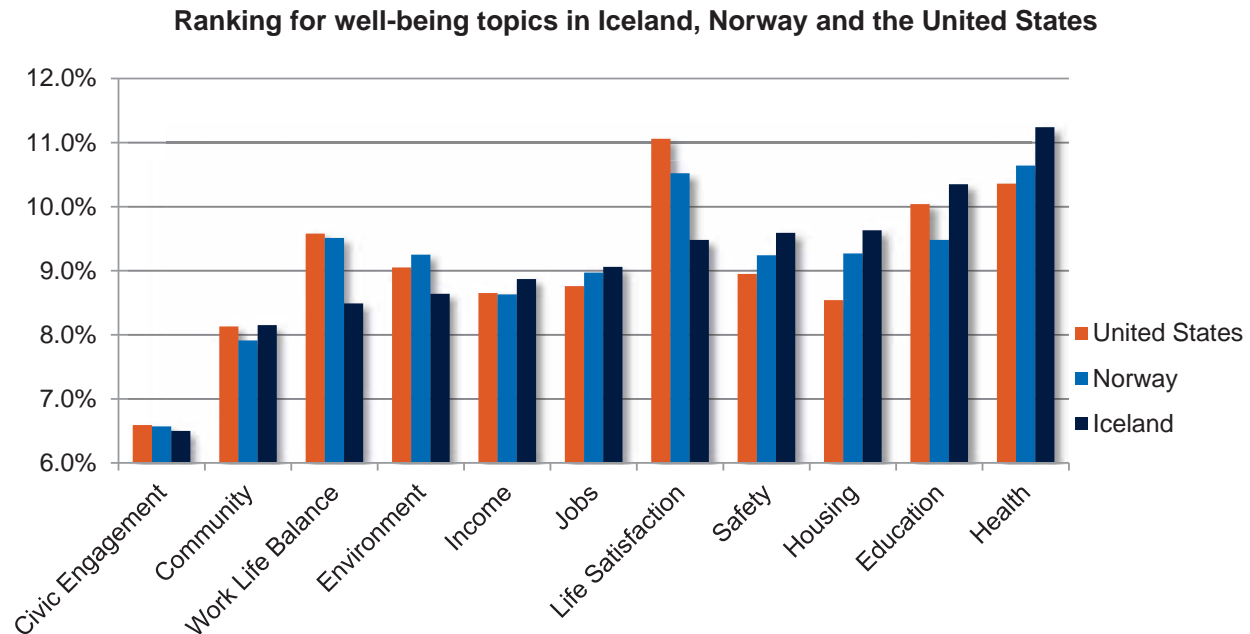
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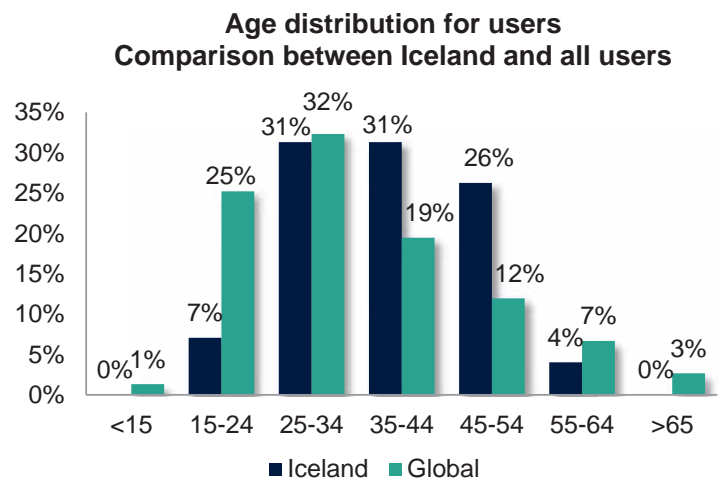
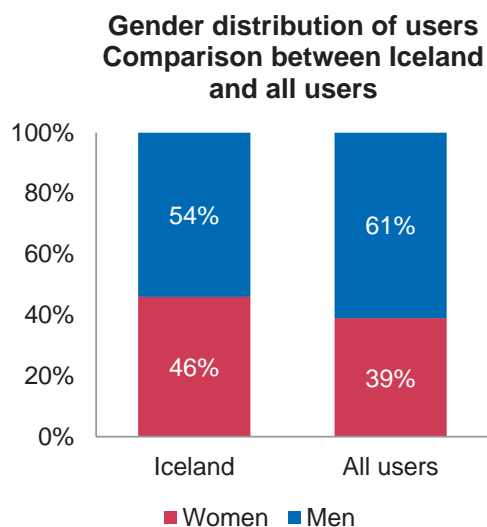
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR ICELAND

**Health, Education and Housing** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Iceland.<sup>15</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Iceland, Norway and the United States.



Iceland is currently **48th** in number of visits (over 10,000) to the BLI site, up 39% or over 2,800 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top city is Reykjavik with over 17,890 visits.



<sup>15</sup> Preferences for Iceland based on 99 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Ireland?





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This brochure presents **selected findings for Ireland from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Irish **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

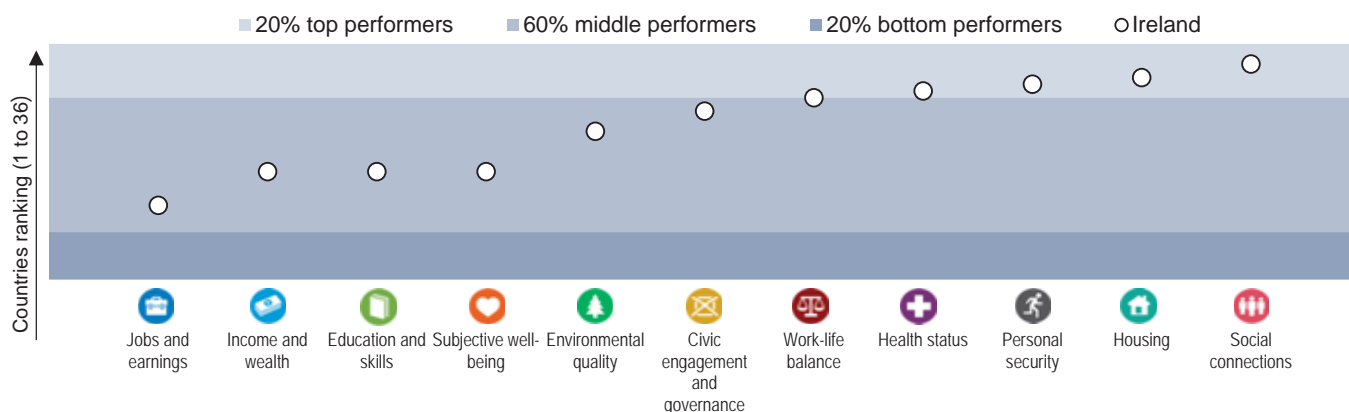
The following are findings for **Ireland** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN IRELAND IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Ireland** performs well in many of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Ireland** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of social connections, housing, personal security, health status, work-life balance, civic engagement and environmental quality but below average in jobs and earnings.

**Figure 1 - How does Ireland compare?**

*Ireland's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Irish household** has been severely affected by the crisis, especially when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, Ireland recorded a cumulative decline in real **household disposable income** of around 3%, while in the Euro area income dropped on average by 1% over the same period. Market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 7%, the highest increase in the OECD, where it rose by 1.2% on average between 2007 and 2010.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. Between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** decreased by more than 10 percentage points in Ireland while the long-term unemployment rate increased by almost 8 percentage points.

In the OECD as a whole, the poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. From 2006 to 2013, the percentage of **Irish** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives decreased from 71% to 65%.

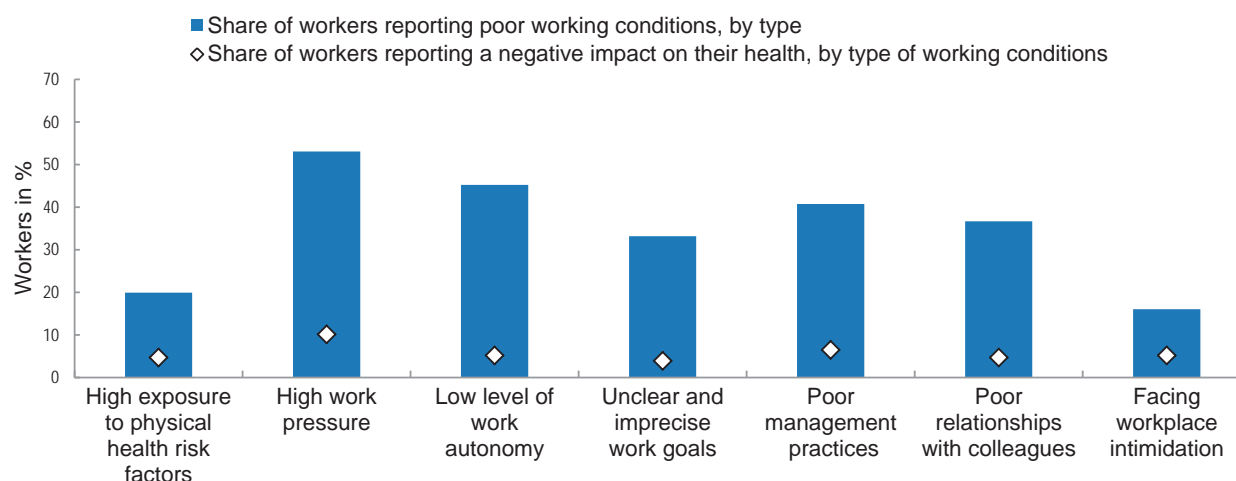
In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Irish** people reporting that they trust the government decreased from 51% to 29% between 2008 and 2013.

Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries most impacted by the crisis. In **Ireland**, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time increased by 6 percentage points between 2008 and 2013.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **15% of Irish workers reported being in a poor working environment**, a share slightly below the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Irish workers' health, 2010














Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **Ireland**. Despite these gains, **Irish women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A sizeable share of **Irish women** also report having experienced intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN IRELAND?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	83	78	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	83%	84%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	57%	43%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	78%	84%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+10%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	-	-	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	34	25	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	15%	85%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence	15%			
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	63%	85%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6



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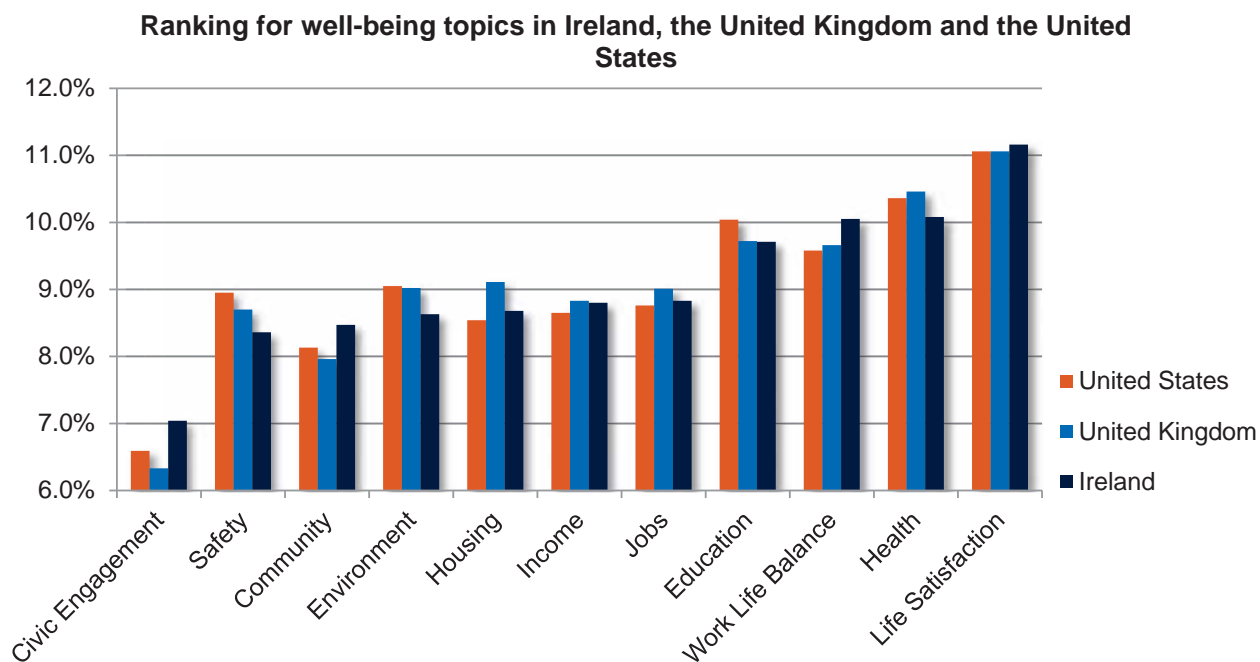
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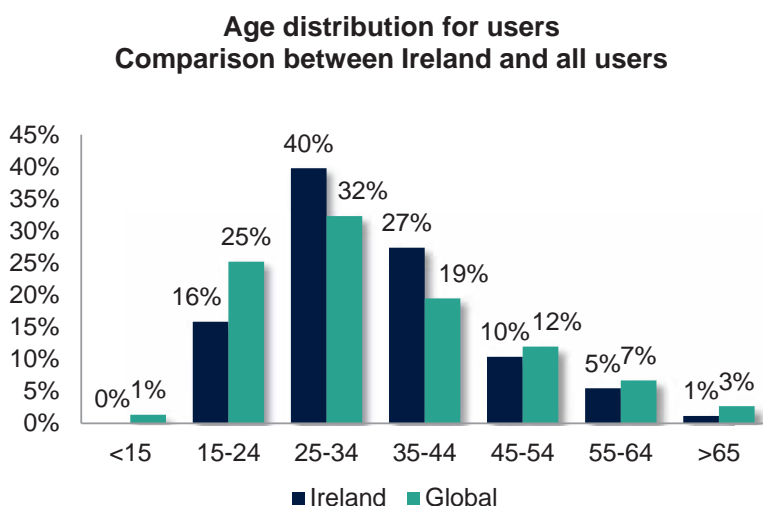
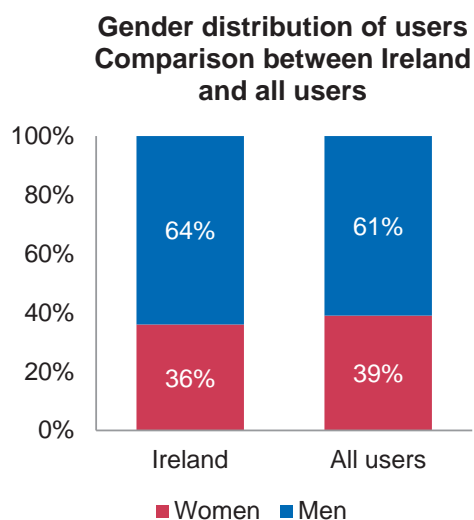
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR IRELAND

**Life Satisfaction, Health and Work Life Balance** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Ireland.<sup>16</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States.



Ireland is currently **28th** in number of visits (over 34,000) to the BLI site, up 114% or over 18,000 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Dublin with over 24,400 visits followed by Cork (+2,000) and Limerick (+1,400).



<sup>16</sup> Preferences for Ireland based on 347 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Israel?





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## HOW'S LIFE?



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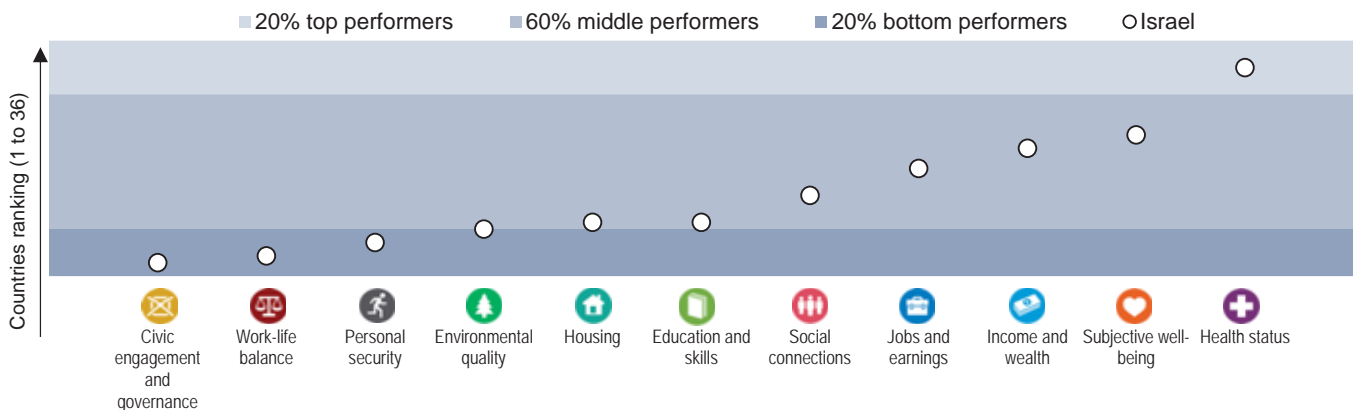
The following are findings for **Israel** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN ISRAEL IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Israel** performs well in some of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Israel** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of health status, subjective well-being, and income and wealth, but below average in education and skills, housing, environmental quality, personal security, work-life balance, and civic engagement.

**Figure 1 - How does Israel compare?**

*Israel's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Israeli household** has been only modestly affected by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

Between 2007 and 2010, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) remained unchanged while it increased by 1.2% on average in the OECD. Data for real **household disposable income** are not available for Israel, but in the OECD area income dropped by 2% from 2007 to 2011..

In OECD countries severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In contrast to this general trend, the **employment rate** increased by 8 percentage points in Israel between 2007 and 2012, the highest increase in the OECD, while the **long-term unemployment rate** decreased by almost 1 percentage point.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction** in countries most affected by the crisis. In contrast to this general trend, the percentage of Israeli people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 62% to 69% between 2007 and 2012.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. Contrary to this general trend, the percentage of **Israeli** people reporting that they trust the government increased from 22% to 34% between 2007 and 2012.

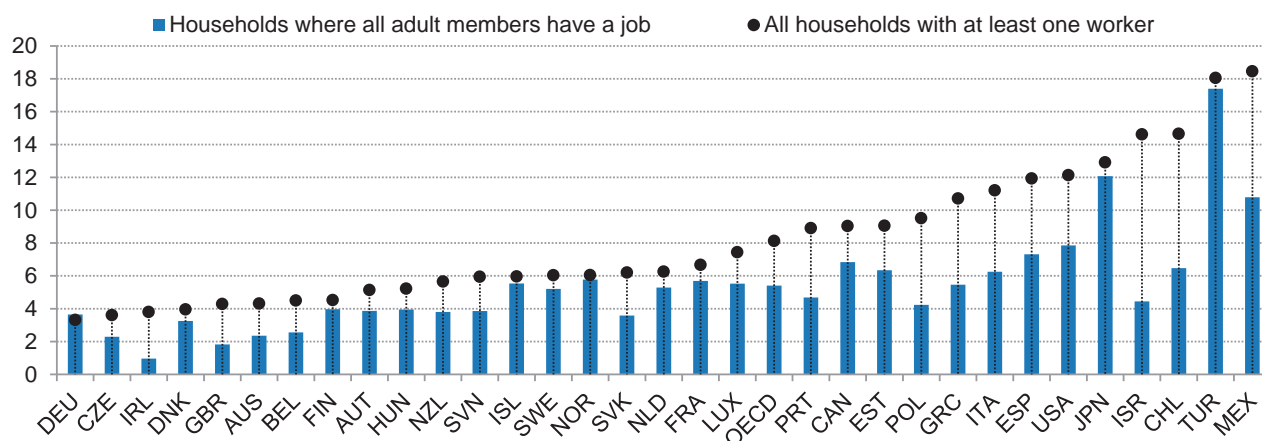
Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In Israel, this trend is less clear cut, as the percentage of people reporting having helped someone decreased by 6 percentage points, while the percentage of people reporting having volunteered their time increased by 3 percentage points between 2007 and 2012.

## QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND WELL-BEING

From a well-being perspective, what matters is to have a job of good quality. Quality of employment encompasses many elements, one being that paid work ensure adequate standards of living. In-work poverty reflects different forms of precarious employment (e.g. low working hours and hourly pay among full-time workers, frequent moves between low-paid work and joblessness, etc.), and its incidence informs about quality of employment. In 2010, **15% of Israeli people living in households with at least one worker experienced in-work poverty**, this share being well above the OECD average, **while 4% of those living in households with all adult members employed were in poverty**, a share below the OECD average. Strategies to fight in-work poverty are at the forefront of the policy agenda in many countries, particularly in the context of the economic crisis.

**Figure 2 – Quality of employment and in-work poverty in Israel, 2010**












Poverty based on a threshold set at 50% of median household disposable income



Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries including in **Israel**. Despite these gains, **Israeli women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected in Parliament, and more likely to be poor and to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN ISRAEL?			AND IN THE OECD?	
				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	84	80	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	80%	84%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	57%	43%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	80%	86%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+20%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	47%	33%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	-	-	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	22%	78%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	58%	65%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7	7.2	6.7	6.6



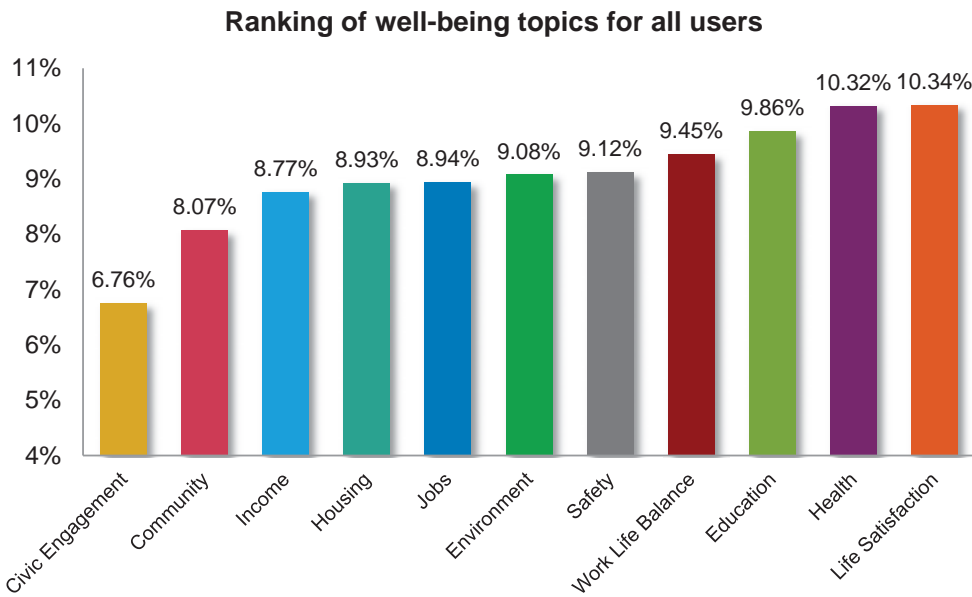
# BETTER LIFE INDEX

The *Better Life Index* is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in *How's Life?* Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and therefore see how countries' perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.



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

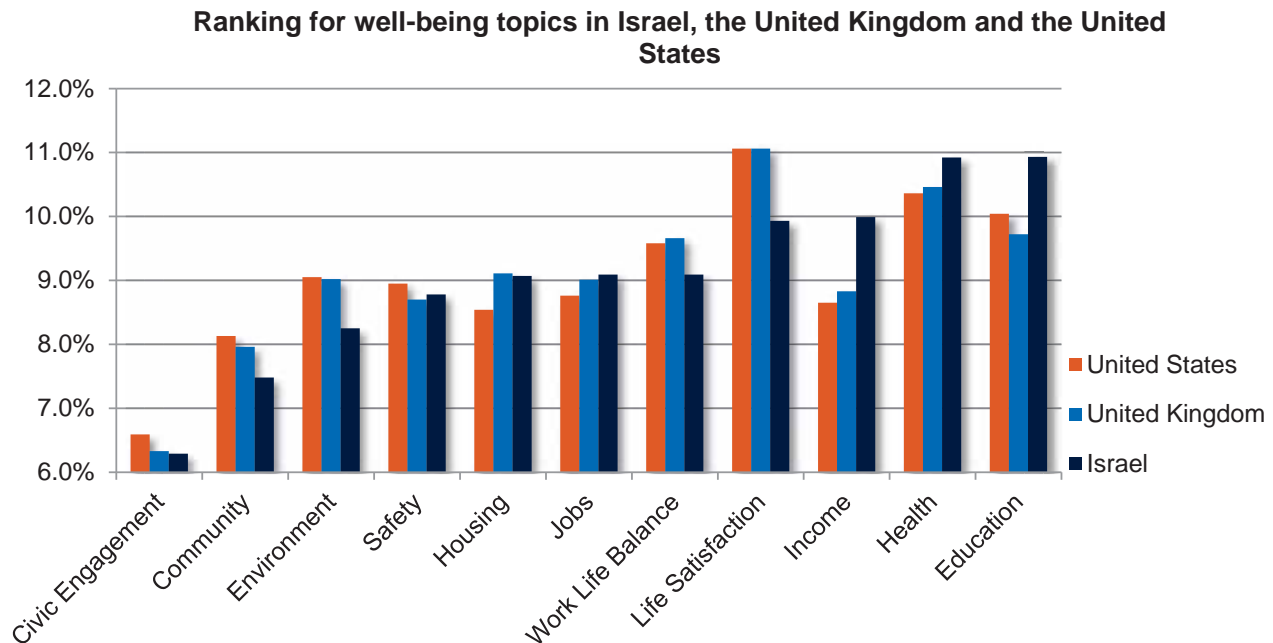
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



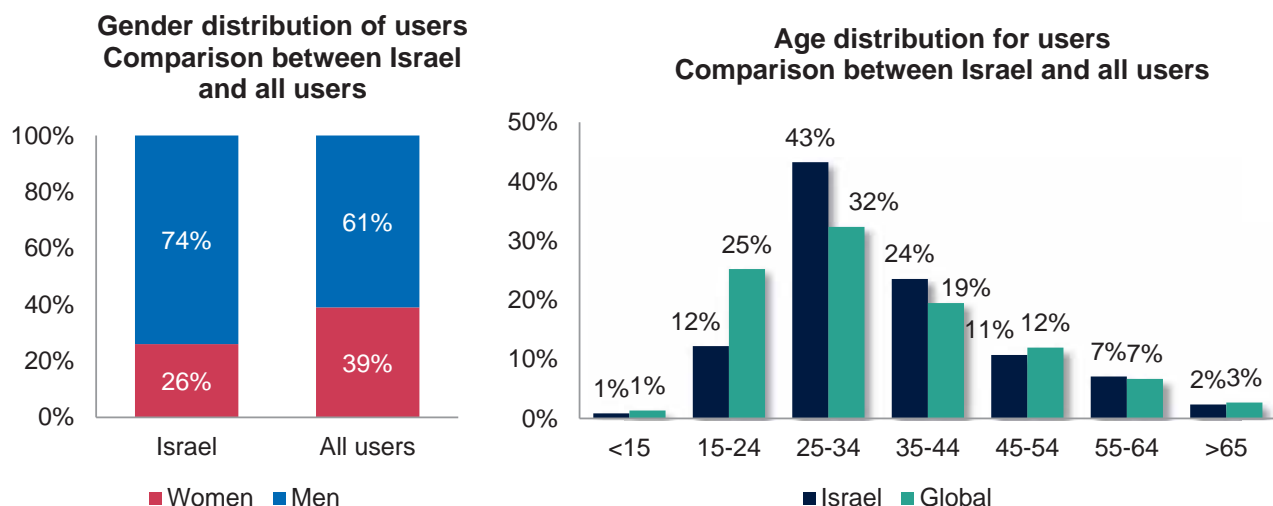
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR ISRAEL

**Education, Health and Income** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Israel.<sup>17</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Israel, the United Kingdom and the United States.



Israel is currently **26th** in number of visits (over 35,900) to the BLI site, up 74% or over 15,000 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Tel Aviv with over 23,500 visits followed by Jerusalem (+2,200) and Haifa (+1,600).



<sup>17</sup> Preferences for Israel based on 467 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Italy?





The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter to people and that shape their quality of life. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an analysis, published in the ***How's Life?*** report as well as an interactive web application, the ***Better Life Index***. It also includes a number of methodological and research projects to improve the information base towards a better understanding of well-being trends and their drivers.

The OECD Better Life Initiative:

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- Connects policies to people's lives.
- Generates support for needed policy measures.
- Improves civic engagement by encouraging the public to create their own index and share their preferences.
- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for Italy from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Italian **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

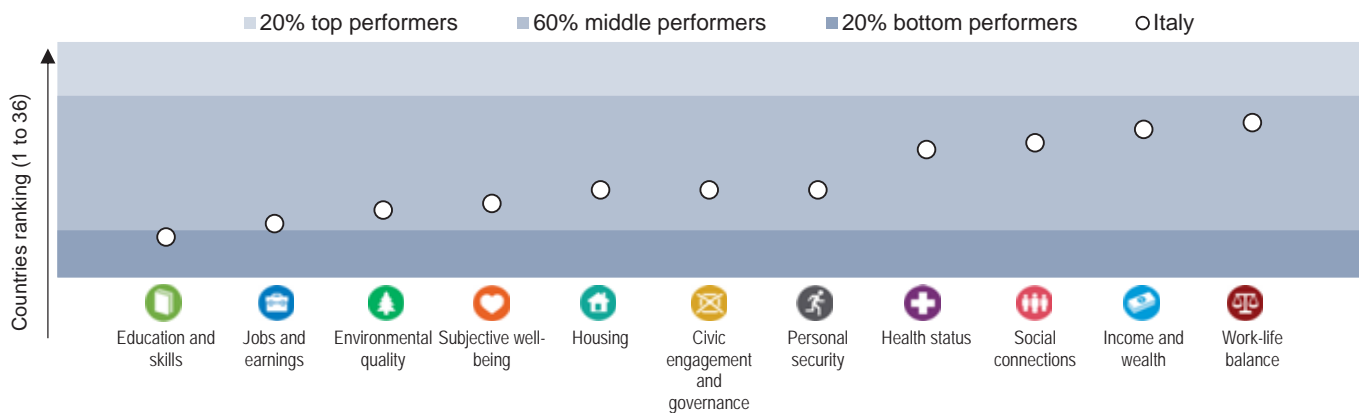
The following are findings for **Italy** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN ITALY IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Italy** performs well in some of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Italy** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of work-life balance, income and wealth, social connections, health status, but below average in civic engagement, housing, subjective well-being, environmental quality, jobs and earnings, and education and skills.

**Figure 1 - How does Italy compare?**

*Italy's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Italian household** has been severely affected by the crisis, with impacts that are particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, **Italy** recorded a cumulative decline in real **household disposable income** of around 7%, one of the largest declines among the OECD countries. Market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 2% between 2007 and 2010, well above the OECD average of 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. Between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** decreased by more than 1 percentage point in **Italy**, while the long-term unemployment rate increased by almost 3 percentage points.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. From 2007 to 2013, the percentage of **Italian** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives fell from 58% to 40%.

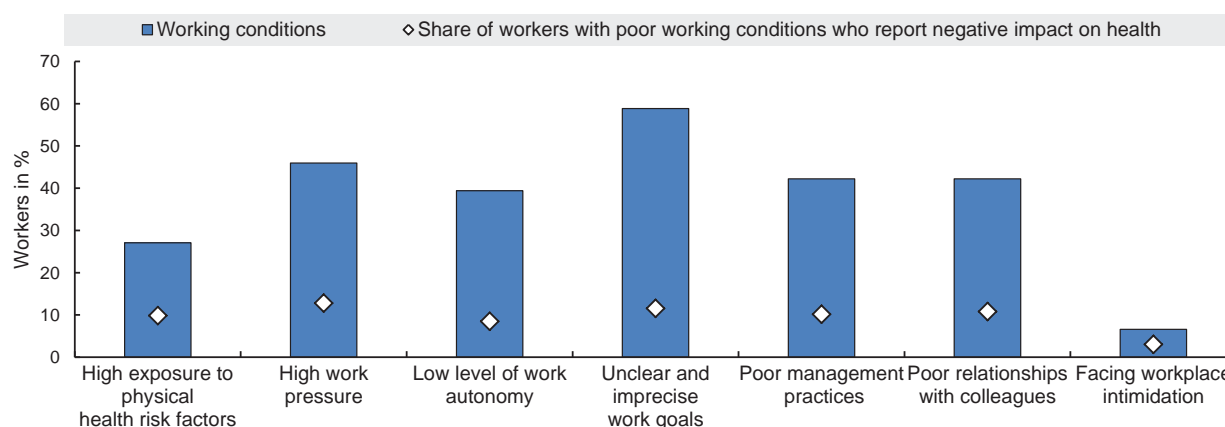
People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Italian** people reporting that they trust the government halved from 30% to 15% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period, however, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In **Italy**, this trend is less clear cut as the percentage of people reporting having helped someone increased by 14 percentage points, while the percentage of people reporting having volunteered their time decreased by 4 percentage points between 2007 and 2013.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **21% of Italian workers reported being in a poor working environment**, a share slightly above the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Italian workers' health, 2010














Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries over the past few decades. This trend is less clear cut in **Italy**, however. For example, the gender gap in wages has broadened over the last decade. Compared to men, **Italian women** are also less likely to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A sizeable share of **Italian women** also report having experienced intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN ITALY?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	85	80	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	62%	68%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	59%	41%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	74%	84%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+12%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	37%	21%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	36	14	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	31%	69%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence	14%	-	-	-
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	55%	79%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	5.9	6.2	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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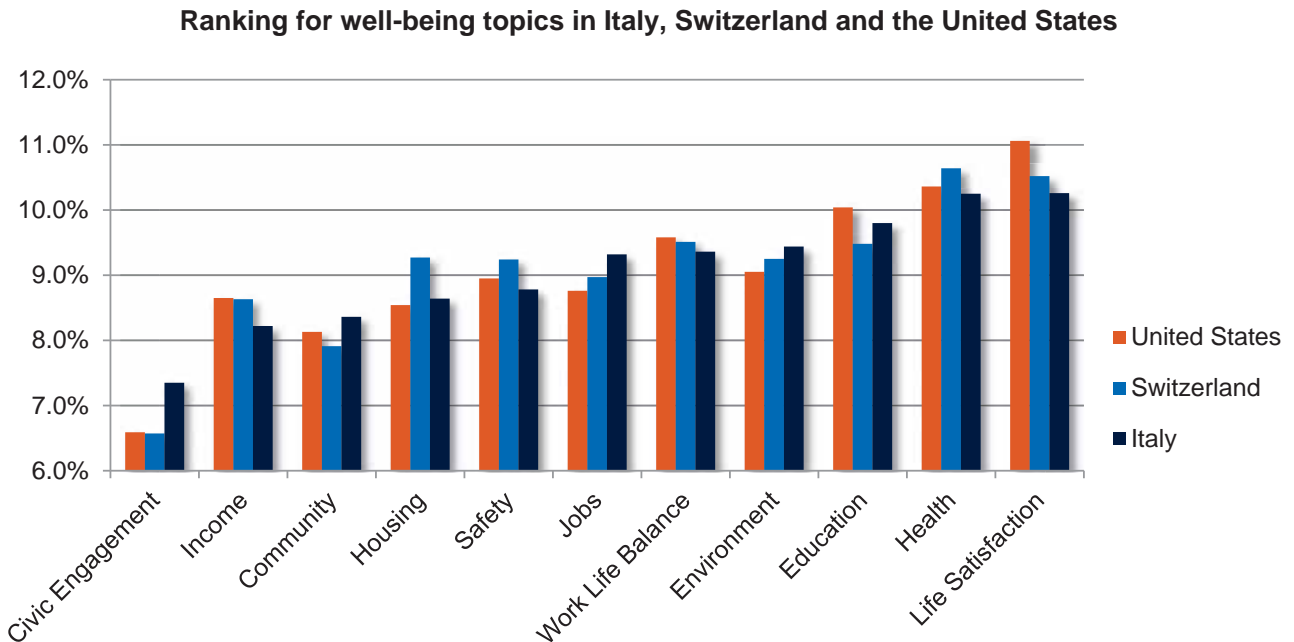
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



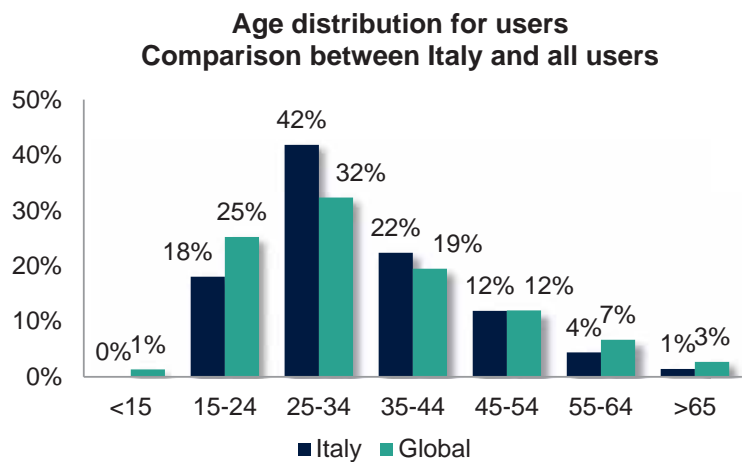
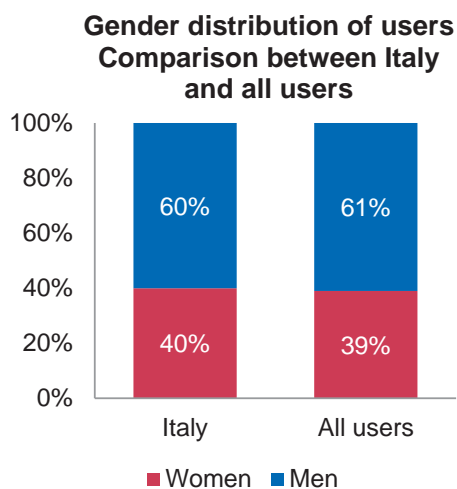
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: USER FINDINGS FOR ITALY

**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Italy.<sup>18</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Italy, Switzerland and the United States.



Italy is currently **8th** in number of visits (over 104,000) to the BLI site, up 68% or over 42,600 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Milan with over 20,100 visits followed by Rome (+19,500) and Turin (+5,600).



<sup>18</sup> Preferences for Italy based on 2,920 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Japan?





The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter to people and that shape their quality of life. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an analysis, published in the ***How's Life?*** report as well as an interactive web application, the ***Better Life Index***. It also includes a number of methodological and research projects to improve the information base towards a better understanding of well-being trends and their drivers.

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- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for Japan from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Japanese **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

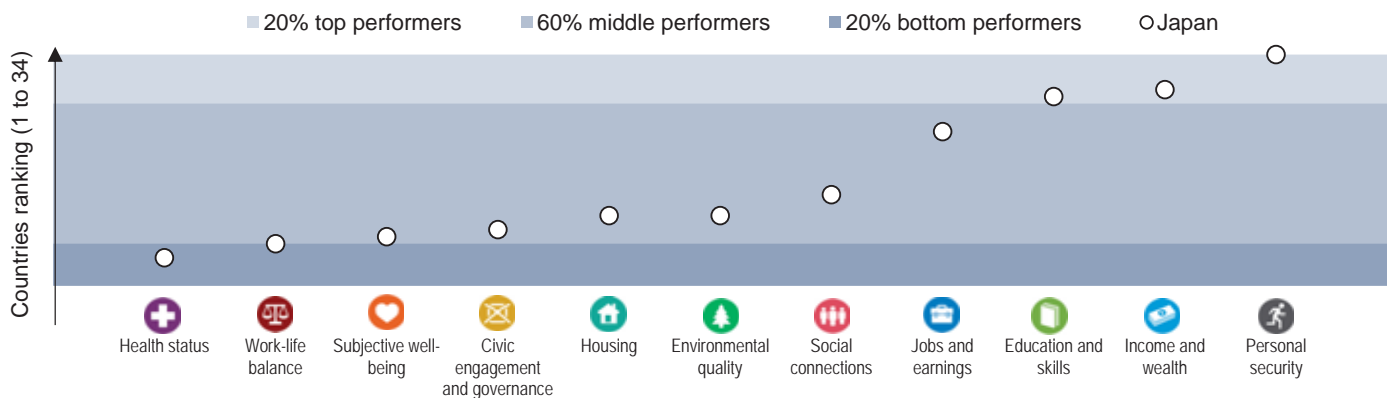
The following are findings for **Japan** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN JAPAN IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, **Japan** performs well in many of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Japan** ranks at the top in personal security. It ranks above the OECD average in the dimensions of income and wealth, education and skills, jobs and earnings and social connections, but below the average in terms of environmental quality, housing, civic engagement, subjective well-being, work-life balance and health status.

**Figure 1 - How does Japan compare?**

*Japan's well-being compared with other OECD countries, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

Against this background, *How's Life?* shows that the **average Japanese household** has been modestly affected by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, Japan recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 4%, while in the Euro area, income dropped on average by more than 1% per year, with the largest decline occurring in 2011. However, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 3% between 2007 and 2010, well above the OECD average of 1.2%.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In Japan, however, both the **employment rate** and the long-term unemployment rate remained stable between 2007 and 2012.

In the OECD as a whole, the poor employment situation had a major impact on life satisfaction. Life satisfaction also declined in Japan (the percentage of Japanese people declaring being very satisfied with their lives decreased from 49% to 43% from 2007 to 2012) even though employment conditions remained good.

People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Japanese** people reporting that they trust the government fell from 24% to 17% between 2007 and 2012, one of the lowest shares in the OECD.

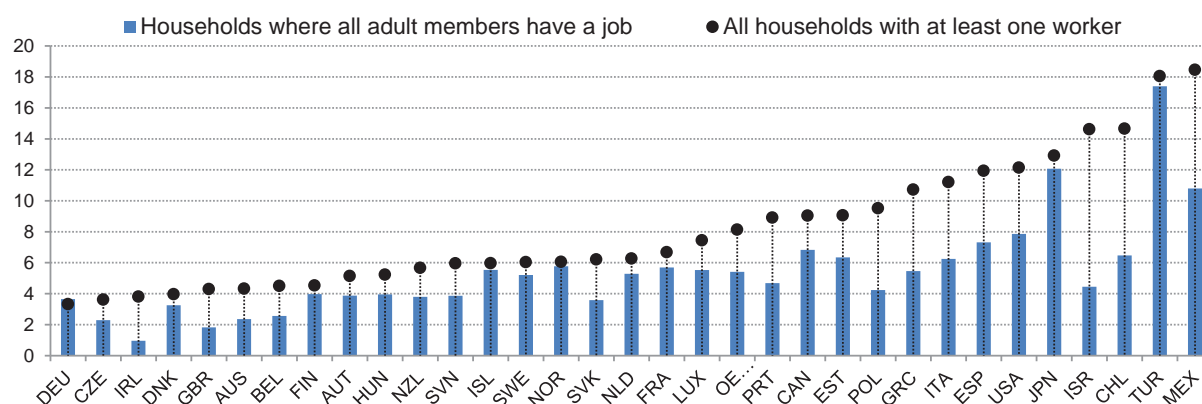
Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In **Japan**, the opposite pattern seem to prevail. The percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time decreased by 3 and 4 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2011.

## QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND WELL-BEING

From a well-being perspective, what matters is to have a job of good quality. Quality of employment encompasses many elements, one being that paid work ensure adequate standards of living. In-work poverty reflects different forms of precarious employment (e.g. low working hours and hourly pay among full-time workers, frequent moves between low-paid work and joblessness, etc.), and its incidence informs about quality of employment. In 2010, **13% of Japanese people living in households with at least one worker experienced in-work poverty, while 12% of those living in households with all adult members employed were in poverty**, both shares being well above the OECD average. Strategies to fight in-work poverty are at the forefront of the policy agenda in many countries, particularly in the context of the economic crisis.












**Figure 2 – Quality of employment and in-work poverty in Japan, 2010**

Poverty based on a threshold set at 50% of median household disposable income



## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **Japan**. However, the wage gap between men and women in Japan is one of the largest of the whole OECD. Compared to men, **Japanese women** are also less likely to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A sizeable share of Japanese women also report having experienced intimate partner violence.

HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN JAPAN?			AND IN THE OECD?		
					
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>					
 <b>Health status</b>					
Life expectancy at birth (years)	86	79	83	77	
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	29%	32%	67%	72%	
 <b>Education and skills</b>					
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	42%	58%	58%	42%	
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>					
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>					
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	67%	92%	79%	88%	
Wage gap between men and women	-	+27%	-	+16%	
Share of poor single-adult households	-	-	37%	30%	
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>					
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	22	2	32	21	
<b>Women and men in society</b>					
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>					
Share of seats in national parliament	8%	92%	27%	73%	
 <b>Personal security</b>					
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence	15%	-	-	-	
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	69%	85%	61%	79%	
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>					
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	6.2	5.8	6.7	6.6	



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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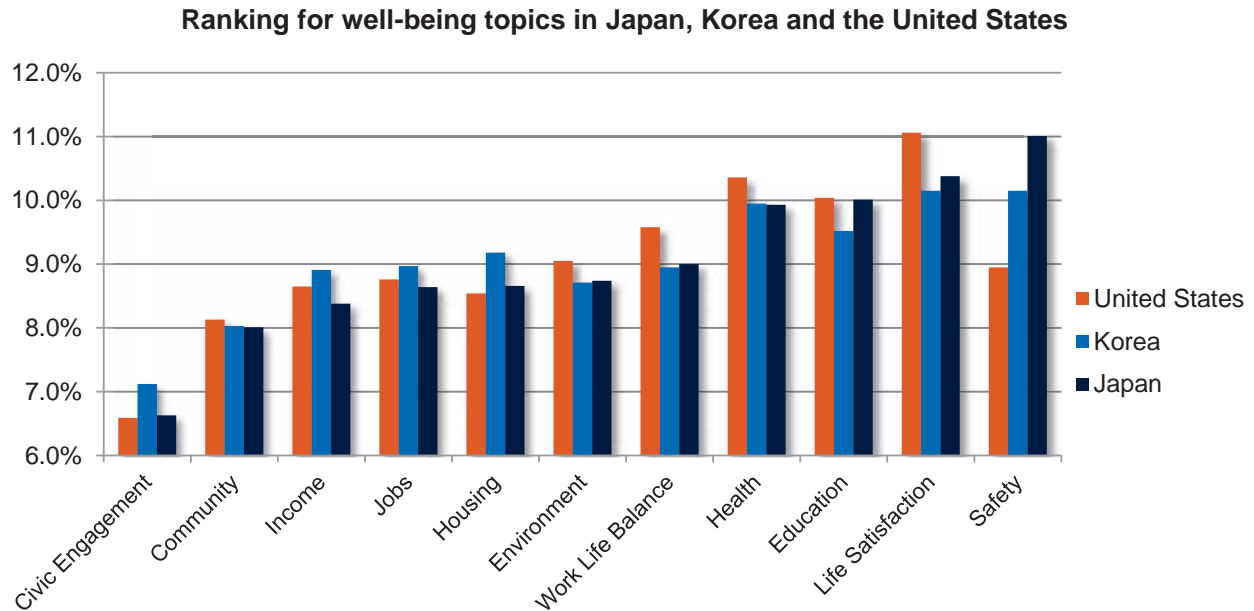
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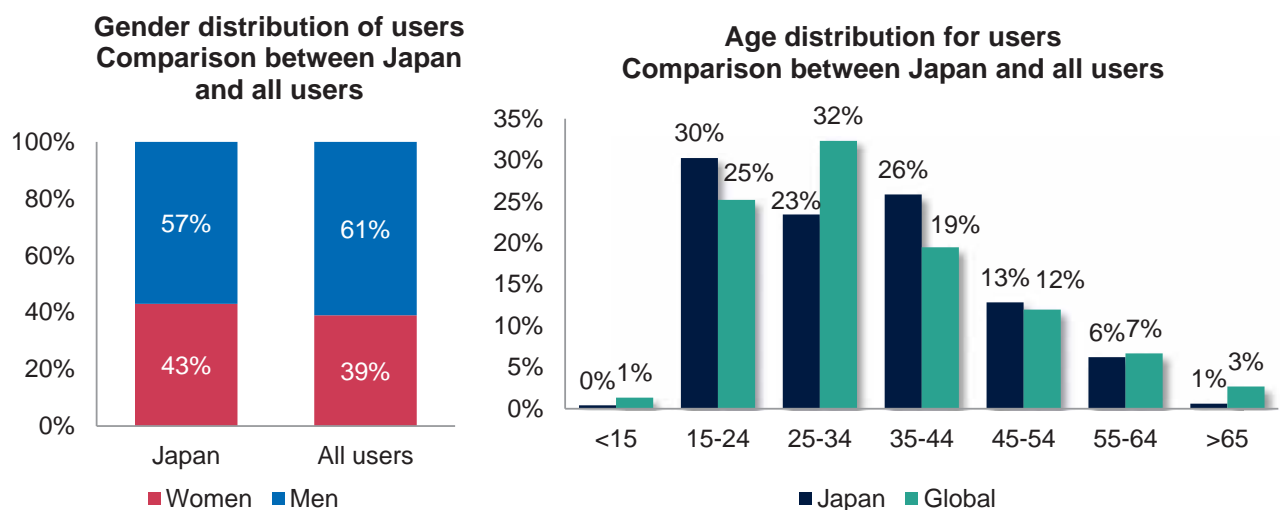
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR JAPAN

**Safety, Life Satisfaction and Education** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Japan.<sup>19</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Japan, Korea and the United States. Users in Japan and Korea give more weight to Safety than the trend for users in the United States.



Japan is currently **12th** in number of visits (over 75,300) to the BLI site. Traffic from users based in Japan has gone up over 62% or over 29,000 visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities in number of visits are Tokyo with over 36,000 visits followed by Kanagawa (+5,600 visits) and Osaka (+5,000 visits).



<sup>19</sup> Preferences for Japan on based on 499 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Korea?







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This brochure presents **selected findings for Korea from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-4) and shows what Korean **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 5-6).



## HOW'S LIFE?



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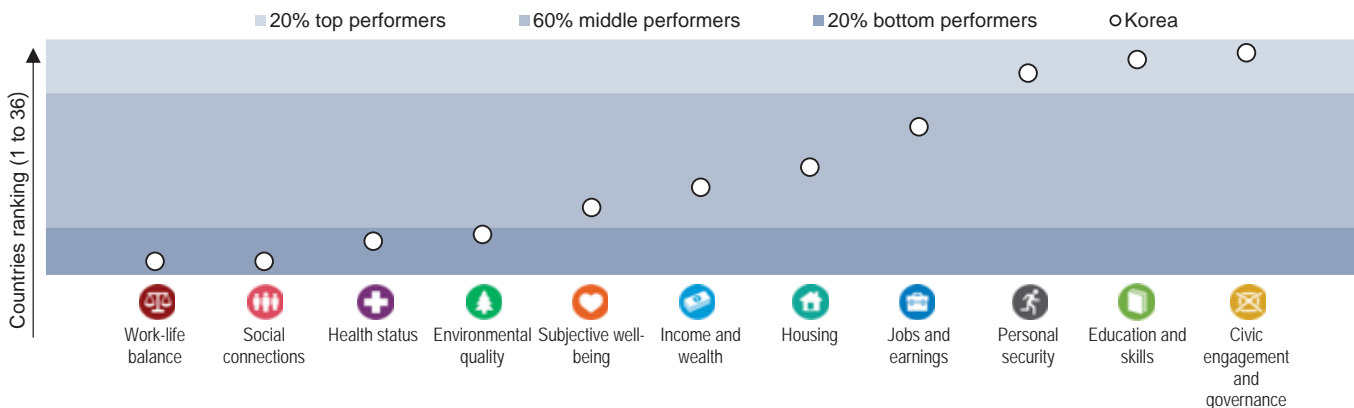
The following are findings for **Korea** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN KOREA IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Korea** performs well in some of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Korea** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of civic engagement and skills, education and skills, personal security, jobs and earnings, and housing, but below average in income and wealth, subjective well-being, environmental quality, health status, social connections, and work-life balance.

**Figure 1 - How does Korea compare?**

*Korea's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Korean household** has been generally spared by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, Korea recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 7%. Market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) remained unchanged between 2007 and 2010, while it increased by 1.2% on average in the OECD.

In OECD countries severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In contrast to this general trend, the **employment rate** and the long-term unemployment rate remained stable in Korea between 2007 and 2012.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction** in countries most affected by the crisis. Conversely, the percentage of Korean people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 31% to 45% between 2007 and 2012.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Korean** people reporting that they trust the government decreased from 24% to 23% between 2007 and 2011.












Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged. In Korea, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time increased by 4 and 8 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2011.

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries. This trend is less clear cut in **Korea**, however, where the number of women elected in Parliament has decreased over the last decade and the gender gap in wages is still the highest observed in the OECD area. Compared to men, **Korean women** are still less likely to have a paid job or be elected in Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks and to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN KOREA?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	85	78	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	34%	40%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	47%	53%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	60%	89%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+38%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	-	-	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	31	17	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	16%	84%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	55%	79%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	6.2	5.8	6.7	6.6

## BETTER LIFE INDEX

The *Better Life Index* is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in *How's Life?* Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and therefore see how countries' perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.



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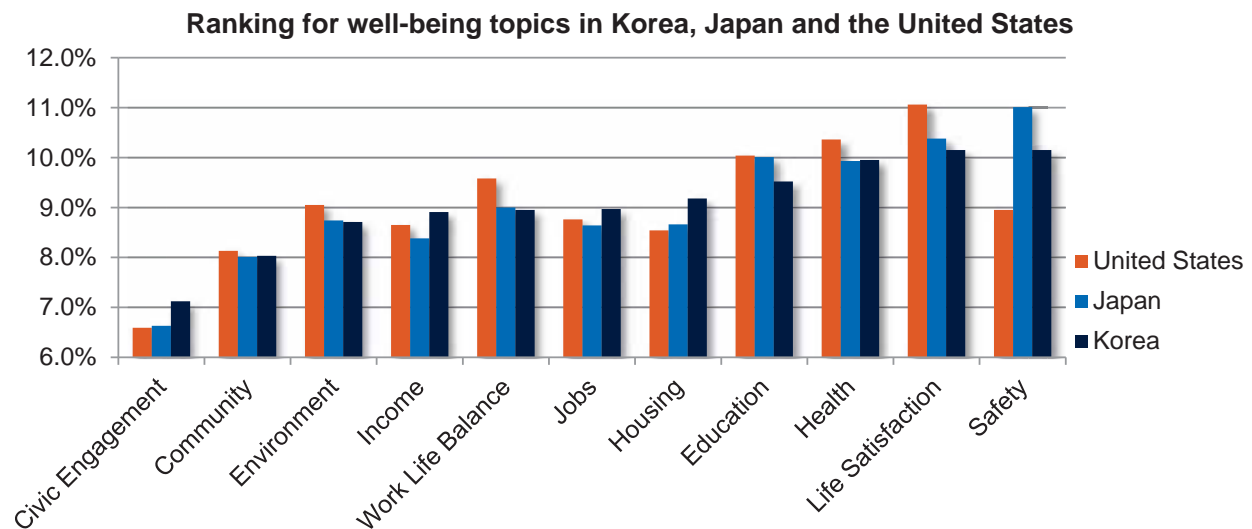
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



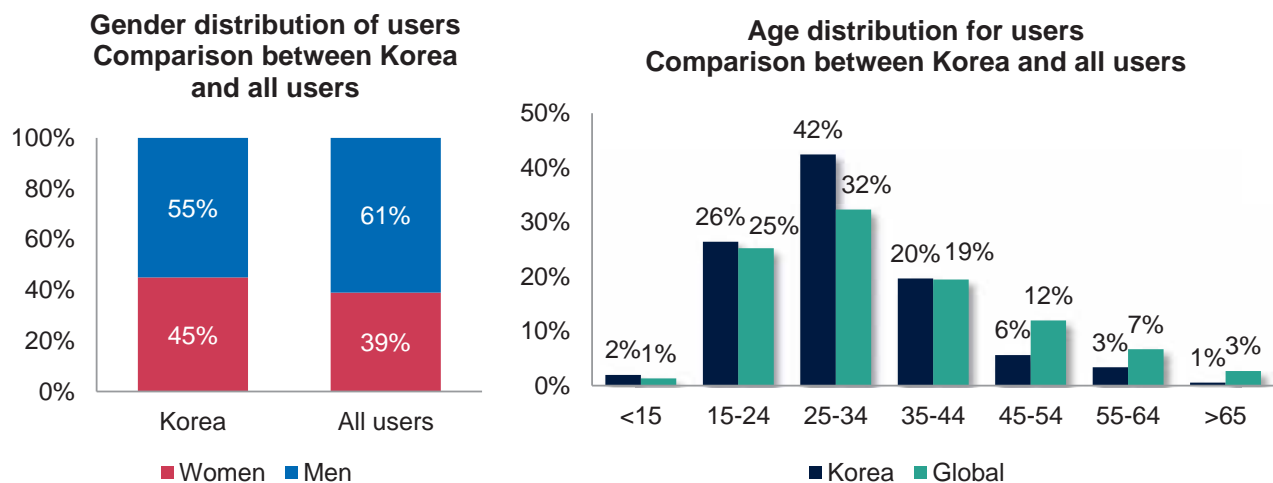
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR KOREA

**Safety, Life Satisfaction and Health** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Korea.<sup>20</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Korea, Japan and the United States.



Korea is currently **20th** in number of visits (over 43,000) to the BLI site, up 77% or over 18,800 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Seoul with over 22,000 visits followed by Daejeon (+2,000) and Busan (+1,500)



<sup>20</sup> Preferences for Korea on based on 356 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Luxembourg?





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- Improves civic engagement by encouraging the public to create their own index and share their preferences.
- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for Luxembourg from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Luxembourg **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

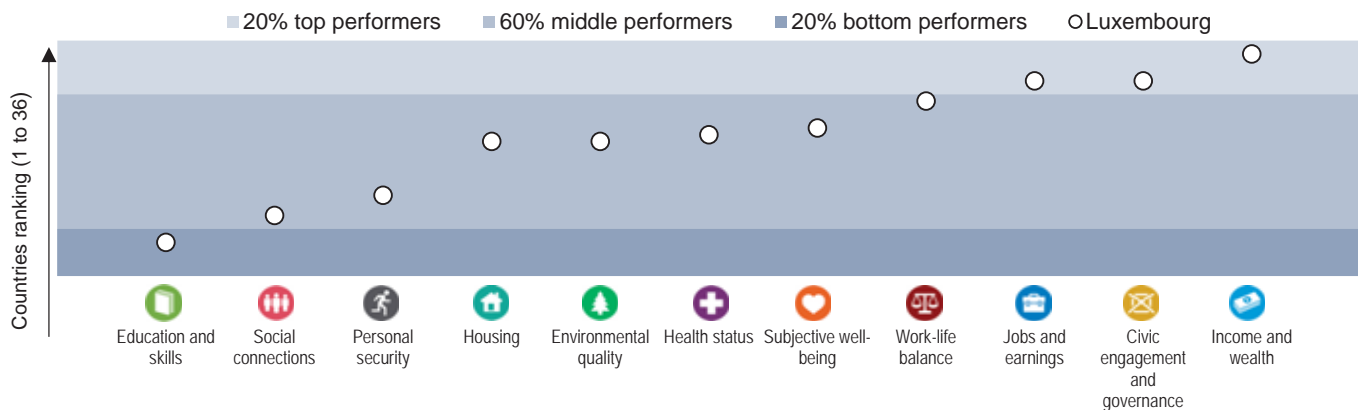
The following are findings for **Luxembourg** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN LUXEMBOURG IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Luxembourg** performs well in many of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Luxembourg** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of income and wealth, civic engagement, jobs and earnings, work-life balance, subjective well-being, health status, environmental quality, housing, and personal security, but below average in social connections, and education and skills.

**Figure 1 - How does Luxembourg compare?**

*Luxembourg's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The average **Luxembourg household** has been modestly affected by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

**Luxembourg** recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 2% from 2007 to 2011 while in the Euro area, income dropped by 1% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011 for the Euro area. However, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 1%, close to the OECD average of 1.2%.

In the countries severely hit by the crisis, this has impacted people's well-being mainly through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. However, in **Luxembourg**, between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** increased by almost 2 percentage points, while the long-term unemployment rate remained almost stable.

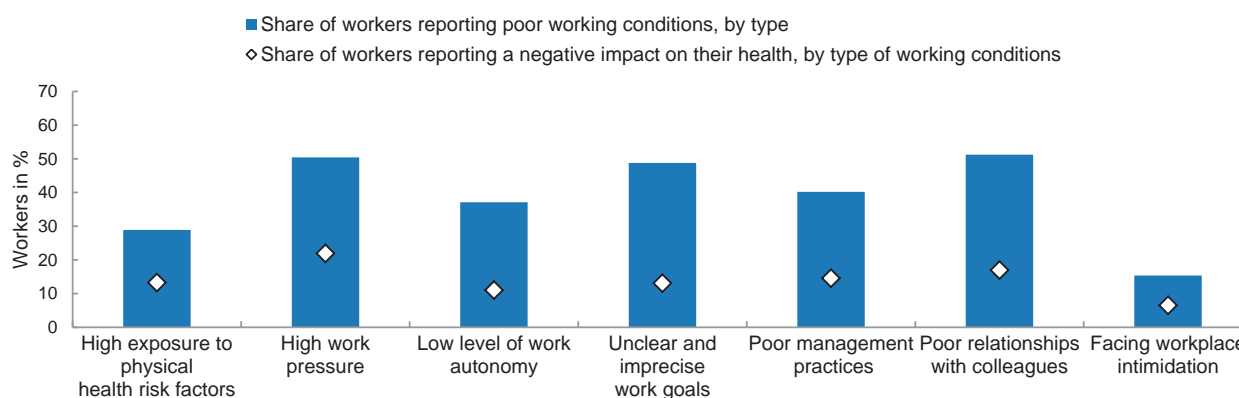
In OECD countries severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Luxembourg** people reporting that they trust the government decreased from 82% to 74% between 2009 and 2013.

Over the same period, however, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In contrast to this trend, in **Luxembourg** the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time decreased by 10 and 7 percentage points, respectively, between 2009 and 2013, while these figures increased on average in the OECD.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **21% of Luxembourg workers reported being in a poor working environment**, slightly above the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Luxembourg workers' health, 2010












Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries over the past few decades, including **Luxembourg**. Despite these gains, **Luxembourg women** are less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN LUXEMBOURG?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	84	79	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	70%	75%	67%	72%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	78%	91%	79%	88%
Share of poor single-adult households	29%	20%	37%	30%
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	22%	78%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	63%	84%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.1	7.2	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

The *Better Life Index* is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in *How's Life?* Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and therefore see how countries' perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.



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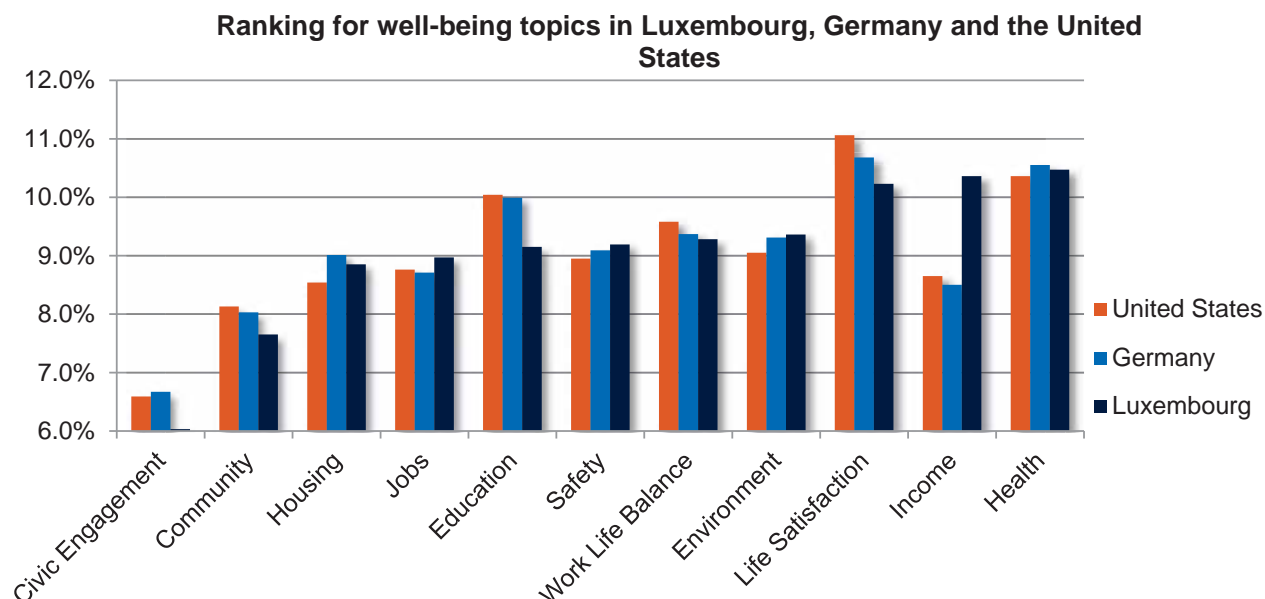
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



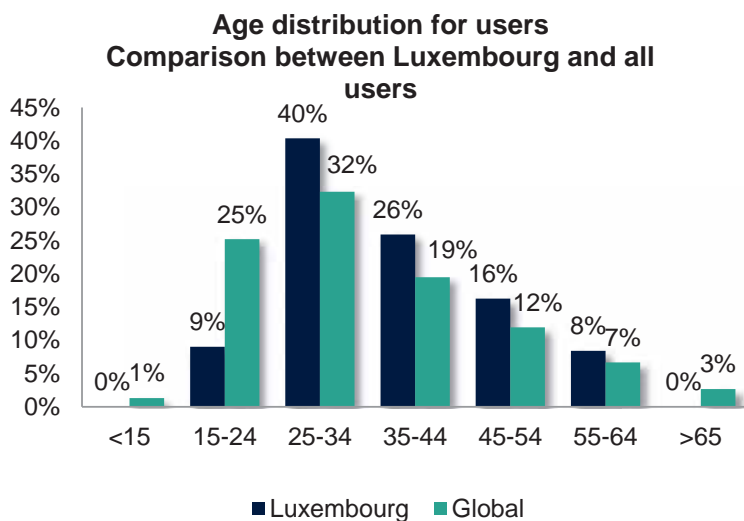
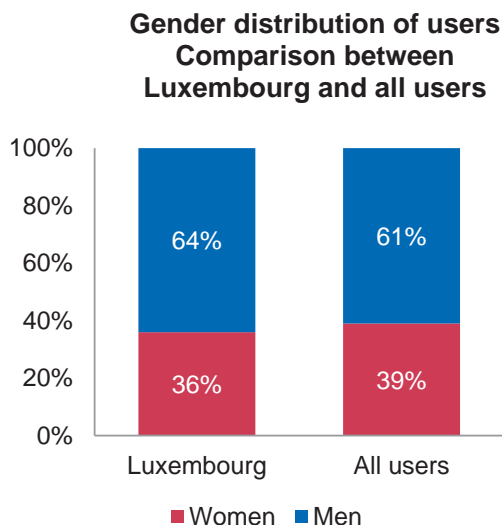
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR LUXEMBOURG

**Health, Income and Life Satisfaction** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Luxembourg.<sup>21</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Luxembourg, Germany and the United States.



Luxembourg is currently **49th** in number of visits (over 9,400) to the BLI site, up 99% or over 4,600 new visits since the update of the Index last May. The top city is Luxembourg City with over 7,900 visits.



<sup>21</sup> Preferences for Luxembourg based on 166 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Mexico?





The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter to people and that shape their quality of life. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an analysis, published in the ***How's Life?*** report as well as an interactive web application, the ***Better Life Index***. It also includes a number of methodological and research projects to improve the information base towards a better understanding of well-being trends and their drivers.

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This brochure presents **selected findings for Mexico from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Mexican **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

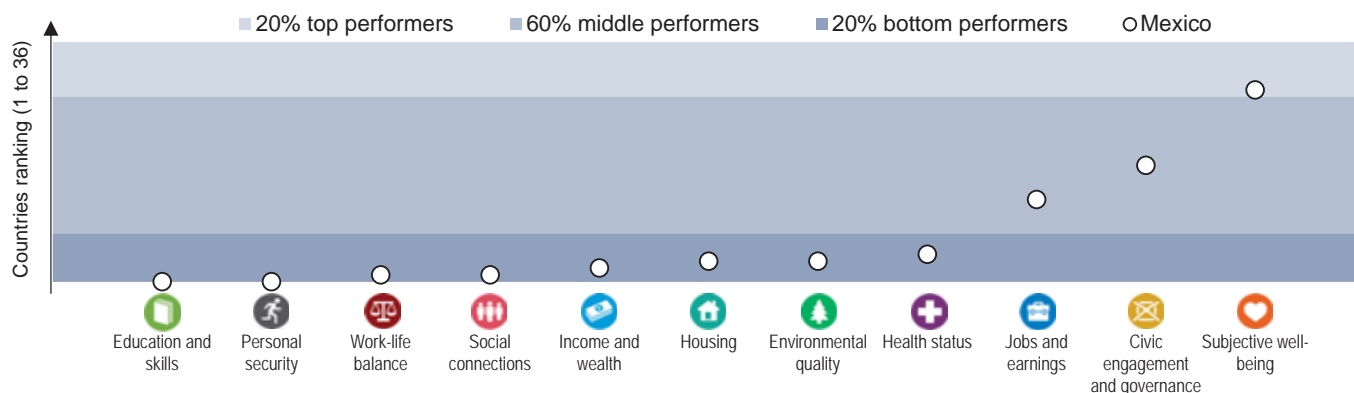
The following are findings for **Mexico** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN MEXICO IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Mexico** performs well in only a few of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Mexico** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of subjective well-being and civic engagement, but below average in the dimensions of jobs and earnings, health status, environmental quality, housing, income and wealth, social connections, work-life balance, personal security, and education and skills.

**Figure 1 - How does Mexico compare?**

*Mexico's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Mexican household** has been affected by the crisis, with impacts that are particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, Mexico recorded a cumulative decrease in real **household disposable income** of around 2%. However, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) remained unchanged over the same period while it increased by 1.2% on average in the OECD.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In contrast to the general trend, both the **employment rate** and the long-term unemployment rate remained stable in Mexico between 2007 and 2012.

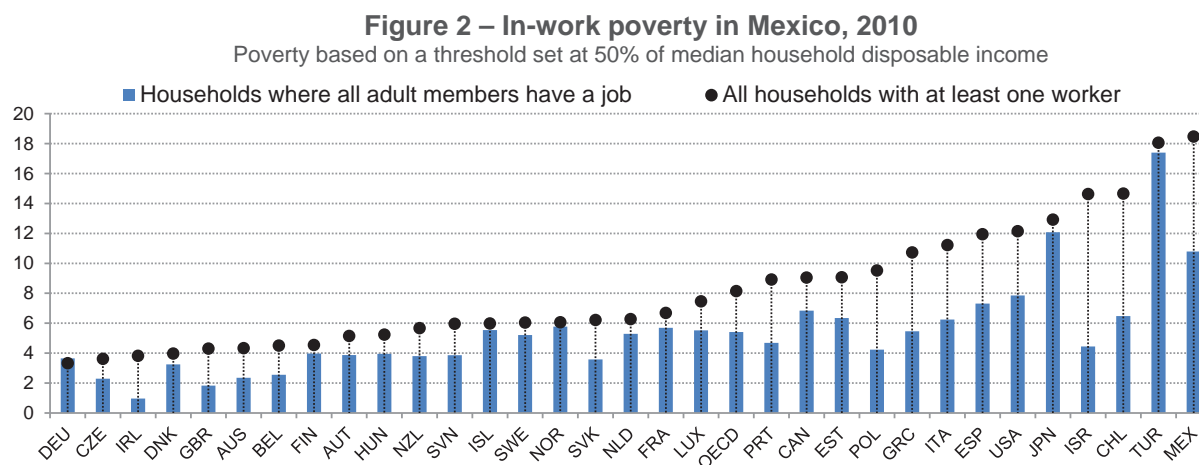
In the OECD as a whole, the poor employment situation had a major impact on life satisfaction. The percentage of Mexican people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 55% to 73% from 2007 to 2013, one of the highest increases in the OECD.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. This decline extended to Mexico where the percentage of **Mexican** people reporting that they trust the government fell from 42% to 40% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In **Mexico**, this trend is less clear cut as the percentage of people reporting having helped someone decreased by 5 percentage points while the share of people reporting having volunteered their time increased by 9 percentage points, the largest increase among the OECD countries, between 2007 and 2013.

## QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND WELL-BEING

From a well-being perspective, what matters is to have a job of good quality. Quality of employment encompasses many elements, one being that paid work ensure adequate standards of living. In-work poverty reflects different forms of precarious employment (e.g. low working hours and hourly pay among full-time workers, frequent moves between low-paid work and joblessness, etc), and its incidence informs about quality of employment. In 2010, **19% of Mexican people households with at least one worker experienced in-work poverty, while 11% of those living in households with all adult members employed were in poverty**, both shares being the highest in the OECD. Strategies to fight in-work poverty are at the forefront of the policy agenda in many countries, particularly in the context of the economic crisis.














## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **Mexico** where the gender wage gap between men and women is one of the smallest in the OECD. Despite these gains, **Mexican women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A significant proportion of Mexican women also report having experienced various forms of intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN MEXICO?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	77	71	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	64%	67%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	55%	45%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	72%	88%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+5%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	21%	28%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	44	30	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	37%	63%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence*	47%	-	-	-
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	52%	57%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.4	7.5	6.7	6.6

\*This percentage includes physical, sexual and emotional or psychological violence



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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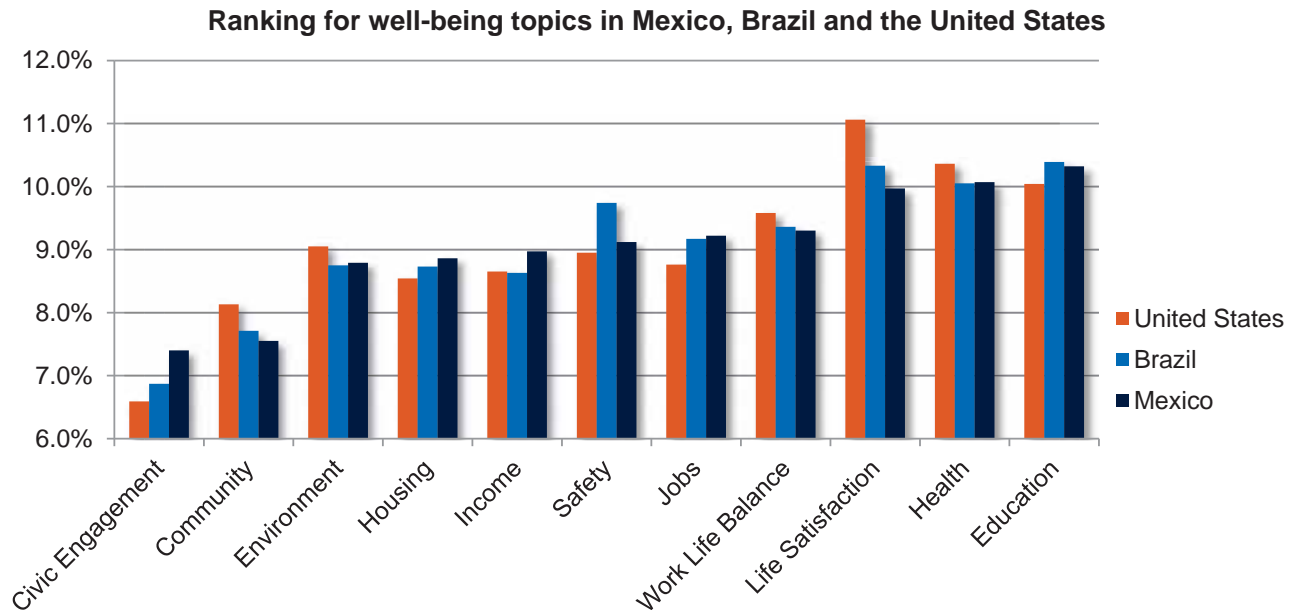
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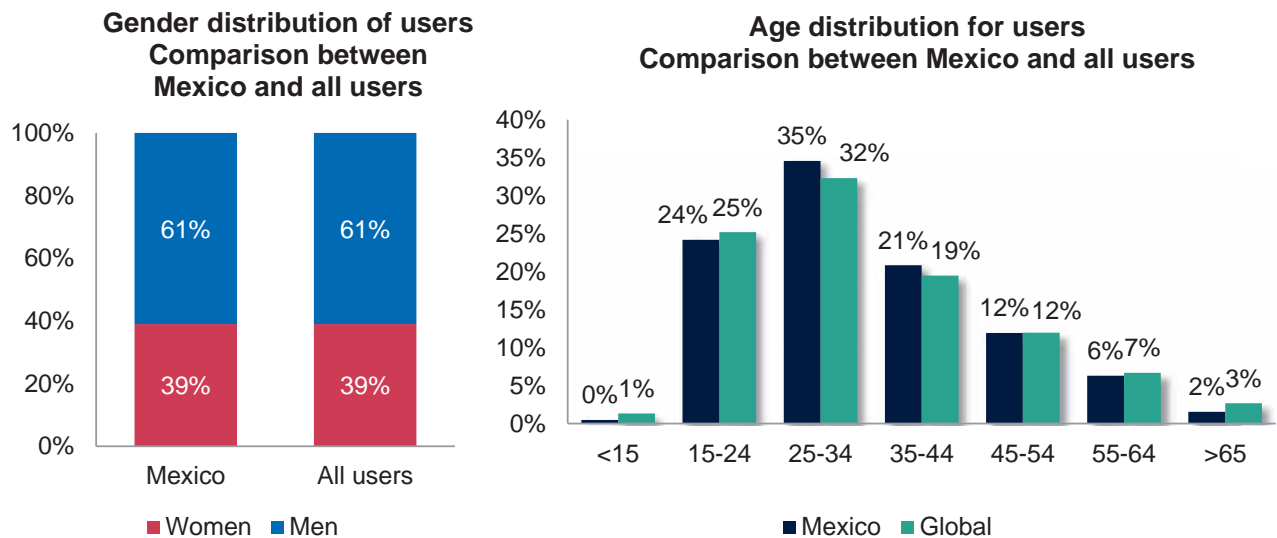
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR MEXICO

**Education, Health and Life Satisfaction** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Mexico.<sup>22</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Mexico, Brazil and the United States.



Mexico is currently **7th** in number of visits (over 144,800) to the BLI site, up 200% or over 101,700 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Mexico City with over 53,600 visits followed by Guadalajara (+10,000) y Monterrey (+7,900).



<sup>22</sup> Preferences for Mexico based on 3,343 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in the Netherlands?





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This brochure presents **selected findings for Netherlands from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Dutch **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



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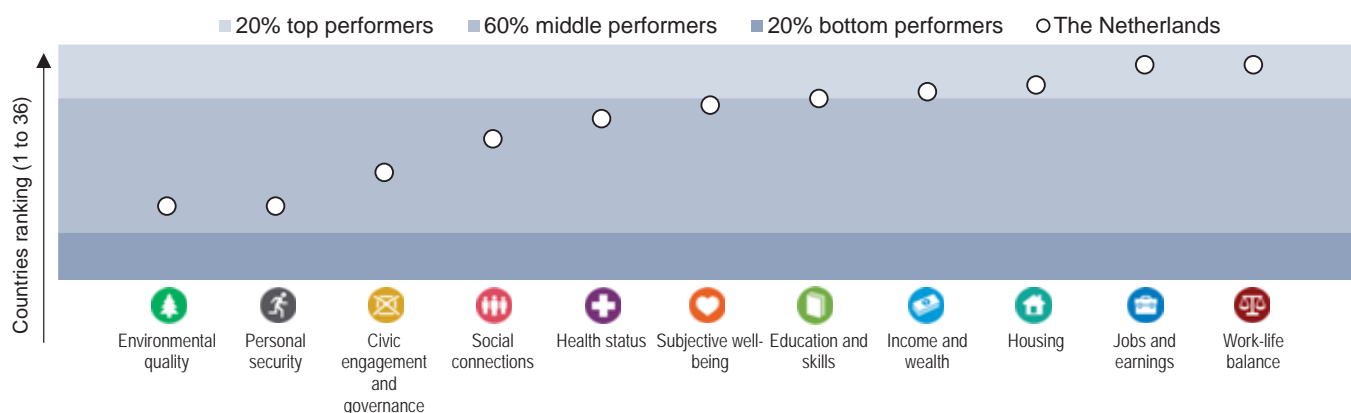
The following are findings for **the Netherlands** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN THE NETHERLANDS IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **the Netherlands** perform very well in many of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **The Netherlands** rank above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of work-life balance, jobs and earnings, housing, income and wealth, education and skills, subjective well-being, health status, and social connections. They rank below average in environmental quality.

**Figure 1 - How do the Netherlands compare?**

*The Netherlands' well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

Against this background, *How's Life?* shows that the **average Dutch household** has only been modestly affected by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, real **household disposable income** remained stable in the Netherlands, while in the Euro area income dropped on average by 1% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011. From 2007 to 2010, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) decreased by 1% while it increased by 1.2% on average in the OECD.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In contrast to this general trend, the **employment rate** increased by 1 almost percentage point in the Netherlands while the long-term unemployment rate remained stable between 2007 and 2012.

In the OECD as a whole, the poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. The percentage of **Dutch** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives decreased from 85% in 2007 to 84% in 2013, although remaining one of the highest shares in the OECD.

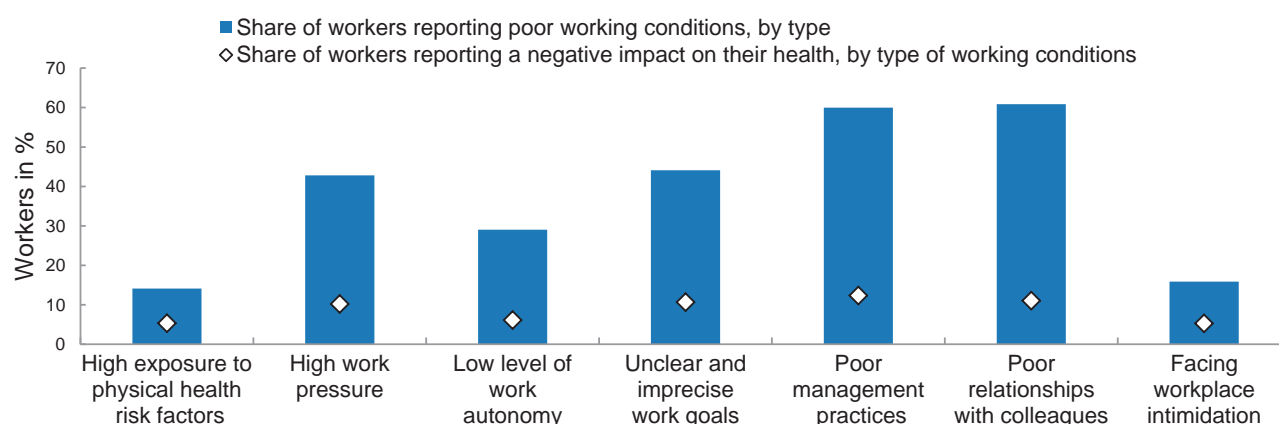
In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has declined during the crisis. In the Netherlands the percentage of **Dutch** people reporting that they trust the government fell from 66% to 54% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In **the Netherlands**, this trend is less clear cut. Between 2007 and 2013, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone increased by 5 percentage points while the share of people reporting having volunteered their time decreased by 4 percentage points.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **13% of Dutch workers reported being in a poor working environment**, a share well below the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.












Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Dutch workers' health, 2010



Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **the Netherlands**. Compared to men, **Dutch women** are less likely to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN THE NETHERLANDS?			AND IN THE OECD?		
					
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>					
 <b>Health status</b>					
Life expectancy at birth (years)	83	79	83	77	
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	74%	80%	67%	72%	
 <b>Education and skills</b>					
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	57%	43%	58%	42%	
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>					
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>					
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	85%	90%	79%	88%	
Wage gap between men and women	-	+17%	-	+16%	
Share of poor single-adult households	28%	15%	37%	30%	
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>					
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	31	25	32	21	
<b>Women and men in society</b>					
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>					
Share of seats in national parliament	39%	61%	27%	73%	
 <b>Personal security</b>					
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	64%	91%	61%	79%	
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>					
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.4	7.4	6.7	6.6	



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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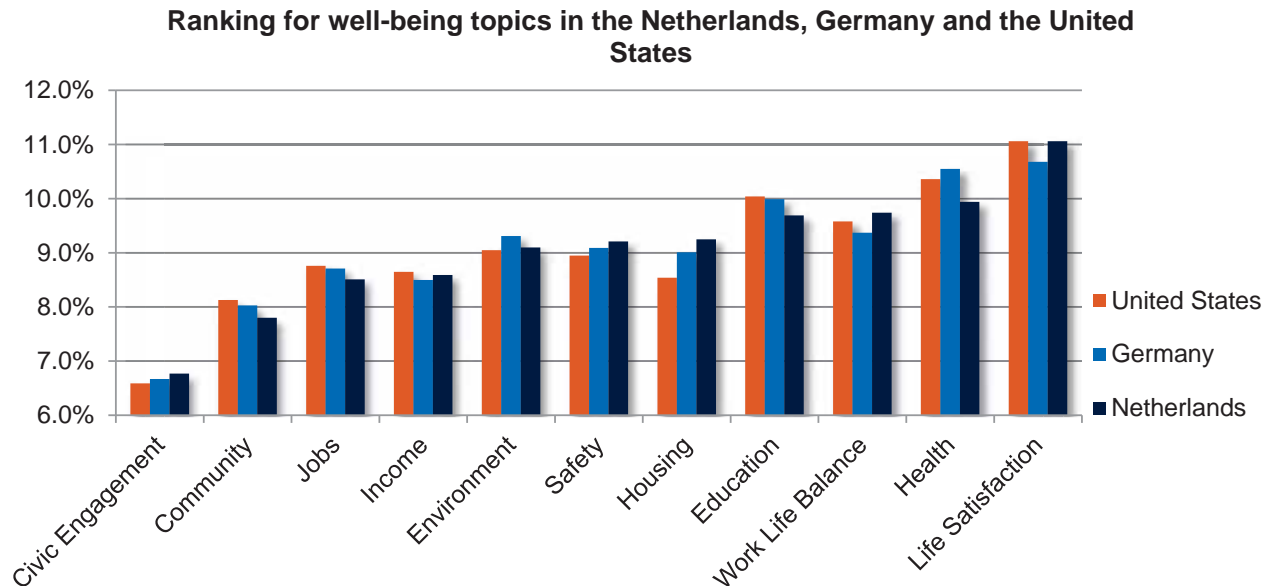
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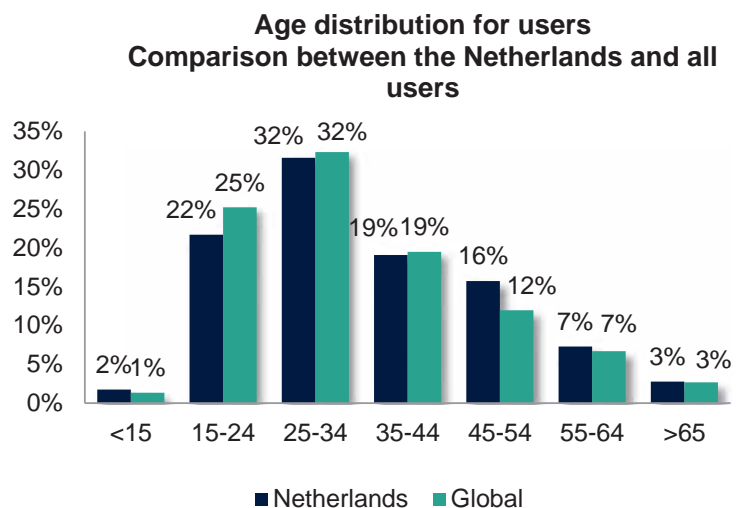
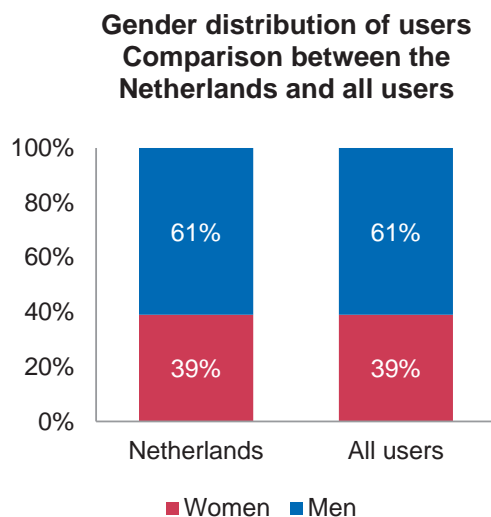
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR THE NETHERLANDS

**Life Satisfaction, Health and Work Life Balance** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in the Netherlands.<sup>23</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in the Netherlands, Germany and the United States.



The Netherlands is currently **13th** in number of visits (over 63,900) to the BLI site, up 112% or over 33,800 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Amsterdam with over 11,300 visits followed by The Hague (+5,100) and Rotterdam (+4,000).



<sup>23</sup> Preferences for the Netherlands based on 687 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in New Zealand?





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The OECD Better Life Initiative:

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This brochure presents **selected findings for New Zealand from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what **New Zealander users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

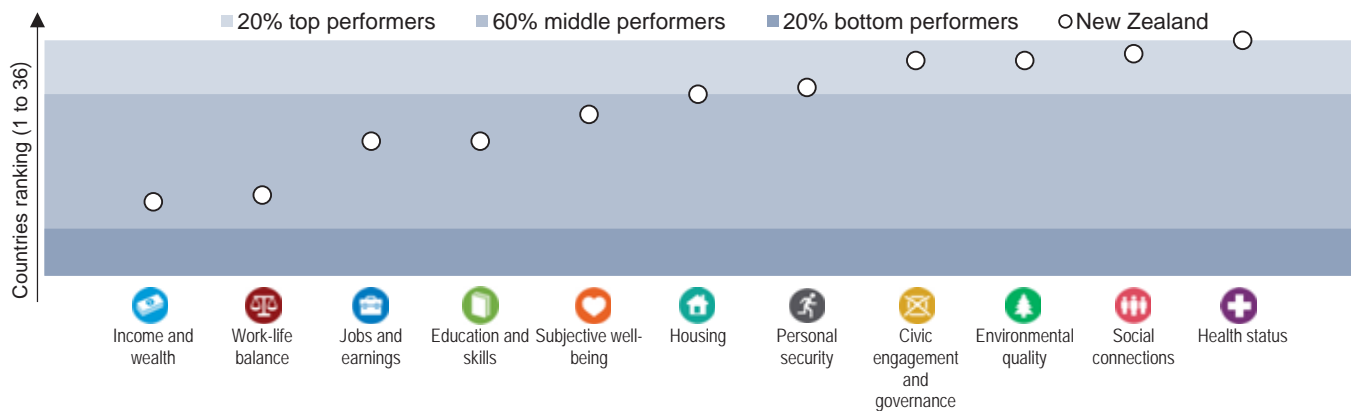
The following are findings for **New Zealand** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN NEW ZEALAND IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **New Zealand** performs very well in many of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **New Zealand** ranks at the top in health status, along with Australia and Switzerland, and in social connections, along with Denmark and Iceland. It ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of environmental quality, civic engagement, personal security, housing, subjective well-being, education and skills, and jobs and earnings, but below average in work-life balance, and income and wealth.

**Figure 1 - How does New Zealand compare?**

*New Zealand's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average New Zealander household** has been modestly affected by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

Since the start of the crisis, New Zealand recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 7% from 2007 to 2011 while in the Euro area, income dropped on average by 1% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011 for the Euro area. Market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) remained unchanged while it increased by 1.2% on average in the OECD.

In OECD countries severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In New Zealand, the **employment rate** decreased by 3 percentage points and the long-term unemployment rate increased by 1 percentage point between 2007 and 2012.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on life satisfaction and New Zealand did not escape this trend. From 2007 to 2013, the percentage of people in New Zealand declaring being very satisfied with their lives decreased from 81% to 74%.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of people in New Zealand reporting that they trust the government decreased from 59% to 54% between 2007 and 2013.

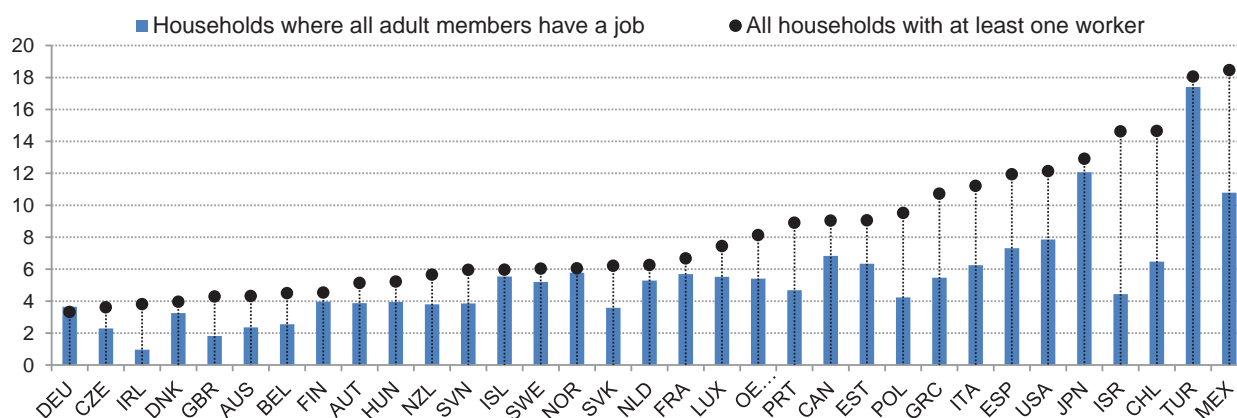
Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In **New Zealand**, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time increased by 7 and 4 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2013.

## QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND WELL-BEING

From a well-being perspective, what matters is to have a job of good quality. Quality of employment encompasses many elements, one being that paid work ensure adequate standards of living. In-work poverty reflects different forms of precarious employment (e.g. low working hours and hourly pay among full-time workers, frequent moves between low-paid work and joblessness, etc), and its incidence informs about quality of employment. In 2010, **6% of New Zealander people living in households with at least one worker experienced in-work poverty, while 4% of those living in households with all adult members employed were in poverty**, both shares being below the OECD average. Strategies to fight in-work poverty are at the forefront of the policy agenda in many countries, particularly in the context of the economic crisis.

**Figure 2 – In-work poverty in New Zealand, 2010**

Poverty based on a threshold set at 50% of median household disposable income














## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **New Zealand** where the gender wage gap between men and women is the smallest in the OECD. Despite these gains, **New Zealander women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A significant share of women in New Zealand also report having experienced intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN NEW ZEALAND?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	83	79	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	89%	90%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	61%	39%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	79%	90%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+4%	-	+16%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	34	19	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	32%	68%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence	33%	-	-	-
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	50%	78%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.3	7.3	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

The *Better Life Index* is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in *How's Life?* Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and therefore see how countries' perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.



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

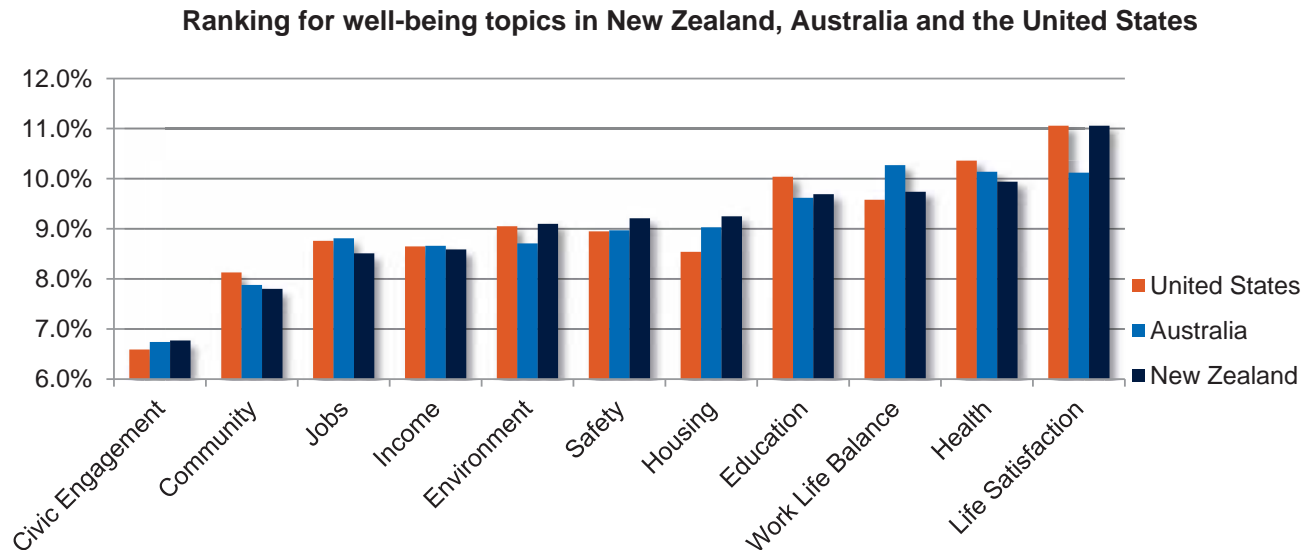
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



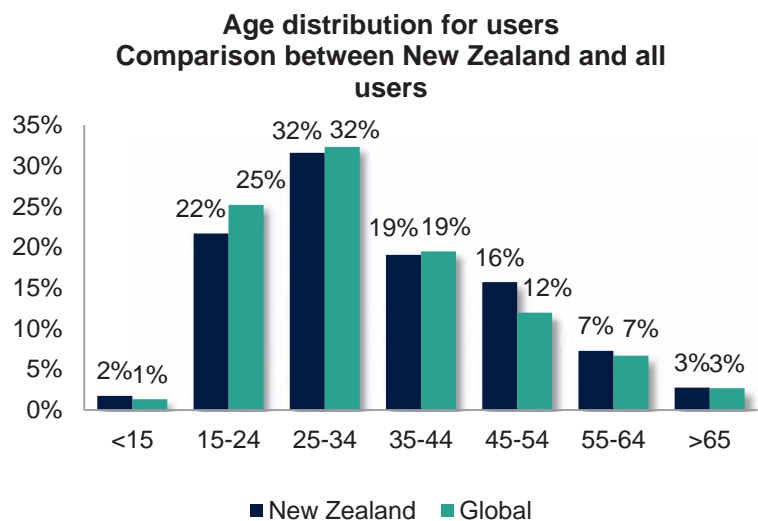
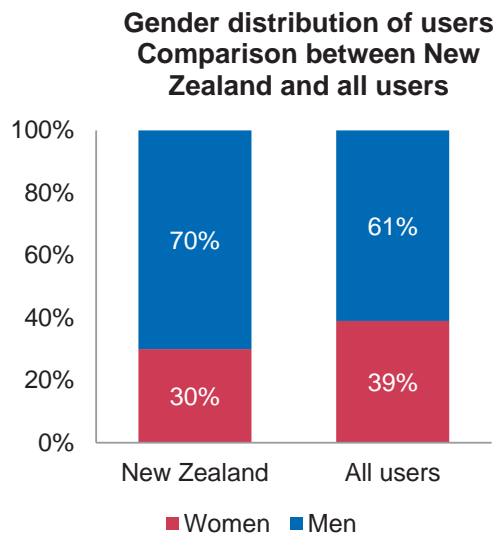
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR NEW ZEALAND

**Life Satisfaction, Health, and Work Life Balance** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in New Zealand.<sup>24</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in New Zealand, Australia and the United States.



New Zealand is currently **18th** in number of visits (over 46,000) to the BLI site, up 76% or over 20,000 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Auckland with over 22,900 visits followed by Wellington (+10,300) and Christchurch (+4,400).



<sup>24</sup> Preferences for New Zealand based on 687 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Norway?





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This brochure presents **selected findings for Norway from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Norwegian **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

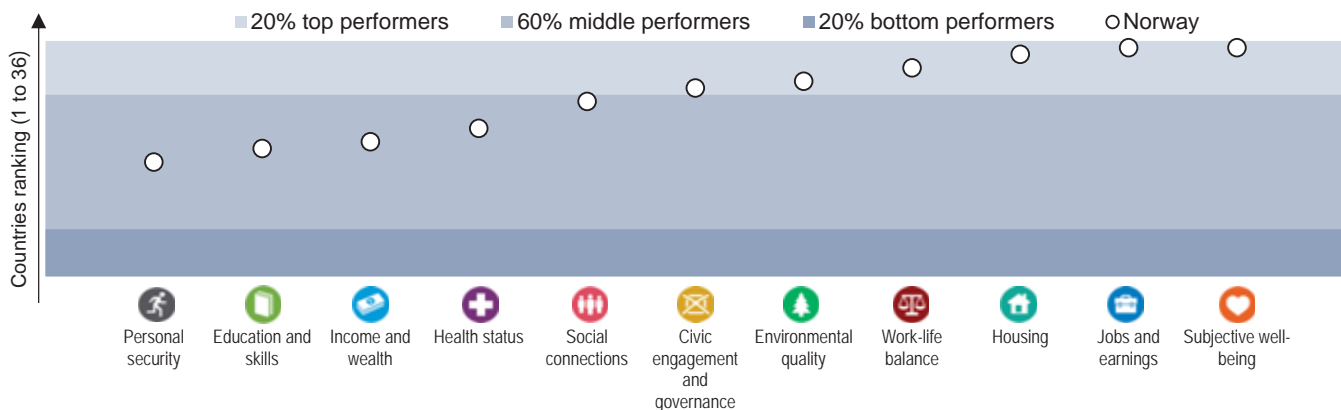
The following are findings for **Norway** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN NORWAY IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Norway** performs very well in most of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Norway** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in all the dimensions (subjective well-being, jobs and earnings, housing, work-life balance, environmental quality, civic engagement, social connections, health status, income and wealth, education and skills, and personal security).

**Figure 1 - How does Norway compare?**

*Norway's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Norwegian household** has been spared by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, Norway recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 8%, while in the Euro area income dropped by more than 1% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011. However, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 1.3% between 2007 and 2010, in line with the OECD average of 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. Between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** decreased by 1 percentage point in **Norway**, while the long-term unemployment rate remained almost stable.

In the OECD as a whole, the poor employment situation had a major impact on life satisfaction. From 2006 to 2012, the percentage of **Norwegian** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 76% to 80%.

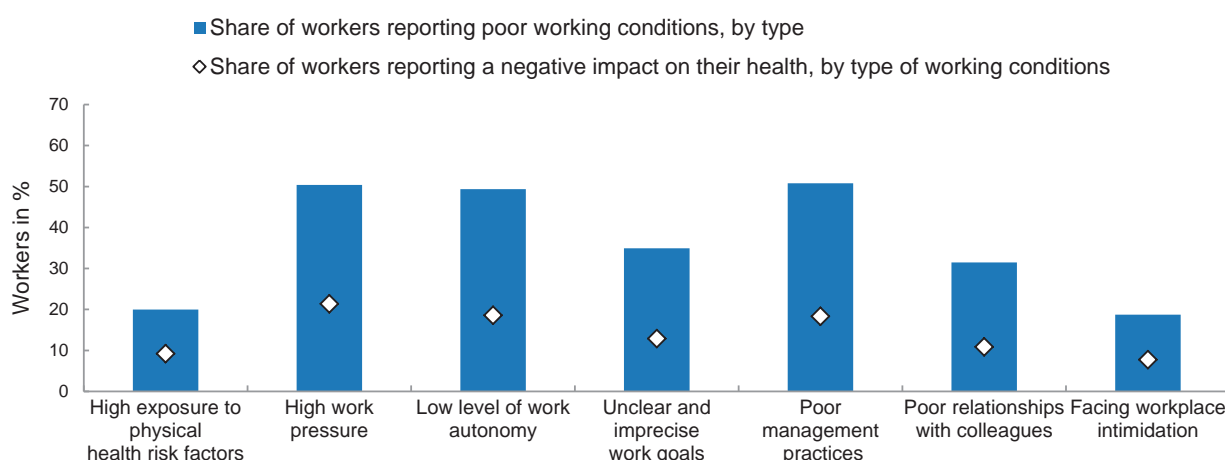
In OECD countries severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has declined during the crisis. On the contrary in **Norway**, the percentage of **people** reporting that they trust the government increased from 54% to 66% between 2008 and 2012.

Over the same period **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the OECD area. In **Norway**, this trend is less clear cut. The percentage of people reporting having helped someone increased by 8 percentage points while it decreased by 3 percentage points for people reporting having volunteered their time between 2008 and 2012.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **12% of Norwegian workers reported being in a poor working environment**, one of the lowest shares in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Norwegian workers' health, 2010














## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **Norway**. Despite these gains, **Norwegian women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A sizeable share of Norwegian women also report having experienced intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN NORWAY?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	84	79	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	71%	75%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	61%	39%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	89%	92%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+8%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	37%	30%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	26	20	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	40%	60%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence	27%	-	-	-
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	80%	94%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.7	7.6	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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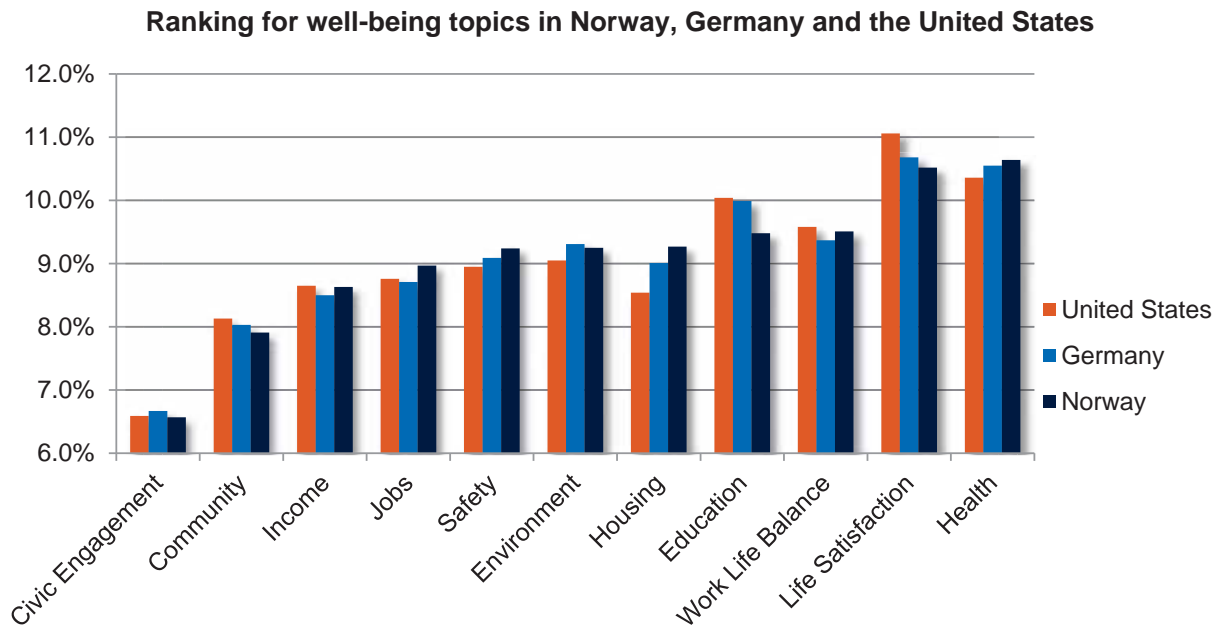
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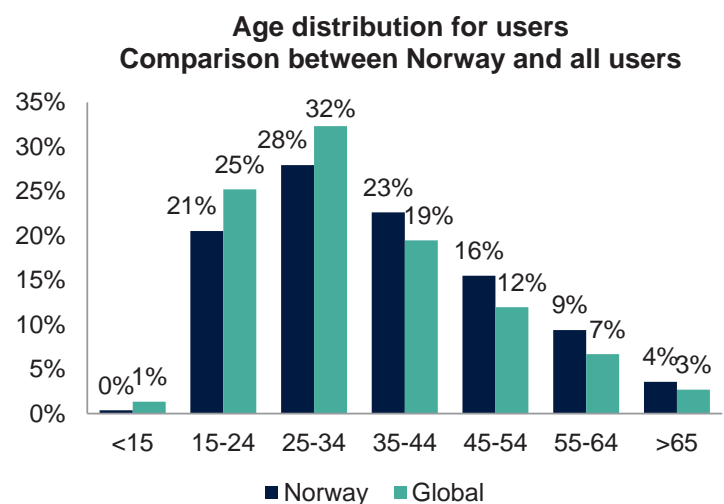
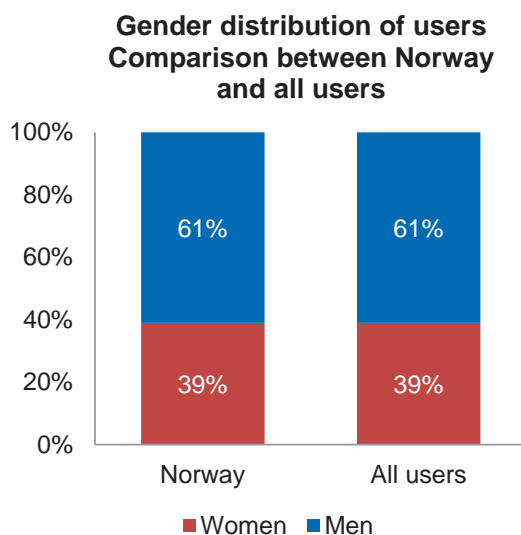
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR NORWAY

**Health, Life Satisfaction and Work Life Balance** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Norway.<sup>25</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Norway, Germany and the United States. Users in these countries give more weight to Health than the trends for all users.



Norway is currently **25th** in number of visits (about 37,600) to the BLI site, up over 109% or over 19,700 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Oslo with over 15,800 visits followed by Hordaland (+3,500) and Rogaland (+3,200).



<sup>25</sup> Preferences for Norway on based on 1,374 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life In Poland?





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## HOW'S LIFE?



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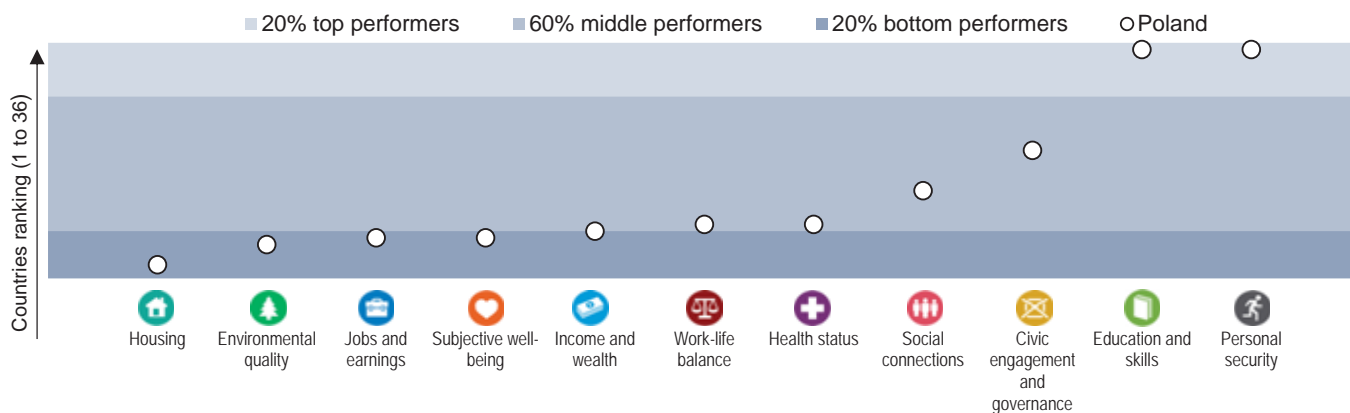
The following are findings for **Poland** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN POLAND IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Poland** performs well in only a few of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Poland** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of personal security, education and skills, civic engagement and social connections, but below average in health status, work-life balance, income and wealth, subjective well-being, jobs and earnings, environmental quality, and housing.

**Figure 1 - How does Poland compare?**

*Poland's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Polish household** has been generally spared by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, **Poland** recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 11%, the largest rise among the OECD countries. Between 2007 and 2010, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) decreased by 2%, well below the OECD average increase of 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In contrast to this general trend, the **employment rate** increased by almost 3 percentage points in **Poland**, while the long-term unemployment rate decreased by almost 1 percentage point between 2007 and 2012,.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. Despite a favourable labour market situation, the percentage of **Polish people** declaring being very satisfied with their lives fell from 38% to 36% from 2007 to 2013.

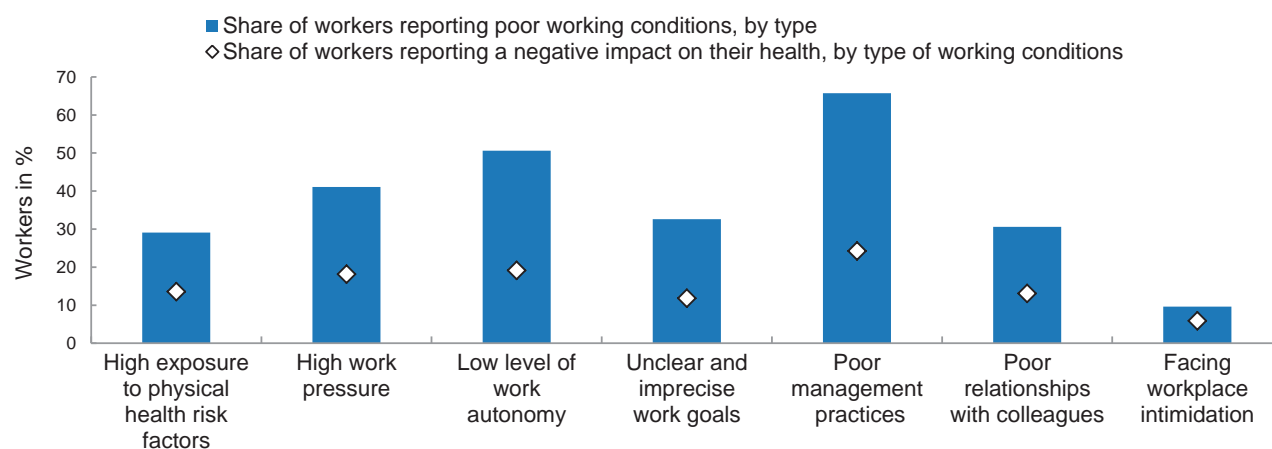
People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Polish people** reporting that they trust the government fell from 19% to 16% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In **Poland** the opposite pattern seems to prevail. The percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time decreased by 1 percentage point between 2007 and 2013, while these shares increased on average in the OECD.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **18% of Polish workers reported being in a poor working environment**, a share slightly below the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Polish workers' health, 2010














Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries over the past few decades. This trend is less clear cut in **Poland**, however. For example, the gender gap in wages has broadened over the last decade. Compared to men, **Polish women** are still less likely to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A significant share of Polish women also report having experienced intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN POLAND?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	81	73	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	55%	61%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	66%	34%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	82%	89%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+10%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	41%	39%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	35	27	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	24%	76%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence	16%	-	-	-
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	61%	77%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	5.9	5.6	6.7	6.6



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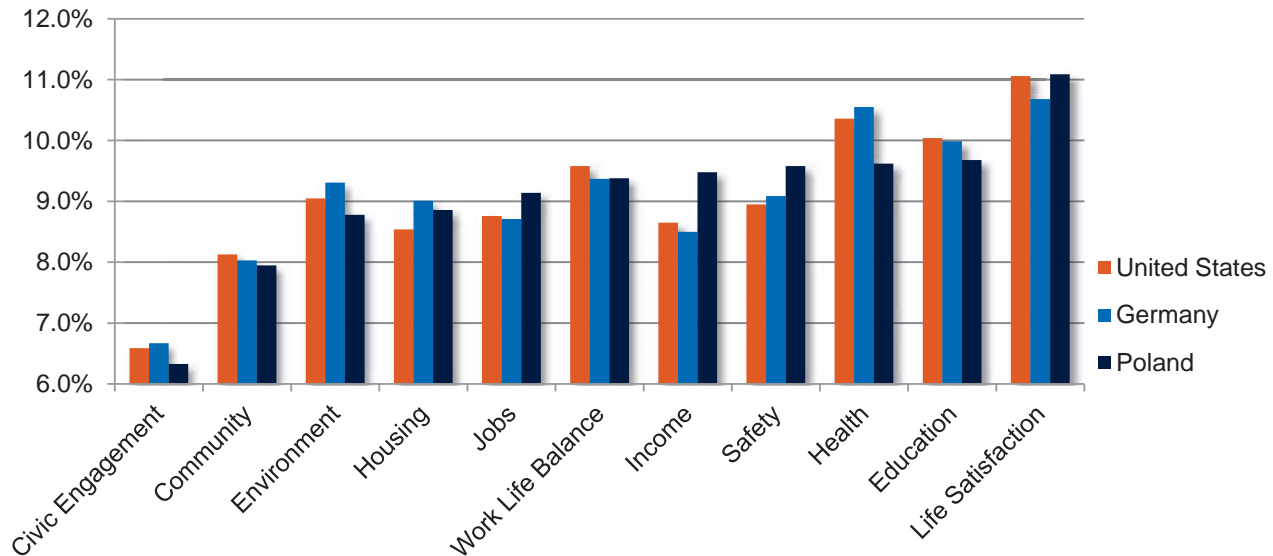


**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR POLAND

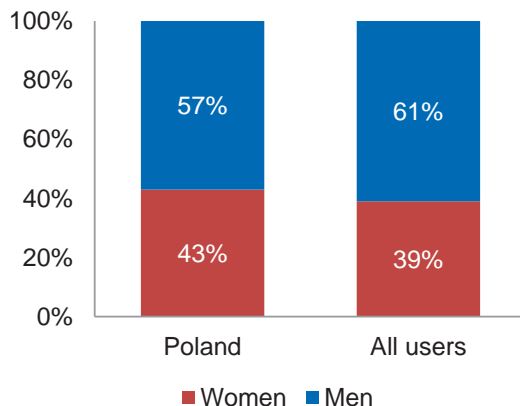
**Life Satisfaction, Education and Health** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Poland.<sup>26</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Poland, Germany and the United States. Users in Poland and in the United States give more weight to Life Satisfaction than the trend for all users.

Ranking for well-being topics in Poland, Germany and the United States

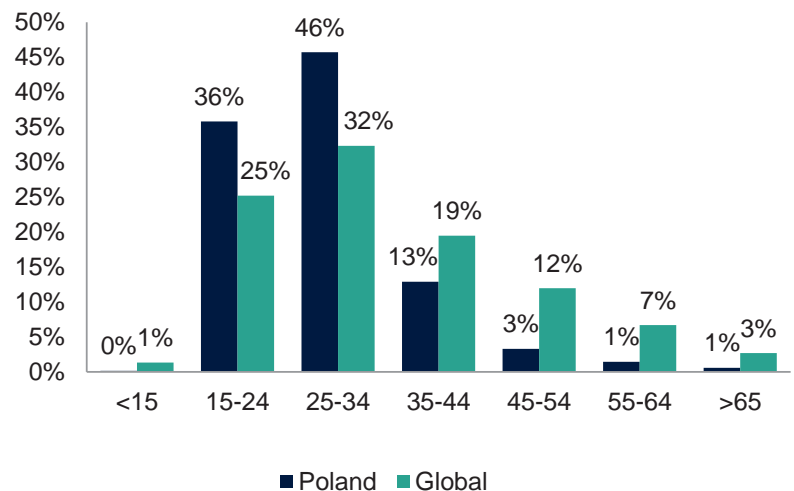


Poland is currently **23rd** in number of visits (about 39,000) to the BLI site, up over 107% or over 20,000 visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Warsaw with over 14,100 visits followed by Krakow (+5,600) and Poznan (+2,600).

Gender distribution of users  
Comparison between Poland  
and all users



Age distribution for users  
Comparison between Poland and all users



<sup>26</sup> Preferences for Poland on based on 698 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Portugal?





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- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for Portugal from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Portuguese **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

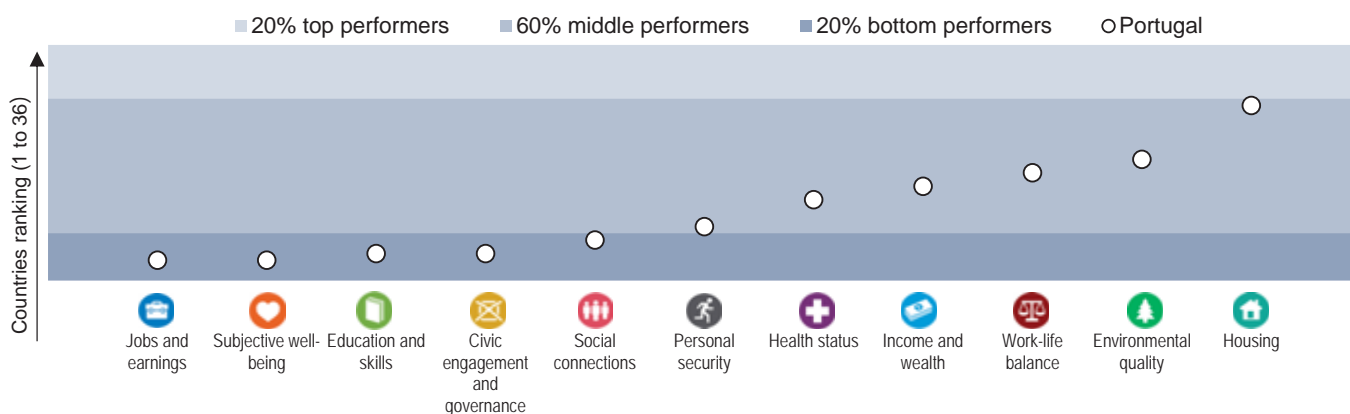
The following are findings for **Portugal** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN PORTUGAL IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Portugal** performs well in only a few of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Portugal** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of housing, environmental quality, and work-life balance, but below average in income and wealth, health status, personal security, social connections, civic engagement, education and skills, subjective well-being, and jobs and earnings.

**Figure 1 - How does Portugal compare?**

*Portugal's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Portuguese household** has been affected by the crisis, with impacts that are particularly visible when looking at jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, **Portugal** recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 1%, while in the Euro area, income dropped by 1% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011. Between 2007 and 2010, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) remained stable, while it increased on average in the OECD by 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. Between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** decreased by almost 6 percentage points in **Portugal**, while the long-term unemployment rate increased by 4 percentage points.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. From 2006 to 2013, the percentage of **Portuguese** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives fell from 31% to 28%, one of the lowest shares in the OECD area.

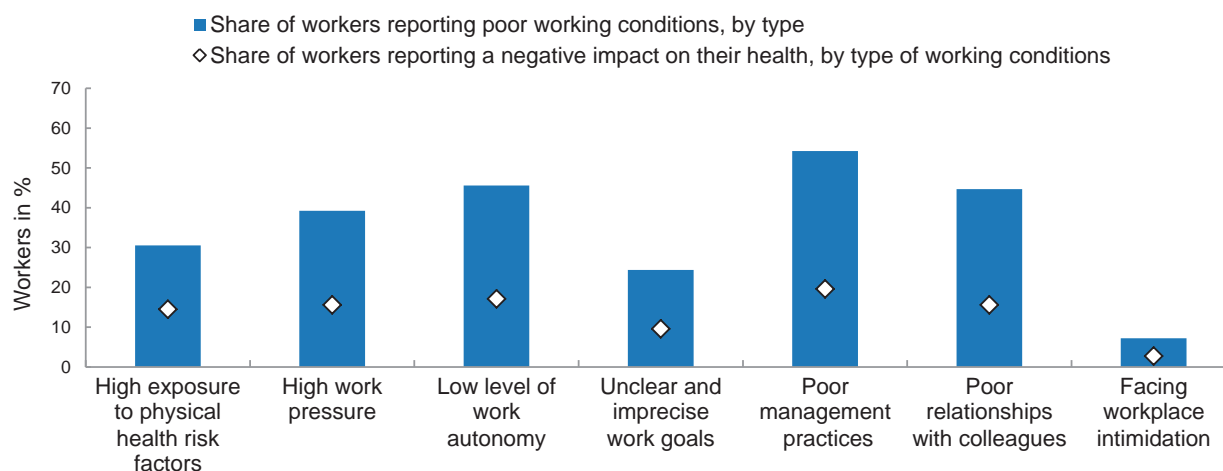
People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Portuguese people** reporting that they trust the government fell from 34% to 18% between 2008 and 2013.

Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In **Portugal**, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time increased by 13 and 4 percentage points, respectively, between 2008 and 2013.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **17% of Portuguese workers reported being in a poor working environment**, above the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Portuguese workers' health, 2010














Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries over the past few decades. This trend is less clear cut in **Portugal**, however. For example, the gender gap in wages has broadened over the last decade. Compared to men, **Portuguese women** are still less likely to be elected to Parliament, and more likely to be over-represented among poor households, to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN PORTUGAL?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	84	78	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	45%	55%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	60%	40%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	85%	86%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+16%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	46%	35%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	38	26	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	29%	71%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	48%	74%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	5.2	5.1	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

The *Better Life Index* is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in *How's Life?* Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and therefore see how countries' perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.



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

Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.

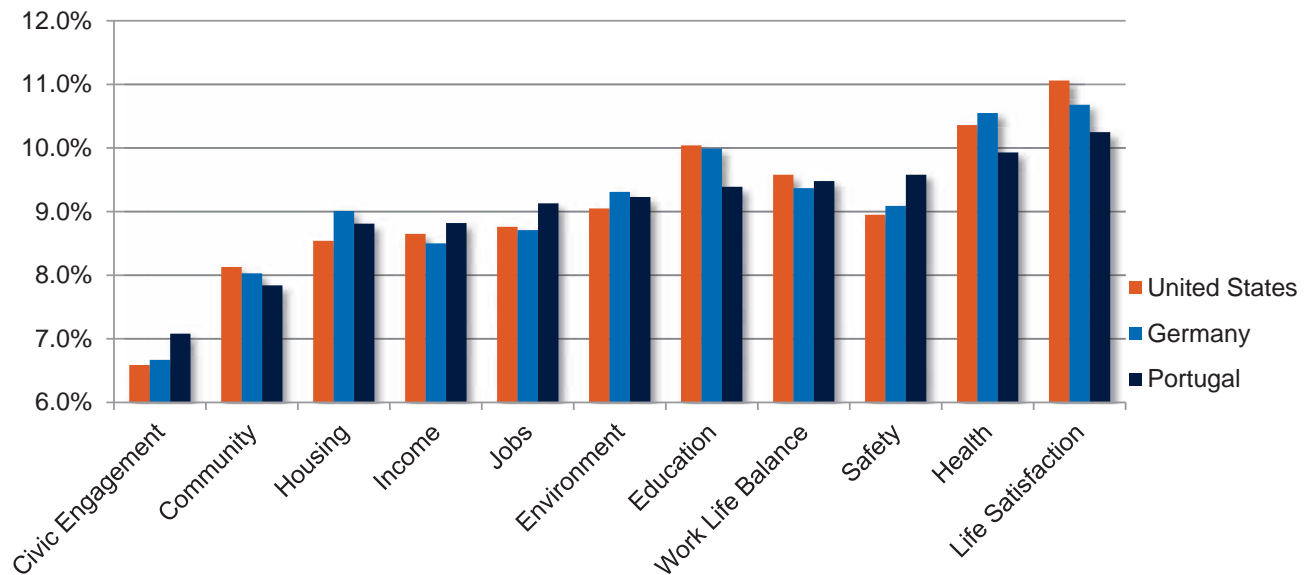


**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

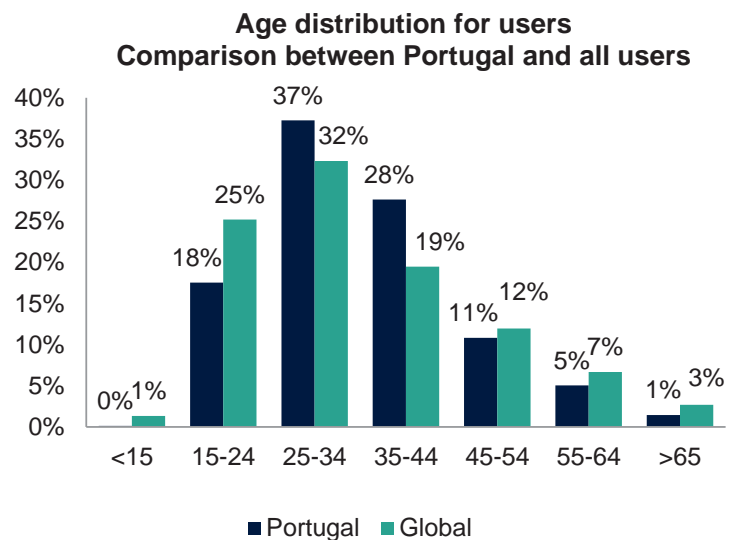
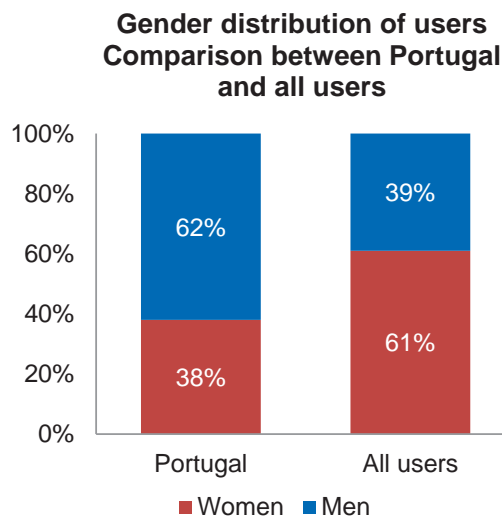
## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR PORTUGAL

**Life Satisfaction, Health and Safety** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Portugal.<sup>27</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Portugal, Germany and the United States. Users in Portugal and Germany give more weight to Safety and to Jobs than the trend for all users.

Ranking for well-being topics in Portugal, Germany and the United States



Portugal is currently **21st** in number of visits (over 75,300) to the BLI site, up 43% or over 11,900 visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Lisbon with over 16,100 visits followed by Porto (+4,600) and Coimbra (+1,200).



<sup>27</sup> Preferences for Portugal on based on 832 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in the Russian Federation?







The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter to people and that shape their quality of life. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an analysis, published in the ***How's Life?*** report as well as an interactive web application, the ***Better Life Index***. It also includes a number of methodological and research projects to improve the information base towards a better understanding of well-being trends and their drivers.

The OECD Better Life Initiative:

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- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for the Russian Federation from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-4) and shows what Russian **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 5-6).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

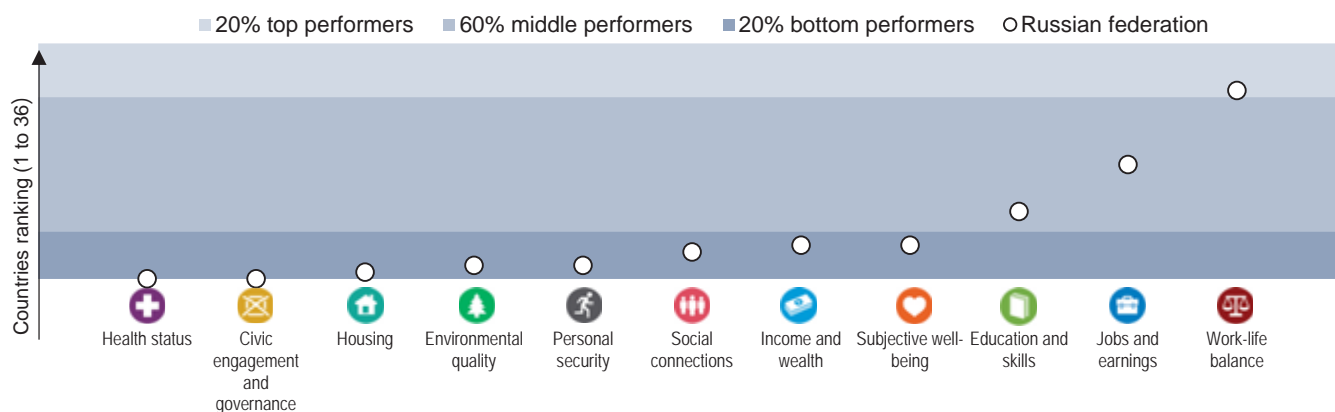
The following are findings for the **Russian Federation** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries and Brazil, the **Russian Federation** performs well in only a few of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. The **Russian Federation** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of work-life balance, and jobs and earnings, but below average in the dimensions of education and skills, subjective well-being, income and wealth, social connections, personal security, environmental quality, housing, civic engagement, and health status.

**Figure 1 - How does the Russian Federation compare?**

*The Russian Federation's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Russian household** has been affected by the crisis very modestly, which in many OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2010, the Russian Federation recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 13%, one of the largest increases among the OECD countries and major economies.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, the largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In contrast to the general trend, both the **employment rate** and the long-term unemployment rate increased and decreased, respectively, by 1 percentage point in the Russian Federation between 2007 and 2012.

In the OECD as a whole, the poor employment situation had a major impact on life satisfaction. Amid a favourable labour market situation the percentage of Russian people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 25% to 32% from 2007 to 2013.

In the OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. Contrary to this trend, the percentage of **Russian** people reporting that they trust the government increased from 37% to 39% between 2007 and 2013.









Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In the **Russian Federation** the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time decreased by 9 and 7 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2011.

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries. In the **Russian Federation**, **women** are still less likely than men to be elected to Parliament, and more likely to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	75	63	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	33%	45%	67%	72%
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	14%	86%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	32%	47%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	5.5	5.6	6.7	6.6

\*This percentage includes physical, sexual and emotional or psychological violence

## BETTER LIFE INDEX

The *Better Life Index* is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in *How's Life?* Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and therefore see how countries' perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.



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

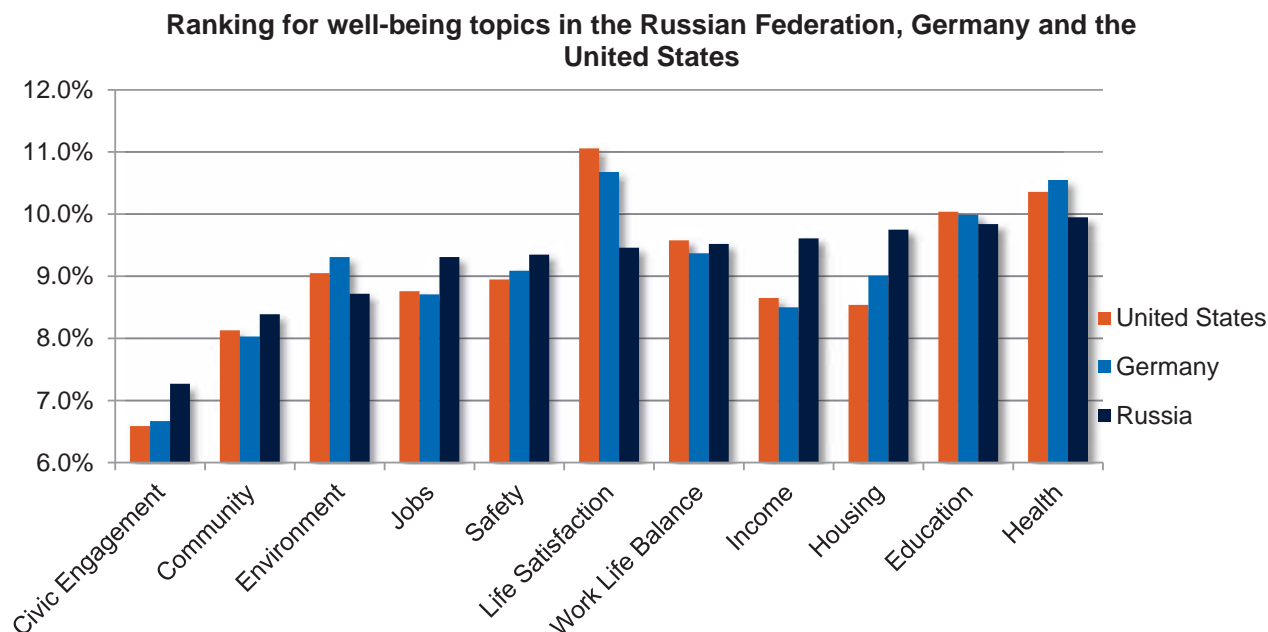
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



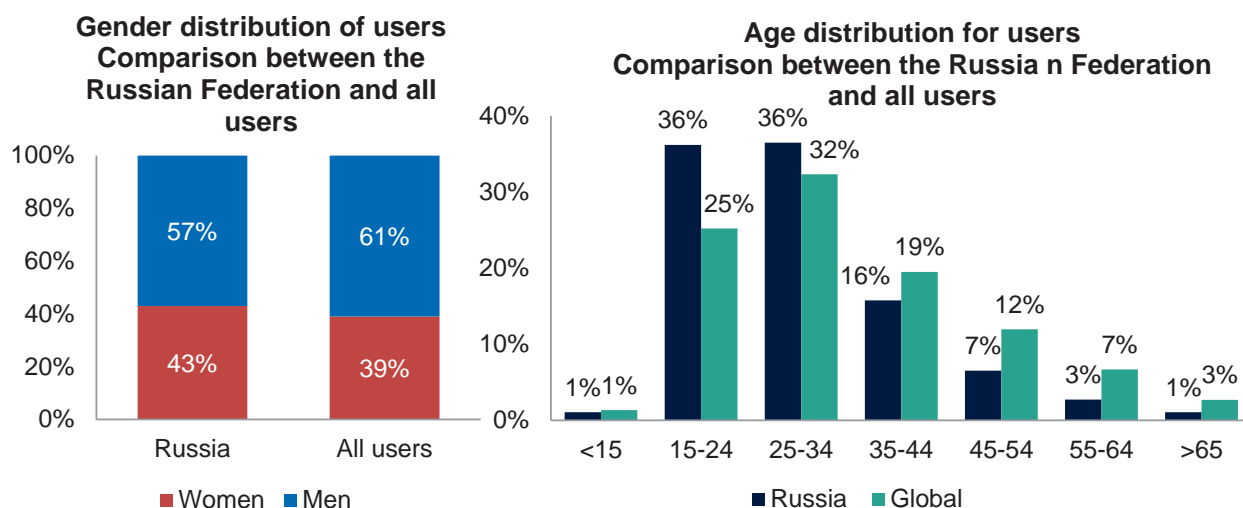
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**Health, Education and Housing** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in the Russian Federation.<sup>28</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in the Russian Federation, Germany and the United States. Users in the Russian Federation and Germany give more weight to Safety and to Housing than the trend for all users.



The Russian Federation is currently **10th** in number of visits (over 94,100) to the BLI site, up over 29% or over 31,200 visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Moscow with over 29,700 visits followed by Saint-Petersburg, (+11,000) and Yekaterinburg (+2,500).



<sup>28</sup> Preferences for the Russian Federation on based on 1,028 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in the Slovak Republic?





The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter to people and that shape their quality of life. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an analysis, published in the ***How's Life?*** report as well as an interactive web application, the ***Better Life Index***. It also includes a number of methodological and research projects to improve the information base towards a better understanding of well-being trends and their drivers.

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This brochure presents **selected findings for the Slovak Republic from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Slovak Republic **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

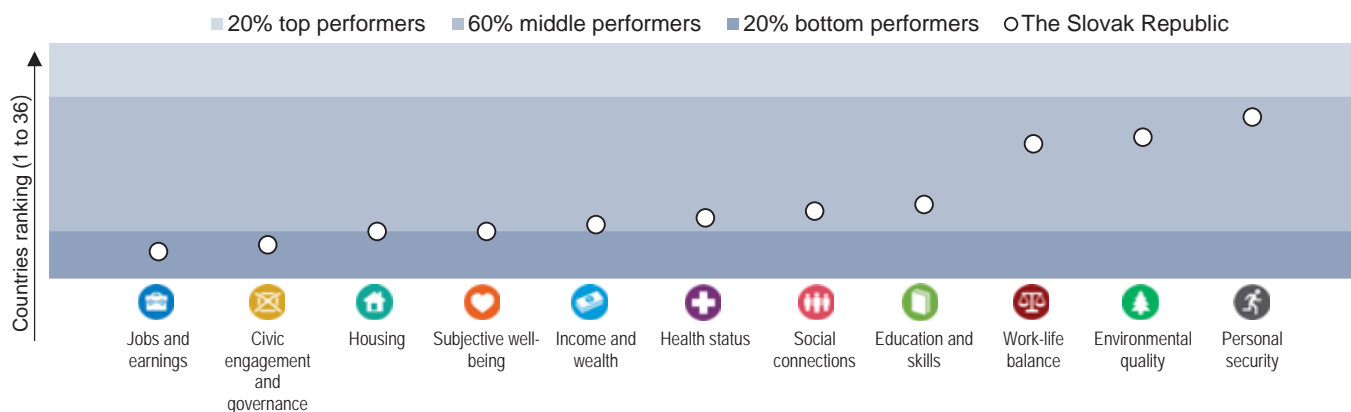
The following are findings for the **Slovak Republic** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, the **Slovak Republic** performs well in a few of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. The **Slovak Republic** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of personal security, environmental quality, and work-life balance, but below average in education and skills, social connections, health status, income and wealth, subjective well-being, housing, civic engagement, and jobs and earnings.

**Figure 1 - How does the Slovak Republic compare?**

*The Slovak Republic's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Slovak Republic household** has been very modestly affected by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, the **Slovak Republic** recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 8%, one of the largest among the OECD countries. Market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 2% between 2007 and 2010, well above the OECD average of 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. Between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** decreased by 1 percentage point in the **Slovak Republic**, while the long-term unemployment rate increased by 1 percentage point.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. In contrast to the general trend, the percentage of people from the **Slovak Republic** declaring being very satisfied with their lives rose from 26% to 40% from 2006 to 2013.

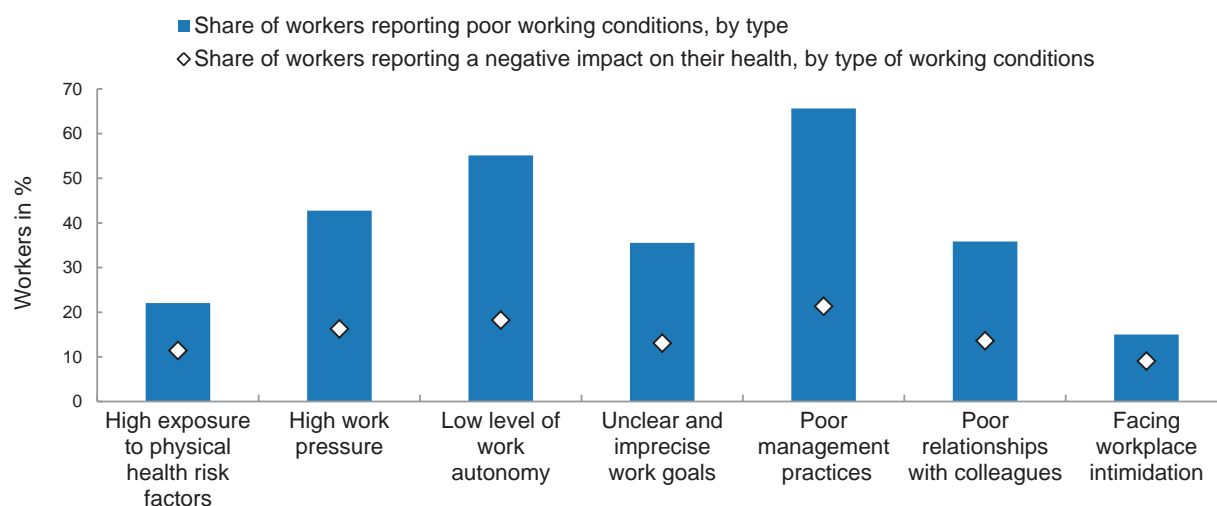
People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of people from the **Slovak Republic** reporting that they trust the government rose, instead, from 16% to 28% between 2006 and 2013.

Over the same period, however, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged. In the **Slovak Republic**, this trend is less clear cut as the percentage of people reporting having helped someone decreased by 1 percentage point, while the percentage of people reporting having volunteered their time remained stable between 2010 and 2013.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **19% of Slovak workers reported being in a poor working environment**, a share in line with the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.












Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Slovak Republic workers' health, 2010



Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries over the past few decades, including in the **Slovak Republic**. Compared to men, **women** from the **Slovak Republic** are also less likely to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A sizeable share of **women** from the **Slovak Republic** also report having experienced intimate partner violence.

HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC?			AND IN THE OECD?	
				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	80	72	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	59%	68%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	64%	36%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	78%	88%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+15%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	26%	26%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	-	-	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	19%	81%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence	28%	-	-	-
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	43%	68%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	5.8	6.1	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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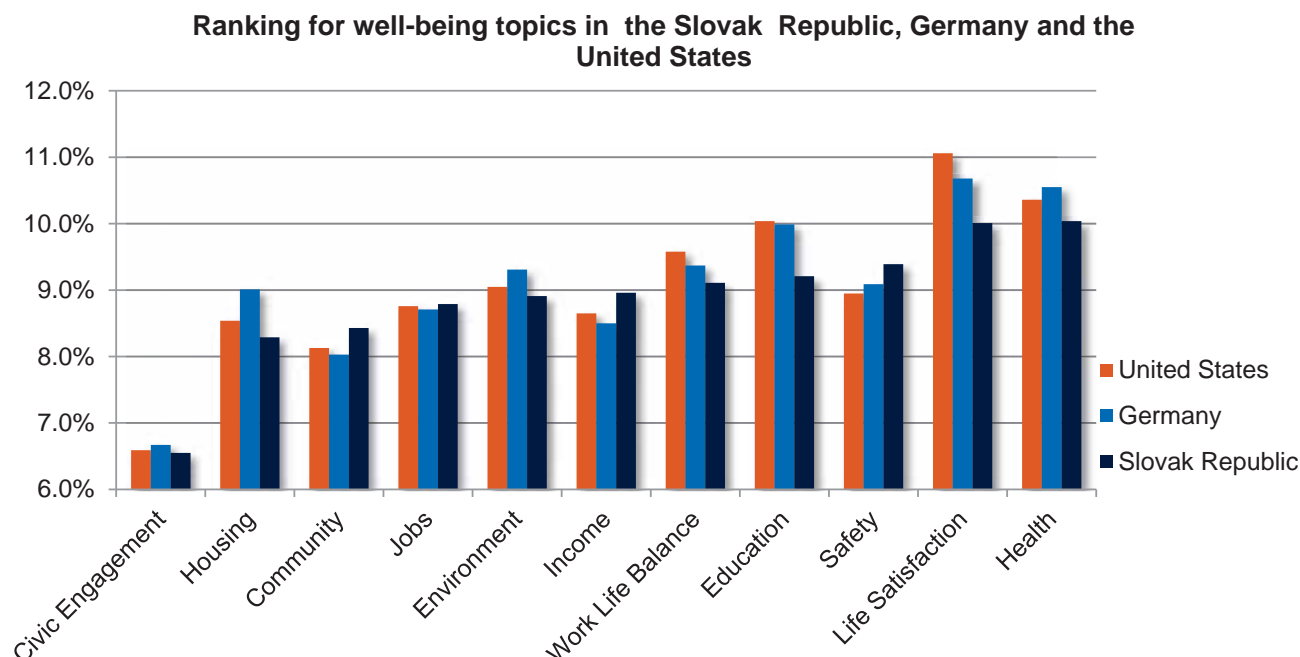
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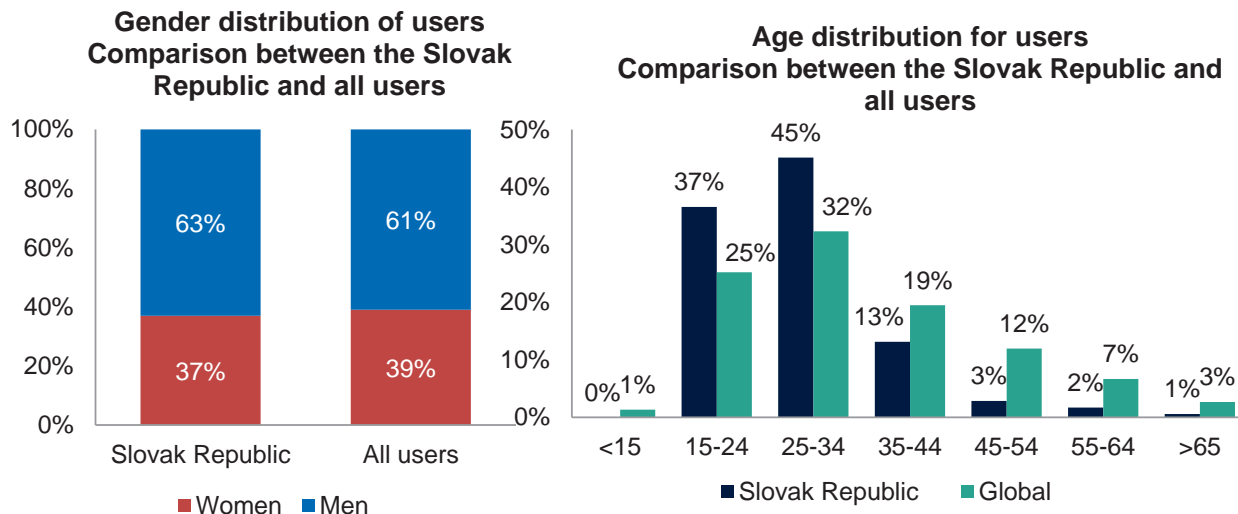
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

**Health, Life Satisfaction and Safety** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in the Slovak Republic.<sup>29</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in the Slovak Republic, Germany and the United States.



The Slovak Republic is currently **45th** in number of visits (over 11,800) to the BLI site, up over 99% or over 7,900 visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Bratislava with over 7,300 visits followed by Kosice (+800) and Zilina (+400).



<sup>29</sup> Preferences for the Slovak Republic on based on 175 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Slovenia?





The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter to people and that shape their quality of life. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an analysis, published in the ***How's Life?*** report as well as an interactive web application, the ***Better Life Index***. It also includes a number of methodological and research projects to improve the information base towards a better understanding of well-being trends and their drivers.

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This brochure presents **selected findings for Slovenia from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Slovenian **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



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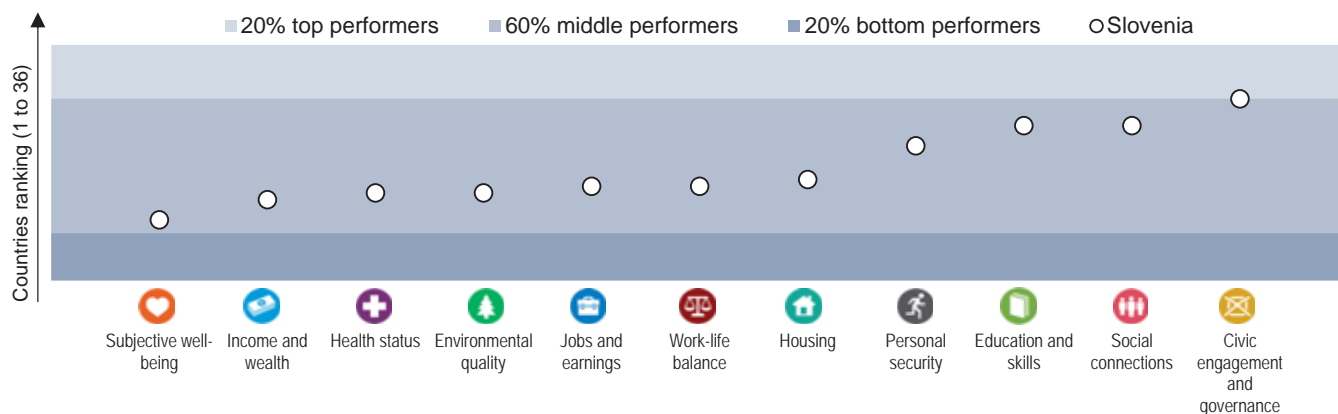
The following are findings for **Slovenia** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN SLOVENIA IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Slovenia** performs well in some of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Slovenia** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of civic engagement, social connections, education and skills, personal security, below average in health status, income and wealth, and subjective well-being.

**Figure 1 - How does Slovenia compare?**

*Slovenia's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The average **Slovenian household** has been affected by the crisis, with impacts that are visible on jobs and civic engagement.

Since the start of the crisis, **Slovenia** recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 1% from 2007 to 2011 while in the Euro area, income dropped by 1% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011 for the Euro area. However, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 4%, well above the OECD average of 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. However, in **Slovenia**, between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** decreased by almost 4 percentage points, while the long-term unemployment rate increased by 2 percentage points.

In the OECD as a whole, the poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. However, from 2006 to 2013, the percentage of **Slovenian** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 39% to 45%, while this figure dropped in the countries most affected by the crisis.

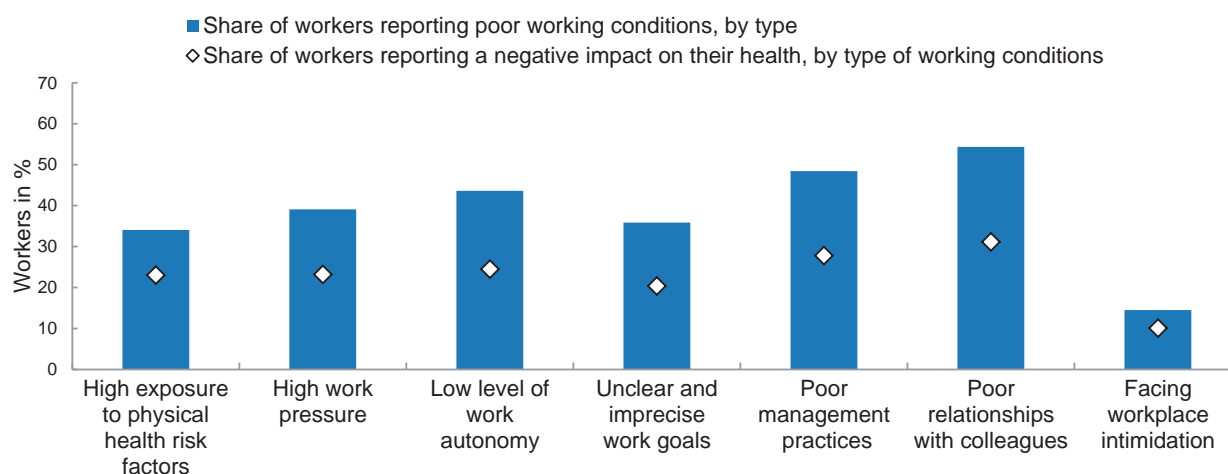
In OECD countries severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. In Slovenia, the percentage of people reporting that they trust the government fell from 48% to 16% between 2006 and 2013.

Over the same period, however, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In **Slovenia**, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time increased by 7 and 5 percentage points, respectively, between 2009 and 2013.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **24% of Slovenian workers reported being in a poor working environment**, significantly higher than in European countries on average. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.












Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Slovenian workers' health, 2010



Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries over the past few decades, including in **Slovenia**. Compared to men, **Slovenian women** are less likely to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN SLOVENIA?			AND IN THE OECD?	
				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	83	77	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	58%	64%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	65%	35%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	86%	90%	79%	88%
Share of poor single-adult households	56%	37%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	33	27	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	32%	68%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	79%	92%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	5.9	6.1	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

The *Better Life Index* is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in *How's Life?* Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and therefore see how countries' perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.



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

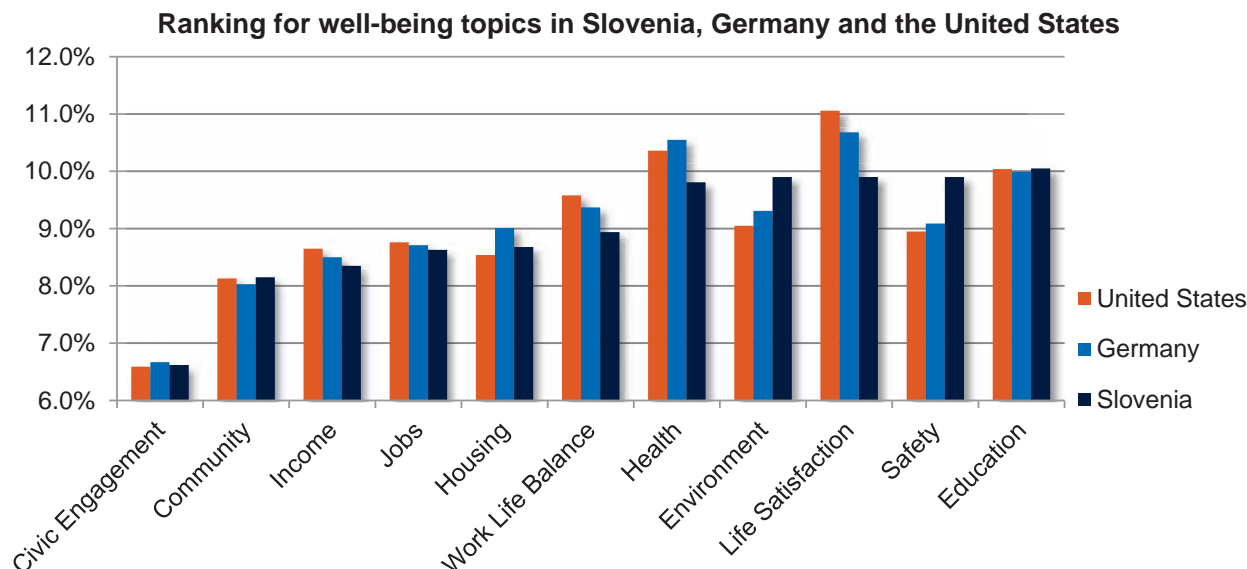
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



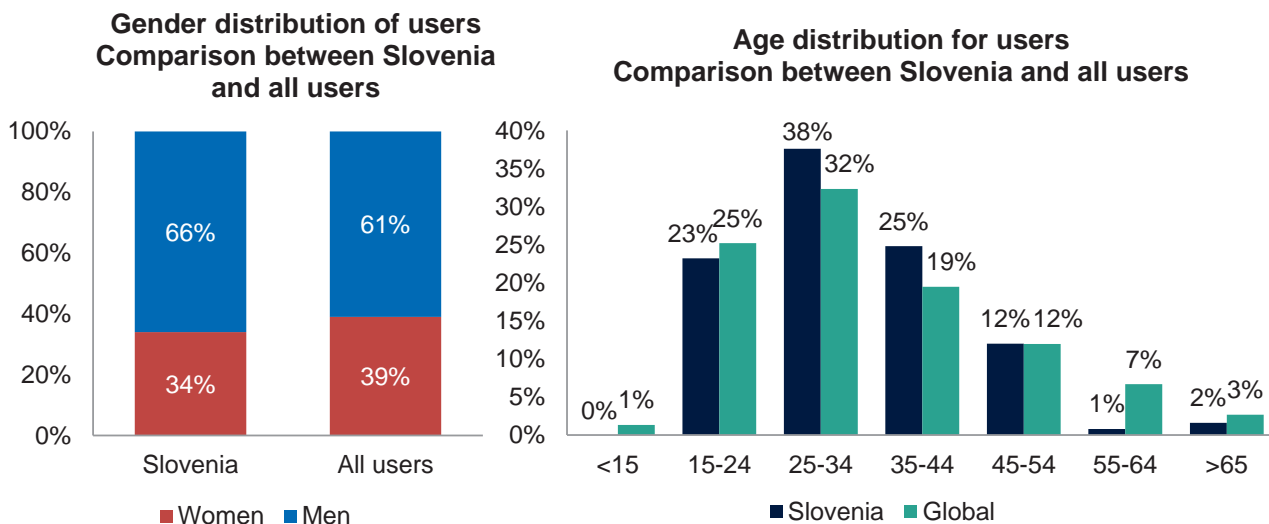
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR SLOVENIA

**Education, Safety and Life Satisfaction** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Slovenia.<sup>30</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Slovenia, Germany and the United States. Users in Slovenia and Germany give more weight to Safety and to Environment than the trend for all users.



Slovenia is currently **46th** in number of visits (over 10,800) to the BLI site, up 57% or over 4,000 visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Ljubljana with over 7,000 visits followed by Meribor (+1,300) and Celje (+400).



<sup>30</sup> Preferences for Slovenia on based on 125 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Spain?





The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter to people and that shape their quality of life. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an analysis, published in the ***How's Life?*** report as well as an interactive web application, the ***Better Life Index***. It also includes a number of methodological and research projects to improve the information base towards a better understanding of well-being 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 index and share their preferences.
- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for Spain from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Spanish **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

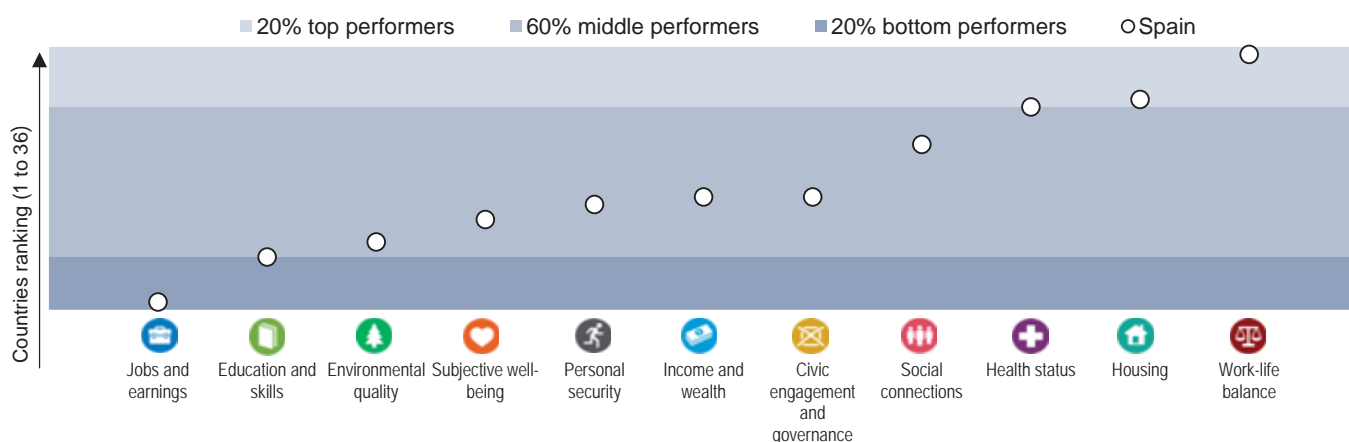
The following are findings for **Spain** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN SPAIN IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Spain** performs well in some of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Spain** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of work-life balance, housing, health status, social connections, and personal security, but below average in environmental quality, education and skills and jobs and earnings.

**Figure 1 - How does Spain compare?**

*Spain's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Spanish household** has been severely affected by the crisis, with impacts that are particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, **Spain** recorded a cumulative decline in real **household disposable income** of around 4%, one of the largest declines among the OECD countries. Market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 6% between 2007 and 2010, well above the OECD average of 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. Between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** decreased by more than 10 percentage points in **Spain**, while the long-term unemployment rate increased by 9 percentage points.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. From 2007 to 2013, the percentage of **Spanish** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives fell from 67% to 48%, one of the lowest shares in the OECD area.

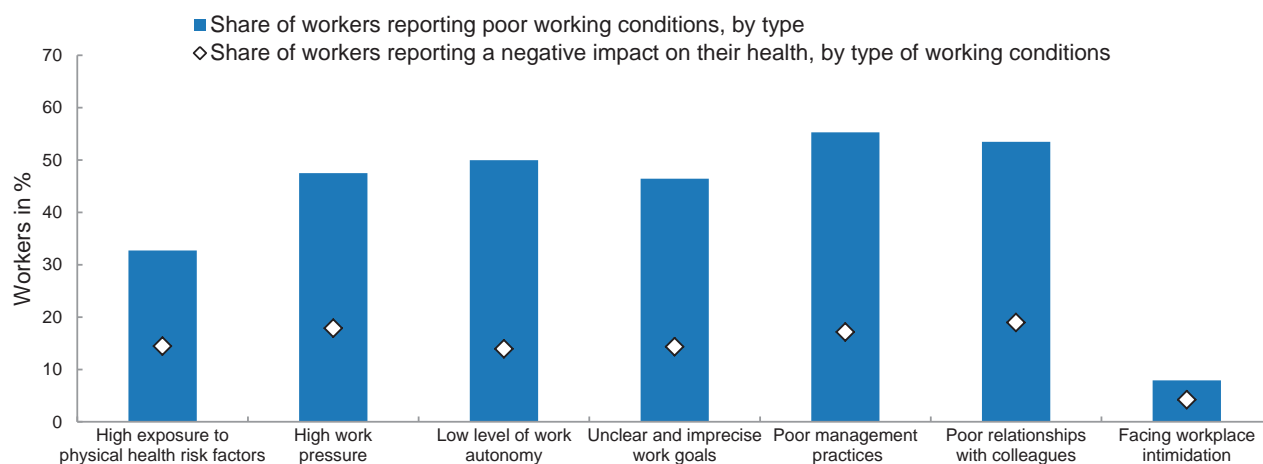
People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Spanish** people reporting that they trust the government fell from 48% to 18%, one of the largest drop in the OECD between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged. In **Spain**, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time increased by 6 and 1 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2013, more than the OECD average.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **25% of Spanish workers reported being in a poor working environment**, a share significantly above the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Spanish workers' health, 2010



Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries over the past few decades, including in **Spain**. Despite these gains, **Spanish women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN SPAIN?



### AND IN THE OECD?



#### Women and men throughout their lifetime

##### Health status

Life expectancy at birth (years)

85

79

83

77

Share of people in good/very good health conditions

72%

78%

67%

72%

##### Education and skills

Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)

59%

41%

58%

42%

#### Women and men in paid and unpaid work

##### Jobs and earnings

Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)

77%

83%

79%

88%

Wage gap between men and women

-

+12%

-

+16%

Share of poor single-adult households

47%

31%

37%

30%

##### Work-Life balance

Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)

29

13

32

21

#### Women and men in society

##### Civic Engagement and governance

Share of seats in national parliament

36%

64%

27%

73%

##### Personal security

Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night

69%

87%

61%

79%

##### Subjective well-being

Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale

6.3

6.0

6.7

6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

The *Better Life Index* is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in *How's Life?* Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and therefore see how countries' perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.



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

Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.

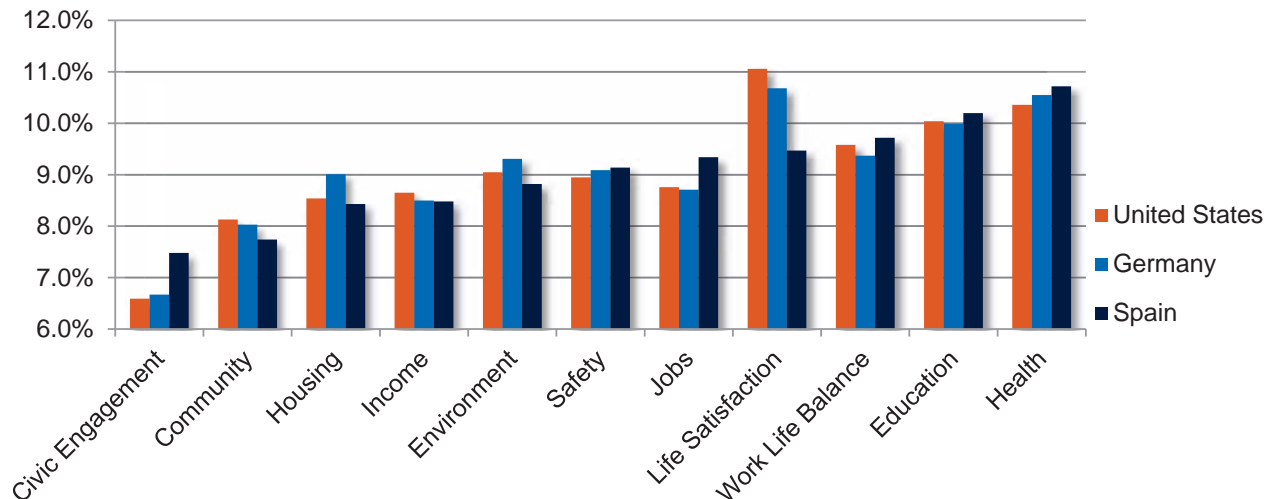


**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR SPAIN

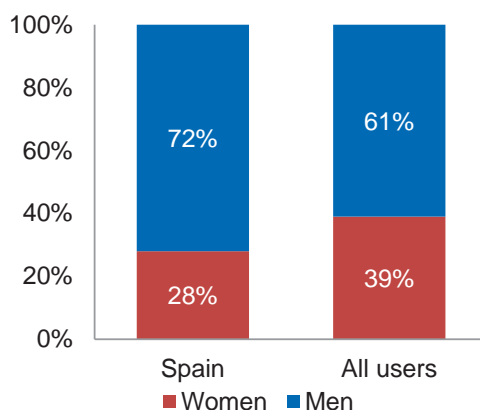
**Health, Education and Work Life Balance** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Spain.<sup>31</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Spain, Germany and the United States. Users in Spain and Germany give more weight to **Health** than the trend for all users.

Ranking for well-being topics in Spain, Germany and the United States

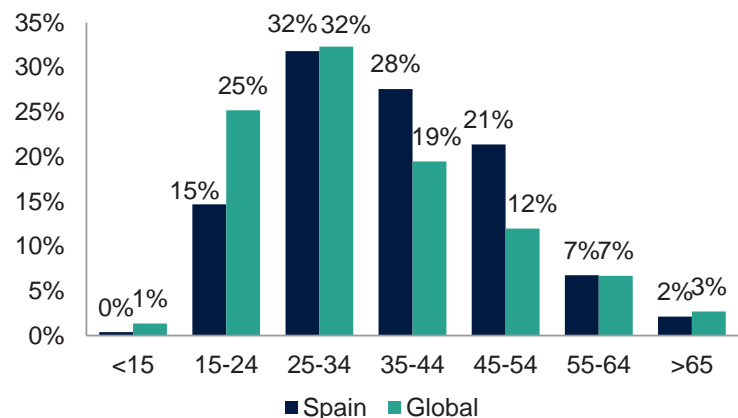


Spain is currently **9th** in number of visits (over 96,660) to the BLI site, up over 123% or over 53,300 visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities in number of visits are Madrid with over 26,200 visits followed by Barcelona (+16,600) and Valencia (+4,900).

Gender distribution of users  
Comparison between Spain  
and all users



Age distribution for users  
Comparison between Spain and all users



<sup>31</sup> Preferences for Spain on based on 2,077 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Sweden?





The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter to people and that shape their quality of life. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an analysis, published in the ***How's Life?*** report as well as an interactive web application, the ***Better Life Index***. It also includes a number of methodological and research projects to improve the information base towards a better understanding of well-being 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 index and share their preferences.
- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for Sweden from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Swedish **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

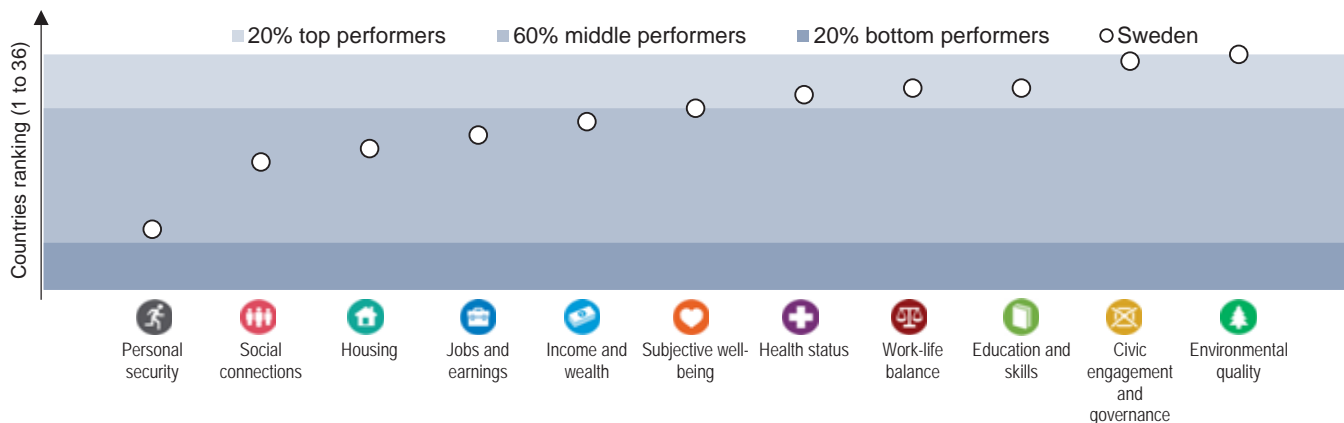
The following are findings for **Sweden** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN SWEDEN IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Sweden** performs very well in most of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Sweden** is the top performer in environmental quality, and it ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of civic engagement, education and skills, work-life balance, health status, subjective well-being, income and wealth, jobs and earnings, housing, and social connections, but slightly below the average in personal security.

**Figure 1 - How does Sweden compare?**

*Sweden's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Swedish household** has been very modestly affected by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, Sweden recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 5%, while in the Euro area income dropped by more than 1% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011. However, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 2% between 2007 and 2010, above the OECD average of 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. Between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** remained stable in **Sweden**, while the long-term unemployment rate increased by 0.6 percentage points

In the OECD as a whole, the poor employment situation had a major impact on life satisfaction. In contrast to this general trend, the percentage of **Swedish** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 74% to 78% between 2007 and 2013.

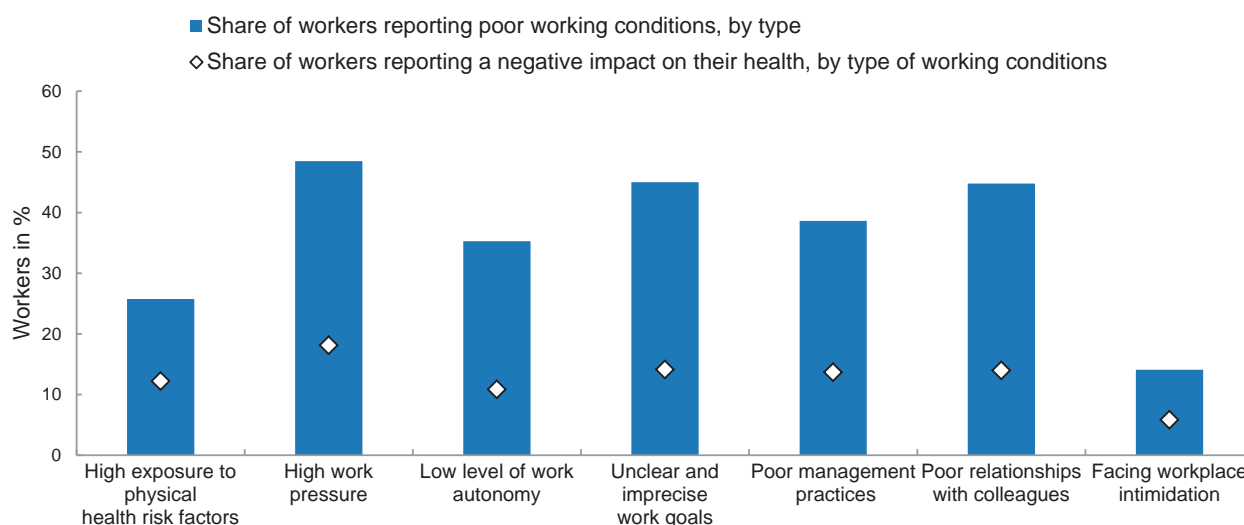
In OECD countries severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has declined during the crisis. On the contrary in **Sweden**, the percentage of **people** reporting that they trust the government increased from 56% to 58% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the OECD area. In **Sweden**, this trend is less clear cut. The percentage of people reporting having helped someone increased by 5 percentage points, while the percentage of people reporting having volunteered their time remained stable, between 2007 and 2013.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **18% of Swedish workers reported being in a poor working environment**, a share slightly below the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Swedish workers' health, 2010














## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **Sweden**. Despite these gains, **Swedish women** are still less likely than men to be elected to Parliament, and more likely to be over-represented among poor households or to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN SWEDEN?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	84	80	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	78%	82%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	64%	36%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	87%	89%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+15%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	40%	27%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	29	25	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	45%	55%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	73%	89%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.7	7.1	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

The *Better Life Index* is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in *How's Life?* Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and therefore see how countries' perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.



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

Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.

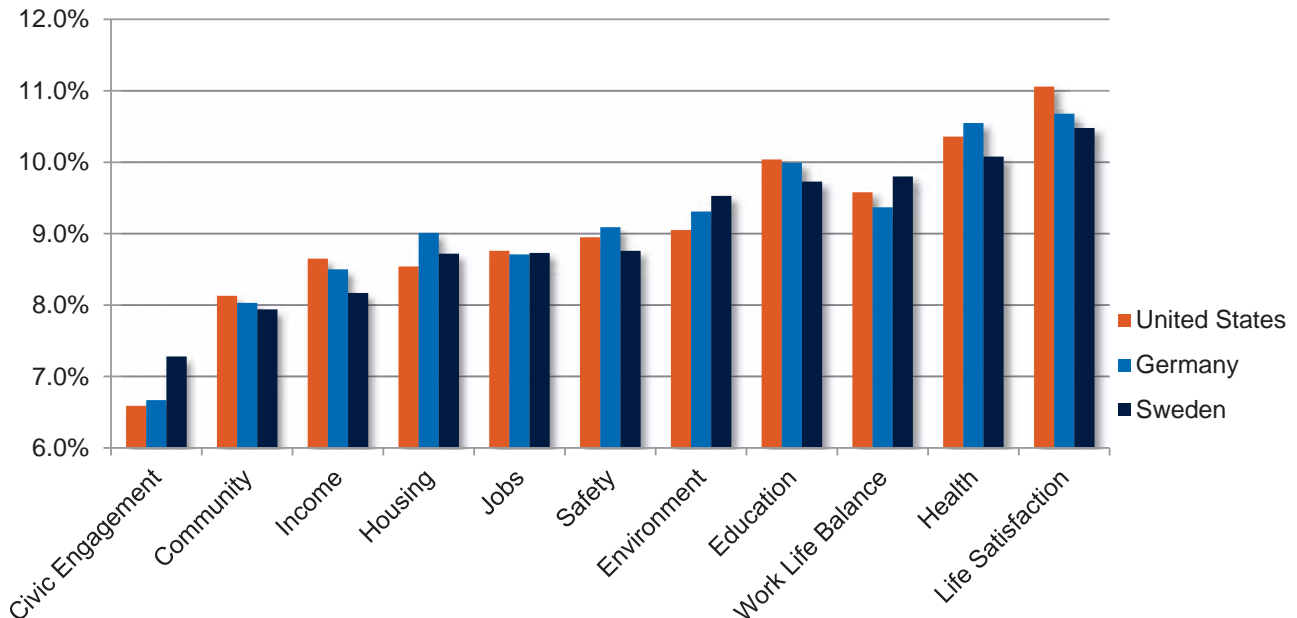


**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR SWEDEN

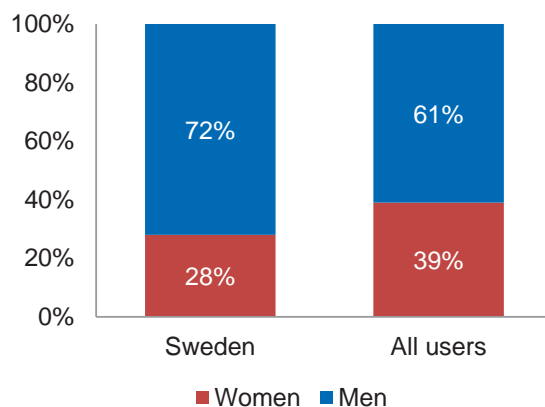
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Work Life Balance** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Sweden.<sup>32</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Sweden, Germany and the United States. Users in Sweden and Germany give more weight to Environment and to Housing than the trend for all users.

Ranking for well-being topics in Sweden, Germany and the United States

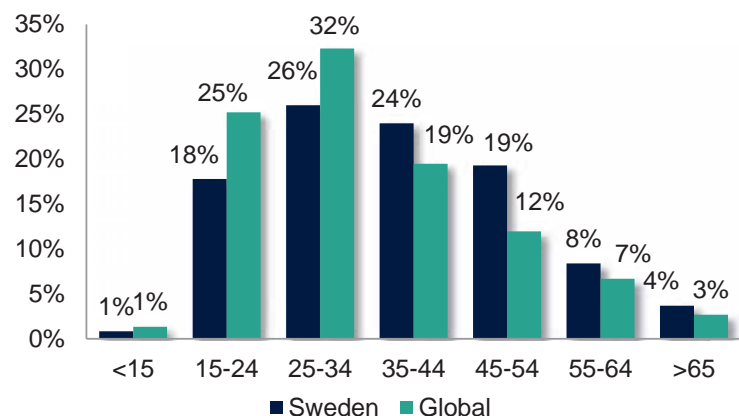


Sweden is currently **16th** in number of visits (over 48,800) to the BLI site, up 86% or over 22,000 new visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Stockholm with over 17,800 visits followed by Gothenburg (+5,200) and Malmo (+3,000).

Gender distribution of users  
Comparison between Sweden and all users



Age distribution for users  
Comparison between Sweden and all users



<sup>32</sup> Preferences for Sweden based on 596 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Switzerland?







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- Generates support for needed policy measures.
- Improves civic engagement by encouraging the public to create their own index and share their preferences.
- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for Switzerland from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-4) and shows what Swiss **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 5-6).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

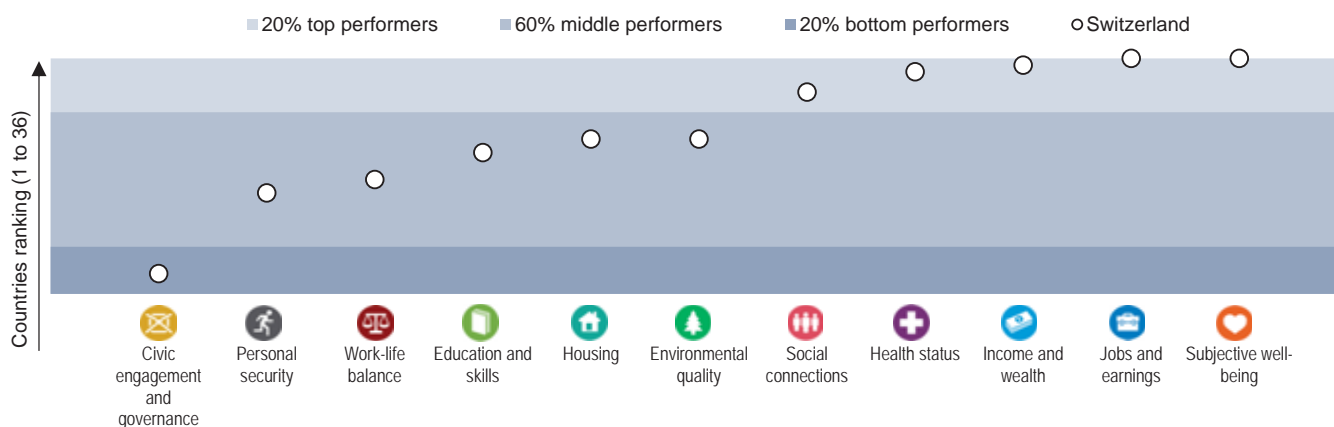
The following are findings for **Switzerland** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN SWITZERLAND IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Switzerland** performs very well in many of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Switzerland** ranks at the top in subjective well-being, and jobs and earnings. It ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of income and wealth, social connections, environmental quality, housing, education and skills, work-life balance (estimated), and personal security, but ranks below average in civic engagement.

**Figure 1 - How does Switzerland compare?**

*Switzerland's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



Note: Switzerland has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the OECD due to the high frequency of elections in the country. For details on estimated values, please refer to the [BLI FAQ page](#) and the [BLI database](#)



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Swiss household** has been generally spared by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, Switzerland recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 3%, while in the Euro area, income dropped by 1% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In contrast to this general trend, the **employment rate** increased by almost 1 percentage point in Switzerland, while the long-term unemployment rate remained stable between 2007 and 2012,.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. Amid a favourable labour market situation, the percentage of **Swiss** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 77% to 84% from 2006 to 2012.

People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. Contrary to this trend, the percentage of **Swiss people** reporting that they trust the government increased from 63% to 77% between 2006 and 2012.











Over the same period, however, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged. In **Switzerland**, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time increased by 5 and 4 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2012, a higher increase than that observed, on average, in the OECD.

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries over the past few decades, including in Switzerland. Compared to men, **Swiss women** are less likely to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to be over-represented among poor households or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. 10% of Swiss women also report having experienced various forms of intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN SWITZERLAND?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	85	81	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	79%	84%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	51%	49%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	83%	92%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+20%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	40%	19%	37%	30%
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	29%	71%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence *	10%	-	-	-
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	68%	85%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.8	7.7	6.7	6.6

\*This percentage includes physical, sexual and emotional or psychological violence

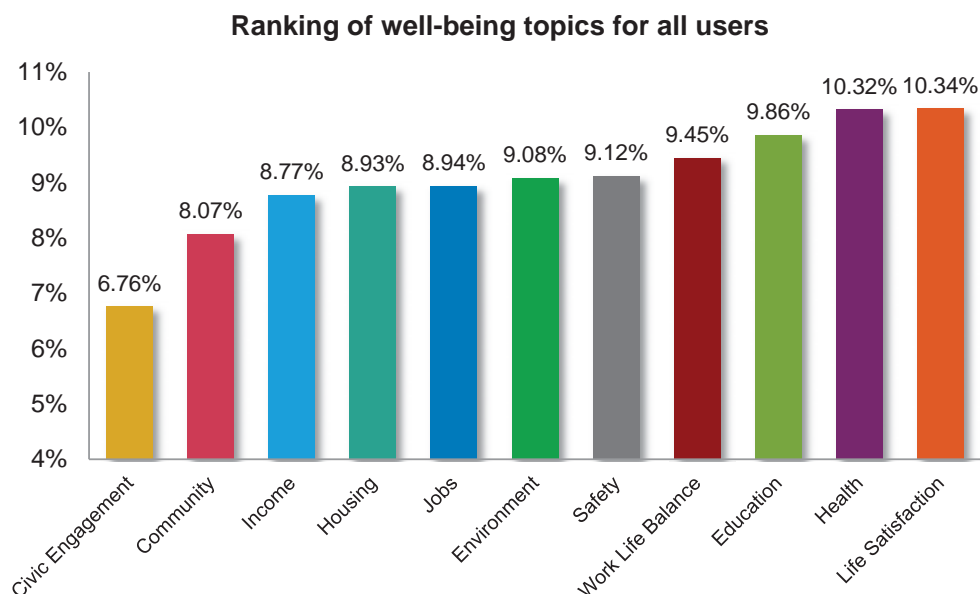
## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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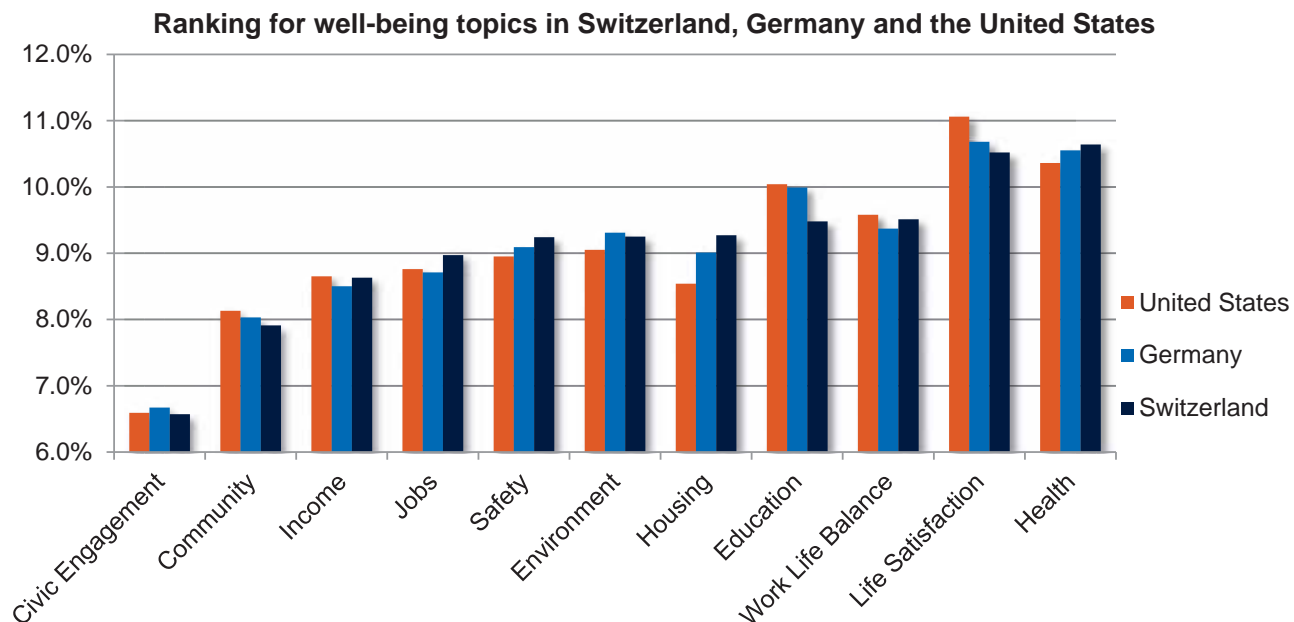
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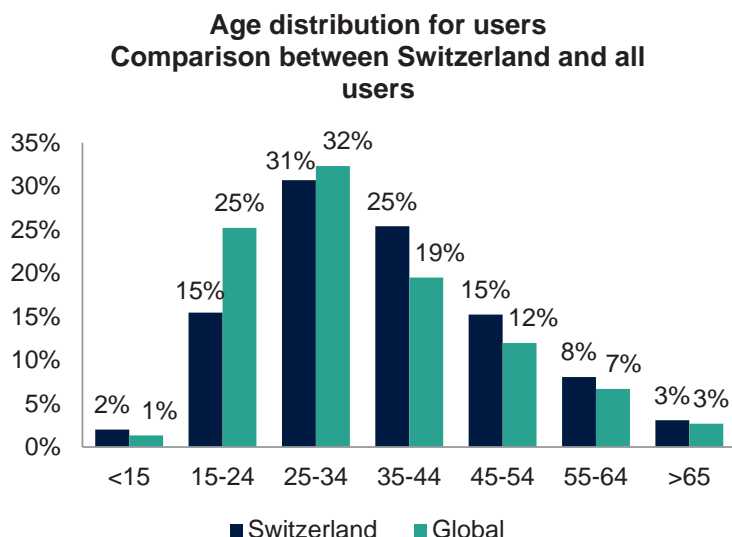
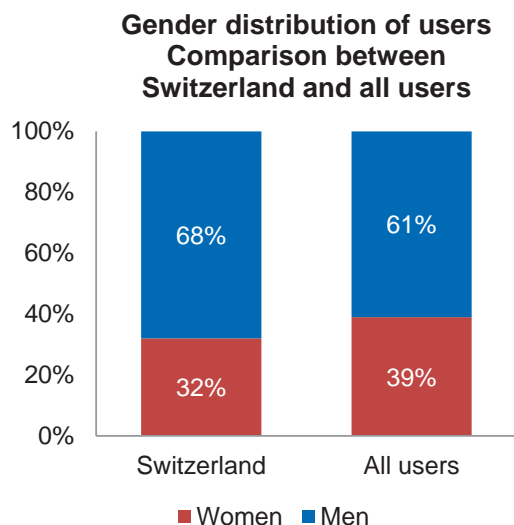
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR SWITZERLAND

**Health, Life Satisfaction and Work Life Balance** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Switzerland.<sup>33</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Switzerland, Germany and the United States. Users in Switzerland and Germany give more weight to Health than the trend for all users.



Switzerland is currently **14th** in number of visits (over 98,300) to the BLI site, up 171% or over 62,000 visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Zurich with over 16,500 visits followed by Geneva (+6,800) and Berne (+4,200).



<sup>33</sup> Preferences for Sweden on based on 945 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in Turkey?





The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter to people and that shape their quality of life. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an analysis, published in the ***How's Life?*** report as well as an interactive web application, the ***Better Life Index***. It also includes a number of methodological and research projects to improve the information base towards a better understanding of well-being trends and their drivers.

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- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for Turkey from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what Turkish **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



*How's Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

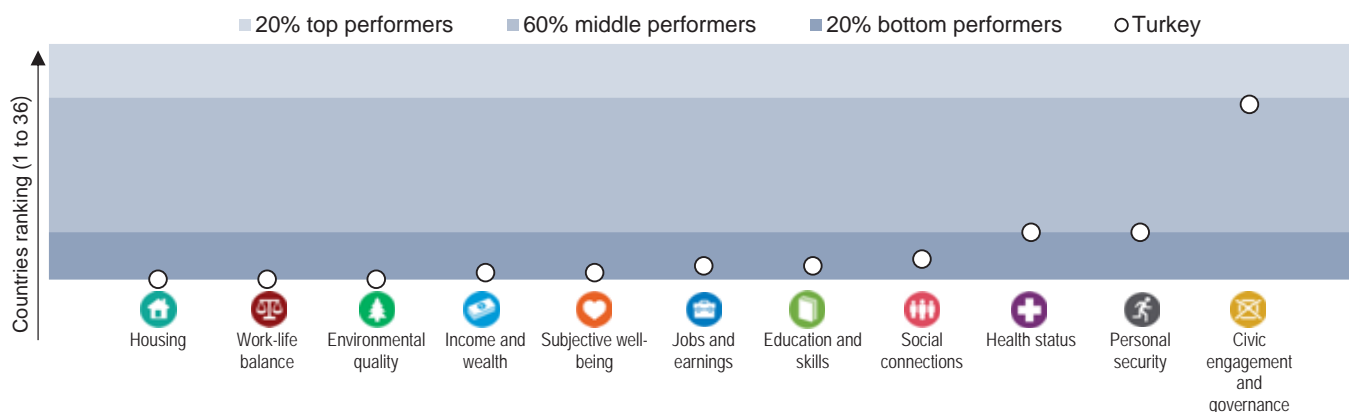
The following are findings for **Turkey** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN TURKEY IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **Turkey** performs well in only a few of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **Turkey** ranks above the average of the 36 countries only in the dimension of civic engagement and below average in personal security, health status, social connections, education and skills, jobs and earnings, subjective well-being, income and wealth (estimated), environmental quality, work-life balance, and housing.

**Figure 1 - How does Turkey compare?**

*Turkey's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



Note: For details on estimated values, please refer to the [BLI FAQ page](#) and the [BLI database](#)



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average Turkish household** has been modestly affected by the crisis, which in other OECD countries has been particularly visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

Between 2007 and 2010, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) remained stable, while it increased by 1.2% on average in the OECD. Data for real **household disposable income** are not available for Turkey, but in the OECD area income dropped by 2% from 2007 to 2011.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. In contrast to the general trend, the **employment rate** increased by more than 4 percentage points in **Turkey**, while the long-term unemployment rate decreased by almost 1 percentage point between 2007 and 2012.

In countries severely hit by the crisis, the poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. Despite a more favourable labour market situation, also in Turkey between 2007 to 2013 the percentage of people declaring being very satisfied with their lives fell from 33% to 24%, reaching one of the lowest shares in the OECD area.

People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Turkish people** reporting that they trust the government fell from 56% to 54% between 2007 and 2013.

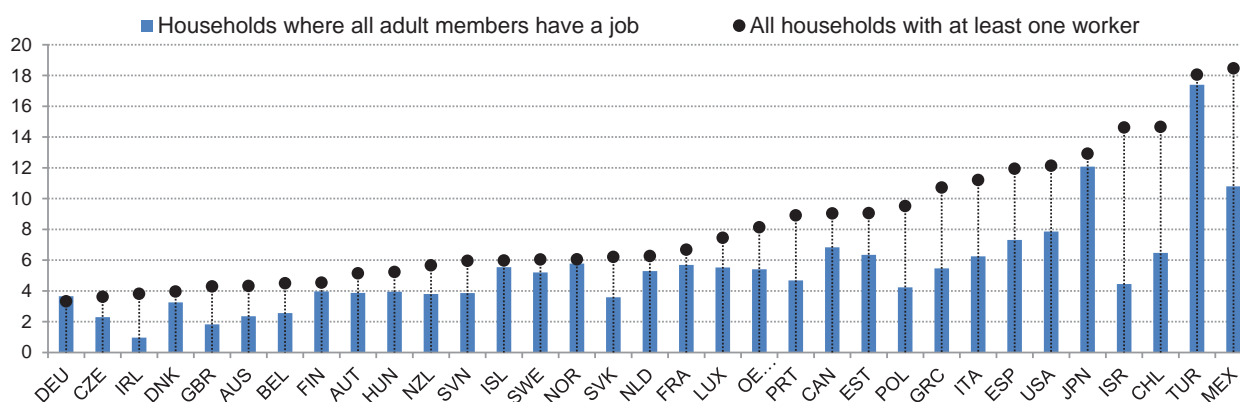
Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged, but this trend is not visible in Turkey, as the percentage of **Turkish people** reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time decreased by 3 and 5 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2013, while these shares increased on average in the OECD.

## QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND WELL-BEING

From a well-being perspective, what matters is to have a job of good quality. Quality of employment encompasses many elements, one being that paid work ensure adequate standards of living. In-work poverty reflects different forms of precarious employment (e.g. low working hours and hourly pay among full-time workers, frequent moves between low-paid work and joblessness, etc), and its incidence informs about quality of employment. In 2010, **18% of Turkish people living in households with at least one worker experienced in-work poverty, while 17% of those living in households with all adult members employed were in poverty**, both shares being well above the OECD average. Strategies to fight in-work poverty are at the forefront of the policy agenda in many countries, particularly in the context of the economic crisis.

**Figure 2 –In-work poverty in Turkey, 2010**

Poverty based on a threshold set at 50% of median household disposable income














## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries over the past few decades, including in Turkey. Despite these gains, **Turkish women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A significant share of Turkish women also report having experienced intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN TURKEY?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	77	72	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	62%	72%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	46%	54%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	64%	83%	79%	88%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	44	29	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	14%	86%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence	42%	-	-	-
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	53%	58%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	5.1	4.7	6.7	6.6



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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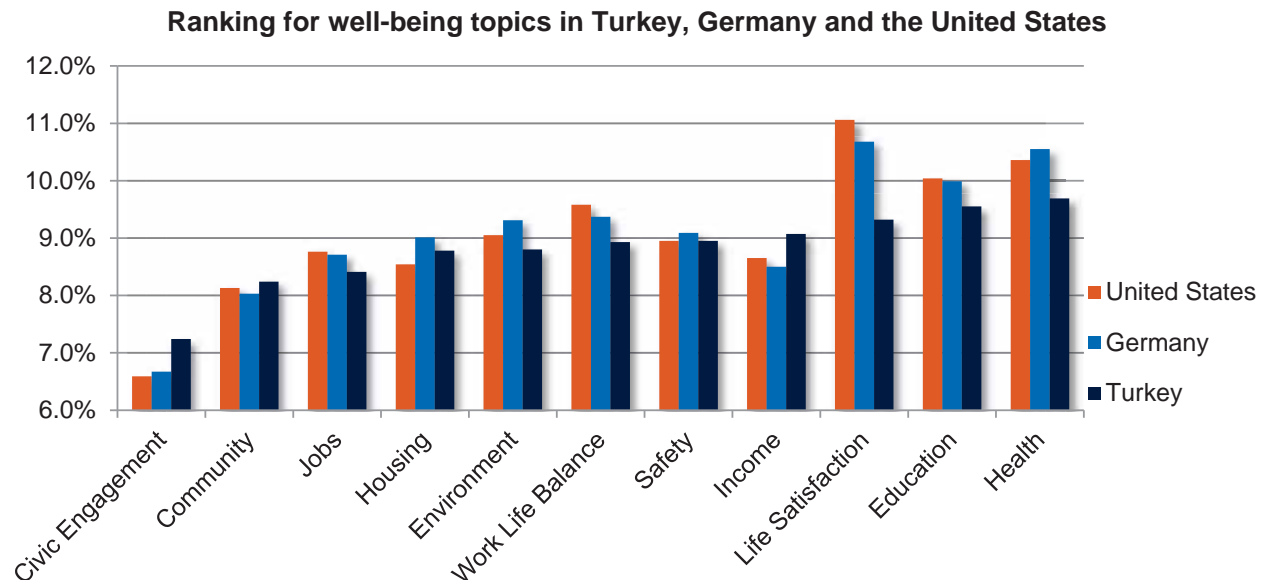
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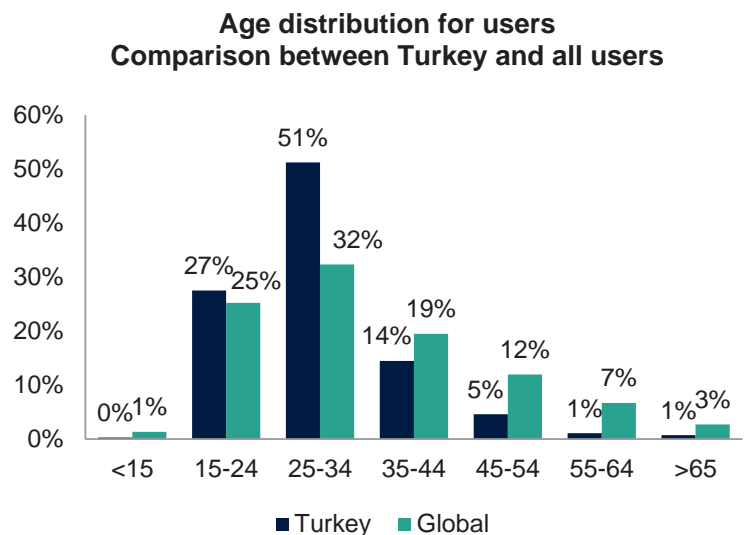
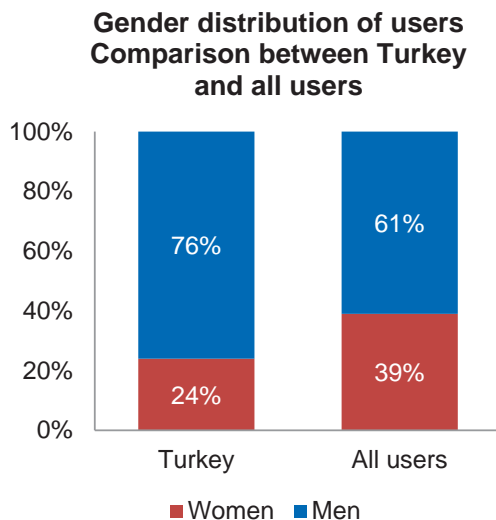
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR TURKEY

**Health, Education and Life Satisfaction** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in Turkey.<sup>34</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in Turkey, Germany and the United States.



Turkey is currently **11th** in number of visits (over 75,800) to the BLI site, up 139% or over 44,000 visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are Istanbul with over 37,600 visits followed by Ankara (+13,800) and Izmir (+5,600).



<sup>34</sup> Preferences for Turkey on based on 1,113 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in the United Kingdom?





The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter to people and that shape their quality of life. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an analysis, published in the ***How's Life?*** report as well as an interactive web application, the ***Better Life Index***. It also includes a number of methodological and research projects to improve the information base towards a better understanding of well-being trends and their drivers.

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This brochure presents **selected findings for the United Kingdom from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what British **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



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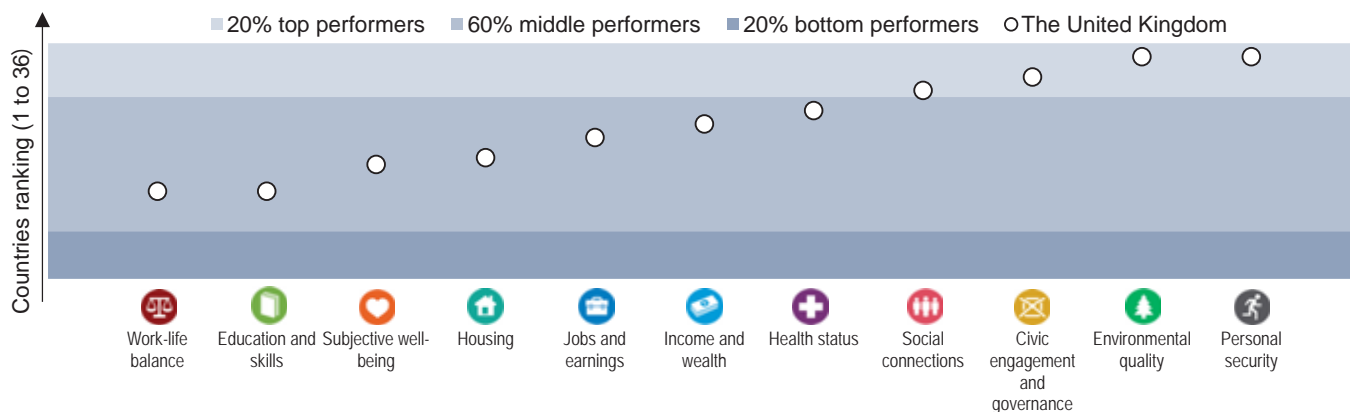
The following are findings for the **United Kingdom** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN UNITED KINGDOM IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, the **United Kingdom** performs well in many of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. The **United Kingdom** ranks above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of personal security, environmental quality, civic engagement, social connections, health status, income and wealth, jobs and earnings, housing, and subjective well-being, but below average in education and skills, and work-life balance.

**Figure 1 - How does the United Kingdom compare?**

*The United Kingdom's well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average British household** has been modestly affected by the crisis, with impacts that are particularly visible when looking at jobs.

From 2007 to 2011, the United Kingdom recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 1%, while in the Euro area, income dropped by 1% over the same period. However, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 2% between 2007 and 2010, well above the OECD average of 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. The **employment rate** decreased by almost 2 percentage points in the United Kingdom while the long-term unemployment rate increased by almost 2 percentage points between 2007 and 2012.

In the OECD as a whole, the poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. This trend is not visible in the United Kingdom where, from 2007 to 2013, the percentage of **British** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives increased from 63% to 67%.

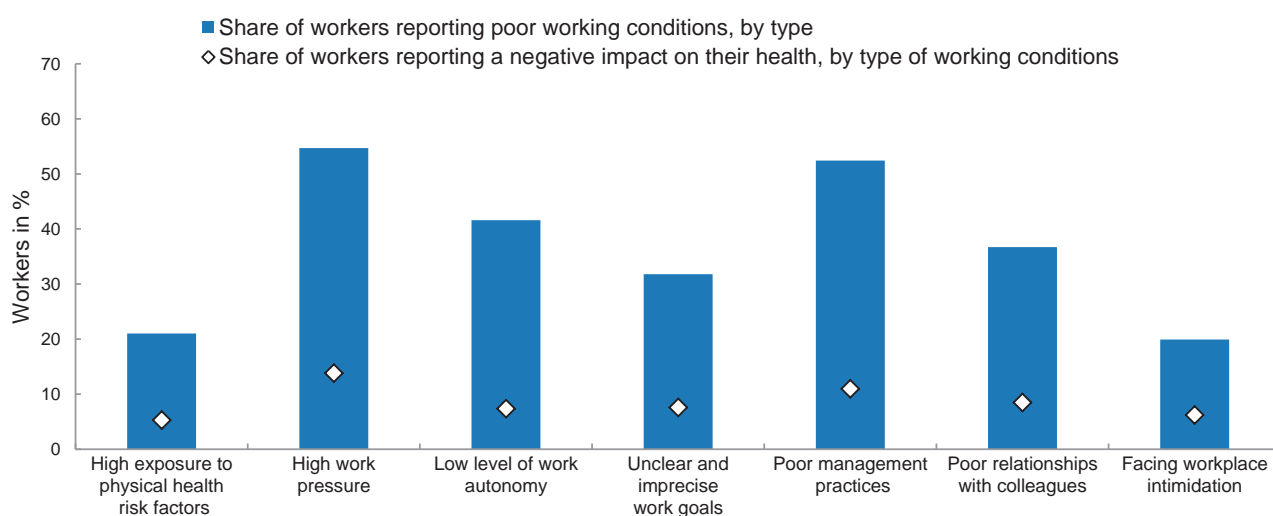
In OECD countries most severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. Contrary to the general trend, the percentage of **British** people reporting that they trust the government increased from 36% to 38% between 2007 and 2013.

Over the same period, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged in the countries the most impacted by the crisis. In the **United Kingdom**, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time increased by 2 and 6 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2013.

## WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **18% of British workers reported being in a poor working environment**, a share slightly below the average in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on British workers' health, 2010














Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in the **United Kingdom**. Despite these gains, **British women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A significant share of British women also report having experienced intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN UNITED KINGDOM?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	83	79	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	77%	79%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	55%	45%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	82%	89%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+18%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	40%	31%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	30	17	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	23%	77%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence	28%	-	-	-
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	67%	85%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.6



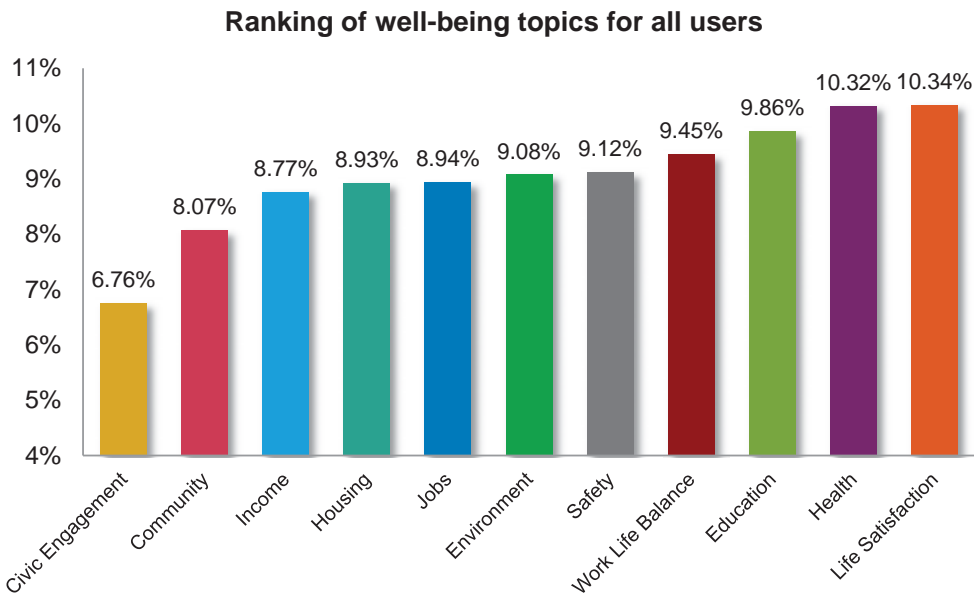
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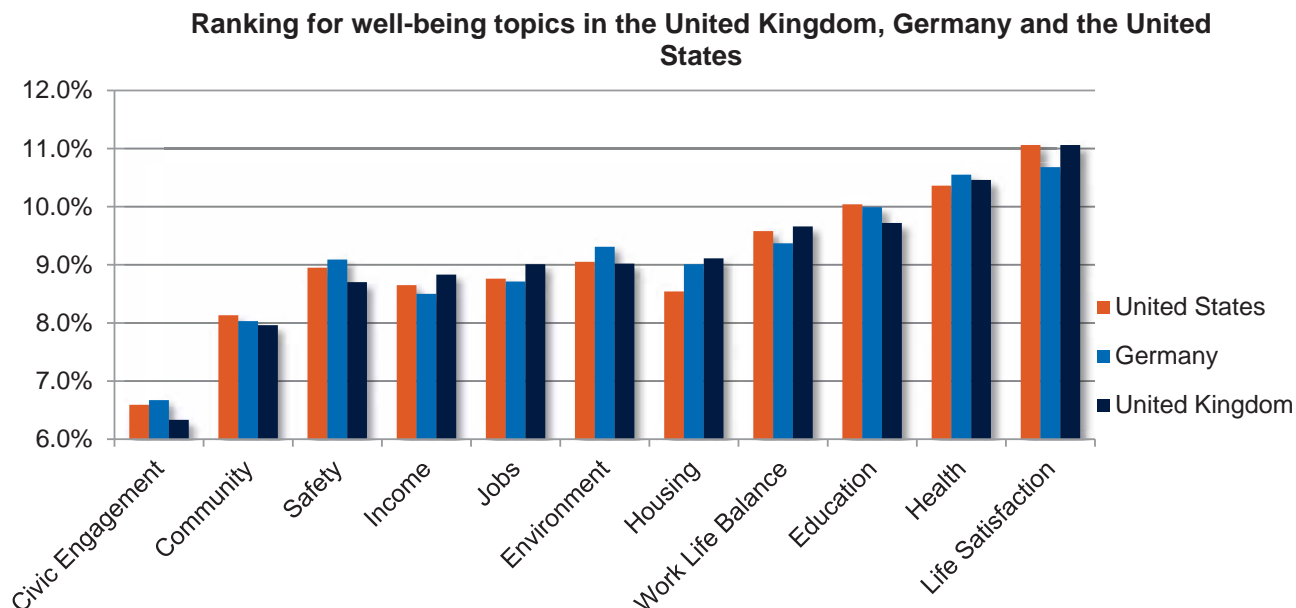
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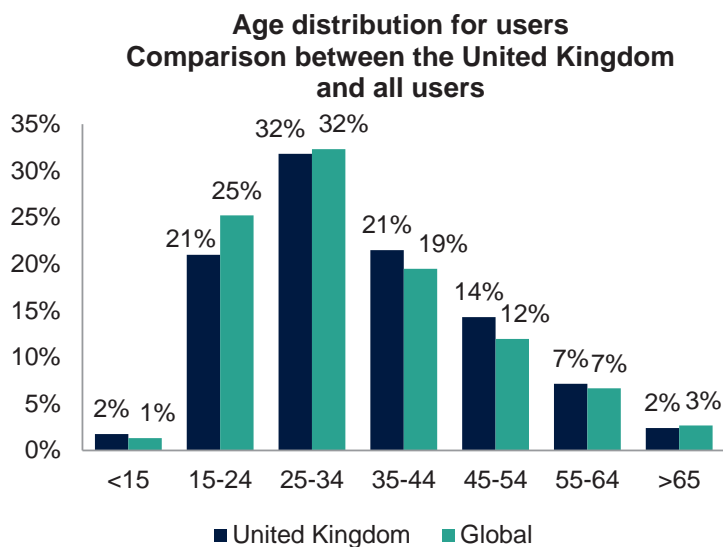
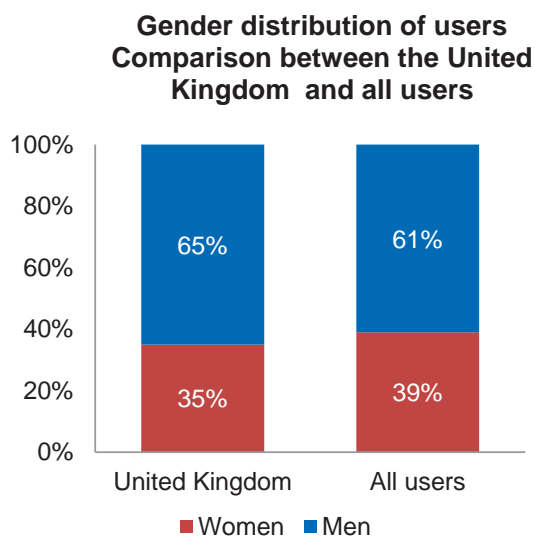
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM

**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in The United Kingdom.<sup>35</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States.



The United Kingdom is currently **3rd** in number of visits (over 233,300) to the BLI site, up 103% or over 118,700 visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are London with over 83,700 visits followed by Edinburgh (+5,200) and Manchester (+4,800).



<sup>35</sup> Preferences for the United Kingdom are based on 2,936 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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# How's Life in the United States?





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This brochure presents **selected findings for United States from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-5) and shows what American **users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (pages 6-7).



## HOW'S LIFE?



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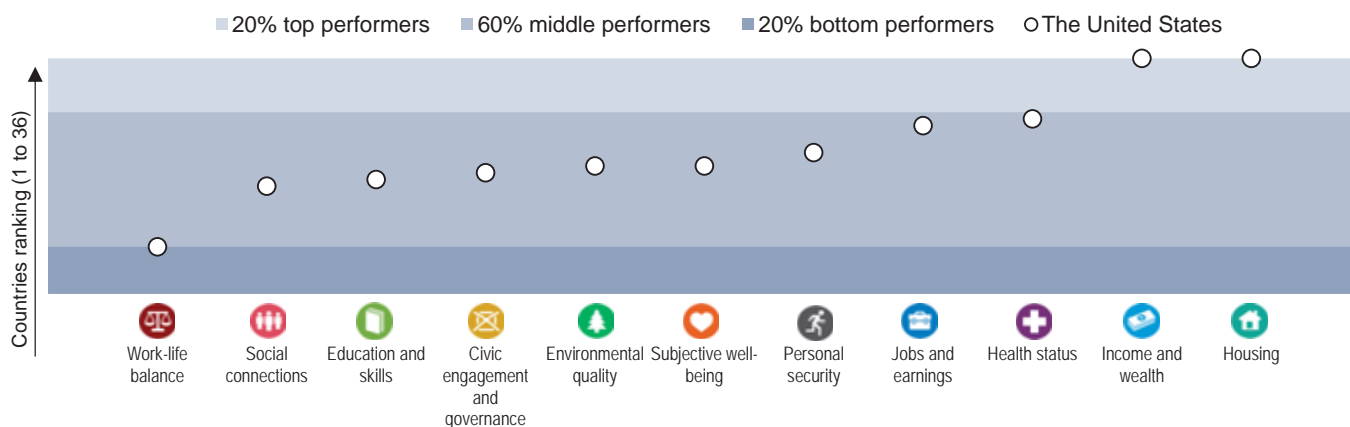
The following are findings for the **United States** based on the set of well-being indicators and the analysis found in the *How's Life?* report.

## HOW'S LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2014?

Compared with other OECD countries, Brazil and the Russian Federation, **the United States** perform very well in many of the 11 dimensions mentioned above that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. **The United States** rank at the top in housing, and income and wealth. They rank above the average of the 36 countries in the dimensions of health status, jobs and earnings, personal security, subjective well-being, environmental quality, civic engagement, education and skills, and social connections, but below average in work-life balance.

**Figure 1 - How do the United States compare?**

*The United States' well-being compared with other OECD countries and major economies, 2014*



## WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

The **average American household** has been affected by the crisis, with impacts that are visible when looking at household income, jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2010, the **United States** recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 1%. However, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 1% over the same period, slightly below the OECD average of 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. Between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** decreased by more than 4 percentage points in the **United States**, while the long-term unemployment rate increased by almost 2 percentage points.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. From 2007 to 2012, the percentage of **American people** declaring being very satisfied with their lives fell from 78% to 67%.

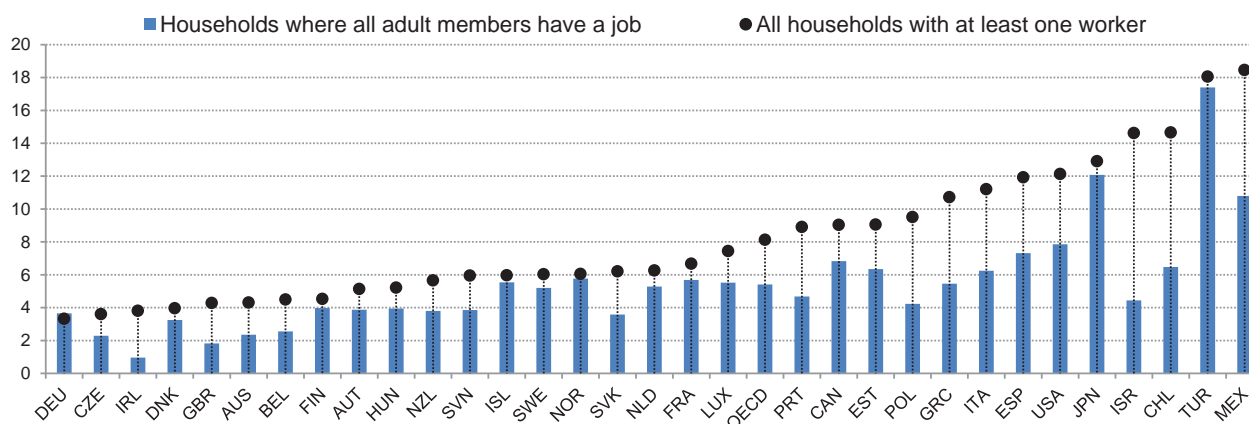
People's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has also declined during the crisis. The percentage of **American people** reporting that they trust the government fell from 39% to 35% between 2007 and 2012.

Over the same period, however, **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged. In the **United States**, the percentage of people reporting having helped someone and having volunteered their time increased by 9 and 2 percentage points, respectively, between 2007 and 2012, a higher increase than that observed, on average, in the OECD.

## QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND WELL-BEING

From a well-being perspective, what matters is to have a job of good quality. Quality of employment encompasses many elements, one being that paid work ensure adequate standards of living. In-work poverty reflects different forms of precarious employment (e.g. low working hours and hourly pay among full-time workers, frequent moves between low-paid work and joblessness, etc), and its incidence informs about quality of employment. In 2010, **12% of American people households with at least one worker experienced in-work poverty, while 8% of those living in households with all adult members employed were in poverty**, both shares being above the OECD average. Strategies to fight in-work poverty are at the forefront of the policy agenda in many countries, particularly in the context of the economic crisis.

Figure 2 - Quality of employment and in-work poverty in the United States, 2010














## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries over the past few decades, including in the **United States**. Compared to men, **American women** are less likely to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A significant share of American women also report having experienced various forms of intimate partner violence.

### HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN THE UNITED STATES?

### AND IN THE OECD?

				
<b>Women and men throughout their lifetime</b>				
 <b>Health status</b>				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	81	76	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	89%	90%	67%	72%
 <b>Education and skills</b>				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	58%	42%	58%	42%
<b>Women and men in paid and unpaid work</b>				
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	76%	84%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+18%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	33%	49%	37%	30%
 <b>Work-Life balance</b>				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	27	18	32	21
<b>Women and men in society</b>				
 <b>Civic Engagement and governance</b>				
Share of seats in national parliament	18%	82%	27%	73%
 <b>Personal security</b>				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence *	36%	-	-	-
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	67%	82%	61%	79%
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.2	6.9	6.7	6.6

\*This percentage includes physical, sexual and emotional or psychological violence



## BETTER LIFE INDEX

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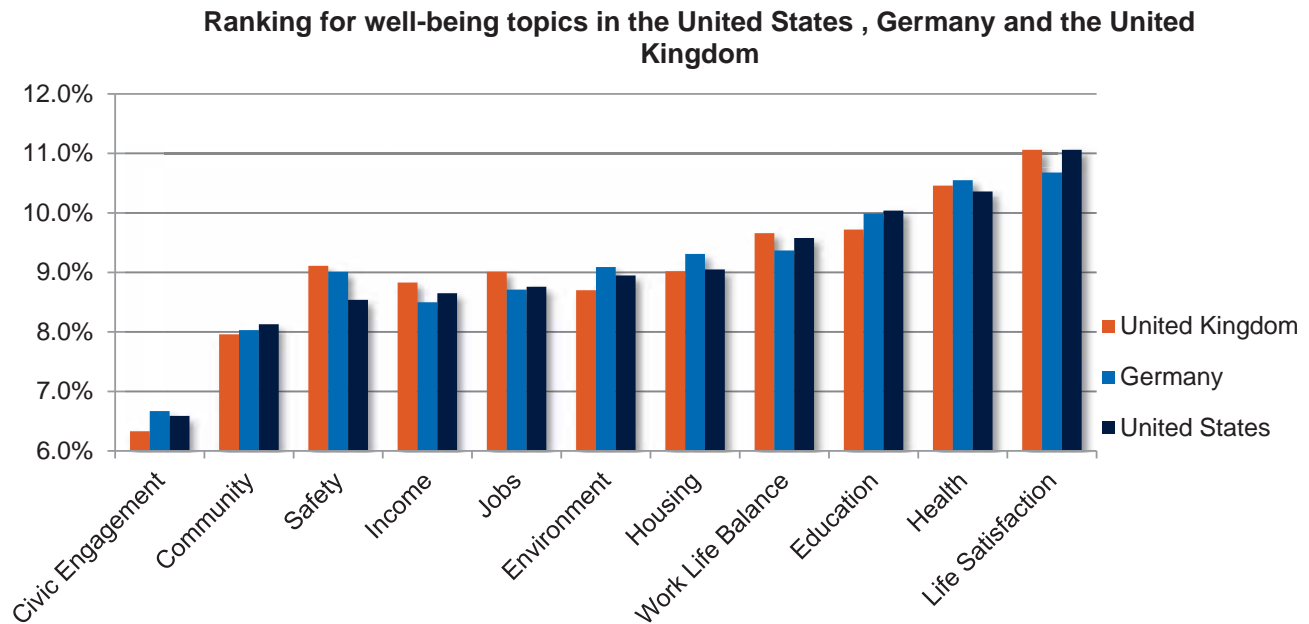
Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over 3.6 million visits from just about every country on the planet (184)** and has received over **eight million page views**. And over 60,000 user-created Better Life Indexes have been shared with the OECD. The following country findings reflect voluntary submissions to the OECD via [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org). Findings can only be considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large.



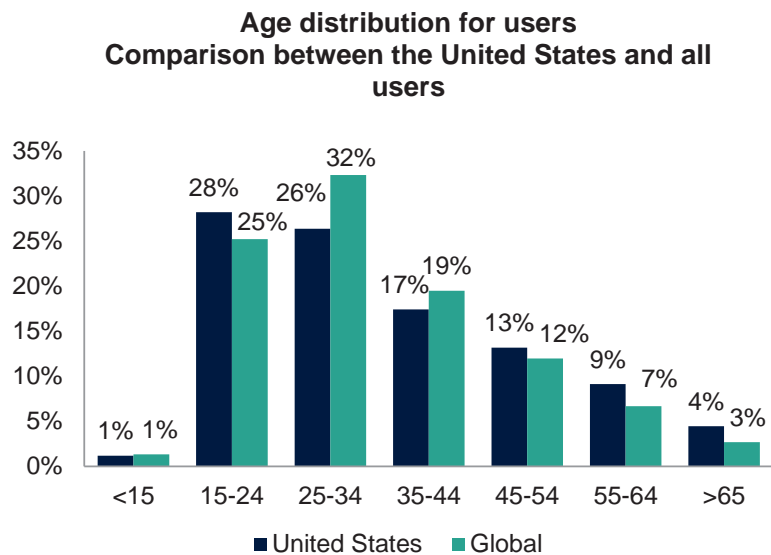
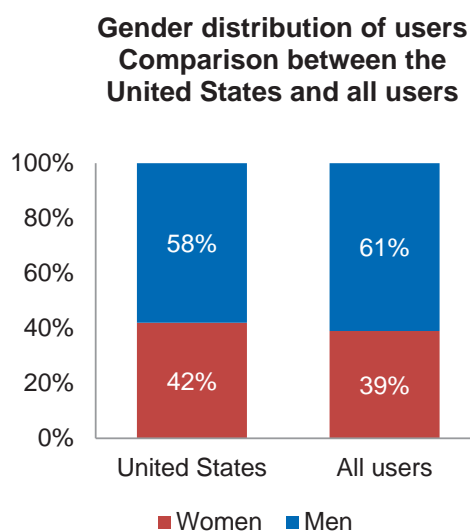
**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education have consistently been the top rated topics overall.**

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: FINDINGS FOR THE UNITED STATES

**Life Satisfaction, Health and Education** are the three highest ranked topics by users based in the United States.<sup>36</sup> The following chart compares indexes submitted by users in the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom.



The United States is currently **1st** in number of visits (over 742,700) to the BLI site, up 86% or over 345,000 visits since the update to the Index in May 2013. The top cities are New York with over 46,700 visits followed by Washington (+18,400) and Chicago (+14,800).



<sup>36</sup> Preferences for the United States are based on 7,915 indexes submitted between May 2011 and March 2014.

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