

## Some call for more government support in the face of financial worries

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

The proportion of respondents in Latvia who report worrying about their financial situation (76%) is similar to the cross-country average (75%) (Fig. 1). Latvia is also around the RTM averages in terms of the share who are worried about their household's ability to pay for essentials like home energy costs (81%) and food (79%).

These concerns are relatively stable across ages: all age groups are similarly worried about being able to pay expenses (around 71%) and the gender gap in these worries is smaller than the RTM average.

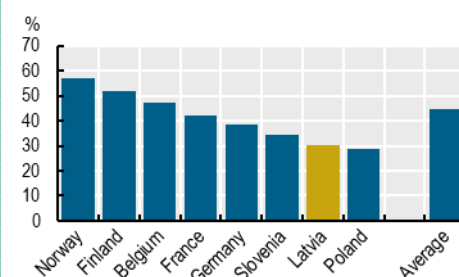
As in all OECD countries, there is room

for improvement in social protection. Relatively few respondents (30%) say government did enough to handle the COVID-19 pandemic overall (Fig. 2). Just 36% think they have good access to public safety – the public service with largest overall support in Latvia – compared with 44% cross-nationally.

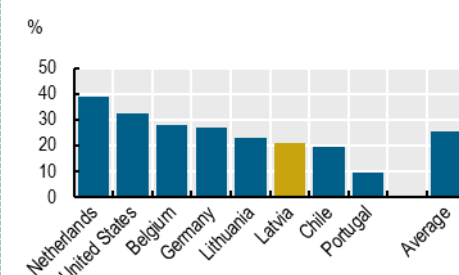
Benefits and income support received from government also tend to be viewed as less generous than the OECD average. Perceived access to public benefits is lower than the cross-national average, at 21% compared to 25% (Fig. 3), while views about monetary support from government in case of income loss typically is slightly above RTM averages. 20% think that government support would be enough to help the household through financial trouble, but 45% say they can count on family.

When asked, Latvians want more government spending on old-age pensions and health, and 44% report being willing to spend more in tax for better pensions.

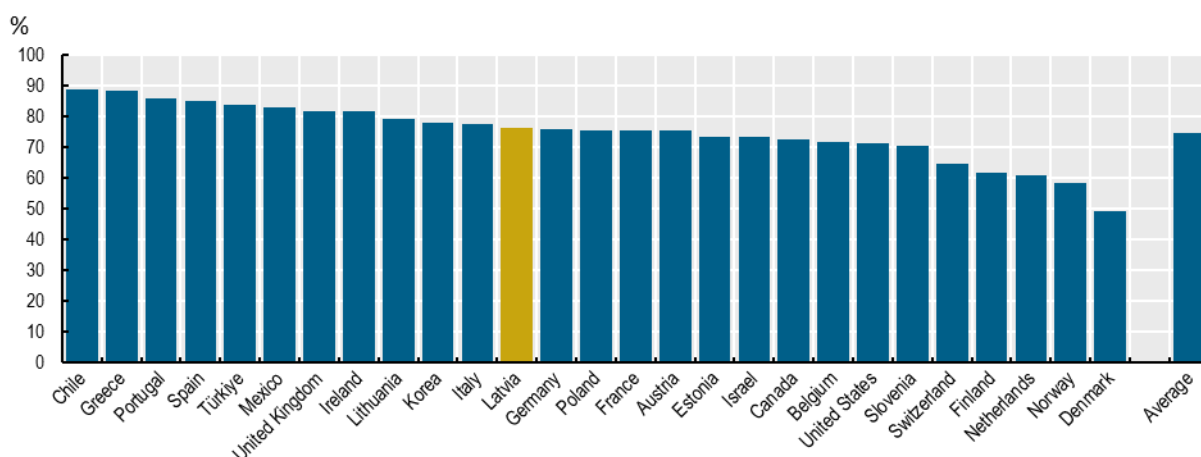
**Fig. 2. Proportion who thinks that their government did just enough to handle the COVID-19 pandemic overall, by country, 2022**



**Fig. 3. Proportion who agrees that "I feel that I could easily receive public benefits if I needed them", by country, 2022**



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



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

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

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