

How's Life in Brazil?

The figure below shows Brazil's relative strengths and weaknesses in well-being, with reference both to the OECD average and to the average outcomes of the OECD partner countries considered in *How's Life? 2017* (i.e. Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Lithuania, the Russian Federation and South Africa).

*Brazil shows several areas of strength relative to both the OECD and partner country averages: only 7% of employees regularly **worked 50 hours or more** in 2016, below both the OECD average (13%) and the average in partner countries (9%). **Social support** is also high: in the period 2014-16, 90% of Brazilians reported having **friends or relatives whom they can count on** in times of trouble, very close to the OECD average. **Voter turnout** in Brazil was almost 79% in 2014, higher than the average both for the OECD (almost 69%) and the partner countries (70%). Finally, **air quality** (measured in terms of average annual exposure to PM_{2.5} air pollution) is better than both the OECD and partner country averages.*

*There are also several outcomes where Brazil is above the average for partner countries, but below the OECD average. Its **employment rate**, at 64.4% in 2016, is higher than the average of partner countries (63.9%) but below the OECD average (67%). A relatively high percentage of Brazilians live in housing without **basic sanitation** (6.7%), a share that is higher than the OECD average of 2.1% but lower than the average of partner countries (13.1%). **Life expectancy** at birth is almost 75 years, which is above the average of the partner countries (72) but below the OECD average (80). While almost 72% of Brazilians say that they are satisfied with their local **water quality**, the share is only 66% for the partner countries as a whole.*

*Brazil also has some areas of weakness compared to both the OECD and other partner countries. Rates for both adults' upper secondary **educational attainment** (49%) and students' **cognitive skills at age 15** are among the lowest in both the OECD and partner countries. Personal security is also low: the **homicide rate** is among the highest across the OECD and partner countries, while only 37% of Brazilian people report feeling **safe when walking alone at night** in the area where they live. This is among the lowest in both the OECD and partner countries.*

Current well-being strengths and weaknesses in Brazil

Strengths	Strengths relative to the OECD average	Strengths relative to partner countries	Weaknesses
Above average for both the OECD and partner countries	Above the OECD average, but below partner countries' average	Above partner countries' average, but below the OECD average	Below average for both the OECD and partner countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Working hours  Voter turnout  Air quality 		<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Employment  Basic sanitation  Life expectancy  Water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Educational attainment  Cognitive skills at 15  Homicides  Feeling safe at night

Note: Both the OECD and partner country averages are typically population-weighted (see the online data annex for further details). Only headline well-being indicators with a complete or almost complete coverage of the OECD partner countries are considered (i.e. one or no missing countries per indicator).

Additional information, including the data used in this country note, can be found at:

www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2017-country-notes-data.xlsx

Change in Brazil's average well-being over the past 10 years

Dimension	Description	Change
 Income and wealth	[No time series data available]	..
 Jobs and earnings	The employment rate decreased sharply in 2015, falling 4% below the level recorded in 2005.	↘
 Housing conditions	[No time series data available]	..
 Work-life balance	The past decade has witnessed a large fall in the percentage of employees working very long hours, from 16% in 2005 to 7% in 2015. This brings Brazil below the OECD average of 13%.	↗
 Health status	Life expectancy at birth has increased by nearly 3 years since 2005, but stands below the OECD average by almost 6 years.	↗
 Education and skills	The share of adults with at least an upper secondary level of education has increased considerably over the past decade, from 37% in 2007 to 49% in 2015. However, this remains 18 percentage points below the OECD average.	↗
 Social connections	The share of people reporting that they have relatives or friends whom they can count on to help in case of need has remained relatively stable since 2005, in contrast with the slight decrease recorded for the OECD average.	↔
 Civic engagement	As in over half of all OECD countries, voter turnout has fallen over the last decade. The percentage of votes cast among the population registered to vote in the presidential elections was 4 points lower in 2014 than in 2006.	↘
 Environmental quality	The share of people satisfied with their local water quality has fallen from 78% to 72% over the last 10 years. On the other hand, air pollution levels in 2013 were close to those in 2005.	↘ ↔
 Personal security	The homicide rate has risen in the last 10 years, from 25 to 28 deaths per 100 000 people, in contrast to the falls observed in most OECD countries. The percentage of the population declaring that they feel safe when walking alone at night has remained broadly stable.	↘ ↔
 Subjective well-being	Life satisfaction has remained relatively stable over the decade.	↔

Note: For each indicator in every dimension: ↗ refers to an improvement; ↔ indicates little or no change; and ↘ signals deterioration. This is based on a comparison of the starting year (2005 in most cases) and the latest available year (usually 2015 or 2016). The order of the arrows shown in column three corresponds to that of the indicators mentioned in column two.

Brazil's resources and risks for future well-being: Illustrative indicators

 Natural capital		
Indicator	Equivalent OECD tier	Change
Greenhouse gas emissions from domestic production	1	↘ 2005-2012
CO ₂ emissions from domestic consumption	1	↘ 2001-2011
Exposure to PM _{2.5} air pollution	2	↔ 2005-2013
Forest area	1	↘ 2005-2014
Renewable freshwater resources	1	.. Long-term annual avg
Freshwater abstractions	2	.. 2012
No data available on threatened species.		

 Human capital		
Indicator	Equivalent OECD tier	Change
Young adult educational attainment	3	↗ 2007-2015
Educational expectancy	3	.. 2015
Cognitive skills at age 15	3	.. 2015
Life expectancy at birth	3	↗ 2005-2015
Smoking prevalence	1	↗ 2006-2014
Obesity prevalence	2	.. 2013
No data available on adult skills and long-term unemployment.		

 Economic capital		
Indicator	Equivalent OECD tier	Change
Gross fixed capital formation	1	↗ 2005-2011
Financial net worth of total economy	2	↔ 2005-2009
Household debt	1	↘ 2010-2014
Financial net worth of government	2	↗ 2009-2014
No data available on produced fixed assets, intellectual property assets, investment in R&D, household net wealth and banking sector leverage		

 Social capital		
Indicator	Equivalent OECD tier	Change
Trust in the national government	3	↘ 2005-2016
Voter turnout	1	↘ 2006-2014
Government stakeholder engagement	2	.. 2014
No data available on trust in others, trust in the police and volunteering in organisations.		

1	Equivalent to the top-performing OECD tier, latest available year
2	Equivalent to the middle-performing OECD tier, latest available year
3	Equivalent to the bottom-performing OECD tier, latest available year

↗	Improving over time
↘	Worsening over time
↔	No change
..	No data available

HOW LARGE ARE WELL-BEING INEQUALITIES IN BRAZIL?

What is inequality and how is it measured? Measuring inequality means trying to describe **how unevenly distributed** outcomes are in society. *How's Life? 2017* adopts several different approaches:

- Measures of “**vertical**” inequalities address how unequally outcomes are spread across all people in society – for example, by looking at the size of the gap between people at the bottom of the distribution and people at the top.
- Measures of “**horizontal**” inequalities focus on the gap between population groups defined by specific characteristics (such as men and women, young and old, people with higher and lower levels of education).
- Measures of “**deprivation**” report the share of people who live below a certain level of well-being (such as those who face income poverty or live in an overcrowded household).

Compared to OECD countries, Brazil has large vertical inequalities in household income and the cognitive skills of 15-year-old students.

Brazil has mixed outcomes in relation to **gender inequality**. For example, gaps between men and women are higher than the OECD average in terms of employment and unemployment – with women in Brazil 50% more likely to be unemployed than men. By contrast, girls and boys perform equally well in tests of cognitive skills at age 15, and women are much more likely than men to have attained an upper secondary or tertiary education.

Compared to **middle-aged** adults, Brazilian **young people** are more disadvantaged than in the average OECD country in a number of well-being indicators, including household income and unemployment – the latter being three times higher for younger members of the population. Conversely, the young are far more likely than middle-aged adults to attain upper secondary or tertiary levels of education, while benefitting from stronger support networks. These advantages are more marked in Brazil than in most OECD countries.

	Vertical inequality	Horizontal inequality by			Deprivation
		Gender	Age	Education	
		Women relative to men	Young relative to middle-aged	Secondary relative to tertiary	
Household income	●		●		●
Household net wealth	○		○	○	○
Earnings	○	○	○	○	
Low pay		○			○
Employment		●	●	●	
Unemployment		●	●	●	●
Housing affordability					○
Rooms per person					○
Life expectancy	○				
Perceived health		○	○	○	○
Working hours	○	○	○	○	○
Time off		○	○		
Educational attainment		●	●		●
Cognitive skills at 15	●	●		●	●
Adult skills	○	○	○	○	○
Time spent socialising		○	○		
Social support		●	●	●	●
Voter turnout		●	●	●	●
Having a say in government	○	○	○	○	○
Air quality					●
Water quality		●	●	○	●
Homicides		●			●
Feeling safe at night		●	●	●	●
Life satisfaction	○	○	○	○	○
Negative affect balance					○

People with a **tertiary education** tend to fare better than those with only a **secondary education** across a range of well-being outcomes. In Brazil, these education-related divides are similar to the OECD average in terms of employment, unemployment and cognitive skills at age 15. Moreover, voter turnout and social support are very similar in Brazil for these two groups. However, people having attained tertiary education are much more likely to feel safe when walking alone at night.

Brazil experiences comparatively high levels of **deprivation** across various areas of well-being, including income poverty, education and personal security. Voter turnout stands out as an exception, although voting in Brazil is compulsory.

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 then see how countries perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.

11 topics to define well-being

 Housing	 Community	 Health
 Income	 Education	 Life Satisfaction
 Jobs	 Environment	 Safety
	 Civic Engagement	 Work-Life Balance



Each flower represents a country and each petal represents a topic

Rate the topics according to their importance to you

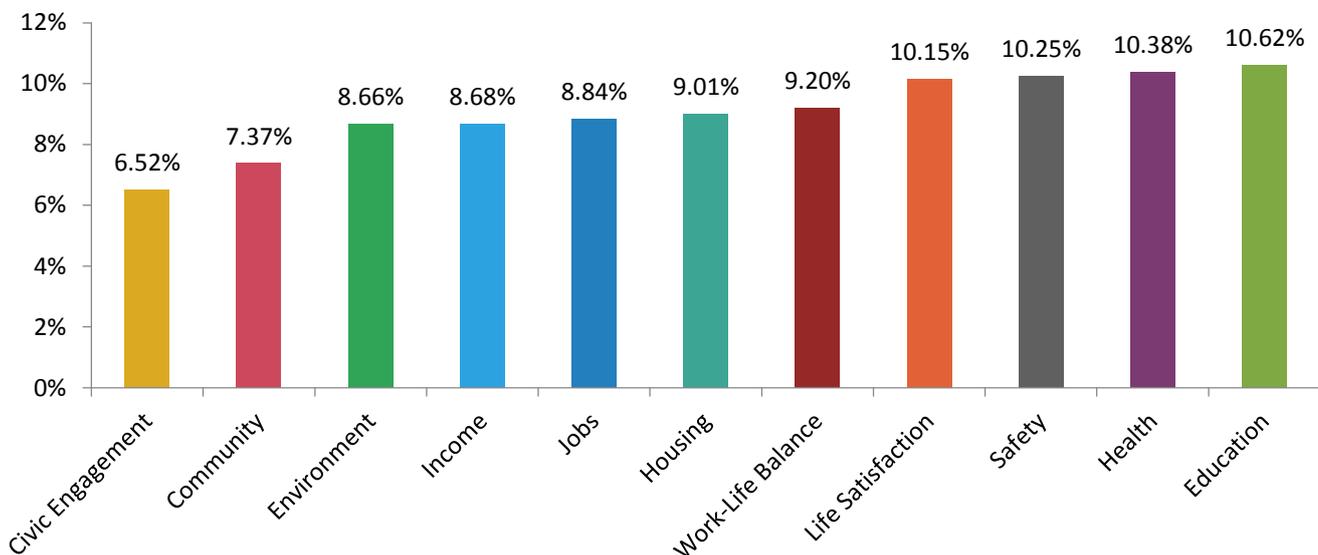


Users can also share their index with other people in their networks, as well as with the OECD. This allows the OECD to gather valuable information on the importance that users attach to various life dimensions, on how these preferences differ across countries, and according to the demographic characteristics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

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO PEOPLE IN BRAZIL?

Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over ten million visits from just about every country on the planet** and has received over **22 million page views**. To date, over 146,000 people in Brazil have visited the website making Brazil the 15th country overall in traffic to the website. The top cities are Sao Paulo (22%), Rio de Janeiro (10%), Belo Horizonte, Brasilia and Curitiba.

The following country findings reflect the ratings voluntarily shared by 2233 website visitors in Brazil. Findings are only indicative and are not representative of the population at large. **For Brazilian users of the Better Life Index, education, health and safety are the three most important topics** (shown below).¹ Up to date information, including a breakdown of participants in each country by gender and age can be found here: www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/responses/#BRA.



¹ User information for Brazil is based on shared indexes submitted between May 2011 and September 2017.

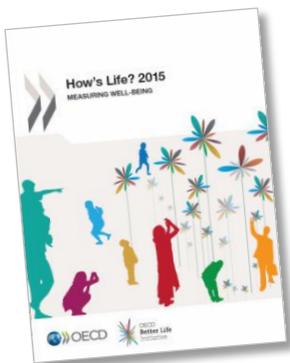
The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter the most to people and that shape the quality of their lives. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an in-depth analysis of specific topics, published in the *How's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

This note presents **selected findings for Brazil from the *How's Life? 2017* report** (pages 1-4) and shows what **Brazilian users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (page 5).

HOW'S LIFE?



How's Life?, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD and selected partner countries by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators. It considers eleven dimensions of current well-being 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. It also looks at four types of resources that help to sustain well-being over time: natural, human, economic and social capital.

The *How's Life? 2017* report presents the latest data on well-being in OECD and partner countries, including how lives have changed since 2005. It includes a special focus on inequalities, the well-being of migrants in OECD countries, and the issue of governance – particularly how people experience and engage with public institutions. To read more, visit: www.oecd.org/howslife.

For media requests contact:
news.contact@oecd.org or +33 1 45 24 97 00

For more information contact:
wellbeing@oecd.org