

# How's Life in Lithuania?

The figure below shows Lithuania's relative strengths and weaknesses in well-being with reference to both the OECD average and 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).

*Lithuania has several areas of strength relative to both the OECD and partner countries:* The **employment rate** was 69% in 2016, higher than both the OECD average (67%) and the partner country average (64%). **Educational attainment** is also very high: more than 92% of people aged 25-64 have completed at least an upper secondary education. Less than 1% of employees regularly **work 50 hours or more** per week, one of the lowest percentages across OECD and partner countries.

*Lithuania performs better or close to the OECD average but below the average for the partner countries in some areas:* **Air quality** (measured as air pollution by fine particulate matter, PM<sub>2.5</sub>) is better than on average in the OECD, but worse than the average for the OECD partner countries.

*There are also several outcomes where Lithuania is above the average for the partner countries but below the OECD average:* At almost 2.7% in 2016, the **long-term unemployment** rate exceeded the OECD average of 2%, but was below the average for partner countries (4.5%). 12.4% of Lithuanians live in housing without **basic sanitation**, which is below the partner country average (13.1%), but well above the OECD average (2.1%). **Life expectancy** at birth is 3 years higher than among partner countries, on average, but still 5 years below the OECD average. Students' **cognitive skills at age 15** and satisfaction with local **water quality** are among the highest in the OECD partner countries, but remain below the OECD average level. Finally, 51% of Lithuanian people report feeling **safe walking alone at night** in the area where they live, which is above the 43% average in partner countries, but below the OECD average of almost 69%. Finally, the **homicide rate** in Lithuania is below the average for the partner countries, but slightly above the OECD average.

*Lithuania also has some areas of weakness compared to both the OECD and the other partner countries:* **Social support** in Lithuania is among the lowest in both the OECD and the partner countries, and **voter turnout** (almost 51% in 2016) stands below the OECD average of 69%, and well below the average across the OECD partner countries (70%). **Housing affordability** is also worse than both the OECD average and the average for the partner countries.

## Current well-being strengths and weaknesses in Lithuania

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"> <li> Employment</li> <li> Working hours</li> <li> Educational attainment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Air quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Long-term unemployment</li> <li> Basic sanitation</li> <li> Life expectancy</li> <li> Cognitive skills at 15</li> <li> Water quality</li> <li> Homicides</li> <li> Feeling safe at night</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Housing affordability</li> <li> Social support</li> <li> Voter turnout</li> </ul>

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](http://www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2017-country-notes-data.xlsx)

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

Dimension	Description	Change
 <b>Income and wealth</b>	Household net adjusted disposable income has increased by 32% cumulatively over the past decade in Lithuania, but remains well below the OECD average.	↗
 <b>Jobs and earnings</b>	The employment rate has risen by 6.5 percentage points since 2005 in Lithuania, compared to 1.2 points for the OECD on average. At 2.7% in 2016, the long-term unemployment rate is slightly below its level in 2005 (4.4%), while the share of employees affected by job strain has improved by 13 percentage points over the past 10 years.	↗ ↗ ↗
 <b>Housing conditions</b>	Housing affordability worsened between 2005 and 2012, and has remained stable in recent years. The percentage of people living in dwellings without basic sanitary facilities has been reduced by just under a third since 2005.	↘ ↗
 <b>Work-life balance</b>	At 0.6%, the percentage of employees working 50 hours or more per week in Lithuania is just slightly lower today than it was 10 years ago (1.4%). The rate fell considerably between 2005 and 2013, but has picked up in recent years.	↗
 <b>Health status</b>	Life expectancy at birth in Lithuania has increased by just over 3 years since 2005, while the share of adults reporting to be in “good” or “very good” health has remained stable.	↗ ↔
 <b>Education and skills</b>	The 10-year change in upper secondary educational attainment cannot be assessed, due to a recent break in the data. However, between 2014 and 2016, attainment rates in Lithuania increased by 1.3 percentage points.	↗
 <b>Social connections</b>	The share of people who have relatives or friends whom they can count on to help in case of need has remained stable in Lithuania since 2005, in contrast with the slight decrease recorded for the OECD average.	↔
 <b>Civic engagement</b>	The percentage of votes cast among the population registered to vote has improved in Lithuania in the past decade, up from 48.6% in the 2008 parliamentary elections to 50.6% in 2016.	↗
 <b>Environmental quality</b>	The percentage of Lithuanians satisfied with their local water quality is currently 19 points higher than 10 years ago. However, annual exposure to PM <sub>2.5</sub> air pollution has remained relatively stable since 2005.	↗ ↔
 <b>Personal security</b>	The homicide rate has dropped from 9.4 to 4.1 deaths per 100 000 people, and the share of people who report feeling safe when walking alone at night has increased by 19 percentage points.	↗ ↗
 <b>Subjective well-being</b>	Lithuanian life satisfaction has remained broadly 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.

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

Natural capital		
Indicator	Equivalent OECD tier	Change
Greenhouse gas emissions from domestic production	1	↔ 2005-2015
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from domestic consumption	1	↘ 2001-2011
Exposure to PM <sub>2.5</sub> air pollution	2	↔ 2005-2013
Forest area	1	↗ 2005-2014
Renewable freshwater resources	2	.. Long-term annual avg
Freshwater abstractions	1	.. 2015
Threatened birds	1	.. Latest available
Threatened mammals	1	.. Latest available
Threatened plants	1	.. Latest available

Economic capital		
Indicator	Equivalent OECD tier	Change
Produced fixed assets	3	↗ 2005-2014
Gross fixed capital formation	3	↗ 2005-2016
Financial net wealth of total economy	2	↘ 2005-2015
Intellectual property assets	3	↗ 2005-2014
Investment in R&D	3	↗ 2005-2013
Household debt	1	↘ 2005-2015
Financial net worth of government	2	↘ 2005-2015
Banking sector leverage	1	↔ 2005-2015
No data available on household net wealth.		

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

Human capital		
Indicator	Equivalent OECD tier	Change
Young adult educational attainment	1	↗ 2014-2016
Educational expectancy	1	.. 2015
Cognitive skills at age 15	3	.. 2015
Adult skills	2	.. 2011/2012
Long-term unemployment	3	↗ 2005-2016
Life expectancy at birth	3	↗ 2005-2015
Smoking prevalence	2	↗ 2005-2014
Obesity prevalence	2	↔ 2005-2014

Social capital		
Indicator	Equivalent OECD tier	Change
Trust in others	2	.. 2013
Trust in the police	2	.. 2013
Trust in the national government	2	↗ 2005-2016
Voter turnout	3	↗ 2008-2016
Government stakeholder engagement	1	.. 2014
Volunteering through organisations	3	.. 2012

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

## HOW LARGE ARE WELL-BEING INEQUALITIES IN LITHUANIA?

**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).

The available indicators of **vertical inequality** suggest that the gaps between the top and the bottom ends of the distributions of income, earnings and life satisfaction are large in Lithuania, more so than in most OECD member countries. In particular, the inequality in life satisfaction is the highest found among all countries considered. In contrast, working hours, adult skills and political efficacy (i.e. having a say in what government does) are evenly distributed across the population.

Lithuania has mixed outcomes in terms of **gender inequality**. For example, women are more than 20% less likely to be in “good” or “very good” health than men, and experience disadvantages when it comes to cognitive skills at age 15 or life satisfaction. However, they perform better than men in educational attainment, skills and unemployment. And while Lithuanian women are still considerably disadvantaged in terms of low pay, they are still less so than women in the OECD on average.

In the OECD, **young people** tend to be at disadvantage on the job market, when compared to **middle-aged adults**. In Lithuania, however, the unemployment gap is narrower than in most OECD countries – even if it remains wide in absolute terms. Conversely, young Lithuanians feel they have much less of a say in government than the middle-aged – contrary to other OECD countries on average.

Individuals having attained a **secondary education** in Lithuania are disadvantaged compared to those with a **tertiary level of education**. The gap between the two groups is relatively high in various areas, including unemployment, adult skills and work-life balance.

Lithuania experiences high levels of **deprivation** in the majority of well-being indicators, including incidence of low pay (21.3%), poor perceived health (42.6%) and the share of people not voting during national elections (49.4%). Exceptions include housing affordability, educational attainment and having a say in government, for which levels of deprivation are found to be lower than in most OECD countries.

**Well-being inequalities in Lithuania**

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

## BETTER LIFE INDEX

The **Better Life Index** is an interactive web application that allows users to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators used 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.

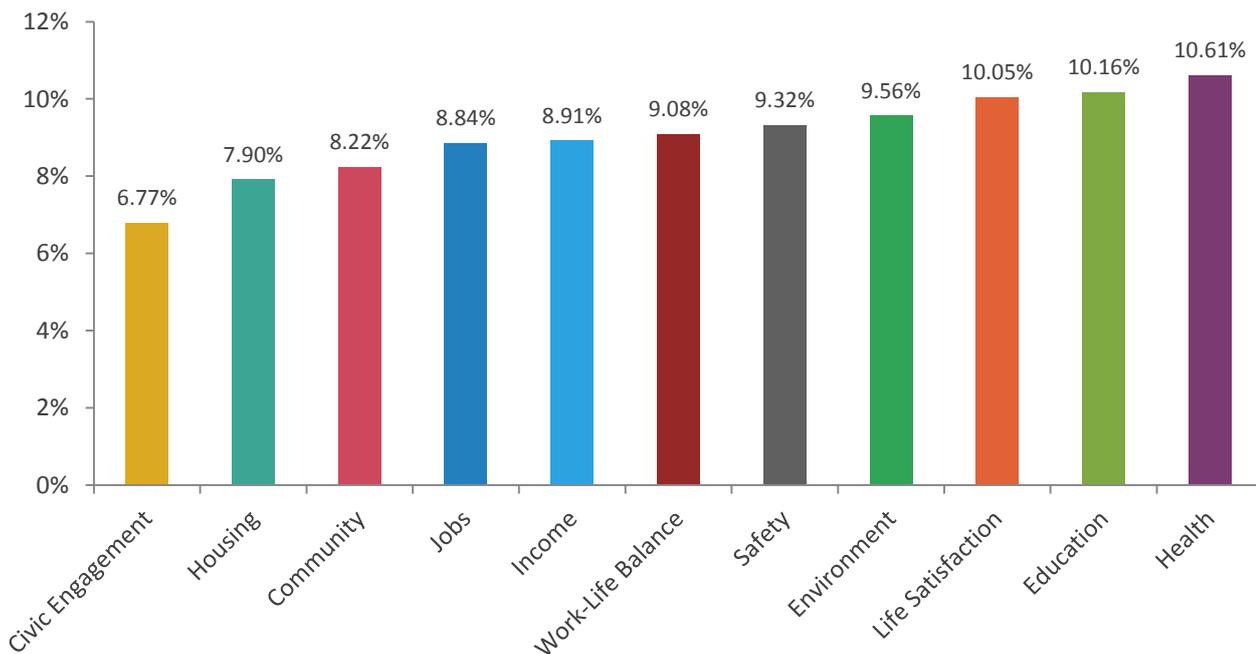


Users can also share their index with other people in their networks, as well as with the OECD. This allows the OECD to gather valuable information on the importance that users attach to various life dimensions, and how these preferences differ across countries and population groups.

## WHAT MATTERS MOST TO PEOPLE IN LITHUANIA?

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 14,000 people in Lithuania have visited the website making Lithuania the 65th country overall in traffic to the website. The top cities are Vilnius (62% of visits), Kaunas, Klaipeda and Panevezys.

The following country findings reflect the ratings voluntarily shared with the OECD by 173 website visitors in Lithuania. Findings are indicative and are not representative of the population at large. **For Lithuanian users of the Better Life Index, health, education and life satisfaction are the three most important aspects of their life** (shown below).<sup>1</sup> Up-to-date information, including a breakdown of participants in each country by gender and age can be found here: <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/responses/#LTU>.



<sup>1</sup> User information for Lithuania is based on shared indexes submitted between May 2011 and September 2017.

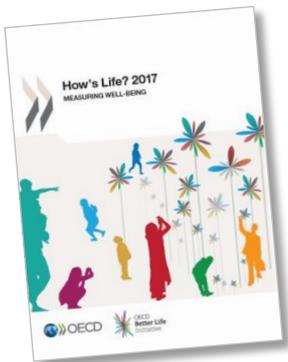
The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter the most to people and that shape the quality of their lives. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an in-depth analysis of specific topics, published in the *How's 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 Lithuania from the *How's Life? 2017* report** (pages 1-4) and shows what **Lithuanian 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](http://www.oecd.org/howslife).

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