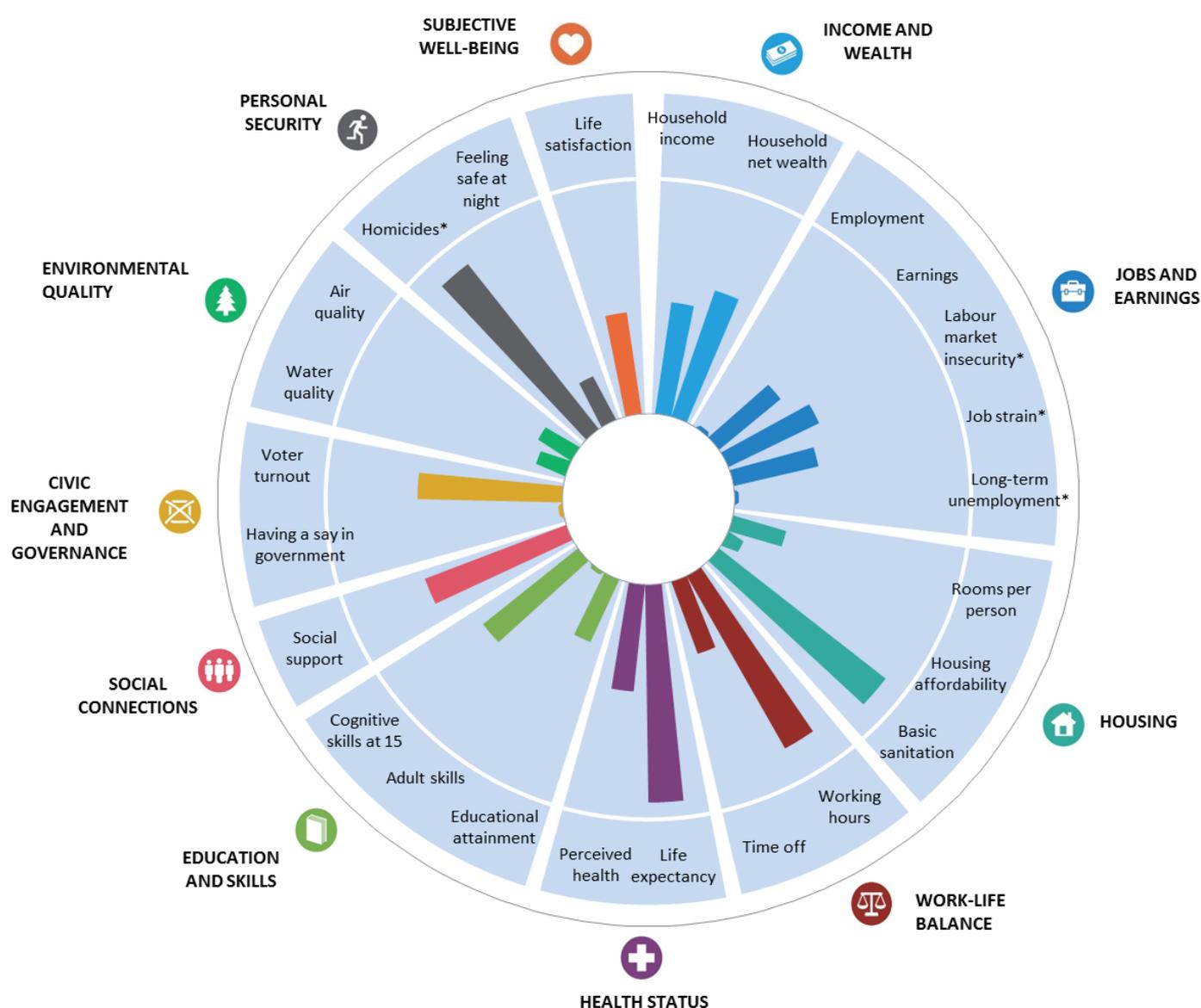


How's Life in Italy?

Relative to other OECD countries, Italy's average performance across the different well-being dimensions is mixed. The **employment rate**, about 57% in 2016, was among the lowest in the OECD area, and in terms of **labour market insecurity** and **long-term unemployment** Italy ranks in the bottom third of the OECD. However, **household net wealth** is fairly close to the OECD average, and only around 4% of employees regularly **work 50 hours or more** per week, less than one-third of the OECD average rate. **Life expectancy** at birth is in the top third in the OECD, and 66% of Italians **perceive their health** as "good" or "very good", 3 percentage points below the OECD average. In education and skills, environmental quality and **life satisfaction**, Italy's falls below the OECD average, while in terms of civic engagement and governance and personal security, performance is mixed. As for **social support**, 91% of the population in Italy report having friends or relatives whom they can count on in times of trouble, slightly above the OECD average of 89%.

Italy's average level of current well-being: Comparative strengths and weaknesses



Note: This chart shows Italy's relative strengths and weaknesses in well-being when compared with other OECD countries. For both positive and negative indicators (such as homicides, marked with an "*"), longer bars always indicate better outcomes (i.e. higher well-being), whereas shorter bars always indicate worse outcomes (i.e. lower well-being). If data are missing for any given indicator, the relevant segment of the circle is shaded in white.

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 Italy's average well-being over the past 10 years

Dimension	Description	Change
 Income and wealth	In 2016, household net adjusted disposable income was 10% lower than in 2005, one of the largest falls in the OECD. Following some slight gains from 2005 to 2009, it dropped during the years of the crisis and began to recover only in 2015. Household net wealth fell by 18%, in real terms, between 2010 and 2014.	↘ ↘
 Jobs and earnings	Unlike the OECD average trend, both the employment rate and real earnings have seen little overall improvement since 2005. Labour market insecurity reached a high of 12.4% in 2012, a rate that – despite a small fall since then – remains almost twice the OECD average level. Long-term unemployment worsened from 2007, peaking in 2014 at 7.8%, 3 points above the rate in 2005. Job strain in Italy has seen little change in the last 10 years, with the share of employees affected remaining at around 40%.	↔ ↔ ↘ ↘ ↔
 Housing conditions	The average number of rooms per person has remained relatively stable over the past decade. Conversely, household spending on housing costs (as a proportion of disposable income) has gone up from 21% in 2005 to 24% in 2014 – one of the strongest rises in the OECD. The share of households lacking basic sanitation has also risen, from 0.2% to 0.7%.	↔ ↘ ↘
 Work-life balance	The share of employees working 50 hours or more per week has fallen by 1.5 percentage points in the past decade, a decrease steeper than the 0.9 point fall recorded for the OECD average.	↗
 Health status	Despite falling by over six months between 2014 and 2015, life expectancy at birth has increased by 1.7 years overall since 2005 – in line with the OECD average increase. The percentage of adults reporting to be in “good” or “very good” health has risen by 7.5 points over the same period, though it remains just below the OECD average.	↗ ↗
 Education and skills	The 10-year change in the upper secondary educational attainment rate cannot be assessed, due to a recent break in the data. However, between 2014 and 2016, the rate increased by just under 1 percent.	↗
 Social connections	The share of people who 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	In line with the OECD average trend, voter turnout has fallen in Italy over the past decade. In the 2013 general elections, the percentage of votes cast among the population registered to vote was 75%, 8 points lower than in 2006, and 5 points lower than in 2008.	↘
 Environmental quality	Satisfaction with local water quality has fallen slightly during the last few years. Between 2005 and 2013, exposure to PM _{2.5} air pollution increased moderately (by 3%), remaining above the OECD average.	↘ ↘
 Personal security	The rate of deaths due to assault is now similar to 2005 levels, and feelings of safety when walking alone at night have also remained relatively stable.	↔ ↔
 Subjective well-being	People’s life satisfaction has fallen gradually in Italy during the last 10 years, from an average of 6.7 to 5.9 (measured on a 0-10 scale). This decline is four times larger than the OECD average fall.	↘

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.

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

 Natural capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Greenhouse gas emissions from domestic production	1	↗ 2005-2015
CO ₂ emissions from domestic consumption	2	↗ 2001-2011
Exposure to PM _{2.5} air pollution	3	↘ 2005-2013
Forest area	3	↔ 2005-2014
Renewable freshwater resources	3	.. Long-term annual avg
Freshwater abstractions	3	.. 2008
Threatened birds	3	.. Latest available
Threatened mammals	2	.. Latest available
Threatened plants	1	.. Latest available

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

 Economic capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Produced fixed assets	2	↗ 2005-2015
Gross fixed capital formation	2	↗ 2005-2016
Financial net worth of total economy	2	↘ 2005-2016
Intellectual property assets	3	↔ 2005-2015
Investment in R&D	3	↗ 2005-2013
Household debt	1	↘ 2005-2015
Household net wealth	2	↘ 2010-2014
Financial net worth of government	3	↘ 2005-2015
Banking sector leverage	2	↘ 2005-2015

 Social capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Trust in others	3	.. 2013
Trust in the police	2	.. 2013
Trust in the national government	3	↔ 2005-2016
Voter turnout	1	↘ 2006-2013
Government stakeholder engagement	3	.. 2014
Volunteering through organisations	2	.. 2011/2012

1	Top-performing OECD tier, latest available year
2	Middle-performing OECD tier, latest available year
3	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 ITALY?

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).

Several **vertical inequalities** in Italy are low compared to other OECD countries, especially in terms of net wealth, earnings, life expectancy and skills of the adult population. However, income is distributed more unevenly across Italian households than elsewhere in the OECD: the average income of those in the top quintile is almost 6 times higher than for those in the bottom quintile.

The **gender gap** in Italy is often large, compared to that of other OECD countries. Women are 15% more likely than men to be unemployed and, when working, 75% more likely to be employed in low paid jobs. Italian women devote less time than men to leisure and personal care, they feel less safe, and (unlike in most OECD countries) they spend less time socializing. By contrast, the gender gap on education outcomes in Italy tends to be small, and often favours women.

Across most OECD countries, **young people** are at disadvantage on the job market, compared to the **middle-aged**. In Italy, these gaps are particularly large - for example, unemployment among young people is three times higher than for the middle-aged. In other well-being dimensions, however, the age gap is less pronounced – or can even favour the young. For example, the young in Italy have higher levels of educational attainment, feel more able to influence the government, enjoy more time off and devote more time to social activities than the middle-aged.

In most OECD countries, people with a **tertiary education** tend to fare better than those with only a **secondary education** across a range of well-being outcomes. In Italy, this gap is often comparatively small. In particular, gaps in jobs and earnings, health, skills and personal security are narrower than for the OECD on average.

Levels of **deprivation** in Italy are comparatively high for 10 out of the 20 available indicators. It has the third highest unemployment rate (12%) in the OECD, and a high share of households are income poor (14%). High levels of deprivation are also found in measures of housing overcrowding, educational attainment, environmental quality and feelings of safety at night, among others. By contrast, deprivations are comparatively low for indicators such as net wealth, working hours and voter turnout.

Well-being inequalities in Italy

	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		●			●

Legend:
 ● top third of OECD countries
 ● middle third of OECD countries
 ● bottom third of OECD countries
 ○ data gaps
 ■ no measures

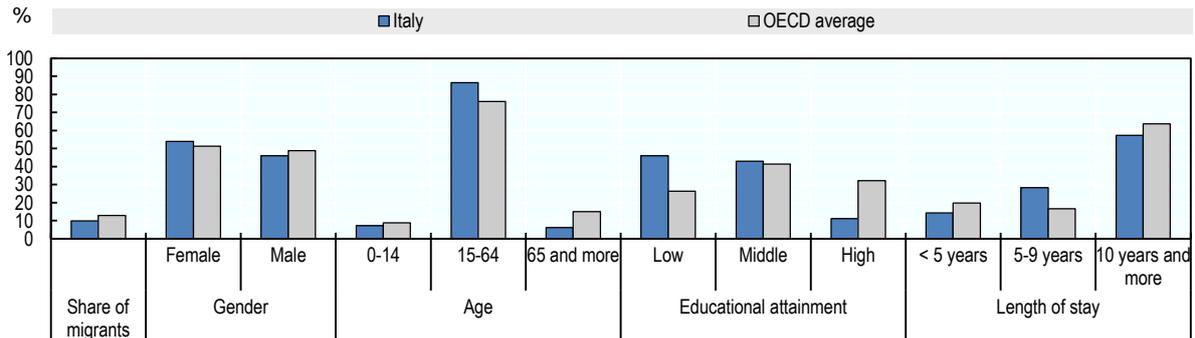
HOW'S LIFE FOR MIGRANTS IN ITALY?

Migrants (defined as people living in a different country from the one in which they were born) represent an important share of the population in most OECD countries. Capturing information about their well-being is critical for gaining a fuller picture of how life is going, and whether it is going equally well for all members of society.

Who are the migrants in Italy and OECD?

One in ten people living in Italy (10%) were born elsewhere, below the OECD average (13%), and 54% of them are women (51% for the OECD average). Migrants in Italy are more likely to be of working age than in the OECD on average (87% of them are aged 15 to 64, as compared to 76% across the OECD), and they are more likely to have a low or a middle educational attainment than a high level. Almost three in five migrants arrived in Italy ten years ago or more.

Share of migrants in the total population and selected characteristics

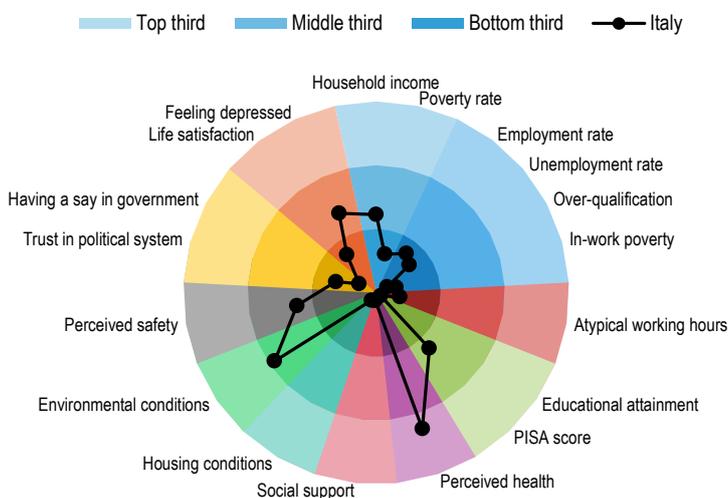


How is migrants' well-being in Italy?

Compared with the migrant populations of other OECD countries, migrants living in Italy have a relatively good situation for perceived health. Migrants settled in Italy rank in the middle third of OECD-country migrants for educational attainment, environmental conditions, perceived safety, feeling depressed and household income. They are in the bottom third for 12 out of 18 selected well-being indicators.

As in many other OECD countries, migrants in Italy tend to experience lower well-being outcomes than the native-born population: in Italy, this is the case for 8 out of 13 selected well-being indicators. However, migrants in Italy report a similar situation to the native-born with respect to environmental conditions. They report a better situation than the native-born for trust in the political system, feeling depressed, perceived health.

Comparing well-being outcomes for migrants in Italy with the migrant populations of other OECD countries



Comparison of migrants' and native-born well-being in Italy

	Migrants have a worse situation	Same situation	Migrants have a better situation
Household income	▲		
Wealth	▲		
Atypical working hours	▲		
PISA score	▲		
Perceived health			▲
Social support	▲		
Housing conditions	▲		
Environmental conditions		▲	
Perceived safety			▲
Trust in political system			▲
Having a say in government	▲		
Life satisfaction	▲		
Feeling depressed			▲

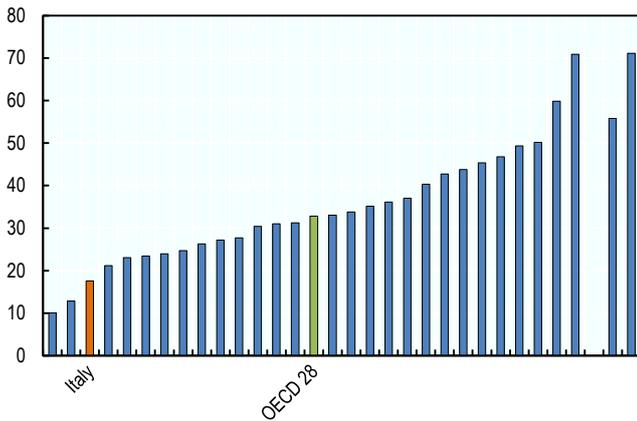
GOVERNANCE AND WELL-BEING IN ITALY

Public institutions play an important role in well-being, both by guaranteeing that people's fundamental rights are protected, and by ensuring the provision of goods and services necessary for people to thrive and prosper. How people experience and engage with public institutions also matters: people's political voice, agency and representation are outcomes of value in their own right.

In Italy, 18% of the population feels that they have a say in what their government does, compared to an OECD average of 33%. In recent years, voter turnout has fallen, from almost 84% in 2006, to just above 75% in 2013. When asked about whether or not corruption is widespread across government, 89% of Italians answered "yes", as compared to an OECD average of 56%. Since around 2006, the share of people in the OECD who report that they have confidence in their national government has fallen from 42% to 38%.

Having a say in what the government does

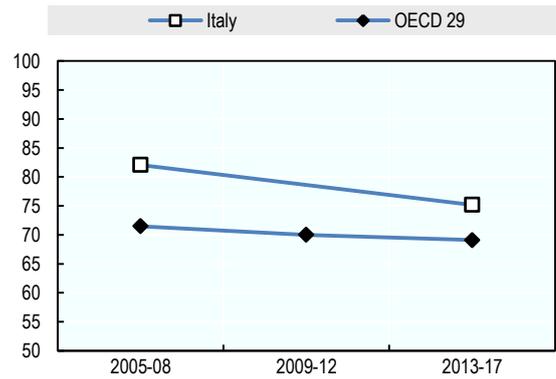
Percentage of people aged 16-65 who feel that they have a say in what the government does, around 2012



Source: OECD Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC database)

Voter turnout

Percentage of votes cast among the population registered to vote



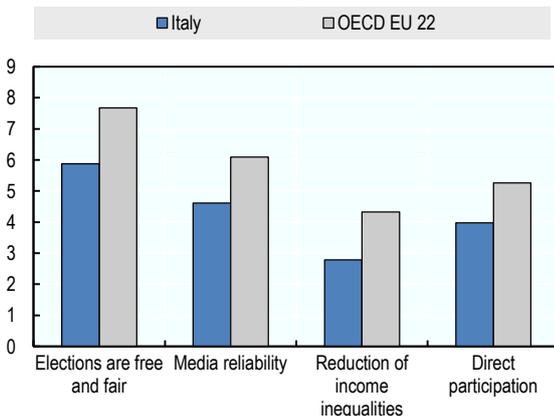
Note: Data refers to parliamentary elections. If more than one election took place over the time period indicated, the simple average voter turnout from all elections is shown. The OECD average sums elections that occurred over the time periods shown in 29 OECD countries.

Source: IDEA dataset

Overall, Italians' satisfaction with the way democracy works in their country is consistently below the OECD European average. While people in Italy tend to be reasonably satisfied with the freedom and fairness of elections (5.9 on a 0-10 scale), they are much less satisfied with policies to reduce inequalities (2.8) or the existence of direct participation mechanisms at the local level (4.0). Meanwhile, satisfaction with public services varies according to whether people have used those services in the last year. In Italy, the level of satisfaction is similar to the OECD European average for education services, yet slightly lower when it comes to health services. However, in both cases, people with direct experience of using those services recently are more likely to be satisfied than those without.

Satisfaction with different elements of democracy

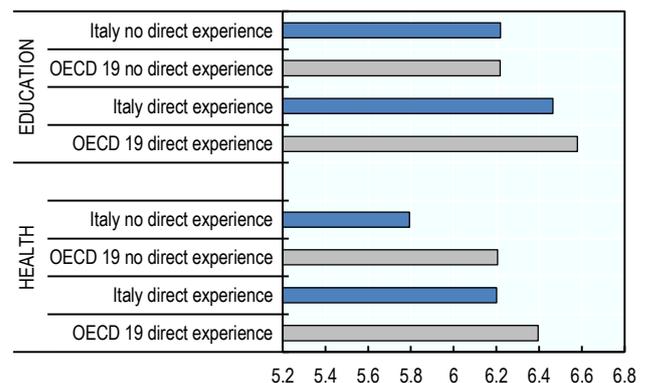
Mean score on a 0-10 scale, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction with elements of democracy, 2012



Source: OECD calculations based on wave 6 of the European Social Survey (ESS), special rotating module on citizens' valuations of different elements of democracy.

Satisfaction with public services by direct experience

Mean score on a 0-10 scale, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction, 2013



Source: OECD calculations based on the EU Quality of Government (QoG) for 19 European OECD countries.

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.

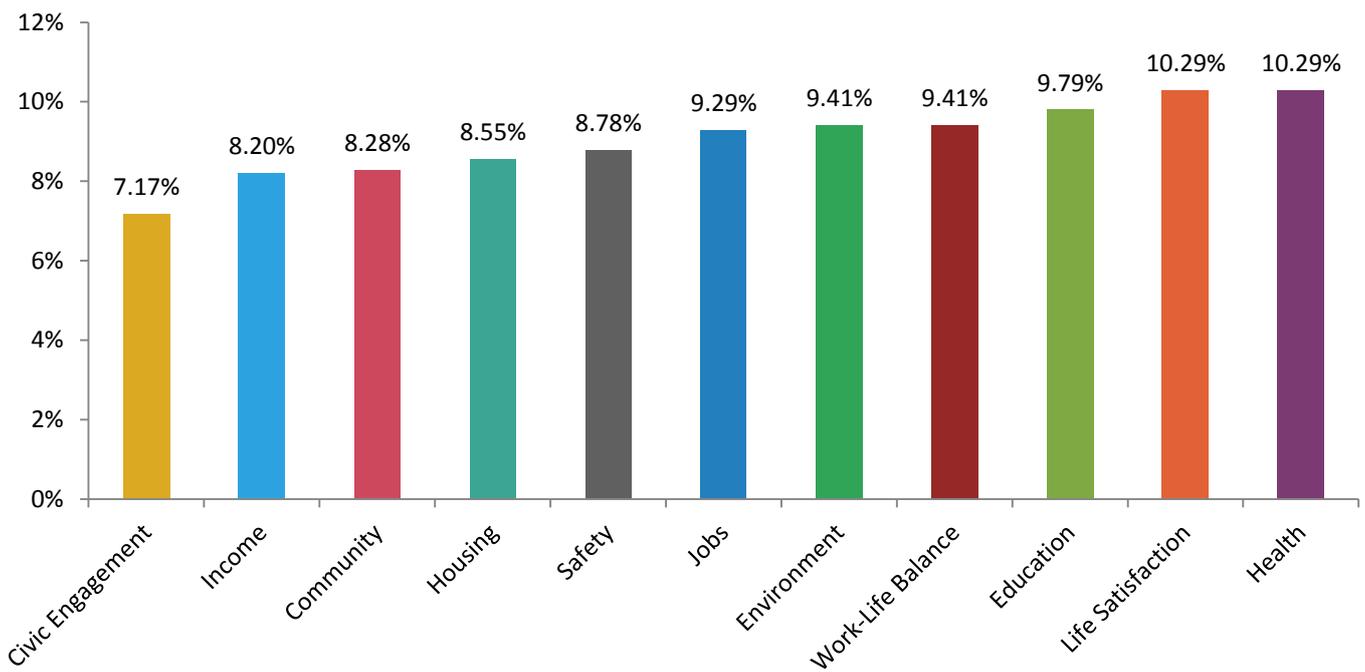


Users can also share their index with other people in their networks, as well as with the OECD. This allows the OECD to gather valuable information on the importance that users attach to various life dimensions, and how these preferences differ across countries and population groups.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO PEOPLE IN ITALY?

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 227,000 people in Italy have visited the website making Italy the 10th country overall in traffic to the website. The top cities are Milan (19% of visits), Rome, Turin, Bologna, Florence, Naples, Genoa, Padua, Verona, and Trento.

The following country findings reflect the ratings voluntarily shared with the OECD by 4,336 website visitors in Italy. Findings are only considered as indicative and are not representative of the population at large. **For Italian users of the Better Life Index, health, life satisfaction and education 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/#ITA.



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

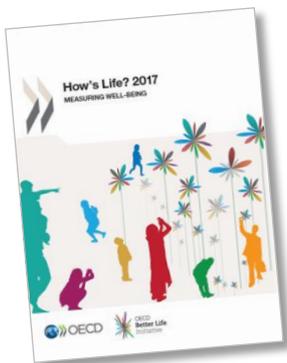
The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter the most to people and that shape the quality of their lives. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an in-depth analysis of specific topics, published in the *How's 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 Italy from the *How's Life? 2017 report*** (pages 1-6) and shows what **Italian users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (page 7).

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