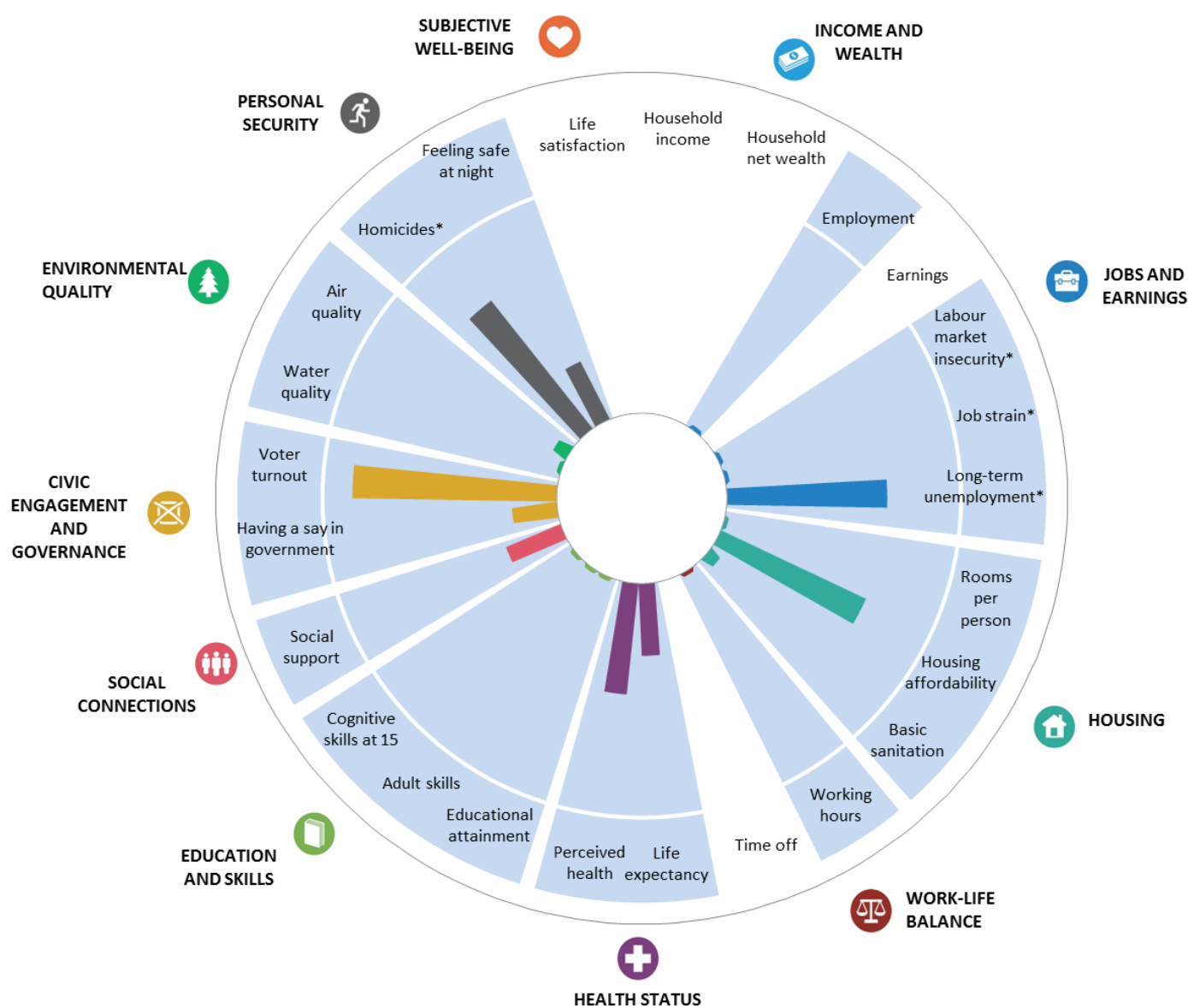


# How's Life in Turkey?

Relative to other OECD countries, Turkey has a mixed performance across the different well-being dimensions. At 51% in 2016, the **employment rate** in Turkey is the lowest in the OECD, while **job strain** and **labour market insecurity** are among the highest in the OECD. 34% of the country's employees regularly **worked 50 hours or more** in 2016, the highest share in the OECD, while the **long-term unemployment rate** is just above the OECD average. In terms of health status, education and skills, social support and environmental quality, Turkey falls below the OECD average. Turkey's performance on civic engagement and governance is mixed: **voter turnout** is among the highest in the OECD, although this may reflect the practice of compulsory voting. However, only 24% of people in Turkey feel that they **have a say in what the government does**, below the OECD average of 33%. As for personal security, the **homicide rate** is less than half of the OECD average, but only 61% of the population feel **safe walking alone at night**, below the OECD average of 69%.

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














Note: This chart shows Turkey'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](http://www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2017-country-notes-data.xlsx)






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






Dimension		Description	Change
	<b>Income and wealth</b>	[No time series data available]	..
	<b>Jobs and earnings</b>	The employment rate has risen by 6.2 percentage points since 2005, compared to just 1.2 for the OECD average. Labour market insecurity reached a high of 59.4% in 2009, and is yet to recover to previous levels. At 2.2% in 2016 the long-term unemployment rate is now half its 2005 level. The share of Turkish employees experiencing job strain peaked at 73% in 2010, but has since fallen to 55% in 2015 – 8 percentage points lower than in 2005.	↗ ↘ ↗ ↗
	<b>Housing conditions</b>	The average number of rooms per person has remained relatively stable over the past decade, whereas housing affordability has improved. The percentage of people living in dwellings without basic sanitary facilities has fallen six times more than the OECD average, but remains relatively high at 8.2%.	↔ ↗ ↗
	<b>Work-life balance</b>	The past 10 years have witnessed a large fall in the share of employees working 50 hours or more per week, from 49.7% in 2006 to 33.8% in 2016.	↗
	<b>Health status</b>	The 10-year change in life expectancy cannot be assessed in Turkey, due to a recent break in the data. However, between 2014 and 2016, it remained relatively stable at 78 years. From 2006 to 2015, the percentage of adults reporting to be in “good” or “very good” health was also broadly unchanged.	↔ ↔
	<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 increased by almost 3 percentage points.	↗
	<b>Social connections</b>	In the last decade, the level of social support has increased, with the share of the population reporting that they have relatives or friends whom they can count on to help in case of need rising from 80% to 86%. This is the largest improvement in the OECD.	↗
	<b>Civic engagement</b>	The percentage of votes cast among the population registered to vote remained broadly stable between the 2007 and 2015 general elections in Turkey.	↔
	<b>Environmental quality</b>	The percentage of people who say they are satisfied with their local water quality is currently 4 points higher than 10 years ago. However, annual exposure to PM <sub>2.5</sub> air pollution increased by 12% between 2005 and 2013.	↗ ↘
	<b>Personal security</b>	While there has been little change in the rate of deaths due to assault over the past decade, the share of people saying that they feel safe when walking alone at night has increased by 10 percentage points – which is in line with the trend in over half of all OECD countries.	↔ ↗
	<b>Subjective well-being</b>	Although starting from a relatively low base, Turkey is among the one-third of OECD countries where people have reported an improvement in their life satisfaction since 2005.	↗




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.

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




 <b>Natural capital</b>			
Indicator	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	3		2005-2013
Forest area	3		2005-2014
Renewable freshwater resources	2	..	Long-term annual avg
Freshwater abstractions	2	..	2014
Threatened birds	1	..	Latest available
Threatened mammals	1	..	Latest available
Threatened plants	2	..	Latest available

 <b>Human capital</b>			
Indicator	Tier	Change	
Young adult educational attainment	3		2014-2016
Educational expectancy	2	..	2015
Cognitive skills at age 15	3	..	2015
Adult skills	3	..	2014/2015
Long-term unemployment	2		2005-2016
Life expectancy at birth	3		2013-2015
Smoking prevalence	3		2006-2014
Obesity prevalence	2	..	2011

 <b>Economic capital</b>			
Indicator	Tier	Change	
Gross fixed capital formation	1		2005-2015
Financial net worth of total economy	2		2010-2015
Financial net worth of government	1		2010-2015
Banking sector leverage	2		2005-2015
No data available on produced fixed assets, intellectual property assets, investment in R&D, household debt and household net wealth.			

 <b>Social capital</b>			
Indicator	Tier	Change	
Trust in others	3	..	2013
Trust in the police	2	..	2013
Trust in the national government	1		2005-2016
Voter turnout	1		2007-2015
Government stakeholder engagement	2	..	2014
Volunteering through organisations	3	..	2014/2015

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 TURKEY?

**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).

**Vertical inequalities** in Turkey are typically high compared to other OECD countries, especially in terms of household income and adult skills. However, vertical inequalities in life expectancy are lower than the OECD average.

Across OECD countries, **women** typically fare worse than **men** on earnings, low pay and employment. In Turkey the gender gaps in employment and unemployment are larger than for the OECD on average, although women in Turkey fare better in terms of earnings and low pay. Turkey has the largest gender gap in educational attainment in the OECD, with women being 20% less likely than men to attain an upper secondary or tertiary degree.

Turkey shows mixed outcomes regarding the divide between **young** and **middle-aged** adults. In all OECD countries, younger adults have lower levels of income and earnings; in Turkey these gaps are comparatively large. However, while the young are also more likely to be unemployed than the middle aged, the divide is narrower than in the OECD on average. Nevertheless, in a number of outcomes where the age gap typically favours the young (e.g. time spent socialising, feelings of safety), Turkish young adults fare worse 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. Turkey shows mixed outcomes regarding this divide. For example, the gaps favouring highly educated

people are narrower than for the OECD on average in adult skills, voter turnout and feelings of safety. However, in terms of earnings those with a university degree make almost double the earnings of people with only a secondary education, a gap that is larger than in most OECD countries.

Most indicators of **deprivation** for Turkey are classified in the bottom third (i.e. most deprived) of OECD countries. The poorer outcomes are the highest incidence of negative affect balance (33%) and the second highest income poverty rate (17.3%).

**Well-being inequalities in Turkey**

	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					●

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

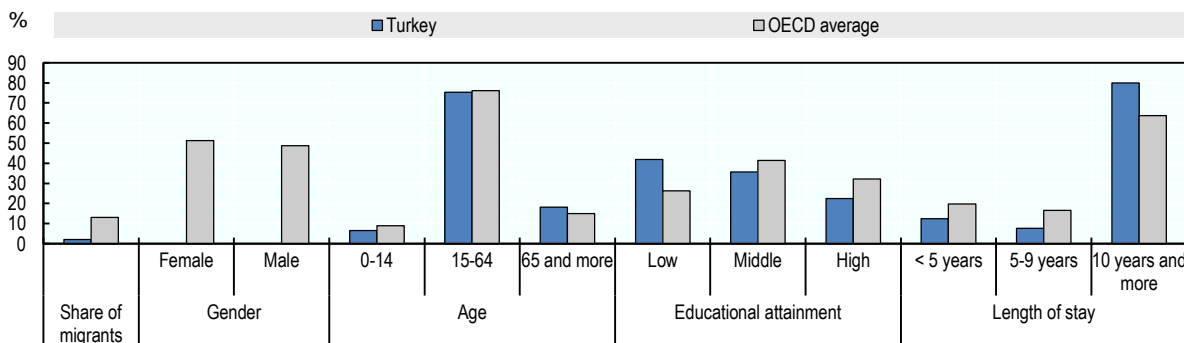
## HOW'S LIFE FOR MIGRANTS IN TURKEY?

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 migrants in Turkey and the OECD?

Only 2% of people living in Turkey were born elsewhere, far below the OECD average (13%). Migrants in Turkey are about as likely to be of working age as in the OECD on average (75% of them are aged 15 to 64, as compared to 76% across the OECD), and are more likely to have a low or a middle educational attainment than high level. 80% of migrants arrived in Turkey 10 years ago or more.

Share of migrants in the total population and selected characteristics

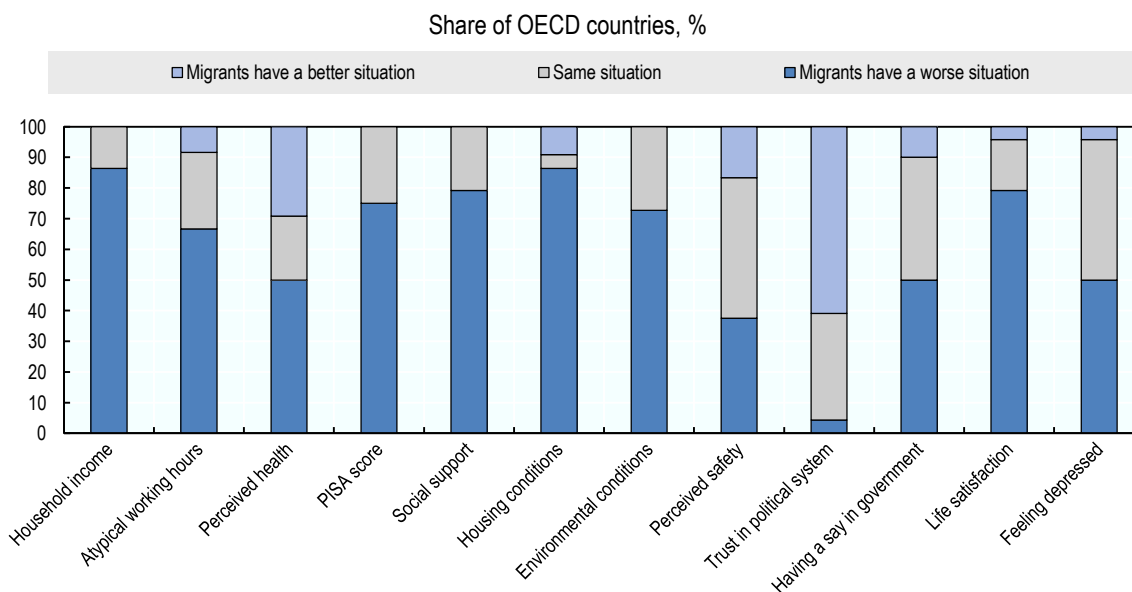


### How is migrants' well-being in OECD countries?

While detailed information on migrants' well-being in Turkey is not available, in a majority of OECD countries migrants have a worse situation than the native-born population for 10 out of 12 selected well-being indicators. For household income, housing conditions, life satisfaction, social support and PISA performance, migrants in at least 75% of OECD countries report lower outcomes than the native-born population.

Trust in the political system is the only indicator where migrants report having a better situation than the native-born for a majority of OECD countries.

Relative outcomes for migrants and the native-born population for selected well-being outcomes



Note: Results are based on the analysis of the confidence intervals at 90%.

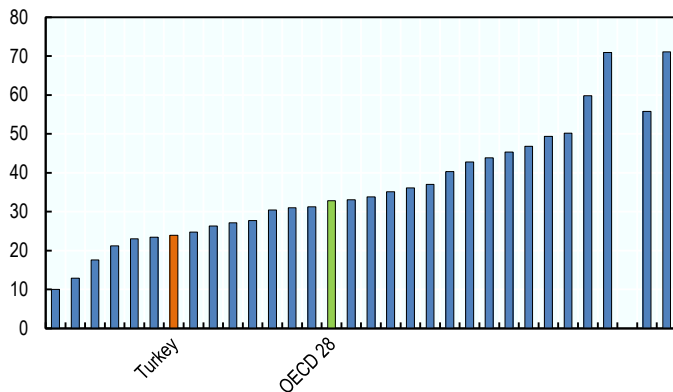
## GOVERNANCE AND WELL-BEING IN TURKEY

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 Turkey, almost 24% of the population feel that they have a say in what their government does, as compared to the OECD average of 33%. Turkey is among the few OECD countries to enforce compulsory voting, and voter turnout has remained broadly unchanged over the past decade. When asked about whether or not corruption is widespread across government, 46% of Turks 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

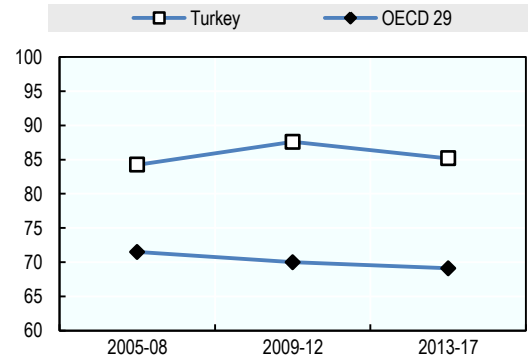
Percentage of people aged 16-65 who feel that they have a say in what the government does, around 2012



Source: OECD Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC database)

### Voter turnout

Percentage of votes cast among the population registered to vote



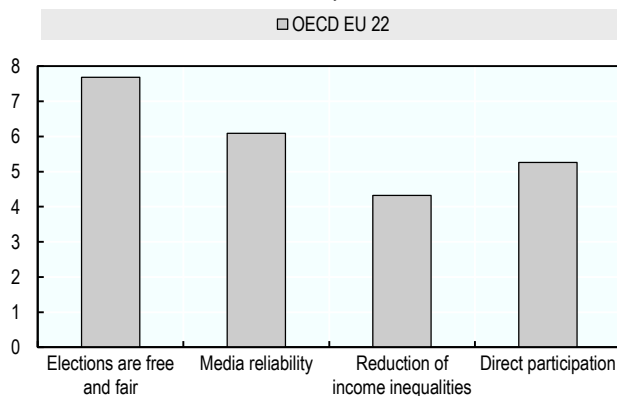
Note: Data refers to parliamentary elections. If more than one election took place over the time period indicated, the simple average voter turnout from all elections is shown. The OECD average sums elections that occurred over the time periods shown in 29 OECD countries.

Source: IDEA dataset

In the 22 European OECD countries where it can be assessed, satisfaction with democracy varies, depending on which aspect is considered. While Europeans tend to be reasonably satisfied with the way elections are held (7.7 on a 0-10 scale), they are relatively less satisfied with policies to reduce inequalities (4.3) or the existence of direct participation mechanisms at the local level (5.3). Meanwhile, satisfaction with public services varies according to whether people have used those services in the last year: people with direct recent experience of using health and education services tend to be satisfied than those without. In Turkey, satisfaction with both education and health services is lower than the OECD European average level.

### OECD EU average satisfaction with different elements of democracy

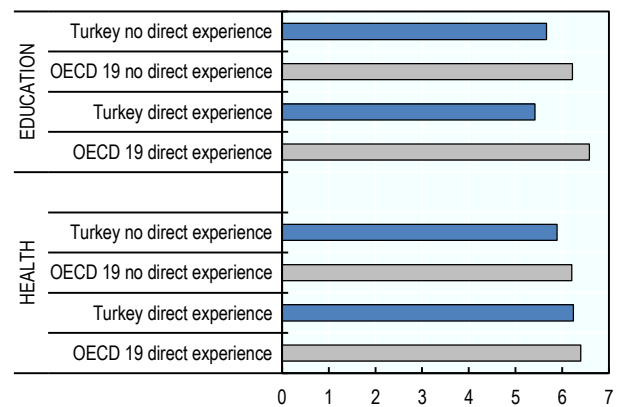
Mean score on a 0-10 scale, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction with elements of democracy, 2012



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 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.

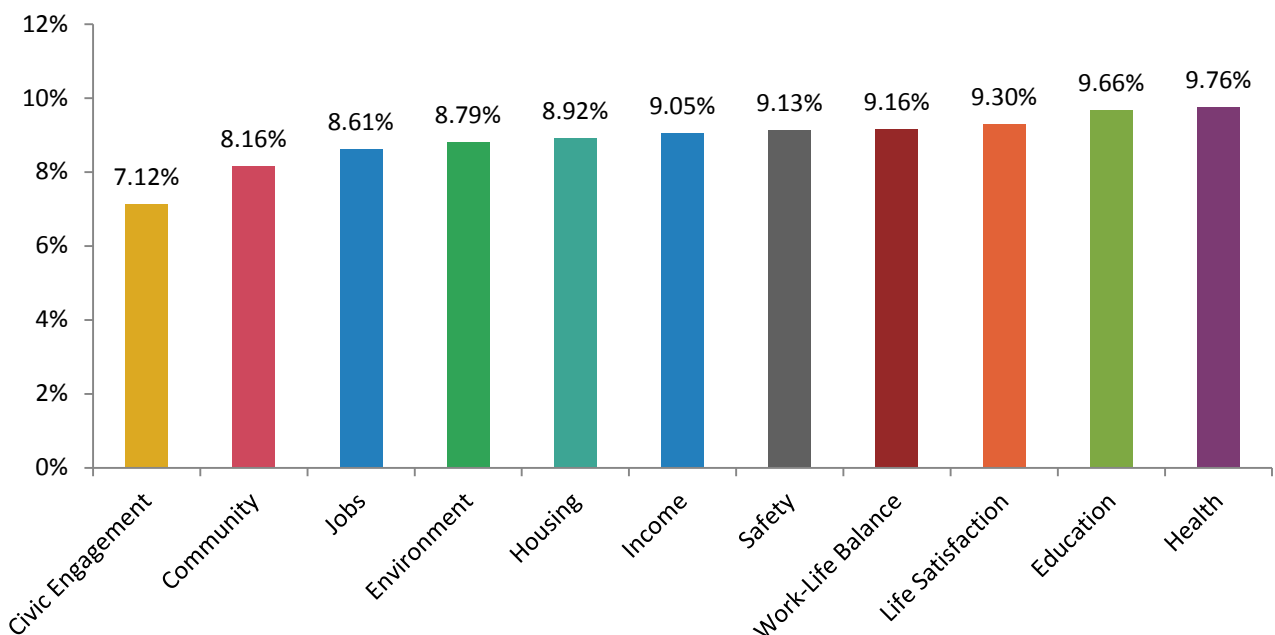


Users can also share their index with other people in their networks, as well as with the OECD. This allows the OECD to gather valuable information on the importance that users attach to various life dimensions, and how these preferences differ across countries and population groups.

## WHAT MATTERS MOST TO PEOPLE IN TURKEY?

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 182,000 people in Turkey have visited the website making Turkey the 11th country overall in traffic to the website. The top cities are Istanbul (49% of visits), Ankara, Izmir, Antalya, Bursa and Adana.

The following country findings reflect the ratings voluntarily shared with the OECD by 2,142 website visitors in Turkey. Findings are only indicative and are not representative of the population at large. **For Turkish users of the Better Life Index, health, education and life satisfaction are the three most important topics** (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: [www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/responses/#TUR](http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/responses/#TUR).



<sup>1</sup> User information for Turkey 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 Turkey from the *How's Life? 2017* report** (pages 1-6) and shows what **Turkish 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](http://www.oecd.org/howslife).

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