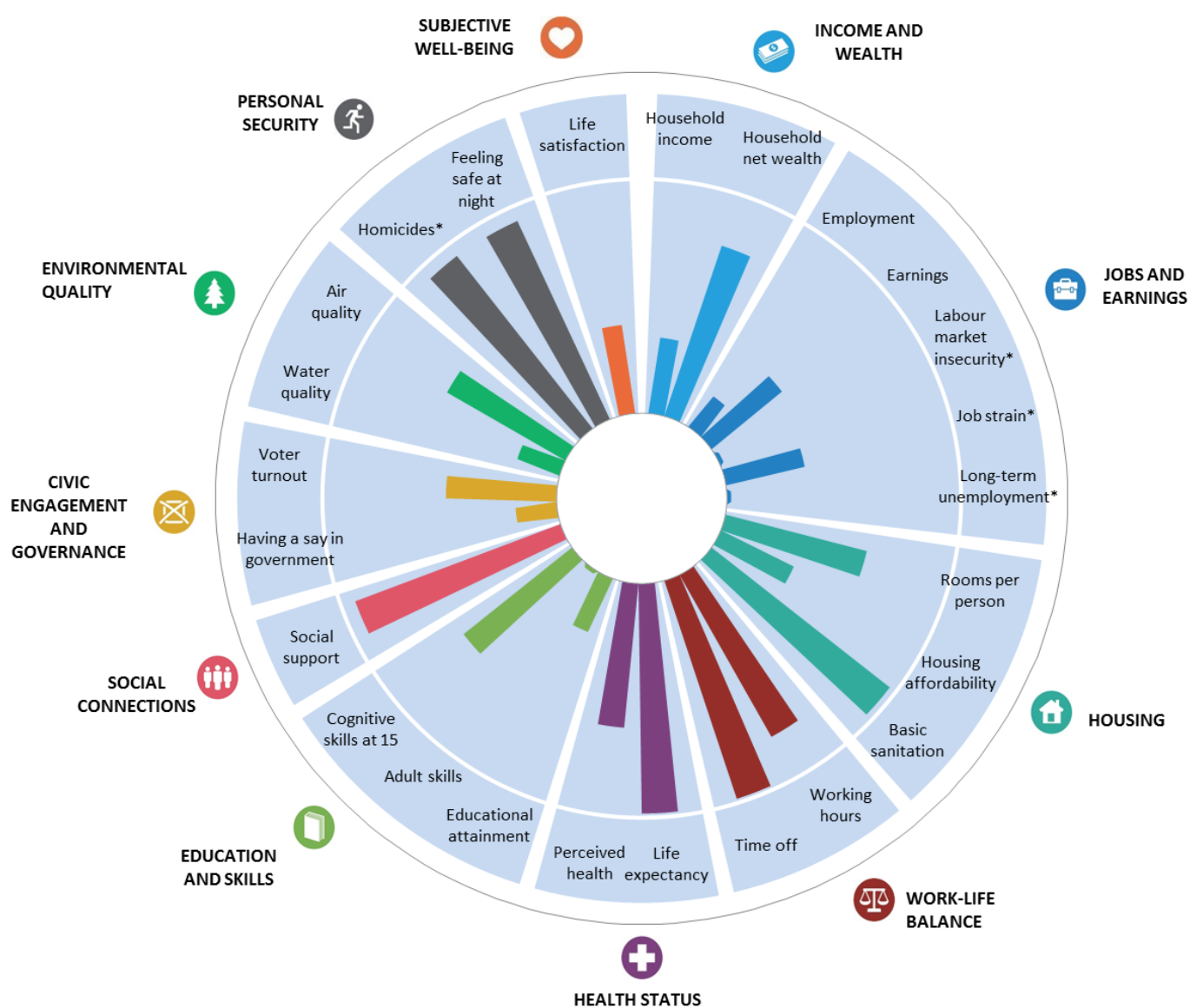


How's Life in Spain?

Relative to other OECD countries, Spain's average performance across the different well-being dimensions is mixed. Despite a comparatively low average **household net adjusted disposable income** in 2015, **household net wealth** was above the OECD average in 2011 (the latest available year). Spain has particular weaknesses in terms of jobs and earnings: for instance, both **labour market insecurity** and the **long-term unemployment rate** are among the highest in the OECD. However, the work-life balance is an area of strength: only around 5% of employees regularly **worked long hours**, less than half of the OECD average, and the full-time employed report having among the highest levels of **time off** (i.e. time spent on leisure and personal care) in the OECD. **Life expectancy** at birth (83 years) is nearly 3 years above the OECD average, and **social support** is also relatively high. Conversely, only 58% of the adult working-age population have completed at least an upper secondary education, well below the OECD average of 75%, and **adults' skills** are also below the average.

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














Note: This chart shows Spain'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 Spain's average well-being over the past 10 years


Dimension	Description	Change
 Income and wealth	In 2015, household net adjusted disposable income was 6% lower than in 2005, one of the largest falls in the OECD over the decade. Household net wealth recorded a cumulative decrease of 3% between 2008 and 2011 (in real terms).	↘ ↘
 Jobs and earnings	The employment rate fell over the past 10 years, with a moderate improvement in 2014. Despite dropping from 2009 to 2014, real earnings have improved overall in the last decade, and are now 7% higher than in 2005. Labour market insecurity peaked in 2012, and despite falling slightly since then, remains 3 times higher than in 2007. Long-term unemployment has risen since 2007, peaking in 2013 at 13%. By contrast, the incidence of job strain has fallen from 49% in 2005 to 41% in 2015.	↘ ↗ ↘ ↘ ↗
 Housing conditions	Spending on housing costs (as a proportion of household disposable income) has risen from 18.2% in 2005 to 21.8% in 2015 – one of the largest increases in the OECD. On the other hand, the share of people living in dwellings without basic sanitary facilities has remained stably low since 2005-10.	↘ ↔
 Work-life balance	The share of employees working 50 hours or more per week has fallen by 4 percentage points in the past decade, a steeper decline than the 0.9 point fall recorded for the OECD average.	↗
 Health status	Despite a slight fall between 2014 and 2015, life expectancy has risen by nearly 3 years overall since 2005 – a larger improvement than the OECD average. The percentage of adults reporting to be in “good” or “very good” health has increased by 6 points since 2005, to a level just above the OECD average.	↗ ↗
 Education and skills	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 Spain increased by 1.7 percentage points.	↗
 Social connections	The share of people having relatives or friends whom they can count on to help in case of need has been broadly unchanged since 2005-07, in contrast to the slight decline recorded for the OECD average.	↔
 Civic engagement	In line with the OECD average trend, voter turnout has fallen in Spain over the past decade. In the 2016 general elections, the share of votes cast among the population registered to vote was 70%, 5 points lower than in 2008 and 3 points lower than in 2015, but 1 point higher than in 2011.	↘
 Environmental quality	Satisfaction with local water quality has remained relatively stable since 2005-2007, and is slightly below the OECD average. Despite increasing slightly from 2010 to 2011, annual exposure to PM _{2.5} air pollution has fallen by 9% overall since 2005.	↔ ↗
 Personal security	The rate of deaths due to assault has gradually fallen over the last 10 years, while the share of people who report feeling safe when walking alone at night has improved from 65% to 83%.	↗ ↗
 Subjective well-being	People’s life satisfaction has fallen gradually during the last 10 years, from an average of 7.1 to 6.4 (measured on a 0-10 scale). This decline is three times as large as the OECD average decline.	↘


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.

Spain'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	1	↗ 2001-2011
Exposure to PM _{2.5} air pollution	2	↗ 2005-2013
Forest area	2	↔ 2005-2014
Renewable freshwater resources	3	.. Long-term annual avg
Freshwater abstractions	3	.. 2014
Threatened birds	2	.. Latest available
Threatened mammals	2	.. Latest available
Threatened plants	2	.. Latest available

 Human capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Young adult educational attainment	3	↔ 2014-2016
Educational expectancy	2	.. 2014
Cognitive skills at age 15	2	.. 2015
Adult skills	3	.. 2011/2012
Long-term unemployment	3	↘ 2005-2016
Life expectancy at birth	1	↗ 2005-2015
Smoking prevalence	3	↗ 2006-2014
Obesity prevalence	1	↘ 2006-2014

 Economic capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Gross fixed capital formation	1	↘ 2005-2016
Financial net worth of total economy	3	↘ 2005-2016
Investment in R&D	3	↗ 2005-2014
Household debt	2	↔ 2005-2015
Household net wealth	1	↘ 2008-2011
Financial net worth of government	3	↘ 2005-2016
Banking sector leverage	2	↔ 2005-2016
No data available on produced fixed assets and intellectual property assets.		

 Social capital		
Indicator	Tier	Change
Trust in others	2	.. 2013
Trust in the police	3	.. 2013
Trust in the national government	3	↘ 2005-2016
Voter turnout	2	↘ 2008-2016
Government stakeholder engagement	3	.. 2014
Volunteering through organisations	3	.. 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 SPAIN?

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 other OECD countries, Spain experiences mixed outcomes in terms of **vertical inequalities** in well-being. For instance, there are large gaps between the top and the bottom of the distribution on household income, with the top 20% receiving six or seven times more income than those in the bottom 20%. However, although the wealthiest 10% of Spanish families own around 45% of the country’s total net wealth, this share is 6 percentage points lower than the OECD average. Furthermore, while the gaps in life satisfaction are higher than in most OECD countries, skills are often distributed more evenly across the population.

In Spain, the extent of the **gender divide** in well-being varies from indicator to indicator. In the job market, Spanish women are 18% more likely than men to be unemployed, and almost twice as likely to be in low paid jobs. However, when it comes to skills, women are 8% more likely than men to attain upper secondary or tertiary levels of education, and 15-year-old girls obtain similar scores to boys in tests of cognitive skills.

The size of the well-being gaps between **young** and **middle-aged** Spaniards are mixed. For instance, the extent of disadvantage among young adults in terms of household income and household net wealth is lower than for the OECD on average, but employment among young people in Spain is more than three times lower than for the middle-aged – a much bigger difference than for the OECD on average. Adult skills outcomes are similar across the two groups, while young Spaniards spend more time socialising than middle-aged adults do.

Several indicators of **horizontal inequality by education** suggest the gaps between people with secondary and tertiary education are less pronounced in Spain than in most OECD countries. For example, the divide is comparatively small in terms of perceived health, skills – for themselves and their children – social support and life satisfaction, among others. One exception is employment: people with a secondary education have 15% less chance of a job than people with a tertiary level of education, a larger gap than in two-thirds of OECD countries.

Spain has a comparatively high share of people suffering from well-being **deprivations**, with 9 out of 20 indicators classified in the bottom (i.e. most deprived) third of OECD countries. In particular, Spain records the second highest unemployment rate (19.7%), and the third highest incidence of low educational attainment (42.6%) as well as low adult skills (22.5%).

Well-being inequalities in Spain

	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)		● (green)		● (red)
Household net wealth	● (green)		● (green)	● (yellow)	● (red)
Earnings	● (yellow)	● (yellow)	● (yellow)	● (yellow)	
Low pay		● (red)			● (yellow)
Employment		● (red)	● (red)	● (red)	
Unemployment		● (red)	● (yellow)	● (yellow)	● (red)
Housing affordability					● (red)
Rooms per person					● (green)
Life expectancy	○ (white)				
Perceived health		● (yellow)	● (red)	● (green)	● (green)
Working hours	● (yellow)	● (yellow)	● (red)	● (yellow)	● (yellow)
Time off		● (yellow)	● (yellow)		
Educational attainment		● (green)	● (yellow)		● (red)
Cognitive skills at 15	● (green)	● (green)		● (green)	● (yellow)
Adult skills	● (green)	● (red)	● (green)	● (green)	● (red)
Time spent socialising		● (green)	● (green)		
Social support		● (red)	● (red)	● (green)	● (red)
Voter turnout		○ (white)	○ (white)	○ (white)	● (yellow)
Having a say in government	○ (white)	● (yellow)	● (yellow)	● (green)	● (red)
Air quality					● (yellow)
Water quality		● (yellow)	● (green)	● (red)	● (red)
Homicides		● (yellow)			● (green)
Feeling safe at night		● (green)	● (yellow)	● (green)	● (green)
Life satisfaction	● (red)	● (yellow)	● (yellow)	● (green)	● (yellow)
Negative affect balance					● (yellow)

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

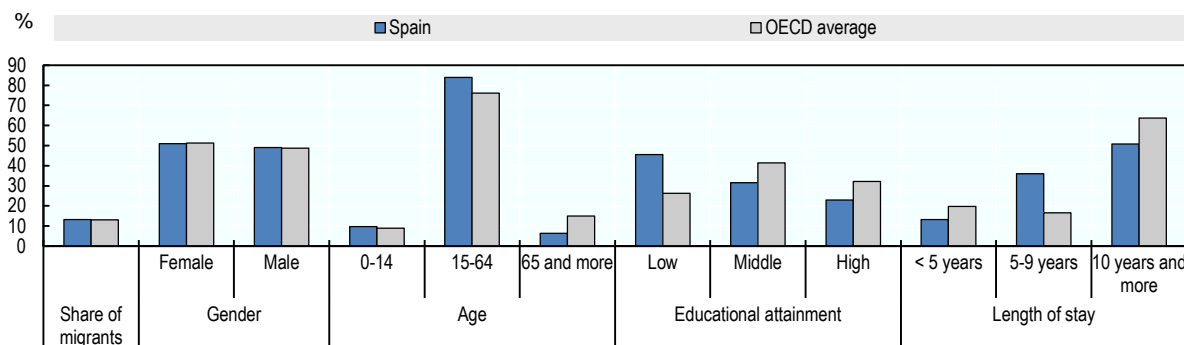
HOW'S LIFE FOR MIGRANTS IN SPAIN?

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 Spain and OECD?

More than one in ten people living in Spain (13%) were born elsewhere, the same as the OECD average, and 51% of them are women (also the same as the OECD average). Migrants in Spain are more likely to be of working age than in the OECD on average (84% 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. Half of migrants arrived in Spain ten years ago or more.

Share of migrants in the total population and selected characteristics

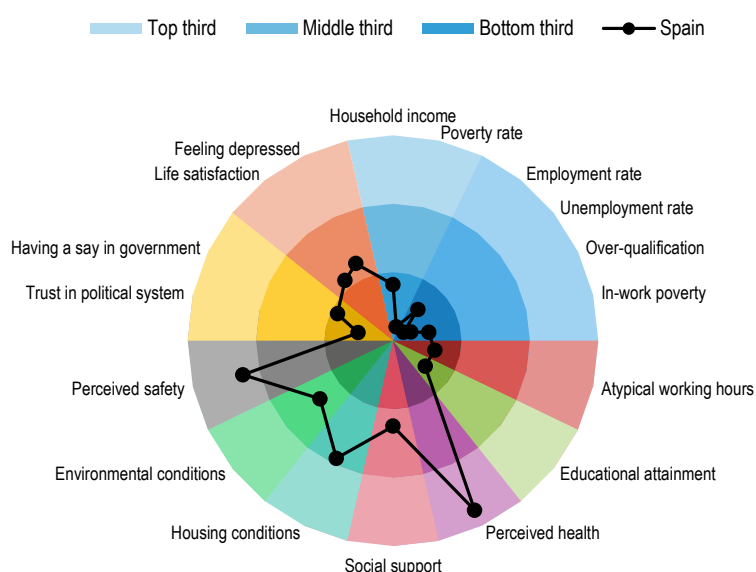


How is migrants' well-being in Spain?

Compared with the migrant populations of other OECD countries, migrants living in Spain have relatively good levels of perceived health and perceived safety. Migrants settled in Spain rank in the middle third of OECD-country migrants for social support, life satisfaction, environmental and housing conditions, and feeling depressed. They are in the bottom third for 10 out of 17 selected well-being indicators.

As in many other OECD countries, migrants in Spain tend to experience lower well-being outcomes than the native-born population: in Spain, this is the case for 7 out of 13 selected well-being indicators. However, migrants in Spain are just as likely as the native-born to report the same level of wealth, having a say in what government does and feeling depressed. They report higher levels than the native-born for trust in the political system, perceived health, and perceived safety.

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



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

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

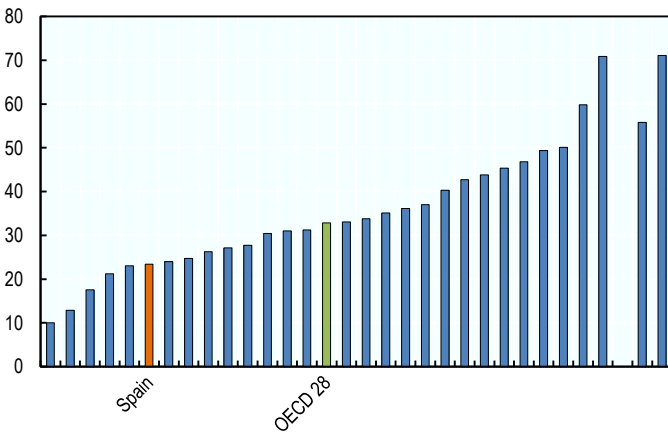
GOVERNANCE AND WELL-BEING IN SPAIN

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 Spain, 23% of the population feels that they have a say in what the government does, less than the OECD average of 33%. In recent years, voter turnout has fallen, from just over 75% in 2008 to almost 70% in 2016. When asked about whether or not corruption is widespread across government, 82% of Spaniards answered "yes", as compared to the 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

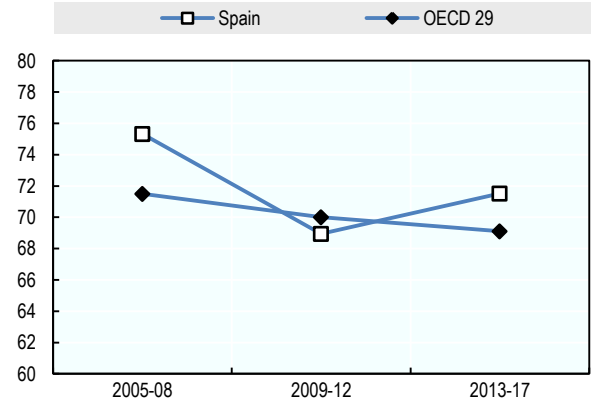
Percentage of people aged 16-65 who feel that they have a say in what the government does, around 2012



Source: OECD Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC database)

Voter turnout

Percentage of votes cast among the population registered to vote



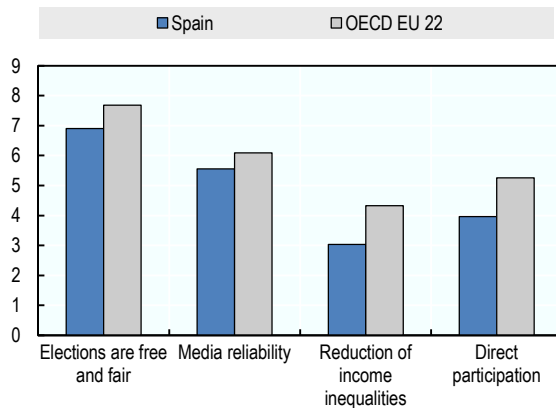
Note: Data refers to parliamentary elections. If more than one election took place over the time period indicated, the simple average voter turnout from all elections is shown. The OECD average sums elections that occurred over the time periods shown in 29 OECD countries.

Source: IDEA dataset

Overall, satisfaction with the way democracy works in Spain is consistently below the European OECD average. Spanish people rank the freedom and fairness of elections as 6.9 on a 0-10 scale, and they tend to be much less satisfied with policies to reduce inequalities (3.0) 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. Overall, satisfaction with health and education services in Spain is slightly below the European OECD average. However, people with direct experience of using those services recently are more likely to be satisfied than those without.

Satisfaction with different elements of democracy

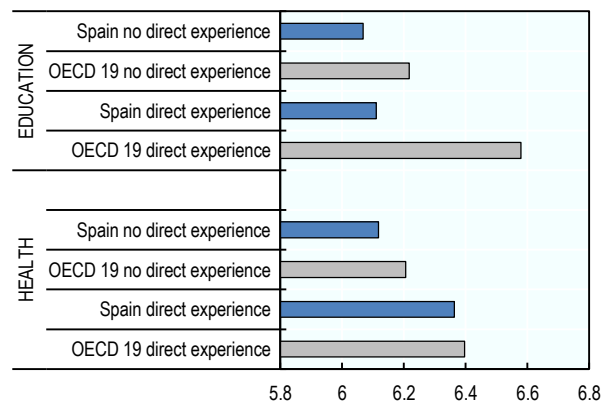
Mean score on a 0-10 scale, with higher scores indicating higher satisfaction with elements of democracy, 2012



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.

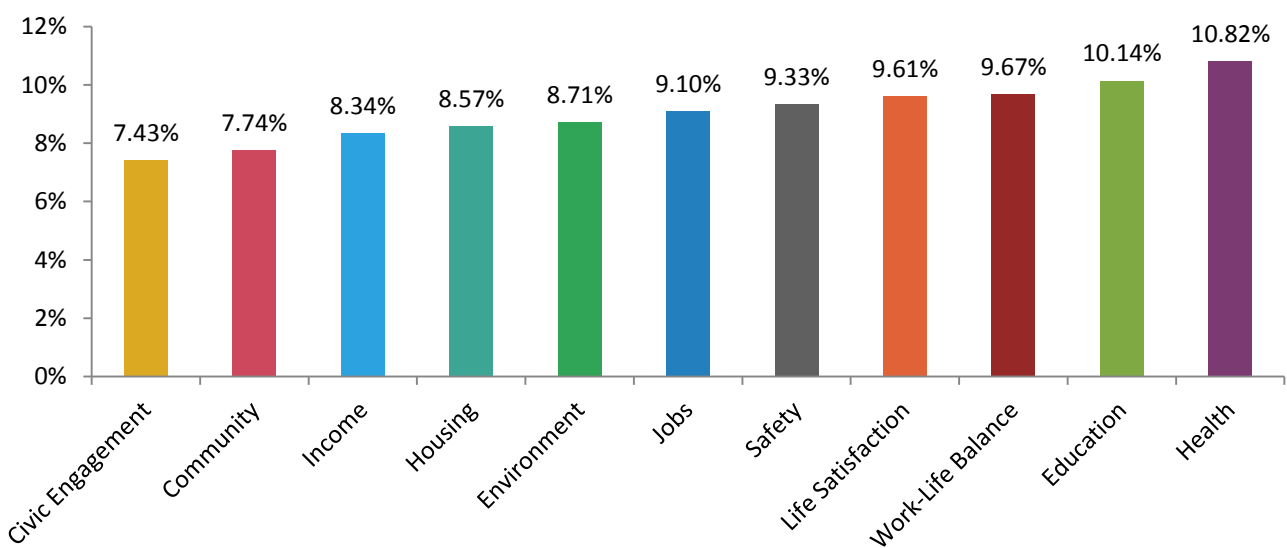


Users can also share their index with other people in their networks, as well as with the OECD. This allows the OECD to gather valuable information on the importance that users attach to various life dimensions, and how these preferences differ across countries and population groups.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO PEOPLE IN SPAIN?

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 326,300 people in Spain have visited the website making Spain the 8th country overall in traffic to the website. The top cities are Madrid (25% of visits), Barcelona (15%), Valencia, Seville and Malaga.

The following country findings reflect the ratings voluntarily shared with the OECD by 4,554 website visitors in Spain. Findings are only indicative and are not representative of the population at large. **For Spanish users of the Better Life Index, health, education and work-life balance 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/#ESP.



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

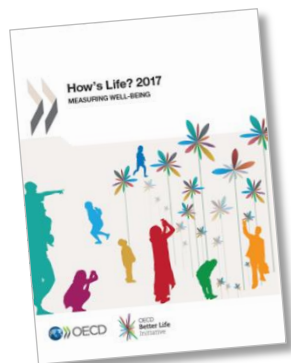
The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter the most to people and that shape the quality of their lives. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an in-depth analysis of specific topics, published in the *How's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

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