

How's Life in Italy?

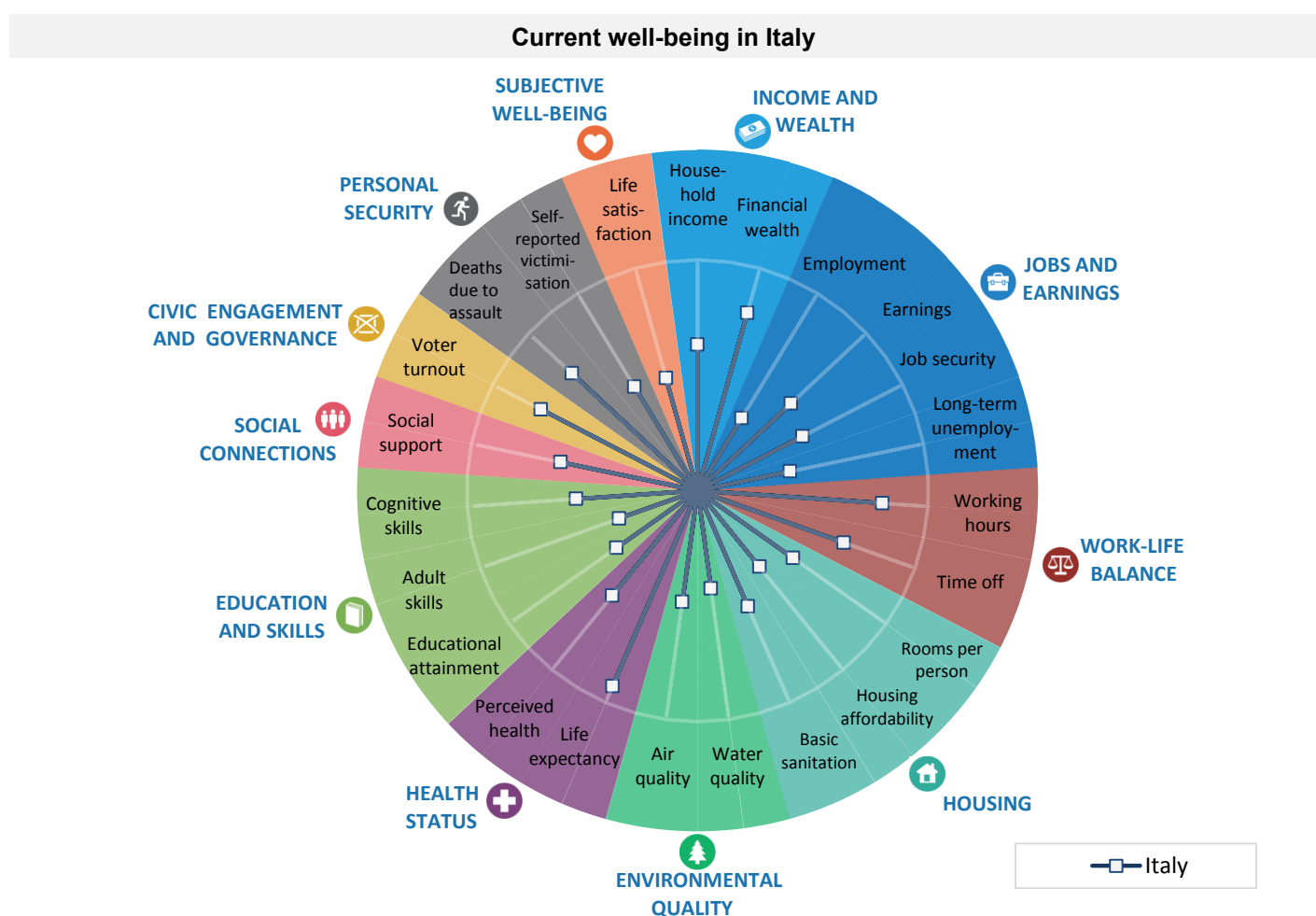


Additional information, including the data used in this country note, can be found at:
www.oecd.org/statistics/Hows-Life-2015-country-notes-data.xlsx

HOW'S LIFE IN ITALY IN 2015?

Italy's performance across the different well-being dimensions is mixed. In 2009, the **average household net adjusted disposable income** in Italy was close to the OECD average, but it fell by almost 14% between 2009 and 2013. This stands in contrast to an average cumulative growth of 1.9% across the OECD during the same time period. The **employment rate** in Italy (56.5%) is one of the lowest in the OECD, and the **long-term unemployment rate** (7.8%) is almost 3 times the OECD average. However, only 3.7% of Italian employees usually **work very long hours** compared to the OECD average of 12.5%.

At 82.8 years, **life expectancy** in Italy is among the highest in the OECD, and has increased by more than 1 year since 2009. **Educational attainment** has also increased since 2009, but only 58.1% of the adult working-age population have completed at least an upper secondary education compared to 77.2% in the OECD on average. The literacy and numeracy **skills of Italian adults** are also low on average compared to those of adults in other OECD countries.



This chart shows areas of well-being strengths and weaknesses in Italy, based on a ranking of all OECD countries. Longer lines show areas of relative strength, while shorter lines show areas of relative weakness. For more details, see www.oecd.org/statistics/How's-Life-2015-country-notes-data.xlsx.

Resources for future well-being in Italy

Beyond measuring well-being today, *How's Life? 2015* looks at some of the resources (or “capital stocks”) that will shape people's well-being in the future. These include aspects of **natural capital**, **human capital**, **social capital** and **economic capital**.

For example, **trust in other people** is an important component of **social capital**. In Italy trust in others is close to the European OECD average level: on a scale from 0 (“you do not trust any other person”) to 10 (“most people can be trusted”), the average score given by Italians is 5.7, while the European OECD average stands at 5.8.

HOW'S LIFE FOR CHILDREN IN ITALY?

Giving children a good start in life is important both for well-being today, and in the future.

Italy's performance in child well-being is mixed. **Child income poverty** lies above the OECD average level: 17.3% of Italian children live in a household with a disposable income of less than half of the Italian median income.

However, in Italy only 9.2% of children **report their health** as fair or poor, compared to the OECD average of 13.6%, and the **adolescent suicide rate** and **teenage birth rate** are among the lowest in the OECD.

11% of Italian teenagers aged 15 to 19 are **neither in employment nor in education or training**, one of the highest rates in the OECD, where the average is 7.1%. Only 61.9% of Italian students **like school**, the second lowest share in the OECD, where the average is 73.6%.

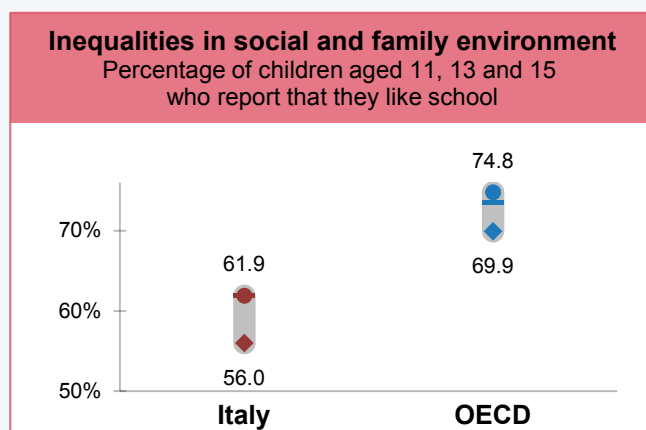
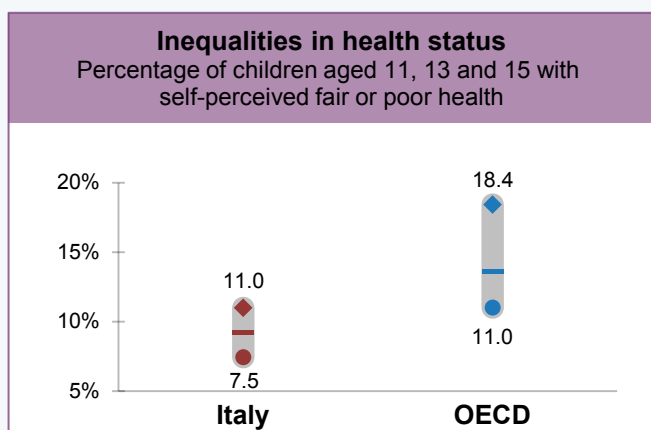
88.1% of Italian 14-year olds intend to **vote** when they are adults - the second highest share in the OECD.

In terms of personal security, only 3.9% of Italian children report that they have been **bullied** at least twice in the last two months, the lowest percentage in the OECD, and the **child homicide rate** is also one of the lowest in the OECD.

Child well-being in Italy		
Ranking of Italy compared to other OECD countries		
● top third ● middle third ● bottom third		
Income and Wealth	Disposable income of households with children	●
	Child income poverty	●
Jobs and Earnings	Children in workless households	●
	Children with a long-term unemployed parent	●
Housing conditions	Average rooms per child	●
	Children in homes that lack basic facilities	●
Environmental quality	Children in homes with poor environmental conditions	●
Health status	Infant mortality	●
	Low birth weight	●
	Self-reported health status	●
	Obesity	●
	Adolescent suicide rate	●
	Teenage birth rate	●
Education and Skills	Reading skills among 15 year olds (PISA)	●
	Creative problem solving among 15 year olds (PISA)	●
	Youth neither in employment nor education/training	●
	Educational deprivation	●
Civic engagement	Intention to vote	●
	Civic participation	●
Social and family environment	Children who find it easy to talk to their parents	●
	Students reporting having kind classmates	●
	Students feeling a lot of pressure from schoolwork	●
	Students liking school	●
	Sense of belonging in school at 15 years old (PISA)	●
	Time children spend with parents	●
Personal security	Child homicide rate	●
	Bullying	●
Subjective well-being	Life satisfaction	●

Inequalities in child well-being

Across all OECD countries there are **large inequalities in child well-being**. Children from wealthier households enjoy both better material living conditions, and a higher **quality of life**, on average. Italian children from low socio-economic backgrounds are more likely to perceive their health as fair or poor than children from high socio-economic backgrounds. However, the difference is smaller than in the OECD on average. There are also differences in the proportions of children who report that they like school.



● High socio-economic status ◆ Low socio-economic status — National average

* For more information (including definitions), see www.oecd.org/statistics/Hows-Life-2015-country-notes-data.xlsx.

THE VALUE OF GIVING: VOLUNTEERING AND WELL-BEING

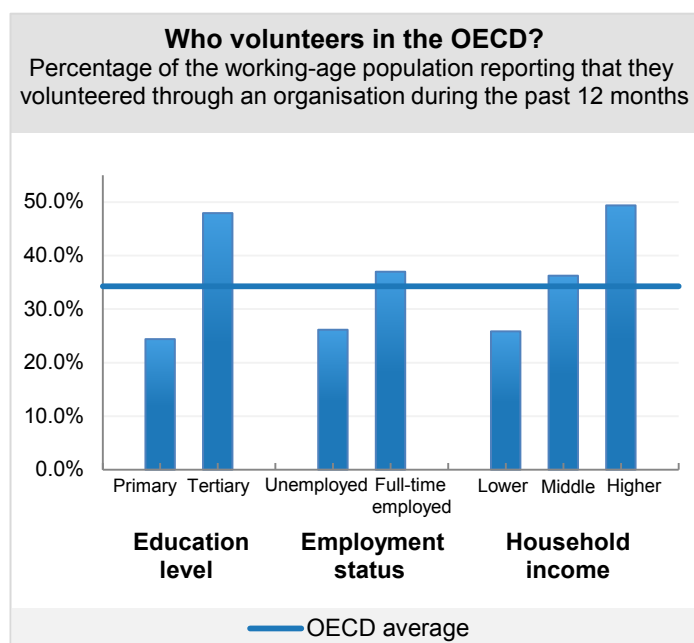
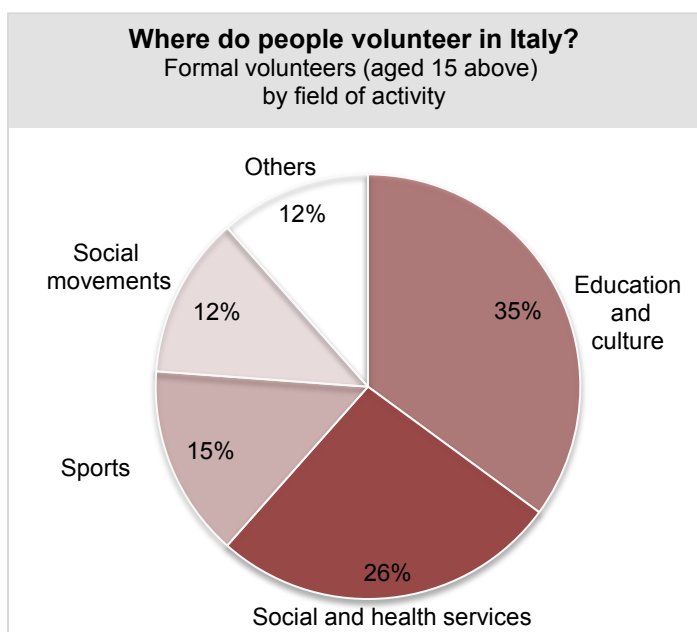
Volunteering makes an important “hidden contribution” to well-being, producing goods and services that are not captured by conventional economic statistics. When you add up the value of the time people spend on volunteering in OECD countries, it amounts to roughly 2% of GDP per year.

Volunteering in Italy and the OECD

The **main sector of volunteering activity** in Italy is education and culture, followed by social and health services. Volunteering through an organisation (termed “**formal volunteering**”) is less common in Italy than in the average OECD country. 21.6% of the Italian working-age population report that they engaged in formal volunteering during the past 12 months, which is below the OECD average of 34.2%.

How often do people volunteer? 41.7% of Italians who participate in formal volunteering do so less than once a month. The share of formal volunteers who volunteer every day is 8.7% and lies above the OECD average of 4.7%. In general, Italian volunteers tend to engage in volunteering activities on a more frequent basis than the average OECD volunteer.

Who volunteers? Across the OECD area, people with a university degree are more likely to participate in formal volunteering than those with lower levels of education. Similarly, people who are in employment are more likely to volunteer than those who are unemployed. Participation in formal volunteering also increases with people’s level of household income.

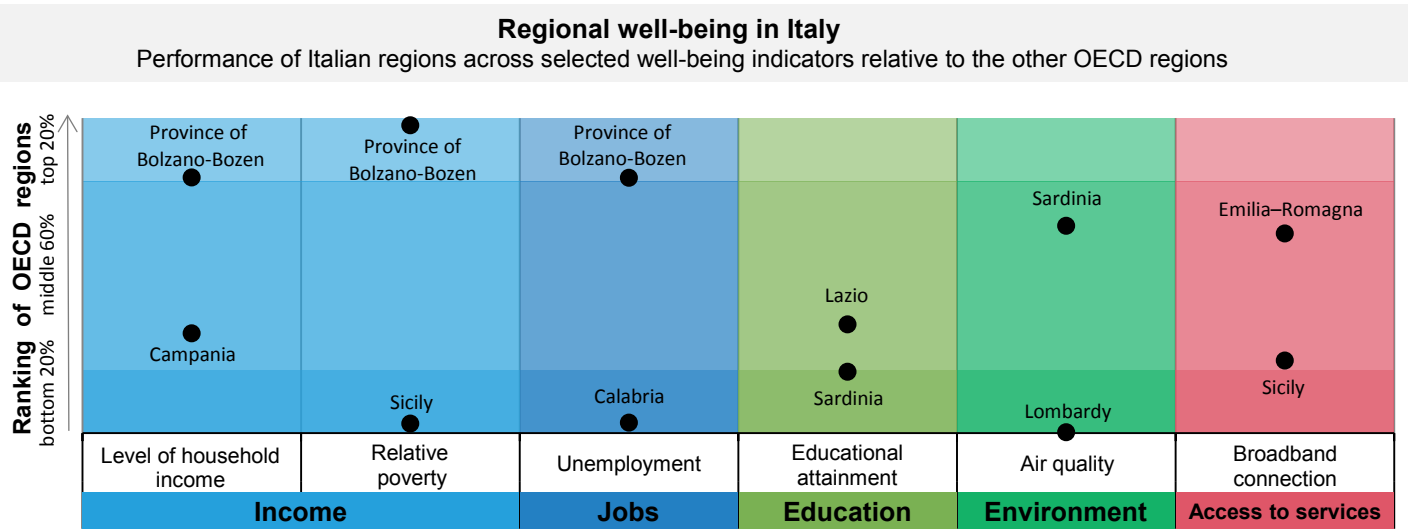


Volunteering brings benefits for volunteers themselves, as well as for the people and communities they help. For example, people who engage in volunteering are more likely to have higher literacy, numeracy and problem-solving **skills** and receive **higher wages**, on average, relative to non-volunteers.

In OECD countries, older people who volunteer formally are more likely to report a **better health status** than non-volunteers. Furthermore, formal volunteers in the OECD, on average, also report higher **life satisfaction** than non-volunteers.

GOING LOCAL: MEASURING WELL-BEING IN REGIONS

Where people live has an important impact on their opportunities to live well. There can be large differences in average levels of well-being in different regions within the same country. *How's Life in your Region?* and the **OECD regional well-being web-tool** assess performance across 9 dimensions of well-being in the 362 OECD large regions – 21 of which are in Italy. Drawing on this work, *How's Life? 2015* includes a special focus on measuring well-being in regions.



* For more information (including data for other regions), see www.oecd.org/statistics/How's-Life-2015-country-notes-data.xlsx.

Regional gaps in material living conditions

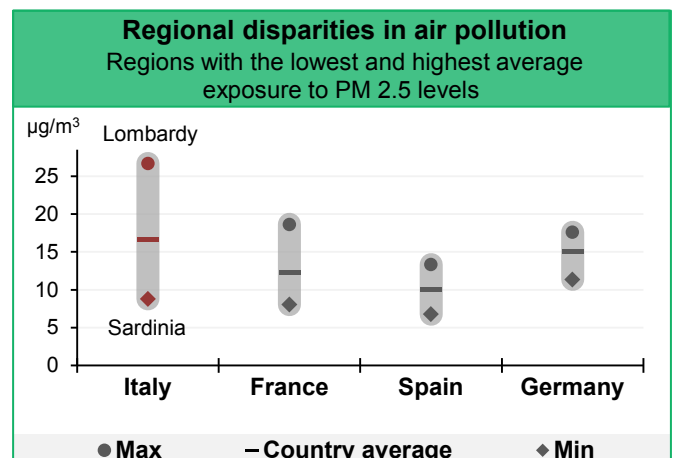
Compared to other OECD countries, regional inequalities in income and jobs are large in Italy. The **average household adjusted disposable income** is 84% higher in the Province of Bolzano-Bozen than in Campania. Regarding **relative income poverty**, while 4.3% of people in the Province of Bolzano-Bozen have an income of less than half of the Italian median income, the share is 31.7% in Sicily. **Unemployment rates** range from 4.4% in the Province of Bolzano-Bozen to 23.4% in Calabria. This gap (19 percentage points) is one of the largest regional differences in unemployment rates in the OECD.

Regional differences in people's quality of life

Regarding **educational attainment**, 72.8% of the labour force has at least a secondary education in Lazio, while this share is only 54.3% in Sardinia. This gap (18.5 percentage points) is larger than in many other OECD countries, but is smaller than the regional differences in educational attainment in Portugal or Spain.

Equally, the regional variation in **air quality** in Italy is larger than in most other OECD countries.

The share of households with a **broadband connection** ranges from 75% in Emilia-Romagna to only 58% in Sicily.



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

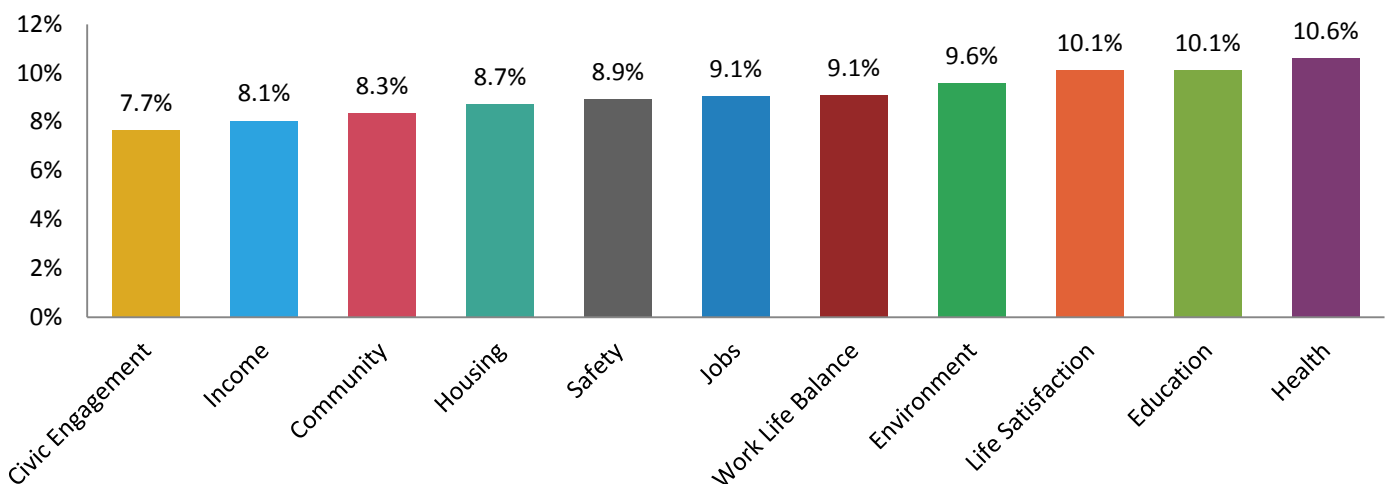


Users can also share their index with other people in their networks, as well as with the OECD. This allows the OECD to gather valuable information on the importance that users attach to various life dimensions, on how these preferences differ across countries, and on the demographic characteristics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

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO PEOPLE IN ITALY?

Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over seven million visits from just about every country on the planet** and has received over **15 million page views**. To date, over 161,000 people in Italy have visited the website making Italy the 10th country overall in traffic to the website. The top cities are Milan, Rome, Turin, Bologna, Florence, Naples, Genoa, Padua, Verona, and Trento with Milan and Rome representing over 37% of visits.

The following country findings reflect the ratings voluntarily shared by 3,700 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, education and life satisfaction 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 April 2015.



The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter 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 towards a better understanding of well-being 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 brochure presents **selected findings for Italy from the How's Life? report** (pages 2-5) and shows what **Italian users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (page 6). A supporting Excel file with the data underlying the graphs shown in this note and further information is available here: www.oecd.org/statistics/Hows-Life-2015-country-notes-data.xlsx.

HOW'S LIFE?



How's Life?, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. It looks at people's material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions 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.

The *How's Life? 2015* report includes for the first time a set of indicators to measure the stocks of resources that help to support **well-being over time**. The report also contains three special chapters focusing on **child well-being**, **volunteering** and **regional well-being**.



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