

AVERAGE HAPPINESS IN 149 NATIONS 2000-2009

How much people enjoy their life-as-a-whole on scale 0 to 10

Findings report extracted from World Database of Happiness
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Technical details Map Cite as Note: sort the table by mouse clicking a column heading.

	Code	Nation	Satisfaction with life (scale 0 - 10)	Number of surveys
1	AF	Afghanistan	4.1	1
2	AL	Albania	4.6	2
3	DZ	Algeria	5.4	2
4	AD	Andorra	6.8	2
5	AO	Angola	4.3	1
6	AR	Argentina	7.3	2
7	AM	Armenia	5.0	1
8	AU	Australia	7.7	22
9	AT	Austria	7.4	5
10	AZ	Azerbaijan	5.3	1
11	BD	Bangladesh	5.3	2
12	BY	Belarus	5.2	3
13	BE	Belgium	7.3	9
14	BZ	Belize	6.6	1
15	BJ	Benin	3.0	1
16	BO	Bolivia	6.3	1
17	BA	Bosnia Herzegovina	5.8	1
18	BW	Botswana	4.7	1
19	BR	Brazil	7.5	2
20	BG	Bulgaria	4.4	5
21	BF	Burkina Faso	4.4	2
22	BI	Burundi	2.9	1
23	KH	Cambodia	4.9	1
24	CM	Cameroon	3.9	1
25	CA	Canada	7.8	2
26	CF	Central African Rep	4.6	1
27	TD	Chad	5.4	1
28	CL	Chile	6.7	3
29	CN	China	6.3	3
30	CO	Colombia	7.7	2
31	CG	Congo (Brazzaville)	3.7	1
32	CD	Congo (Kinshasa)	4.4	1

	Code	Nation	Satisfaction with life (scale 0 - 10)	Number of surveys
33	CR	Costa Rica	8.5	1
34	CI	Côte d'Ivoire	4.4	1
35	HR	Croatia	6.0	2
36	CY	Cyprus	7.1	6
37	CZ	Czech Republic	6.5	6
38	DK	Denmark	8.3	8
39	DJ	Djibouti	5.7	1
40	DO	Dominican Republic	7.5	2
41	EC	Ecuador	6.4	2
42	EG	Egypt	5.7	4
43	SV	El Salvador	6.7	1
44	EE	Estonia	6.0	6
45	ET	Ethiopia	4.2	2
46	FI	Finland	7.9	9
47	FR	France	6.6	8
48	GE	Georgia	4.3	1
49	DE	Germany	7.1	14
50	GH	Ghana	5.2	2
51	GR	Greece	6.4	5
52	GT	Guatemala	7.2	1
53	GN	Guinea	4.5	1
54	GY	Guyana	6.5	1
55	HT	Haiti	3.9	1
56	HN	Honduras	7.0	1
57	HK	Hong Kong	6.6	5
58	HU	Hungary	5.5	7
59	IS	Iceland	8.2	2
60	IN	India	5.5	1
61	ID	Indonesia	6.3	3
62	IR	Iran	5.9	3
63	IQ	Iraq	4.7	3
64	IE	Ireland	7.6	5
65	IL	Israel	7.0	4
66	IT	Italy	6.7	6
67	JM	Jamaica	6.7	1
68	JP	Japan	6.5	3
69	JO	Jordan	5.9	4
70	KZ	Kazakhstan	6.1	1
71	KE	Kenya	3.7	1
72	KR	Korea (South)	6.0	4
73	KO	Kosovo	5.4	2
74	KW	Kuwait	6.6	1

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75	KG	Kyrgyzstan	5.5	2
76	LA	Laos	6.2	1
77	LV	Latvia	5.4	3
78	LB	Lebanon	4.7	1
79	LR	Liberia	4.3	1
80	LT	Lithuania	5.5	3
81	LU	Luxembourg	7.7	5
82	MK	Macedonia	4.7	3
83	MG	Madagascar	3.7	1
84	MW	Malawi	6.2	1
85	MY	Malaysia	6.5	2
86	ML	Mali	4.7	2
87	MT	Malta	7.1	3
88	MR	Mauritania	4.9	1
89	MX	Mexico	7.9	3
90	MD	Moldova	4.9	3
91	MN	Mongolia	5.7	1
92	ME	Montenegro	5.2	2
93	MA	Morocco	5.4	3
94	MZ	Mozambique	3.8	1
95	NA	Namibia	5.2	1
96	NP	Nepal	5.3	1
97	NL	Netherlands	7.6	11
98	NZ	New Zealand	7.5	3
99	NI	Nicaragua	7.1	1
100	NE	Niger	3.8	1
101	NG	Nigeria	5.7	2
102	NO	Norway	7.9	6
103	PK	Pakistan	5.0	3
104	PS	Palestina	4.9	1
105	PA	Panama	7.8	1
106	PY	Paraguay	6.8	1
107	PE	Peru	6.2	3
108	PH	Philippines	5.9	2
109	PL	Poland	6.4	8
110	PT	Portugal	5.7	7
111	QA	Qatar	6.8	1
112	RO	Romania	5.7	6
113	RU	Russia	5.5	4
114	RW	Rwanda	4.3	2
115	SA	Saudi Arabia	6.5	3
116	SN	Senegal	4.5	1

	Code	Nation	Satisfaction with life (scale 0 - 10)	Number of surveys
117	RS	Serbia	5.4	3
118	SL	Sierra Leone	3.5	1
119	SG	Singapore	6.9	3
120	SK	Slovakia	5.9	6
121	SI	Slovenia	6.9	8
122	ZA	South Africa	5.8	5
123	ES	Spain	7.2	10
124	LK	Sri Lanka	5.1	2
125	SD	Sudan	5.0	1
126	SE	Sweden	7.8	9
127	CH	Switzerland	8.0	15
128	SY	Syria	5.9	1
129	TW	Taiwan	6.2	1
130	TJ	Tajikistan	5.1	1
131	TZ	Tanzania	2.8	2
132	TH	Thailand	6.6	2
133	TG	Togo	2.6	1
134	TT	Trinidad and Tobago	7.0	2
135	TN	Tunisia	5.9	1
136	TR	Turkey	5.6	6
137	TM	Turkmenistan	7.2	1
138	UG	Uganda	4.8	2
139	UA	Ukraine	5.0	3
140	AE	United Arab Emirate	7.3	1
141	GB	United Kingdom	7.2	8
142	US	United States	7.4	2
143	UY	Uruguay	6.7	1
144	UZ	Uzbekistan	6.0	1
145	VE	Venezuela	7.5	2
146	VN	Viet Nam	6.1	3
147	YE	Yemen	4.8	1
148	ZM	Zambia	5.0	2
149	ZW	Zimbabwe	3.0	2

Technical details

1. Life-satisfaction is assessed by means of surveys in general population samples. Mean scores may be inflated in some countries due to under sampling of rural and illiterate population. This distortion is partly corrected by weighting afterwards, but may still affect the scores. This means that the real differences in life-satisfaction are probably somewhat greater than appears in these data.
2. Data from 2000 up to and including 2009. If the below mentioned questions had been used more than once in this era, the average score is used.
3. The scores are based on responses to a question about satisfaction with life. The answers to which were rated on a numerical scale ranging from 'dissatisfied' to 'satisfied'. The questions differ slightly in wording and answer format. Most questions are type O-SLW/c/sq/n/10/a (used in the World value Surveys) and O-SLW/c/sq/n/11/a (used in the Gallup World Poll). This classification is explained in section 4/3 of the introductory text. Data were taken from the two tables with measure types regarding the [10-step numeral LifeSatisfaction](#) and the [11-step numeral LifeSatisfaction](#) from this collection of distributional findings on Happiness in Nations. Rating scales ranged from 1 to 10 or from 0 to 10. Scores on this 1-10 scale were transformed linearly to range 0-10. This transformation is explained in the introductory text, chapter 7.3.
4. Scores of *a specific set of nations* are based on responses to a somewhat different question:

"Suppose the top of the ladder represents the best possible life for you and the bottom of the ladder the worst possible life. Where on this ladder do you feel you personally stand at the present time?"

The response was rated on a ladder scale ranging from 0 to 10 (question code C-BW/c/sq/l/11/a and c). Data were taken from the two tables with measure types regarding the [10-step Best-Worst possible life](#) and the [11-step Best-Worst possible life](#) from this database.

We transformed the scores using the information of nations in which both this item and the above question on life-satisfaction had been used in about the same years. There are 103 such cases. The scores on the two items appears to be highly correlated: $r = +.82$ and examination of the scatterplot shows a linear pattern. We computed the regression equation and used these to estimate the score on 0-10 life-satisfaction.

The formula is: Estimated 0-10 life satisfaction = $1.156 \times$ observed score on the Best-Worst item - 0.457 . For the specific set of nations these estimates are reported. The 95% confidence interval around these estimated values is about 1.3 points, which means that these estimates are not very precise.

The specific nations are: Kosovo; Liberia;

This estimation technique is described in more detail in the Introductory Text, chapter 7 '[Comparability of the data](#)' in section 7/3.1 'Converting scores on measures of different happiness variants'.

5. On this list the following cases are left out: Puerto Rico (8.3). East Germany (6.4) and West Germany (7.0). These cases are included in the collection of Happiness in Nations but are no real 'nations'.
6. Cuba and Myanmar were involved in the 2006 Gallup WorldPoll, but are not included in this list since the sample was restricted to urban people.
7. The use for these data for estimating livability of nations is discussed in the Introductory Text to this section on 'Distributional Findings in Nations', chapter 5: [Validity of happiness as an indicator of livability](#).
8. This list is included in the datafile '[States of nations](#)' as variable Happiness LSBW10.11_2000.09.

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