

INEQUALITY OF HAPPINESS IN 149 NATIONS 2010-2018
How much citizens differ in enjoyment of their life-as-a-whole

[Technical details](#) [Map](#) [Cite as](#) Note: sort the table by mouse clicking a column heading.

	Code	Nation	Standard deviation of 0-10 life satisfaction	Number of surveys
1	AF	Afghanistan	2.12	3
2	AL	Albania	2.15	3
3	DZ	Algeria	2.67	1
4	AO	Angola	2.34	1
5	AR	Argentina	1.80	1
6	AM	Armenia	2.83	1
7	AU	Australia	2.28	1
8	AT	Austria	1.91	3
9	AZ	Azerbaijan	2.49	1
10	BH	Bahrein	2.09	3
11	BD	Bangladesh	2.17	3
12	BY	Belarus	2.36	1
13	BE	Belgium	1.71	3
14	BZ	Belize	2.51	1
15	BJ	Benin	2.04	2
16	BO	Bolivia	2.13	4
17	BA	Bosnia Herzegovina	2.30	3
18	BW	Botswana	2.20	3
19	BR	Brazil	2.33	3
20	BG	Bulgaria	2.65	2
21	BF	Burkina Faso	1.99	3
22	KH	Cambodia	1.95	3
23	CM	Cameroon	2.27	2
24	CA	Canada	1.59	4
25	CF	Central African Rep	2.00	2
26	TD	Chad	1.97	3
27	CL	Chile	2.02	1
28	CN	China	2.20	1
29	CO	Colombia	1.99	1
30	KM	Comoros	1.92	3
31	CG	Congo (Brazzaville)	2.20	1
32	CR	Costa Rica	2.27	3
33	CY	Cyprus	2.34	2
34	CZ	Czech Republic	2.07	4
35	DK	Denmark	1.55	3
36	DJ	Djibouti	2.43	1

	Code	Nation	Standard deviation of 0-10 life satisfaction	Number of surveys
37	DO	Dominican Republic	2.71	3
38	EC	Ecuador	1.93	1
39	EG	Egypt	3.16	1
40	SV	El Salvador	2.42	3
41	EE	Estonia	2.25	5
42	FI	Finland	1.53	3
43	FR	France	2.35	3
44	GA	Gabon	2.21	2
45	GE	Georgia	2.19	2
46	DE	Germany	1.98	7
47	GH	Ghana	2.67	1
48	GR	Greece	2.35	1
49	GT	Guatemala	2.49	3
50	GN	Guinea	2.05	2
51	GY	Guyana	2.37	1
52	HT	Haiti	2.05	3
53	HN	Honduras	2.59	2
54	HK	Hong Kong	2.14	1
55	HU	Hungary	2.32	3
56	IS	Iceland	1.65	2
57	IN	India	2.16	3
58	ID	Indonesia	1.97	3
59	IR	Iran	2.48	2
60	IQ	Iraq	2.42	1
61	IE	Ireland	2.09	4
62	IL	Israel	2.08	4
63	IT	Italy	1.76	4
64	JM	Jamaica	2.46	2
65	JP	Japan	2.20	1
66	JO	Jordan	2.49	1
67	KZ	Kazakhstan	2.34	1
68	KE	Kenya	2.04	2
69	KR	Korea (South)	2.06	2
70	KO	Kosovo	2.68	1
71	KW	Kuwait	2.53	1
72	KG	Kyrgyzstan	2.41	1
73	LA	Laos	1.86	2
74	LB	Lebanon	2.35	1
75	LS	Lesotho	2.49	1
76	LR	Liberia	2.03	1
77	LY	Libya	2.18	1
78	LT	Lithuania	2.33	3

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79	MK	Macedonia	2.34	3
80	MG	Madagascar	1.91	2
81	MW	Malawi	2.60	2
82	MY	Malaysia	2.00	1
83	ML	Mali	2.10	3
84	MR	Mauritania	1.96	3
85	MU	Mauritius	2.19	1
86	MX	Mexico	2.16	1
87	MD	Moldova	2.19	3
88	MN	Mongolia	2.03	2
89	ME	Montenegro	2.24	3
90	MA	Morocco	2.76	1
91	MZ	Mozambique	2.28	1
92	MM	Myanmar	2.07	1
93	NP	Nepal	2.11	2
94	NL	Netherlands	1.41	8
95	NZ	New Zealand	2.16	1
96	NI	Nicaragua	2.53	3
97	NE	Niger	1.85	3
98	NG	Nigeria	2.64	1
99	NO	Norway	1.65	4
100	OM	Oman	2.28	1
101	PK	Pakistan	2.33	1
102	PS	Palestina	2.77	1
103	PA	Panama	2.30	3
104	PY	Paraguay	2.21	4
105	PE	Peru	2.44	1
106	PH	Philippines	3.16	1
107	PL	Poland	2.21	5
108	PT	Portugal	2.29	3
109	QA	Qatar	2.14	1
110	RO	Romania	2.66	1
111	RU	Russia	2.37	4
112	RW	Rwanda	1.79	1
113	SA	Saudi Arabia	2.32	3
114	SN	Senegal	2.02	3
115	SL	Sierra Leone	2.54	1
116	SG	Singapore	1.81	1
117	SK	Slovakia	2.13	1
118	SI	Slovenia	2.22	4
119	SO	Somalia	2.13	3
120	ZA	South Africa	2.44	2

	Code	Nation	Standard deviation of 0-10 life satisfaction	Number of surveys
121	ES	Spain	2.02	5
122	LK	Sri Lanka	2.11	3
123	SD	Sudan	2.09	2
124	SR	Surinam	2.16	2
125	SZ	Swaziland	2.29	1
126	SE	Sweden	1.74	5
127	CH	Switzerland	1.63	5
128	SY	Syria	2.43	3
129	TW	Taiwan	2.29	1
130	TJ	Tajikistan	1.85	2
131	TZ	Tanzania	2.16	1
132	TH	Thailand	2.15	1
133	TG	Togo	2.19	1
134	TT	Trinidad and Tobago	2.34	1
135	TN	Tunisia	1.82	3
136	TR	Turkey	2.34	1
137	TM	Turkmenistan	2.10	2
138	UG	Uganda	2.18	2
139	UA	Ukraine	2.65	2
140	AE	United Arab Emirate	2.09	3
141	GB	United Kingdom	2.03	4
142	US	United States of Am	2.14	1
143	UY	Uruguay	2.25	1
144	UZ	Uzbekistan	2.13	3
145	VE	Venezuela	2.35	4
146	VN	Viet Nam	1.96	2
147	YE	Yemen	2.36	3
148	ZM	Zambia	2.20	2
149	ZW	Zimbabwe	2.54	1

Technical details

1. Life-satisfaction is assessed by means of surveys in general population samples. See [Rank Report Average Happiness](#) .
2. In this ranking the focus is not on the *level* of happiness in the country. but on *inequality* in happiness among citizens. Inequality in happiness can be measured by the dispersion of responses to survey-questions. The degree of dispersion can be expressed statistically in the standard deviation and surveys items rated on a 10 step numerical scale are particularly usefull for that purpose. This method is explained in more detail in W. Kalmijn & R. Veenhoven [Measuring inequality in happiness in nations; In search for proper statistics](#), Journal of Happiness Studies 2005, 6:357-396. An application of this method is reported in Veenhoven. R. [Return of inequality in modern society? Test by dispersion of life satisfaction across time and nations](#), Journal of Happiness Studies 2005, 6:457-487 .

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 World Value Surveys) and O-SLW/c/sq/n/11/a (used in 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. Standard deviations of 8 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 (measure code C-BW/c/sq/l/11/c). 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 128 such cases. The standard-deviations of the responses on the two items appears to be correlated: $r = +.51$ after deletion of outliers (Angola, Dominican Republic, Mali, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Netherlands and Tanzania). Examination of the scatterplot shows a linear pattern. We computed the regression equation and used these to estimate the standard-deviation on 0-10 life-satisfaction. The formula is: Estimated SD 0-10 life satisfaction = $1.112 + 0.5552 \times$ observed SD on the Best-Worst item. These estimates are reported in this table. The 95% confidence interval around these estimated values is about 1 point, which means that these estimates are quite rough.

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. Standard deviations are not yet available for the following countries of which average happiness is known:
6. This list is included in the datafile '[States of nations](#)' as variable SD_HappinessLSBW10.11_2005.14 .

Cite as:

Veenhoven, R.. *Inequality of happiness in 149 nations 2010-2018*. World Database of Happiness. Rankreport Inequality Adjusted Happiness. Internet: worlddatabaseofhappiness-archive.eur.nl/hap_nat/findingreports/RankReport_InequalityHappiness.php