

Trend Report Inequality of Happiness in Nations 1946-2021

Development of how much happiness differs across citizens

Difference in happiness across citizens in a country can be measured using the standard deviation (Kalmijn & Veenhoven 2005). In this report, we consider changes in this measure of disparity of happiness over the years.

This report draws on the [World Database of Happiness](#), Collection [Happiness in Nations](#). Links in this text lead to standardized descriptions of research findings in that [Finding Archive](#). Data taken from that source were entered in the datafile *TrendsInNations_2022* a version in Excel can be downloaded from <https://worlddatabaseofhappiness.eur.nl/related-sources/data-set-trends-in-nations/what-is-this-data-file-trends-in-nations/>

This report is based on to responses to questions about happiness representative surveys of the general population in nations. The report limits to questions on happiness in the sense of 'the [subjective enjoyment of one's life as a whole](#) that have passed a [check](#) for fit with that concept.

This report limits to timeseries that cover at least 20 years and involve minimally 10 datapoints.

Trend data are presented in two ways:

1. In [Table 1](#) we present difference between first and last observation in points on numerical scale 0-10.
2. In [Table 2](#) we express the trend of inequality in a linear regression unstandardized coefficient, which can be interpreted as % rise or decline per year for overall 198 trends.

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Table 1

Change inequality of happiness measured using the standard deviation of reported happiness expressed in points on scale 0-10. Difference between first and last assessment of 47 nations.

<i>Rise of Inequality</i>				<i>Decline of Inequality</i>			
Nation	Measure	Period	Change (SD)	Nation	Measure	Period	Change (SD)
Argentina	SD-Is4	1997-2018	+0,22	Australia	SD-Is11	1975-2020	-0,87
Austria	SD-Is4	1995-2021	+0,33	Belgium	SD-Is4	1973-2021	-0,18
Bolivia	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,54		SD-Is10+11	1975-2018	-0,22
Canada	SD-bw11	1975-2019	+0,03	Brazil	SD-bw11	1960-2019	-0,08
	SD-Is10	1982-2020	+0,11	Denmark	SD-Is11	1975-2018	-0,51
Chile	SD-Is4	1997-2018	+0,35	Egypt	SD-bw11	1960-2019	-0,30
Colombia	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,40	Finland	SD-Is11	1976-2018	-0,38
Costa Rica	SD-Is4	1990-2020	+0,85		SD-Is4	1990-2021	-0,10
Denmark	SD-Is4	1973-2019	+0,06	France	SD-hl3	1965-1986	-0,07
Ecuador	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,62		SD-bw11	1975-2019	-0,31
El Salvador	SD-Is4	1991-2020	+0,32	Greece	SD-Is4	1981-2021	-0,70
France	SD-Is4	1973-2021	+0,06	Hungary	SD-Is4	2001-2021	-0,41
	SD-Is11	1975-2018	+0,20	Ireland	SD-Is4	1973-2019	-0,06
Germany	SD-Is11	1993-2018	+0,19		SD-Is11	1975-2018	-0,11
Honduras	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,26	Italy	SD-Is4	1973-2021	-0,18
India	SD-bw11	1962-2019	+1,32		SD-hl3	1965-1986	-0,28
Japan	SD-Is5	1978-2005	+0,12		SD-bw11	1975-2019	-0,49
	SD-bw11	1962-2019	+0,15		SD-Is11	1975-2018	-0,02
Korea (South)	SD-bw11	1981-2019	+0,35	Japan	SD-Is4	1958-2013	-0,57
Luxembourg	SD-hl3	1975-2008	+1,07	Luxembourg	SD-Is4	1973-2021	-0,13
Mexico	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,32		SD-Is10+11	1975-2009	-0,70

	SD-bw11	1975-2019	+0,47	Netherlands	SD-Is10	1981-2019	-0,42
Netherlands	SD-Is4	1973-2021	+0,35		SD-Is11	1974-2018	-0,24
	SD-Is5	1974-2012	+0,70	Norway	SD-Is10+11	1981-2018	-0,38
Nicaragua	SD-Is4	1991-2020	+0,17				
Nigeria	SD-bw11	1963-2019	+0,47	Poland	SD-bw11	1962-2020	-0,27
Norway	SD-hI4	1981-2018	+0,01	Portugal	SD-Is4	1985-2021	-0,66
Panama	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,30	Romania	SD-Is4	1998-2021	-0,08
	SD-bw11	1962-2019	+0,62		SD-Is10+11	1990-2018	-0,01
Paraguay	SD-Is4	1996-2018	+0,41	Russia	SD-Is10	1990-2017	-0,24
Peru	SD-Is4	1997-2018	+0,70	South Africa	SD-hI5	1983-2015	-0,13
Philippines	SD-bw11	1959-2019	+0,44		SD-Is10+11	1981-2013	-0,11
South Africa	SD-Is5	1983-2015	+0,07	Spain	SD-Is4	1985-2019	-0,50
Sweden	SD-Is10+11	1982-2017	+0,05		SD-Is10+11	1981-2017	-0,38
	SD-Is4	1995-2021	+0,19	Switzerland	SD-Is10+11	1976-2018	-0,39
United Kingdom	SD-hI3	1965-1986	+0,04	United Kingdom	SD-Is4	1973-2020	-0,15
USA	SD-Is10+11	1959-2017	+0,14		SD-Is11	1974-2018	-0,02
Uruguay	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,10	USA	SD-hI3	1946-2010	-0,35
Venezuela	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,82		SD-hI4	1946-2017	-0,11
Number of series with rise of inequality			39	Number of series with decline of inequality			39
Number of nations where inequality rose			32	Number of nations where inequality declined			24
Average rise			+0,36	Average decline			-0,29

Technical details

1. Measure codes refer to an equivalent of survey questions on happiness:

[Best-Worst possible life](#)

SD-bw11 question on how one rated one's current life on a numerical scale ranging from best possible to worst possible

[Inequality-adjusted happiness](#)

Inequality adjusted happiness/ life-satisfaction is an index which denotes the degree to which a country combines a high average level of happiness with low inequality in happiness.

[Happiness](#)

SD-hl4 question on happiness answer rated on 4-step verbal response scale

SD-hl5 question on happiness answer rated on 5-step verbal response scale

SD-hl3 question on happiness answer rated on 3-step verbal response scale

[Life-satisfaction](#)

SD-ls4 question on life-satisfaction answer rated on 4-step verbal response scale

SD-ls5 question on life-satisfaction answer rated on 5-step verbal response scale

SD-ls10 question on life-satisfaction answer rated on 10-step numeral response scale

SD-ls11 question on life-satisfaction answer rated on 11-step numeral response scale

SD-ls10+11 question on life-satisfaction answer rated on 10 and 11-step numeral response scale

- 2 Scores on questions using verbal response options on range 6 or less were transformed to numerical scales on range 0-10 using linear transformation. This procedure is explained in [chapter 6](#) of the introductory text to the collection of happiness measures section 6/1.1.
- 3 Within series of responses to *equivalent* questions not all questions are fully *identical*, variations in wording being indicated with a, b, c, ... at the end of the measure code. See [chapter 5](#) of the introductory text to the collection of happiness measures, scheme 5. When assessing the difference between the first and last score of questions using verbal response scales, we limited to identical questions, since differences in wording can bias the trend. In the case of responses to 10 and 11-step numerical rating scales we accepted equivalent questions, assuming that respondents will have focused on scale numbers, rather than on the verbal labels of scale extremes.

Table 2

Change inequality of happiness expressed in average annual increase/decline 1946-2021

Change expressed in linear regression coefficients using standard deviations of 45 nations by year.

Nation	Measure	Years	Trend inequality of happiness	
			<i>Trend over time 95% confidence interval</i>	
Since 1940s				
USA	SD-hl3	1946-2010	-0,007	-0,010 - -0,004
USA	SD-hl4	1946-2017	-0,003	-0,007 - +0,001
<i>N significant rise</i>			0	
<i>N significant decline</i>			1	
<i>N no significant change</i>			1	
<i>Net change: average + minus -</i>			-0,005	-0,005 - -0,001
<i>Total change; average irrespective of + or -</i>			0,005	+0,009 - +0,009
Since 1950s				
Japan	SD-ls4	1958-2013	-0,002	-0,004 - +0,001
Philippines	SD-bw11	1959-2019	+0,008	+0,001 - +0,016
USA	SD-hl3	1952-2010	-0,004	-0,006 - -0,001
USA	SD-hl4	1952-2017	-0,003	-0,010 - +0,003
USA	SD-ls10+11	1959-2017	-0,005	-0,022 - +0,011
USA	SD-bw11	1959-2019	-0,005	-0,008 - -0,002
<i>N significant rise</i>			1	
<i>N significant decline</i>			2	
<i>N no significant change</i>			3	
<i>Net change: average + minus -</i>			-0,002	+0,004 - +0,002
<i>Total change; average irrespective of + or -</i>			0,005	+0,003 - +0,006

Since 1960s				
Brazil	SD-bw11	1960-2019	-0,001	-0,007 - +0,006
Egypt	SD-bw11	1960-2019	-0,002	-0,013 - +0,010
France	SD-hl3	1965-1986	-0,004	-0,100 - +0,002
India	SD-bw11	1962-2019	+0,005	-0,006 - +0,017
Italy	SD-hl3	1965-1986	-0,009	-0,019 - +0,001
Japan	SD-bw11	1962-2019	+0,003	+0,001 - +0,005
Japan	SD-ls4	1960-2013	-0,001	-0,003 - +0,002
Nigeria	SD-bw11	1963-2020	+0,007	-0,012 - +0,026
Panama	SD-bw11	1962-2019	+0,006	-0,004 - +0,017
Poland	SD-bw11	1962-2020	-0,001	-0,006 - +0,004
UK	SD-hl3	1965-1986	+0,001	-0,003 - +0,006
USA	SD-hl3	1963-2010	-0,001	-0,003 - +0,001
	SD-bw11	1964-2021	-0,005	-0,008 - -0,001
<i>N significant rise</i>			1	
<i>N significant decline</i>			1	
<i>N no significant change</i>			11	
<i>Net change: average + minus -</i>			-0,000	-0,003 - +0,002
<i>Total change; average irrespective of + or -</i>			0,004	+0,002 - +0,005
Since 1970				
Australia	SD-ls11	1975-2020	-0,011	-0,034 - +0,013
Belgium	SD-ls4	1973-2018	-0,007	-0,009 - -0,005
	SD-ls10+11	1975-2018	-0,006	-0,015 - +0,003
Brazil	SD-bw11	1975-2019	+0,006	-0,003 - +0,015
Canada	SD-bw11	1975-2019	0,000	-0,005 - +0,005
Denmark	SD-ls4	1973-2021	-0,006	-0,007 - -0,004
	SD-ls11	1975-2018	-0,014	-0,020 - -0,008
Finland	SD-ls11	1976-2018	-0,009	-0,015 - -0,003

France	SD-Is4	1973-2021	-0,003	-0,005 - -0,002
	SD-Is11	1975-2018	+0,005	-0,003 - +0,013
	SD-bw11	1975-2019	-0,004	-0,011 - +0,002
India	SD-bw11	1975-2019	+0,003	-0,015 - +0,020
Ireland	SD-Is4	1973-2021	-0,009	-0,012 - -0,006
	SD-Is11	1975-2018	-0,001	-0,009 - +0,008
Italy	SD-Is4	1973-2021	-0,007	-0,009 - -0,005
	SD-Is11	1975-2018	-0,004	-0,015 - +0,007
	SD-bw11	1975-2019	-0,010	-0,020 - 0,000
Japan	SD-bw11	1975-2019	+0,002	-0,001 - +0,005
	SD-Is4	1970-2013	0,000	-0,003 - +0,004
	SD-Is5	1978-2005	+0,004	-0,002 - +0,009
	SD-Is10+11	1975-2019	+0,006	-0,002 - +0,014
Luxembourg	SD-Is4	1973-2021	-0,003	-0,005 - -0,001
	SD-hI3	1975-2008	+0,036	+0,016 +0,057
	SD-Is10+11	1975-2009	-0,007	-0,024 - +0,009
Korea (South)	mix	1979-2006	-0,001	-0,016 - +0,014
Mexico	SD-bw11	1975-2019	+0,006	0,000 - +0,012
Netherlands	SD-Is4	1973-2021	+0,005	+0,002 - +0,008
	SD-Is5	1974-2012	-0,002	-0,008 - +0,005
	SD-Is11	1974-2018	-0,008	-0,015 - 0,002
Switzerland	SD-Is11	1976-2018	-0,007	-0,014 - 0,000
UK	SD-Is11	1974-2018	-0,001	-0,004 - +0,003
	SD-Is4	1973-2020	-0,006	-0,007 - -0,004
USA	SD-hI3	1970-2010	-0,014	-0,003 - +0,003
	SD-hI4	1974-2017	-0,004	-0,016 - +0,007
	SD-hI2	1973-2013	-0,005	-0,011 - 0,000
	SD-Is10+11	1974-2017	-0,007	-0,033 - +0,018
	SD-bw11	1971-2021	-0,005	-0,009 - -0,001

<i>N significant rise</i>			2	
<i>N significant decline</i>			11	
<i>N significant no change</i>			24	
<i>Net change: average + minus -</i>			-0,002	-0,005 - +0,003
<i>Total change; average irrespective of + or -</i>			0,006	+0,004 - +0,008
Since 1980s				
Argentina	mix Is	1981-2020	-0,008	-0,015 - -0,001
Belgium	SD-Is4	1980-2021	-0,009	-0,011 - -0,007
	SD-Is11	1981-2018	-0,007	-0,017 - +0,004
Canada	SD-Is10	1982-2020	0,000	-0,007 - +0,008
Denmark	SD-Is4	1980-2021	-0,006	-0,008 - -0,004
	SD-Is11	1983-2018	-0,014	-0,023 - -0,005
France	SD-Is4	1980-2021	-0,004	-0,005 - -0,002
	SD-Is11	1983-2018	-0,001	-0,011 - +0,009
Greece	SD-Is4	1981-2021	-0,008	-0,012 - -0,004
Ireland	SD-Is4	1980-2021	-0,011	-0,015 - -0,008
	SD-Is11	1980-2018	0,000	-0,012 - +0,013
Italy	SD-Is11	1983-2018	-0,005	-0,025 - +0,015
	SD-Is4	1980-2021	-0,007	-0,009 - -0,004
Japan	SD-Is4	1980-2013	+0,001	-0,004 - +0,006
	SD-Is5	1981-2005	+0,001	-0,006 - +0,008
	SD-Is10+11	1981-2019	+0,002	-0,007 - +0,011
Korea (South)	SD-bw11	1980-2019	+0,012	+0,006 - +0,018
Luxembourg	SD-Is4	1980-2021	-0,002	-0,004 - +0,001
	SD-Is10+11	1983-2018	-0,011	-0,039 - +0,017
Netherlands	SD-Is10	1981-2019	-0,011	-0,018 - -0,003

	SD-Is4	1980-2021	+0,007	+0,003 - +0,010
	SD-Is5	1980-2012	-0,001	-0,010 - +0,007
	SD-Is11	1983-2018	-0,010	-0,021 - +0,001
	SD-hI5	1980-2019	-0,011	-0,017 - -0,005
Norway	SD-Is10+11	1981-2018	-0,013	-0,018 - -0,007
	SD-hI4	1981-2019	-0,001	-0,004 - +0,001
Portugal	SD-Is4	1985-2021	-0,005	-0,009 - 0,000
Russia	SD-hI4	1989-2017	-0,002	-0,018 - -0,015
	SD-Is10	1990-2017	-0,008	-0,016 - 0,000
South Africa	SD-hI5	1983-2015	-0,001	-0,014 - +0,016
	SD-Is5	1983-2015	-0,006	-0,006 - +0,018
	SD-Is10+11	1981-2013	-0,017	-0,036 - +0,002
Spain	SD-Is4	1985-2021	-0,008	-0,014 - -0,003
	SD-Is10+11	1981-2017	-0,008	-0,018 - +0,003
Sweden	SD-Is10+11	1982-2017	-0,005	-0,013 - +0,002
UK	SD-Is11	1983-2018	-0,004	-0,009 - +0,002
	SD-Is4	1980-2020	-0,007	-0,008 - -0,005
USA	SD-Is10+11	1981-2017	-0,019	-0,161 - +0,123
	SD-bw11	1980-2021	+0,006	-0,002 - +0,013
	SD-hI3	1980-2010	-0,001	-0,005 - +0,004
	SD-hI4	1981-2017	0,000	-0,015 - +0,014
<i>N significant rise</i>			2	
<i>N significant decline</i>			14	
<i>N no significant change</i>			25	
<i>Net change: average + minus -</i>			-0,005	-0,002 - +0,003
<i>Total change; average irrespective of + or -</i>			0,008	+0,005 - +0,010
Since 1990s				
Argentina	SD-Is4	1997-2020	-0,003	-0,105 - +0,008
Austria	SD-Is4	1990-2018	-0,004	-0,010 - +0,001

Belgium	SD-Is4	1990-2021	-0,009	-0,012 - -0,006
	SD-Is11	1990-2018	-0,011	-0,028 - +0,006
Bolivia	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,014	+0,004 - +0,024
Brazil	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,010	-0,003 - +0,022
Canada	SD-Is10	1990-2020	+0,002	-0,010 - +0,013
Chile	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,008	0,000 - +0,015
China	mix Is	1990-2018	+0,003	-0,028 - +0,035
Colombia	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,004	-0,010 - +0,018
Costa Rica	SD-Is4	1990-2020	+0,009	-0,007 - +0,025
Denmark	SD-Is4	1990-2021	-0,006	-0,009 - -0,003
Ecuador	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,009	-0,005 - +0,024
El Salvador	SD-Is4	1991-2020	+0,019	+0,006 - +0,032
Finland	SD-Is4	1990-2021	-0,005	-0,007 - -0,002
France	SD-Is4	1990-2021	-0,005	-0,008 - -0,002
Germany	SD-Is4	1990-2021	-0,003	-0,006 - 0,000
	SD-Is11	1993-2018	+0,008	-0,007 - +0,024
Greece	SD-Is4	1990-2021	+0,001	-0,003 - +0,006
Honduras	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,022	+0,005 - +0,039
Hungary	SD-Is11	1992-2018	-0,008	-0,017 - +0,001
Ireland	SD-Is4	1990-2021	-0,008	-0,014 - -0,003
	SD-Is11	1990-2018	+0,002	-0,024 - +0,029
Italy	SD-Is11	1991-2018	+0,006	-0,022 - +0,034
	SD-Is4	1990-2021	-0,002	-0,005 - +0,001
Japan	SD-Is10+11	1990-2019	+0,005	-0,008 - +0,018
	SD-Is4	1990-2013	-0,004	-0,014 - +0,007
Luxembourg	SD-Is4	1990-2021	-0,002	-0,006 - +0,002
Mexico	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,006	0,000 - +0,012
Netherlands	SD-Is4	1990-2021	+0,009	+0,004 - +0,015
	SD-Is5	1990-2012	-0,003	-0,019 - +0,014

	SD-Is11	1991-2018	0,000	-0,012 - +0,013
	SD-hI5	1990-2019	-0,016	-0,023 - -0,008
	SD-Is10	1990-2019	-0,009	-0,020 - +0,002
Nicaragua	SD-Is4	1991-2020	+0,005	-0,007 - +0,018
Norway	SD-Is10+11	1990-2018	-0,013	-0,022 - -0,015
	SD-hI4	1990-2018	0,000	-0,005 - +0,004
Panama	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,002	-0,010 - +0,015
Paraguay	SD-Is4	1996-2020	+0,009	-0,004 - +0,022
Peru	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,023	+0,011 - +0,035
Poland	SD-hI4	1990-2017	+0,004	-0,016 - +0,025
	SD-bw11	1991-2020	-0,002	-0,010 - +0,007
	SD-Is10+11	1990-2018	-0,024	-0,032 - -0,016
Portugal	SD-Is4	1990-2021	-0,005	-0,010 - +0,001
Romania	SD-Is4	1998-2021	-0,001	-0,008 - +0,006
	SD-Is10+11	1990-2018	-0,008	-0,030 - +0,014
Russia	SD-Is10	1990-2017	-0,008	-0,016 - 0,0
South Africa	SD-hI5	1994-2015	+0,010	-0,009 - +0,028
	SD-Is5	1994-2015	+0,009	-0,010 - +0,028
	SD-Is10+11	1990-2013	-0,039	-0,054 - -0,023
Spain	SD-Is4	1990-2021	-0,004	-0,010 - +0,002
	SD-Is10+11	1990-2018	-0,005	-0,019 - +0,010
Sweden	SD-Is4	1995-2021	0,000	-0,004 - +0,003
UK	SD-Is4	1990-2020	-0,006	-0,009 - -0,004
USA	SD-hI3	1990-2010	-0,007	-0,017 - +0,002
	SD-hI4	1990-2017	-0,004	-0,022 - +0,015
	SD-bw11	1998-2021	+0,011	+0,001 - +0,021
Uruguay	SD-Is4	1997-2020	0,000	-0,006 - +0,006
Venezuela	SD-Is4	1997-2020	+0,043	+0,026 - +0,059
<i>N significant rise</i>			5	

<i>N significant decline</i>			10	
<i>N no significant change</i>			45	
<i>Net change: average + minus -</i>			+0,001	-0,002 - +0,003
<i>Total change; average irrespective of + or -</i>			0,008	+0,005 - +0,010
Since 2000s				
Argentina	SD-Is4	2000-2020	-0,002	-0,015 - +0,011
Belgium	SD-Is4	2000-2021	-0,011	-0,017 - -0,006
Bolivia	SD-Is4	2000-2020	+0,013	0,000 - +0,025
Brazil	SD-Is4	2000-2020	+0,010	-0,004 - +0,025
Canada	SD-bw11	2000-2019	+0,001	-0,010 - +0,012
Chile	SD-Is4	2000-2020	+0,006	-0,003 - +0,014
Colombia	SD-Is4	2000-2020	0,000	-0,015 - +0,014
Costa Rica	SD-Is4	2000-2020	+0,010	+0,020 - +0,018
Denmark	SD-Is4	2000-2021	-0,009	-0,015 - -0,004
Ecuador	SD-Is4	2000-2020	+0,006	-0,009 - +0,022
El Salvador	SD-Is4	2000-2020	+0,008	-0,012 - +0,027
Estonia	SD-Is4	2001-2021	-0,017	-0,024 - -0,009
Finland	SD-Is4	2000-2021	-0,004	-0,008 - -0,001
France	SD-Is4	2000-2021	+0,004	0,0 - +0,007
Germany	SD-Is4	2000-2021	-0,009	-0,013 - -0,005
Greece	SD-Is4	2000-2021	+0,003	-0,004 - +0,011
Honduras	SD-Is4	2000-2020	+0,023	+0,004 - +0,043
Hungary	SD-Is4	2001-2021	-0,021	-0,027 - -0,015
Ireland	SD-Is4	2000-2021	-0,004	-0,014 - +0,006
Italy	SD-Is4	2000-2021	0,000	-0,006 - +0,005
Japan	SD-bw11	2000-2020	+0,002	-0,005 - +0,010
Latvia	SD-Is4	2001-2021	-0,015	-0,021 - -0,008
Luxembourg	SD-Is4	2000-2021	-0,005	-0,012 - 0,001
Mexico	SD-Is4	2000-2020	+0,011	-0,006 - +0,028

Netherlands	SD-Is4	2000-2021	+0,018	+0,008 - +0,027
Nicaragua	SD-Is4	2000-2020	+0,009	-0,011 - +0,028
Panama	SD-Is4	2000-2020	0,000	-0,014 - +0,015
Paraguay	SD-Is4	2000-2020	-0,005	-0,019 +0,009
Peru	SD-Is4	2000-2020	+0,021	+0,008 - +0,034
Poland	SD-Is4	2001-2021	-0,037	-0,044 - -0,031
Portugal	SD-Is4	2000-2021	-0,005	-0,009 - 0,0
Romania	SD-Is4	2000-2021	-0,001	-0,008 - +0,006
Spain	SD-Is4	2000-2021	-0,008	-0,014 - -0,003
Sweden	SD-Is4	2000-2021	0,000	-0,005 - +0,004
UK	SD-Is4	2000-2020	-0,005	-0,010 - +0,0
Uruguay	SD-Is4	2000-2020	0,000	-0,007 - +0,006
USA	SD-bw11	2001-2021	+0,011	0,0 - +0,022
Venezuela	SD-Is4	2000-2020	+0,048	+0,030 - +0,067
<i>N significant rise</i>			5	
<i>N significant decline</i>			9	
<i>N no significant change</i>			24	
<i>Net change: average + minus -</i>			+0,001	-0,003 - +0,006
<i>Total change; average irrespective of + or -</i>			0,010	+0,006 - +0,013
Changes over all 75 years, 54 nations and 158 trends together				
Significant rise of inequality (+)				
• Number of trends			16	
• Number of nations			12	
• Average rise			+0,017	
Significant decline of inequality (-)				
• Number of trends			48	
• Number of nations			23	
• Average decline			-0,010	

No significant change		
• Number of trends	133	
Net change: average + minus -	-0,001	-0,003 - +0.002
Total change; average irrespective of + or -	0,007	+0.006 - +0.008

Technical details:

1. Happiness assessed by means of surveys in representative samples of the public in nations. This list is based on responses to equivalent questions over the years.
2. Measure codes refer to an equivalent of survey questions on happiness.

[Best-Worst possible life](#)

SD-bw11 question on how one rated one's current life on a numerical scale ranging from best possible to worst possible

[Inequality-adjusted happiness](#)

iah is an index which denotes the degree to which a country combines a high average level of happiness with low inequality in happiness.

[Happiness](#)

SD-hl4 question on happiness answer rated on 4-step verbal response scale
 SD-hl5 question on happiness answer rated on 5-step verbal response scale
 SD-hl3 question on happiness answer rated on 3-step verbal response scale

[Life-satisfaction](#)

SD-ls4 question on life-satisfaction answer rated on 4-step verbal response scale
 SD-ls5 question on life-satisfaction answer rated on 5-step verbal response scale
 SD-ls10 question on life-satisfaction answer rated on 10-step numeral response scale
 SD-ls11 question on life-satisfaction answer rated on 11-step numeral response scale
 SD-ls10+11 question on life-satisfaction answer rated on 10 and 11-step numeral response scale

3. The original scores on these questions were transformed to a comparable 0-10 scale. See [chapter 7](#) of the introductory text to this collection of distributional findings on happiness in nations, section 7/3.3 'How the data were homogenized'.

4. The standard deviation was taken from the country tables in this collection of [distributional findings on happiness in nations](#). In the nation reports look into: 'Methodological notes', '**All** distributional findings on happiness by measure and year in ...' (Right bottom of the screen).
5. When happiness was assessed more than once in a year in a country, the average of the standard deviations scores is used.
6. The trend data used here are also described in the codebook of the data file 'Trend in nations', [variable trend average happiness in nations](#).
7. The average annual change in inequality is expressed in a regression coefficient that stands for the size of the slope of the linear regression line through the dots (averages) in the time charts. A positive coefficient denotes an average increase in average happiness inequality, and a negative coefficient a rise of equality.
8. The observed regression coefficient is based on a sample of assessments of happiness during this era and the coefficient in this sample may differ from the 'true' coefficient. The confidence interval gives an estimated range in which this true coefficient is likely to be included with 95% probability.
9. This report restricts to time series of at least 20 years involving 10 or more comparable data points.

References

Kalmijn, W.M. & Veenhoven, R. (2005)

Measuring inequality of happiness in nations: In search of proper statistics

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