

How's Life in the Russian Federation?



Additional information, including the data used in this country note, can be found here:
www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2016-country-notes-data.xlsx

The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter to people and that shape their quality of life. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an analysis, published in the *How's Life?* report as well as an interactive web application, the *Better Life Index*. It also includes 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 the Russian Federation from the *How's Life?* report** (pages 3-4) and shows what **Russian users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (page 5). A supporting Excel file with the data underlying the graphs shown in this note and further information is available here: www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2016-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**.



HOW'S LIFE IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN 2016?

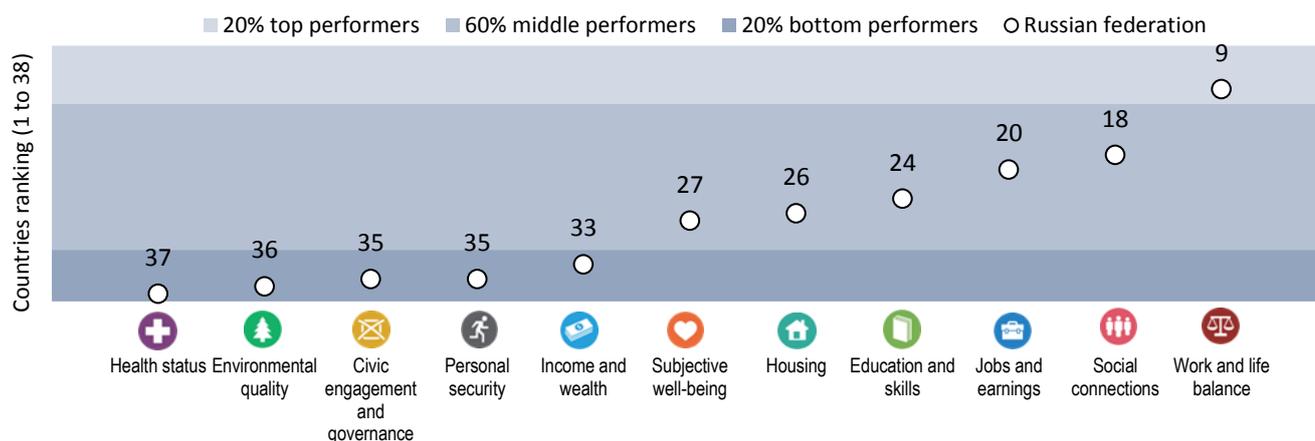
Compared with OECD countries, Brazil, Latvia and South Africa, the Russian Federation has some areas of relative strength and some areas of relative weakness across the OECD well-being dimensions. In terms of education and skills, 94.7% of adults have attained at least an **upper secondary education**, much higher than the OECD average of 76.4%. However, the **cognitive skills** of Russian 15-year-olds (as assessed in the OECD's PISA study) are below the OECD average. In 2014, the employment rate in the Russian Federation (69.3%) was above the OECD average and **long-term unemployment** (1.5%) was well below the OECD average of 2.6%. Additionally, almost no Russian employees regularly **work very long hours** (50 or more per week), while 13% of OECD employees do so.

On average, Russian people live in dwellings with less than 1 **room per person**, compared to an OECD average of 1.8 rooms, and 14.4% of Russians live in **housing without basic sanitation**, which is much higher than the OECD average (2.1%). Only 49% of Russians are satisfied with the quality of their local water, while the OECD average is 81.1%. **Air quality** in the Russian Federation (measured as average concentration of PM_{2.5} in the air) is just below the OECD average.

Life expectancy at birth in the Russian Federation is around 71 years, 9 years below the OECD average (of almost 80 years). In terms of personal safety, the rate of **homicides** is almost 3 times higher than the OECD average and only 52.9% of Russians **feel safe** walking alone **at night**, compared to 68.3% in the OECD on average. Finally, the **life satisfaction** of Russian people (who report an average score of 6.0 on a 0-10 scale) is below the OECD average level (6.5).

Current well-being in the Russian Federation

Russian Federation's well-being compared with other OECD countries, Brazil, Latvia and South Africa



RESOURCES FOR FUTURE WELL-BEING IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

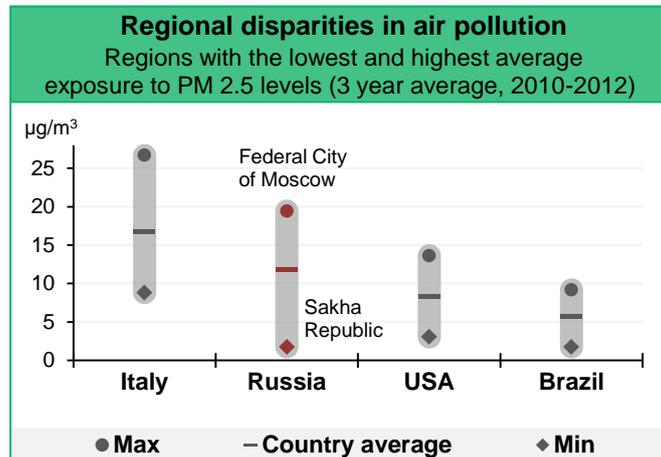
Beyond measuring well-being today, *How's Life? 2015* looks at some of the resources (or “capital stocks”) that will shape people’s well-being in the future. These include aspects of **natural capital**, **human capital**, **social capital** and **economic capital**.

For example, **natural capital** refers to critical assets in the natural environment and can include minerals, energy resources, land, soil, water, trees, plants and wildlife, but also broader ecosystems. In the Russian Federation, there are 56.5 square km of **forest area** per thousand people, 7 times more than the OECD average. However, in 2012 annual **greenhouse gas emissions** from domestic production were around 16 tonnes per person, which is around 2 tonnes higher than in 2000, and higher than the OECD average of 12.5 tonnes per person.

Human capital refers to the skills, competencies and health status of individuals. The **educational attainment of young adults**, for example, can be considered as an important indicator of the skills that are carried forward to the future. The share of Russian people aged 25-34 attaining at least upper secondary education is 94.4%, well above the OECD average of 83.6%. However, in terms of risks to future health, 33.8% of Russian people report **smoking** every day, which is higher than the OECD average (18.8%).

GOING LOCAL: MEASURING WELL-BEING IN REGIONS

Where people live has an important impact on their opportunities to live well, and there can be large differences in average levels of well-being in different regions within the same country. For example, **air quality** can vary substantially depending on where you live. In the Russian Federation, the Federal City of Moscow area has the highest level of average exposure to PM_{2.5} air pollution, and Sakha Republic the lowest average exposure. The extent of regional variation in air pollution in the Russian Federation is comparable to the Italian one, which is larger than in most OECD countries and Brazil.

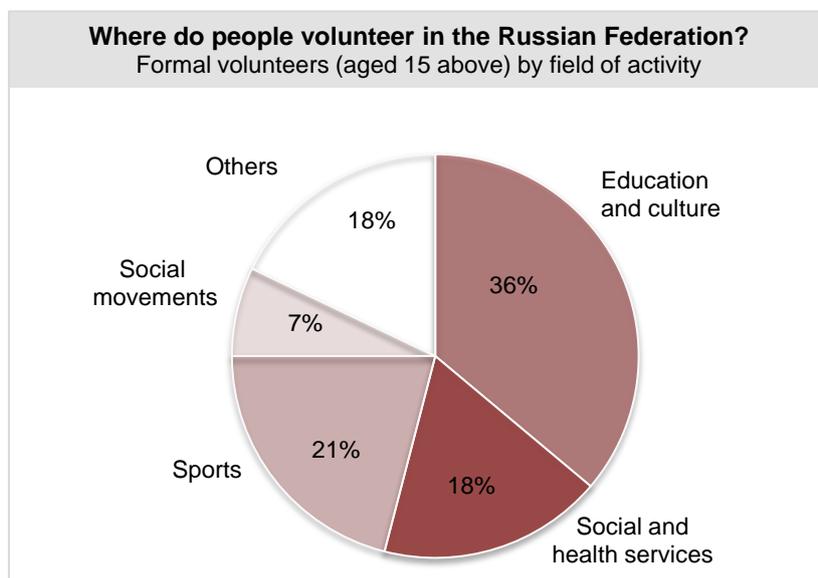


VOLUNTEERING IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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

The **main sector of volunteering activity** in the Russian Federation is **education and culture**, followed by sports and social and health services. Volunteering through an organisation (termed “**formal volunteering**”) is less common in the Russian Federation than on average in the OECD. 19.1% of the Russian working-age population report that they engaged in formal volunteering at least once during the past 12 months, which lies below the OECD average of 34.2%.

How often do people volunteer? 63.4% of Russians who participate in formal volunteering do so less than once a month. The share of formal volunteers who volunteer every day is 6.6% and lies above the OECD average of 4.7%.



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
- Income
- Jobs
- Community
- Education
- Environment
- Civic Engagement
- Health
- Life Satisfaction
- Safety
- Work-Life Balance

Each flower represents a country and each petal represents a topic

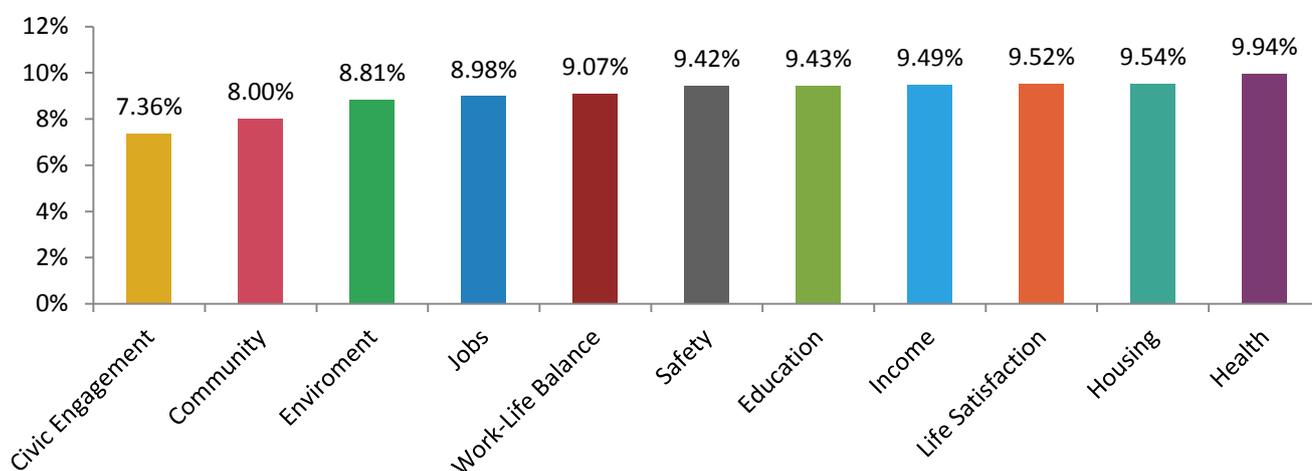
Rate the topics according to their importance to you

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 according to the demographic characteristics of users.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO PEOPLE IN RUSSIAN FEDERATION?

Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted **over eight million visits from just about every country on the planet** and has received over **17 million page views**. To date, over 236,500 people in the Russian Federation have visited the website, making the Russian Federation the 8th country overall in traffic to the website. The top cities are Moscow (28% of visits), Saint Petersburg (12%) and Yekaterinburg.

The following country findings reflect the ratings voluntarily shared by 2070 website visitors in the Russian Federation. Findings are only indicative and are not representative of the population at large. **For Russian users of the Better Life Index, health, housing and life satisfaction are the three most important topics** (shown below).¹ Up to date information, including a breakdown of participation in each country by gender and age can be found here: www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/responses/#RUS.



¹ User information for the Russian Federation is based on shared indexes submitted between May 2011 and May 2016.

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