

National Well-being Measures, September 2014

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Abstract

Updated national well-being measures data are published in Spring and Autumn each year. This article provides the Autumn 2014 update. The ONS Measuring National Well-being programme aims to produce accepted and trusted measures of the well-being of the nation - how the UK as a whole is doing.

Summary of changes to measures

This section summarises the changes made to national well-being measures since the last publication in March 2014. Details are provided in subsequent sections. No measures have been added or deleted.

- The thresholds for the four personal well-being measures have changed.
- The classification for 'Percentage who reported a long term illness and disability' has changed.
- 'Real net national income per head' has changed to 'Real net national disposable income'.
- 'Median household income' has changed to 'Real median household income'.
- The title for 'Some evidence indicating probable psychological disturbance or mental ill health' has been changed to 'Some evidence indicating depression or anxiety'.

Explanation of changes to measures

This section explains the changes made to national well-being measures since the last publication in March 2014.

1. The thresholds for the four personal well-being measures have changed and are shown in **Table 1**. The change was made because policy-makers are particularly interested in people reporting the highest or lowest levels of personal well-being. Looking at the ratings in this way helps to shed more light on these groups and is consistent with thresholds used in the separate Personal well-being release.

Table 1: Changes to Personal Well-being thresholds (1) used as a headline measure

	Threshold used in March 2014	Threshold used in September 2014
Rating of life satisfaction	7 to 10 out of 10	9 to 10 out of 10
Rating of how worthwhile the things they do are	7 to 10 out of 10	9 to 10 out of 10
Rating of happiness yesterday	7 to 10 out of 10	9 to 10 out of 10
Rating of anxious yesterday	0 to 3 out of 10	0 to 1 out of 10

Table notes:

1. On a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 was not at all and 10 was completely.

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(58.5 Kb)

2. The classification for 'Percentage who reported a long term illness and disability' has changed. In April 2013 the health questions on the LFS changed to the ONS harmonised standards used on other social surveys. This was to bring these questions in line with the Equality Act Legislation.
3. 'Real net national income per head' has changed to 'Real net national disposable income' as it is a better measure of the total income available to residents of a country. It includes net current transfers (for example, current international co-operation or remittances between households) from and to other countries.
4. The measure 'Median household income' has changed to 'Real median household income'. This measure is now adjusted for price changes, allowing analysis over time on a consistent basis.
5. The title for 'Some evidence indicating probable psychological disturbance or mental ill health' has been changed to a more accurate description. It is now 'Some evidence indicating depression or anxiety'.

Details of which measures data has been updated since the March 2014 publication can be found in the [National Well-being Measures Excel spreadsheet \(856 Kb Excel sheet\)](#).

Where to find national Well-being measures data

There are 41 measures of national well-being split across 10 domains. Information and data for the latest release of domains and measures is available in various formats:

- [National Well-being Measures Excel spreadsheet \(856 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) containing the latest and time series data plus links to data sources. This spreadsheet has also been revised to include age, sex and regional breakdowns to some of the headline measures. Additionally, confidence intervals for the latest headline measures have been included where possible.

- [Interactive wheel of measures](#) which includes data for the latest and previous periods plus time series charts.
- [Wheel of measures \(2.8 Mb Pdf\)](#) PDF 'print and keep' version showing the latest data.
- [Interactive charts](#) showing the latest data for selected measures by region and country.

Background notes

1. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html or from the Media Relations Office email: media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk

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