UK National Wellbeing Measures: Northern Ireland Data August 2018

NISRA
Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency
Gníomhaireacht Thuaisceart Éireann
um Staitisticí agus Taighde

Office for National Statistics

Key:
Outside Circle: UK*
Inside Circle: NI

Measures of National Wellbeing for the UK and Northern Ireland

The ‡ symbol indicates that the two sets of data are not directly comparable

*Mostly UK, some indicators relate to sub-UK geographies, as indicated in ONS releases

Introduction

The Measuring National Wellbeing programme established by the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) was launched in 2010 and sets out a range of measures, organised under 10 themes, such as Health, The Economy, Where We Live and What We Do. This brief update provides an overview of Northern Ireland across these measures. Further information on the ONS programme can be found at this link (ONS – Wellbeing).

Since the last update in July 2017 the Northern Ireland Civil Service has launched an Outcomes Delivery Plan which sets out the actions that departments intend to take during 2018-19. This addresses the previous Executive's objective of "Improving wellbeing for all – by tackling disadvantage and driving economic growth".

The plan's starting point is the wellbeing framework of 12 outcomes that was developed by the previous Executive, consulted on and refined during 2016-2017.   That framework reflects population conditions in the 12 key areas of economic and societal wellbeing that people said mattered most.

The approach is based on progress towards these 12 outcomes being measured primarily through a series of population level indicators, with each outcome having a small set of supporting indicators. The outcomes framework is the principal mechanism for assessing societal wellbeing in Northern Ireland.

NISRA continues to participate in the ONS-led Measuring National Wellbeing programme. This latest update of NI data is presented alongside UK data in the 'wheel' format used by ONS in previous reports. Further information on each of the 10 ONS National Wellbeing domains, including time series information, brief commentary and links to key sources of statistical information is available on the NISRA website (Wellbeing in Northern Ireland).

NISRA is keen to receive your feedback. Please forward any views or queries to Niall O'Neill (e-mail: niall.o'neill@nisra.gov.uk).

Sources of Data

All of the UK data and most of the NI data have been sourced from the ONS release, Measuring National Well-being: Quality of Life in the UK, 2018, and its associated tables and datasets. Sources are detailed in the report. There are some gaps in the data available for Northern Ireland as a number of the wellbeing indicators use sources that are only available at the UK level. If possible, alternative data are included for Northern Ireland. Where the two sets of data are not directly comparable, this is depicted using this symbol, ‡.

International Comparisons

ONS produces information comparing the UK with OECD countries or the European Union, where available, using directly comparable or proxy measure data across the main areas of wellbeing. Measuring National Well-being - International Comparisons.

Explanation of Differences

Where relevant and possible, differences between the latest NI and UK figures arising from sample surveys have been tested for statistical significance. The following key has been used in this report, the table and the wheel:

* denotes a statistically significant difference
# the difference is not statistically significant
‡ not applicable.

Summary of Results

Personal Wellbeing

Significantly higher proportions of NI respondents report very high levels of life satisfaction, worthwhile and happiness than in the UK overall. In recent years there has also been a marked distinction in terms of anxiety, with the latest figures indicating a greater proportion of NI respondents have very low levels of anxiety than is the case in the UK overall.

Our Relationships

The proportion of NI respondents in 2017/18 who reported feelings of loneliness either 'often' or 'always' was 4% which was similar to that in England (5.4% in 2016/17).

In 2013/14, 80% of respondents in Northern Ireland indicated that they had a spouse, family member or friend to rely on if they had a serious problem, which was slightly lower than the UK average of 84%.

Health

Males and females born in Northern Ireland have fewer expected years of living in good health than their counterparts in GB. The proportion of adults in Northern Ireland who were satisfied with their health was similar to that in the UK overall.

More than one fifth (21.7%) of those aged 16-64 in Northern Ireland reported a disability which was higher than in the UK overall (17.4%).

What We Do

In the 3 months to the end of February 2018, the Northern Ireland unemployment rate was 3.5%, while the overall UK average rate was 4.2%. More than half of respondents in Northern Ireland (56.5%) indicated that they were mostly or completely satisfied with their job and over two in five respondents (46.9%) indicated that they were mostly or completely satisfied with their amount of leisure time, both comparable with the UK generally.

In 2016/17, 63% of adults in Northern Ireland engaged with/participated in arts or cultural activities at least three times in the last year.

Where We Live

It is estimated that there were 40 crimes against the person per 1,000 adults in Northern Ireland (2016/17). The corresponding figure in England & Wales was 51 crimes. As was the case in England & Wales, the proportion of male respondents in Northern Ireland (88%) feeling fairly/very safe walking alone after dark in 2016/17 was higher than the proportion of female respondents (67%).

A higher proportion of NI respondents felt they belonged to their neighbourhood (78.7%), compared with the UK generally (68.8%).

Personal Finance

Around one fifth of people in Northern Ireland live in households with less than 60% of UK median income, which is similar to the proportion in the UK as a whole. At around 6%, a similar proportion of respondents in Northern Ireland and the UK overall reported that they were finding it quite or very difficult getting by financially. Over two in five respondents (44.6%) reported that they were mostly/completely satisfied with the income of their household.

The Economy

The measures in this domain are only reported at UK level. In 2017, the real net national disposable income per head for the UK was £25,368, the UK public sector debt was 85.4% of Gross Domestic Product and the UK inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH), was 2.6%.

Education and Skills

In 2017, 16.6% of Northern Ireland residents aged 16 to 64 had no qualifications, which was noticeably higher than in the UK overall (8.0%). The value of human capital[1] in 2015 in Northern Ireland was £0.42 trillion (UK overall: £19.9 trillion). This equates to £362k per head of working age population in NI, compared with £487k per head of working age population in the UK overall.

Governance

In 2017 the voter turnout in Northern Ireland was 65.2% compared with 68.8% across the UK. In 2017/18, 14% of respondents in Northern Ireland reported that they tended to trust the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Natural Environment

In 2016, greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland totalled 20.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (UK overall: 467.9 million tonnes). This equates to 11.0 tonnes per capita in Northern Ireland, compared with 7.1 tonnes per capita in the UK overall. In Northern Ireland, 43.0% of household waste was recycled in 2016, compared to 44.6% in the rest of the UK.

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[1] The value of individuals' skills, knowledge and competences in the labour market.

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Northern Ireland Data August 2018

UK National Wellbeing Measures: NI & UK Data

Domain / Measure		NI Data	UK Data[2]	Directly Comparable	Sig[3]	Date	NI Source	UK Source
Personal well-being								
1.1	Very high rating of satisfaction with their lives overall	36.3%	30.1%	Yes	*	2017 data	Annual Population Survey, ONS	Annual Population Survey, ONS
1.2	Very high rating of how worthwhile they feel the things they do are	42.1%	35.7%	Yes	*	2017 data	Annual Population Survey, ONS	Annual Population Survey, ONS
1.3	Rated their happiness yesterday as very high	40.6%	35.1%	Yes	*	2017 data	Annual Population Survey, ONS	Annual Population Survey, ONS
1.4	Rated their anxiety yesterday as very low	46.5%	40.2%	Yes	*	2017 data	Annual Population Survey, ONS	Annual Population Survey, ONS
1.5	Population mental well-being	25.6/35	25.2/35	Yes	*	2015 to 2016 data	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study
Our relationships								
2.1	Proportion of those in fairly or extremely unhappy relationships	N/A	3.6%	-	-	2015 to 2016 data	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study
2.2	Feelings of loneliness often/always	4%	5.4%	No		NI data 2017/18; UK data 2016/17 relates to England only	NISRA Continuous Household Survey	Community Life Survey, DCMS
2.3	Has a spouse or partner, family member or friend to rely on if they have a serious problem	80.0%	84.0%	Yes	*	2013 to 2014 data	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study
Health								
3.1	Healthy life expectancy at birth (male/female)	60.3 (male) 62.5 (female)	63.1 (male) 63.7 (female)	Yes	*(m) *(f)	2014 to 2016 data	Health analysis and reporting, ONS	Health analysis and reporting, ONS
3.2	Percentage who reported a disability	21.7%	17.4%	Yes	*	Apr to Jun 2017 data	Labour Force Survey, NI	Labour Force Survey, ONS
3.3	Mostly or completely satisfied with their health	52.8%	51.0%	Yes	#	2015 to 2016 data	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study

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[2] Mostly UK, some indicators relate to sub-UK geographies, as indicated in Date.

[3] Differences between the NI and UK data for each indicator are assessed using 95% confidence intervals. If a difference is said to be statistically significant, it is unlikely that it could have occurred by chance. Confidence intervals give a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimate. As a general rule, if the confidence intervals around the estimate overlap with the intervals around another, there is no statistically significant difference between the estimates.

3.4	Some evidence indicating depression or anxiety	15.6%	17.8%	Yes	#	2015 to 2016 data	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study
What we do								
4.1	Unemployment rate	3.5%	4.2%	Yes	#	Dec 2017 to Feb 2018 data	Labour Force Survey, ONS	Labour Force Survey, ONS
4.2	Mostly or completely satisfied with their job	56.5%	55.5%	Yes	#	2015 to 2016 data	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study
4.3	Mostly or completely satisfied with their amount of leisure time	46.9%	44.6%	Yes	#	2015 to 2016 data	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study
4.4	Volunteered more than once in the last 12 months	14.4%	19.1%	Yes	*	2014 to 2015 data	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study
4.5	Engaged with/participated in arts or cultural activity at least 3 times in last year	63%	82.2%	No		2016/17 data; UK data relates to England only	NISRA Continuous Household Survey, DfC	Taking Part Survey, DCMS
4.6	Adult participation in at least 150 minutes of sport and physical activities a week	40%	61.8%	No		2016/17 data; UK data Nov 2016 - Nov 2017 relates to England only	NISRA Continuous Household Survey, DfC	Active Lives Survey, Sport England
Where we live								
5.1	Crimes against the person (per 1,000 adults)	40	51	No		2016/17 data; UK data relates to England and Wales only	Northern Ireland Crime Survey, DoJ	Crime Survey for England and Wales, ONS
5.2	Felt fairly/very safe walking alone after dark (men/women)	88% (men) 67% (women)	87.9% (men) 61.7% (women)	No		UK data 2015/16 relates to England and Wales only; NI data 2016/17	Northern Ireland Crime Survey, DoJ	Crime Survey for England and Wales, ONS
5.3	Accessed natural environment at least once a week in the last 12 months	72%	57.6%	No		UK data 2015/16 relates to England only; NI data 2017/18	NISRA Continuous Household Survey	Monitor of Engagement with the natural environment, Natural England
5.4	Agreed/agreed strongly they felt they belonged to their neighbourhood	78.7%	68.8%	Yes	*	2014 to 2015 data	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study

5.5	Average minimum travel time to reach the nearest key services	N/A	17.5 minutes	N/A	-	UK data 2015 relates to England only	N/A	Journey Time Statistics, Department for Transport
5.6	Fairly/very satisfied with their accommodation	91%	90.3%	No		UK data 2015/16 relates to England only; NI data 2016	House Condition Survey	English Housing Survey, Department for Communities and Local Government
Personal finance								
6.1	Individuals in households with less than 60% of median income before housing costs	19%	16%	No		UK data: single year (2016/17); NI data: 3 year (2014/15-2016/17)	Family Resources Survey, Department for Work and Pensions	Family Resources Survey, Department for Work and Pensions
6.2	Median wealth per household, including pension wealth	N/A	£259,400	N/A	-	UK data 2014-2016 relates to Great Britain only	N/A	Wealth and Assets Survey, ONS
6.3	Real median household income	N/A	£27,310	N/A	-	UK data 2016/17	N/A	National Accounts, ONS
6.4	Mostly or completely satisfied with the income of their household	44.6%	45.6%	Yes	#	2015 to 2016 data	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study
6.5	Report finding it quite or very difficult to get by financially	6.5%	5.9%	Yes	#	2015 to 2016 data	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study	Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study
The economy								
7.1	Real net national disposable income per head	N/A	£25,368	N/A	-	UK data 2017	N/A	National Accounts, ONS
7.2	UK public sector net debt as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product	N/A	85.4%	N/A	-	UK data 2017	N/A	National Accounts, ONS
7.3	Inflation rate (as measured by CPIH)	N/A	2.6%	N/A	-	UK data 2017	N/A	Consumer Prices, ONS
Education and skills								
8.1	Human capital - the value of individuals' skills, knowledge and competences in labour market	£ trillion 0.42	£ trillion 19.9	Yes	-	2015 data	Human Capital estimates, ONS	Human Capital estimates, ONS
8.2	Those not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	N/A	11.2%	N/A	-	UK data Oct-Dec 2017 (seasonally adjusted figures)	N/A	Labour Force Survey, ONS
8.3	UK residents aged 16 to 64 with no qualifications	16.6%	8.0%	Yes	*	2017 data	Labour Force Survey, ONS	Labour Force Survey, ONS
Governance								
9.1	Voter turnout in UK General Elections	65.2%	68.8%	Yes	-	2017 data	Electoral Commission	Electoral Commission

9.2	Those who have trust in national Government	14%	34%	No		UK data 2017; NI data 2017/18	NISRA Continuous Household Survey	Eurobarometer
The natural environment								
10.1	Total green house gas emissions (millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent)	20.6	467.9	Yes	-	2016 data	DAERA	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
10.2	Protected areas in the UK (Millions hectares)	0.63	27.4	Yes	-	UK data 2017; NI data 2018	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
10.3	Energy consumed within the UK from renewable sources	N/A	8.9%	N/A	-	UK data 2016	N/A	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
10.4	Waste from households that is recycled	43.0%	44.6%	Yes	-	2016 data	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs