



How's Life? 2013

MEASURING WELL-BEING

Country Snapshot Denmark



OECD
Better Life
Initiative

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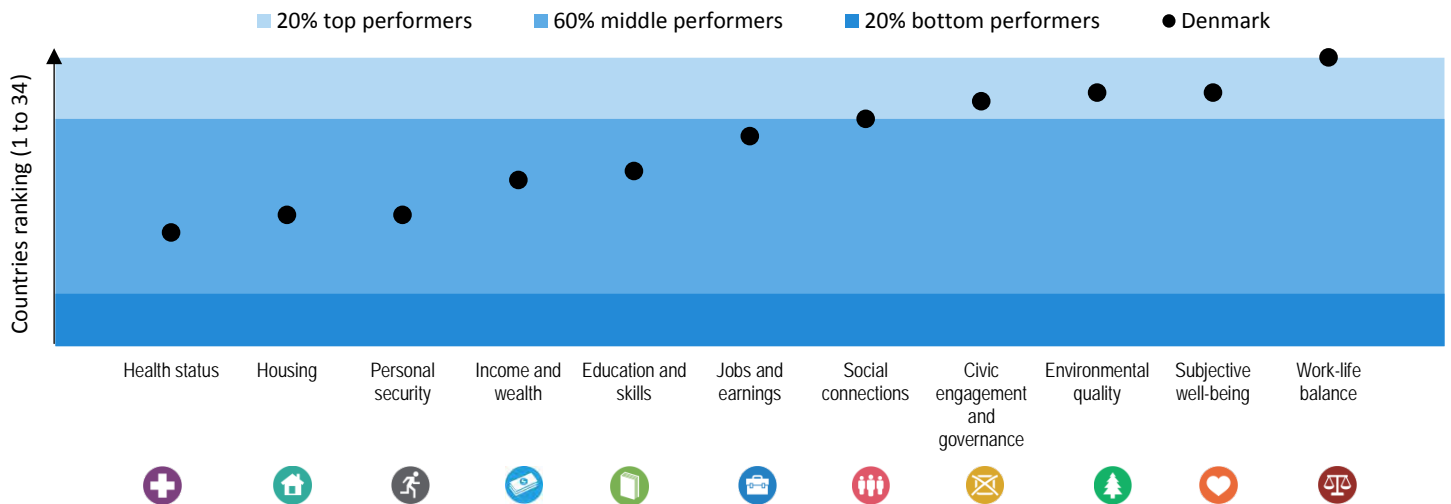
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HOW'S LIFE IN DENMARK IN 2013?

Compared with other OECD countries, **Denmark** performs very well in most of the 11 dimensions that the OECD considers as essential to a good life (income and wealth; jobs and earnings; housing conditions; health status; work-life balance; education and skills; social connections; civic engagement and governance; environmental quality; personal security and subjective well-being – See back page for more details). **Denmark** ranks at the top in work-life balance, it ranks above the OECD average in the dimensions of subjective well-being, environmental quality, civic engagement, social connections, jobs and earnings, education and skills, income and wealth, and close to the average in personal security, housing and health status.

Figure 1 - How does Denmark compare?

Denmark's well-being compared with other OECD countries, 2013



WELL-BEING DURING THE CRISIS

Against this background, *How's Life?* shows that the **average Danish household** has been only modestly affected by the crisis, with impacts that are particularly visible when looking at jobs, life satisfaction and civic engagement.

From 2007 to 2011, Denmark recorded a cumulative increase in real **household disposable income** of around 3%, while in the Euro area income dropped by more than 2% over the same period, with the largest decline occurring in 2011. However, market income inequality (before taxes and transfers) increased by 1% between 2007 and 2010, in line with the OECD average of 1.2%.

The largest impact of the crisis on people's well-being have come through lower employment and deteriorating labour market conditions. Between 2007 and 2012, the **employment rate** decreased by more than 4 percentage points in **Denmark**, while the long-term unemployment rate increased by 2 percentage points.

The poor employment situation had a major impact on **life satisfaction**. From 2007 to 2012, the percentage of **Danish** people declaring being very satisfied with their lives fell from 85% to 81%, although this value remains one of the highest in the OECD.

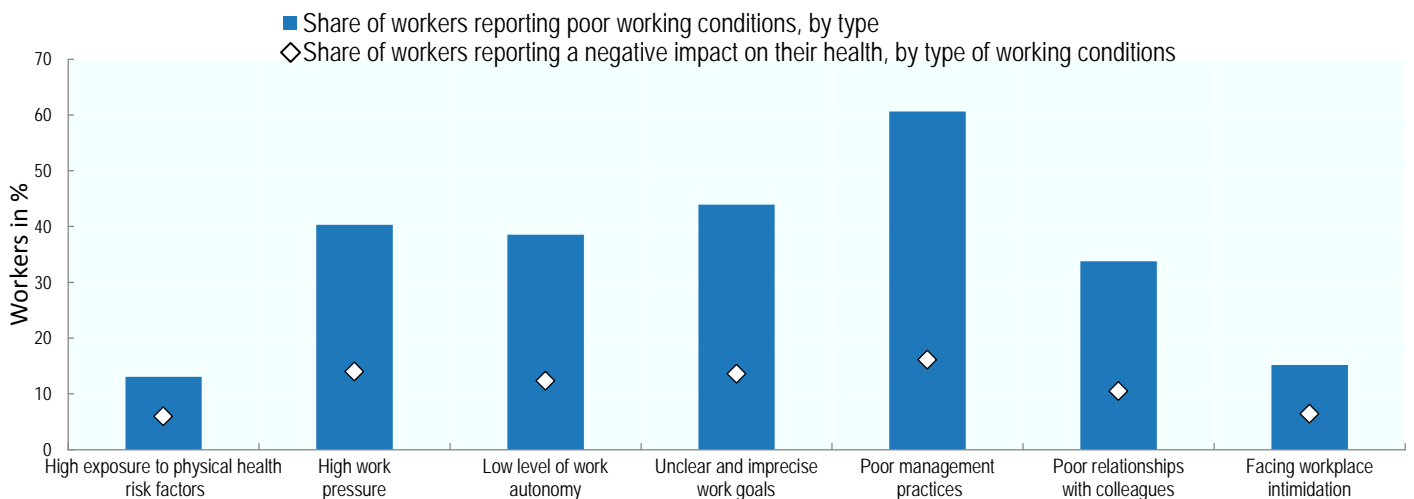
In OECD countries severely hit by the crisis, people's **trust in institutions** and in the way democracy works has declined during the crisis. The percentage of **Danish people** reporting that they trust the government also fell from 59% to 53% between 2007 and 2012.

Over the same period **new forms of solidarity and engagement** have emerged. In **Denmark**, this trend is less clear cut. The percentage of people reporting having helped someone increased by 2 percentage points while it decreased by 4 percentage points for people reporting having volunteered their time between 2007 and 2012.

WELL-BEING IN THE WORKPLACE

People spend most of their daily life at work and work for a significant part of their life. Hence, the kind of jobs they have matters a great deal for their well-being. Job quality covers many different aspects, from work content to control over decisions, to interactions with colleagues, support from managers, as well as more traditional aspects such as earnings and job security. In 2010, **10% of Danish workers reported being in a poor working environment**, the lowest share in European countries. Low job quality impairs the physical and mental health of workers.

Figure 2 - Working conditions and impact on Denmark workers' health, 2010



Source: OECD calculations on the European Working Conditions Survey

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WELL-BEING

Gender gaps in well-being, typically in favour of men, have declined in most OECD countries, including in **Denmark**. Despite these gains, **Danish women** are still less likely than men to have a paid job or be elected to Parliament, and more likely to spend many hours performing household tasks or to feel insecure when walking alone at night. A sizeable share of Danish women also report having experienced intimate partner violence.

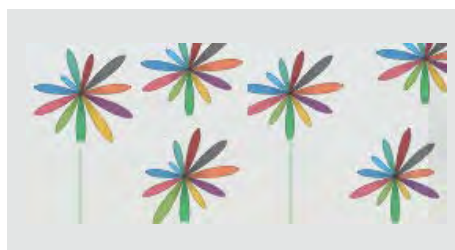
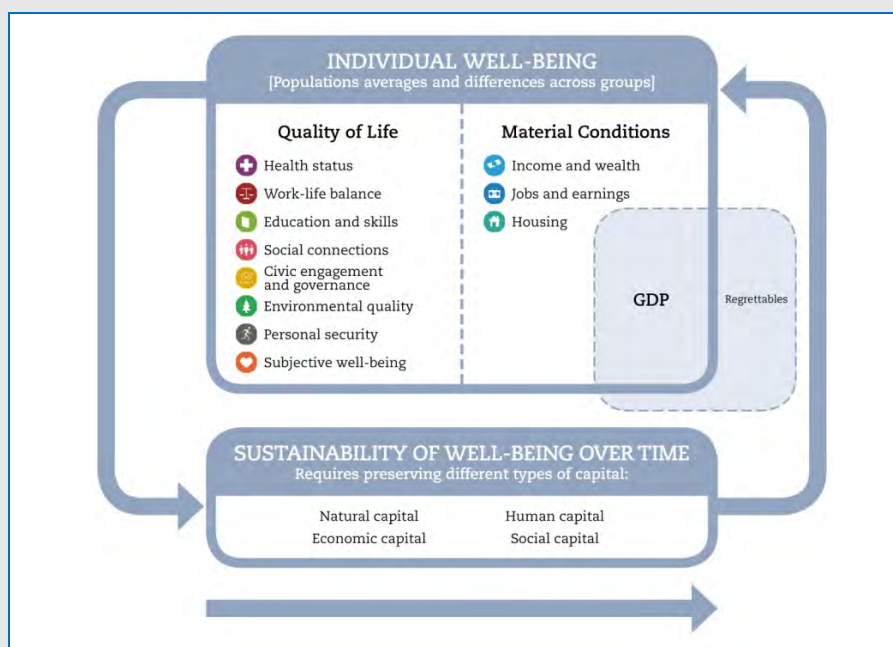
	HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN PERFORM IN DENMARK?		AND IN THE OECD?	
	♀	♂	♀	♂
Women and men throughout their lifetime				
Health status				
Life expectancy at birth (years)	82	78	83	77
Share of people in good/very good health conditions	70%	73%	67%	72%
Education and skills				
Tertiary degrees awarded (all fields)	60%	40%	58%	42%
Women and men in paid and unpaid work				
Jobs and earnings				
Employment rates (tertiary educated individuals)	84%	88%	79%	88%
Wage gap between men and women	-	+12%	-	+16%
Share of poor single-adult households	22%	22%	37%	30%
Work-Life balance				
Number of hours dedicated to household tasks (per week)	28	25	32	21
Women and men in society				
Civic Engagement and governance				
Share of seats in national parliament	39%	61%	27%	73%
Personal security				
Share of women reporting intimate partner violence	22%	-	61%	79%
Share of people feeling safe when walking alone at night	69%	91%	61%	79%
Subjective well-being				
Levels of life satisfaction on a 0 to 10 scale	7.5	7.5	6.7	6.6

HOW TO MEASURE BETTER LIVES?

What matters most when it comes to people's well-being? The OECD *Better Life Initiative* assesses individual and societal progress by looking not only at the functioning of the economic system but also at the diverse experiences and living conditions of people. The OECD conceptual framework for defining and measuring well-being distinguishes between current and future well-being. Current well-being is measured in terms of outcomes and their distribution across the population achieved in the two broad domains: material living conditions (i.e. income and wealth; jobs and earnings; housing conditions) and quality of life (i.e. health status; work-life balance; education and skills; social connections; civic engagement and governance; environmental quality; personal security; and subjective well-being).

SUSTAINING WELL-BEING OVER-TIME

How can we be sure that steps taken to improve well-being today do not undermine the well-being of people in the future? To assess the sustainability of well-being over time, the OECD focuses on four different types of resources (or "capitals") that can be measured today, and that matter for the well-being of future generations: economic, natural, human and social capital.



THE BETTER LIFE INDEX

What matters to you in life? Create and share your *Better Life Index*. The *Better Life Index* is an **interactive tool** that uses the information from *How's Life?* and allows you to measure and compare well-being across countries according to **your own priorities**. Go to www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org



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