



NOTES ON SUBJECTIVE WELLBEING INDICATORS

1. **Data source:** Data is drawn from microdata made available by the National Statistics Office drawn from the EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions, including the wellbeing module. <https://nso.gov.mt/statistics-on-income-and-living-conditions>.
2. **Respondents:** Every year the sample includes individuals from some 4000 households, each aged 16+. The NSO employs systematic random sampling annually to select the new panel (1,500 households) to be added to the sample to be interviewed. Responses are weighted to reflect the population.
3. **Missing Data:** In 2019 and 2020, overall life satisfaction, time use satisfaction, and feeling down in the dumps were not collected. In 2021, time use satisfaction, and feeling down in the dumps were not collected. The variable receiving material or non-material help was collected as two separate variables in 2018. In 2019, 2020 and 2021 this variable was collected as a single variable.
4. **Satisfactions:** Overall life satisfaction, Financial situation satisfaction, Present job satisfaction, Time use satisfaction and Personal relationship satisfaction as well as Trust in others and Perceived Social Exclusion, are measured on an 11-point Likert scale, where 0 is 'not at all' and 10 is 'completely'. In some of the tables, the answers will be clustered by level on the Likert scale as follows: Level 1: 0-1 where 0 is not at all satisfied; Level 2: 2 – 3; Level 3: 4 - 5 – 6; Level 4: 7 – 8; Level 5: 9 – 10 where 10 is completely satisfied; Level 99: Do not know (Excluded from tables).
5. **Emotions:** Feeling nervous, Feeling down in the dumps, Feeling calm and peaceful, Feeling downhearted and depressed, Feeling happy and Feeling lonely use a 5-point Likert scale, where 1 is 'None of the time', 2 is 'A little of the time', 3 is 'Some of the time', 4 is 'Most of the time', and 5 is 'All of the time'. For these variables, the answers are re-coded from low to high since the original data is collected from high to low. 1 'All of the time'; 2 'Most of the time'; 3 'Some of the time'; 4 'A little of the time'; 5 'None of the time'; 6 'Do not know' (Excluded from tables).
6. **Income and lifestyle:**
 - a. Material Deprivation is measured as 1. Materially Deprived; 0. Not Materially Deprived
 - b. Receiving material or Non-material help is measured on 2 categories, where 1 is 'Yes' and 2 is 'No' (Excluded from tables).
 - c. In self-defined economic status, the category 'Employed' comprises of 'Employee full-time', 'Employee part-time', 'Self-employed full-time', and 'Self-employed part-time' for 2018, 2019, and 2020. The category 'Other' comprises of 'Unfit to work', 'Compulsory military service', 'Domestic tasks', and 'Other inactive person'.

- d. Equivalised disposable income (referred to also as national equivalised income) is defined as the household's total disposable income divided by its "equivalent household size", to take account of the size and composition of the household, and is attributed to each household member. This variable includes persons who are 18 years and older, and who were in employment throughout the entire year, working a 40-hour week or more, and earning only an employment income (no self-employment income). The Category '€10,000 and under' includes amounts less than (and excluding) €10,000; Category '€10,000 - €20,000' includes €10,000 and excludes €20,000; Category '€20,000 - €30,000' includes €20,000 and excludes €30,000; Category '€30,000+' includes amounts greater than (and including) €30,000.
- e. Households with and without Children is measured on 2 categories: 1. Household without dependent children; 10. Household with dependent children
- f. Getting together with friends/family categories are: 1. Yes; 2. No – cannot afford it; 3. No – other reason
- g. Marital Status is measured on 4 categories: 1. Never married; 2. Married; 3. Separated/Divorced; 4. Widowed. Note that originally, options Separated and Divorced are collected separately, but are combined together in a single category (3).
- h. Regularly participate in a leisure activity is measured on 3 categories: 1. Yes; 2. No – cannot afford it; 3. No – other reason.
- i. Voluntary Work category Yes includes 'Within an organization', 'Other', and 'Informal voluntary work'; the category No includes 'No, lack of interest', 'No, lack of time', and 'No, other reasons'.
- j. Dwelling darkness is measured on 2 categories: 1. Yes; 2. No.
- k. Leaking Roof is measured on 2 categories: 1. Yes; 2. No.
- l. Pollution Grime and Other is measured on 2 categories: 1. Yes; 2. No.
- m. Noise from Neighbours and Crime is measured on 2 categories: 1. Yes; 2. No.
- n. Violence or vandalism categories is measured on 2 categories: 1. Yes; 2. No.
- o. Perceived general health is re-grouped into three categories; 'Good' comprising of 'Very Good' and 'Good', 'Fair', and 'Bad' comprising of 'Bad' and 'Very Bad'. It is originally measured as 1. Very Good; 2. Good; 3. Fair; 4. Bad; 5. Very bad

7. Demographics:

- a. a. The Age categories under consideration are: 1. Under 18; 2. 18 – 29; 3. 30 – 64; 4. 65+;
- b. The Gender categories are: 1. Male; 2. Female
- c. Educational level Primary education (or no education) includes 'No formal education or below' and 'Primary education'; The category Secondary education includes 'Lower secondary education' and 'Upper secondary education'; The category Post-Secondary education includes 'Post-secondary education' and 'Short-cycle tertiary education'; The category Tertiary education includes 'Bachelor education', 'Masters education', and 'Doctoral education'.
- d. The District categories are: 1. Southern Harbour; 2. Northern Harbour; 3. South Eastern; 4. Western; 5. Northern; 6. Gozo and Comino.
- e. Country of Birth Category 'Other' includes all other countries excluding Malta

The Wellbeing INDEX project is a strategic initiative, led by the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society in collaboration with the University of Malta. The name “INDEX” summarizes the project’s scope (Indicators, Networking, Data, Exploration and exchange).

The project, launched in Parliament on the 10th December 2020, will pave the way for the measurement of wellbeing in Malta and evidence-based policy.