

OECD Health Statistics 2016

Definitions, Sources and Methods

Perceived health status

Good/very good health, females aged 15+
Fair (not good, not bad) health, females aged 15+
Bad/very bad health, females aged 15+
Good/very good health, males aged 15+
Fair (not good, not bad) health, males aged 15+
Bad/very bad health, males aged 15+
Good/very good health, total aged 15+
Fair (not good, not bad) health, total aged 15+
Bad/very bad health, total aged 15+

Percentage of the population, aged 15 years old and over who **report their health to be 'good/very good' (or excellent) (all positive response categories), 'fair' (not good, not bad), 'bad/very bad' (all negative response categories).**

There is not yet full standardisation of the measurement of perceived health status across OECD countries. In Europe, a standard health interview survey instrument has been recommended to measure this variable. The recommendation is described in the publication: "Health Interview Surveys: Towards International Harmonization of Methods and Instruments," WHO Regional Office for Europe, 1996, and is as follows:

How is your health in general?

- * Very good
- * Good
- * Fair
- * Bad
- * Very bad

Not all countries have adopted this standardised instrument. Differences in the questions and response categories used in national health surveys from this standardised instrument are listed in the *Sources and Methods*.

Sources and Methods

The **European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)**, available in the **Eurostat** database (accessed in April 2016), is the source for all European countries, except Turkey.

Australia

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

- 2014: National Health Survey: First Results, 2014-15 - Australia. ABS Cat. No. 4364. Canberra: ABS.
- 2011: Australian Health Survey: Updated results, 2011-2012 - Australia. ABS Cat. No. 4364.0. Canberra: ABS.
- 2007: National Health Survey 2007-2008 (re-issue). ABS Cat. No. 4364.0. Canberra: ABS.
- 2004: National Health Survey 2004-2005, Summary of results. ABS Cat. No. 4364.0. Canberra: ABS.
- 2001: National Health Survey 2001, Summary of results. ABS Cat. No. 4364.0. Canberra: ABS.

Coverage: Population aged 15 years old and over.

Methodology:

- Approximately 20426 persons were surveyed in 2011, 20800 in 2007, 25900 in 2004, 26900 in 2001. Results are age-sex standardised and ratios applied to the whole population.
- The question is self-assessed. 'In general, would you say that your health is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?'

Deviation from the definition: Data are for the following 3 categories: "Good, Very Good and Excellent", "Fair", "Poor".

Further information: <http://www.abs.gov.au/>.

Austria

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Belgium

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Canada

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS).

From 2007: Custom tabulation.

2005: CANSIM Table 105-0422.

2003: CANSIM Table 105-0222.

2001: CANSIM Table 105-0022.

Coverage: Population aged 15 years old and over.

Methodology:

- As of 2007, the CCHS became an annual survey (prior to this it was a biennial survey) of persons aged 12 years old and over, living in private dwellings, half of whom are interviewed in person, and the other half by telephone. It excludes persons living on Indian Reserves or Crown lands, residents of institutions, full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces, and residents of certain remote regions. The CCHS covers approximately 98% of the Canadian population aged 12 years old and over. Data are collected directly from respondents.

- **Deviation from the definition:**

The question asked to all persons (*proxies used for adults who are sick or unable to answer the question*) was: "In general, would you say that your (*or the 'proxied' respondent's*) health is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?" Due to the difference in question text, data presented in Very Good/Good are from Excellent, Very good and good while data for Bad/Very Bad is from Poor and Fair is from Fair. Non-responses were removed from the calculation.

Further information: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/>.

Chile

Source: Ministry of Health (MINSAL), Epidemiology Department, Studies Unit.

2009: National Survey of Health, ENS (ENS 2009-2010).

2000 and 2006: National Survey of Quality of Life, ENCAVI (“Encuesta Nacional de Calidad de Vida 2000 y 2006”).

i Deviation from the definition:

2009: The question asked in the National Survey of Health 2009-2010 (ENS 2009-2010) was: “In general ...would you say that your health is: bad, regular, good, very good, excellent.” ENS data are for the following 3 categories: “Good, Very Good and Excellent”, “Regular”, “Bad”. See <http://www.encuestasalud.cl>.

2000 and 2006: The question asked in ENCAVI 2000 and 2006 was: “In general... would you say that your health is: very bad, bad, worse than normal, normal, better than normal, good, very good, do not know, no answer, not applicable.” (In Spanish: “En general, usted diría que su salud está: muy mal, mal, menos que regular, regular, más que regular, bien, muy bien, no sabe, no responde, no aplica”). Data are for the following 3 categories: “Good, Very Good”, “Worse than normal, regular and better than normal”, “Bad and very bad”. See

<http://epi.minsal.cl/epi/html/sdesalud/calidaddevida2006/index.htm> and

<http://epi.minsal.cl/epi/html/sdesalud/cdevid/encuescdv.htm> (both in Spanish).

✂ Break in time series: Data for 2009 come from ENS, whereas data for 2000 and 2006 come from the ENCAVI survey.

Czech Republic

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Denmark

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Estonia

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Finland

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

France

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Germany

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Greece

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Hungary

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Iceland

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Ireland

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Israel

Source: Israel Central Bureau of Statistics. The Israeli Social Survey.

Coverage: Population aged 20 years old and over.

Methodology:

- The survey is an annual survey of individuals, conducted since 2002. The sampling frame is the Population Register (excluding institutional population and residents living outside of localities, especially in the southern district - about 0.7% of the population).
- Data are based on the question: How is your health, overall? Very good / Good / Not so good / Not good at all.
- Data on **good/very good health** refer to respondents who answered categories 1 or 2: Very good, Good (all positive response categories).
- Data on **bad/very bad health** refer to respondents who answered categories 3 or 4: Not so good, Not good at all (all negative response categories).

i Deviation from OECD definition: In the Israeli Social Survey questionnaires, there is **no middle category that fits fair perceived health status**.

Further information: <http://surveys.cbs.gov.il/Survey/surveyE.htm>.

Note: The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

Italy

Sources:

From 2004: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Until 2003: ISTAT, Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (National Institute of Statistics). Aspect of daily living survey.

Coverage:

From 2004: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Until 2003: Population aged 15 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Japan

Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions (2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, and 2013).

Coverage: Population aged 15 years old and over.

Methodology:

- The question and response categories are 'Good, Sort of good, Fair, Not so good, Bad'. Data for the three categories refer to those reporting being 'Good and Sort of good', 'Fair', and 'Not so good and Bad' respectively.

i Denominator includes those whose perceived health status is unknown.

Korea

Sources:

From 2008: Ministry for Health and Welfare and Korean Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Report on the National Health and Examination Nutrition Survey.

Until 2005: Ministry for Health and Welfare and Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, Report on the National Health and Nutrition Survey.

Methodology:

- The National Health and Examination Nutrition Survey had been conducted every 3 years until 2005, and has become an annual survey in 2008.
- The sample size of the National Health and Examination Nutrition Survey in 2013 was 3,182 families (8,018 people). It excludes institutional dwelling units (e.g. dormitories, social welfare institutions, prisons, military camps, etc.) and foreigners.

- Survey questions as follows:

From 2005: “How do you usually consider your health condition? Very Good / Good /Fair / Bad /Very bad.”

2001: “In your opinion, how do you think your health condition compares to others of your own age? Very Good / Good /Fair / Bad /Very bad.”

Further information: <http://knhanes.cdc.go.kr/knhanes/index.do> (in Korean), <http://kosis.kr> and <http://www.kihasa.re.kr/html/english/main.jsp>.

Latvia

Source: Eurostat database. Data extracted in April 2016.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (hlth_silc_01).

Luxembourg

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Mexico

Sources:


2005 and 2006: **Ministry of Health / National Institute of Public Health**. National Health and Nutrition Survey (Ensanut). Final results.

2002: **Ministry of Health**. National Survey of Health Systems Performance Assessment.

2001: **WHO** Multi-country Survey Study on Health and Responsiveness 2000-2001.

2000: **Ministry of Health**. National Health Survey 2000.

Coverage:

 Data reported only for the category “Good/very good health”.

- 2001 data refer to the population aged 18 years old and over.

Methodology:

2001, 2002 and 2006:

- Health status was evaluated by asking the following question: How do you perceive your health today? (very good, good, regular, bad, very bad). The data reported refer to the percentage of people who considered their health to be very good or good, by sex and age groups.

- Data are representative at national and state level.

- In 2006, results are from 48000 households. Data include 32 states.

- In 2005, results are from 22000 households. Data include only 15 states.

- In 2002, the survey was conducted in 38746 households.

- In 2001, home survey to 4819 people.

2000:

- Health status was evaluated with the question “Do you consider your health in the last year to be: very good, good, average, bad, very bad, do not know?” Data presented refer to the percentage of people who perceived their health status as good or very good, by sex and age group.

- Data are representative at national and state levels.

- Survey conducted in 1470 households with 261123 people. Unpublished data.

Further information: <http://www.salud.gob.mx/> and <http://www.insp.mx/> (both in Spanish).

Netherlands

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

New Zealand

Source: Ministry of Health. New Zealand Health Survey 2002-2003, 2006-2007, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-15.

Coverage: Population aged 15 years old and over.

Methodology:

- The 2014/15 survey refers to the sample selected from July 2014 to June 2015. Data are based on a sample of 13497 individuals.
- The 2013/2014 survey refers to the sample selected from July 2013 to June 2014. Data are based on a sample of 13309 individuals.
- The 2012/2013 survey refers to the sample selected from July 2012 to June 2013. Data are based on a sample of 13009 individuals.
- The 2011/2012 survey refers to the sample selected from July 2011 to June 2012. Interviews were carried out from July 2011 to August 2012, collecting information on 12596 adults aged 15 years old and over.

Deviation from the OECD definition:

- The self-assessed question was: "In general, would you say your health is: Excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?"
- NZ Health Survey response categories of:
 - 'Excellent', 'Very Good', or 'Good' are used for the OECD categories of perceived health 'good' or 'very good'.
 - 'Fair' is used for the OECD category of 'fair'.
 - 'Poor' is used for the OECD category of 'bad' or 'very bad'.

Further information: <http://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/national-collections-and-surveys/surveys/current-recent-surveys/new-zealand-health-survey>.

Norway

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Poland

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Portugal

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Slovak Republic

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Slovenia

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Spain

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Sweden

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Switzerland

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

Turkey

Sources:

2006-2014: **Turkish Statistical Institute** (TURKSTAT), Income and Living Conditions Survey.

2003: **School of Public Health of the Ministry of Health**, National Burden of Disease and Cost Effectiveness Study.

Coverage:

2006-2014: Data refer to population aged 15 years old and over.

2003: Data refer to the population aged 18 years old and over.

Methodology:

2006-2014:

- The survey question was the following: How good is your health in general? Very good / Good / Fair / Bad / Very bad. Data refer to “Very Good” and “Good”.
- Data were standardised by age.

2003:

- National Burden of Disease and Cost Effectiveness Study used the World Health Organization’s World Health Survey questionnaire on a sample of 11481 households.
- The category 15-24 years old for females, males and total actually covers the age group 18-24 years old. Data were not weighted by age.

🔪 **Break in time series in 2006** due to a change in source and methodology.

Further information: <http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/>.

United Kingdom

Source: EUROSTAT, European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Data extracted on April 4th, 2016.

Coverage: Population aged 16 years old and over.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health (hlth) > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (%) (hlth_silc_01).

United States

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics. National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). Unpublished data.

Coverage: National representative sample of the U.S. civilian non-institutionalised population, aged 15 years old and over.

Methodology:

- U.S. health status was measured in the National Health Interview Survey by asking the respondent, "Would you say (name of family member)’s health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?" Estimates are based on the number of persons with excellent, very good, and good health.
- The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is an ongoing nationwide sample survey in which data is collected through personal household interviews. Information is obtained on personal and demographic characteristics, including race and ethnicity by self-reporting or as reported by an informant. Information is also obtained on illness, injuries, impairments, chronic conditions, utilisation of health resources, and other health topics.
- The final household response rate for the on-going portion of the survey (core) has been between 87 and 92 percent over the years.

Estimates were weighted to represent the U.S. civilian non-institutionalised population for each time period.

Unknowns are excluded from the denominators.

🔴 **Deviation from OECD definition:** In the NHIS, the “Good” or “Very good” categories correspond to the “Excellent”, “Very good” or “Good” categories; the “Fair” category to the “Fair category” and the “Bad” or “Very bad” categories to the “Poor” category.

Further information: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/healthy.htm>.

NON-OECD ECONOMIES

Lithuania

Source: Eurostat database. Data extracted in April 2016.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> > Population and social conditions > Health > Health status (hlth_state) > Self-perceived health and well-being (hlth_sph) > Self-perceived health by sex, age and labour status (hlth_silc_01).

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<http://www.oecd.org/health/health-data.htm>