

Personal Wellbeing in Northern Ireland

2019/20



Department of
Finance

An Roinn

Airgeadais

www.finance-ni.gov.uk

Dimension	Assessment by the author.
Introduction	Context for the quality report.
	<p>The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Measuring National Wellbeing Programme monitors and reports “how the UK as a whole is doing”. The measures monitored through the Programme are organised into 10 domains, including one that focuses on personal (subjective) wellbeing. This release presents some key 2019/20 personal wellbeing data for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>NISRA has participated in the Measuring National Wellbeing Programme since it was established in 2010, and several of our household surveys incorporate the four personal wellbeing questions outlined below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays? • overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile? • overall, how happy did you feel yesterday? • overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday? <p>The sample size for the UK as a whole was approximately 320,000. The sample for Northern Ireland was 5,150.</p>
Relevance	The degree to which the statistical product meets the user needs in both coverage and content.
	<p>This report provides baseline data on personal (subjective) wellbeing in Northern Ireland. As well as providing comparisons with other regions in the UK.</p> <p>The ONS personal wellbeing questions were developed as part of the Measuring National Wellbeing Programme.</p> <p>ONS sought advice from experts working in the field of subjective wellbeing and consulted with specialists on the National Statistician’s Measuring National Wellbeing Advisory Forum and Technical Advisory Group. Based on this, as well as extensive question testing, four questions were designed. They provide a concise and balanced approach to the measurement of subjective wellbeing, drawing on three main theoretical approaches. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ‘evaluative’ approach which asks people to reflect on their life and assess how it is going overall in terms of their satisfaction with life; • the ‘eudemonic’ approach which asks people to consider the extent to which they feel a sense of meaning and purpose in life; • the ‘experience’ approach which ask about people’s positive and negative experiences and emotions over a short period of time to assess these aspects of personal wellbeing on a day-to-day basis <p>The population level analysis is broken down by various characteristics, including section 75 categories.</p>

	<p>The uses of personal well-being data are varied, but four main uses have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overall monitoring of national well-being • use in the policy-making process • international comparisons • allowing individuals to make informed decisions about their lives <p>There is demand for personal well-being information to inform the policy-making process, both in central government and local government.</p> <p>The report includes infographics, charts, tables and statistical commentary to communicate the findings to the end user in a clear and concise manner.</p> <p>Additional notes and definitions have been included throughout the report to provide the user with additional information to aid understanding of the statistical concepts.</p>
<p>Accuracy and Reliability</p>	<p>The proximity between an estimate and the unknown true value.</p> <p>The LFS is based on a systematic random sample of addresses drawn each year from the Pointer list of domestic addresses. Pointer is the address database for Northern Ireland maintained by Land & Property Services (LPS).</p> <p>As the LFS is a sample survey, there is a certain level of sampling error, i.e. the characteristics of the group sampled may differ slightly from the population as a whole. To account for this sampling error, the data has been weighted in order to produce estimates that better represent the population.</p> <p>As mentioned above, all personal wellbeing estimates produced are weighted to account for them being produced from a survey. There, in the report, sample sizes are also provided as unweighted counts of valid responses to each of the well-being questions. It is possible for each of the four questions (life satisfaction, worthwhile, happiness and anxiety) to have different sample sizes; this is because respondents are able to choose which, if any, of the personal well-being questions they answer.</p> <p>Based on new population estimates, new wellbeing weights have been available for the LFS data since March 2020. This has resulted in Personal wellbeing estimates for the years 2011/12 to 2018/19 being revised and estimates for these years presented here will differ from previous publications.</p> <p>Statistical significance was determined using 95% confidence levels. These show the ranges within which we are 95% confident that the true value for the population falls. For example, the average (mean) wellbeing rating of the Northern Ireland population for Life Satisfaction for 2019/20 (year to end March 2020) was 7.86 out of 10; we can be</p>

	<p>95% certain that the true (if we surveyed everyone and not just a sample) 2019/20 figure for the Northern Ireland population falls between 7.81 out of 10 and 7.91 out of 10.</p> <p>Statistical disclosure control methodology is applied to the LFS, ensuring that individual level information is not disclosed in either publications or specific information requests.</p>
<p>Timeliness and Punctuality</p>	<p>Timeliness refers to the time gap between publication and the reference period. Punctuality refers to the gap between planned and actual publication dates.</p>
	<p>Statistical Co-ordination Branch, the producers of this report, received the validated 2019/20 LFS dataset from the Economic and Labour Market Statistics team (LFS) on 31 July 2020.</p> <p>The Personal Wellbeing report - 'Personal Wellbeing in Northern Ireland: 2019/20' was published in November 2020. This was 2 weeks later than originally anticipated, due to staff working on covid-19 related data and to allow for the structure of the report to be updated to ensure it met accessibility requirements.</p> <p>There is approximately a 7 month time lag between end of fieldwork to the publication of results.</p>
<p>Accessibility and Clarity</p>	<p>Accessibility is the ease with which users are able to access the data, also reflecting the format in which the data are available and the availability of supporting information. Clarity refers to the quality and sufficiency of the metadata, illustrations and accompanying advice.</p>
	<p>The 'Personal Wellbeing in Northern Ireland: 2019/20' report was published in PDF format on the NISRA website following pre announcement on Gov.uk.</p> <p>The report was also emailed to a list of key users and an Infographic containing key statistics, along with a link to the publication, was published on all NISRA social media sites on the morning of its release.</p> <p>Accompanying tables, in both Microsoft Excel and OpenData format, are available alongside the main report on the NISRA website.</p> <p>The report includes infographics, charts, tables and statistical commentary to communicate the findings to the end user in a clear and concise manner. Additional notes and definitions have been included throughout the report to provide the user with additional information to aid understanding of the statistical concepts.</p> <p>The full report and tables have been updated to meet accessibility requirements.</p> <p>The contact details for the lead statistician and the producing statistician have been included in the Annex section of the report.</p>

<p>Coherence and Comparability</p>	<p>Coherence is the degree to which data that are derived from different sources or methods, but refer to the same topic, are similar. Comparability is the degree to which data can be compared over time and domain.</p> <p>The ONS personal wellbeing questions contained within this report were developed as part of the Measuring National Wellbeing Programme. NI Headline results are also reported by ONS as part of their UK report. The NI report is usually scheduled to publish on the same day as the ONS release. However, following a data request, ONS published headline and Local Authority data on 24 July 2020 and have not confirmed a date for their ‘in depth’ analysis.</p> <p>The ONS personal wellbeing questions have been included on the Labour Force Survey and the ONS Annual Population survey each year since 2011. .</p> <p>These questions will continue to be included each year, allowing comparability over time.</p> <p>Further information on the ONS approach to measuring personal wellbeing can be found on the Personal well-being user guidance page.</p> <p>The Subjective wellbeing questions are also included on the NI Health survey and NI Continuous household survey. This is to allow for more in depth analysis of other wellbeing indicators such as Loneliness and self-efficacy. However, the data from the LFS will remain the main source for Personal Wellbeing data in NI.</p> <p>In light of the current pandemic, the questions have also been included in the NISRA Coronavirus (Covid-19) opinion survey. Information on this survey and the most up to date report can be found on the NISRA Coronavirus (Covid-19) Opinion survey page.</p>
<p>Trade-offs between output quality components</p>	<p>Trade-offs are the extent to which different aspects of quality are balanced against each other.</p> <p>Although considering sex by age, gender identity and sexual orientation would be of interest, the numbers in some categories are too small for accurate analyses and combining groups would provide less meaningful results. This will be reviewed on an annual basis.</p> <p>Sample sizes for some LGD’s are small, therefore reducing the reliability of the data. This has been highlighted in the report.</p> <p>We are working with a user group to add additional characteristics and geography variables into future publications. As a result of this work, a breakdown by Deprivation Quintile has been added to the report.</p> <p>This report contains data collected on the build up to lockdown of the UK, on 23 March 2020, in response to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and the reader should keep in mind that this may have an effect on the data collected in the period from January to March 2020.</p>

	<p>As a result of the pandemic, the method of data collection for the 20/21 year has changed from face to face to online.</p>
Assessment of user needs and perceptions	<p>The process for finding out about users and uses, and their views on the statistical products.</p>
	<p>The Statistical co-ordination branch (SCB) have met with relevant policy areas and work closely with other statistics branches who are supplying personal wellbeing data within their publication. The team will also continue to liaise with these users to ensure needs and perceptions are met.</p> <p>Data from the Personal Wellbeing publication is an indicator for the NI Programme for Government (PfG) and as such is assessed by the PfG Technical Assessment Panel on an annual basis.</p> <p>The branch also met with the OSR team responsible for wellbeing publications in February 2020 and will continue to communicate with this team to ensure the highest standards are maintained</p> <p>Following, data requests and user engagement, additional data on those living with a disability, have been added to the report.</p> <p>In October 2020, as part of the PfG Indicator Review, data collected for this report was assessed to ensure it met user requirements in terms of quality and coverage.</p> <p>Contact details for the responsible statistician are also provided within the Annex sections of the report.</p>
Performance, cost and respondent burden	<p>The effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the statistical output.</p>
	<p>Due to the vast amount of work taken to Operate the LFS survey, it is not possible to estimate the cost for the Personal Wellbeing questions alone.</p> <p>The Annual Operation cost of the full NI LFS is around £750,000 and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fieldwork costs to Central Survey Unit; • ONS processing and weighting the data; and • Staff costs for analysis and production of outputs. <p>The Annual Burden to Business, Households and Individuals of Completing Statistical Surveys is published on the NISRA website. The 2018/19 report was published on 30th July 2020.</p> <p>The report includes information on burden to respondents in relation to time taken to participate in the full LFS survey.</p>
Confidentiality, transparency and security	<p>The procedures and policy used to ensure sound confidentiality, security and transparent practices</p>
	<p>NISRA follows the 'National Statistician's Guidance: Confidentiality of Official Statistics' in the collection and dissemination of these statistics.</p> <p>Standard disclosure control methodology is applied to the data. This ensures that information attributable to an individual is not identifiable in any</p>

	<p>published outputs and that the outputs are only seen by authorised staff prior to their publication.</p> <p>As part of the staff induction process and their ongoing personal development plan, staff regularly complete mandatory training on Code of practice and managing information.</p>
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