

**Measuring the
collective
wellbeing of
the people of
the UK**



About us

- Carnegie UK is an independent policy foundation.
- For more than 100 years we have been working to improve the wellbeing of people across the UK and Ireland.
- One of our strategic aims is to:



Put wellbeing at the heart of decision-making

Growing support for a wellbeing approach to public policy by working with governments and policymakers at all levels in the UK and Ireland to think differently about how we understand society and contribute to social progress.



Carnegie UK

Improving our collective wellbeing is about everyone having what they need to live well now, and into the future.

The Collective Wellbeing vision:

Everyone having what they need to live well now and in the future.



Social wellbeing

We all have the support and services we need to thrive.



Economic wellbeing

We all have a decent minimum living standard.



Environmental wellbeing

We all live within the planet's natural resources.



Democratic wellbeing

We all have a voice in decisions that affect us.

Life in the UK Wellbeing Index

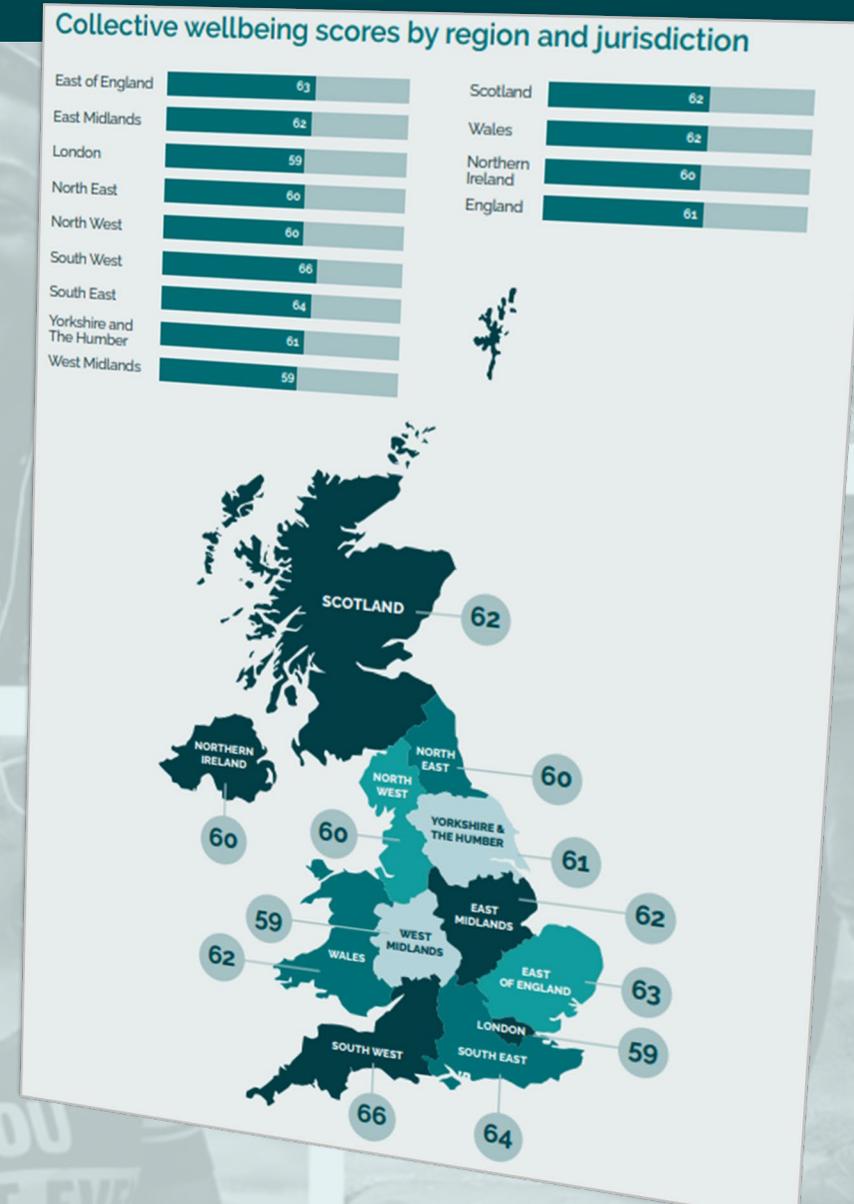
An index designed to measure how well we are living together.

A single figure that captures our collective wellbeing by looking at the social, economic, environmental, and democratic dimensions of our lives.

Index inspired by the arguments of Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress

Key facts:

- Index now in year 3 with a commitment to run until at least 2030
- Sample size of around 7000 each year (c.800 in Northern Ireland)
- 26 question survey run by Ipsos
- Good survey sizes for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales
- Booster applied to capture experience of minority ethnic groups
- Multi-year trend and demographic analysis now possible
- Increased data visualisation from 2025 onward

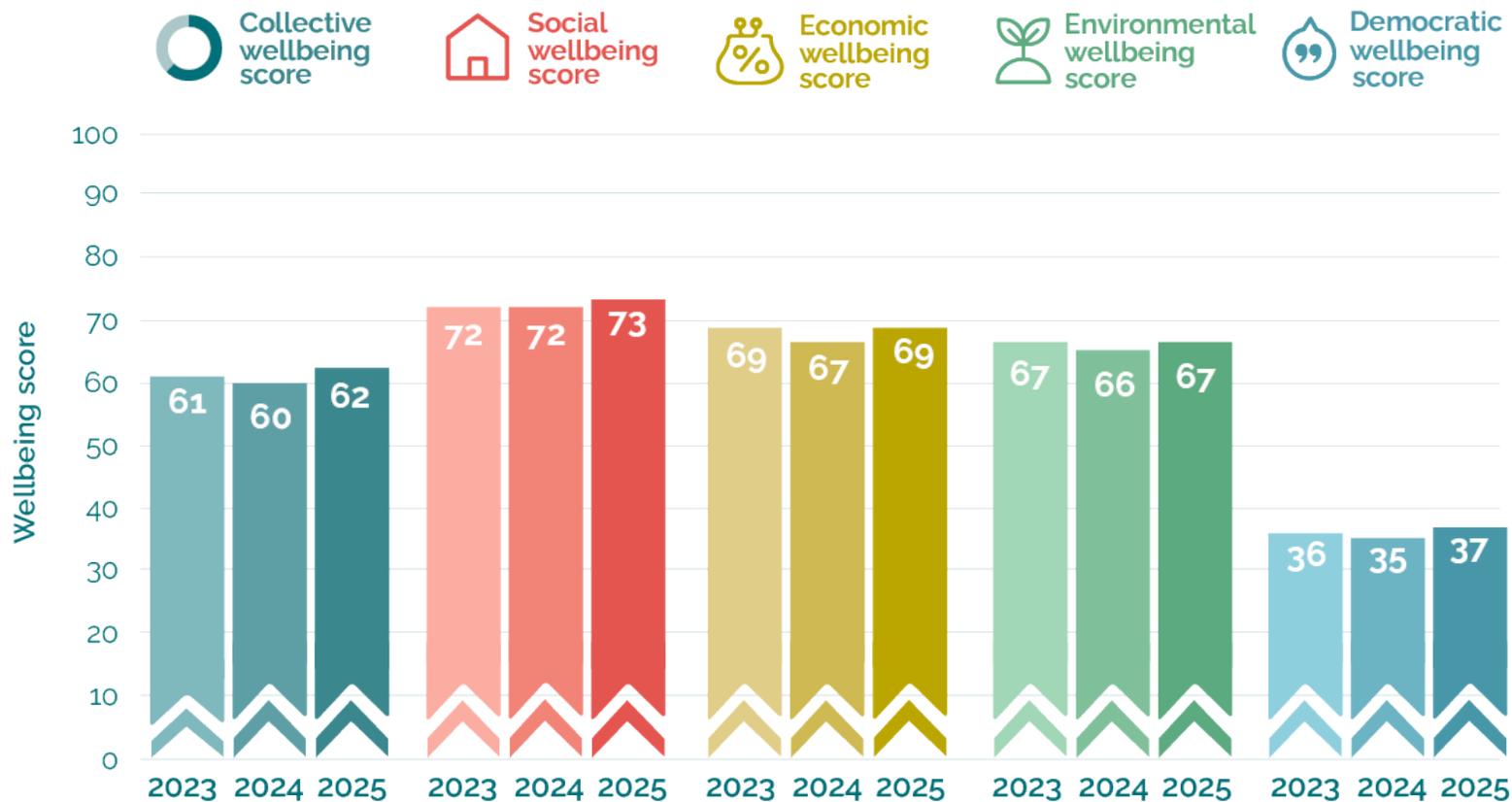




➤ Our guiding principles

- > Timely
- > Comprehensive
- > Robust
- > Relevant
- > Useful
- > Compliance with the UK Code of Practice on Statistics

Key findings: Northern Ireland



The collective wellbeing score for the Northern Ireland in 2025 is 62 out of a possible 100.

➤ Social wellbeing: Northern Ireland

The social wellbeing score for Northern Ireland in 2025 is 73 out of a possible 100.

- **72%** feel that they could rely on someone in their neighbourhood to help them if they were alone and needed help, six percentage points higher than the UK average of 66%.
- **64%** say that it is difficult to get a GP appointment when they need one, 16 percentage points higher than the UK average of 48%.
- **30%** say that it is difficult to access public transport that gets them where they want to go, eleven percentage points higher than the UK average of 19%.
- **27%** do not feel safe walking alone in their local neighbourhood after dark, six percentage points higher than in 2024 (21%).
- **10%** of people say they are in bad general health, four percentage points higher than the UK average of 6%.

➤ Economic wellbeing: Northern Ireland

The economic wellbeing score for Northern Ireland in 2025 is 69 out of a possible 100.

- **81%** people can afford to keep their home heated adequately. This has increased from less than three quarters (73%) in 2024.
- **34%** of people are satisfied with the availability of job opportunities in their local area. This is significantly higher than the UK average of 26%.
- **33%** of people could not afford an unexpected but necessary bill of £850, significantly higher than the UK average of 28%.
- **30%** cannot afford to pay for a week's annual holiday away from home, nine percentage points higher than the UK average of 21%.

➤ Environmental wellbeing: Northern Ireland

The environmental wellbeing score for Northern Ireland in 2025 is 67 out of a possible 100. This is significantly higher than the UK average.

- **69%** of people are satisfied with the quality of their local open, public, or green space.
- **38%** experience problems with air quality, though this is lower than the UK average of 52%.
- **77%** experience problems with litter or rubbish on the street. This is lower than the UK average of 83%.
- **53%** have problems with noise pollution. However, this is lower than the UK average of 64%.
- **24%** of people are satisfied with efforts to preserve the environment in the UK, similar to previous years.

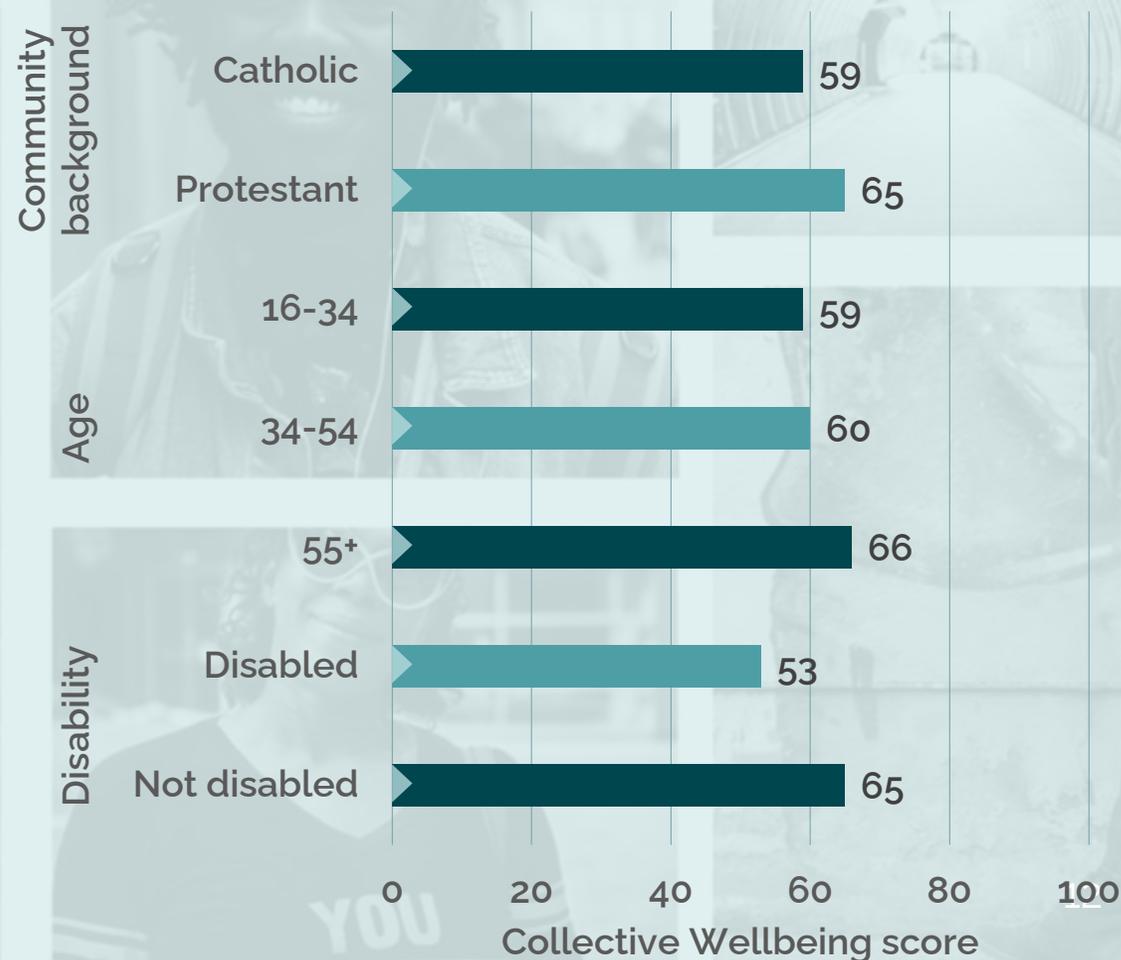
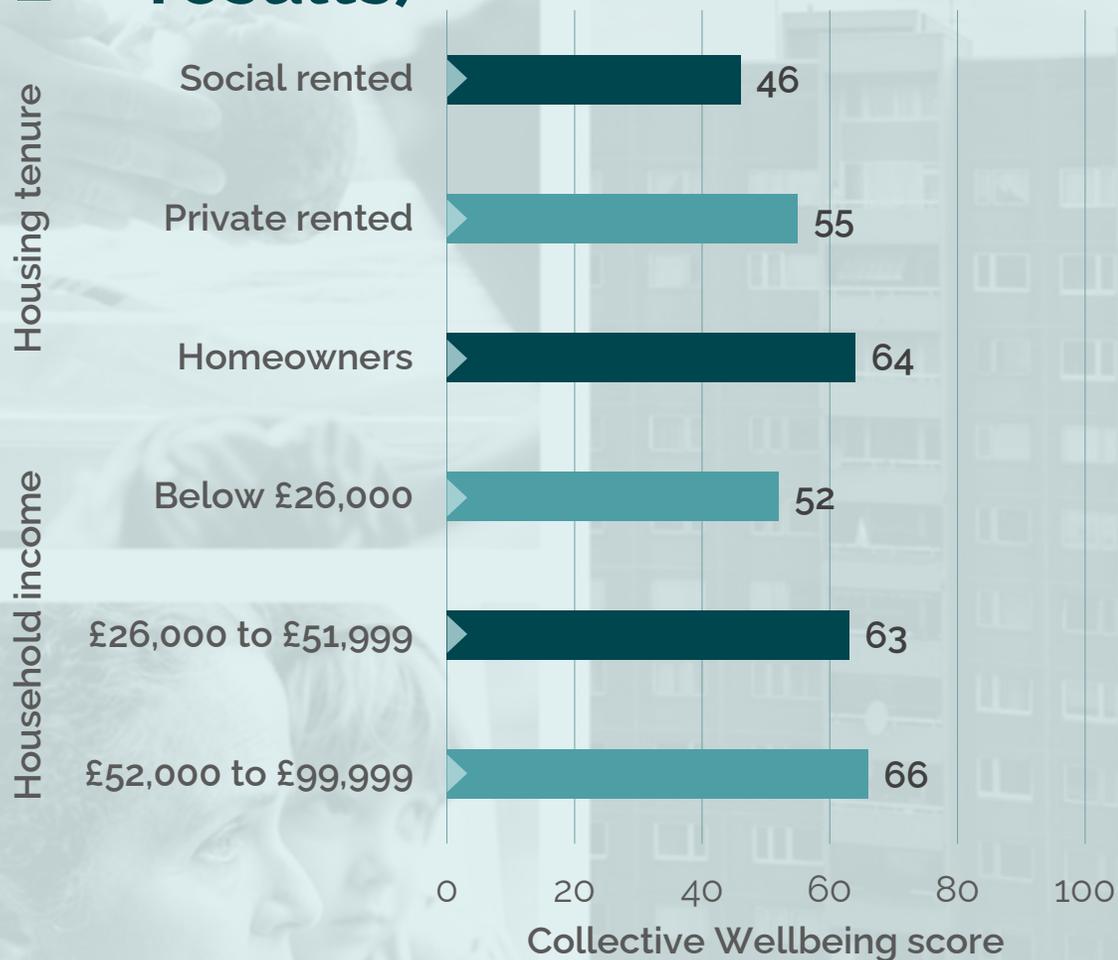
➤ Democratic wellbeing: Northern Ireland

The democratic wellbeing score for Northern Ireland in 2025 is 37 out of a possible 100. This is lower than the UK average of 41, though there are signs of improvement.

- **55%** of people in Northern Ireland have low trust in the UK Government, nine percentage points lower than in 2024.
- **50%** of people have low trust in MPs, 12 percentage points lower than in 2024.
- **46%** of people in Northern Ireland have low trust in the Northern Ireland Executive, eight percentage points lower than in 2024 and 20 percentage points lower than in 2023.
- **46%** of people in Northern Ireland have low trust in the Northern Ireland Assembly Members, eight percentage points lower than in 2024 and 17 percentage points lower than in 2023.

Life in the UK Wellbeing Index

➤ We don't all have the same Life in the UK (Northern Ireland results)





Thank you.

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