

**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

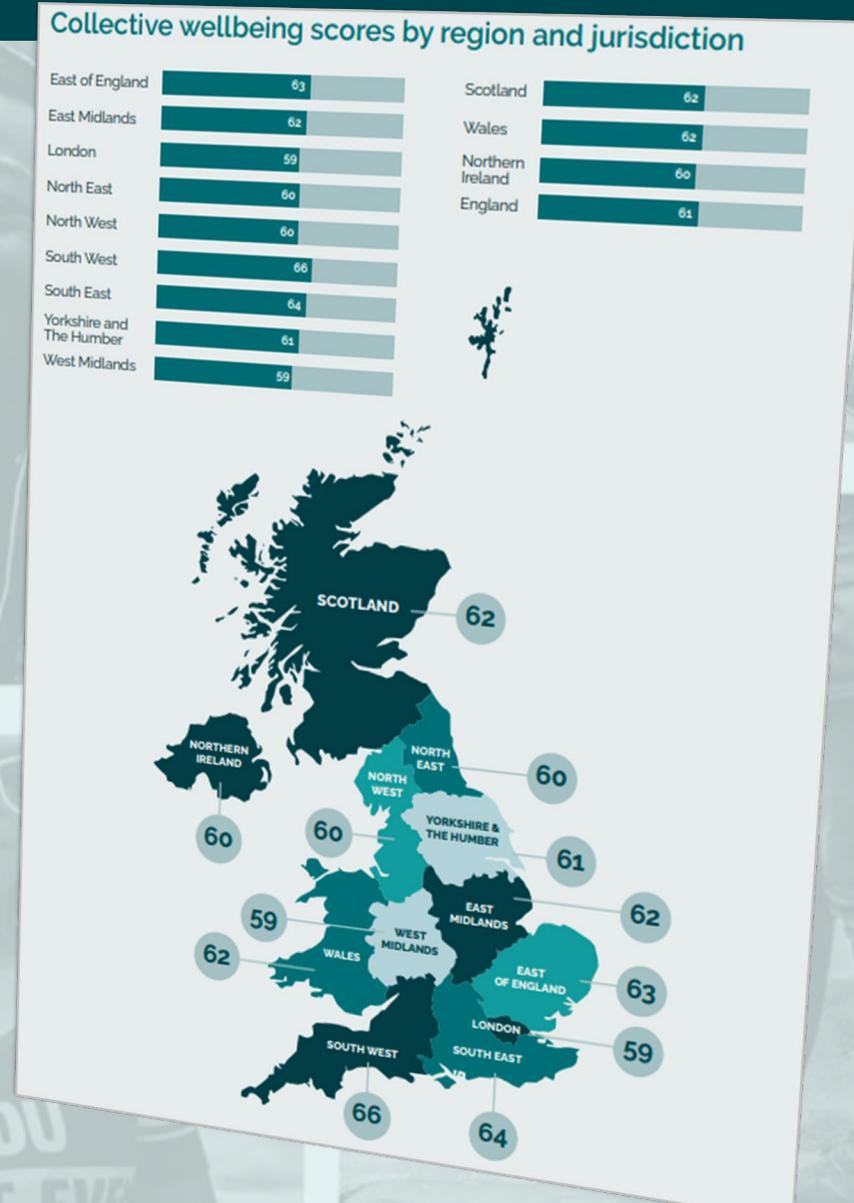
An index designed to measure how well we are living together.

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.1,000 in Scotland)
- 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: Scotland



The collective wellbeing score for Scotland in 2025 is 63 out of a possible 100.

* Denotes statistically significant vs 2024 result, ** denotes statistically significant vs 2023 result.

Social wellbeing: Scotland

The social wellbeing score for Scotland in 2025 is 75 out of a possible 100. This has improved over time, and is statistically significantly higher than the UK average of 73.

-  **70%** say that it is easy to access public transport that can get them where they need to go, six percentage points higher than in 2023.
-  **65%** of people say they are in good mental health, seven percentage points higher than in 2023.
-  **39%** experienced discrimination in the last 12 months, similar to previous years but five percentage points lower than the UK average.

Economic wellbeing Scotland

The economic wellbeing score for Scotland in 2025 is 72 out of a possible 100. This is a statistically significant improvement from 69 in 2023.

-  **81%** of people can afford to heat their home to an adequate standard, nine percentage points higher than in 2023.
-  **81%** are satisfied with their education and skills, four percentage points higher than in 2023.
-  **62%** agree that they could afford an unexpected, but necessary, expense of £850, similar to previous years.
-  **32%** are dissatisfied with the availability of job opportunities for people in their local area, similar to previous years.
-  **19%** are unable to afford a week's annual holiday away from home, five percentage points lower than in 2023.



Environmental wellbeing Scotland

The environmental wellbeing score for Scotland in 2025 is 66 out of a possible 100. This is statistically significantly higher than the UK average of 63.

- 82% of people experience problems with litter in their neighbourhood, similar to previous years.
- 74% of people are satisfied with their local public, green, or open space, five percentage points higher than in 2023.
- 38% of people are dissatisfied with efforts to preserve the environment in the UK, although this is eight percentage points lower than in 2023. Satisfaction stands at 26%.

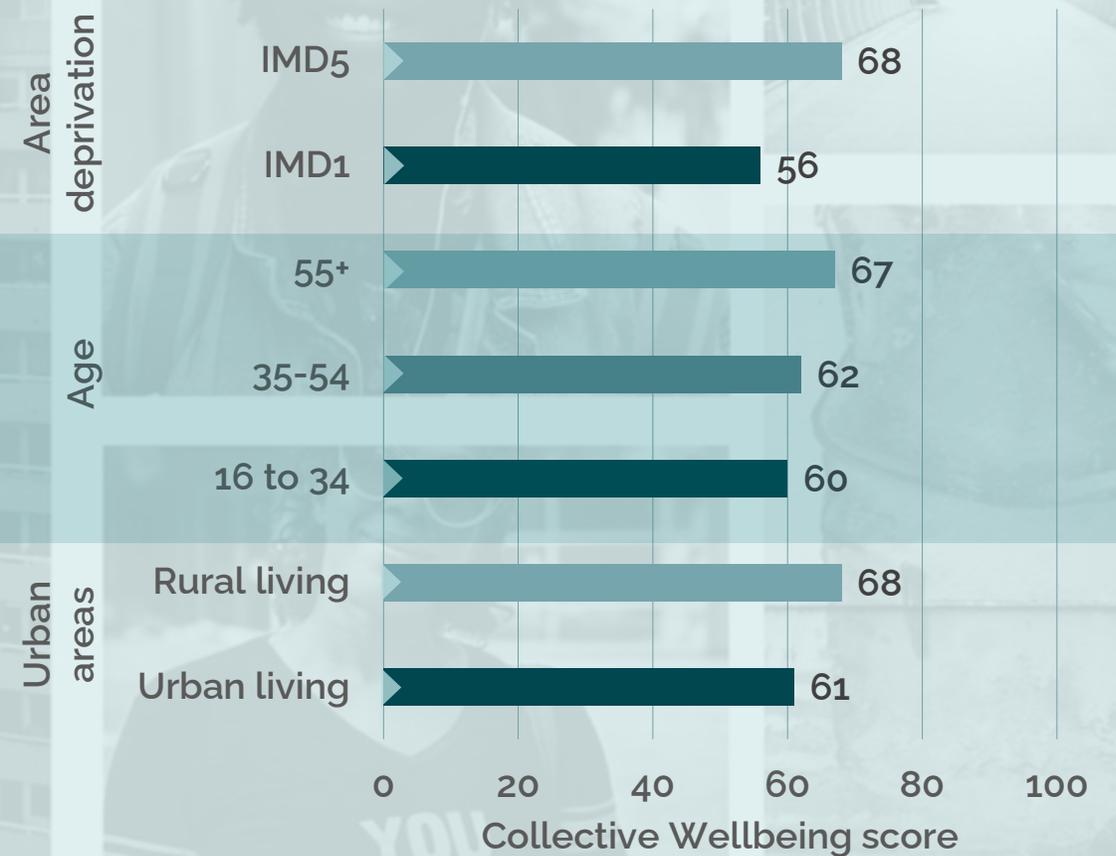
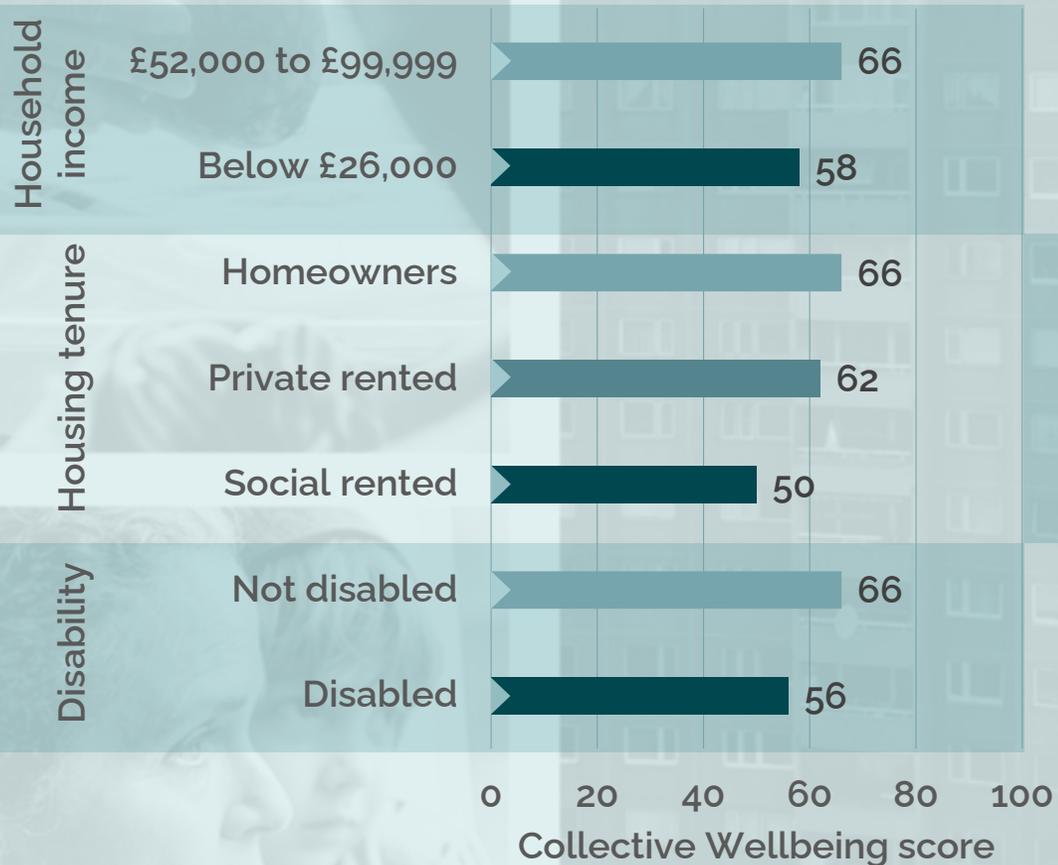
Democratic wellbeing Scotland

The democratic wellbeing score for Scotland in 2025 is 40 out of a possible 100.

-  **52%** of people have low trust in the UK Government. This is an improvement of eight percentage points since 2024, although the level of low trust in the UK Government remains significantly higher than the UK average of 45%.
-  **34%** of people now have low trust in their local council, six percentage points higher than in 2023.
-  **36%** have low trust in the Scottish Government, and **37%** have low trust in MSPs. These have not changed since 2023.
-  Only **5%** of people feel that they can influence decisions affecting the UK, while **13%** feel they can influence decisions affecting Scotland; similar to previous years.
-  **36%** have low trust in the Scottish Government. This has not changed over the years.

Life in the UK Wellbeing Index

➤ We don't all have the same Life in the UK: Scotland





Thank you.

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