

Exercise 6.1 Gabriela Matuszko

The World Happiness Report

Source:

- Helliwell, J. F., Layard, R., Sachs, J. D., Aknin, L. B., De Neve, J.-E., & Wang, S. (Eds.). (2023). World Happiness Report 2023 (11th ed.). Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

Data collection:

This is publicly available survey data set. The owner of the data set is the Gallup World Poll (GWP). The survey measures the SWB (Subjective Well-being) in years 2005-2022.

Data Content:

The survey participants from over 130 countries were asked to rate their happiness level in 0 to 10 scale, where 10 is the best possible life and 0 the worst possible life (referred as the Cantril ladder). The yearly sample for each country is 1,000 people.

The eight factors following the overall happiness level (Life ladder) are: levels of GDP per capita, healthy life expectancy, generosity, social support, freedom of life choices, perceptions of corruption and positive and negative emotions. Those are estimations of how each of the factors is contributing to the happiness level in each country. Those factors are normalized to Dystopia – a hypothetical country with values equal to the world's lowest national averages for each of the six factors.

Limitations:

There are only eight factors explaining the life happiness excluding literature known effects of unemployment rate or inequality. There are missing values from countries where freedom of speech is limited e.g., Hongkong, China, Taiwan, or countries are in crisis e.g., Yemen, Kosovo, Palestine.

Ethics:

The survey scores are calculated using The Gallup weight to estimate representative samples. The data set contains no sensitive data.

Relevance:

This data set can reflect geographical distribution of happiness as well as how particular countries maintain the happiness in crisis such as COVID 19 pandemic.

Data profile:

The original data set contains 2199 rows and 11 columns. After data cleaning the missing values the data set contains 2005 rows, 10 columns.

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Quant/Qual</i>	<i>Structured/Unstructured</i>	<i>Time-variant/invariant</i>	<i>Nominal/ordinal/Discrete/continuous</i>
Country name	Country name	Qualitative	Unstructured	Time-invariant	Nominal
Year	Year	Quantitative	Structured	Time-variant	Discrete
Life Ladder	The overall happiness	Quantitative	Structured	Time-variant	Continuous

	level in 0 to 10 scale, where 10 is the best possible life and 0 the worst possible life				
Log GDP per capita	Log GDP per capita contribution to the happiness score	Quantitative	Structured	Time-variant	Continuous
Social support	Social support contribution to the happiness score	Quantitative	Structured	Time-variant	Continuous
Healthy life expectancy at birth	Healthy life expectancy at birth in years	Quantitative	Structured	Time-variant	Continuous
Freedom to make life choices	Freedom of life choices contribution to the happiness score	Quantitative	Structured	Time-variant	Continuous
Generosity	Generosity contribution to the happiness score	Quantitative	Structured	Time-variant	Continuous
Perceptions of corruption	Perceptions of contribution to the happiness score	Quantitative	Structured	Time-variant	Continuous
Positive affect	Positive emotions contribution to the	Quantitative	Structured	Time-variant	Continuous

	happiness score				
Negative affect	Negative emotions contribution to the happiness score	Quantitative	Structured	Time-variant	Continuous

Questions:

1. What is the most and least happy place on the world?
2. How consistent is the happiness score over the years?
3. Did COVID-19 pandemic change the happiness distribution over the world?