World Happiness Report

Open Data 2015-2019



Happiness in South America

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[TABLEAU](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/gwyn.l.reniers/viz/WorldHappinessReportSouthAmerica/Story1?publish=yes)

[GITHUB](https://github.com/GlReniers/World-Happiness-Report-South-America-2015-2019-)

**Executive Summary**

The world happiness report was done to try and determine how populations of different countries felt about their lives and their satisfaction with them. Data sourced by the United Nations and in conjunction with leaders across top disciplines from health and public policy to psychology and economics. It uses data sourced from the World Gallup Poll.

**Objective**

This analysis will look at how the countries of South America compare on the global happiness scale. Because I am a resident of Ecuador, I am curious how this country compares to others on the South American Continent and what drives happiness there.

**Data Sourcing**

<https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/unsdsn/world-happiness>

**Data Collection**

Data was collected by asking individuals to imagine their perfect life as a 10, and worst life as a 0 and uses a ladder structure (Cantril Ladder) to rank their current feelings of happiness about their life based off criteria between these two opposites. They were asked to rank feelings of happiness as a number based on these six criteria: economic production, social support, life expectancy, freedom, absence of corruption, and generosity.

**Data Contents**

The variables include Country/Region, Happiness rank and score, Economy of the Country (GDP), Family, Health (Life Expectancy), Freedom, and Trust of Government (Perception of corruption) between 2015 and 2019.

**Dystopia:** A base line worst case scenario country used as the lowest possible score for these variables. Since life would be very unpleasant in a country with the world's lowest incomes, lowest life expectancy, lowest generosity, most corruption, least freedom, and least social support, opposite of Utopia, the highest score.

**GDP per capita**

It is a standard measure of, total monetary or market value of all the finished goods and services in a country during a certain period of time, divided by its total population

**Social support**

It is the perception and actuality that one is cared for, has assistance available from other people, and feels connected to a supportive social network. These supportive resources can be emotional, informational, appraisal, instrumental or companionship.

**Healthy Life Expectancy**

It is the average number of years that a person can expect to live without hampered by disabling illnesses or injuries. Freedom to make life choices.

## Generosity

involved in formal volunteer work for a group or an organization.

## Perceptions of corruption

An index which ranks countries by their **perceived levels of public sector corruption,** determined by expert assessments and opinion surveys. generally, define corruption a**s an abuse of entrusted power for personal gain.**

**Data Limitations**

The happiness factors:economic production, social support, life expectancy, freedom, absence of corruption, and generosity are based on a Westernized idea of happiness and therefore may not reflect other cultures ideas of what it means. Culturally, happiness also means something different. In Japan there is a cultural bias against boasting of one’s good fortune (Smith, K., 2017) Personal evaluation also varies, just like a pain scale, so a 4 for one person may be an 8 to another. It relies on subjective evaluation given as an ordinal number, trying to quantify a qualitative variable. The sample size of 1,000-2,000 people per country is also small and not indicative of the population. Not every country returned surveys (Suriname in South America).

Privacy is not an issue as no PII was collected and individuals cannot be identified by survey answers.