

World Happiness Report 2016

The World Happiness Report 2016, which ranks 156 countries by their happiness levels, was released in Rome in advance of UN World Happiness Day, March 20th. The rankings come from the Gallup World Poll and are based on answers to the main life evaluation question asked in the poll. This is called the Cantril ladder: it asks respondents to think of a ladder, with the best possible life for them being a 10, and the worst possible life being a 0. They are then asked to rate their own current lives on that 0 to 10 scale.

The rankings are from nationally representative samples, for the years 2013-2015. They are based entirely on the survey scores, using the Gallup weights to make the estimates representative. The variables in the dataset show the estimated extent to which each of six factors – levels of GDP, life expectancy, generosity, social support, freedom, and corruption – contribute to making life evaluations higher in each country than they are in Dystopia, a hypothetical country that has values equal to the world's lowest national averages for each of the six factors (see FAQs: What is Dystopia?).

Source: Helliwell, J., Layard, R., & Sachs, J. (2016). World Happiness Report 2016, Update (Vol. I). New York: Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

More information about the data:

<http://worldhappiness.report/ed/2016/>

https://s3.amazonaws.com/happiness-report/2016/FAQ_2016.pdf

Variables:

Country

Name of the country
String

Happiness Score

A metric measured in 2016 by asking the sampled people the question: "How would you rate your happiness on a scale of 0 to 10 where 10 is the happiest"
Numeric

Economy (GDP per Capita)

The extent to which GDP contributes to the calculation of the Happiness Score.
Numeric

Family

The extent to which Family contributes to the calculation of the Happiness Score
Numeric

Health (Life Expectancy)

The extent to which Life expectancy contributed to the calculation of the Happiness Score
Numeric

Freedom

The extent to which Freedom contributed to the calculation of the Happiness Score
Numeric

Trust (Government Corruption)

The extent to which Perception of Corruption contributes to Happiness Score
Numeric

Generosity

The extent to which Generosity contributed to the calculation of the Happiness Score
Numeric