

World Database of Happiness, Happiness in Nations, Rank Report 2004-4

**Inequality-Adjusted Happiness in 90 nations 1990-2000**

How well nations combine level and differences in happiness

<a href="#">Top/bottom</a>	<a href="#">Full list</a>	<a href="#">Technical details</a>	<a href="#">Cite as</a>		
<b><i>Top</i></b> > 60	<b><i>Middle range</i></b> ± 45	<b><i>Bottom</i></b> < 30			
Malta	69	Vietnam	49	Armenia	26
Switzerland	68	Philippines	48	Ukraine	26
Iceland	67	Croatia	45	Egypt	26
Netherlands	67	Iran	44	Zimbabwe	19
Denmark	66	India	42	Tanzania	14

Full list, alphabetic

<b>nation</b>	<i>level of life satisfaction</i> <i>mean 0-10</i> <sup>1</sup>	<i>inequality in life-satisfaction</i> <i>standard deviation</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>equality adjusted</i> <i>lifesatisfaction</i> <i>index 0-100</i> <sup>3</sup>

Albania	4,6	2,5	<b>35</b>
Algeria	5,2	3,2	<b>34</b>
Angola	4,3	2,5	<b>32</b>
Argentina	6,8	2,5	<b>53</b>
Armenia	3,7	2,6	<b>26</b>
Australia	7,3	2,1	<b>60</b>
Austria	7,0	2,1	<b>58</b>
Azerbaidjan	4,9	2,6	<b>36</b>
Bangladesh	5,7	2,5	<b>44</b>
Belarus	4,3	2,5	<b>32</b>
Belgium	7,3	2,2	<b>59</b>
Bolivia	5,8	2,6	<b>44</b>
Bosnia	5,1	2,6	<b>38</b>
Brazil	7,0	2,8	<b>52</b>
Britain	7,2	2,2	<b>59</b>
Bulgaria	4,5	2,7	<b>32</b>
Canada	7,6	2,0	<b>64</b>
Chile	6,9	2,4	<b>54</b>
China <sup>4</sup>	6,5	2,1	<b>54</b>
Colombia <sup>4</sup>	8,1	2,2	<b>66</b>
Croatia	5,9	2,5	<b>45</b>
Czech Republic	6,7	2,2	<b>54</b>
Denmark	8,0	2,1	<b>66</b>
Dominican Rep	6,8	2,7	<b>51</b>
Egypt	4,8	3,7	<b>26</b>
El Salvador	7,2	2,7	<b>54</b>
Estonia	5,2	2,4	<b>40</b>
Finland	7,5	1,9	<b>64</b>
France	6,6	2,2	<b>54</b>
Georgia	4,1	2,9	<b>27</b>

Germany	7,1	2,2	<b>58</b>
Ghana <sup>4</sup>	7,7	2,4	<b>61</b>
Greece	6,3	2,4	<b>49</b>
Guatemala	7,6	2,5	<b>59</b>
Honduras	7,2	2,6	<b>55</b>
Hungary	5,5	2,7	<b>40</b>
Iceland	7,8	1,8	<b>67</b>
India	5,7	2,7	<b>42</b>
Indonesia	6,6	2,3	<b>53</b>
Iran	6,0	2,7	<b>44</b>
Ireland	7,8	2,1	<b>64</b>
Israel	6,7	2,4	<b>53</b>
Italy	6,9	2,3	<b>55</b>
Ivory Coast	5,7	2,5	<b>44</b>
Japan	6,2	2,1	<b>51</b>
Jordan	5,1	2,8	<b>36</b>
Kenya	5,2	2,5	<b>40</b>
Latvia	4,8	2,6	<b>35</b>
Lebanon	5,3	2,6	<b>40</b>
Lithuania	4,9	2,9	<b>34</b>
Luxembourg	7,6	2,1	<b>63</b>
Macedonia	4,9	2,7	<b>35</b>
Mali	4,9	2,2	<b>40</b>
Malta	8,0	1,8	<b>69</b>
Mexico	7,5	2,5	<b>59</b>
Moldovia	3,5	2,6	<b>25</b>
Montenegro	5,5	2,5	<b>42</b>
Morocco	5,6	2,8	<b>40</b>
Netherlands	7,6	1,6	<b>67</b>
New Zealand	7,4	2,3	<b>59</b>

Nigeria <sup>4</sup>	6,5	2,7	<b>49</b>
Norway	7,4	2,0	<b>62</b>
Pakistan	4,3	1,6	<b>40</b>
Peru	6,0	2,7	<b>44</b>
Philippines	6,4	2,7	<b>48</b>
Poland	5,9	2,8	<b>43</b>
Portugal	6,7	2,3	<b>54</b>
Romania	4,7	3,1	<b>30</b>
Russia	4,4	2,6	<b>32</b>
Senegal	5,7	2,4	<b>44</b>
Serbia	5,1	2,7	<b>37</b>
Singapore	6,9	2,0	<b>58</b>
Slovakia	5,6	2,5	<b>43</b>
Slovenia	6,3	2,4	<b>49</b>
South-Africa	5,6	3,1	<b>38</b>
South-Korea	5,8	2,6	<b>44</b>
Spain	6,6	2,2	<b>54</b>
Sweden	7,5	2,0	<b>63</b>
Switzerland	8,0	1,9	<b>68</b>
Taiwan	6,6	2,3	<b>53</b>
Tanzania	3,2	3,6	<b>14</b>
Turkey	5,6	3,0	<b>39</b>
Uganda	5,2	2,7	<b>38</b>
Ukraine	3,6	2,7	<b>25</b>
Uruguay	6,7	2,6	<b>51</b>
USA	7,4	2,1	<b>61</b>
Uzbekistan	6,2	2,6	<b>47</b>
Venezuela	6,8	3,1	<b>48</b>
Vietnam	6,1	2,3	<b>49</b>
Zimbabwe	3,3	3,1	<b>19</b>

## Technical details

### 1. Happiness assessed by means of surveys in general public samples.

- This list is based on responses to a single question on life-satisfaction.
- Data are taken from RankReport 2004-1b.

### 2. In this ranking the focus is not only on the *level* of happiness in the country, but also on *inequality* in happiness among citizens.

- Inequality in happiness can be measured by the dispersion of responses to survey-questions. The degree of dispersion can be expressed statistically in the standard deviation.
- This method is explained in more detail in Kalmijn, W. & Veenhoven, R, [Measuring inequality of happiness in nations. In search for proper statistics.](#)
- Data are taken from RankReport 2004-3b

### 3. Inequality-Adjusted-Happiness is measured by the ratio of the mean and the standard deviation of the distribution of happiness in a nation.

- This ratio is expressed in the following formula:  $IAH = 9.60(m - 0.414s) + 4$ , where  $m$  is the mean response to a question on happiness in a nation and  $s$  is the sample standard deviation of the responses.
- On this index a score of 100 means that everybody is completely happy; e.g. that all respondents in the sample rated their happiness 10 on a 0 to 10 scale. A score of 0 would represent a society where everybody is fully unhappy. Intermediate scores may either mean that the the average is high in spite of sizable inequality or that happiness is low on average but equally so in the country.

- This measure was first presented at the conference of the International Society for Quality Of Life Studies (ISQOLS) in Frankfurt, July 2003. It is presented in more detail in Veenhoven, R. & Kalmijn, W. [Equality-Adjusted Happiness \(IAH\) in Nations. Egalitarianism and Utilitarianism married in a new index of societal performance.](#)
- The above values are computed with a program in MsExcell named [IAH-calculator](#)

4. Some of the data used here are not beyond doubt.

- Life-satisfaction scores may be inflated in some countries, due to under sampling of rural population (China, Ghana and Nigeria).
- The score on life-satisfaction in Columbia is dubious since it does not correspond with the responses on a question about happiness in the same sample and does not fit either with two later surveys that used another question on lifesatisfaction (and are for that reason not included in this list).
- The standard deviations observed in 1990 in Austria is exceptionally high (3.4) and does not correspond with dispersion of responses on other questions on life-satisfaction. This result is left out and this table reports only the standard deviation observed in 1999.

Our policy is to report doubtful data unless we are fairly sure that they are wrong. This is to avoid that we delete data that do not fit our expectations.

5. This list is included in SPSS datafile [States of Nations](#) as variable iah\_90s.

Cite as:

Veenhoven, R., *Equality Adjusted Happiness in 90 nations 1990-2000*, World Database of Happiness, Rank Report 2004-4, Internet: [www2.eur.nl/fsw/research/happiness](http://www2.eur.nl/fsw/research/happiness)

