An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

The Wellbeing of the Nation

Societal Wellbeing in Ireland 2017

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Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland

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Introduction

The Wellbeing of the Nation

The requirement for a set of national wellbeing or progress indicators has grown in recent years. Government and policy-makers need to know how Ireland is performing in a general sense, need data to assess economic and social conditions in the country, and require evidence to evaluate policy outcomes. Objective, independent, and important information is also useful to the citizens of Ireland to aid their decision-making from both personal and business perspectives.

The publication of the Report of the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress in 2009 brought the question of priorities to the fore for official statistics[1]. This report was carried out by Nobel laureate economists Joseph Stiglitz and Amartya Sen and co-ordinated by French economist Jean-Paul Fitoussi. It was a result of a commission established by French President Nicolas Sarkozy in 2008 entitled the 'Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress'. The resultant report focused on the strengths and weaknesses of GDP, the quality of life measurement over the previous 30 years, and highlighted some problems with measuring sustainability.

One of the main arguments of the report was that, while a major economic indicator such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a useful measure of the overall status of an economy, it tells us little about the actual wellbeing of citizens or the distribution of economic success or failure amongst a nation's citizens.[2] It posits that other indicators such as health, education, and social connectedness are also required to supplement the more traditional economic indicators in measuring the progress of a society in full.

This limitation of GDP as a measure of society was identified by the main developer of National Accounts, Nobel Laureate Simon Kuznets, who stated;

> *"The welfare of a nation can . . . scarcely be inferred from a measure of national income."*
>
> - Kuznets, National Income 1929-1932

GDP is a very strong measure of the size of an economy with a well-developed methodology which is internationally comparable. It is still regarded as the best indicator of an economy's overall health. However, it has limitations, which include;

- It does not capture the economic wellbeing provided by goods and services households produce for themselves.
- GDP measures income, but not its distribution.
- GDP does not measure wealth, financial or otherwise, which can have an impact on individual's wellbeing.

Additionally from an Irish perspective, the highly globalised nature of the economy and its effects on GDP were demonstrated with the level shift in GDP in the National Accounts for 2015. The highly complex nature and structure of the Irish economy was reflected in these results, which were compiled in accordance with the international standards for the statistics.

What is wellbeing?

The National Economic and Social Council's (NESC) document 'The Developmental Welfare State', states 'in a globalised world, the strength of Ireland's economy and of its society will rest on the same foundation – the human qualities of the people who participate in them'. This view feeds into wellbeing, which can be said to measure how people feel about their lives as a whole. Wellbeing, in its broadest sense, can be viewed as a measure of all aspects of life. As a result, it is a complex multi-dimensional issue influenced by factors such as the state of the environment, the educational levels of the population, economic performance, public safety, and the health of the population, amongst others.

International perspective on wellbeing

Substantial work has been carried out on wellbeing internationally, notably in Canada and the UK, where new and existing data has been blended to provide an indication of national wellbeing. In Canada, a single composite index of wellbeing, the "Canadian Index of Wellbeing", was constructed to attempt to provide a uni-dimensional perspective on what is a complex multi-dimensional topic.[4] Much work has also been carried out by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) in the United Kingdom in their 'Measuring National Wellbeing' reports.[5] The Australian Bureau of Statistics developed "Measures of Australia's Progress" to help answer the question, "Is life in Australia getting better?"[6] This is a set of indicators covering a broad range of social and economic topics to help Australians form their own view of how Australia is progressing. The state

of Virginia in the United States of America, among others developed a set of indicators to show how the state is doing in areas that affect the quality of life of its citizens.[7]

International bodies such as Eurostat and the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) have developed wellbeing publications ("Quality of Life" and "How's Life" respectively). These publications provide comparisons of countries across various topics which are deemed pertinent to society as whole.[8]

Irish perspective on wellbeing

Research has been carried out previously in Ireland concerning wellbeing, including the NESC report– "Wellbeing Matters: A Social Report for Ireland".[9] This two-volume report identifies people as being at the centre of economic and social progress, and highlights the limitations of GDP as a measure of society. Members of the Whitaker Institute in the National University of Ireland, Galway, have also carried out much work on the development of a set of societal wellbeing indicators for Ireland.[10]

The United Nations have also recently developed a set of Sustainable Development Goals[11]. This set consists of 17 "Global Goals", with 169 targets among them. They cover a broad range of development issues, including ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, and combatting climate change. Ireland has been involved in this from an early stage, and is one of the six countries involved in a pilot mapping exercise of the data.

Measuring wellbeing

There are various methods by which wellbeing can be measured, and two of these measures are outlined here.

1. Composite wellbeing index

As mentioned previously, a composite index has been used in Canada as a means of measuring wellbeing. The data is collected and then weighted according to the effect it has on wellbeing. This results in a single figure which can change over time. This approach allows a particularly difficult concept such as wellbeing to be expressed in relatively simple terms, deriving one figure for wellbeing. A drawback of this method is that much of the detail is lost and users cannot clearly see what is driving the movement of this index. It also calls for very difficult decisions to be made regarding the importance of each indicator to the wellbeing of society, and on how the weights are apportioned.

2. Dashboard

An alternative method of measuring wellbeing is to provide a dashboard which displays many indicators and details whether they have increased or decreased individually. This allows interested parties to examine individual indicators in detail. The main drawback is that, by its nature, some indicators will most likely show an increase, while others show a decrease, making it difficult to draw a conclusion on the overall trend in wellbeing.

Wellbeing and the Central Statistics Office

Consultation took place between the CSO and other experts in the indicators' development, including:

- The Whitaker Institute of the National University of Ireland, Galway
- The National Economic and Social Council
- The Department of Health.

The CSO has an important role to play in the development of relevant wellbeing indicators, and has some experience in this area, with reports such as 'Regional Quality of Life in Ireland 2013' and 'Men and Women in Ireland'.[12] The Statistics Act, 1993, article 10(1), states that a function of the Central Statistics Office "shall be the collection, compilation, extraction and dissemination for statistical purpose of information relating to economic, social and general activities in the State".[13]

The National Statistics Board's document 'A World Class Statistical System for Ireland' presents the strategic priorities for official statistics in Ireland for 2015 - 2020.[14] Citing the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report's work, this document identifies the development of a set of societal indicators on wellbeing as a priority for official statistics in Ireland.

Future steps

The release of wellbeing data is a new initiative for the CSO, and will be further developed in the future. The domains identified, and the indicators comprised within each one, will be reviewed periodically. This is of particular importance as improvements in data collection methods could potentially lead to an increase in the quantity of data available. The improvement of access to sources of administrative data will provide an opportunity for the CSO to provide insight to other areas of life that impact wellbeing. Future opportunities to collect pertinent data will be availed of, and work has already begun on this. The Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC) in 2019 will have a wellbeing

module attached to it, and this will provide further insight to this topic. The previous SILC wellbeing module in 2013 provided data on subjective wellbeing, satisfaction with green areas, and satisfaction with personal relationships. The addition of extra data points to these indicators is welcomed, and will allow any changes to be presented. The Household and Financial Consumption Survey will be undertaken in 2018, and the results of this will supply data on the income and expenditure and will allow measurement of concepts such as financial constraints of households.

Work has begun on an interactive dashboard similar to the Key Short-term Economic Indicators dashboard, which can be found on the CSO website.[15] This will provide the public with an intuitive and easy-accessible source for wellbeing data and will be developed in 2018.

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Domains and indicators

The CSO approach

The influences on wellbeing in Ireland, whether from an individual or a societal perspective, are many and complex. In an effort to reduce this complexity, the elements are presented as domains and indicators within the domains.

• The domains are broad categories, such as the economy, health, and education.
• The indicators are more specific measures within the respective domains in which they are contained, such as consumer price index (Economy domain), self-perceived health (Health domain), and educational attainment (Education domain). The indicators can represent a general quantitative phenomenon (e.g. Consumer Price Index) or a more personal qualitative experience (e.g. self-perceived health). Indicators can be either subjective or objective measures of wellbeing.

The eight domains are as follows;

1. **Economy**
2. **Work**
3. **Education**
4. **Housing and Natural Environment**
5. **Governance and Equality**
6. **Health**
7. **Public Safety**
8. **Time Use**

The domains have been selected based on their importance to wellbeing and they encompass many of the aspects of life that affect an individual's everyday life. They have also been selected to be in line with international best practice where possible, whilst maintaining the balance of remaining relevant to Irish wellbeing. For example, the economy has an influence on wellbeing as it can affect the financial position an individual finds themselves in. An individual's employment status can also affect the economic and psychological levels of that person.

Higher educational and health levels are associated with better levels of personal wellbeing. Environmental factors such as housing and pollution can

influence the health and wellbeing of a person, both directly and indirectly. The governance of a society, how fairly each member of that society feels they are treated, and how safe they feel can influence how people interact with each other, and can have an effect on their personal and work lives. Finally, how each individual uses their time for non-economic purposes has a direct impact on their level of wellbeing.

The indicators within each domain will be reviewed periodically as more data sources become available to ensure that they provide a relevant portrayal of life in Ireland.

Using a dashboard-style interface, each indicator will include a symbol which will signify its performance. These symbols are;

The **'plus'** symbol signifies that the performance of the indicator has had a positive influence on wellbeing over the given time period in Ireland, which will be the year-on-year change or the period between the two most recent observations.

The **'minus'** symbol signifies that the performance of the indicator has had a negative influence on wellbeing over the given time period in Ireland.

The **'equals'** symbol signifies that the performance of the symbol has remained constant, and therefore has had neither a positive nor negative influence on wellbeing, in the given time period.

Each indicator will be presented with the following;

- A symbol identifying its performance
- A graph illustrating its performance
- A short description of the indicator's performance.
- The reason for the inclusion of the indicator

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Overview

- Average Debt per Household
- Modified Gross National Income (GNI*) at Current Market Prices per Capita
- Average Total Annual Earnings
- Consumer Price Index
- Unemployment Rate
- Long-term Unemployment Rate
- Employment Rate of those with a Disability
- Percentage working longer than 48 hours per week
- Enforced Job Instability
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- Digital Skills
- Early School Leavers
- Mathematics Score from Programme for International Student Assessment

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Air Quality

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Self-perceived Health

Healthy Life Years at Birth

Overweight/Obesity Rates

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Number of Deaths by Suicide

Self-reported Victimisation

Worrying about Becoming a Victim of Crime

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Economy

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Average Debt per Household

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Average Total Annual Earnings

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Modified Gross National Income (GNI*)
at Current Market Prices per Capita

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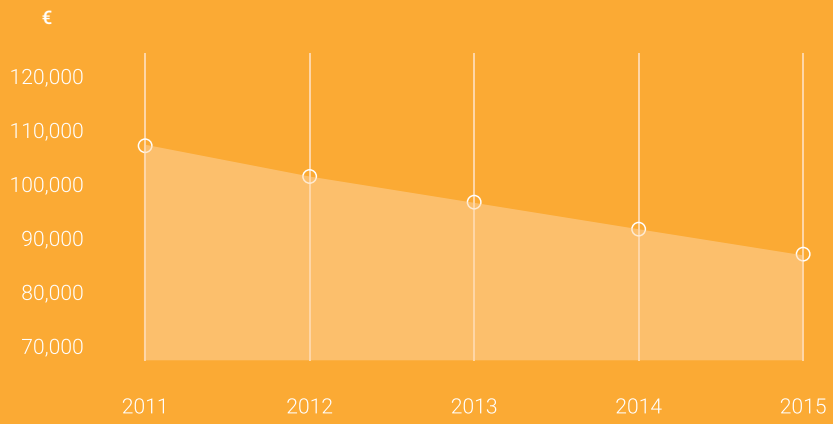
Consumer Price Index

Average Debt per Household

A decrease in the level of average debt per household has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig.1 Average Debt Per Household



Source: CSO – National Income and Expenditure (NIE)

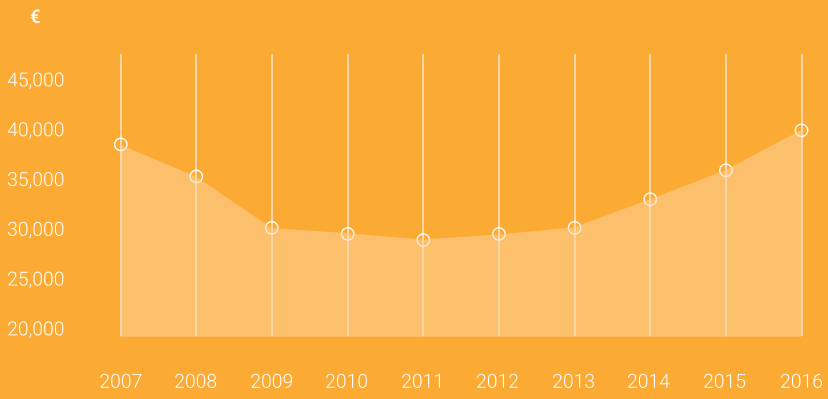
Performance of indicator:
The average household debt was €108,400 in 2011. This fell to €103,600 in 2012, and has continued to fall year-on-year since. The average household debt in 2015 was €87,900.

Justification of indicator:
High levels of debt can restrict a household's access to some material goods and services, which can have a negative effect on wellbeing. They can restrict access to services such as health and education, both of which are linked closely to wellbeing levels. High levels of debt can contribute to increased stress levels.

Modified Gross National Income (GNI*) at Current Market Prices per Capita

An increase in the level of modified GNI* per capita has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 2: Modified Gross National Income per capita



Source: CSO – National Income and Expenditure (NIE)

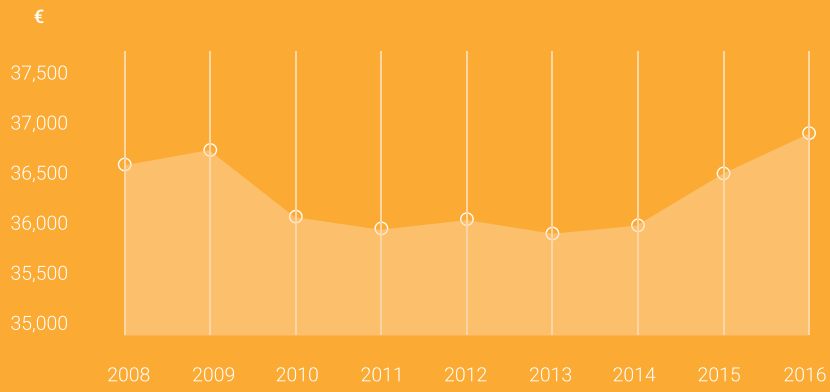
Performance of indicator:
GNI* at current market prices per capita has been steadily increasing since 2011, when it was at its lowest point over the past decade. Prior to 2010, there were year-on-year decreases from 2007. At €39,911 GNI* per capita is now higher than the 2007 value of €38,526.

Justification of indicator:
The overall size of an economy is an important indicator. A recommendation of the expert group convened by the CSO[16] was the development of a supplementary indicator to GDP resulting in GNI*. It was designed to remove the impact of globalisation activities that disproportionately affect Irish economic statistics and promote better insight into the domestic Irish economy. It is linked to the individual by looking at the per capita level, which takes changes in population into account.

Average Total Annual Earnings

An increase in the level of average annual earnings per person has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 3: Average Annual Earnings per person



Source: CSO – Earnings, Hours and Employment Costs Survey (EHECS)

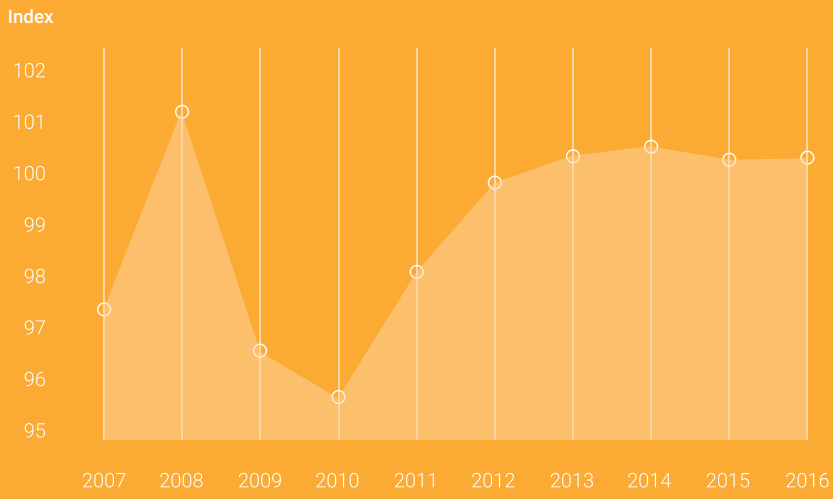
Performance of Indicator:
The average annual earnings in 2016 were €36,919 per person. This figure has been increasing since 2013 when the figure was €35,976. The 2016 average is the highest it has been since before the recession beginning in 2008[17].

Justification of indicator:
Higher earnings allow individuals to purchase goods and services which contribute to overall wellbeing. These goods and services may include health and educational goods which have a positive influence on wellbeing.

Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index can have a positive or negative influence on wellbeing, dependent on the broader condition of the economy.

Fig. 4: Consumer price index by year



Source: CSO – Consumer Price index (CPI)

Performance of indicator:
The official measure of inflation, the Consumer Price Index, has remained relatively constant since 2013 at approximately 100.3 (2016=100). The index was at its lowest in 2010 when it was 95.8 and highest in 2008 at 101.2.

Justification of indicator:
The Consumer Price Index is designed to measure the change in the average level of prices (inclusive of all indirect taxes) paid for consumer goods and services by all private and institutional households in the country and by foreign tourists holidaying in Ireland. It is the official figure for inflation in Ireland, and is an important measure to include in any set of wellbeing indicators as it is a key economic indicator. Traditionally maintaining low inflation levels is one of the primary macroeconomic objectives of a government.

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Work

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Unemployment Rate

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Employment Rate of those with a Disability

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Long-term Unemployment Rate

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Percentage working longer
than 48 hours per week

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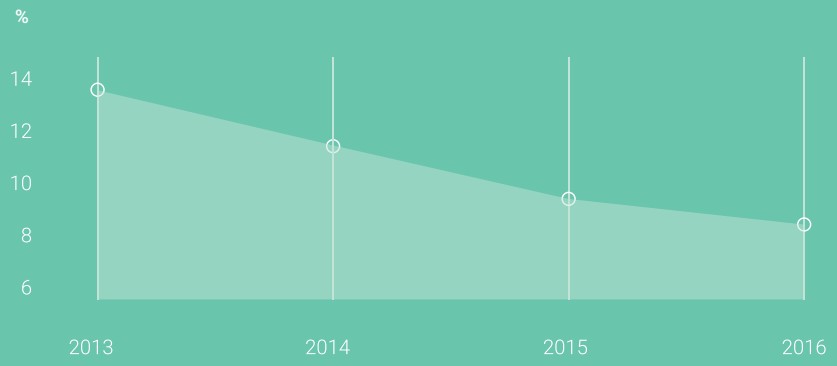
Discrimination in the Workplace

Unemployment Rate

An increase in the level of modified GNI* per capita has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 5: Unemployment Rate



Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)

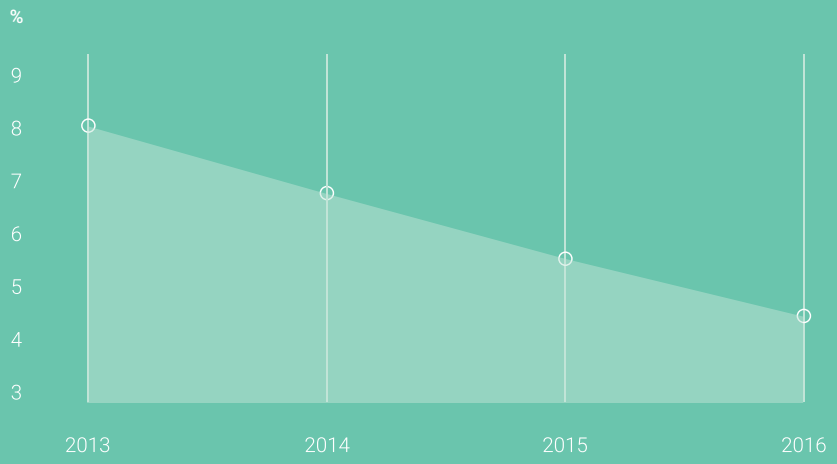
Performance of indicator:
The unemployment rate, measured quarterly by the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), has steadily fallen from 13.9% in 2013 to 8.6% in 2016.

Justification of indicator:
The Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report highlights the effects of unemployment on individuals, which go beyond the direct consequences for the economy (and the spending power of the affected individual) and delve into the deeper, more personal aspects of their lives. It states that "people who become unemployed report lower life-evaluations, even after controlling for their lower income, and with little adaptation over time; unemployed people also report a higher prevalence of various negative effects (sadness, stress and pain) and lower levels of positive ones (joy). These subjective measures suggest that the costs of unemployment exceed the income-loss suffered by those who lose their jobs, reflecting the existence of non-pecuniary effects among the unemployed and of fears and anxieties generated by unemployment in the rest of society".[18]

Long-term Unemployment Rate

A decrease in the long-term unemployment rate has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Figure 6: Long-term unemployment rate



Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)

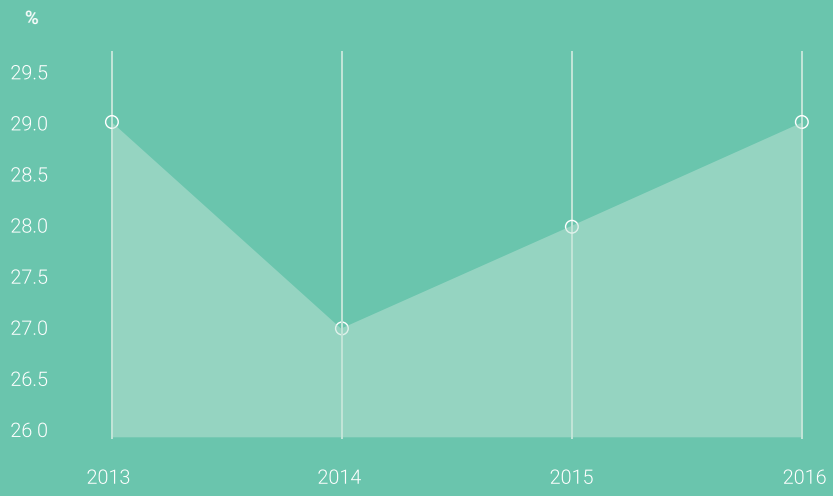
Performance of indicator:
The long-term unemployment rate has fallen from 8.1% of the labour force in 2013 to 4.4% in 2016. Long-term unemployment is the measure of those who have been unemployed for at least one year.

Justification of indicator:
Short-term unemployment, although harsh for the individual, can be a natural part of an economy. Individuals could be between jobs or work contracts. Long-term unemployment however is usually caused by different factors such as the re-structuring of an economy and a necessary re-skilling of the work-force. It can have a negative impact on two fronts for individuals. Firstly, it can cause financial instability and secondly, can psychologically impact the individual through stress and decreased self-esteem. A high level of long-term unemployment is detrimental for the wellbeing of a society and is one of the causes of persistent poverty.[19]

Employment Rate of those with a Disability

An increase in the employment rate of those with a disability has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 7: Employment rates of those with a disability



Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)

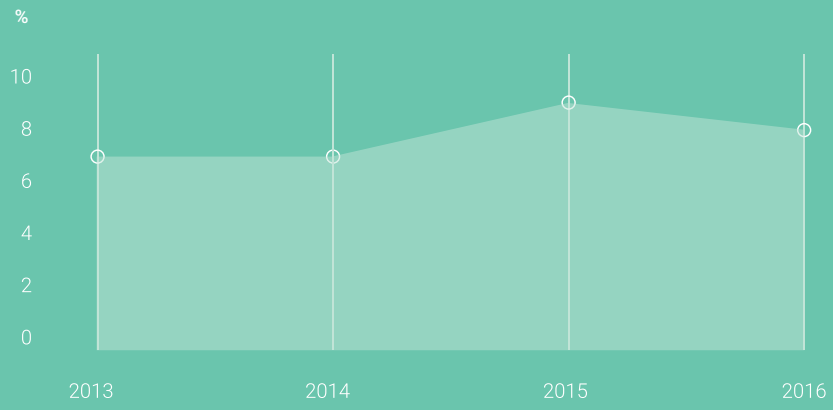
Performance of indicator:
The employment rate of persons with a disability was 28.6% in 2013. This fell to 27.4% in 2014. The rate has increased since then and was 29.0% in 2016.

Justification of indicator:
People with disabilities face many barriers in society as a whole and in the area of employment in particular. A situation whereby rates of employment among the disabled are much lower than rates of employment among the general population place disabled people more at risk of suffering the negative impacts that are commonly associated with unemployment; for example, reduced financial stability, stress, lower levels of mental and physical health. In 2016, there were approximately 86,200 (or 21.6%) persons with a disability in the labour force.

Percentage working greater than 48 hours per week

A decrease in the percentage of people working in excess of 48 hours per week has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 8: Percentage of those employed working more than 48 hours per week



Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)

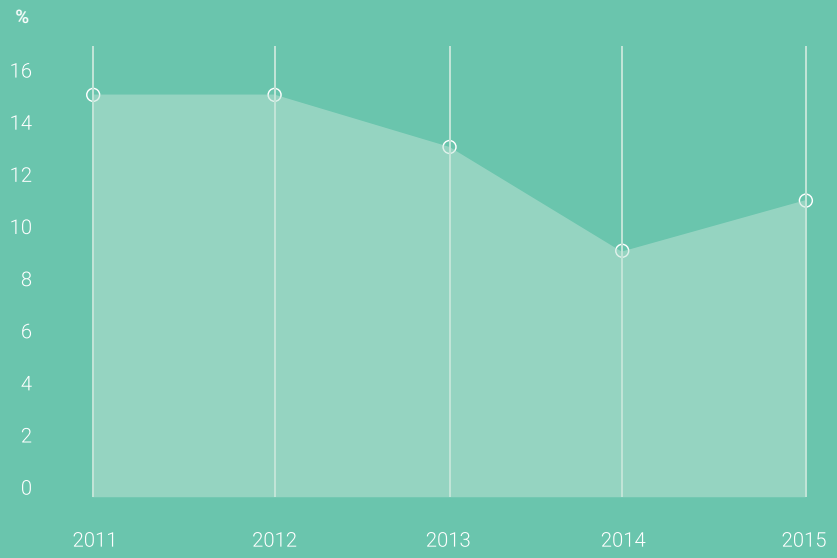
Performance of indicator:
The percentage of those employed whose usual working hours are greater than 48 hours per week was 7.1% in 2013. It increased to 8.5% in 2015 before falling slightly in 2016 to 8.4%.

Justification of indicator:
This measure provides an insight into how people spend their time, and is also a sign of an individual's work-life balance. The maximum time an individual is allowed to work on average over long periods of time is 48 per week, according to the Organisation of Working Time Act, 1997.[20] Long working hours can potentially have a detrimental effect on an individual's work-life balance, increase health problems, and increase safety risks.

Enforced Job Instability

An increase in the percentage of persons who have lost their job due to being forced to do so by their employer has a negative influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 9: Job Instability



Source: CSO – Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC)

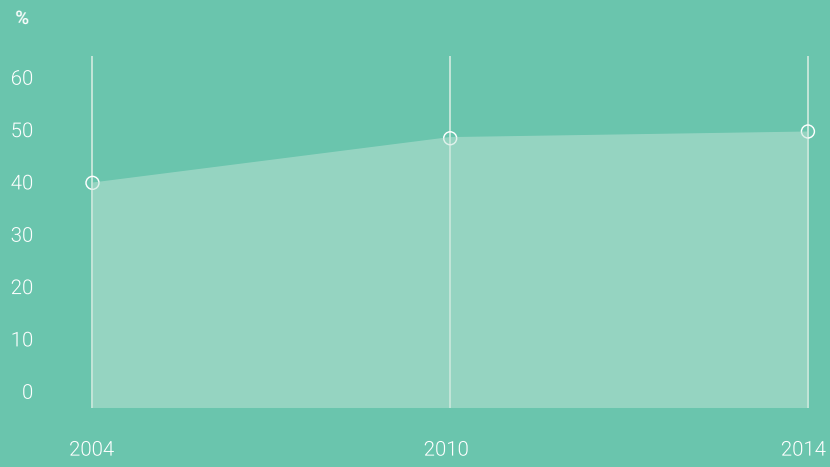
Performance of indicator:
Of the people that change job each year, the percentage that do so as a result of being forced to do so by their employer has decreased from 15% in 2011 to 11% in 2015. Being obliged to leave job by employer includes reasons such as; being dismissed, made redundant, a business closing, or early retirement.

Justification of indicator:
The feeling of stability in one's own job is an important contributor to one's wellbeing. A lack of job stability can lead to economic insecurity, and a potential inability to afford specific material living conditions which can contribute towards wellbeing. This can be the case even in a society which has low levels of unemployment. A decrease in the rate of this indicator represents an improvement in societal wellbeing.

Discrimination in the Workplace

An increase in the percentage of persons who have experienced discrimination in the workplace has a negative influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 10: Percentage of adults who experienced discrimination in the workplace



Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)

Performance of indicator:
The percentage of individuals aged 18 and over that have experienced discrimination in the workplace was 50% in 2014. This is two percentage points higher than 2010 (48%), and nine higher than 2004 (41%).

Justification of indicator:
High levels of discrimination in the workplace point to an unequal and unfair society. For the individual, discrimination can deeply affect their esteem, self-confidence and impinge on their human rights. The foundations upon which discrimination can exist in the workplace are many, including but not limited to, gender, age, and religious views. Including a measure of the existence of discrimination can provide an indication of the overall level of fairness in a workplace.

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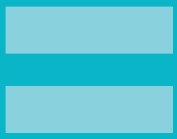
Education



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Educational Attainment

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Early School Leavers

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Digital Skills

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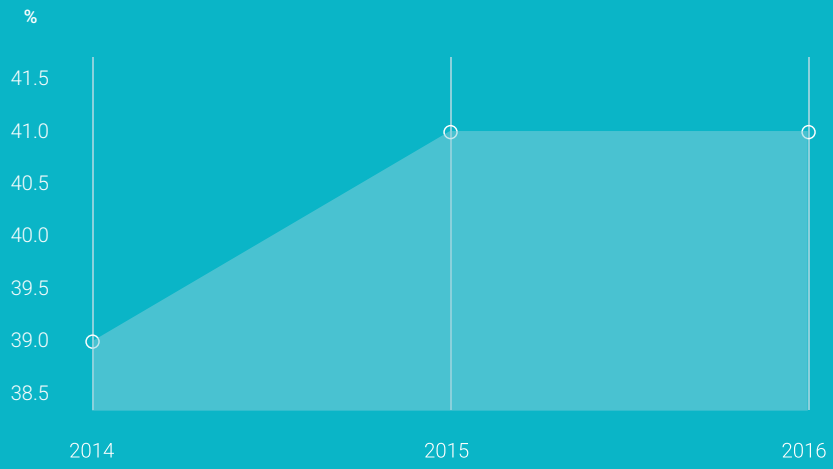
Mathematics Score from Programme for International Student Assessment

Educational Attainment

An increase in the percentage of those aged 25-64 with third level education has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 11: Percentage of those aged 25-64 with third level education



Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)

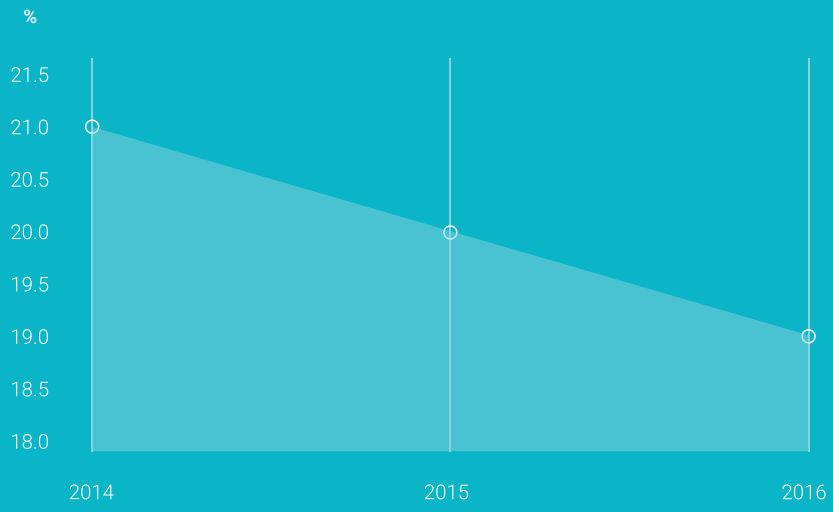
Performance of indicator:
The percentage of those aged 25 to 64 with third level education has increased from 39% in 2014 to 41% in 2015. It has remained at 41% for 2016.

Justification of indicator:
Educational attainment is a major contributor to individual wellbeing. Higher levels of educational attainment can have a positive impact on material living conditions as it is associated with both lower levels of unemployment and higher income. There is also research pointing to the correlation between higher levels of education and better health[21].

Early School Leavers

A decrease in the percentage of persons aged 25-64 that have at most lower secondary has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 12: Percentage of those aged 25-64 with at most lower secondary as highest educational attainment



Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)

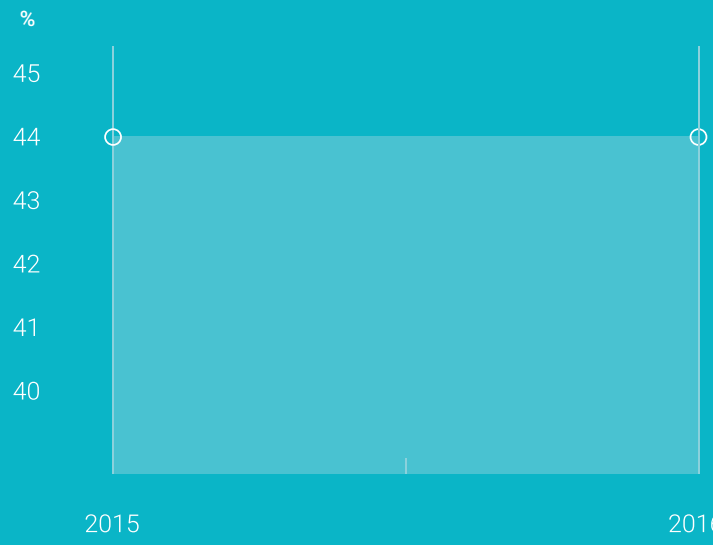
Performance of indicator:
The percentage of the population aged 25 to 64 with at most lower secondary education[22] as their highest level of educational attainment has decreased from 21% in 2014 to 19% in 2016.

Justification of indicator:
The rate of individuals that leave school early can be seen as a proxy for how an educational system is performing. It is also important as individuals with lower levels of education are more susceptible to being unemployed, and of having lower levels of health – both of which contribute to personal wellbeing. Target 4.1 identified in the OECD document 'Education at a Glance 2017" also states that it should be ensured that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.[23]

Digital Skills

An increase in the percentage of persons who have basic or above basic digital skills[24] has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 13: Digital skills of those aged 16-74



Source: CSO – Information and Communication Technology Survey (ICT)

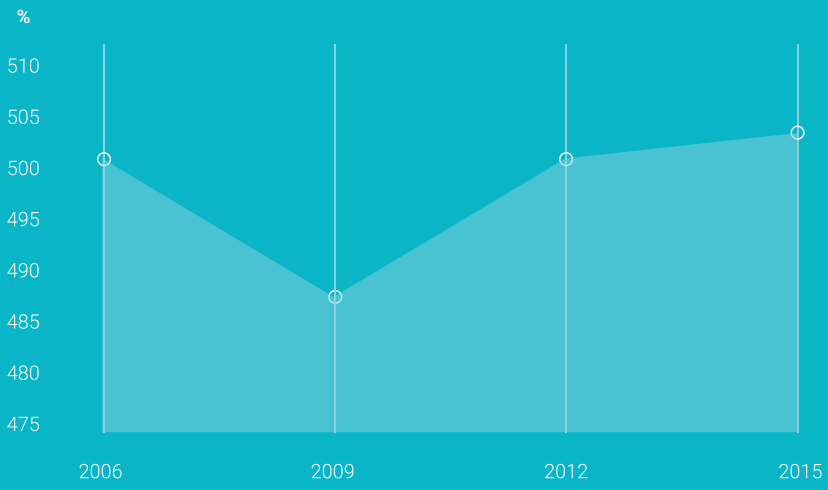
Performance of indicator:
The percentage of the Irish population aged 16 to 74 years old that have basic or above basic[25] overall digital skills has remained constant in the years 2015 and 2016 at 44%.

Justification of indicator:
In a rapidly changing labour market, cross-cutting skills such as the ability to use computers, IT tools and the internet are becoming more and more important. Such transversal skills can help to improve the employment capacity of an individual, and can also improve their levels of social inclusion. It is assumed that individuals having performed certain activities have the corresponding skills; therefore the indicator can be considered a proxy of the digital competency and skill of an individual. The indicator is based on the Information, Communication and Technology Survey of usage in households and by individuals.

Mathematics Score from Programme for International Student Assessment

An increase in the mean mathematical score in PISA has a positive influence on wellbeing

Fig. 14: PISA mathematics scores



Source: OECD – Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

Performance of indicator:
In 2006, the mean score in mathematics in PISA was 501. This fell to 487 in 2009, and returned to 501 in 2012. It has increased in 2015 to 504.[26] The scale developed by the OECD ranges from 0 – 1,000.

Justification of indicator:
The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) tests the skills and knowledge of 15 year olds across the OECD. Different skills are assessed, including; reading, mathematics and science, financial literacy, and problem solving. Mathematics has been selected as the indicator, as proficiency in mathematics can help prepare students for many different roles in the workplace, including analytics, engineering, and information technology.

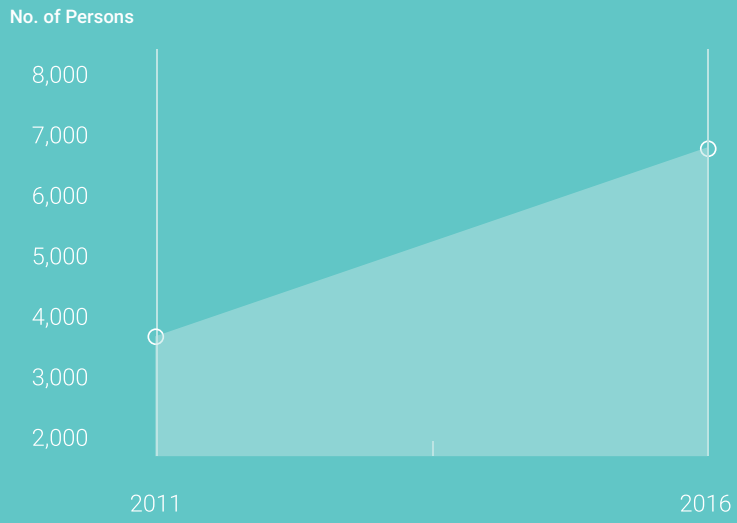
34 - 39

Housing and Natural Environment

Homelessness

An increase in the number of persons that are homeless has a negative influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 15: Number of Homeless People



Source: CSO – Census of Population

Performance of indicator:
The Census of Population undertakes the task of measuring the number of people who are homeless in Ireland on Census night (the 10th of April 2011 and the 24th of April 2016). This includes those who were in sheltered accommodation and who were sleeping rough. It was found that 6,906 were homeless on Census night 2016. This is an increase from 2011 of 81%, when the corresponding figure was 3,808.

Justification of indicator:
Having a home contributes greatly to individual wellbeing. A home provides shelter from the inclement weather, personal safety and privacy. It also provides people with a level of dignity and security that sleeping rough or being in emergency accommodation does not. Homelessness has an effect on the health status of individuals along with their access to health care services.

Air Quality

A decrease in the amount of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Figure 16: Carbon Dioxide Emmissions

Source: CSO – Environmental Indicators

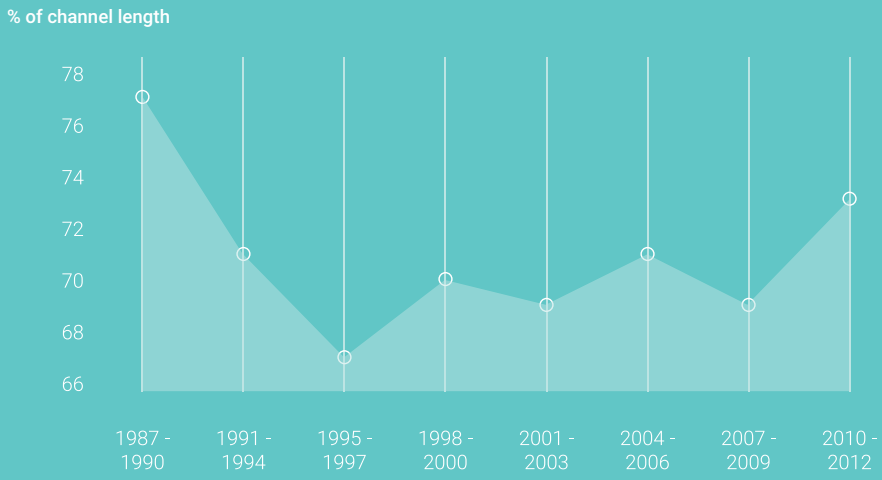
Performance of indicator:
Air quality is measured though the level of emissions of Carbon dioxide (CO2) released into the atmosphere. The level of these emissions has fallen since 2005 when 47,952 thousand tonnes were emitted. In 2014, 36,559 thousand tonnes of CO2 was emitted.

Justification of indicator:
The level of CO2 in the atmosphere is important to measure as it is a major contributor to the warming of the atmosphere as it remains in the atmosphere for a longer time than other gases. As such, it is a societal goal to reduce the levels of this gas. It should be noted that this indicator is taken as a proxy for the overall condition of the atmosphere. Other gases, including nitrous oxide and methane, also contribute to the environment in different ways.

River Water Quality

An increase in the percentage of the length of river channel that is unpolluted has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 17: Percentage of unpolluted river channel length



Source: CSO – Environmental Indicators

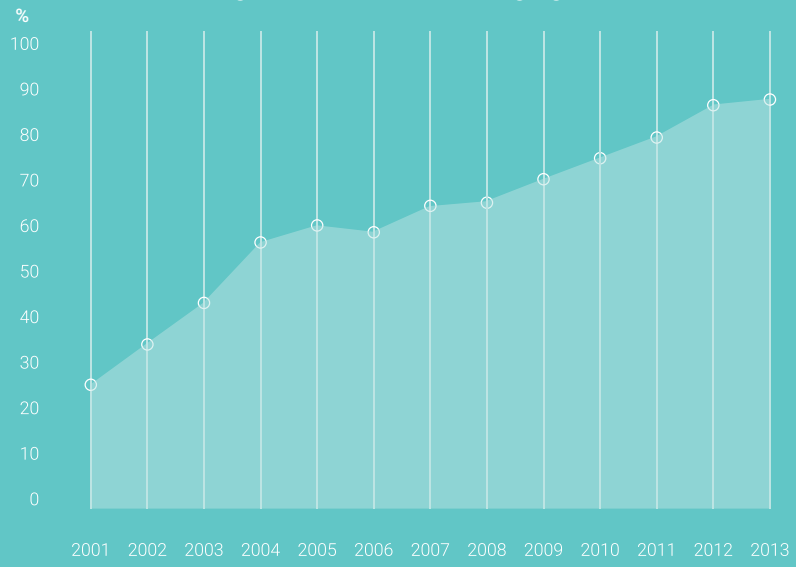
Performance of indicator:
The percentage of river channel length surveyed which was unpolluted between the years 1987-1990 was 77%. This fell to 67% in the years 1995-1997. The figure remained at approximately 70% until 2010-2012, when it increased to 73%. These percentages are based on samples collected from over 3,000 locations across Ireland by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Unpolluted waters include pristine waters and waters of a less high but acceptable standard.

Justification of indicator:
Clean water is essential for life. It is vital to the health of individuals and thus is an important element of wellbeing. The quality of river water has been selected as the overall indicator of water quality as river water is the principal source of drinking water in Ireland, and it also an important environmental indicator.

Recovered Packaging (Recycling) Rates

An increase in the percentage packaging that is recovered has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 18: Recovered Packaging Rate



Source: CSO – Environmental Indicators

Performance of indicator:
Since 2001 Ireland has increased its rate of recovery of packaging waste such as cardboard, paper, glass, plastic, steel, aluminium and wood. The Packaging Directive 94/62/EC[27] target of 50% set for 2005 was reached in 2004 and the 2011 target of 60% has been exceeded since 2007. The recovery rate in 2013 was 88%.

Justification of indicator:
Increased waste is associated with pollution risks to soil, air and water. One way to reduce the amount of solid waste accumulating is to recycle that waste. Recycling conserves our current resources and protects our natural habitat for the future. It also provides members of society with an overall feeling of contribution to the wellbeing of that society.

An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

Average Household Debt

€93,900 in 2014 ↓ €87,900 in 2015

Unemployment Rate

9.8% in 2015 ↓ 8.6% in 2016

Female TDs in the Dáil

15% in 2011 ↑ 21% in 2016

Number of Healthy Life Years

66.9 in 2014 ↑ 67.3 in 2015

The Wellbeing of the Nation 2017

41%

Aged **25 - 64** with third level education remained constant between 2015 and 2016

Number of Homeless People

↑ **81%** **3,808** in 2011
6,906 in 2016

Adults that think crime is very serious problem in Ireland

46% in 2006 ↑ **49%** in 2010

Participation in sport aged 15+

47.2% in 2013 ↓ **45%** in 2015

42 - 47

Governance and Equality

Female Representation in Dáil Éireann

An increase in the percentage of female representation in Dáil Éireann has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 19: Percentage of females in Dáil Éireann

Source: Oireachtas Figures

Performance of indicator:
The percentage of members who are female has increased over the last five Dáils. The percentage that was female in the 28th Dáil (1997) was 12%. This has increased to 21% in the 32nd Dáil (2016).

Justification of indicator:
Men and women are equally represented in the population and, thereby should be equally represented in the democratic decision-making process. Equal representation allows an environment to exist where issues that affect both men and women can be raised, discussed, and ultimately addressed. As the highest legislative body in Ireland, many important decisions are made in Dáil Éireann and thus the percentage of females within it has been selected as the indicator for female representation.

Consistent Poverty Rate

A decrease in the consistent poverty rate has a positive influence on wellbeing..

Fig. 20: Consistent Poverty Rate

Source: CSO – Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC)

Performance of indicator:
The consistent poverty rate measure the percentage of people who are defined as being at risk of poverty and experiencing enforced deprivation (experiencing two or more types of deprivation). The rate in 2011 was 6.9% and rose to 9.1% in 2013. The rate in 2015 was 8.7%, a fall from the previous year when it was 8.8%.

Justification of indicator:
The consistent poverty measure looks at those persons who are defined as being at risk of poverty and experiencing enforced deprivation (experiencing two or more types of deprivation identified in the Survey of Income and Living Conditions). Measuring the percentage of individuals who are living in consistent poverty is important due to the negative impact that poverty has on the individual. It can lead to lower health levels, lower educational attainment, and lower levels of self-esteem. With constrained economic resources, it is likely that material living conditions, which also contribute to wellbeing, will also suffer.

Equality of Income Distribution

An increase in the distribution of income equally has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 21: Equality of income distribution

Source: CSO – Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC)

Performance of indicator:
Equality of income distribution is the relationship between cumulative shares of the population (ranked according to the level of income from lowest to highest) and the cumulative share of total income received by them, i.e. the Lorenz Curve. A figure of 100% would indicate perfect inequality, and similarly, a figure of 0% would indicate perfect equality. The Gini coefficient for Ireland in 2015 was 30.8%, a fall from 32.0% in 2014.

Justification of indicator:
The equality in the distribution of income is measured by the Gini Coefficient. Equality of income distribution is an important measure for societal wellbeing, and higher levels of equality are considered good for society.[28]

Percentage that Experienced Discrimination

An increase in the percentage of persons who have experienced discrimination in the previous two years has a negative influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 22: Persons who experienced discrimination in the previous two years

Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS

Performance of indicator:
The percentage of persons aged 18 years and older who have experienced any kind of discrimination has remained constant, at 12%.

Justification of indicator:
Low levels of discrimination indicate a fair and just society, and thus maintaining low levels is an important societal goal.

48 - 54

Health

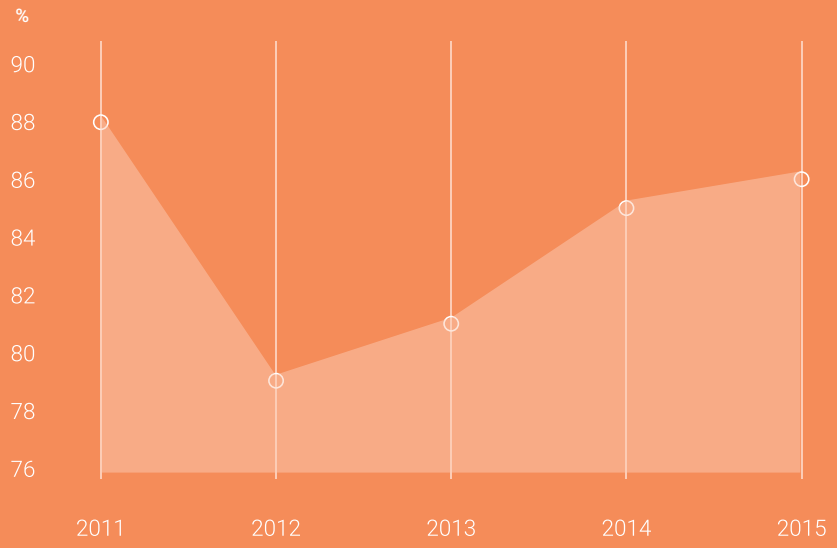
51
Healthy Life Years at Birth

53
Incidence of Binge Drinking

Self-perceived Health

An increase in the percentage of people perceiving their health as good or very good has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 23: Self-perceived health



Source: CSO – Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC)

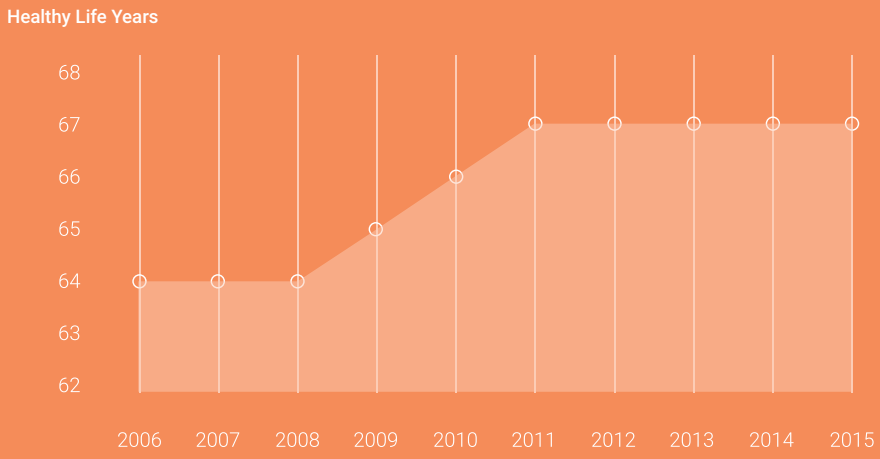
Performance of indicator:
The percentage of the population that reported their general health to be either good or very good was 86% in 2015. This is a fall from the 2011 figure of 88%. After a fall in the levels between 2011 and 2012, the percentage of those aged 16 and over that rate their health as good or very good has increased each year.

Justification of indicator:
An individual's perception of their own health is important as it provides an opportunity to look at aspects of health that are difficult to measure clinically. These include the severity of a condition, or feelings such as tiredness etc. Self-perceived health is seen as a good proxy indicator of actual health.

Healthy Life Years at Birth

An increase in the number of healthy life years experienced has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 24: Healthy life years at birth



Source: CSO – Life Tables

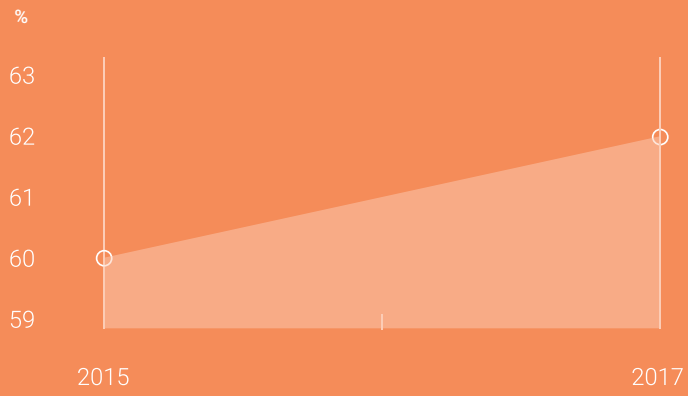
Performance of indicator:
The expected number of healthy life years for a person born in Ireland in 2015 is 67.3. This is an improvement on 2014 which was 66.9. There has been an upward trend in the number of healthy life years since 2006. These numbers have been adjusted to take into account the number of males and females in the population and present an average across both genders.

Justification of indicator:
Healthy life years, abbreviated as HLY and also called disability-free life expectancy (DFLE), is defined as the number of years that a person is expected to continue to live in a healthy condition. It shifts the focus away from the longevity of a person towards a quality of life measure. A greater number of healthy life years imply better physical health, which in turn contributes to personal wellbeing. It can result in an increase in material living conditions, as individuals may have fewer days absent from work, lower financial medical costs and reduced health demands.

Overweight / Obesity

An increase in the percentage of people who are overweight or obese has a negative influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 25: Percentage of population who are overweight or obese



Source: Department of Health – Healthy Ireland Survey

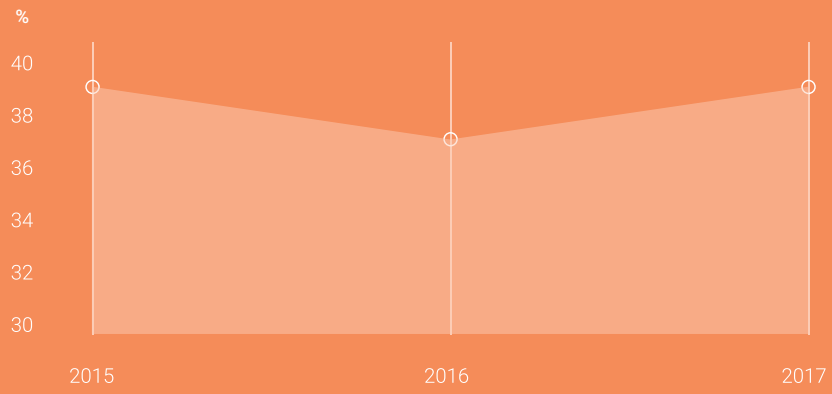
Performance of indicator:
The percentage of people who were classified as overweight or obese in 2015 was 60%. This has risen to 62% in 2017. A person is classified as overweight if their Body Mass Index (BMI) exceeds 25 and is classified as obese if their BMI is 30 or higher.

Justification of indicator:
Healthy lifestyles contribute greatly to an individual's personal wellbeing. A person's BMI provides an indication into their overall health and lifestyle, and weight control is an important health determinant. Higher levels of overweight/ obesity have an impact on wider society due to the fact that they can lead to higher spending on health care and lower levels of overall health.

Binge drinking at least once a week

An increase in the number of healthy life years experienced has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 26: Percentage of drinkers who drink six or more units of alcohol at least once a week



Source: Department of Health – Healthy Ireland Survey

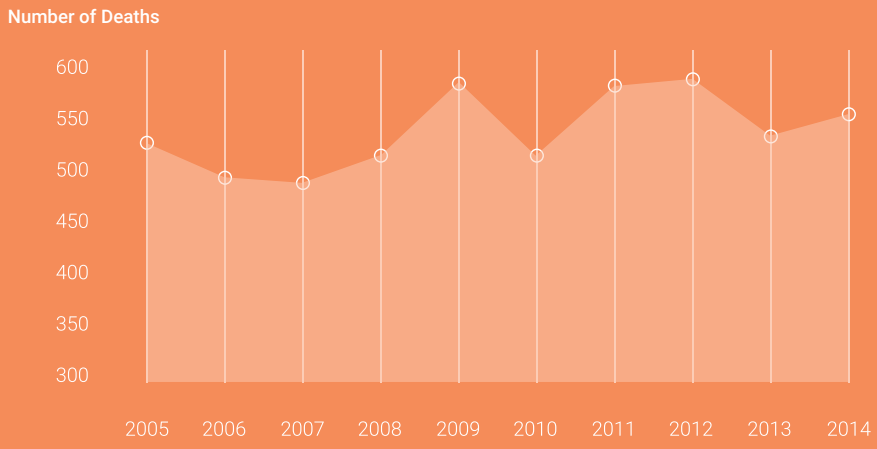
Performance of indicator:
Binge drinking is defined by health experts, including the World Health Organisation (WHO), as consuming six or more standard drinks in one sitting, which is the equivalent of three or more pints of beer or six or more pub measures of spirits. In 2015, 39% of those aged 15 and older binge drink on a regular basis. This fell slightly in 2016 to 37%, and increased to 39% in 2017.

Justification of indicator:
Binge drinking can negatively impact an individual's physical and mental health. As an important health determinant, it is identified as a significant measure of personal wellbeing.

Deaths by Suicide

An increase in the number of deaths by suicides has a negative influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 27: Number of deaths by suicide



Source: CSO – Vital Statistics

Performance of indicator:
The number of deaths caused by suicide was 559 in 2014, an increase of 15 from the previous year. The highest number in since 2005 was in 2009, at 578. The lowest number of deaths was in 2007, at 486. This figure includes deaths registered in the year of occurrence and deaths which are registered late.

Justification of indicator:
Suicide is among the highest causes of death for the younger age groups in Ireland. Due to its links to mental health, and levels of social support, it is classified as an important indicator of wellbeing.

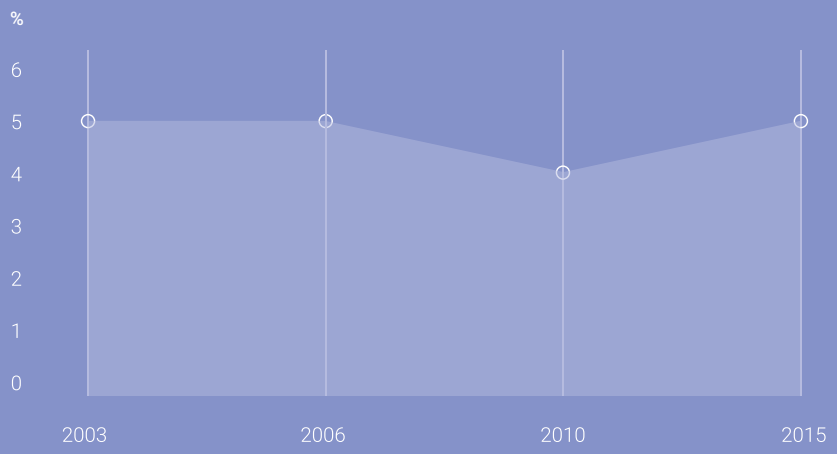
56 - 61

Public Safety

Self-reported Victimisation

An increase in the percentage of people reporting they have been a victim of violent and non-violent crime has a negative influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 28: Self-reported victimisation



Source: Department of Health – Healthy Ireland Survey

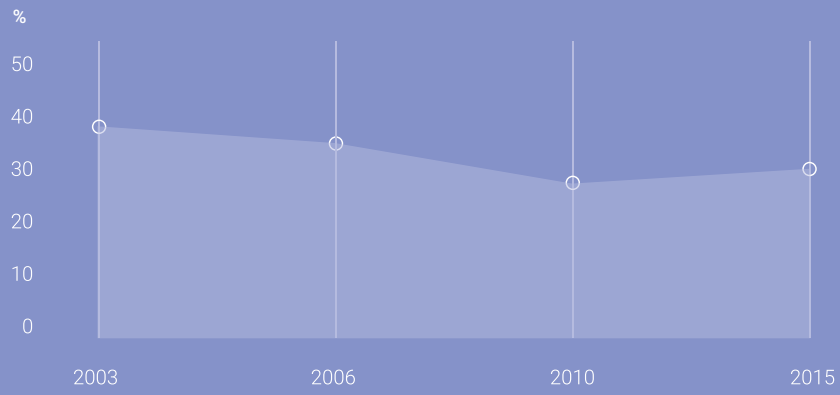
Performance of indicator:
Self-reported victimisation of crime, which includes crimes such as violent and non-violent theft, physical assault and fraud, has remained relatively constant over time. The rate was 5% in 2003 and 2006, falling to 4% in 2010, and increasing to 5% in 2015. It is a measure of victimisation among the population aged 18 years and older.

Justification of indicator:
Self-reported victimisation rates provide details on whether an individual was a victim of a crime, regardless of whether the crime was reported to the authorities or not. Increases in the level of self-victimisation have a negative impact on wellbeing, as it identifies an increase in the level of certain crimes. Being a victim of a crime is obviously detrimental to wellbeing.

Worry about Becoming a Victim of Personal Crime or Theft and Damage

An increase in the percentage of people worrying about becoming a victim of crime has a negative influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 29: Worrying about becoming a victim of personal crime, or theft and damage



Source: CSO – Crime and Victimisation Survey (C&V)

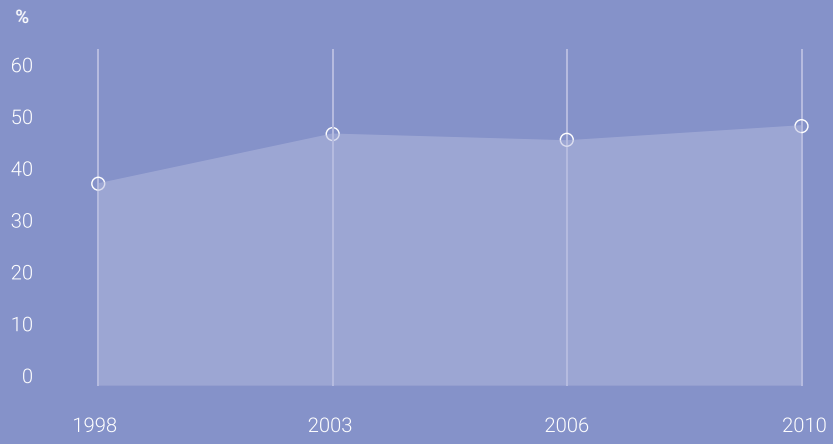
Performance of indicator:
There has been a fall in the percentage worried about becoming a victim of both personal and theft/damage from 39% in 2003 to 30% in 2015. However, there has been an increase in this rate since 2010, when it was 27%.

Justification of indicator:
An increase in the rate of people who are worried about becoming a victim of crime themselves, as separate from the actual level of crime, can lead to heightened stress levels. It is a subjective measure which can affect the emotional and psychological aspects of wellbeing. It may put strains on social cohesion, reducing levels of trust among members or society even if such fears are unsubstantiated.

Perception of Seriousness of Crime in Ireland

An increase in the percentage of those that think crime is a serious or very serious problem in Ireland has a negative influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 30: Percentage of those aged 18 or over that think crime is a very serious problem in Ireland



Source: CSO – Crime and Victimisation Survey (C&V)

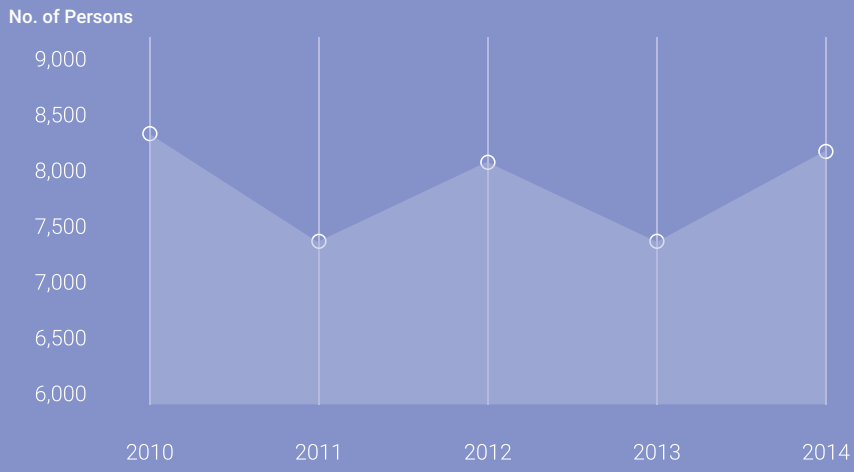
Performance of indicator:
The percentage of persons aged 18 or over that think that crime is a very serious problem has increased from 38% in 1998 to 49% in 2010.

Justification of indicator:
The perception of the seriousness of crime in a country, as separate from crime on an individual level, can lead to increased anxiety, stress, and fear in the broader population. This may affect the psychological wellbeing of individuals in a different way to actually suffering as a victim of crime.

Number of Injuries and Fatalities from Road Traffic Accidents

An increase in the number of injuries and fatalities from road traffic accidents has a negative influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 31: Road traffic casualties



Source: Road Safety Authority

Performance of indicator:
The number of casualties from road traffic accidents in 2014 was 8,272 with 8,079 injuries and 193 fatalities. This was an increase on 2013, when the corresponding figures were 7,069 accidents, 6,880 injuries and 188 fatalities.

Justification of indicator:
Being injured in a road traffic accident can have a severe impact on wellbeing. Outside of the direct physical health consequences, there can be a psychological impact associated with injury. There can also be wider economic consequences, both direct and indirect. Road traffic accidents also account for a high number of deaths amongst the younger population, being the fourth highest cause of death among young people in Ireland.[29] An increase in the number of casualties is bad for wellbeing, not only for the individuals and families concerned but also for society.

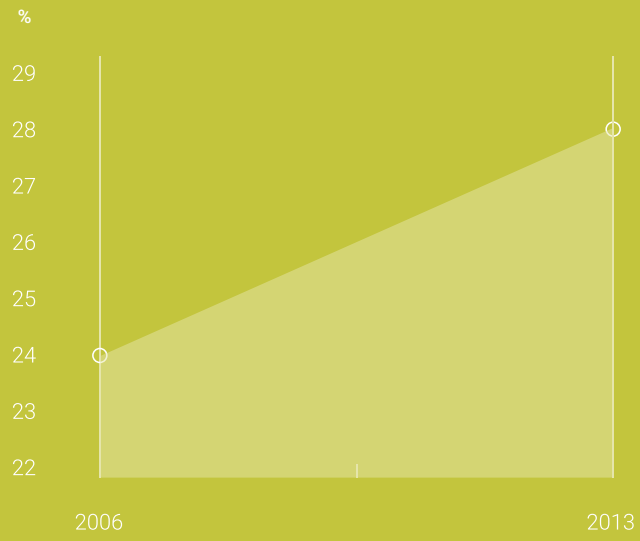
62 - 67

Time Use

Volunteering

An increase in the percentage of those who volunteer has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 32: Percentage of those aged 15 and over who volunteer



Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)

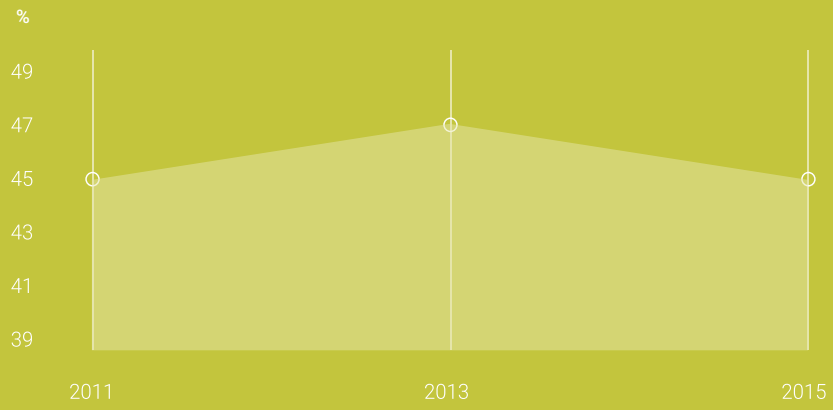
Performance of indicator:
Over 28% of the population aged 15 years or older volunteered in 2013 through either organisation-based or direct voluntary means. This is an increase from 2006 when the percentage that volunteered was 24%.

Justification of indicator:
Volunteering can be associated with wellbeing for a number of reasons. Increased levels of volunteering can increase the sense of belonging one feels in a community and also have positive effects on one's mental health. Volunteering as part of a group can lead to increased provision of important services and is good for the individual and for society as a whole.

Participation in Sport

A decrease in the percentage of those who participate in sport has a negative influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 33: Participation in sport



Source: Sports Council Monitor Annual Report[30]

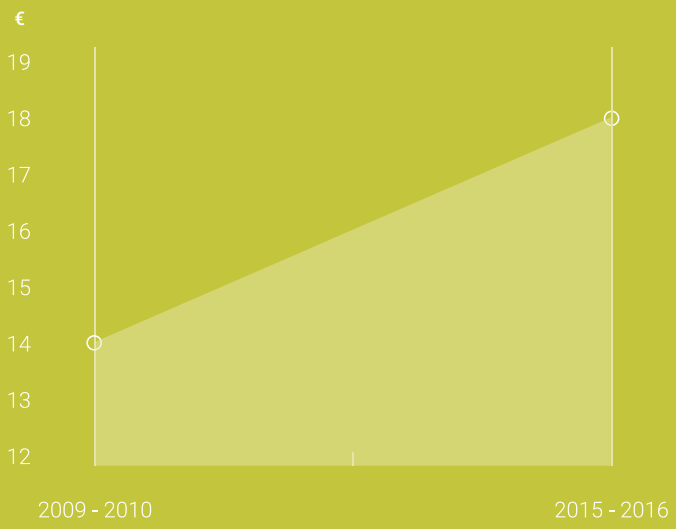
Performance of indicator:
The percentage of individuals aged 15 years or older who have taken part in sport in the previous seven days fell from 47.2% in 2013 to 45.0% in 2015.

Justification of indicator:
Participating in sport can have positive outcomes on wellbeing for young and old alike. Sport can improve the physical, mental and emotional health of participants, and can lead to a greater sense of community. These factors can result in benefits for wellbeing.

Average Weekly Household Expenditure on Sports & Leisure

An increase in the average weekly household expenditure on sports and leisure has a positive influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 34: Average weekly household expenditure on sports and leisure



Source: CSO – Household Budget Survey (HBS)

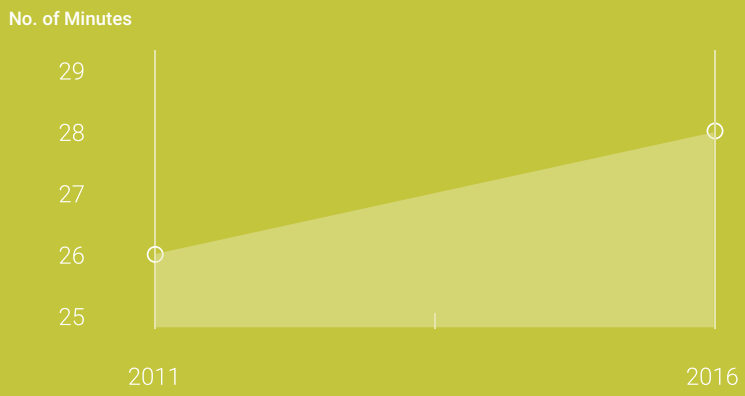
Performance of indicator:
The average weekly household expenditure on sports and leisure in the years 2009-2010 was €14.40. This has increased to €17.85 in 2015-2016.

Justification of indicator:
Leisure and sports activities can play an important role in communities. These activities can improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, increasing individual's self-esteem, and can help the development of communities. Higher spending on these activities[31] indicates higher levels of participation in events of this nature and can be regarded as positive for wellbeing.

Commuting Time

An increase in the average commuting time has a negative influence on wellbeing.

Fig. 35: Average commuting time



Source: CSO – Census of Population

Performance of indicator:
The average time individuals aged 15 and over who are at work spent commuting has increased from 26.6 minutes in 2011 to 28.2 minutes in 2016. This increase indicates a fall for societal wellbeing.

Justification of indicator:
Commuting time can be seen as economically 'inactive' time, as it is neither leisure time nor work time. Increased commuting time can lead to higher levels of stress. It can also have a detrimental effect on health levels if the individual is, for example, using a car instead of walking. There can also be increases in associated levels of pollution.

68 - 69

Appendix 1

In order to inform the development of this set of wellbeing indicators, many international versions were researched. These include;

- The Canadian index of Wellbeing
  https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-index-wellbeing/

- Measures of Australia's Progress
  http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsfmf/ 1370.0?opendocument#from-banner=LN

- Office of National Statistic (ONS) UK – Measuring national wellbeing
  https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/bulletins/measuringnationalwellbeing/2015-09-23

- Eurostat – Quality of Life
  http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/infographs/qol/index_en.html

- OECD – How's Life?
  http://www.oecd.org/statistics/how-s-life-23089679.html

- Virginia Performs
  http://vaperforms.virginia.gov/

- Bhutan Happiness Index
  http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/national-policy/gross-national-happiness-index/

- Report of the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress
  http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/118025/118123/Fitoussi+Commission+report

- Wellbeing Matters: A Social Report for Ireland – Volumes 1 and 2
  http://files.nesc.ie/nesc_reports/en/NESC_119_vol_I_2009.pdf
  http://files.nesc.ie/nesc_reports/en/NESC_119_vol_II_2009.pdf

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

70 - 77

Appendix 2

ECONOMY

1. Average Household Debt

Source: CSO – National Income and Expenditure (NIE)

A link to the National Accounts release is found here: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-isanff/isanff2015/fa/tbl3b/

2. Modified Gross National Income at Current Market Prices er Capita (GNI*)

Source: CSO – National Income and Expenditure (NIE)

In July 2016, the Central Statistics Office released the National Income and Expenditure accounts for 2015. These figures showed that the economy grew by 26.3% in 2015. The reporting of GDP is a requirement under EU law and must be compiled strictly in accordance with international rules. The figures published were based on hard data and attributable to the globalisation activities of a very small number of companies.

The core issue relates to the insights on our changing domestic economy that can be gained from the key economic indicators of GDP and GNP in a small, open and highly globalised economy – perhaps the most globalised in the world. Moreover, GDP and GNP, although required internationally, no longer provide a sufficient understanding of the domestic economy of Ireland and need to be supplemented with a broader suite of indicators that can provide the necessary insights.

A group of experts was being convened to undertake this work, and developed Modified GNI (or GNI*). GNI* is defined as GNI less the effects of the profits of re-domiciled companies and the depreciation of intellectual property products and aircraft leasing companies. This new indicator of the level of the Irish economy is a useful additional input to debt ratio analysis.

Despite this work, GNI* is a modified national economic indicator, and is not intended to be used as a sole measure of societal wellbeing.
The full NIE release can be found here: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/nie/niear2016/

3. Average Earnings

Source: CSO – Earnings, Hours and Employment Costs Survey (EHECS)

A link to EHECS survey release can be found here: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/elca/earningsandlabourcostsannualdata2016/

4. Consumer Price Index

Source: CSO – Consumer Price index (CPI)

The Consumer Price Index is designed to measure the change in the average level of prices (inclusive of all indirect taxes) paid for consumer goods and services by all private and institutional households in the country and by foreign tourists holidaying in Ireland.

A link to the full Consumer Price Index can be found here: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/cpi/consumerpriceindexaugust2017/

WORK

5. Unemployment Rate

Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)

Unemployed persons are persons who, in the week before the survey, were without work and available for work within the next two weeks, and had taken specific steps, in the preceding four weeks, to find work. It should be noted that as per Eurostat's operational implementation, the upper age limit for classifying a person as unemployed is 74 years.

The full QNHS release can be found here: http:/www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/qnhs/quarterlynationalhouseholdsurveyquarter12017/

6. Long-term Unemployed

Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)

The long-term unemployed are those that have been classified as unemployed for a period of 12 months or longer

The full QNHS release can be found here: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/qnhs/quarterlynationalhouseholdsurveyquarter12017/

7. Employment Rates of those with a Disability

Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)

The Employment Rate is the number of employed aged 15 to 64 expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 15 to 64. This definition has been applied to those who have identified themselves as having a disability in the survey.

The full QNHS release can be found here: http:/www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/qnhs/

quarterlynationalhouseholdsurveyquarter12017/

8. Percentage Working Longer than 48 hours per week on Average
Source: Quarterly National household Survey
This indicator is derived from a QNHS variable which asks how many hours the respondent usually works. The indicator is the percentage who have identified that they work greater than 48 hours per week.

9. Job Instability
Source: CSO – Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC)
This is the percentage of those individuals who have changed job as a result of being obliged to do so by their employer. Being obliged to leave job by employer includes reasons such as; being dismissed, being made redundant, a business closure, and early retirement.
The full SILC release can be found here: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/silc/surveyonincomeandlivingconditions2015/

10. Discrimination in the Workplace
Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)
Data on discrimination levels occurring in the workplace were gathered as part of an Equality module which was carried out in the third quarter of 2014.
The full details of this module can be found here: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/q-eq/qnhsequalitymodulequarter32014/

EDUCATION

11. Educational Attainment
Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)
Educational data are gathered as part of the QNHS each quarter.

12. Early School Leavers
Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)
The percentage of individuals that have left education at or below lower secondary level is gathered as part of the QNHS each quarter.

13. Digital Skills
Source: CSO – Information and Communication Technology Survey (ICT)
Data are gathered concerning the ICT usage of persons each year as part of a module present on the QNHS. This data is supplied to Eurostat, and further details can be found here: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/product?code=tepsr_sp410

14. Programme for International Student Assessment

Source: OECD – Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

Further information on the Programme for International Student Assessment can be found here: http://www.oecd.org/pisa/

HOUSING AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

15. Homelessness

Source: CSO – Census of Population

Data concerning homeless persons is gathered as part of each Census. Full Census 2016 data can be found here: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-cp5hpi/cp5hpi/

16. Air Quality

Source: CSO – Environmental Indicators

The measures of air quality referenced in this report are further explained in the following location: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-eii/eii2016/air/

17. River Water Quality

Source: CSO – Environmental Indicators

The measures of water quality referenced in this report are further explained in the following location: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-eii/eii2016/water/

18. Recovered Packaging Rates (recycling)

Source: CSO – Environmental Indicators

The measures of recycling referenced in this report are further explained in the following location: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-eii/eii2016/waste/

GOVERNANCE AND EQUALITY

19. Female Representation in Dáil Éireann

Source: Oireachtas Figures

The computation of rates of female representation in both the Dáil and the Seanad were carried out on figures on government compositions which can be found here: http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/tdssenators/

20. Consistent Poverty Rates

Source: CSO – Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC)

Poverty rates are derived from data which is gathered as part of the Survey of Income and Living Conditions, which is carried out on an annual basis. The

full data can be found here: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/silc/surveyonincomeandlivingconditions2015/

21. Equality of income distribution

Source: CSO – Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC)

Gini Coefficient

This is the relationship between cumulative shares of the population (ranked according to the level of income from lowest to highest) and the cumulative share of total income received by them, i.e. the Lorenz Curve. If there was perfect equality (i.e. each person receives the same income) the Gini coefficient would be 0%. A Gini coefficient of 100% would indicate there was total inequality and the entire national income was in the hands of one person.

Calculation of the Gini Coefficient:

$$Gini = \frac{2\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} Wgt_i * Eq\_inc_i * \sum_{j=1}^{i} Wgt_j\right) - \sum_{i=1}^{n}(Wgt_i)^2 * Eq\_inc_i}{\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} Wgt_i\right) * \sum_{i=1}^{n}(Wgt_i * Eq\_inc_i)} - 1$$

Wgt_i = Final calibrated weight per individual
Eq_Inc_i= Equivalised disposable income

$$\sum_{j=1}^{i} Wgt_j = Cumulative\ Income$$

http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/silc/surveyonincomeandlivingconditions2015/

22. Experience of discrimination

Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)

Data on discrimination levels occurring in the workplace were gathered as part of an Equality module which was carried out in the third quarter of 2014. The full details of this module can be found here: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/q-eq/qnhsequalitymodulequarter32014/

HEALTH

23. Self-perceived health

Source: CSO – Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC)

The self-perceived health status is taken from the Survey of Income and Living Conditions. The full details of this release can be found here:

24. Healthy Life Years (HLY)

Source: CSO – Life Tables

Healthy Life Years are calculated using mortality statistics and data on self-perceived long-standing activity limitations. Full details of this indicator can be found here: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Healthy_life_years_statistics

25. Prevalence of Overweight/Obesity

Source: Department of Health – Healthy Ireland Survey

As an important determinant of health, data on weight and height were gathered in the Irish Health Survey, from which the Body Mass Index was then calculated. Body Mass Index (BMI) is a simple index of weight-for-height that is commonly used to classify underweight, overweight and obesity in adults. It is defined as the weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in metreskg/m^2 .
To be classified as overweight, a respondent's BMI would need to be greater or equal to equal 25 and less than 30. A BMI of 30 or more is classified as obese.
Full details of these data can be found here: http://www.healthyireland.ie/about/research/healthy-ireland-survey/

26. Prevalence of binge drinking

Source: Department of Health – Healthy Ireland Survey

Binge drinking is defined by health experts, such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), as six or more standard drinks in one sitting, which is the equivalent of three or more pints of beer or six or more pub measures of spirits.
Full details of these data can be found here:
http://www.healthyireland.ie/about/research/healthy-ireland-survey/

27. Number of deaths by suicide

Source: CSO – Vital Statistics

Further information on the number of suicides in Ireland can be found at the following link: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/ss/suicidestatistics2011/

PUBLIC SAFETY

28. Self-reported victimisation

Source: CSO – Crime and Victimisation Survey (C&V)

Self-reported victimisation figures were chosen to represent the levels of crime experienced by the individual in this publication, and are taken from the Crime and Victimisation Survey. Full details of this survey can be found here: http://www.cso.

ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/q-cv/qnhscrimeandvictimisationq32015/

29. Worrying about becoming a victim of crime

Source: CSO – Crime and Victimisation Survey (C&V)

Full details regarding figures on the percentage of persons aged 18 and over who are worried about becoming a victim of crime are taken from the Crime and victimisation survey, and full details of these can be found here: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/q-cv/qnhscrimeandvictimisationq32015/

30. Perception of crime in Ireland

Source: CSO – Crime and Victimisation Survey (C&V)

Figures concerning respondent's perception of crime in their own community can be found in the Crime and victimisation survey, and full details of the figures and methodology can be found here: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/q-cv/qnhscrimeandvictimisationq32015/

31. Injuries and fatalities from road traffic accidents

Source: Road Safety Authority

Data on the number of injuries and fatalities occurring annually as a result of road traffic accidents are to be found in table 2 of the Road Safety Authority's publication 'Road Casualties and Collisions in Ireland 2014'. A link to this document can be found here: http://www.rsa.ie/Documents/Fatal%20Collision%20Stats/Road_Collision_Factbooks_and_Tables/Road%20Collision%20Facts%202014%20-%20Tables.pdf

TIME USE

32. Volunteering

Source: CSO – Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)

Data on rates of volunteering were gathered in the QNHS Volunteering module, carried out in quarter 3 of 2013. Full details of this module can be found here: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/q-vwb/qnhsvolunteeringandwellbeingq32013/

33. Sports Participation

Source: Sports Council Monitor Annual Report

The level of participation in sport is derived from data gathered by the sports council. Full details of this report can be found here: http://www.sportireland.ie/Research/Irish-Sports-Monitor-Annual-Report-2015/

34. Average weekly expenditure on sports and leisure

Source: CSO – Household Budget Survey (HBS)

A link to the full HBS release can be found here: http://www.cso.ie/en/

releasesandpublications/ep/p-hbs/hbs20152016/
The full list of items included in the HBS can be found at the following link.
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/regcst.asp?Cl=5

35. Commuting time

Source: CSO – Census of Population

Commuting time data are gathered as part of each Census, and further details of this can be found here: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-cp6ci/p6cii/

References

1. Also known as the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/118025/118123/Fitoussi+Commission+report

2. Please see the 'Background notes' section for a discussion on GDP measurement in Ireland

3. http://files.nesc.ie/nesc_reports/en/NESC_113.pdf

4. https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-index-well-being/

5. https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing

6. http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/1370.0

7. http://vaperforms.virginia.gov/Scorecard/ScorecardatGlance.php

8. http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Quality_of_life_indicators
http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/economics/how-s-life-2015_how_life-2015-en#.Wec3gI9SyUk

9. http://files.nesc.ie/nesc_reports/en/NESC_119_vol_I_2009.pdf
http://files.nesc.ie/nesc_reports/en/NESC_119_vol_II_2009.pdf

10. http://whitakerinstitute.ie/research-cluster/health-well/

11. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs

12. http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/otherreleases/2013/regqualityfull.pdf
http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-wamii/womenandmeninireland2016/

13. http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1993/act/21/section/10/enacted/en/html#sec10

14. http://www.nsb.ie/media/nsbie/pdfdocs/NSB_Strategy_2015-2020.pdf

15. http://www.cso.ie/indicators/Maintable.aspx

16. http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/newsevents/documents/reportoftheeconomicstatisticsreviewgroup/Economic_Statistics_Review_(ESRG)_Report_Dec_2016.pdf

17. The average includes employees based in enterprises and excludes the sectors of agriculture, forestry and fishing, and activities of households as employers.

18. http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/118025/118123/Fitoussi+Commission+report (paragraph 74)

19. http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1205&langId=en

20. http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1997/act/20/enacted/en/html

21. http://www.nber.org/papers/w0022.pdf

22. At most lower secondary education indicates that the respondent's highest level of education is junior certificate or lower.

23. http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/education/education-at-a-glance-2017_eag-2017-en#.Wenll49SyUk#page1

24. The basic or above basic overall digital skills represent the two highest levels of the overall digital skills indicator, which is a composite indicator based on selected activities performed by individuals aged 16-74 on the internet in the four specific areas (information, communication, problem solving, content creation).

25. http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/tepsr_sp410_esmsip.html

26. The scale developed by the OECD ranges from 0 to 1,000. The average OECD scores for 2009, 2012, and 2015 were 496, 494, and 490 respectively.

27. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/

PDF/?uri=CELEX:01994L0062-20150526&from=EN

28. Please see background notes for a further definition of the Gini Coefficient.

29. http://www.rsa.ie/Documents/Fatal%20Collision%20Stats/Road_Collision_Factbooks_and_Tables/Road%20Collision%20Facts%202014%20-%20Tables.pdf

30. http://www.sportireland.ie/Research/Irish-Sports-Monitor-Annual-Report-2015/Irish-Sports-Monitor-Annual-Report-2015.pdf

31. Please see background notes for a full list of expenditure items included.

Designed and printed by the
Central Statistics Office