

The degree of community acceptance of minority groups is a measurable dimension of social cohesion. Acceptance of three such groups is considered here: migrants, ethnic minorities and gay and lesbian people.

**On average, people in the Asia/Pacific region are less likely to think that their country welcomes immigrants than their peers in OECD countries** (Figure 8.10, Panel A). Over 90% of Australians and New Zealanders respond affirmative when asked whether their country is a good place to live for immigrants. By contrast, less than a quarter of Malaysians and Thais would say the same.

**Across the region there is no clear trend in perceived tolerance of migrants since 2006/08** (Figure 8.10, Panel B). The biggest decline in positive sentiment appears to have taken place in India, while residents of Lao PDR think they have become much more tolerant.

**On average across the Asia/Pacific and OECD countries at least two-thirds of the population consider their country tolerant towards ethnic minorities** (Figure 8.11). Residents of Pakistan and Cambodia perceive their country to have become significantly more tolerant towards ethnic minorities in recent years. The opposite trend emerges when considering the sentiment in Azerbaijan, India, Nepal and Thailand, where tolerance towards minorities is now at a low level.

**OECD countries appear far more tolerant of gays and lesbians than countries in the Asia/Pacific region** (Figure 8.12), and there has been little change in attitudes since 2006/08. New Zealand and Australia have the highest tolerance levels followed by Hong Kong (China) and the Philippines. Only 10% of the population in Indonesia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Malaysia and the Kyrgyz Republic were accepting of gays and lesbians.

On the whole, across the Asia/Pacific region people are more tolerant towards ethnic minorities and migrants than towards gay and lesbian people.

### Data and measurement

Data on tolerance comes from the Gallup World Poll. The Gallup World Poll is conducted in more than 150 countries around the world based on a common questionnaire, translated into the predominant languages of each country. With few exceptions, all samples are probability based and nationally representative of the resident population aged 15 years and over in the entire country, including rural areas. While this ensures a high degree of comparability across countries, results may be affected by sampling and non-sampling error, and variation in response rates. Hence, results should be interpreted with care. These probability surveys are valid within a statistical margin of error, also called a 95% confidence interval. This means that if the survey is conducted 100 times using the exact same procedures, the margin of error would include the “true value” in 95 out of 100 surveys. Sample sizes vary across countries from 1 000 to 4 000, and as the surveys use a clustered sample design the margin of error varies by question. The margin of error declines with increasing sample size: with a sample size of 1 000, the margin of error at a 95% confidence interval is  $0.98/\sqrt{\text{sample size}}$  or 3%, with a sample size of 4 000, this is 1.5%. To minimize the effect of annual fluctuations in responses related to small sample sizes, results are averaged over a three-year period, or two-year period in case of missing data. If only one observation in a three-year period is available this finding is not reported.

The results presented in this indicator are based on the following questions: “Is the city or area where you live a good place or not a good place to live for immigrants from other countries? Is the city or area where you live a good place or not a good place to live for racial and ethnic minorities? Is the city or area where you live a good place or not a good place to live for gay or lesbian people?”

### Figure note

Figure 8.10: Panel B. Percentage point change between 2006-08 and 2010-12 averages is not available for China.

Figure 8.10. **People in OECD countries are more likely to think their society is a good place to live for immigrants than their peers in the Asia/Pacific region**

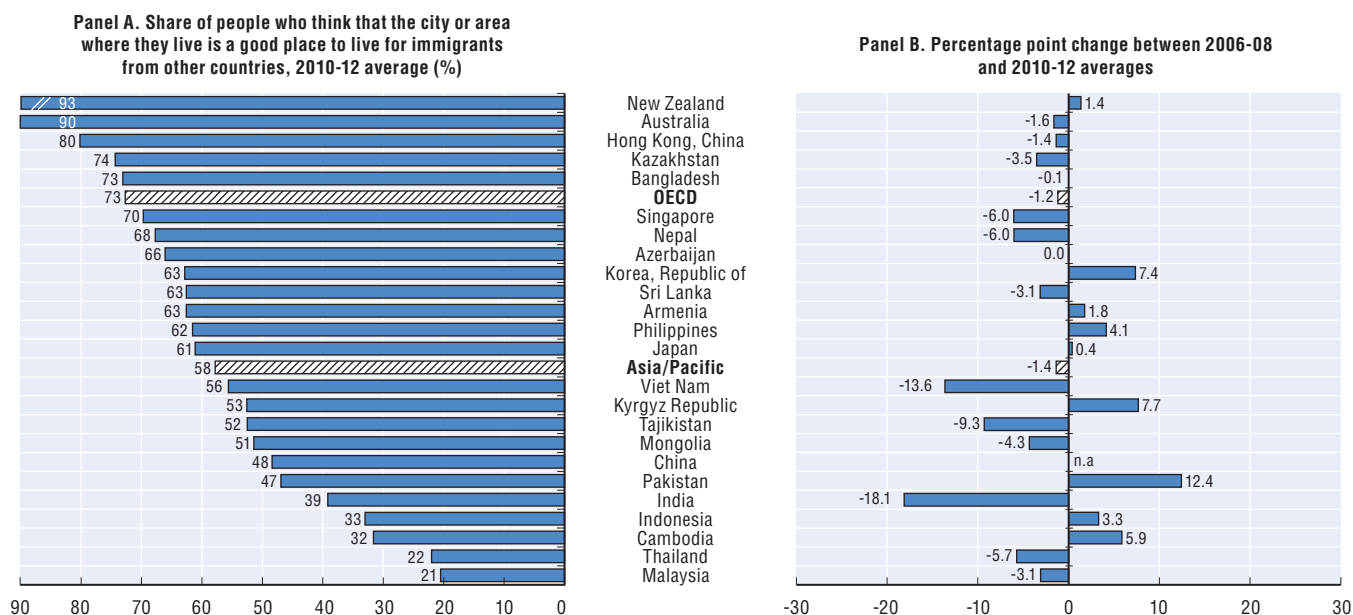


Figure 8.11. **Variation in trends in tolerance perception for ethnic minorities**

Percentage levels variation in the share of people who think that the city or area where they live is a good place to live for racial and ethnic minorities between 2006-08 and 2010-12 averages

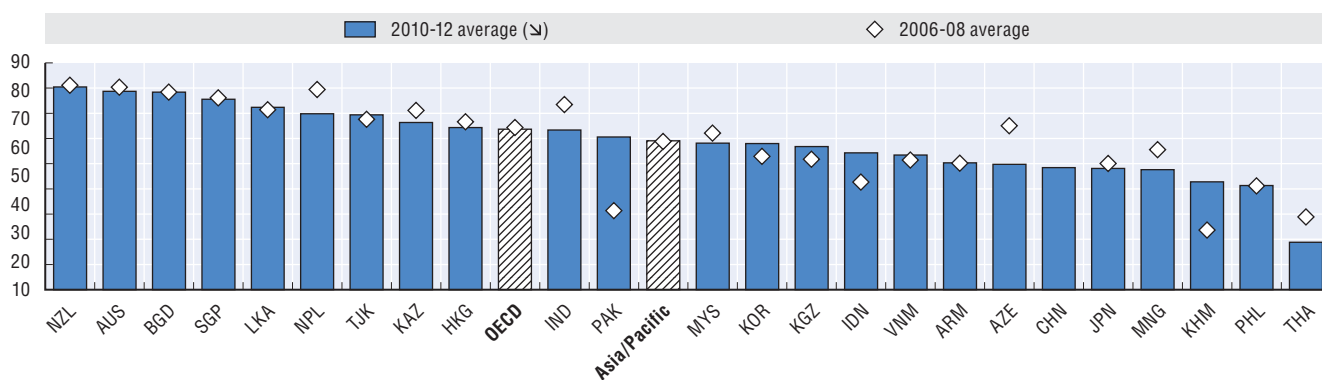
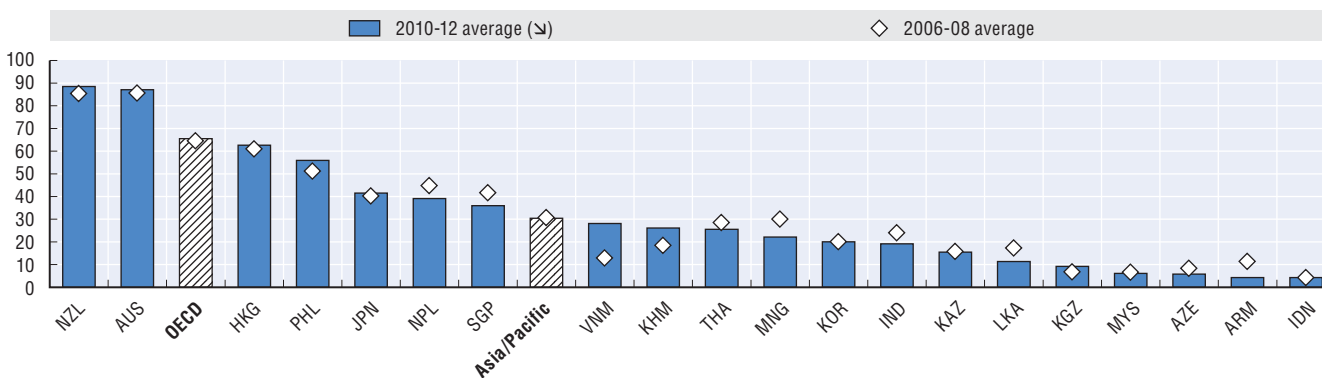


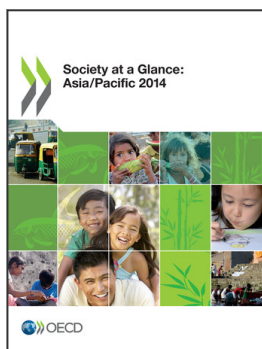
Figure 8.12. **OECD countries are more tolerant of gays and lesbians than economies in the Asia/Pacific region**

Percentage levels variation in the share of people who think that the city or area where they live is a good place to live for gay or lesbian people between 2006-08 and 2010-12 averages



Source: Gallup World Poll ([www.gallup.com](http://www.gallup.com)).

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