

Trust

A cohesive society is one where citizens have confidence in others and public institutions. Trust may affect economic performance and policies can affect trust and well-being (Algan and Cahuc, 2013)

The share of people expressing trust in others varies greatly across countries (Figure 7.4). **In OECD countries, about 36% of interviewees expressed interpersonal trust.** In Nordic countries over 60% of interviewees trust each other compared to less than 13% in Chile, Mexico and Turkey. Among the key partner economies, levels of trust are usually lower than in OECD countries ranging from 4% of the population in Colombia expressing trust in others to 33% in India.

Confidence in the national government is comparable, with about 42% of people. People in Switzerland, Luxembourg, Norway and New Zealand express higher confidence in their governments, while rates are lower in Slovenia, Portugal, Poland and Spain with large differences across countries (Figure 7.5). Among the key partner economies, confidence in national governments is highest in India and Indonesia and lowest in Colombia.

On average youth levels of confidence in others and in national government are similar to those of the total population. However in Belgium, Estonia and the United States, young people tend to have more confidence in government than the overall population whereas in Chile, Korea and Greece, this is the opposite. Among young people, NEETs are half as likely to report that they feel others can be trusted compared to other youth (see Chapter 1 and Figure 1.19). Over time being a NEET can lead to isolation, a lack of interest in society and a feeling of distrust.

Worries about finding or keeping a job are usually higher for youth than for the whole population. This gap is highest in Sweden, the United States, New Zealand and Spain. In Mexico, Korea, Japan, Estonia and Spain, over 65 % of people reported worrying very much about losing, or not finding, a job, whereas in Sweden and the Netherlands less than one in four do (Figure 7.6).

Definition and measurement

Data on trust in others is based on the question: “Generally speaking would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people?”. The response is 1 “most people can be trusted” or 2 “need to be very careful”. Data come from two surveys: the World Values Survey (wave 6) for all countries present in wave 6, wave 5 for Canada, wave 4 for Israel and the European Values Survey (wave 4) for European countries not in the WVS, wave 6. Data comparability across countries may be affected by sample sizes and response rates. Rates refer to people reporting that “most people can be trusted”. Note that the overall figures for trust amongst youth does not match Figure 1.19 as it only includes OECD countries with a large enough sample size of NEETs.

Definition and measurement (cont.)

Data on confidence in national government comes from the Gallup World Poll where the question asked is “In this country, do you have confidence in each of the following, or not? In the national government?”. With few exceptions, samples are probability-based and nationally representative of the resident population aged 15 years and. 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; for example, data, especially for youth, should be interpreted carefully.

Data on worries about losing or not finding a job comes from the World Values Survey Wave 6: 2010-14. The World Values Survey (www.worldvaluessurvey.org) is a global network of social scientists studying changing values and their impact on social and political life. The WVS consists of nationally representative and comparable surveys conducted in almost 100 countries which contain almost 90% of the world’s population. It is the largest non-commercial, cross-national, time series investigation of human beliefs and values ever executed, currently including almost 400 000 respondents. The WVS seeks to help scientists and policy makers understand changes in the beliefs, values and motivations of people worldwide.

Further reading

Algan, Y. and P. Cahuc (2013), “Trust, Well-Being and Growth: New Evidence and Policy Implications”, IZA Discussion Paper, No. 7464, Bonn.

OECD (2015), *Government at a Glance*, OECD Publishing, Paris, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2015-en.

Figure notes

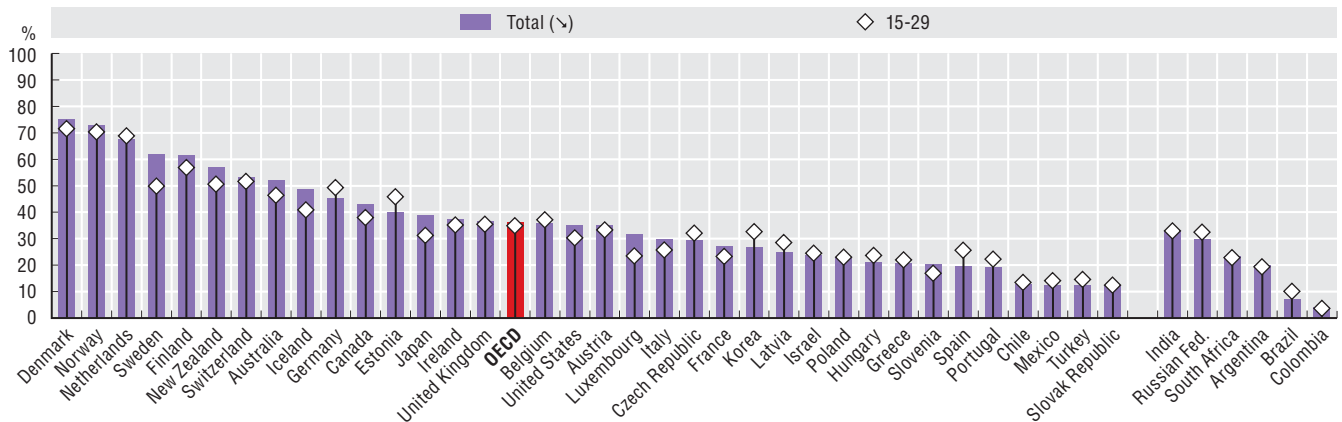
Figure 7.4: Data refer to wave 6 (2010-13) of the World Values Survey for Australia, Chile, Estonia, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United States; Wave 5 (2005-09) for Canada; Wave 4 (1999-04) for Israel. Wave 4 of the European Values Survey (2008-10) for other countries.

Figure 7.5: Average 2014/2015 except for Switzerland, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, Israel, Chile, Japan, United States, Korea and Brazil where the data refer to 2014. Due to small sample size, data for Iceland are not available.

Figure 7.6: 2014 for Brazil, India; 2013 for Argentina, Germany; 2012 for Australia, Colombia, China, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland; 2011 for Chile, Estonia, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United States; 2010 for Japan, Korea.

7.4. Nordic countries tend to report higher levels of trust

Percentage of people reporting trust in others, 2014

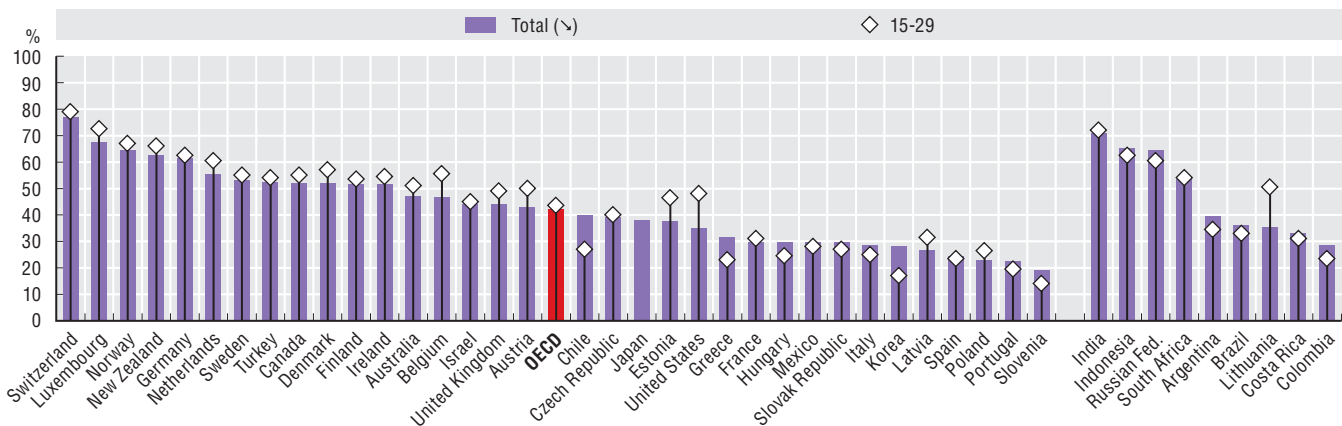


Source: World Value Survey (wave 6: 2010-14) for countries present in wave 6, WVS wave 5 (2005-09) for Canada and WVS Wave 4 (1999-2004) for Israel. European Values Survey (EVS) (2008-10 wave 4) for all other countries.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933405711>

7.5. Confidence in national government varies across countries

Percentage of people reporting confidence in national government by age, average 2014/2015

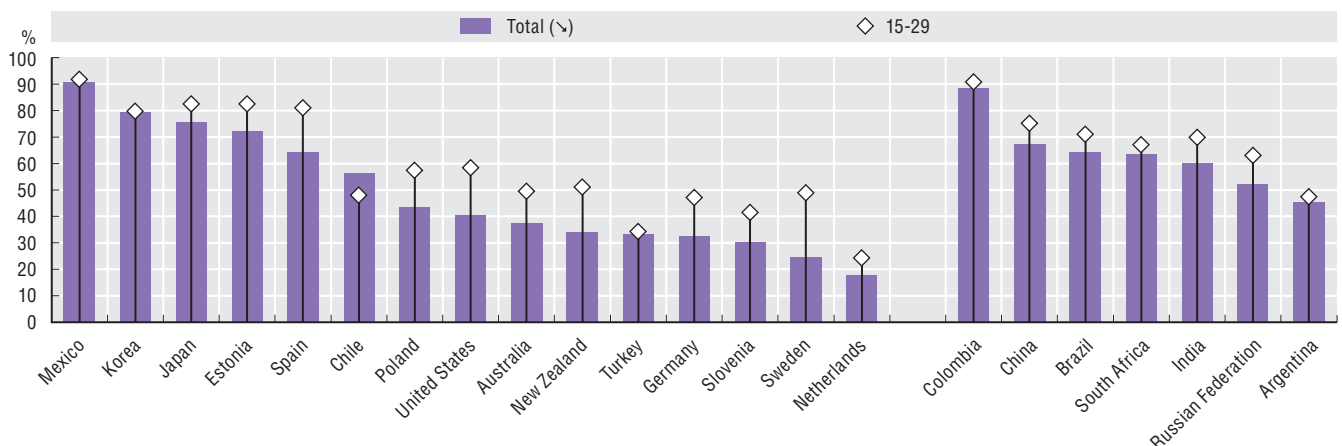


Source: Gallup World Poll (www.gallup.com) extracted at January 2016.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933405726>

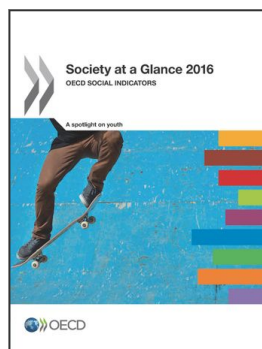
7.6. Worries in the labour market is higher for young people

Percentage of people reporting to worry very much or to a great deal about losing their job or not finding one, by age, around 2010-14



Source: World Values Survey (wave 6: 2010-14).

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933405731>



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