

Tolerance

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. The level of tolerance is based on people's assessment of the city or area where they live as a good place to live for these minority groups.

In Australia, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand and Norway at least 90% of people think that **their country is a good place for immigrants to live (Figure 7.4, Panel A)**. On the other side of the spectrum are Estonia, Greece, Israel and Poland, where less than the half of the people think that their country is a good place for immigrants to live.

On average, people in the OECD area believe that their countries have become a slightly worse place to live for immigrants between 2007 and 2012 (Figure 7.4, Panel B). Austria and Slovenia saw a significant increase in positive sentiment on this point, whereas a large drop was noted in Greece, Israel, Mexico and Poland. This decrease was balanced out due to the small changes seen in the majority of the OECD.

Tolerance of ethnic minorities shows similar features. Overall, there is a slight decline in the share of people who think that their area is a good place to live for racial and ethnic minorities, however, a large variation across countries can be observed (Figure 7.5).

Tolerance perceptions towards gays and lesbians showed a slightly more positive change overall from 2007 to 2012 (Figure 7.6). The increase in tolerance was largest in Austria, Norway and Portugal, while the largest decline was observed in Greece, Hungary and Turkey.

There is little evidence to link changes in tolerance towards immigrants, ethnic minorities and gay and lesbian people to the economic crisis. There is, however, a tendency that the same countries listed above will be found respectively above and below the OECD average for each of the three dimensions of tolerance, indicating that diversity in general is more accepted in some countries than in others.

Large degrees of variation in acceptance of minority groups could also be found across the emerging countries. The share of people who believe that their area is a good place to live for immigrants increased substantially from 2007 to 2012 in China, while the largest decline was observed in India, the Russian Federation and South Africa. Argentina and Indonesia are the countries where the largest increase in tolerance to racial and ethnic minorities was observed, while the largest decline was seen in the Russian Federation. Regarding gays and lesbians, the tolerance

increased substantially in Argentina, Brazil and South Africa, while the largest drop was measured in the Russian Federation.

Definition 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. Sample sizes vary between around 1 000 and 4 000, depending on the country and data should be interpreted carefully. 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 the 100 surveys. With a sample size of 1 000 the margin of error at 50% is ± 3 percentage points. Because these surveys use a clustered sample design, the margin of error varies by question.

Tolerance is based on binary questions created by Gallup. For example: "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?". Rates are calculated omitting "Don't know" and "Refused" from the denominator.

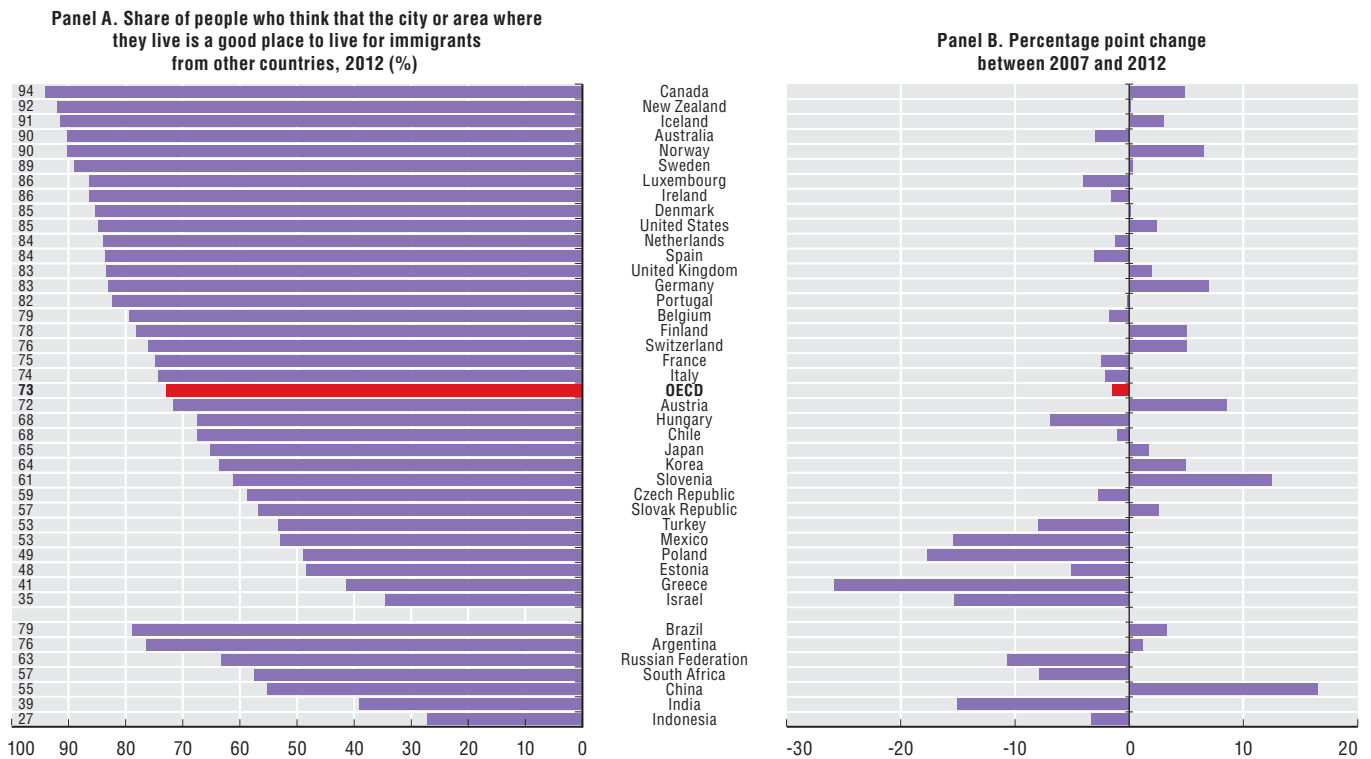
Figure notes

Figure 7.4: 2011 for Brazil, Chile, Germany, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and the United Kingdom; 2006 for Austria, Finland, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Switzerland; 2008 for Iceland and Luxembourg and 2009 for China.

Figures 7.5 and 7.6: 2011 for Brazil, Chile, Germany, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and the United Kingdom; 2006 for Austria, Finland, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa and Switzerland; 2008 for Iceland and Luxembourg.

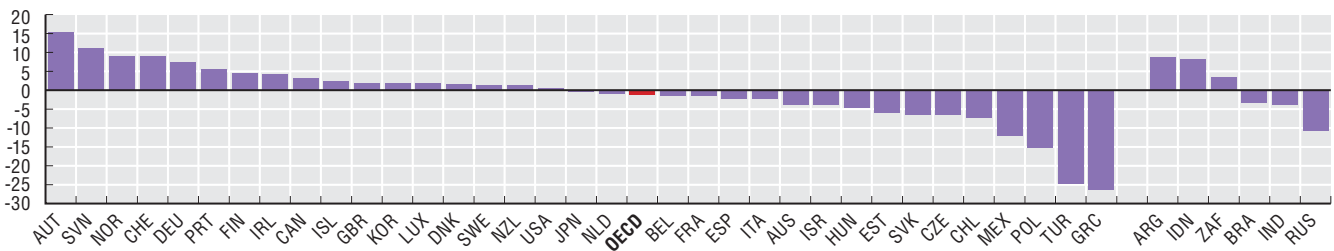
Information on data for Israel: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>.

7.4. Tolerance perception: large differences around a stable average



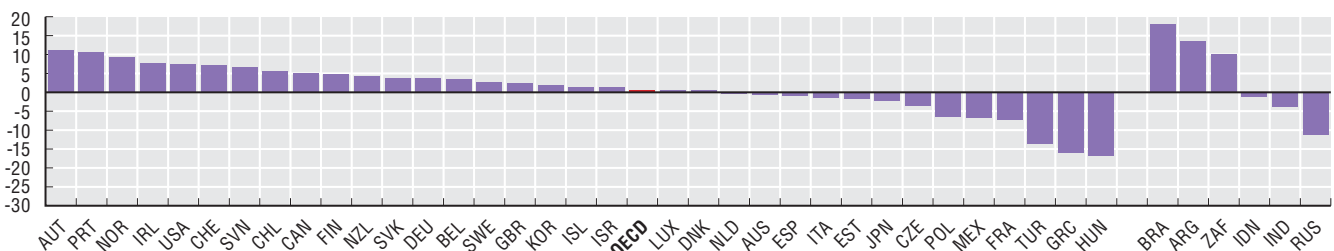
7.5. Variation in trends in tolerance perception for ethnic minorities

Percentage points 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 2007 and 2012



7.6. Variation in trends in tolerance perception for gays and lesbians

Percentage points 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 2007 and 2012



Source: Gallup World Poll (www.gallup.com).

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932966675>



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