

What are Well-being indicators? How are relevant data queried?

1. What are Well-being indicators

- (1) GDP has been considered as an indicator of measuring a country's economy and social progress for a long time. However, there is an increasing recognition that focusing on GDP alone is not enough to achieve better lives for all. Therefore, many international organizations and advanced countries are working on a new tool to measure the well-being of countries beyond the traditional GDP. In order to comply with international trend, DGBAS thus get into the swing of compiling the National Well-being Indicators immediately.
- (2) Because of the many factors affecting happiness and well-being, the concept of National Well-being Indicators is not easy to assess and is perceived differently by different individuals. So far Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) is the leading international organization presenting national well-being in concrete achievement, and initial issuing the "Your Better Life Index (BLI)" in May 2011 which contains both objective and subjective indicators to facilitate comparison of well-being across countries.
- (3) Since the OECD's BLI includes topics we defined as essential, the National Well-being Indicators(NWI) in R.O.C.(Taiwan) adopt its 11 topics, including both material living conditions (housing, income, jobs) and quality of life matters (community, education, environment, civic engagement, health, life satisfaction, safety and work-life balance).
- (4) Taking into account both purposes of international comparison and domestic characteristics, the NWI embraces two sets of indicators – international indicators and domestic indicators within each topic. The international indicator set for compiling composite index is based completely on the BLI indicators, to allow for consistent comparison with OECD member and partnership countries. The domestic one is for a better indication of public sentiment, which has been developed through multiple meetings with scholars, professionals and government officials. It will observe our nation in 40 indicators, rather than the OECD's original 24, as covering more specific aspects of our people's lives. No composite index will be added up for the domestic indicators.
- (5) NWI in the R.O.C (Taiwan) were initiated in 2012 and first released in August 2013. However, after discreetly reviewing the orientation and

necessity of social statistics, the release of composite NWI and ranks of R.O.C. (Taiwan) suspended in 2017. However, as essential ways to observe the well-being of people, the individual well-being indicators will continue to be updated and displayed collectively on the web site.

2. How are relevant data queried

Statistical tables of relevant data would be released on the National Statistics, R.O.C. (Taiwan) websites (<https://eng.stat.gov.tw/mp.asp?mp=5>). Please click on “Social Indicators” in the "Statistics from Statistical Bureau" list on the left side→“Statistical Tables”→“Well-being Indicators” to query or download the data.