



# Jersey Better Life Index 2025



## Context

In February 2026, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) introduced an updated methodology for the national-level Better Life Index, incorporating several new indicators. As several of these new indicators are not yet available for Jersey, this report applies the previous OECD methodology to ensure continuity with earlier analyses.

Maintaining the earlier framework allows us to provide a clear and consistent comparison with the results published two years ago, supporting meaningful assessment of change over time. Over the coming months, we will undertake further research into the updated OECD approach and assess how best to integrate its new components into future iterations of Jersey's Better Life Index.

## Summary

On a national level, Jersey:

- had an overall Better Life Index score of 6.4 out of 10 (unchanged), ranking 28<sup>th</sup> out of 41 nations<sup>1</sup>
- placed below the United Kingdom and France, and slightly below the OECD average
- dropped two places in the overall ranking compared to 2023, driven by improvements in other nations (notably improvements by Poland and Lithuania)
- ranked in the top 10 for community, personal safety and health
- ranked bottom for civic engagement (based on voter turnout in the 2022 election)

On a regional level, Jersey:

- had an overall well-being score of 7.1 (out of 10), ranking 141<sup>st</sup> out of 469 regions
- placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of 13 when compared with regions of the United Kingdom
- improved seven places in overall ranking compared to 2023
- ranked highest in safety, joint 1<sup>st</sup> out of 463 regions
- ranked lowest in civic engagement, 443<sup>rd</sup> out of 469 regions

## Introduction

Over the last decade there has been a drive globally to move away from purely economic measures, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as the indicators of a nation's well-being and progress. Approaches which draw on social and environmental, as well as economic, factors are now a common international objective. Importance is also placed on asking how individuals rate their own lives and surroundings, rather than purely focusing on objective measures of well-being.

In this context, by following the widely used "Better Life Index" framework developed by the OECD, Jersey's well-being is measured and compared across 11 dimensions of well-being. The OECD is an international organisation, comprising 38 member countries and a number of partner countries, which has the mission of promoting policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. This Better Life Index analysis complements the [Island Outcome Indicators](#), which provide a Jersey-specific assessment of well-being and progress but are not designed for international comparison.

A Better Life Index for Jersey was first produced and published in 2013. Subsequent reports presented updated measures for Jersey and the OECD nations and also a comparison of the Island with more than 400 sub-national regions of the OECD. More information can be found in our [methodology document](#).

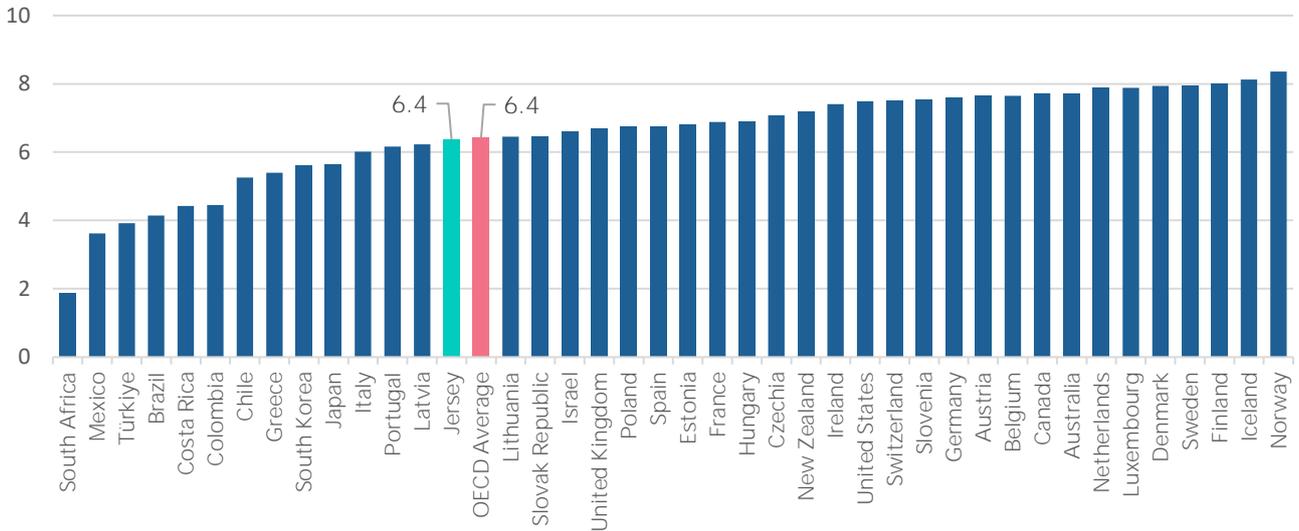
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<sup>1</sup> The total of 41 nations includes Jersey.

### Better Life Index

Jersey’s overall Better Life Index score of 6.4 out of 10 ranked the Island 28<sup>th</sup> out of 41 nations. In terms of overall well-being, this score placed Jersey slightly below the OECD average, the United Kingdom and France.

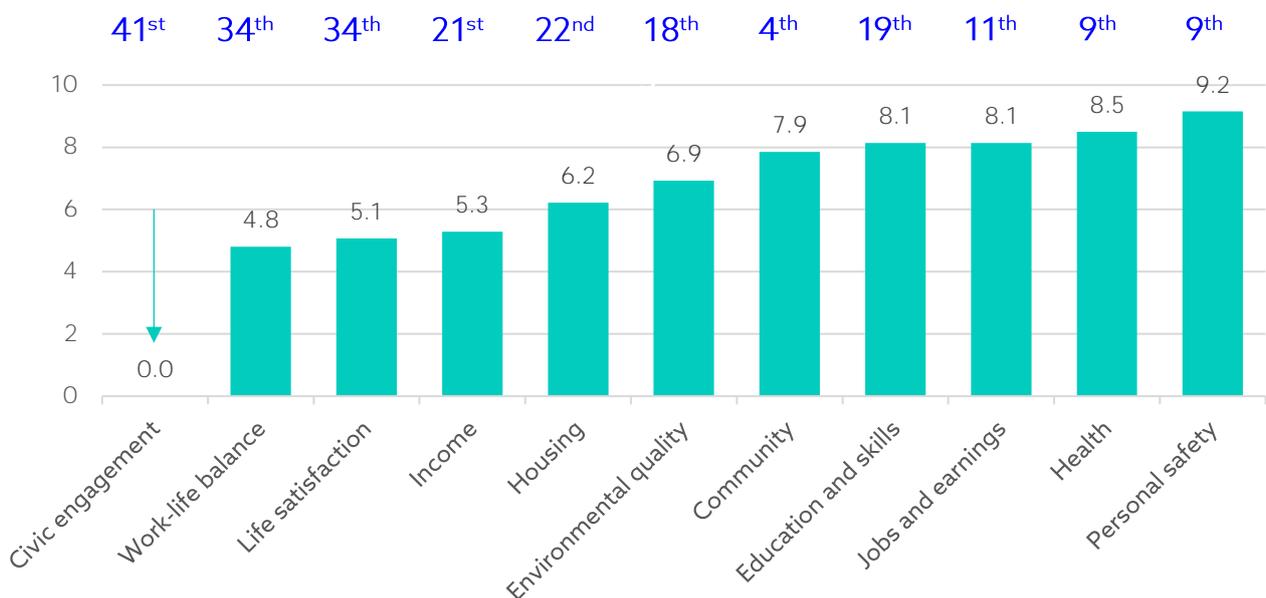
Figure 1: Nordic countries were those with the highest well-being scores  
Better Life Index for Jersey and OECD countries; 0 (low) to 10 (high)



Nordic countries rated highly in terms of overall well-being, with Norway, Iceland and Finland being the three highest ranked countries. In contrast, the lowest scores of overall well-being were recorded across a range of geographical locations, with South Africa, Mexico, Türkiye, and Brazil being the four lowest ranked countries.

Scores and rankings (out of 41 nations) for Jersey for each of the 11 dimensions comprising the Better Life Index are shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Personal safety was the highest scoring dimension for Jersey  
Relative scores (out of 10) and rankings for Jersey in each dimension



Each score shown in [Figure 2](#) is based on a scale of between 0 (low) and 10 (high).

It is apparent that Jersey ranked:

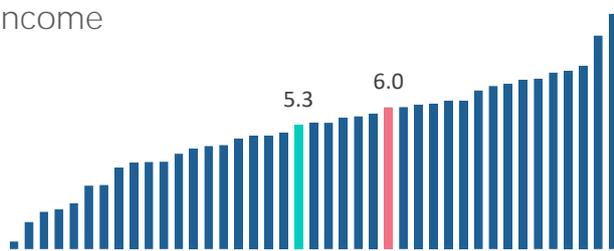
- relatively highly in several dimensions, notably community and safety
- less well in other dimensions, notably life satisfaction and work-life balance
- lower than all OECD member and partner countries in civic engagement (measured by voter turnout)

Overview

◆ Jersey    ◆ OECD Average

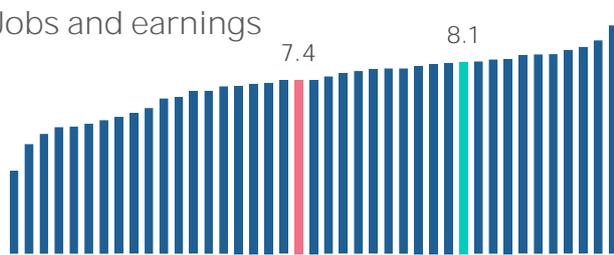
There are 18 indicators used in compiling the 11 dimensions of well-being. Comparisons, as well as more information for individual indicators, can be found on the [Jersey Better Life Index webpage](#).

Income



On a measure of disposable income, Jersey ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 41 countries. In 2024, mean net adjusted disposable income per capita (2022 prices) in Jersey was \$37,150,<sup>2</sup> which was below the OECD average of \$40,900.

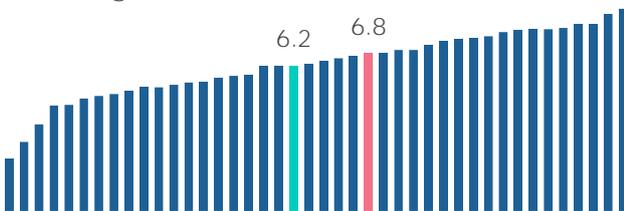
Jobs and earnings



In terms of employment, 82% of people in Jersey aged 25 to 64 years were in some form of employment (working at least one hour per week) in 2024 compared with an average of 76% across the OECD. The long-term unemployment rate within Jersey in 2024 was 0.7% compared with the OECD average of 1.0%. In 2024

personal earnings, gross average remuneration per full-time equivalent employee, in Jersey (\$65,650) was above the OECD average (\$61,150).

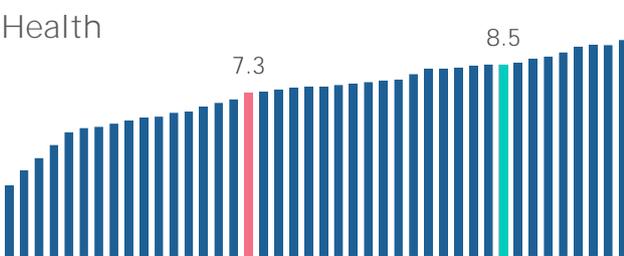
Housing



People in Jersey have more living space, on average, than people in the UK and in the majority of OECD countries. In Jersey, each resident occupies an average of 2.1 rooms compared to 1.9 in the UK and the OECD average of 1.8. However, average spending on housing in Jersey accounted for around one

quarter (24.5%) of household net adjusted disposable income in 2024, around 6 percentage points higher than the OECD average (19%). In Jersey only 0.5% of households did not have an indoor flushing toilet for the sole use of their household, compared with 3% across the OECD.

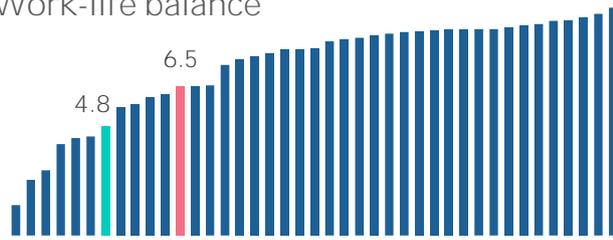
Health



For 2022 to 2024 the life expectancy from birth in Jersey was 83.2 years, a figure nearly three years higher than the average across the OECD (80.3). In 2024 people in Jersey rated their general health similarly to the UK; 74% of adults in Jersey and 73% in the UK reported that they were in either good or very good health.

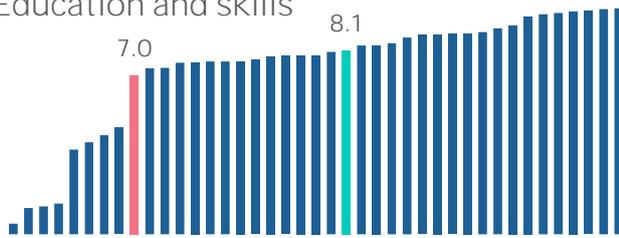
<sup>2</sup> To enable comparison at both the national and regional level, income and earnings values for Jersey are converted from pound sterling (GBP) to US dollars (USD) on a purchasing power parity basis, and include a deflating factor of 1.20 to represent the relative cost of living between Jersey and the UK: [Jersey-UK Relative Consumer Price Levels for Goods and Services, 2013](#); States of Jersey Statistics Unit (now Statistics Jersey).

Work-life balance



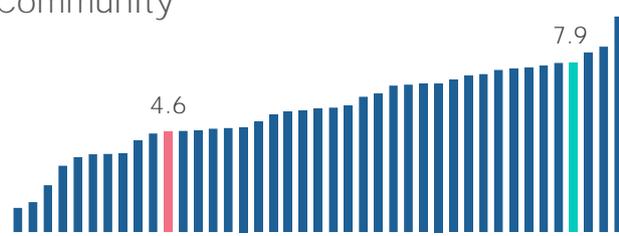
Around one in seven (14%) employees in Jersey worked 50 or more hours in a usual week during 2024, a higher proportion than in the UK (9%) and the OECD average (9%). This measure does not take into account time spent commuting to work.

Education and skills



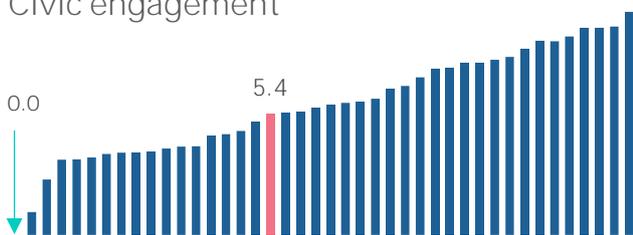
The education and skills dimension is measured by the percentage of people aged 25 to 64 years, that have at least an upper-secondary qualification.<sup>3</sup> The proportion in 2024 for Jersey (84.6%) was higher than in the UK (82.2%) and 6 percentage points higher than the average across the OECD (79.1%).

Community



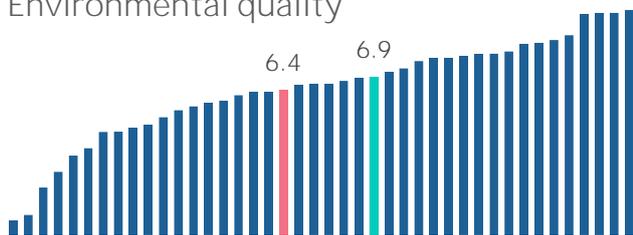
The indicator for the community dimension is the percentage of people who have someone they can rely on in case of need. The percentage of people in Jersey that did (94% in 2024) was higher than in all OECD countries except for Iceland (ranked top), Finland, and Hungary.

Civic engagement



Voter turnout in Jersey (41.6% in the June 2022 States Assembly Deputy elections) was lower than in all OECD member and partner countries. Across the OECD the latest average voter turnout rate is 68%; it should be noted that some OECD countries have compulsory voting (such as Australia, 91%).

Environmental quality

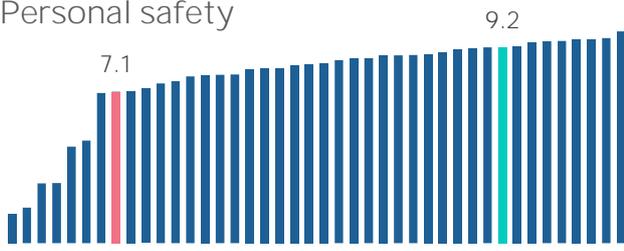


In Jersey, in 2020, the average level of particulate matter (of less than 2.5 µm in diameter) in the air was 10.2 µg/m<sup>3</sup>; this level was above the guideline value set by the World Health Organisation (WHO) of 5 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The indicator measure for Jersey is produced by the OECD using the same methodology as for OECD

countries. Water quality is measured by people’s subjective evaluation of the water quality in their area; the measure for Jersey of 85% of people saying that they were satisfied was above the UK (82%) and slightly higher than the OECD average of 84%.

<sup>3</sup> International Standard Classification of Education 2011, meaning GCSE or equivalent in Jersey.

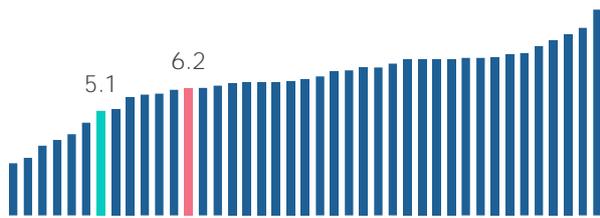
Personal safety



The homicide rate in Jersey over the three-year period 2022 to 2024 was 0.0 per 100,000 people and was lower than the OECD average of 5.7 per 100,000. Personal safety is also measured by a subjective feeling of safety. In 2024 over four out of five adults (81%) in Jersey reported they felt safe walking alone at night, a higher proportion

than in the UK (76%) and above the OECD average (69%).

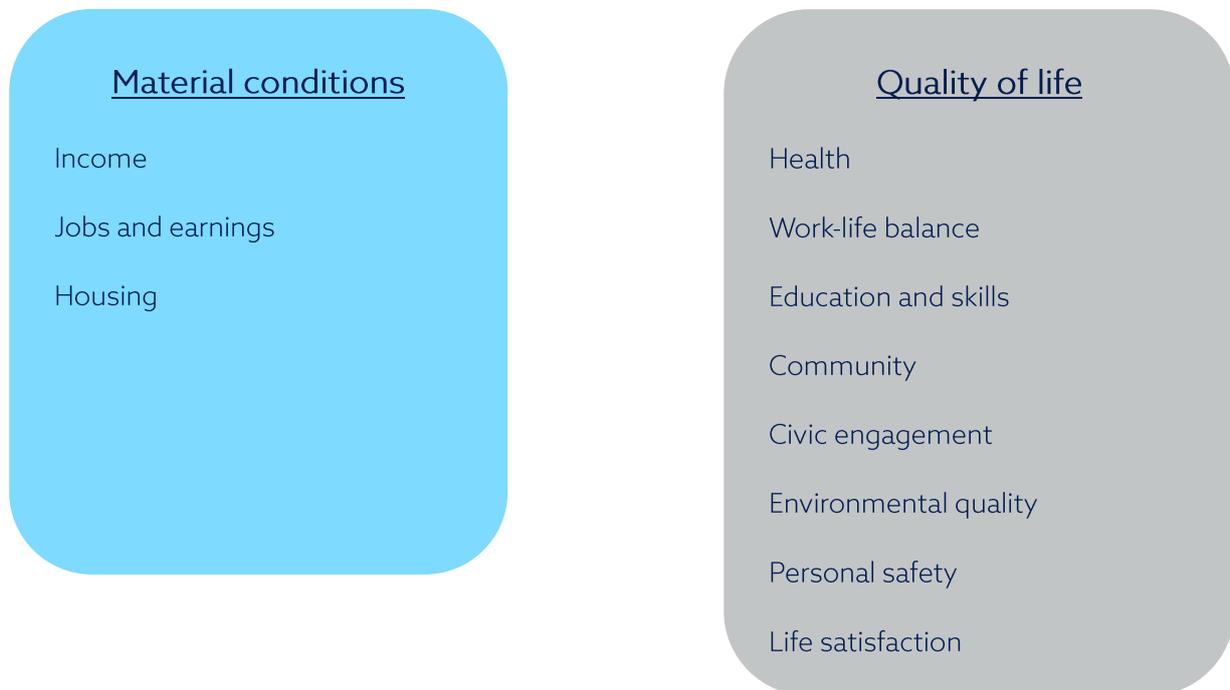
Life satisfaction



In 2024, adults in Jersey rated their overall life satisfaction lower than the average recorded across the OECD. Jersey ranked 34<sup>th</sup> out of 41 when compared to the OECD nations and partners countries.

## Material conditions and quality of life

Dimensions are grouped together under two domains: material conditions and quality of life:



The OECD has observed that there is generally a strong relationship between relative performance in the two principal domains of material conditions and quality of life; see [Figure 3](#) on the next page.

Countries towards the top right corner of Figure 3 (Norway [NOR], Netherlands [NLD], and Sweden [SWE])<sup>4</sup> are relatively strong in both material conditions and quality of life (see the BLI methodology document). In contrast, countries towards the bottom left corner of Figure 3 (South Africa [ZAF], Chile [CHL], Türkiye [TUR], Costa Rica [CRI], and Greece [GRC]) have few relative strengths in either material conditions or quality of life.

The diagonal line in Figure 3 indicates where a country would fall if there was an exact correspondence in its relative performance on material conditions and quality of life.

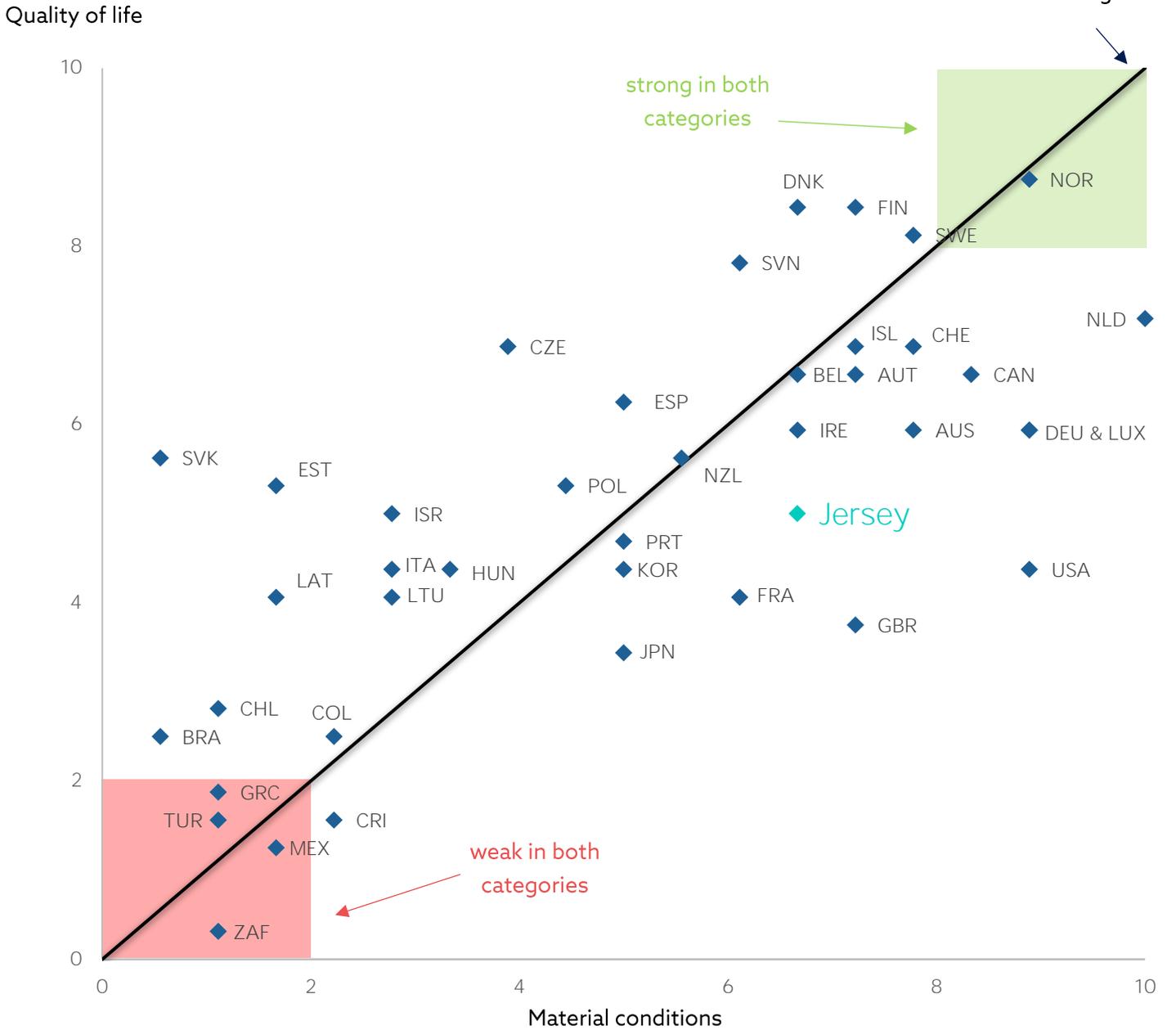
Figure 3 shows that:

- Jersey performs worse, on a relative basis, across the quality of life domain compared with the material conditions domain
- when compared with OECD member and partner countries, Jersey performs most similarly to France (FRA), the United Kingdom (GBR), and Ireland (IRE)

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<sup>4</sup> ISO alpha-3 country codes are used in Figure 3; Jersey is represented as JEY and the UK as GBR. Codes for all countries can be found by selecting the Country codes option on the [ISO Online Browsing Platform](#).

Figure 3: Jersey performed better in material condition dimensions than quality of life dimensions  
Comparative performance on material conditions and quality of life



It is worth noting that the scores used in this figure are calculated differently from the overall index.

### Comparison to the 2023 Report

For 2025, Jersey's overall Better Life Index score was 6.4, unchanged from 2023, but Jersey's ranking was 28<sup>th</sup>, two places lower compared with 2023. There have been notable changes in ranking for some dimensions between the two years. The indicator summary section of this report provides more detail for certain indicators that saw significant changes at the dimension level. Interactive comparisons are available on the [Jersey Better Life webpage](#), more information on current and past indicators is available in the BLI methodology document, and detailed datasets can be downloaded from [OpenData.gov.je](#).

Since definitions of some indicators are occasionally changed by the OECD, care must be taken in making comparisons of scores between different rounds of the Jersey Better Life Index. Hence, in this 2025 report, comparisons and changes in rankings are made only with 2023.

## Income

	In 2025 Jersey ranked <b>21<sup>st</sup></b> out of 41		No change since 2023
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## Jobs and earnings

	In 2025 Jersey ranked <b>11<sup>th</sup></b> out of 41		No change since 2023
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## Housing

	In 2025 Jersey ranked <b>22<sup>nd</sup></b> out of 41		<b>6</b> places better than in 2023
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## Health

	In 2025 Jersey ranked <b>9<sup>th</sup></b> out of 41		<b>1</b> place worse than in 2023
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## Work-life balance

	In 2025 Jersey ranked <b>34<sup>th</sup></b> out of 41		<b>2</b> places worse than in 2023
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## Education and skills



In 2025 Jersey ranked

**19<sup>th</sup>**  
out of 41



1 place better than in 2023

## Community



In 2025 Jersey ranked

**4<sup>th</sup>**  
out of 41



No change since 2023

## Civic engagement



In 2025 Jersey ranked

**41<sup>st</sup>**  
out of 41



No change since 2023

## Environmental quality



In 2025 Jersey ranked

**18<sup>th</sup>**  
out of 41



No change since 2023

## Personal safety



In 2025 Jersey ranked

**9<sup>th</sup>**  
out of 41



1 place worse than in 2023

## Life satisfaction



In 2025 Jersey ranked

**34<sup>th</sup>**  
out of 41



2 places worse than in 2023

## Indicator summary

This section provides more detail for certain indicators which saw significant changes at the dimension level.

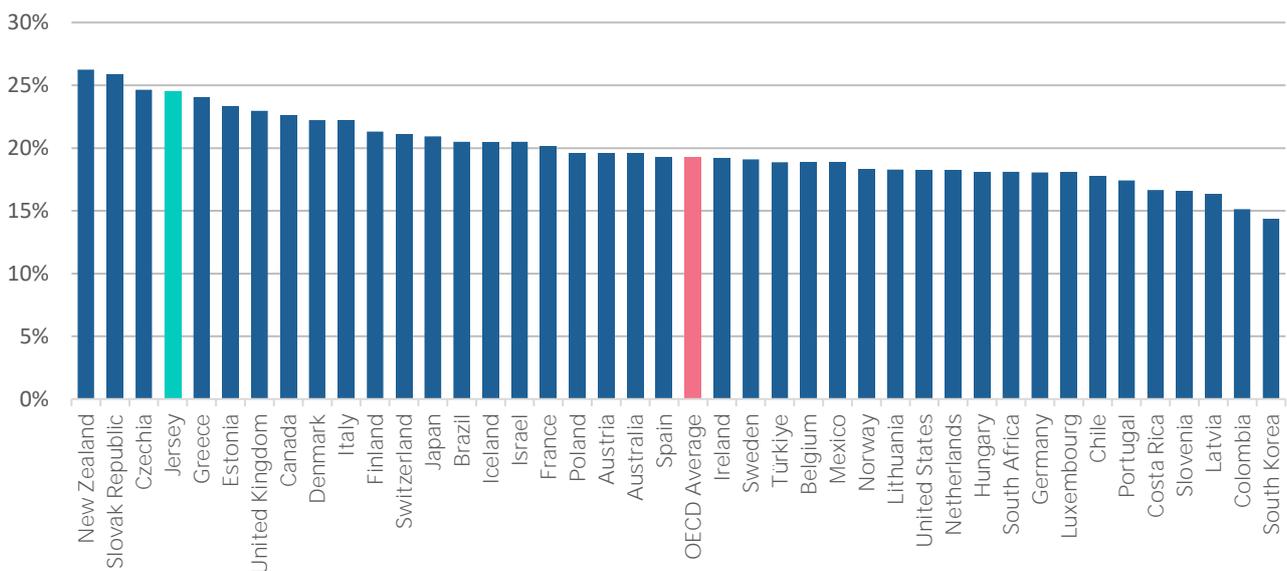
Although Jersey’s ranking in 2025 was lower than in 2023 for the dimensions of health, work-life balance and life satisfaction, indicator values for Jersey were essentially unchanged in these dimensions. These falls in ranking were due to improvements by other nations.

### Housing costs

Housing expenditure, as measured by the OECD, is derived from the system of national accounts and includes: actual and imputed rentals for housing; dwelling maintenance and repair (including miscellaneous services); water supply; electricity, gas, and other fuels; as well as expenditure on furniture, furnishings and household equipment for maintenance or other purposes. Housing expenditure measured for Jersey includes all the costs contained in the national accounts definition and is therefore comparable to that of the OECD.

Figure 4: Jersey saw the 4<sup>th</sup> highest housing costs as a proportion of income

Housing costs as a percentage of household net adjusted disposable income Jersey (2024) and the OECD



Whilst Jersey sees the 4<sup>th</sup> highest housing costs as a proportion of net adjusted disposable income, it improved compared with the previous report, where it saw the highest. This is due to earnings increasing by more than inflation (RPI) and rental prices in later years, in particular 2024.

### Additional related statistics

Several other publications by Statistics Jersey are available which give a more complete picture about the well-being of Islanders, notably the [Jersey Opinions and Lifestyle Survey \(JOLS\)](#) and the [Island Outcome Indicators \(IOIs\)](#), both of which can be found on [stats.je](#).

## Regional Level

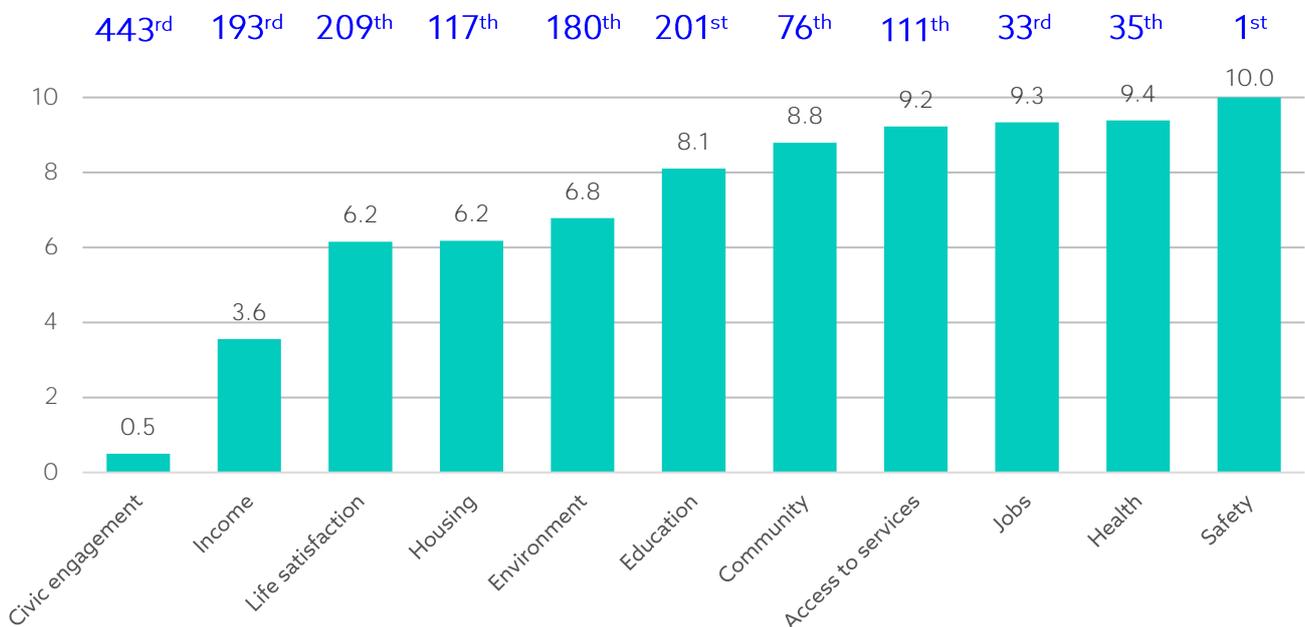
Jersey’s overall regional well-being score of 7.1 (out of 10) ranked 141<sup>st</sup> out of 469 regions.<sup>5</sup>

Regions from six countries (Australia, Norway, Canada, New Zealand, the USA, and Sweden) accounted for the top 20 regions; the Canberra Capital region of Australia being ranked the highest with a score of 9.3. In contrast, regions from two countries (Colombia, and Mexico) accounted for the lowest 20 regions; the San Andrés region of Colombia was ranked the lowest, with a score of 1.0.

Scores for Jersey (relative to all 469 regions) for each of the 11 dimensions included in regional well-being are shown in Figure 10. Each score is on a scale of between 0 and 10, where 0 signifies the lowest possible score and 10 the highest.

Figure 5: Jersey ranked joint 1<sup>st</sup> for the safety dimension

Relative scores (out of 10) and rankings<sup>6</sup> for Jersey in dimensions of regional well-being



Jersey ranked relatively highly in several dimensions, including safety, jobs, health, and community. However, the Island ranked less well in others, including education and life satisfaction, and ranked particularly poorly in civic engagement (voter turnout). Across all 11 dimensions, the regions most similar to Jersey were generally in Slovenia, the UK and Ireland; scores for every region across each dimension and overall ranking can be found on [opendata.gov.je](https://opendata.gov.je).

Jersey’s overall regional well-being score (7.1 out of 10) ranked the Island 6<sup>th</sup> out of 13 when compared with all UK regions;<sup>7</sup> see [Figure 6](#).

<sup>5</sup> The OECD defines regions as the first tier of sub-national government (for example, states in the USA, provinces in Canada, or “régions” in France). The total of 469 regions includes Jersey.

<sup>6</sup> Regional rankings are out of 405 to 469, depending on availability of data.

<sup>7</sup> The total of 13 regions includes Jersey.

Figure 6: Jersey ranked 6<sup>th</sup> when compared with regions of the UK  
 Overall regional scores for Jersey and the UK; 0 (low) to 10 (high)



Figure 7: Jersey was in the top 20% of regions for three dimensions  
Relative performance of Jersey in relation to UK regions by well-being dimension

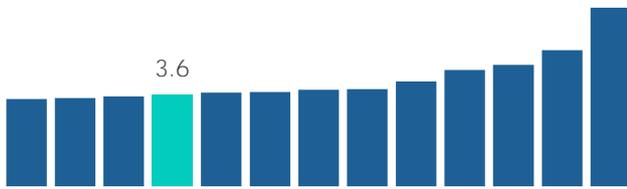


Figure 7 shows where Jersey ranks in comparison to the top UK region and bottom UK region for each dimension. Each point is plotted in its relative position to all other OECD regions. For the majority of dimensions, Jersey was ranked above the lowest UK region, with four dimensions (jobs, safety, health and community) scoring higher than or joint with the top UK region. However, Jersey was lower than the lowest UK region for civic engagement (voter turnout).

## Regional dimension overview

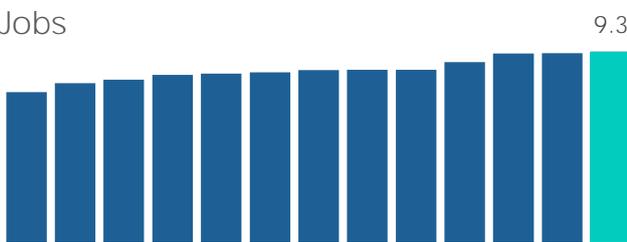
13 indicators are used in compiling the 11 dimensions of well-being on a regional level. The plots in this section show Jersey's position relative to that of the UK regions for each dimension of well-being; the accompanying text describes Jersey relative to all OECD regions.

### Income



On a measure of disposable income, Jersey ranked 193<sup>rd</sup> out of 405 regions. In 2022, mean net disposable income per capita (2022 prices) in Jersey was \$27,570 per year. When compared with all UK regions, Jersey ranked 10<sup>th</sup>.

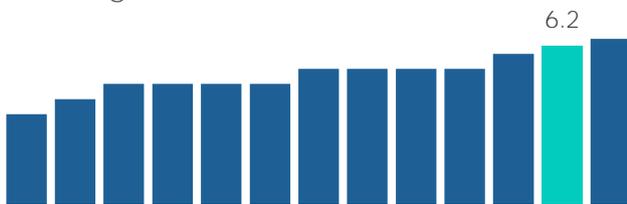
### Jobs



In terms of employment, around 78% of people in Jersey of working age (15 to 64 years) were in some form of employment (working at least one hour per week) in 2024. The unemployment rate within Jersey for 2024 was 1.9%. These two indicators give Jersey a relative dimension score of 9.3 (out of 10), ranking the Island 33<sup>rd</sup> out of

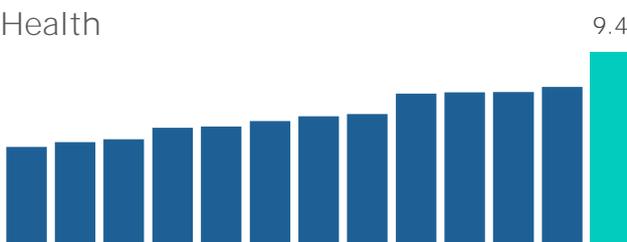
454 regions. When compared with all UK regions Jersey ranked 1<sup>st</sup>; South East England was the next highest, with a score of 9.26.

### Housing



The housing dimension is measured by the average number of rooms per person in a dwelling. The value for Jersey in 2022 was 2.1 rooms per person. This gave Jersey a relative score of 6.2 (out of 10), ranking Jersey 117<sup>th</sup> out of 468 eligible regions. When compared with all UK regions, Jersey ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Health



The health dimension is measured by mortality rate (per 1,000 people) and life expectancy from birth (years). In Jersey in 2024 the mortality rate<sup>8</sup> was 6.6 per 1,000 people. For 2021 to 2023 the life expectancy from birth was 83.1 years. These indicators ranked Jersey 35<sup>th</sup> out of 469 eligible regions, with a score of 9.4 (out of 10). When

compared with all UK regions Jersey ranked 1<sup>st</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> Age-adjusted using the OECD population structure for 2015.

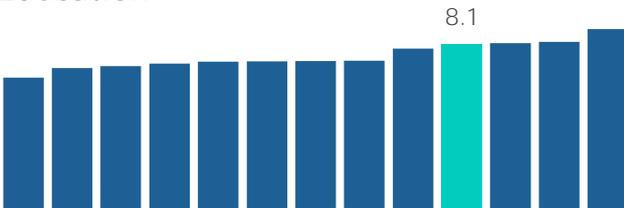
Access to services



Having access to services such as public transport links or efficient telecommunications networks can improve the lives of individuals, by allowing for a more interconnected society. This dimension is measured by the percentage of households with broadband access.<sup>9</sup> The value for this can be estimated using data from JOLS.

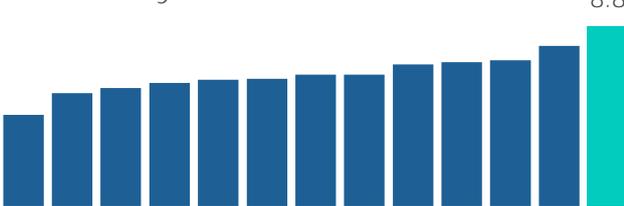
In 2024 an estimated 95% of households had broadband access, giving Jersey a relative score of 9.2 (out of 10). This ranked Jersey 111<sup>th</sup> out of 405 eligible regions. When compared with all UK regions Jersey ranked 13<sup>th</sup>.

Education



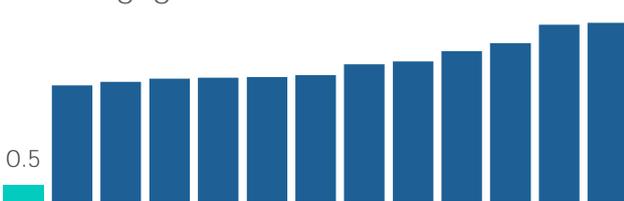
Educational attainment is measured as the percentage of people aged 25 to 64, that have at least a secondary education. For Jersey in 2024 this proportion was 84.6%, giving Jersey a score of 8.1 (out of 10) and ranking the Island 201<sup>st</sup> out of 452 eligible regions. When compared with all UK regions Jersey ranked 4<sup>th</sup>.

Community



The community dimension is measured by the percentage of people who have someone they can rely on in case of need. The latest figure for Jersey of 94% (from JOLS 2024) gives a relative score of 8.8 (out of 10) and ranked Jersey 76<sup>th</sup> out of 426 eligible regions. When compared with all UK regions Jersey ranked 1<sup>st</sup>.

Civic engagement

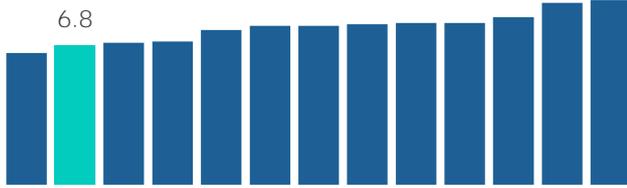


For Jersey this dimension is measured by voter turnout in the June 2022 Deputy election; the percentage of registered voters who voted (41.6%) gives Jersey a relative score of 0.5 (out of 10) and ranked Jersey 443<sup>rd</sup> out of 469 eligible regions. When compared with all UK regions (2024 national elections) Jersey ranked 13<sup>th</sup>, with

all UK regions being higher than Jersey. The closest UK region was Yorkshire and the Humber, for which the voter turnout was around 15 percentage points higher than that of Jersey, giving the region a score of 3.4.

<sup>9</sup> It is important to note that this indicator does not purely look at households that could be connected to broadband, but those who actually are. Therefore, it takes into account households' want for the service and ability to meet the costs of the service, as well as the geographic availability.

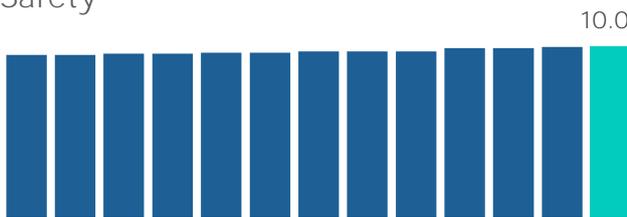
Environment



Air quality is measured by the average level of particulate matter of less than 2.5 µm in diameter. All regions including Jersey are from OECD data. The value in 2020 of 10.4 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for Jersey gives a relative score of 6.8 (out of 10), ranking the Island 180<sup>th</sup> out of 469 eligible regions. When compared with all UK regions

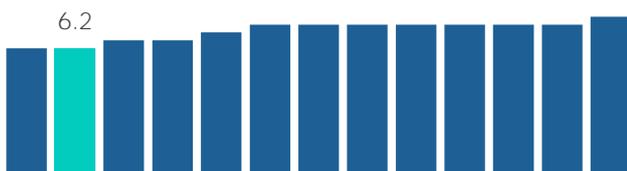
Jersey ranked 12<sup>th</sup>.

Safety



The homicide rate for Jersey in the three-year period 2022 to 2024, derived from police statistics, was 0.0 per 100,000 people, giving Jersey a relative score of 10 (out of 10) and ranking Jersey joint 1<sup>st</sup> out of 463 eligible regions. When compared with all UK regions Jersey ranked joint 1<sup>st</sup>.

Life satisfaction



The life satisfaction dimension comprises a single indicator: self-assessment of life satisfaction. The relative score for Jersey of 6.2 (out of 10) ranked Jersey 209<sup>th</sup> out of 447 eligible regions. When compared with all UK regions, Jersey ranked joint 12<sup>th</sup> with Yorkshire and the Humber.

### Regional comparison with 2023

Jersey's overall regional well-being rank was 7 places higher in 2025 than 2023, rising from 148<sup>th</sup> to 141<sup>st</sup>. The 2025 regional comparison uses 469 regions, which is 21 more than in the 2023 report; these additional regions were all ranked below Jersey, so did not affect Jersey's overall ranking in 2023.

For some dimensions reference years have remained the same but rankings may have changed due to OECD data either having been revised or being available to a higher level of accuracy.

## Income



In 2025 Jersey ranked **193<sup>rd</sup>** out of 405



1 place worse than in 2023

## Jobs



In 2025 Jersey ranked **33<sup>rd</sup>** out of 455



13 places worse than in 2023

## Housing



In 2025 Jersey ranked **117<sup>th</sup>** out of 468



6 places better than in 2023

## Health



In 2025 Jersey ranked **35<sup>th</sup>** out of 469



3 places better than in 2023

## Access to services



In 2025 Jersey ranked **111<sup>th</sup>** out of 405



43 places worse than in 2023

## Education and skills



In 2025 Jersey ranked **201<sup>st</sup>** out of 452



**14** places worse than in 2023

## Community



In 2025 Jersey ranked **76<sup>th</sup>** out of 426



**41** places worse than in 2023

## Civic engagement



In 2025 Jersey ranked **443<sup>rd</sup>** out of 469



**15** places worse than in 2023

## Environmental quality



In 2025 Jersey ranked **180<sup>th</sup>** out of 469



**31** places better than in 2023

## Personal safety



In 2025 Jersey ranked **1<sup>st</sup>** out of 463



No change since 2023

## Life satisfaction



In 2025 Jersey ranked **209<sup>th</sup>** out of 447



**6** places better than in 2023

While Jersey has not seen much change for certain regional indicators, a number of OECD regions have seen improvements. This led to a fall in the ranking for Jersey in certain dimensions, in particular jobs and civic engagement.

The community dimension saw the biggest change in terms of ranking. There was a decrease in the percentage of people who have someone they can rely on in case of need in Jersey from the 2023 report, down to 94% from 96%. Whilst this is not a major decrease, there were also improvements in other regions, which together caused the decrease in ranking for Jersey.

An outlier, where Jersey has seen improvement, is the access to services dimension, as measured by households with broadband access at home. This has increased in Jersey from 94% in 2022 to 95% in 2024. However certain OECD regions have seen more significant improvements in this measure over the same period. It is important to note that this indicator does not purely look at households that could be connected to broadband, but those who actually are. Therefore, it takes into account a households want for the service and ability to meet the costs of the service, as well as the geographic availability.

The environmental quality dimension saw the largest increase in terms of ranking for Jersey between 2023 and 2025, this was due to revisions in the OECD data for Jersey and certain OECD regions.

## Data sources and methods

### Methodology

For full details on the methodology of the Jersey Better Life Index, including details on the indicators used in past reports, please see our [methodology document](#).

### Data tables

Data tables are available on our [Open Data site](#).