

Article

UK Measures of National Well-being, current and upcoming work: July 2023

Workplan to implement the recommendations from the review of the UK Measures of National Well-being, including the wider well-being workplan for the ONS.

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1 . Overview of the UK Measures of National Well-being

The Measures of National Well-being (MNW) were established in 2010. They were developed to present how we are doing in the UK as individuals, as communities, as a nation and how sustainable that is for the future.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reviewed the MNW to ensure that they still reflect what is important in the UK today and to ensure that we continue to disseminate these measures in the way that users need them.

This workplan outlines how we plan to implement the recommendations of the review, as well as the wider well-being workplan for the ONS.

2 . Our current position

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) launched the Measuring National Well-being Programme in 2010, which was designed to present how we are doing in the UK. The programme developed the Measures of National Well-being (MNW) which, after a public debate, established 10 areas of life we in the UK consider important to our lives.

Since the establishment of the MNW we have been routinely publishing updates, in our [Quality of Life in the UK bulletin](#). Most recently we began publishing these measures alongside our [Gross domestic product \(GDP\) quarterly national accounts bulletin](#) and [Climate change insights, health and well-being, UK article](#), to provide an overall outlook of how the UK is doing.

In 2022, we began a review of these measures and how we present them. This was to ensure that the measures were still representative of what matters most to people in the UK.

This review culminated in the development of the [Review of the UK Measures of National Well-being \(UK MNW\) article](#), which set out the following recommendations:

- retitle the "Measures of National Well-being" to the "UK Measures of National Well-being"
- extend the number of measures from 44 to 60, removing 6 and adding in 22 measures, putting a greater emphasis on inequality
- continue to publish updates to the measures, on a quarterly basis
- develop our existing dashboard to more clearly present commentary, findings and change alongside removal of the Quality of Life in the UK bulletin
- provide further breakdowns of the measures to better highlight inequalities within and across the UK
- explore the need for a reduced indicator set to more easily communicate how we are doing in the UK

We plan to implement these recommendations using the following timeline:

5 July 2023

We have published:

- the [Review of the UK Measures of National Well-being, October 2022 to March 2023](#)
- the [Findings from qualitative analysis of focus group discussions with LGBT+, Black, Black British, Black Caribbean and Black African, and Arab adults](#)
- the updated [UK Measures of National Well-being Dashboard](#), including 52 of the 60 UK MNW
- the [UK Measures of National Well-being user guide](#)
- the [UK Measures of National Well-being: measures metadata](#)
- this release [UK Measures of National Well-being, current and upcoming work: July 2023](#).

We will also share the [sign up details to our newly established mailing list for notifications of our releases](#).

Summer 2023

Throughout summer 2023, we will carry out question testing on the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) for five current measures where we aim to update the source, and seven of the new measures. We will also begin to explore the development of a smaller set of measures.

11 August 2023

There will be a routine update of the new dashboard, alongside our [Gross domestic product \(GDP\) quarterly national accounts bulletin](#) and [Climate change insights, health and well-being, UK article](#).

November 2023

We will present the next update to the dashboard, including all 60 measures and provide disaggregations by age, sex, and region where possible. We will also publish the outcome from the development of a smaller set of measures to capture national well-being.

Throughout 2023 and 2024

We will start providing UK MNW with additional breakdowns. This will begin by extending our [Personal well-being in the UK bulletin](#) to include socio-demographic characteristics, including disability, in Autumn 2023. In Autumn 2024 this will be expanded to include all UK MNW where possible. During 2023 and 2024, we also plan to engage with stakeholders on the annual social capital release and the quarterly seasonally adjusted personal well-being estimates.

3 . Upcoming work

The UK Measures of National Well-being (UK MNW) are part of a wider well-being work programme.

As part of the wider well-being publications, throughout 2023 and into 2024 we will:

- publish the latest estimates of our [Personal well-being in the UK bulletin](#) in Autumn 2023, this bulletin will be extended to cover socio-demographic characteristics
- provide an update to the [Children's well-being measures dataset](#) in Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2023, including the publication of the revised [Children's well-being indicator review, UK: 2020 article](#)
- provide an update to the [Young people's well-being measures dataset](#) in 2024
- publish estimates of the UK MNW by breakdowns, including disability, in 2024

4 . Future developments

Although this review of the UK Measures of National Well-being has been carried out with a full research programme, future updates to individual measures will be implemented without needing a review. Changes will be made as research recommends it, as well as when it is necessary, for example, because of source or questionnaire changes.

Throughout 2023 and 2024, we will be gaining feedback on the future of our [Social capital in the UK bulletin](#) and our [Quarterly personal well-being estimates – seasonally adjusted dataset](#).

5 . Provide feedback

If you would like to send us your feedback or have suggestions on the work we are doing for the UK Measures of National Well-being (UK MNW), please let us know by contacting qualityoflife@ons.gov.uk.

6 . Publication schedule

We publish regular analysis related to well-being, which include:

- [Personal well-being in the UK bulletin](#) (annual)
- [Quarterly personal well-being estimates - non-seasonally adjusted dataset](#) (quarterly)
- [Quarterly personal well-being estimates - seasonally adjusted dataset](#) (quarterly)
- [Social capital in the UK bulletin](#) (biennial)
- [Public opinions and social trends. Great Britain bulletin](#) (fortnightly, including fortnightly personal well-being and loneliness data)

7 . Related links

[Review of the UK Measures of National Well-being, October 2022 to March 2023](#)

Article | Released 5 July 2023

Overview of the 2022 to 2023 review of the Measures of National Well-being (UK MNW). Details the revised title, measures, and dissemination of the framework.

[UK Measures of National Well-being user guide](#)

Methodology | Released 5 July 2023

User guide for the UK Measures of National Well-being, providing more detail on the framework. Includes metadata tables of the revised measures, detail on how we produce estimates, and measure change over time.

[UK Measures of National Well-being: measures metadata](#)

Dataset | Released 5 July 2023

Metadata tables containing information on the question, data source, frequency of update, devolved administration source, and method of assessment of change for each measure.

[UK Measures of National Well-being Dashboard](#)

Data dashboard | Released 5 July 2023

Data dashboard providing an overview of UK's progress against 60 measures across the 10 domains of national well-being. National level data, trend over time and the assessment of change are presented on the dashboard. Demographic and sub-population breakdowns and links to the original data sources can be found in the UK Measures of National Well-being data tables.

[UK Measures of National Well-being](#)

Dataset | Released 5 July 2023

Data of the UK's progress across ten domains of national well-being. Breakdowns by UK countries and regions, age and sex, and quality information included where available.

[Response summary: Review of the Measures of National Well-being](#)

Review | Released 14 February 2023

Summary of responses submitted by our users and stakeholders to the engagement survey for the review of the measures of national well-being, which ran 3 October to 9 December 2022. Insights include what matters most to national well-being and respondents' views on the existing measures of national well-being and the dissemination tools we used.

8 . Cite this article

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