

Economic worries contribute to only moderate satisfaction with social protection

The OECD's cross-national Risks that Matter (RTM) survey examines people's perceptions of social and economic risks and how well they feel their government reacts to their concerns. RTM polled a representative sample of 27 000 18-64 year-olds in 27 OECD countries to better understand what citizens want and need from social policy – particularly in the face of the cost-of-living crisis.

In France, three-in-four respondents (75%) are worried about their overall social and economic well-being in 2022 (Fig. 1), which is a substantial increase from 2020 (65%) and matches the cross-country average for 2022. Consequently, paying all expenses is the most frequently cited short-term concern (67%) among the French, closely followed by accessing good-quality health care (65%).

Satisfaction with public services is comparatively low among respondents in France. The French are most satisfied with access to health services and education (both 33%) while housing and family support are among the public services with the lowest satisfaction.

However, satisfaction with public services is somewhat detached from spending on social benefits in France. For example, for similar amounts of health spending, 33% of French but 47% of Germans report that they have access to high-quality and affordable health services.

A potential reason for the relatively low satisfaction with public services could be that half of respondents (51%) think that they could not easily access benefits in case of need (Fig. 2). Among those with difficulties in access 74% report that they are uncertain whether they would qualify for public benefits – compared to 57% across countries. Additionally, less than 20% think that they receive a fair share of public benefits given their contributions, compared to 25% across countries.

The level of support for further government spending in France is similar to other countries. When asked which areas they would improve via a 2% tax increase, the French most frequently cite health (44%) and old-age pensions (39%) (Fig. 3), which are also their most cited long-term worries.

Fig. 2. Proportion of respondents who feel that they could not easily receive public benefits if they needed them, by country, 2022

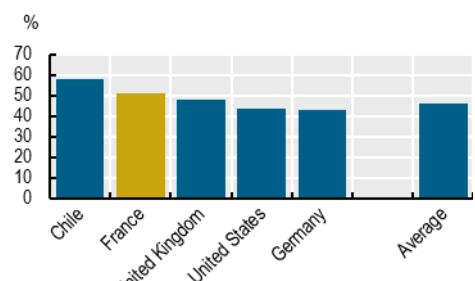


Fig. 3. Proportion who would be willing to pay an additional 2% in taxes/social contributions for better provision of and access to selected policy areas, by country, 2022

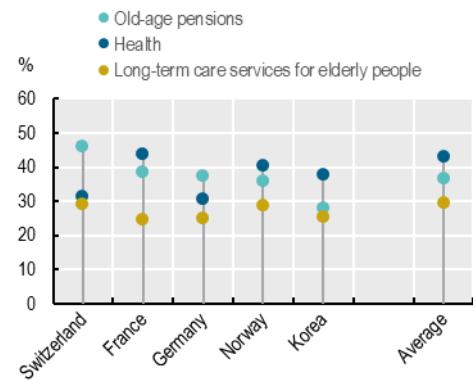
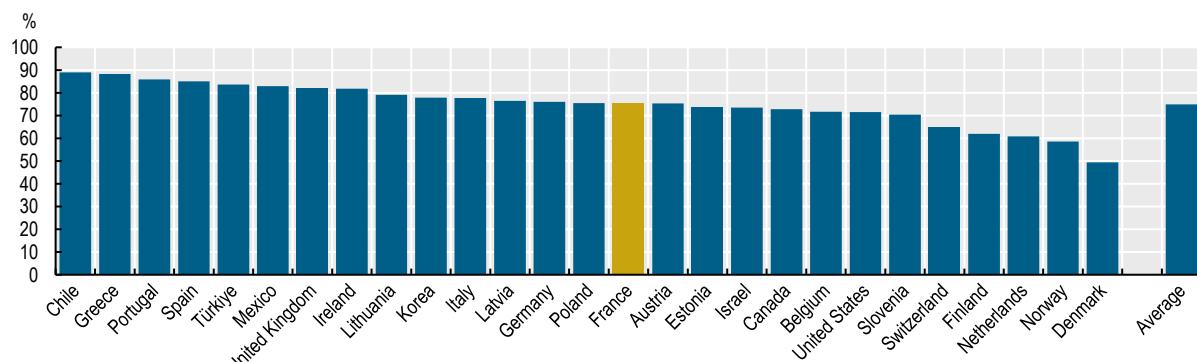


Fig. 1. Proportion who worries about their household's finances and overall social and economic well-being, by country, 2022



Notes: Average refers to the unweighted average of the 27 OECD countries for which data are available. Respondents were asked: "In general, thinking about the next year or two, how concerned are you about your household's finances and overall social and economic well-being?". They could choose between: "Not at all concerned"; "Not so concerned"; "Somewhat concerned"; "Very concerned"; "Can't choose". Data present the share of respondents who report "somewhat concerned" or "very concerned." For full notes see report.

Source: OECD Risks that Matter Survey 2022, <http://oe.cd/rtm>.

The **OECD Risks That Matter** survey is a cross-national survey examining people's social and economic concerns, how well they think government responds to their needs and expectations, and what policies they would like to see in the future. The survey was conducted for the first time in 2018, to support the OECD Social Policy Ministerial, and subsequently in 2020. The 2022 survey, conducted in October-December 2022, draws on nationally representative samples in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.