

Happiness Report: Finland Leads Again

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. consecutive: (Adjective) /kən'sekjətɪv/ following one another in uninterrupted succession.
Example: The team won five consecutive games, showcasing their impressive winning streak.
2. secure: (Verb) /sɪ'kjʊər/ to obtain or acquire possession, control, or use of something.
Example: She secured a loan to finance her new business venture.
3. esteemed: (Adjective) /ɪ'stimd/ highly respected and admired.
Example: He is an esteemed professor in the field of physics, known for his groundbreaking research.
4. podium: (Noun) /'pɒdiəm/ a raised platform on which a speaker stands to address an audience.
Example: The politician stood confidently behind the podium, delivering her speech with conviction.
5. subjective: (Adjective) /səb'dʒektɪv/ based on personal opinions, feelings, and interpretations rather than facts.
Example: Beauty is subjective and varies from person to person based on individual preferences.
6. corruption: (Noun) /kə'rʌpʃən/ dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power, typically involving bribery.
Example: The government crackdown on corruption aimed to root out corrupt practices in public institutions.
7. demographics: (Noun) /,dɛmə'græfiks/ statistical data relating to the population and particular groups within it.
Example: The demographics of the city were changing rapidly due to immigration and urbanization.
8. societal: (Adjective) /sou'saɪətəl/ relating to society and its organization or structure.
Example: The study examined the societal impact of technology on interpersonal relationships.
9. determinant: (Noun) /dɪ'tɜːmɪnənt/ a factor that decisively affects the nature or outcome of something.
Example: Access to education is a key determinant of economic success in many societies.
10. transient: (Adjective) /'trænzɪənt/ lasting only for a short time; temporary.
Example: The transient nature of her visit meant that she could only stay for a few days.



For the seventh **consecutive** year, Finland has **secured** the title of the world's happiest country in the **esteemed** World Happiness Report. Among the top 10, Finland shares the **podium** with other European nations like Denmark, Sweden, and Iceland, showcasing the region's high levels of well-being.

Published annually by Gallup, the University of Oxford, and the United Nations, the report assesses the **subjective** well-being of individuals across more than 140 countries. It considers various factors, including GDP, social support, life expectancy, freedom, **corruption** levels, and charitable giving.

The 2024 report delves into the happiness levels across different age groups, revealing interesting findings about countries' happiness rankings based on age **demographics**. Lithuania emerged as the happiest for young children and individuals under 30, while Denmark claimed the top spot for those over 60.

Interestingly, the report highlights a declining trend in well-being among younger generations in Western Europe and North America, contrasting with the overall happiness levels of older generations. This suggests a shift in **societal** factors influencing happiness over time.

Despite potential recent events, the report's data span the last three years to ensure a comprehensive assessment of happiness levels, thus minimizing the immediate impact of current affairs on a country's ranking. Notably, Israel secured the fifth spot, underscoring the complexity of happiness **determinants** beyond **transient** events.

Rounding up the top 10 happiest countries are the Netherlands, Norway, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and Australia. Conversely, the bottom ranks are largely occupied by African nations, with Lebanon and Afghanistan standing as the two least happy countries.

DISCUSSION

1. If you could design your own "Happiness Index," what factors would you include and why?
2. How do you think the concept of happiness differs across cultures? Can you give examples?
3. Imagine you were tasked with improving happiness levels in your country. What initiatives would you propose?
4. Do you believe there's a correlation between a country's happiness and its citizens' overall well-being? Why or why not?
5. How might advancements in technology influence a country's happiness ranking in the future?
6. Discuss the importance of social support in contributing to a nation's happiness. How can communities foster greater support networks?
7. If you were to relocate to one of the top-ranking countries for happiness, which would it be and why?