

SOME LIVEABILITY INDICATORS ACROSS UKRAINIANS

У статті розглянуто фактори, які впливають на благополуччя і комфортну життєдіяльність громадян в містах України. За основу взято рейтинг благополуччя, що проводиться щорічно британським журналом "The Economist". Проаналізовано чинники з різних сфер життєдіяльності людини, такі як здоров'я, культурне дозвілля, зарплата, безпека та інші, а також дані щорічного моніторингу, проведеного Інститутом соціології Національної академії наук України.

Ключові слова: *комфорт, життєздатність, життєве благополуччя, місто.*

В статье рассмотрены факторы, влияющие на благополучие и комфортную жизнедеятельность граждан в городах Украины. За основу взят рейтинг благополучия, проводимый ежегодно британским журналом "The Economist". Проанализированы факторы из разных сфер жизнедеятельности человека, такие как здоровье, культурный досуг, зарплата, безопасность и другие, а также данные ежегодного мониторинга, проводимого Институтом социологии Национальной академии наук Украины.

Ключевые слова: *комфорт, пригодность для жизни, жизненное благополучие, город.*

The paper analyses a set of factors related to people's well-being and life comfort in Ukrainian cities. These factors comprise different areas of human life such as health care, safety, earnings, leisure activities, etc. The Global Liveability Index published annually by "The Economist" magazine has served as a methodological framework for the analysis, while the data of the nationwide survey "Ukrainian Society" conducted every year by the Institute of Sociology have provided an empirical basis.

Keywords: *comfort, liveability, well-being, city.*

Recently it has become more important to talk not about how cheap some or other product is but how expensive it is and not how accessible but how inaccessible it may be. Affordability of housing, food, education, and even cultural and mass leisure activities has become key factor in defining a city as an organism ensuring a comfortable life for residents.

Today, many top ranking journals are publishing surveys on livability of cities and even entire countries. For example, according to the annual ranking of cities' livability in 2018 made by The Economist, there are 10 most livable cities:

<i>Country</i>	<i>City</i>
1. Austria	Vienna
2. Australia	Melbourne
3. Japan	Osaka
4. Canada	Calgary
5. Australia	Sydney
6. Canada	Vancouver
7. Canada	Toronto
8. Japan	Tokyo
9. Denmark	Copenhagen
10. Australia	Adelaide

The Economist Intelligence Unit Limited 2018

Assessing liveability has a broad range of uses, from benchmarking perceptions of development levels to assigning a hardship allowance as part of expatriate relocation packages.

The Economist Intelligence Unit's liveability rating quantifies the challenges that might be presented to an individual's lifestyle in any given location, and allows for direct comparison between locations.

Every city is assigned a rating of relative comfort for over 30 qualitative and quantitative factors across five broad categories: stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education, and infrastructure. Each factor in a city is rated as acceptable, tolerable, uncomfortable, undesirable or intolerable. For qualitative indicators, a rating is awarded based on the judgment of in-house analysts and in-city contributors. For quantitative indicators, a rating is calculated based on the relative performance of a number of external data points.

The scores are then compiled and weighted to provide a score of 1-100, where 1 is considered intolerable and 100 is considered ideal. The liveability rating is provided both as an overall score and as a score for each category.

But we will focus only on a few of them, which are presented in our Monitoring survey. The concept of liveability is simple: it assesses which locations around the world provide the best or the worst living conditions.

Factors influencing the livability of the city vary with research, but they are not difficult to understand, since all citizens, quite realize which things are important for them to feel comfortable in their own city.

So, what factors make the city safe for life? First of all there are housing affordability, wages and prices for goods, and those being only the economic aspect of this issue.

For example, with regard to stability, we are talking about the level of security, the work of the police and confidence in police. However, attention should also be paid to social conflicts and the level of extremism and terrorism. As you can see, there is no separate economic sector here where the levels of salaries, the availability of goods, housing are included. Housing, and not only its availability, but also quality and various other indicators, are included in the infrastructure section. As for food, consumer goods, wages, censorship and the level of corruption, all these are included in the cultural environment section.

Let us consider some factors by which we can present a general picture of the life of Ukrainian citizens as a whole. We will examine all these factors through the prism of questions devoted to “what we have” and “what we lack”, as well as “what is important for the majority”?

If we take the indicators of the availability of jobs, then it is worthwhile to consider the issue of job opportunities in several categories, which are presented in the “Monitoring of Social Changes of the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine”. Categories are the following: availability of job in your locality in general, the availability of job of your qualifications and without your qualifications, but with a decent wage.

Table 1

The availability of jobs in your locality by category (%)

	<i>Easy</i>	<i>Difficult</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Is it hard to find a job in your locality with sufficient earnings, but not appropriate your qualification?	9,3	65,4	25,3
Is it hard to find a job in your locality appropriate for your qualification and with sufficient earnings?	8,7	73,8	17,6
Is it hard to find a job in your locality?	33,2	45,1	21,7

Table 2

Do you have a paid work now?(%)

	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>
Do you have any paid job now?	59,9	40,1

Table 1 shows that the hardest thing is to find a job according to one’s qualifications (73,8%). Next comes the indicator that finding

a well-paid job but not according to your professional qualifications is also quite difficult (65,4%). And finally it is shown that at least some work can be found (33,2%), but it is still difficult (45,1%).

There is also worth noting that proportion of people who have at least some kind of job at the moment is only 59,9%. Those having no job is 40,1%.

Thus, it can be concluded that there occur a tense situation with job in the country and this indicator unfortunately will affect the well-being of the settlement in the first place, since it is impossible to move further up the well-being ladder without affordable and well-paid job.

One of the key factors affecting the well-being of a country and, city is safety. To show a more complete picture, it is better to take several indicators revealing the problem of security: they are trust in law enforcement agencies, changes that have occurred in the security sphere during the year, the protection from crime that people need and the frequency of hooliganism and robberies in their area.

It can be said that the indicator of public confidence in police even after the reform in this area, is very small. Those who mostly trust the police is – 11,4% and those mostly do not trust is – 33,6%. Over the past year 50% in the respondents did not notice any changes in the personal security of citizens, and answering the question “how often criminal activity and hooliganism occurred in your area” – 41,7% said that they occur, but not very often. Protection against crime is not enough for 51,9% of citizens. From the above we can conclude that not only is the police reform almost failed to achieve the expected results, but people in their own country and their locality do not feel safe, which also does not improve / raise the level of well-being.

Table 3

What is the level of your confidence in: (%)

	<i>I do not trust it at all</i>	<i>I Mostly do not trust</i>	<i>It's hard to say, trust or not</i>	<i>I mostly trust</i>	<i>I fully trust</i>
Police	28,6	33,6	25,3	11,4	1,1

Table 4

	<i>Quite often</i>	<i>Not very often</i>	<i>Hardly ever</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
How often do the cases of bullying and robbery in your neighborhood (near your home) occur?	13,1	41,7	27,1	18,1

An important factor influencing the well-being of citizens is the factor of cultural impact on a person's life.

As for the expansion of cultural horizons and introduction into culture, for 43,4% of respondents it turned out to be rather important, but at the same time among the list of activities that respondents did in their spare time, only 3,8% of people spend time visiting museums, theaters, exhibitions, concerts. And even cinemas, which are considered to be the most popular pastime culture, are visited by only 7,2% of citizens. And this is despite the fact that 44,0% of citizens think they come short of full leisure. That is probably connected with the financial component, because not everyone can afford full leisure, for example, not many can afford to go to the theater, exhibition or concert, if we compare prices and total family income.

Answering the question: "Determine the financial state of your family as a whole over the last 2-3 months" 40,1% said that they only have enough money for living. And 32,3% - only for food. This indicator can also be considered the key one in the issue of well-being the presence of decent work.

Table 5

**Assess the level of importance
of the following PERSONALLY FOR YOU: (%)**

	Not portant at all	Ruther not portant	Hard to say	Ruther portant	Very import- ant
Expansion of cultural outlook, involvement in cultural values (through art, artistic creativity, hobbies, etc.)	1,9	5,9	19,4	43,4	29,3

A very important problem concerning the well-being is a social problem in its various aspects. In our study, we will address it through the question of social assistance received by citizens. The way in which a country or a city cares about social groups in need, can show the level of well-being of the inhabitants of such a settlement and the well-being of the settlement itself as a whole.

Answering the question: "What types of real social assistance did you receive in the last 12 months?" 17,2% of respondent said that they were in need, but did not receive any social assistance. 4,3% of people received one-time financial assistance. Help from social workers was received by only 2,1% and the main assistance

that people received was monthly payments (11,7%) as well as benefits (11,1%).

Likewise, in this social block can be included the desire of people to avoid significant social stratification between the rich and the poor. 37,1% of respondents consider it very important and 41,0% of people - rather important. One more thing which is very important for people 42,5% - is to create equal opportunities for everybody in society. There one can see the lack of these opportunities for different segments of the population, which leads to social stratification (from the previous question), which so many citizens would like to avoid.

We now turn to the issue of the environment. (Tab. 6) The situation is difficult with the ecological matter. People do not properly understand how the ecological situation affects their lives, and basically, how close the world is to an ecological disaster.

This question is unfortunately not properly covered in our society. Today the majority of citizens care about politics, the economic situation in the country, their family income, and not about the sorting of garbage or the international solid nuclear waste storage facility in Chernobyl, opened in 2017.

We do not talk about this, not only because everyone does not care about the place in which they live, but also because people are not entirely aware of these processes, because it is the State that must provide such information.

As a result, the greatest environmental concerns for people are caused by rather well promoted problems, such as garbage disposal, water pollution, and air. This of course does not mean that these problems are not important or they do not exist, they exist and are very important, but for example the issue of radiation pollution and soil pollution with chemical and radioactive waste unfortunately is no less, and maybe even more important.

Table 6

What factors of environmental pollution in the local area of your life cause your serious concern? (%)

Water contamination by chemical substances and waste products	23,9
Pollution of the living environment by garbage and other dirt	26,1
Vehicular air pollution	33,3
Air Pollution by Chemical Substances and industrial emissions	28,4

In order to realize the current state of life of Ukrainian citizens and the level of their well-being, it is worth looking first at the indicator of “what they lack most” (Tab. 7)

Therefore, what people are lacking most in this country in terms of indicators related to well-being? First of all, there is not enough respect for human rights in the country as 55,7% people think. Next comes lack of protection against crime (51,9%). Similarly, people lack adequate medical care and leisure. 42,9% cannot buy food according to their taste, and 30,5% of people do not have adequate housing.

Table 7

What are you lacking the most? (%)

	Lacking	Difficult to say	Not lacking	Not interesting
Protection against crime	51,9	28,7	16,4	3,0
Adequate housing	30,5	16,1	49,8	3,6
Buy food according to their taste	42,9	19,9	34,9	2,2
Adequate leisure	44,0	21,6	29,3	5,1
Adequate medical care	44,7	20,8	29,4	5,1
Respect for human rights in the country	55,7	24,9	16,8	2,6

We considered only a small number of factors that can somehow affect the well-being of citizens and, consequently, the city, the country as a whole. According to A. Maslow, human needs have levels from simpler to higher, and the desire for higher needs, as a rule, is possible and occurs only after satisfying the needs of a lower order, for example, in food and security. Therefore, until we meet the needs of at least primary importance, we cannot talk about indicators related to culture, science, corruption, etc.