



OXFAM HUMANKIND INDEX

THE NEW MEASURE OF SCOTLAND'S PROSPERITY
SECOND RESULTS



OXFAM

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the second report of the Oxfam Humankind Index for Scotland updating the first results published in April 2012.

While the Index shows a marginal overall increase on last year's report (overall prosperity increased by 1.2% between 2009/10 and 2010/11) the overall impression is one of a society where prosperity is broadly flat.

Within the sub-domains that make up the index there were positive and negative changes. Those contributing to Scotland's prosperity included 'improved self-assessed health', 'feeling that you are safe' and 'being part of a community'. However, continuing economic uncertainty and a fall in people's satisfaction levels with dragged down Scotland's prosperity. Given these changes are all relatively small however, the results should be interpreted with caution.

The report shows that deprived communities continue to lag behind the rest of Scotland, although the gap has narrowed slightly from 11% to 10%.

The report also includes a gender comparison for the first time. Despite women scoring slightly higher overall, men do better when it comes to areas such as feeling that you are safe, having enough money and financial security. Women score higher than men in areas such as relationships, skills and education, and being part of a community.

Oxfam Scotland recognised in its first report that the Oxfam Humankind Index is not perfect. Good quality indicators remain a key area for development and we will seek to work with the Scottish Government and others to identify, and if necessary construct, better measures for the next report.

In the meantime we hope this report will be used by policy makers and others as a barometer of Scotland's prosperity and to inform policy development. The sub-domains of the Humankind index reflect the priorities of the people of Scotland. As such, we hope they are considered in debates about forthcoming legislation, the Scottish Government Budget and Scotland's constitutional future.

1 INTRODUCTION

This is the second report of the Oxfam Humankind Index for Scotland, following publication of the first results in April 2012. The Oxfam Humankind Index is a new way of measuring the prosperity of Scotland over time, based on what communities across Scotland say is important to them in making a good life.

Chasing economic growth for its own sake is a misguided and inappropriate goal

The Oxfam Humankind Index was developed in the first place because, through its work with communities, Oxfam had come to believe that the model that dominates economic policy in the UK – increasing the amount of goods and services we produce and consume – was outdated and failed to address longstanding problems of poverty and inequality in our society. Oxfam continues to argue that chasing economic growth for its own sake is a misguided and inappropriate goal, because it pays insufficient attention to other key issues, such as health, housing, and job security.

The development of the Oxfam Humankind Index shows that a new approach to measuring prosperity in Scotland is not only possible but desirable, moving beyond economic growth and increased consumption and looking instead at a broader range of factors that matter to people and communities. In this way, the Oxfam Humankind Index stands as one of the first attempts within the UK to develop a multi-dimensional measure of prosperity.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OXFAM HUMANKIND INDEX

To develop the Oxfam Humankind Index, Oxfam Scotland initiated a large-scale consultation process in 2011 working with a range of stakeholders including the Craighead Institute, Northern Star and the new economics foundation. This was a multi-stage process that engaged almost 3,000 people across Scotland to arrive at a set of agreed priorities on what the people need to live well in their communities. We made a particular effort to reach out to seldom heard communities, those groups whose interests are so often marginalised in the formal policy making process and whose voices are absent from decisions that affect them.

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The final outcome of the consultation process is set out in *Table 1*, which shows the broad range of key factors identified (called ‘sub-domains’) and a ‘weight’ for each: the higher the weight, the more important that sub-domain was seen to be in the consultation process; and the more important it is to the overall index.

OXFAM HUMANKIND INDEX SUB-DOMAINS & WEIGHTS

SUB-DOMAIN	WEIGHT
Affordable/decent home/a safe and secure home to live in	 11
Being physically and mentally healthy	 11
Living in a neighbourhood where you can enjoy going outside and having a clean and healthy environment	 9
Having satisfying work to do (paid or unpaid)	 7
Having good relationships with family and friends	 7
Feeling that you and those you care about are safe	 6
Access to green spaces/access to wild spaces/social/play areas	 6
Work/secure work/suitable work	 6
Having enough money to pay the bills and buy what you need	 6
Having a secure source of money	 5
Access to arts/culture/interest/stimulation/learning/hobbies/leisure activities	 5
Having the facilities you need locally	 4
Getting enough skills and education to live a good life	 4
Being part of a community	 4
Having good transport to get to where you need to go	 4
Being able to access high-quality services	 3
Human rights/freedom from discrimination/acceptance/respect	 3
Feeling good	 2

Once the sub-domains and the weights had been agreed, the Fraser of Allander Institute at the University of Strathclyde was asked to match these to the best available measures using publicly accessible data for Scotland. The 'measure' (essentially, a single statistic) for each sub-domain was multiplied by the given weight to arrive at a 'score' for each sub-domain. These scores were then added together to produce an overall Oxfam Humankind Index Score. An analysis of how the overall score had changed over time was undertaken, giving an indication of changes to Scotland's prosperity.

The first Oxfam Humankind Index report was published in April 2012, and was enthusiastically received by a wide range of stakeholders across different parts of Scottish public life, including Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs), third sector organisations, and the STUC. Both the Scottish and UK Governments have also shown interest in the approach,

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with the Scottish Government in particular considering what lessons it can learn for its own measurement approach, the National Performance Framework.¹

This brief report gives results one year on. The hope for this and future updates is that they will continue to stimulate debate, enable the development of more appropriate policy responses, and foster future research on how more can be done to improve the lives of people in Scotland. The report also features a comparison between Scotland and its most deprived communities, and, for the first time, comparisons by gender. It is Oxfam Scotland's intention to build on and improve the Oxfam Humankind Index with every report published.

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THE OXFAM HUMANKIND INDEX FOR SCOTLAND 2010/11

Table 2, below, gives an overview of the Oxfam Humankind Index for Scotland in 2010/11. As with last year's report, this has been constructed by multiplying the weights from the consultation by the measures for each sub-domain, as discussed above. Note that the weights given here are rounded to the nearest whole number, which explains why 'weight x measure', as given in the table, does not always equal the final sub-domain score.

The overall Oxfam Humankind Index score for 2010/11 is 5,558. This is a 1.2% increase from the score in 2009/10, which was 5,492. However, there has actually been little change in most of the Oxfam Humankind Index sub-domains. Where there has been change, it could simply have been due to statistical variation between the two samples – in other words, most change was not statistically significant. Given this, while it is difficult to draw firm conclusions about actual change over the period, it may be more appropriate to see overall well-being levels as flat, rather than as increasing. Interestingly, this dovetails with Scotland's economic growth rate, which shows a move from negative growth to a small positive increase over the 2010/11 period.²

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OXFAM HUMANKIND INDEX 2010/11

SUB-DOMAIN	WEIGHT	MEASURE	SCORE	CHANGE SINCE 2009/10
Housing	11	52.3	558	-20 ↓
Health	11	94.0	1,004	11 ↑
Neighbourhood/Environment	9	60.0	524	9 ↑
Work Satisfaction	7	70.8	496	- ↓
Good Relationships	7	13.3	91	1 ↑
Safety	6	23.0	134	17 ↑
Green Spaces	6	44.0	256	3 ↑
Secure/Suitable Work	6	91.1	531	-3 ↓
Having enough money	6	47.0	274	-12 ↓
Financial Security	5	- 4.3	- 21	29 ↑
Culture/Hobbies	5	63.5	308	12 ↑
Local Facilities	4	44.0	171	-4 ↓
Skills and Education	4	27.0	105	4 ↑
Community Spirit	4	75.0	291	12 ↑
Good Transport	4	76.0	295	4 ↑
Good Services	3	66.0	192	3 ↑
Tolerance	3	66.0	192	- ↓
Feeling good	2	80.4	156	-1 ↓
TOTAL			5,558	65

In total, the Oxfam Humankind Index increased by 65 points between 2009/10 and 2010/11. This overall difference is composed of both negative and positive changes. Prosperity fell in 5 sub-domains, increased in 11, and stayed the same in two. Positive change increased the Index score by 104 points, while negative change reduced it by 39 points.

As noted above, changes in the 11 sub-domains where an increase was seen were often small. For example, the key health sub-domain actually only increased by 1%, despite accounting for one tenth of the improvement in the overall Oxfam Humankind Index score.

Also note that, of the five sub-domains which saw a fall, two were economic sub-domains ("Secure/Suitable Work" and "Having Enough Money"). This might suggest, to some degree, continuing economic uncertainty, at the same time as other sub-domains were improving slightly or remaining stable. However, the level at which both these fell

Prosperity fell in 5 sub-domains, increased in 11, and stayed the same in two

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was not sufficient to bring about a reduction in the overall Index score.

COMPARISONS WITH DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES

One of the key aims of the Oxfam Humankind Index is to look at differences between Scotland as a whole and its most deprived communities³. The 2009/10 results found that deprived communities scored 11% below the level for Scotland. Table 3, overleaf, shows the updated Index for deprived communities in 2010/11. This increased by 141 points between 2009/10 and 2010/11, or by 2.2% (compared to a Scottish figure of 1.2%). These communities therefore gained marginally compared to Scotland and so the 'humankind gap' (the difference in the prosperity of our most deprived communities compared to Scotland as a whole) fell slightly.

OXFAM HKI FOR DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES 2010/11				
SUB-DOMAIN	WEIGHT	MEASURE	SCORE	CHANGE SINCE 2009/10
Housing	11	50.0	534	-3 ↓
Health	11	89.0	950	21 ↑
Neighbourhood/Environment	9	49.0	428	35 ↑
Work Satisfaction	7	70.8	496	- ↓
Good Relationships	7	13.3	91	1 ↑
Safety	6	9.0	52	- ↓
Green Spaces	6	34.5	201	12 ↑
Secure/Suitable Work	6	91.1	531	7 ↑
Having enough money	6	31.0	181	-6 ↓
Financial Security	5	- 4.3	- 21	7 ↑
Culture/Hobbies	5	54.5	265	19 ↑
Local Facilities	4	42.0	163	4 ↑
Skills and Education	4	19.5	76	4 ↑
Community Spirit	4	66.0	256	31 ↑
Good Transport	4	76.0	295	-17 ↓
Good Services	3	67.1	195	-1 ↓
Tolerance	3	66.0	192	- ↓
Feeling good	2	76.4	148	-4 ↓
TOTAL			5,033	110

While this is clearly welcome, the extent to which the gap narrowed is small – wellbeing in deprived communities was estimated to be 11% below Scotland in 2009/10, while the new estimate is that it is now 10% below. In short, deprived communities continue to experience a significantly lower level of wellbeing when compared to Scotland as a whole. Further, it is likely that much of this change is due to statistical variation; and over half the increase across the index was due to one sub-domain focused on having good transport to get where you need to go.

Wellbeing in deprived communities was estimated to be 11% below Scotland in 2009/10, while the new estimate is that it is now 10% below

Similar shifts were apparent in Scottish Government income and poverty statistics for Scotland for 2010/11. Relative poverty fell from 17% to 15%, largely because of a fall in median incomes. In short, the poverty headline appeared to show some improvement in the situation of those on low incomes, but actually the real story was declining living standards for those on middle incomes, not an improvement for the poorest in society. Indeed, absolute poverty, experienced by the lowest income households, remained at around 10%.

Table 4 shows where deprived areas do worse compared to the whole of Scotland. What has not changed significantly from the first report is the conclusion that no one reason, or even a set of reasons, can be identified as to why deprived communities experience lower wellbeing. They fall below Scotland-level on 11 of the 19 sub-domains.

OXFAM HKI: ALL SCOTLAND VS DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES 2010/11





















Members of deprived communities continue to be more likely to struggle financially (Having Enough Money accounts for 18% of the difference) while poorer health on its own contributes 10% of the difference between deprived communities and Scotland as a whole. The figures for both Having Enough Money and Health are very similar to those seen in our earlier study – previously 10% of the difference was due to poorer health and Having Enough Money accounted for 16%. While the narrowing of gap between Scotland and deprived areas is welcome, more clearly remains to be done before deprived communities enjoy a quality of life comparable to the rest of Scotland.



















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DIFFERENCES BY GENDER

This report analyses, for the first time, differences in prosperity and well-being by gender, findings for which are detailed in Tables 5 and 6. The overall difference between men and women is very minor, with the score for women (5,608) above the male score (5,553) by 1%.

OXFAM HKI 2010/11 - MALES			
SUB-DOMAIN	WEIGHT	MEASURE	SCORE
Housing	 11	52	558
Health	 11	95	1,015
Neighbourhood/Environment	 9	61	533
Work Satisfaction	 7	71	496
Good Relationships	 7	4	30
Safety	 6	24	140
Green Spaces	 6	45	262
Secure/Suitable Work	 6	91	529
Having enough money	 6	51	297
Financial Security	 5	- 3	- 17
Culture/Hobbies	 5	64	308
Local Facilities	 4	43	167
Skills and Education	 4	26	101
Community Spirit	 4	74	287
Good Transport	 4	76	295
Good Services	 3	66	192
Tolerance	 3	66	192
Feeling good	 2	86	167
TOTAL			5,553

OXFAM HKI 2010/11 - FEMALES

SUB-DOMAIN	WEIGHT	MEASURE	SCORE
Housing	 11	52	558
Health	 11	94	1,004
Neighbourhood/Environment	 9	60	524
Work Satisfaction	 7	71	496
Good Relationships	 7	23	156
Safety	 6	23	134
Green Spaces	 6	43	248
Secure/Suitable Work	 6	94	545
Having enough money	 6	42	245
Financial Security	 5	- 7	- 33
Culture/Hobbies	 5	64	308
Local Facilities	 4	46	179
Skills and Education	 4	27	105
Community Spirit	 4	75	291
Good Transport	 4	76	295
Good Services	 3	66	192
Tolerance	 3	66	192
Feeling good	 2	87	169
TOTAL 5,608			

Despite women scoring slightly higher overall, men do better in the following five sub-domains: health, neighbourhood, safety, green-space, having enough money and financial security, with almost half of the total difference being due to having enough money.

Women score higher than men in six sub-domains: good relationships, secure/suitable work, local facilities, skills and education, community spirit and feeling good. Over three quarters of the difference is due to good relationships.

Men do better in health, neighbourhood, safety, green-space, having enough money and financial security while women score higher in good relationships, secure/suitable work, local facilities, skills and education, community spirit and feeling good

CONCLUSIONS

This report on the Oxfam Humankind Index 2010/11 suggests a small rise in prosperity for Scotland of 1.2%. However, the overall impression, taking into account the actual changes to the sub-domains, is one of a society where prosperity is broadly flat. This accords with GDP figures for the period, and to some extent, with income and poverty statistics for Scotland. The gap between deprived communities and all of Scotland appears to have decreased slightly, but remains a substantive concern at 10%. The gap between men and women is small at 1% in favour of women.

Oxfam Scotland recognised in its first report that the Oxfam Humankind Index is not perfect. Good quality indicators remain a key area for development. The first report made clear that several of the sub-domains were difficult to measure accurately, and called on the Scottish Government to consider how its own data collection could be improved to enable a better assessment. For the next report, Oxfam Scotland will seek to work with the Scottish Government and others to identify, and if necessary, construct better measures.

In the meantime, this report is offered as a further contribution to assessing well-being and prosperity in Scotland.

NOTES

¹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/scotPerforms>

² UK growth rates have also been broadly flat for several years, according to the most recent assessment from the Office for National Statistics (May 2013).

³ The 15% most deprived communities in Scotland.

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