

# RADICAL PATHWAYS BEYOND GDP

Methodology note

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# 1 METHODOLOGY ON UNPAID CARE WORK STATISTICS

Of the total number of hours worked weekly around the world, 45% are in unpaid care work, and the contribution of that work is excluded from GDP calculations. In terms of gender, this means that 65% of women's work is unpaid and is missed by GDP.

## METHODOLOGY & DATA SOURCES

The statistic uses ILO 2022 modelled estimates for the total global number of working hours per week in paid employment (both formal and informal)<sup>1</sup>, in total, and disaggregated by gender. It compares this with the number of hours of unpaid care work carried out to assess what proportion of total working hours are not captured by GDPs exclusion of unpaid care. The hours spent on unpaid care work use data from a 2018 ILO report<sup>2</sup>, which based on time-use survey data from 64 countries (representing 66.9% of the world's working age population), estimated that 16.4 Billion hours are spent on unpaid care work every day. The same report estimates that 76.2% of unpaid care work is carried out by women. Based on the daily total mentioned, we have calculated the weekly total by multiplying by seven (days of the week).

As time-use surveys are carried out periodically, the data used for the calculation in the 2018 ILO report spanned a wide time-range from 1970 (for one source) to 2016, with the majority concentrated between the years of 2000-2015. Nevertheless, the report highlights there is no indication that the number of hours dedicated to care work have decreased significantly since the period on which the estimate was based, while a 2020 UN report<sup>3</sup> highlighted that the amount of unpaid care has increased as a result of the pandemic (this report does not factor into our calculations, but serves to demonstrate that the amount of unpaid care has not decreased since the period on which our calculations are based).

Then, the data on the percentage of unpaid care work done by women (ILO 2018) (76.2% of the total hours of unpaid care work carried out) is used to calculate the amount of working hours women dedicate to unpaid care work. This is taken alongside gender disaggregated ILOSTAT data from 2021<sup>4</sup> on global working hours per week in paid employment to calculate the total number of women's working hours per week (combining paid and unpaid work). Based on that total, and the total weekly hours of unpaid care work carried out by women, the percentage of total weekly working hours for women that are unpaid is calculated.

**Table 1: sources and calculation for unpaid care work**

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Source and year or calculation</b>	<b>Result</b>
Unpaid care working hours per day	ILO 2018 <sup>5</sup>	16.4 billion hours/day
Unpaid care working hours per week	16.4 x 7 week days	114.8 billion hours per week
Percentage of unpaid care carried out by women	ILO 2018 <sup>6</sup>	76.2%
Unpaid care working hours per week by women	Percentage of unpaid care carried out by women * unpaid care working hours per week = 0.762 * 114.8 billion	87.5 billion hours per week
Total hours worked in paid employment per week (formal and informal)	ILOSTAT 2022 <sup>7</sup>	139.2 billion hours per week
Hours worked by women in paid employment per week (formal and informal)	ILOSTAT 2021 <sup>8</sup>	48.1 billion hours per week
Total hours worked per week (paid employment & unpaid care)	Total hours worked in paid employment + care working hours per week = 114.8+139.2	254 billion hours per week
Total hours worked per week by women (paid employment & unpaid care)	Hours worked by women in paid employment per week + unpaid care working hours per week by women = 48.1 billion + 87.5	135.6 billion hours per week
Percentage of weekly hours worked that are unpaid care	Unpaid care working hours per week / total hours worked weekly = 114.8 billion / 254 billion	45.1%
Percentage of women's working hours that are unpaid	Unpaid care working hours per week by women / total hours worked per week by women = 87.5/135.6	65%

# 2 METHODOLOGY ON UK GDP AND LIFE EXPECTANCY STATISTIC

Since 1965, the UK's GDP has almost tripled. But shocking gaps in life expectancy remain: people living in the most deprived areas in England live on average 8 and a half years less than people living in the richest areas. This shows that GDP doesn't tell us enough about what growth means for the most marginalised or how the gains are distributed.

## METHODOLOGY & DATA SOURCES

The statistic juxtaposes growth in UK GDP per capita, using open data from the World Bank<sup>9</sup>, with the discrepancy in life expectancy at birth of the poorest and richest deciles, using 2019 data from the Office of National Statistics which incorporates the Index of Multiple Deprivation<sup>10</sup>.

Table 2: sources and calculation for UK GDP per capita

Year	GDP per capita (constant 2015 USD), World Bank
1965	16,876
2019	47,491.6

Table 3: sources and calculation for UK life expectancy

Sex	Life expectancy at birth (years, 2019), ONS	
	Poorest decile	Richest decile
Male	74.1	83.5
Female	78.7	86.4
Average	76.4	85

Difference between average life expectancy for richest and poorest areas:  
 $85 - 76.4 = 8.6$

# 3 METHODOLOGY ON GDP AND THE HAPPY PLANET INDEX

GDP doesn't tell us about how growth impacts the wellbeing of people and the planet. The US and Luxembourg, despite having GDP per capita more than triple the size of Costa Rica's, rank significantly lower on achieving long, happy and sustainable lives as measured by the Happy Planet Index, while Costa Rica tops the list.

## METHODOLOGY & DATA SOURCES

This statistic is a direct comparison from the 2019 Happy Planet Index data<sup>11</sup>, juxtaposed with GDP per capita from the World Bank<sup>12</sup>.

Table 4: sources and calculation for GDP and the happy planet index

Country	GDP per Capita (PPP constant 2017 \$), 2019, World Bank	Ranking in World Happiness Report
<i>USA</i>	62,471	122
<i>Luxembourg</i>	114,542	143
<i>Costa Rica</i>	20,818	1

# NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Ilostat Explorer. Retrieved 16 June 2023. Total weekly hours worked of employed persons, by sex – ILO modelled estimates.

[https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer59/?lang=en&id=HOW\\_2TOT\\_SEX\\_NB\\_A](https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer59/?lang=en&id=HOW_2TOT_SEX_NB_A)

<sup>2</sup> ILO. (2018). *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work*. Retrieved 16 June 2023.

[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms\\_633135.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_633135.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> UN Women Data Hub. (25 Nov 2020). *Whose time to care: Unpaid care and domestic work during COVID-19* <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/whose-time-care-unpaid-care-and-domestic-work-during-covid-19#:~:text=Data%20from%2038%20countries%20with,help%20from%20daughters%20than%20sons>

<sup>4</sup> Ilostat Explorer. Retrieved 16 June 2023. Total weekly hours worked of employed persons, by sex – ILO modelled estimates.

[https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer59/?lang=en&id=HOW\\_2TOT\\_SEX\\_NB\\_A](https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer59/?lang=en&id=HOW_2TOT_SEX_NB_A)

<sup>5</sup> ILO. (2018). *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work*.

[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms\\_633135.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_633135.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Ilostat Explorer. Retrieved 16 June 2023. Total weekly hours worked of employed persons, by sex – ILO modelled estimates.

[https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer59/?lang=en&id=HOW\\_2TOT\\_SEX\\_NB\\_A](https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer59/?lang=en&id=HOW_2TOT_SEX_NB_A)

<sup>8</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> World Bank Database. *GDP per capita (constant USD 2015) – United Kingdom*.

[https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.KD?locations=GB&most\\_recent\\_value\\_desc=true](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.KD?locations=GB&most_recent_value_desc=true)

<sup>10</sup> ONS. (22 March 2021). Health state life expectancies by national deprivation deciles, England: 2017 to 2019.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthinequalities/bulletins/healthstatelifeexpectanciesbyindexofmultipledeprivationimd/2017to2019>

<sup>11</sup> Happy Planet Index. (2021). *How Happy Is the Planet?* Retrieved 9 June, from

<https://happyplanetindex.org/wp-content/themes/hpi/public/downloads/happy-planet-index-briefing-paper.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> World Bank Database. *GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international \$)*.

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.KD>

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For further information on the issues raised in this paper please email [advocacy@oxfaminternational.org](mailto:advocacy@oxfaminternational.org)

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