

MALAYSIA HAPPINESS INDEX

**DESPITE COVID, ECONOMY,
MALAYSIA BOLEH**

People in Labuan, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya the happiest folks in the country, shows poll

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DESPITE growing concerns over the economic uncertainties brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, Malaysians in general remained a happy lot.

This was what the Statistics Department found in the first ever Malaysia Happiness Index (MHI). For 2021, 42,446 respondents living in 16,000 places nationwide were surveyed.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the findings showed that people in the country were generally happy, with the overall happiness index standing at 6.48.

According to the survey, people in Labuan were the happiest, with a score of 9.9. It was followed by Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya at 7.77 and 7.28, respectively.

Selangor and Melaka were the only states with a happiness index score of six or below. Selangor had the lowest score at 5.73.

Uzir said the survey outcome was based on 73 indicators divided into 13 components, namely family, housing and environment, social participation, health, communication, education, working life, income, public safety, time use, religion and spirituality, culture and emotional experience.

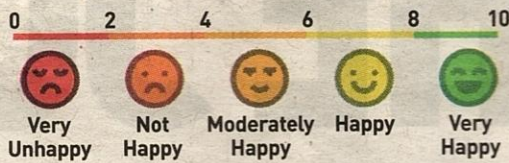
Speaking at the tabling of the MHI 2021 here yesterday, Uzir said happiness levels were divided into five categories — “very happy” for scores between 8.01 and 10.00, “happy” for score between 6.01 and 8.00 and “moderately happy” for scores between 4.10 and 6.00.

Scores between 2.01 and 4.00 are categorised as “unhappy” and scores at 2.00 and below are categorised as “very unhappy”.

Uzir said of the 13 components, income had the lowest score, but it remained in the “happy” level of 6.04.

“The survey was carried out at a time when the country was still facing the challenges brought about by Covid-19 and people were uncertain about their situation.”

MALAYSIA HAPPINESS INDEX 2021



The Malaysia Happiness Index 2021 is 'happy' at 6.48

MHI is developed to measure the happiness level in Malaysia from physical, social, emotional and spiritual aspects.

Malaysia Happiness Index Score by Educational Attainment

- 6.31 No formal education
- 6.53 Primary education
- 6.41 Secondary education
- 6.58 Tertiary education

Tertiary education recorded the highest happiness index score

Malaysia Happiness Index Score by Marital Status

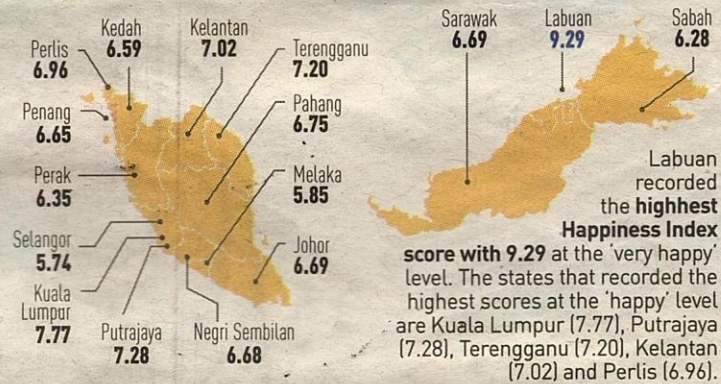
- 6.47 Divorced/separated
- 6.40 Widowed
- 6.47 Never married
- 6.48 Married

Married people recorded the highest happiness index score

Malaysia Happiness Index Score by Gender

- 6.46 Male
- 6.49 Female

Women recorded a higher happiness score



Labuan recorded the highest Happiness Index score with 9.29 at the 'very happy' level. The states that recorded the highest scores at the 'happy' level are Kuala Lumpur (7.77), Putrajaya (7.28), Terengganu (7.20) and Perlis (6.96).

Source: Malaysia Happiness Survey 2021, Department of Statistics Malaysia

INFOGRAPHIC NST



Chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin at the launch of the Malaysia Happiness Index report in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC BY FARIZ ISWADI ISMAIL

He said the survey showed that rural folk were slightly happier than urban folk and women, at a score of 6.49, were slightly happier than men, at 6.46.

Of the 13 components, women scored higher than men in nine, namely family, social participation, health, communication, education, income, time use, reli-

gion and spirituality and culture.

Men scored higher in working life, public safety and emotional experience.

Both genders scored the same in the housing and environment components.

The survey found that married people, with a score of 6.48, were slightly happier than people who were divorced or separated, at 6.47. Widowers had a score of 6.40.

Malaysians and non-Malaysians were generally happy last year, at scores of 6.49 and 6.32, respectively.

“They was no significant gap in the happiness index score for Malaysians and non-Malaysians in the country. This shows there is no discrimination and that the country upholds inclusivity.”

Page 1 pic: Nor Arina Abdul Rahman (right) and Siti Aisyah Aziz hanging out at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday.