

Objective Indicators of Quality of life

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Abstract. Based on EU-SILC 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, this paper presents for France objective indicators of quality of life relating to living conditions, economic strain, health, social networks, social participation, working conditions and education. Even if it is not a specific recommendation of the Stiglitz Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, the paper also presents a proposal for a synthetic indicator of Quality of Life.

The Stiglitz Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress [1] identifies different domains of quality of life that shape people's well-being. Using EU-SILC 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, this paper presents objective indicators of quality of life in France, and a tentative composite indicator that takes into account these heterogeneous dimensions simultaneously. For most of these dimensions, EU-SILC provides a large set of harmonized data. In addition, we use the questionnaire on social indicators that France introduced in 2008 in complement to the European questionnaire¹.

We have clustered deprivations or difficulties people might face in a limited number of dimensions relating to living conditions, economic strain, health, social networks, social participation, working conditions and education. The rationale for this approach, as well as for deprivation indicators, is that those difficulties should be used as indicative of their underlying dimension[2]. For each dimension, a threshold is arbitrarily set: we consider a person as deprived in a given dimension if s/he is concerned by a number of difficulties that is equal to or above this threshold. In each dimension, we compute an indicator as the percentage of the population deprived[3].

¹ Three rotating modules are conducted every three years in a row. The first module focuses on social participation, community life and health; the second module on sport, leisure and culture; the third module on social mobility and relationships with friends and family. An annual questionnaire about working conditions has also been added.

In a second step, we compute a composite indicator of quality of life. At this preliminary stage, the composite indicator is defined as the arithmetic mean of the indicators in each dimension.

1. The quality of life dimensions

Quality of life can differ between individuals with identical resources, and across socio-economic groups and generations. In addition to breakdowns by type of household, education level and age, a breakdown by “target population” is presented for each dimension. The target population includes people at risk of poverty (below 60 percent the median adjusted income), or materially deprived (at least a lack of 4 items out of a basket of 9 deprivations) or living in a low work intensity household (less than 25 percent of “workable” months are actually worked). In France in 2008, among the target population, 68.6 percent are at risk of poverty, 18.2 percent are materially deprived, and 41.9 percent belong to a low work intensity household. 4.6 percent combine these three disadvantages. We present the proportion of people facing each single difficulty in the target population, and the deprivation rate for each of the dimensions. Frequency controls (column All) inform about the prevalence of the difficulty in the whole population.

1.1. The living conditions dimension

We break down the living conditions dimension into two sub dimensions:

-“housing conditions”, 18 items from the 2007 EU-SILC ad hoc module, about comfort and facilities;

-“durables and consumption”, 22 items from EU-SILC 2009, some from the 2009 SILC ad hoc module on material deprivation.

The situation regarding the housing conditions is illustrated in table 1. Precisely, we compute, for each individual aged 16+, a summary indicator based on the number of items his/her household lack because they cannot afford them. Items include quality of housing, shortage of space, and proximity of various amenities and services. The threshold used for this dimension is set at 4 enforced lacks out of 18.

Toilet, bath/shower and hot running water are close to zero in the whole population, and close to 1.5 percent in the target population. The link between target population and deprivation is not obvious in the case of accessibility. The figures are quite the same for the target population and for the whole population concerning proximity of banking services (9 percent), compulsory school (around 3 percent), groceries (3-4 percent); for postal services, the target population faces less problems than the whole population (18 percent vs. 15 percent); on the contrary and the target population has more problems of accessibility of public transports (6 percent vs. 4 percent in the whole population).

When 12.6 percent of individuals are deprived in that sub dimension, the rate raises to 22.3 percent in the target population.

Table 2 presents the proportions of people deprived in the combined consumption/durables dimension. This dimension mainly focuses on the affordability of some aspects of living standards (meal, warm dwelling, holiday, durables). The figures show large variations in terms of people affected by those problems. In 2009, 69.1 percent of the target population could not afford a one-week annual holiday away from home², 69.5 percent could not afford replacing worn out furniture, 65.9 percent did not have the capacity to face unexpected expenses. Concerning durables, EU-SILC enables to distinguish between lack of items due to choice and enforced lack of item when people would like to possess the items but cannot afford them. The discrepancies between the target population and the whole population for color TV or fridge are close to zero (zero for fridge). The higher the prevalence, the lower the difference between the target population and the whole population. One could combine computer with TV and telephone to build an ITC component since more and more people watch TV or phone via a computer, but we emphasize that the enforced lack of a computer is being mentioned by 14.2 percent of the target population (versus 4.8 percent of the whole population). As expected, belonging to the fourth quartile of the distribution of adjusted income significantly cuts down the risk of deprivation. In 2009, 14.6 percent of the population suffered from at least 5 problems on average, but one out of two in the target population³.

² There is a low consensus on the importance of holidays (see Eurobarometer survey 67.1, 2007 [4])

³ Concerning this sub dimension, target population being partly defined as people being deprived of 4 items in a basket of 9 (people cannot afford to pay their rent or utility bills, keep their home adequately warm, face unexpected expenses, eat meat, fish, or a protein equivalent every second day, a week of holiday away from home once a year, a car, a washing machine, a colour TV, or a telephone) one can expect this score to be high.

The living condition indicator is computed as the average of the deprivation rates from the two sub dimensions⁴. It is 13.6 percent in the whole population and 36.1 percent in the target population.

1.2. The economic strain dimension

This dimension focuses on financial constraints that people might face in their budget (financial burden of the total housing cost, bank overdraft in the last 12 months, etc). It is composed of ten items from EU-SILC 2008 (table 3). The link between target population and difficulties is not obvious in terms of using “savings to balance the budget” (34.6 percent in the whole population, 34.0 percent in the target population). It might be just that the target population does not have savings to begin with. As expected, only 4.2 percent of individuals in the top quartile distribution of adjusted income are deprived (at least 3 difficulties), and 30.8 percent in the bottom of the distribution; 15.3 percent of the whole population is deprived, it raises 37.2 percent in the target population.

1.3. The health dimension

The commission indicates that steps should be taken to improve measures of people’s health. In this first step, still using EU-SILC data (2008), the dimension is approached with three items. One item about self reported health: respondents are asked to rank their health status on a five-point scale (the so called “European” scale: very good, good, fair, bad and very bad). We construct a binary measure of self reported health, those who report bad or very bad are considered not to be satisfied with their health. The survey also includes one question regarding the impact of health problems on daily activities and a question regarding longstanding health problem that we use here.

As expected the percentage of respondents affected by health problems increases with age (table 4), and with low education⁵. In 2008, 11.0 percent of the population suffers from at least two problems, whereas in the target population it is 17.7 percent, and it reaches more than one out of five persons without a diploma.

⁴ Note that one can add indicators computed from different surveys, provided that one remains cautious about the interpretation of the correlations.

⁵ The older are also the less graduated and the more affected by health problems.

1.4. *The relationships dimension*

There is a consensus that quality of life depends also on relationships and contacts one might have with relatives and friends. At this very preliminary stage, the measure we build for the *relationships and contact dimension* consists of five items.

The first is the participation in activities of recreational groups or organizations. It can be sport groups, hobby associations, or leisure clubs. Trade unions are excluded in purpose (see “social participation” dimension). We assume that there are differences between being an ordinary member in an association and having responsibilities in it: as ordinary members, people get opportunities to enlarge their social network, for instance playing tennis or bridge in a club; when being in charge⁶, people participate to a political process.

The four others items of the dimension deal with contacts that one might have with family and/or friends, with a distinction between face-to-face contacts and contacts by mail, email, phone and SMS. When questions on durable goods enabled to distinguish between lack of items and enforced lack of items, this is not the case here: we are unable to discriminate (in case of absence of contacts) between preferences and constraints, though it can happen that family conflicts are such that it is better for personal well-being not to have any contacts with family. About friendship, a question could be: is it necessary to have a lot of friends, or just a few one can rely on, hence less contacts? Not to mention that friendship might not have the same meaning to everybody.

People with zero contacts are considered being deprived (the modalities “no family” and “no friends” are included, so it also takes account of deprivation of family and friends)⁷.

Target population appears to be more isolated (table 5). Concerning non participation in activities of recreational groups or organizations, it is 5 points higher than that in the whole

⁶ We can get this information (are you in charge in this association?) from the French module.

⁷ Pearson correlations between items are positive but can be weak. Getting together with relatives vs. with friends 7%, vs. family 23%, vs. contacts with friends 5%, vs. membership in an association 4%. Family contacts vs. getting together with friends 10%, vs. contacts with friends 30%, vs. membership 4%. Getting together with friends vs. contacts with friends 26%, membership 11%. Contacts with friends vs. membership 9%.

population. An important gradient appears with age: 14.7 percent of the elderly do not have (any contacts with) friends whereas it is 1.7 under the age of 30, 11.0 percent never get together with friends, vs. 1.4 percent under the age of 30. The elderly experiment loneliness: 21.1 percent of the 60+ are deprived (2 or more difficulties) against 5.7 percent of individuals aged under 30 years. In the target population, 21.0 percent are deprived, vs. 13.2 percent in the whole population.

1.5. *The Social participation dimension*

Items included in the *social participation dimension* are 1) not having any responsibilities in any association, 2) not volunteering, 3) not being a member of a political party, 4) not being a member of a trade union, 5) not having voted in the last elections⁸. A high number of persons are deprived (table 6) in the first four items, therefore the threshold is set at 5 in this dimension. The deprivation rate (5 items out of 5) is 20.1 percent for the whole population and it is higher in the target population: 24.7 percent. Elderly persons, probably because retirement provides more time, are more engaged in social participation: only 17.6 percent of them are deprived in this dimension (vs. 23.5 percent among younger persons).

1.6. *The working conditions dimension*

Quality of life depends on people's *working conditions*. This dimension only applies to those who work. Since 2008, France has included a module consisting of twelve items on working conditions that deals with 1) factors that can affect mental well-being like conflicts with customers, time pressure or being overloaded with work, 2) factors relating to physical well-being, like being exposed to hazards (dust, smoke, chemicals, etc), or night work, etc.

The discrepancies between the target population and all population concerning exposure to toxics, night work, conflicts with customers, and difficulties in family life or bad atmosphere between colleagues are low (table 7). Not getting the recognition one think s/he deserves affects more than 40 percent of people in both cases. The deprivation rate (5 or more difficulties) is 10.2 percent in the whole population and 12.3 percent in the target population. When one look at Q1 and Q3 the difference is bigger: 7.2 percent vs. 11.8 percent.

⁸ Voting is not mandatory in France.

1.7. *The education dimension*

At this preliminary stage, the dimension consists of two items: low education and no recent training. Concerning the absence of recent training surprisingly less people are deprived in the target population (table 8). More items would be required for the indicator to capture differences in literacy and numeracy; some could come from the future PIAAC⁹ survey.

The deprivation index (one difficulty or two) is 42.7 percent in the target population, which is very high compared to 28.3 percent in the whole population.

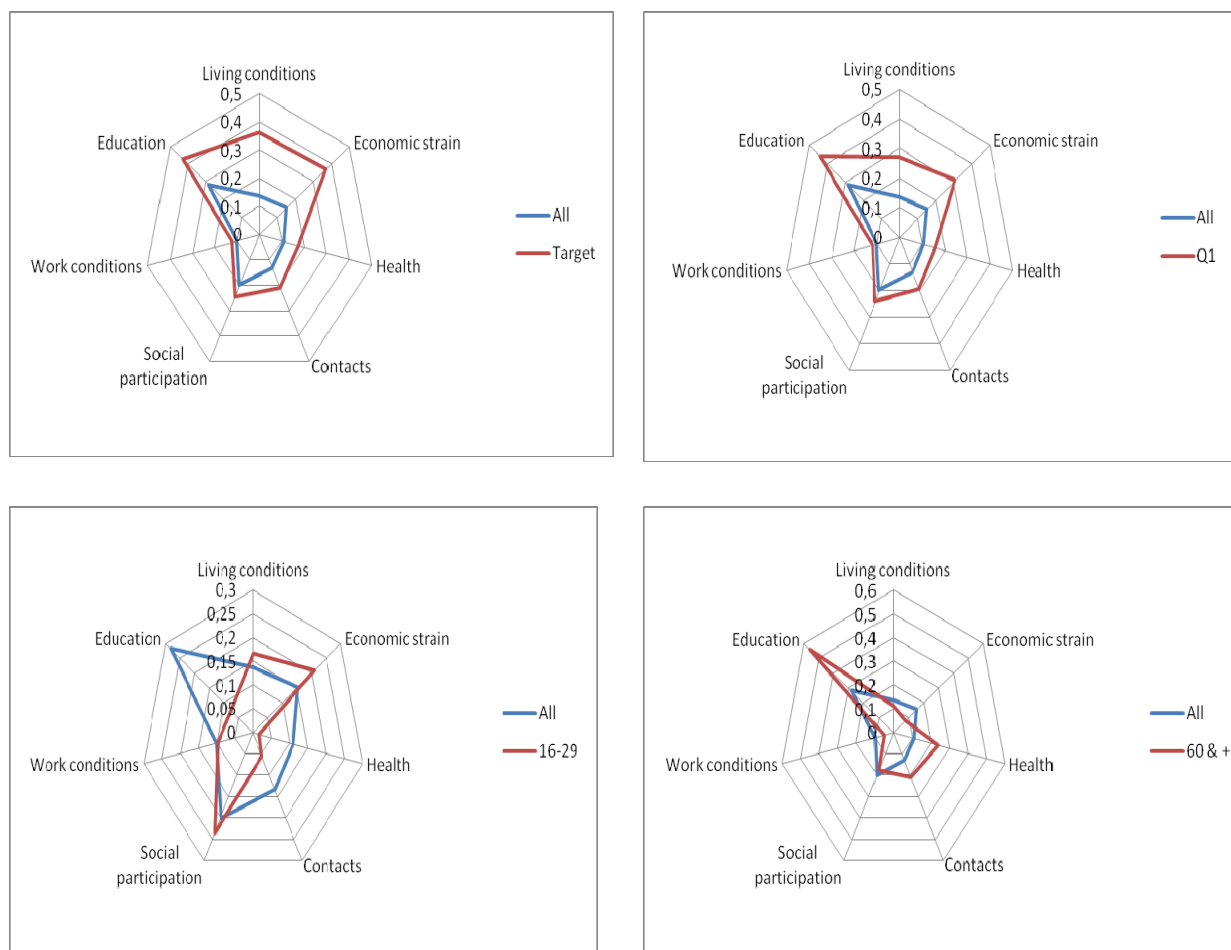
2. A composite multidimensional index

Compared to the whole population (figure 1), the target population and the first quartile of adjusted income face a greater risk of deprivation, in all the dimensions of quality of life (top left and right panel). Differences between the seniors and the younger vary from a dimension to another: the younger are less deprived than the overall population in the health dimension, in the education dimension (on average more educated), and in the contacts dimension (with a broader social network) whereas the older face economic strain less often and are less deprived in the living conditions dimension (most of them being retired the working condition dimension does not really apply to them).

If one isolates the target population vs. the rest of the population, this risk (odds) of deprivation is 5.9 times more important in the living condition dimension, 4.9 times more prevalent in the economic strain dimension, 2.0 times higher in the health dimension, 2.1 times higher concerning the social network, 1.4 times higher concerning social participation, 1.3 times higher concerning the working conditions, 2.2 times higher concerning education. Single parents face more problems in terms of quality of life (apart from the education dimension, because single parents are rather young, 38.3 years on average, see table 9, and therefore more graduated), as well as people with low income and low diploma. At this very first step, the same socio-economic factors seem to be at work in the different dimensions.

⁹ Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies

Figure 1. Radar charts: deprivation rate per dimension of quality of life



Source: EU-SILC, France

Note: each dimension is a spoke and a point on the spoke is the deprivation rate of the corresponding dimension. A line connects all the deprivation rates, forming a closed shape.

In order to summarize the information, table 9 presents a composite indicator of quality of life that aggregates those seven dimensions. It is the arithmetic mean of the deprivation rates; we preferred not to introduce any weighting of the dimensions: at this step, it could lead to strong debates about what should be the right weights. In 2010 SILC in France, we introduced a questionnaire on the importance that people assign to different dimensions of life. This will “objectify” the way people aggregate the different dimensions to build their global assessment of their quality of life and confirm if it is or not an average degree of satisfaction in various dimensions, weighted by their relative importance. Those data will be available in 2011.

An estimation of the quality of life index with different thresholds by dimension is given. The composite indicator is 15.9 percent in the target population, vs. 27.4 percent in the whole

population. If one considers it as an at risk-of-poverty-in-quality-of-life, this risk is 2.4 higher for the target population compared to the rest of the population. In the first variant, when we add one to each threshold by dimension, it is 2.3 higher; in the second variant, minus one to each of the thresholds, it is 1.6 higher. This preliminary multidimensional indicator lacks of transparency and of homogeneity, but it provides a measure that seems robust at this very first step. In some dimensions (social participation, education, health), the number of items should be increased. We will investigate other European surveys to reinforce the dimensions that are in the scope of this indicator.

References.

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- [4] Accardo J., Saint Pol (de) T., 2009, « Qu'est-ce qu'être pauvre aujourd'hui en Europe ? L'analyse du consensus sur les privations », *Économie et statistique*, n° 421. http://www.insee.fr/fr/ffc/docs_ffc/ES421A.pdf

Table 1. Housing: share of people affected by difficulty, and deprivation index (% 4 difficulties or more)

	All	Target	One person	Single parent	2 ad, no children	2 ad, children	Low education	16-29	60 & +	Q1 ¹⁰	Q3
Noisy	19,3%	24,9%	21,2%	25,3%	18,1%	18,3%	20,3%	22,6%	17,4%	24,1%	14,8%
Overcrowded ¹¹	10,0%	20,5%	15,3%	20,0%	1,8%	9,8%	11,2%	17,3%	3,7%	19,8%	3,6%
Keep home adequately in the right temperature	21,7%	31,0%	24,8%	27,2%	20,1%	19,9%	25,8%	22,6%	24,1%	29,3%	14,4%
Adequate electrical installations	11,2%	16,6%	12,5%	12,4%	10,7%	10,5%	12,7%	13,0%	10,4%	15,5%	9,1%
Damp walls/floor/foundation, or rot in window frames or floors	13,4%	21,0%	13,5%	19,6%	11,7%	13,0%	15,1%	16,7%	11,0%	19,8%	7,6%
Indoor bath or shower	0,9%	1,8%	2,1%	0,9%	0,6%	0,4%	2,1%	0,5%	1,8%	1,9%	0,3%
Central heating	5,8%	9,9%	7,3%	6,5%	4,7%	5,5%	9,4%	4,3%	7,2%	10,3%	2,3%
Hot running water	0,7%	1,4%	1,2%	0,9%	0,6%	0,4%	1,6%	0,5%	1,4%	1,3%	0,4%
Indoor flushing toilets	1,0%	1,9%	2,1%	1,6%	0,8%	0,5%	1,8%	0,8%	1,4%	1,9%	0,2%
Shortage of space? ¹²	13,4%	19,7%	13,1%	21,3%	6,4%	16,6%	12,2%	18,8%	5,1%	19,1%	8,8%
Adequate plumbing/water installations	14,3%	18,7%	13,2%	20,3%	12,4%	15,4%	13,6%	18,1%	11,0%	18,5%	11,9%
Dark dwelling	8,3%	12,0%	10,4%	9,4%	7,3%	8,1%	9,0%	9,5%	7,6%	10,8%	5,1%
Accessibility ¹³ of banking services	8,9%	8,8%	7,2%	9,7%	7,7%	10,2%	7,6%	10,9%	6,1%	9,5%	8,2%
Accessibility of compulsory school	2,5%	3,1%	0,0%	4,3%	0,0%	4,9%	2,5%	3,4%	0,1%	3,0%	1,7%
Accessibility of grocery services	3,0%	4,0%	2,9%	3,5%	2,5%	3,1%	3,7%	2,7%	3,4%	3,9%	2,5%
Accessibility of postal services	17,9%	15,0%	13,7%	17,8%	15,7%	21,3%	13,5%	20,6%	12,8%	15,1%	20,3%
Accessibility of primary health care services	5,5%	5,2%	4,4%	5,5%	4,5%	6,7%	5,7%	5,3%	4,6%	5,7%	5,0%
Accessibility of public transport	4,4%	6,3%	4,1%	5,9%	2,8%	5,3%	3,7%	5,3%	3,0%	5,4%	4,4%
Dwelling Index: deprivation index (4 difficulties or more)	12,6%	22,3%	14,3%	20,5%	7,7%	13,5%	14,1%	17,1%	8,3%	21,5%	6,5%

Source: EU-SILC 2007, weighted, 16+, France

¹⁰ Q1: Under the 1st quartile of equivalised total net income, and Q3: Below the third quartile of equivalised net total income.

¹¹ refers to an overcrowding indicator (France has developed an administrative definition of overcrowding, closed to Eurostat definition).

¹² refers to the respondent's opinion/feeling about shortage of space in dwelling.

¹³ refers to an objective and physical reality.

Table 2. Consumption and durables: share of people affected by difficulty, and deprivation index (% 5 difficulties or more)

	All	Target	One person	Single parent	2 ad, no children	2 ad, children	Low education	16-29	60 & +	Q1	Q3
Get together with friends /family for a drink/meal at least once a month	9,3%	27,4%	14,3%	21,2%	6,1%	6,9%	16,5%	8,3%	11,3%	19,4%	1,2%
Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself	11,7%	32,7%	17,0%	24,1%	5,5%	9,9%	16,8%	12,9%	9,8%	23,6%	1,8%
Two pairs of properly-fitting shoes	3,2%	11,7%	4,2%	9,0%	1,7%	2,7%	5,6%	3,0%	3,0%	7,3%	0,2%
Gifts to family or friend at least once a year	9,6%	31,9%	13,0%	19,1%	6,0%	7,4%	17,2%	9,3%	10,7%	21,5%	0,9%
One day during the last two weeks without at least one complete meal?	2,4%	8,7%	4,1%	7,1%	1,2%	1,7%	3,6%	2,8%	1,6%	5,1%	0,7%
Go on holiday away from home at least 1 week per year	30,1%	69,1%	38,1%	49,8%	21,1%	27,1%	44,2%	33,4%	30,9%	54,1%	5,5%
A meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day	6,8%	24,2%	10,8%	13,6%	4,3%	4,9%	10,0%	7,5%	6,2%	14,5%	1,2%
Replacing worn out furniture	31,8%	69,5%	37,6%	52,8%	23,3%	28,6%	43,4%	36,7%	30,3%	53,4%	7,5%
Capacity to face unforeseen (unexpected) expenses (800 euros)	31,3%	65,9%	38,3%	53,6%	20,6%	29,4%	42,0%	40,3%	24,8%	51,7%	6,8%
Replace worn out clothes by some new ones (not second hand)	6,4%	24,3%	10,8%	15,1%	3,5%	4,5%	11,0%	5,3%	6,8%	15,0%	0,5%
Subscription television package	10,4%	26,4%	13,2%	22,7%	6,3%	9,0%	16,3%	10,9%	10,7%	19,8%	1,7%
Freezer	1,7%	6,4%	3,1%	3,3%	0,7%	1,1%	2,3%	2,9%	0,7%	3,6%	0,4%
DVD player	1,6%	6,4%	3,3%	3,3%	1,0%	0,6%	3,4%	1,5%	2,4%	4,0%	0,2%
Fridge	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Internet connection	5,3%	16,3%	8,0%	12,9%	3,3%	3,6%	9,2%	5,7%	4,9%	10,8%	0,4%
Washing machine	0,8%	3,5%	2,9%	0,4%	0,4%	0,2%	1,1%	1,2%	0,5%	1,9%	0,0%
Microwave	1,0%	3,4%	2,4%	1,8%	0,6%	0,5%	2,0%	0,7%	1,8%	2,2%	0,3%
Personal computer	4,8%	14,2%	7,9%	10,3%	3,4%	3,0%	8,7%	4,5%	5,2%	9,7%	0,5%
Telephone (fix or mobile)	0,9%	4,2%	1,6%	2,3%	0,4%	0,7%	1,5%	1,1%	0,4%	2,1%	0,0%
Color TV	0,1%	0,6%	0,4%	0,1%	0,0%	0,0%	0,2%	0,1%	0,1%	0,3%	0,0%
Dishwasher	6,1%	18,7%	6,1%	13,9%	2,9%	6,0%	9,4%	8,7%	3,6%	12,3%	1,0%
Car	3,8%	15,4%	7,2%	11,1%	1,4%	1,9%	6,1%	4,8%	3,6%	8,8%	0,7%
Durables and consumption: deprivation index (5 difficulties or more)	14,6%	49,8%	22,5%	33,1%	7,2%	11,0%	24,4%	16,0%	13,8%	32,4%	1,2%
Living Condition Index	13,6%	36,1%	18,4%	26,8%	7,5%	12,2%	19,3%	16,6%	11,1%	26,9%	3,8%

Source: EU-SILC 2009, weighted, 16+, France

Table 3. Economic strain: share of people affected by difficulty, and deprivation index (% 3 difficulties or more)

	All	Target	One person	Single parent	2 ad, no children	2 ad, children	Low education	16-29	60 & +	Q1	Q3
Bank overdraft the last 12 months	10,6%	17,0%	7,4%	17,2%	6,0%	13,2%	8,9%	15,6%	3,1%	15,4%	5,8%
Arrears on mortgage payment	2,0%	5,0%	1,3%	3,2%	0,8%	2,2%	2,7%	3,1%	0,8%	3,9%	0,6%
Arrears on utility bills	5,3%	15,2%	4,3%	10,8%	2,0%	6,1%	6,4%	8,6%	1,7%	12,4%	0,8%
Financially comfortable, ability to make ends meet	15,0%	39,7%	17,8%	30,9%	7,9%	14,9%	20,3%	18,2%	11,8%	33,2%	3,3%
Arrears on tax paiements	2,0%	4,2%	1,5%	2,8%	1,1%	2,5%	2,2%	3,1%	0,8%	3,0%	0,8%
Arrears on rent payment	4,2%	13,3%	4,8%	11,6%	1,5%	4,1%	5,0%	7,0%	1,2%	10,2%	0,6%
Financial burden of the total housing cost	8,7%	7,1%	4,9%	8,0%	5,0%	13,7%	5,5%	9,3%	2,5%	7,9%	10,2%
No financial investment	14,7%	33,2%	17,4%	24,6%	10,4%	13,4%	21,6%	16,6%	12,7%	28,6%	5,1%
Balance the budget	18,2%	41,8%	18,8%	34,3%	10,1%	19,8%	22,0%	22,2%	12,7%	35,6%	5,9%
Get into savings to balance the budget during the last 12 months	34,6%	34,0%	30,4%	34,9%	33,6%	37,5%	32,7%	35,9%	31,8%	34,5%	28,6%
Economic strain: deprivation index (3 difficulties or more)	15,3%	37,2%	15,2%	29,5%	7,3%	17,3%	18,0%	21,0%	7,9%	30,8%	4,2%

Source: EU-SILC 2008, weighted, 16+, France

Table 4. Health: share of people affected by difficulty, and deprivation index (% 2 difficulties or more)

	All	Target	One person	Single parent	2 ad, no children	2 ad, children	Low education	16-29	60 & +	Q1	Q3
Satisfaction with health	8,2%	13,9%	11,9%	8,0%	11,3%	3,8%	17,2%	1,1%	18,3%	12,9%	4,2%
Any longstanding illness or longstanding health problem?	35,9%	40,5%	47,9%	29,4%	47,5%	23,0%	50,1%	14,1%	61,1%	40,0%	33,3%
Limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do? (since at least 6 months)	8,4%	12,9%	11,7%	8,0%	12,2%	3,7%	16,7%	1,4%	19,0%	11,4%	5,1%
Health Indicator: deprivation index (2 difficulties or more)	11,0%	17,7%	15,4%	10,9%	15,5%	5,1%	21,7%	1,7%	24,0%	15,9%	7,1%

Source: EU-SILC 2008, weighted, 16+, France

Table 5. Contacts: share of people affected by difficulty, and deprivation index (% 2 difficulties or more)

	All	Target	One person	Single parent	2 ad, no children	2 ad, children	Low education	16-29	60 & +	Q1	Q3
Frequency of contact with friends (never)	8,0%	11,9%	10,4%	8,0%	9,6%	5,9%	14,4%	1,7%	14,7%	11,8%	4,8%
Frequency of getting together with friends (never)	5,8%	8,9%	8,2%	6,8%	6,8%	3,6%	10,6%	1,4%	11,0%	8,0%	3,1%
Frequency of contact with relatives (never)	4,4%	7,2%	3,8%	6,1%	4,1%	4,2%	6,7%	4,0%	5,2%	7,3%	2,0%
Frequency of getting together with relatives (never)	2,1%	4,4%	2,5%	3,7%	1,3%	1,8%	3,0%	1,4%	2,0%	3,6%	1,2%
Participation in activities of recreational groups or organizations	74,4%	79,2%	74,9%	76,8%	75,3%	73,1%	75,2%	67,7%	72,9%	78,4%	69,6%
Contact Indicator: deprivation index (2 difficulties or more)	13,2%	21,0%	16,3%	15,3%	14,1%	10,2%	22,6%	5,7%	21,1%	19,3%	7,5%

Source: EU-SILC 2006, weighted, 16+, France

Table 6. Social participation: share of people affected by difficulty, and deprivation index (% 5 difficulties)

	All	Target	One person	Single parent	2 ad, no children	2 ad, children	Low education	16-29	60 & +	Q1	Q3
Responsibilities in an association (none)	93,5%	95,3%	94,1%	95,0%	92,8%	93,4%	96,5%	95,9%	93,3%	95,7%	91,2%
Volunteer	83,1%	84,5%	82,9%	85,9%	81,7%	83,5%	86,9%	87,3%	82,1%	85,4%	81,4%
Political party	99,4%	99,6%	99,2%	99,8%	99,3%	99,6%	99,8%	99,8%	99,3%	99,8%	99,0%
Trade Union	97,8%	99,2%	97,8%	98,4%	97,8%	97,5%	99,2%	99,1%	98,6%	99,1%	96,1%
Vote at the last elections (no) ¹⁴	24,1%	28,8%	27,6%	26,3%	21,9%	23,6%	25,6%	27,9%	20,3%	27,8%	17,7%
Social participation: deprivation index (5 items)	20,1%	24,7%	23,5%	22,2%	18,1%	19,3%	22,3%	23,5%	17,6%	23,9%	14,2%

Source: EU-SILC 2006, weighted, 16+, France

¹⁴ Referendum on European constitution: 69.4% of electors have participated according to the French Ministry of the Interior.

Table 7. Work conditions: share of people working affected by difficulty, and deprivation index (% 5 difficulties or more)

	All	Target	One person	Single parent	2 ad, no children	2 ad, children	Low education	16-29	60 & +	Q1	Q3
Repetitive, line work	16,6%	22,1%	16,6%	15,7%	17,3%	16,1%	29,6%	17,4%	12,4%	21,7%	11,0%
Good atmosphere between me and colleagues	5,0%	4,1%	4,8%	4,4%	4,6%	5,2%	8,0%	4,5%	2,6%	4,7%	3,6%
Opportunity to develop skills	16,5%	22,7%	17,4%	19,1%	18,1%	15,0%	18,6%	19,6%	11,4%	21,3%	12,7%
Exposed to toxics	15,3%	16,6%	16,8%	14,6%	15,1%	14,6%	22,4%	16,4%	11,0%	16,6%	10,3%
Night work	7,4%	8,0%	7,4%	5,2%	6,6%	8,1%	8,7%	7,1%	3,4%	7,8%	6,0%
Will I leave my job in the next twelve months?	12,7%	23,3%	17,2%	12,4%	14,7%	10,0%	11,1%	27,2%	6,0%	19,8%	9,1%
Physically demanding	34,4%	42,3%	32,2%	37,3%	35,0%	33,8%	53,5%	35,0%	32,7%	42,3%	24,1%
Time pressure due to a heavy workload	31,7%	27,6%	33,5%	29,1%	30,1%	31,6%	24,4%	28,0%	24,9%	26,0%	41,9%
Prospects for job advancement	60,5%	79,8%	57,6%	68,4%	61,4%	59,3%	79,2%	53,5%	91,0%	73,9%	52,5%
Involves conflicts with clients	15,0%	12,4%	14,1%	14,9%	14,8%	15,3%	9,0%	14,2%	10,2%	11,0%	18,8%
Difficult with family life	10,9%	12,0%	6,6%	13,9%	6,3%	15,0%	9,1%	7,8%	5,7%	12,2%	12,0%
Receive the recognition deserving for the work	44,2%	41,2%	40,0%	46,1%	45,6%	45,7%	40,6%	41,2%	32,4%	40,5%	40,1%
Work Indicator: deprivation index (5 difficulties or more)	10,2%	12,3%	14,3%	11,4%	10,4%	8,6%	13,6%	9,5%	5,0%	11,8%	7,2%

Source: EU-SILC 2007, weighted, 16+ working, France

Table 8. Education: share of people affected by difficulty, and deprivation index (% 1 difficulty or two)

	All	Target	One person	Single parent	2 ad, no children	2 ad, children	Low education	16-29	60 & +	Q1	Q3
Low Education	31,6%	45,5%	40,0%	30,9%	38,4%	21,3%	0,0%	15,9%	58,9%	47,3%	15,7%
Recent training	89,0%	86,6%	95,6%	76,3%	98,2%	82,0%	92,7%	55,7%	99,7%	85,5%	90,6%
Education Indicator: deprivation index (1 difficulty or two)	28,3%	42,7%	37,8%	25,2%	37,1%	16,0%	92,7%	7,4%	56,0%	43,7%	12,8%

Source: EU-SILC 2008, weighted, 16+, France

Table 9. Composite multidimensional index

	All	Target	One person	Single parent	2 ad, no children	2 ad, children	Low education	16-29	60 & +	Q1	Q3
Composite Quality of Life Indicator	15,9%	27,4%	20,1%	20,2%	15,7%	12,7%	30,0%	12,2%	20,4%	24,6%	8,1%
Quality of Life Indicator threshold +1 in each dimension	11,4%	20,1%	14,5%	14,2%	11,5%	8,9%	23,5%	8,7%	15,1%	18,0%	5,5%
Quality of Life Indicator threshold -1 in each dimension	50,4%	59,9%	54,5%	54,2%	50,3%	47,6%	56,7%	45,1%	52,2%	57,3%	43,7%
Individual samples composition											
Women	52,0%	55,4%	59,1%	63,4%	49,8%	48,6%	53,8%	49,8%	55,0%	54,2%	49,6%
Low Education	31,6%	45,5%	40,0%	30,9%	38,4%	21,3%		15,9%	58,9%	47,3%	15,7%
Mean Age	46,6	45,4	54,9	38,3	55,9	37,5	57,4	22,9	70,8	45,7	49,2

Source: EU-SILC 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, France

