

Social Progress Index 2021: Revised figures by federal entity

Press Release

November 28, 2022

For the fourth consecutive year, the Economic Observatory, México, ¿cómo vamos? presents the Social Progress Index (IPS) for the 32 federal entities in Mexico, this time with revised figures from 2015 to 2021.

This Index reviews the progress in the well-being and living standards of people in each of the states, which is why the IPS is not a snapshot of the last year, but a movie that tells stories of social progress and stagnation over seven years, comparing not only progress between states but also making a contrast exercise within the federal entity over time.

Six years of stagnation nationwide

In 2021, the national score of the IPS was estimated at 63 out of 100 possible points. This is the second-worst year since records have been kept; only in 2015 was a worse score observed (62.9), indicating stagnation in the social progress observed in the country over the last six years.

At the national level, in 2018, Mexico reached the highest score in social progress. That year, the peak of economic activity and investment growth in the country was reached, so it is evident that sustained growth is a necessary condition for social progress, but not sufficient if it is not accompanied by public policies aimed at sustainable use of economic resources to promote inclusive development.

Between 2015 and 2018, advances in the country's social progress were observed, with an accumulated increase of 1.9 points in that period, while in the following years, setbacks were observed. The accumulated decrease between 2018 and 2021 in social progress is 1.8 points. Furthermore, although in 2020 and 2021 (years impacted by the pandemic), greater decreases in the social progress score are observed, since 2019 (pre-pandemic year) a decrease of 0.3 points in observed social progress has been observed.

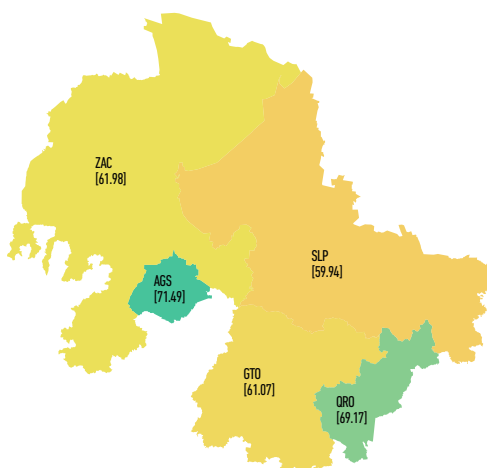
Regional impact has been differentiated: Bajío and Occidente

At the regional level, it is noteworthy that of the five states in the Bajío region, three improved their score in 2021 compared to 2020: Aguascalientes (+1.2 points), San Luis Potosí (+0.8 points), and Zacatecas (+0.7 points), while Guanajuato (-0.2 points) and Querétaro (-0.3 points) recorded slight decreases in IPS in the second year of the pandemic.

It is worth mentioning that Aguascalientes, along with Tabasco, are the only two states in the country that registered increases in the level of well-being of the IPS in the 2018-2021 period, while the other 30 suffered decreases in the quality of life of their inhabitants.

In addition, in the Bajío region, in the second year of the pandemic, both in Aguascalientes and Zacatecas, there were no increases in the number of deaths from Covid and other infectious diseases but reductions in the mortality rate from these causes, while San Luis Potosí, Guanajuato, and especially Querétaro showed significant increases in their mortality rates from infectious diseases.

1. El Bajío



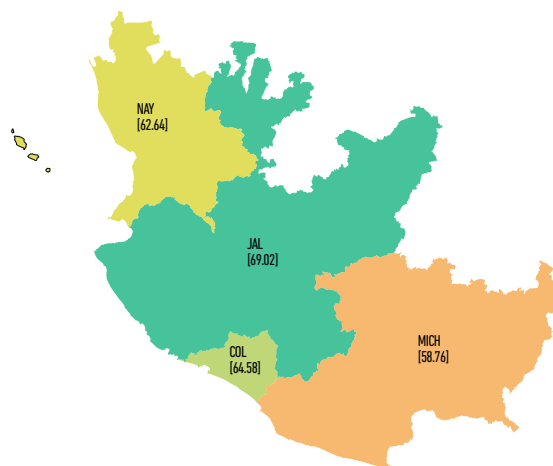
Note: the numbers in brackets show the state's Social Progress Index score for 2021, by federal entity.

The states in the Bajío region, in addition to sharing a similar territory and climate, have been characterized by the development of industry, science, and technology. For this reason, they not only share economic characteristics, but also similarities in their educational institutions and labor market, which require specialized labor; components of the Opportunities dimension of the Social Progress Index.

In contrast, in the Western region, all four states showed a setback in terms of the well-being reported by the Social Progress Index between 2020 and 2021: Colima (-1.8 points), Jalisco (-0.3 points), Michoacán (-1.6 points), and Nayarit (-1.5 points). Except for Jalisco, the other three states in the West registered significant losses in the quality of life of their inhabitants in shared elements, such as low enrollment in primary and secondary education, low trust in neighbors, high rates of homicides and insecurity, and low gender parity in higher education.

Regarding the entities with the greatest impact due to the large number of Covid deaths in the second year of the pandemic, Michoacán, Jalisco, and Colima were mostly affected in the West.

7. Occidente



The states in the Western region, in addition to economic activities such as commerce, share a diverse range of sectors ranging from the food industry to the great importance of the electronic industry in the export sector, which has allowed them to have a medium social development over the years.

To learn more about the regional analysis, visit the corresponding section of the IPS report 2015-2021.

More than two-thirds of the entities fell between 2020 and 2021.

Between 2020 and 2021, 24 entities suffered decreases in their IPS, seven presented increases in their score, and the state of Coahuila did not present changes. The five entities with the largest drops were Veracruz, Oaxaca, Puebla, Hidalgo, and Campeche, with losses greater than 2.5 points.

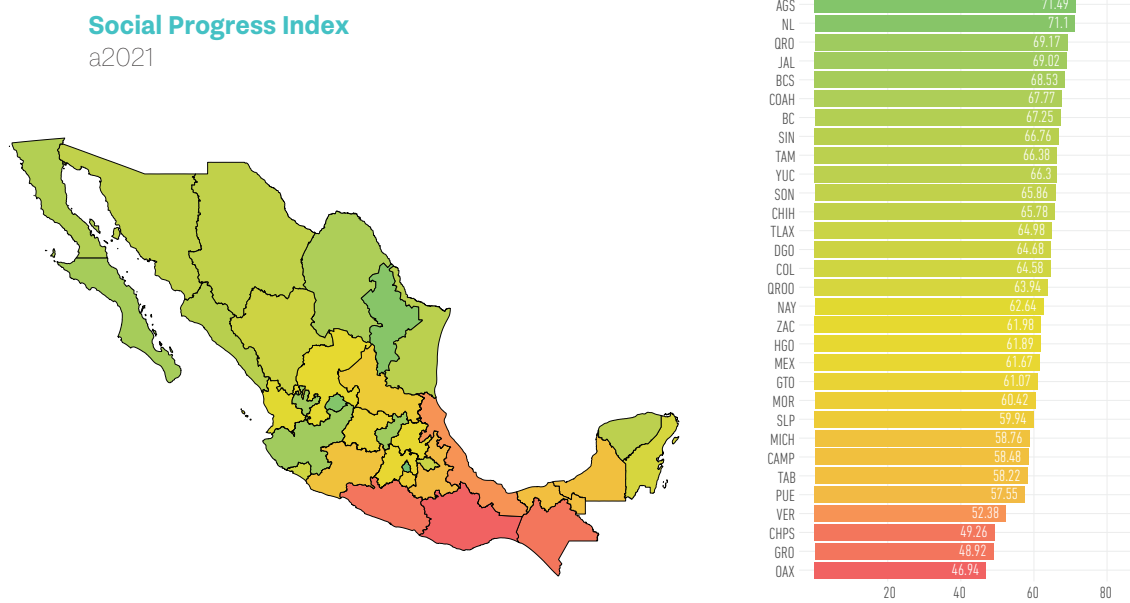
When taking the year 2018, which was the year in which the national IPS score was at its highest, the magnitude of the declines in social progress is of greater consideration. Between 2018 and 2021, 29 entities suffered decreases in their IPS, with only Aguascalientes and Tabasco showing increases, and Querétaro not presenting changes compared to 2018.

Social Progress Index

2015 - 2021

	National	AGS	BC	BES	CAMP	COAH	COL	CHPS	CHIH	COMX	DGO	GTO	GRO	HGO	JAL	MEX	MICH	MOR	NAY	NL	OAX	PUE	QRO	QROO	SLP	SIN	SON	TAB	TAM	TLAX	VER	YUC	ZAC	
YEARS	2015	62.9	68.4	67.8	68.4	61.9	64.6	68.5	49	63.1	72.5	63.9	61.1	48	61.4	67.7	64.4	59.2	61.1	63	71.1	50.8	59.4	68.9	65.5	60.8	65.2	67.1	56	64.8	64.6	56	62.9	61.6
	2016	63.3	69.4	69.5	69.2	61.6	67.2	65.4	51.2	66.5	73.2	66.4	62.8	47.6	63.1	68.5	64.1	59.8	61.8	65	70.1	49.6	60.2	67.7	66.7	61	66.1	67.5	57	64.9	62.9	54.9	65.1	62.1
	2017	63.8	69.4	68.4	67.6	62.1	67.5	65.6	52.2	66.2	73.5	65.8	63.3	48.6	62.3	68.8	65.9	60.6	62.3	64.1	70	50.5	61.3	68.6	67	60.6	68.3	69	57.1	64.7	63.5	56.2	66.9	62.1
	2018	64.8	71.3	68.3	69.7	61.8	68.6	67	52	67.4	75.8	65.8	63.9	50.3	63.4	69.8	66.2	62	64	64.9	72.3	52.6	63	69.2	66.9	62.2	68.4	70.4	56.8	67.3	65.5	57.1	66.7	63.8
	2019	64.5	71.9	68.8	69.6	61.5	69.1	64.8	52.1	66.8	75.1	66.1	62.9	48.4	64.1	70.1	65.6	61.5	64	65.7	72.8	52.2	62.3	69.2	66.1	62.2	68.7	69.5	57.5	68.3	64.9	56.3	68.4	63.7
	2020	64.1	70.7	68.7	69.7	61.1	67.8	66.4	51.7	64.3	72.3	67.1	61.3	49.9	64.6	69.3	63.7	60.4	61.7	64.1	72.9	50.2	60.4	71.1	64.3	59.1	67.6	67.9	56.8	67.5	63.9	56.6	66.9	61.3
	2021	63	71.5	67.2	68.5	58.5	67.8	64.6	49.3	65.8	73.1	64.7	61.1	48.9	61.9	69	61.7	58.8	60.4	62.6	71.1	46.9	57.6	69.2	63.9	59.9	66.8	65.9	58.2	66.4	65	52.4	66.3	62

In 2021, the five entities with the best performance are Mexico City, Aguascalientes, Nuevo León, Querétaro, and Jalisco. On the other hand, the five entities with the worst performance are Oaxaca, Guerrero, Chiapas, Veracruz, and Puebla.



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Gender parity: necessary condition for social progress

The Social Progress Index (IPS) is based on a range of social and environmental indicators that capture three dimensions of social progress: Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunities.

In the Foundations of Wellbeing dimension, one of the most relevant components is Access to Basic Knowledge. Within this, the variable of gender parity in secondary education is taken into account, since if there is no equitable access for all young people, we cannot speak of people having the educational foundations to improve their lives.

Gender parity in secondary education (% of women)

National aggregate:	50.26
Entity with the highest score:	51.16 (Chiapas)
Entity with the lowest score:	49.11 (Michoacán)

In the Opportunities dimension, the possibilities and tools that the inhabitants of each entity can access to achieve greater personal and professional development are evaluated. For this reason, it is the dimension that considers the most gender parity variables within its components of Personal Freedom and Choice, Inclusion, and Access to Higher Education.

Teenage pregnancy (% of registered births to women under 20 years of age)

National aggregate:	5.3
Entity with the highest score:	10.6 (Mexico City)
Entity with the lowest score:	18.2 (Chihuahua)

Gender parity in local congresses (% of women)

National aggregate:	50
Entity with the highest score:	65 (Morelos)
Entity with the lowest score:	42.4 (Sonora)

Average educational level of women over 15 years of age

National aggregate:	9.64
Entity with the highest score:	11.32 (Mexico City)
Entity with the lowest score:	7.5 (Chiapas)

Gender parity in postgraduate studies (% of women)

National aggregate:	54.21
Entity with the highest score:	61.67 (Hidalgo)
Entity with the lowest score:	46.29 (Quintana Roo)

Gender parity in undergraduate studies (% of women)

National aggregate:	52.75
Entity with the highest score:	55.45 (Guerrero)
Entity with the lowest score:	50.11 (Chiapas)

The Opportunities dimension is the vehicle that takes us towards a more inclusive society. As variables such as gender parity in higher education, average education level of women, and their participation in local congresses, as well as the inclusion of vulnerable populations such as indigenous people, the LGBTQ+ community, or people with disabilities increase, the diversity of participation in the country's democratic life is enriched.

Although this dimension has the lowest score (registering 55.6 out of 100 possible points in 2021), it is the only one that has shown progress since the beginning of the series. While one of the reasons why Opportunities did not present a setback even during the pandemic is the absence of components related to mortality, there is also progress in the components of Personal Rights and Inclusion. However, challenges such as corruption, decentralization of higher education, and labor informality persist throughout the national territory.

The findings are:

The analysis conducted in this edition of the IPS shows that the entities in which the commercial flow¹ as a percentage of the State's Gross Domestic Product is lower, are also the entities where a lower social progress is consistently observed (Veracruz, Guerrero, Chiapas, and Oaxaca). Although all entities have the same institutional framework, there are some that have not been able to integrate into the dynamics of international trade. Correcting this situation is not a matter of institutional design but of the differences in capacities and infrastructure between the country's entities. Overcoming the entry barrier in the most socially backward states is an opportunity to access better income opportunities, access to health services, and better education.

We conclude that inputs, infrastructure, and human capital in entities are decisive for social progress. Taking Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Guerrero as a reference - which have the lowest percentage of commercial flow relative to their GDP of the 32 entities in the country - it will not be possible to integrate them into the international trade dynamics observed in other entities in the country as long as they do not have sufficient infrastructure and human capital.

And while the need for greater investment in infrastructure, health, and education is more pressing in the southern states of the country, it is not exclusive to this region, as there are marked differences in social progress observed in the different regions of the country.

Additionally, one of the most relevant lessons of the Social Progress Index is that things improve very slowly in Mexico, and they can deteriorate rapidly. Therefore, solutions must be comprehensive, structured, and long-term. Backwardness in well-being demands evaluations that allow for effective strategies to be designed.

We hope that the data and conclusions of this analysis will be taken up by legislators, government officials, and the private sector for various objectives, so that it not only serves to document social progress or the lack of it but also to revolutionize the solutions designed and implemented subsequently to Mexico's deepest problems: poverty, inequality, and lack of social mobility.

Technical note: What is the Social Progress Index?

The Social Progress Index (SPI) is the first holistic measurement of a country's social performance that is independent of economic factors. The index is based on a range of social and environmental indicators that capture three dimensions of social progress: Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunities.

Although this measure is independent of economic indicators, it does not seek to replace them but rather complement them. Its main purpose is to evaluate those questions that truly matter in people's lives: Do I have a home that provides me with protection? Do I have enough to eat? Do I have access to education?

México, ¿cómo vamos?, together with the Social Progress Imperative initiative, presents the SPI 2015-2021 series in Mexico in order to provide a timely measurement tool and influence public policies for social development that focus resources on the particular needs of each state in the country.

1 In the 2021 Social Progress Index study, the relationship between social progress and trade openness was analyzed using commercial flow (exports + imports) as a proxy variable for each state as a percentage of their GDP (Gross Domestic Product) excluding petroleum activity.

The Economic Observatory **México, ¿cómo vamos?** is a collective of social scientists and researchers that promotes sustainable and continuous economic growth in order to generate more and better jobs and promote well-being for all people. What matters is moving forward; knowing how we are doing, not just how we stand.

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