Regional Residence Survey in Iceland – the immigrants' view

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DEIGLAN

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Survey objectives

- Estimates
 - General life satisfaction across Iceland, living conditions and the future outlook and expectations
 - Labour market situation
 - Quality of life (QoL), 40 different factors

General information

- More than 10,000 respondents
- Conducted in the fall of 2023 and 2024
- Random sample
- Web survey
- Largest shortfall
 - Young citizens and citizens of foreign origin (900) should have been a larger proportion of the respondents.
- Another shortfall
 - Men should have been a somewhat larger ratio of the respondents, as well.

24 regions that participated



Three key questions

- Level-of-QoL (Condition): How good or bad do you consider the quality of the following subjects in your municipality?
- 2. Importance-of-QoL: How important do you consider different subjects for your continuing residency in your municipality?
- **3. Out-migration**: How likely do you consider that you will move from the region where you live in Iceland within the next two years?

Acronym and full description, first 20

Acronym (alphab. order)	Full description
Air-quality	Air quality (absence of pollution by suspended dust particles exhaust fumes etc.
Appearance	The appearance of town and country together with general tidiness and hygiene
Care homes	Elderly homes
Communications	Public transport
Community	Good community
Compulsory schools	Quality of elementary schools
Cost of living	Cost of living
Culture	Culture
Disabled	Services for the disabled
Electricity	Electricity
Environment	General environmental issues
Financial problems	Assistance and support of unemployed persons seeking work and those in difficult financial circumstances
Good prices	Price level
Good selection	Diversity of retail and services
Healthcare	Quality of clinics/hospitals
Housing	Diversity of housing for sale
Immigrants	Foreign citizen services
Internet	Internet connection
Job diversity	Diversity of employment opportunities
Job security	Employment security

Acronym and full description, last 20

Acronym (alphab. order)	Full description
Leisure activities	Diversity of amusement
Mobile	Mobile phone connection
Music school	Music schools
Nature	Proximity to diverse nature
Own business	Self-employment/Innovation opportunities
Рау	Salaries and/or wages
Preschool	Quality of preschools
Rental housing	Diversity of housing for rent
Road system	Road infrastructure
Safety	Public safety
Secondary school	Opportunities for upper secondary edudation
Seniors	Services for the retired
Sports	Opportunities for sport/leisure/pastime
Traffic	Road congestion
Traffic safety	Road safety
Tranquility	Tranquility
University	Opportunities for university education
Urban planning	Planning/urban planning
Waste removal	Garbage removal
Youth activities	Quality of youth programmes

How good or bad do you consider the quality of the following subjects of your municipality (highest 20 QoL)?



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How good or bad do you consider the quality of the following subjects of your municipality (lowest 20 QoL)?



How important to you consider different subjects for your continuing residency in your municipality? (20 most important, QoL)



■2023 ●2020

How important to you consider different subjects for your continuing residency in your municipality? (20 least important, QoL)



Condition and importance in one figure and its interpretations

- The next figure can be interpreted in the following manner:
 - Factors located in the upper right section of the figure are classified among the "best" since their condition is best and their importance highest.
 - Factors located in the lower right section of the figure are classified among the "worst" since their condition is worst and their importance highest.
 - Factors located in the other two sections are between the worst and the best ("second worst" and "second best").



Two first key questions presented in one figure, QoL. All immigrants 2023 (ca 600). Labour market factors noted by red fonts



A comparison: Condition and importance in one figure and how to interpret

- The next four figures present a comparison of the condition and importance of QoL-factors in one figure. Four sections become visible in the figure. Two groups of respondents are compared: A focus group and a control group. The focus group is always noted first in the slide's (page) title.
 - The upper right section (blue), contains QoLfactors that are better in the focus group than the control group and more significant as well.
 - The lower right section (red), contains QoL-factors that are worse in the focusgroup than the controlgroup and more significant as well.
 - The lower left section (yellow), contains QoLfactors that are worse in the focusgroup than the controlgroup and less significant as well.
 - The upper left section (green), contains QoLfactors that are better in the focusgroup than the controlgroup and less significant as well.



Comparison of survey 2023 (ca 600) and 2020 (ca 900)



Comparison of immigrants (ca 600) and Icelanders 2023 (ca 10.000)



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Comparison of Immigrants in the capital area (ca 150) and elsewhere (ca 450)



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Comparison of Immigrants in the greater capital area (ca 300) and elsewhere (ca 300)



Other interesting questions

Do you generally consider your current location of residence to be good or bad?



Do you consider it likely or unlikely that you will change your residence during the next two years?



To what extent do you have the option to carry out your work anywhere you wish so that your occupation may be termed as non-local (occupation without specific locality)?



Have you made use of counselling services under the auspices of regional associations in the form of seeking counselling, grant application and suchlike during the past two years?



Have you made use of counselling services under the auspices of regional associations in the form of seeking counselling, grant application and suchlike during the past two years?



All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole now? 10 satisfied.....1 dissatisfied.



1 was the possible minimum value and 10 the possible maximum value

All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as-a-whole now? 10 satisfied.....1 dissatisfied.



1 was the possible minimum value and 10 possible maximum value

Generally speaking, how positive or negative is your attitude to the services of the municipality where you live?



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How well do you think your municipality seeks the views and opinions of the inhabitants?



How do you feel about the number of tourists in your home district. Do you feel there are too few tourists in your home district, too many or just about the right number?



Survey questions

Survey questions, first 20

- 1. Do you agree to participate in this survey?
- 2. What is your gender?
- 3. What is your year of birth?
- 4. Which of the following best describes your home?
- 5. Is your residence in an urban or a rural area?
- 6. In which location (population centre) do you live?
- 7. In which municipality do you live?
- 8. In total, how long have you lived in your municipality (in number of years)? Approximately in years. Please answer what describes your situation best.
- 9. In which part (region) of the country do you live?
- 10. Are you an Icelandic citizen?
- 11. How long have you lived in Iceland? Approximately in years. Please answer what describes your situation best.
- 12. How would you assess your skills in Icelandic on a scale of 0 to 10? 0 cannot express myself in Icelandic at all; 10 if you are able to communicate (speak and write) as well in Icelandic as in your own language.
- 13. How good or bad do you consider the quality of the following subjects in your municipality? Please check the applicable option closest to being correct.
- 14. Do you generally consider your current location of residence to be good or bad?
- 15. How important to you consider different subjects for your continuing residency in your municipality? Please check the applicable option closest to being correct.
- 16. Do you consider it likely or unlikely that you will change your residence during the next two years? This applies to moving out of the municipality, not within it.
- 17. Are you prepared to indicate the reasons for your anticipated change of residence during the next two years?
- 18. What is your employment status?
- 19. Within what field of work is your main employment? Please answer what you consider describing your situation best. If you are neither an employee nor employer, please leave out this question.
- 20. What is the distance between your place of work and your residence? Please estimate the distance, one way in 32 kilometres, to the workstation you use most frequently.

Survey questions, 21-35

- 21. In which municipality do you work/have your workstation? Check the municipality where most of your work is done if you operate in several municipalities.
- 22. To what extent do you have the option to carry out your work anywhere you wish so that your occupation may be termed as non-local (occupation without specific locality)? Please answer what you consider your situation best
- 23. Within what sector is your employment status? Please answer that you consider describes your situation best.
- 24. How long have you worked in your current occupation? Approximately in years. Please answer what describes your situation best.
- 25. How long have you worked for your current employer? Approximately in years. Please answer what describes your situation best.
- 26. What is your Job proportion? If you are not in full employment, please estimate (roughly) your job proportion and answer in numeric fraction. For example, if you are in half employment answer 0,5 and if you are in one and half position, response 1,5. Please count all positions if you have many employers.
- 27. What is your total income, prior to taxes per month, in Icelandic Krónur (kr.)? Please consider all income: pensions, student loans and unemployment benefits, but not child benefits nor other social benefits, investment revenues nor rental incomes.
- 28. What is your education? Please list all completed education.
- 29. Have you made use of counselling services under the auspices of regional associations in the form of seeking counselling, grant application and suchlike during the past two years? The regional associations are as follows: Hekla in the Southern Peninsula, Association of Municipalities in West Iceland (SSV), Vestfjarðastofa Municipal Association in the West Fjords, Association of Municipalities in North West Iceland (SSNV), Association of Municipalities and Industrial Development in North East Iceland (SSNE), Austurbrú in East Iceland and the Association of Municipalities in South Iceland (SASS)?
- 30. All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole now? 10 satisfied.....1 dissatisfied.
- 31. Generally speaking, how positive or negative is your attitude to the services of the municipality where you live?
- 32. What are the main reasons for your answer to the previous question?
- 33. How well do you think your municipality seeks the views and opinions of the inhabitants?
- 34. How do you feel about the number of tourists in your home district. Do you feel there are too few tourists in your home district, too many or just about the right number?
- 35. Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?