THE FAIRNESS INDEX

An online tool to examine and explain the nature, causes and consequences of key inequalities in the UK

HOW FAIR IS THE UK?

We all feel strongly about fairness. But people have different views about what fairness means.

We have boiled it down to a set of five principles that we think define a fair society, which we call the *fair necessities:*

Polling that we carried out in April 2022 shows that the *fair necessities* have strong public support.

- FAIR ESSENTIALS
- FAIR OPPORTUNITIES
- FAIR REWARDS
- FAIR EXCHANGE
- FAIR TREATMENT

Now we are looking at whether each of these five *fair necessities* has been realised in the UK, to help us to answer a simple question: *do we live in a fair society?*

WHAT IS THE FAIRNESS INDEX?

The Fairness Index is a regularly updated online resource that aims to collate and explain the key data about how fair British society is today.

It examines five key gaps in British society, linked to the *fair necessities*: wealth, education, pay, tax, and health. For each of them, it looks at the gaps between rich and poor and between different groups, and the gaps between reality and public perceptions and preferences.

It puts the statistics into context and explains why the gaps are unfair, how they reinforce each other, and what can be done about them.

HOW CAN I USE IT?

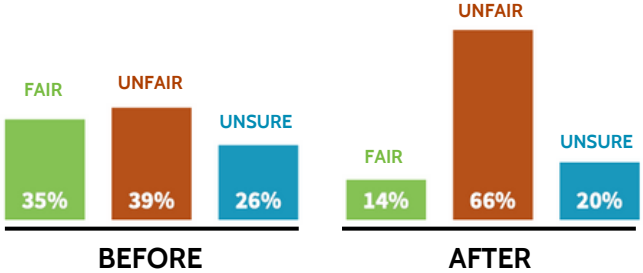
The Fairness Index is aimed at a general audience, but is also designed to help social change organisations to build support for their goals by explaining how and why the problems that they seek to address are unfair.

It is based around fifteen indicators, three for each of the five 'fair necessities'.

As well as the headline indicators, the index contains detailed context in five areas: additional *statistics* (such as regional and group breakdowns), the *substance* of the issues (causes and consequences), real-life *stories*, *survey* data on public attitudes, and the *solutions* to build a fairer society.

WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK?

We asked 2,000 adults across Britain whether British society is fair or unfair, but we asked half for their gut feeling *before* seeing the indicators from our index, and half for their views *after* seeing the index indicators, with very different results.



Source: More in Common / Fairness Foundation, August 2022

The Fairness Index is at www.fairness.org.uk and #fairnessindex

FAIRNESS FOUNDATION

THE FAIRNESS INDEX

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Fair ESSENTIALS

The richest 20% own 63% of the country's wealth, while the poorest 20% own just 0.6%

Office for National Statistics, 2020

21% of people in the UK (14 million people) live in poverty

Social Metrics Commission, 2021

34% of people in the UK are unable to maintain a decent standard of living

New Economics Foundation, 2022

Fair OPPORTUNITIES

Disadvantaged children are 18.1 months behind their peers by the time they take their GCSEs

Education Policy Institute, 2020

29% of disadvantaged pupils go to university, compared to 49% of non-disadvantaged pupils

Department for Education, 2023

22% of disadvantaged graduates become top quintile earners, compared to 46% of privately educated graduates

Sutton Trust / Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2021

Fair REWARDS

The median FTSE 100 CEO is paid 79 times more than their median employee

High Pay Centre, 2022

The average of the gender, ethnicity and disability pay gaps (for the same jobs) is 11%

Office for National Statistics, 2021

12% of employees in the UK (3.5 million jobs) are paid below the real living wage

Living Wage Foundation, 2022

Fair EXCHANGE

Some people earning £10 million pay a 21% tax rate, similar to the rate paid by a median earner on £30,000

University of Warwick, 2020

Low-income households spend two to four times more (as a % of income) on council tax than richer households

Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2020

23 times more people were prosecuted for benefits crimes in the last 11 years than for tax crimes that cost 9 times more

TaxWatch, 2021

Fair TREATMENT

The richest 10% in the UK enjoy an average of 18.5 years more years of healthy life than the poorest 10%

Office for National Statistics, 2020

14% of occupied homes (3.4 million homes) do not meet basic standards of comfort, repair, facilities and safety

English Housing Survey, 2022

Someone in the top 1% in the UK emits 25 times more CO2 equivalent than someone in the bottom 10%

World Inequality Database, 2022

www.fairnessfoundation.com/fairness-index

#fairnessindex