



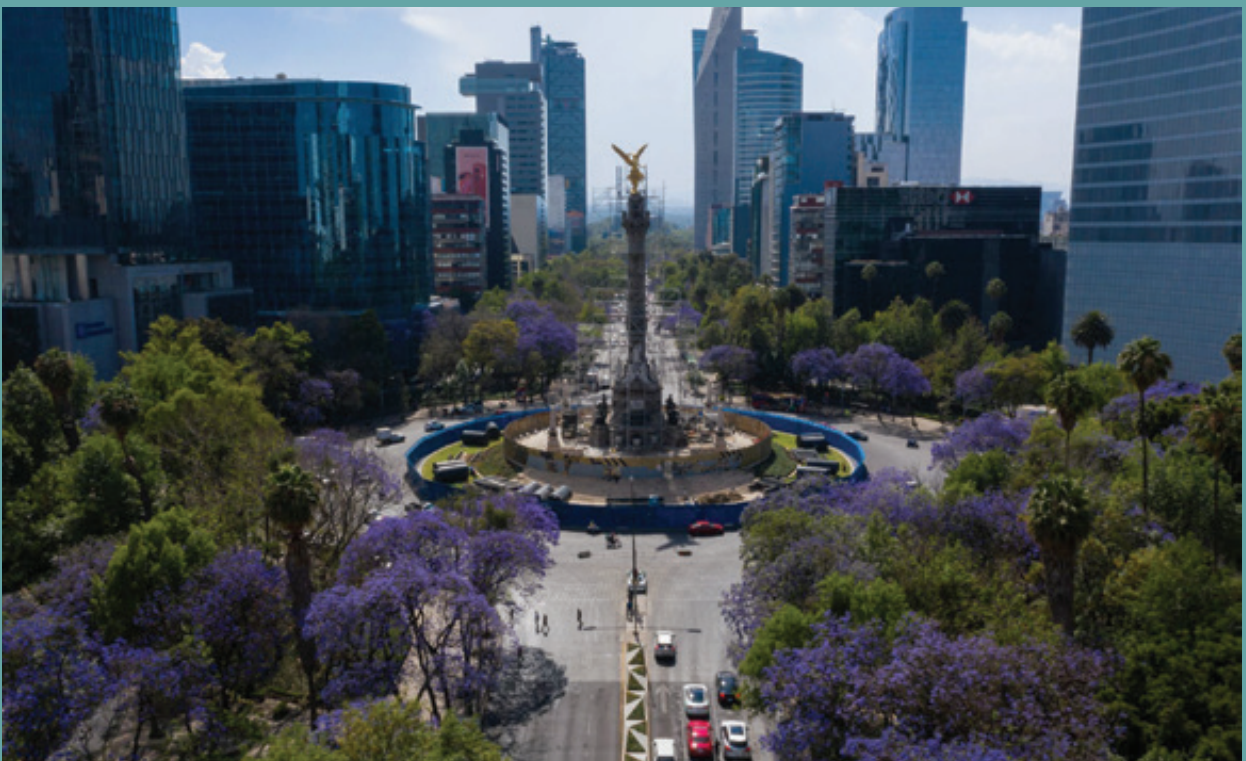
SOCIAL PROGRESS

SANDRA MARTÍNEZ PEÑA

Sandra Martínez Peña is an analyst at México, ¿cómo vamos?¹, a think tank based in Mexico City. México, ¿cómo vamos? is dedicated to providing economic information to understand the current economic landscape and its future trajectory. It also generates proposals to drive sustainable economic growth and foster equitable social progress across all states of Mexico.

[1] México, ¿cómo vamos? (pronounced MEH-hee-koh, KOH-moh VAH-mohs) translates to "Mexico, how are we doing?"

Towards Shared Prosperity: The Drive for Social Progress in Mexico City



| The Ángel de la Independencia monument, located in Mexico City.
Image: Galo Cañas / cuartoscuro.com

Beyond economic growth indicators, having a measure of a city's social and environmental well-being enables better understanding of its population's living conditions and the formulation of more effective public policies. To assess well-being in Mexico City, Mexico, *¿cómo vamos?* and the Social Progress Imperative collaborate to publish the Social Progress Index (SPI) 2015-2023 for Mexico.



Progress does not happen in isolation: collaborative ecosystems are essential to driving more equitable and sustainable development.



In Mexico, Mexico City leads in social progress with strengths in housing quality and education. It has also made significant strides in developing green spaces and sustainable transportation through leveraging collaborative ecosystems. The state demonstrates how cooperation is key to delivering tangible impact on people's well-being.

Social Progress Index: Going Beyond GDP

The Social Progress Index (SPI) 2015-2023 for Mexico measures social performance across the 32 states of the country. Setting aside economic variables, the SPI focuses on how well society provides for its people by analysing 49 social and environmental indicators that contribute to 3 dimensions of social progress: Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Well-being, and Opportunities. Each dimension includes four subcomponents.

The index is measured on a scale from 0 to 100, where 100 represents the highest possible social progress. In 2023, the most recent edition, the national SPI attained a record 65.8 points.

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Economic growth and social progress reinforce each other in a virtuous cycle. While growth is necessary, it is not a sufficient condition for improving well-being.

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While regional inequalities persist, the states historically in the lead in social progress maintained their top positions. These included its capital, Mexico City (CDMX), located in the centre of the country and Mexico's capital city; Aguascalientes (AGS) in the Bajío region; and Baja California Sur (BCS) in the north. All three scored above 72 points, with Mexico City standing out for its concentration and quality of public services, while states in the Bajío and northern border regions achieved higher levels of social progress through high industrial activity and direct connectivity to the United States' export market, respectively.

In contrast, states in the southeastern region faced a historical lag, with Guerrero (GRO), Oaxaca (OAX), and Chiapas (CHPS) showing the lowest social progress, scoring below 56 points.

Mexico City's Social Progress Leadership and Strengths

Throughout the SPI series, Mexico City has remained among the top four states with the highest social progress, ranking first in the two most recent editions. Mexico City exceeded the national average with its index score of 74.9 points—compared with 65.8 nationally—as well as in each of the three dimensions.

Social Progress Index Score, 2023

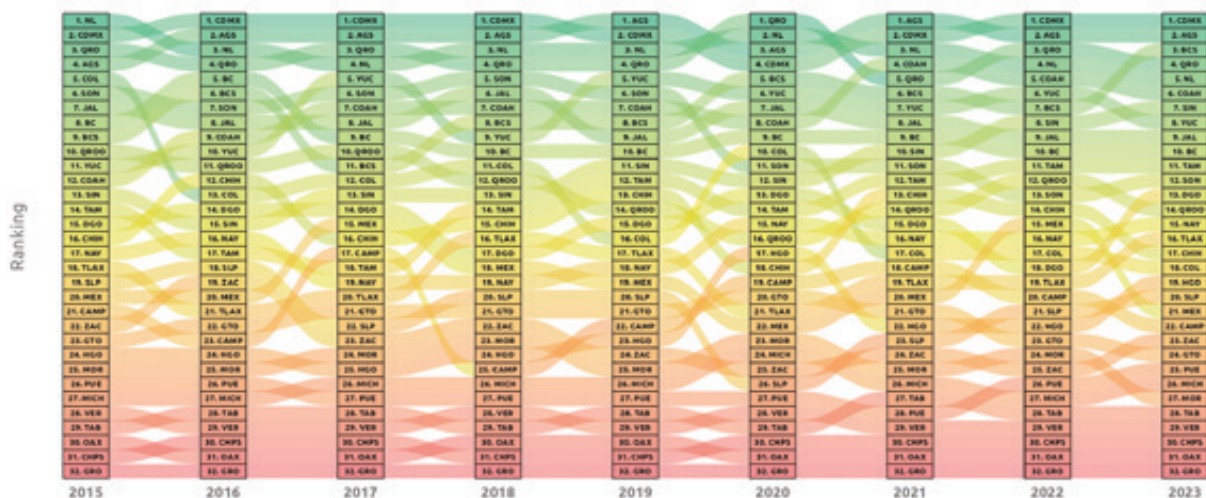


CDMX	74.9
AGS	73.7
BCS	72.5
QRO	71.6
NL	71.3
COAH	71.2
SIN	70.9
YUC	70.7
JAL	70.0
BC	69.4
TAM	69.1
SON	67.8
DGO	67.6
QROO	67.4
NAY	66.9
TLAX	66.5
CHIH	66.5
COL	66.3
Nacional	65.8
HGO	65.2
SLP	65.2
MEX	65.0
CAMP	64.7
ZAC	64.4
GTO	64.4
PUE	63.1
MICH	62.5
MOR	61.2
TAB	60.4
VER	58.3
CHPS	55.6
OAX	55.6
GRO	53.8

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Mexico City's score on the Social Progress Index Score of 2023 demonstrates Mexico City's continuous lead in social progress as compared to the rest of Mexico.
Image: México, ¿cómo vamos?

Social Progress Index Ranking 2015 - 2023

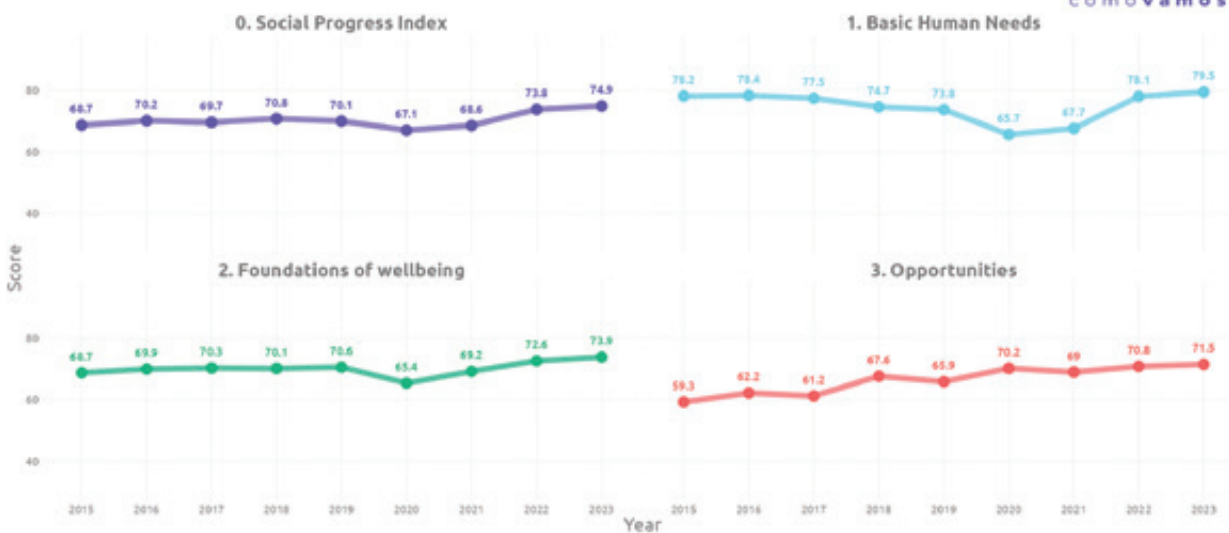


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Mexico City's score on the Social Progress Index ranking exceeds the national average.
Image: México, ¿cómo vamos?

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Score obtained on the Social Progress Index and its dimensions CDMX | 2015 - 2023

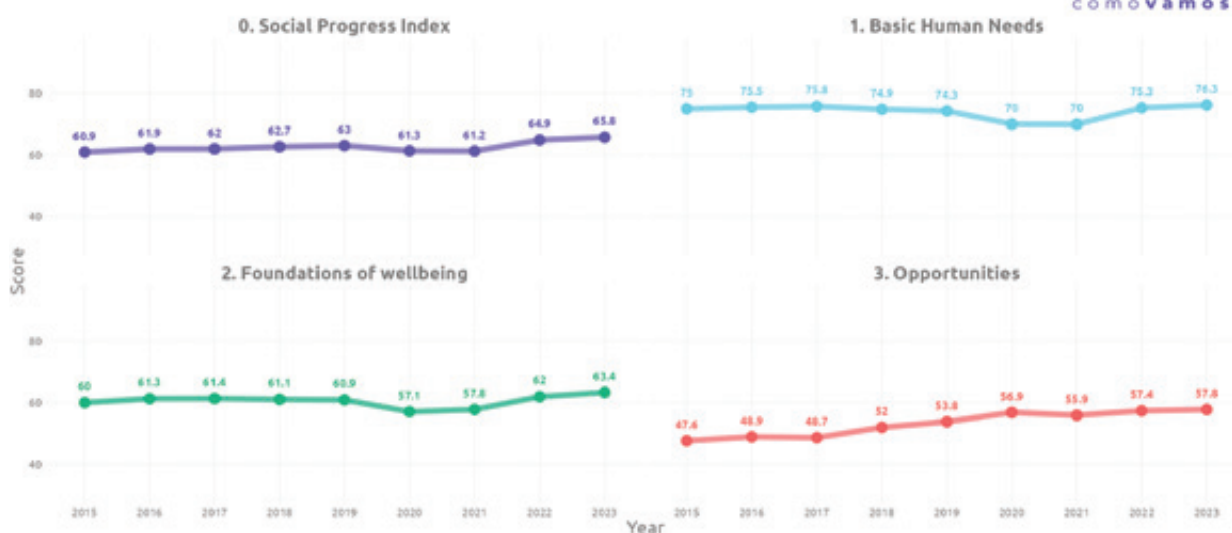


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Mexico City's scores obtained on the Social Progress Index and its dimensions, including basic human needs, foundations of well-being, and opportunities.
Image: México, ¿cómo vamos?

Score obtained on the Social Progress Index and its dimensions

National | 2015 - 2023



MADE BY MÉXICO, ¿CÓMO VAMOS? WITH PUBLIC DATA

Mexico's scores obtained on the Social Progress Index and its dimensions, including basic human needs, foundations of well-being, and opportunities.
Image: México, ¿cómo vamos?

Mexico City's Strengths in the Social Progress Index Indicators

Mexico City also stands out in a large number of the 49 indicators that make up the index. For example, in the Basic Human Needs dimension, Mexico City topped national rankings for having fewest *households that cook with firewood or charcoal (%)*, and was third best for *households with dirt floors (%)*. Its score of 11.4% for *food insecurity (% of the population)* was surpassed only by two northern Mexico entities, Chihuahua (9.7%) and Baja California (10%).

Of the 15 Foundations of Well-being dimension indicators, Mexico City led in six: *illiteracy (% of the population)*, *primary education enrolment (net enrolment rate)*, *secondary education enrolment (net enrolment rate)*, *households with computers (%)*, *households with internet connection (%)*, and

households that bury or burn waste (%). This underscores the capital's leadership in providing access to basic knowledge, education and connectivity.

In the Opportunities dimension, Mexico City showed strong performance in higher education-related variables, particularly indicators such as *higher education coverage (% of the population aged 18 to 23 with higher education)* and *national postgraduates (rate per 100,000 inhabitants)*. This is consistent with the concentration of higher education institutions in the capital. This may also reflect student migration from other states to the capital in pursuit of higher education and their families' ability to provide financial support for their migration, which further enhances the city's human capital.

To continue driving social progress in Mexico City, it is crucial to implement actions that strengthen this virtuous cycle and promote equitable well-being.

Opportunities for Enhancing Mexico City's Social Progress

While Mexico City's strengths are notable, insights into the areas for improvement are essential for advancing its social progress.

In the Basic Human Needs dimension, one of the most concerning indicators is the maternal mortality ratio (maternal deaths/100,000 births), which saw Mexico City ranked among the highest nationwide. Despite the high concentration of primary healthcare centres in the city, it was significantly outperformed by the likes of Campeche in southern Mexico and San Luis Potosí in the Bajío region.

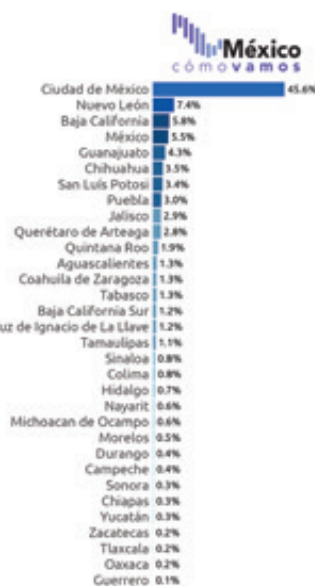
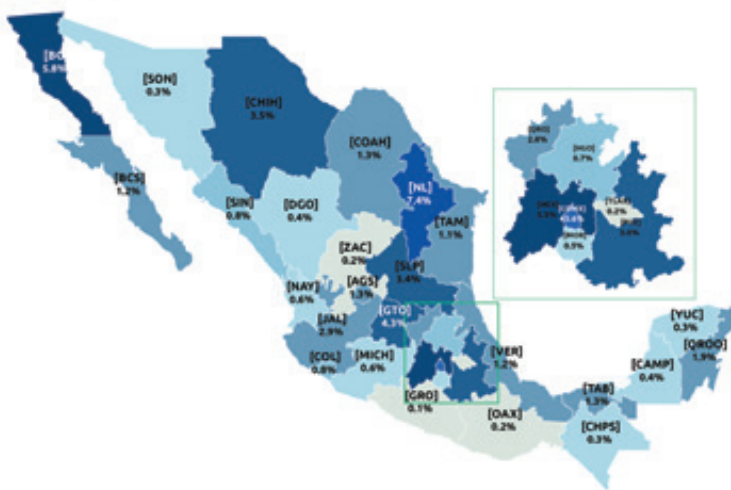
Similarly, Mexico City's performance was low on indicators including violent crime and perception of insecurity (% of the population). In Mexico City, 8 out of 10 people reported feeling unsafe—a stark contrast to 3 out of 10 in Baja California Sur.

Under the Foundations of Well-Being dimension, Mexico City ranked second-highest nationwide for mortality rate from circulatory diseases—more than double that of best performing state, Quintana Roo. Finally, in the Opportunities dimension, ranking fourth-highest nationwide for the employed population that spends more than two hours commuting to work, makes this a critical area for improvement.

The Virtuous Cycle of Growth and Social Progress

Economic growth and social progress reinforce each other in a virtuous cycle. While growth is necessary, it is not a sufficient condition for improving well-being. With investments tending to concentrate in states with higher social progress, the availability of public services, infrastructure and human capital often drives and accelerates investments and growth. Foreign direct investment levels in the financial hub of Mexico City, and northern states such as Nuevo León and Baja California, which rank among the SPI's top ten, reflect this trend.

Percentage of Foreign Direct Investment by state, as of 2Q2024



MADE BY MÉXICO, ¿CÓMO VAMOS? WITH DATA FROM THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

Percentage of Foreign Direct Investment by state in Mexico, as of 2Q2024.
Image: México, ¿cómo vamos?



Aerial view showing Parque Lineal Gran Canal, a linear park that showcases Mexico City's commitment to transforming degraded areas into a green corridor with public spaces that reconnect communities.

Image: Mexico City government

Boosting Social Progress Through Private-Public Cooperation

To continue driving social progress in Mexico City, it is crucial to implement actions that strengthen this virtuous cycle and promote equitable well-being. To this end, collaborative ecosystems play a fundamental role as cooperation among various societal actors enables the construction of shared prosperity. It is essential to evaluate Mexico City's joint initiatives for strengthening social progress and shared prosperity.

Driving Social Progress Through Collaborative Development of Green Spaces

Understanding the direct impact of green space availability and accessibility on the population's well-being, Mexico City has been working synergistically with various stakeholders to create and maintain these spaces.

Lago Alberto Park in Mexico City's Miguel Hidalgo municipality was developed through private investment: Grupo Metrópoli donated the land as part of a regulatory mitigation project, while Grupo Modelo manages its conservation and maintenance. Similarly, Presa Tarango Park in the Álvaro Obregón municipality was developed in cooperation with the Aspen Institute, along with other sponsors who financed

the city's first mini-pitch designed to accommodate multiple sports disciplines.

Beyond their recreational value, green spaces also influence perceptions of safety—one of Mexico City's key areas of opportunity—particularly when abandoned areas are revitalised. A notable example is the Parque Lineal Gran Canal, where the Government of Mexico City reclaimed and transformed a dilapidated space into a public park to benefit more than 100 families in the Venustiano Carranza municipality.

These projects demonstrate how collaborative efforts to invest in and maintain parks can directly impact key SPI indicators. Although Mexico City is not among the top 10 states



The revitalisation of public spaces, creation of green infrastructure, and investment in sustainable transportation are examples of how Mexico City is advancing through cooperation. By generating an impact that transcends its boundaries, Mexico City is contributing to the entire region's well-being.



for the green space satisfaction indicator (% of the population), it has made significant progress over time. The most recent data showed that 44.7% of its population reported being satisfied with these green space developments, the highest level in its historical series. This progress underscores the importance of cooperative efforts with private sector participation, for the transformation of public spaces to improve well-being.

Advancing Electromobility Through Public-Private Commitment

Social progress in the city fosters more equitable development across surrounding regions. Investing in high-quality transportation systems in Mexico City to reduce commute times also benefits the wider Metropolitan Area of the Valley of

Mexico. This is particularly relevant for the State of Mexico, which has the highest percentage of workers commuting more than two hours daily to their jobs in the capital.

With the dual objective of improving the transportation system and protecting the environment, it was recently announced that Mexico City is moving towards the era of electromobility. Enabled by a public-private initiative, 26 electric buses were recently added to three lines in the Metrobús system, which transports 23% of Metropolitan Area passengers.

These examples highlight the importance of engaging different sectors in joint efforts for enhancing social well-being and progress.

Conclusion

Even as Mexico City leads in social progress in Mexico, it continues to make significant improvements across key SPI indicators and areas of opportunity.

Progress does not happen in isolation: collaborative ecosystems are essential to driving more equitable and sustainable development. The revitalisation of public spaces, creation of green infrastructure, and investment in sustainable transportation are examples of how Mexico City is advancing through cooperation. By generating an impact that transcends its boundaries, Mexico City is contributing to the entire region's well-being. 🌱