

# 15 Inequality and Happiness

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## Abstract

This article deals with happiness and inequality. Section 2 gives an explanation of the neo-classical negative attitude towards happiness as an operational concept, differentiating between ordinal and cardinal happiness. Section 3 introduces the happiness economics literature and the so-called Leyden School, which can be viewed as a forerunner of present-day happiness economics. Section 4 concentrates on the effect of income inequality in a given country on the individual's feelings of happiness. Section 5 considers current attempts to characterize the inequality of the distribution of happiness and how that may be decomposed. Section 6 concludes.

**Keywords:** [happiness](#), [ordinal happiness](#), [cardinal happiness](#), [Leyden School](#), [happiness economics](#), [income inequality](#)

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