

FACT SHEET

The 2012 Global Peace Index is the sixth edition of the world's leading study on global levels of peacefulness. The GPI ranks 158 nations using 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators from highly respected sources, which gauge three broad themes: the level of safety and security in society; the extent of domestic or international conflict; and the degree of militarisation.

By generating new information on the state of peace at the national and global level, the Institute for Economics and Peace hopes to make a valuable contribution to better understanding how civil society, researchers, policymakers, and government can create a more peaceful society.

2012 GLOBAL PEACE INDEX RESULTS

According to the 2012 GPI, the world improved in peacefulness for the first time since 2009. All regions excluding the Middle East and North Africa saw an

improvement. Sub-Saharan Africa does not occupy the bottom spot for the first time since the GPI was launched in 2007.

TOP 10 (MOST PEACEFUL COUNTRIES)

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE
1	Iceland	1.113
2	Denmark	1.239
2	New Zealand	1.239
4	Canada	1.317
5	Japan	1.326
6	Austria	1.328
6	Ireland	1.328
8	Slovenia	1.330
9	Finland	1.348
10	Switzerland	1.349

BOTTOM 10 (LEAST PEACEFUL COUNTRIES)

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE
158	Somalia	3.392
157	Afghanistan	3.252
156	Sudan	3.193
155	Iraq	3.192
154	Dem. Republic of Congo	3.073
153	Russia	2.938
152	North Korea	2.932
151	Central African Republic	2.872
150	Israel	2.842
149	Pakistan	2.833

MAIN FINDINGS

For the sixth consecutive year, Western Europe remains markedly the most peaceful region with the majority of its countries ranking in the top 20. The Asia Pacific region's overall score improved by the largest margin over the 2011-2012 period.

- World becomes slightly more peaceful in the last year - bucking a two-year trend.
- Sub-Saharan Africa for the first time is not the least peaceful region.
- Iceland is the country most at peace for the second successive year.
- Syria tumbles by largest margin dropping over 30 places to 147th position.
- Somalia remains world's least peaceful nation for second year running.
- End of civil war sees Sri Lanka as biggest riser, leaping nearly 30 places.
- Sub-Saharan Africa's levels of peacefulness have increased steadily since 2007 with improvements in 'Relationships with neighbouring nations', 'Availability of small arms and light weapons', and 'Number of deaths from internal conflict'.
- North America experienced a slight improvement, continuing a trend since 2007.
- Latin America also experienced an overall gain in peacefulness, with 16 of the 23 nations seeing improvements to their GPI scores since 2011.

INDICATOR CHANGES

Taking the average scores for each of the 23 GPI indicators and comparing them with those from the 153 countries analysed in the 2011 GPI, the Political Terror Scale, which measures levels of political violence and terror worldwide in 2010, registered the largest annual improvement. There were also improvements to three indicators in the military sphere, including a decline in

military expenditure as a percentage of GDP in 2011, as many countries hit by economic headwinds moved to reduce budget deficits. Six of the world's top military spenders: Brazil, France, Germany, India, the UK and the US, cut their defence budgets in 2011.

TOP-FIVE IMPROVEMENTS	GLOBAL AVERAGE CHANGE
Political Terror Scale	-0.062
Terrorist acts	-0.049
Military expenditure as a percentage of GDP	-0.045
Military capability/sophistication	-0.033
Aggregate number of heavy weapons per 100,000 people	-0.026

TOP-FIVE DETERIORATIONS	GLOBAL AVERAGE CHANGE
Level of perceived criminality in society	+0.067
Likelihood of violent demonstrations	+0.042
Number of homicides per 100,000 people	+0.036
Level of organised conflict (internal)	+0.033
Level of violent crime	+0.020

RISERS AND FALLERS

Countries with the greatest change in Global Peace Index scores, 2011–12.

TOP 5 RISERS

COUNTRY	SCORE, 2012	CHANGE IN SCORE, 2011–12	RANK, 2012	CHANGE IN RANK, 2011–12*
Sri Lanka	2.145	-0.292	103	▲ 27
Zimbabwe	2.538	-0.186	140	-
Bhutan	1.481	-0.182	19	▲ 11
Guyana	1.937	-0.178	69	▲ 21
Philippines	2.415	-0.157	133	▲ 2

TOP 5 FALLERS

COUNTRY	SCORE, 2012	CHANGE IN SCORE, 2011–12	RANK, 2012	CHANGE IN RANK, 2011–12*
Syria	2.830	+0.523	147	▼ 31
Egypt	2.220	+0.215	111	▼ 40
Tunisia	1.955	+0.193	72	▼ 29
Oman	1.887	+0.150	59	▼ 20
Malawi	1.894	+0.146	60	▼ 19

* The 2011 GPI included only 153 countries while the 2012 edition includes 158 countries, which affects changes in ranking between 2011 and 2012.

GLOBAL MONETARY VALUE OF PEACE

While the physical, emotional, and societal benefits that would flow from improvements in peace are often discussed, the potential economic benefits are overlooked in the broader economic debate. IEP has developed a methodology for categorising and accounting for the size of economic activity devoted to either inflicting, preventing, and dealing with the consequences of violence to the global economy.

If the world was completely peaceful in 2011, the additional economic impact would have been an

estimated **US\$9 trillion** (equal to the size of the German and Japanese economies combined). While a total elimination of violence may not be possible *an achievable 25% reduction in violence could reap a peace dividend of at least US\$2.25 trillion.*

This amount would easily cover the European Financial Stability Facility's \$1 trillion allocation to deal with the European sovereign debt crisis while also covering the yearly cost of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.