Global Peace Index 2021

Overview & key findings
The Institute for Economics and Peace is an independent, not-for-profit think tank dedicated to building a greater understanding of the key drivers of peace, as well as identifying the economic benefits that increased peacefulness can deliver.
Institute for Economics and Peace

- Research used extensively by organisations, including the OECD, Commonwealth Secretariat, World Bank and the United Nations.
- Work is included in 1,000s of university courses.
- Over 500,000 downloads of IEP reports in the last 12 months.

![Statistics]

- **24BN**: Media reach
- **1.2BN**: Social reach
- **152**: Country audience
- **10**: Published reports
- **6000**: Book references
- **1.4M**: Web visitors
Our international offices

- The Hague
- Brussels
- Harare
- Sydney Head Office
- New York
- Mexico City
The Global Peace Index

Now in its 15th year

Ranks
163 countries

99.7% of world's population covered

Using 23 Indicators weighed on a 1-5 scale

Developed by the Institute for Economics and Peace

Guided and overseen by a panel of International Experts
The Global Peace Index Indicators

6 measures of ongoing domestic and international conflict
Including: intensity of organized internal conflicts, relations with neighbouring countries and number of deaths from conflict

10 measures of societal safety and security
Including: number of refugees and IDPs, impact of terrorism, homicide and incarceration rates

7 measures of militarisation
Including: military expenditure, number of armed service personnel, ease of access to small weapons
01. Key Findings
2021 GLOBAL PEACE INDEX
A SNAPSHOLT OF THE GLOBAL STATE OF PEACE
2021 key highlights

The average level of global country peacefulness has deteriorated by 0.07%. This is the ninth deterioration in the last 13 years.

87 countries became more peaceful
73 countries deteriorated

Improvements were driven by changes in:
- Ongoing conflict
- Internal conflict
- Terrorism impact

Deteriorations primarily driven by changes in:
- Militarization
- Military expenditure
- Safety and Security
2021 highlights

Indicators with the largest deteriorations in 2021 GPI

- Violent demonstrations – 3 times more countries fell as improved
- Political instability – twice as many countries fell as improved
- Militarization – 97 countries deteriorated

Indicators with the largest improvements in the 2021 GPI

- Deaths from internal conflict
- Number and intensity of internal conflicts
- Deaths from terrorism – 6th consecutive year of improvements
Iceland is the most peaceful country in the world

Ukraine and Iraq had the largest improvement

Middle East and North Africa had the largest regional improvement. However, it remains the least peaceful region

Europe remains the most peaceful region, despite a deterioration in political instability, mainly because of improvements in terrorism
2021 highlights - continued

- Afghanistan remains the world’s least peaceful nation. However, it recorded a small increase in peacefulness.
- Burkina Faso and Belarus recorded the largest deteriorations.
- North America had the largest regional deterioration, owing to increases in violent demonstrations.
- Six of the nine GPI regions recorded deteriorations.
10 most peaceful countries

1. ICELAND
   Rank change: ↔

2. NEW ZEALAND
   Rank change: 1 ▲

3. DENMARK
   Rank change: 2 ▲

4. PORTUGAL
   Rank change: 2 ▼

5. SLOVENIA
   Rank change: 5 ▲

6. AUSTRIA
   Rank change: 2 ▼

7. SWITZERLAND
   Rank change: 2 ▲

8. IRELAND
   Rank change: 3 ▲

9. CZECH REPUBLIC
   Rank change: 1 ▼

10. CANADA
    Rank change: 3 ▼
10 least peaceful countries

1. Afghanistan
   Rank change: 163

2. South Sudan
   Rank change: 160

3. Russia
   Rank change: 154

4. Libya
   Rank change: 1

5. Democratic Republic of the Congo
   Rank change: 1

6. Yemen
   Rank change: 3

7. Syria
   Rank change: 1

8. South Sudan
   Rank change: 1

9. Somalia
   Rank change: 1

10. Iraq
    Rank change: 2
02. COVID-19 & Peace
Impact of COVID-19 on Peacefulness

- While levels of violence fell in the early stages of the pandemic, most forms of violence returned to pre-COVID levels.

- Civil unrest increased considerably after an initial drop. There was a ten per cent increase in violent demonstrations in 2020.

- There were 5,000 COVID related violent incidents in 2020.

- Political instability deteriorated in 46 countries. COVID-19 exacerbated existing tensions in many countries.

- Long-term impact of the pandemic on homicide, violent crime, suicide is unclear.

- If poor economic conditions persist, likelihood of future civil unrest will increase.
COVID-19 related violent incidents, January 2020 to April 2021

There were over 5,000 pandemic-related incidents during this period that involved some form of violence.
COVID-19 and economic recovery

- Economic recovery will be the key factor in whether civil unrest continues to grow

- Countries with higher levels of Positive Peace are better placed to recover quicker from the pandemic

- OECD Countries – Countries with high Positive Peace achieved unemployment rates of under 7% in 2020 compared to rates of up to 23% in low Positive Peace countries

- The Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Slovenia, and Switzerland are best placed for a post-COVID-19 recovery
03. Trends in Peace
Improvements and deteriorations, 2008-2021

75 countries became less peaceful

86 countries became more peaceful

Peace declined 2.00% Since 2008
Peace since 2008

Peacefulness has declined year on year for nine of the last 13 years.

OVERALL SCORE TREND

GY % CHANGE

-1.0% 0.0% 1.0%

Rising inequality in Global Peace

The gap between the least and most peaceful countries continues to grow.
Trends in key Safety and Security indicators

- Violent Demonstrations now at their highest level since the beginning of the index
- Over 80 million people have now been forcibly displaced by violence
- The average global homicide rate continues to fall
Trends in key *Ongoing Conflict* indicators

- Battle Deaths continue to fall after peaking in 2014
- Total conflicts fell in the past two years, but are 88% higher than 2010
- The average intensity of internal conflict is still rising
Trends in key *Militarisation* indicators

- The fall in the size of armed forces now appears to be levelling off
- Despite high spending by global superpowers, average military expenditure has declined
- Weapons imports and exports have had a moderate but sustained increase
04. The Economic Value of Peace
The economic impact of violence 2020

$14.96 trillion

Which is equivalent to
11.6% of total world GDP
OR
$1942 per person

If the world decreased violence by 10%...
$1.496 TRILLION
Could be directed to other economic activities

10% reduction is equivalent to size of Switzerland, Denmark and Ireland’s economies
Peace and Perceptions of Risk
Global perceptions of safety & risk

The five countries with the largest experience of violence are in sub-Saharan Africa.

- **Risks to safety**: 50% of people in Afghanistan, Brazil, South Africa, Mexico and the Dominican Republic report violence as the greatest risk to safety in their daily lives.

- **Fear of violent crime**: 60% of people globally are worried about sustaining serious harm from violent crime.

- **Feeling safe**: 75% of people feel as safe or more safe than 5 years ago.

- **Male & female**: 5% more women fear violence than men globally.

*Source: IEP/ Lloyds Register Foundation World Risk Poll*
Proportion of people who cite crime, violence or terrorism as their greatest threat to safety

The fear of violence is highest in South America and Southern Africa.
What is the greatest risk to your safety?

Violence was the second most cited risk globally

- Road-related accidents
- Crime, violence or terrorism
- Health issue
- Don't know
- Other
- Financial
- Economy-related
- Climate change or extreme weather
- Household accidents/injuries
- Work-related accidents
- Other transport-related accidents/injuries
- Politics/political situation/corruption
- Food poisoning
- Drugs, alcohol, or smoking

Source IEP/ Lloyds Register Foundation World Risk Poll
Feelings of safety over time

Only 25% of people feel that the world was less safe in 2019 compared to 2014

Source IEP/ Lloyds Register Foundation World Risk Poll
Experience and fear of violence – Top 5 and Bottom 5 Countries

**EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE**
% who have experienced violence in the past two years

- Namibia: 63.3%
- South Africa: 57.9%
- Lesotho: 56.1%
- Liberia: 55.2%
- Zambia: 53.9%
- Turkmenistan: 4.8%
- Singapore: 4.0%
- Japan: 3.1%
- Uzbekistan: 3.1%
- Turkmenistan: 1.0%

**FEAR OF VIOLENCE**
% who are very worried about violence

- Brazil: 82.7%
- South Africa: 79.3%
- Mauritius: 76.4%
- Malawi: 75.7%
- Lesotho: 73.9%
- Uzbekistan: 9.5%
- Lithuania: 9.4%
- Tajikistan: 9.2%
- Norway: 7.9%
- Singapore: 4.9%

Source: IEP/ Lloyds Register World Foundation Risk Poll
Feelings of safety & risk – Top 5 and Bottom 5 Countries

**FEELINGS OF SAFETY**
% who feel less safe than five years ago

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>81.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>77.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>73.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>59.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**GREATEST RISK**
% who feel violence is the greatest risk to safety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>71.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>58.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dom. Republic</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: IEP/ Lloyds Register Foundation World Risk Poll
Perceptions of Risk by Region

**Fear of Violence**

- **Russia and Eurasia**: Very worried (80%)
- **North America**: About as safe (60%)
- **Europe**: Less safe (40%)
- **Asia-Pacific**: More safe (20%)
- **South Asia**: Unclear (10%)
- **sub-Saharan Africa**: Not worried (50%)
- **Central America**: Somewhat worried (30%)
- **MENA**: Very worried (90%)
- **South America**: More safe (30%)
- **North America**: More safe (40%)
- **Asia-Pacific**: About as safe (60%)

**Feelings of Safety**

- **Russia and Eurasia**: More safe (50%)
- **North America**: About as safe (70%)
- **Europe**: Less safe (30%)
- **Asia-Pacific**: Less safe (40%)
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**Experience of Violence**

- **Russia and Eurasia**: Somewhat worried (40%)
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**Violence as Greatest Risk**

- **Russia and Eurasia**: About as safe (60%)
- **North America**: Somewhat worried (30%)
- **Europe**: About as safe (60%)
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Institute for Economics & Peace
Predicting Changes in Peacefulness

- The gap between Positive Peace and Negative Peace is a strong predictor of future changes in peacefulness.

- Countries with a Positive Peace ‘deficit’ are more likely to have falls in peacefulness in future.

- However, they do need a shock to unsettle their current level of peace.

- Of the ten countries with the largest deteriorations in peacefulness between 2009 and 2019, seven had large Positive Peace deficits in 2009.

- 90 per cent of countries with Positive Peace deficits of more than 50 places in 2009 recorded substantial deteriorations by 2019.

- Equatorial Guinea, Sierra Leone, Laos, Timor-Leste, Malawi and Liberia have the largest Positive Peace Deficits in 2020.
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