

Human Development Index

The **Human Development Index** (**HDI**) is a composite statistic (composite index) of life expectancy, education, and per capita income indicators, which are used to rank countries into four tiers of human development. A country scores higher HDI when the lifespan is higher, the education level is higher, and the GDP per capita is higher. The HDI was developed by Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq for the UNDP.^{[1][2]}

The 2010 Human Development Report introduced an **Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index**(IHDI). While the simple HDI remains useful, it stated that "the IHDI is the actual level of human development (accounting for inequality)", and "the HDI can be viewed as an index of 'potential' human development (or the maximum IHDI that could be achieved if there were no inequality)".

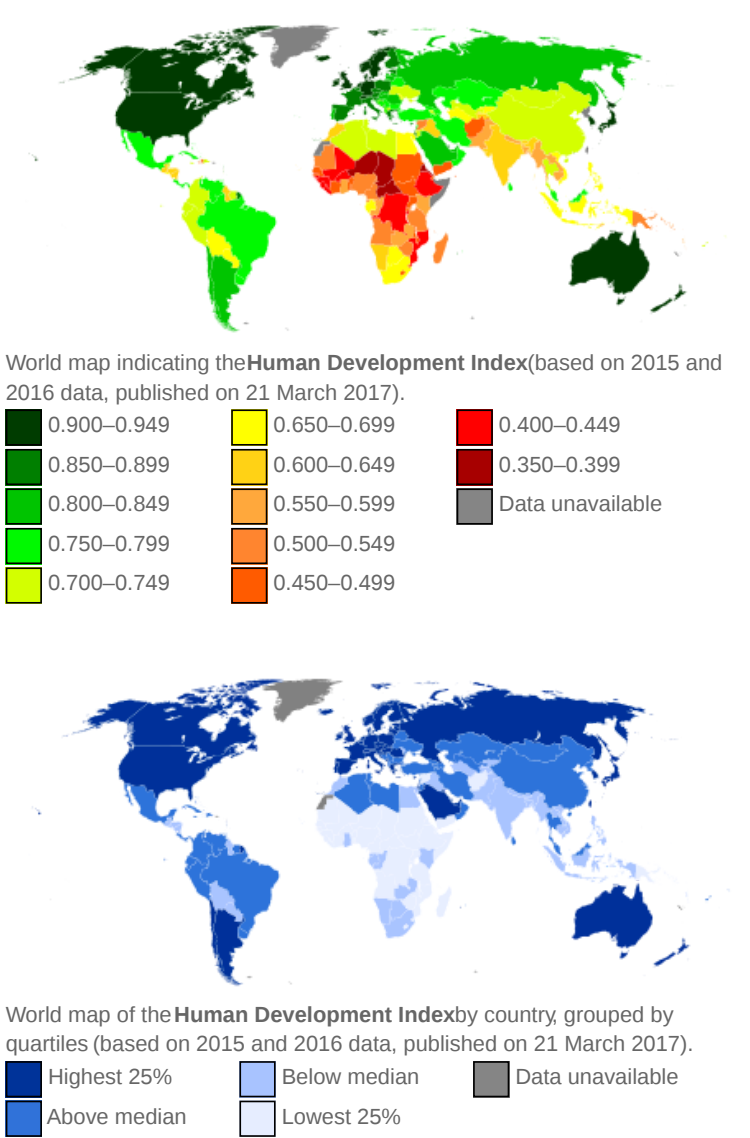
The index is based on the human development approach, developed by UI Haq, often framed in terms of whether people are **able to "be" and "do"** desirable things in life. Examples include—Beings: well fed, sheltered, healthy; Doings: work, education, voting, participating in community life. It must also be noted that the freedom of choice is central—someone choosing to be hungry (e.g. during a religious fast) is quite different to someone who is hungry because they cannot afford to buy food.^[3]

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Origins

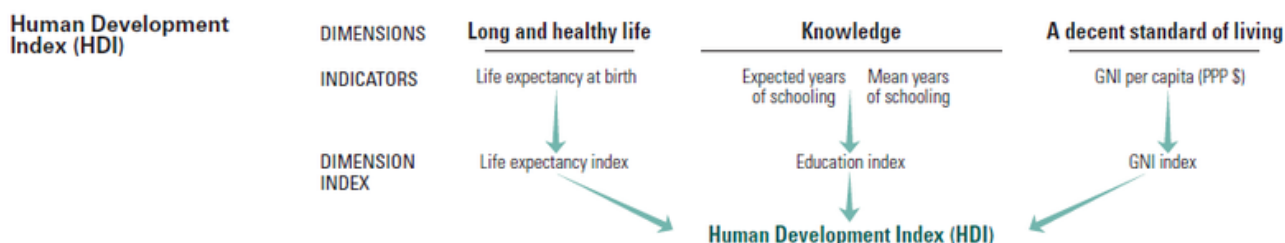
The origins of the HDI are found in the annual Human Development Reports produced by the Human Development Reports Office of the United Nations Development Programme(UNDP). These were devised and launched by Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq in 1990, and had the explicit purpose "to shift the focus of development economics from national income accounting to people-centered policies". To produce the Human Development Reports, Mahbub ul Haq



formed a group of development economists including Paul Streeten, Frances Stewart, Gustav Ranis, Keith Griffin, Sudhir Anand, and Meghnad Desai. Nobel laureate Amartya Sen utilized Haq's work in his own work on human capabilities.^[4] Haq believed that a simple composite measure of human development was needed to convince the public, academics, and politicians that they can and should evaluate development not only by economic advances but also improvements in human well-being



Mahbub ul Haq



The underlying principle behind the Human Development Index^[5]

Dimensions and calculation

New method (2010 Index onwards)

Published on 4 November 2010 (and updated on 10 June 2011), the 2010 Human Development Index (HDI) combines three dimensions.^{[6][7]}

- A long and healthy life: Life expectancy at birth
- Education index: Mean years of schooling and Expected years of schooling
- A decent standard of living: GNI per capita (PPP US\$)

In its 2010 Human Development Report the UNDP began using a new method of calculating the HDI. The following three indices are used:

$$1. \text{ Life Expectancy Index (LEI)} = \frac{\text{LE} - 20}{85 - 20}$$

LEI is 1 when Life expectancy at birth is 85 and 0 when Life expectancy at birth is 20.

$$2. \text{ Education Index (EI)} = \frac{\text{MYSI} + \text{EYSI}}{2} \quad [8]$$

$$2.1 \text{ Mean Years of Schooling Index (MYSI)} = \frac{\text{MYS}}{15} \quad [9]$$

Fifteen is the projected maximum of this indicator for 2025.

$$2.2 \text{ Expected Years of Schooling Index (EYSI)} = \frac{\text{EYS}}{18} \quad [10]$$

Eighteen is equivalent to achieving a master's degree in most countries.

$$3. \text{ Income Index (II)} = \frac{\ln(\text{GNIpc}) - \ln(100)}{\ln(75,000) - \ln(100)}$$

II is 1 when GNI per capita is \$75,000 and 0 when GNI per capita is \$100.

Finally, the HDI is the geometric mean of the previous three normalized indices:

$$\text{HDI} = \sqrt[3]{\text{LEI} \cdot \text{EI} \cdot \text{II}} \quad \text{LE: Life expectancy at birth}$$

MYS: Mean years of schooling (i.e. years that a person aged 25 or older has spent in formal education)

EYS: Expected years of schooling (i.e. total expected years of schooling for children under 18 years of age)

GNIpc: Gross national income at purchasing power parity per capita

Old method (before 2010 Index)

The HDI combined three dimensions last used in its 2009 Report:

- Life expectancy at birth, as an index of population health and longevity to HDI
- Knowledge and education, as measured by the adult literacy rate (with two-thirds weighting) and the combined primary, secondary, and tertiary gross enrollment ratio (with one-third weighting).
- Standard of living as indicated by the natural logarithm of gross domestic product per capita at purchasing power parity

This methodology was used by the UNDP until their 2011 report.

The formula defining the HDI is promulgated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).^[11] In general, to transform a raw variable, say x , into a unit-free index between 0 and 1 (which allows different indices to be added together), the following formula is used:

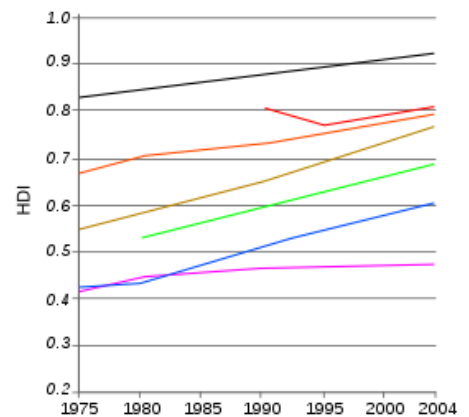
$$x \text{ index} = \frac{x - a}{b - a}$$

where a and b are the lowest and highest values the variable x can attain, respectively

The Human Development Index (HDI) then represents the uniformly weighted sum with $\frac{1}{3}$ contributed by each of the following factor indices:

- Life Expectancy Index = $\frac{LE - 25}{85 - 25}$
- Education Index = $\frac{2}{3} \times ALI + \frac{1}{3} \times GEI$
 - Adult Literacy Index (ALI) = $\frac{ALR - 0}{100 - 0}$
 - Gross Enrollment Index (GEI) = $\frac{CGER - 0}{100 - 0}$
- GDP = $\frac{\log(GDP_{pc}) - \log(100)}{\log(40000) - \log(100)}$

Other organizations/companies may include other factors, such as infant mortality, which produces a different HDI.



HDI trends between 1975 and 2004



2016 Human Development Index

The 2016 Human Development Report by the United Nations Development Programme was released on 21 March 2017, and calculates HDI values based on estimates for 2015. Below is the list of the "very high human development" countries.^[12]

- ▲ = increase.
- — = steady.
- ▼ = decrease.
- The number in brackets represents the number of ranks the country has climbed (up or down) relative to the ranking in the 2015 report.

Rank		Country	Score	
2016 estimates for 2015 [13]	Change in rank from previous year ^[13]		2016 estimates for 2015 [13]	Change from previous year [13]
1	—	 Norway	0.949	▲ 0.001
2	—	 Australia	0.939	▲ 0.002
2	—	 Switzerland	0.939	▲ 0.001
4	▲ (2)	 Germany	0.926	▲ 0.002
5	▲ (1)	 Denmark	0.925	▲ 0.002
5	▲ (6)	 Singapore	0.925	▲ 0.013
7	▼ (1)	 Netherlands	0.924	▲ 0.001
8	—	 Ireland	0.923	▲ 0.003
9	▲ (7)	 Iceland	0.921	▲ 0.002
10	▼ (1)	 Canada	0.920	▲ 0.001
10	▼ (2)	 United States	0.920	▲ 0.002
12	—	 Hong Kong	0.917	▲ 0.001
13	▼ (4)	 New Zealand	0.915	▲ 0.002
14	▲ (1)	 Sweden	0.913	▲ 0.004
15	▼ (1)	 Liechtenstein	0.912	▲ 0.001
16	▼ (4)	 United Kingdom	0.909	▲ 0.003
17	▲ (3)	 Japan	0.903	▲ 0.001
18	—	 South Korea	0.901	▲ 0.002
19	—	 Israel	0.899	▲ 0.001
20	—	 Luxembourg	0.898	▲ 0.002
21	▲ (1)	 France	0.897	▲ 0.003
22	▼ (1)	 Belgium	0.896	▲ 0.001
23	—	 Finland	0.895	▲ 0.002
24	—	 Austria	0.893	▲ 0.001
25	▲ (2)	 Spain	0.892	▲ 0.005
26	—	 Slovenia	0.890	▲ 0.002
27	▲ (1)	 Italy	0.887	▲ 0.006
28	—	 Czech Republic	0.878	▲ 0.003
29	—	 Greece	0.866	▲ 0.001
30	—	 Brunei	0.865	▲ 0.001
30	▲ (1)	 Estonia	0.865	▲ 0.002
32	—	 Andorra	0.858	▲ 0.001
33	▲ (1)	 Cyprus	0.856	▲ 0.002
33	▲ (2)	 Malta	0.856	▲ 0.003
33	—	 Qatar	0.856	▲ 0.001
36	—	 Poland	0.855	▲ 0.003
37	—	 Lithuania	0.848	▲ 0.002
38	▲ (4)	 Chile	0.847	▲ 0.002
38	—	 Saudi Arabia	0.847	▲ 0.002
40	▼ (5)	 Slovakia	0.845	▲ 0.003
41	—	Portugal	0.843	▲ 0.002

42	—	United Arab Emirates	0.840	▲ 0.004
43	—	Hungary	0.836	▲ 0.002
44	—	Latvia	0.830	▲ 0.002
45	▼ (5)	Argentina	0.827	▲ 0.001
45	▲ (1)	Croatia	0.827	▲ 0.004
47	▼ (1)	Bahrain	0.824	▲ 0.001
48	▲ (1)	Montenegro	0.807	▲ 0.003
49	▼ (1)	Russia	0.804	▼ 0.001
50	▲ (1)	Romania	0.802	▲ 0.004
51	▼ (1)	Kuwait	0.800	▲ 0.001

Inequality-adjusted HDI

The Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI)^[14] is a "measure of the average level of human development of people in a society once inequality is taken into account".

The rankings are not relative to the HDI list above due to the exclusion of countries which are missing IHDI data (p. 206).

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Norway 0.898 | 21. Japan 0.791 |
| 2. Iceland 0.868 | 22. Spain 0.791 |
| 3. Netherlands 0.861 | 23. Estonia 0.788 |
| 4. Australia 0.861 | 24. Malta 0.786 |
| 5. Germany 0.859 | 25. Italy 0.784 |
| 6. Switzerland 0.859 | 26. Israel 0.778 |
| 7. Denmark 0.858 | 27. Poland 0.774 |
| 8. Sweden 0.851 | 28. Hungary 0.771 |
| 9. Ireland 0.850 | 29. Cyprus 0.762 |
| 10. Finland 0.843 | 30. Lithuania 0.759 |
| 11. Canada 0.839 | 31. Greece 0.758 |
| 12. Slovenia 0.838 | 32. Portugal 0.755 |
| 13. United Kingdom 0.836 | 33. South Korea 0.753 |
| 14. Czech Republic 0.830 | 34. Croatia 0.752 |
| 15. Luxembourg 0.827 | 35. Latvia 0.742 |
| 16. Belgium 0.821 | 36. Montenegro 0.736 |
| 17. Austria 0.815 | 37. Russia 0.725 |
| 18. France 0.813 | 38. Romania 0.714 |
| 19. United States 0.796 | 39. Argentina 0.698 |
| 20. Slovakia 0.793 | 40. Chile 0.691 |

Countries in the top quartile of HDI ("very high human development" group) with a missing IHDI: [Taiwan](#), [New Zealand](#), [Singapore](#), [Hong Kong](#), [Liechtenstein](#), [Brunei](#), [Qatar](#), [Saudi Arabia](#), [Andorra](#), [United Arab Emirates](#), [Bahrain](#), and [Kuwait](#).

2015 Human Development Index

The 2015 Human Development Report by the United Nations Development Programme was released on 14 December 2015, and calculates HDI values based on estimates for 2014. Below is the list of the "very high human development" countries.^{[15][16][17]}

- ▲ = increase.
- = steady.
- ▼ = decrease.
- The number in brackets represents the number of ranks the country has climbed (up or down) relative to the ranking in the 2014 report.

Rank		Country	Score	
2015 estimates for 2014 [18]	Change in rank from previous year ^[18]		2015 estimates for 2014 [18]	Change from previous year ^[18]
1	—	 Norway	0.944	▲ 0.002
2	—	 Australia	0.935	▲ 0.002
3	—	 Switzerland	0.930	▲ 0.002
4	—	 Denmark	0.923	—
5	—	 Netherlands	0.922	▲ 0.002
6	—	 Germany	0.916	▲ 0.001
6	▲ (2)	 Ireland	0.916	▲ 0.004
8	▼ (1)	 United States	0.915	▲ 0.002
9	▼ (1)	 Canada	0.913	▲ 0.001
9	▲ (1)	 New Zealand	0.913	▲ 0.002
11	▼ (2)	 Singapore	0.912	▲ 0.003
12	—	 Hong Kong	0.910	▲ 0.002
13	—	 Liechtenstein	0.908	▲ 0.001
14	—	 Sweden	0.907	▲ 0.002
14	▲ (1)	 United Kingdom	0.907	▲ 0.005
16	—	 Iceland	0.899	—
17	—	 South Korea	0.898	▲ 0.003
18	—	 Israel	0.894	▲ 0.001
18	—	 Macau	0.894	^[19]
19	—	 Luxembourg	0.892	▲ 0.002
20	▼ (1)	 Japan	0.891	▲ 0.001
21	—	 Belgium	0.890	▲ 0.002
22	—	 France	0.888	▲ 0.001
23	—	 Austria	0.885	▲ 0.001
24	—	 Finland	0.883	▲ 0.001
25	—	 Taiwan	0.882	^[20]
26	—	 Slovenia	0.880	▲ 0.001
27	—	 Spain	0.876	▲ 0.002
28	—	 Italy	0.873	—
29	—	 Czech Republic	0.870	▲ 0.002
30	—	 Greece	0.865	▲ 0.002
31	—	 Estonia	0.861	▲ 0.002
32	—	 Brunei	0.856	▲ 0.004
33	—	 Cyprus	0.850	—
33	▲ (1)	 Qatar	0.850	▲ 0.001
34	—	 Andorra	0.845	▲ 0.001
35	▲ (1)	 Slovakia	0.844	▲ 0.005
36	▼ (1)	 Poland	0.843	▲ 0.003
37	—	 Lithuania	0.839	▲ 0.002
37	—	 Malta	0.839	▲ 0.002
39	—	Saudi Arabia	0.837	▲ 0.001

40	—	 Argentina	0.836	▲ 0.003
41	▼ (1)	 United Arab Emirates	0.835	▲ 0.002
42	—	 Chile	0.832	▲ 0.002
43	—	 Portugal	0.830	▲ 0.002
44	—	 Hungary	0.828	▲ 0.003
45	—	 Bahrain	0.824	▲ 0.003
46	▲ (1)	 Latvia	0.819	▲ 0.003
47	▼ (1)	 Croatia	0.818	▲ 0.001
48	▼ (1)	 Kuwait	0.816	—
49	—	 Montenegro	0.802	▲ 0.001

Inequality-adjusted HDI

The Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI)^[15] is a "measure of the average level of human development of people in a society once inequality is taken into account".

Note: The green arrows (▲), red arrows (▼), and blue dashes (↔) represent changes in rank. The rankings are not relative to the HDI list above due to the exclusion of countries which are missing IHDI data (p. 216).

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1.  Norway 0.893 (↔) | 19.  Slovakia 0.791 (▲ 2) |
| 2.  Netherlands 0.861 (▲ 1) | 20.  Estonia 0.782 (▲ 4) |
| 3.  Switzerland 0.861 (▲ 1) | 21.  Japan 0.780 (▼ 1) |
| 4.  Australia 0.858 (▼ 2) | 22.  Israel 0.775 (▼ 3) |
| 5.  Denmark 0.856 (▲ 3) | 23.  Spain 0.775 (▼ 1) |
| 6.  Germany 0.853 (▼ 1) | 24.  Italy 0.773 (▼ 1) |
| 7.  Iceland 0.846 (▼ 1) | 25.  Hungary 0.769 (▲ 2) |
| 8.  Sweden 0.846 (▼ 1) | 26.  Malta 0.767 (↔) |
| 9.  Ireland 0.836 (▲ 1) | 27.  Poland 0.760 (▲ 2) |
| 10.  Finland 0.834 (▲ 1) | 28.  United States 0.760 (↔) |
| 11.  Canada 0.832 (▼ 2) | 29.  Cyprus 0.758 (▲ 1) |
| 12.  Slovenia 0.829 (↔) | 30.  Greece 0.758 (▼ 5) |
| 13.  United Kingdom 0.829 (▲ 3) | 31.  Lithuania 0.754 (↔) |
| 14.  Czech Republic 0.823 (▲ 1) | 32.  South Korea 0.751 (▲ 1) |
| 15.  Luxembourg 0.822 (▼ 1) | 33.  Portugal 0.744 (▼ 1) |
| 16.  Belgium 0.820 (▲ 1) | 34.  Croatia 0.743 (▲ 1) |
| 17.  Austria 0.816 (▼ 4) | 35.  Belarus 0.741 |
| 18.  France 0.811 (↔) | 36.  Latvia 0.730 |

Countries in the top quartile of HDI ("very high human development" group) with a missing IHDI: [Taiwan](#), [New Zealand](#), [Singapore](#), [Hong Kong](#), [Liechtenstein](#), [Brunei](#), [Qatar](#), [Saudi Arabia](#), [Andorra](#), [United Arab Emirates](#), [Bahrain](#), [Cuba](#), and [Kuwait](#).

2014 Human Development Index

The 2014 Human Development Report by the United Nations Development Programme was released on 24 July 2014 and calculates HDI values based on estimates for 2013. Below is the list of the "very high human development" countries.^{[21][16][17]}

- ▲ = increase.
- = steady.
- ▼ = decrease.
- The number in brackets represents the number of ranks the country has climbed (up or down) relative to the ranking in the 2013 report.

Rank		Country	HDI	
New 2014 estimates for 2013 [22]	Change in rank between 2014 report and 2013 report ^[22]		New 2014 estimates for 2013 [22]	Change compared between 2014 report and 2013 report [22]
1	—	 Norway	0.944	▼ 0.011
2	—	 Australia	0.933	▲ 0.002
3	—	 Switzerland	0.917	▲ 0.001
4	—	 Netherlands	0.915	—
5	—	 United States	0.914	▲ 0.002
6	—	 Germany	0.911	—
7	—	 New Zealand	0.910	▲ 0.002
8	—	 Canada	0.902	▲ 0.001
9	▲ (3)	 Singapore	0.901	▲ 0.002
10	—	 Denmark	0.900	—
11	▼ (3)	 Ireland	0.899	▼ 0.017
12	▼ (1)	 Sweden	0.898	▲ 0.001
13	—	 Iceland	0.895	▲ 0.002
14	—	 United Kingdom	0.892	▲ 0.002
14	—	 Macau	0.892	[19]
15	—	 Hong Kong	0.891	▲ 0.002
15	▲ (1)	 South Korea	0.891	▲ 0.003
17	▼ (1)	 Japan	0.890	▲ 0.002
18	▼ (2)	 Liechtenstein	0.889	▲ 0.001
19	—	 Israel	0.888	▲ 0.002
20	—	 France	0.884	—
21	—	 Taiwan	0.882	[20]
22	—	 Austria	0.881	▲ 0.001
22	—	 Belgium	0.881	▲ 0.001
22	—	 Luxembourg	0.881	▲ 0.001
23	—	 Finland	0.879	—
24	—	 Slovenia	0.874	—
25	—	 Italy	0.872	—
26	—	 Spain	0.869	—
27	—	 Czech Republic	0.861	—
28	—	 Greece	0.853	▼ 0.001
29	—	 Brunei	0.852	—
30	—	 Qatar	0.851	▲ 0.001
31	—	 Cyprus	0.845	▼ 0.003
32	—	 Estonia	0.840	▲ 0.001
33	—	 Saudi Arabia	0.836	▲ 0.003
34	▲ (1)	 Lithuania	0.834	▲ 0.003
34	▼ (1)	 Poland	0.834	▲ 0.001
35	—	 Andorra	0.830	—
35	▲ (1)	 Slovakia	0.830	▲ 0.001

36	—	Malta	0.829	▲ 0.002
37	—	United Arab Emirates	0.827	▲ 0.002
38	▲ (1)	Chile	0.822	▲ 0.003
38	—	Portugal	0.822	—
39	—	Hungary	0.818	▲ 0.001
40	—	Bahrain	0.815	▲ 0.002
40	—	Cuba	0.815	▲ 0.002
41	▼ (2)	Kuwait	0.814	▲ 0.001
42	—	Croatia	0.812	—
43	—	Latvia	0.810	▲ 0.002
44	—	Argentina	0.808	▲ 0.002

Countries not included

Some countries were not included for various reasons, primarily due to the lack of necessary data. The following United Nations Member States were not included in the 2014 report:^[21] [North Korea](#), [Marshall Islands](#), [Monaco](#), [Nauru](#), [San Marino](#), [Somalia](#), [South Sudan](#), [Sudan](#), and [Tuvalu](#).

Inequality-adjusted HDI

The Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI)^[21] is a "measure of the average level of human development of people in a society once inequality is taken into account".

Note: The green arrows (▲), red arrows (▼), and blue dashes (↔) represent changes in rank. The rankings are not relative to the HDI list above due to the exclusion of countries which are missing IHDI data (p. 168).

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Norway 0.891 (↔) | 20. Japan 0.779 (New) |
| 2. Australia 0.860 (↔) | 21. Slovakia 0.778 (▲ 1) |
| 3. Netherlands 0.854 (▲ 1) | 22. Spain 0.775 (▼ 2) |
| 4. Switzerland 0.847 (▲ 3) | 23. Italy 0.768 (▲ 1) |
| 5. Germany 0.846 (↔) | 24. Estonia 0.767 (▲ 1) |
| 6. Iceland 0.843 (▲ 2) | 25. Greece 0.762 (▲ 2) |
| 7. Sweden 0.840 (▼ 4) | 26. Malta 0.760 (▼ 3) |
| 8. Denmark 0.838 (▲ 1) | 27. Hungary 0.757 (▼ 1) |
| 9. Canada 0.833 (▲ 4) | 28. United States 0.755 (▼ 12) |
| 10. Ireland 0.832 (▼ 4) | 29. Poland 0.751 (▲ 1) |
| 11. Finland 0.830 (↔) | 30. Cyprus 0.752 (▼ 1) |
| 12. Slovenia 0.824 (▼ 2) | 31. Lithuania 0.746 (▲ 2) |
| 13. Austria 0.818 (▼ 1) | 32. Portugal 0.739 (↔) |
| 14. Luxembourg 0.814 (▲ 3) | 33. South Korea 0.736 (▼ 5) |
| 15. Czech Republic 0.813 (▼ 1) | 34. Latvia 0.725 (▲ 1) |
| 16. United Kingdom 0.812 (▲ 3) | 35. Croatia 0.721 (▲ 4) |
| 17. Belgium 0.806 (▼ 2) | 36. Argentina 0.680 (▲ 7) |
| 18. France 0.804 (↔) | 37. Chile 0.661 (▲ 4) |
| 19. Israel 0.793 (▲ 1) | |

Countries in the top quartile of HDI ("very high human development" group) with a missing IHDI: [Taiwan](#), [New Zealand](#), [Singapore](#), [Hong Kong](#), [Liechtenstein](#), [Brunei](#), [Qatar](#), [Saudi Arabia](#), [Andorra](#), [United Arab Emirates](#), [Bahrain](#), [Cuba](#), and [Kuwait](#).

Past top countries

The list below displays the top-ranked country from each year of the Human Development Index. [Norway](#) has been ranked the highest thirteen times, [Canada](#) eight times, and [Japan](#) three times. [Iceland](#) has been ranked highest twice.

In each original HDI

The year represents when the report was published. In parentheses is the year for which the index was calculated.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| ▪ 2016 (2015): Norway | ▪ 2014 (2013): Norway |
| ▪ 2015 (2014): Norway | ▪ 2013 (2012): Norway |

- 2011 (2011):  [Norway](#)
- 2010 (2010):  [Norway](#)
- 2009 (2007):  [Norway](#)
- 2008 (2006):  [Iceland](#)
- 2007 (2005):  [Iceland](#)
- 2006 (2004):  [Norway](#)
- 2005 (2003):  [Norway](#)
- 2004 (2002):  [Norway](#)
- 2003 (2001):  [Norway](#)
- 2002 (2000):  [Norway](#)
- 2001 (1999):  [Norway](#)
- 2000 (1998):  [Canada](#)
- 1999 (1997):  [Canada](#)
- 1998 (1995):  [Canada](#)
- 1997 (1994):  [Canada](#)
- 1996 (1993):  [Canada](#)
- 1995 (1992):  [Canada](#)
- 1994 (????):  [Canada](#)
- 1993 (????):  [Japan](#)
- 1992 (1990):  [Canada](#)
- 1991 (1990):  [Japan](#)
- 1990 (????):  [Japan](#)

Geographical coverage

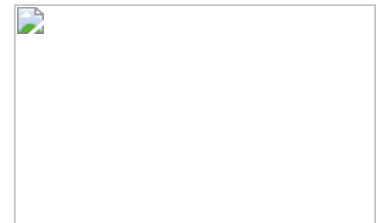
The HDI has extended its geographical coverage: David Hastings, of the [United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific](#), published a report geographically extending the HDI to 230+ economies, whereas the UNDP HDI for 2009 enumerates 182 economies and coverage for the 2010 HDI dropped to 169 countries.^{[23][24]}

Country/region specific HDI lists

- [African countries](#)
- [Argentine provinces](#)
- [Brazilian states](#)
- [Canadian provinces and territories](#)
- [Chilean regions](#)
- [Chinese administrative divisions](#)
- [European countries](#)
- [Indian states](#)
- [Indonesian provinces](#)
- [Latin American countries](#)
- [Mexican states](#)
- [Pakistani districts](#)
- [Philippine provinces](#)
- [Russian federal subjects](#)
- [South African provinces](#)
- [U.S. states \(American Human Development Report\(AHDR\)\)](#)
- [Venezuelan states](#)

Criticism

The Human Development Index has been criticized on a number of grounds, including alleged lack of consideration of technological development or contributions to the human civilization, focusing exclusively on national performance and ranking, lack of attention to development from a global perspective, measurement error of the underlying statistics, and on the UNDP's changes in formula which can lead to severe misclassification in the categorisation of 'low', 'medium', 'high' or 'very high' human development countries.^[25]



HDI vs. ecological footprint

Sources of data error

Economists Hendrik Wolff, Howard Chong and Maximilian Auffhammer discuss the HDI from the perspective of data error in the underlying health, education and income statistics used to construct the HDI. They identified three sources of data error which are due to (i) data updating, (ii) formula revisions and (iii) thresholds to classify a country's development status and conclude that 11%, 21% and 34% of all countries can be interpreted as currently misclassified in the development bins due to the three sources of data error, respectively. The authors suggest that the United Nations should discontinue the practice of classifying countries into development bins because: the cut-off values seem arbitrary, can provide incentives for strategic behavior in reporting official statistics, and have the potential to misguide politicians, investors, charity donors and the public who use the HDI at large.^[25]

In 2010, the UNDP reacted to the criticism and updated the thresholds to classify nations as low, medium, and high human development countries. In a comment to *The Economist* in early January 2011, the Human Development Report Office responded^[26] to a 6 January 2011 article in the magazine^[27] which discusses the Wolff *et al.* paper. The Human Development Report Office states that they undertook a systematic revision of the methods used for the calculation of the HDI, and that the new methodology directly addresses the critique by Wolff *et al.* in that it generates a system for continuously updating the human-development categories whenever formula or data revisions take place.

In 2013, Salvatore Monni and Alessandro Spaventa emphasized that in the debate of GDP versus HDI, it is often forgotten that these are both external indicators that prioritize different benchmarks upon which the quantification of societal welfare can be predicated. The larger question is whether it is possible to shift the focus of policy from a battle between competing paradigms to a mechanism for eliciting information on well-being directly from the population.^[28]

See also

Indices

- [Bhutan GNH Index](#)
- [Broad measures of economic progress](#)
- [Green national product](#)
- [Green gross domestic product\(Green GDP\)](#)
- [Gender Inequality Index](#)
- [Gender-related Development Index](#)
- [Genuine Progress Indicator\(GPI\)](#)
- [Global Peace Index\(GPI\)](#)
- [Gross National Well-being \(GNW\)](#)
- [Happy Planet Index\(HPI\)](#)
- [Human Poverty Index](#)
- [Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index\(IHDI\)](#)
- [Legatum Prosperity Index](#)
- [List of countries by Human Development Index](#)
- [Living planet index](#)
- [Multidimensional Poverty Index](#)
- [Rule of Law Index](#)
- [OECD Better Life Index\(BLI\)](#)
- [Social Progress Index](#)
- [Where-to-be-born Index](#)
- [World Happiness Report](#)

Other

- [Economic development](#)
- [Ethics of care](#)
- [Happiness economics](#)
- [Human Development and Capability Association](#)
- [International development](#)
- [Least developed country](#)
- [Millennium Development Goals\(MDGs\)](#)
- [Right to an adequate standard of living](#)
- [Subjective life satisfaction](#)
- [Sustainable development](#)
- [Sustainable Development Goals](#)

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External links

- [Human Development Index](#)
- [Human Development Tools and Rankings](#)
- ["Technical note explaining the definition of the HDI"](#) (PDF). (5.54 MB)
- [New demographic datasets by 'Human Development Index \(HDI\)'](#)
- [An independent HDI covering 232 countries, formulated along lines of the traditional \(pre-2010\) approach.](#)

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This page was last edited on 1 April 2018, at 12:04.

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