

2011 FACT SHEET

2011 Global Peace Index Results

Levels of world peace dropped for the third consecutive year according to the 2011 Global Peace Index (GPI). The Index, which gauges ongoing domestic and international conflict, safety and security in society, and militarisation in 153 countries, registered increases in a number of indicators including the potential for terrorist acts, the likelihood of violent demonstrations and violent crime.

Top 10 countries (Most peaceful)

Rank	Country	Score
1	Iceland	1.148
2	New Zealand	1.279
3	Japan	1.287
4	Denmark	1.289
5	Czech Republic	1.320
6	Austria	1.337
7	Finland	1.352
8	Canada	1.355
9	Norway	1.356
10	Slovenia	1.358

Bottom 10 countries (Least peaceful)

Rank	Country	Score
153	Somalia	3.379
152	Iraq	3.296
151	Sudan	3.223
150	Afghanistan	3.212
149	North Korea	3.092
148	DR Congo	3.016
147	Russia	2.966
146	Pakistan	2.905
145	Israel	2.901
144	Central African Republic	2.869

Main Findings

The third consecutive annual decline in global peace has been significantly driven by the social and political turmoil in the Middle East and North African nations during the early part of 2011. This reflects a broader global pattern of increasing conflict between citizens and their own governments and decreasing conflict between nations. Internal indicators such as the likelihood of violent demonstrations, level of internal organised conflict, potential for terrorist acts and perceptions of criminality in society have all increased in this year's GPI, resulting in a less peaceful world.

Iceland has made progress since the global financial crisis and is again ranked as the country most at peace, replacing New Zealand which was the most peaceful country in the two years prior. Other notable developments included Libya incurring the largest year-to-year fall in the five year history of the Global Peace Index, falling 83 ranks to 143rd, while Malaysia became the first south-east Asian nation to enter the top 20, improving its position to 19th.

- Despite the “war on terror” twenty-nine nations (particularly in Africa, the Middle East and Europe) experienced a rise in their potential for terrorist acts making this the most significant negative influence on the GPI this year.
- In thirty-three nations, the likelihood for violent demonstrations increased. Violent crime and the number of internal security officers and police per 100,000 people also recorded increases in several nations.
- The indicator that is the most improved and that had the most positive impact on peace at the global level is military expenditure as a percent of GDP. Relations with neighbouring countries also recorded an improvement in several countries, especially in Eastern Europe.
- The global decline in peace was mostly due to the Middle East and North African nations, followed by declines in peace in Western Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. Conversely, North America and Asia experienced minor increases in peace.
- The largest worsening of a single GPI indicator in a region was political instability in the Middle East and North Africa, while the largest improvement was military expenditure as a percentage of GDP in Asia.

Countries with the greatest change in Global Peace Index scores, 2010-11¹

Country	Score, 2010	Change in score, 2010-11	Rank, 2010	Change in Rank, 2010-11
---------	-------------	--------------------------	------------	-------------------------

Top 5 risers

Georgia	2.558	-0.412	134	+12
Chad	2.740	-0.224	141	+4
Mongolia	1.880	-0.221	57	+36
Sri Lanka	2.407	-0.215	126	+11
Thailand	2.247	-0.147	107	+19

Top 5 fallers

Libya	2.816	0.977	143	-83
Bahrain	2.398	0.429	123	-47
Egypt	2.023	0.239	73	-25
North Korea	3.092	0.236	149	-6
Madagascar	2.239	0.220	105	-26

Trends in the 'Arab Spring' Nations

The 'Arab Spring' nations recorded significantly poorer scores than the most peaceful nations in several key GPI indicators over the past four years. These included both qualitative and quantitative indicators.

Over the 2007-2010 period, Arab Spring nations compared to the most peaceful nations, had:

- Higher political instability – on average 320% higher.
- Lower respect for human rights - on average 281% lower.
- Higher ease of access to small arms and light weapons - on average 231% higher.
- Greater likelihood of violent demonstrations - on average 214% higher.
- Greater number of internal security officers and police per 100,000 people - on average 207% higher.

The Global Monetary Value of Peace

- For the period 2006-2010, it is estimated a complete cessation of violence would result in a total economic impact of **US\$37.58 trillion**.² This amount consists of two types of economic dividend:
 - **US\$12.62 trillion** represents economic activity that could be redirected from industries that generate and contain violence to other potentially more productive industries.
 - **US\$24.96 trillion** represents additional economic activity.
- If the world was completely peaceful in 2010, the additional economic impact would have been an estimated **US\$8.12 trillion** – meaning an achievable 25% reduction in violence could reap a peace dividend of at least **US\$2 trillion**.

- This amount would pay for the 2% of global GDP per annum investment estimated by the Stern Review to avoid the worst effects of climate change, cover the yearly cost of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, eliminate the public debt of Greece, Portugal and Ireland, and address the one-off rebuilding costs of the most expensive natural disaster in history – the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami.

The Economic Value of Peace in the United States

If the U.S. moderately reduced its violence to the same levels as Canada its economy would realise savings and additional economic activity of approximately US\$360 billion.

By reducing violent crime, incarceration and homicide, U.S. governments could save billions by lowering expenditure in correctional services, healthcare and preventing lost taxation revenue, while the general economy would save billions through preventing productivity losses that occur due to lost work days from violent crime and homicide.

- Of this amount, the general community and state governments would collectively save US\$89 billion, while the same reductions in the level of violence would provide an economic stimulus of approximately US\$272 billion.
- The release of trapped productivity through the abatement of violence would create a stimulus that could generate an additional 2.7 million new jobs, effectively lowering the U.S. unemployment rate by 20% from 8.9 % to 7.1%.

Structures of Peace and Social Sustainability

Research by the Institute for Economics and Peace reveals for the first time that measures of social sustainability are closely linked to peacefulness as measured by the GPI. This research shows selected indicators of civic activism, inter-group social cohesion and interpersonal safety and trust as measured by the Indices for Social Development (ISD)³ are highly correlated with the GPI and the Structures of Peace. This means:

- Societies with lower discrimination and where citizens accept the rights of other ethnic groups tend to be more peaceful.
- Nations with better informed and aware citizens tend to be more peaceful.
- High levels of trust within society are closely associated with peace.
- Societies that support gender equality tend to be more peaceful.

Societies underpinned by the presence of strong social institutions as measured by these factors are considered socially sustainable societies – these are relatively more peaceful societies that are also more resilient and better able to withstand external and internal political, economic, and environmental shocks.

¹ Changes in rank are based on a comparison with the 149 countries in the 2010 GPI

² Conservative estimate in foreign-exchange based nominal terms by the Institute for Economics and Peace and Economists for Peace & Security (EPS).

³ Source: Indices of Social Development, URL: <http://www.IndSocDev.org/>