

Appendix - Global Indexes Used with Top 5 in each and Australia

Below are the indexes and statistics covered in the article, listed by category, with links to the sources and showing the number of countries included in each. The top five ranked countries in each index/statistic are also listed, along with Australia's ranking.

General prosperity/wellbeing:

UN Human Development Index 2025 (195 countries)

1. Iceland 2. Norway 2. Switzerland 4. Denmark 5. Sweden (7. Australia)

Legatum Prosperity Index 2023 (167)

1. Denmark 2. Sweden 3. Norway 4. Finland 5. Switzerland (15. Australia)

Global Social Progress Index 2025 (170)

1. Norway 2. Denmark 3. Sweden 4. Finland 5. Switzerland (12. Australia)

US News Quality of Life ranking 2024 (89)

1. Sweden 2. Norway 3. Canada 4. Denmark 5. Finland (8. Australia)

World Happiness Report 2024 (147)

1. Finland 2. Denmark 3. Iceland 4. Sweden 5. Netherlands (10. Australia)

Economic prosperity:

IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2024 (67)

1. Singapore 2. Switzerland 3. Denmark 4. Ireland 5. Hong Kong (13. Australia)

World Bank Gross National Income per capita (purchasing power parity) 2023 (191)

1. Qatar 2. Singapore 3. Norway 4. Ireland 5. Luxembourg (19. Australia)

World Bank Median income (ppp) data 2023 (119)

1. Luxembourg 2. UAE 3. Switzerland 4. Norway 5. USA (12. Australia)

Governance and democracy:

Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index 2024 (167)

1. Norway 2. New Zealand 3. Sweden 4. Iceland 5. Switzerland (14. Australia)

Freedom House IFreedom in the World Index 2025 (194)

1. Finland 2= Norway, New Zealand, Sweden 5= Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands, Luxembourg (18= Australia)

Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Index 2025 (180)

1. Norway 2. Estonia 3. Netherlands 4. Sweden 5. Finland (29. Australia)

World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2024 (142)

1. Denmark 2. Norway 3. Finland 4. Sweden 5. Germany (11. Australia)

Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index 2024 (180)

1. Denmark 2. Finland 3. Singapore 4. New Zealand 5= Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland (10. Australia)

Chandler Institute Good Government Index 2024 (113)

1. Singapore 2. Denmark 3. Finland 4. Switzerland 5. Norway (15. Australia)

Health:

UN World Population Prospects Life expectancy data 2024 (209)

1. Japan 2. South Korea 3. Andorra 4. Switzerland 5. Australia

Legatum Prosperity Index health pillar rankings 2023 (167)

1. Singapore 2. Japan 3. South Korea 4. Taiwan 5. China (21. Australia)

CEOWorld Best Health Care Systems 2024 (110).

1. Taiwan 2. South Korea 3. Australia 4. Canada 5. Sweden

Education and Science:

UNDP Education Index 2022 (193)

1. Iceland 2. Germany 3. Norway 4. UK 5. Denmark (9. Australia)

World Top20 Education Systems ranking 2024 (203)

1. South Korea 2. Denmark 3. Netherlands 4. Belgium 5. Denmark (17. Australia)

Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022 results (81)

1. Singapore 2. Japan 3. Taiwan 4. South Korea 5. Hong Kong (10. Australia)

U21 Ranking of National Higher Education Systems 2020 (50)

1. USA 2. Switzerland 3. Denmark 4. Singapore 5. Sweden (9. Australia)

WIPO Global Innovation Index 2024 (133)

1. Switzerland 2. Sweden 3. USA 4. Singapore 5. UK (23. Australia)

Equality and social mobility:

UN World Income Inequality Database Gini inequality (various years - 191)

1. Slovakia 2. Slovenia 3. Belarus 4. Qatar 5. Ukraine (76. Australia)

World Economic Forum Global Social Mobility Index 2020 (82)

1. Denmark 2. Norway 3. Sweden 4. Finland 5. Iceland (16. Australia)

UNDP Gender Inequality Index 2022 (166)

1. Denmark 2. Norway 3. Sweden 4. Finland 5. Netherlands (17. Australia)

WEF Global Gender Gap Report 2024 (146)

1. Iceland 2. Finland 3. Norway 4. New Zealand 5. Sweden (24. Australia)

Safety, security and the environment:

Intentional Homicide rates UNODC latest data (176 jurisdictions, excluding microstates)

1. Singapore 2. Qatar 3. Oman 4. Bahrain 5. Japan (34. Australia)

WJP Rule of Law Index Order and Security ranking 2024 (142)

1. Luxembourg 2. Singapore 3. Denmark 4. Ireland 5. Norway (24. Australia)

Global Peace Index 2024 (163)

1. Iceland 2. Ireland 3. Austria 4. New Zealand 5. Singapore (19. Australia)

WHO Traffic deaths per capita data 2021 (187)

1. Maldives 2. Norway 3. Singapore 4. Malta 5. Sweden (22. Australia)

Yale Environmental Performance Index 2024 (180)

1. Estonia 2. Luxembourg 3. Germany 4. Finland 5. UK (23. Australia)