

# Mapping prosperity in 2023

**Denmark (1<sup>st</sup>)** is the most prosperous country in the world. Having led the Index since 2020, Denmark is in the top 10 for all pillars of prosperity, apart from health. Strong governance and liberal institutions are a particular strength.

**Turkey (95<sup>th</sup>)** has seen its governance deteriorate significantly over the last 10 years, falling 65 places to 127<sup>th</sup>, with political accountability deteriorating at the greatest rate globally. Constitutional reforms in 2017 concentrated more power in the hands of the executive, removing key checks and balances. Personal Freedom has also deteriorated at the second greatest rate globally, with the government consistently suppressing dissent.

**Hong Kong's (22<sup>nd</sup>)** personal freedom has deteriorated at the greatest rate globally in the past decade. Freedom of assembly and association has fallen from 88<sup>th</sup> to 135<sup>th</sup> and access to information has fallen from 61<sup>st</sup> to 120<sup>th</sup>. Satisfaction with freedom has eroded from 87% to 67%, after Chinese infringement on liberties protected under the handover agreement sparked riots in the summer of 2019.

**Canada (13<sup>th</sup>)** is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> globally for primary education. With its compulsory primary education system largely managed provincially (within a framework of federal regulation), it ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> for primary enrolment and has a primary completion rate of 99.8%. Additionally, Canada ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> for adult skills with the number of women's average years in school at 15.7, the highest in the world.

**Venezuela's (145<sup>th</sup>)** prosperity deteriorated at the greatest rate of any country over the past decade, falling 36 places. Venezuela has also deteriorated from 57<sup>th</sup> to 97<sup>th</sup> in health and 110<sup>th</sup> to 166<sup>th</sup> in economic quality. The ongoing economic crisis has seen Venezuela drop to the lowest rankings globally in investment environment, enterprise conditions and governance. With Venezuelans struggling to make ends meet, more than 7 million people have left the country since 2015.

**Nepal's (110<sup>th</sup>)** prosperity improved the second most globally, led by social capital rising at the greatest rate in Central and South Asia. With more people voicing their opinion to public officials and turning out at elections, Nepal has risen 56 places to 32<sup>nd</sup> in civic and social participation.

**South Sudan (167<sup>th</sup>)** is the least prosperous country in the world. It ranks last for Safety and Security, with the past 12 years since independence being marked by rampant corruption, economic collapse and numerous atrocities. Notably, an increase in politically related terror and violence, as well as the ongoing civil conflict, have led the country to the bottom of the pillar as well as the Index.

**Vietnam (73<sup>rd</sup>)** improved at the greatest rate globally for infrastructure and market access, with strong improvements in its communications and trade openness. It is world-leading in market access as a result of signing several trade agreements (for example, AFTA, CPTPP), rising 19 places to 1<sup>st</sup>. Furthermore, it has risen from 90<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> in international internet bandwidth.

Several countries are not included in the Legatum Prosperity Index due to inaccessible or insufficient data. The most populous of these is the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, with an estimated population of 25.8 million.

**Global Prosperity Index, 2023 ranking:**

