



National Performance on Key Goals

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This paper compares the US to other large, advanced countries on their performance on our key goals as a starting point for understanding how policy decisions affect outcomes.

We recognize that policies alone don't determine how countries perform on the goals. History, geography, natural resources, and other factors all play a role. And there are other criteria and metrics that could be applied. So, it is important to keep this analysis in context – a comparison of outcomes in seven specific areas, based on metrics that we believe best capture current performance.

For this analysis we have included all countries classified by the UN as “developed economies” with a population of at least 8 million people. The population criterion excludes small countries (more comparable to US states) and excludes city-states like Singapore and Hong Kong. These criteria result in 16 countries for comparison to the US.

The US does not rank well on many of the metrics. Our assessment is that we have significant room for improvement, and we should expect our elected leaders to work hard to develop and adopt policies that will make the US more competitive and successful.

The Appendices show how we measure performance by country, and the sources for the data we use. Immediately following this introduction is a table summarizing the scores in each goal area, and a combined score for each country.

* Note that for the fifth goal area, Secure Borders, we have not identified a relevant metric to measure performance, so that goal is not included in this analysis.

We invite comments and questions on this methodology and its implications, at info@centerforpolicyprogress.org.

CPP National Policy Outcomes Scorecard - Summary

Appendix			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Country	Rank	Average Ranking	A strong economy in which people are able to participate	A healthy and sustainable environment	Access to quality Health care	Access to quality Education	Secure Right to Vote	Safe Communities	World Class Infrastructure
Australia	10	9.4	8	9	7	11	3	11	17
Austria	6	7.7	1	4	16	13	9	3	8
Belgium	14	11	2	11	15	12	12	14	11
Canada	8	8.1	6	12	9	2	2	10	16
Czechia	12	10.3	10	13	12	4	15	4	14
France	13	10.6	10	3	13	15	11	15	7
Germany	5	7.4	7	6	10	7	7	9	6
Israel	16	13.4	17	17	8	14	16	7	15
Italy	15	12.4	14	14	4	16	14	13	12
Japan	2	4.6	13	8	1	1	5	1	3
Korea (Republic of)	7	7.9	8	16	5	3	13	6	4
Netherlands	3	6.1	2	7	14	10	4	5	1
Spain	11	9.7	16	10	3	16	10	8	5
Sweden	4	7.1	2	5	6	7	1	16	13
Switzerland	1	3.3	5	1	2	5	6	2	2
United Kingdom	9	8.7	14	2	11	5	8	12	9
United States	17	13.6	12	15	17	7	17	17	10

Appendix 1 - Economy

The US ranks high on Median Income (second only to Switzerland), however it has the highest level of income inequality of any of these countries.

Country	a. Median HH Income (ppp)	b. Income inequality (Gini Index)	Rank on Median Income	Rank on Income Inequality	Average of Rankings	Combined Rank
Australia	\$ 30,652	34.4	5	12	8.5	8
Austria	\$ 32,184	30.8	3	5	4	1
Belgium	\$ 29,013	27.6	8	2	5	2
Canada	\$ 31,713	32.7	4	9	6.5	6
Czechia	\$ 17,789	25.4	17	1	9	10
France	\$ 25,650	31.9	10	8	9	10
Germany	\$ 26,667	31.9	9	7	8	7
Israel	\$ 19,100	39.0	16	16	16	17
Italy	\$ 22,754	35.2	13	14	13.5	14
Japan	\$ 22,774	32.9	12	10	11	13
Korea (Republic of)	\$ 23,362	31.4	11	6	8.5	8
Netherlands	\$ 29,338	28.2	7	3	5	2
Spain	\$ 21,599	35.8	15	15	15	16
Sweden	\$ 29,507	29.6	6	4	5	2
Switzerland	\$ 36,360	33.0	1	11	6	5
United Kingdom	\$ 22,488	34.8	14	13	13.5	14
United States	\$ 34,514	41.1	2	17	9.5	12

Sources:

- Median Income (purchasing power parity) - OECD, 2016 - <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/8888933938458>
- Income Inequality (GINI Index) - World Bank, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI>

(The Gini index is a commonly used measure of the distribution of income across a population. A higher Gini index indicates greater inequality).

Appendix 2 - Environment

The US ranks 15th among large advanced countries on Yale's Environmental Performance Index, which is based on 32 metrics encompassing air and water quality, climate change, and biodiversity.

Country	Environmental Performance Index Score	Rank
Australia	74.9	9
Austria	79.6	4
Belgium	73.3	11
Canada	71.0	12
Czechia	71.0	13
France	80.0	3
Germany	77.2	6
Israel	65.8	17
Italy	71.0	14
Japan	75.1	8
Korea (Republic of)	66.5	16
Netherlands	75.3	7
Spain	74.3	10
Sweden	78.7	5
Switzerland	81.5	1
United Kingdom	81.3	2
United States	69.3	15

Source: Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy - <https://epi.yale.edu/epi-results/2020/component/epi>

Appendix 3 - Access to Healthcare

The US ranks last among these 17 countries on both Life Expectancy and the percent of the population covered by health insurance. We also spend a larger share of our GDP on healthcare than any of these other countries.

Country	Life Expectancy	Health Insurance Coverage	Rank				Spending on Health Care (% of GDP)
			Life Expectancy	Health Insurance Coverage	Average of Rankings	Combined Rank	
Australia	83.0	100.00%	7	1	4	7	9.4%
Austria	82.0	99.90%	13	15	14	16	10.4%
Belgium	82.1	98.60%	11	16	13.5	15	10.7%
Canada	82.1	100.00%	12	1	6.5	9	10.8%
Czechia	79.3	100.00%	16	1	8.5	12	7.8%
France	82.9	99.90%	8	13	10.5	13	11.1%
Germany	81.4	100.00%	14	1	7.5	10	11.7%
Israel	82.9	100.00%	9	1	5	8	7.5%
Italy	83.6	100.00%	4	1	2.5	4	8.7%
Japan	84.4	100.00%	1	1	1	1	11.0%
Korea (Republic of)	83.3	100.00%	5	1	3	5	8.2%
Netherlands	82.2	99.90%	10	14	12	14	10.2%
Spain	83.9	100.00%	3	1	2	3	9.1%
Sweden	83.2	100.00%	6	1	3.5	6	10.9%
Switzerland	84.0	100.00%	2	1	1.5	2	11.3%
United Kingdom	81.2	100.00%	15	1	8	11	10.2%
United States	78.9	90.30%	17	17	17	17	16.8%

Sources:

Life expectancy - OECD - 2019 (before COVID-19) - https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=HEALTH_STAT

Health Insurance Coverage - OECD - Total Public and Private health insurance, % of population covered, 2019 or 2020 - https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=HEALTH_HCQI

Health Care Spending - Expenditures on health as a % of GDP 2019 - - https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=HEALTH_STAT

Appendix 4 - Education

Country	PISA Scores (2018)		Educational Attainment			
	Average Score	Rank	Educational Attainment	Rank	Average of Rankings	Combined Rank
Australia	499	9	81.0%	12	10.5	11
Austria	491	14	85.0%	9	11.5	13
Belgium	500	7	76.8%	15	11	12
Canada	517	3	91.1%	3	3	2
Czechia	495	11	93.8%	2	6.5	4
France	494	13	78.4%	13	13	15
Germany	500	8	86.5%	8	8	7
Israel	465	17	87.4%	7	12	14
Italy	477	16	60.9%	16	16	16
Japan	520	1	94.6%	1	1	1
Korea (Republic of)	520	2	87.6%	6	4	3
Netherlands	502	5	78.4%	14	9.5	10
Spain	480	15	59.1%	17	16	16
Sweden	502	6	83.0%	10	8	7
Switzerland	498	10	87.8%	5	7.5	5
United Kingdom	504	4	81.2%	11	7.5	5
United States	495	12	90.6%	4	8	7

Sources:

Reading Math and Science scores: OECD PISA 2018 (Programme for International Student Assessment)

- https://www.oecd.org/pisa/PISA-results_ENGLISH.png

- Average score is an arithmetic Average of the scores for Reading, Math and Science

Educational attainment: Percent of people aged 25 - 64 who have completed at least upper secondary education (high school)

- <https://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/topics/education/>

Appendix 5 - Protecting the Right to Vote

Country	Democracy Index 2020 (The Economist)	Political Rights Score (Freedom House)	Rank			
			Democracy Index	Political Rights Score	Average of Rankings	Combined Rank
Australia	8.96	40	3	1	2	3
Austria	8.16	37	8	11	9.5	9
Belgium	7.51	39	17	6	11.5	12
Canada	9.24	40	2	1	1.5	2
Czechia	7.67	36	16	13	14.5	15
France	7.99	38	12	10	11	11
Germany	8.67	39	6	6	6	7
Israel	7.84	33	14	15	14.5	16
Italy	7.74	36	15	13	14	14
Japan	8.13	40	9	1	5	5
Korea (Republic of)	8.01	33	11	15	13	13
Netherlands	8.96	40	4	1	2.5	4
Spain	8.12	37	10	11	10.5	10
Sweden	9.26	40	1	1	1	1
Switzerland	8.83	39	5	6	5.5	6
United Kingdom	8.54	39	7	6	6.5	8
United States	7.92	32	13	17	15	17

Sources:

Democracy score, the Economist

<https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2020/>

Political Rights Score, Freedom House (out of a possible total of 40) -

<https://freedomhouse.org/countries/freedom-world/scores>

Appendix 6 - Safe Communities

Violent crime has been declining in the US. However, we rank last among the 17 countries on two common metrics of safety.

Country	Crime Rate, 2021	Safety Index, 2020	Rank			
			Crime Rate	Safety Index	Average of Rankings	Combined Rank
Australia	41.7	58.6	11	11	11	11
Austria	24.4	76.3	3	3	3	3
Belgium	45.3	56.0	14	13	13.5	14
Canada	40.6	60.3	10	10	10	10
Czechia	25.4	74.5	4	4	4	4
France	47.4	53.2	15	15	15	15
Germany	35.1	65.2	9	9	9	9
Israel	30.4	70.4	7	7	7	7
Italy	44.2	55.7	12	14	13	13
Japan	21.7	79.3	2	1	1.5	1
Korea (Republic of)	27.3	72.0	6	6	6	6
Netherlands	27.2	72.4	5	5	5	5
Spain	32.3	68.0	8	8	8	8
Sweden	47.4	52.9	16	16	16	16
Switzerland	21.6	78.4	1	2	1.5	2
United Kingdom	44.5	56.3	13	12	12.5	12
United States	47.7	52.8	17	17	17	17

Sources:

- Safety Index - compiled by Numbeo, based on surveys of visitors to its site - https://www.numbeo.com/crime/rankings_by_country.jsp?title=2020&displayColumn=1
- Crime rate - reported crimes per 100,000 people - <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country>
- Note that these two metrics produce almost identical rankings.

Appendix 7 - Infrastructure

The World Economic Forum provides ratings of infrastructure and other factors by country. The infrastructure ratings encompass transportation, electricity and water.

Country	Quality of Infrastructure Index (2019)	Infrastructure Rank among 17 large advanced countries	Infrastructure Rank Overall
Australia	79.2	17	29
Austria	89.0	8	10
Belgium	87.3	11	14
Canada	80.8	16	26
Czechia	83.8	14	20
France	89.7	7	9
Germany	90.2	6	8
Israel	83.0	15	23
Italy	84.1	12	18
Japan	93.2	3	5
Korea (Republic of)	92.1	4	6
Netherlands	94.3	1	2
Spain	90.3	5	7
Sweden	84.0	13	19
Switzerland	93.2	2	4
United Kingdom	88.9	9	11
United States	87.9	10	13

Source: World Economic Forum Competitiveness Index, "Quality of Infrastructure" component, 2019
https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2019.pdf