



World Justice Project
RULE OF LAW INDEX[®]

2024 Insights



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World Justice Project
RULE OF LAW INDEX®
2024 Insights

The *World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index*[®] 2024 is the latest report in an annual series measuring the rule of law based on global surveys of more than 214,000 households and 3,500 legal practitioners and experts. It is the world's leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law.

The Index presents a portrait of the rule of law in 142 countries and jurisdictions by providing scores and rankings based on eight factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.

The Index is intended for a broad audience that includes policy makers, civil society organizations, academics, citizens, and legal professionals, among others. It is our hope that this diagnostic tool will help identify strengths and weaknesses, encourage policy choices, guide program development, and inform research to strengthen the rule of law.

The following pages contain a selection of key insights and data trends from the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2024*. The complete 2024 report—including country profiles, interactive data visualizations, methodology, and questionnaires—is available at our website: worldjusticeproject.org.

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Introduction

The *World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index*® 2024 is the latest report in an annual series measuring people's perceptions and experiences of the rule of law in 142 countries and jurisdictions. The data featured in this report comes from global surveys completed by more than 214,000 households and 3,500 legal practitioners and experts, making the Index the world's leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law.

The data included in this Insights report comes from the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2024*. The period of data collection for the 2024 data was February 2024 through June 2024.

The Index data is based on global surveys of more than 214,000 households and 3,500 legal practitioners and experts.

Status of the Rule of Law Around the World

The 2024 edition of the Index shows that the rule of law has continued to deteriorate in a majority of countries worldwide, though this majority has gotten smaller over the past three years. This year's continued global deterioration in rule of law can be explained in large part by weakening limits on government power, eroding protections for human rights, and worsening access to civil justice. Of the 57% of countries that experienced a deterioration in rule of law in 2024, at least 78% declined in each of these three indicators (Factors 1, 4, and 7).

The top three performers this year were Denmark, Norway, and Finland. Venezuela, Cambodia and Afghanistan had the lowest overall rule of law scores.

The countries with the biggest improvement in rule of law in the past year were Poland (3.2%), Vietnam (2.1%), and Sri Lanka (1.6%). The countries with the biggest decline in rule of law in the past year were Myanmar (-3.8%), El Salvador (-3.3%), and Nicaragua (-2.8%).

Defining the Rule of Law

The World Justice Project defines the rule of law as a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers:



UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE ONE

Accountability

The government as well as private actors are accountable under the law.



UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE THREE

Open Government

The processes by which the law is adopted, administered, adjudicated, and enforced are accessible, fair, and efficient.



UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE TWO

Just Law

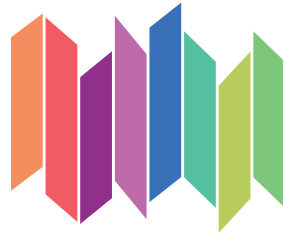
The law is clear, publicized, and stable and is applied evenly. It ensures human rights as well as property, contract, and procedural rights.



UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE FOUR

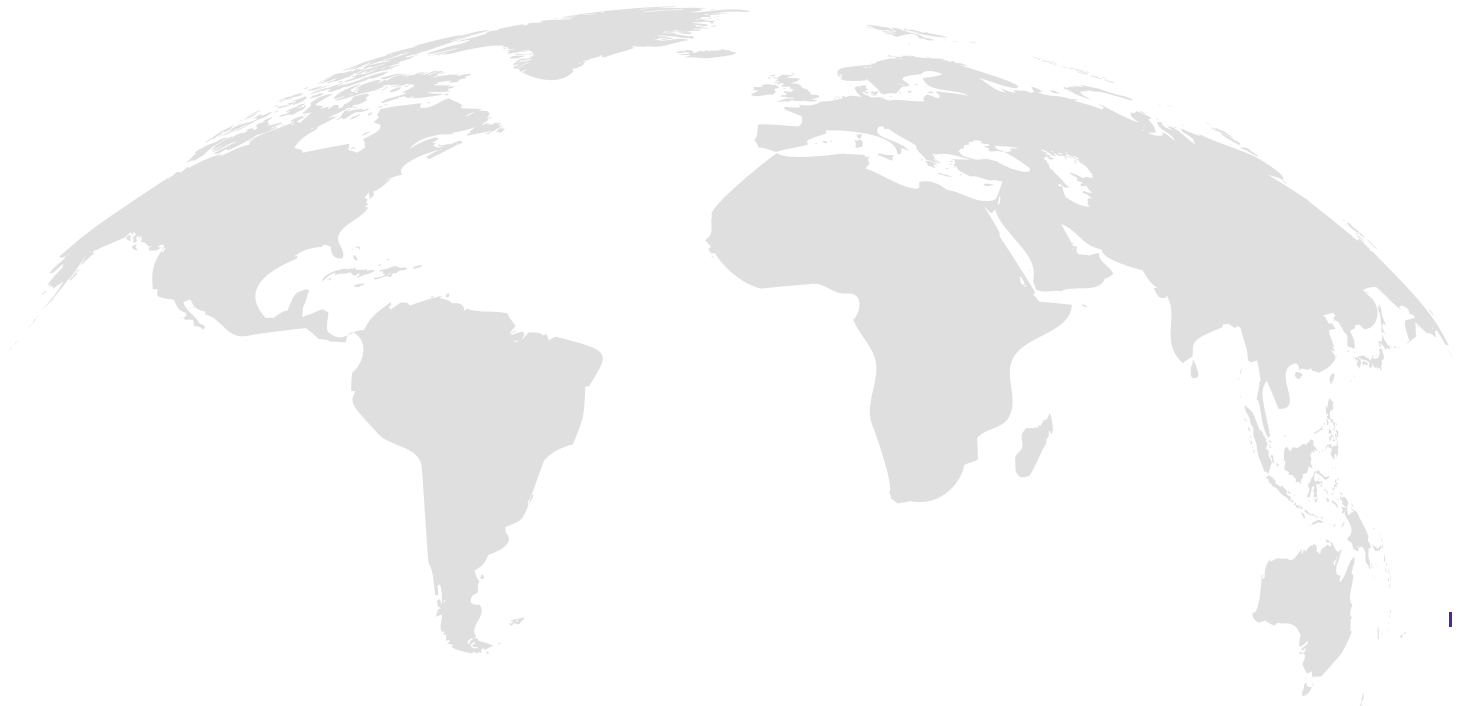
Accessible and Impartial Justice

Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals who are accessible, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.



**“The rule of law matters to all of us—
to the entire human family.”**

- WJP Honorary Chair, the Most Reverend Desmond Tutu (1931-2021)



Conceptual Framework of the WJP Rule of Law Index

The conceptual framework of the *WJP Rule of Law Index* is comprised of eight factors further disaggregated into 44 sub-factors. These factors and sub-factors are presented as follows.



FACTOR ONE

Constraints on Government Powers

- 1.1 Government powers are effectively limited by the legislature
- 1.2 Government powers are effectively limited by the judiciary
- 1.3 Government powers are effectively limited by independent auditing and review
- 1.4 Government officials are sanctioned for misconduct
- 1.5 Government powers are subject to non-governmental checks
- 1.6 Transition of power is subject to the law



FACTOR TWO

Absence of Corruption

- 2.1 Government officials in the executive branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.2 Government officials in the judicial branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.3 Government officials in the police and the military do not use public office for private gain
- 2.4 Government officials in the legislative branch do not use public office for private gain



FACTOR THREE

Open Government

- 3.1 Publicized laws and government data
- 3.2 Right to information
- 3.3 Civic participation
- 3.4 Complaint mechanisms



FACTOR FOUR

Fundamental Rights

- 4.1 Equal treatment and absence of discrimination
- 4.2 The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed
- 4.3 Due process of the law and rights of the accused
- 4.4 Freedom of opinion and expression is effectively guaranteed
- 4.5 Freedom of belief and religion is effectively guaranteed
- 4.6 Freedom from arbitrary interference with privacy is effectively guaranteed
- 4.7 Freedom of assembly and association is effectively guaranteed
- 4.8 Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed

 **FACTOR FIVE**
Order and Security

- 5.1 Crime is effectively controlled
- 5.2 Civil conflict is effectively limited
- 5.3 People do not resort to violence to redress personal grievances

 **FACTOR SIX**
Regulatory Enforcement

- 6.1 Government regulations are effectively enforced
- 6.2 Government regulations are applied and enforced without improper influence
- 6.3 Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay
- 6.4 Due process is respected in administrative proceedings
- 6.5 The government does not expropriate without lawful process and adequate compensation

 **FACTOR SEVEN**
Civil Justice

- 7.1 People can access and afford civil justice
- 7.2 Civil justice is free of discrimination
- 7.3 Civil justice is free of corruption
- 7.4 Civil justice is free of improper government influence
- 7.5 Civil justice is not subject to unreasonable delay
- 7.6 Civil justice is effectively enforced
- 7.7 Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms are accessible, impartial, and effective

 **FACTOR EIGHT**
Criminal Justice

- 8.1 Criminal investigation system is effective
- 8.2 Criminal adjudication system is timely and effective
- 8.3 Correctional system is effective in reducing criminal behavior
- 8.4 Criminal justice system is impartial
- 8.5 Criminal justice system is free of corruption
- 8.6 Criminal justice system is free of improper government influence
- 8.7 Due process of the law and rights of the accused



SECTION 1

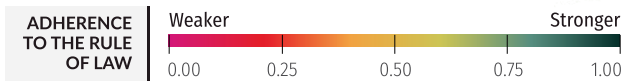
Status of the Rule of Law Around the World

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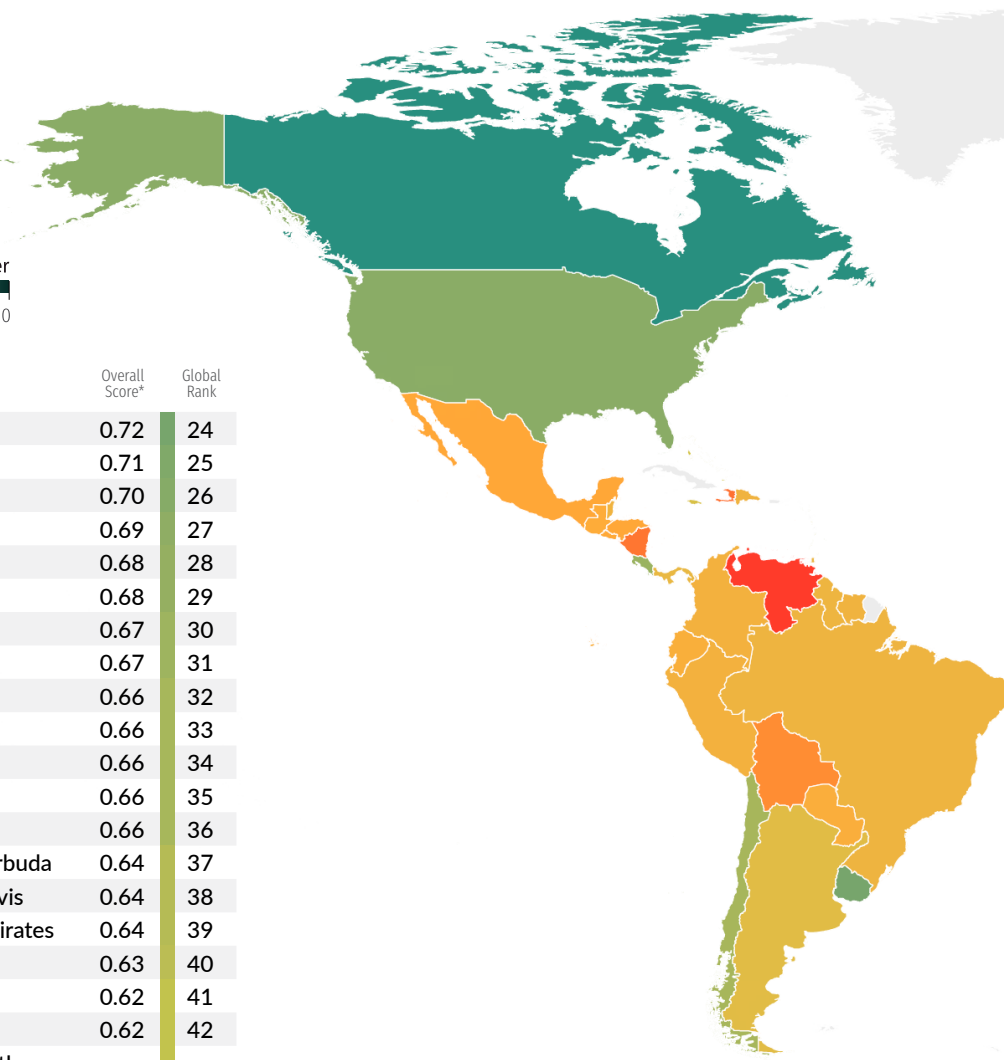
FIGURE 1.

Rule of Law Around the World

Scores and rankings of the 142 countries and jurisdictions included in the *WJP Rule of Law Index*® 2024 in order of score. Scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score (strong adherence to rule of law) and 0 signifies the lowest possible score (weak adherence to the rule of law).

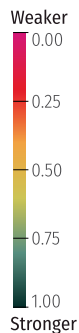


Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank
Denmark	0.90	1	Uruguay	0.72	24
Norway	0.89	2	Spain	0.71	25
Finland	0.87	3	United States	0.70	26
Sweden	0.86	4	Slovenia	0.69	27
Germany	0.83	5	Portugal	0.68	28
New Zealand	0.83	6	Costa Rica	0.68	29
Luxembourg	0.83	7	Malta	0.67	30
Netherlands	0.83	8	Cyprus	0.67	31
Ireland	0.82	9	Italy	0.66	32
Estonia	0.82	10	Poland	0.66	33
Australia	0.80	11	Slovak Republic	0.66	34
Canada	0.80	12	Barbados	0.66	35
Austria	0.79	13	Chile	0.66	36
Japan	0.79	14	Antigua and Barbuda	0.64	37
United Kingdom	0.78	15	St. Kitts and Nevis	0.64	38
Singapore	0.78	16	United Arab Emirates	0.64	39
Belgium	0.78	17	Rwanda	0.63	40
Lithuania	0.77	18	Romania	0.62	41
Korea, Rep.	0.74	19	St. Lucia	0.62	42
Czechia	0.74	20	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0.62	43
Latvia	0.73	21	Namibia	0.61	44
France	0.72	22	Croatia	0.61	45
Hong Kong SAR, China	0.72	23			



* Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

**ADHERENCE
TO THE RULE
OF LAW**



Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank
Mauritius	0.60	46	Brazil	0.50	80	Niger	0.43	114
Greece	0.60	47	Vietnam	0.50	81	Angola	0.43	115
Grenada	0.60	48	Belize	0.50	82	Honduras	0.42	116
Georgia	0.60	49	Uzbekistan	0.49	83	Türkiye	0.42	117
The Bahamas	0.59	50	Algeria	0.49	84	Mexico	0.41	118
Botswana	0.59	51	Suriname	0.49	85	Guinea	0.41	119
Kuwait	0.58	52	Dominican Republic	0.49	86	Nigeria	0.40	120
Dominica	0.58	53	The Gambia	0.49	87	Congo, Rep.	0.40	121
Jamaica	0.57	54	Ukraine	0.49	88	Gabon	0.40	122
Malaysia	0.57	55	Albania	0.48	89	Zimbabwe	0.40	123
Montenegro	0.57	56	Peru	0.48	90	Mali	0.39	124
South Africa	0.56	57	Colombia	0.48	91	Mozambique	0.39	125
Kosovo	0.56	58	Morocco	0.48	92	Uganda	0.39	126
Bulgaria	0.56	59	Benin	0.48	93	Bangladesh	0.39	127
Senegal	0.55	60	Serbia	0.47	94	Iran, Islamic Rep.	0.39	128
Jordan	0.55	61	China	0.47	95	Pakistan	0.38	129
Ghana	0.55	62	Tanzania	0.47	96	Ethiopia	0.37	130
Argentina	0.55	63	Ecuador	0.46	97	Bolivia	0.37	131
Moldova	0.54	64	Burkina Faso	0.46	98	Mauritania	0.36	132
Kazakhstan	0.54	65	Philippines	0.46	99	Cameroon	0.36	133
Mongolia	0.53	66	Paraguay	0.46	100	Sudan	0.35	134
North Macedonia	0.53	67	Kyrgyz Republic	0.45	101	Egypt, Arab Rep.	0.35	135
Indonesia	0.53	68	Kenya	0.45	102	Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.34	136
Nepal	0.52	69	Zambia	0.45	103	Nicaragua	0.34	137
Malawi	0.52	70	Côte d'Ivoire	0.45	104	Myanmar	0.34	138
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.52	71	Belarus	0.45	105	Haiti	0.33	139
Panama	0.52	72	Togo	0.45	106	Afghanistan	0.32	140
Hungary	0.51	73	Guatemala	0.44	107	Cambodia	0.31	141
Trinidad and Tobago	0.51	74	Lebanon	0.44	108	Venezuela, RB	0.26	142
Sri Lanka	0.51	75	Liberia	0.44	109			
Tunisia	0.50	76	Sierra Leone	0.43	110			
Guyana	0.50	77	El Salvador	0.43	111			
Thailand	0.50	78	Madagascar	0.43	112			
India	0.50	79	Russian Federation	0.43	113			

* Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

FIGURE 2.

Changes in Rule of Law Scores and Rankings


















































This table presents the scores, rankings, and changes for the 142 countries and jurisdictions included in the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2024* in alphabetical order.

Scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score (strong adherence to rule of law) and 0 signifies the lowest possible score (weak adherence to rule of law).

Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	Annual Change in Global Rank†	Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	Annual Change in Global Rank†
140	Afghanistan	0.32	-0.4%	0	36	Chile	0.66	-0.7%	3 ▼
89	Albania	0.48	-0.3%	2 ▲	95	China	0.47	1.2%	2 ▲
84	Algeria	0.49	1.0%	0	91	Colombia	0.48	-0.2%	3 ▲
115	Angola	0.43	0.3%	0	136	Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.34	-0.4%	2 ▲
37	Antigua and Barbuda	0.64	0.3%	1 ▲	121	Congo, Rep.	0.40	0.4%	1 ▲
63	Argentina	0.55	0.0%	0	29	Costa Rica	0.68	-1.0%	0
11	Australia	0.80	0.0%	2 ▲	104	Côte d'Ivoire	0.45	0.4%	2 ▲
13	Austria	0.79	-0.8%	2 ▼	45	Croatia	0.61	-0.5%	0
50	The Bahamas	0.59	-0.6%	0	31	Cyprus	0.67	-0.8%	0
127	Bangladesh	0.39	0.3%	0	20	Czechia	0.74	1.0%	0
35	Barbados	0.66	0.2%	0	1	Denmark	0.90	0.0%	0
105	Belarus	0.45	-1.2%	1 ▼	53	Dominica	0.58	-0.2%	0
17	Belgium	0.78	-0.3%	1 ▼	86	Dominican Republic	0.49	1.1%	0
82	Belize	0.50	0.7%	2 ▼	97	Ecuador	0.46	-2.0%	1 ▼
93	Benin	0.48	-1.6%	3 ▼	135	Egypt, Arab Rep.	0.35	0.7%	1 ▲
131	Bolivia	0.37	-1.6%	0	111	El Salvador	0.43	-3.2%	3 ▼
71	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.52	1.1%	4 ▲	10	Estonia	0.82	0.0%	1 ▼
51	Botswana	0.59	-0.6%	0	130	Ethiopia	0.37	-2.4%	1 ▼
80	Brazil	0.50	1.5%	3 ▲	3	Finland	0.87	0.0%	0
59	Bulgaria	0.56	0.3%	0	22	France	0.72	-0.5%	1 ▼
98	Burkina Faso	0.46	-2.6%	3 ▼	122	Gabon	0.40	1.2%	2 ▲
141	Cambodia	0.31	-0.3%	0	87	The Gambia	0.49	0.4%	2 ▼
133	Cameroon	0.36	0.9%	1 ▲	49	Georgia	0.60	-1.3%	1 ▼
12	Canada	0.80	-0.3%	0	5	Germany	0.83	0.0%	0



































* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Percentage changes in score are rounded to one decimal place.

† The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 142 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2023 Index with the rankings of the same 142 countries and jurisdictions in 2024.

	Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	Annual Change in Global Rank†		Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	Annual Change in Global Rank†	
	62	Ghana	0.55	-0.3%	1 ▼			21	Latvia	0.73	0.7%	1 ▲
	47	Greece	0.60	-0.6%	0			108	Lebanon	0.44	-1.2%	1 ▼
	48	Grenada	0.60	-0.1%	1 ▲			109	Liberia	0.44	1.0%	3 ▲
	107	Guatemala	0.44	1.3%	4 ▲			18	Lithuania	0.77	0.8%	0
	119	Guinea	0.41	-0.5%	1 ▼			7	Luxembourg	0.83	-0.4%	1 ▼
	77	Guyana	0.50	-0.2%	1 ▼			112	Madagascar	0.43	-0.2%	2 ▲
	139	Haiti	0.33	-2.6%	0			70	Malawi	0.52	-0.4%	1 ▼
	116	Honduras	0.42	1.1%	3 ▲			55	Malaysia	0.57	0.0%	0
	23	Hong Kong SAR, China	0.72	-0.6%	0			124	Mali	0.39	-2.0%	3 ▼
	73	Hungary	0.51	-0.4%	0			30	Malta	0.67	-1.2%	0
	79	India	0.50	0.8%	0			132	Mauritania	0.36	0.7%	1 ▲
	68	Indonesia	0.53	-0.9%	2 ▼			46	Mauritius	0.60	-1.0%	0
	128	Iran, Islamic Rep.	0.39	0.0%	2 ▼			118	Mexico	0.41	-0.6%	2 ▼
	9	Ireland	0.82	1.0%	1 ▲			64	Moldova	0.54	1.5%	4 ▲
	32	Italy	0.66	-0.8%	0			66	Mongolia	0.53	0.1%	2 ▼
	54	Jamaica	0.57	-0.7%	0			56	Montenegro	0.57	0.9%	1 ▲
	14	Japan	0.79	0.1%	0			92	Morocco	0.48	-1.0%	0
	61	Jordan	0.55	0.0%	1 ▲			125	Mozambique	0.39	1.3%	3 ▲
	65	Kazakhstan	0.54	0.5%	0			138	Myanmar	0.34	-3.8%	3 ▼
	102	Kenya	0.45	-0.7%	1 ▼			44	Namibia	0.61	-0.5%	0
	19	Korea, Rep.	0.74	0.5%	0			69	Nepal	0.52	0.9%	2 ▲
	58	Kosovo	0.56	-0.5%	0			8	Netherlands	0.83	-0.7%	1 ▼
	52	Kuwait	0.58	-0.2%	0			6	New Zealand	0.83	1.0%	2 ▲
	101	Kyrgyz Republic	0.45	-0.1%	2 ▲			137	Nicaragua	0.34	-2.8%	0
								114	Niger	0.43	-2.7%	5 ▼

* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Percentage changes in score are rounded to one decimal place.

† The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 142 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2023 Index with the rankings of the same 142 countries and jurisdictions in 2024.

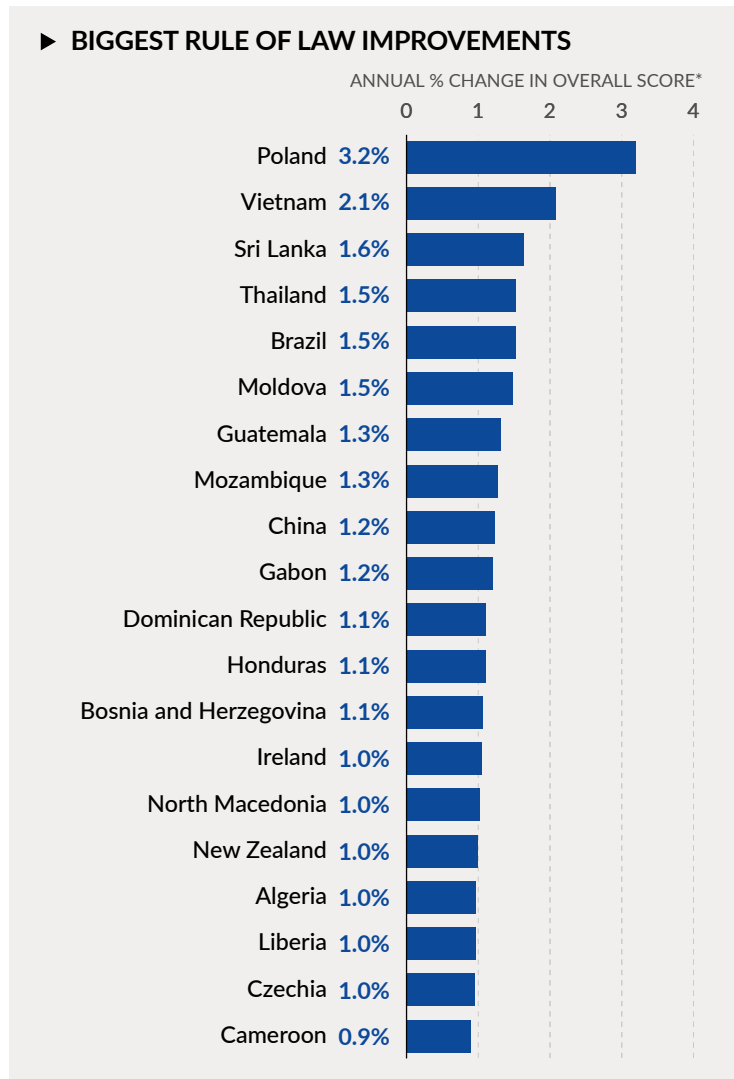
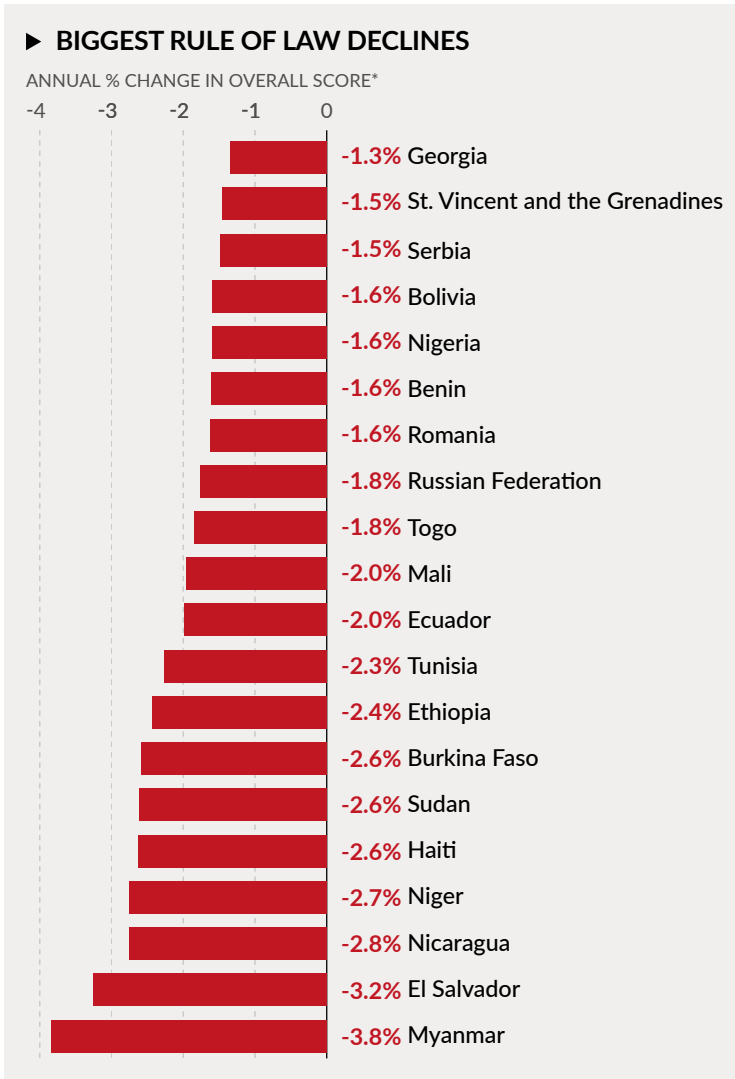
	Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	Annual Change in Global Rank†		Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	Annual Change in Global Rank†	
	120	Nigeria	0.40	-1.6%	0			42	St. Lucia	0.62	0.0%	1 ▲
	67	North Macedonia	0.53	1.0%	0			43	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0.62	-1.5%	1 ▼
	2	Norway	0.89	0.0%	0			134	Sudan	0.35	-2.6%	2 ▼
	129	Pakistan	0.38	0.5%	1 ▲			85	Suriname	0.49	0.4%	4 ▼
	72	Panama	0.52	0.6%	2 ▲			4	Sweden	0.86	0.3%	0
	100	Paraguay	0.46	-1.0%	1 ▼			96	Tanzania	0.47	0.2%	2 ▲
	90	Peru	0.48	-0.8%	2 ▼			78	Thailand	0.50	1.5%	4 ▲
	99	Philippines	0.46	0.1%	1 ▲			106	Togo	0.45	-1.8%	4 ▼
	33	Poland	0.66	3.2%	3 ▲			74	Trinidad and Tobago	0.51	-1.3%	4 ▼
	28	Portugal	0.68	-0.8%	0			76	Tunisia	0.50	-2.3%	4 ▼
	41	Romania	0.62	-1.6%	1 ▼			117	Türkiye	0.42	0.4%	0
	113	Russian Federation	0.43	-1.8%	0			126	Uganda	0.39	-0.7%	1 ▼
	40	Rwanda	0.63	0.8%	1 ▲			88	Ukraine	0.49	0.3%	1 ▲
	60	Senegal	0.55	-0.3%	0			39	United Arab Emirates	0.64	0.0%	2 ▼
	94	Serbia	0.47	-1.5%	1 ▼			15	United Kingdom	0.78	0.1%	0
	110	Sierra Leone	0.43	-1.3%	0			26	United States	0.70	-0.6%	0
	16	Singapore	0.78	0.8%	1 ▲			24	Uruguay	0.72	0.4%	1 ▲
	34	Slovak Republic	0.66	0.0%	0			83	Uzbekistan	0.49	-0.4%	5 ▼
	27	Slovenia	0.69	0.2%	0			142	Venezuela, RB	0.26	-1.2%	0
	57	South Africa	0.56	-1.0%	1 ▼			81	Vietnam	0.50	2.1%	6 ▲
	25	Spain	0.71	-0.9%	1 ▼			103	Zambia	0.45	0.6%	2 ▲
	75	Sri Lanka	0.51	1.6%	2 ▲			123	Zimbabwe	0.40	0.1%	0
	38	St. Kitts and Nevis	0.64	0.4%	1 ▲							

* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Percentage changes in score are rounded to one decimal place.

† The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 142 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2023 Index with the rankings of the same 142 countries and jurisdictions in 2024.

FIGURE 3.

Top Decliners and Improvers from 2023 to 2024



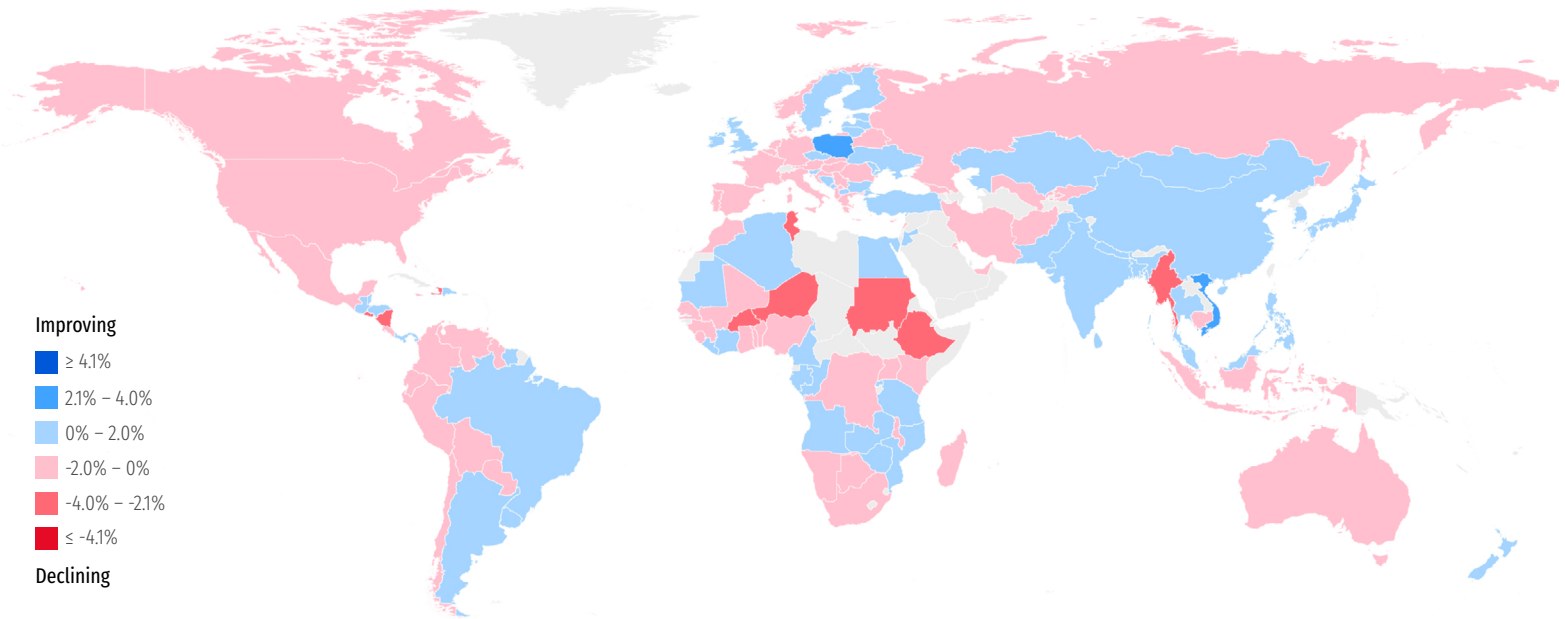
* Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place.

FIGURE 4.

Rule of Law Declined in 57% of Countries from 2023 to 2024

For the seventh consecutive year, the rule of law weakened in more countries than those in which it improved (57% declined vs. 43% improved). On average, overall rule of law scores dropped by 0.2%. Figures in the below map reflect annual percentage change* in overall scores from 2023 to 2024.

Percentage of Countries that: **Improved** (↑) 43% **Declined** (↓) 57%



* Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded scores in order to show changes.

Factors Explaining This Year's Results

The continued global deterioration in rule of law can be explained in large part by the following issues:

- 1. Weakening limits on government power and human rights protections**
 - Declines in **Factor 1: Constraints on Government Powers** were driven by deteriorations in non-governmental checks, limits by the legislature, and limits by the judiciary.
 - Weakening **Factor 4: Fundamental Rights** scores were driven by declines in freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of assembly and association, and freedom from arbitrary interference of privacy.
- 2. Worsening access to justice**
 - Falling scores in **Factor 7: Civil Justice** were driven by longer delays, less effective alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and increased government influence.

These trends capture the most common rule of law challenges in 2024. Of the 57% of countries that experienced a deterioration in rule of law this year, at least 78% declined in each of these three indicators (Factors 1, 4, and 7).

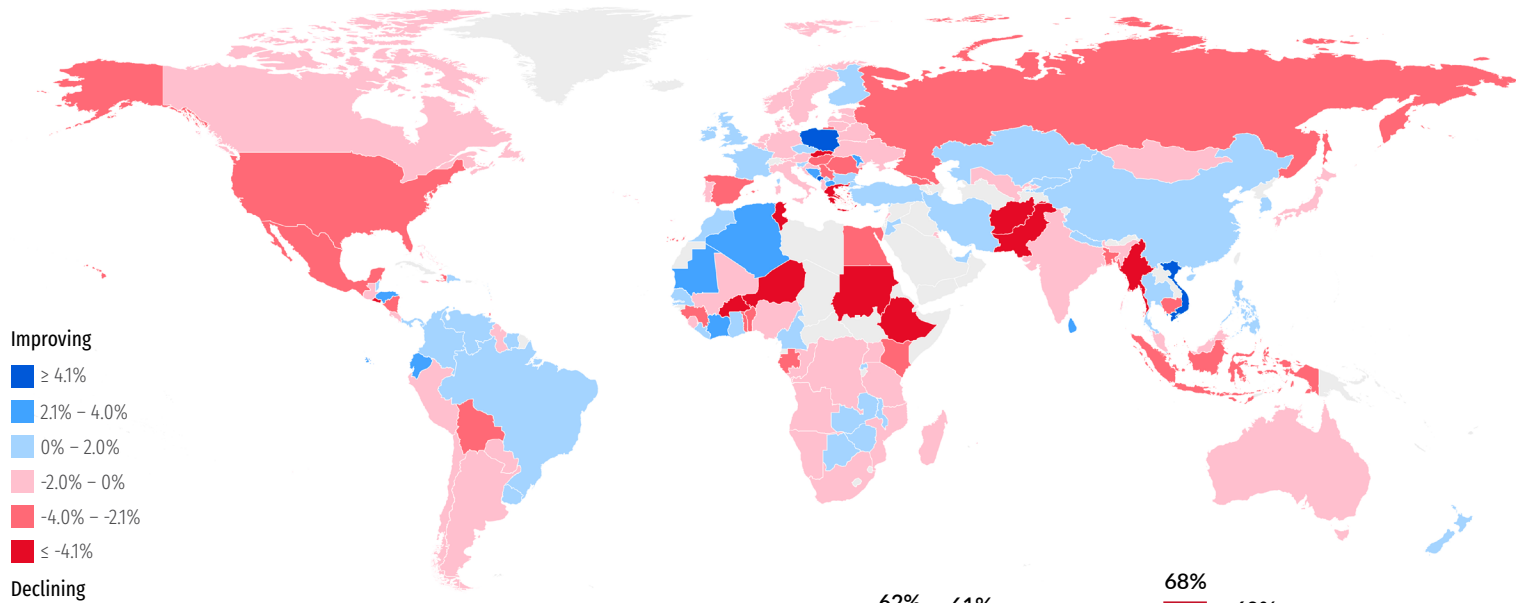
Among all 142 countries in the Index, declines in **Factor 4: Fundamental Rights** were the most widespread, as nearly two out of three countries experienced a decline in this indicator this year.

FIGURE 5.

Constraints on Government Powers Eroded in 59% of Countries from 2023 to 2024

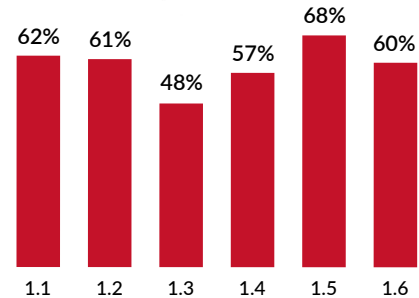
This figure shows percentage change* in Constraints on Government Powers (Factor 1) scores in each country over the last year.

Percentage of Countries that: **Improved** (↑) 41% **Declined** (↓) 59%



Percentage of countries that declined in each sub-factor of Factor 1

- 1.1 Limits by legislature
- 1.2 Limits by judiciary
- 1.3 Independent auditing
- 1.4 Sanctions for official misconduct
- 1.5 Non-governmental checks
- 1.6 Lawful transition of power



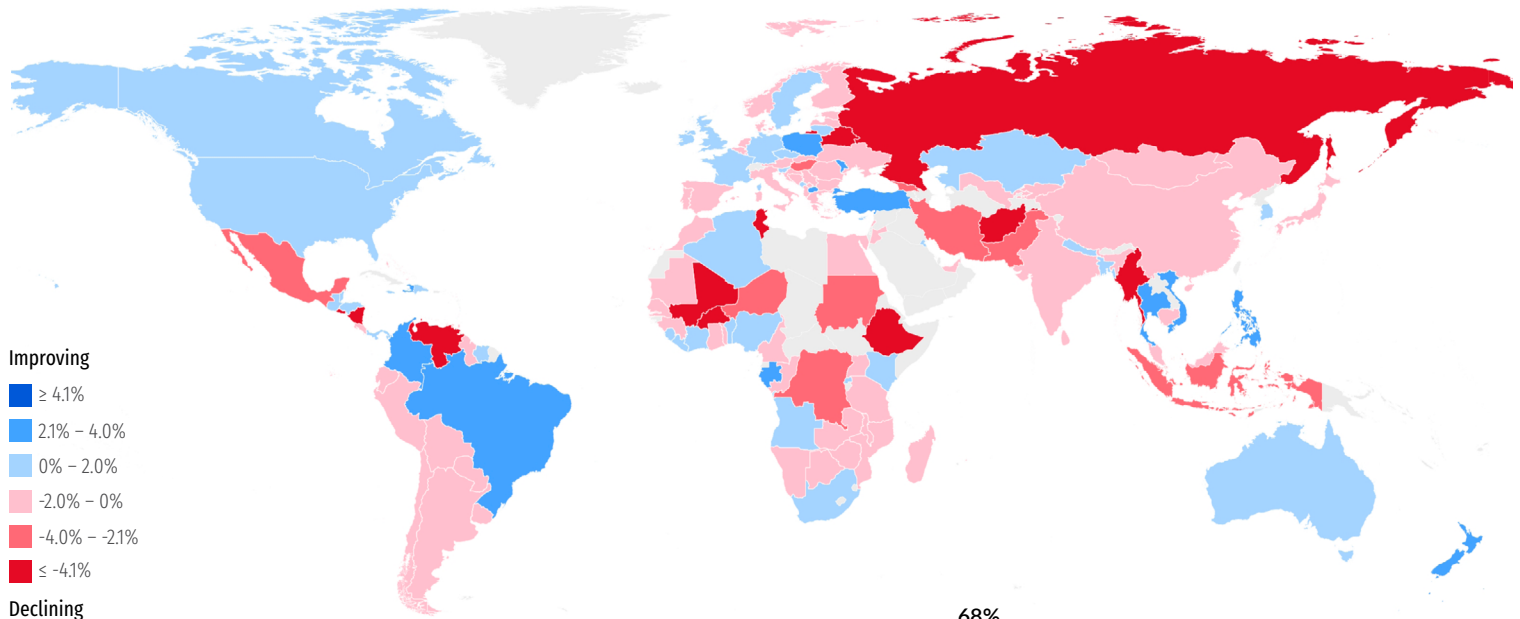
* Annual percentage change in Factor 1 score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in Factor 1 scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded scores in order to show changes.

FIGURE 6.

Fundamental Rights Fell in 63% of Countries from 2023 to 2024

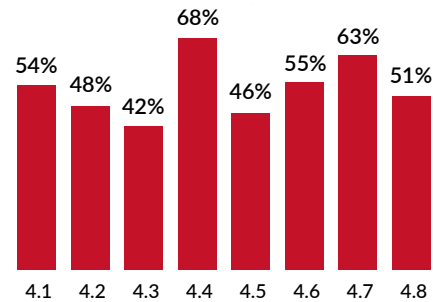
This figure shows percentage change* in Fundamental Rights (Factor 4) scores in each country over the last year.

Percentage of Countries that: **Improved** \uparrow 37% **Declined** \downarrow 63%



Percentage of countries that declined in each sub-factor of Factor 4

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4.1 No discrimination | 4.5 Freedom of religion |
| 4.2 Right to life and security | 4.6 Right to privacy |
| 4.3 Due process of law | 4.7 Freedom of association |
| 4.4 Freedom of expression | 4.8 Labor rights |



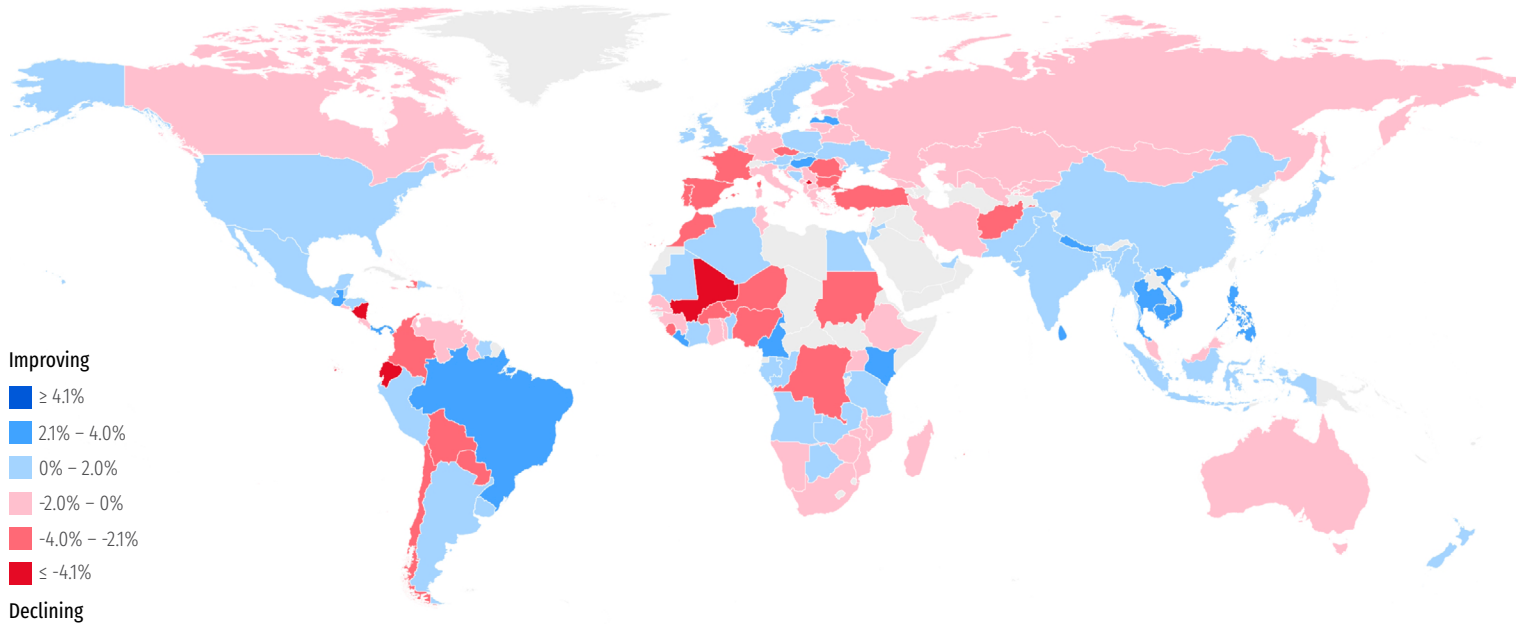
* Annual percentage change in Factor 4 score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in Factor 4 scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded scores in order to show changes

FIGURE 7.

Civil Justice Weakened in 56% of Countries from 2023 to 2024

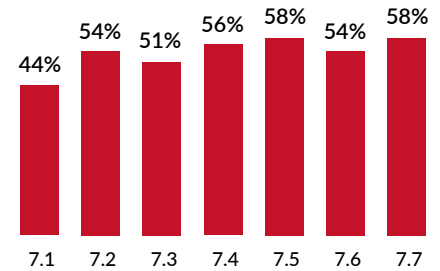
This figure shows percentage change* in Civil Justice (Factor 7) scores in each country over the last year.

Percentage of Countries that: ↑ 44% Improved ↓ 56% Declined



Percentage of countries that declined in each sub-factor of Factor 7

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 7.1 Accessibility and affordability | 7.5 No unreasonable delay |
| 7.2 No discrimination | 7.6 Effective enforcement |
| 7.3 No corruption | 7.7 Impartial and effective ADRs |
| 7.4 No improper government influence | |



* Annual percentage change in Factor 7 score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in Factor 7 scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded scores in order to show changes.



SECTION 2

Rule of Law Highlights

29 Rule of Law Highlights

30 For the 7th consecutive year, rule of law has declined in more countries than it improved.

31 Absence of Corruption Improved in 59% of Countries from 2023 to 2024

32 Factors of the Rule of Law from 2023 to 2024

33 Where rule of law is stronger, people are often voting for change.



Rule of Law Highlights

For the seventh consecutive year, the rule of law weakened in more countries than those in which it improved (81 vs. 61 countries, or 57% vs. 43%, respectively). This decline is also observed at the factor level, as scores for five of the Index's eight factors deteriorated in more countries than those in which it improved.

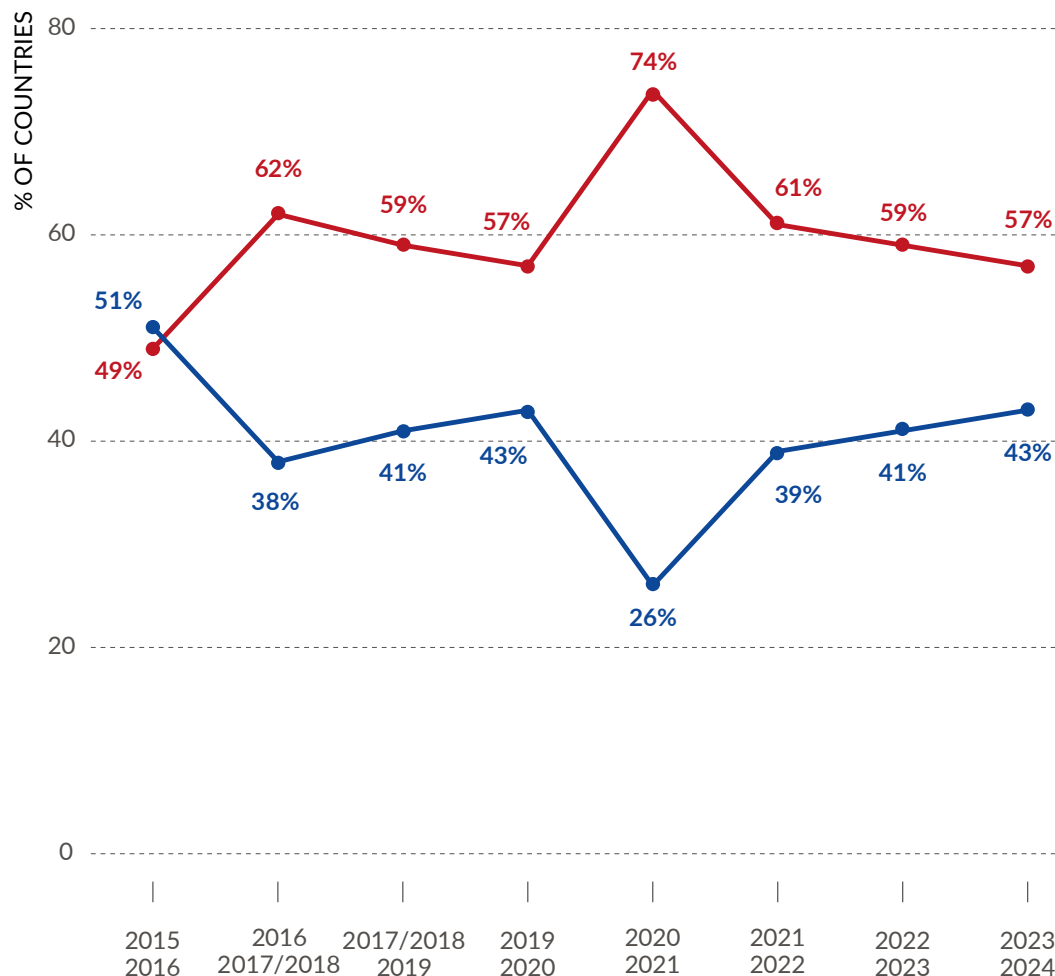
Despite this ongoing, global deterioration of rule of law, this year's Index report presents some positive developments. Over the past three years, the proportion of countries experiencing declines in rule of law has steadily decreased. In 2024, the rising percentage of countries that experienced an improvement in rule of law is largely driven by global advancements in corruption control. Scores for Factor 2: Absence of Corruption improved in 59% of countries.

This year's scores also connect stronger rule of law performance with the democratic transfer of power. In the last year, 41 countries held national elections and, in 25 of them, the ruling party won. These 25 countries tended to have lower overall rule of law scores, less democratic oversight, and weaker electoral systems. Additionally, the countries that elected incumbents had experienced deteriorating rule of law trends over the past few years. Among countries with higher overall rule of law scores, people voted for change more often than not.

FIGURE 8.

For the 7th consecutive year, rule of law has declined in more countries than it improved.

Percentage of countries whose overall rule of law score has improved or declined since 2015.*† Between 2023 and 2024, rule of law declined in 57% of countries and improved in 43% of countries. The average decline in score over this period is -1.0%. The extent and rate of this decline, however, has decreased compared to the previous two years, when the rule of law fell in 59% and 61% of countries, with average declines of -1.3% and -1.4%, respectively.



- % of countries that improved
- % of countries that declined

* Percentage of countries that improved or declined is calculated using the number of countries and jurisdictions common to the years in question.

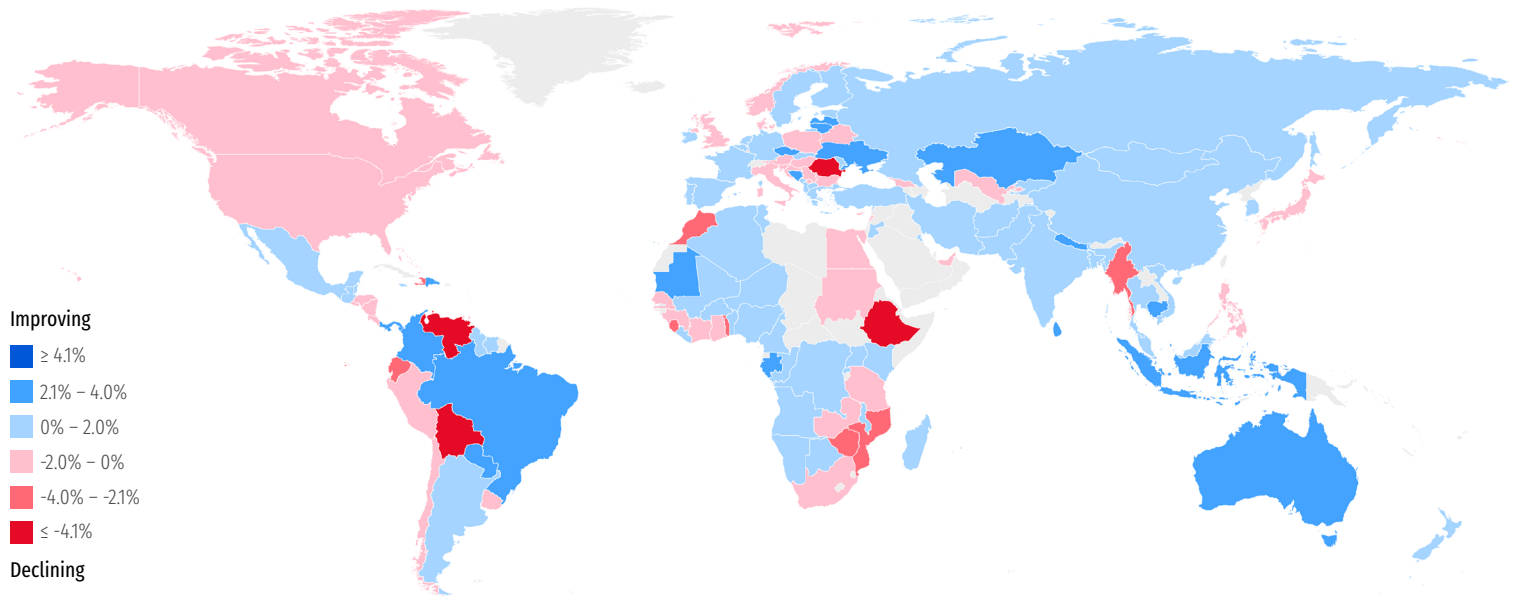
† The scores for the 2015, 2016, and 2017-18 indices were updated to account for methodological changes made in the 2017-2018 Index. Older versions of these scores might not match the revised versions.

FIGURE 9.

Absence of Corruption Improved in 59% of Countries from 2023 to 2024

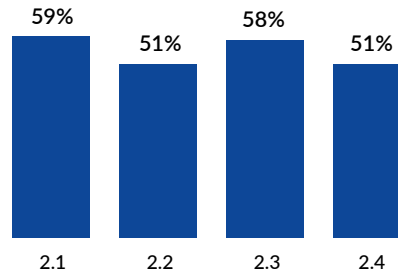
This figure shows percentage change* in Absence of Corruption (Factor 2) scores in each country over the last year.

Percentage of Countries that: **Improved** **Declined**
↑ 59% ↓ 41%



Percentage of countries that improved in each sub-factor of Factor 2

- 2.1 Executive branch
- 2.2 Judicial branch
- 2.3 Police and military
- 2.4 Legislative branch



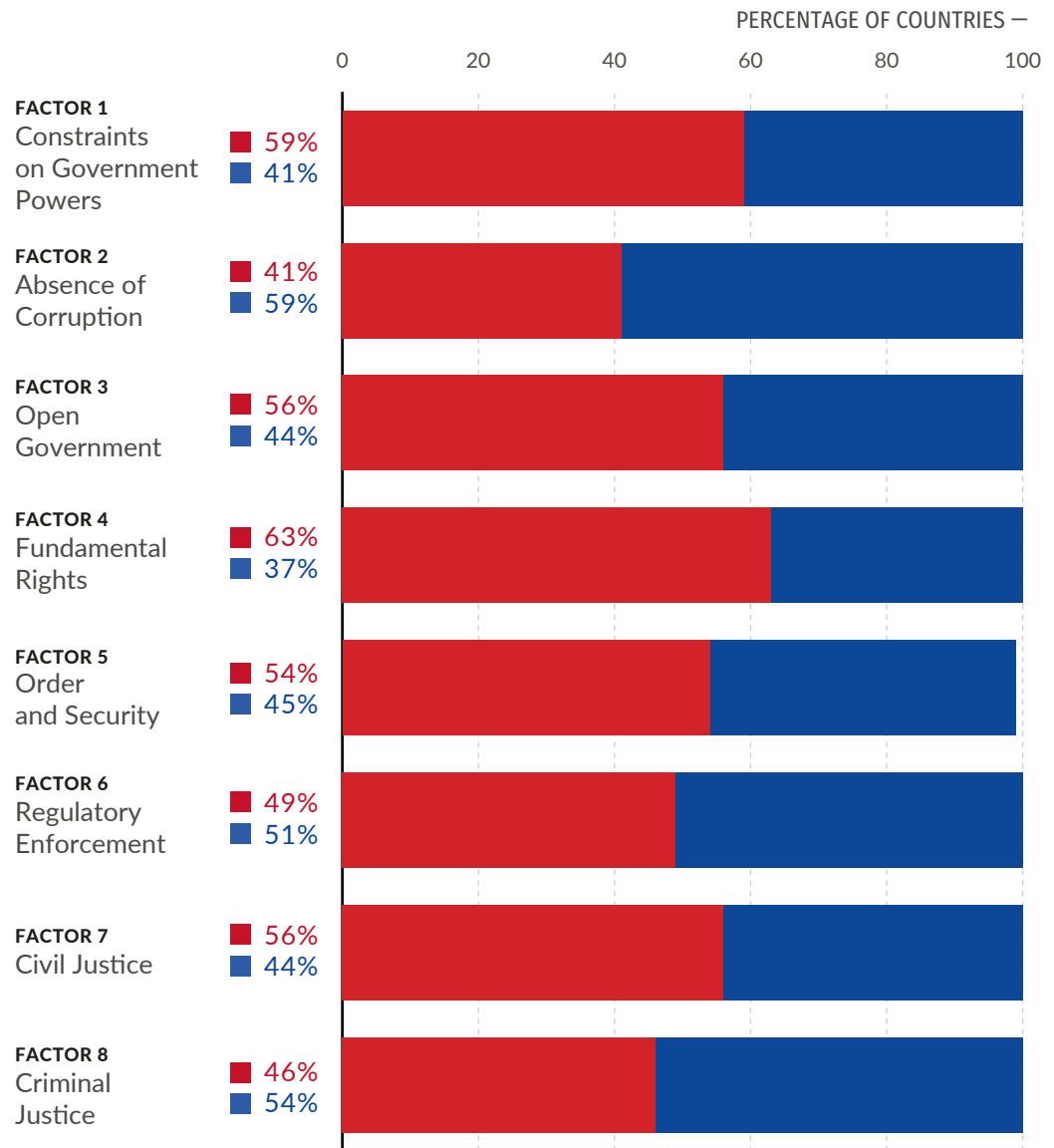
* Annual percentage change in Factor 2 score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in Factor 2 scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded scores in order to show changes.

FIGURE 10.

Factors of the Rule of Law from 2023 to 2024

Over the last year, five out of eight factors of the rule of law have declined in more countries than they have improved. The graphic shows the percentage of countries* that improved and declined in each factor between 2023 and 2024. In the past year, the greatest percentage of countries declined in Factor 1: Constraints on Government Powers (59%) and Factor 4: Fundamental Rights (63%).

■ % of countries that declined
 ■ % of countries that improved



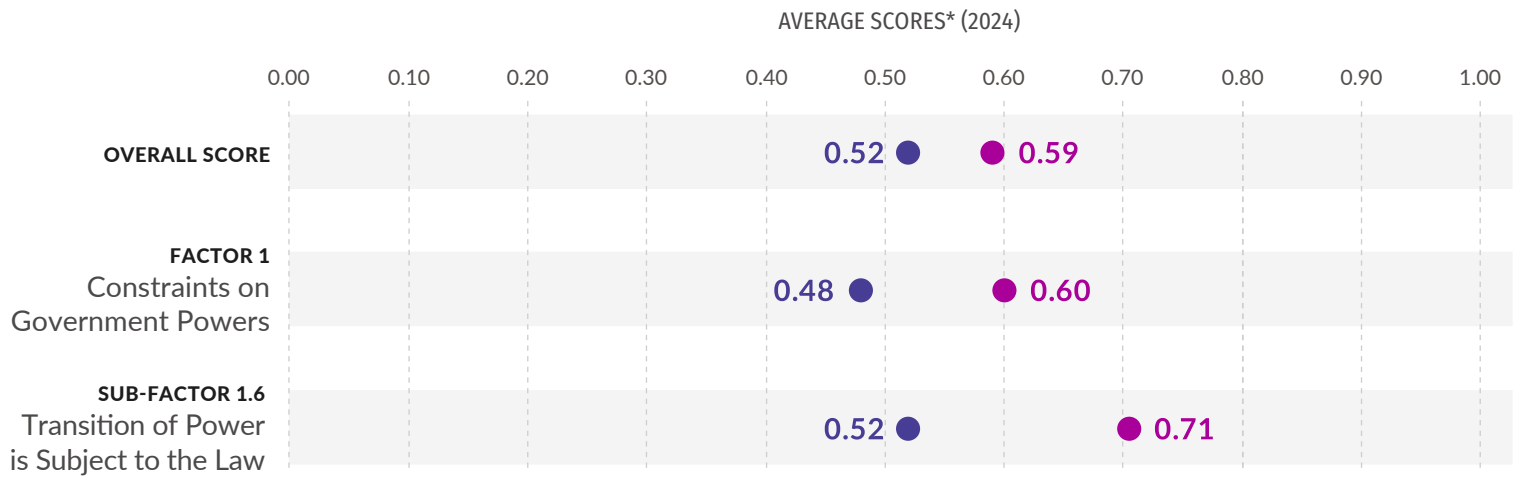
* Percentage of countries is rounded to the nearest whole number.

FIGURE 11.

Where rule of law is stronger, people are often voting for change.

The ruling party stayed in power in most of the 41 countries that held national elections between June 2023 and May 2024. These countries also tended to have lower rule of law, less democratic oversight, and weaker electoral systems. Among countries with higher rule of law, people voted for change more often than not.

● Ruling party won ● Non-ruling party won



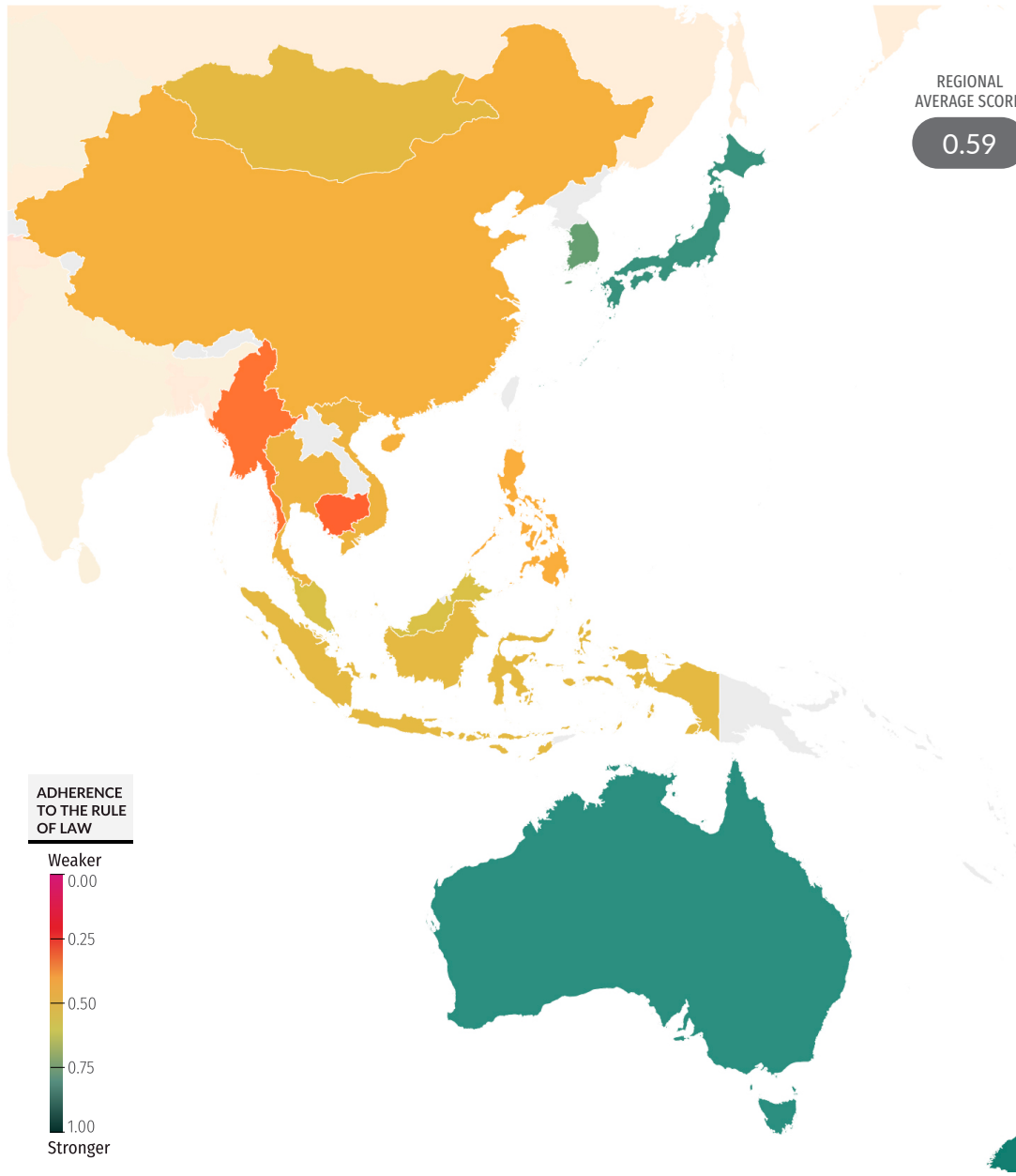
* Average overall score is rounded to two decimal places



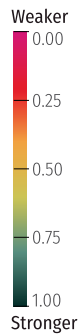
SECTION 3

Regional Rule of Law Insights

- 36 Rule of Law in East Asia and the Pacific from 2023 to 2024
- 37 Rule of Law in Eastern Europe and Central Asia from 2023 to 2024
- 38 Rule of Law in the European Union from 2023 to 2024
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- 42 Rule of Law in Sub-Saharan Africa from 2023 to 2024



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REGIONAL AVERAGE SCORE:
0.59

FIGURE 12.

Rule of Law in East Asia and the Pacific from 2023 to 2024

Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*
New Zealand	0.83	1.0%
Australia	0.80	0.0%
Japan	0.79	0.1%
Singapore	0.78	0.8%
Korea, Rep.	0.74	0.5%
Hong Kong SAR, China	0.72	-0.6%
Malaysia	0.57	0.0%
Mongolia	0.53	0.1%
Indonesia	0.53	-0.9%
Thailand	0.50	1.5%
Vietnam	0.50	2.1%
China	0.47	1.2%
Philippines	0.46	0.1%
Myanmar	0.34	-3.8%
Cambodia	0.31	-0.3%

* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place.

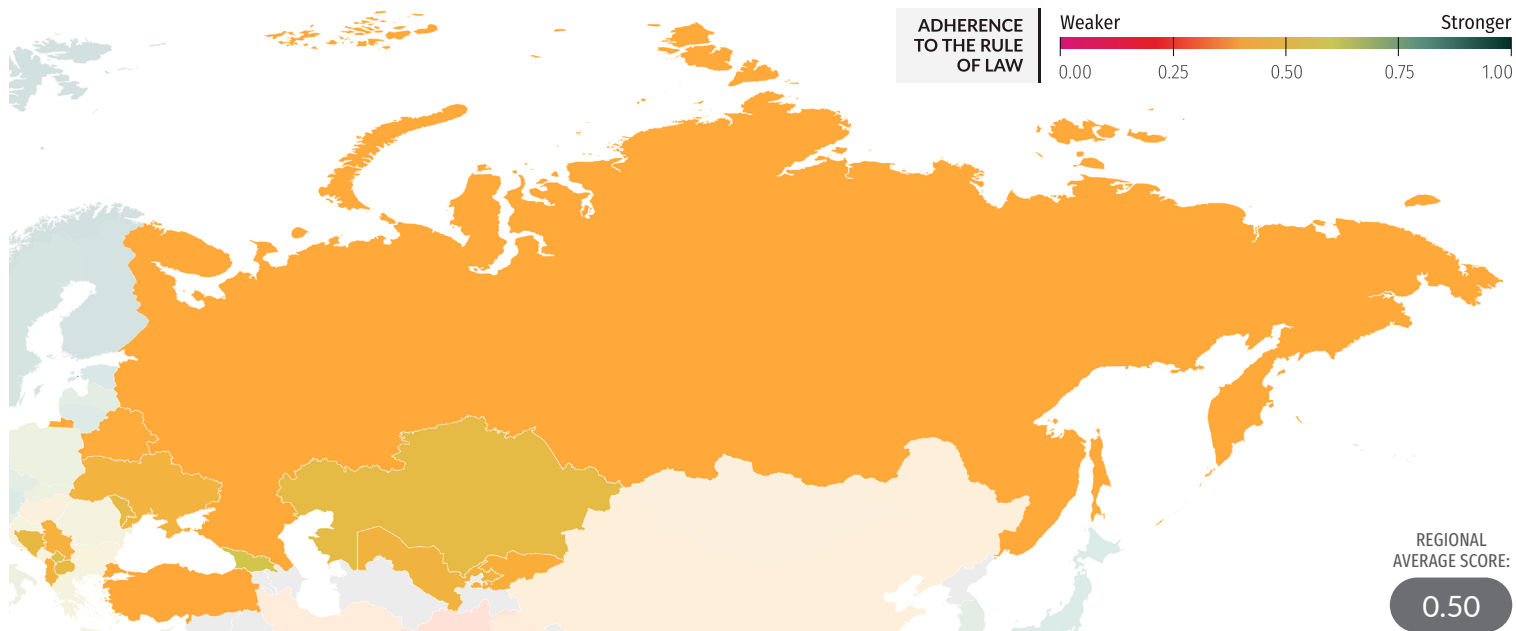


FIGURE 13.

Rule of Law in Eastern Europe and Central Asia from 2023 to 2024

Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*
Georgia	0.60	-1.3%	Ukraine	0.49	0.3%
Montenegro	0.57	0.9%	Albania	0.48	-0.3%
Kosovo	0.56	-0.5%	Serbia	0.47	-1.5%
Moldova	0.54	1.5%	Kyrgyz Republic	0.45	-0.1%
Kazakhstan	0.54	0.5%	Belarus	0.45	-1.2%
North Macedonia	0.53	1.0%	Russian Federation	0.43	-1.8%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.52	1.1%	Türkiye	0.42	0.4%
Uzbekistan	0.49	-0.4%			

* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place.

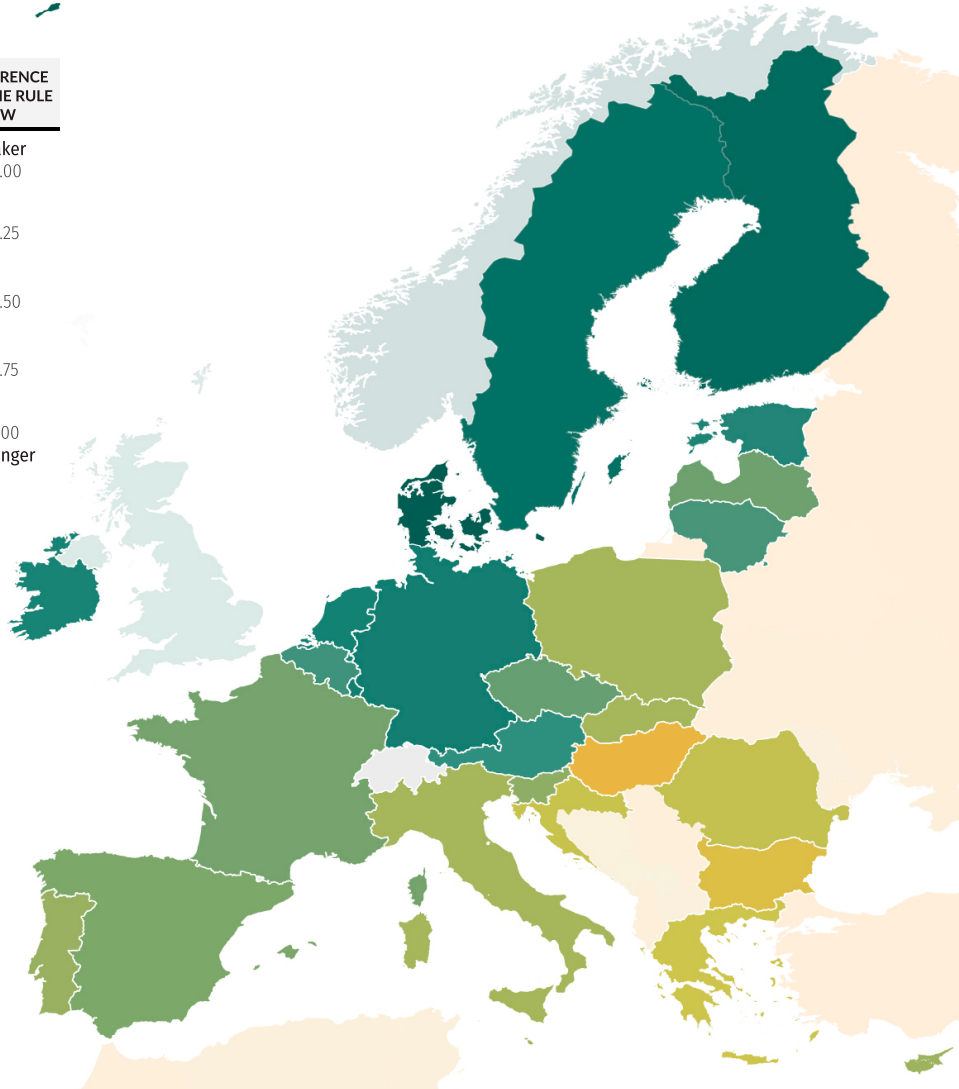
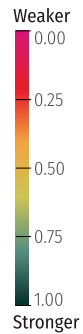
FIGURE 14.

Rule of Law in the European Union from 2023 to 2024

REGIONAL
AVERAGE SCORE:

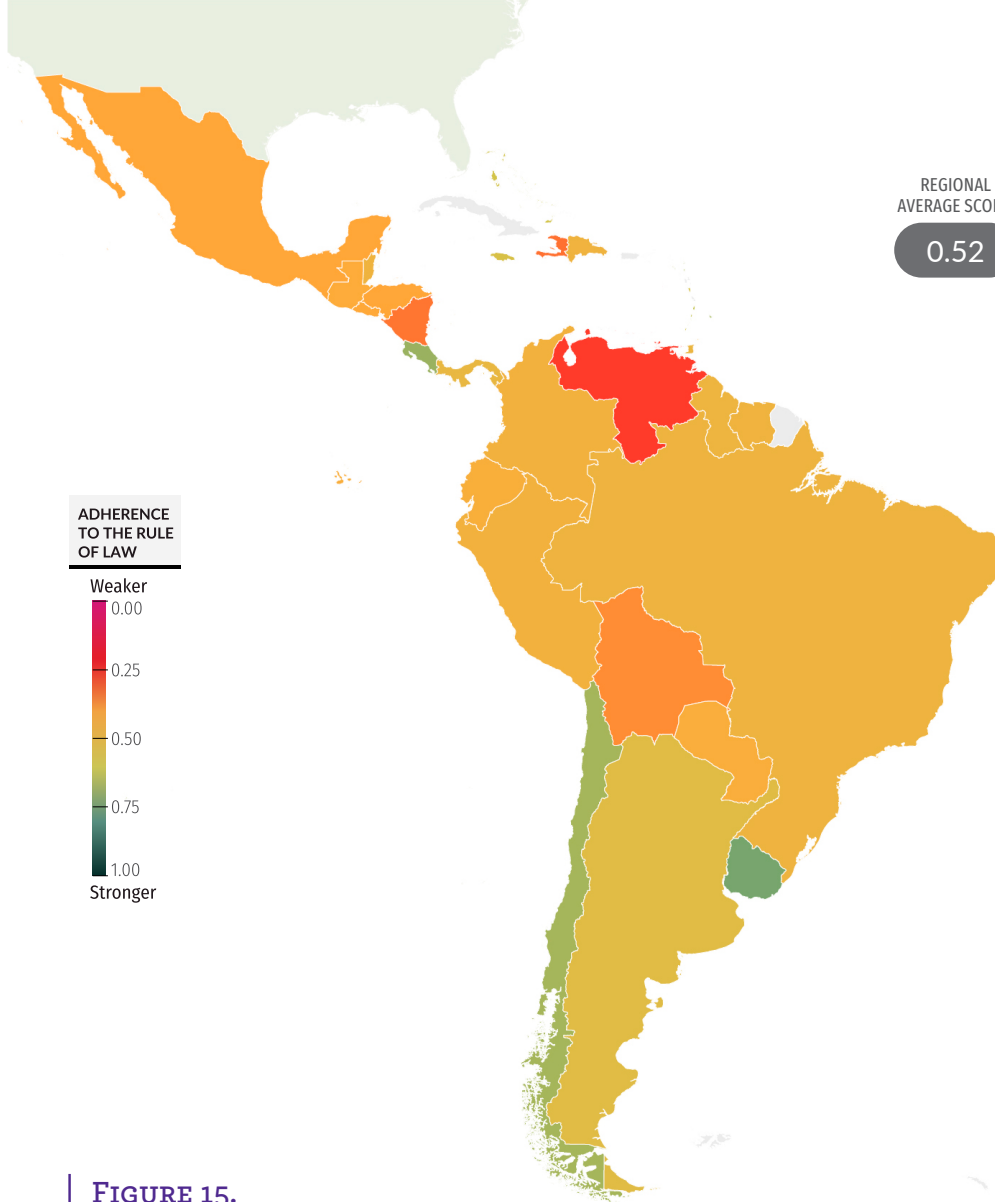
0.73

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Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*
Denmark	0.90	0.0%
Finland	0.87	0.0%
Sweden	0.86	0.3%
Germany	0.83	0.0%
Luxembourg	0.83	-0.4%
Netherlands	0.83	-0.7%
Ireland	0.82	1.0%
Estonia	0.82	0.0%
Austria	0.79	-0.8%
Belgium	0.78	-0.3%
Lithuania	0.77	0.8%
Czechia	0.74	1.0%
Latvia	0.73	0.7%
France	0.72	-0.5%
Spain	0.71	-0.9%
Slovenia	0.69	0.2%
Portugal	0.68	-0.8%
Malta	0.67	-1.2%
Cyprus	0.67	-0.8%
Italy	0.66	-0.8%
Poland	0.66	3.2%
Slovak Republic	0.66	0.0%
Romania	0.62	-1.6%
Croatia	0.61	-0.5%
Greece	0.60	-0.6%
Bulgaria	0.56	0.3%
Hungary	0.51	-0.4%

* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place.



Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*
Uruguay	0.72	0.4%
Costa Rica	0.68	-1.0%
Barbados	0.66	0.2%
Chile	0.66	-0.7%
Antigua and Barbuda	0.64	0.3%
St. Kitts and Nevis	0.64	0.4%
St. Lucia	0.62	0.0%
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0.62	-1.5%
Grenada	0.60	-0.1%
The Bahamas	0.59	-0.6%
Dominica	0.58	-0.2%
Jamaica	0.57	-0.7%
Argentina	0.55	0.0%
Panama	0.52	0.6%
Trinidad and Tobago	0.51	-1.3%
Guyana	0.50	-0.2%
Brazil	0.50	1.5%
Belize	0.50	0.7%
Suriname	0.49	0.4%
Dominican Republic	0.49	1.1%
Peru	0.48	-0.8%
Colombia	0.48	-0.2%
Ecuador	0.46	-2.0%
Paraguay	0.46	-1.0%
Guatemala	0.44	1.3%
El Salvador	0.43	-3.2%
Honduras	0.42	1.1%
Mexico	0.41	-0.6%
Bolivia	0.37	-1.6%
Nicaragua	0.34	-2.8%
Haiti	0.33	-2.6%
Venezuela, RB	0.26	-1.2%

FIGURE 15.

Rule of Law in Latin America and the Caribbean from 2023 to 2024

* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place.

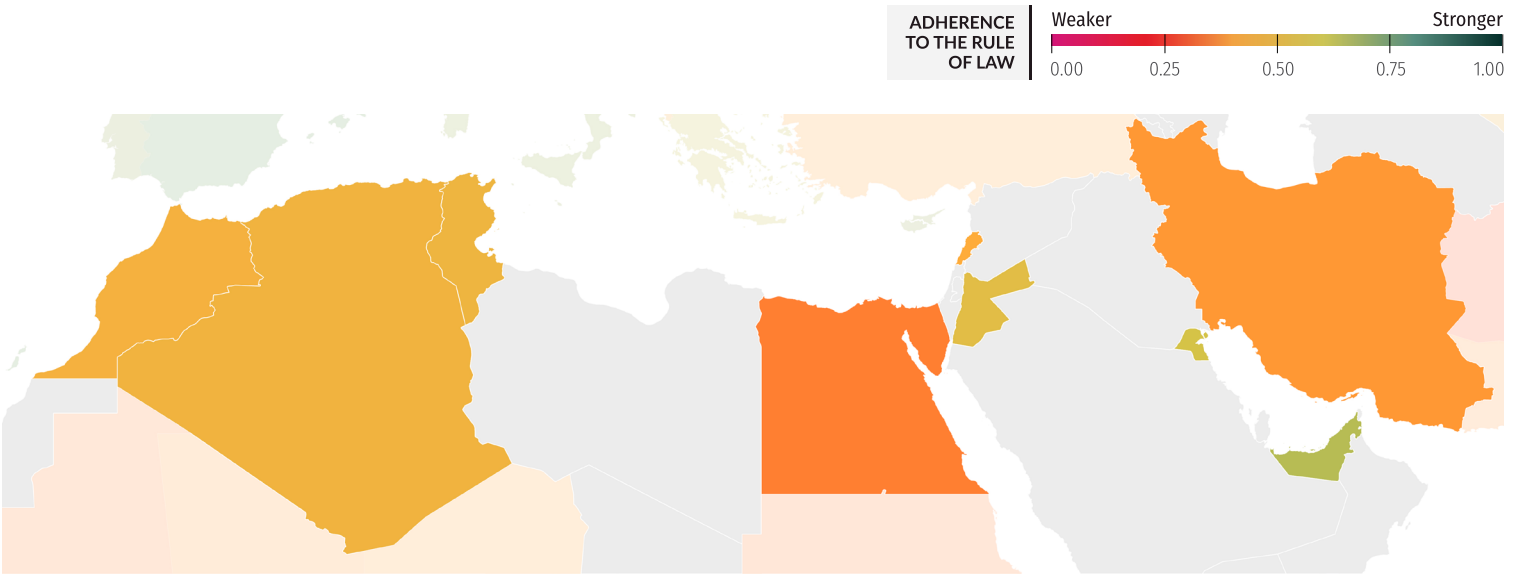


FIGURE 16.

Rule of Law in the Middle East and North Africa from 2023 to 2024

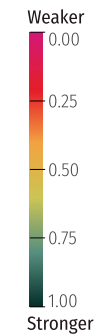
REGIONAL AVERAGE SCORE:

0.49

Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*
United Arab Emirates	0.64	0.0%
Kuwait	0.58	-0.2%
Jordan	0.55	0.0%
Tunisia	0.50	-2.3%
Algeria	0.49	1.0%
Morocco	0.48	-1.0%
Lebanon	0.44	-1.2%
Iran, Islamic Rep.	0.39	0.0%
Egypt, Arab Rep.	0.35	0.7%

* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place.

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REGIONAL
AVERAGE SCORE:

0.43

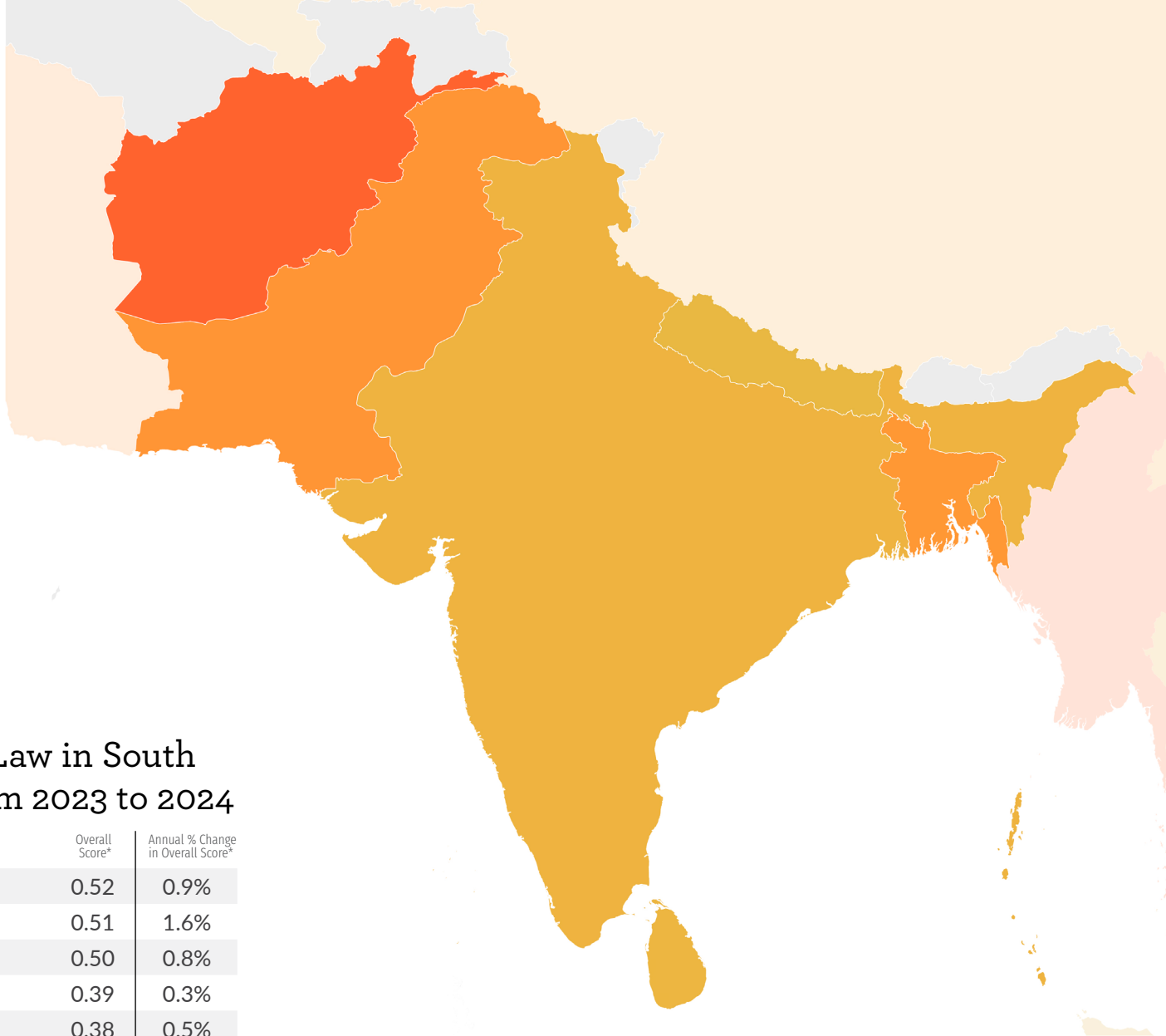


FIGURE 17.
Rule of Law in South
Asia from 2023 to 2024

Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*
Nepal	0.52	0.9%
Sri Lanka	0.51	1.6%
India	0.50	0.8%
Bangladesh	0.39	0.3%
Pakistan	0.38	0.5%
Afghanistan	0.32	-0.4%

* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place.

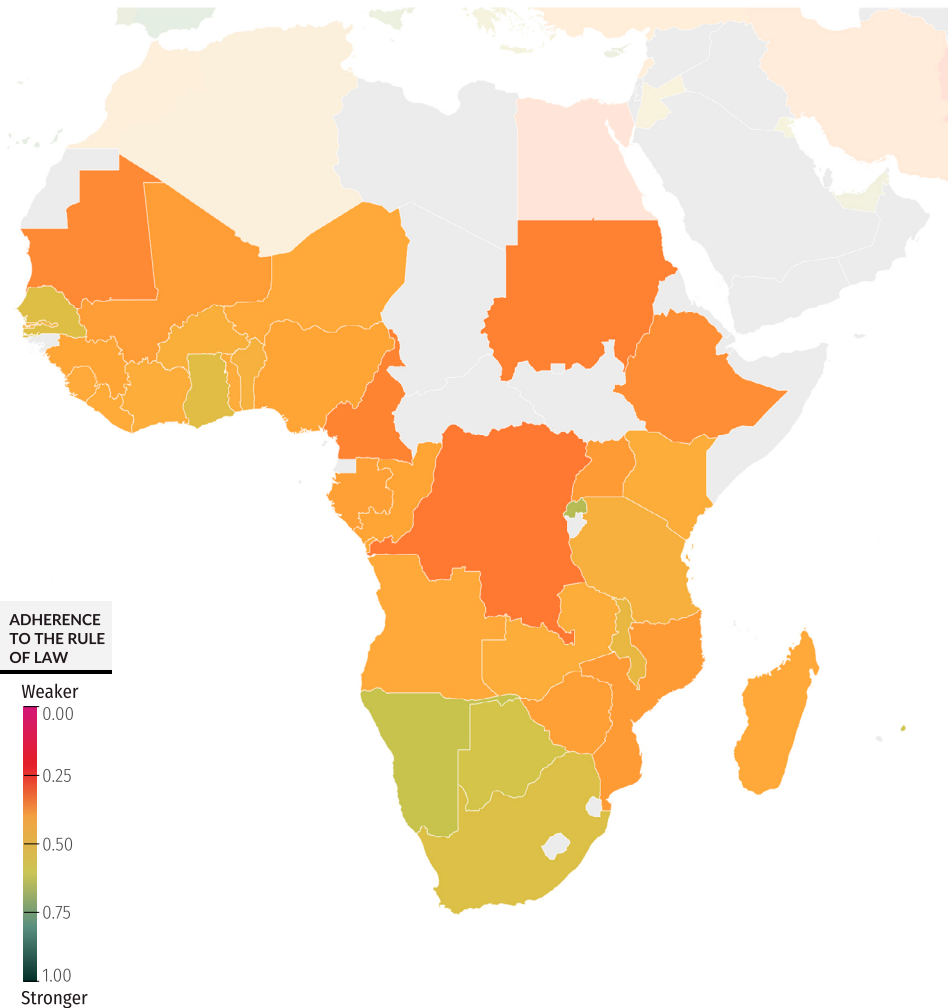
Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*
Rwanda	0.63	0.8%
Namibia	0.61	-0.5%
Mauritius	0.60	-1.0%
Botswana	0.59	-0.6%
South Africa	0.56	-1.0%
Senegal	0.55	-0.3%
Ghana	0.55	-0.3%
Malawi	0.52	-0.4%
The Gambia	0.49	0.4%
Benin	0.48	-1.6%
Tanzania	0.47	0.2%
Burkina Faso	0.46	-2.6%
Kenya	0.45	-0.7%
Zambia	0.45	0.6%
Côte d'Ivoire	0.45	0.4%
Togo	0.45	-1.8%
Liberia	0.44	1.0%
Sierra Leone	0.43	-1.3%
Madagascar	0.43	-0.2%
Niger	0.43	-2.7%
Angola	0.43	0.3%
Guinea	0.41	-0.5%
Nigeria	0.40	-1.6%
Congo, Rep.	0.40	0.4%
Gabon	0.40	1.2%
Zimbabwe	0.40	0.1%
Mali	0.39	-2.0%
Mozambique	0.39	1.3%
Uganda	0.39	-0.7%
Ethiopia	0.37	-2.4%
Mauritania	0.36	0.7%
Cameroon	0.36	0.9%
Sudan	0.35	-2.6%
Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.34	-0.4%

FIGURE 18.

Rule of Law in Sub-Saharan Africa from 2023 to 2024

REGIONAL
AVERAGE SCORE:

0.45



* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place.



SECTION 4

About the WJP

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About the WJP Rule of Law Index

The *WJP Rule of Law Index*[®] is a quantitative assessment tool designed to measure how the rule of law is experienced and perceived in practical, everyday situations by the general public worldwide. Performance is measured across the eight primary rule of law factors and 44 sub-factors outlined in the Conceptual Framework of the *WJP Rule of Law Index* on pages 15-16.

To present an accurate portrait of the rule of law as experienced by ordinary people, each score of the Index is calculated using a large number of questions drawn from two original data sources collected by the WJP in each country: a General Population Poll (GPP) conducted by leading local polling companies, using a representative sample of 500 to 1,000 respondents in each country; and Qualified Respondents' Questionnaires (QRQs) consisting of closed-ended questions completed by in-country practitioners and academics with expertise in civil and commercial law, criminal justice, labor law, and public health.

For the full methodology of the Index and more detailed country-level information, please refer to the *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2024* report, available for download at worldjusticeproject.org.



Scan the QR code or visit
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About the World Justice Project

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide. Effective rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from injustices large and small. It is the foundation for healthy communities of justice, opportunity, and peace—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights.

Learn more at: worldjusticeproject.org

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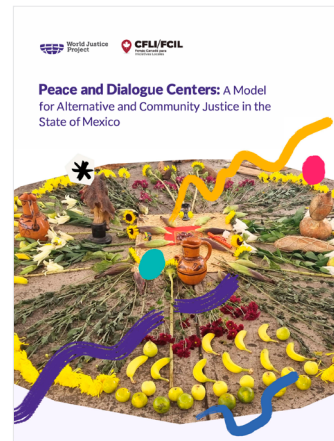
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World Justice Project EUROVOICES Thematic Reports Available November 2024



Peace and Dialogue Centers: A Model for Alternative and Community Justice in the State of Mexico 2024

* Full report title is *Dissecting the Justice Gap in 104 Countries*.

† Full report title is *Disparities, Vulnerability, and Harnessing Data for People-Centered Justice*.

15TH
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The logo for the World Justice Project, featuring a stylized globe with a grid of latitude and longitude lines.

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Project**

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