



World Justice  
Project

World Justice Project  
Rule of Law Index<sup>®</sup>

## 2021 Insights

Highlights and data trends from  
the *WJP Rule of Law Index<sup>®</sup> 2021*



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The *World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index*® 2021 is the latest report in an annual series measuring the rule of law based on global surveys of more than 138,000 households and 4,200 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 139 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, businesses, legal professionals, academics, the media, and citizens. It is our hope that this diagnostic tool will help identify strengths and weaknesses and encourage policy choices, guide program development, shape public and private investments, 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*® 2021. The complete 2021 report—including country profiles, interactive data visualizations, methodology, and questionnaires—is available at our website: [worldjusticeproject.org](https://worldjusticeproject.org).

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World Justice Project  
1025 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20005 USA

E-mail: [wjp@worldjusticeproject.org](mailto:wjp@worldjusticeproject.org)  
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# Key Findings – WJP Rule of Law Index 2021

## Introduction

The *World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index® 2021* is the latest report in an annual series measuring people's perceptions of and experiences with the rule of law in 139 countries and jurisdictions. The Index data is based on global surveys of more than 138,000 households and 4,200 legal practitioners and experts. The Index is the world's leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law.

This year, the WJP added 11 new countries to the Index (seven countries in the European Union (EU), two countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and two countries in Sub-Saharan Africa). The Index now covers all 27 members of the European Union. The new countries are:

Congo, Rep., Cyprus, Haiti, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Paraguay, Slovak Republic, and Sudan.

The data included in this Insights report comes from the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2021*. The period of data collection was October 2020 through May 2021, during the global COVID-19 pandemic. This allows for comparative analysis of the rule of law prior to and during the pandemic.

## Rule of Law Trends Around the World

The 2021 edition of the *WJP Rule of Law Index* shows that more countries declined than improved in overall rule of law performance for the fourth consecutive year. This trend has become more widespread over the last three years.

Over the last year, 74.2% of countries covered by the Index experienced declines in rule of law performance and 25.8% improved. The countries that experienced declines (74.2%) account for 84.7% of the world's population, or approximately 6.5 billion people.

For the second consecutive year, the declines were widespread and seen in all corners of the world. In every region, a majority of countries slipped backward or remained unchanged in their overall rule of law performance.

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

The countries with the biggest improvement in rule of law in the past year were Uzbekistan (4.1%), Moldova (3.2%), and Mongolia (2.0%). The countries with the biggest decline in rule of law in the past year were Belarus (-7.5%) and Myanmar (-6.3%). Nigeria, Nicaragua, Kyrgyz Republic, and Argentina tie for the third biggest decline (-3.7%).

## Rule of Law During COVID-19

**Significant Declines:** In a year dominated by the global COVID-19 pandemic, more than half of countries covered by the Index have experienced declines in constraints on government powers, civic space, timeliness of justice, and absence of discrimination.

**Constraints on Government Power:** During the last year, 70% of countries covered by the Index declined in Constraints on Government Powers. This decline was the most prevalent in South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and EU, EFTA, and North America.

**Civic Space:** Over the past year, 82% of countries in the Index experienced a decline in at least one dimension of civic space (civic participation, freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of assembly and association).

**Justice Delays:** Over the past year, 94% of countries in the Index experienced increased delays in administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings. Civil justice was particularly affected, with two-thirds of countries exhibiting increased delays.

**Discrimination:** During 2020, 67% of countries covered by the Index experienced declines in equal treatment and absence of discrimination. This decline was the most prevalent in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa.

# 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 below.

**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

# 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 below.

## 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

## Rule of Law Trends Around the World





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Photos: Ariana Tafur (Unsplash), Klemens Köpfle (Unsplash), Ehimetalor Akhere Unuabona (Unsplash), Camilo Jimenez (Unsplash), Tim Mossholder (Unsplash)























# Figure 1. Overall Rule of Law Scores and Rankings

This table presents the scores, rankings, and changes for the 139 countries and jurisdictions included in the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2021* in alphabetical order. Scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest score (strong adherence to the rule of law) and 0 signifies the lowest possible score (weak adherence to the rule of law).












| Country/Jurisdiction   | Overall Score* | Change in Overall Score* | % Change in Overall Score* | Global Rank | Change in Global Rank† |
|--|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
|  Afghanistan              | 0.35           | -0.01                    | -2.7%                      | 134         | 1 ▼                    |
|  Albania                  | 0.49           | -0.01                    | -1.7%                      | 83          | 2 ▲                    |
|  Algeria                  | 0.49           | 0.00                     | -0.5%                      | 82          | 8 ▲                    |
|  Angola                   | 0.43           | 0.00                     | 0.5%                       | 114         | 4 ▲                    |
|  Antigua and Barbuda      | 0.63           | 0.00                     | 0.4%                       | 39          | 2 ▲                    |
|  Argentina                | 0.56           | -0.02                    | -3.7%                      | 56          | 1 ▼                    |
|  Australia                | 0.79           | -0.01                    | -1.2%                      | 13          | 0                      |
|  Austria                  | 0.81           | 0.00                     | -0.6%                      | 9           | 0                      |
|  The Bahamas              | 0.61           | 0.00                     | 0.5%                       | 47          | 1 ▲                    |
|  Bangladesh               | 0.40           | -0.01                    | -2.8%                      | 124         | 1 ▲                    |
|  Barbados                 | 0.65           | 0.00                     | 0.7%                       | 35          | 1 ▲                    |
|  Belarus                  | 0.48           | -0.04                    | -7.5%                      | 97          | 21 ▼                   |
|  Belgium                  | 0.79           | 0.00                     | 0.6%                       | 14          | 2 ▲                    |
|  Belize                   | 0.48           | 0.00                     | 0.0%                       | 93          | 3 ▲                    |
|  Benin                    | 0.49           | -0.01                    | -2.3%                      | 91          | 3 ▼                    |
|  Bolivia                  | 0.39           | 0.00                     | 0.9%                       | 129         | 2 ▲                    |
|  Bosnia and Herzegovina   | 0.52           | 0.00                     | -0.8%                      | 72          | 1 ▼                    |
|  Botswana                 | 0.59           | -0.01                    | -1.5%                      | 51          | 1 ▼                    |
|  Brazil                   | 0.50           | -0.01                    | -2.9%                      | 77          | 3 ▼                    |
|  Bulgaria                 | 0.54           | -0.01                    | -1.0%                      | 62          | 2 ▼                    |
|  Burkina Faso             | 0.50           | 0.00                     | -0.9%                      | 75          | 2 ▲                    |
|  Cambodia                 | 0.32           | -0.01                    | -2.3%                      | 138         | 0                      |
| Country/Jurisdiction   | Overall Score* | Change in Overall Score* | % Change in Overall Score* | Global Rank | Change in Global Rank† |
|  Cameroon               | 0.35           | -0.01                    | -2.1%                      | 135         | 0                      |
|  Canada                 | 0.80           | -0.01                    | -1.0%                      | 12          | 1 ▼                    |
|  Chile                  | 0.66           | -0.01                    | -0.8%                      | 32          | 0                      |
|  China                  | 0.47           | -0.01                    | -1.9%                      | 98          | 2 ▼                    |
|  Colombia               | 0.49           | -0.01                    | -2.2%                      | 86          | 2 ▼                    |
|  Congo, Dem. Rep.       | 0.35           | 0.00                     | 1.2%                       | 137         | 0                      |
|  Congo, Rep.            | 0.42           | -                        | -                          | 118         | -                      |
|  Costa Rica             | 0.68           | -0.01                    | -0.8%                      | 31          | 0                      |
|  Côte d'Ivoire          | 0.45           | -0.02                    | -3.4%                      | 105         | 2 ▼                    |
|  Croatia                | 0.61           | -0.01                    | -1.0%                      | 46          | 0                      |
|  Cyprus                 | 0.68           | -                        | -                          | 28          | -                      |
|  Czech Republic         | 0.73           | 0.00                     | -0.4%                      | 22          | 1 ▼                    |
|  Denmark                | 0.90           | 0.00                     | 0.0%                       | 1           | 0                      |
|  Dominica               | 0.58           | 0.00                     | -0.6%                      | 53          | 0                      |
|  Dominican Republic     | 0.48           | 0.00                     | 0.0%                       | 94          | 3 ▲                    |
|  Ecuador                | 0.48           | 0.00                     | -0.1%                      | 92          | 1 ▲                    |
|  Egypt, Arab Rep.       | 0.35           | -0.01                    | -2.8%                      | 136         | 0                      |
|  El Salvador            | 0.48           | -0.02                    | -3.3%                      | 95          | 4 ▼                    |
|  Estonia                | 0.81           | 0.00                     | -0.1%                      | 11          | 1 ▲                    |
|  Ethiopia               | 0.41           | 0.00                     | -1.0%                      | 122         | 2 ▲                    |
|  Finland                | 0.88           | 0.00                     | 0.4%                       | 3           | 0                      |
|  France                 | 0.72           | -0.01                    | -0.9%                      | 23          | 0                      |
| Country/Jurisdiction   | Overall Score* | Change in Overall Score* | % Change in Overall Score* | Global Rank | Change in Global Rank† |
|  The Gambia           | 0.49           | -0.02                    | -3.1%                      | 89          | 8 ▼                    |
|  Georgia              | 0.61           | 0.00                     | 0.5%                       | 49          | 0                      |
|  Germany              | 0.84           | 0.00                     | 0.4%                       | 5           | 1 ▲                    |
|  Ghana                | 0.55           | -0.01                    | -2.2%                      | 58          | 0                      |
|  Greece               | 0.61           | 0.00                     | -0.5%                      | 48          | 1 ▼                    |
|  Grenada              | 0.59           | 0.00                     | 0.1%                       | 50          | 1 ▲                    |
|  Guatemala            | 0.44           | -0.01                    | -1.2%                      | 109         | 0                      |
|  Guinea               | 0.41           | -0.01                    | -1.4%                      | 120         | 1 ▲                    |
|  Guyana               | 0.50           | 0.00                     | -0.7%                      | 78          | 2 ▲                    |
|  Haiti                | 0.38           | -                        | -                          | 132         | -                      |
|  Honduras             | 0.39           | -0.01                    | -2.2%                      | 126         | 0                      |
|  Hong Kong SAR, China | 0.75           | -0.02                    | -2.0%                      | 19          | 0                      |
|  Hungary              | 0.52           | -0.01                    | -1.4%                      | 69          | 2 ▼                    |
|  India                | 0.50           | -0.01                    | -1.9%                      | 79          | 3 ▼                    |
|  Indonesia            | 0.52           | -0.01                    | -1.0%                      | 68          | 2 ▼                    |
|  Iran, Islamic Rep.   | 0.42           | -0.01                    | -2.3%                      | 119         | 0                      |
|  Ireland              | 0.81           | -                        | -                          | 10          | -                      |
|  Italy                | 0.66           | 0.00                     | 0.2%                       | 34          | 0                      |
|  Jamaica              | 0.57           | 0.00                     | 0.4%                       | 55          | 1 ▲                    |
|  Japan                | 0.79           | 0.01                     | 0.8%                       | 15          | 2 ▲                    |
|  Jordan               | 0.55           | -0.02                    | -3.0%                      | 59          | 2 ▼                    |
|  Kazakhstan           | 0.52           | 0.00                     | 0.3%                       | 66          | 3 ▲                    |

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

† The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 128 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2020 Index with the rankings of the same 128 countries and jurisdictions in 2021, exclusive of the 11 new additions to the 2021 Index. The 11 new countries and jurisdictions added to the Index this year are: Congo, Rep., Cyprus, Haiti, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Paraguay, Slovak Republic, and Sudan.

|   | Country/Jurisdiction | Overall Score* | Change in Overall Score* | % Change in Overall Score* | Global Rank | Change in Global Rank† |
|---|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
|  | Kenya                | 0.44           | 0.00                     | -0.9%                      | 106         | 4 ▲                    |
|  | Korea, Rep.          | 0.74           | 0.00                     | 0.4%                       | 20          | 0                      |
|  | Kosovo               | 0.55           | 0.00                     | 0.6%                       | 60          | 1 ▲                    |
|  | Kyrgyz Republic      | 0.47           | -0.02                    | -3.7%                      | 99          | 4 ▼                    |
|  | Latvia               | 0.71           | -                        | -                          | 24          | -                      |
|  | Lebanon              | 0.45           | 0.00                     | -0.9%                      | 104         | 0                      |
|  | Liberia              | 0.44           | -0.01                    | -2.6%                      | 110         | 4 ▼                    |
|  | Lithuania            | 0.75           | -                        | -                          | 18          | -                      |
|  | Luxembourg           | 0.83           | -                        | -                          | 8           | -                      |
|  | Madagascar           | 0.44           | 0.00                     | -0.6%                      | 112         | 1 ▲                    |
|  | Malawi               | 0.52           | 0.01                     | 1.0%                       | 67          | 5 ▲                    |
|  | Malaysia             | 0.57           | -0.01                    | -1.4%                      | 54          | 0                      |
|  | Mali                 | 0.43           | -0.01                    | -2.9%                      | 115         | 1 ▼                    |
|  | Malta                | 0.68           | -                        | -                          | 30          | -                      |
|  | Mauritania           | 0.36           | 0.00                     | 0.9%                       | 133         | 1 ▲                    |
|  | Mauritius            | 0.61           | -0.01                    | -0.9%                      | 45          | 0                      |
|  | Mexico               | 0.43           | -0.01                    | -2.9%                      | 113         | 1 ▼                    |
|  | Moldova              | 0.51           | 0.02                     | 3.2%                       | 73          | 16 ▲                   |
|  | Mongolia             | 0.54           | 0.01                     | 2.0%                       | 61          | 3 ▲                    |
|  | Morocco              | 0.49           | -0.01                    | -2.6%                      | 90          | 4 ▼                    |
|  | Mozambique           | 0.40           | -0.01                    | -2.9%                      | 123         | 0                      |
|  | Myanmar              | 0.39           | -0.03                    | -6.3%                      | 128         | 6 ▼                    |
|  | Namibia              | 0.62           | -0.01                    | -1.2%                      | 44          | 2 ▼                    |
|  | Nepal                | 0.52           | -0.01                    | -1.1%                      | 70          | 2 ▼                    |
|  | Netherlands          | 0.83           | 0.00                     | -0.5%                      | 6           | 1 ▼                    |
|  | New Zealand          | 0.83           | 0.01                     | 0.7%                       | 7           | 0                      |
|  | Nicaragua            | 0.38           | -0.01                    | -3.7%                      | 131         | 3 ▼                    |

|   | Country/Jurisdiction | Overall Score* | Change in Overall Score* | % Change in Overall Score* | Global Rank | Change in Global Rank† |
|---|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
|  | Niger                | 0.44           | -0.01                    | -1.5%                      | 111         | 0                      |
|  | Nigeria              | 0.41           | -0.02                    | -3.7%                      | 121         | 3 ▼                    |
|  | North Macedonia      | 0.53           | 0.00                     | -0.3%                      | 64          | 1 ▲                    |
|  | Norway               | 0.90           | 0.00                     | 0.5%                       | 2           | 0                      |
|  | Pakistan             | 0.39           | 0.00                     | -0.4%                      | 130         | 0                      |
|  | Panama               | 0.52           | 0.00                     | -0.7%                      | 71          | 1 ▼                    |
|  | Paraguay             | 0.48           | -                        | -                          | 96          | -                      |
|  | Peru                 | 0.49           | -0.01                    | -2.0%                      | 87          | 0                      |
|  | Philippines          | 0.46           | -0.01                    | -2.9%                      | 102         | 3 ▼                    |
|  | Poland               | 0.64           | -0.02                    | -2.4%                      | 36          | 1 ▼                    |
|  | Portugal             | 0.70           | 0.00                     | -0.6%                      | 26          | 1 ▲                    |
|  | Romania              | 0.63           | -0.01                    | -0.8%                      | 41          | 2 ▼                    |
|  | Russian Federation   | 0.46           | 0.00                     | -0.7%                      | 101         | 1 ▲                    |
|  | Rwanda               | 0.62           | 0.00                     | 0.5%                       | 42          | 2 ▲                    |
|  | Senegal              | 0.55           | 0.00                     | 0.5%                       | 57          | 2 ▲                    |
|  | Serbia               | 0.49           | -0.01                    | -1.8%                      | 81          | 1 ▲                    |
|  | Sierra Leone         | 0.44           | -0.01                    | -1.5%                      | 108         | 0                      |
|  | Singapore            | 0.78           | -0.01                    | -1.0%                      | 17          | 3 ▼                    |
|  | Slovak Republic      | 0.66           | -                        | -                          | 33          | -                      |
|  | Slovenia             | 0.68           | 0.00                     | -0.4%                      | 29          | 0                      |
|  | South Africa         | 0.58           | 0.00                     | -0.4%                      | 52          | 0                      |
|  | Spain                | 0.73           | 0.00                     | 0.1%                       | 21          | 1 ▲                    |
|  | Sri Lanka            | 0.50           | -0.02                    | -3.0%                      | 76          | 3 ▼                    |
|  | St. Kitts and Nevis  | 0.63           | 0.00                     | -0.2%                      | 40          | 0                      |
|  | St. Lucia            | 0.62           | 0.00                     | -0.1%                      | 43          | 0                      |

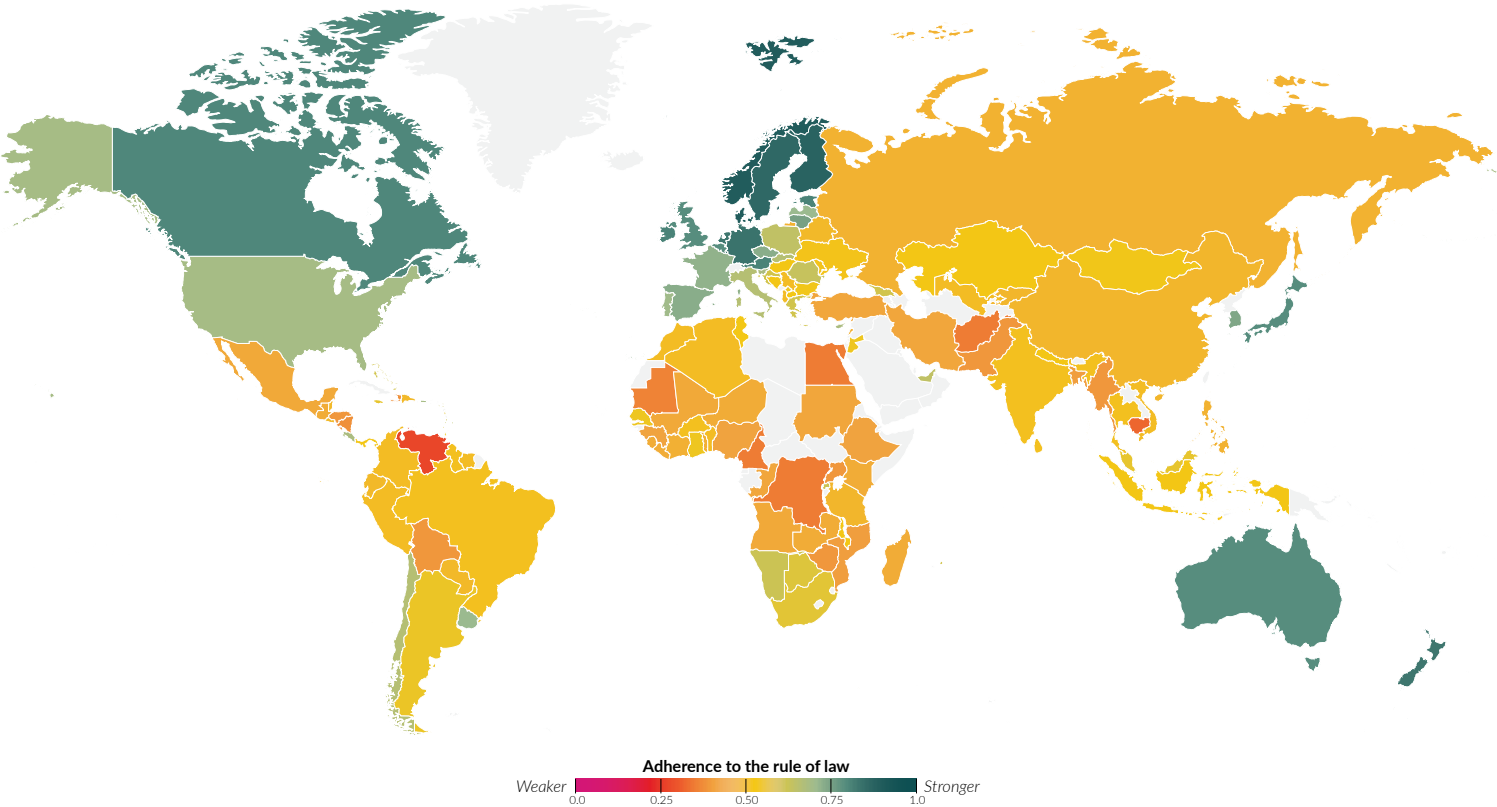
|   | Country/Jurisdiction           | Overall Score* | Change in Overall Score* | % Change in Overall Score* | Global Rank | Change in Global Rank† |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
|  | St. Vincent and the Grenadines | 0.64           | 0.00                     | -0.2%                      | 38          | 0                      |
|  | Sudan                          | 0.42           | -                        | -                          | 116         | -                      |
|  | Suriname                       | 0.49           | -0.01                    | -1.9%                      | 84          | 1 ▼                    |
|  | Sweden                         | 0.86           | 0.00                     | 0.0%                       | 4           | 0                      |
|  | Tanzania                       | 0.47           | -0.01                    | -1.1%                      | 100         | 1 ▲                    |
|  | Thailand                       | 0.50           | -0.01                    | -2.2%                      | 80          | 2 ▼                    |
|  | Togo                           | 0.45           | 0.00                     | 0.9%                       | 103         | 4 ▲                    |
|  | Trinidad and Tobago            | 0.53           | 0.00                     | -0.5%                      | 63          | 1 ▼                    |
|  | Tunisia                        | 0.53           | -0.01                    | -1.5%                      | 65          | 2 ▼                    |
|  | Turkey                         | 0.42           | -0.01                    | -2.5%                      | 117         | 1 ▼                    |
|  | Uganda                         | 0.39           | 0.00                     | -0.9%                      | 125         | 2 ▲                    |
|  | Ukraine                        | 0.51           | 0.00                     | 0.6%                       | 74          | 5 ▲                    |
|  | United Arab Emirates           | 0.64           | -0.01                    | -0.9%                      | 37          | 0                      |
|  | United Kingdom                 | 0.79           | 0.00                     | -0.4%                      | 16          | 1 ▼                    |
|  | United States                  | 0.69           | -0.02                    | -2.9%                      | 27          | 2 ▼                    |
|  | Uruguay                        | 0.71           | 0.00                     | 0.6%                       | 25          | 1 ▲                    |
|  | Uzbekistan                     | 0.49           | 0.02                     | 4.1%                       | 85          | 14 ▲                   |
|  | Venezuela, RB                  | 0.27           | 0.00                     | -1.5%                      | 139         | 0                      |
|  | Vietnam                        | 0.49           | 0.00                     | -0.6%                      | 88          | 4 ▲                    |
|  | Zambia                         | 0.44           | -0.01                    | -2.3%                      | 107         | 2 ▼                    |
|  | Zimbabwe                       | 0.39           | 0.00                     | 0.0%                       | 127         | 2 ▲                    |

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

† The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 128 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2020 Index with the rankings of the same 128 countries and jurisdictions in 2021, exclusive of the 11 new additions to the 2021 Index. The 11 new countries and jurisdictions added to the Index this year are: Congo, Rep., Cyprus, Haiti, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Paraguay, Slovak Republic, and Sudan.

# Figure 2. Rule of Law Around the World

Scores and rankings of the 139 countries and jurisdictions included in the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2021* in order of score. Scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest score (strong adherence to the rule of law) and 0 signifies the lowest possible score (weak adherence to the rule of law).

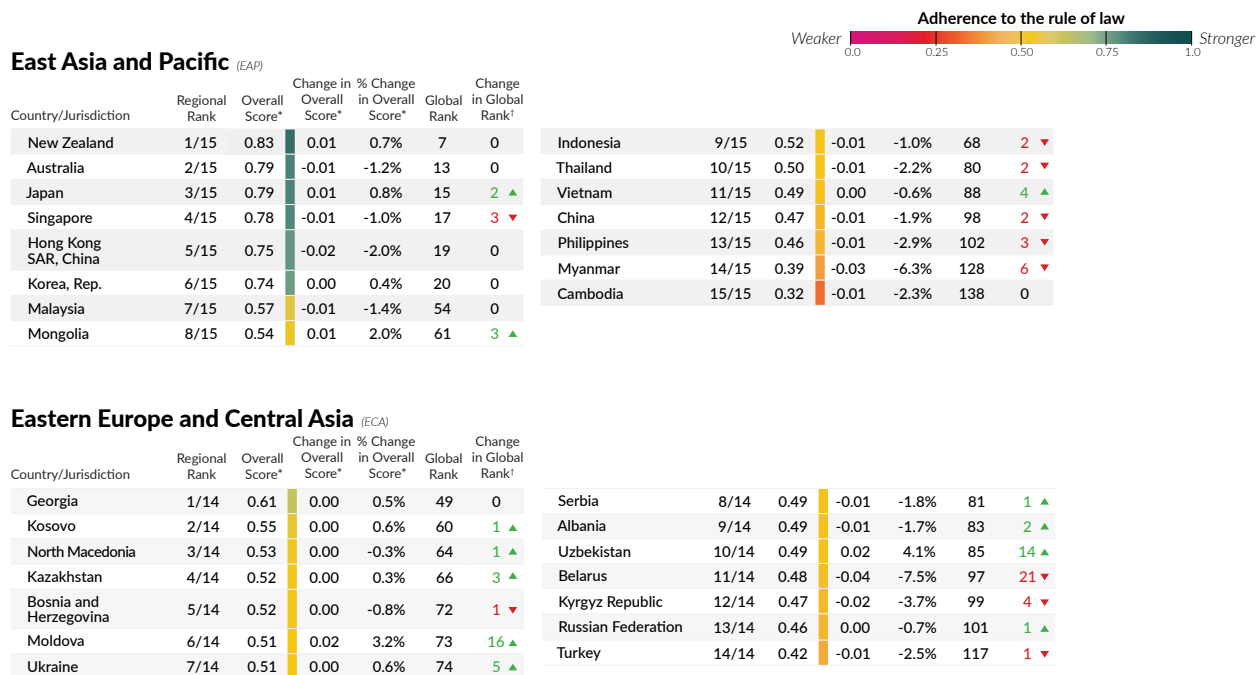


|                      |                |             |                                |                |             | Adherence to the rule of law   |                |             |                      |                |             |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------|--|----------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------|
|                      |                |             |                                |                |             | <div><div>Weaker</div><div>0.0</div><div>0.25</div><div>0.50</div><div>0.75</div><div>1.0</div><div>Stronger</div></div> |                |             |                      |                |             |
| Country/Jurisdiction | Overall Score* | Global Rank | Country/Jurisdiction           | Overall Score* | Global Rank | Country/Jurisdiction   | Overall Score* | Global Rank | Country/Jurisdiction | Overall Score* | Global Rank |
| Denmark              | 0.90           | 1           | Poland                         | 0.64           | 36          | Nepal  | 0.52           | 70          | Côte d'Ivoire        | 0.45           | 105         |
| Norway               | 0.90           | 2           | United Arab Emirates           | 0.64           | 37          | Panama   | 0.52           | 71          | Kenya                | 0.44           | 106         |
| Finland              | 0.88           | 3           | St. Vincent and the Grenadines | 0.64           | 38          | Bosnia and Herzegovina   | 0.52           | 72          | Zambia               | 0.44           | 107         |
| Sweden               | 0.86           | 4           | Antigua and Barbuda            | 0.63           | 39          | Moldova  | 0.51           | 73          | Sierra Leone         | 0.44           | 108         |
| Germany              | 0.84           | 5           | St. Kitts and Nevis            | 0.63           | 40          | Ukraine  | 0.51           | 74          | Guatemala            | 0.44           | 109         |
| Netherlands          | 0.83           | 6           | Romania                        | 0.63           | 41          | Burkina Faso   | 0.50           | 75          | Liberia              | 0.44           | 110         |
| New Zealand          | 0.83           | 7           | Rwanda                         | 0.62           | 42          | Sri Lanka  | 0.50           | 76          | Niger                | 0.44           | 111         |
| Luxembourg           | 0.83           | 8           | St. Lucia                      | 0.62           | 43          | Brazil   | 0.50           | 77          | Madagascar           | 0.44           | 112         |
| Austria              | 0.81           | 9           | Namibia                        | 0.62           | 44          | Guyana   | 0.50           | 78          | Mexico               | 0.43           | 113         |
| Ireland              | 0.81           | 10          | Mauritius                      | 0.61           | 45          | India  | 0.50           | 79          | Angola               | 0.43           | 114         |
| Estonia              | 0.81           | 11          | Croatia                        | 0.61           | 46          | Thailand   | 0.50           | 80          | Mali                 | 0.43           | 115         |
| Canada               | 0.80           | 12          | The Bahamas                    | 0.61           | 47          | Serbia   | 0.49           | 81          | Sudan                | 0.42           | 116         |
| Australia            | 0.79           | 13          | Greece                         | 0.61           | 48          | Algeria  | 0.49           | 82          | Turkey               | 0.42           | 117         |
| Belgium              | 0.79           | 14          | Georgia                        | 0.61           | 49          | Albania  | 0.49           | 83          | Congo, Rep.          | 0.42           | 118         |
| Japan                | 0.79           | 15          | Grenada                        | 0.59           | 50          | Suriname   | 0.49           | 84          | Iran, Islamic Rep.   | 0.42           | 119         |
| United Kingdom       | 0.79           | 16          | Botswana                       | 0.59           | 51          | Uzbekistan   | 0.49           | 85          | Guinea               | 0.41           | 120         |
| Singapore            | 0.78           | 17          | South Africa                   | 0.58           | 52          | Colombia   | 0.49           | 86          | Nigeria              | 0.41           | 121         |
| Lithuania            | 0.75           | 18          | Dominica                       | 0.58           | 53          | Peru   | 0.49           | 87          | Ethiopia             | 0.41           | 122         |
| Hong Kong SAR, China | 0.75           | 19          | Malaysia                       | 0.57           | 54          | Vietnam  | 0.49           | 88          | Mozambique           | 0.40           | 123         |
| Korea, Rep.          | 0.74           | 20          | Jamaica                        | 0.57           | 55          | The Gambia   | 0.49           | 89          | Bangladesh           | 0.40           | 124         |
| Spain                | 0.73           | 21          | Argentina                      | 0.56           | 56          | Morocco  | 0.49           | 90          | Uganda               | 0.39           | 125         |
| Czech Republic       | 0.73           | 22          | Senegal                        | 0.55           | 57          | Benin  | 0.49           | 91          | Honduras             | 0.39           | 126         |
| France               | 0.72           | 23          | Ghana                          | 0.55           | 58          | Ecuador  | 0.48           | 92          | Zimbabwe             | 0.39           | 127         |
| Latvia               | 0.71           | 24          | Jordan                         | 0.55           | 59          | Belize   | 0.48           | 93          | Myanmar              | 0.39           | 128         |
| Uruguay              | 0.71           | 25          | Kosovo                         | 0.55           | 60          | Dominican Republic   | 0.48           | 94          | Bolivia              | 0.39           | 129         |
| Portugal             | 0.70           | 26          | Mongolia                       | 0.54           | 61          | El Salvador  | 0.48           | 95          | Pakistan             | 0.39           | 130         |
| United States        | 0.69           | 27          | Bulgaria                       | 0.54           | 62          | Paraguay   | 0.48           | 96          | Nicaragua            | 0.38           | 131         |
| Cyprus               | 0.68           | 28          | Trinidad and Tobago            | 0.53           | 63          | Belarus  | 0.48           | 97          | Haiti                | 0.38           | 132         |
| Slovenia             | 0.68           | 29          | North Macedonia                | 0.53           | 64          | China  | 0.47           | 98          | Mauritania           | 0.36           | 133         |
| Malta                | 0.68           | 30          | Tunisia                        | 0.53           | 65          | Kyrgyz Republic  | 0.47           | 99          | Afghanistan          | 0.35           | 134         |
| Costa Rica           | 0.68           | 31          | Kazakhstan                     | 0.52           | 66          | Tanzania   | 0.47           | 100         | Cameroon             | 0.35           | 135         |
| Chile                | 0.66           | 32          | Malawi                         | 0.52           | 67          | Russian Federation   | 0.46           | 101         | Egypt, Arab Rep.     | 0.35           | 136         |
| Slovak Republic      | 0.66           | 33          | Indonesia                      | 0.52           | 68          | Philippines  | 0.46           | 102         | Congo, Dem. Rep.     | 0.35           | 137         |
| Italy                | 0.66           | 34          | Hungary                        | 0.52           | 69          | Togo   | 0.45           | 103         | Cambodia             | 0.32           | 138         |
| Barbados             | 0.65           | 35          |                                |                |             | Lebanon  | 0.45           | 104         | Venezuela, RB        | 0.27           | 139         |

\*Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

## Figure 3. Rule of Law Around the World by Region

This table presents the scores, rankings, and changes for the 139 countries and jurisdictions included in the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2021* by region. Scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest score (strong adherence to the rule of law) and 0 signifies the lowest possible score (weak adherence to the rule of law).



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

† The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 128 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2020 Index with the rankings of the same 128 countries and jurisdictions in 2021, exclusive of the 11 new additions to the 2021 Index. The 11 new countries and jurisdictions added to the Index this year are: Congo, Rep., Cyprus, Haiti, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Paraguay, Slovak Republic, and Sudan.

## European Union, European Free Trade Association, and North America <sup>(EUNA)</sup>



| Country/Jurisdiction | Regional Rank | Overall Score* | Change in Overall Score* | % Change in Overall Score* | Global Rank | Change in Global Rank† |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Denmark              | 1/31          | 0.90           | 0.00                     | 0.0%                       | 1           | 0                      |
| Norway               | 2/31          | 0.90           | 0.00                     | 0.5%                       | 2           | 0                      |
| Finland              | 3/31          | 0.88           | 0.00                     | 0.4%                       | 3           | 0                      |
| Sweden               | 4/31          | 0.86           | 0.00                     | 0.0%                       | 4           | 0                      |
| Germany              | 5/31          | 0.84           | 0.00                     | 0.4%                       | 5           | 1 ▲                    |
| Netherlands          | 6/31          | 0.83           | 0.00                     | -0.5%                      | 6           | 1 ▼                    |
| Luxembourg           | 7/31          | 0.83           | -                        | -                          | 8           | -                      |
| Austria              | 8/31          | 0.81           | 0.00                     | -0.6%                      | 9           | 0                      |
| Ireland              | 9/31          | 0.81           | -                        | -                          | 10          | -                      |
| Estonia              | 10/31         | 0.81           | 0.00                     | -0.1%                      | 11          | 1 ▲                    |
| Canada               | 11/31         | 0.80           | -0.01                    | -1.0%                      | 12          | 1 ▼                    |
| Belgium              | 12/31         | 0.79           | 0.00                     | 0.6%                       | 14          | 2 ▲                    |
| United Kingdom       | 13/31         | 0.79           | 0.00                     | -0.4%                      | 16          | 1 ▼                    |
| Lithuania            | 14/31         | 0.75           | -                        | -                          | 18          | -                      |
| Spain                | 15/31         | 0.73           | 0.00                     | 0.1%                       | 21          | 1 ▲                    |
| Czech Republic       | 16/31         | 0.73           | 0.00                     | -0.4%                      | 22          | 1 ▼                    |

|                 |       |      |       |       |    |     |
|-----------------|-------|------|-------|-------|----|-----|
| France          | 17/31 | 0.72 | -0.01 | -0.9% | 23 | 0   |
| Latvia          | 18/31 | 0.71 | -     | -     | 24 | -   |
| Portugal        | 19/31 | 0.70 | 0.00  | -0.6% | 26 | 1 ▲ |
| United States   | 20/31 | 0.69 | -0.02 | -2.9% | 27 | 2 ▼ |
| Cyprus          | 21/31 | 0.68 | -     | -     | 28 | -   |
| Slovenia        | 22/31 | 0.68 | 0.00  | -0.4% | 29 | 0   |
| Malta           | 23/31 | 0.68 | -     | -     | 30 | -   |
| Slovak Republic | 24/31 | 0.66 | -     | -     | 33 | -   |
| Italy           | 25/31 | 0.66 | 0.00  | 0.2%  | 34 | 0   |
| Poland          | 26/31 | 0.64 | -0.02 | -2.4% | 36 | 1 ▼ |
| Romania         | 27/31 | 0.63 | -0.01 | -0.8% | 41 | 2 ▼ |
| Croatia         | 28/31 | 0.61 | -0.01 | -1.0% | 46 | 0   |
| Greece          | 29/31 | 0.61 | 0.00  | -0.5% | 48 | 1 ▼ |
| Bulgaria        | 30/31 | 0.54 | -0.01 | -1.0% | 62 | 2 ▼ |
| Hungary         | 31/31 | 0.52 | -0.01 | -1.4% | 69 | 2 ▼ |

## Latin America and Caribbean <sup>(LAC)</sup>

| Country/Jurisdiction           | Regional Rank | Overall Score* | Change in Overall Score* | % Change in Overall Score* | Global Rank | Change in Global Rank† |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Uruguay                        | 1/32          | 0.71           | 0.00                     | 0.6%                       | 25          | 1 ▲                    |
| Costa Rica                     | 2/32          | 0.68           | -0.01                    | -0.8%                      | 31          | 0                      |
| Chile                          | 3/32          | 0.66           | -0.01                    | -0.8%                      | 32          | 0                      |
| Barbados                       | 4/32          | 0.65           | 0.00                     | 0.7%                       | 35          | 1 ▲                    |
| St. Vincent and the Grenadines | 5/32          | 0.64           | 0.00                     | -0.2%                      | 38          | 0                      |
| Antigua and Barbuda            | 6/32          | 0.63           | 0.00                     | 0.4%                       | 39          | 2 ▲                    |
| St. Kitts and Nevis            | 7/32          | 0.63           | 0.00                     | -0.2%                      | 40          | 0                      |
| St. Lucia                      | 8/32          | 0.62           | 0.00                     | -0.1%                      | 43          | 0                      |
| The Bahamas                    | 9/32          | 0.61           | 0.00                     | 0.5%                       | 47          | 1 ▲                    |
| Grenada                        | 10/32         | 0.59           | 0.00                     | 0.1%                       | 50          | 1 ▲                    |
| Dominica                       | 11/32         | 0.58           | 0.00                     | -0.6%                      | 53          | 0                      |
| Jamaica                        | 12/32         | 0.57           | 0.00                     | 0.4%                       | 55          | 1 ▲                    |
| Argentina                      | 13/32         | 0.56           | -0.02                    | -3.7%                      | 56          | 1 ▼                    |
| Trinidad and Tobago            | 14/32         | 0.53           | 0.00                     | -0.5%                      | 63          | 1 ▼                    |
| Panama                         | 15/32         | 0.52           | 0.00                     | -0.7%                      | 71          | 1 ▼                    |
| Brazil                         | 16/32         | 0.50           | -0.01                    | -2.9%                      | 77          | 3 ▼                    |

|                    |       |      |       |       |     |     |
|--------------------|-------|------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| Guyana             | 17/32 | 0.50 | 0.00  | -0.7% | 78  | 2 ▲ |
| Suriname           | 18/32 | 0.49 | -0.01 | -1.9% | 84  | 1 ▼ |
| Colombia           | 19/32 | 0.49 | -0.01 | -2.2% | 86  | 2 ▼ |
| Peru               | 20/32 | 0.49 | -0.01 | -2.0% | 87  | 0   |
| Ecuador            | 21/32 | 0.48 | 0.00  | -0.1% | 92  | 1 ▲ |
| Belize             | 22/32 | 0.48 | 0.00  | 0.0%  | 93  | 3 ▲ |
| Dominican Republic | 23/32 | 0.48 | 0.00  | 0.0%  | 94  | 3 ▲ |
| El Salvador        | 24/32 | 0.48 | -0.02 | -3.3% | 95  | 4 ▼ |
| Paraguay           | 25/32 | 0.48 | -     | -     | 96  | -   |
| Guatemala          | 26/32 | 0.44 | -0.01 | -1.2% | 109 | 0   |
| Mexico             | 27/32 | 0.43 | -0.01 | -2.9% | 113 | 1 ▼ |
| Honduras           | 28/32 | 0.39 | -0.01 | -2.2% | 126 | 0   |
| Bolivia            | 29/32 | 0.39 | 0.00  | 0.9%  | 129 | 2 ▲ |
| Nicaragua          | 30/32 | 0.38 | -0.01 | -3.7% | 131 | 3 ▼ |
| Haiti              | 31/32 | 0.38 | -     | -     | 132 | -   |
| Venezuela, RB      | 32/32 | 0.27 | 0.00  | -1.5% | 139 | 0   |

\*† See page 10 or page 12 for full footnotes.



## Middle East and North Africa <sup>(MENA)</sup>

| Country/Jurisdiction | Regional Rank | Overall Score* | Change in Overall Score* | % Change in Overall Score* | Global Rank | Change in Global Rank† |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| United Arab Emirates | 1/8           | 0.64           | -0.01                    | -0.9%                      | 37          | 0                      |
| Jordan               | 2/8           | 0.55           | -0.02                    | -3.0%                      | 59          | 2 ▼                    |
| Tunisia              | 3/8           | 0.53           | -0.01                    | -1.5%                      | 65          | 2 ▼                    |
| Algeria              | 4/8           | 0.49           | 0.00                     | -0.5%                      | 82          | 8 ▲                    |



|                    |     |      |       |       |     |     |
|--------------------|-----|------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| Morocco            | 5/8 | 0.49 | -0.01 | -2.6% | 90  | 4 ▼ |
| Lebanon            | 6/8 | 0.45 | 0.00  | -0.9% | 104 | 0   |
| Iran, Islamic Rep. | 7/8 | 0.42 | -0.01 | -2.3% | 119 | 0   |
| Egypt, Arab Rep.   | 8/8 | 0.35 | -0.01 | -2.8% | 136 | 0   |

## South Asia <sup>(SA)</sup>

| Country/Jurisdiction | Regional Rank | Overall Score* | Change in Overall Score* | % Change in Overall Score* | Global Rank | Change in Global Rank† |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Nepal                | 1/6           | 0.52           | -0.01                    | -1.1%                      | 70          | 2 ▼                    |
| Sri Lanka            | 2/6           | 0.50           | -0.02                    | -3.0%                      | 76          | 3 ▼                    |
| India                | 3/6           | 0.50           | -0.01                    | -1.9%                      | 79          | 3 ▼                    |

|             |     |      |       |       |     |     |
|-------------|-----|------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| Bangladesh  | 4/6 | 0.40 | -0.01 | -2.8% | 124 | 1 ▲ |
| Pakistan    | 5/6 | 0.39 | 0.00  | -0.4% | 130 | 0   |
| Afghanistan | 6/6 | 0.35 | -0.01 | -2.7% | 134 | 1 ▼ |

## Sub-Saharan Africa <sup>(AFR)</sup>

| Country/Jurisdiction | Regional Rank | Overall Score* | Change in Overall Score* | % Change in Overall Score* | Global Rank | Change in Global Rank† |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Rwanda               | 1/33          | 0.62           | 0.00                     | 0.5%                       | 42          | 2 ▲                    |
| Namibia              | 2/33          | 0.62           | -0.01                    | -1.2%                      | 44          | 2 ▼                    |
| Mauritius            | 3/33          | 0.61           | -0.01                    | -0.9%                      | 45          | 0                      |
| Botswana             | 4/33          | 0.59           | -0.01                    | -1.5%                      | 51          | 1 ▼                    |
| South Africa         | 5/33          | 0.58           | 0.00                     | -0.4%                      | 52          | 0                      |
| Senegal              | 6/33          | 0.55           | 0.00                     | 0.5%                       | 57          | 2 ▲                    |
| Ghana                | 7/33          | 0.55           | -0.01                    | -2.2%                      | 58          | 0                      |
| Malawi               | 8/33          | 0.52           | 0.01                     | 1.0%                       | 67          | 5 ▲                    |
| Burkina Faso         | 9/33          | 0.50           | 0.00                     | -0.9%                      | 75          | 2 ▲                    |
| The Gambia           | 10/33         | 0.49           | -0.02                    | -3.1%                      | 89          | 8 ▼                    |
| Benin                | 11/33         | 0.49           | -0.01                    | -2.3%                      | 91          | 3 ▼                    |
| Tanzania             | 12/33         | 0.47           | -0.01                    | -1.1%                      | 100         | 1 ▲                    |
| Togo                 | 13/33         | 0.45           | 0.00                     | 0.9%                       | 103         | 4 ▲                    |
| Côte d'Ivoire        | 14/33         | 0.45           | -0.02                    | -3.4%                      | 105         | 2 ▼                    |
| Kenya                | 15/33         | 0.44           | 0.00                     | -0.9%                      | 106         | 4 ▲                    |
| Zambia               | 16/33         | 0.44           | -0.01                    | -2.3%                      | 107         | 2 ▼                    |
| Sierra Leone         | 17/33         | 0.44           | -0.01                    | -1.5%                      | 108         | 0                      |

|                  |       |      |       |       |     |     |
|------------------|-------|------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| Liberia          | 18/33 | 0.44 | -0.01 | -2.6% | 110 | 4 ▼ |
| Niger            | 19/33 | 0.44 | -0.01 | -1.5% | 111 | 0   |
| Madagascar       | 20/33 | 0.44 | 0.00  | -0.6% | 112 | 1 ▲ |
| Angola           | 21/33 | 0.43 | 0.00  | 0.5%  | 114 | 4 ▲ |
| Mali             | 22/33 | 0.43 | -0.01 | -2.9% | 115 | 1 ▼ |
| Sudan            | 23/33 | 0.42 | -     | -     | 116 | -   |
| Congo, Rep.      | 24/33 | 0.42 | -     | -     | 118 | -   |
| Guinea           | 25/33 | 0.41 | -0.01 | -1.4% | 120 | 1 ▲ |
| Nigeria          | 26/33 | 0.41 | -0.02 | -3.7% | 121 | 3 ▼ |
| Ethiopia         | 27/33 | 0.41 | 0.00  | -1.0% | 122 | 2 ▲ |
| Mozambique       | 28/33 | 0.40 | -0.01 | -2.9% | 123 | 0   |
| Uganda           | 29/33 | 0.39 | 0.00  | -0.9% | 125 | 2 ▲ |
| Zimbabwe         | 30/33 | 0.39 | 0.00  | 0.0%  | 127 | 2 ▲ |
| Mauritania       | 31/33 | 0.36 | 0.00  | 0.9%  | 133 | 1 ▲ |
| Cameroon         | 32/33 | 0.35 | -0.01 | -2.1% | 135 | 0   |
| Congo, Dem. Rep. | 33/33 | 0.35 | 0.00  | 1.2%  | 137 | 0   |

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

† The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 128 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2020 Index with the rankings of the same 128 countries and jurisdictions in 2021, exclusive of the 11 new additions to the 2021 Index. The 11 new countries and jurisdictions added to the Index this year are: Congo, Rep., Cyprus, Haiti, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Paraguay, Slovak Republic, and Sudan.

## Figure 4. Rule of Law Around the World by Income\*



This table presents the scores, rankings, and changes for the 139 countries and jurisdictions included in the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2021* by income group. Scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest score (strong adherence to the rule of law) and 0 signifies the lowest possible score (weak adherence to the rule of law).

### High Income

| Country/Jurisdiction | Income Rank | Overall Score <sup>1</sup> | Change in Overall Score <sup>1</sup> | % Change in Overall Score <sup>1</sup> | Global Rank | Change in Global Rank <sup>2</sup> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Denmark              | 1/46        | 0.90                       | 0.00                                 | 0.0%                                   | 1           | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Norway               | 2/46        | 0.90                       | 0.00                                 | 0.5%                                   | 2           | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Finland              | 3/46        | 0.88                       | 0.00                                 | 0.4%                                   | 3           | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sweden               | 4/46        | 0.86                       | 0.00                                 | 0.0%                                   | 4           | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Germany              | 5/46        | 0.84                       | 0.00                                 | 0.4%                                   | 5           | 1 ▲                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Netherlands          | 6/46        | 0.83                       | 0.00                                 | -0.5%                                  | 6           | 1 ▼                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New Zealand          | 7/46        | 0.83                       | 0.01                                 | 0.7%                                   | 7           | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Luxembourg           | 8/46        | 0.83                       | -                                    | -                                      | 8           | -                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Austria              | 9/46        | 0.81                       | 0.00                                 | -0.6%                                  | 9           | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ireland              | 10/46       | 0.81                       | -                                    | -                                      | 10          | -                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estonia              | 11/46       | 0.81                       | 0.00                                 | -0.1%                                  | 11          | 1 ▲                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada               | 12/46       | 0.80                       | -0.01                                | -1.0%                                  | 12          | 1 ▼                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Australia            | 13/46       | 0.79                       | -0.01                                | -1.2%                                  | 13          | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Belgium              | 14/46       | 0.79                       | 0.00                                 | 0.6%                                   | 14          | 2 ▲                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Japan                | 15/46       | 0.79                       | 0.01                                 | 0.8%                                   | 15          | 2 ▲                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| United Kingdom       | 16/46       | 0.79                       | 0.00                                 | -0.4%                                  | 16          | 1 ▼                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Singapore            | 17/46       | 0.78                       | -0.01                                | -1.0%                                  | 17          | 3 ▼                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lithuania            | 18/46       | 0.75                       | -                                    | -                                      | 18          | -                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hong Kong SAR, China | 19/46       | 0.75                       | -0.02                                | -2.0%                                  | 19          | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Korea, Rep.          | 20/46       | 0.74                       | 0.00                                 | 0.4%                                   | 20          | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spain                | 21/46       | 0.73                       | 0.00                                 | 0.1%                                   | 21          | 1 ▲                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Czech Republic       | 22/46       | 0.73                       | 0.00                                 | -0.4%                                  | 22          | 1 ▼                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| France               | 23/46       | 0.72                       | -0.01                                | -0.9%                                  | 23          | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Latvia               | 24/46       | 0.71                       | -                                    | -                                      | 24          | -                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Uruguay              | 25/46       | 0.71                       | 0.00                                 | 0.6%                                   | 25          | 1 ▲                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Portugal             | 26/46       | 0.70                       | 0.00                                 | -0.6%                                  | 26          | 1 ▲                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| United States        | 27/46       | 0.69                       | -0.02                                | -2.9%                                  | 27          | 2 ▼                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cyprus               | 28/46       | 0.68                       | -                                    | -                                      | 28          | -                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Slovenia             | 29/46       | 0.68                       | 0.00                                 | -0.4%                                  | 29          | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Malta                | 30/46       | 0.68                       | -                                    | -                                      | 30          | -                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chile                | 31/46       | 0.66                       | -0.01                                | -0.8%                                  | 32          | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Slovak Republic      | 32/46       | 0.66                       | -                                    | -                                      | 33          | -                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Italy                | 33/46       | 0.66                       | 0.00                                 | 0.2%                                   | 34          | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Barbados             | 34/46       | 0.65                       | 0.00                                 | 0.7%                                   | 35          | 1 ▲                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Poland               | 35/46       | 0.64                       | -0.02                                | -2.4%                                  | 36          | 1 ▼                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| United Arab Emirates | 36/46       | 0.64                       | -0.01                                | -0.9%                                  | 37          | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Antigua and Barbuda  | 37/46       | 0.63                       | 0.00                                 | 0.4%                                   | 39          | 2 ▲                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| St. Kitts and Nevis  | 38/46       | 0.63                       | 0.00                                 | -0.2%                                  | 40          | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Romania              | 39/46       | 0.63                       | -0.01                                | -0.8%                                  | 41          | 2 ▼                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mauritius            | 40/46       | 0.61                       | -0.01                                | -0.9%                                  | 45          | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Croatia              | 41/46       | 0.61                       | -0.01                                | -1.0%                                  | 46          | 0                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Bahamas          | 42/46       | 0.61                       | 0.00                                 | 0.5%                                   | 47          | 1 ▲                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Greece               | 43/46       | 0.61                       | 0.00                                 | -0.5%                                  | 48          | 1 ▼                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Trinidad and Tobago  | 44/46       | 0.53                       | 0.00                                 | -0.5%                                  | 63          | 1 ▼                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hungary              | 45/46       | 0.52                       | -0.01                                | -1.4%                                  | 69          | 2 ▼                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Panama               | 46/46       | 0.52                       | 0.00                                 | -0.7%                                  | 71          | 1 ▼                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

\* † ‡ See page 16 for full footnotes.

## Upper-Middle Income

| Country/Jurisdiction           | Income Rank | Overall Score <sup>†</sup> | Change in Overall Score <sup>‡</sup> | % Change in Overall Score <sup>‡</sup> | Global Rank | Change in Global Rank <sup>‡</sup> |                    |       |      |       |       |     |      |
|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|------|-------|-------|-----|------|
| Costa Rica                     | 1/40        | 0.68                       | -0.01                                | -0.8%                                  | 31          | 0                                  | Guyana             | 21/40 | 0.50 | 0.00  | -0.7% | 78  | 2 ▲  |
| St. Vincent and the Grenadines | 2/40        | 0.64                       | 0.00                                 | -0.2%                                  | 38          | 0                                  | Thailand           | 22/40 | 0.50 | -0.01 | -2.2% | 80  | 2 ▼  |
| St. Lucia                      | 3/40        | 0.62                       | 0.00                                 | -0.1%                                  | 43          | 0                                  | Serbia             | 23/40 | 0.49 | -0.01 | -1.8% | 81  | 1 ▲  |
| Namibia                        | 4/40        | 0.62                       | -0.01                                | -1.2%                                  | 44          | 2 ▼                                | Albania            | 24/40 | 0.49 | -0.01 | -1.7% | 83  | 2 ▲  |
| Georgia                        | 5/40        | 0.61                       | 0.00                                 | 0.5%                                   | 49          | 0                                  | Suriname           | 25/40 | 0.49 | -0.01 | -1.9% | 84  | 1 ▼  |
| Grenada                        | 6/40        | 0.59                       | 0.00                                 | 0.1%                                   | 50          | 1 ▲                                | Colombia           | 26/40 | 0.49 | -0.01 | -2.2% | 86  | 2 ▼  |
| Botswana                       | 7/40        | 0.59                       | -0.01                                | -1.5%                                  | 51          | 1 ▼                                | Peru               | 27/40 | 0.49 | -0.01 | -2.0% | 87  | 0    |
| South Africa                   | 8/40        | 0.58                       | 0.00                                 | -0.4%                                  | 52          | 0                                  | Ecuador            | 28/40 | 0.48 | 0.00  | -0.1% | 92  | 1 ▲  |
| Dominica                       | 9/40        | 0.58                       | 0.00                                 | -0.6%                                  | 53          | 0                                  | Belize             | 29/40 | 0.48 | 0.00  | 0.0%  | 93  | 3 ▲  |
| Malaysia                       | 10/40       | 0.57                       | -0.01                                | -1.4%                                  | 54          | 0                                  | Dominican Republic | 30/40 | 0.48 | 0.00  | 0.0%  | 94  | 3 ▲  |
| Jamaica                        | 11/40       | 0.57                       | 0.00                                 | 0.4%                                   | 55          | 1 ▲                                | Paraguay           | 31/40 | 0.48 | -     | -     | 96  | -    |
| Argentina                      | 12/40       | 0.56                       | -0.02                                | -3.7%                                  | 56          | 1 ▼                                | Belarus            | 32/40 | 0.48 | -0.04 | -7.5% | 97  | 21 ▼ |
| Jordan                         | 13/40       | 0.55                       | -0.02                                | -3.0%                                  | 59          | 2 ▼                                | China              | 33/40 | 0.47 | -0.01 | -1.9% | 98  | 2 ▼  |
| Kosovo                         | 14/40       | 0.55                       | 0.00                                 | 0.6%                                   | 60          | 1 ▲                                | Russian Federation | 34/40 | 0.46 | 0.00  | -0.7% | 101 | 1 ▲  |
| Bulgaria                       | 15/40       | 0.54                       | -0.01                                | -1.0%                                  | 62          | 2 ▼                                | Lebanon            | 35/40 | 0.45 | 0.00  | -0.9% | 104 | 0    |
| North Macedonia                | 16/40       | 0.53                       | 0.00                                 | -0.3%                                  | 64          | 1 ▲                                | Guatemala          | 36/40 | 0.44 | -0.01 | -1.2% | 109 | 0    |
| Kazakhstan                     | 17/40       | 0.52                       | 0.00                                 | 0.3%                                   | 66          | 3 ▲                                | Mexico             | 37/40 | 0.43 | -0.01 | -2.9% | 113 | 1 ▼  |
| Indonesia                      | 18/40       | 0.52                       | -0.01                                | -1.0%                                  | 68          | 2 ▼                                | Turkey             | 38/40 | 0.42 | -0.01 | -2.5% | 117 | 1 ▼  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina         | 19/40       | 0.52                       | 0.00                                 | -0.8%                                  | 72          | 1 ▼                                | Iran, Islamic Rep. | 39/40 | 0.42 | -0.01 | -2.3% | 119 | 0    |
| Brazil                         | 20/40       | 0.50                       | -0.01                                | -2.9%                                  | 77          | 3 ▼                                | Venezuela, RB      | 40/40 | 0.27 | 0.00  | -1.5% | 139 | 0    |

\* Income groups used in this year's report are based on the World Bank's 2021 fiscal year income group classifications. For the 2021 fiscal year, low-income economies are defined as those with a GNI per capita, calculated using the World Bank Atlas method, of \$1,035 or less in 2019; lower middle-income economies are those with a GNI per capita between \$1,036 and \$4,045; upper middle-income economies are those with a GNI per capita between \$4,046 and \$12,535; high-income economies are those with a GNI per capita of \$12,535 or more.

<https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>.

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

‡ The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 128 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2020 Index with the rankings of the same 128 countries and jurisdictions in 2021, exclusive of the 11 new additions to the 2021 Index. The 11 new countries and jurisdictions added to the Index this year are: Congo, Rep., Cyprus, Haiti, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Paraguay, Slovak Republic, and Sudan.

## Lower-Middle Income

| Country/Jurisdiction | Income Rank | Overall Score <sup>†</sup> | Change in Overall Score <sup>†</sup> | % Change in Overall Score <sup>†</sup> | Global Rank | Change in Global Rank <sup>‡</sup> |                  |       |      |       |       |         |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-------|------|-------|-------|---------|
| Senegal              | 1/35        | 0.55                       | 0.00                                 | 0.5%                                   | 57          | 2 ▲                                | Côte d'Ivoire    | 19/35 | 0.45 | -0.02 | -3.4% | 105 2 ▼ |
| Ghana                | 2/35        | 0.55                       | -0.01                                | -2.2%                                  | 58          | 0                                  | Kenya            | 20/35 | 0.44 | 0.00  | -0.9% | 106 4 ▲ |
| Mongolia             | 3/35        | 0.54                       | 0.01                                 | 2.0%                                   | 61          | 3 ▲                                | Zambia           | 21/35 | 0.44 | -0.01 | -2.3% | 107 2 ▼ |
| Tunisia              | 4/35        | 0.53                       | -0.01                                | -1.5%                                  | 65          | 2 ▼                                | Angola           | 22/35 | 0.43 | 0.00  | 0.5%  | 114 4 ▲ |
| Nepal                | 5/35        | 0.52                       | -0.01                                | -1.1%                                  | 70          | 2 ▼                                | Congo, Rep.      | 23/35 | 0.42 | -     | -     | 118 -   |
| Moldova              | 6/35        | 0.51                       | 0.02                                 | 3.2%                                   | 73          | 16 ▲                               | Nigeria          | 24/35 | 0.41 | -0.02 | -3.7% | 121 3 ▼ |
| Ukraine              | 7/35        | 0.51                       | 0.00                                 | 0.6%                                   | 74          | 5 ▲                                | Bangladesh       | 25/35 | 0.40 | -0.01 | -2.8% | 124 1 ▲ |
| Sri Lanka            | 8/35        | 0.50                       | -0.02                                | -3.0%                                  | 76          | 3 ▼                                | Honduras         | 26/35 | 0.39 | -0.01 | -2.2% | 126 0   |
| India                | 9/35        | 0.50                       | -0.01                                | -1.9%                                  | 79          | 3 ▼                                | Zimbabwe         | 27/35 | 0.39 | 0.00  | 0.0%  | 127 2 ▲ |
| Algeria              | 10/35       | 0.49                       | 0.00                                 | -0.5%                                  | 82          | 8 ▲                                | Myanmar          | 28/35 | 0.39 | -0.03 | -6.3% | 128 6 ▼ |
| Uzbekistan           | 11/35       | 0.49                       | 0.02                                 | 4.1%                                   | 85          | 14 ▲                               | Bolivia          | 29/35 | 0.39 | 0.00  | 0.9%  | 129 2 ▲ |
| Vietnam              | 12/35       | 0.49                       | 0.00                                 | -0.6%                                  | 88          | 4 ▲                                | Pakistan         | 30/35 | 0.39 | 0.00  | -0.4% | 130 0   |
| Morocco              | 13/35       | 0.49                       | -0.01                                | -2.6%                                  | 90          | 4 ▼                                | Nicaragua        | 31/35 | 0.38 | -0.01 | -3.7% | 131 3 ▼ |
| Benin                | 14/35       | 0.49                       | -0.01                                | -2.3%                                  | 91          | 3 ▼                                | Mauritania       | 32/35 | 0.36 | 0.00  | 0.9%  | 133 1 ▲ |
| El Salvador          | 15/35       | 0.48                       | -0.02                                | -3.3%                                  | 95          | 4 ▼                                | Cameroon         | 33/35 | 0.35 | -0.01 | -2.1% | 135 0   |
| Kyrgyz Republic      | 16/35       | 0.47                       | -0.02                                | -3.7%                                  | 99          | 4 ▼                                | Egypt, Arab Rep. | 34/35 | 0.35 | -0.01 | -2.8% | 136 0   |
| Tanzania             | 17/35       | 0.47                       | -0.01                                | -1.1%                                  | 100         | 1 ▲                                | Cambodia         | 35/35 | 0.32 | -0.01 | -2.3% | 138 0   |
| Philippines          | 18/35       | 0.46                       | -0.01                                | -2.9%                                  | 102         | 3 ▼                                |                  |       |      |       |       |         |

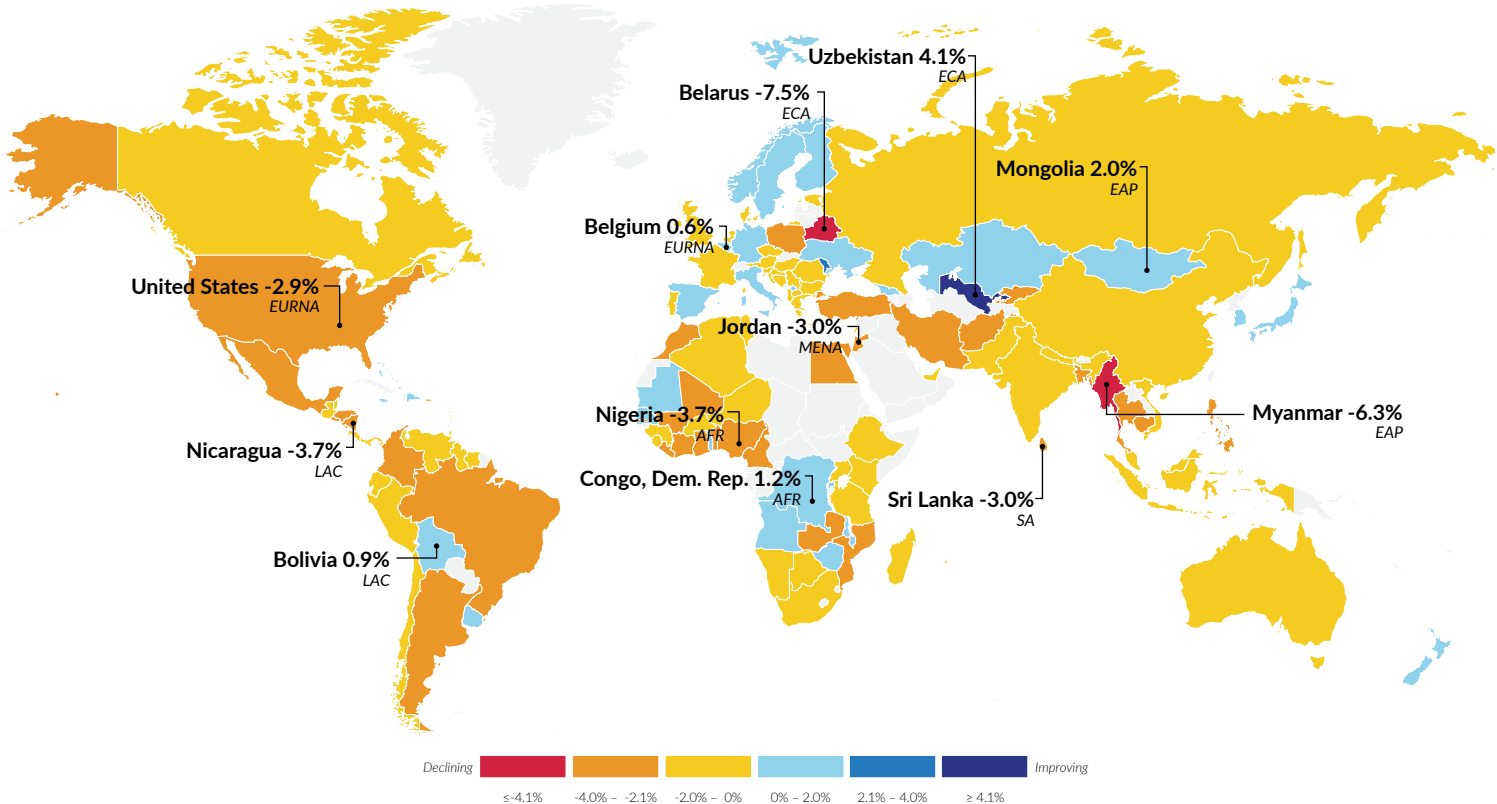
## Low Income

| Country/Jurisdiction | Income Rank | Overall Score <sup>†</sup> | Change in Overall Score <sup>†</sup> | % Change in Overall Score <sup>†</sup> | Global Rank | Change in Global Rank <sup>‡</sup> |                  |       |      |       |       |         |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-------|------|-------|-------|---------|
| Rwanda               | 1/18        | 0.62                       | 0.00                                 | 0.5%                                   | 42          | 2 ▲                                | Mali             | 10/18 | 0.43 | -0.01 | -2.9% | 115 1 ▼ |
| Malawi               | 2/18        | 0.52                       | 0.01                                 | 1.0%                                   | 67          | 5 ▲                                | Sudan            | 11/18 | 0.42 | -     | -     | 116 -   |
| Burkina Faso         | 3/18        | 0.50                       | 0.00                                 | -0.9%                                  | 75          | 2 ▲                                | Guinea           | 12/18 | 0.41 | -0.01 | -1.4% | 120 1 ▲ |
| The Gambia           | 4/18        | 0.49                       | -0.02                                | -3.1%                                  | 89          | 8 ▼                                | Ethiopia         | 13/18 | 0.41 | 0.00  | -1.0% | 122 2 ▲ |
| Togo                 | 5/18        | 0.45                       | 0.00                                 | 0.9%                                   | 103         | 4 ▲                                | Mozambique       | 14/18 | 0.40 | -0.01 | -2.9% | 123 0   |
| Sierra Leone         | 6/18        | 0.44                       | -0.01                                | -1.5%                                  | 108         | 0                                  | Uganda           | 15/18 | 0.39 | 0.00  | -0.9% | 125 2 ▲ |
| Liberia              | 7/18        | 0.44                       | -0.01                                | -2.6%                                  | 110         | 4 ▼                                | Haiti            | 16/18 | 0.38 | -     | -     | 132 -   |
| Niger                | 8/18        | 0.44                       | -0.01                                | -1.5%                                  | 111         | 0                                  | Afghanistan      | 17/18 | 0.35 | -0.01 | -2.7% | 134 1 ▼ |
| Madagascar           | 9/18        | 0.44                       | 0.00                                 | -0.6%                                  | 112         | 1 ▲                                | Congo, Dem. Rep. | 18/18 | 0.35 | 0.00  | 1.2%  | 137 0   |

\* † ‡ See page 16 for full footnotes.

# Figure 5. Overall Rule of Law Score Changes

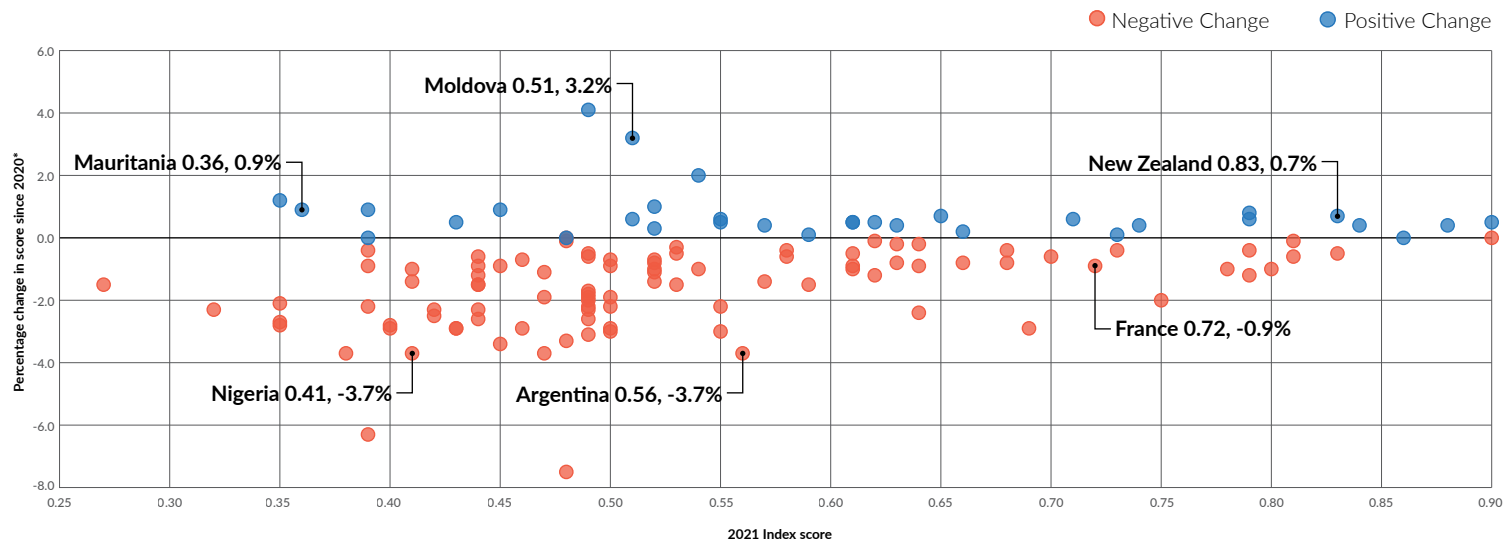
Biggest improvement and decline in overall rule of law score per region over the last year. Figures reflect annual percentage change in overall rule of law score. Countries and jurisdictions that are new to the Index in 2021 are not included.\*†



\* 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 score in order to show changes.  
† In the Middle East and North Africa and South Asia, there were no improvements in overall rule of law score, so only the biggest decline is noted.

## Figure 6. More Countries Declined than Improved in Rule of Law Performance for the Fourth Consecutive Year

Over the last year, 74.2% of countries and jurisdictions experienced declines in rule of law performance, and 25.8% improved. The countries and jurisdictions that experienced declines (74.2%) account for 84.7% of the world's population, or approximately 6.5 billion people.



### Declining Rule of Law (95)

Afghanistan  
Albania  
Algeria  
Argentina  
Australia  
Austria  
Bangladesh  
Belarus  
Belize  
Benin  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Botswana  
Brazil  
Bulgaria  
Burkina Faso  
Cambodia  
Cameroon  
Canada  
Chile  
China  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Croatia  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Dominica  
Ecuador  
Egypt, Arab Rep.  
El Salvador  
Estonia  
Ethiopia  
France  
The Gambia  
Ghana  
Greece  
Guatemala  
Guinea  
Guyana  
Honduras  
Hong Kong SAR, China  
Hungary  
India  
Indonesia  
Iran, Islamic Rep.  
Jordan  
Kenya  
Kyrgyz Republic  
Lebanon  
Liberia  
Madagascar  
Malaysia  
Mali  
Mauritius  
Mexico  
Morocco  
Mozambique  
Myanmar  
Namibia  
Nepal  
Netherlands  
Nicaragua  
Niger  
Nigeria  
North Macedonia  
Pakistan  
Panama  
Peru  
Philippines  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Serbia  
Sierra Leone  
Singapore  
Slovenia  
South Africa  
Sri Lanka  
St. Kitts and Nevis  
St. Lucia  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
Suriname  
Tanzania  
Thailand  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Tunisia  
Turkey  
Uganda  
United Arab Emirates  
United Kingdom  
United States  
Venezuela, RB  
Vietnam  
Zambia

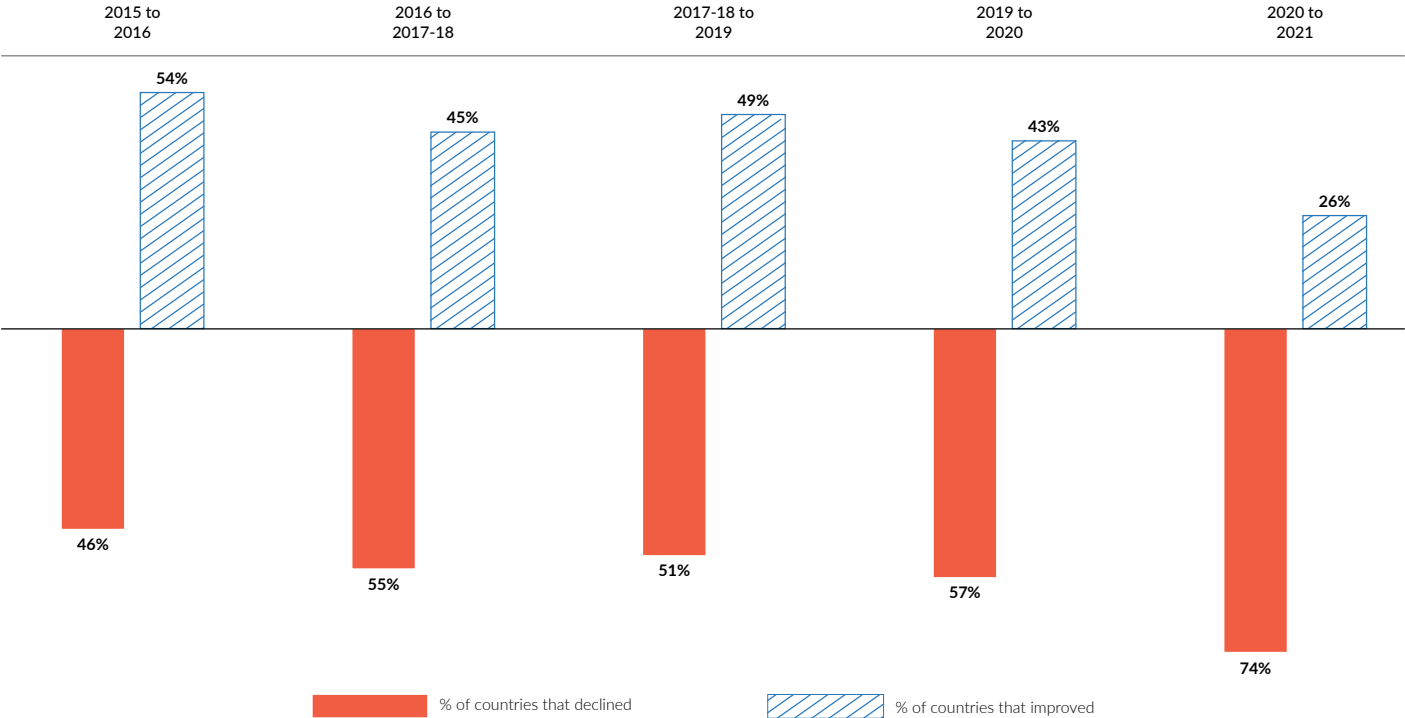
### Improving Rule of Law (33)

Angola  
Antigua and Barbuda  
The Bahamas  
Barbados  
Belgium  
Bolivia  
Congo, Dem. Rep.  
Dominican Republic  
Finland  
Georgia  
Germany  
Grenada  
Italy  
Jamaica  
Japan  
Kazakhstan  
Korea, Rep.  
Kosovo  
Malawi  
Mauritania  
Moldova  
Mongolia  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Rwanda  
Senegal  
Spain  
Sweden  
Togo  
Ukraine  
Uruguay  
Uzbekistan  
Zimbabwe

\* The annual percentage change in score was calculated by comparing the scores of the 128 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2020 Index with the scores of the same 128 countries and jurisdictions in 2021, exclusive of the 11 new additions to the 2021 Index. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.

# Figure 7. Continuous and Spreading Declines in Rule of Law Over Time

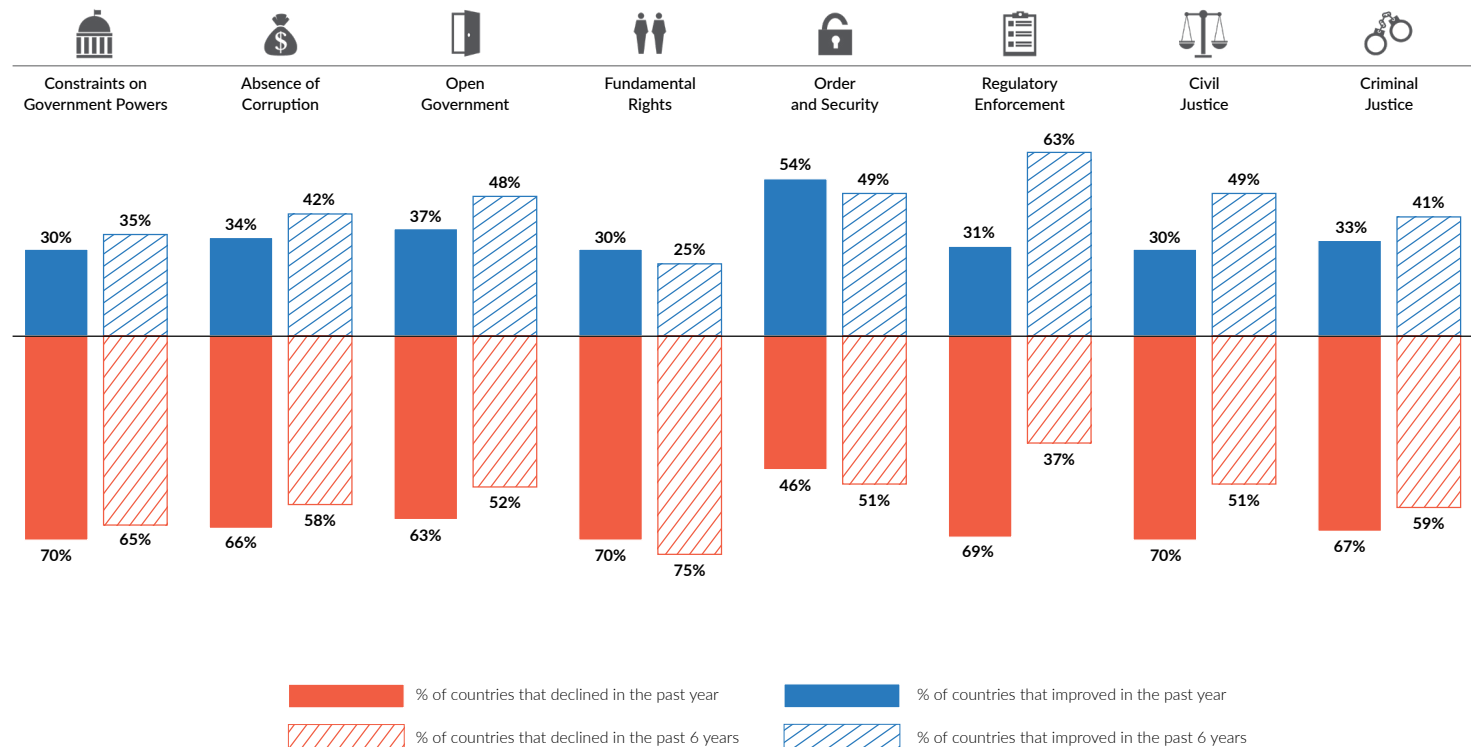
Percentage of countries and jurisdictions whose overall rule of law score has improved or declined in each each edition of the *WJP Rule of Law Index* since 2015. Percentage of countries and jurisdictions that improved or declined each year is calculated using the number of countries and jurisdictions common to the years in question.





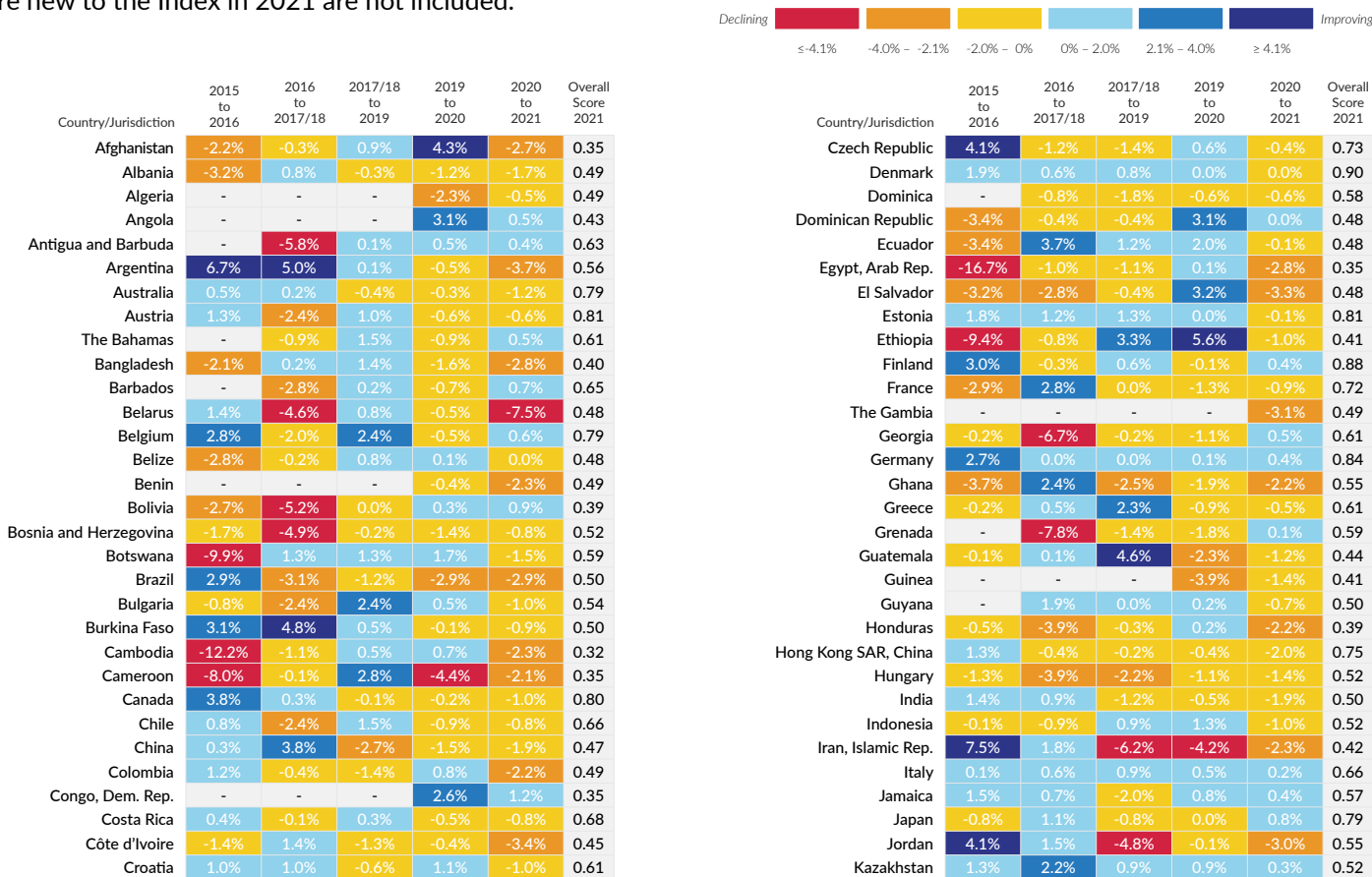
## Figure 8. Factors of the Rule of Law Over Time

Percentage of countries and jurisdictions that improved or declined in the past year is calculated using the 128 countries and jurisdictions that were covered in 2020. Percentage of countries and jurisdictions that improved or declined in the past six years is calculated using the 102 countries and jurisdictions that were covered in 2015.



## Figure 9. Rule of Law Progress is Often Slow and Inconsistent

Annual percentage change\* in score between each edition of the *WJP Rule of Law Index* since 2015. Countries and jurisdictions that are new to the Index in 2021 are not included.

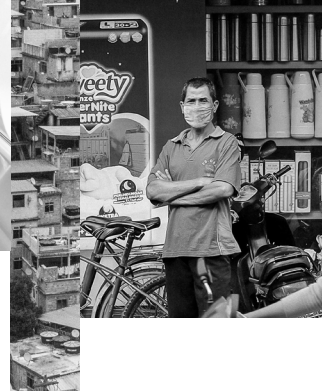


\*Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.



| Country/Jurisdiction | 2015<br>to<br>2016 | 2016<br>to<br>2017/18 | 2017/18<br>to<br>2019 | 2019<br>to<br>2020 | 2020<br>to<br>2021 | Overall<br>Score<br>2021 |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Kenya                | -3.5%              | 4.0%                  | 0.5%                  | -0.2%              | -0.9%              | 0.44                     |
| Korea, Rep.          | -7.7%              | -1.0%                 | 1.7%                  | 0.0%               | 0.4%               | 0.74                     |
| Kosovo               | -                  | -                     | -                     | -                  | 0.6%               | 0.55                     |
| Kyrgyz Republic      | -0.7%              | 0.7%                  | 0.9%                  | 1.4%               | -3.7%              | 0.47                     |
| Lebanon              | -5.4%              | 2.7%                  | 0.2%                  | -3.3%              | -0.9%              | 0.45                     |
| Liberia              | 0.1%               | 1.2%                  | 1.4%                  | -1.3%              | -2.6%              | 0.44                     |
| Madagascar           | 0.6%               | -3.9%                 | -1.4%                 | 2.4%               | -0.6%              | 0.44                     |
| Malawi               | 0.7%               | 0.6%                  | 0.8%                  | 0.7%               | 1.0%               | 0.52                     |
| Malaysia             | -5.2%              | -0.5%                 | 3.6%                  | 5.1%               | -1.4%              | 0.57                     |
| Mali                 | -                  | -                     | -                     | -2.8%              | -2.9%              | 0.43                     |
| Mauritania           | -                  | -                     | -                     | 4.0%               | 0.9%               | 0.36                     |
| Mauritius            | -                  | -                     | -                     | -0.1%              | -0.9%              | 0.61                     |
| Mexico               | -1.7%              | -0.7%                 | -0.2%                 | -2.8%              | -2.9%              | 0.43                     |
| Moldova              | 2.4%               | -0.5%                 | -1.0%                 | 2.2%               | 3.2%               | 0.51                     |
| Mongolia             | 1.1%               | 0.8%                  | 0.3%                  | -2.2%              | 2.0%               | 0.54                     |
| Morocco              | 1.4%               | -3.4%                 | -1.2%                 | -0.5%              | -2.6%              | 0.49                     |
| Mozambique           | -                  | -                     | -                     | -3.4%              | -2.9%              | 0.40                     |
| Myanmar              | 4.0%               | -3.2%                 | -0.5%                 | 0.0%               | -6.3%              | 0.39                     |
| Namibia              | -                  | -                     | -                     | 0.6%               | -1.2%              | 0.62                     |
| Nepal                | -2.2%              | 1.1%                  | 0.8%                  | -0.7%              | -1.1%              | 0.52                     |
| Netherlands          | 3.4%               | -0.7%                 | -1.5%                 | -0.5%              | -0.5%              | 0.83                     |
| New Zealand          | 0.0%               | -0.3%                 | -0.5%                 | 0.3%               | 0.7%               | 0.83                     |
| Nicaragua            | -1.1%              | 3.2%                  | -6.9%                 | -2.6%              | -3.7%              | 0.38                     |
| Niger                | -                  | -                     | -                     | -1.0%              | -1.5%              | 0.44                     |
| Nigeria              | 9.0%               | -1.2%                 | -1.0%                 | -0.9%              | -3.7%              | 0.41                     |
| North Macedonia      | -1.7%              | -2.3%                 | 1.8%                  | -0.9%              | -0.3%              | 0.53                     |
| Norway               | 1.7%               | 0.8%                  | 0.7%                  | 0.1%               | 0.5%               | 0.90                     |
| Pakistan             | 1.1%               | 1.9%                  | -0.2%                 | -0.7%              | -0.4%              | 0.39                     |
| Panama               | -1.9%              | -0.3%                 | -0.2%                 | 0.5%               | -0.7%              | 0.52                     |
| Peru                 | 3.1%               | 1.7%                  | -2.9%                 | -1.5%              | -2.0%              | 0.49                     |
| Philippines          | -3.6%              | -7.7%                 | 0.4%                  | 0.8%               | -2.9%              | 0.46                     |
| Poland               | -0.2%              | -5.8%                 | -0.9%                 | -1.1%              | -2.4%              | 0.64                     |
| Portugal             | 1.7%               | 0.9%                  | -0.8%                 | -1.1%              | -0.6%              | 0.70                     |

| Country/Jurisdiction           | 2015<br>to<br>2016 | 2016<br>to<br>2017/18 | 2017/18<br>to<br>2019 | 2019<br>to<br>2020 | 2020<br>to<br>2021 | Overall<br>Score<br>2021 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Romania                        | 6.6%               | -0.7%                 | -1.9%                 | -1.5%              | -0.8%              | 0.63                     |
| Russian Federation             | -4.1%              | 3.2%                  | 1.0%                  | -1.4%              | -0.7%              | 0.46                     |
| Rwanda                         | -                  | -                     | -                     | 1.3%               | 0.5%               | 0.62                     |
| Senegal                        | 0.8%               | -4.0%                 | 0.3%                  | -0.1%              | 0.5%               | 0.55                     |
| Serbia                         | -0.7%              | -0.3%                 | 0.1%                  | 0.6%               | -1.8%              | 0.49                     |
| Sierra Leone                   | 1.8%               | 2.0%                  | 0.1%                  | -0.9%              | -1.5%              | 0.44                     |
| Singapore                      | 1.0%               | -2.6%                 | 0.0%                  | -0.9%              | -1.0%              | 0.78                     |
| Slovenia                       | 1.9%               | -0.3%                 | 0.5%                  | 1.7%               | -0.4%              | 0.68                     |
| South Africa                   | 1.7%               | 0.3%                  | -1.6%                 | 1.4%               | -0.4%              | 0.58                     |
| Spain                          | 2.0%               | 0.9%                  | 2.4%                  | 1.3%               | 0.1%               | 0.73                     |
| Sri Lanka                      | 0.6%               | 2.8%                  | -0.9%                 | -0.2%              | -3.0%              | 0.50                     |
| St. Kitts and Nevis            | -                  | -0.5%                 | -2.2%                 | -2.1%              | -0.2%              | 0.63                     |
| St. Lucia                      | -                  | -2.1%                 | -2.1%                 | 0.7%               | -0.1%              | 0.62                     |
| St. Vincent and the Grenadines | -                  | -0.4%                 | 1.6%                  | 2.8%               | -0.2%              | 0.64                     |
| Suriname                       | -                  | -3.9%                 | 0.4%                  | -1.8%              | -1.9%              | 0.49                     |
| Sweden                         | 1.3%               | 0.2%                  | -0.4%                 | 0.2%               | 0.0%               | 0.86                     |
| Tanzania                       | -1.4%              | 0.2%                  | -0.3%                 | 0.5%               | -1.1%              | 0.47                     |
| Thailand                       | -0.3%              | -1.8%                 | -0.4%                 | 0.9%               | -2.2%              | 0.50                     |
| Togo                           | -                  | -                     | -                     | -0.8%              | 0.9%               | 0.45                     |
| Trinidad and Tobago            | -                  | -2.1%                 | -3.0%                 | -0.7%              | -0.5%              | 0.53                     |
| Tunisia                        | -4.6%              | 0.3%                  | -0.2%                 | 0.7%               | -1.5%              | 0.53                     |
| Turkey                         | -7.2%              | -3.1%                 | 2.7%                  | 0.3%               | -2.5%              | 0.42                     |
| Uganda                         | -4.1%              | 2.6%                  | 0.6%                  | -1.8%              | -0.9%              | 0.39                     |
| Ukraine                        | 1.9%               | 1.6%                  | 1.0%                  | 0.8%               | 0.6%               | 0.51                     |
| United Arab Emirates           | -2.1%              | -1.5%                 | -0.7%                 | 0.6%               | -0.9%              | 0.64                     |
| United Kingdom                 | 3.0%               | -0.1%                 | -0.7%                 | -1.7%              | -0.4%              | 0.79                     |
| United States                  | 1.4%               | -1.1%                 | -1.5%                 | -0.6%              | -2.9%              | 0.69                     |
| Uruguay                        | 1.9%               | -1.9%                 | -0.6%                 | 0.7%               | 0.6%               | 0.71                     |
| Uzbekistan                     | -1.4%              | 1.9%                  | 1.0%                  | 1.7%               | 4.1%               | 0.49                     |
| Venezuela, RB                  | -13.7%             | 4.0%                  | -3.5%                 | -2.6%              | -1.5%              | 0.27                     |
| Vietnam                        | 2.9%               | -2.1%                 | -2.4%                 | 0.6%               | -0.6%              | 0.49                     |
| Zambia                         | 0.5%               | -0.8%                 | -1.2%                 | -2.6%              | -2.3%              | 0.44                     |
| Zimbabwe                       | 0.8%               | 0.6%                  | 7.1%                  | -1.5%              | 0.0%               | 0.39                     |



- 26 *Figure 10 Declines in Constraints on Government Powers During COVID-19*
- 27 *Figure 11 Closing of Civic Space During COVID-19*
- 28 *Figure 12 Delays in Civil Justice, Criminal Justice, and Administrative Proceedings During COVID-19*
- 29 *Figure 13 Rising Discrimination During COVID-19*

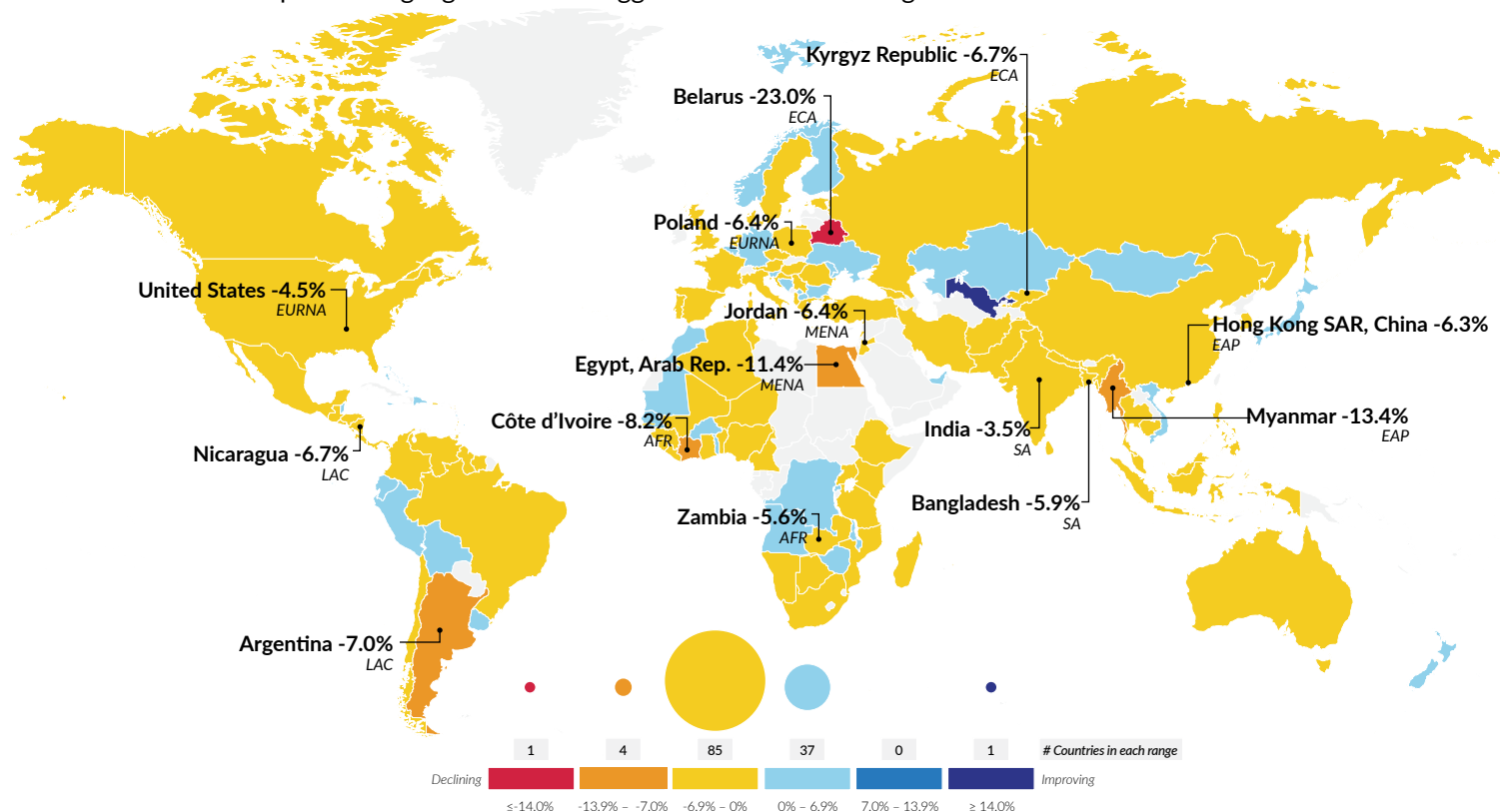
In early 2020, an outbreak of COVID-19 launched a global public health crisis that exists to this day. This pandemic has had wide-ranging and long-lasting effects on people and countries worldwide. The World Justice Project conducted its annual data collection during this time,

which allows us to compare the rule of law situation during the pandemic against that of 2019 (pre-pandemic). Significant changes can be seen in four areas: constraints on government powers, civic space, timely justice systems, and discrimination.

Photos: Jason Ortego (Unsplash), Insights Unspoken (Flickr), Farhan Abas (Unsplash), William F Santos (Unsplash), Robinson Grieg (Unsplash)

## Figure 10. Declines in Constraints on Government Powers During COVID-19

During the last year, 70% of countries and jurisdictions\* covered by the Index declined in Factor 1: Constraints on Government Powers. This decline was the most prevalent in three regions: South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and EU, EFTA, and North America. The map below highlights the two biggest declines in each region.

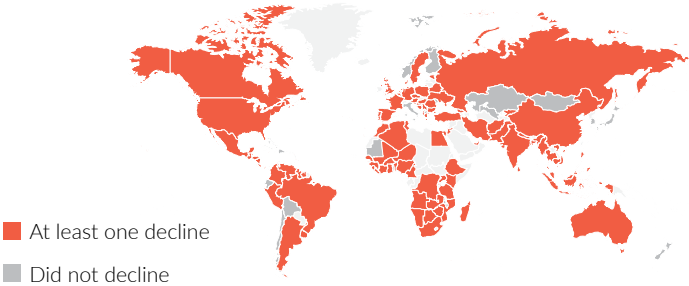


\*Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.

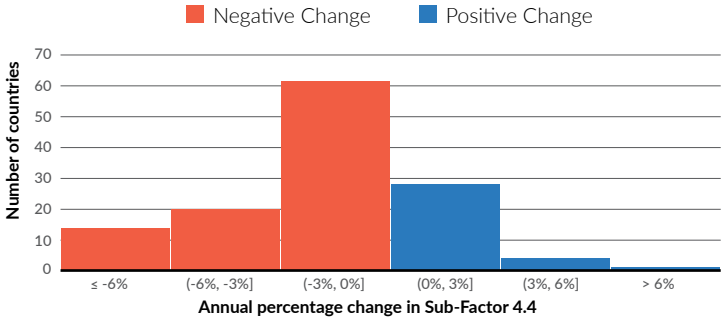
# Figure 11. Closing of Civic Space During COVID-19

Over the last year, the majority of countries and jurisdictions\* covered by the Index experienced declines in civic space, as measured by three Index sub-factors: civic participation, freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of assembly and association. The graphics below depict the countries where at least one of these sub-factors declined over the past year (global map), and the distribution of the annual percentage change across countries for each sub-factor (three histograms).

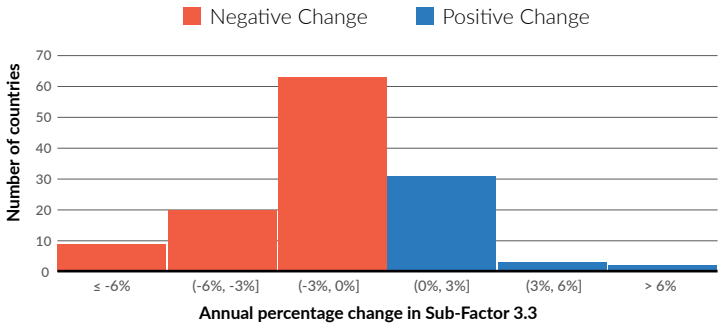
Over the past year, 82% of countries and jurisdictions in the Index experienced a decline in at least one dimension of civic space.



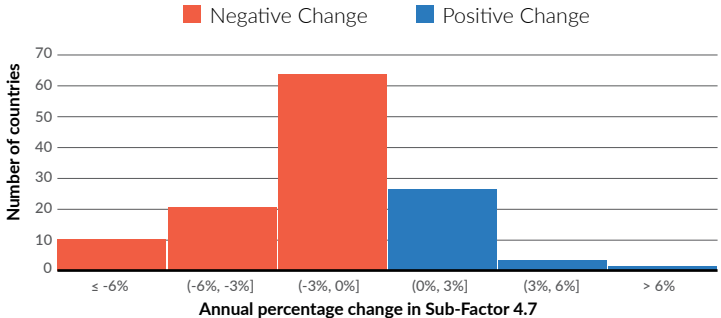
Changes in freedom of opinion and expression over the past year (Sub-Factor 4.4)



Changes in civic participation over the past year (Sub-Factor 3.3)



Changes in freedom of assembly and association over the past year (Sub-Factor 4.7)

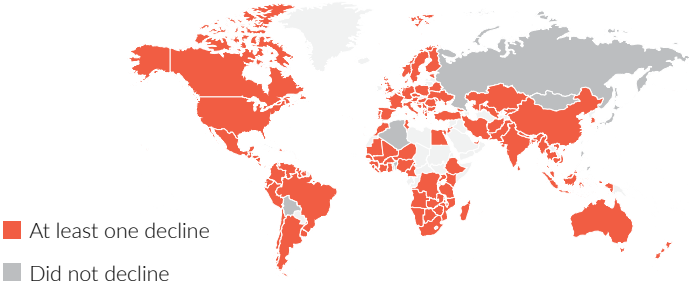


\*Countries and jurisdictions that are new to the Index in 2021 are not included.

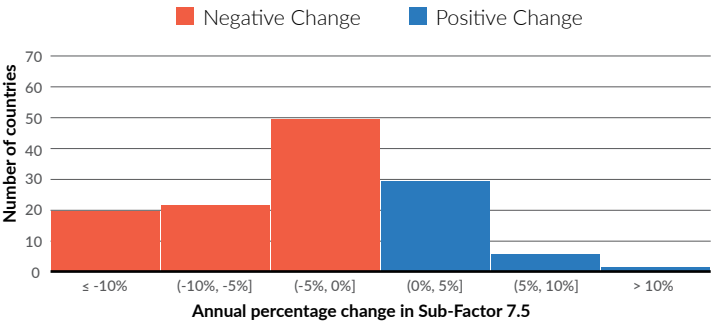
# Figure 12. Delays in Civil Justice, Criminal Justice, and Administrative Proceedings During COVID-19

The majority of countries and jurisdictions\* covered by the Index experienced increased delays in administrative, civil, and criminal proceedings during the last year. Civil justice was particularly affected, with two-thirds of countries exhibiting increased delays.

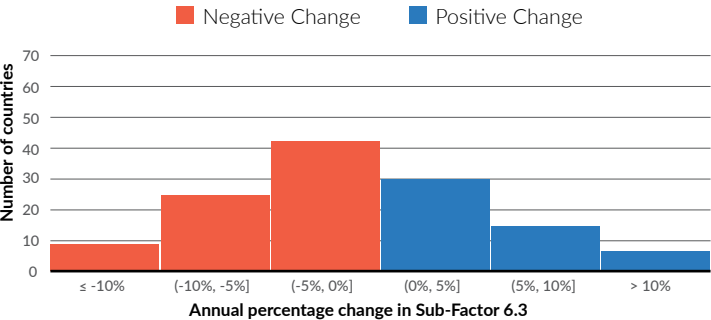
Over the past year, 94% of countries and jurisdictions in the Index experienced increased delays in administrative, civil, and/or criminal proceedings.



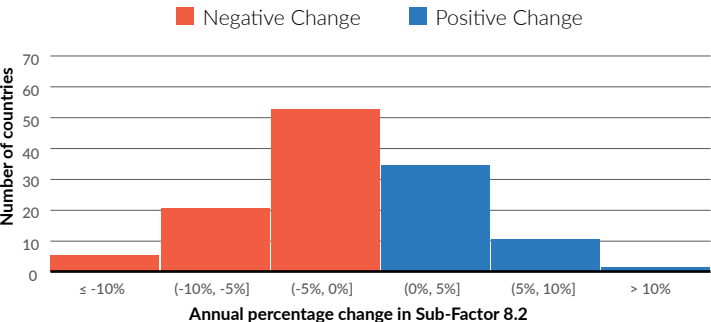
Delays in civil justice over the past year (Sub-Factor 7.5)



Delays in administrative proceedings over the past year (Sub-Factor 6.3)



Delays in criminal adjudication over the past year (Sub-Factor 8.2)

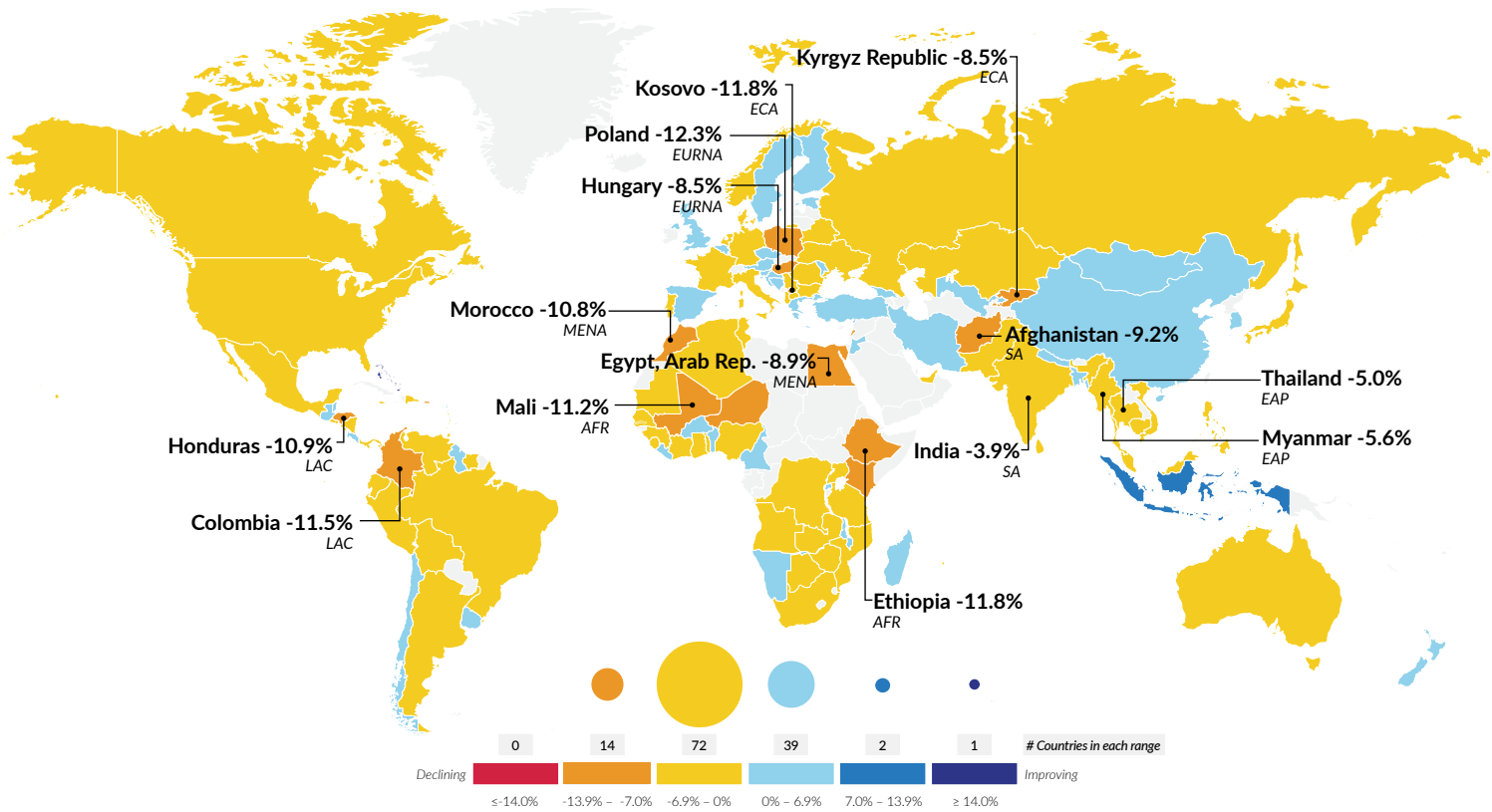


\*Countries and jurisdictions that are new to the Index in 2021 are not included.



# Figure 13. Rising Discrimination During COVID-19

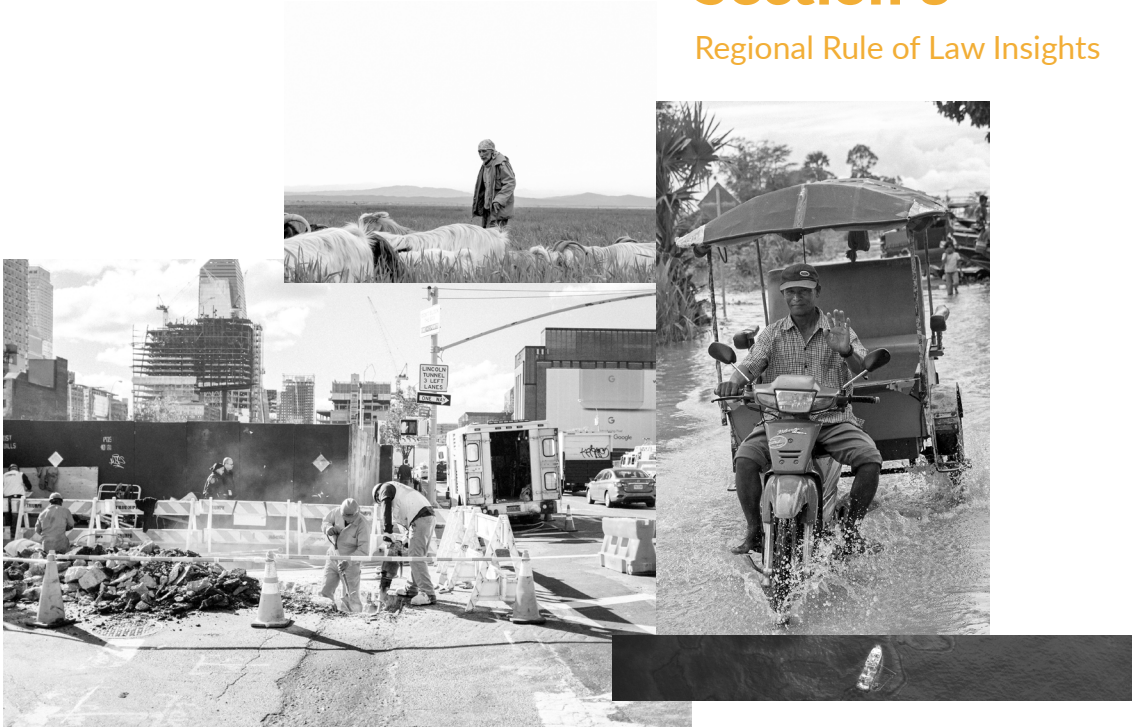
During the last year, 67% of countries and jurisdictions\* covered by the Index experienced declines in sub-factor 4.1 on equal treatment and absence of discrimination. This decline was the most prevalent in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa. The map below highlights the two biggest declines in each region.



\*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 score in order to show changes.

## Section 3

### Regional Rule of Law Insights



- 32 *Figure 14 Rule of Law Changes in the European Union*
- 33 *Figure 15 Rule of Law Changes in Latin America*
- 34 *Figure 16 Rule of Law Changes in East Asia and the Pacific*
- 35 *Figure 17 Rule of Law Changes in Sub-Saharan Africa*

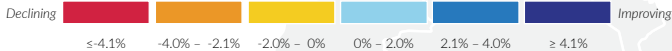
Photos: Peter Nijenhuis (Flickr), Kris Krug (Wikimedia), Hani Pirzadian (Unsplash), Nicolas Leclercq (Unsplash)

# Figure 14. Rule of Law Changes in the European Union

In the last year, 14 out of 20 countries and jurisdictions declined in the European Union. Of those 14 countries and jurisdictions, 8 had also declined in the previous year.

| Country/Jurisdiction | Overall Rule of Law Score* | % Score Change Since 2020* |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Austria              | 0.81                       | -0.6%                      |
| Belgium              | 0.79                       | 0.6%                       |
| Bulgaria             | 0.54                       | -1.0%                      |
| Croatia              | 0.61                       | -1.0%                      |
| Czech Republic       | 0.73                       | -0.4%                      |
| Denmark              | 0.90                       | 0.0%                       |
| Estonia              | 0.81                       | -0.1%                      |
| Finland              | 0.88                       | 0.4%                       |
| France               | 0.72                       | -0.9%                      |
| Germany              | 0.84                       | 0.4%                       |
| Greece               | 0.61                       | -0.5%                      |
| Hungary              | 0.52                       | -1.4%                      |
| Italy                | 0.66                       | 0.2%                       |
| Netherlands          | 0.83                       | -0.5%                      |
| Poland               | 0.64                       | -2.4%                      |

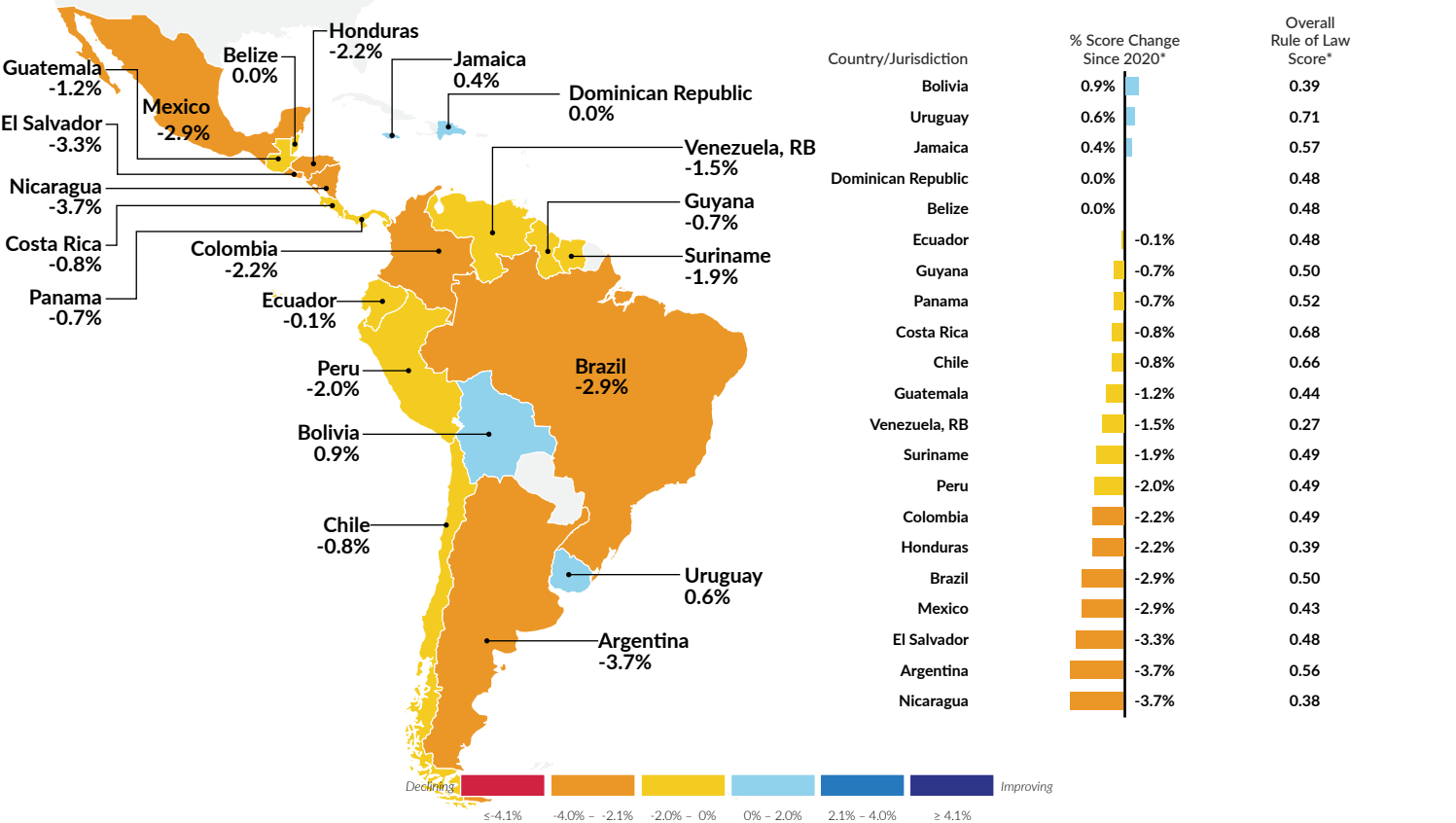
| Country/Jurisdiction | Overall Rule of Law Score* | % Score Change Since 2020* |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Portugal             | 0.70                       | -0.6%                      |
| Romania              | 0.63                       | -0.8%                      |
| Slovenia             | 0.68                       | -0.4%                      |
| Spain                | 0.73                       | 0.1%                       |
| Sweden               | 0.86                       | 0.0%                       |



\*Scores are rounded to two decimal places. 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 score in order to show changes.

# Figure 15. Rule of Law Changes in Latin America

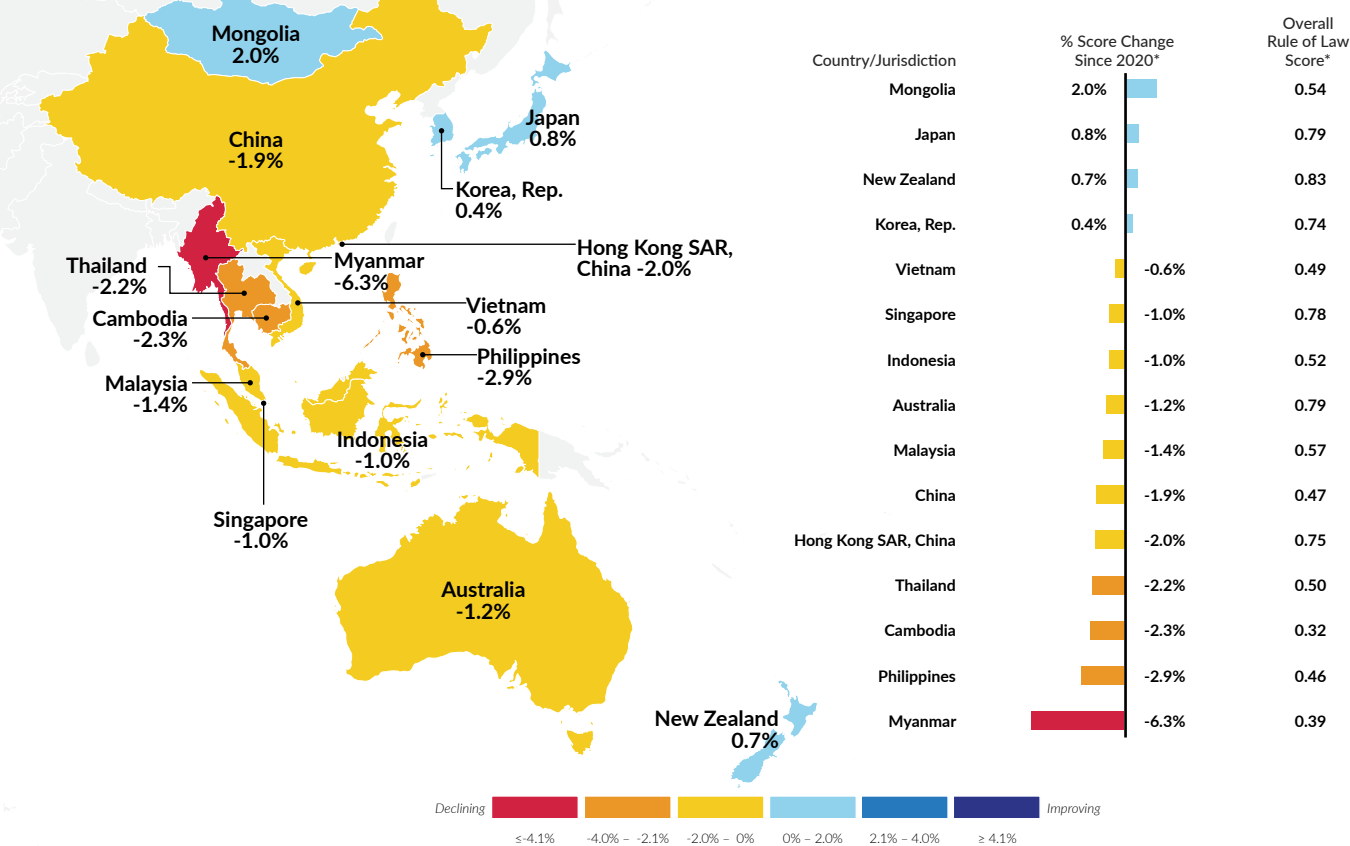
In the last year, 17 out of 21 countries and jurisdictions declined in Latin America. Of those 17 countries and jurisdictions, 10 had also declined in the previous year.



\*Scores are rounded to two decimal places. 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 score in order to show changes.

# Figure 16. Rule of Law Changes in East Asia and the Pacific

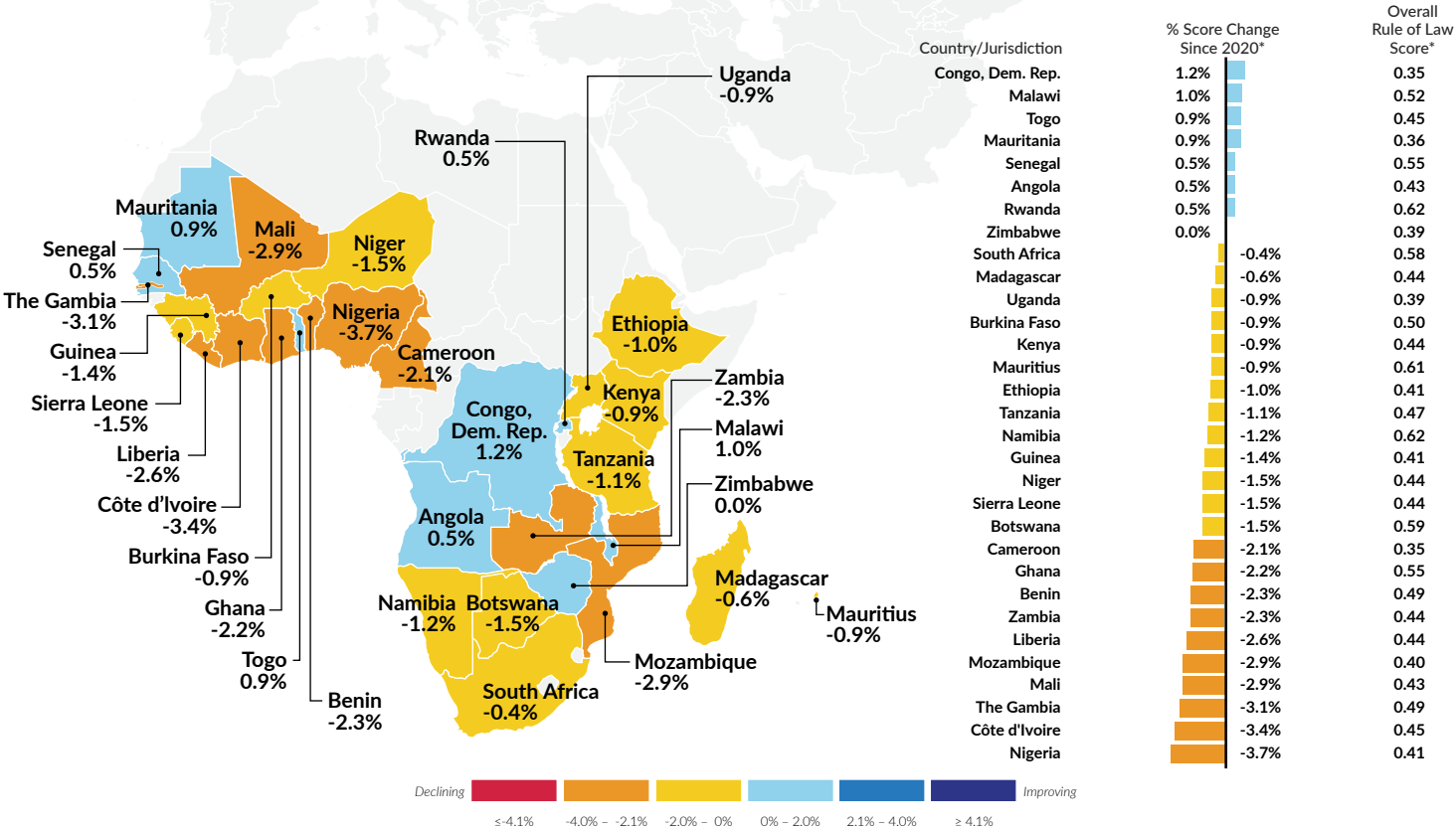
In the last year, 11 out of 15 countries and jurisdictions declined in East Asia and the Pacific. Of those 11 countries and jurisdictions, 5 had also declined in the previous year.



\*Scores are rounded to two decimal places. 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 score in order to show changes.

# Figure 17. Rule of Law Changes in Sub-Saharan Africa

In the last year, 23 out of 31 countries and jurisdictions declined in Sub-Saharan Africa. Of those 23 countries and jurisdictions, 16 had also declined in the previous year.



\*Scores are rounded to two decimal places. 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 score in order to show changes.

## Section 4

About the WJP





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## About the WJP Rule of Law Index

The *WJP Rule of Law Index*<sup>®</sup> 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 4-5.

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 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*<sup>®</sup> 2021 report, available for download at [worldjusticeproject.org](https://worldjusticeproject.org).



Scan the QR code or visit [worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/](https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/) to view our interactive data portal.

## 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.

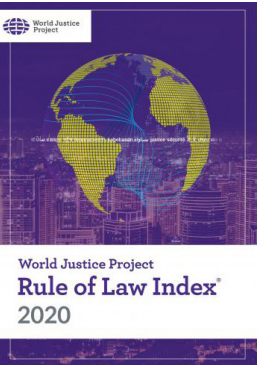
## About the World Justice Project

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 communities of justice, opportunity, and peace—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights. Learn more at: [worldjusticeproject.org](https://worldjusticeproject.org).

*“Strengthening the rule of law is a never-ending process. No society has ever attained, let alone sustained, a perfect realization of the rule of law. That is the challenge that lies before us.”*

**- Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu**

# More from the World Justice Project



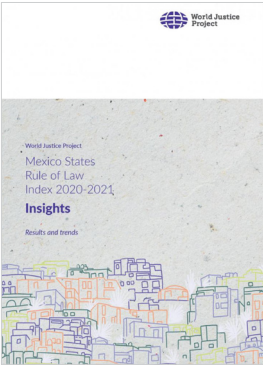
WJP Rule of Law Index 2020



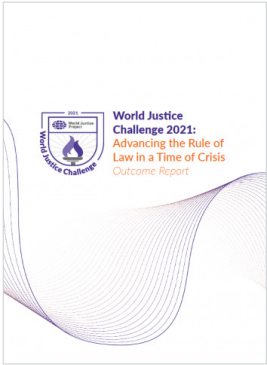
WJP Rule of Law Index 2020 Insights  
Highlights and data trends from the  
WJP Rule of Law Index 2020



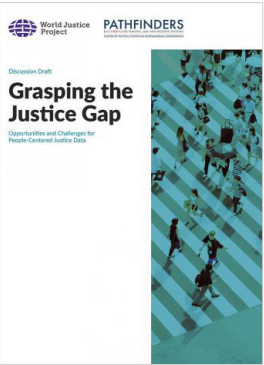
WJP Mexico States Rule of Law  
Index 2020-2021  
Perceptions and experiences in 32  
states



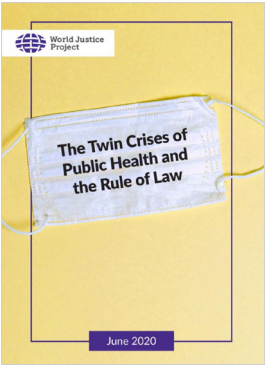
WJP Mexico States Rule of Law Index  
2020-2021 Insights  
Results and trends



World Justice Challenge 2021  
Outcome Report



Grasping the Justice Gap  
2021



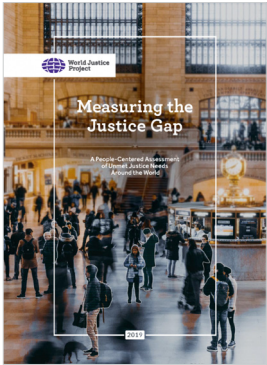
The Twin Crises of Public Health  
and the Rule of Law  
2020



Environmental Governance Indicators  
for Latin America & the Caribbean  
2020




Global Insights on Access to Justice  
2019



Measuring the Justice Gap  
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For more information or to read these reports, visit [worldjusticeproject.org/our-work](https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work)



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