



World Justice  
Project

World Justice Project

# Rule of Law Index<sup>®</sup> 2019 *Insights*

| Highlights and data trends from the WJP Rule of Law Index<sup>®</sup> 2019



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**Rule of Law Index<sup>®</sup>**

**2019 *Insights***

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# Introduction

The *World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index*® 2019 is the latest report in an annual series measuring the rule of law based on the experiences and perceptions of the general public and in-country experts worldwide. The scores and rankings for the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2019* are derived from more than 120,000 household surveys and 3,800 expert surveys in 126 countries and jurisdictions. The Index is the most comprehensive dataset of its kind and is the world's leading source for current, original data on the rule of law.

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.

Despite its profound importance, the rule of law is notoriously difficult to measure. The *WJP Rule of Law Index* provides a simple, coherent framework by examining a set of outcomes that the rule of law brings to societies, each of which reflects one aspect of the complex concept of the rule of law. The Index measures countries' rule of law performance across eight factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.

Key findings from the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2019* include:

**More countries declined than improved** in overall rule of law performance for a second year in a row, continuing a negative slide toward weaker rule of law around the world.

**In a sign suggesting rising authoritarianism,** “Constraints on Government Powers” declined in more countries than any other factor worldwide over the last year (61 countries declined, 23 stayed the same, 29 improved). Over the past four years, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia have lost the most ground in this dimension of the rule of law.

**The second largest decline over the last year** was seen in the area of “Criminal Justice,” followed by “Open Government” and “Fundamental Rights.” On a positive note, corruption continued to decline worldwide: for the second year, more countries improved in “Absence of Corruption” than declined.

**The top three overall performers** in the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2019* were Denmark (1), Norway (2), and Finland (3); the bottom three were the Democratic Republic of Congo (124), Cambodia (125), and Venezuela (126). The top three performing countries have not changed since the 2016 edition of the Index.

The Index is intended for a broad audience that includes policy makers, civil society organizations, academics, citizens, businesses, and legal professionals, among others. It is our hope that this diagnostic tool will help identify countries' strengths and weaknesses and encourage policy choices that strengthen the rule of law within and across countries.

## Overall Rule of Law Scores & Rankings

**Figure 1:** This table presents the scores and rankings of the 126 countries included in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2019. Scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest score (strong adherence to rule of law) and 0 signifies the lowest possible score (weak adherence to rule of law).

Country/Jurisdiction	Score*	Score Change*	Global Rank	Rank Change†	Country/Jurisdiction	Score*	Score Change*	Global Rank	Rank Change†
Afghanistan	0.35	0.00	123	0	Denmark	0.90	0.01	1	0
Albania	0.51	0.00	71	0	Dominica	0.59	-0.01	45	▼1
Algeria	0.51		72		Dominican Republic	0.46	0.00	95	0
Angola	0.41		111		Ecuador	0.48	0.01	87	▲3
Antigua & Barbuda	0.63	0.00	33	▲1	Egypt	0.36	0.00	121	0
Argentina	0.58	0.00	46	▲3	El Salvador	0.48	0.00	84	0
Australia	0.80	0.00	11	▼1	Estonia	0.81	0.01	10	▲2
Austria	0.82	0.01	7	▲1	Ethiopia	0.39	0.01	118	0
Bahamas	0.61	0.01	39	▲3	Finland	0.87	0.00	3	0
Bangladesh	0.41	0.00	112	▲1	France	0.73	0.00	17	1
Barbados	0.65	0.00	29	▲1	Georgia	0.61	0.00	41	0
Belarus	0.52	0.00	66	▲2	Germany	0.84	0.00	6	0
Belgium	0.79	0.02	14	▲1	Ghana	0.58	-0.01	48	▼2
Belize	0.48	0.00	86	0	Greece	0.62	0.01	36	▲4
Benin	0.50		79		Grenada	0.60	-0.01	43	▼4
Bolivia	0.38	0.00	119	▼2	Guatemala	0.46	0.02	96	▲5
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0.53	0.00	60	▼1	Guinea	0.44		105	
Botswana	0.59	0.01	44	▲4	Guyana	0.50	0.00	75	▲2
Brazil	0.53	-0.01	58	▼3	Honduras	0.40	0.00	115	1
Bulgaria	0.54	0.01	54	▲4	Hong Kong SAR, China	0.77	0.00	16	0
Burkina Faso	0.50	0.00	73	▲1	Hungary	0.53	-0.01	57	▼4
Cambodia	0.32	0.00	125	0	India	0.51	-0.01	68	▼3
Cameroon	0.37	0.01	120	0	Indonesia	0.52	0.00	62	▲4
Canada	0.81	0.00	9	0	Iran	0.45	-0.03	102	▼16
Chile	0.68	0.01	25	▲2	Italy	0.65	0.01	28	▲3
China	0.49	-0.01	82	▼2	Jamaica	0.56	-0.01	50	0
Colombia	0.50	-0.01	80	▼3	Japan	0.78	-0.01	15	▼1
Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.33		124		Jordan	0.57	-0.03	49	▼4
Costa Rica	0.69	0.00	24	0	Kazakhstan	0.52	0.00	65	▲2
Cote d'Ivoire	0.46	-0.01	93	▼4	Kenya	0.45	0.00	101	0
Croatia	0.61	0.00	42	▼4	Kyrgyzstan	0.48	0.00	85	▲2
Czech Republic	0.73	-0.01	19	▼2	Lebanon	0.47	0.00	89	▲3

\* Scores and change in scores are rounded to two decimal places.

† The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 113 countries measured in the 2017–2018 Index with the rankings of the same 113 countries in 2019, exclusive of the 13 new countries indexed in 2019. The 13 new countries added to the Index are: Algeria; Angola; Benin; Congo, Dem. Rep.; Guinea; Mali; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; Niger; Rwanda; and Togo.

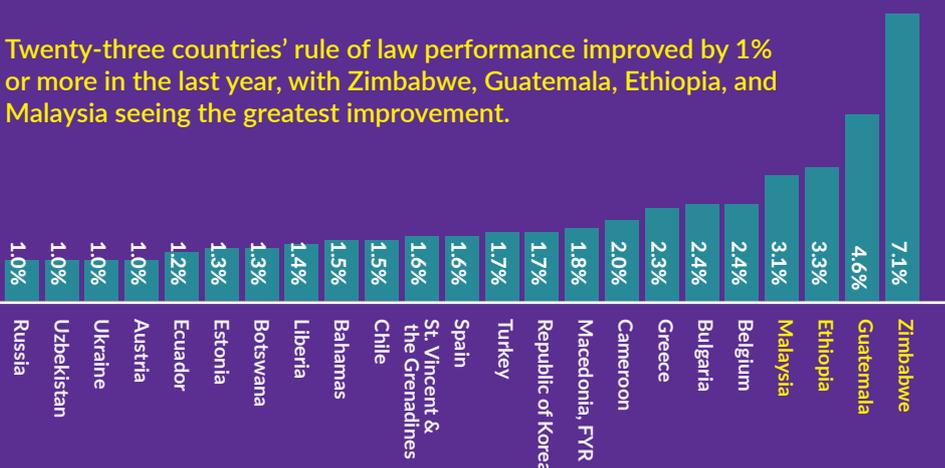
## Overall Rule of Law Score Changes

**Figure 2:** Percentage change in countries' rule of law score since last year. Countries with a change in score of less than 1% or those which are new to the Index in 2019 are not shown.



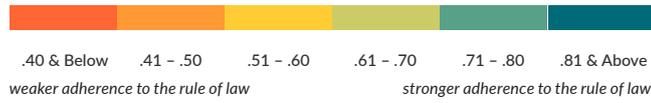
Country/Jurisdiction	Score*	Score Change*	Global Rank	Rank Change†	Country/Jurisdiction	Score*	Score Change*	Global Rank	Rank Change†
Liberia	0.46	0.01	97	▲2	Senegal	0.55	0.00	52	0
Macedonia, FYR	0.54	0.01	56	▲4	Serbia	0.50	0.00	78	▲2
Madagascar	0.43	-0.01	107	0	Sierra Leone	0.45	0.00	98	0
Malawi	0.51	0.00	67	▲2	Singapore	0.80	0.00	13	0
Malaysia	0.55	0.02	51	▲5	Slovenia	0.67	0.00	26	0
Mali	0.45		103		South Africa	0.58	-0.01	47	0
Mauritania	0.35		122		Spain	0.71	0.01	21	▲2
Mauritius	0.61		37		Sri Lanka	0.52	0.00	63	▼1
Mexico	0.45	0.00	99	▼2	St. Kitts & Nevis	0.65	-0.01	30	▼2
Moldova	0.49	0.00	83	0	St. Lucia	0.61	-0.01	38	▼3
Mongolia	0.55	0.00	53	▲1	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	0.62	0.01	35	▲3
Morocco	0.50	-0.01	74	▼3	Suriname	0.51	0.00	69	▲3
Mozambique	0.43		108		Sweden	0.85	-0.01	4	0
Myanmar	0.42	0.00	110	0	Tanzania	0.47	0.00	91	0
Namibia	0.62		34		Thailand	0.50	0.00	76	▼1
Nepal	0.53	0.00	59	▲2	Togo	0.45		100	
Netherlands	0.84	-0.01	5	0	Trinidad & Tobago	0.54	-0.02	55	▼4
New Zealand	0.82	0.00	8	▼1	Tunisia	0.53	-0.01	61	▼4
Nicaragua	0.40	-0.03	114	▼4	Turkey	0.42	0.01	109	▲2
Niger	0.44		104		Uganda	0.40	0.00	113	▲2
Nigeria	0.43	0.00	106	0	Ukraine	0.50	0.00	77	▲4
Norway	0.89	0.01	2	0	United Arab Emirates	0.64	0.00	32	0
Pakistan	0.39	0.00	117	▼1	United Kingdom	0.80	-0.01	12	▼1
Panama	0.52	0.00	64	0	United States	0.71	-0.02	20	▼1
Peru	0.51	-0.02	70	▼7	Uruguay	0.71	0.00	23	▼1
Philippines	0.47	0.00	90	▲3	Uzbekistan	0.46	0.00	94	▲2
Poland	0.66	-0.01	27	▼2	Venezuela	0.28	-0.01	126	0
Portugal	0.71	-0.01	22	▼1	Vietnam	0.49	-0.01	81	▼2
Republic of Korea	0.73	0.01	18	▲2	Zambia	0.47	-0.01	92	▼4
Romania	0.64	-0.01	31	▼2	Zimbabwe	0.40	0.03	116	▲3
Russia	0.47	0.00	88	▲6					
Rwanda	0.61		40						

Twenty-three countries' rule of law performance improved by 1% or more in the last year, with Zimbabwe, Guatemala, Ethiopia, and Malaysia seeing the greatest improvement.



## Rule of Law Around the World

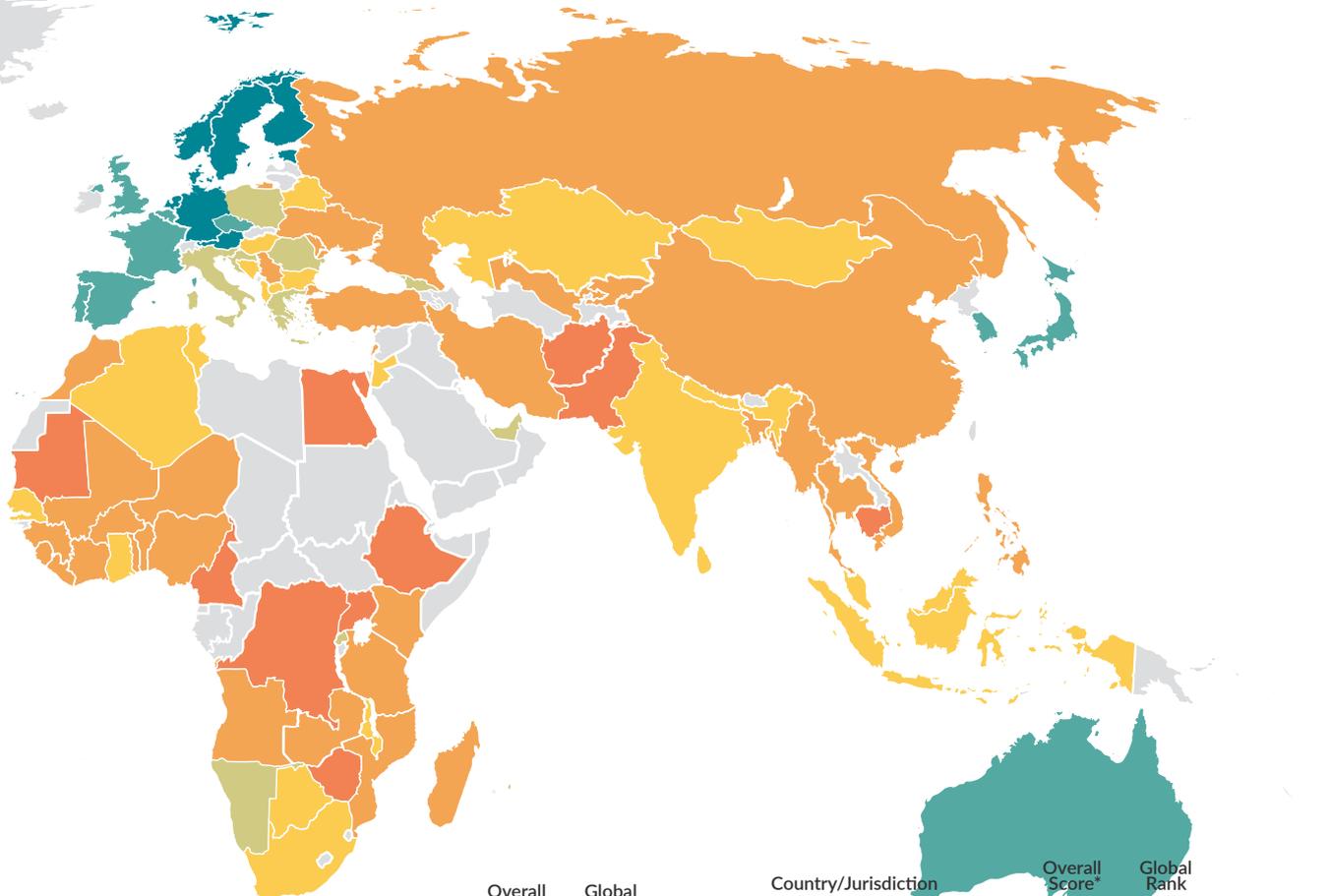
**Figure 3:** Scores and rankings of the 126 countries included in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2019. Scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest score (strong adherence to rule of law) and 0 signifies the lowest possible score (weak adherence to rule of law).



Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank
Denmark	0.90	1
Norway	0.89	2
Finland	0.87	3
Sweden	0.85	4
Netherlands	0.84	5
Germany	0.84	6
Austria	0.82	7
New Zealand	0.82	8
Canada	0.81	9
Estonia	0.81	10
Australia	0.80	11
United Kingdom	0.80	12
Singapore	0.80	13
Belgium	0.79	14
Japan	0.78	15
Hong Kong SAR, China	0.77	16
France	0.73	17
Republic of Korea	0.73	18
Czech Republic	0.73	19
United States	0.71	20
Spain	0.71	21
Portugal	0.71	22
Uruguay	0.71	23
Costa Rica	0.69	24
Chile	0.68	25
Slovenia	0.67	26
Poland	0.66	27
Italy	0.65	28
Barbados	0.65	29
St. Kitts & Nevis	0.65	30
Romania	0.64	31
United Arab Emirates	0.64	32
Antigua & Barbuda	0.63	33
Namibia	0.62	34
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	0.62	35
Greece	0.62	36
Mauritius	0.61	37
St. Lucia	0.61	38
Bahamas	0.61	39
Rwanda	0.61	40
Georgia	0.61	41

Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank
Croatia	0.61	42
Grenada	0.60	43
Botswana	0.59	44
Dominica	0.59	45
Argentina	0.58	46
South Africa	0.58	47
Ghana	0.58	48
Jordan	0.57	49
Jamaica	0.56	50
Malaysia	0.55	51
Senegal	0.55	52
Mongolia	0.55	53
Bulgaria	0.54	54
Trinidad & Tobago	0.54	55
Macedonia, FYR	0.54	56
Hungary	0.53	57
Brazil	0.53	58
Nepal	0.53	59
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0.53	60
Tunisia	0.53	61
Indonesia	0.52	62
Sri Lanka	0.52	63
Panama	0.52	64
Kazakhstan	0.52	65
Belarus	0.52	66
Malawi	0.51	67
India	0.51	68
Suriname	0.51	69

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

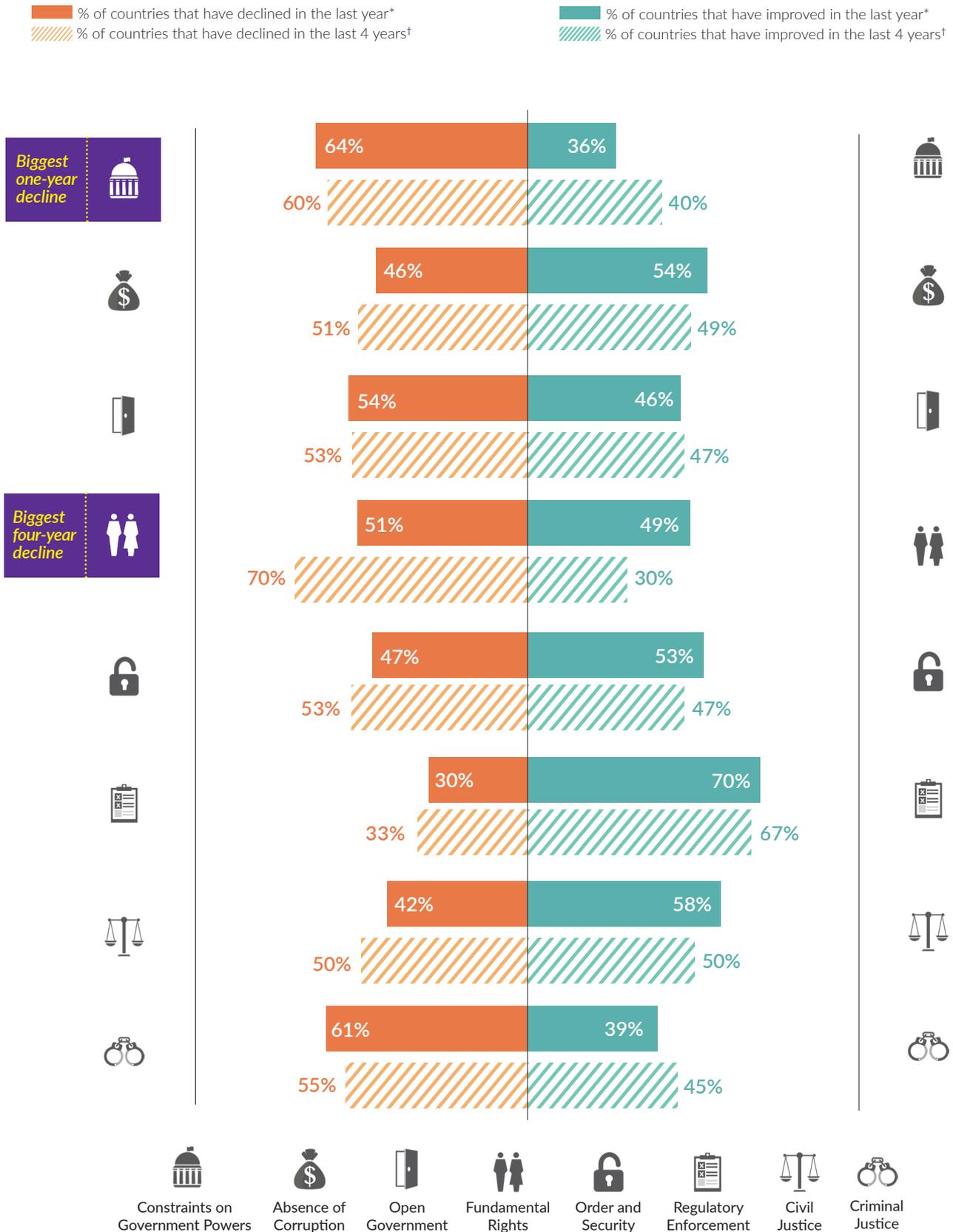


Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank
Peru	0.51	70
Albania	0.51	71
Algeria	0.51	72
Burkina Faso	0.50	73
Morocco	0.50	74
Guyana	0.50	75
Thailand	0.50	76
Ukraine	0.50	77
Serbia	0.50	78
Benin	0.50	79
Colombia	0.50	80
Vietnam	0.49	81
China	0.49	82
Moldova	0.49	83
El Salvador	0.48	84
Kyrgyzstan	0.48	85
Belize	0.48	86
Ecuador	0.48	87
Russia	0.47	88
Lebanon	0.47	89
Philippines	0.47	90
Tanzania	0.47	91
Zambia	0.47	92
Cote d'Ivoire	0.46	93
Uzbekistan	0.46	94
Dominican Republic	0.46	95
Guatemala	0.46	96
Liberia	0.46	97
Sierra Leone	0.45	98
Mexico	0.45	99
Togo	0.45	100
Kenya	0.45	101
Iran	0.45	102
Mali	0.45	103
Niger	0.44	104
Guinea	0.44	105
Nigeria	0.43	106
Madagascar	0.43	107
Mozambique	0.43	108
Turkey	0.42	109
Myanmar	0.42	110
Angola	0.41	111
Bangladesh	0.41	112
Uganda	0.40	113
Nicaragua	0.40	114
Honduras	0.40	115
Zimbabwe	0.40	116
Pakistan	0.39	117
Ethiopia	0.39	118
Bolivia	0.38	119
Cameroon	0.37	120
Egypt	0.36	121
Mauritania	0.35	122
Afghanistan	0.35	123
Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.33	124
Cambodia	0.32	125
Venezuela	0.28	126

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

## Factors of the Rule of Law Over Time

**Figure 4:** Percentage of countries whose score has improved or declined for each of the eight factors of the WJP Rule of Law Index.

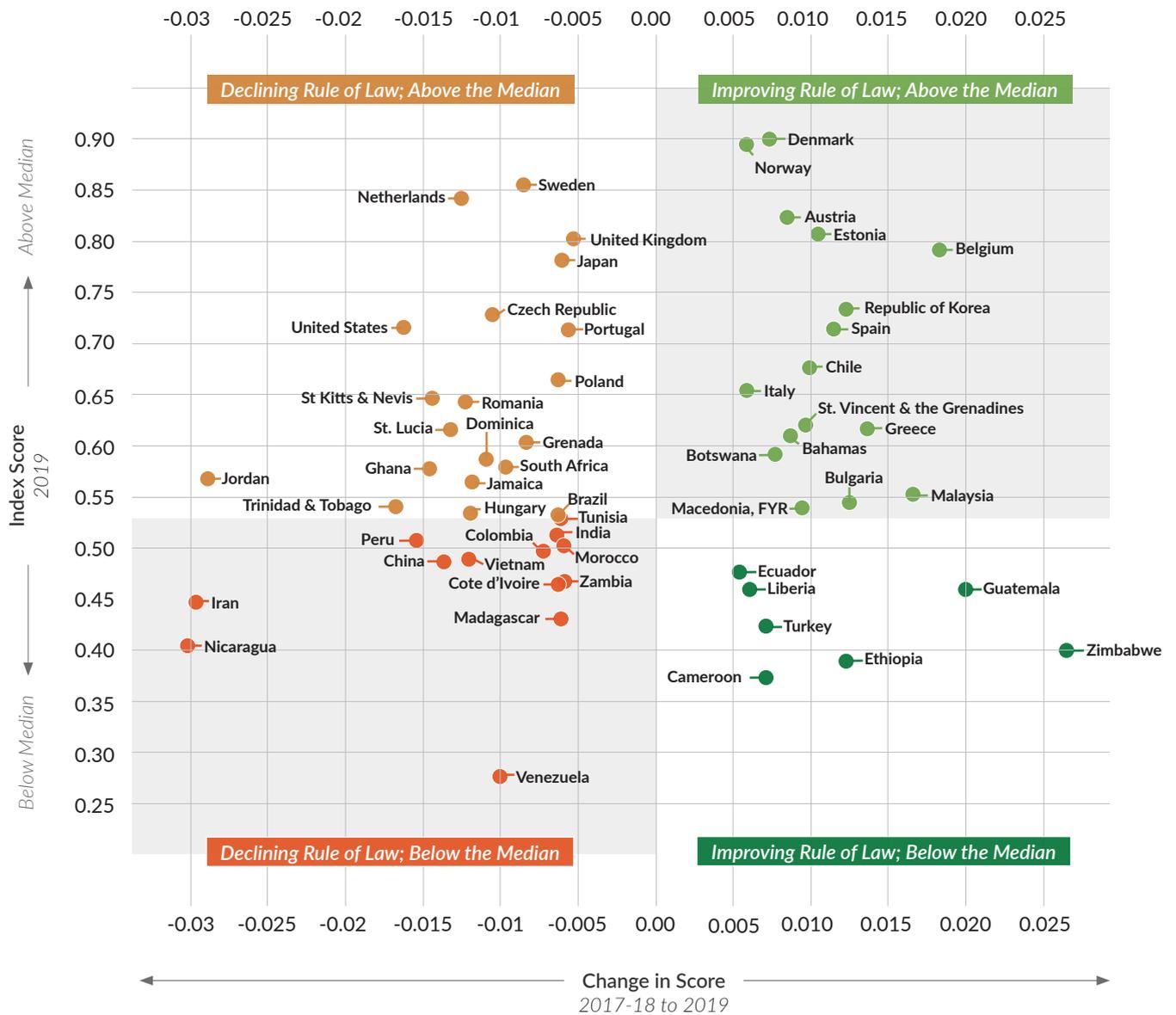


\* Out of 113 countries

† Out of 102 countries

## Improving & Declining Rule of Law

**Figure 5:** Categorization of countries according to whether their overall Rule of Law Index score is above or below the median, and whether it has improved or declined in the last year. Stable countries—those with a score change between  $-.005$  and  $.005$ —are not shown.



In the last year, 56 countries' rule of law score changed by more than  $\pm .005$ . More than one third of these are countries whose Index score is above the median but declining. The smallest group—consisting of seven countries—are countries whose Index score is below the median but improving.

## Year-to-Year Rule of Law Score Changes

**Figure 6:** Percentage change in score between each edition of the *Rule of Law Index* since 2015. Countries that are new to the Index in 2019 are not shown.

	% Score Change 2015 to 2016	% Score Change 2016 to 2017-18	% Score Change 2017-18 to 2019	Overall Score 2019		% Score Change 2015 to 2016	% Score Change 2016 to 2017-18	% Score Change 2017-18 to 2019	Overall Score 2019
Afghanistan	-2.2%	-0.3%	0.9%	0.35	Ethiopia	-9.4%	-0.8%	3.3%	0.39
Albania	-3.2%	0.8%	-0.3%	0.51	Finland	3.0%	-0.3%	0.6%	0.87
Antigua & Barbuda		-5.8%	0.1%	0.63	France	-2.9%	2.8%	-0.4%	0.73
Argentina	6.7%	5.0%	0.1%	0.58	Georgia	-0.2%	-6.7%	-0.2%	0.61
Australia	0.5%	0.2%	-0.4%	0.80	Germany	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.84
Austria	1.3%	-2.4%	1.0%	0.82	Ghana	-3.7%	2.4%	-2.5%	0.58
Bahamas		-0.9%	1.5%	0.61	Greece	-0.2%	0.5%	2.3%	0.62
Bangladesh	-2.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.41	Grenada		-7.8%	-1.4%	0.60
Barbados		-2.8%	0.2%	0.65	Guatemala	-0.1%	0.1%	4.6%	0.46
Belarus	1.4%	-4.6%	0.8%	0.52	Guyana		1.9%	0.0%	0.50
Belgium	2.8%	-2.0%	2.4%	0.79	Honduras	-0.5%	-3.9%	-0.3%	0.40
Belize	-2.8%	-0.2%	0.8%	0.48	Hong Kong SAR, China	1.3%	-0.4%	-0.2%	0.77
Bolivia	-2.7%	-5.2%	0.0%	0.38	Hungary	-1.3%	-3.9%	-2.2%	0.53
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-1.7%	-4.9%	-0.2%	0.53	India	1.4%	0.9%	-1.2%	0.51
Botswana	-9.9%	1.3%	1.3%	0.59	Indonesia	-0.1%	-0.9%	0.9%	0.52
Brazil	2.9%	-3.1%	-1.2%	0.53	Iran	7.5%	1.8%	-6.2%	0.45
Bulgaria	-0.8%	-2.4%	2.4%	0.54	Italy	0.1%	0.6%	0.9%	0.65
Burkina Faso	3.1%	4.8%	-0.5%	0.50	Jamaica	1.5%	0.7%	-2.0%	0.56
Cambodia	-12.2%	-1.1%	0.5%	0.32	Japan	-0.8%	1.1%	-0.8%	0.78
Cameroon	-8.0%	-0.1%	2.0%	0.37	Jordan	4.1%	1.5%	-4.8%	0.57
Canada	3.8%	0.3%	-0.1%	0.81	Kazakhstan	1.3%	2.2%	0.9%	0.52
Chile	0.8%	-2.4%	1.5%	0.68	Kenya	-3.5%	4.0%	0.0%	0.45
China	0.3%	3.8%	-2.7%	0.49	Kyrgyzstan	-0.7%	0.7%	0.9%	0.48
Colombia	1.2%	-0.4%	-1.4%	0.50	Lebanon	-5.4%	2.7%	0.2%	0.47
Costa Rica	0.4%	-0.1%	0.3%	0.69	Liberia	0.1%	1.2%	1.4%	0.46
Cote d'Ivoire	-1.4%	1.4%	-1.3%	0.46	Macedonia, FYR	-1.7%	-2.3%	1.8%	0.54
Croatia	1.0%	1.0%	-0.6%	0.61	Madagascar	0.6%	-3.9%	-1.4%	0.43
Czech Republic	4.1%	-1.2%	-1.4%	0.73	Malawi	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%	0.51
Denmark	1.9%	0.6%	0.8%	0.90	Malaysia	-5.2%	-0.5%	3.1%	0.55
Dominica		-0.8%	-1.8%	0.59	Mexico	-1.7%	-0.7%	-0.2%	0.45
Dominican Republic	-3.4%	-0.4%	-0.4%	0.46	Moldova	2.4%	-0.5%	-1.0%	0.49
Ecuador	-3.4%	3.7%	1.2%	0.48	Mongolia	1.1%	0.8%	0.3%	0.55
Egypt	-16.7%	-1.0%	0.1%	0.36	Morocco	1.4%	-3.4%	-1.2%	0.50
El Salvador	-3.2%	-2.8%	-0.4%	0.48	Myanmar	4.0%	-3.2%	-0.5%	0.42
Estonia	1.8%	1.2%	1.3%	0.81	Nepal	-2.2%	1.1%	0.8%	0.53

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

	% Score Change 2015 to 2016	% Score Change 2016 to 2017-18	% Score Change 2017-18 to 2019	Overall Score 2019
Netherlands	3.4%	-0.7%	-1.5%	0.84
New Zealand	0.0%	-0.3%	-0.5%	0.82
Nicaragua	-1.1%	3.2%	-6.9%	0.40
Nigeria	9.0%	-1.2%	-1.0%	0.43
Norway	1.7%	0.8%	0.7%	0.89
Pakistan	1.1%	1.9%	-0.2%	0.39
Panama	-1.9%	-0.3%	-0.2%	0.52
Peru	3.1%	1.7%	-2.9%	0.51
Philippines	-3.6%	-7.7%	-0.2%	0.47
Poland	-0.2%	-5.8%	-0.9%	0.66
Portugal	1.7%	0.9%	-0.8%	0.71
Republic of Korea	-7.7%	-1.0%	1.7%	0.73
Romania	6.6%	-0.7%	-1.9%	0.64
Russia	-4.1%	3.2%	1.0%	0.47
Senegal	0.8%	-4.0%	0.3%	0.55
Serbia	-0.7%	-0.3%	0.1%	0.50
Sierra Leone	1.8%	2.0%	0.1%	0.45
Singapore	1.0%	-2.6%	0.0%	0.80
Slovenia	1.9%	-0.3%	0.5%	0.67
South Africa	1.7%	0.3%	-1.6%	0.58
Spain	2.0%	0.9%	1.6%	0.71
Sri Lanka	0.6%	2.8%	-0.9%	0.52
St. Kitts & Nevis		-0.5%	-2.2%	0.65
St. Lucia		-2.1%	-2.1%	0.61
St. Vincent & the Grenadines		-0.4%	1.6%	0.62
Suriname		-3.9%	0.4%	0.51
Sweden	1.3%	0.2%	-1.0%	0.85
Tanzania	-1.4%	0.2%	-0.3%	0.47
Thailand	-0.3%	-1.8%	-0.4%	0.50
Trinidad & Tobago		-2.1%	-3.0%	0.54
Tunisia	-4.6%	0.3%	-1.1%	0.53
Turkey	-7.2%	-3.1%	1.7%	0.42
Uganda	-4.1%	2.6%	0.6%	0.40
Ukraine	1.9%	1.6%	1.0%	0.50
United Arab Emirates	-2.1%	-1.5%	-0.7%	0.64

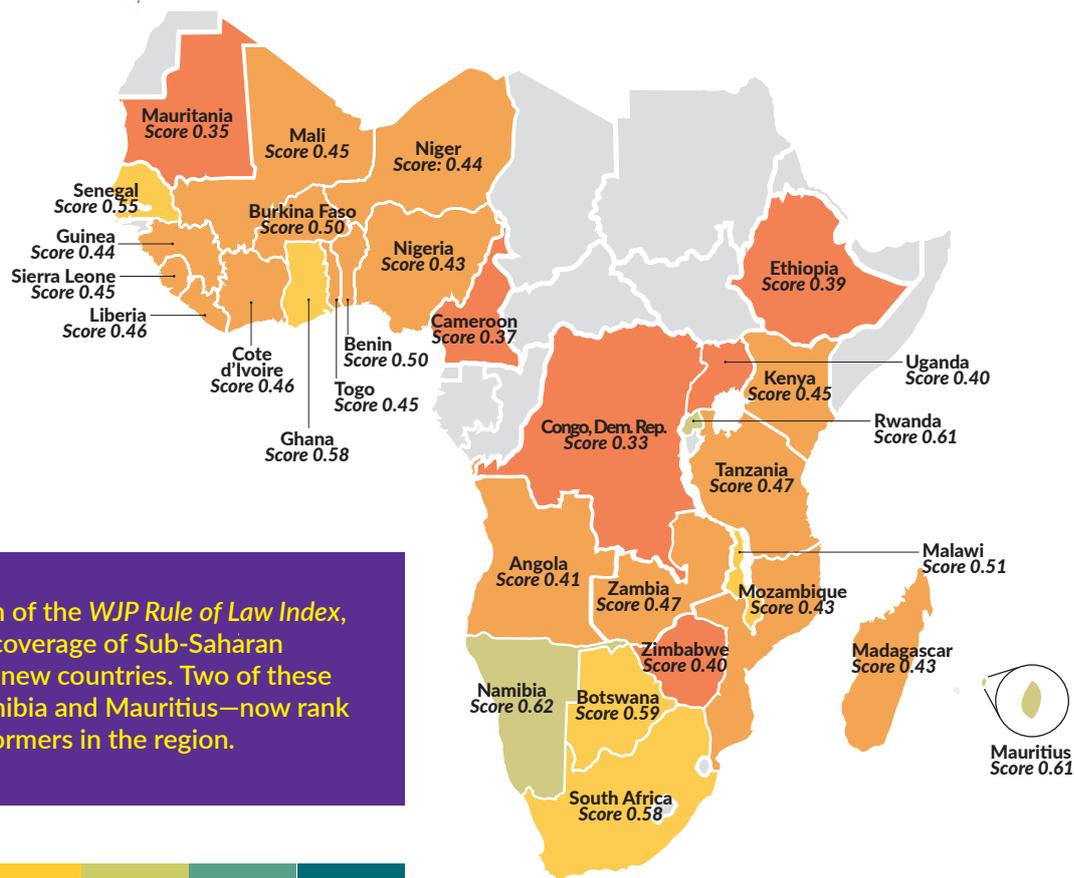
	% Score Change 2015 to 2016	% Score Change 2016 to 2017-18	% Score Change 2017-18 to 2019	Overall Score 2019
United Kingdom	3.0%	-0.1%	-0.7%	0.80
United States	1.4%	-1.1%	-2.2%	0.71
Uruguay	1.9%	-1.9%	-0.6%	0.71
Uzbekistan	-1.4%	1.9%	1.0%	0.46
Venezuela	-13.7%	4.0%	-3.5%	0.28
Vietnam	2.9%	-2.1%	-2.4%	0.49
Zambia	0.5%	-0.8%	-1.2%	0.47
Zimbabwe	0.8%	0.6%	7.1%	0.40



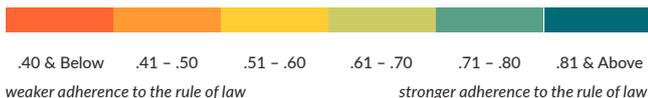
Fourteen countries have seen consistent year-to-year improvements in their rule of law scores, while 18 have seen consistent year-to-year declines.

## Rule of Law in Africa

Figure 7: Rule of law performance across Sub-Saharan Africa.



For the 2019 edition of the WJP Rule of Law Index, the WJP expanded coverage of Sub-Saharan Africa to include 12 new countries. Two of these new countries—Namibia and Mauritius—now rank among the top performers in the region.



### Namibia

	Score	Global Ranking	Regional Ranking	Income Ranking
Constraints on Government Powers	0.68	28/126	2/30	2/38
Absence of Corruption	0.53	51/126	5/30	14/38
Open Government	0.58	40/126	2/30	7/38
Fundamental Rights	0.66	37/126	1/30	5/38
Order and Security	0.73	59/126	6/30	17/38
Regulatory Enforcement	0.58	35/126	3/30	4/38
Civil Justice	0.66	24/126	1/30	1/38
Criminal Justice	0.54	40/126	3/30	8/38

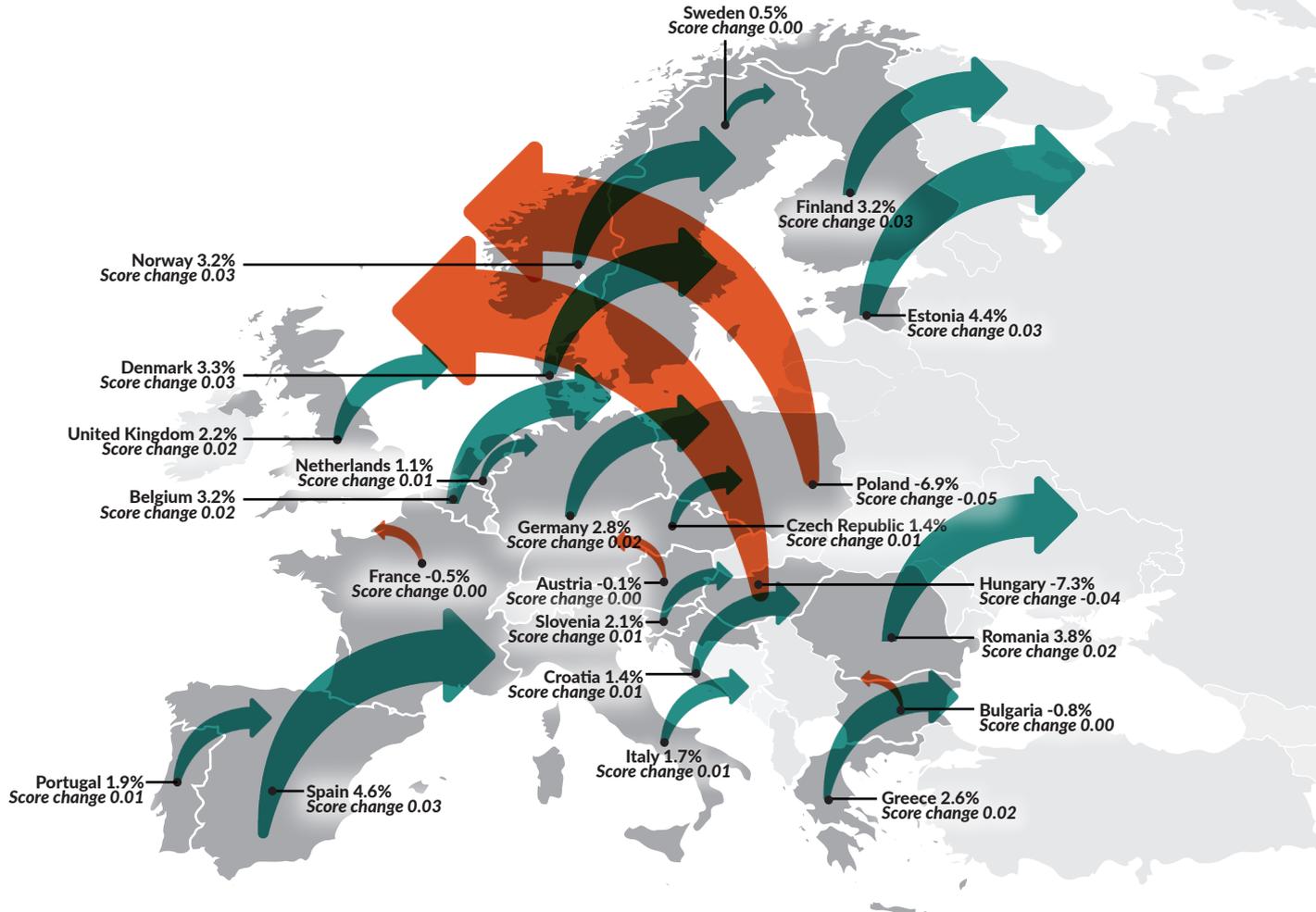
### Mauritius

	Score	Global Ranking	Regional Ranking	Income Ranking
Constraints on Government Powers	0.60	44/126	4/30	7/38
Absence of Corruption	0.58	41/126	3/30	7/38
Open Government	0.54	50/126	4/30	11/38
Fundamental Rights	0.64	40/126	2/30	6/38
Order and Security	0.77	45/126	3/30	12/38
Regulatory Enforcement	0.63	28/126	1/30	2/38
Civil Justice	0.63	33/126	2/30	5/38
Criminal Justice	0.53	44/126	4/30	11/38

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

# Rule of Law Changes in Europe

Figure 8: Percentage change in Western European countries' rule of law score over the last four years.



## Hungary

	% Change 2015 - 2019	Score Change* 2015 - 2019
Constraints on Government Powers	↓ -17%	-0.08
Absence of Corruption	↑ +2%	0.01
Open Government	↓ -11%	-0.06
Fundamental Rights	↓ -11%	-0.07
Order and Security	↑ +5%	0.05
Regulatory Enforcement	↓ -14%	-0.03
Civil Justice	↓ -14%	-0.08
Criminal Justice	↓ -13%	-0.07

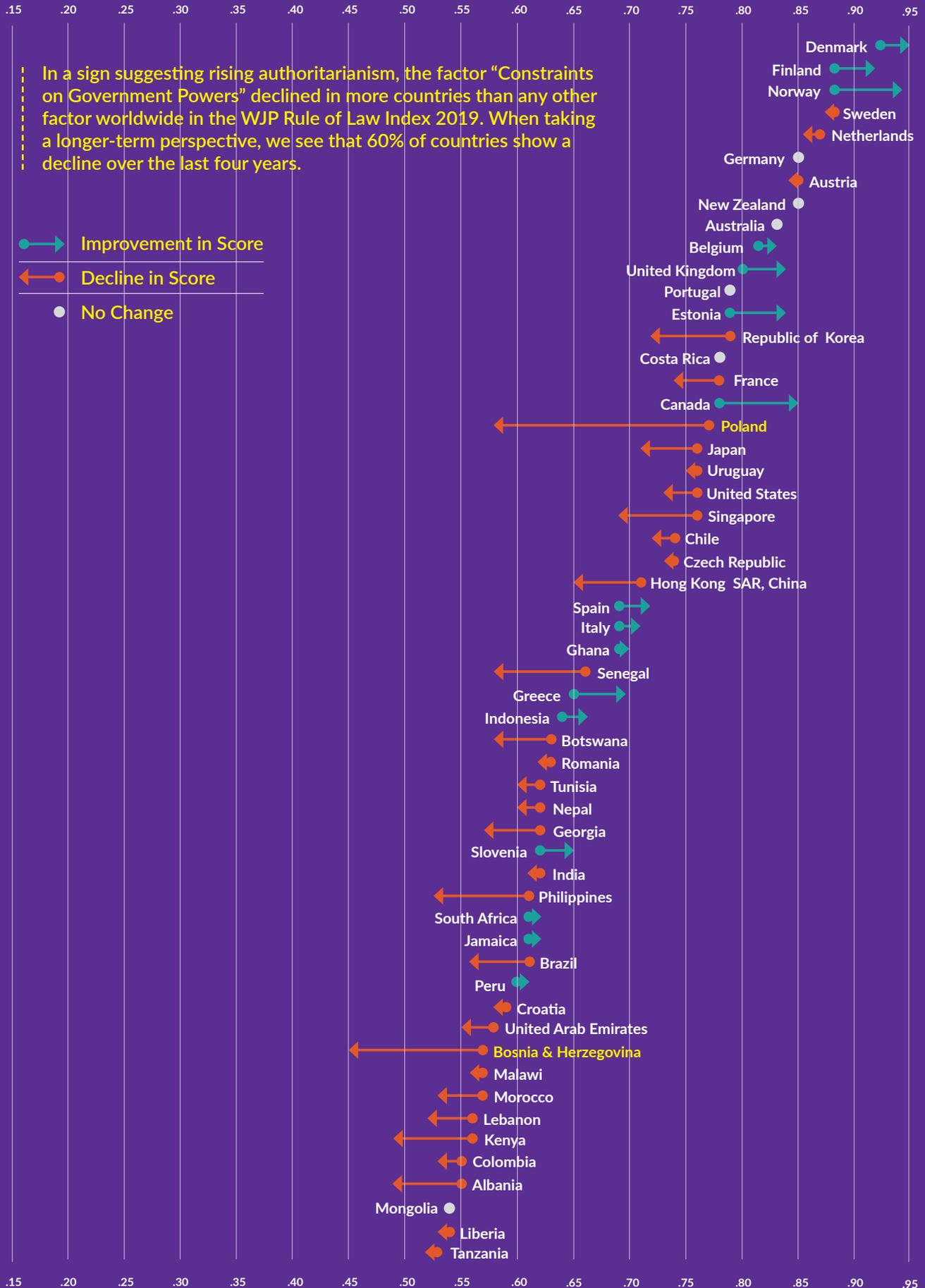
## Poland

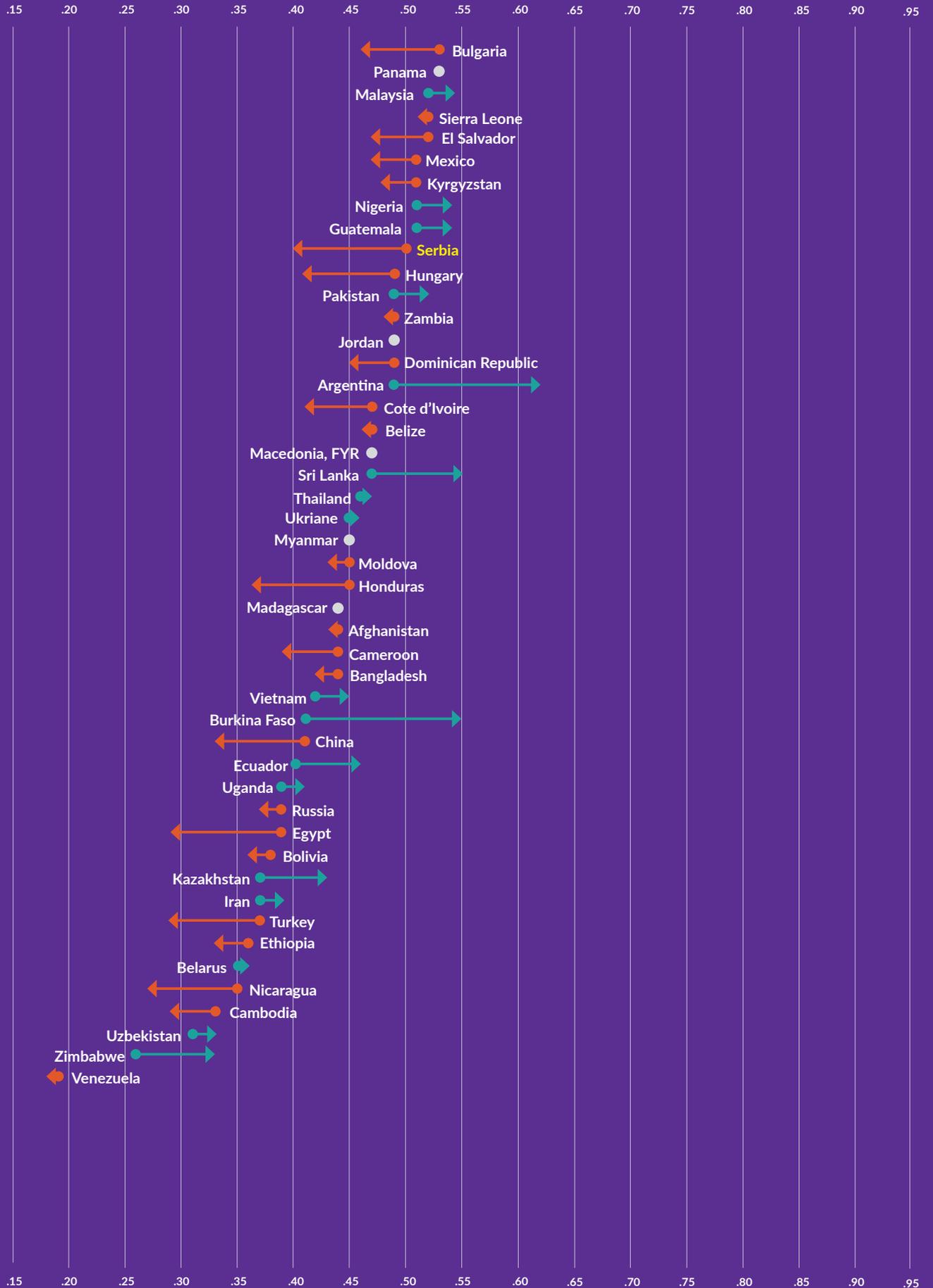
	% Change 2015 - 2019	Score Change* 2015 - 2019
Constraints on Government Powers	↓ -25%	-0.19
Absence of Corruption	↑ +11%	0.07
Open Government	↓ -7%	-0.05
Fundamental Rights	↓ -14%	-0.11
Order and Security	↑ +1%	0.01
Regulatory Enforcement	↑ +4%	0.02
Civil Justice	↓ -3%	-0.02
Criminal Justice	↓ -18%	-0.13

\* Changes in scores are rounded to two decimal places.

## A Sign of Rising Authoritarianism?

**Figure 9:** Changes in score for Factor 1, “Constraints on Government Powers,” since 2015. Countries that do not have four years of data are not shown.





# 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.

 <b>Constraints on Government Powers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.1 Government powers are effectively limited by the legislature</li><li>1.2 Government powers are effectively limited by the judiciary</li><li>1.3 Government powers are effectively limited by independent auditing and review</li><li>1.4 Government officials are sanctioned for misconduct</li><li>1.5 Government powers are subject to non-governmental checks</li><li>1.6 Transition of power is subject to the law</li></ul>
 <b>Absence of Corruption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2.1 Government officials in the executive branch do not use public office for private gain</li><li>2.2 Government officials in the judicial branch do not use public office for private gain</li><li>2.3 Government officials in the police &amp; the military do not use public office for private gain</li><li>2.4 Government officials in the legislative branch do not use public office for private gain</li></ul>
 <b>Open Government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3.1 Publicized laws &amp; government data</li><li>3.2 Right to information</li><li>3.3 Civic participation</li><li>3.4 Complaint mechanisms</li></ul>
 <b>Fundamental Rights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>4.1 Equal treatment &amp; absence of discrimination</li><li>4.2 The right to life &amp; security of the person is effectively guaranteed</li><li>4.3 Due process of the law and rights of the accused</li><li>4.4 Freedom of opinion &amp; expression is effectively guaranteed</li><li>4.5 Freedom of belief &amp; religion is effectively guaranteed</li><li>4.6 Freedom from arbitrary interference with privacy is effectively guaranteed</li><li>4.7 Freedom of assembly &amp; association is effectively guaranteed</li><li>4.8 Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed</li></ul>
 <b>Order &amp; Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5.1 Crime is effectively controlled</li><li>5.2 Civil conflict is effectively limited</li><li>5.3 People do not resort to violence to redress personal grievances</li></ul>
 <b>Regulatory Enforcement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>6.1 Government regulations are effectively enforced</li><li>6.2 Government regulations are applied &amp; enforced without improper influence</li><li>6.3 Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay</li><li>6.4 Due process is respected in administrative proceedings</li><li>6.5 The government does not expropriate without lawful process &amp; adequate compensation</li></ul>
 <b>Civil Justice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>7.1 People can access &amp; afford civil justice</li><li>7.2 Civil justice is free of discrimination</li><li>7.3 Civil justice is free of corruption</li><li>7.4 Civil justice is free of improper government influence</li><li>7.5 Civil justice is not subject to unreasonable delay</li><li>7.6 Civil justice is effectively enforced</li><li>7.7 Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms are accessible, impartial, and effective</li></ul>
 <b>Criminal Justice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>8.1 Criminal investigation system is effective</li><li>8.2 Criminal adjudication system is timely and effective</li><li>8.3 Correctional system is effective in reducing criminal behavior</li><li>8.4 Criminal justice system is impartial</li><li>8.5 Criminal justice system is free of corruption</li><li>8.6 Criminal justice system is free of improper government influence</li><li>8.7 Due process of the law &amp; rights of the accused</li></ul>

## About the 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 on the previous page.

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;

**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.

In a few instances, the WJP uses data from third-party sources to measure an element of the rule of law that is not possible to measure through the GPP or QRQs. Out of more than 500 variables used to calculate the Index, 13 variables are from third-party sources.

For the full methodology of the Index and more detailed country-level information, please refer to the *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2019* report, available for download at [www.worldjusticeproject.org](http://www.worldjusticeproject.org).

## About the Rule of Law

The *WJP Rule of Law Index* captures adherence to the rule of law as defined by the WJP's universal principles.

### Four Universal Principles of the Rule of Law

The rule of law is a framework of laws and institutions that embodies four universal principles:



#### 1. Accountability

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



#### 2. Just Laws

The laws are clear, publicized, stable, and just; are applied evenly; and protect fundamental rights, including the security of persons, contract and property rights, and certain core human rights.



#### 3. Open Government

The processes by which the laws are enacted, administered, and enforced are accessible, fair, and efficient.



#### 4. Accessible & Impartial Dispute Resolution

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 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: [www.worldjusticeproject.org](http://www.worldjusticeproject.org).







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