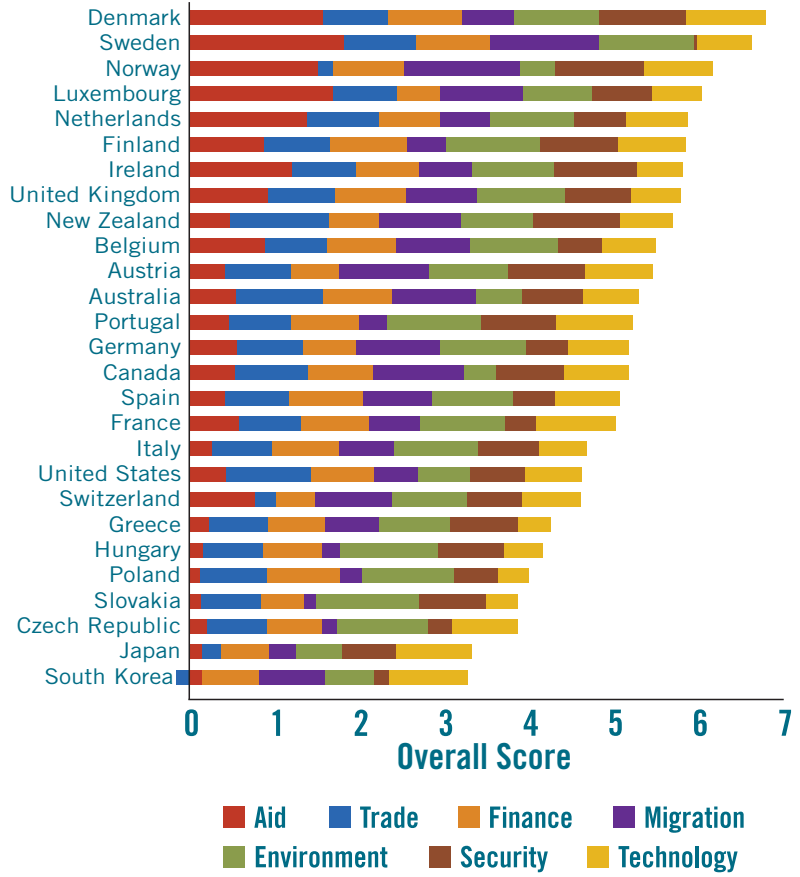




United States

The Commitment to Development Index (CDI) ranks 27 of the world's richest countries based on their dedication to policies that benefit poor nations. Looking beyond standard comparisons of foreign aid flows, the CDI measures national policies in seven areas that are important to developing countries: aid, trade, finance, migration, environment, security, and technology. This report reviews the United States' performance on the 2013 CDI. For more details, visit cgdev.org/cdi.

Commitment to Development Index 2013

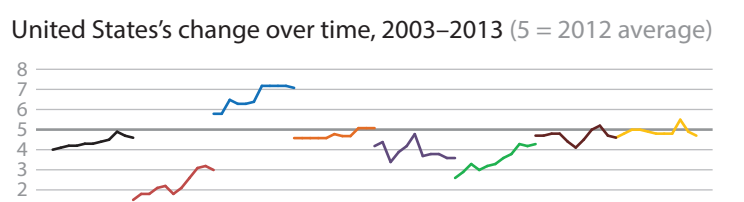
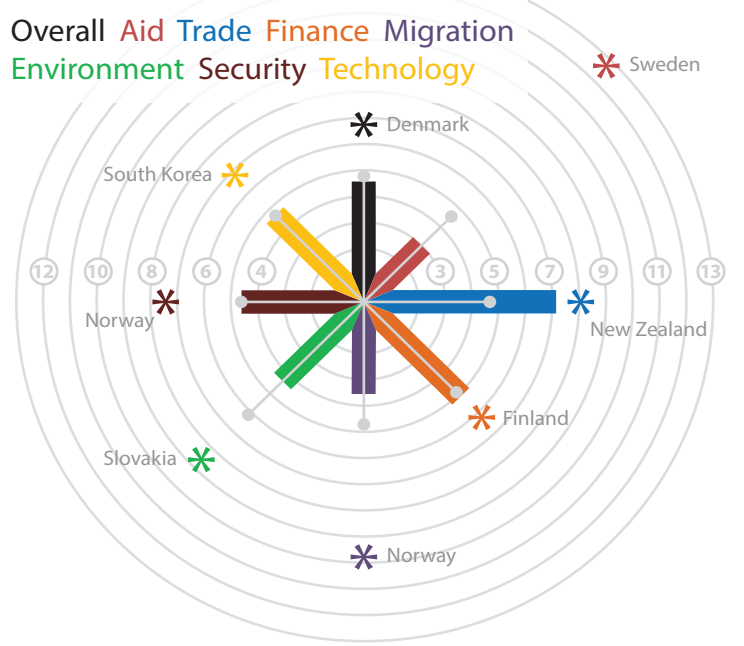


United States' 2013 CDI Performance

- Overall rank 2013: 19
- Overall score 2013: 4.6
- Change since 2003: 0.0 (using 2013 methodology)

The United States ranks 19th overall in 2013. US barriers against developing country agricultural exports are lower than those of most CDI countries, and the US provides significant contributions to internationally approved military interventions as well as the most protection of sea lanes important for international trade. But the United States finishes below average of the rankings in foreign aid, migration, and environment components, and its security score is weakened by a high level of arms exports to poor and undemocratic countries and non-participation in key international arms control treaties. US foreign aid is small as a share of its income and it "ties" a large proportion of this aid to the purchase of US goods and services. The United States also has the lowest gas taxes and among the highest greenhouse gas emission and fuel production rates per person, and is one of only two CDI countries not signatory to the Kyoto Protocol on climate change. Although the US scores well on financial transparency, it does very little to support investment and transfer of technologies and innovations to the developing countries.

United States



Aid

Aid quality is just as important as aid quantity, so the CDI measures gross aid as a share of GDP adjusted for various quality factors: it subtracts debt service, penalizes “tied” aid that makes recipients spend aid only on donor goods and services, rewards aid to poor but relatively well-governed recipients, and penalizes overloading poor governments with many small projects.

■ **Score: 3.0**

■ **Rank: 17**

Strengths

- Large amount of private charitable giving attributable to tax policy (0.03% of GDP; rank: 2)
- Prevents project proliferation; large average project size (rank: 7)

Weaknesses

- Low net aid volume as a share of the economy (0.19%; rank: 19)
- Large share of tied or partially tied aid (44.68%; rank: 19)
- Small share of aid to poor and better-governed recipients (selectivity rank: 23)

Trade

International trade has been a force for economic development for centuries. The CDI measures trade barriers in rich countries against exports from developing countries. It also penalizes costly importation processes and restrictions against purchasing services from foreigners.

■ **Score: 7.1**

■ **Rank: 3**

Strengths

- Low tariffs on agricultural products (4.4% of the value of imports; rank: 3)
- Low tariffs on beef (3.1% of the value of imports; rank: 3)
- Low tariffs on other meats (3.1% of the value of imports; rank: 3)
- Low agricultural subsidies (equivalent to a tariff worth 12.9% of the value of imports; rank: 9)
- Few documents required for importation (5 documents; rank: 1)

Weaknesses

- High tariffs on textile (8.8% of the value of imports; rank: 23)
- High tariffs on clothing (9.8% of the value of imports; rank: 23)

Finance

Rich-country investment in poorer countries can transfer technologies, upgrade management, and create jobs. Conversely, policies that permit financial secrecy of companies and banks can facilitate illicit activities and financial flows abroad. The CDI rewards policies that support healthy investment in developing countries and promote transparency in financial transactions at home.

■ **Score: 5.1**

■ **Rank: 15**

Strengths

- Low score in the Bribe Payers Index (rank: 8)
- Vigorous prosecution of home-country bribe payers
- Active participation and leadership in extractive industries transparency initiatives such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and the Kimberley Process on blood diamonds
- Scores above average in the Financial Secrecy Index for regulations in place to promote transparent financial transactions within its jurisdiction (rank: 7)

Weaknesses

- Political risk insurance only available to national firms
- Political risk insurance agency imposes inappropriate national economic interest tests on investment projects
- Does not provide assistance to companies looking for investment opportunities in developing countries
- Does not provide official support for outflows of portfolio investment

Migration

The movement of people from poor to rich countries provides unskilled immigrants with jobs, income, and knowledge. This increases the flow of money sent home by migrants abroad and the transfer of skills when the migrants return.

■ **Score: 3.6**

■ **Rank: 20**

Strengths

- Large share of foreign students from developing countries (73.5%; rank: 11)

Weaknesses

- Bears small share of the burden of refugees during humanitarian crises (rank: 20)
- Small number of immigrants from developing countries entering the United States (rank by share of population: 18)

Environment

Rich countries use a disproportionate amount of scarce resources, and poor countries are most vulnerable to global warming and ecological deterioration, so the CDI measures the impact of policies on the global climate, fisheries, and biodiversity.

■ **Score: 4.3**

■ **Rank: 23**

Strengths

- Low tropical timber imports (\$5.25 per capita equivalent; rank: 2)

Weaknesses

- High greenhouse gas emissions rate per capita (33.3 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent; rank: 24)
- High fossil fuel production rate per capita (14.7 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent; rank: 24)
- High consumption of ozone-depleting chemicals per capita (rank: 26)
- Low gas taxes (\$0.13 per liter; rank: 27)
- Has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol on climate change
- Poor compliance with mandatory reporting requirements under multilateral environmental agreements relating to biodiversity (rank: 22)

Security

Since security is a prerequisite for development, the CDI rewards contributions to internationally sanctioned peacekeeping operations and forcible humanitarian interventions, military protection of global sea lanes, and participation in international security treaties. It also penalizes arms exports to poor and undemocratic governments.

■ **Score: 4.6**

■ **Rank: 17**

Strengths

- Significant personnel contributions to internationally sanctioned peacekeeping and humanitarian interventions over last decade (rank by share of GDP: 8)
- Positions naval fleet to protect sea lanes vital for international trade (rank: 1)

Weaknesses

- Low personnel contributions to UN peacekeeping and humanitarian interventions over last decade (rank by share of GDP: 25)
- Has not ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, Mine Ban Treaty, and is not a party to the International Criminal Court
- High level of arms exports to poor and undemocratic governments (rank by share of GDP: 23)

Technology

Rich countries contribute to development through the creation and dissemination of new technologies. The CDI captures this by measuring government support for R&D and penalizing strong intellectual property rights regimes that limit the dissemination of new technologies to poor countries.

■ **Score: 4.7**

■ **Rank: 15**

Strengths

- High government expenditure on R&D (rank by share of GDP: 5)
- Restricts copyrighting of databases

Weaknesses

- Large share of government R&D expenditure on defense
- Allows patents on plant and animal varieties
- Allows patents on software innovations
- Pushes to extend intellectual property rights in bilateral trade treaties ("TRIPS Plus" measures) that restrict the flow of innovations to developing countries
- Imposes strict limitations on anti-circumvention technologies that can defeat encryption of copyrighted digital materials
- Does not force patent holders to license to meet social needs

For More

Visit cgdev.org/cdi for the complete 2013 edition of the Commitment to Development Index. There, you can explore the numbers with our interactive graphing tool, view additional publications and background papers, and dive deeper into the CDI methodology by downloading our data and code.

Commitment to Development Rankings, 2013

Overall	Country	Aid	Trade	Finance	Migration	Environment	Security	Technology	Change 2012-2013
1	Denmark	3	12	2	18	12	2	2	0
2	Sweden	1	6	2	2	3	27	17	0
3	Norway	4	26	7	1	26	1	6	0
4	Luxembourg	2	15	25	7	21	15	21	0
5	Netherlands	5	5	16	19	13	19	12	1
5	Finland	9	8	1	21	4	5	7	0
7	Ireland	6	14	14	16	15	4	23	2
7	United Kingdom	7	7	6	11	8	12	20	-1
9	New Zealand	15	1	22	8	19	3	19	-3
10	Belgium	8	18	9	10	9	20	18	0
10	Austria	18	10	23	4	17	6	8	4
12	Australia	13	2	8	6	24	14	16	-2
13	Portugal	16	17	10	22	5	7	4	1
13	Germany	12	11	21	5	10	22	13	4
13	Canada	14	4	13	3	27	9	11	-1
16	Spain	19	13	4	12	16	23	9	-4
17	France	11	16	10	17	11	24	3	-1
18	Italy	20	20	12	14	14	13	22	0
19	United States	17	3	15	20	23	17	15	0
19	Switzerland	10	24	27	9	18	16	14	1
21	Greece	21	23	19	15	20	8	25	0
22	Hungary	24	19	18	25	2	11	24	0
23	Poland	27	9	5	24	6	21	27	0
24	Slovakia	26	22	25	27	1	10	26	0
24	Czech Republic	22	21	20	26	7	25	10	1
26	Japan	25	25	24	23	25	18	5	0
26	South Korea	23	27	17	13	22	26	1	1

= top third
 = middle third
 = last third

The above table lists ranks for each of the 27 CDI countries across seven policy areas. The final column shows the change in each country's overall rank since 2012 (using 2013 methodology).

About the CDI

The Commitment to Development Index has been compiled each year since 2003 by the Center for Global Development (CGD), an independent think tank that works to reduce global poverty and inequality through rigorous research and active engagement with the policy community. CGD Europe director and senior fellow Owen Barder directs the Index, building on the previous work of CGD former senior fellow David Roodman. Petra Krylova is the CDI coordinator. Collaborators have included William R. Cline on trade; Theodore H. Moran and Petr Janský on finance; Jeanne Batalova, Kimberly A. Hamilton, and Elizabeth Grieco on migration; Amy Cassara and Daniel Prager on environment; Michael E. O'Hanlon, Adriana Lins de Albuquerque, Mark Stoker, and Jason Alderwick on security; and Keith Maskus and Walter Park on technology. The Index is supported by the CDI Consortium.

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