Finland

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 Finland’s performance on the 2013 CDI. For more details, visit cgdev.org/cdi.

Finland

Finland ranks 5th overall in 2013, stepping up 2 places since last year. Finland has a strong environmental record due in part to low fossil fuel production. The Finnish government also gives a relatively large amount of high quality aid and is a strong supporter of investment in the developing world. But Finland’s performance is negatively affected by low levels of private charitable giving and a below-average score in the migration component, due to high barriers that restrict entry to poor immigrants.

Finland’s 2013 CDI Performance

- Overall rank 2013: 5
- Overall score 2013: 5.9
- Change since 2003: 0.5
  (using 2013 methodology)

www.cgdev.org/cdi
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: 6.1
Rank: 9

Strengths
- High net aid volume as a share of the economy (0.53%; rank: 7)
- Large share of aid to poor and better-governed recipients (selectivity rank: 8)

Weaknesses
- Small amount of private charitable giving attributable to tax policy (rank: 18)
- Allows project proliferation; small average project size (rank: 17)

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: 5.5
Rank: 8

Strengths
- As a member state of the European Union, Finland imposes low tariffs on agricultural products including wheat, dairy, some meats, textiles, and apparel
- Low agricultural subsidies (equivalent to a tariff worth 11.5% of the value of imports; rank: 8)
- Relatively low cost to import a shipping container ($540 per container; rank: 1)

Weaknesses
- As a member state of the European Union, Finland imposes high tariffs on rice, sugar, and beef
- Many limitations on the importation of services (Services Trade Restrictions Index score: 24.7; rank: 24)

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: 6.3
Rank: 1

Strengths
- Political risk insurance agency provides wide coverage and screens potential projects for violations of human, labor and environmental rights
- 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: 1)
- Provides assistance to companies looking for investment opportunities in developing countries

Weaknesses
- Negligence in identifying bribery and corrupt practices

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: 3.2
Rank: 21

Strengths
- Relatively large share of foreign students from developing countries (77.4%; rank: 9)

Weaknesses
- Small number of immigrants from developing countries entering Finland (rank by share of population: 20)
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: 7.8
Rank: 4

Strengths
- No fossil fuel production (0 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent; rank: 1)
- Low greenhouse gas emissions rate per capita (8.1 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent; rank: 9)
- GDP growth exceeded growth in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over the past decade (average annual GHG growth rate/GDP, -5.14%; rank: 2)

Weaknesses
- Poor compliance with mandatory reporting requirements under multilateral environmental agreements relating to biodiversity (rank: 15)
- High fishing subsidies (rank: 15)

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: 6.4
Rank: 5

Strengths
- Significant personnel and financial contributions to UN and internationally sanctioned peacekeeping and humanitarian interventions over last decade (rank by share of GDP: 7)

Weaknesses
- No protection of global sea lanes
- Has not ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

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: 5.7
Rank: 7

Strengths
- High government expenditure on R&D (rank by share of GDP: 1)
- Provides patent exceptions for research purposes
- Permits technologies that break encryption systems

Weaknesses
- Low tax subsidy rate to businesses for R&D (rank: 21)
- Allows patents on plant and animal varieties
- Pushes to extend intellectual property rights in bilateral trade treaties (“TRIPS Plus” measures) that restrict the flow of innovations to developing countries
- Offers patent-like proprietary rights to developers of data compilations, including those assembled from data in the public domain

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

1800 Massachusetts Ave., NW  •  Washington DC 20036, USA
Tel: 202.416.4000  •  Fax: 202.416.4050
London: c/o BMGF, 80-100 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 5JL, UK