Hungary

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

Hungary's 2013 CDI Performance

- Overall rank 2013: 22
- Overall score 2013: 4.2
- Change since 2012: 0.5
  (using 2013 methodology)

Hungary ranks 22nd overall in 2013. Hungary excels in the environmental component, scoring in the top five in most indicators. However, the Hungarian government has a meager aid program and engages in poor donor practices, resulting in a low score on the aid component. A lack of government spending on R&D, little support for UN peacekeeping operations, and a low level of migration from developing countries contribute to its weak performance in the technology, security, and migration components, while substantial agricultural subsidies and weak political risk insurance lower Hungary's record on trade and finance.

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: 1.1
Rank: 24

Weaknesses
- Low net aid volume as a share of the economy (0.11%; rank: 25)
- Large share of tied or partially tied aid (100%; rank: 25) — in 2011 Hungary failed to report tied aid
- Small share of aid to poor and better-governed recipients (selectivity rank: 27)

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: 5.0
Rank: 19

Strengths
- As a member state of the European Union, Hungary imposes low tariffs on agricultural products including wheat, dairy, some meats, textiles, and apparel

Weaknesses
- As a member state of the European Union, Hungary imposes high tariffs on rice, sugar, and beef
- High agricultural subsidies (equivalent to a tariff worth 16.7% of the value of imports; rank: 23)
- Many documents required for importation (18 documents; rank: 24)
- Many days to import a shipping container (7 days; 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: 4.8
Rank: 18

Strengths
- Provides assistance to companies looking for investment opportunities in developing countries
- Provides official support for outflows of portfolio investment
- Scores above average in the Financial Secrecy Index for regulations in place to promote transparent financial transactions within its jurisdiction (rank: 7)

Weaknesses
- Weak leadership in extractive industry transparency initiatives
- 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: 1.6
Rank: 25

Weaknesses
- Small number of immigrants from developing countries entering Hungary (rank by share of population: 27)
- Small share of foreign students from developing countries (56.9%; rank: 19)
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: 8.0**
- **Rank: 2**

**Strengths**
- High gas taxes ($1.69 per liter; rank: 1)
- No fishing subsidies (rank: 1)
- Low greenhouse gas emissions rate per capita (7 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent; rank: 6)
- GDP growth exceeded growth in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over the past decade (average annual GHG growth rate/GDP, -3.96%; rank: 6)

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: 5.5**
- **Rank: 11**

**Strengths**
- Participates in major international security treaties and regimes
- Few arms exports to poor and undemocratic governments (rank by share of GDP: 8)

**Weaknesses**
- Relatively small contribution to the UN Peacekeeping Operations budget (rank by share of GDP: 24)
- No protection of global sea lanes
- Low personnel contributions to UN peacekeeping and humanitarian interventions over last decade (rank by share of GDP: 20)

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: 3.2**
- **Rank: 24**

**Strengths**
- High tax subsidy rate to businesses for R&D (rank: 8)
- Provides patent exceptions for research purposes

**Weaknesses**
- Low government expenditure on R&D (rank by share of GDP: 24)
- 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.
### Commitment to Development Rankings, 2013

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<th>Overall</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Aid</th>
<th>Trade</th>
<th>Finance</th>
<th>Migration</th>
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= 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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