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

New Zealand’s 2013 CDI Performance

- Overall rank 2013: 9
- Overall score 2013: 5.7
- Change since 2003: 0.3
  (using 2013 methodology)

New Zealand ranks 9th overall in 2013. New Zealand has the lowest agricultural trade barriers of all CDI countries and scores best in the trade component. For its size, New Zealand also contributes significant personnel to UN security operations, does not export any arms to poor and undemocratic governments, and admits a large number of immigrants from developing countries. Yet New Zealand’s overall score is brought down by its small foreign aid program, low government expenditure on research and development, weak policies toward investment in poor countries (New Zealand is one of just three rich countries without a national political risk insurance agency), and lack of transparency in the financial sector.

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: 3.4
Rank: 15

Strengths
- Large share of aid to poor and better-governed recipients (selectivity rank: 6)
- Prevents project proliferation; large average project size (rank: 8)
- Large amount of private charitable giving attributable to tax policy (0.01% of GDP; rank: 6)

Weaknesses
- Low net aid volume as a share of the economy (0.28%; 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: 8.1
Rank: 1

Strengths
- Low agricultural subsidies (equivalent to a tariff worth 0.9% of the value of imports; rank: 3)
- No tariffs on rice, wheat, sugar, and beef (0% of the value of imports; rank: 1)
- Few limitations on the importation of services (Services Trade Restrictions Index score: 10.3; rank: 1)
- Relatively low cost to import a shipping container ($855 per container; rank: 6)

Weaknesses
- High tariffs on textile (14.6% of the value of imports; rank: 27)
- High tariffs on clothing (7.9% of the value of imports; rank: 22)
- Many days to import a shipping container (6 days; rank: 21)

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: 4.2
Rank: 22

Strengths
- Provides assistance to companies looking for investment opportunities in developing countries
- Vigorous prosecution of home-country bribe payers

Weaknesses
- Does not have political risk insurance agency
- Weak participation and leadership in extractive industry transparency initiatives

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: 6.7
Rank: 8

Strengths
- Large number of immigrants from developing countries entering New Zealand (rank by share of population: 2)

Weaknesses
- Bears small share of the burden of refugees during humanitarian crises (rank: 21)
Environment
Rich countries use a disproportional 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: 6.0
Rank: 19

Strengths
- No fishing subsidies (rank: 1)
- Low tropical timber imports ($7.14 per capita equivalent; rank: 3)

Weaknesses
- High greenhouse gas emissions rate per capita (16.6 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent; rank: 19)
- Greenhouse gas emissions grew almost as fast as GDP over the last decade (average annual growth rate/GDP, -1.08%; rank: 27)
- Low gas taxes ($0.58 per liter; rank: 24)

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: 4.4
Rank: 19

Strengths
- Will force patent holders to license to meet social needs
- Restricts copyrighting of databases
- Provides patent exceptions for research purposes

Weaknesses
- Low government expenditure on R&D (rank by share of GDP: 21)
- Low tax subsidy rate to businesses for R&D (rank: 26)
- Allows patents on plant and animal varieties

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: 7.1
Rank: 3

Strengths
- Significant personnel contributions to UN peacekeeping and humanitarian interventions over last decade (rank by share of GDP: 3)
- Participates in major international security treaties and regimes
- No arms exports to poor and undemocratic governments (rank by share of GDP: 1)

Weaknesses
- No protection of global sea lanes

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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**Commitment to Development Rankings, 2013**

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