Spain

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

Spain's 2013 CDI Performance

- Overall rank 2013: 16
- Overall score 2013: 5.1
- Change since 2003: 0.0
  (using 2013 methodology)

Spain ranks 16th overall in 2013. Spain is rewarded for policies that promote investment in poor countries and financial transparency. It also ranks above average for supporting innovation at home and diffusion of technological advances abroad. However, Spain’s score is brought down by exhibiting poor donor practices, bearing a small share of the burden of refugees during humanitarian emergencies, high fishing subsidies and making small financial and personnel contributions to internationally sanctioned security operations.

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Spain Country Report

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.

-  Many days to import a shipping container (6 days; rank: 21)
-  High agricultural subsidies (equivalent to a tariff worth 15.7% of imports; rank: 20)

Weaknesses

- Small share of aid to poor and better-governed recipients (selectivity rank: 21)
- Allows project proliferation; small average project size (rank: 23)
- Does not report private charitable giving

Strengths

- Active participation and leadership in extractive industries transparency initiatives such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and the Kimberley Process on blood diamonds
- Provides assistance to companies looking for investment opportunities in developing countries
- Scores above average in the Financial Secrecy Index for regulations in place to promote transparent financial transactions within its jurisdiction (rank: 1)

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.

-  Low tax subsidy rate to businesses for R&D (rank: 2)
-  Revokes unused patents
-  Offers patent exceptions for research purposes

Weaknesses

- Relatively good compliance with mandatory reporting requirements
- Positions naval fleet to protect sea lanes vital for international trade (rank: 7)
- Participates in major international security treaties and regimes

Strengths

- Relatively good compliance with mandatory reporting requirements
- Large number of immigrants from developing countries entering Spain (rank by share of population: 7)
- Large share of foreign students from developing countries (75.8%; rank: 10)

Weaknesses

- Bears small share of the burden of refugees during humanitarian crises (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.

-  Low gas taxes ($0.98 per liter; rank: 16)
-  High fishing subsidies (rank: 23)

Weaknesses

- Low personnel 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.

Strengths

- Low gas taxes ($0.98 per liter; rank: 16)
- Low tax subsidy rate to businesses for R&D (rank: 2)
- 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).

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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