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World Justice Project  
**RULE OF LAW INDEX®**  
2023 Insights





The *World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index® 2023* is the latest report in an annual series measuring the rule of law based on global surveys of more than 149,000 households and 3,400 legal practitioners and experts. It is the world's leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law.

The Index presents a portrait of the rule of law in 142 countries and jurisdictions by providing scores and rankings based on eight factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.

The Index is intended for a broad audience that includes policy makers, civil society organizations, academics, citizens, and legal professionals, among others. It is our hope that this diagnostic tool will help identify strengths and weaknesses, encourage policy choices, guide program development, and inform research to strengthen the rule of law.

The following pages contain a selection of key insights and data trends from the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2023*. The complete 2023 report—including country profiles, interactive data visualizations, methodology, and questionnaires—is available at our website: [worldjusticeproject.org](https://worldjusticeproject.org).

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“The rule of law  
matters to all of us—  
to the entire human  
family.”

— WJP Honorary Chair,  
the Most Reverend Desmond Tutu  
(1931-2021)

## Introduction

The *World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index® 2023* is the latest report in an annual series measuring people's perceptions and experiences of the rule of law in 142 countries and jurisdictions. The data featured in this report comes from global surveys completed by more than 149,000 households and 3,400 legal practitioners and experts, making the Index the world's leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law.

This year, the WJP added two new countries to the Index: Kuwait and Montenegro.

The data included in this Insights report comes from the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2023*. The period of data collection for the 2023 data was February 2023 through June 2023.

The Index data is based on global surveys of more than 149,000 households and 3,400 legal practitioners and experts.

## Status of the Rule of Law Around the World

The 2023 edition of the Index shows that the rule of law has continued to deteriorate in a majority of countries worldwide, though this majority has gotten smaller over the past three years. The continued deterioration of the rule of law in 2023 can mostly be explained by two sets of issues: 1) a weakening of Constraints on Government Powers and Fundamental Rights, and 2) a weakening of Civil Justice and Criminal Justice. Scores on each of these indicators fell in approximately 77% of the countries in which the rule of law declined. In the last year, civic space, fundamental rights, and the timeliness of justice systems weakened in the majority of countries.

The top three performers this year were Denmark, Norway, and Finland. Venezuela, Cambodia, and Afghanistan had the lowest overall rule of law scores.

The countries with the biggest improvement in rule of law in the past year were Bulgaria (1.7%), Honduras (1.6%), Kenya (1.6%), Slovenia (1.6%), and Jordan (1.4%). The countries with the biggest decline in rule of law in the past year were Sudan (-7.4%), Mali (-5.3%), Islamic Republic of Iran (-5.0%), Nicaragua (-4.4%), and Afghanistan (-4.0%).



# Rule of Law Trends

## Weakening Rule of Law

For the sixth consecutive year, the rule of law weakened in more countries than those in which it improved (82 vs. 58 countries, or 59% vs. 41%). More than six billion people live in countries where the rule of law weakened in the past year. This is equivalent to 76% of the world's population.

## Long-Term Trends

In the last seven years (2016-2023), the rule of law has weakened in 78% of countries studied in the Index. The three biggest decliners over the past seven years are Constraints on Government Powers (74%), Fundamental Rights (77%), and Criminal Justice (74%).

During this time, countries with weaker rule of law have experienced larger declines than countries with stronger rule of law.

While the rule of law has continued to weaken in a majority of countries, there have been some positive developments. Over the past three years, the proportion of countries with declining rule of law has gotten smaller. This is also true for the factors measuring Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, and Fundamental Rights. For Civil and Criminal Justice, however, the proportion of countries with declining rule of law has expanded.

# Defining the Rule of Law

The World Justice Project defines the rule of law as a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers:



UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE ONE

## Accountability

The government as well as private actors are accountable under the law.



UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE THREE

## Open Government

The processes by which the law is adopted, administered, adjudicated, and enforced are accessible, fair, and efficient.



UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE TWO

## Just Law

The law is clear, publicized, and stable and is applied evenly. It ensures human rights as well as property, contract, and procedural rights.



UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE FOUR

## Accessible and Impartial Justice

Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals who are accessible, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.

# Conceptual Framework of the WJP Rule of Law Index

The conceptual framework of the *WJP Rule of Law Index* is comprised of eight factors further disaggregated into 44 sub-factors. These factors and sub-factors are presented as follows.



## FACTOR ONE

### Constraints on Government Powers

- 1.1 Government powers are effectively limited by the legislature
- 1.2 Government powers are effectively limited by the judiciary
- 1.3 Government powers are effectively limited by independent auditing and review
- 1.4 Government officials are sanctioned for misconduct
- 1.5 Government powers are subject to non-governmental checks
- 1.6 Transition of power is subject to the law



## FACTOR TWO

### Absence of Corruption

- 2.1 Government officials in the executive branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.2 Government officials in the judicial branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.3 Government officials in the police and the military do not use public office for private gain
- 2.4 Government officials in the legislative branch do not use public office for private gain



## FACTOR THREE

### Open Government

- 3.1 Publicized laws and government data
- 3.2 Right to information
- 3.3 Civic participation
- 3.4 Complaint mechanisms



## FACTOR FOUR

### Fundamental Rights

- 4.1 Equal treatment and absence of discrimination
- 4.2 The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed
- 4.3 Due process of the law and rights of the accused
- 4.4 Freedom of opinion and expression is effectively guaranteed
- 4.5 Freedom of belief and religion is effectively guaranteed
- 4.6 Freedom from arbitrary interference with privacy is effectively guaranteed
- 4.7 Freedom of assembly and association is effectively guaranteed
- 4.8 Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed

 **FACTOR FIVE**  
**Order and Security**

- 5.1 Crime is effectively controlled
- 5.2 Civil conflict is effectively limited
- 5.3 People do not resort to violence to redress personal grievances

 **FACTOR SIX**  
**Regulatory Enforcement**

- 6.1 Government regulations are effectively enforced
- 6.2 Government regulations are applied and enforced without improper influence
- 6.3 Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay
- 6.4 Due process is respected in administrative proceedings
- 6.5 The government does not expropriate without lawful process and adequate compensation

 **FACTOR SEVEN**  
**Civil Justice**

- 7.1 People can access and afford civil justice
- 7.2 Civil justice is free of discrimination
- 7.3 Civil justice is free of corruption
- 7.4 Civil justice is free of improper government influence
- 7.5 Civil justice is not subject to unreasonable delay
- 7.6 Civil justice is effectively enforced
- 7.7 Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms are accessible, impartial, and effective

 **FACTOR EIGHT**  
**Criminal Justice**

- 8.1 Criminal investigation system is effective
- 8.2 Criminal adjudication system is timely and effective
- 8.3 Correctional system is effective in reducing criminal behavior
- 8.4 Criminal justice system is impartial
- 8.5 Criminal justice system is free of corruption
- 8.6 Criminal justice system is free of improper government influence
- 8.7 Due process of the law and rights of the accused



SECTION 1

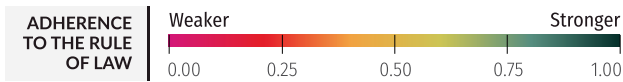
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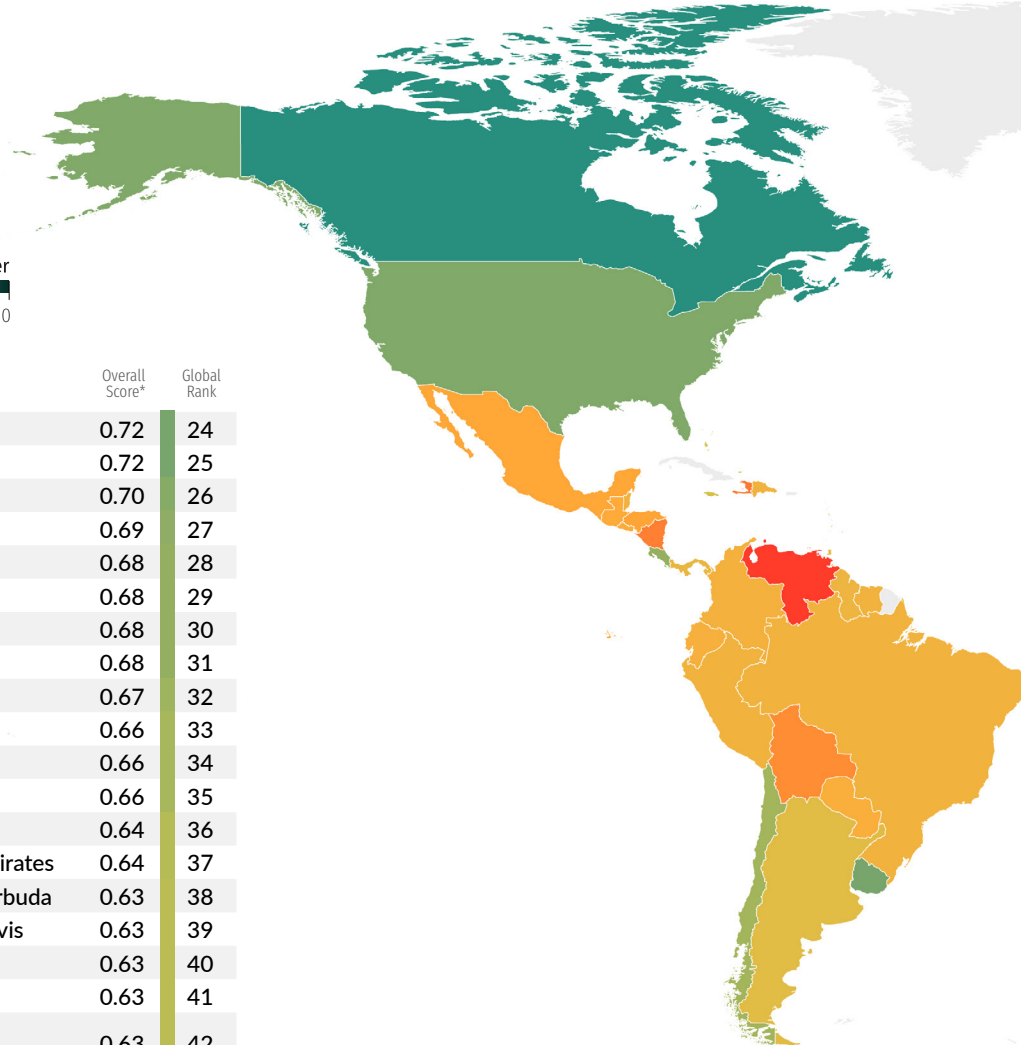
FIGURE 1.

# Rule of Law Around the World

Scores and rankings of the 142 countries and jurisdictions included in the *WJP Rule of Law Index*® 2023 in order of score. Scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score (strong adherence to the rule of law) and 0 signifies the lowest possible score (weak adherence to the rule of law).

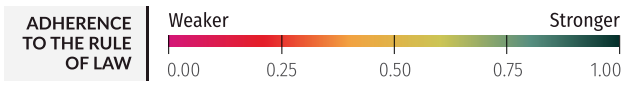
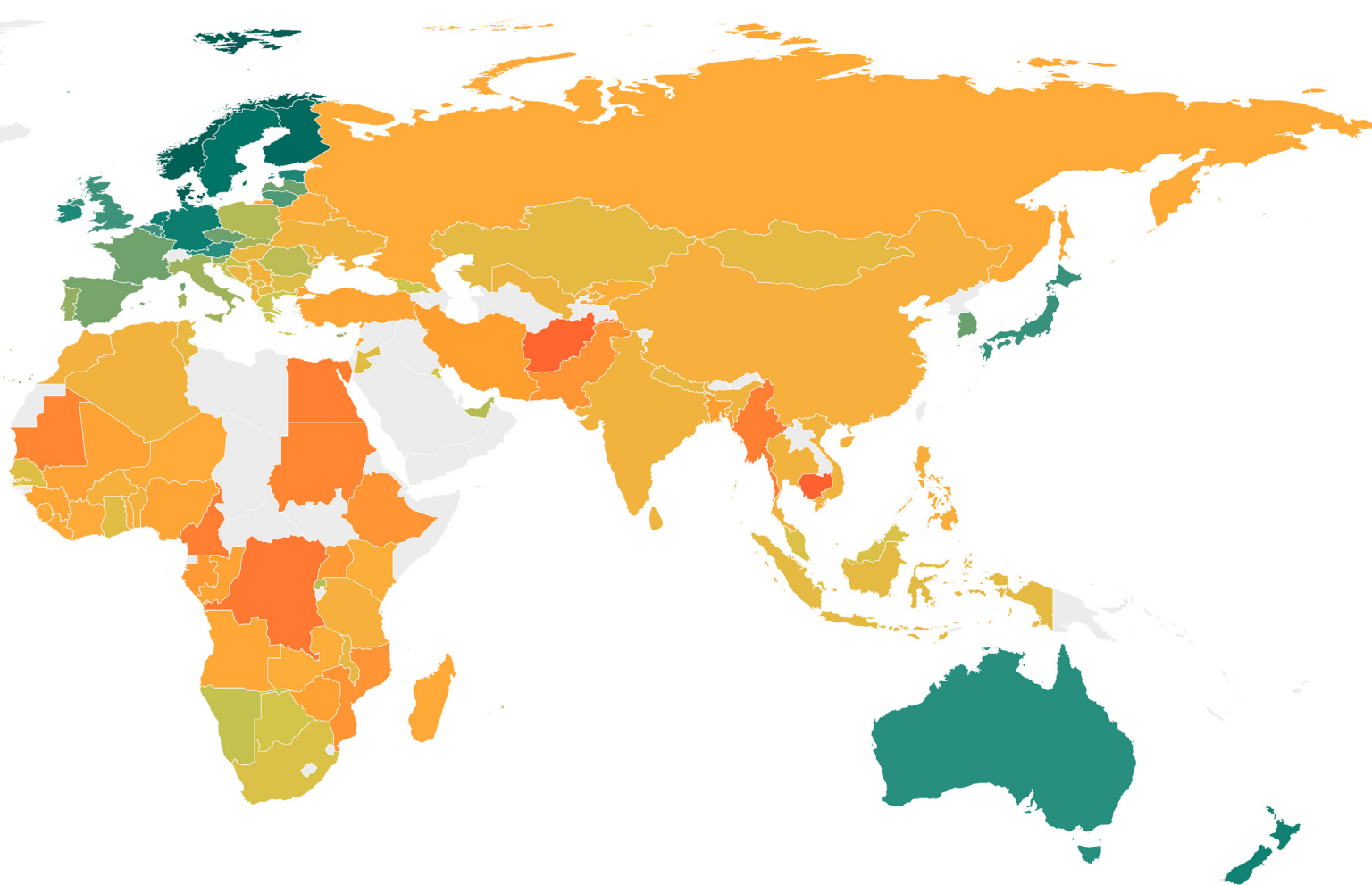


Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank
Denmark	0.90	1	Spain	0.72	24
Norway	0.89	2	Uruguay	0.72	25
Finland	0.87	3	United States	0.70	26
Sweden	0.85	4	Slovenia	0.69	27
Germany	0.83	5	Portugal	0.68	28
Luxembourg	0.83	6	Costa Rica	0.68	29
Netherlands	0.83	7	Malta	0.68	30
New Zealand	0.83	8	Cyprus	0.68	31
Estonia	0.82	9	Italy	0.67	32
Ireland	0.81	10	Chile	0.66	33
Austria	0.80	11	Slovak Republic	0.66	34
Canada	0.80	12	Barbados	0.66	35
Australia	0.80	13	Poland	0.64	36
Japan	0.79	14	United Arab Emirates	0.64	37
United Kingdom	0.78	15	Antigua and Barbuda	0.63	38
Belgium	0.78	16	St. Kitts and Nevis	0.63	39
Singapore	0.78	17	Romania	0.63	40
Lithuania	0.77	18	Rwanda	0.63	41
Korea, Rep.	0.74	19	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0.63	42
Czechia	0.73	20	St. Lucia	0.62	43
France	0.73	21	Namibia	0.61	44
Latvia	0.73	22	Croatia	0.61	45
Hong Kong SAR, China	0.73	23			

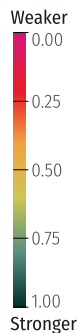


\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places.





**ADHERENCE  
TO THE RULE  
OF LAW**



Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank
Mauritius	0.61	46	Belize	0.49	80	Madagascar	0.43	114
Greece	0.61	47	Suriname	0.49	81	Angola	0.43	115
Georgia	0.60	48	Thailand	0.49	82	Mexico	0.42	116
Grenada	0.60	49	Brazil	0.49	83	Türkiye	0.41	117
The Bahamas	0.59	50	Algeria	0.49	84	Guinea	0.41	118
Botswana	0.59	51	The Gambia	0.49	85	Honduras	0.41	119
Kuwait	0.58	52	Dominican Republic	0.49	86	Nigeria	0.41	120
Dominica	0.58	53	Vietnam	0.49	87	Mali	0.40	121
Jamaica	0.57	54	Peru	0.49	88	Congo, Rep.	0.40	122
Malaysia	0.57	55	Ukraine	0.49	89	Zimbabwe	0.40	123
South Africa	0.57	56	Benin	0.48	90	Gabon	0.39	124
Montenegro	0.56	57	Albania	0.48	91	Uganda	0.39	125
Kosovo	0.56	58	Morocco	0.48	92	Iran, Islamic Rep.	0.39	126
Bulgaria	0.56	59	Serbia	0.48	93	Bangladesh	0.38	127
Senegal	0.55	60	Colombia	0.48	94	Mozambique	0.38	128
Ghana	0.55	61	Burkina Faso	0.47	95	Ethiopia	0.38	129
Jordan	0.55	62	Ecuador	0.47	96	Pakistan	0.38	130
Argentina	0.55	63	China	0.47	97	Bolivia	0.37	131
Mongolia	0.53	64	Tanzania	0.47	98	Sudan	0.36	132
Kazakhstan	0.53	65	Paraguay	0.46	99	Mauritania	0.36	133
Indonesia	0.53	66	Philippines	0.46	100	Cameroon	0.35	134
North Macedonia	0.53	67	Kenya	0.46	101	Myanmar	0.35	135
Moldova	0.53	68	Togo	0.45	102	Egypt, Arab Rep.	0.35	136
Malawi	0.52	69	Kyrgyz Republic	0.45	103	Nicaragua	0.35	137
Trinidad and Tobago	0.52	70	Belarus	0.45	104	Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.34	138
Nepal	0.52	71	Zambia	0.45	105	Haiti	0.34	139
Tunisia	0.52	72	Côte d'Ivoire	0.45	106	Afghanistan	0.32	140
Hungary	0.51	73	Lebanon	0.45	107	Cambodia	0.31	141
Panama	0.51	74	El Salvador	0.45	108	Venezuela, RB	0.26	142
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.51	75	Niger	0.44	109			
Guyana	0.50	76	Sierra Leone	0.44	110			
Sri Lanka	0.50	77	Guatemala	0.44	111			
Uzbekistan	0.50	78	Liberia	0.44	112			
India	0.49	79	Russian Federation	0.44	113			

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

FIGURE 2.

## Changes in Rule of Law Scores and Rankings


















































This table presents the scores, rankings, and changes for the 142 countries and jurisdictions included in the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2023* in alphabetical order.

Scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score (strong adherence to rule of law) and 0 signifies the lowest possible score (weak adherence to rule of law).

Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	Annual Change in Global Rank†	Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	Annual Change in Global Rank†
140	Afghanistan	0.32	-4.0%	0	33	Chile	0.66	-0.1%	0
91	Albania	0.48	-0.7%	2 ▼	97	China	0.47	-0.9%	0
84	Algeria	0.49	0.6%	7 ▲	94	Colombia	0.48	-0.4%	1 ▼
115	Angola	0.43	-0.3%	0	138	Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.34	0.8%	1 ▲
38	Antigua and Barbuda	0.63	0.6%	2 ▲	122	Congo, Rep.	0.40	-1.2%	0
63	Argentina	0.55	-0.5%	2 ▼	29	Costa Rica	0.68	0.0%	0
13	Australia	0.80	0.5%	0	106	Côte d'Ivoire	0.45	0.7%	4 ▲
11	Austria	0.80	-0.3%	0	45	Croatia	0.61	0.3%	2 ▲
50	The Bahamas	0.59	-2.0%	2 ▼	31	Cyprus	0.68	-0.9%	3 ▼
127	Bangladesh	0.38	-1.5%	2 ▲	20	Czechia	0.73	0.1%	0
35	Barbados	0.66	0.0%	1 ▼	1	Denmark	0.90	-0.3%	0
104	Belarus	0.45	-1.9%	3 ▼	53	Dominica	0.58	0.1%	1 ▲
16	Belgium	0.78	-1.0%	2 ▼	86	Dominican Republic	0.49	1.0%	8 ▲
80	Belize	0.49	0.9%	7 ▲	96	Ecuador	0.47	-2.1%	1 ▼
90	Benin	0.48	-0.6%	0	136	Egypt, Arab Rep.	0.35	-1.2%	1 ▲
131	Bolivia	0.37	-0.5%	1 ▲	108	El Salvador	0.45	-2.5%	4 ▼
75	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.51	-1.2%	3 ▼	9	Estonia	0.82	0.0%	0
51	Botswana	0.59	0.0%	0	129	Ethiopia	0.38	-3.1%	4 ▼
83	Brazil	0.49	-0.9%	0	3	Finland	0.87	0.4%	0
59	Bulgaria	0.56	1.7%	3 ▲	21	France	0.73	-0.4%	0
95	Burkina Faso	0.47	-3.7%	11 ▼	124	Gabon	0.39	0.3%	4 ▲
141	Cambodia	0.31	-0.1%	0	85	The Gambia	0.49	0.1%	3 ▲
134	Cameroon	0.35	-0.3%	2 ▲	48	Georgia	0.60	0.3%	1 ▲
12	Canada	0.80	0.0%	0	5	Germany	0.83	0.0%	1 ▲
































\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Percentage changes in score are rounded to one decimal place.

† The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 140 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2022 Index with the rankings of the same 140 countries and jurisdictions in 2023, exclusive of the two new additions to the 2023 Index. The new countries added to the Index this year are Kuwait and Montenegro.

Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	Annual Change in Global Rank†	Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	Annual Change in Global Rank†
	<b>61</b> Ghana	0.55	-0.5%	1 ▼		<b>22</b> Latvia	0.73	0.7%	2 ▲
	<b>47</b> Greece	0.61	-1.4%	3 ▼		<b>107</b> Lebanon	0.45	0.0%	1 ▲
	<b>49</b> Grenada	0.60	1.4%	1 ▲		<b>112</b> Liberia	0.44	0.8%	2 ▲
	<b>111</b> Guatemala	0.44	-0.3%	1 ▲		<b>18</b> Lithuania	0.77	0.4%	0
	<b>118</b> Guinea	0.41	0.8%	1 ▲		<b>6</b> Luxembourg	0.83	0.8%	2 ▲
	<b>76</b> Guyana	0.50	0.2%	1 ▲		<b>114</b> Madagascar	0.43	-1.4%	1 ▼
	<b>139</b> Haiti	0.34	-3.5%	1 ▼		<b>69</b> Malawi	0.52	-0.5%	1 ▼
	<b>119</b> Honduras	0.41	1.6%	4 ▲		<b>55</b> Malaysia	0.57	0.8%	1 ▲
	<b>23</b> Hong Kong SAR, China	0.73	-0.2%	1 ▼		<b>121</b> Mali	0.40	-5.3%	5 ▼
	<b>73</b> Hungary	0.51	-0.2%	2 ▲		<b>30</b> Malta	0.68	0.1%	0
	<b>79</b> India	0.49	-0.7%	0		<b>133</b> Mauritania	0.36	-1.4%	0
	<b>66</b> Indonesia	0.53	0.2%	0		<b>46</b> Mauritius	0.61	-0.4%	1 ▼
	<b>126</b> Iran, Islamic Rep.	0.39	-5.0%	5 ▼		<b>116</b> Mexico	0.42	-1.3%	1 ▲
	<b>10</b> Ireland	0.81	0.3%	0		<b>68</b> Moldova	0.53	1.3%	2 ▲
	<b>32</b> Italy	0.67	0.0%	0		<b>64</b> Mongolia	0.53	-0.6%	0
	<b>54</b> Jamaica	0.57	-1.1%	1 ▼		<b>57</b> Montenegro	0.56	-	-
	<b>14</b> Japan	0.79	0.0%	2 ▲		<b>92</b> Morocco	0.48	0.9%	4 ▲
	<b>62</b> Jordan	0.55	1.4%	1 ▲		<b>128</b> Mozambique	0.38	-3.0%	4 ▼
	<b>65</b> Kazakhstan	0.53	1.0%	2 ▲		<b>135</b> Myanmar	0.35	-3.7%	1 ▼
	<b>101</b> Kenya	0.46	1.6%	5 ▲		<b>44</b> Namibia	0.61	0.5%	2 ▲
	<b>19</b> Korea, Rep.	0.74	0.5%	0		<b>71</b> Nepal	0.52	-0.9%	0
	<b>58</b> Kosovo	0.56	0.4%	1 ▲		<b>7</b> Netherlands	0.83	-0.3%	2 ▼
	<b>52</b> Kuwait	0.58	-	-		<b>8</b> New Zealand	0.83	-0.2%	1 ▼
	<b>103</b> Kyrgyz Republic	0.45	-1.4%	1 ▼		<b>137</b> Nicaragua	0.35	-4.4%	2 ▼
						<b>109</b> Niger	0.44	-0.6%	2 ▲

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Percentage changes in score are rounded to one decimal place.

† The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 140 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2022 Index with the rankings of the same 140 countries and jurisdictions in 2023, exclusive of the two new additions to the 2023 Index. The new countries added to the Index this year are Kuwait and Montenegro.

	Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	Annual Change in Global Rank†		Global Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	Annual Change in Global Rank†	
	120	Nigeria	0.41	0.8%	0			43	St. Lucia	0.62	0.4%	0
	67	North Macedonia	0.53	-0.9%	2 ▼			42	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0.63	-0.8%	1 ▼
	2	Norway	0.89	0.3%	0			132	Sudan	0.36	-7.4%	5 ▼
	130	Pakistan	0.38	-2.3%	1 ▲			81	Suriname	0.49	-0.9%	0
	74	Panama	0.51	-0.5%	0			4	Sweden	0.85	-0.4%	0
	99	Paraguay	0.46	-1.2%	1 ▼			98	Tanzania	0.47	0.9%	2 ▲
	88	Peru	0.49	0.2%	4 ▲			82	Thailand	0.49	-1.0%	0
	100	Philippines	0.46	-1.5%	1 ▼			102	Togo	0.45	-1.1%	1 ▲
	36	Poland	0.64	-0.6%	0			70	Trinidad and Tobago	0.52	-0.8%	1 ▼
	28	Portugal	0.68	-0.9%	1 ▼			72	Tunisia	0.52	-0.6%	1 ▲
	40	Romania	0.63	-0.4%	2 ▼			117	Türkiye	0.41	-0.7%	1 ▲
	113	Russian Federation	0.44	-2.2%	4 ▼			125	Uganda	0.39	0.0%	5 ▲
	41	Rwanda	0.63	0.1%	1 ▲			89	Ukraine	0.49	-2.9%	11 ▼
	60	Senegal	0.55	-1.3%	2 ▼			37	United Arab Emirates	0.64	0.2%	0
	93	Serbia	0.48	-1.6%	8 ▼			15	United Kingdom	0.78	-0.4%	0
	110	Sierra Leone	0.44	-2.1%	3 ▼			26	United States	0.70	-0.6%	0
	17	Singapore	0.78	-0.1%	0			25	Uruguay	0.72	0.4%	0
	34	Slovak Republic	0.66	0.3%	1 ▲			78	Uzbekistan	0.50	0.1%	2 ▲
	27	Slovenia	0.69	1.6%	4 ▲			142	Venezuela, RB	0.26	0.9%	0
	56	South Africa	0.57	-1.2%	1 ▼			87	Vietnam	0.49	-0.6%	1 ▼
	24	Spain	0.72	-0.8%	1 ▼			105	Zambia	0.45	0.0%	0
	77	Sri Lanka	0.50	-0.5%	1 ▼			123	Zimbabwe	0.40	1.3%	3 ▲
	39	St. Kitts and Nevis	0.63	0.1%	0							

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Percentage changes in score are rounded to one decimal place.

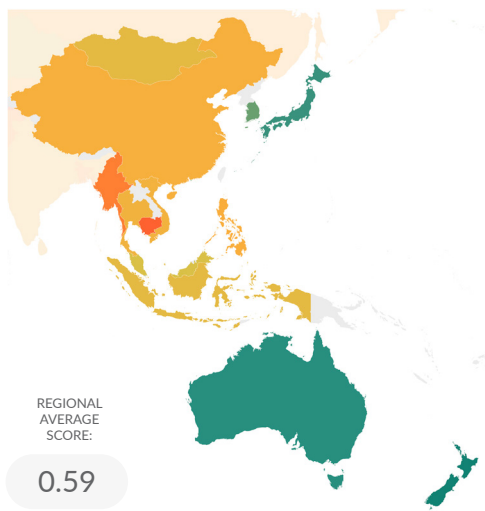
† The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 140 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2022 Index with the rankings of the same 140 countries and jurisdictions in 2023, exclusive of the two new additions to the 2023 Index. The new countries added to the Index this year are Kuwait and Montenegro.

**FIGURE 3.**

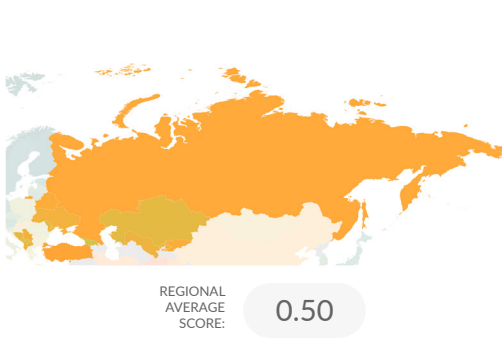
# Rule of Law Around the World by Region

This table presents the scores, rankings, and changes for the 142 countries and jurisdictions included in the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2023* by region. Scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score (strong adherence to rule of law) and 0 signifies the lowest possible score (weak adherence to rule of law).

## East Asia and Pacific

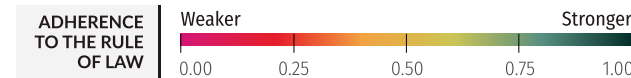


## Eastern Europe and Central Asia



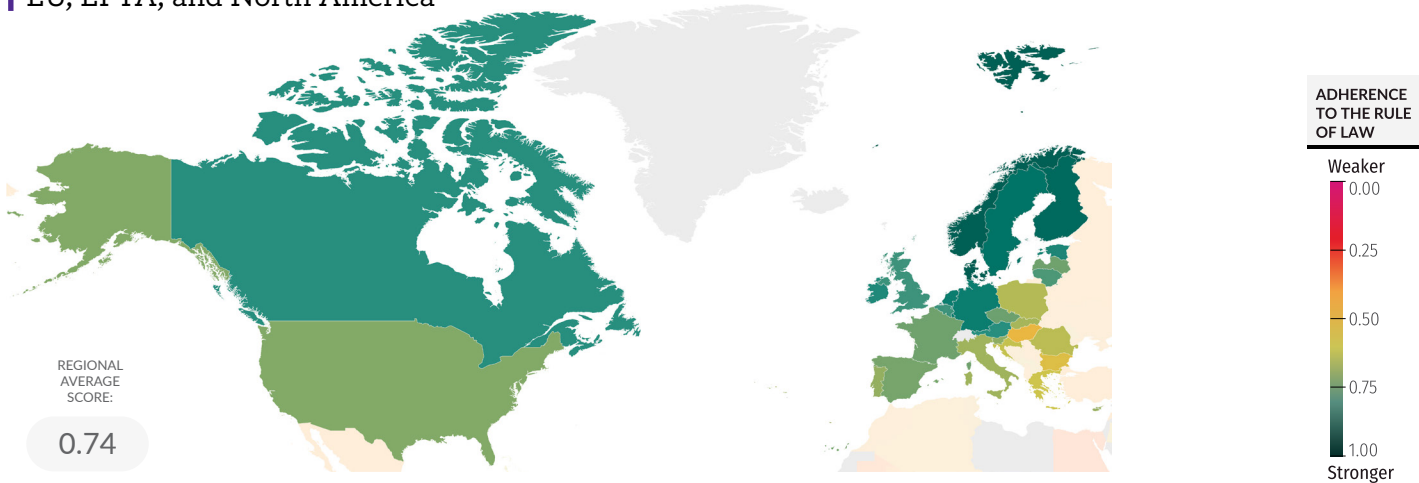
Regional Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	5-Year % Change in Overall Score**	Global Rank	Annual Change in Global Rank†
1/15	New Zealand	0.83	-0.2%	-0.4%	8	1 ▼
2/15	Australia	0.80	0.5%	-1.3%	13	0
3/15	Japan	0.79	0.0%	-0.2%	14	2 ▲
4/15	Singapore	0.78	-0.1%	-2.6%	17	0
5/15	Korea, Rep.	0.74	0.5%	2.0%	19	0
6/15	Hong Kong SAR, China	0.73	-0.2%	-6.0%	23	1 ▼
7/15	Malaysia	0.57	0.8%	6.1%	55	1 ▲
8/15	Mongolia	0.53	-0.6%	-2.0%	64	0
9/15	Indonesia	0.53	0.2%	2.6%	66	0
10/15	Thailand	0.49	-1.0%	-3.0%	82	0
11/15	Vietnam	0.49	-0.6%	-2.9%	87	1 ▼
12/15	China	0.47	-0.9%	-6.7%	97	0
13/15	Philippines	0.46	-1.5%	-2.0%	100	1 ▼
14/15	Myanmar	0.35	-3.7%	-17.2%	135	1 ▼
15/15	Cambodia	0.31	-0.1%	-3.5%	141	0

Regional Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	5-Year % Change in Overall Score**	Global Rank	Annual Change in Global Rank†
1/15	Georgia	0.60	0.3%	-1.2%	48	1 ▲
2/15	Montenegro	0.56	-	-	57	-
3/15	Kosovo	0.56	0.4%	-	58	1 ▲
4/15	Kazakhstan	0.53	1.0%	3.1%	65	2 ▲
5/15	North Macedonia	0.53	-0.9%	-0.4%	67	2 ▼
6/15	Moldova	0.53	1.3%	7.7%	68	2 ▲
7/15	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.51	-1.2%	-3.5%	75	3 ▼
8/15	Uzbekistan	0.50	0.1%	7.7%	78	2 ▲
9/15	Ukraine	0.49	-2.9%	-2.7%	89	11 ▼
10/15	Albania	0.48	-0.7%	-5.2%	91	2 ▼
11/15	Serbia	0.48	-1.6%	-4.0%	93	8 ▼
12/15	Kyrgyz Republic	0.45	-1.4%	-4.5%	103	1 ▼
13/15	Belarus	0.45	-1.9%	-12.0%	104	3 ▼
14/15	Russian Federation	0.44	-2.2%	-7.0%	113	4 ▼
15/15	Türkiye	0.41	-0.7%	-1.3%	117	1 ▲



\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Percentage changes in score are rounded to one decimal place.  
 † The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 140 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2022 Index with the rankings of the same 140 countries and jurisdictions in 2023, exclusive of the two new additions to the 2023 Index. The two new countries and jurisdictions added to the Index this year are: Kuwait and Montenegro.  
 ‡ The scores for the 2015, 2016, and 2017-18 indices were updated to account for methodological changes made in the 2017-2018 Index. Older versions of these scores might not match the revised versions.

## EU, EFTA, and North America



Regional Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	5-Year % Change in Overall Score**	Global Rank	Annual Change in Global Rank†
1/31	Denmark	0.90	-0.3%	0.7%	1	0
2/31	Norway	0.89	0.3%	0.3%	2	0
3/31	Finland	0.87	0.4%	0.3%	3	0
4/31	Sweden	0.85	-0.4%	-1.1%	4	0
5/31	Germany	0.83	0.0%	-0.2%	5	1 ▲
6/31	Luxembourg	0.83	0.8%	-	6	2 ▲
7/31	Netherlands	0.83	-0.3%	-2.5%	7	2 ▼
8/31	Estonia	0.82	0.0%	2.3%	9	0
9/31	Ireland	0.81	0.3%	-	10	0
10/31	Austria	0.80	-0.3%	-2.0%	11	0
11/31	Canada	0.80	0.0%	-1.6%	12	0
12/31	United Kingdom	0.78	-0.4%	-3.1%	15	0
13/31	Belgium	0.78	-1.0%	1.2%	16	2 ▼
14/31	Lithuania	0.77	0.4%	-	18	0
15/31	Czechia	0.73	0.1%	-1.3%	20	0
16/31	France	0.73	-0.4%	-1.4%	21	0

Regional Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	5-Year % Change in Overall Score**	Global Rank	Annual Change in Global Rank†
17/31	Latvia	0.73	0.7%	-	22	2 ▲
18/31	Spain	0.72	-0.8%	2.4%	24	1 ▼
19/31	United States	0.70	-0.6%	-4.0%	26	0
20/31	Slovenia	0.69	1.6%	2.3%	27	4 ▲
21/31	Portugal	0.68	-0.9%	-5.2%	28	1 ▼
22/31	Malta	0.68	0.1%	-	30	0
23/31	Cyprus	0.68	-0.9%	-	31	3 ▼
24/31	Italy	0.67	0.0%	2.0%	32	0
25/31	Slovak Republic	0.66	0.3%	-	34	1 ▲
26/31	Poland	0.64	-0.6%	-5.3%	36	0
27/31	Romania	0.63	-0.4%	-4.1%	40	2 ▼
28/31	Croatia	0.61	0.3%	0.2%	45	2 ▲
29/31	Greece	0.61	-1.4%	-0.3%	47	3 ▼
30/31	Bulgaria	0.56	1.7%	3.9%	59	3 ▲
31/31	Hungary	0.51	-0.2%	-6.0%	73	2 ▲

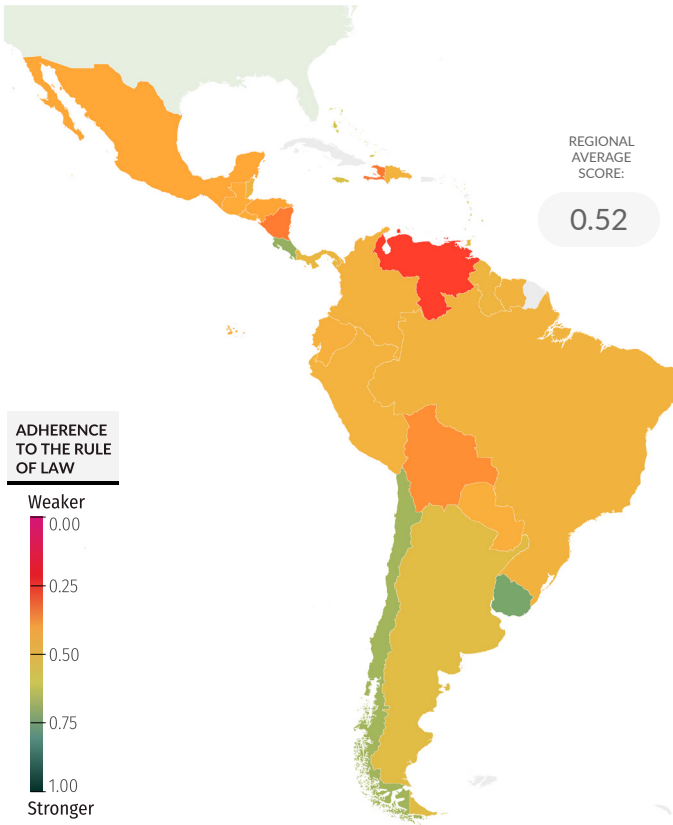
\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Percentage changes in score are rounded to one decimal place.

† The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 140 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2022 Index with the rankings of the same 140 countries and jurisdictions in 2023, exclusive of the two new additions to the 2023 Index. The new countries added to the Index this year are Kuwait and Montenegro.

‡ The scores for the 2015, 2016, and 2017-18 indices were updated to account for methodological changes made in the 2017-2018 Index. Older versions of these scores might not match the revised versions.



## Latin America and Caribbean



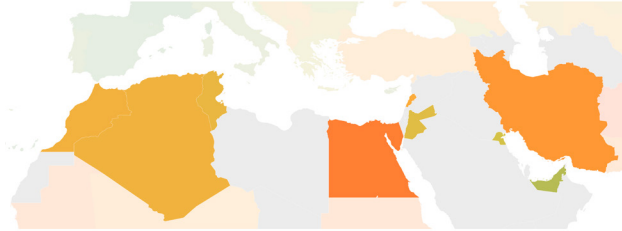
Regional Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	5-Year % Change in Overall Score**	Global Rank	Annual Change in Global Rank†
1/32	Uruguay	0.72	0.4%	0.7%	25	0
2/32	Costa Rica	0.68	0.0%	-0.6%	29	0
3/32	Chile	0.66	-0.1%	-0.7%	33	0
4/32	Barbados	0.66	0.0%	1.1%	35	1 ▼
5/32	Antigua and Barbuda	0.63	0.6%	0.7%	38	2 ▲
6/32	St. Kitts and Nevis	0.63	0.1%	-4.3%	39	0
7/32	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0.63	-0.8%	2.3%	42	1 ▼
8/32	St. Lucia	0.62	0.4%	-2.0%	43	0
9/32	Grenada	0.60	1.4%	-1.6%	49	1 ▲
10/32	The Bahamas	0.59	-2.0%	-1.4%	50	2 ▼
11/32	Dominica	0.58	0.1%	-3.6%	53	1 ▲
12/32	Jamaica	0.57	-1.1%	-0.4%	54	1 ▼
13/32	Argentina	0.55	-0.5%	-6.4%	63	2 ▼
14/32	Trinidad and Tobago	0.52	-0.8%	-7.0%	70	1 ▼
15/32	Panama	0.51	-0.5%	-1.2%	74	0
16/32	Guyana	0.50	0.2%	-0.5%	76	1 ▲
17/32	Belize	0.49	0.9%	3.3%	80	7 ▲
18/32	Suriname	0.49	-0.9%	-3.6%	81	0
19/32	Brazil	0.49	-0.9%	-8.9%	83	0
20/32	Dominican Republic	0.49	1.0%	4.4%	86	8 ▲
21/32	Peru	0.49	0.2%	-7.1%	88	4 ▲
22/32	Colombia	0.48	-0.4%	-4.7%	94	1 ▼
23/32	Ecuador	0.47	-2.1%	-0.2%	96	1 ▼
24/32	Paraguay	0.46	-1.2%	-	99	1 ▼
25/32	El Salvador	0.45	-2.5%	-7.4%	108	4 ▼
26/32	Guatemala	0.44	-0.3%	-1.0%	111	1 ▲
27/32	Mexico	0.42	-1.3%	-8.7%	116	1 ▲
28/32	Honduras	0.41	1.6%	1.6%	119	4 ▲
29/32	Bolivia	0.37	-0.5%	-2.9%	131	1 ▲
30/32	Nicaragua	0.35	-4.4%	-20.8%	137	2 ▼
31/32	Haiti	0.34	-3.5%	-	139	1 ▼
32/32	Venezuela, RB	0.26	0.9%	-7.8%	142	0

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Percentage changes in score are rounded to one decimal place.

† The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 140 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2022 Index with the rankings of the same 140 countries and jurisdictions in 2023, exclusive of the two new additions to the 2023 Index. The two new countries and jurisdictions added to the Index this year are: Kuwait and Montenegro.

‡ The scores for the 2015, 2016, and 2017-18 indices were updated to account for methodological changes made in the 2017-2018 Index. Older versions of these scores might not match the revised versions.

## Middle East and North Africa

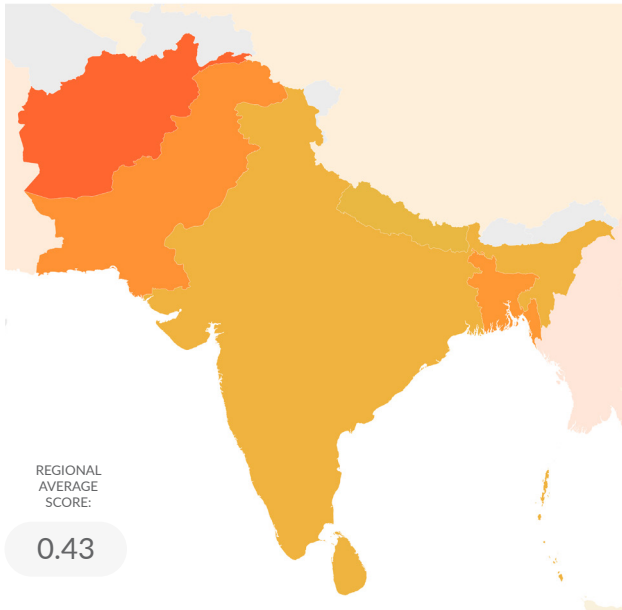


REGIONAL  
AVERAGE  
SCORE:

0.49

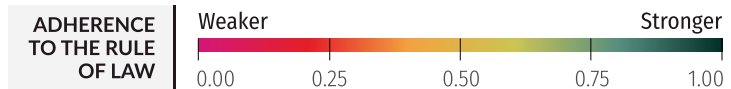
Regional Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual Change in Overall Score*	5-Year % Change in Overall Score**	Global Rank	Annual Change in Global Rank†
1/9	United Arab Emirates	0.64	0.2%	-1.9%	37	0
2/9	Kuwait	0.58	-	-	52	-
3/9	Jordan	0.55	1.4%	-8.1%	62	1 ▲
4/9	Tunisia	0.52	-0.6%	-3.6%	72	1 ▲
5/9	Algeria	0.49	0.6%	-	84	7 ▲
6/9	Morocco	0.48	0.9%	-5.0%	92	4 ▲
7/9	Lebanon	0.45	0.0%	-5.0%	107	1 ▲
8/9	Iran, Islamic Rep.	0.39	-5.0%	-18.9%	126	5 ▼
9/9	Egypt, Arab Rep.	0.35	-1.2%	-4.4%	136	1 ▲

## South Asia



REGIONAL  
AVERAGE  
SCORE:

0.43



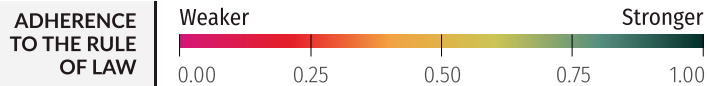
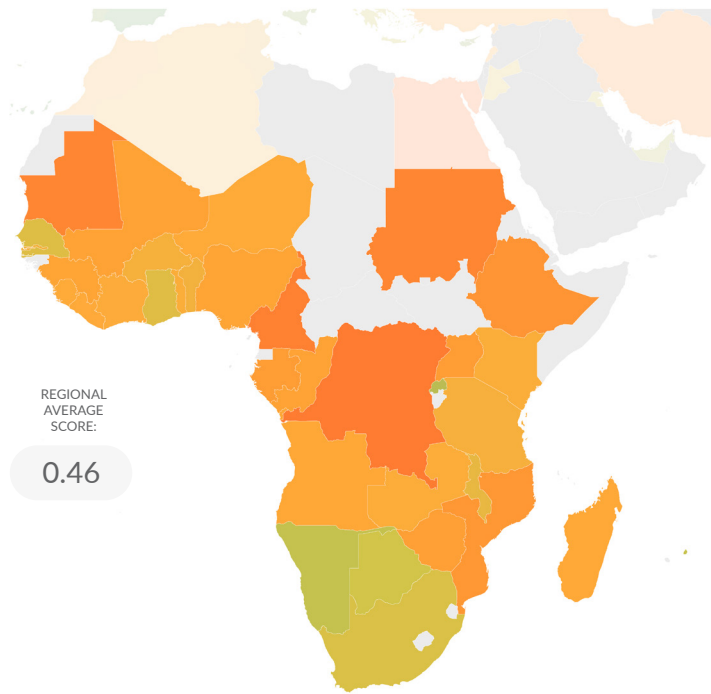
Regional Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	5-Year % Change in Overall Score**	Global Rank	Annual Change in Global Rank†
1/6	Nepal	0.52	-0.9%	-2.2%	71	0
2/6	Sri Lanka	0.50	-0.5%	-5.2%	77	1 ▼
3/6	India	0.49	-0.7%	-4.8%	79	0
4/6	Bangladesh	0.38	-1.5%	-6.2%	127	2 ▲
5/6	Pakistan	0.38	-2.3%	-4.2%	130	1 ▲
6/6	Afghanistan	0.32	-4.0%	-8.3%	140	0

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Percentage changes in score are rounded to one decimal place.

† The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 140 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2022 Index with the rankings of the same 140 countries and jurisdictions in 2023, exclusive of the two new additions to the 2023 Index. The two new countries and jurisdictions added to the Index this year are: Kuwait and Montenegro.

‡ The scores for the 2015, 2016, and 2017-18 indices were updated to account for methodological changes made in the 2017-2018 Index. Older versions of these scores might not match the revised versions.

## Sub-Saharan Africa



Regional Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*	5-Year % Change in Overall Score**	Global Rank	Annual Change in Global Rank†
1/34	Rwanda	0.63	0.1%	-	41	1 ▲
2/34	Namibia	0.61	0.5%	-	44	2 ▲
3/34	Mauritius	0.61	-0.4%	-	46	1 ▼
4/34	Botswana	0.59	0.0%	1.3%	51	0
5/34	South Africa	0.57	-1.2%	-3.3%	56	1 ▼
6/34	Senegal	0.55	-1.3%	0.2%	60	2 ▼
7/34	Ghana	0.55	-0.5%	-7.4%	61	1 ▼
8/34	Malawi	0.52	-0.5%	2.1%	69	1 ▼
9/34	The Gambia	0.49	0.1%	-	85	3 ▲
10/34	Benin	0.48	-0.6%	-	90	0
11/34	Burkina Faso	0.47	-3.7%	-6.7%	95	11 ▼
12/34	Tanzania	0.47	0.9%	-0.9%	98	2 ▲
13/34	Kenya	0.46	1.6%	1.7%	101	5 ▲
14/34	Togo	0.45	-1.1%	-	102	1 ▲
15/34	Zambia	0.45	0.0%	-4.9%	105	0
16/34	Côte d'Ivoire	0.45	0.7%	-5.2%	106	4 ▲
17/34	Niger	0.44	-0.6%	-	109	2 ▲
18/34	Sierra Leone	0.44	-2.1%	-3.1%	110	3 ▼
19/34	Liberia	0.44	0.8%	-3.6%	112	2 ▲
20/34	Madagascar	0.43	-1.4%	-1.7%	114	1 ▼
21/34	Angola	0.43	-0.3%	-	115	0
22/34	Guinea	0.41	0.8%	-	118	1 ▲
23/34	Nigeria	0.41	0.8%	-6.3%	120	0
24/34	Mali	0.40	-5.3%	-	121	5 ▼
25/34	Congo, Rep.	0.40	-1.2%	-	122	0
26/34	Zimbabwe	0.40	1.3%	5.9%	123	3 ▲
27/34	Gabon	0.39	0.3%	-	124	4 ▲
28/34	Uganda	0.39	0.0%	-3.1%	125	5 ▲
29/34	Mozambique	0.38	-3.0%	-	128	4 ▼
30/34	Ethiopia	0.38	-3.1%	0.2%	129	4 ▼
31/34	Sudan	0.36	-7.4%	-	132	5 ▼
32/34	Mauritania	0.36	-1.4%	-	133	0
33/34	Cameroon	0.35	-0.3%	-4.0%	134	2 ▲
34/34	Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.34	0.8%	-	138	1 ▲

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Percentage changes in score are rounded to one decimal place.

† The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 140 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2022 Index with the rankings of the same 140 countries and jurisdictions in 2023, exclusive of the two new additions to the 2023 Index. The two new countries and jurisdictions added to the Index this year are: Kuwait and Montenegro.

‡ The scores for the 2015, 2016, and 2017-18 indices were updated to account for methodological changes made in the 2017-2018 Index. Older versions of these scores might not match the revised versions.

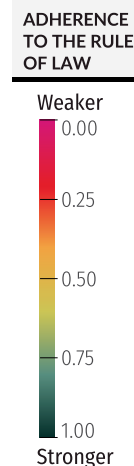
FIGURE 4.

## Rule of Law Around the World by Income

This table presents the scores, rankings, and changes for the 142 countries and jurisdictions included in the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2023* by income group.\* Scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score (strong adherence to rule of law) and 0 signifies the lowest possible score (weak adherence to rule of law).

### Low Income\*

Income Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score <sup>†</sup>	Annual % Change in Overall Score <sup>†</sup>	5-Year % Change in Overall Score <sup>‡§</sup>	Global Rank	Annual Change in Global Rank <sup>‡</sup>
1/18	Rwanda	0.63	0.1%	-	41	1 ▲
2/18	Malawi	0.52	-0.5%	2.1%	69	1 ▼
3/18	The Gambia	0.49	0.1%	-	85	3 ▲
4/18	Burkina Faso	0.47	-3.7%	-6.7%	95	11 ▼
5/18	Togo	0.45	-1.1%	-	102	1 ▲
6/18	Zambia	0.45	0.0%	-4.9%	105	0
7/18	Niger	0.44	-0.6%	-	109	2 ▲
8/18	Sierra Leone	0.44	-2.1%	-3.1%	110	3 ▼
9/18	Liberia	0.44	0.8%	-3.6%	112	2 ▲
10/18	Madagascar	0.43	-1.4%	-1.7%	114	1 ▼
11/18	Guinea	0.41	0.8%	-	118	1 ▲
12/18	Mali	0.40	-5.3%	-	121	5 ▼
13/18	Uganda	0.39	0.0%	-3.1%	125	5 ▲
14/18	Mozambique	0.38	-3.0%	-	128	4 ▼
15/18	Ethiopia	0.38	-3.1%	0.2%	129	4 ▼
16/18	Sudan	0.36	-7.4%	-	132	5 ▼
17/18	Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.34	0.8%	-	138	1 ▲
18/18	Afghanistan	0.32	-4.0%	-8.3%	140	0



\* Income groups used in this year's report are based on the World Bank's 2023 fiscal year income group classifications. For the 2023 fiscal year, low-income economies are defined as those with a GNI per capita, calculated using the World Bank Atlas method, of \$1,085 or less in 2021; lower middle-income economies are those with a GNI per capita between \$1,086 and \$4,255; upper middle-income economies are those with a GNI per capita between \$4,256 and \$13,205; high-income economies are those with a GNI per capita of more than \$13,205. <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>.

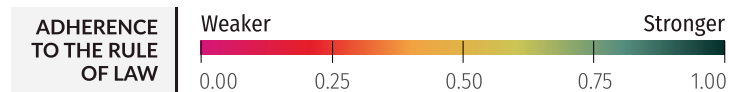
† Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Percentage changes in score are rounded to one decimal place.

‡ The change in rankings was calculated by comparing the positions of the 140 countries and jurisdictions measured in the 2022 Index with the rankings of the same 140 countries and jurisdictions in 2023, exclusive of the two new additions to the 2023 Index. The two new countries and jurisdictions added to the Index this year are: Kuwait and Montenegro.

§ The scores for the 2015, 2016, and 2017-18 indices were updated to account for methodological changes made in the 2017-2018 Index. Older versions of these scores might not match the revised versions.

## Lower-Middle Income\*

Income Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score <sup>†</sup>	Annual % Change in Overall Score <sup>†</sup>	5-Year % Change in Overall Score <sup>§</sup>	Global Rank	Annual Change in Global Rank <sup>‡</sup>	Income Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score <sup>†</sup>	Annual % Change in Overall Score <sup>†</sup>	5-Year % Change in Overall Score <sup>§</sup>	Global Rank	Annual Change in Global Rank <sup>‡</sup>
1/37	Senegal	0.55	-1.3%	0.2%	60	-2 ▼	20/37	Lebanon	0.45	0.0%	-5.0%	107	1 ▲
2/37	Ghana	0.55	-0.5%	-7.4%	61	-1 ▼	21/37	El Salvador	0.45	-2.5%	-7.4%	108	4 ▼
3/37	Mongolia	0.53	-0.6%	-2.0%	64	0	22/37	Angola	0.43	-0.3%	-	115	0
4/37	Indonesia	0.53	0.2%	2.6%	66	0	23/37	Honduras	0.41	1.6%	1.6%	119	4 ▲
5/37	Nepal	0.52	-0.9%	-2.2%	71	0	24/37	Nigeria	0.41	0.8%	-6.3%	120	0
6/37	Tunisia	0.52	-0.6%	-3.6%	72	1 ▲	25/37	Congo, Rep.	0.40	-1.2%	-	122	0
7/37	Sri Lanka	0.50	-0.5%	-5.2%	77	-1 ▼	26/37	Zimbabwe	0.40	1.3%	5.9%	123	3 ▲
8/37	Uzbekistan	0.50	0.1%	7.7%	78	2 ▲	27/37	Iran, Islamic Rep.	0.39	-5.0%	-18.9%	126	5 ▼
9/37	India	0.49	-0.7%	-4.8%	79	0	28/37	Bangladesh	0.38	-1.5%	-6.2%	127	2 ▲
10/37	Algeria	0.49	0.6%	-	84	7 ▲	29/37	Pakistan	0.38	-2.3%	-4.2%	130	1 ▲
11/37	Vietnam	0.49	-0.6%	-2.9%	87	-1 ▼	30/37	Bolivia	0.37	-0.5%	-2.9%	131	1 ▲
12/37	Ukraine	0.49	-2.9%	-2.7%	89	-11 ▼	31/37	Mauritania	0.36	-1.4%	-	133	0
13/37	Benin	0.48	-0.6%	-	90	0	32/37	Cameroon	0.35	-0.3%	-4.0%	134	2 ▲
14/37	Morocco	0.48	0.9%	-5.0%	92	4 ▲	33/37	Myanmar	0.35	-3.7%	-17.2%	135	1 ▼
15/37	Tanzania	0.47	0.9%	-0.9%	98	2 ▲	34/37	Egypt, Arab Rep.	0.35	-1.2%	-4.4%	136	1 ▲
16/37	Philippines	0.46	-1.5%	-2.0%	100	-1 ▼	35/37	Nicaragua	0.35	-4.4%	-20.8%	137	2 ▼
17/37	Kenya	0.46	1.6%	1.7%	101	5 ▲	36/37	Haiti	0.34	-3.5%	-	139	1 ▼
18/37	Kyrgyz Republic	0.45	-1.4%	-4.5%	103	-1 ▼	37/37	Cambodia	0.31	-0.1%	-3.5%	141	0
19/37	Côte d'Ivoire	0.45	0.7%	-5.2%	106	4 ▲							



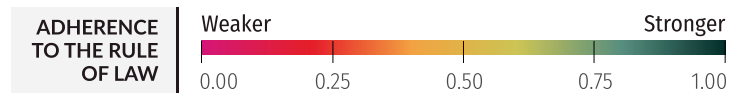
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## Upper-Middle Income\*



Income Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score <sup>†</sup>	Annual % Change in Overall Score <sup>‡</sup>	5-Year % Change in Overall Score <sup>§</sup>	Global Rank	Annual Change in Global Rank <sup>‡</sup>
1/41	Costa Rica	0.68	0.0%	-0.6%	29	0
2/41	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0.63	-0.8%	2.3%	42	1 ▼
3/41	St. Lucia	0.62	0.4%	-2.0%	43	0
4/41	Namibia	0.61	0.5%	-	44	2 ▲
5/41	Mauritius	0.61	-0.4%	-	46	1 ▼
6/41	Georgia	0.60	0.3%	-1.2%	48	1 ▲
7/41	Grenada	0.60	1.4%	-1.6%	49	1 ▲
8/41	Botswana	0.59	0.0%	1.3%	51	0
9/41	Dominica	0.58	0.1%	-3.6%	53	1 ▲
10/41	Jamaica	0.57	-1.1%	-0.4%	54	1 ▼
11/41	Malaysia	0.57	0.8%	6.1%	55	1 ▲
12/41	South Africa	0.57	-1.2%	-3.3%	56	1 ▼
13/41	Montenegro	0.56	-	-	57	-
14/41	Kosovo	0.56	0.4%	-	58	1 ▲
15/41	Bulgaria	0.56	1.7%	3.9%	59	3 ▲
16/41	Jordan	0.55	1.4%	-8.1%	62	1 ▲
17/41	Argentina	0.55	-0.5%	-6.4%	63	2 ▼
18/41	Kazakhstan	0.53	1.0%	3.1%	65	2 ▲
19/41	North Macedonia	0.53	-0.9%	-0.4%	67	2 ▼
20/41	Moldova	0.53	1.3%	7.7%	68	2 ▲
21/41	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.51	-1.2%	-3.5%	75	3 ▼

Income Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score <sup>†</sup>	Annual % Change in Overall Score <sup>‡</sup>	5-Year % Change in Overall Score <sup>§</sup>	Global Rank	Annual Change in Global Rank <sup>‡</sup>
22/41	Guyana	0.50	0.2%	-0.5%	76	1 ▲
23/41	Belize	0.49	0.9%	3.3%	80	7 ▲
24/41	Suriname	0.49	-0.9%	-3.6%	81	0
25/41	Thailand	0.49	-1.0%	-3.0%	82	0
26/41	Brazil	0.49	-0.9%	-8.9%	83	0
27/41	Dominican Republic	0.49	1.0%	4.4%	86	8 ▲
28/41	Peru	0.49	0.2%	-7.1%	88	4 ▲
29/41	Albania	0.48	-0.7%	-5.2%	91	2 ▼
30/41	Serbia	0.48	-1.6%	-4.0%	93	8 ▼
31/41	Colombia	0.48	-0.4%	-4.7%	94	1 ▼
32/41	Ecuador	0.47	-2.1%	-0.2%	96	1 ▼
33/41	China	0.47	-0.9%	-6.7%	97	0
34/41	Paraguay	0.46	-1.2%	-	99	1 ▼
35/41	Belarus	0.45	-1.9%	-12.0%	104	3 ▼
36/41	Guatemala	0.44	-0.3%	-1.0%	111	1 ▲
37/41	Russian Federation	0.44	-2.2%	-7.0%	113	4 ▼
38/41	Mexico	0.42	-1.3%	-8.7%	116	1 ▲
39/41	Türkiye	0.41	-0.7%	-1.3%	117	1 ▲
40/41	Gabon	0.39	0.3%	-	124	4 ▲
41/41	Venezuela, RB	0.26	0.9%	-7.8%	142	0

\* Income groups used in this year's report are based on the World Bank's 2023 fiscal year income group classifications. For the 2023 fiscal year, low-income economies are defined as those with a GNI per capita, calculated using the World Bank Atlas method, of \$1,085 or less in 2021; lower middle-income economies are those with a GNI per capita between \$1,086 and \$4,255; upper middle-income economies are those with a GNI per capita between \$4,256 and \$13,205; high-income economies are those with a GNI per capita of more than \$13,205. <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>.

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## High Income\*

							ADHERENCE TO THE RULE OF LAW		Weaker <span style="display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, orange, yellow, green, blue);"></span> Stronger				
Income Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score <sup>†</sup>	Annual % Change in Overall Score <sup>†</sup>	5-Year % Change in Overall Score <sup>‡§</sup>	Global Rank	Annual Change in Global Rank <sup>‡</sup>	Income Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score <sup>†</sup>	Annual % Change in Overall Score <sup>†</sup>	5-Year % Change in Overall Score <sup>‡§</sup>	Global Rank	Annual Change in Global Rank <sup>‡</sup>
1/46	Denmark	0.90	-0.3%	0.7%	1	0	25/46	Uruguay	0.72	0.4%	0.7%	25	0
2/46	Norway	0.89	0.3%	0.3%	2	0	26/46	United States	0.70	-0.6%	-4.0%	26	0
3/46	Finland	0.87	0.4%	0.3%	3	0	27/46	Slovenia	0.69	1.6%	2.3%	27	4 ▲
4/46	Sweden	0.85	-0.4%	-1.1%	4	0	28/46	Portugal	0.68	-0.9%	-5.2%	28	1 ▼
5/46	Germany	0.83	0.0%	-0.2%	5	1 ▲	29/46	Malta	0.68	0.1%	-	30	0
6/46	Luxembourg	0.83	0.8%	-	6	2 ▲	30/46	Cyprus	0.68	-0.9%	-	31	3 ▼
7/46	Netherlands	0.83	-0.3%	-2.5%	7	2 ▼	31/46	Italy	0.67	0.0%	2.0%	32	0
8/46	New Zealand	0.83	-0.2%	-0.4%	8	1 ▼	32/46	Chile	0.66	-0.1%	-0.7%	33	0
9/46	Estonia	0.82	0.0%	2.3%	9	0	33/46	Slovak Republic	0.66	0.3%	-	34	1 ▲
10/46	Ireland	0.81	0.3%	-	10	0	34/46	Barbados	0.66	0.0%	1.1%	35	1 ▼
11/46	Austria	0.80	-0.3%	-2.0%	11	0	35/46	Poland	0.64	-0.6%	-5.3%	36	0
12/46	Canada	0.80	0.0%	-1.6%	12	0	36/46	United Arab Emirates	0.64	0.2%	-1.9%	37	0
13/46	Australia	0.80	0.5%	-1.3%	13	0	37/46	Antigua and Barbuda	0.63	0.6%	0.7%	38	2 ▲
14/46	Japan	0.79	0.0%	-0.2%	14	2 ▲	38/46	St. Kitts and Nevis	0.63	0.1%	-4.3%	39	0
15/46	United Kingdom	0.78	-0.4%	-3.1%	15	0	39/46	Romania	0.63	-0.4%	-4.1%	40	2 ▼
16/46	Belgium	0.78	-1.0%	1.2%	16	2 ▼	40/46	Croatia	0.61	0.3%	0.2%	45	2 ▲
17/46	Singapore	0.78	-0.1%	-2.6%	17	0	41/46	Greece	0.61	-1.4%	-0.3%	47	3 ▼
18/46	Lithuania	0.77	0.4%	-	18	0	42/46	The Bahamas	0.59	-2.0%	-1.4%	50	2 ▼
19/46	Korea, Rep.	0.74	0.5%	2.0%	19	0	43/46	Kuwait	0.58	-	-	52	-
20/46	Czechia	0.73	0.1%	-1.3%	20	0	44/46	Trinidad and Tobago	0.52	-0.8%	-7.0%	70	1 ▼
21/46	France	0.73	-0.4%	-1.4%	21	0	45/46	Hungary	0.51	-0.2%	-6.0%	73	2 ▲
22/46	Latvia	0.73	0.7%	-	22	2 ▲	46/46	Panama	0.51	-0.5%	-1.2%	74	0
23/46	Hong Kong SAR, China	0.73	-0.2%	-6.0%	23	1 ▼							
24/46	Spain	0.72	-0.8%	2.4%	24	1 ▼							

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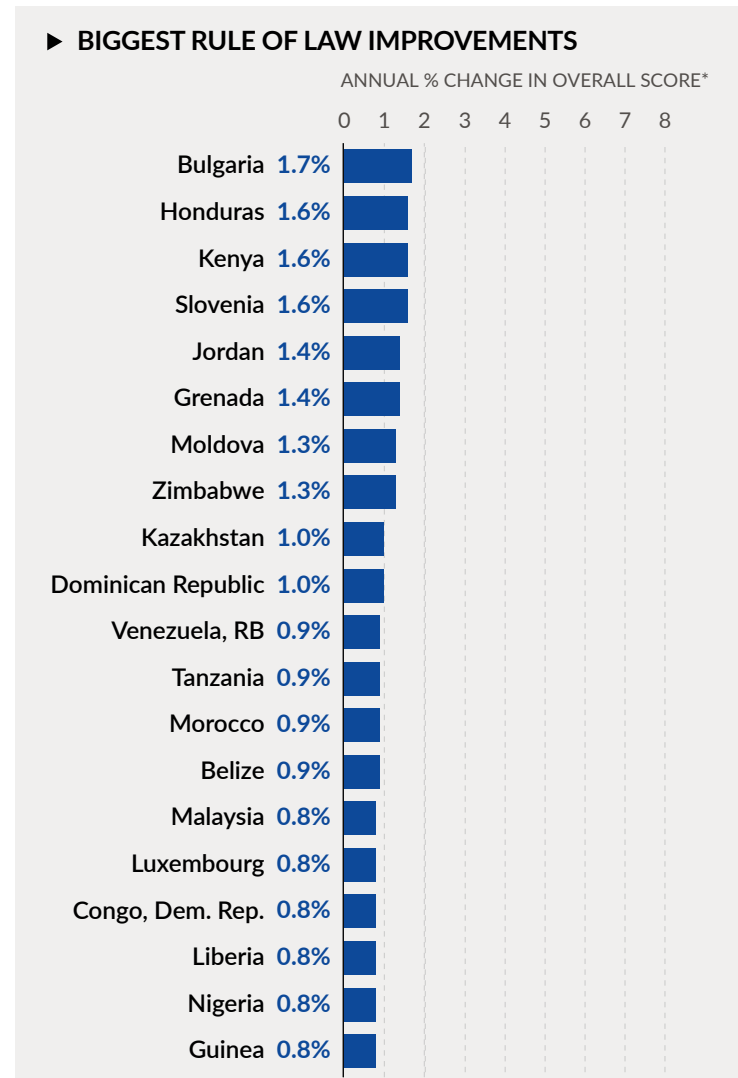
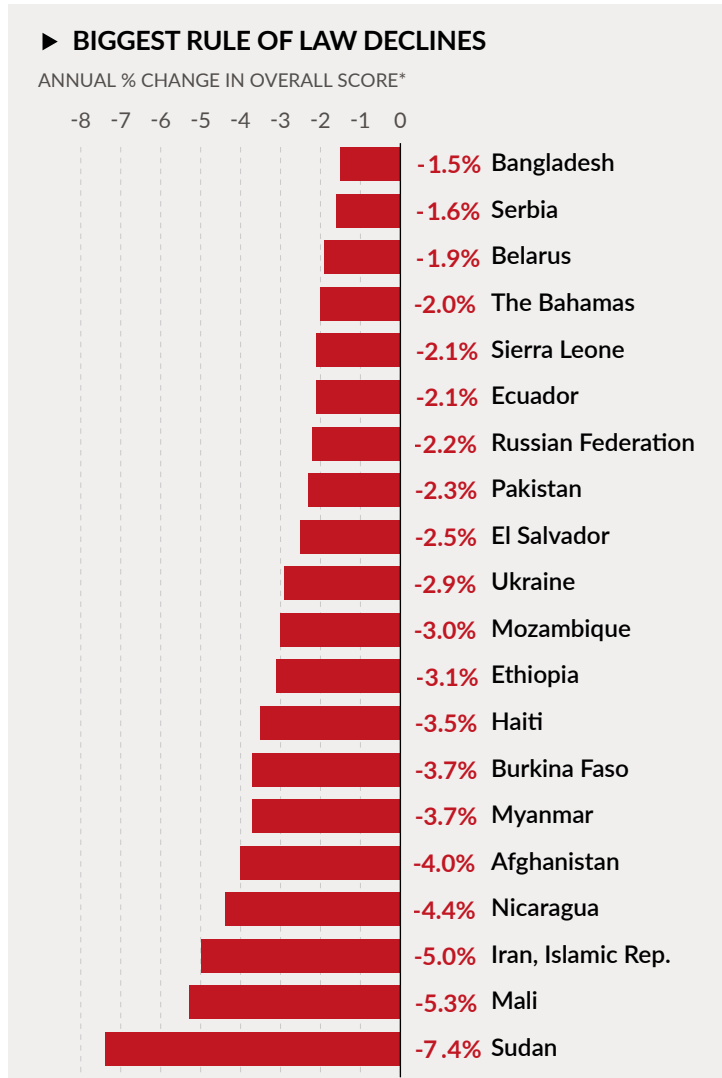
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FIGURE 5.

## Top Decliners and Improvers 2022-2023

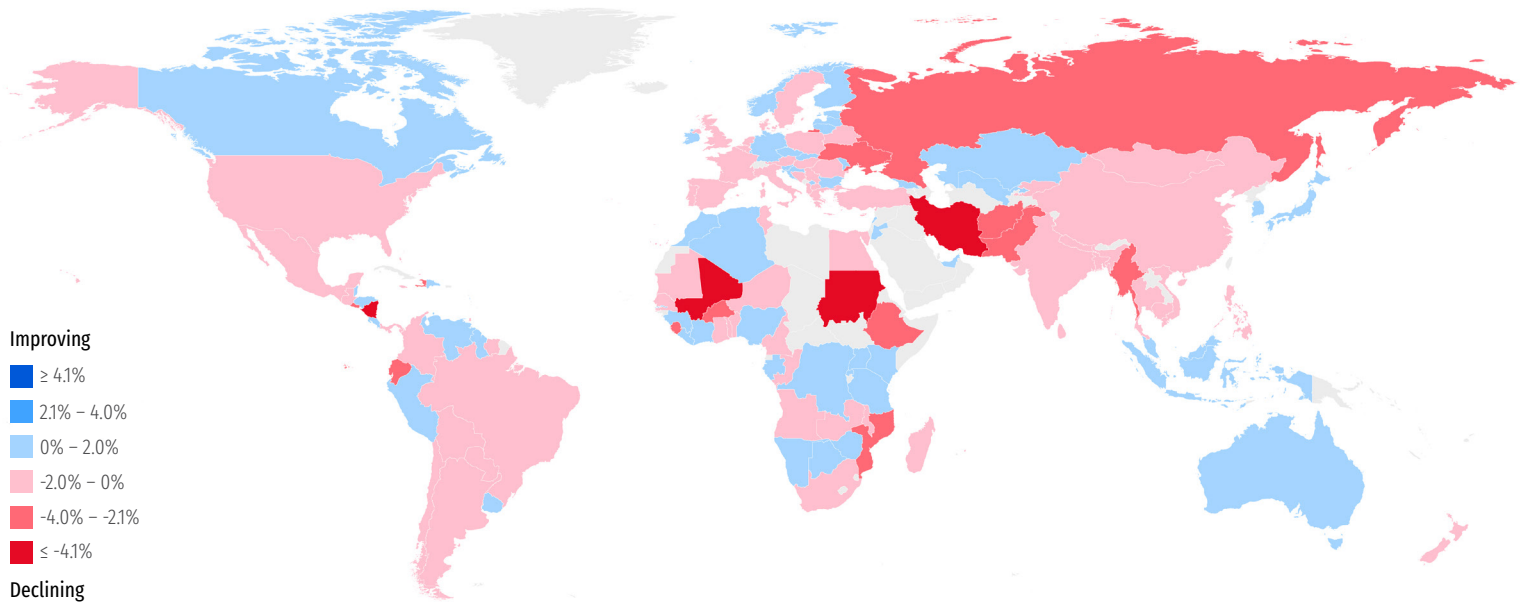


\* Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with percentage changes in rule of law scores that round to the same values have been listed according to their unrounded values in order to show their ranking more precisely.

**FIGURE 6.**

## More than 6 Billion People Now Live in Countries Where Rule of Law is Declining

For the sixth consecutive year, the rule of law weakened in more countries than those in which it improved (59% declined vs. 41% improved). More than six billion people live in the 59% of countries where the rule of law weakened in the past year. Figures in the heat map below reflect annual percentage change\* in overall rule of law score from 2022 to 2023.†



\* Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded scores in order to show changes.

† Countries and jurisdictions that are new to the Index in 2023 are not included.

# Factors Explaining This Year's Results

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The continued deterioration of the rule of law in 2023 can mostly be explained by two sets of issues:

## 1. Authoritarian trends continue.

- The factors measuring Constraints on Government Powers and Fundamental Rights once again declined in a majority of countries this year (56% each), and civic space continues to shrink around the world.
- Authoritarian trends spurred the global rule of law recession starting in 2016, but the extent and severity of annual declines in these areas has slowed since the peak of the pandemic.

## 2. Justice systems are failing to meet people's needs.

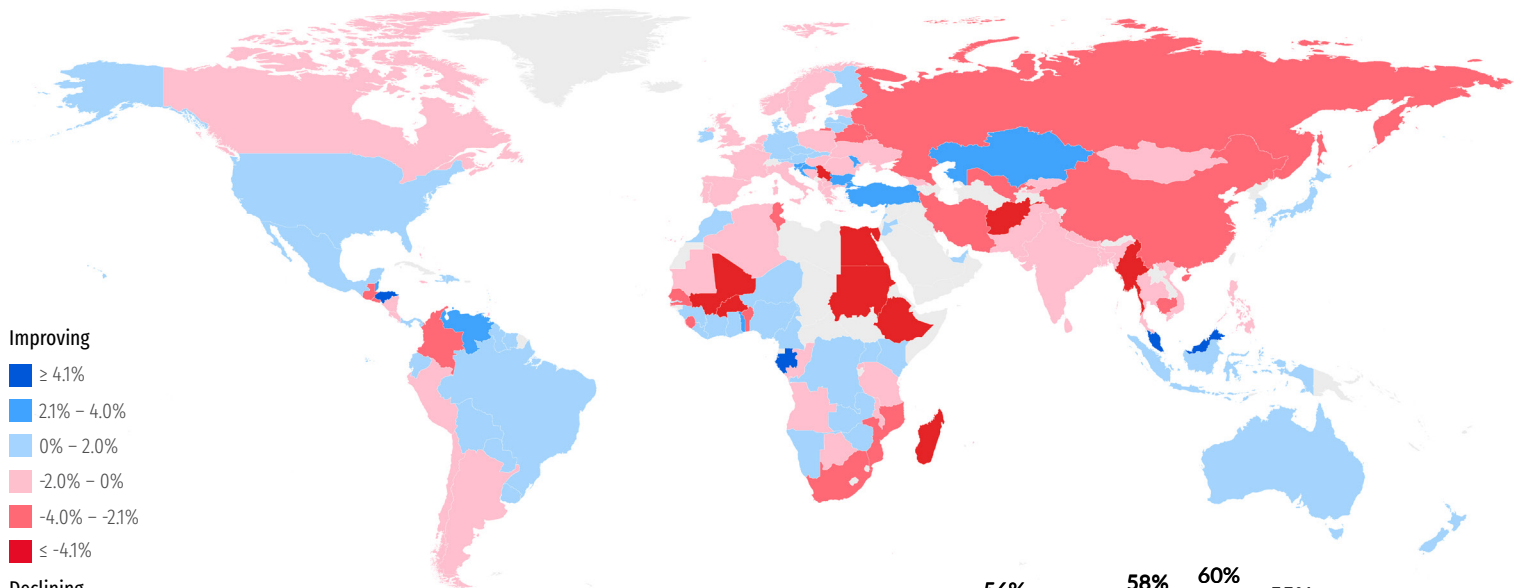
- Despite the Sustainable Development Goal 16 promise of access to justice for all, the proportion of countries with declines in civil and criminal justice is growing.
- Civil Justice is the rule of law factor that deteriorated in the most countries this year. About two out of three countries (66%) experienced a decline in Civil Justice in 2023, compared to 61% in 2022.
- Criminal Justice declined in 56% of countries this year, compared to 55% last year.
- Justice delays are increasing in a majority of countries, both in civil and criminal justice systems.

FIGURE 7.

## Checks on Government Powers Eroded in 56% of Countries from 2022 to 2023

The heat map shows percentage change\* in Constraints on Government Powers (Factor 1) scores in each country over the last year.†

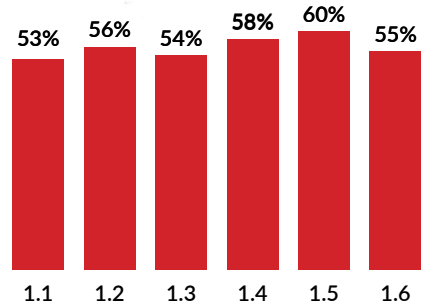
Percentage of Countries that: **Improved** (↑) 44% **Declined** (↓) 56%



**Improving**

- ≥ 4.1%
- 2.1% - 4.0%
- 0% - 2.0%
- 2.0% - 0%
- 4.0% - -2.1%
- ≤ -4.1%

**Declining**



### Percentage of countries that declined in each sub-factor of Factor 1

- 1.1 Limits by legislature
- 1.2 Limits by judiciary
- 1.3 Independent auditing
- 1.4 Sanctions for official misconduct
- 1.5 Non-governmental checks
- 1.6 Lawful transition of power

\* Annual percentage change in Factor 1 score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in Factor 1 scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded scores in order to show changes.

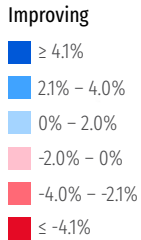
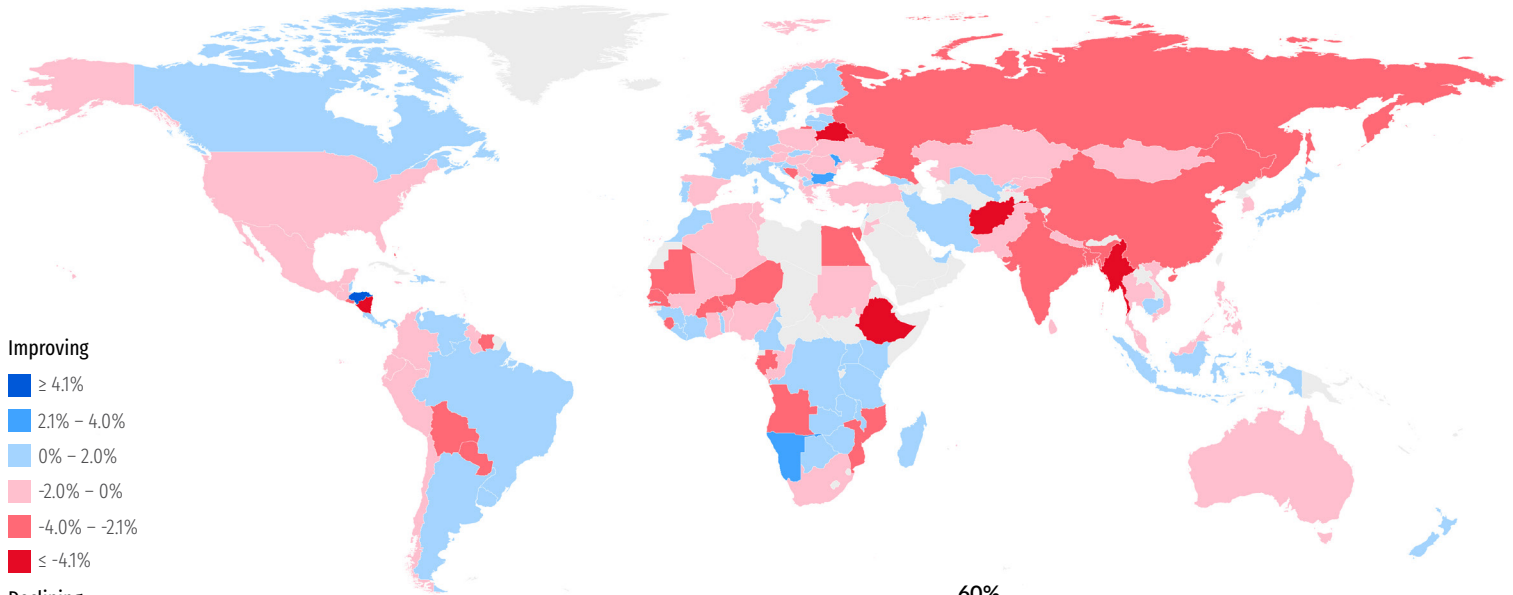
† Countries and jurisdictions that are new to the Index in 2023 are not included.

FIGURE 8.

## Respect for Fundamental Rights Fell in 56% of Countries from 2022 to 2023

The heat map shows percentage change\* in Fundamental Rights (Factor 4) scores in each country over the last year.†

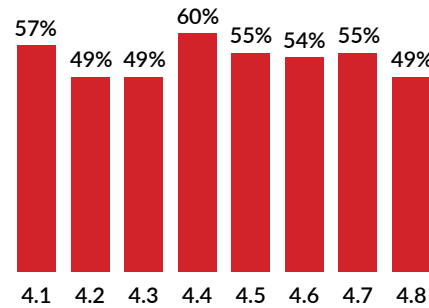
Percentage of Countries that: **Improved** (↑) 44% **Declined** (↓) 56%



**Declining**

### Percentage of countries that declined in each sub-factor of Factor 4

- |                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4.1 No discrimination          | 4.5 Freedom of religion    |
| 4.2 Right to life and security | 4.6 Right to privacy       |
| 4.3 Due process of law         | 4.7 Freedom of association |
| 4.4 Freedom of expression      | 4.8 Labor rights           |



\* Annual percentage change in Factor 4 score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in Factor 4 scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.

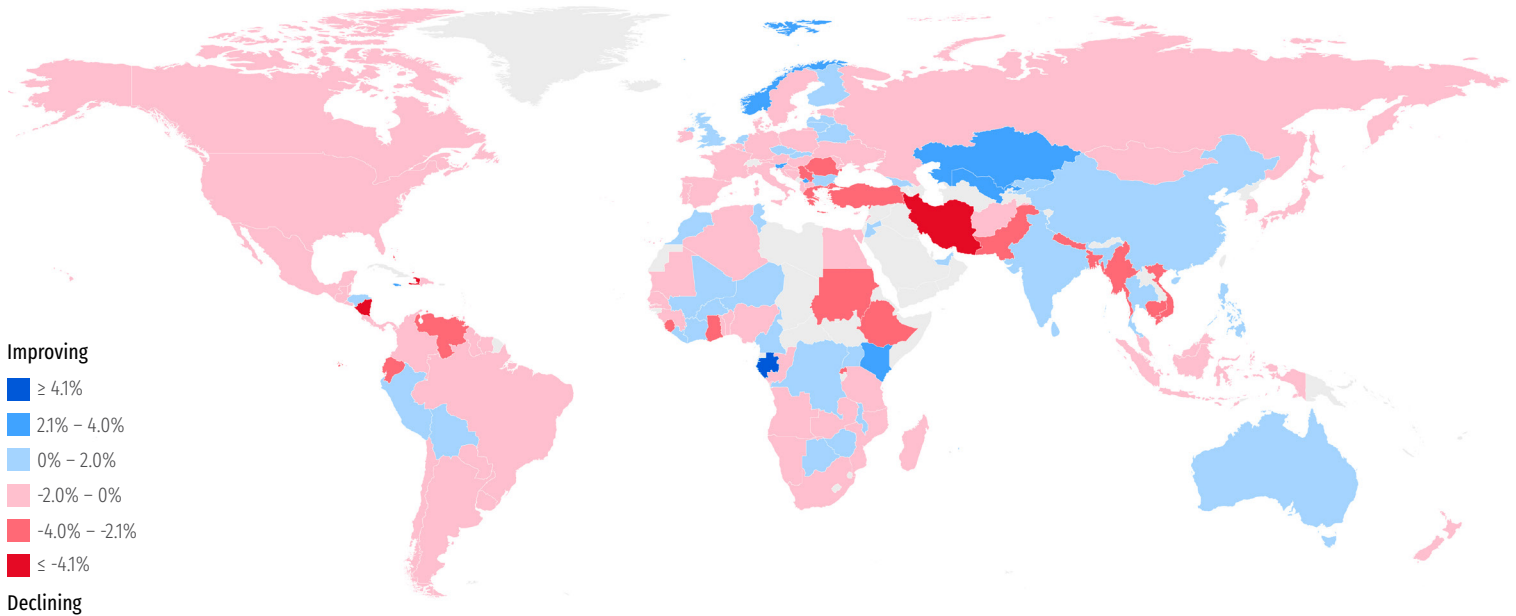
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FIGURE 9.

## Civil Justice Systems Weakened in 66% of Countries from 2022 to 2023

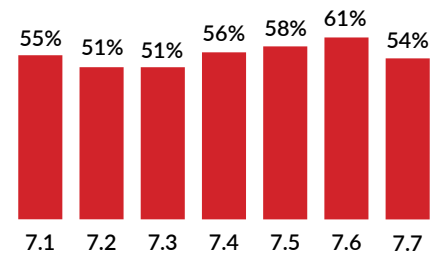
The heat map shows percentage change\* in Civil Justice (Factor 7) scores in each country over the last year.†

Percentage of Countries that: **Improved** (↑) 34% **Declined** (↓) 66%



### Percentage of countries that declined in each sub-factor of Factor 7

- |                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 7.1 Accessibility and affordability  | 7.5 No unreasonable delay        |
| 7.2 No discrimination                | 7.6 Effective enforcement        |
| 7.3 No corruption                    | 7.7 Impartial and effective ADRs |
| 7.4 No improper government influence |                                  |



\* Annual percentage change in Factor 7 score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in Factor 7 scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.

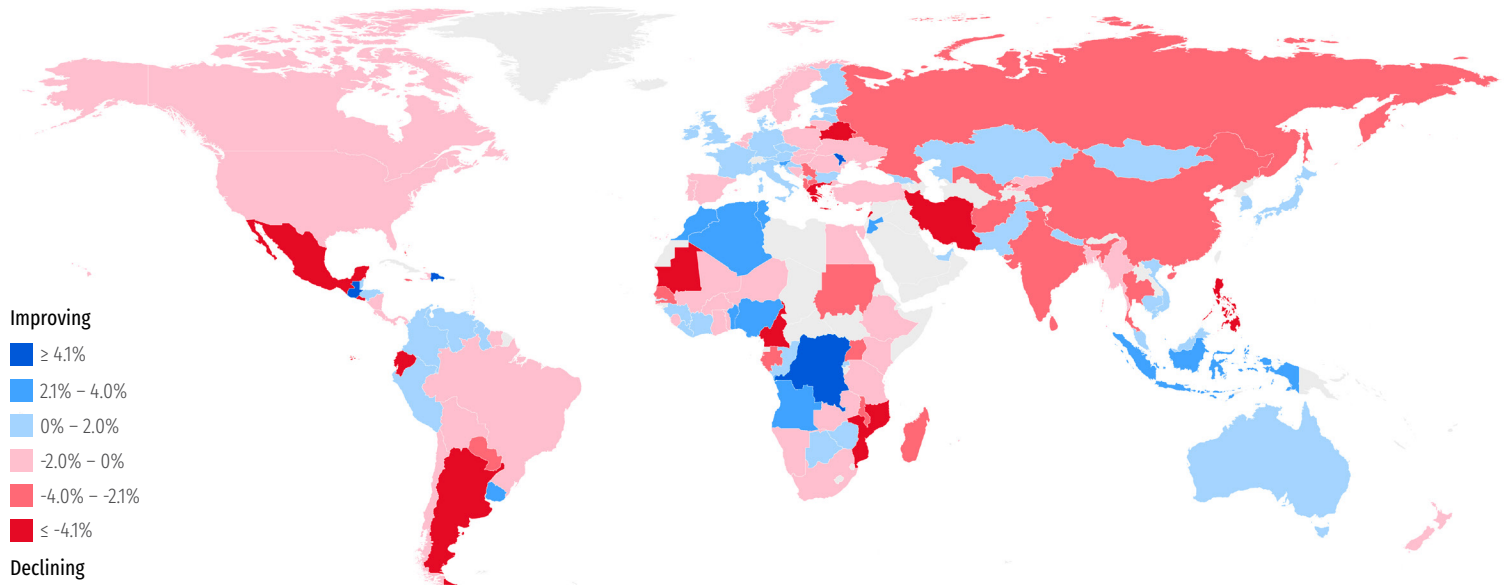
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FIGURE 10.

## Criminal Justice Systems Deteriorated in 56% of Countries from 2022 to 2023

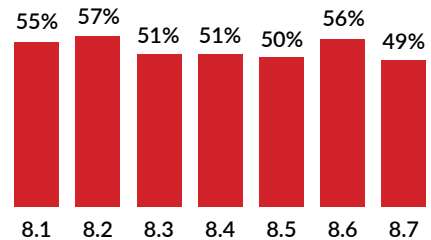
The heat map shows percentage change\* in Criminal Justice (Factor 8) scores in each country over the last year.†

Percentage of Countries that: **Improved** (↑) 44% **Declined** (↓) 56%



### Percentage of countries that declined in each sub-factor of Factor 8

- |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 8.1 Effective investigation           | 8.5 No corruption                    |
| 8.2 Timely and effective adjudication | 8.6 No improper government influence |
| 8.3 Effective correctional system     | 8.7 Due process of law               |
| 8.4 Impartiality                      |                                      |



\* Annual percentage change in Factor 8 score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in Factor 8 scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.

† Countries and jurisdictions that are new to the Index in 2023 are not included.



SECTION 2

# Rule of Law Trends



- 40 Rule of Law Trends
- 41 For the 6th consecutive year, rule of law has declined in more countries than it improved
- 42 Rule of Law Declined in 78% of Countries 2016-2023
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- 44 Improvements and Declines in Rule of Law 2015-2023
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# Rule of Law Trends

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In the last seven years (2016-2023), the rule of law has declined in 78% of countries, where on average the rule of law has deteriorated by -5.0%. The factors with the most countries experiencing declines in the past seven years are Constraints on Government Powers (74%), Fundamental Rights (77%), and Criminal Justice (74%).

During this time, countries with weaker rule of law have experienced larger declines than countries with stronger rule of law.

While the rule of law has continued to weaken in a majority of countries, there have been some positive developments. Over the past three years, the proportion of countries with declining rule of law has gotten smaller.

Declines in Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, and Fundamental Rights are less widespread than in previous years. More countries still declined than improved in these factors this year. However, the proportion of countries with declines in these factors is shrinking.

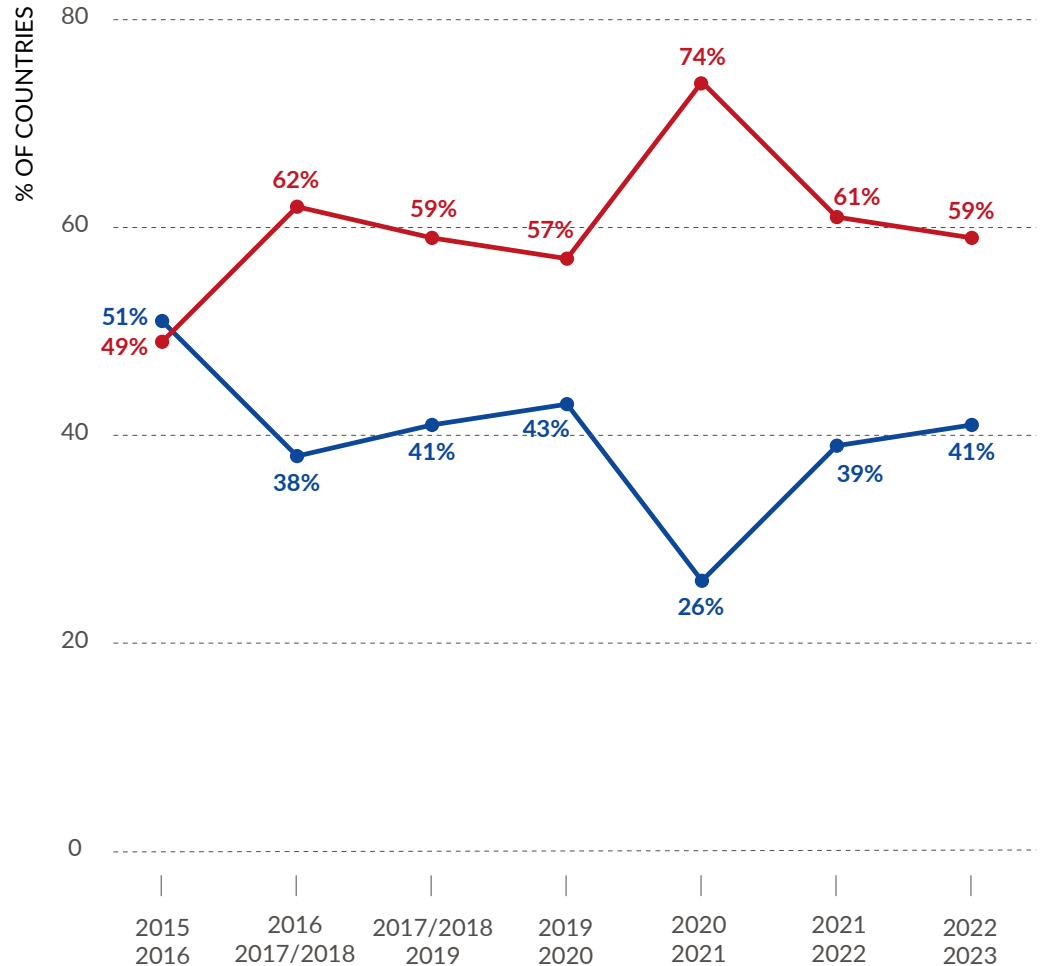
However, Civil Justice and Criminal Justice are demonstrating the reverse trend. Declines in these factors are more widespread than in previous years. Not only did more countries decline than improve in these factors, but the proportion of countries declining is growing. Civil and criminal justice systems are increasingly failing to meet people's needs, pointing to an urgent need for people-centered justice.

FIGURE 11.

## For the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, rule of law has declined in more countries than it improved

Percentage of countries whose overall rule of law score has improved or declined since 2015.\*† Between 2022 and 2023, rule of law declined in 59% of countries and improved in 41% of countries. The average decline in score over this period is -1.31%. The extent and rate of this decline, however, have decreased compared to the previous two years, when the rule of law fell in 61% and 74% of countries, with average declines of -1.43% and -1.65%, respectively.

- % of countries that improved
- % of countries that declined



\* Percentage of countries that improved or declined is calculated using the number of countries and jurisdictions common to the years in question.

† The scores for the 2015, 2016, and 2017-18 indices were updated to account for methodological changes made in the 2017-2018 Index. Older versions of these scores might not match the revised versions

FIGURE 12.

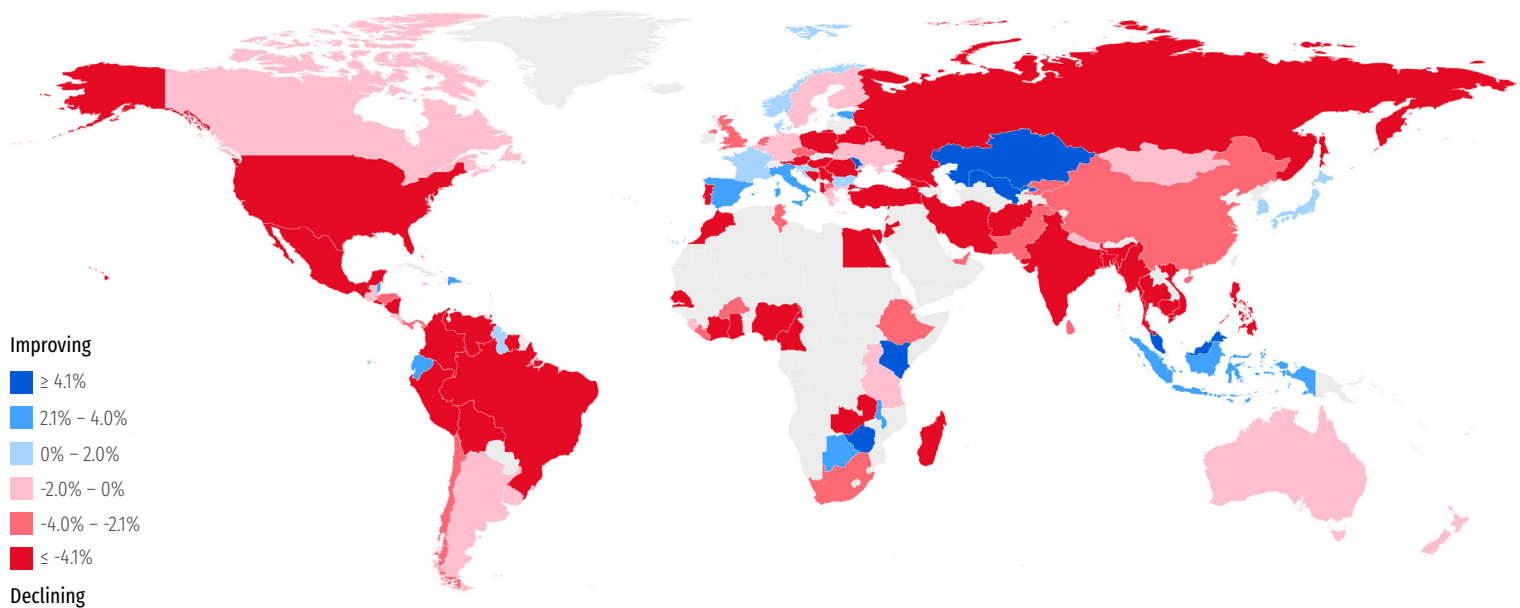
## Rule of Law Declined in 78% of Countries 2016-2023

Since the global rule of law recession began, rule of law scores\* have declined in 78% of countries. On average, between 2016† and 2023, the rule of law deteriorated by -5% across the 113 countries included in the 2016 Index.

Percentage of Countries that:

Declined  
↓ 78%

Improved  
↑ 22%



\* Percentage change in overall rule of law score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with percentage changes in rule of law scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.

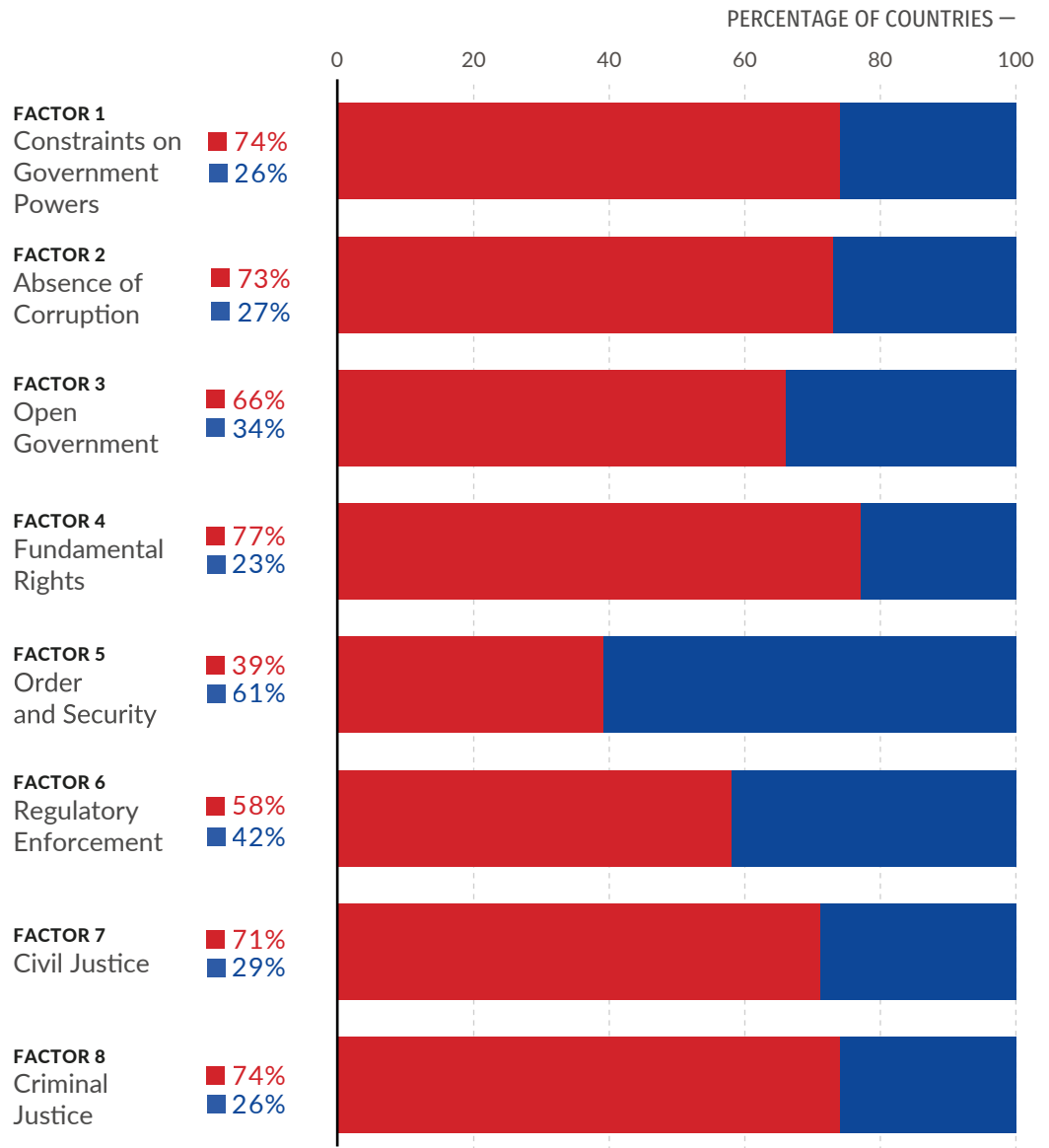
† The scores for the 2015, 2016, and 2017-18 indices were updated to account for methodological changes made in the 2017-2018 Index. Older versions of these scores might not match the revised versions

**FIGURE 13.**

## Factors of the Rule of Law 2016-2023

Over the last seven years (2016-2023), seven out of the eight factors of the rule of law have declined in more countries than they have improved. The graphic shows the percentage of countries\* that improved and declined in each factor between 2016† and 2023. The three biggest decliners over the past seven years are Constraints on Government Powers (74%), Fundamental Rights (77%), and Criminal Justice (74%).

■ % of countries that declined  
 ■ % of countries that improved



\* Percentage of countries is rounded to the nearest whole number.

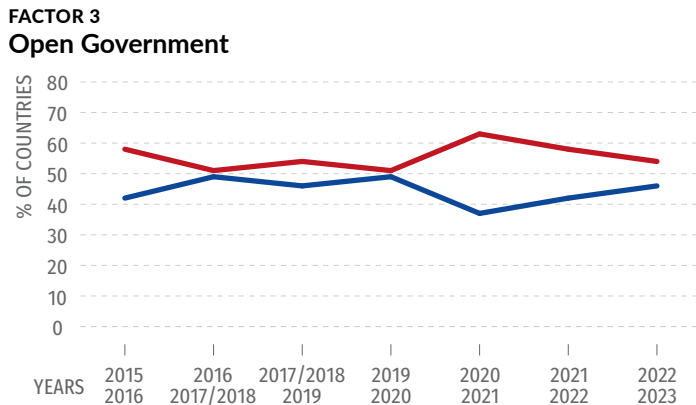
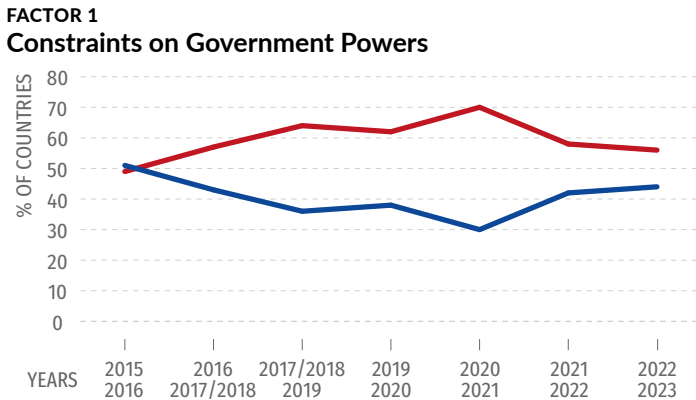
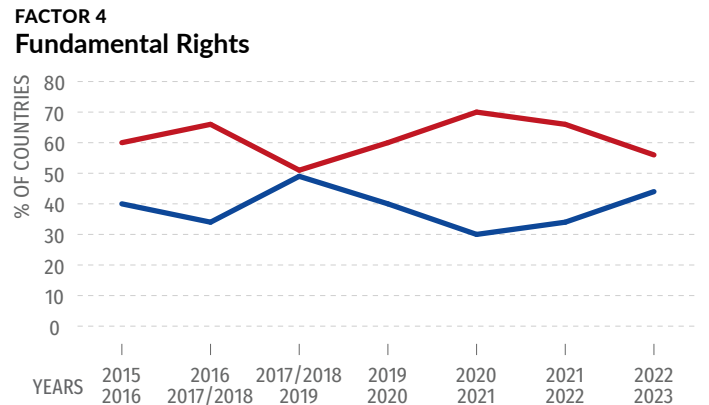
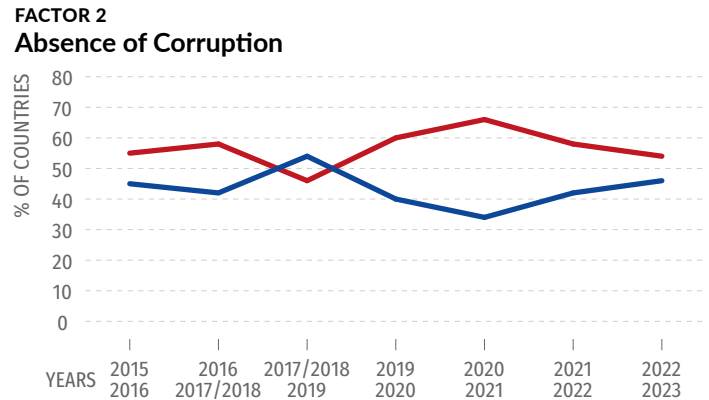
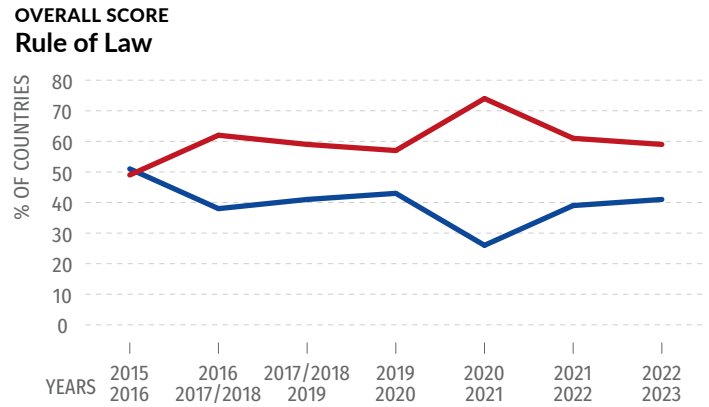
† The scores for the 2015, 2016, and 2017-18 indices were updated to account for methodological changes made in the 2017-2018 Index. Older versions of these scores might not match the revised versions

FIGURE 14.

## Improvements and Declines in Rule of Law 2015-2023

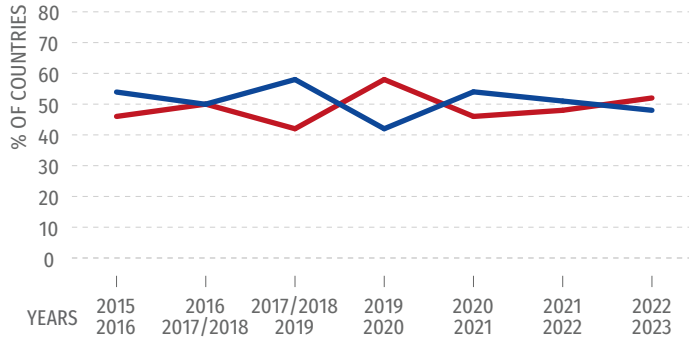
Percentage of countries\* that improved and declined overall and in each factor of the rule of law over time.†

■ % of countries that declined    
 ■ % of countries that improved

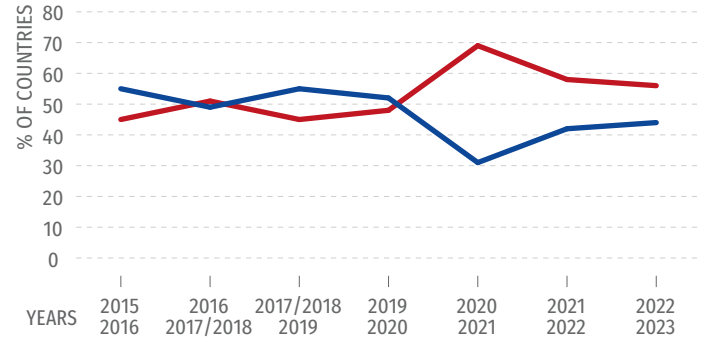


\* Percentage of countries is rounded to the nearest whole number.

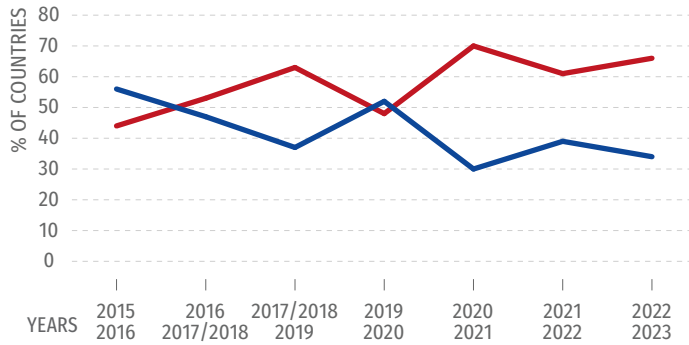
**FACTOR 5**  
**Order and Security**



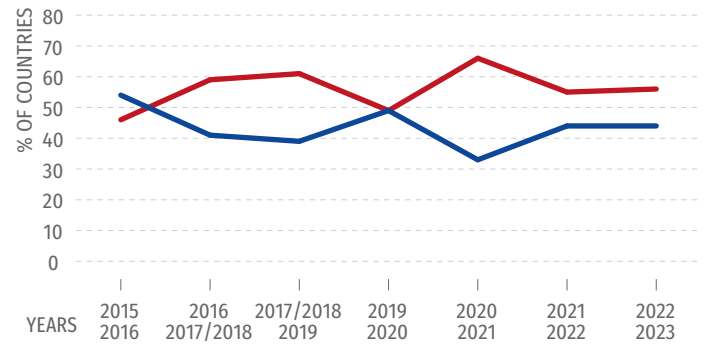
**FACTOR 6**  
**Regulatory Enforcement**



**FACTOR 7**  
**Civil Justice**



**FACTOR 8**  
**Criminal Justice**



\* Percentage of countries is rounded to the nearest whole number.

† The scores for the 2015, 2016, and 2017-18 indices were updated to account for methodological changes made in the 2017-2018 Index. Older versions of these scores might not match the revised versions.

FIGURE 15.

## Rule of Law Changes Are Often Slow and Inconsistent

Annual percentage change in score\* between editions of the *WJP Rule of Law Index* since 2018.† Over the last five years, the top improvers are Moldova (7.7%), Uzbekistan (7.7%), Malaysia (6.1%), Zimbabwe (5.9%), and Dominican Republic (4.4%).

■ Five consecutive declines  
■ Five consecutive improvements

HOW TO READ THIS GRAPHIC?

Declining ≤ -4.1% -4.0% -2.1% -2.0% - 0% 0% -2.0% 2.1% -4.0% ≥ 4.1% Improving

Country/ Jurisdiction	2017/18 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 Overall Score	5-Year Trend
<b>Afghanistan</b>	0.4%	4.3%	-2.7%	-6.3%	-4.0%	0.32	-8.3%
<b>Albania</b>	-0.9%	-1.2%	-1.7%	-0.9%	-0.7%	0.48	-5.2%
<b>Algeria</b>	-	-2.3%	-0.5%	-1.1%	0.6%	0.49	-
<b>Angola</b>	-	3.1%	0.5%	-0.3%	-0.3%	0.43	-
<b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>	-0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	-0.4%	0.6%	0.63	0.7%
<b>Argentina</b>	-0.2%	-0.5%	-3.7%	-1.7%	-0.5%	0.55	-6.4%
<b>Australia</b>	-0.4%	-0.3%	-1.2%	0.1%	0.5%	0.80	-1.3%
<b>Austria</b>	0.7%	-0.6%	-0.6%	-1.2%	-0.3%	0.80	-2.0%
<b>The Bahamas</b>	1.5%	-0.9%	0.5%	-0.4%	-2.0%	0.59	-1.4%
<b>Bangladesh</b>	1.1%	-1.6%	-2.8%	-1.5%	-1.5%	0.38	-6.2%
<b>Barbados</b>	0.0%	-0.7%	0.7%	1.1%	0.0%	0.66	1.1%
<b>Belarus</b>	0.6%	-0.5%	-7.5%	-3.2%	-1.9%	0.45	-12.0%
<b>Belgium</b>	2.2%	-0.5%	0.6%	-0.1%	-1.0%	0.78	1.2%
<b>Belize</b>	0.4%	0.1%	0.0%	2.0%	0.9%	0.49	3.3%
<b>Benin</b>	-	-0.4%	-2.3%	0.4%	-0.6%	0.48	-
<b>Bolivia</b>	-0.7%	0.3%	0.9%	-3.0%	-0.5%	0.37	-2.9%

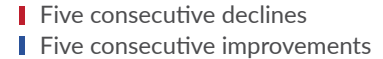
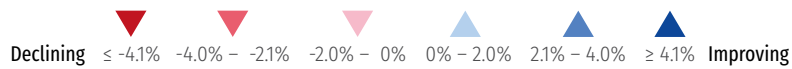
\* Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.

† Countries and jurisdictions that are new to the Index in 2023 are not included.

‡ The scores for the 2015, 2016, and 2017-18 indices were updated to account for methodological changes made in the 2017-2018 Index. Older versions of these scores might not match the revised versions.



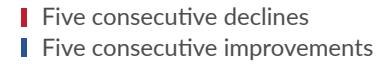
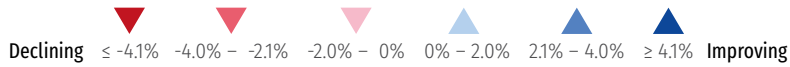
**HOW TO READ THIS GRAPHIC?**



Country/ Jurisdiction	2017/18 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 Overall Score	5-Year Trend	Country/ Jurisdiction	2017/18 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 Overall Score	5-Year Trend
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-0.8%	-1.4%	-0.8%	0.9%	-1.2%	0.51	-3.5%	Congo, Dem. Rep.	-	2.6%	1.2%	-1.2%	0.8%	0.34	-
Botswana	0.9%	1.7%	-1.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.59	1.3%	Congo, Rep.	-	-	-	-3.0%	-1.2%	0.40	-
 Brazil	-1.4%	-2.9%	-2.9%	-1.2%	-0.9%	0.49	-8.9%	Costa Rica	-0.1%	-0.5%	-0.8%	0.7%	0.0%	0.68	-0.6%
Bulgaria	1.6%	0.5%	-1.0%	1.0%	1.7%	0.56	3.9%	Côte d'Ivoire	-1.9%	-0.4%	-3.4%	-0.3%	0.7%	0.45	-5.2%
Burkina Faso	0.2%	-0.1%	-0.9%	-2.5%	-3.7%	0.47	-6.7%	Croatia	-1.0%	1.1%	-1.0%	0.6%	0.3%	0.61	0.2%
Cambodia	0.2%	0.7%	-2.3%	-2.0%	-0.1%	0.31	-3.5%	Cyprus	-	-	-	0.0%	-0.9%	0.68	-
Cameroon	2.0%	-4.4%	-2.1%	1.0%	-0.3%	0.35	-4.0%	Czechia	-2.0%	0.6%	-0.4%	0.5%	0.1%	0.73	-1.3%
Canada	-0.5%	-0.2%	-1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.80	-1.6%	Denmark	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	-0.3%	0.90	0.7%
Chile	1.3%	-0.9%	-0.8%	-0.2%	-0.1%	0.66	-0.7%	Dominica	-2.1%	-0.6%	-0.6%	-0.3%	0.1%	0.58	-3.6%
China	-2.9%	-1.5%	-1.9%	0.5%	-0.9%	0.47	-6.7%	Dominican Republic	-0.8%	3.1%	0.0%	1.1%	1.0%	0.49	4.4%
Colombia	-1.8%	0.8%	-2.2%	-1.1%	-0.4%	0.48	-4.7%	Ecuador	0.7%	2.0%	-0.1%	-0.6%	-2.1%	0.47	-0.2%

\* Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.  
 † Countries and jurisdictions that are new to the Index in 2023 are not included.

**HOW TO READ THIS GRAPHIC?**



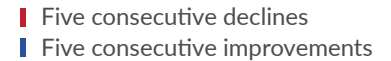
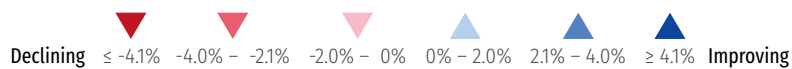
Country/ Jurisdiction	2017/18 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 Overall Score	5-Year Trend
<b>Egypt, Arab Rep.</b>	-1.8%	0.1%	-2.8%	1.4%	-1.2%	0.35	-4.4%
<b>El Salvador</b>	-0.7%	3.2%	-3.3%	-4.1%	-2.5%	0.45	-7.4%
<b>Estonia</b>	1.1%	0.0%	-0.1%	1.2%	0.0%	0.82	2.3%
<b>Ethiopia</b>	2.5%	5.6%	-1.0%	-3.6%	-3.1%	0.38	0.2%
<b>Finland</b>	0.3%	-0.1%	0.4%	-0.8%	0.4%	0.87	0.3%
<b>France</b>	-0.2%	-1.3%	-0.9%	1.4%	-0.4%	0.73	-1.4%
<b>Gabon</b>	-	-	-	-	0.3%	0.39	-
<b>The Gambia</b>	-	-	-3.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.49	-
<b>Georgia</b>	-0.3%	-1.1%	0.5%	-0.6%	0.3%	0.60	-1.2%
<b>Germany</b>	-0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	-0.6%	0.0%	0.83	-0.2%
<b>Ghana</b>	-2.6%	-1.9%	-2.2%	-0.3%	-0.5%	0.55	-7.4%

Country/ Jurisdiction	2017/18 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 Overall Score	5-Year Trend
<b>Greece</b>	1.5%	-0.9%	-0.5%	1.0%	-1.4%	0.61	-0.3%
<b>Grenada</b>	-1.6%	-1.8%	0.1%	0.4%	1.4%	0.60	-1.6%
<b>Guatemala</b>	3.8%	-2.3%	-1.2%	-1.0%	-0.3%	0.44	-1.0%
<b>Guinea</b>	-	-3.9%	-1.4%	-0.8%	0.8%	0.41	-
<b>Guyana</b>	-0.3%	0.2%	-0.7%	0.1%	0.2%	0.50	-0.5%
<b>Haiti</b>	-	-	-	-6.4%	-3.5%	0.34	-
<b>Honduras</b>	-1.0%	0.2%	-2.2%	3.1%	1.6%	0.41	1.6%
<b>Hong Kong SAR, China</b>	-0.7%	-0.4%	-2.0%	-2.8%	-0.2%	0.73	-6.0%
<b>Hungary</b>	-2.6%	-1.1%	-1.4%	-0.8%	-0.2%	0.51	-6.0%
<b>India</b>	-1.3%	-0.5%	-1.9%	-0.4%	-0.7%	0.49	-4.8%
<b>Indonesia</b>	0.4%	1.3%	-1.0%	1.6%	0.2%	0.53	2.6%

\* Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.

† Countries and jurisdictions that are new to the Index in 2023 are not included.

**HOW TO READ THIS GRAPHIC?**



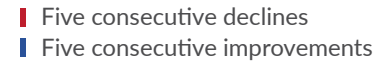
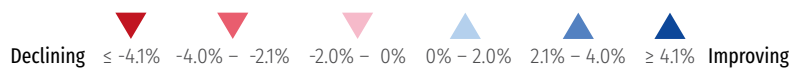
Country/ Jurisdiction	2017/18 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 Overall Score	5-Year Trend	Country/ Jurisdiction	2017/18 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 Overall Score	5-Year Trend
<b>Iran, Islamic Rep.</b>	-6.2%	-4.2%	-2.3%	-2.6%	-5.0%	0.39	-18.9%	<b>Latvia</b>	-	-	-	1.1%	0.7%	0.73	-
Ireland	-	-	-	0.1%	0.3%	0.81	-	Lebanon	-0.1%	-3.3%	-0.9%	-0.8%	0.0%	0.45	-5.0%
Italy	0.3%	0.5%	0.2%	1.0%	0.0%	0.67	2.0%	Liberia	1.2%	-1.3%	-2.6%	-1.7%	0.8%	0.44	-3.6%
Jamaica	-2.1%	0.8%	0.4%	1.6%	-1.1%	0.57	-0.4%	Lithuania	-	-	-	1.7%	0.4%	0.77	-
Japan	-1.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.79	-0.2%	Luxembourg	-	-	-	-0.2%	0.8%	0.83	-
Jordan	-4.8%	-0.1%	-3.0%	-1.8%	1.4%	0.55	-8.1%	Madagascar	-1.7%	2.4%	-0.6%	-0.4%	-1.4%	0.43	-1.7%
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	0.2%	0.9%	0.3%	0.7%	1.0%	0.53	3.1%	Malawi	0.7%	0.7%	1.0%	0.2%	-0.5%	0.52	2.1%
Kenya	0.2%	-0.2%	-0.9%	1.0%	1.6%	0.46	1.7%	Malaysia	3.3%	5.1%	-1.4%	-1.7%	0.8%	0.57	6.1%
Korea, Rep.	1.4%	0.0%	0.4%	-0.4%	0.5%	0.74	2.0%	Mali	-	-2.8%	-2.9%	-0.5%	-5.3%	0.40	-
Kosovo	-	-	0.6%	2.4%	0.4%	0.56	-	Malta	-	-	-	-0.3%	0.1%	0.68	-
Kyrgyz Republic	0.6%	1.4%	-3.7%	-1.3%	-1.4%	0.45	-4.5%	Mauritania	-	4.0%	0.9%	0.4%	-1.4%	0.36	-

\* Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.  
† Countries and jurisdictions that are new to the Index in 2023 are not included.



\* Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.  
† Countries and jurisdictions that are new to the Index in 2023 are not included.

**HOW TO READ THIS GRAPHIC?**



Country/ Jurisdiction	2017/18 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 Overall Score	5-Year Trend	Country/ Jurisdiction	2017/18 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 Overall Score	5-Year Trend
<b>Portugal</b>	-1.2%	-1.1%	-0.6%	-1.5%	-0.9%	0.68	-5.2%	<b>Spain</b>	2.1%	1.3%	0.1%	-0.3%	-0.8%	0.72	2.4%
Romania	-2.3%	-1.5%	-0.8%	0.9%	-0.4%	0.63	-4.1%	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	-1.3%	-0.2%	-3.0%	-0.3%	-0.5%	0.50	-5.2%
Russian Federation	0.7%	-1.4%	-0.7%	-3.5%	-2.2%	0.44	-7.0%	St. Kitts and Nevis	-2.3%	-2.1%	-0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.63	-4.3%
Rwanda	-	1.3%	0.5%	1.4%	0.1%	0.63	-	St. Lucia	-2.3%	0.7%	-0.1%	-0.8%	0.4%	0.62	-2.0%
Senegal	-0.1%	-0.1%	0.5%	1.2%	-1.3%	0.55	0.2%	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	1.4%	2.8%	-0.2%	-0.8%	-0.8%	0.63	2.3%
Serbia	-0.4%	0.6%	-1.8%	-0.8%	-1.6%	0.48	-4.0%	Sudan	-	-	-	-7.9%	-7.4%	0.36	-
Sierra Leone	0.2%	-0.9%	-1.5%	1.2%	-2.1%	0.44	-3.1%	Suriname	0.0%	-1.8%	-1.9%	1.0%	-0.9%	0.49	-3.6%
<b>Singapore</b>	-0.1%	-0.9%	-1.0%	-0.5%	-0.1%	0.78	-2.6%	Sweden	-0.4%	0.2%	0.0%	-0.5%	-0.4%	0.85	-1.1%
Slovak Republic	-	-	-	-0.9%	0.3%	0.66	-	Tanzania	-0.5%	0.5%	-1.1%	-0.8%	0.9%	0.47	-0.9%
Slovenia	0.2%	1.7%	-0.4%	-0.8%	1.6%	0.69	2.3%	Thailand	-0.6%	0.9%	-2.2%	-0.2%	-1.0%	0.49	-3.0%
South Africa	-1.7%	1.4%	-0.4%	-1.3%	-1.2%	0.57	-3.3%	Togo	-	-0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	-1.1%	0.45	-

\* Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.

† Countries and jurisdictions that are new to the Index in 2023 are not included.



\* Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.  
† Countries and jurisdictions that are new to the Index in 2023 are not included.





SECTION 3

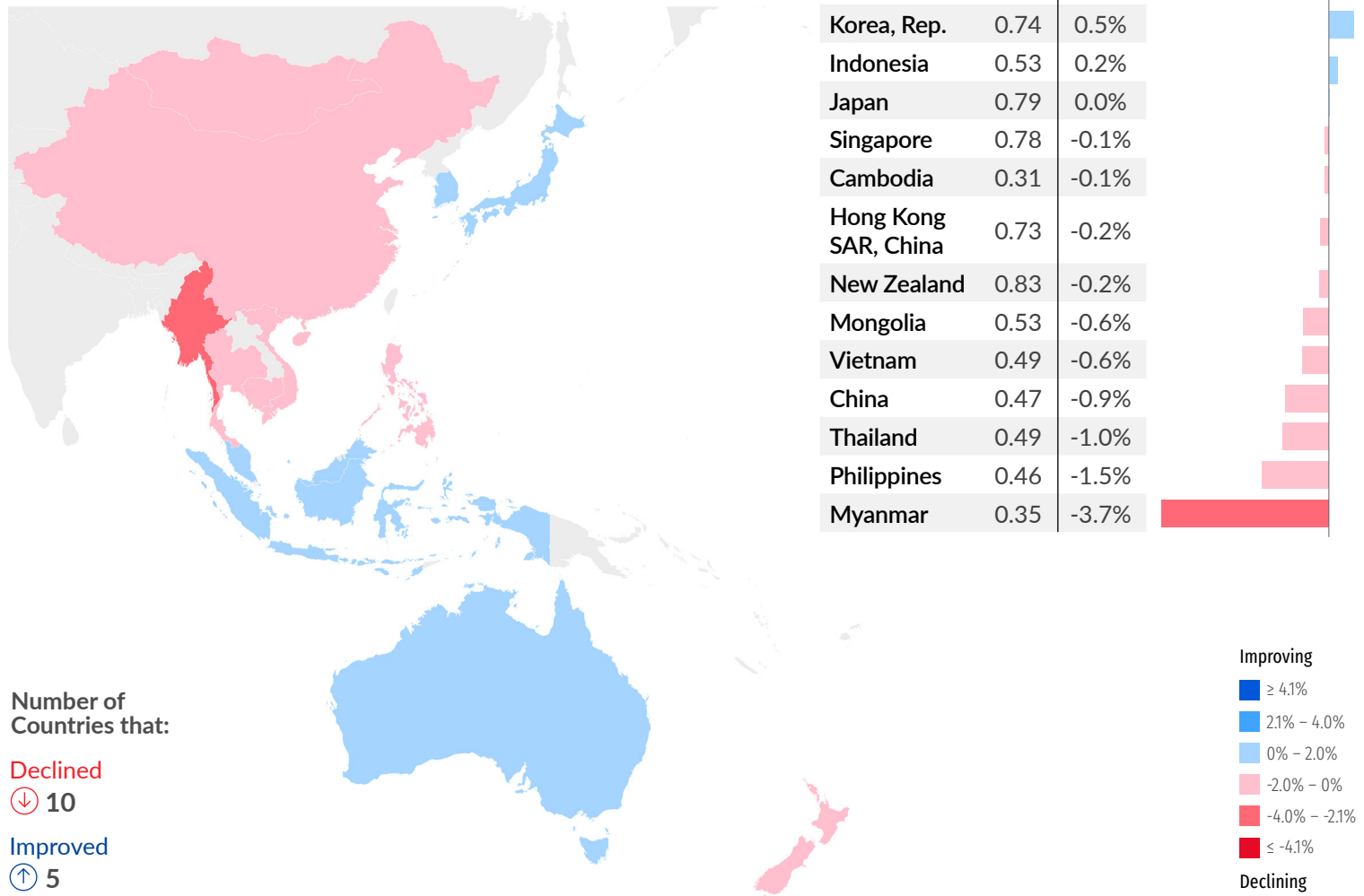
# Regional Rule of Law Insights



- 56 Rule of Law Changes in East Asia and the Pacific from 2022 to 2023
- 57 Rule of Law Changes in Eastern Europe and Central Asia from 2022 to 2023
- 58 Rule of Law Changes in the European Union from 2022 to 2023
- 59 Rule of Law Changes in Latin America and the Caribbean from 2022 to 2023
- 60 Rule of Law Changes in the Middle East and North Africa from 2022 to 2023
- 61 Rule of Law Changes in South Asia from 2022 to 2023
- 62 Rule of Law Changes in Sub-Saharan Africa from 2022 to 2023

FIGURE 16.

## Rule of Law Changes in East Asia and the Pacific from 2022 to 2023



\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.

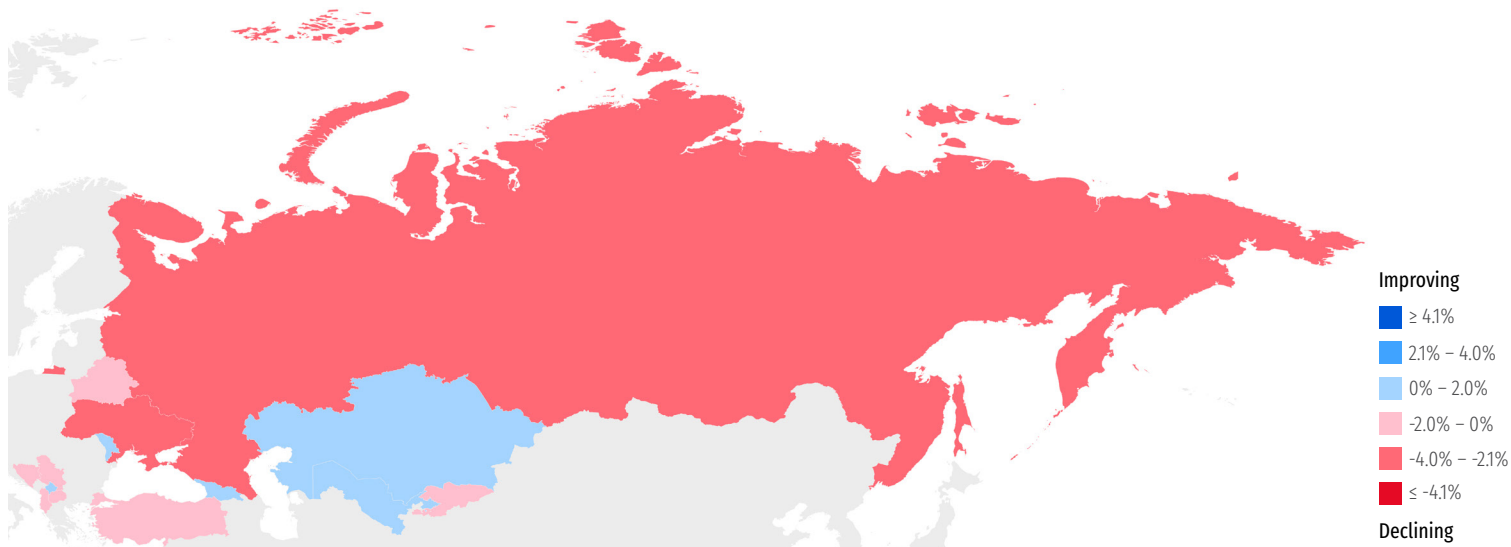


FIGURE 17.

## Rule of Law Changes in Eastern Europe and Central Asia from 2022 to 2023

Number of Countries that:

Declined ↓ 9      Improved ↑ 5

Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score	Annual % Change in Overall Score*
Montenegro	0.56	-
Moldova	0.53	1.3%
Kazakhstan	0.53	1.0%
Kosovo	0.56	0.4%
Georgia	0.60	0.3%
Uzbekistan	0.50	0.1%
Albania	0.48	-0.7%
Türkiye	0.41	-0.7%
North Macedonia	0.53	-0.9%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.51	-1.2%
Kyrgyz Republic	0.45	-1.4%
Serbia	0.48	-1.6%
Belarus	0.45	-1.9%
Russian Federation	0.44	-2.2%
Ukraine	0.49	-2.9%

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.

FIGURE 18.

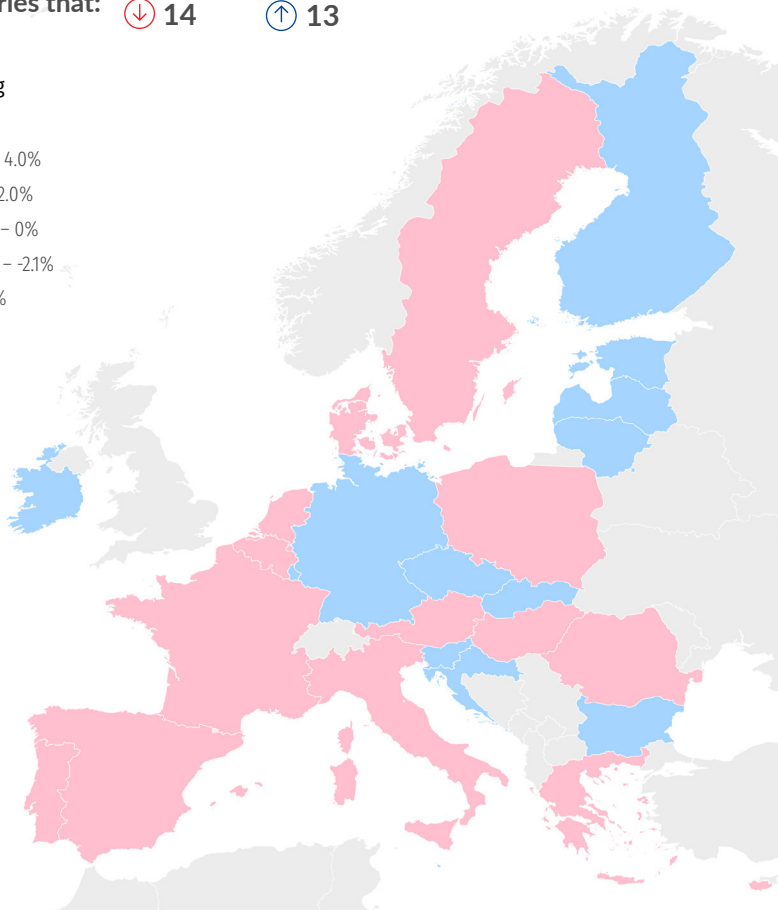
## Rule of Law Changes in the European Union from 2022 to 2023

Number of Countries that: ↓ 14 Declined ↑ 13 Improved

### Improving

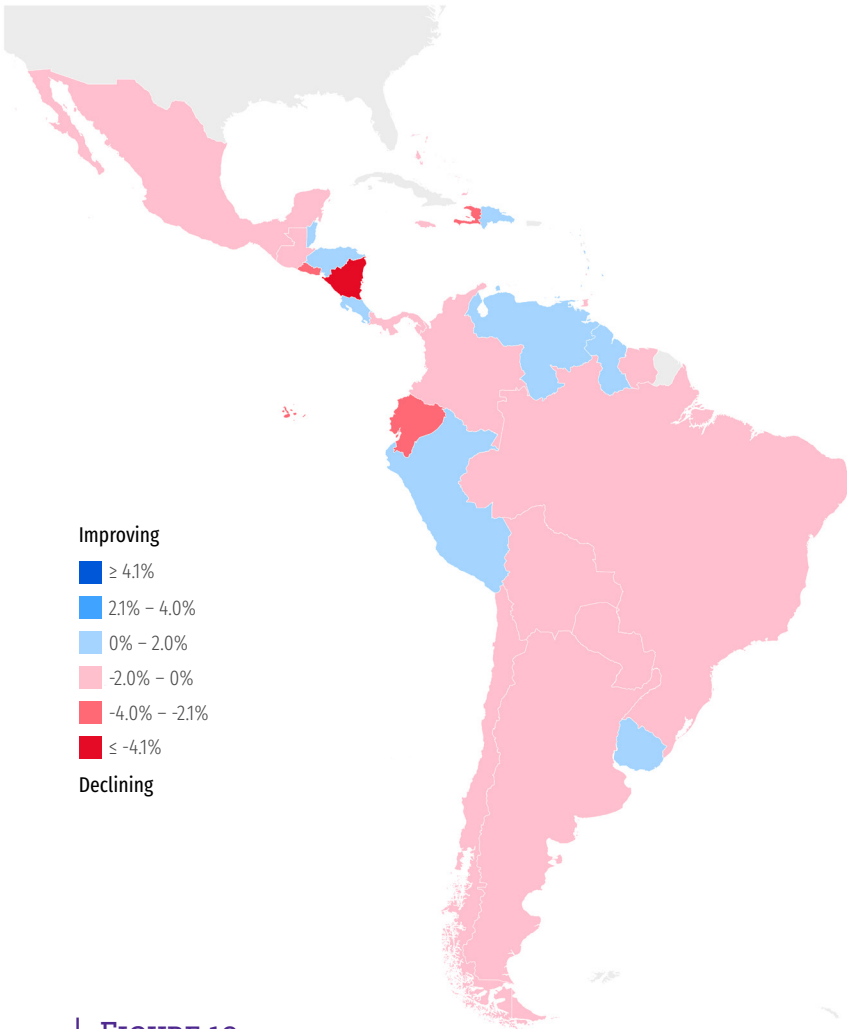
- ≥ 4.1%
- 2.1% – 4.0%
- 0% – 2.0%
- -2.0% – 0%
- -4.0% – -2.1%
- ≤ -4.1%

### Declining



Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*
Bulgaria	0.56	1.7%
Slovenia	0.69	1.6%
Luxembourg	0.83	0.8%
Latvia	0.73	0.7%
Finland	0.87	0.4%
Lithuania	0.77	0.4%
Croatia	0.61	0.3%
Ireland	0.81	0.3%
Slovak Republic	0.66	0.3%
Czechia	0.73	0.1%
Malta	0.68	0.1%
Germany	0.83	0.0%
Estonia	0.82	0.0%
Italy	0.67	0.0%
Hungary	0.51	-0.2%
Denmark	0.90	-0.3%
Netherlands	0.83	-0.3%
Austria	0.80	-0.3%
France	0.73	-0.4%
Sweden	0.85	-0.4%
Romania	0.63	-0.4%
Poland	0.64	-0.6%
Spain	0.72	-0.8%
Portugal	0.68	-0.9%
Cyprus	0.68	-0.9%
Belgium	0.78	-1.0%
Greece	0.61	-1.4%

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.



**Improving**

- ≥ 4.1%
- 2.1% – 4.0%
- 0% – 2.0%

**Declining**

- 2.0% – 0%
- 4.0% – -2.1%
- ≤ -4.1%

**FIGURE 19.**  
**Rule of Law Changes**  
**in Latin America**  
**and the Caribbean**  
**from 2022 to 2023**

Number of  
Countries that:

Declined ↓ 18      Improved ↑ 14

Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*
Honduras	0.41	1.6%
Grenada	0.60	1.4%
Dominican Republic	0.49	1.0%
Venezuela, RB	0.26	0.9%
Belize	0.49	0.9%
Antigua and Barbuda	0.63	0.6%
St. Lucia	0.62	0.4%
Uruguay	0.72	0.4%
Guyana	0.50	0.2%
Peru	0.49	0.2%
St. Kitts and Nevis	0.63	0.1%
Dominica	0.58	0.1%
Barbados	0.66	0.0%
Costa Rica	0.68	0.0%
Chile	0.66	-0.1%
Guatemala	0.44	-0.3%
Colombia	0.48	-0.4%
Panama	0.51	-0.5%
Bolivia	0.37	-0.5%
Argentina	0.55	-0.5%
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0.63	-0.8%
Trinidad and Tobago	0.52	-0.8%
Suriname	0.49	-0.9%
Brazil	0.49	-0.9%
Jamaica	0.57	-1.1%
Paraguay	0.46	-1.2%
Mexico	0.42	-1.3%
The Bahamas	0.59	-2.0%
Ecuador	0.47	-2.1%
El Salvador	0.45	-2.5%
Haiti	0.34	-3.5%
Nicaragua	0.35	-4.4%

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.

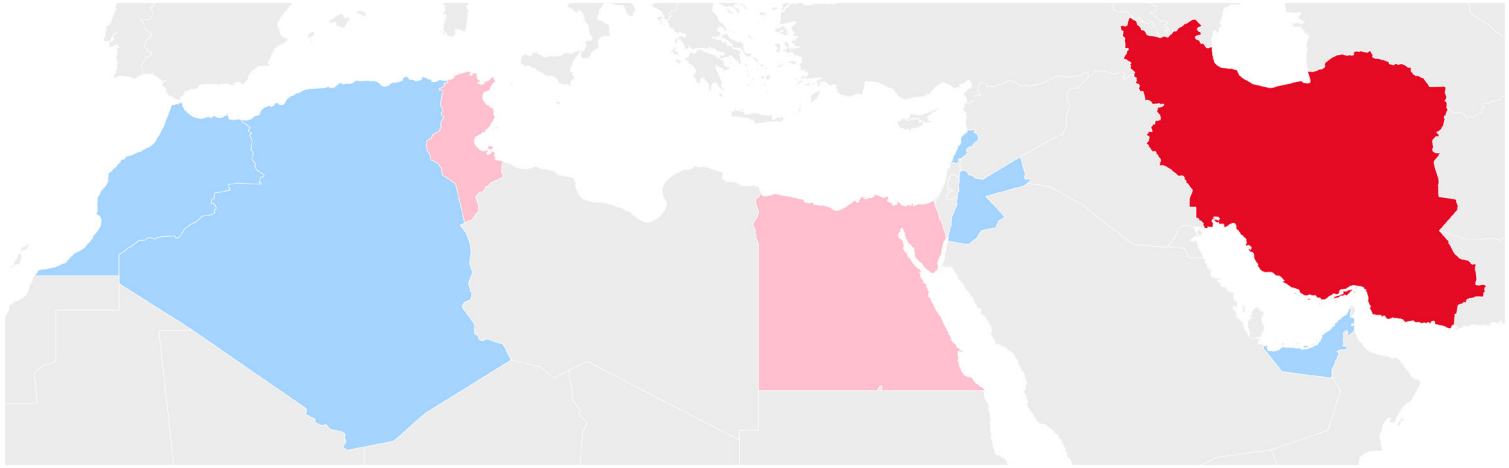


FIGURE 20.

## Rule of Law Changes in the Middle East and North Africa from 2022 to 2023

Number of Countries that:

Declined

↓ 3

Improved

↑ 5

Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Annual % Change in Overall Score*
Kuwait	0.58	-
Jordan	0.55	1.4%
Morocco	0.48	0.9%
Algeria	0.49	0.6%
United Arab Emirates	0.64	0.2%
Lebanon	0.45	0.0%
Tunisia	0.52	-0.6%
Egypt, Arab Rep.	0.35	-1.2%
Iran, Islamic Rep.	0.39	-5.0%

Improving

≥ 4.1%

2.1% – 4.0%

0% – 2.0%

-2.0% – 0%

-4.0% – -2.1%

≤ -4.1%

Declining

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.

FIGURE 21.

## Rule of Law Changes in South Asia from 2022 to 2023

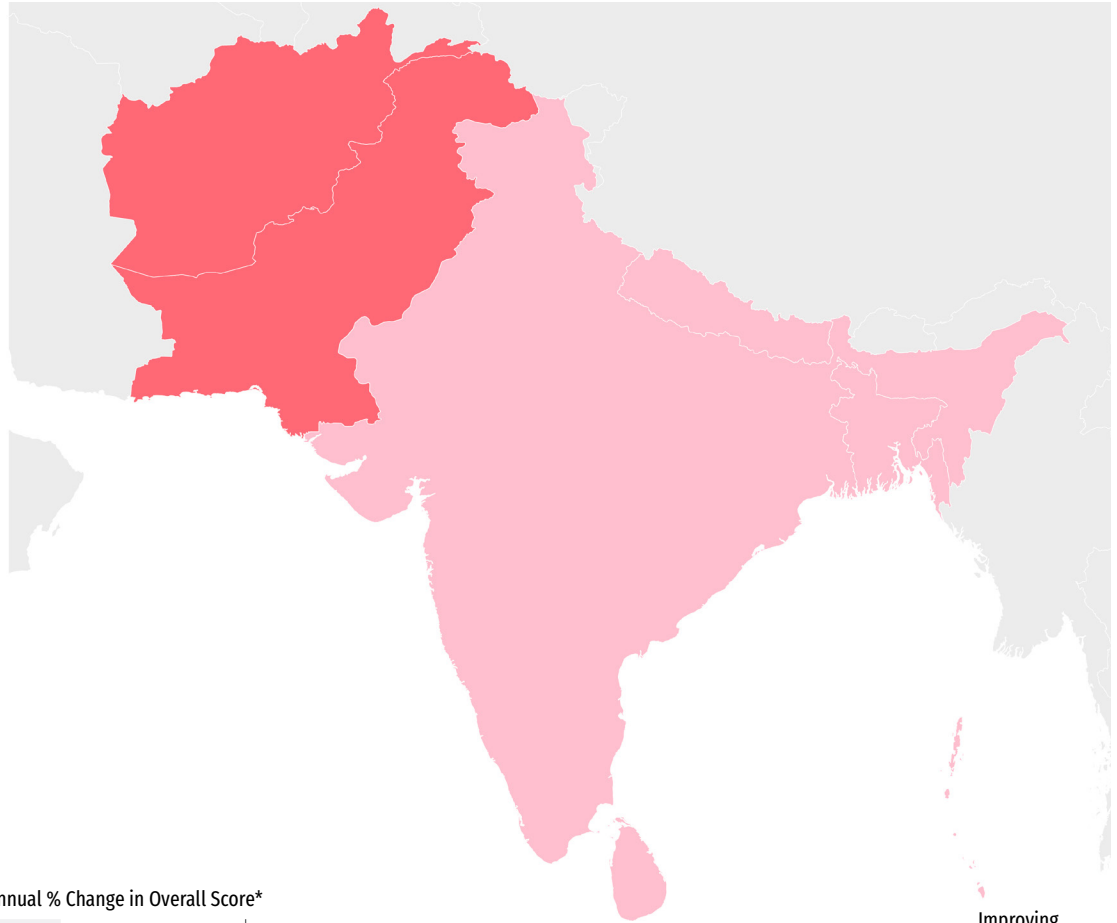
Number of Countries that:

Declined

⬇️ 6

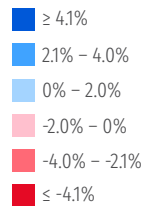
Improved

⬆️ 0



Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score	Annual % Change in Overall Score*
Sri Lanka	0.50	-0.5%
India	0.49	-0.7%
Nepal	0.52	-0.9%
Bangladesh	0.38	-1.5%
Pakistan	0.38	-2.3%
Afghanistan	0.32	-4.0%

Improving



Declining

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.

Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score <sup>2</sup>	Annual Percentage Change in Overall Score*
Kenya	0.46	1.6%
Zimbabwe	0.40	1.3%
Tanzania	0.47	0.9%
Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.34	0.8%
Liberia	0.44	0.8%
Nigeria	0.41	0.8%
Guinea	0.41	0.8%
Côte d'Ivoire	0.45	0.7%
Namibia	0.61	0.5%
Gabon	0.39	0.3%
The Gambia	0.49	0.1%
Rwanda	0.63	0.1%
Uganda	0.39	0.0%
Botswana	0.59	0.0%
Zambia	0.45	0.0%
Angola	0.43	-0.3%
Cameroon	0.35	-0.3%
Mauritius	0.61	-0.4%
Malawi	0.52	-0.5%
Ghana	0.55	-0.5%
Niger	0.44	-0.6%
Benin	0.48	-0.6%
Togo	0.45	-1.1%
Congo, Rep.	0.40	-1.2%
South Africa	0.57	-1.2%
Senegal	0.55	-1.3%
Madagascar	0.43	-1.4%
Mauritania	0.36	-1.4%
Sierra Leone	0.44	-2.1%
Mozambique	0.38	-3.0%
Ethiopia	0.38	-3.1%
Burkina Faso	0.47	-3.7%
Mali	0.40	-5.3%
Sudan	0.36	-7.4%

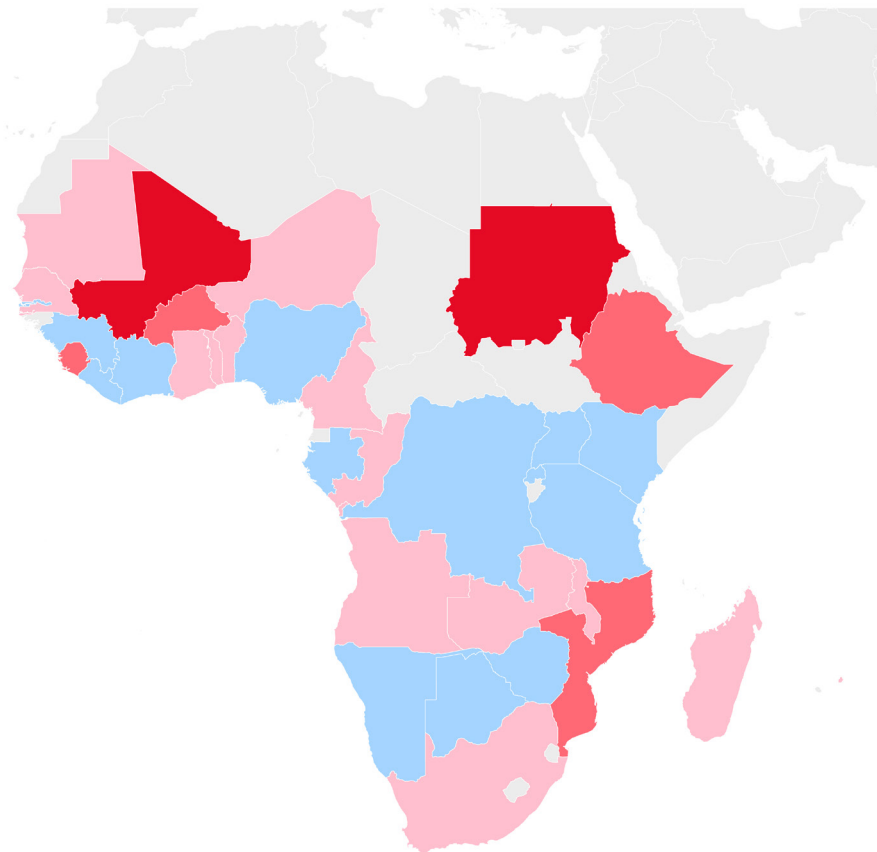


FIGURE 22.

## Rule of Law Changes in Sub-Saharan Africa from 2022 to 2023

Number of Countries that:

Declined

⬇️ 20

Improved

⬆️ 14

Improving

≥ 4.1%

2.1% – 4.0%

0% – 2.0%

-2.0% – 0%

-4.0% – -2.1%

≤ -4.1%

Declining

\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.



## SECTION 4

# About the WJP

- 64 About the WJP Rule of Law Index
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- 65 Meet Our Donors
- 66 Other Publications



# About the WJP Rule of Law Index

The *WJP Rule of Law Index*® is a quantitative assessment tool designed to measure how the rule of law is experienced and perceived in practical, everyday situations by the general public worldwide. Performance is measured across the eight primary rule of law factors and 44 sub-factors outlined in the Conceptual Framework of the *WJP Rule of Law Index* on pages 12-13.

To present an accurate portrait of the rule of law as experienced by ordinary people, each score of the Index is calculated using a large number of questions drawn from two original data sources collected by the WJP in each country: A General Population Poll (GPP) conducted by leading local polling companies, using a representative sample of 500 - 1,000 respondents in each country; and Qualified Respondents' Questionnaires (QRQs) consisting of closed-ended questions completed by in-country practitioners and academics with expertise in civil and commercial law, criminal justice, labor law, and public health.

For the full methodology of the Index and more detailed country-level information, please refer to the *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2023* report, available for download at [worldjusticeproject.org](https://worldjusticeproject.org).



Scan the QR code or visit  
[worldjusticeproject.org/index/](https://worldjusticeproject.org/index/)  
to view our interactive data portal.

# About the World Justice Project

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide. Effective rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from injustices large and small. It is the foundation for healthy communities of justice, opportunity, and peace—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights.

Learn more at: [worldjusticeproject.org](https://worldjusticeproject.org)

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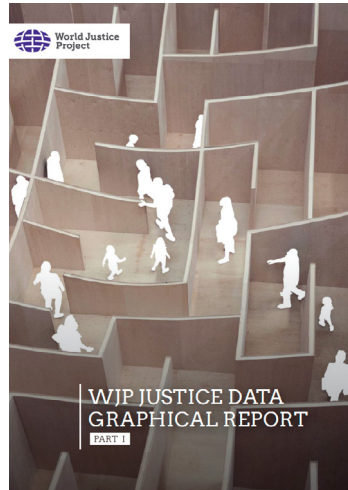
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# Other Publications



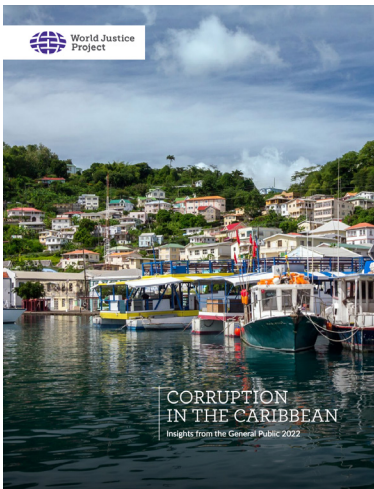
World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2023



WJP Justice Data Graphical Report I



Mexico States Index 2022-2023



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