

The Top 25: Year-on-Year Trends

Europe continues its stellar performance in the GRI this year. As with last year, 15 of the top 25 countries are from Western Europe while three are from Eastern Europe. The remaining seven are scattered across the world, with four being from Asia Pacific, two from North America and one from Central Asia.

The countries achieving the largest positive overall score change among the top 25 this year are Ireland, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Iceland. Ireland climbs seven spots to seventh overall on the back of improvements in the Material Wellbeing, Finance and Health sub-indices. Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Iceland all nudge up one spot with score improvements of either 1.8% or 1.7%. Slovenia moves to 23rd overall after gaining in all sub-indices. Meanwhile, the Czech Republic and Iceland move to 15th and second overall, respectively, due to improvements in the Material Wellbeing, Health and Finances sub-indices, although both decline in Quality of Life.

Norway, Germany and Sweden experience the largest overall score declines among the top 25 in this year's GRI. Norway and Germany suffer significantly lower scores in the Finances sub-index due to a decline in their five-year average for real interest rates. Norway also has a lower score in the Material Wellbeing sub-index compared to last year. And Sweden has a lower overall score owing to declines in the Material Wellbeing, Finance and Quality of Life sub-indices.

There have been no movements into, or out of, the top 25 overall compared to last year.

Year-On-Year (YoY) Top 25 Countries in the 2018 GRI

Country	Ranking 2018 #	Ranking 2017 #	Ranking 2016 #	Trend in Ranking [2016-2018]	Score 2018	Score 2017	Score 2016
Switzerland	1	2	2		84%	84%	84%
Iceland	2	3	3		84%	82%	80%
Norway	3	1	1		81%	86%	86%
Sweden	4	4	5		78%	80%	79%
New Zealand	5	5	4		78%	80%	80%
Australia	6	6	6		78%	78%	78%
Ireland	7	14	16		77%	74%	72%
Denmark	8	8	12		77%	77%	77%
Canada	9	11	10		77%	76%	77%
Netherlands	10	9	8		76%	77%	78%
Luxembourg	11	10	13		76%	76%	76%
Finland	12	12	11		75%	76%	77%
Germany	13	7	7		75%	77%	78%
Austria	14	13	9		74%	75%	77%
Czech Republic	15	16	18		74%	72%	71%
United States	16	17	14		73%	72%	73%
United Kingdom	17	18	17		73%	72%	71%
Belgium	18	15	15		73%	73%	73%
Israel	19	20	19		72%	71%	71%
Malta	20	21	23		71%	70%	69%
France	21	19	20		70%	71%	71%
Japan	22	22	21		70%	70%	70%
Slovenia	23	24	24		70%	68%	67%
Korea, Rep.	24	23	22		69%	68%	69%
Slovak Republic	25	25	26		66%	66%	64%