

GLOBAL PEACE INDEX

The **Institute for Economics and Peace** (IEP) – based in Sydney - has been issuing the Index for 14 years. Essentially, the Index gauges global peace using three broad themes: the level of safety and security in society, the extent of domestic or international conflict, and the degree of militarization. The latest report (2022) presents “the most comprehensive data-driven analysis to date of trends in peace, its economic value, and how to develop peaceful societies”.

The report highlights the following points:

- The average level of global peacefulness deteriorated by 0.3% last year, the eleventh decline in 14 years – 90 countries improved, 71 declined, and 2 remained stable.
- The most peaceful countries are Iceland, New Zealand, Ireland, Denmark and Austria. The least are Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, Russia and South Sudan.
- The best improvers were in South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.
- Positive signs include that terrorism is at its lowest level, there is less criminality and incarceration, and militarisation has waned to some extent.
- The economic impact of violence on the global economy in 2021 was \$US16 trillion (10% of world economic activity).
- The Ukraine war will have a global impact for the worse.
- The key to building peacefulness is positive peace (i.e. the attitudes, institutions and structures that create peaceful societies).
- The trauma caused by the pandemic, Ukraine, increased prices, food shortages etc adds to the danger of instability and violence.

QPLC issued a full explanation of the Global Peace Index some years ago – Watching Brief 14-3.

For the full 2022 report see www.economicsandpeace.org

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