GLOBAL PEACE INDEX
2015
HIGHLIGHTS
MEASURING PEACE, ITS CAUSES AND ITS ECONOMIC VALUE
GLOBAL PEACE INDEX
INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS & PEACE
The world’s most peaceful countries are enjoying increased levels of peace and prosperity, while the least peaceful countries are spiralling into violence and conflict.

**TIMELINE OF PEACE 2008–2015**

- **2008:** Global financial crisis
- **2009:** Arab uprising
- **2010:** Syrian civil war begins
- **2011:** Colombian government and FARC begin formal peace talks
- **2012:** Withdrawal of NATO-led forces in Afghanistan
- **2013:** Many European countries reach historically high levels of peace
- **2014:** Terrorist group Boko Haram kill 2,000 in Nigeria
- **2015:** Withdrawal from Afghanistan & Iraq

**CHANGES IN PEACE OVER THE LAST 8 YEARS**

- Highest numbers since 1945
- REFUGEES & IDPs
- TERRORISM IMPACT
- VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS
- DEATHS FROM INTERNAL CONFLICT
- PERCEPTIONS OF CRIMINALITY

- 20,000 people killed in attacks last year
- Indicators that deteriorated the most

- Colombian government and FARC begin formal peace talks
- Withdrawal of NATO-led forces in Afghanistan
- Many European countries reach historically high levels of peace

- UN PEACEKEEPING FUNDING
- EXTERNAL CONFLICTS FOUGHT
- Withdrawal from Afghanistan & Iraq

- Indicators that improved the most

**PEACE DIVIDED, SINCE 2014:**

- **81** Countries became more peaceful
  - Many European nations are now experiencing historic levels of peace, with homicide rates falling, military budgets decreasing and the withdrawal of forces from Iraq and Afghanistan.

- **78** Countries became less peaceful
  - Less peaceful countries such as Iraq, Syria, Nigeria, South Sudan and CAR have all become increasingly more violent.
IF THE WORLD DECREASED SPENDING ON VIOLENCE BY 10%, IT WOULD GENERATE $1.43 trillion

...which could be invested in industries that are not only more economically productive, but that also underpin and sustain peace.

**ECONOMIC COST OF VIOLENCE**

- **Internal security spending** $1.3 trillion
- **Military spending** $3 trillion
- **Losses from crime and interpersonal violence** $2 trillion
- **Losses from conflict** $817 billion

Military expenditure is the largest single expense item, totalling 43% of total violence containment expenditure.

**THE VIRTUOUS CYCLE OF POSITIVE PEACE**

- Improvements in Positive Peace and other measures of progress
- Less expenditure on violence — more resources freed to invest in Positive Peace
- Less violence and more non-violent resolutions of grievances
- Society reaches higher levels of well-being, is more productive and wealthier
- Society creates stronger business environments, better functioning government and higher social cohesion

**VIOLENCE COSTS 13.4% OF WORLD GDP**

The GPI measures the state of peace in 162 countries according to 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators.

For the full methodology refer to the GPI 2015 report available at visionofhumanity.org

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The impact of violence on the global economy reached US$14.3 trillion in the last year, equivalent to the combined economies of Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Spain and the UK.

**HOW CAN WE REDUCE VIOLENCE AND BUILD A MORE PEACEFUL FUTURE?**

- **Equitable distribution of resources**
- **Sound business environment**
- **High levels of human capital**
- **Good relations with neighbours**
- **Free flow of information**
- **Well functioning government**
- **Low levels of corruption**
- **Acceptance of the rights of others**

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The Global Peace Index, produced by the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), ranks 162 countries covering 99.6% of the world’s population. The Index gauges global peace using three themes: the level of safety and security in society, the extent of domestic or international conflict, and the degree of militarisation. It ranks countries according to 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators of peace.

IEP is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank dedicated to shifting the world’s focus to peace as a positive, achievable and tangible measure of human wellbeing and progress.

IEP has offices in Sydney, New York and Mexico City. It works with a wide range of partners internationally and collaborates with intergovernmental organizations on measuring and communicating the economic value of peace.