



2026 STATE OF THE
WORLD SCORECARD

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How the Measures Have Tracked Over the Last 26 Years

The Conference for Global Transformation is a forum for Landmark graduates who have — or want to establish — a commitment for the world, including a commitment to global transformation. Many conference participants are at work on making a difference in various aspects of the state of the world, having taken on commitments or promises in specific areas, such as a healthy environment or people being self-expressed. Determining whether any difference is being made in the world in any area requires two things: (1) measuring any such differences, and (2) reporting on them. If we are committed to making a difference, we need to be informed about “what’s so” and what is happening in that area where we want to make a difference.

This scorecard was established and these measures were selected to be able to see changes that would be likely if global transformation occurred. At the same time, we intend to highlight arenas of the identified commitments of many conference participants.

Measurement tracks change, not transformation. When a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly, it ceases being one thing and becomes another. You can infer the transformation by measuring differences in the mass, color, and shape of the caterpillar and the butterfly, but you aren’t measuring transformation. The transformation is simply, “There used to be a caterpillar, and now there is a butterfly.”

Global measures typically track incremental changes but may miss deeper transformations. Like measuring a caterpillar’s size versus recognizing its metamorphosis into a butterfly, individual metrics show specific changes while transformation — the emergence of fundamentally new states — becomes visible only in the broader patterns.

Since this scorecard’s measures aspire to reveal changes that could point to transformation in the world if it happened, the scorecard intends to both track direct measures and reveal patterns that might reflect any such transformation over the last 26 years.

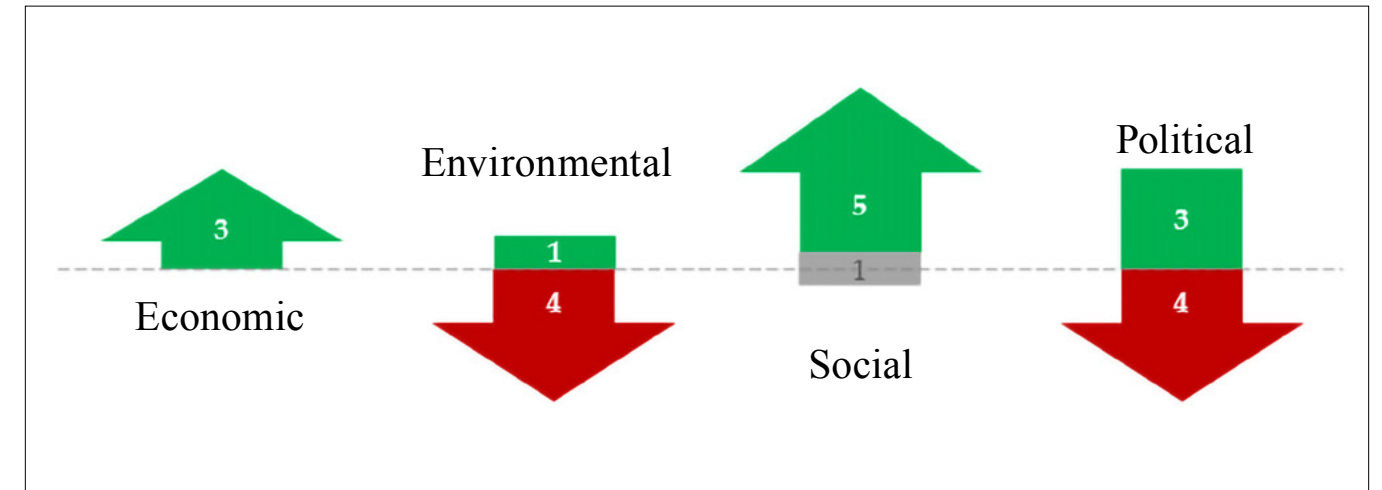
The scorecard is intended to empower a profound relationship to “what’s so,” both generally and in the details, and to track progress over the last 26 years.

Questions you could ask include:

1. How does progress with this measure align with my commitment for the world?
2. What actions can I take in this area to make a difference?

Since 2006, this annual conference has been reporting on various aspects of the state of the world through a scorecard. The purpose of this scorecard is to represent the “state of the world” by showing outcomes that would likely change were global transformation to occur and the changes that are happening in specific areas.

The global scorecard uses 21 specific measures that were selected from many possible indicators. These measurements are not comprehensive — they don’t capture everything about the “state of the world,” as no single measure or set of measures could do that completely. The 21 measures were chosen to provide sufficient but manageable insight into current trends across four broad categories of global conditions (Economic, Environmental, Political, and Social). They represent an important but inherently limited snapshot of global outcomes.



The numbers above show the number of measures in each category that are “improving,” “worsening,” or for which there is no significant change (gray).

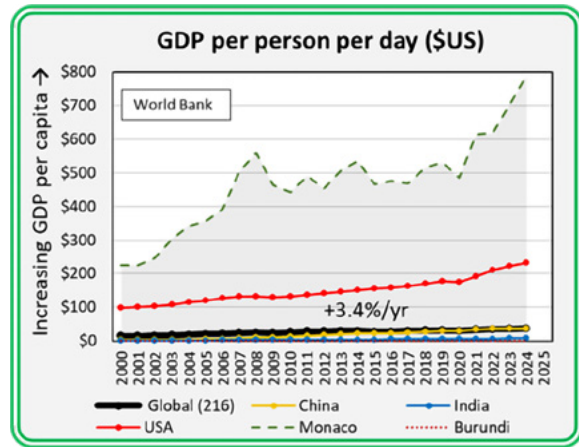
The format of the scorecard was updated in 2021 based on feedback from participants in scorecard workshops at the conference and a survey of conference participants that year. Survey data indicates many, though not all, of the commitments of participants in the Conference for Global Transformation are connected to the scorecard measures. The measures are presented in four groups: Economic, Environmental, Political, and Social. The charts for the 21 scorecard measures at the global level are based on data for the available countries. The global metric is indicated by the bold black line on the graph, and the number of countries comprising the global measure is noted parenthetically in the respective legend. The charts also display colored lines for the individual metrics for the three most populous countries (yellow for China, blue for India, and red for the United States), which represent 40 percent of the global population. Data on these three countries is intended to give some insight into the diversity of both the direction and velocity of change for each of the metrics.

A new feature of this year’s scorecard is the generation of global maps showing the most recent values of each of the metrics by country. This is an orthogonal view of the measures — rather than seeing a few countries over time we are seeing the value of the measures across the world at a single point in time. For all graphs, the highest value of the metric is displayed in the darkest color; this could be the “best” or “worst” value for the metric, depending on the measure. Refer to the title and legend to interpret.

Anyone who has a commitment to make a difference in the world can determine which measures, and which methods of tracking data and trends, will be the most useful to them.

Charts of the Scorecard Measures

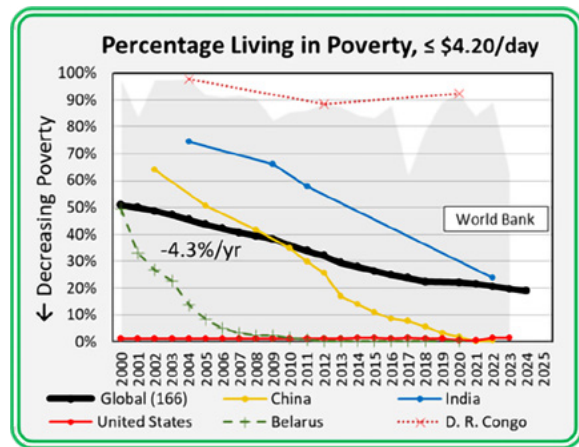
ECONOMIC MEASURES



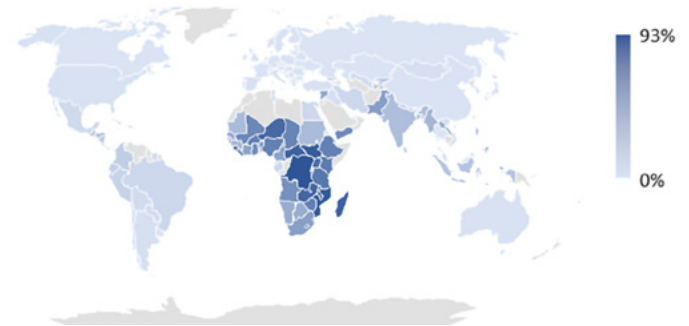
GDP per Person per Day, Most Recent 2020-2024



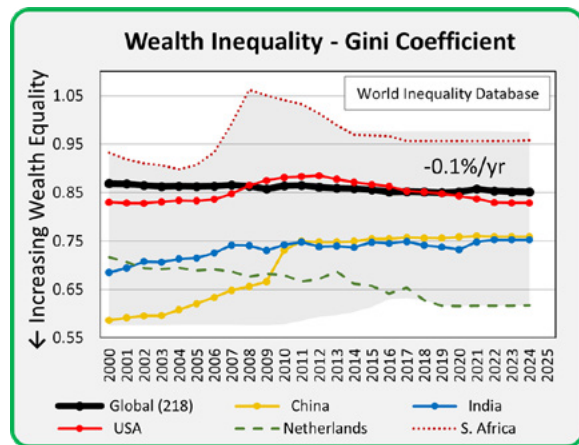
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD>



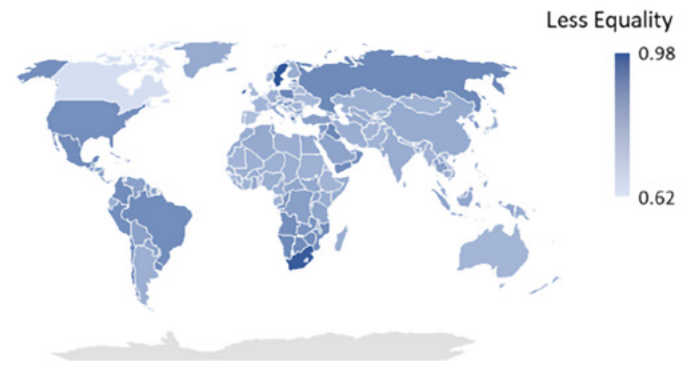
Percent Living in Poverty, Most Recent 2015-2024
≤\$4.20/day 2021 PPP



<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.LMIC>

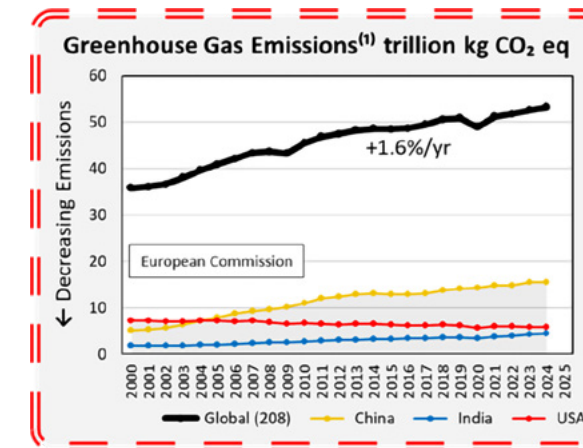


Wealth Inequality 2024, Gini Coefficient

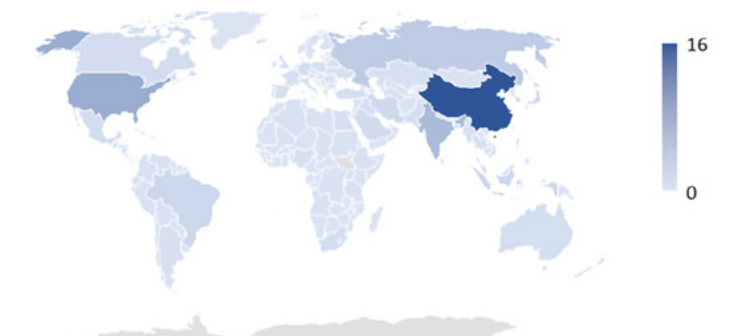


<https://wid.world/data/>

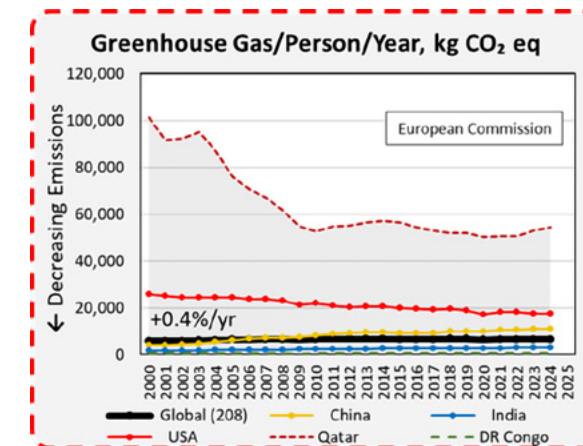
ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES



Greenhouse Gas Emissions, 2024
trillions kg, CO₂ eq



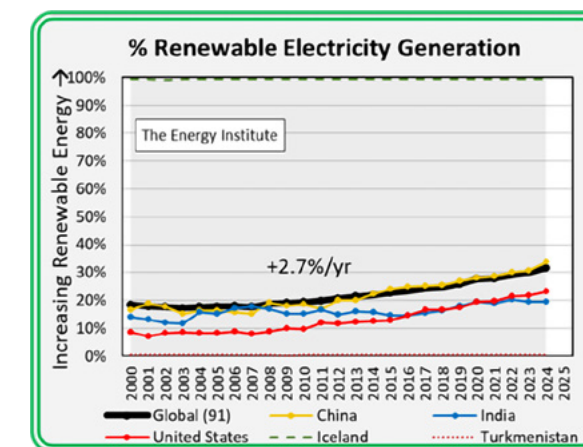
https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dataset_ghg2025



Greenhouse Gas Emissions per Capita, 2024
1,000s kg/year, CO₂ eq



https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dataset_ghg2025



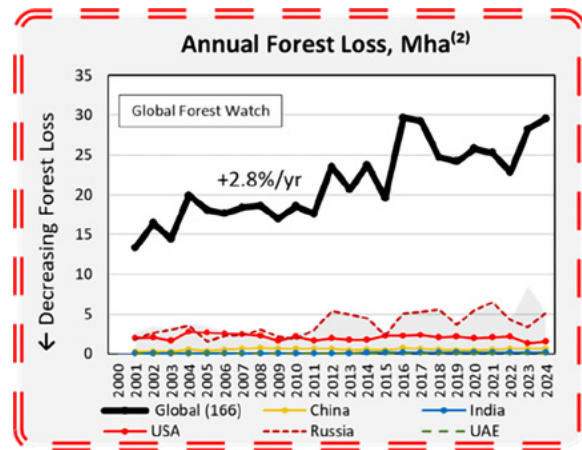
% Renewable Electricity Generation, 2024



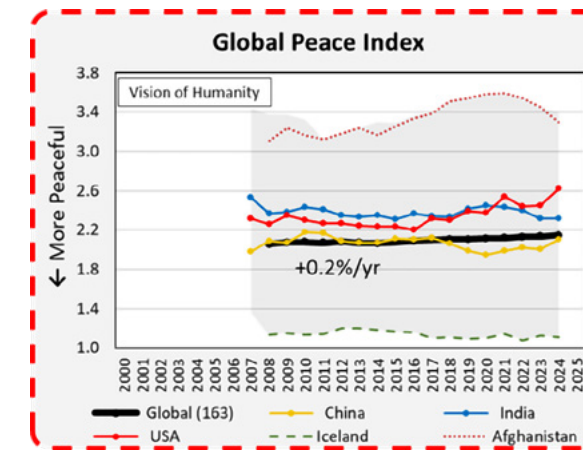
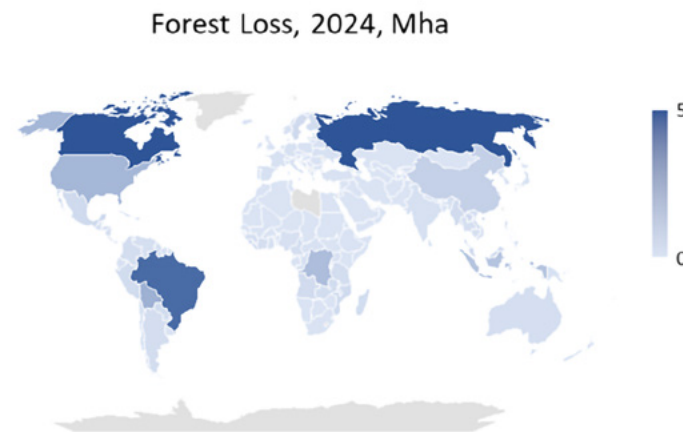
<https://www.energyinst.org/statistical-review>

(Charts of the Scorecard Measures continued)

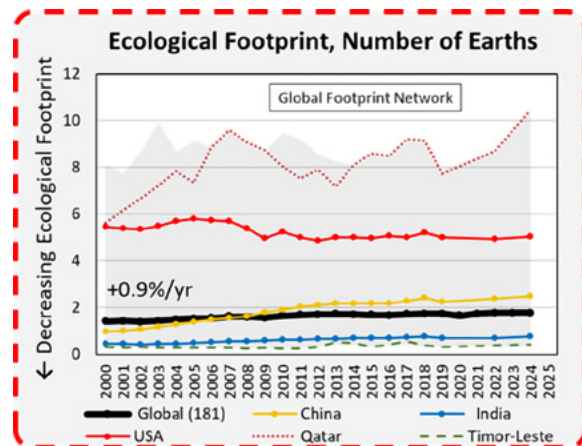
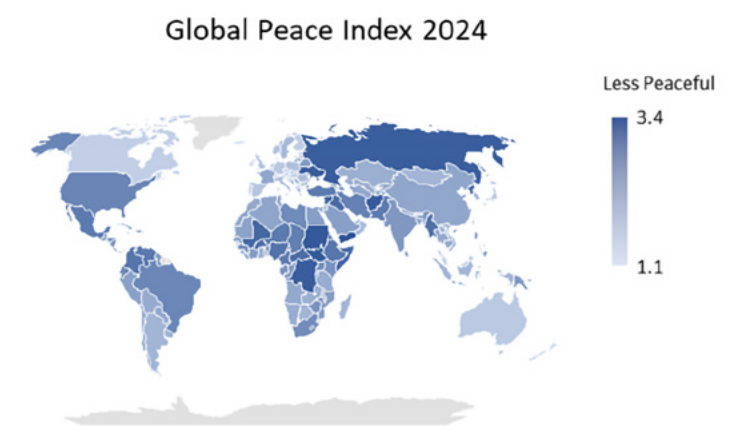
POLITICAL MEASURES



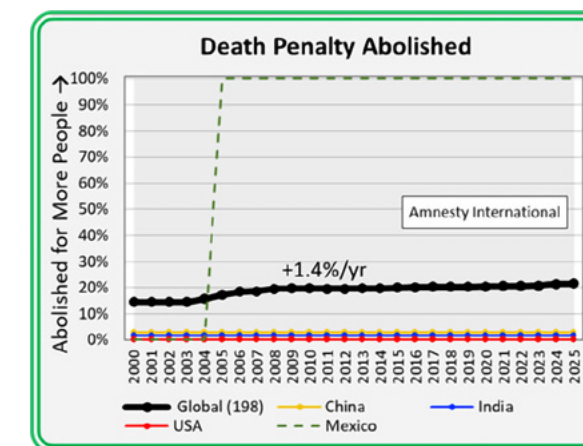
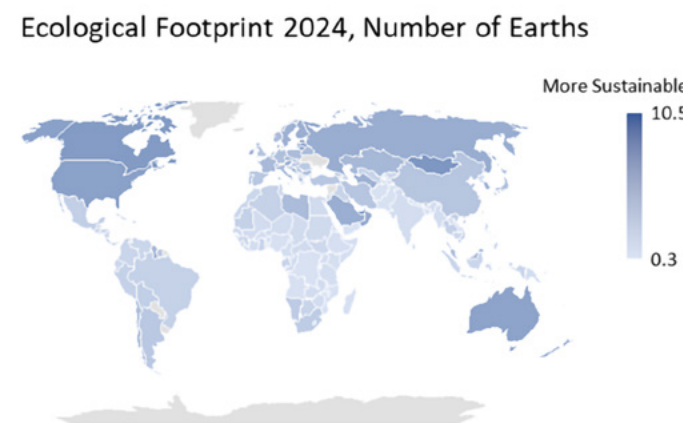
www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/global



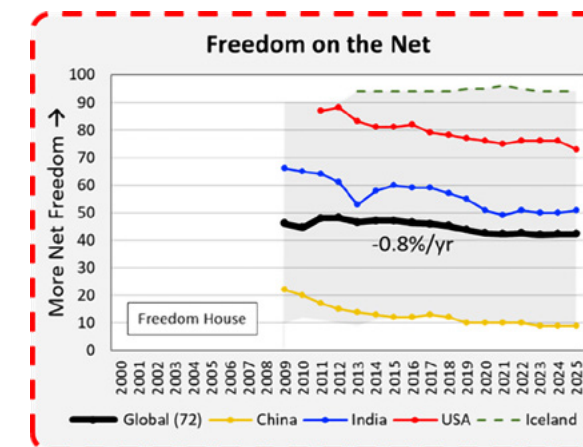
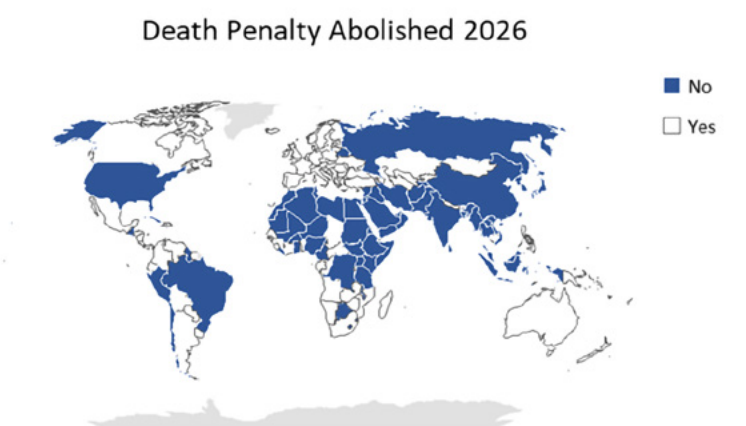
<http://visionofhumanity.org/indexes/global-peace-index/>



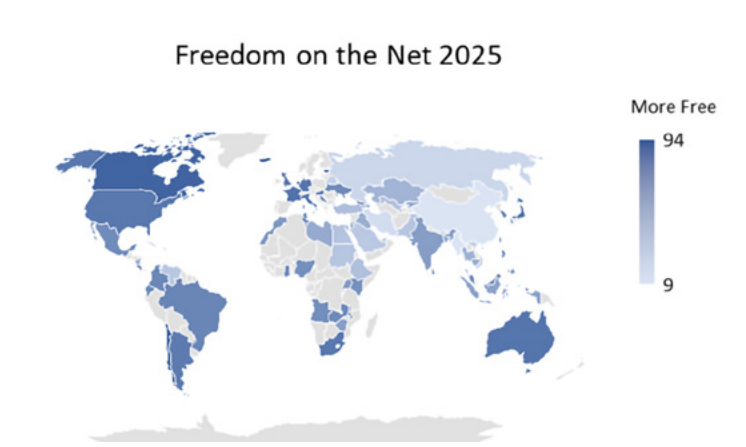
<https://www.footprintnetwork.org/resources/data/>



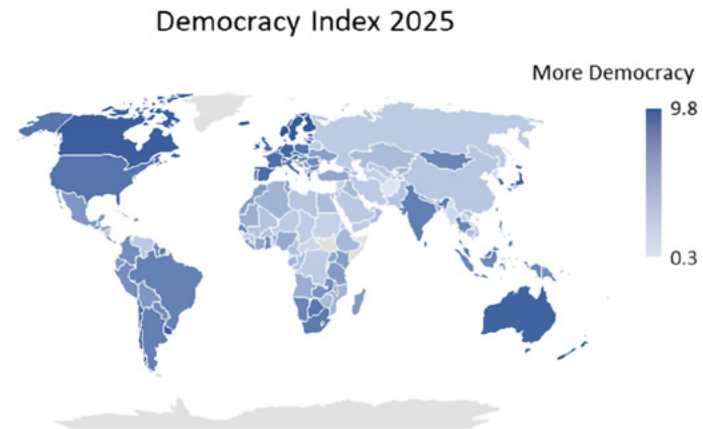
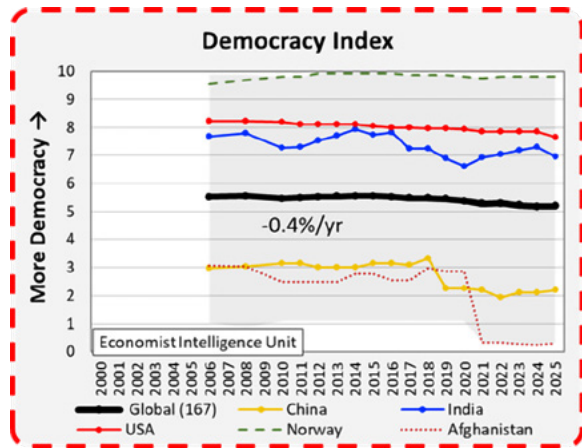
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/death-penalty/>



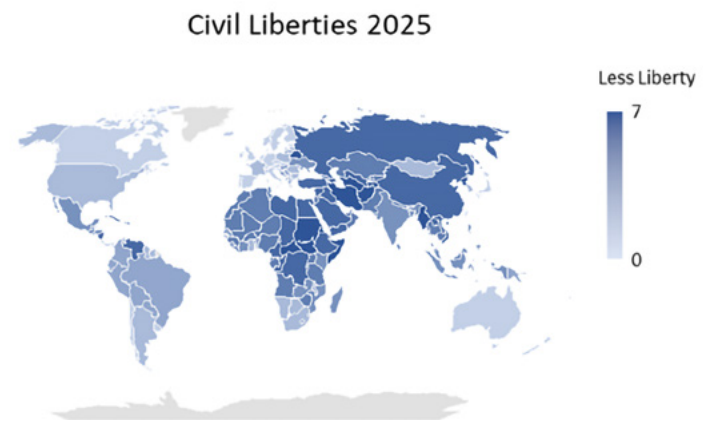
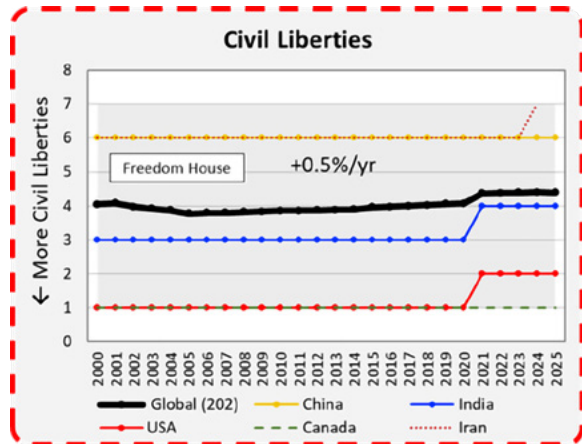
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/reports>



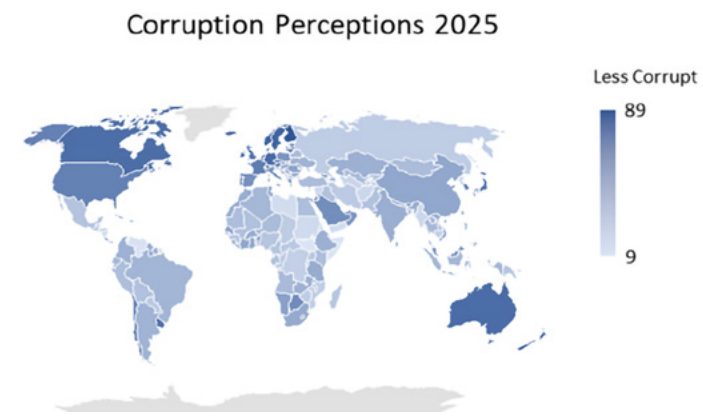
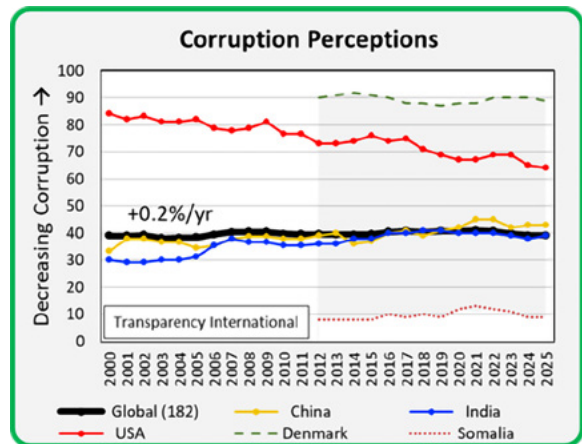
⁽¹⁾ See comments for definition
⁽²⁾ Mha is megahectare or 10⁶ hectares



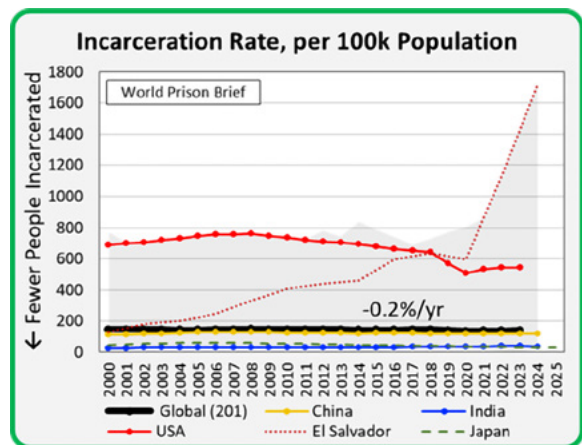
<https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2025>



<http://www.freedomhouse.org/reports>



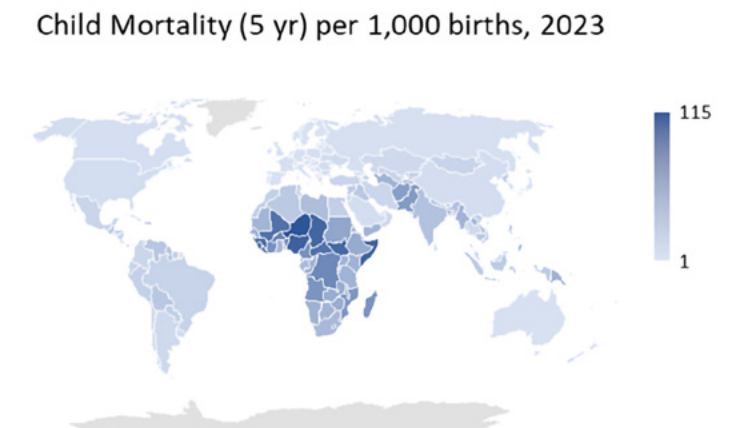
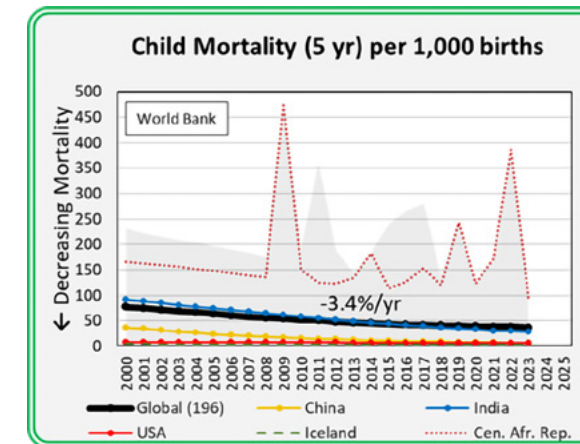
<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2025>



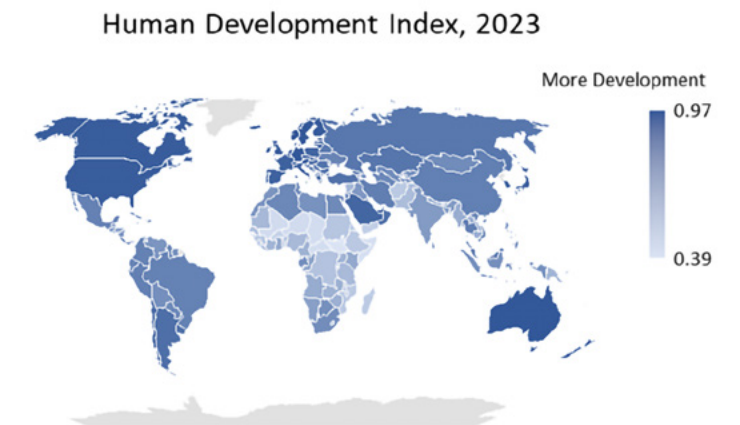
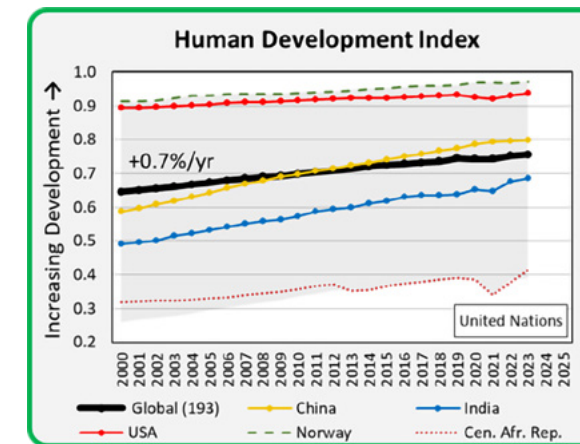
<https://www.prisonstudies.org/world-prison-brief-data>

(Charts of the Scorecard Measures continued)

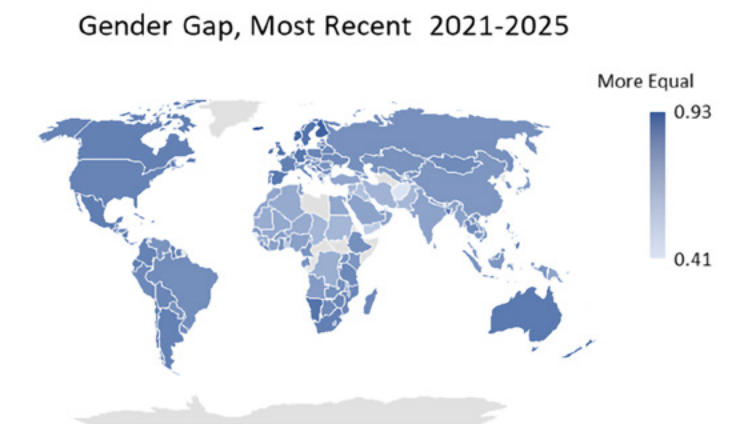
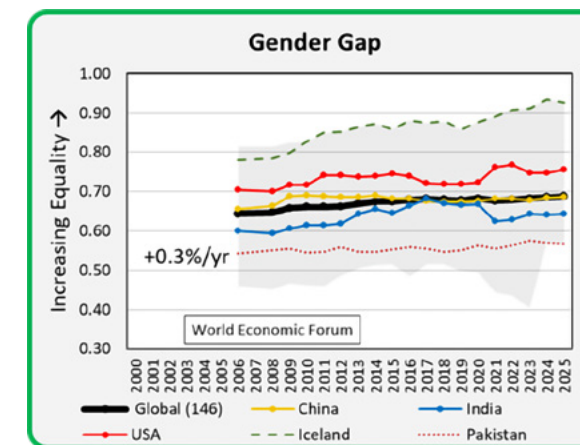
SOCIAL MEASURES



<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.DYN.MORT>

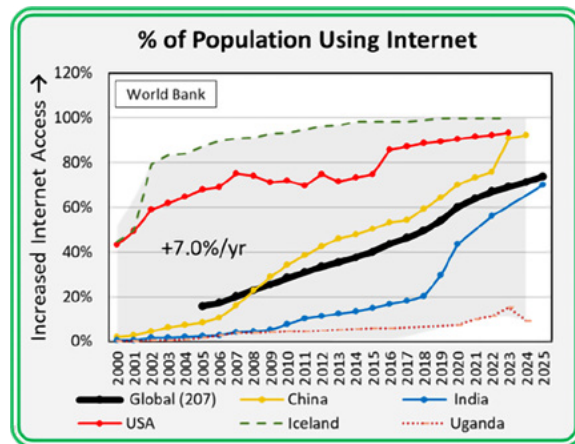


<http://hdr.undp.org/en>

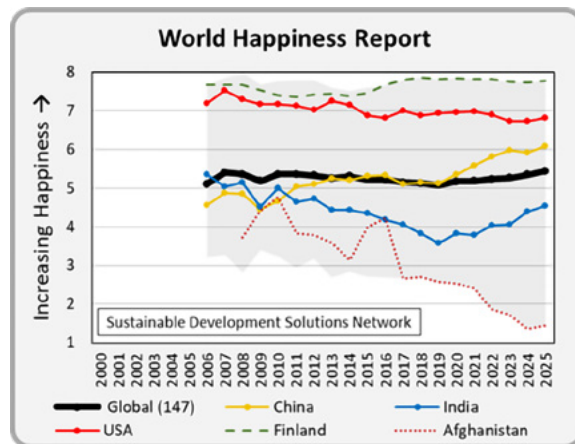
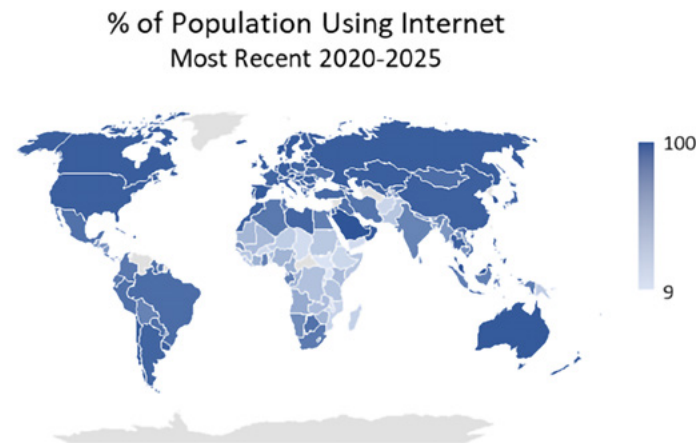


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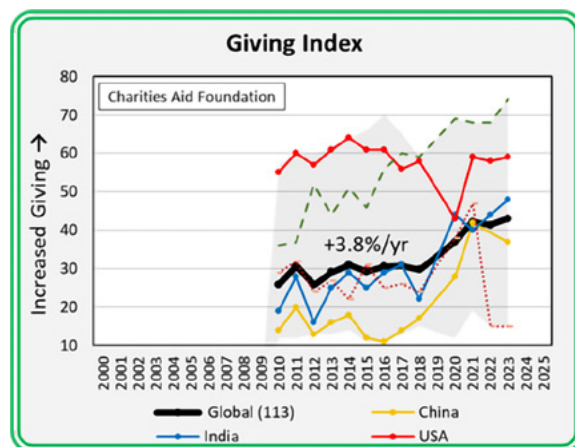
CHARTS OF THE SCORECARD MEASURES NOTES



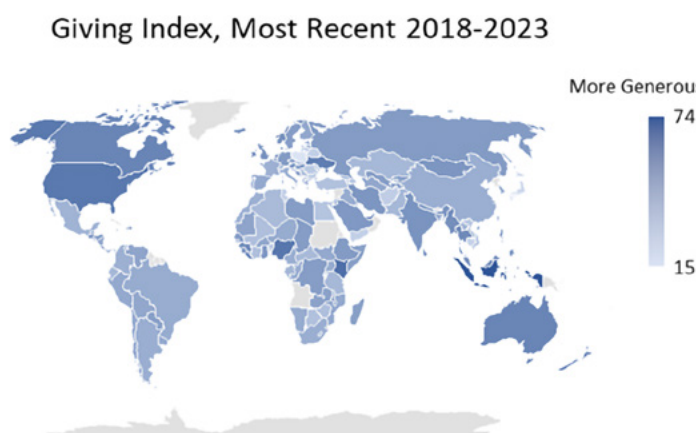
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.USER.ZS>



<https://worldhappiness.report>



<https://www.cafonline.org/about-us/research>



- The horizontal axis on all the charts covers the 26 years from 2000 to 2025.
- A legend under each graph indicates the number of countries† that comprise the global metric, generally all for which data are available. For instance, “Global (211)” means 211 countries† comprise that particular global metric.
- Where a worldwide metric is published, that is used for the global data.
- Absent a worldwide metric, global data are the population-weighted averages for the included countries or global totals for aggregate measures.
- The vertical axis on each chart spans the range of values for all countries over the period.
- The gray shaded area in the graph represents the range of reported metrics across all countries each year.
- The dark green dashed line represents the metric for a selected “bright spot” country that is notable for “good” metrics or improvement; the country is noted in the legend.
- The dark red dotted line represents the metric for a selected “dark spot” country that is notable for “bad” metrics or decline; the country is noted in the legend.
- For each graph, the arrow in the vertical axis title always points in the “good” direction.††
- A solid green border indicates that the global trend is moving in a “good” or desired direction;†† a dashed red border indicates a “bad” or undesired direction.††
- A gray border indicates that the global change is not statistically significant.
- Double borders indicate that the measure is changing faster than 1.1%/yr.
- The ±%/yr on each chart represents the global average rate of change over the period estimated by least-squares regression.

- † The number of “countries” may include territories selected for reporting by the institution collecting the data.
- †† “Good” and “bad” are defined by the institution collecting the data, with “good” being the intended direction.

Notes About the Scorecard

Measures selected by the Scorecard Team members in the Landmark Training Academy's Conference Research track are published by respected organizations that specialize in their subject areas and use rigorous methods for data collection and analysis. Measures are selected that use the same methodology over many years so that valid comparisons can be made over time. To create a broad and manageable view of the world, several of the measures are indices; these combine multiple discrete/direct measures in a specific interest area into an index being tracked. For most of these indices, the component values are also published. As discussed below, regarding averages, indices necessarily aggregate detail, during which important elements of the underlying data can be lost. **Anyone with a commitment in a particular arena is encouraged to explore the source data for components that are more aligned with their specific area of interest. Links to the data sources are provided under the charts of each of the scorecard metrics.** Details of the measures and the key questions they address are tabulated below.

Global metrics from the source organizations are used whenever they are provided. If a global metric is unavailable, global measures are calculated as population-weighted averages. The exceptions are the measures for Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Annual Forest Loss, which are aggregate totals for the world, based on all published countries. Additionally, the measure for Death Penalty is the percentage of the population (of a country or the world) for whom the death penalty has been abolished by law.

Population data are sourced from the World Bank database <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL>.

Measures are categorized as Political (rather than Social) when they are primarily attributable to government policy.

Trends and significance are estimated using least-squares regression¹ over the full period of the dataset. Trends are inferred to be significant based on a Student's (t) two-tailed likelihood of less than 0.05 based on the standard error of the fit coefficient.² This single treatment appropriately evaluates the significance of the overall trend in the global data but does not adequately describe the behavior of several scorecard metrics. Some changed rapidly in the first 10 years of scorecard tracking and have changed little since (e.g., Death Penalty, Wealth Inequality); others are changing at a greater rate only recently (e.g., Freedom on the Net). For other measures, a global trend may obscure divergent behavior among countries (e.g., Greenhouse Gases per Person per Year and Corruption Perceptions). Scorecard measures reflect outcomes to which many participants are committed, such as a healthy environment, people experiencing social justice, or children thriving. Having a powerful relationship with such outcomes is enabled by building a deeper understanding of the data related to those commitments that is being collected over time and across the world. **You are encouraged to visit the primary sources of the data and explore.**

ENDNOTES

- Least-squares regression is a method that fits a straight line to the metric to estimate the average change per unit time. The line is fit by minimizing the squares of the distances between the data points and the fit line.
- Testing the significance of the change is intended to answer the question, "Is the slope really different from zero (no change) or could this result be due to random variation?" The Student's (t) distribution is a sampling distribution that indicates how much variation in a sample would be expected as a function of the sample size. For regression, the standard error (or uncertainty) in the coefficient is compared to the coefficient value. If the error is large, there may be a significant likelihood that the coefficient could be zero, representing no evidence of change over time. If the likelihood of the coefficient being zero is estimated to be <0.05 then we consider the relationship statistically significant.

	MEASURE	WHAT IT IS	QUESTIONS IT ADDRESSES
ECONOMIC	GDP/Person/Day	Total value of goods and services produced per person per day	Are global economies strong enough to pull people out of poverty and provide a good standard of living for all?
	% Living in Poverty	% of the population living on less than \$3.65/day, adjusted by country for purchasing power parity	How many people don't have the resources to live decent, fulfilling lives?
	Wealth Inequality, Gini Index	How greatly the distribution of wealth deviates from an equal distribution	Is the distribution of wealth fair or is the gap between groups too big or small? Is the gap growing?
ENVIRONMENTAL	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Total GHG emissions (CO ₂ , CH ₄ , N ₂ O and F-gases). For more information, visit https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar5/ .	How are we doing reducing greenhouse gases? Who's leading and lagging?
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions per Person per Year	Total greenhouse gases emitted divided by population	How are our individual carbon footprints changing?
	% Renewable Energy Generation	Percent of electricity generated from renewable sources	How fast is energy generation moving to renewable sources?
	Annual Forest Loss	Area of forest lost where tree canopy >30%	Are we preserving the trees that produce oxygen, moderate the climate and regulate water cycles?
	Ecological Footprint	Resources consumed for food, shelter, transportation including carbon footprint	Are we consuming too many natural resources for future generations to thrive?
POLITICAL	Global Peace Index	A composite of 23 measures of conflict, criminality, and violence	How secure is our society from crime, violence, and war?
	Death Penalty	% of population for whom the death penalty has been abolished by law	How many live free from the threat of execution by their government?
	Freedom on the Net	A composite of 12 measures of access, content control, and user rights	Can people communicate, express, and create freely on the internet without interference?
	Democracy Index	A composite of 60 measures of electoral integrity, political participation, governance, and liberties	Are our systems of government representative, effective, fair, and inclusive?
	Civil Liberties	A composite of 15 measures of individual freedoms and rule of law	Are people free to live and express without suppression or inequity?
	Corruption Perceptions	Standardized assessment of risk of corruption assembled from 12 sources	How corrupt are our governments?
	Incarceration Rate	Total number of incarcerated persons, sentenced or being held, per 100,000 population	How many in a society have had their freedoms suspended by their government?
SOCIAL	Child Mortality	The number of children who die before age 5 per 1,000 births	How well are women's and children's health being addressed?
	Human Development	The UN Human Development Index is composed of income, life expectancy & educational attainment	How much opportunity do people have to grow and develop physically, educationally, economically?
	Gender Gap	A composite of 14 measures of gender equity across health, education, and economic domains	Do women and men have equal opportunities to prosper in politics, business, education, and health?
	% of Population Using Internet	% of population using the internet in the last 3 months	Who can benefit from using the internet and who is left out?
	World Happiness Report	Self-report of subjective well-being, life satisfaction and positive emotion	Are people experiencing well-being and satisfaction with their lives?
	Giving Index	An index of contributions of money or time to benefit others	How generous are we being with others?

2026 Scorecard Comments

Changes in the composition of the scorecard measures are made periodically by the Conference Research track team members. Measures may be dropped when they are retired by the source organization or when their underlying methodology becomes unreliable. Measures may be added when significant shifts in the conversation of what is possible for humanity call for new measures to reflect that.

SCORECARD CHANGES THIS YEAR

No changes to the overall set of 21 measures in the scorecard were made since last year. The Giving Index is no longer being published by the reporting institution so it will be retired from the scorecard next year.

Conference Research track members are rigorously investigating possible new metrics to include in future scorecards, including examples described in the Outcomes & Global Measures section and in the Arts and Basic Needs sections below. In addition, team members are actively exploring ways to continue to present as complete and meaningful a picture of the state of the world as possible. Team members are dedicated to providing powerful support for conference participants' commitments for the world through expanding information and displays presented in the scorecard and other conference venues.

HOW THE MEASURES MAY RESPOND TO WORLD EVENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic was an extraordinary circumstance over recent years, and some trends in the scorecard are likely connected to its societal disruption. For example, before 2020, the global United Nations Human Development Index had increased every year since it began to be

published in 1990. Thirty years later, we saw an unprecedented decrease in the global HDI; this may be related to the pandemic since the components of the index were broadly impacted (educational attainment, life expectancy, and GDP per capita). Notably, since 2022, the HDI has rebounded and returned to its long-term trend. Decreases in Greenhouse Gas Emissions (reported as CO₂ emissions in 2020) and GDP that were observed in 2020 were also likely related to the pandemic and have rebounded in subsequent years back to their previous trends.

Another event we may see in the scorecard is the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. In addition to changes in the metrics for the countries directly involved, there may be surprising impacts on other countries. In 2022, Poland declined from having a Giving Index above the world average to having the lowest value of all countries. One interpretation proposed is that the disruption to its society from the conflict and the associated refugee influx have driven the decreases in some components of that measure.

LIMITATIONS OF THE SCORECARD

While the scorecard presents information on broad trends, a fuller sense of what is happening in any specific commitment area, as well as in the state of the world, requires more examination of and more nuanced views of the available data. A commitment to a wider view of the state of the world, both inside of and beyond any specific area, also requires a commitment to deeper inquiry, broader perspectives, and an awareness of other possible measures and of what remains unmeasured.

Specific limitations are also important to keep in mind. Great attention is paid by the Conference Research track members to selecting sources of data that are rigorous and reliable; nevertheless, any measurement has inherent uncertainty and is subject to unconscious or conscious bias. Country to country reporting may vary due to a variety

of factors, such as the degree of governmental or other misrepresentation, different internal applications of measurement methodologies, difficulty of measuring in underdeveloped regions or with such phenomena as pandemics or conflicts, and other factors. Gaps occur in some measures where population and/or metric data are either unavailable or unreliable. Examples include the absence of data for most metrics from North Korea, the challenge of acquiring reliable data from conflict areas, and challenges in obtaining country metrics that account for refugee populations. It is important to study organizational reports for how they have addressed such limitations to ensure as much rigor, accuracy, and reliability as possible.

CAREFUL INTERPRETATION IS REQUIRED

Careful interpretation should be made of the charts. A green border does not necessarily mean "good" — it only indicates that the global trend is moving in the direction intended by the institution producing the metric. For example, Percentage Living in Poverty continues to trend down globally, so that graph has a double-green border. A closer look reveals, however, that around 20 percent of the global population — more than 1.5 billion people — is living in poverty. Additionally, both hunger and poverty show signs of having recently moved counter to their long-term trends in some areas of the world.¹ These divergences for poverty and hunger point to the risk of drawing broad conclusions from a few aggregate indicators and long-term trends. If you have a commitment in this area, it may be easy to be misled by the double green (e.g., "good" or "improving") border.

To interpret the metrics powerfully, it is also critical to understand how each measure is defined. Continuing with Percentage Living in Poverty, the global reference figure of \$4.20/day on the graph is a global threshold derived from 2021 poverty lines in countries classified as Lower Middle Income by the World Bank. (For Upper Middle Income countries, the threshold is \$8.30 a day.) These figures are adjusted by the World Bank for inflation and for each country based on the cost of living in local currency over time. Minimum standards are established for most basic survival needs being met; any established poverty threshold is a minimum level not necessarily reflecting resources needed for a given lifestyle. Developed nations, in general, set their national poverty levels significantly higher, but

even with higher thresholds, many individuals and families might struggle to meet their needs. This is an example of the importance of understanding how each measure is defined, including variance in definition by different reporting organizations.

Each of the Economic measures on the scorecard are green — globally, there is more wealth, less poverty, and a slight improvement in wealth inequality. Examining the graph for Wealth Inequality - Gini Coefficient, however, reveals that for the largest countries, wealth inequality has increased significantly over the last two decades, and global inequality has not improved in the last 10 years.

One additional distinction to point out is the difference between statistical significance and practical significance. As an example, the global incarceration rate changed from increasing in the 2024 scorecard to decreasing in the last two editions. Although it is correct to say that there is a statistically significant decrease, is it of practical significance? The rate of change remains very slow; it shifted from expecting a +10 percent change over 100 years to a -10 percent change over 50 years. Neither of these may be of practical significance to one with a commitment in this area.

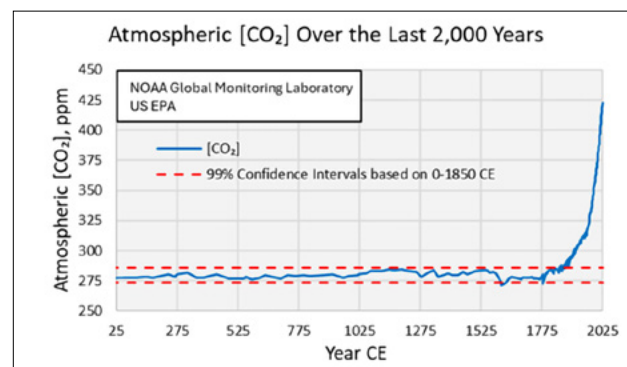
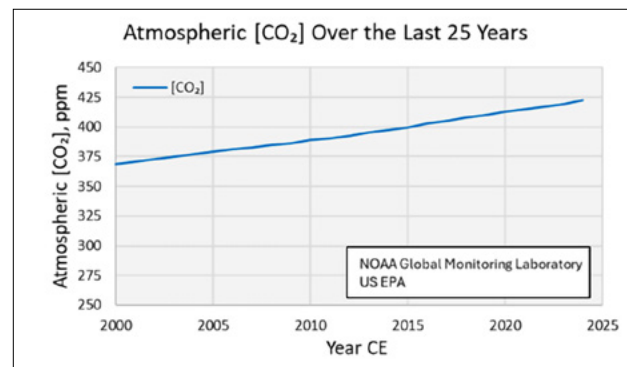
Depending on what your commitment is, you are invited to examine in more depth which measures are relevant and how they are defined. You can go to the source reports (website addresses under each chart) for more information on individual countries and the ways in which these organizations gather, accumulate, and report their data.

ENDNOTES

¹ 2023/2024 UN Human Development Report, pp 39-40

The Power of Data Behind the Graphs

The averages shown on the scorecard graphs (similar to any averages) can obscure crucial detail and texture that is available in the raw data. Taking a view of the world overall necessarily aggregates and averages numerous individual measurements; generalized conclusions from those macroscopic observations can miss critical details. As an example, consider the incarceration metric, which was introduced on the scorecard two years ago. The data represented in the scorecard graph is necessarily aggregated and averaged for large populations over the last 20 years in order to be displayed in the global scorecard format. If you were committed to transformation in the domain of incarceration, it is likely that insights gained through examination of more detail and information in the data would be both essential and empowering.



One could expect analogous insights to be available in almost all the metrics as you drill down into detailed data and over various timescales. To be responsible for a promise or commitment in an area almost certainly demands a more profound relationship to “what’s so” than can be realized with aggregated and averaged information assembled over a relatively brief timespan.

On the other end of the time scale is another limitation of the scorecard metrics. The scorecard relies on established global datasets that track conditions across countries and over time. These measures

LIMITATIONS OF TIME PERIOD REPORTING

Another boundary on the data found in the scorecard graphs is time. The earliest reported year on the scorecard is data from the year 2000. It is often valuable to understand the progression of metrics over longer periods of time; for example, the change in atmospheric CO₂ concentration looks very different when examining the last 2,000 years instead of only the last 25.

provide valuable insight into long-term patterns and trends. At the same time, they have limitations, particularly during periods of rapid global change. Two structural challenges are especially relevant:

1. Time lag in global indicators. Many widely used international datasets are published with delays of one to several years because of the time required to gather, verify, and standardize information across countries.
2. Rapidly evolving conditions. Economic, environmental, political, and social conditions can shift faster than global measurement systems are able to document them.

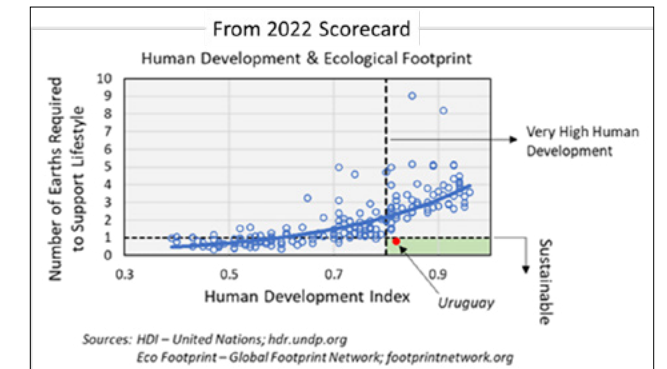
Because of these factors, the scorecard primarily reveals long-term patterns rather than events unfolding in real time. The Conference Research track team is exploring ways to supplement the scorecard with additional sources of information and new forms of visualization that may provide more current insight into emerging global trends while preserving the rigor and comparability required for long-term analysis.

Participants who have a commitment in a particular arena may wish to look beyond the global scorecard graphs to stay connected to what is currently unfolding. Many of the organizations listed under each chart publish ongoing reports, country-level data, and updates that often reveal developments sooner than aggregated global metrics. Research institutions, international organizations, and independent data initiatives also publish more frequent analyses and regional data. Exploring these sources can deepen understanding of the trends shown in the scorecard and support a more powerful relationship to “what’s so” in the areas to which you are committed.

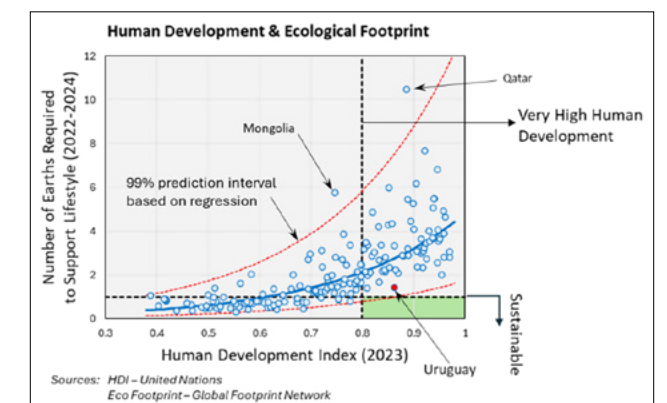
OUTLIERS & BRIGHT SPOTS – ET TU, URUGUAY?

Outliers are often bright spots from which more may be learned than can be seen in overall trends. As an example, measures can be examined together. The Ecological Footprint of a country compares all resources consumed to global resources and can be expressed as the “Number of Earths” required to sustainably support the world’s population, if everyone on the planet had the current lifestyle (consumed the same average

amount of resources) as the people of that country. Comparing that to the Human Development Index (measured by the United Nations, based on income, life expectancy, and educational attainment), a trend can be seen, with sustainability worsening as human development improves. First appearing in the 2022 scorecard, a comparison of these measures identified a ‘bright spot’ — Uruguay — which was the only country to achieve very high human development while consuming less than “1 Earth” worth of resources.



Since then, six percent growth in Uruguay’s human development index (about twice the global increase) has been accompanied by 75 percent growth in ecological footprint (30 times the global increase), moving it out of the desired quadrant of the graph.



Similarly, examination of the two “dark spots” — lying outside of the 99 percent confidence interval for the regression of the dataset — may be of interest. Qatar and Mongolia are significantly displaced having a larger ecological footprint than expected given their HDI.

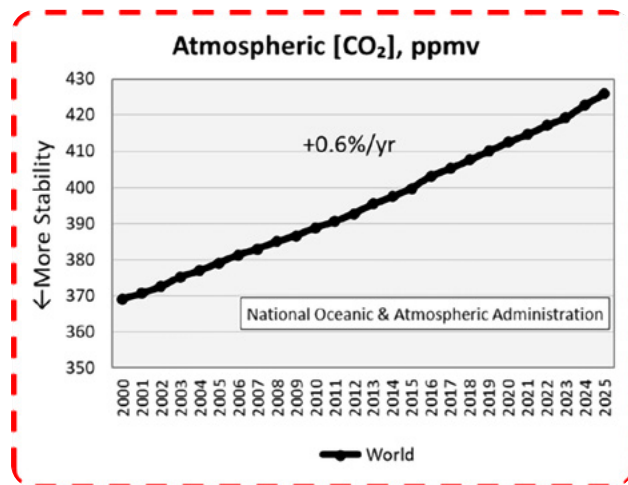
OUTCOMES & GLOBAL MEASURES

The metrics in the scorecard are intended to be outcomes in which one would expect to see change were global transformation to occur. Scorecard Team members endeavor to avoid metrics that are intended to track a particular prescription to deliver an outcome. This is why the Economic Freedom Index was removed in 2022 — it measured policy compliance rather than actual outcomes. The same could be said about tracking Greenhouse Gas Emissions such as CO₂. Emissions are included as a measure because of their impact on climate change, but it can be argued that the outcome to track would be climate change itself. Such crucial outcomes transcend national boundaries; while CO₂ emissions can be tracked by country, outcomes such as atmospheric CO₂ concentration, global temperature rise, and ocean acidification are inherently global. A wildfire in California or coral bleaching in Australia reflects collective impact as a species. This global perspective reveals two key insights:

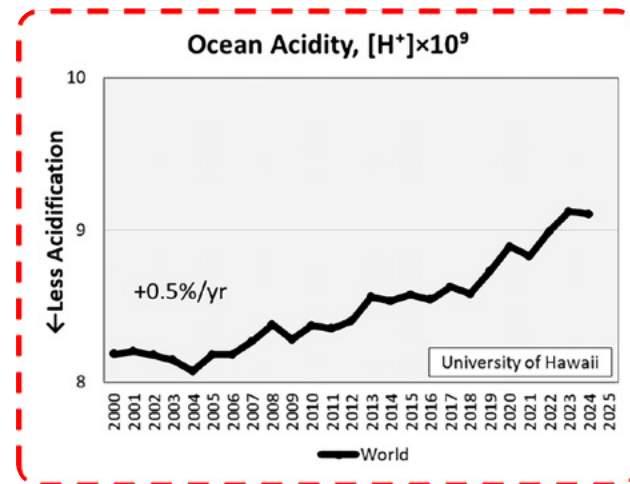
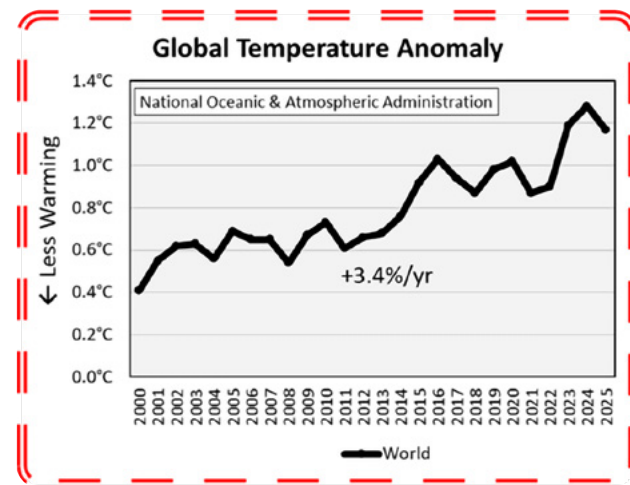
1. Many transformative outcomes can only be measured on a global scale.
2. Including these shared measures reinforces humanity's interconnectedness — we succeed or fail together.

The Conference Research track members continue to explore measures that reflect such global trends and how best to monitor and report on them. Examples in five areas are shown below.

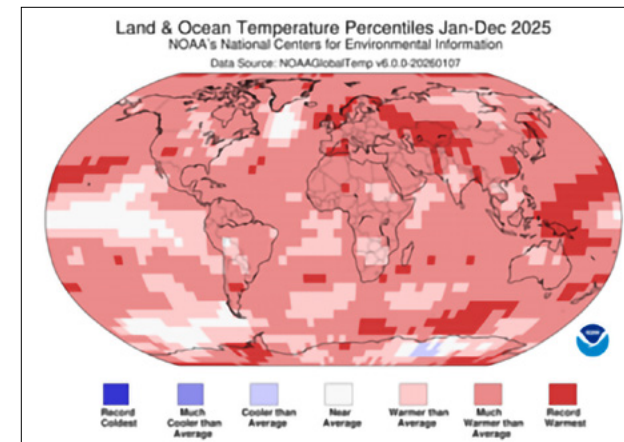
In the domain of climate change, the outcome of CO₂ emissions is the atmospheric concentration of CO₂.



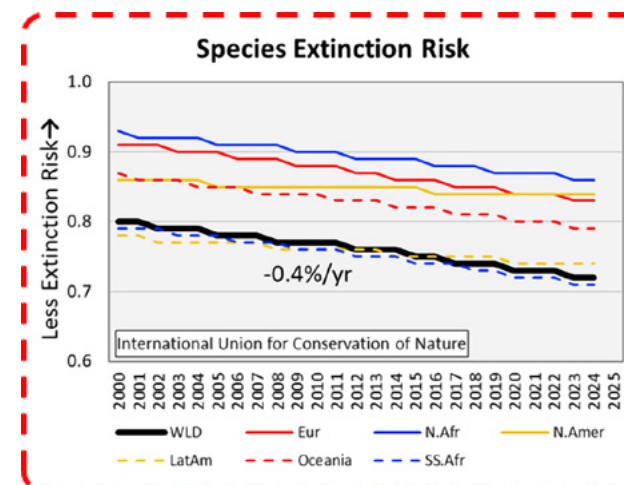
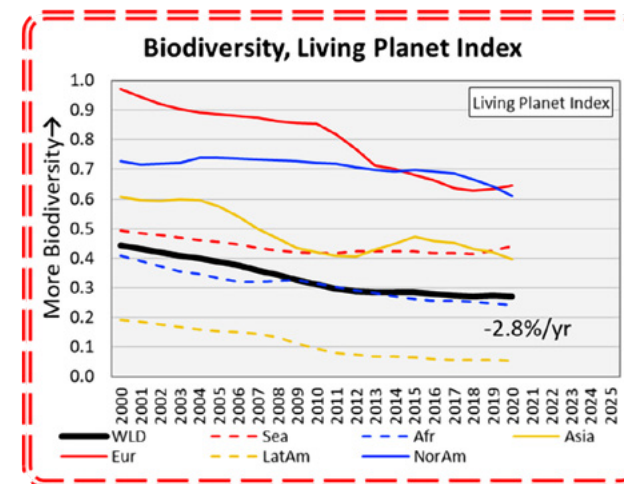
Rising CO₂ is associated with environmental outcomes such as rising temperatures and ocean acidity.



Although rising temperatures are a global phenomenon, there is some dispersion across the globe. Similar to the maps of the national scorecard metrics above, this map indicates the variation in temperature excursions globally for 2025.



Combinations of many factors contribute to the outcomes of biodiversity and extinction of species that don't align with national borders but can be assessed regionally (note that neither of these metrics have been updated since last year's scorecard).



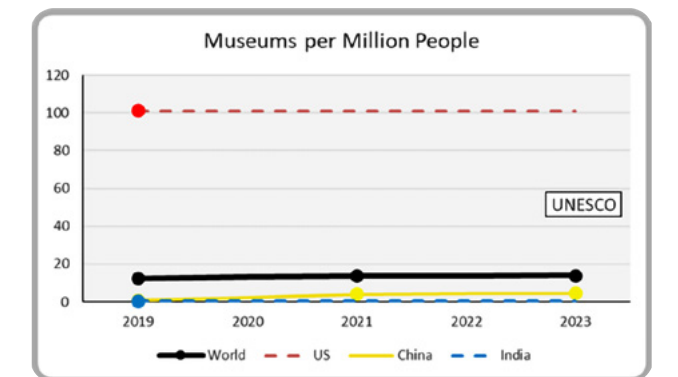
Keeping score of the games we are playing may be more powerful if we acknowledge there are areas where we only win or lose together.

EXPLORING THE ARTS

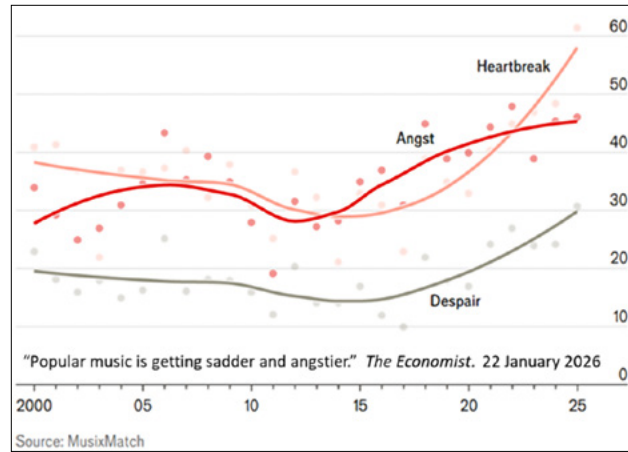
One of the areas being explored for inclusion in the scorecard is a metric or metrics that would give insight into the trajectory of self-expression represented by the "state of the arts." We are asking questions such as these:

- How might we assess its impact economically, socially, environmentally?
- How is support or participation changing over time?
- What changes in the domain of the arts would we expect to see if global transformation were occurring?

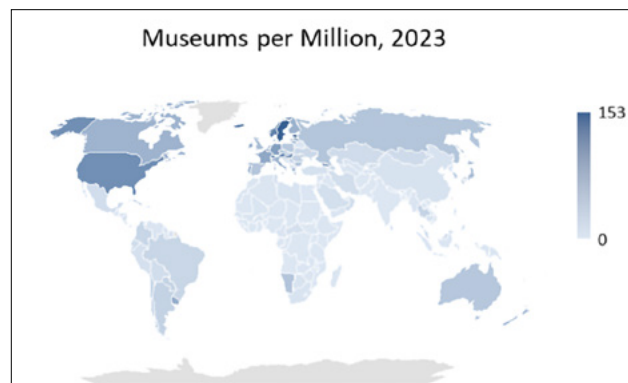
We have not yet found global measures collected consistently over time that could be added to the scorecard but we have found some being developed. For example, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has published a series of reports detailing the prevalence of museums globally. Their data indicate that about one out of five museums is primarily a museum of the arts. Looking at their overall data for museums, we can start to see a global picture of public access to one aspect of the arts.



Reporting varies by country, with the United States and India reporting data only in 2019, but overall reporting was sufficient for UNESCO to publish overall reports from 2019-2023. Based on their estimates, both the global number of museums



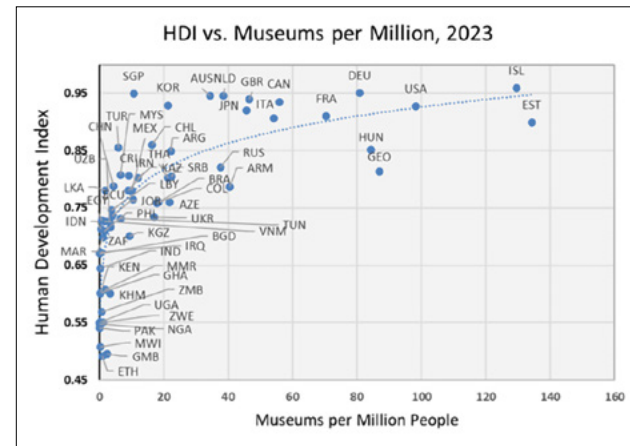
and the museums per capita increased by about 10 percent. The graph above does not show a statistically significant trend because there are only three data points.



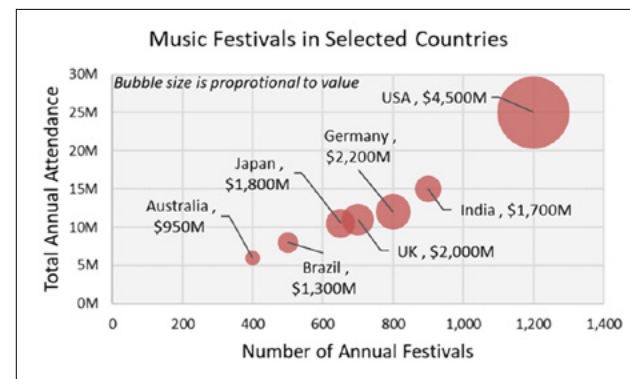
The map above shows the 2023 data by country, with the darker blue indicating a country with a higher number of museums per million inhabitants. Some data for very small countries has been excluded for clarity; for example, Vatican City has 19 museums for less than 1,000 inhabitants (~20,000 museums per million), which would result in the rest of the map being essentially one very light color, if we included it in the map.

Correlations were assessed for several other scorecard metrics; several correlations were significant (GDP per person per day, World Happiness Report, Corruption Perceptions, for example). Shown below is the scatter plot of the Human Development Index vs. museums per capita. HDI is a composite of life expectancy, average

income, and educational attainment. It may not be surprising that, as countries become healthier, wealthier, and more educated, they tend to invest more in cultural institutions like museums.



Another expression of the vitality of the arts is music festivals; while we have not found a comprehensive set of data over time, we have collected some information on several large countries.



Data compiled from national statistics bureaus, festival organizers, cultural ministries, and global aggregators (e.g., Statistica, WiFiTalents)

While this is an incomplete and somewhat anecdotal review, it represents participation by almost 100 million people and an economic impact of about \$15 billion. These seven countries comprise about 28 percent of the global population.

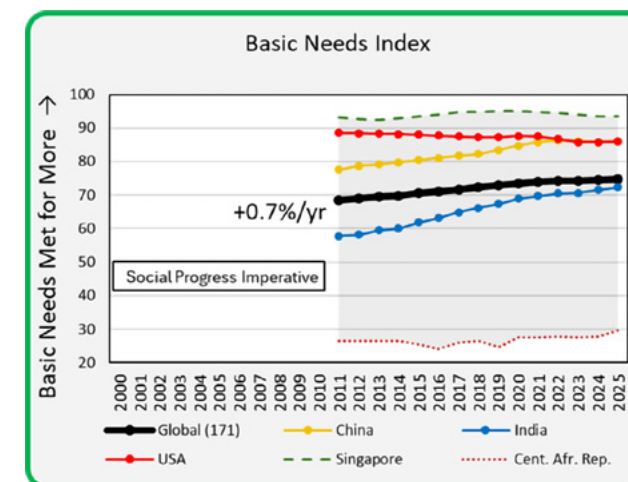
One final perspective of the arts is to inquire into the notion that changes in the arts may inform us about other aspects of the state of the world. The graph below was published in The Economist and illustrates an observation regarding the sentiment

and emotion expressed in popular music. Over the last five years, that sentiment has trended away from joy and love and more toward sadness and despair. This may be a reflection in the arts of recent trends that can be seen in several declining scorecard measures.

The team will continue to explore sources of data that could potentially provide a metric for the state of the arts that could be included in the scorecard measures.

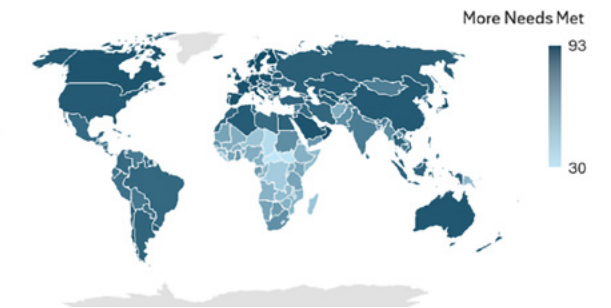
ARE PEOPLE'S BASIC NEEDS BEING MET?

Another area into which the Scorecard Team is inquiring is the degree to which humanity's basic needs are being met. One element of a world that works for everyone is that basic needs are met for all. We have identified an additional index metric, the Basic Needs Index, which is a component of the Social Progress Index that assesses basic needs — nutrition, water, sanitation, shelter, and safety. This metric has been reported for 15 years by the Social Progress Imperative, and the trend is shown below in our scorecard format.



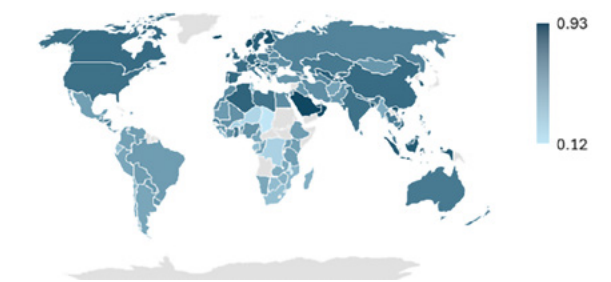
The 2025 Basic Needs Index is shown globally on the following map; the higher numbers reflect more basic needs being met for the population of individual countries.

Basic Needs Index, 2025



One last question we are endeavoring to answer is "For how many people are basic needs not being met?" The component data for the Basic Needs Index includes primary measures (e.g. percent of population with inadequate nutrition) that allow us to start understanding that answer. Since the degree of independence of the population proportions in the dataset is unknown, we can only bound the proportion with a maximum and a minimum. The map below shows the maximum proportion of national populations for whom all basic needs are being met based on those data.

Max Proportion of Population with Needs Met, 2025



Based on the world metrics provided by the Social Progress Imperative, the maximum percentage of the global population for whom they assess that all basic needs are being met is about 65 percent. This implies that at least 35 percent, more than 2.5 billion people, have at least one of those basic needs unmet.

CONCLUSION

The scorecard is more than a collection of averages — the data can reveal bright spots, patterns, and outliers that can point to transformative possibilities. Participants who have a commitment for the world

are strongly encouraged to explore the data behind these measures. By examining detailed information from source websites and understanding the components of key indices, you might identify new directions and actions to fulfill your commitments. The scorecard not only measures our collective progress but also illuminates opportunities for action and transformation.

Contact Details for the Scorecard Team

- For questions or comments about the scorecard charts, data, or analysis, contact david.flattery@post.harvard.edu.
- New Conference Research track (Scorecard Team) members are welcome. Contact david.flattery@post.harvard.edu to apply.

Current members of the State of the World Scorecard Team (Landmark Training Academy Conference Research track): **Gary Bryson, Dave Flattery, Catherine Green, Michelle Hastings, Wendy Keilin, David Lanfear, Peg Miller, Frank Quinlan, Robert Thomas, and Geoff Wheeler.**

