

Appendix A: Government Restrictions Index

The following table shows all 198 countries and territories in descending order of their scores on Pew Research Center's index of government restrictions on religion as of the end of 2015. The Center has not attached numerical rankings to the countries because there are numerous tied scores and the differences between the scores of countries that are close to each other on this table are not necessarily meaningful.

Very High SCORES 6.6 AND HIGHER		
Egypt	Kyrgyzstan	Nigeria
China	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Iran	Comoros ▲	Georgia
Russia ▲	Sudan	Greece
Uzbekistan	Israel	Tunisia
Malaysia ▲	United Arab Emirates ▲	Austria
Saudi Arabia	Bahrain	Mexico
Indonesia	Kuwait	Belgium
Syria	Qatar	Libya
Morocco ▲	Laos ▼	Equatorial Guinea
Iraq	Jordan	Armenia
Algeria ▲	Afghanistan	Denmark
Tajikistan	France	Germany
Brunei ▲	Bhutan	United States ▲
Turkmenistan	Moldova ▲	Iceland ▲
Azerbaijan	India	Bahamas
Turkey ▼	Bangladesh	Niger ▲
Kazakhstan	Bulgaria	Romania
Eritrea	Cuba	Djibouti
Singapore	Oman	Tanzania
Maldives	Nepal ▲	Cambodia ▲
Mauritania ▲	Rwanda ▲	Kenya
Vietnam	Yemen	Tuvalu
	Somalia ▲	Kosovo
		Cameroon ▲
		Lebanon
		Republic of Macedonia
		Ethiopia
		Norway
		Mongolia
		Serbia
		Zambia
High SCORES 4.5 TO 6.5	Moderate SCORES 2.4 TO 4.4	
Western Sahara	Ukraine	
Burma (Myanmar)	Thailand	
Belarus	Angola ▲	
	Palestinian territories	

▲ Denotes an increase of one point or more from 2014 to 2015.

▼ Denotes a decrease of one point or more from 2014 to 2015.

* See page 52 for notes on North Korea and Somalia.

Government Restrictions Index (cont.)

Chad	▲
Italy	
Uganda	▼
Guinea	
Switzerland	
Central African Republic	
Burundi	
Costa Rica	
Montenegro	▲
Madagascar	
Zimbabwe	
Spain	
Poland	
Peru	
Venezuela	
Latvia	
Argentina	
Monaco	▲
Honduras	
Albania	▲
Slovakia	
Panama	
Antigua and Barbuda	
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	▲
South Korea	
St. Kitts and Nevis	
Bosnia-Herzegovina	
Sierra Leone	▲
Togo	
Malta	▲
Republic of the Congo	
Finland	
Ghana	▲
Hong Kong	
Haiti	
Grenada	▲
Sweden	
South Sudan	
Dominica	
Nicaragua	
El Salvador	
Guatemala	
Colombia	
Gambia	
Ecuador	
Timor-Leste	
Liberia	
Namibia	
Burkina Faso	▲
Mauritius	
Tonga	
Fiji	▼
Nauru	
St. Lucia	
Dominican Republic	
Slovenia	
Jamaica	
Croatia	
Guyana	
Paraguay	
Chile	
Vanuatu	
Canada	
Taiwan	
Estonia	
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	
Botswana	
Belize	
Australia	
Ireland	
South Africa	
Solomon Islands	
Papua New Guinea	
Trinidad and Tobago	
Bolivia	
Malawi	
Gabon	
Ivory Coast	
Mali	
Kiribati	
Lesotho	
Samoa	
Senegal	
Macau	
Philippines	
Japan	
Benin	
Brazil	
Mozambique	
Portugal	
San Marino	
Sao Tome and Principe	
Federated States of Micronesia	
Guinea-Bissau	
Suriname	
Uruguay	
Cape Verde	
New Zealand	
Palau	
Marshall Islands	

Low	
SCORES 0.0 TO 2.3	
Luxembourg	
Andorra	▲
Seychelles	
Cyprus	
Lithuania	
United Kingdom	
Barbados	
Czech Republic	
Hungary	
Liechtenstein	
Netherlands	
Swaziland	

NORTH KOREA: The sources used for this study clearly indicate that the government of North Korea is among the most repressive in the world with respect to religion as well as other civil liberties. But because North Korean society is effectively closed to outsiders, the sources are unable to provide the kind of specific and timely information that Pew Research coded in this quantitative study. Therefore, the report does not include a score for North Korea on either index.

SOMALIA: Starting with data covering 2013, researchers changed the way they coded government restrictions in Somalia. See the Methodology for more details.

Note: This report corrects the way constitutions were coded for 10 countries: Cameroon, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique and Uruguay. The corrections were applied to all applicable previous years to ensure consistency, and the updates resulted in changes to those 10 countries' Government Restrictions Index scores in various years. Among these countries, two – Mexico and Costa Rica – had score changes that pushed them from one category to another in 2014. Mexico's 2014 GRI score decreased from "high" to "moderate," while Costa Rica's 2014 GRI score increased from "low" to "moderate." Users of the data should note this update when comparing these results with those printed in the June 2016 report "Trends in Global Restrictions on Religion."