

COUNTRY PROFILE



Singapore

GLOBAL RANK: 4th= of 104



Ranking 4th overall, tied with the US and Germany, Singapore's high scores for commercialisation of innovation help it attain the top spot for Economic Competitiveness, far above its ranking for Comparative Liveability (17th).

● BACKGROUND

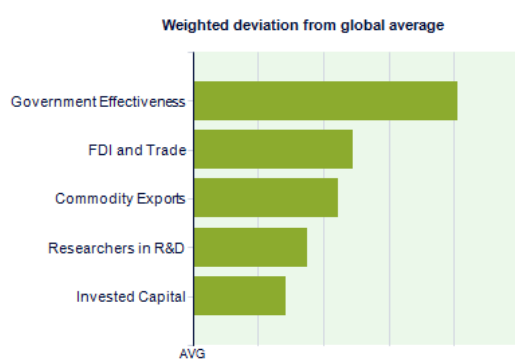
Located at the south of the Malay Peninsula, this city-state is one of Asia's most successful economies, with high levels of personal income, exceptional commercial freedom, and continued success at attracting foreign investment. To the strength of its financial sector is now added a growing presence of pharmaceutical and biotech firms. Tourism is booming, with gambling and medical tourism both developing sectors. Poverty rates are low and public housing is high-quality and widely available. Political power is in the hands of one party, which limits press freedom and enforces a famously strict penal code.

FAST FACTS

Population:	4.6 million (2008 est.)	FDI (net inflow):	16.81% (2006 est.)
Life Today	6.6 (2007 est.)	Exports	205.67% (2006 est.)
GDP (PPP)	\$228.1 billion (2007 est.)	Imports	180.62% (2006 est.)
GDP (Growth)	7.7% (2007 est.)	Unemployment:	2.1% (2007 est.)
GDP (per Capita)	\$49,700 (2007 est.)	Life Expectancy	81.89 years (2008 est.)
Political System:	Parliamentary Republic		
Foreign Aid:	0.00% (2004 est.)		

● KEY SCORE DRIVERS

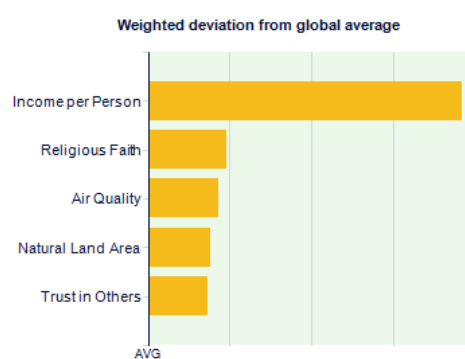
ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS



Since independence in 1965, Singapore has transformed its economy and the wealth of its citizens by nurturing manufacturing for export, particularly in electronics, aided by extraordinary levels of foreign trade and investment and guided by government industrial policy. However, rising labour costs, and Singapore's susceptibility to fluctuating international demand, have forced a rethink of the low-value manufacturing development model that has been followed widely in the region.

Nonetheless, Singapore retains significant advantages in infrastructure, labour, and a sound regulatory environment, and is particularly respectful of property rights, all of which have led to

COMPARATIVE LIVEABILITY



Singapore has enjoyed sustained growth in incomes, and has achieved an excellent health-adjusted life expectancy of over 70 years. These are two of the most heavily-weighted components in the Prosperity Index.

Despite a weak score for political rights and civil liberties, Singapore's government is in general highly effective and maintains tight control over corruption. However, Singapore's material success has been paid for by arduous working hours (an average of 49.8 hours a week) and a corresponding reduction in leisure time (just over four⁹ hours a day).

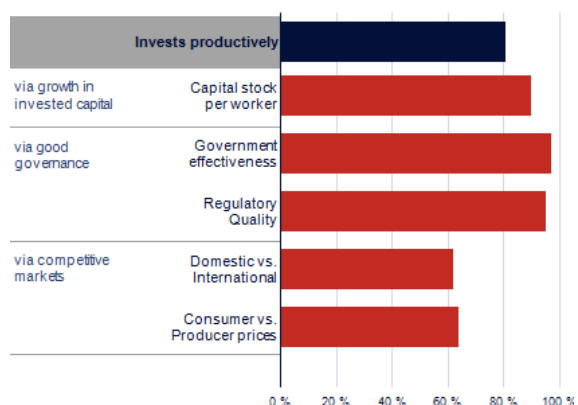
extraordinary success in accumulating capital investment. Singapore's mass education scores are already high. Recent education reforms, with a particular focus on IT skills, should help the economy continue its shift into knowledge and capital-intensive sectors such as biotechnology. Singapore has already achieved considerable success in reaping the commercial benefits of innovation, as evidenced by the amount of high-tech goods that it exports.

Singapore's excellent score for openness reflects sustained government promotion of bilateral FTAs and work towards economic integration within ASEAN and APEC. Singapore has built a substantial competitive advantage as a regional financial centre, backed by a high level of government effectiveness.

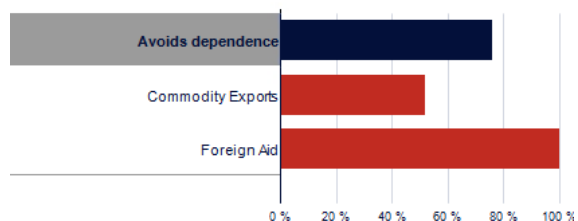
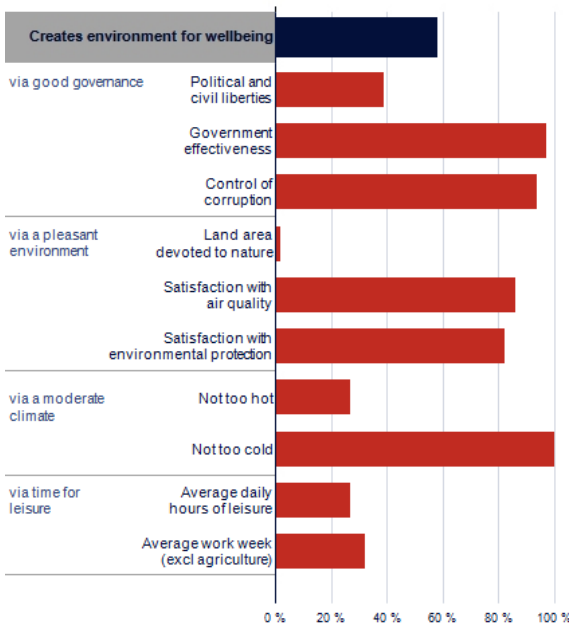
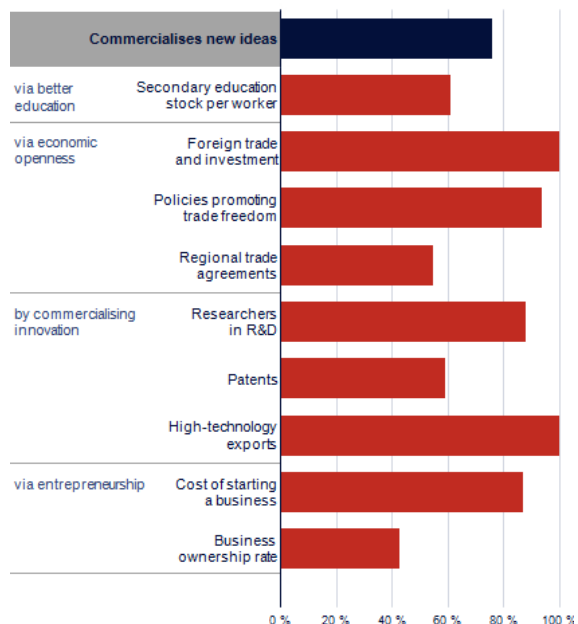
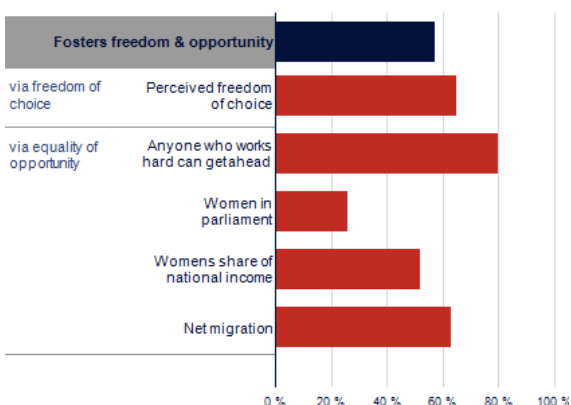
Singapore also shows some weaknesses in equality of opportunity. Increasing numbers of low-skilled jobs are filled by immigrants, who are required as Singapore's population growth slips below the replacement rate. However, charitable giving remains common, suggesting a relatively healthy degree of social cohesion.

Singapore's small size and high population density means that green spaces are sparse. However, the government has compensated for a low abundance of nature by making natural environment and resource preservation a priority in its long-term Green Plan. Index scores on air quality and to public satisfaction with environmental preservation efforts are very high.

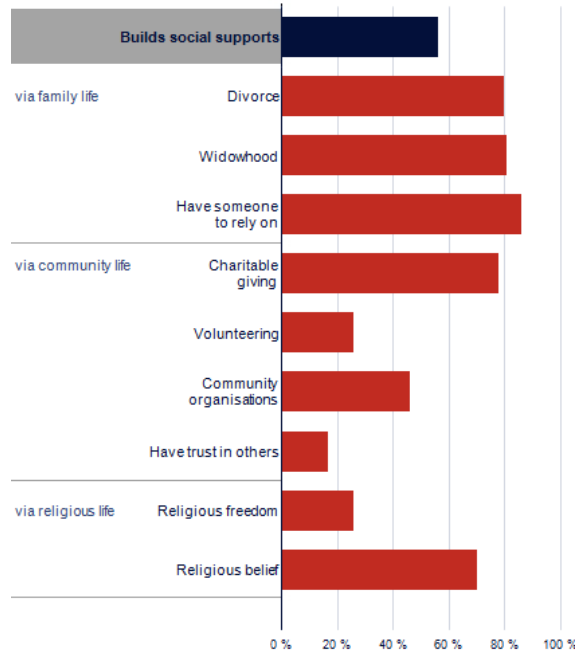
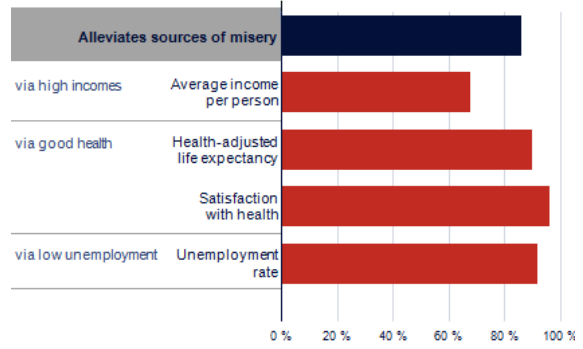
ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS: SCORECARD



COMPARATIVE LIVEABILITY: SCORECARD



All subindicator scores in the Index are shown unweighted, expressed as a percentage of the score for the best-performing country in the Index. Indicator scores (in dark blue) are derived from the weighted average of relevant subindicators. For more information on how the subindicator scores are weighted to produce indicator scores and an overall Index score and ranking, see Chapter Two of this report.



References:

^{9, w} See www.prosperity.com/references.aspx for further details including date of survey, sample size, and margin of error.