

Appendix A: Government Restrictions Index

The following table shows all 198 countries and territories in descending order of their scores on the Pew Research Center's index of government restrictions on religion as of the end of 2014. The Center has not attached numerical rankings to the countries because there are numerous tie 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		Moderate SCORES 2.4 TO 4.4
China	Vietnam	Greece
Egypt	Kyrgyzstan	Thailand
Uzbekistan	Belarus	France
Turkey	Algeria	Bangladesh ▼
Indonesia	Brunei ▼	Nigeria
Iran	Mauritania	Palestinian territories ▼
Syria	Israel	United Arab Emirates ▼
Saudi Arabia	Jordan	Djibouti ▼
Kazakhstan ▲	Bulgaria	Ukraine
Azerbaijan	Kuwait	Kenya
Turkmenistan ▲	Morocco	Serbia
Laos ▲	Sri Lanka	Lebanon
Malaysia	Qatar	Georgia
Maldives ▲	Uganda ▲	Ethiopia ▼
Russia	Libya	Comoros
Tajikistan	Tunisia	Bahamas
	Yemen	Rwanda ▼
	Oman	Moldova
	Bhutan	Denmark
	India	Belgium
	Mexico ▲	Guinea ▲
	Armenia ▼	Slovakia
	Cuba ▼	Austria
		Germany ▼
		Zimbabwe
		Zambia
		Republic of Macedonia
		Equatorial Guinea ▲
		Nepal
		Madagascar

▲ Denotes an increase of one point or more from 2013 to 2014.

▼ Denotes a decrease of one point or more from 2013 to 2014.

* See page 47 for notes on North Korea, Somalia and the Palestinian territories.

Government Restrictions Index (cont.)

Tuvalu			
Tanzania			
Spain			
Somalia			
Venezuela			
Burundi	▲		
Peru			
Poland	▲		
Latvia			
Hungary			
Romania	▼		
Angola	▼		
United States			
Kosovo			
Norway			
Fiji	▲		
Nicaragua			
Honduras	▲		
Cyprus			
Iceland			
Argentina	▲		
Mongolia			
Czech Republic	▲		
Cambodia	▲		
Switzerland			
Sweden			
South Sudan	▼		
South Korea			
Bosnia-Herzegovina			
Antigua and Barbuda			
Bolivia			
Haiti			
Togo			
Tonga			
Panama			
St. Lucia			
Gambia			
St. Vincent and the Grenadines			
Mozambique			
United Kingdom			
Chad		▼	
Colombia			
Jamaica			
Dominican Republic			
Monaco			
Luxembourg			
Barbados			
Montenegro			
Timor-Leste			
Seychelles			
Dominica			
Netherlands			
El Salvador			
Croatia			
Estonia			
Niger			
Liberia			
Chile			
Paraguay			
Finland			
Ivory Coast			
Guyana			
Vanuatu			
Belize			
Canada			
Democratic Republic of the Congo			
Papua New Guinea			
Mauritius			
Malawi			
Republic of the Congo			
Senegal			
Trinidad and Tobago			
Albania			
Malta			
Solomon Islands			
Gabon			
Australia			
Slovenia			
Portugal			
Andorra			
Kiribati			
Ecuador			
Uruguay			
Grenada			
Samoa			
Ireland			
Macau			
Sierra Leone			
Botswana			
South Africa			
Ghana			
Nauru			
Namibia			
Philippines			
Lesotho			
Japan			
Taiwan			
Brazil			
Cameroon			
Mali			
Benin			
Guinea-Bissau			
Burkina Faso			
Cape Verde			
San Marino			
Marshall Islands			
Palau			
Federated States of Micronesia			
Suriname			
Sao Tome and Principe			
New Zealand			

Low			
SCORES 0.0 TO 2.3			
Italy			
Costa Rica		▼	
Central African Republic		▼	
Hong Kong		▼	
Guatemala			
Swaziland			
Lithuania			
Liechtenstein			
St. Kitts and Nevis			

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.

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES: The Palestinian territories' score on government restrictions reflects the policies of the Palestinian Authority government (headed by Mahmoud Abbas and headquartered in the West Bank) rather than the actions of Hamas in Gaza (which is not recognized by most of the sources for this report as a legitimate government).

Note: The current report corrects for a minor error in rounding procedures in the previous report; the new procedure was applied to data for both 2014 and 2013 to ensure consistency. The updating resulted in a change to one country's score on the Government Restrictions Index for 2013: The Palestinian territories, which was reported as having moderate government restrictions on religion in 2013, should have been categorized as having high government restrictions. Users of the data should note this update when comparing results to those printed in the February 2015 report "Latest Trends in Religious Restrictions and Hostilities."
