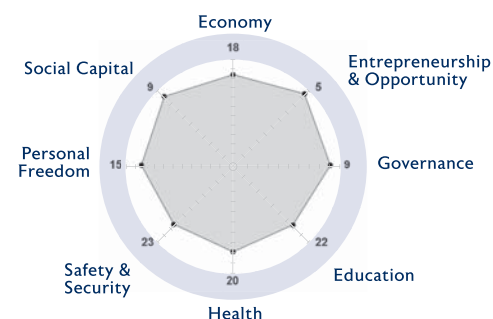




Fast Facts

Average life satisfaction	6.9/10 (2009)	Literacy rate (% of adult population)	100% (2008)
Population	62.2 mn (2010 Est.)	Life Expectancy	80 years (2008)
GDP per capita (PPP)	\$35,083 (2010 Est.)	Business Start-up Costs (% of Gross National Income)	0.7% (2008)
GDP (PPP)	\$2,182.9 bn (2010 Est.)	77.8% of people believe society is meritocratic*	(2009)
Political System	Constitutional Monarchy	66.3% of people feel personal safety*	(2009)
Freedom House rating	Free (2010)	35.8% of people find others trustworthy*	(2009)

Sub-Index Rankings



Index Comparisons (Rank/No of countries)

Legatum Prosperity Index	13/110
Average Life Satisfaction Ranking	20/110
Per Capita GDP Ranking	16/110
WEF Global Competitiveness Index	12/139
UN Human Development Index	21/182
Heritage/WSJ Economic Freedom Index	11/179
TI Corruption Perceptions Index	17/180
Vision of Humanity Global Peace Index	31/149

Economy

The UK economy is strong, but levels of confidence about the job market opportunities and economic growth are limited

RANKED 18TH

The UK places 16th on the Index for its inflation rate of 4%, and the British have a gross domestic savings rate that is below the global** average. Nearly 6% of the labour force is unemployed, placing the UK 38th for this variable, but when surveyed in 2009, 62%* of the population reported that they were engaged in either paid or unpaid work. The UK ranks 15th* on the affordability of adequate food and shelter, according to a 2009 survey, and, nine out of 10* citizens are satisfied with their standard of living placing the UK in the top 10, on this variable. However, the UK places 98th* for surveyed opinion on job expectations and wider expectations for the general economy are also below average*. An average annual GDP growth per capita of 1.7% between 2004 and 2008, places the UK amongst the 20 lowest performers on this variable. Physical capital per worker is around \$100,000 (PPP), which ranks the UK 27th internationally. The UK has the fifth largest market in the world, and 20% of its manufactured goods are high-tech exports. Foreign direct investment in the UK is low placing the country in the bottom third worldwide, on this variable. There is a small percentage of non-performing loans, but financial confidence remains low and places the UK 101st* in the Index.

Entrepreneurship & Opportunity

The UK has high levels of innovation and a strong infrastructure for entrepreneurship

RANKED 5TH

There are clear signs of robust innovative activity in the UK. Its royalty receipts as well as licence fees and receipts are the third highest in the world, bringing in 13.9 billion USD per year. It places in the top 20 for both its high R&D expenditure and its high ICT exports. Although Britons perceive the entrepreneurial environment to be below average*, start-up costs are ranked seventh lowest in the world. Mobile phone access is high, and the country places in the top 10 for both access to internet bandwidth and to secure internet servers, all of which points to a strong infrastructure for entrepreneurship. The UK is among the 20 best countries worldwide for equality of economic development across different socio-economic groups. However, only 78%* of Britons believe that hard work will get them ahead in life, which is below the global average.

Governance

The UK is a highly effective and transparent government with low levels of corruption

RANKED 9TH

The UK is a robust democracy, with a highly effective government that places 12th on the Index for this variable. The UK model of government is among the world's most stable, having been in place for 128 years. The levels of checks and balances on the executive are above average, and there is a very high level of competition and regulation in the executive branch. While Britons express an above-average* level of satisfaction with their country's efforts to address poverty and to preserve the environment, only 39%* of Britons have confidence in the national government, placing the country 74th in the Index, on this variable. The UK falls within the top 20 both in terms of its perceived low levels of corruption and its effectiveness in enforcing the rule of law. The UK is the sixth best country in the world in terms of regulating investment and competition. Confidence in the military is very high*, while confidence in the judicial system is only slightly above average*. Political rights are very highly protected and 24%* of Britons voiced their opinion to a public official in the year prior to a 2009 survey, which places the country 28th on the Index for this variable. Elections are perceived as being honest and transparent by 65%* of the population, which is above the global average.

Education

The British public is highly satisfied with the educational system, but school enrolment rates could improve

RANKED 22ND

Net primary enrolment in the UK is relatively high, as is gross secondary enrolment and gross tertiary enrolment – the country places 27th, 30th, and 30th on each variable, respectively. A high 84%* of the population are satisfied with the quality of education and an above average of 86%* believe that children have the opportunity to learn and grow every day in British society. The UK's ratio of primary school students to teachers is 17-to-one, which is below the global average, but there is near gender equality in primary and secondary education. The UK ranks 31st in the Index for the average years of secondary education completed by the workforce – over two and a half years – and 24th for the average years of tertiary education completed.

Health

UK citizens live long healthy lives, but some suffer from high levels of respiratory infection

RANKED 20TH

There is a low level of infant mortality in the UK. The country places among the top 20 for life expectancy, when adjusted for healthy years lived. Levels of undernourishment are average by global standards, as approximately 6% of the population do not get the daily minimum standard of food. Immunisation rates against both infectious diseases and measles are low in the UK at just 92% and 86%, respectively, placing the country 64th and 79th, in the Index, for each. Health expenditure is at close to \$2,800 (PPP) per capita, which is the 16th highest worldwide. There are nearly four hospital beds per 1,000 people, which is above the global average, and everyone in the UK has access to improved sanitation facilities. A very high 93% of Britons are satisfied with the quality of their water. The country falls into the bottom 20 for the high occurrence of deaths from respiratory disease, but it places 26th on the Index for relatively low levels of TB. Health satisfaction of 85%* places the UK in the top 30 for this indicator, and a low 19%* of the population feel that health problems prevent them from doing activities in which others their age normally engage. However, only two-thirds* of people felt well-rested the previous day, as measured in 2009, and 33%* reported that they worried a lot of the previous day, which is around the global average. Nine in 10 people* derive satisfaction from their physical environment.

Safety & Security

The UK has high levels of national security, but the country places 40th in terms of public perception of personal safety

RANKED 23RD

The UK falls within the top 30 countries in terms of its relatively low level of refugees and internally displaced persons, group grievances based on recent or past injustices, and levels of state-sponsored violence or political terror. Human flight is very low in the UK; the country has the seventh lowest level of emigration of professionals, intellectuals and its middle class. There were no casualties from civil or ethnic violence in the UK in 2009, and there are relatively few demographic pressures deriving from border disputes, ownership or occupancy of land, access to transportation outlets, control of religious or historical sites, or proximity to environmental hazards. A low 2%* of Britons were assaulted in 2009, but nearly 13%* of Britons reported theft. The UK places 27th* in the Index in regards to citizens' believing that they can express their political opinions without fear, and it places 40th* in terms of citizens feeling safe walking home alone at night.

Personal Freedom

Civic liberties are high in the UK, as is perceived tolerance for minorities and immigrants

RANKED 15TH

UK citizens experience extremely high levels of civil liberties, which include freedoms of expression, belief, association and organisational rights. An above average 82%* of Britons are satisfied with the degree of freedom to choose in their daily lives. The UK places high* in terms of perceived tolerance for immigrants, and very high* on tolerance for racial and ethnic minorities: the country places 17th and 11th, respectively, on these variables.

Social Capital

Nearly 10 out of 10 Britons feel that they have friends or family to rely on in times of need

RANKED 9TH

On measures related to societal cohesion and engagement, British citizens are highly engaged in society. The country places 15th* in terms of having a populace that believes others can be trusted, and it has the fourth largest percentage* of people who had donated money to a charity, in the month prior to a 2009 survey. It placed 20th on variables for both volunteering at an organisation, and for helping a stranger. Over 96%* of people believe that they can rely on relatives and friends for help in times of need, earning the UK second place on this variable. A slightly above average 53%* of Britons are married, placing them near the median, which suggests moderate access to familial networks. Religious attendance is low at 20%, which places the UK in the bottom 15 on the Index for this variable, indicating low access to religious support networks.

Regional Ranking: Europe

Rank	Country
1	Norway
2	Denmark
3	Finland
6	Sweden
8	Switzerland
9	Netherlands
11	Ireland
12	Iceland
13	United Kingdom
14	Austria
15	Germany
16	Belgium
19	France
21	Slovenia
23	Spain
24	Czech Republic
25	Italy
26	Portugal
29	Poland
34	Hungary
35	Estonia
37	Slovakia
38	Croatia
39	Greece
42	Lithuania
46	Bulgaria
47	Latvia
51	Romania
54	Belarus
63	Russia
69	Ukraine
72	Macedonia
86	Moldova