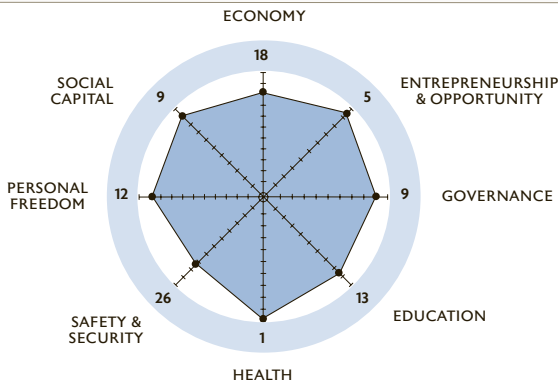




FAST FACTS

Average life satisfaction (Rated 0 > 10)	7.2	Literacy rate (% of adult population) (2009)	100%
Population mn. (2011 Est.)	312.89	Life expectancy years (2009)	78.7
GDP per capita (PPP) (2011 Est.)	\$48,666	Business start-up costs (% of Gross National Income) (2011)	1.4%
GDP (PPP) bn. (2011 Est.)	\$15,227.07	% of people believe society is meritocratic* (2011)	88.5%
Freedom House rating (2011)	Free	% of people feel personal safety* (2010)	77.4%
Political System	Constitution-based Federal Republic	% of people find others trustworthy* (2009)	37.1%

SUB-INDEX RANKINGS



INDEX OF COMPARISONS

	Rank/ No. of countries
Legatum Prosperity Index	10/110
Average Life Satisfaction Ranking	16/110
Per Capita GDP Ranking	4/110
WEF Global Competitiveness Index	4/139
UN Human Development Index	4/169
Heritage/WSJ Economic Freedom Index	9/179
TI Corruption Perceptions Index	22/178
Vision of Humanity Global Peace Index	82/153

ECONOMY:

Despite strong structures for future growth, confidence in American financial institutions remains low

RANKED
18

The United States has a relatively stable economy but is suffering from a negative inflation rate of -0.4%. It also has a very low level of gross domestic savings in the aftermath of the financial crisis, ranking the country in the bottom 25, globally**, on this variable. Reported paid and unpaid employment is high at 63%*, ranking the United States 22nd on this variable, but the official level of unemployment is above the average, at 9%, which ranks the country 79th, on this variable. Annual GDP growth per capita averaged below 0.1% between 2005 and 2009, as a result of the recession. Public perceptions of economic prosperity are generally positive, with the United States ranking 35th* and 25th* in relation to access to food and shelter and satisfaction with standard of living in 2010. However, perceptions about local job markets are less positive, with below average* expectations of both future economic growth and job availability in 2010. On the other hand, the United States has the largest market in the world, and also ranks in the top 20 for the proportion of high-tech exports as a proportion of exported goods. However, the country attracts limited foreign direct investment, measured by net inflows and volatility, which places it 71st, globally. It also has the eighth highest level of physical capital per worker in the Index. Despite these indicators of future growth, confidence in financial institutions was very low in 2010, ranking the United States 93rd* on this variable, which is far more negative than the 5.4% of loans that are non-performing would suggest; on this latter variable, the United States ranks 61st.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & OPPORTUNITY:

While US economic infrastructure supports entrepreneurial activity, perceptions of opportunity vary

RANKED
5

The economy of the United States is extremely favourable for entrepreneurial activity. Spending on R&D is about 2.2% of GDP, while income from royalty receipts, totalling almost 90 billion USD, is exceptionally high, placing the United States first on this latter variable. ICT exports constitute 13% of all goods exports, which places in the top 20, on this variable. The United States' infrastructure also supports entrepreneurial activity, with very low start-up costs of 1.4% of per capita GNI, and a very high number of secure internet servers, along with the second highest bandwidth capacity in the world. On average, 97 out of 100 people have a mobile phone, which places the United States at the global average. Yet public perceptions of entrepreneurial opportunities are less positive, with less than seven out of ten* of the population believing that their local area is a good place to start a new business in 2010, below the global average. Economic development across different socio-economic groups in the United States is among the 40 most equal in the world and seems to support meritocratic social mobility: almost nine out of 10* respondents felt they could get ahead with sufficient hard work in 2010, above the global average.

GOVERNANCE:

Regulated and competitive democratic institutions ensure US citizens full political rights

RANKED
9

The United States has a stable and well established democratic system, with highly effective bureaucratic institutions. A high number of political constraints on the actions of individual political actors indicate a system with appropriate checks and balances. This is also reflected in the high level of competition within the executive and legislative branches of government, both of which are thoroughly regulated. Yet in 2010, only 42%* of respondents approved of the government, and the same percentage* were satisfied with the country's efforts to help the poor; this ranks the country 71st and 42nd in the Index, respectively. A slightly higher percentage were satisfied with the country's efforts to preserve the environment, ranking the United States 41st* on this variable. Perceptions of corruption in business and government are below average, placing 39th on this variable. There is also respect for the rule of law, with the United States placing 16th on this variable, reflected in the high quality of regulation in the business sector. Public confidence in the military is extremely high, placing the United States 10th*, whilst confidence in the judiciary is considerably lower, ranking the country 50th* on this measure. The US government affords full political rights to its citizens, creating a high level of public confidence in expressing opinions: nearly a third of citizens voiced concern to a public official in the month before a 2010 survey, placing the US 11th in the Index. However, public confidence in the honesty of elections is below the international average, placing the United States 66th on this variable.

EDUCATION:

The US workforce is well educated and contributes to economic productivity

RANKED
13

The United States has gender equality in primary and secondary education. However, enrolment rates vary by age. At the primary level, the United States performs just above the global average, placing 63rd, but at the secondary level ranks higher at 39th, and at the tertiary level it places fifth. In primary school classes, levels of individual classroom attention are high, with just 14 pupils for every teacher. Public satisfaction with the education system also falls below the global average, however, with the United States ranking 76th* on this variable in 2010. Despite such sentiments, 82%* of respondents feel that children have sufficient opportunities to learn and grow every day, a figure that is above the global average. The workforce is well educated at the secondary and tertiary levels, with just under three and just over two years of education, respectively, placing the country 33rd and second, respectively, on these variables.

HEALTH:

High government health expenditure leads to improved health outcomes in the United States

RANKED
1

US citizens have a life expectancy of 70 years, when adjusted for healthy years lived, which ranks the country 27th, on this variable. Below average rates of infant mortality and undernourishment rank the United States 36th and fourth, respectively. Government health expenditure per capita is the highest in the world; this high level of spending, however, results in only average provision of hospital beds, but above average rates of immunisation for infectious diseases and measles, and the world's second lowest incidence of tuberculosis. It also means that the entire US population has access to improved sanitation facilities. However, the US places 60th for its comparatively high incidence of respiratory disease. In 2010, around 90%* of respondents were satisfied with the quality of water in their area. Public perceptions of health vary; while 86%* of the population was content with their personal health in 2010, an above average 33%* had felt worried for a significant amount of the day before being surveyed. Perhaps consequently, the United States ranks 50th with regard to the share of the population that feels well-rested. However, the fact that only 21%* reported debilitating health problems in 2010 indicates a more positive situation. Also, a high level of satisfaction with the beauty of the immediate environment places the United States 20th*, on this variable.

SAFETY & SECURITY:

Low levels of crime and demographic instability instil a perception of safety amongst US citizens

RANKED
26

Tensions arising from the movement and dislocation of refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as group grievances, are moderately low in the United States, indicating a well integrated society. There were no reports of civil or ethnic strife in 2010, and levels of state violence are low. The United States also enjoys a low level of demographic instability – resulting from border disputes, ownership or occupancy of land, access to transportation outlets, control of religious or historical sites, or proximity to environmental hazards – and the lowest rate of emigration among the middle classes and professionals in the world. The United States has low levels of crime, with only 2%* of respondents reporting having been assaulted in the year prior to a 2010 survey, and only 14%* reporting theft of personal property over the same period. The country is ranked 8th and 65th, respectively, on these variables. Just over three-quarters* of the population claim that they feel safe walking at night. Many people also claimed to feel comfortable expressing political opinions without fear, ranking the United States 15th on this variable.

PERSONAL FREEDOM:

US society is extremely welcoming to immigrants and ethnic and racial minorities

RANKED
12

Freedom of expression and civil liberties are highly valued in the United States, with the country ranking first on this variable. Over four-fifths* of the population claim to be satisfied with their degree of personal freedom in relation to expression, belief association, and personal autonomy, placing the United States 29th on this variable. The United States is, in relative terms, very welcoming to immigrants. This is reflected in the fact that over 80% of respondents in a 2010 survey believed their local area to be a good place for immigrants and ethnic and racial minorities to live. This ranks the country 18th* and 11th*, respectively.

SOCIAL CAPITAL:

The United States has a high level of social cohesion

RANKED
9

The United States has a very high level of social cohesion despite its diverse population. Many people help others in society, with 65%* of respondents having made donations to a charity in the month prior to a 2010 survey, and 43%* volunteering their time over the same period. The United States ranks in the top 20* in terms of social trust, while over 90%* of US citizens feel they have someone to rely on in times of need. Many US citizens help strangers and almost three-quarters* of respondents claim to have done so in the previous month. Potential access to familial networks are above the global average, with 60%* of respondents being married in 2010. However, with 47% attending religious services regularly, access to religious networks is around the global standard.

REGIONAL RANKING: Americas

RANK	COUNTRY
6	Canada
10	United States
29	Uruguay
31	Chile
34	Costa Rica
37	Panama
39	Argentina
42	Brazil
47	Trinidad and Tobago
53	Mexico
55	Jamaica
56	Belize
57	Paraguay
61	Colombia
68	Peru
72	Dominican Republic
73	Venezuela
77	El Salvador
83	Ecuador
84	Guatemala
85	Bolivia
86	Nicaragua
87	Honduras

* Data is taken from the Gallup World Poll ** The terms 'international', 'global', or 'world' are used to reference the 110 Prosperity Index countries, which represent approximately 93% of the world's population and 97% of global GDP. The term 'average' refers to the average performance in the Index for the referenced variable.