

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 2017. 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	High SCORES 4.5 TO 6.5	Moderate SCORES 2.4 TO 4.4
China	Afghanistan	Moldova
Iran	Western Sahara	Somalia
Malaysia	Belarus	Cuba
Syria	Iraq	Greece
Maldives	Bahrain	Palestinian territories
Russia	Kuwait	Austria
Algeria	United Arab Emirates	Serbia ▲
Egypt	Kyrgyzstan	Libya
Uzbekistan	Qatar	Angola
Indonesia	Israel ▼	Mexico
Turkmenistan	Oman	Ethiopia
Saudi Arabia	India	Djibouti
Vietnam ▲	Bulgaria	Denmark
Eritrea	Jordan	Chad
Tajikistan	Tunisia	Venezuela
Comoros ▲	Nigeria	Belgium
Singapore	France	Sri Lanka
Turkey	Romania	Ukraine
Kazakhstan	Bangladesh	Rwanda
Morocco	Tanzania	Armenia
Laos	Yemen	Iceland
Burma (Myanmar)	Nepal	Niger
Azerbaijan	Thailand	Georgia
Mauritania	Bhutan	Lebanon
Sudan	Spain ▲	Sierra Leone
Brunei		Hungary
Pakistan		Kenya
		Equatorial Guinea
		United States
		Czech Republic
		Honduras
		Costa Rica

▲ Denotes an increase of one point or more from 2016 to 2017.

▼ Denotes a decrease of one point or more from 2016 to 2017.

* See page 87 for notes on North Korea and Somalia.

Government Restrictions Index (cont.)

Cameroon		
Cambodia		
Zambia		
Germany		
Mongolia		
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	▲	
Madagascar		
South Sudan	▲	
Bahamas		
Slovakia		
Poland		
Italy		
Bosnia-Herzegovina		
Norway		
Monaco		
Zimbabwe		
Argentina		
Kosovo		
Haiti		
Finland		
Liberia	▲	
Netherlands	▲	
Panama		
Seychelles		
Slovenia		
United Kingdom		
Central African Republic		
Latvia		
Switzerland		
Guinea		
Luxembourg		
Lithuania		
Liechtenstein		
Guyana	▲	
Cyprus		
Ecuador		
Burundi		
Croatia		
Swaziland		
Uganda	▼	
South Korea		
Andorra		
Low		
SCORES 0.0 TO 2.3		
Barbados		
Sweden		
Grenada		
Guatemala		
Antigua and Barbuda		
Montenegro		
St. Kitts and Nevis		
North Macedonia		
Togo		
Malta		
Malawi		
El Salvador		
Colombia	▼	
Tuvalu	▼	
Peru		
St. Lucia		
Paraguay		
Republic of the Congo	▼	
Hong Kong		
Burkina Faso		
Nicaragua		
Taiwan		
Dominica		
Albania		
Tonga		
Ghana		
Nauru		
Fiji		
Mauritius		
Vanuatu		
Papua New Guinea		
Jamaica		
St. Vincent and the Grenadines		
Mozambique		
Botswana		
Brazil		
Dominican Republic		
Chile		
Samoa		
Mali		
Canada		
Senegal		
Benin		
Estonia		
Australia		
Belize		
Uruguay		
Macau		
Timor-Leste		
Solomon Islands		
Philippines		
Portugal		
Ivory Coast		
Bolivia		
Ireland		
Gabon		
Japan		
South Africa		
Suriname		
Kiribati		
Namibia		
Trinidad and Tobago		
Gambia	▼	
Federated States of Micronesia		
Lesotho		
Marshall Islands		
San Marino		
Cape Verde		
Sao Tome and Principe		
New Zealand		
Guinea-Bissau		
Palau		

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 Center 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.