2024 Global Peace Index Briefing

Measuring peace in a complex world

The 18th edition of the Global Peace Index reveals that the world is at a crossroads. Without concerted effort, there is a risk of a surge in major conflicts. There are currently 56 conflicts, the most since World War II. They have become more international with 92 countries involved in conflicts outside their borders, the most since the GPI’s inception. The rising number of minor conflicts increases the likelihood of more major conflicts in the future. For example, in 2019, Ethiopia, Ukraine, and Gaza were all identified as minor conflicts. The global economic impact of violence in 2023 was $19.1 trillion or $2,380 per person. This is an increase of $158 billion, driven largely by a 20% increase in GDP losses from conflict. Expenditure on peacebuilding and peacekeeping totalled $49.6 billion, representing less than 0.6% of total military spending.

2024 Key Findings

- 97 countries deteriorated in peacefulness, more than any year since the inception of the Global Peace Index in 2008.
- Conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine were the primary drivers of the global fall in peacefulness, as battle deaths reached 162,000 in 2023.
- 92 countries are currently involved in conflicts beyond their borders, more than at any time since the inception of the GPI.
- First of its kind military scoring system suggests that US military capabilities are up to three times higher than China.
- The global economic impact of violence increased to $19.1 trillion in 2023, representing 13.5% of global GDP. Exposure to conflict poses a significant supply chain risk for governments and businesses.
- Militarisation recorded its largest yearly deterioration since the inception of the GPI, with 108 countries becoming more militarised.
- 110 million people are either refugees or internally displaced due to violent conflict, with 16 countries now hosting more than half a million refugees.
- North America saw the largest regional deterioration, driven by increases in violent crime and fear of violence.

Five largest improvements & deteriorations in peace

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Indexed trend in peace for the most and least peaceful countries, 2008–2024

The gap between the most and least peaceful countries in the world is wider than ever.

Results & Trends

- Improvements: 65
- Deteriorations: 97

In the past year 65 countries recorded an improvement, while 97 countries recorded a deterioration in peacefulness. This is the most countries to deteriorate in a single year since the inception of the index.

100

One hundred countries have been at least partially involved in some form of external conflict in the past five years, up from 59 in 2008. In most cases countries were offering support to an existing government against internal armed rebel or terrorist group.

95 million

Over 95 million people are now either refugees or have been internally displaced because of violent conflict. There are now 16 countries where more than five per cent of the population has been forcibly displaced.

Global Peace Index Briefing 2024
Composition of the global economic impact of violence, 2023

Military and internal security expenditure accounts for over 74 per cent of the total economic impact of violence.

![Composition of the global economic impact of violence, 2023](image)

**Military expenditure 45%**

**Internal security expenditure 29%**

**Private security 6%**

**Homicide 7%**

**Suicide 3%**

**Violent crime 4%**

**Other 6%**

Source: IEP Calculations

How conflicts end, 1950–2019

Conflicts are now far less likely to end with either some of kind of formal agreement or with one side being clearly victorious.

![How conflicts end, 1950–2019](image)

Source: UCDP Conflict Termination Dataset; IEP Calculations

Indexed trends in key Militarisation indicators, 2008–2024

The armed services personnel rate improved in 112 countries.

![Indexed trends in key Militarisation indicators, 2008–2024](image)

Source: UCDP; EIU; IEP Calculations

KEY FINDINGS

$2,380 $49.6 billion $1,000%

The global economic impact of violence was $19.1 trillion in 2023, equivalent to 13.5 per cent of global GDP, or $2,380 per person.

Expenditure on peacebuilding and peacekeeping was $49.6 billion in 2023, less than 0.6 per cent of total military spending in PPP terms.

Technology and the rise of asymmetric warfare is making it much easier for smaller non-state groups, as well as smaller or less powerful states, to engage in conflict with larger states or governments.

The usage of drones by non-state groups has surged in the past five years, and the number of drone strikes has increased by over a thousand per cent since 2016.

DOWNLOAD THE FULL 2024 GPI REPORT, INCLUDING DETAILED CHARTS, METHODOLOGY AND COUNTRY PROFILES AT VISIONOFHUMANITY.ORG/RESOURCES
The 2024 Global Peace Index is developed by the Institute for Economics & Peace, an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank dedicated to shifting the world’s focus to peace as a positive, achievable and tangible measure of human wellbeing and progress.

IEP is headquartered in Sydney, with offices in New York, Brussels, The Hague, Mexico City and Nairobi. It works with a wide range of partners internationally and collaborates with intergovernmental organisations on measuring and communicating the economic value of peace.