

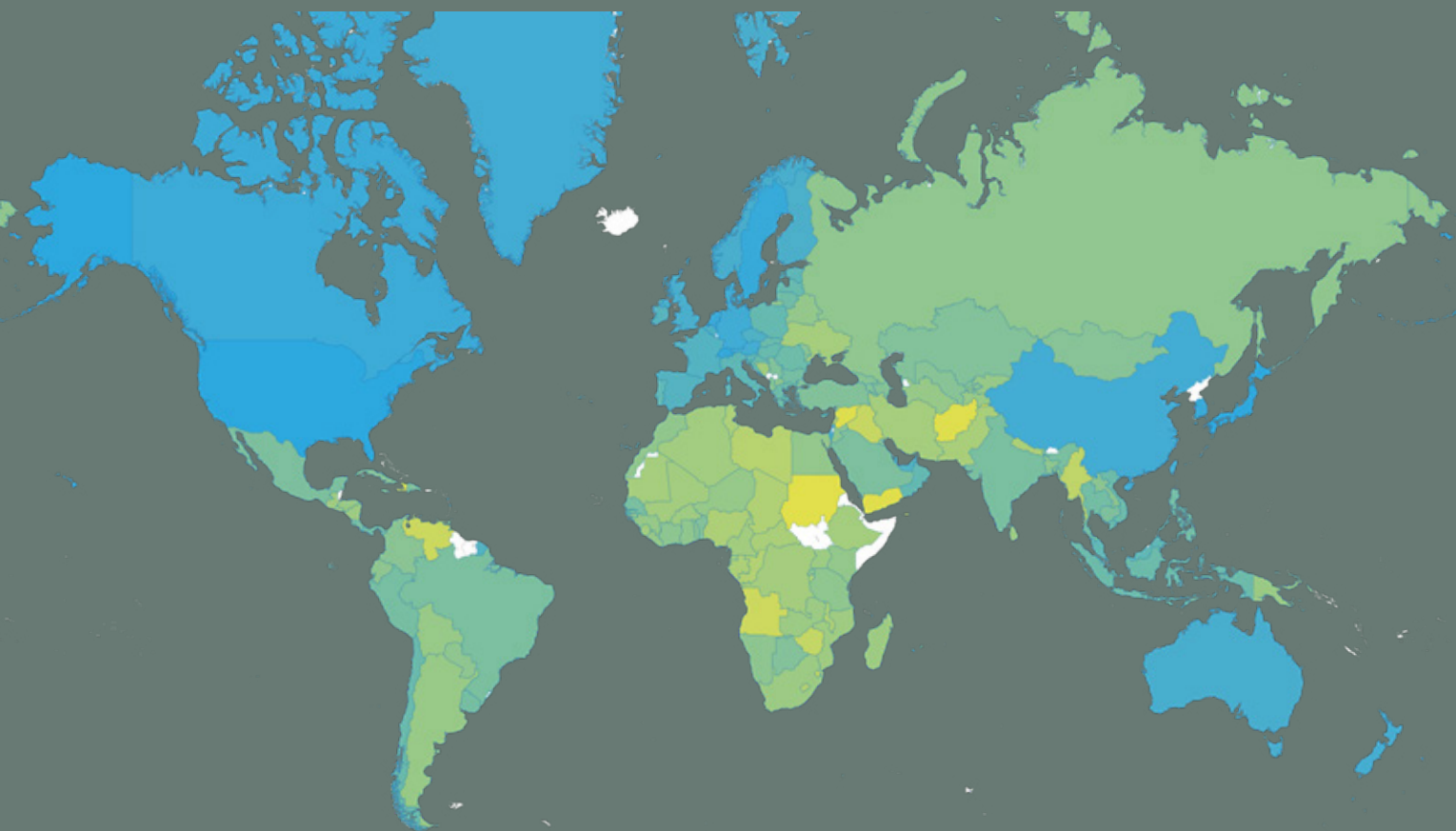
ELITE QUALITY REPORT 2026

The Sustainable Value Creation of Nations

151 COUNTRY SCORES AND GLOBAL RANKINGS

Measuring long-term economic and human development prospects

148 Indicators +; 12 Pillars; 4 Political Economy Index Areas; and Power and Value Sub-Indexes





Political



Economic



Power



Value

This report is the result of a collective research and writing effort by its editors and contributors. Substantial contributions are recognized in the corresponding sections of the report.

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The Sustainable Value Creation of Nations

151 COUNTRY SCORES
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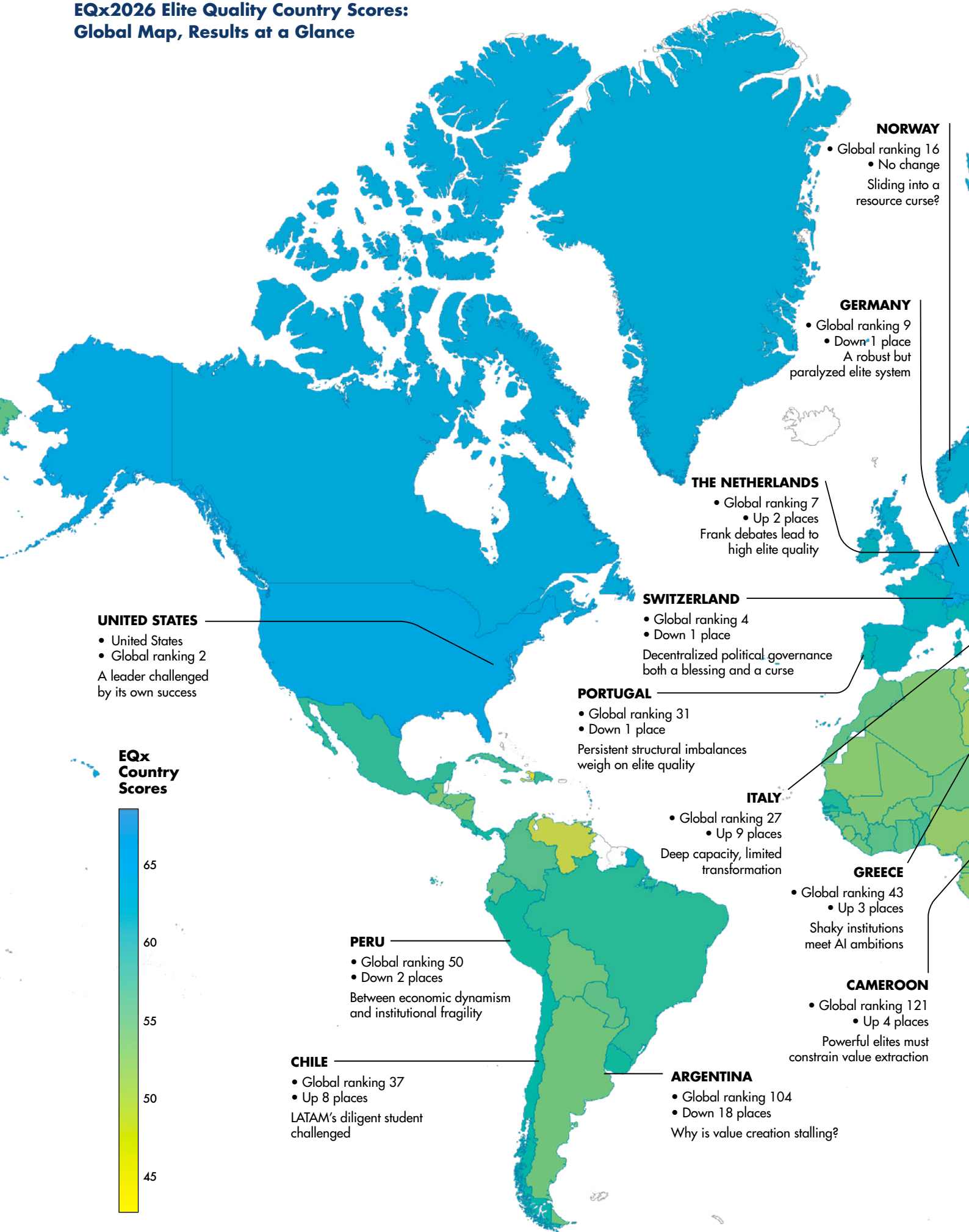


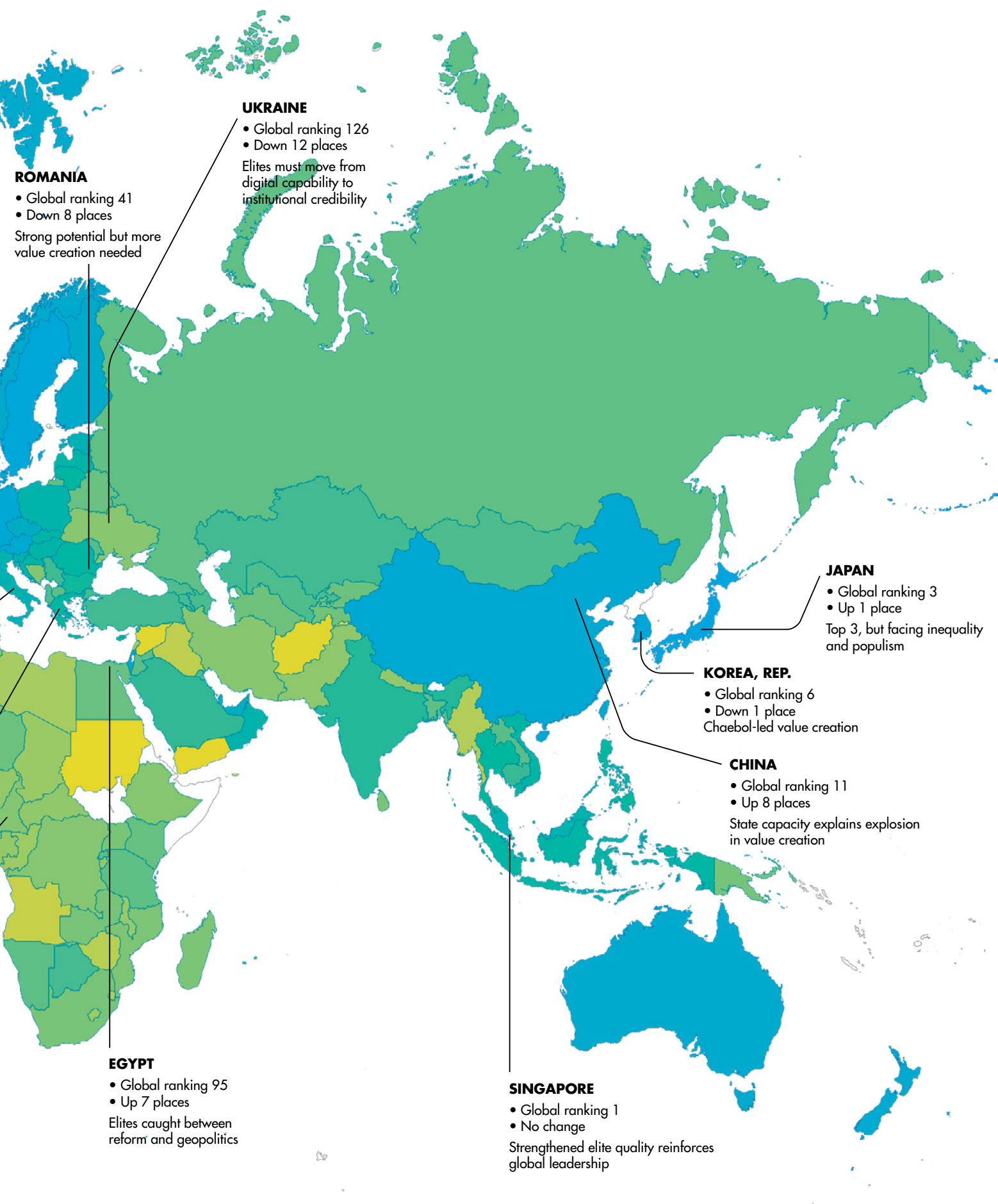
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EQx2026 Elite Quality Country Scores: Global Map, Results at a Glance





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The detailed EQx methodology is described in 'Measuring Elite Quality' (Casas-Klett, Cozzi, Diebold, & Zeller, 2020), a paper whose main tenets have evolved since it was first written to support the EQx2021, with changes summarized in Section 2.2. It was developed and inspired by a team of academics and practitioners with the aim of supporting Value Creation business models in elite systems and incentivizing the institutional arrangements that foster such models. The analysis and interpretations of the results contained in the Elite Quality Report 2026, such as the commentaries on the country scorecards, are the result of individual or collective work and do not necessarily represent the views of the editors, the project team or other project participants.

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The Sustainable Value Creation of Nations

Measuring long-term economic and human development prospects

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Luca Zanier Photography, Corridors of Power Project.

Executive Summary

Elite Quality is 'Macro-level Sustainability'

- While 'elite' might be a controversial term, in the EQx it refers to 'elite business models'. These are the operating structures that generate the most income by leveraging human, financial, and knowledge resources and thus supply coordination capacity. In doing so, they either realize or fail to live up to the full development potential of a nation.
- High-quality elite systems are sustainable and their leading elite business models rely on Value Creation, delivering more value for society than they appropriate; low-quality elites increase risk in the political economy by operating rent-seeking Value Extraction models that rely on value transfers.

What are the Main Findings of the EQx2026?

- Singapore** continues to hold the #1 spot in the EQx2026, and is followed by the US, which has leapfrogged from #16 last year to #2. **Switzerland** fell one place to #4, narrowly behind **Japan** at #3, though the former still remains the most balanced political economy in the world as the only nation that ranks in the top 5 of both the EQx and the **The NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb)** that measures intergenerational transfers.
- China** is also a star of the EQx2026, moving up eight places from last year to #11, a result that is hard to comprehend for a developing nation. **India** is another big winner, now at #53 (up 7 places from 2025 and exhibiting a remarkable 5-year performance if one considers its 2021 ranking was #118). Overall, Asian economies continue to do well in the EQx. While it has fallen slightly this year, **Korea** is still ranked at #6, while **Indonesia** and **Vietnam** are highly positioned at #39 and #40, respectively.

EQx2026 Top 20 Countries			
Country	Rank	Trend vs EQx2025	Score
Singapore	1	→ 0	66.1
United States	2	→ 0	65.0
Japan	3	↑ +1	64.8
Switzerland	4	↓ -1	64.0
Sweden	5	↑ +7	63.8
Korea, Rep.	6	↓ -1	63.6
Netherlands	7	↑ +2	63.5
Canada	8	↑ +5	63.3
Germany	9	↓ -1	62.7
Denmark	10	↑ +5	62.6
China	11	↑ +8	62.4
New Zealand	12	↓ -5	62.1
Austria	13	↑ +4	62.0
Australia	14	↓ -3	61.4
Israel	15	↓ -1	61.4
Norway	16	→ 0	61.1
United Kingdom	17	↓ -7	60.9
Finland	18	→ 0	60.5
Belgium	19	↑ +5	59.6
Czech Republic	20	↑ +1	59.4

The EQx is the Global Political Economy Index

- The EQx2026 is the seventh annual comparative international ranking of Elite Quality. It covers 151 countries, uses 148 Indicators, and measures unique conceptual elements like Power, Creative Destruction, and Labor Value to establish the 'Sustainable Value Creation of Nations'.
- Elite Quality is a property of the meso-level elite system and serves as the transmission mechanism linking micro-level organizations to macroeconomic outcomes. The EQx's sister research project, the 'Sustainable Value Creation of Firms' (see the Value Creation Ratings Proof-of-Concept Report, VCr2025) assesses companies to provide a reference for transforming business models to better contribute to economic and human development.

- In the **NGVCb**, Europe continues to excel in terms of leaving a legacy for the next generation, with 9 countries in the top 10 of this measurement. However, the overall EQx results are mixed. Some of the smaller countries experienced gains: **Sweden** is now at #5 (up 7 places); the **Netherlands** improves to #7 (up 2 places); and **Denmark** to #10 (up 5 places). On the other hand, **Germany** falls to #9 (down 1 spot), and in a dramatic development, elite quality in the **UK** has collapsed to #17 (down 7 places). The Middle East also sees less value creation in the EQx2026 with **Israel** down to #15, a fall of 8 places over the last two years, **Qatar** down 15 places to #21, and the **UAE** down 2 places to #22.
- The rapid acceleration in the development of AI is likely to be a massive source of Value Creation, and while it remains difficult to establish the technology's overall impact with certainty and hence calibrate the ideal weights for AI-related Indicators in the overall Index, two main findings stand out. The **US** continues to lead the AI field by a large margin, even as **China** continues to gain and rises from #4 to #2 in the AI EQx-Indicator Family ranking. In fact, the addition last year of five new AI Indicators is a key reason for both countries' stellar performances in the overall EQx2026.
- Another important trend in the EQx2026 is the recovery shown by the elite systems in many of the world's leading emerging economies: **Brazil** is up 18 places to #54; **Turkey** has also improved by 21 places to #63; while in Africa, **Egypt** is up 7 places to #95 and **South Africa** rises 18 places to #109.

AI EQx-Indicator Family Top 10 Countries

Country	AI Rank	AI Score	EQx Rank	EQx without AI	Difference
United States	1	98.1	2	11	9
China	2	86.4	11	19	8
Singapore	3	80	1	1	0
Sweden	4	77.6	5	9	4
South Korea	5	76.7	6	7	1
Germany	6	73.5	9	13	4
Canada	7	73	8	8	0
Japan	8	72.7	3	2	-1
Austria	9	72.7	13	16	3
Netherlands	10	71.6	7	5	-2

1. Introduction

The introductory Chapter offers a series of general reflections on the EQx, its main findings, and how these link to the future. First, data analysis is discussed to illustrate how the measurement of Elite Quality provides novel analytical perspectives for predicting a country's future. Next, the critical subject of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and elites is considered with discussions on its emergence and the technocratic prospects of how it might contribute to policymaking based on the elite theory of economic development. Intergenerational transfers are also analyzed, and the NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb) is presented.

In subsequent chapters, the EQx2026 is unpacked in [Chapter 2](#) with a deep dive into its structure and associated methodological issues. In [Chapter 3](#), the full global rankings and scores for 2026 are provided. The central contribution of the report lies in [Chapter 4](#): the analysis and interpretation of the EQx2026 results by a global community of EQx contributors—this year comprised of 42 authors—who consider the outcomes on a country, Indicator, and EQx-Indicator Family basis. [Chapter 5](#) delves into the Indicators used in the report, providing detailed explanations, the rationale for their inclusion and how they are weighted. [Chapter 6](#) presents the 151 country scorecards, each using up to a maximum of 148 Indicators and 18 aggregate measurements (including scores for the 12 Pillars, 4 Index Areas, and the 2 Sub-Indices of Power and Value). The report closes with the full set of references in [Chapter 7](#).

2

Elites

Our definition: Elites are narrow, coordinated groups that run the largest income generating business models in an economy and which successfully accumulate wealth.

Elite Quality

Definition: The meso-level emergent property of a national elite system that describes the aggregate proportion of first-order productive value creation and risk origination relative to second-order extractive value and risk transfers across all elite business models in a political economy.

Elite Quality Index (EQx)

Main takeaway: The EQx is a political economy index that measures the ability of national elite business models – on aggregate – to create value, rather than extract it.

1.1 How the EQx Data can be Used for Alternative Economic Analysis with Potential Predictive Value

The EQx is the leading international comparative measurement of Elite Quality.

Elite quality is, to any economic theory that treats elite agency as central, a leading indicator of future economic growth and human development. As a meso-level property of the elite system, it is conceptually a precursor of institutional quality and expresses the balance between value creation and value extraction within the economy. The latter is understood as rent seeking and other value transfers by elite business models that add up at the elite system level. If one assumes that all economic activity is value creation, extractive value transfers become the central negative transmission mechanism, a link between the micro-level economic activities of a country's leading business models and aggregate macro-level economic and even social outcomes.

While the most eye-catching findings of the EQx2026 might be the global rankings, there is much more to discover. The multi-level structure of the data enables a comprehensive analysis of a country's political economy, capturing a wide array of dynamics and perspectives. This approach draws on multidisciplinary foundations that extend beyond economics to fields such as management science and sociology.

One example of how the data can be interpreted is through the use of a second-degree polynomial regression between EQx scores and GDP per capita (PPP) is depicted in [Visuals 1.1](#) and [1.2](#). In [Visual 1.1](#), we identify and comment on clusters drawn around the fitted regression line.

3

Are you surprised?

Surprise 1

Elites are a mathematical certainty; they are inevitable

Surprise 2

Elites supply essential coordination capacity to societies

Our assumptions

Fact 1

Elites can be high-quality value creators

Fact 2

Elites can likewise be rent-seeking low-quality value extractors

From insight to impact

Hypothesis

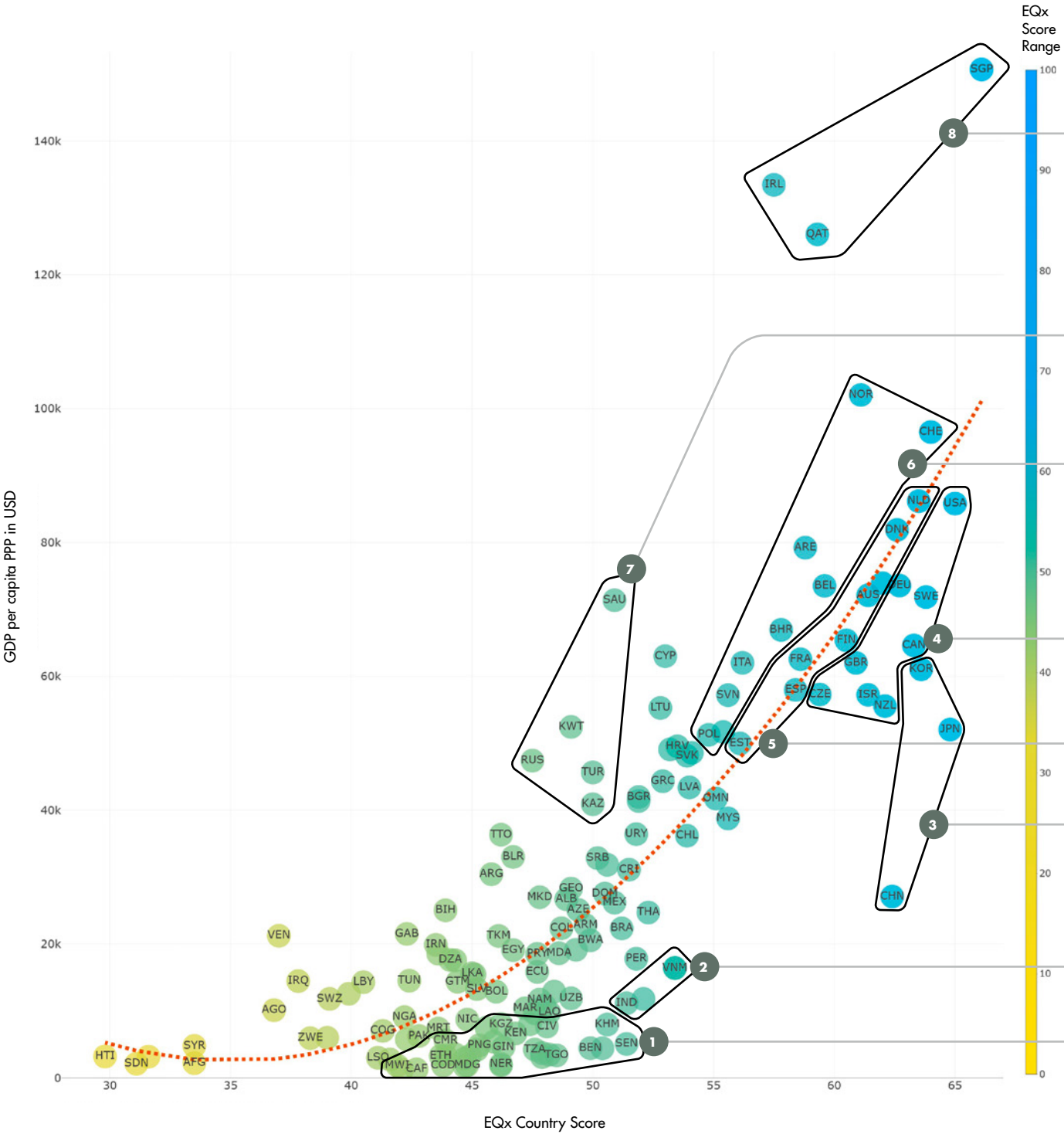
Elite Quality determines economic and human development

Action

We measure Elite Quality through the Elite Quality Index (EQx)



Visual 1.1: EQx correlation with GDP per capita (PPP)



Note: Vertical axis plots GDP per capita, adjusted for PPP, in current intern. USD.
Orange dashed line indicates a fitted quadratic regression line. Adjusted R-squared: 0.69
Spearman correlation between EQx scores and GDP: 0.794
Source: The World Bank, 2026.

8 Very rich economies still at risk? Singapore (SGP), Ireland (IRL), and Qatar (QAT) exhibit GDP levels that vastly exceed their elite quality. While all three also score very highly on elite quality, their outlier status at the upper end of the quadratic regression puts the onus on the analyst to judge the extent of the risk to long-term sustainable growth.

7 Resource-curse trap: Saudi Arabia (SAU), Kuwait (KWT), Russia (RUS), Kazakhstan (KAZ) and, to a lesser extent, Türkiye (TUR), benefit from natural resource wealth and must double down on elite quality to avoid the Dutch disease and the longer-term risks of resource dependence.

6 Rich countries that must remain vigilant: A number of countries perform well economically and, while generally not far from the regression line, sit slightly above it. They include Poland (POL), Sweden (SWE), Italy (ITA), Bahrain (BHR), Belgium (BEL), and Switzerland (CHE). While others, such as Norway (NOR) and the United Arab Emirates (ARE), stand substantially above the regression line, in order for them all to avoid stagnation or negative growth they must continually ensure elite quality.

4 Western advanced economies with growth prospects: Sweden (SWE), Canada (CAN), the UK (GBR), New Zealand (NZL), Czechia (CZE), Germany (DEU), and the US (USA), together with Israel (ISR)—an advanced but geographically Middle Eastern economy—cluster noticeably below the quadratic regression line, indicating moderate but robust growth prospects supported by domestic elite quality.

5 Western advanced economies with trend-level growth: A group of high- and very high-income Western advanced economies—including Spain (ESP), Estonia (EST), France (FRA), Finland (FIN), Australia (AUS), Denmark (DNK), and the Netherlands (NLD) cluster close to the regression line, suggesting that their levels of GDP per capita are predicted to remain relatively unchanged in the future.

2 Asian development in lower-middle-income economies: As exemplified by two large economies of differing scale, India (IND), one of the world's largest economies, and Vietnam (VNM), a fast-growing mid-sized economy, both demonstrate that comparatively high elite quality can drive robust development trajectories.

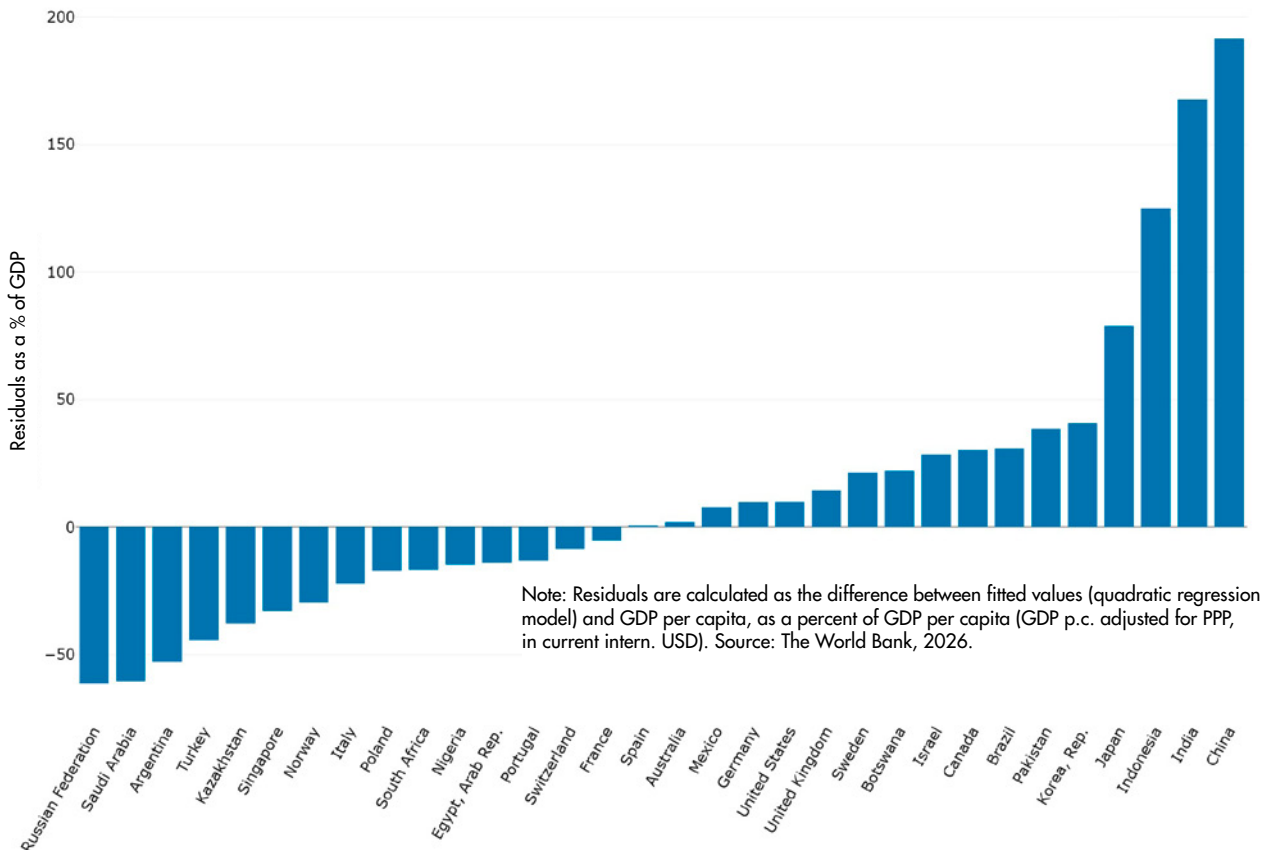
3 Asian development in rich or soon-to-be-rich economies: Korea (KOR) and Japan (JPN), despite their high income levels, can expect continued growth. China (CHN), an upper-middle-income country, stands out as an outlier, and if elite quality continues to drive long-term growth, this points to a transformative surge in the decade ahead.

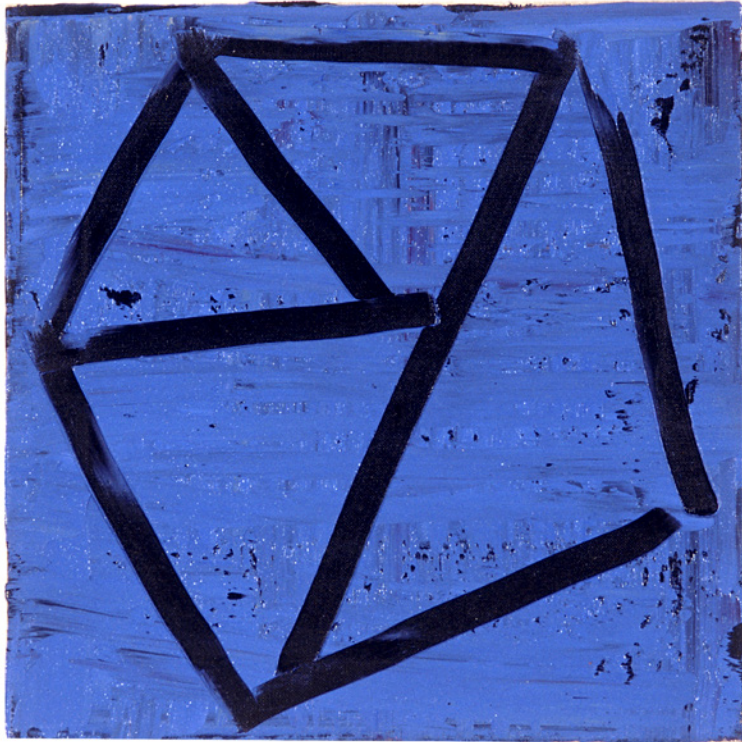
1 There is strong development potential among a range of lower-income economies: The low-income countries (LICs) of the Central African Republic (CAF) and Niger (NER), together with the lower-middle-income countries (LMICs) of Comoros (COM), Madagascar (MDG), Tanzania (TZA), Togo (TGO), Benin (BEN), Senegal (SEN), and Cambodia (KHM), are well positioned for growth (based on their EQx scores), with predicted GDP per capita values exceeding actual GDP per capita values.

The regression analysis, visualized by the fitted regression line in the scatter plot, indicates how GDP per capita (PPP) is related to the EQx scores. The relative residuals from this regression—the difference between predicted and actual GDP—are visualized in the bar chart below. A positive residual indicates that a country's current GDP per capita is lower than what would be expected given its EQx score, indicating potential for a strong economic performance in the future. A negative residual reflects underperformance of Elite Quality relative to the prevailing level of GDP per capita, suggesting a heightened risk of future economic slowdown or contraction.

Interestingly, out of a sample of 32 countries, the top six countries exhibit substantial heterogeneity in terms of economic development levels, elite configurations, and political cultures, yet they are all located in Asia: China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, and Pakistan. Their performance suggests that regional dynamics may interact with elite quality in shaping development trajectories. All appear positioned for significant gains in GDP per capita (PPP), conditional on the extent to which the EQx captures relative elite quality and on the validity of the elite theory of economic development.

Visual 1.2: Residuals (as a % of GDP) as an indication of future growth prospects, sample of 32 countries





1.2 The EQx2026 Contains Rich Analytical Possibilities: The NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb), the EQx-Indicator Families, and Specific Indicator Sets

Over the years, the annual EQx datasets have been conceptually sliced and diced to supply insights on specific social, economic, and political phenomena. Two types of EQx data subsets have been formalized: the 'Barometer' and the 'EQx-Indicator Family'. The NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb), co-published with the Board Foundation, focuses on a subset of NextGen-related EQx data using an Indicator weighting scheme that differs from the weights applied in the full report to see the world through the lens of future generations. In contrast, the EQx-Indicator Family approach retains the original EQx weights and selects Indicators based on their thematic relationships with one another.

The EQx2026 includes the following subset analyses:

The NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb)



- Originally developed in conjunction with the St.Gallen Symposium and now run in conjunction with the Board Foundation, this Barometer establishes the Value Creation/Extraction that occurs from one generation to the next. The NGVCb uses 33 Indicators distributed across five categories: Equitable Opportunities; Education and Human Capital; Health and Well-Being; Innovation and Technology; and, most importantly, Ecology and Natural Capital (see Section 1.6 and, for a contribution that interprets this year's NGVCb results, Section 1.7).

The EQx-Indicator Families

The EQx's 148 Indicators can be grouped into conceptual 'families'. Six families have been so far been created across previous EQx editions: the SDG, Ecology, AI, Diversity & Inclusion, International Business, and Health and Well-Being EQx-Indicator Families. This year's report features new commentaries on the following three.



- The Artificial Intelligence (AI) EQx-Indicator Family is comprised of seven Indicators that have been incrementally added over the last two years. This development reflects how AI is radically shifting the possibilities for Value Creation—and Value Extraction—in the political economy. While the AI EQx-Indicator Family still requires further development, the Executive Summary highlights the significant impact this technology is having on the EQx rankings, particularly in the cases of the US and China. Two contributions are included to interpret the scores: the first analyzes how artificial intelligence is stratifying Value Creation (see Section 4.2); the second examines how the Chinese elite system is making a strategic comprehensive bet on innovation in robotics (see Section 4.2).



- The Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) EQx-Indicator Family rests on a straightforward rationale: any form of discrimination—whether based on gender, religion, sexuality or any other characteristic—has a business-model logic, constitutes a form of rent seeking, and compromises Value Creation. Those discriminated against face barriers that hinder or prevent them from realizing their full Value Creation potential. Society as a whole also suffers, as the economy's overall Value Creation potential is diminished (see analysis and discussion in Section 4.2).



- The Ecology EQx-Indicator Family uses 14 Indicators that underscore the need to integrate environmental considerations into elite agency measurements (see the analysis and discussion in Section 4.2). This approach helps safeguard the planet and ensures that Value Extraction, in whichever domain, is identified, weighted, and mitigated. The EQx advocates a holistic and balanced view of sustainability and economic development, placing elite business models at the center of inclusive outcomes and growth. The Ecology EQx-Indicator Family is therefore a measure of leadership in bringing about an environmentally sustainable future, making the relationship to the nature stakeholder essential when comparatively assessing Elite Quality across nations.

1.3 The Purpose of the EQx: Continuous, Weighted, and Targeted Structural Reforms

Elite Quality is a meso-level conceptual element that is deemed relevant for macroeconomic and human development because it describes the critical feature of the elite system: the use of power for rent-seeking purposes. The EQx is the first of a series of suggested measurements to articulate and operationalize the Sustainable Value Creation of Nations. Future elite quality measurements will be designed for inclusion in the economic models of economies so that they can form part of a full-spectrum policy toolkit relevant for reformers.

The EQx2026 supplies aggregate Pillars like Political Value, Creative Destruction, or Unearned Income that serve to diagnose the specific strengths and weaknesses of a specific country's elite system. A foundational innovation of the EQx is its inclusion of 'Power' as one of its two Sub-Indices (along with 'Value'). Power is seen as being a key predictor and enabling mechanism for future extractive value transfers. At the most granular level, the EQx's Indicators provide a stand-alone analytical lens that seek to explain specific phenomena in the political economy.

10 Elite business models are the micro-to-macro transmission mechanisms of the economy. Linking these to specific evidence of Value Creation or Value Extraction helps to support practical action to inform policymaking in a political economy. At the meso-level, the elite quality of the elite system is where elite business models aggregate before they affect macro outcomes.

The ultimate drivers of elite quality operate at the micro-level of elite business models and the various EQx Indicators are designed to capture their effect. By shedding light on specific firms, sectors, and coalitions—individually and in interaction with each other—these Indicators provide a basis for the design of specifically targeted and weighted structural reforms.

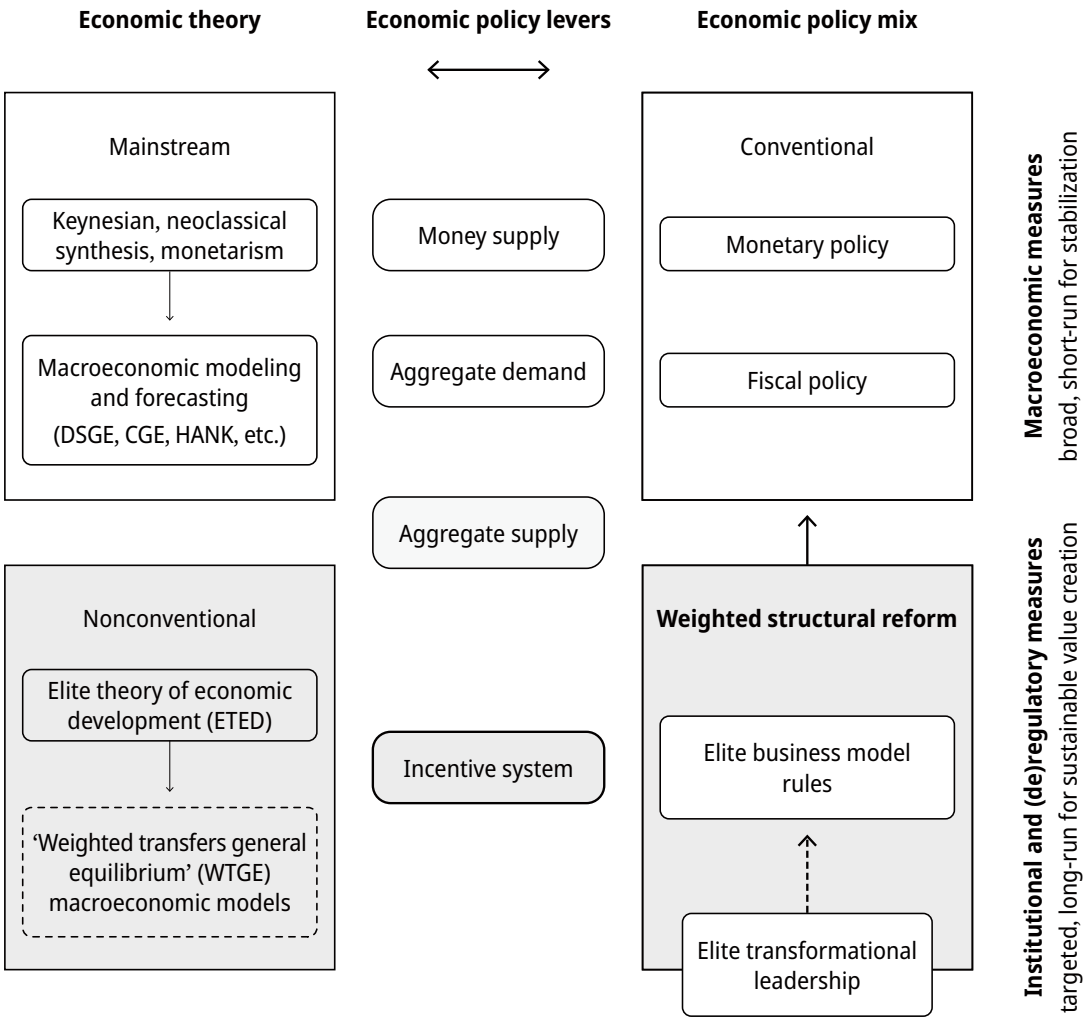
For example, Indicators such as modern slavery, green patents, self-made billionaires, or inflation all capture manifestations of value creation and extraction, and thus provide an empirical basis for targeted legislation or de/regulation designed to promote Value Creation while limiting extractive transfers.

Notwithstanding future plans for targeted and weighted structural reforms, and as is evidenced by many of the analytical contributions in the EQx2026, the Indicators, comparative rankings, Country Scorecards, and the NextGen Value Creation Barometer are already employed to suggest policy changes and institutional reforms to improve national performance. In addition, these measurements can also provide impetus for specific elite coalitions to contribute to growth and development through the transformation of their own business models.

In short, the EQx provides a variety of benchmarks to adjust the legal, regulatory, and other incentive systems to encourage business models to engage in Value Creation and refrain from Value Extraction. Structural reforms designed for the long run are deemed to outperform the orthodox monetary and fiscal policy mix and its broad, short-run measures. Genuine business model transformation from the inside is considered to be more effective than regulation from the outside (see the discussion on the VCr, Section 2.7).

To succeed, structural reforms and business model transformations must be 'weighted'. All business models both create and extract value. Policy proposals for structural reforms and institutional change to adjust rules, regulations, and the legal system must ensure that the value creation areas of the economy are incentivized, and those that are afflicted by value transfers are reformed. This involves distinguishing when power is used to create value and when it is not, thereby strengthening checks and balances and fostering productive intra-elite competition.

Visual 1.3: The ETED in the economic policy mix: A weighted structural reform approach for the incentive system
(Source: Figure 7.1, Casas-Klett, 2026)



1.4 Intensifying Intra-elite Contests for Value Creation: Elite Quality Institutional Reform Proposals for Argentina

Argentina's persistent economic underperformance has often been attributed to macroeconomic instability, political volatility, or weak policy credibility. While these explanations capture important facets of the country's problems, they fail to account for deeper and more structural phenomena: the failure of Argentinian elites to use their Political Power (i, rank #39) and Economic Power (ii, rank #60) for sustainable economic value creation. Extractive business models are protected by power and by an institutional equilibrium that perpetuates this failure. Drawing on the EQx framework, this article advances a distinct institutional interpretation of Argentina's development trap. Moreover, it goes beyond a standard country scorecard analysis, to develop an EQx-based institutional reform agenda focused on the mechanisms through which elite coordination capacity can be redirected from rent seeking towards value creation. Particular attention is paid to the role of a hegemonic stalemate that, while appearing balanced, is effectively resolved through a tacit fiscal agreement that shifts the tax burden towards consumption rather than income and capital. This arrangement stabilizes elite positions at the cost of long-term value creation and rising social inequality.

Beyond cyclical explanations

Argentina occupies a paradoxical position in the EQx's comparative political economy (rank #104). It is a country with substantial natural resources (NRR, iii.9, rank #70), a historically strong human capital base (EDU, iii.7, rank #8), sophisticated financial experience (FMI, iv.11, rank #58), and repeated episodes of political centralization (PDE, i.1., rank #11) with ample state capacity to implement policy decisions. Yet, despite these advantages, Argentina has experienced decades of relative decline, chronic macroeconomic instability, and repeated failures to sustain long-term growth.

Conventional explanations typically emphasize fiscal dominance, inflationary bias (DOI, iv.11, rank #130), or political polarization. While analytically valid, these approaches tend to treat institutional weakness as an endemic condition rather than as a structured system of business model incentives. The EQx offers an alternative lens. Instead of focusing on outcomes alone, the EQx evaluates how elite business models create or extract value across the political economy.

A central contribution of this article is to integrate its EQx analysis with the concept of a hegemonic stalemate. Argentina's elite system is often described as fragmented or deadlocked, with no single coalition capable of imposing a coherent long-

term strategy. However, this stalemate is only apparent. In practice, it is resolved through a tacit agreement on fiscal extraction: political and economic elites converge on a tax structure (DCT, iii.8, rank #132) that privileges rents and accumulated wealth (GWC, i.1, rank #23) while shifting the effective burden onto consumption. This implicit pact stabilizes intra-elite contests so that they cease to be a factor for renewal while undermining social cohesion and long-term growth.

The EQx framework deconstructs elite performance into the Sub-Indices of Power (rank #50) and Value (rank #128), each then further divided into their Political and Economic dimensions. This conceptual framework allows the analyst to distinguish between a system that is powerful but extractive and one that is powerful and productive. When applied to Argentina, the EQx reveals a striking asymmetry: political coordination capacity exists, but economic value creation does not follow.

The hegemonic stalemate described above is fully consistent with this pattern. Political Power (i, rank #39) Indicators cluster in intermediate ranges, suggesting that no group is excluded from influence and productive intra-elite contests could take place. Yet Economic Power (ii, rank #60) and, more critically, Economic Value (iv, rank #137) remain persistently weak. The result is an elite system where political coalitions successfully grant rents to associated business coalitions while externalizing the costs of the lack of value creation to consumers and future generations.

In the next paragraphs, 6 specific reforms are proposed, with specific suggestions for new laws and regulations to facilitate their implementation.

1. Capital Value: Restoring Intertemporal Coordination

Capital Value (iv.11, rank #142) represents the most binding impediment to Argentina's development. Persistent inflation (DOI, iv.11, rank #130), capital erosion (DEF, iv.11, rank #146), and weak gross capital formation (GFC, iv.11, rank #126) signal a breakdown in intertemporal price coordination. When capital fails to preserve value, long-term planning becomes irrational and elite incentives shift towards protecting liquidity rather than productive investment.

The hegemonic stalemate reinforces this dynamic. By relying heavily on consumption-based taxation and deficit financing via inflation, the system preserves existing income and asset

structures while systematically eroding the value of savings and wages. The destruction of capital that could otherwise be used to finance investments thus becomes an implicit mechanism of political compromise, allowing elites to avoid direct conflict over income and wealth taxation.

Institutional reform in this domain must therefore prioritize credibility, contract stability, and predictable rules over discretionary macro management. Without restoring Capital Value, the country cannot finance development and no broader reform agenda can succeed.

Suggested reform: A comprehensive tax reform programme should rebalance Argentina's fiscal system away from cascading consumption and transaction taxes towards income and capital taxation, reducing inflationary financing and restoring the role of financial markets in coordinating prices across time. Eliminating turnover-based taxes and unifying tax bases across jurisdictions would directly strengthen asset valuations and long-term investment incentives. In parallel, reforming the Financial Institutions Law (Ley de Entidades Financieras, Law No. 21,526 of 1977), the main legal framework governing the country's banking and financial system, should focus on more credit creation by credit cooperatives, modernization (including fintech), and better aligning financial intermediation with productive investments. At present, most savings flow into short-term, high-yield financial products. Such reforms would reinforce the tax system's impact by channeling savings towards value-creating investments rather than speculative or extractive activities.

2. Producer Value: Re-embedding External Discipline

Weak Producer Value (iv.10, rank #115) reflects insufficient exposure to external competition and excessive reliance on protectionist mechanisms (IPM, iv.10, rank #62; IPS, iv.10, rank #134). From an EQx perspective, external competition is not an ideological matter but a fundamental need for intra-elite contests: it constrains rent-seeking behavior by forcing elite business models to rely on productivity rather than on protectionism and monopolistic access.

The tacit fiscal agreement embedded in the hegemonic stalemate further weakens Producer Value. With higher prices, consumption is taxed more heavily than income or rents. This system also raises input costs for productive firms while insulating incumbent extractive activities. This distorts relative prices and discourages innovative business models, making export-oriented business models uncompetitive.

Reforms should therefore reduce administrative discretionary tariff and non-tariff trade barriers (TRF, iv.10, rank #115 and EGL, iv.10, rank #111) and replace these with a rules-based integration into global trade frameworks that reintroduce competitive pressure to Argentina.

Suggested reform: Re-embedding external discipline requires reducing the above mentioned administrative discretionary measures, not only as they relate to trade policy but also in relation to the monetary and exchange rate framework. Reforming the legal and institutional constraints governing monetary policy to prevent sustained real exchange rate appreciation driven by inflation (thereby eliminating implicit protection for rent-based domestic activities) would restore relative price signals and make export-oriented business models feasible.

3. Firm Dominance: From Rent to Scale

Argentina's high economic concentration (Firm Dominance, ii.5, rank #12) is not inherently problematic. The issue lies in the elite pact that sustains it and the related institutional mechanisms that allow size to generate rents rather than scale efficiencies. Under the conditions of the hegemonic stalemate, concentration becomes a stabilizing device: large firms operate within protected markets and accept high indirect taxation (DCT, iii.8, rank #132) in exchange for regulatory certainty and limited competition.

Reforms should focus on regulatory neutrality and the elimination of privileges that decouple firm size from productivity, allowing firm dominance to emerge as a function of scale rather than access.

Suggested reform: Reassign regulatory authority from fragmented local jurisdictions to functional metropolitan or sectoral authorities—such as integrated metropolitan transport and infrastructure agencies—to reduce local jurisdiction-based rent seeking and allow firm scale to emerge from productivity rather than regulatory arbitrage.

4. Creative Destruction: Lowering the Cost of Failure

Relatively low levels of Creative Destruction (ii.6, rank #82) reflect high exit costs and a punitive failure regime. Innovation requires not only incentives for entry but also for exit. In Argentina, the current stalemate favors the preservation of existing structures, making failure socially and politically costly.

Institutional reforms must normalize business failure and facilitate rapid resource reallocation, weakening the political economy of preservation.

Suggested reform: Creative destruction could be implemented in Argentina with a two-pronged approach. First, by lowering the cost of failure by streamlining bankruptcy and insolvency procedures of the Ley de Concursos y Quiebras (N° 24.522 of 1995, variously amended). Second, by enhancing intergenerational capital mobility through the introduction of a well designed inheritance tax on large estates. By preventing excessive capital entrenchment and encouraging the reallocation of inherited wealth toward productive uses, such a framework would strengthen the dynamics of creative destruction beyond firm-level entry and exit.

5. Human Capital and Silent Exit

The Indicators for *Human flight and brain drain* (BRN, iv.12, rank #23), *PISA mean scores* (PIS, iii.7, rank #59), and the *Youth unemployment rate* (YUN, iv.12, rank #114) reveal a misalignment between education, labor markets, and demand for skills. In a system where the primary tax burden is on consumption and the returns on productive effort are uncertain, skilled individuals rationally seek opportunities abroad.

Institutional reforms should focus on governance, incentives, and labor market flexibility rather than expenditure levels alone, reconnecting human capital formation with domestic value creation.

Suggested reform: Recentralizing core education standards at the national level while aligning curricula with labor market needs would reduce the silent exit problem and reconnect human capital formation with domestic value creation.

6. Independent State Capacity and Regulatory Self-Constraint

Argentina's challenge is not that there is excessive state presence but excessive discretion. The hegemonic stalemate relies on discretion to maintain its implicit fiscal bargain. High-quality institutions, by contrast, depend on predictable rules and credible self-restraint by the state.

Strengthening regulatory autonomy and procedural governance is therefore essential in breaking the equilibrium of low-quality stability.

Suggested reform: Strengthening state capacity requires reorganizing administrative jurisdictions to better match economic realities. This includes integrating peripheral urban areas into metropolitan governance structures, while adopting international public sector accounting standards (such as IPSAS) to enhance fiscal transparency, accountability, and credible self-constraints on rent seeking from inside the state.

Conclusion: Genuine Intra-Elite Contests are Needed to Break the Stalemate

Argentina's development challenge is fundamentally a conversion problem compounded by a hegemonic stalemate. The country's elite system possesses diverse power centers and ample coordination capacity, but its elites have made an implicit bargain that stabilizes power and deactivates intra-elite contests, thus reducing value creation. By essentially degrading capital and shifting the fiscal burden toward consumption, this arrangement preserves elite rents while generating rising social inequality and chronic underinvestment.

EQx-based institutional reforms offer a pathway out of this trap. By redesigning incentives so that elite business model success depends on value creation rather than positional advantage, Argentina can move from a low-growth equilibrium of tacit compromise toward a dynamic system capable of genuine intra-elite competition to realize the high potential of this otherwise richly endowed nation.

Pablo San Martin,
SMS Latinoamerica, Argentina

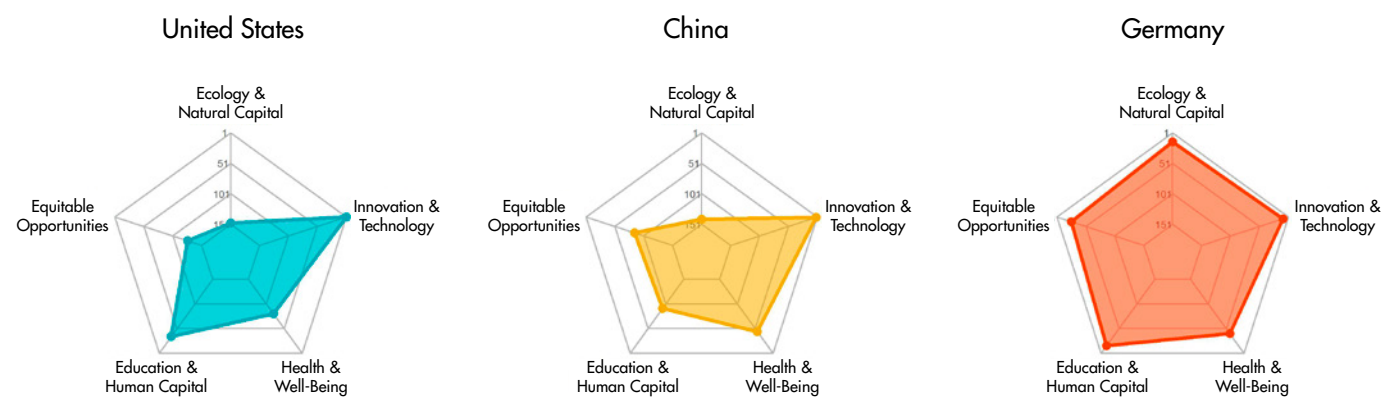
1.6 NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb):
The Operationalization and Meaning of Intergenerational Transfers

Now in its fifth year, the NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb) sheds further light on intergenerational transfers and thus intergenerational fairness as part of the global Elite Quality Index. As a collaboration with the Board Foundation, the NGVCb extracts EQx Indicators that reflect the aspects of elite business models that either deliver a legacy of Value Creation or, conversely, extract value from young and future generations for the benefit of the present one.

In order to fulfill its mandate to ascertain intergenerational transfers, the Barometer continues to assess five key categories built on a literature review of intergenerational equity. To illustrate how categories contribute to a country's overall NGVCb rank, all five categories are shown for three countries—the US, China, and Germany—in Visual 1.6. So, what does each category express?

The first category, *Ecology and Natural Capital*, focuses on the extent to which dominant elite business models deplete or preserve natural resources and ecosystems for future generations. This category is deemed to be the most important of the five and therefore carries a weight of 30%, compared to 17.5% for the other four, acknowledging the significance of healthy planetary ecosystems as a foundation for any future Value Creation. The second category, *Equitable Opportunities*, measures the distribution of economic opportunities across generations, focusing on factors such as social mobility, youth unemployment, and government debt. The third category, *Education and Human Capital*, stresses the importance of the present generation's Value Creation for the next, in terms of investments in and inclusive access to high-quality learning and education. The fourth category, *Health and Well-Being*, measures the quality and key outcomes of national healthcare systems, while the fifth category, *Innovation and Technology*, explores the capacity provided to the next generation to drive scientific discovery and develop disruptive business models. Lastly, note that within each of the five categories, the Indicators have been given specific weights following the application of budget allocation process (BAP) procedures.

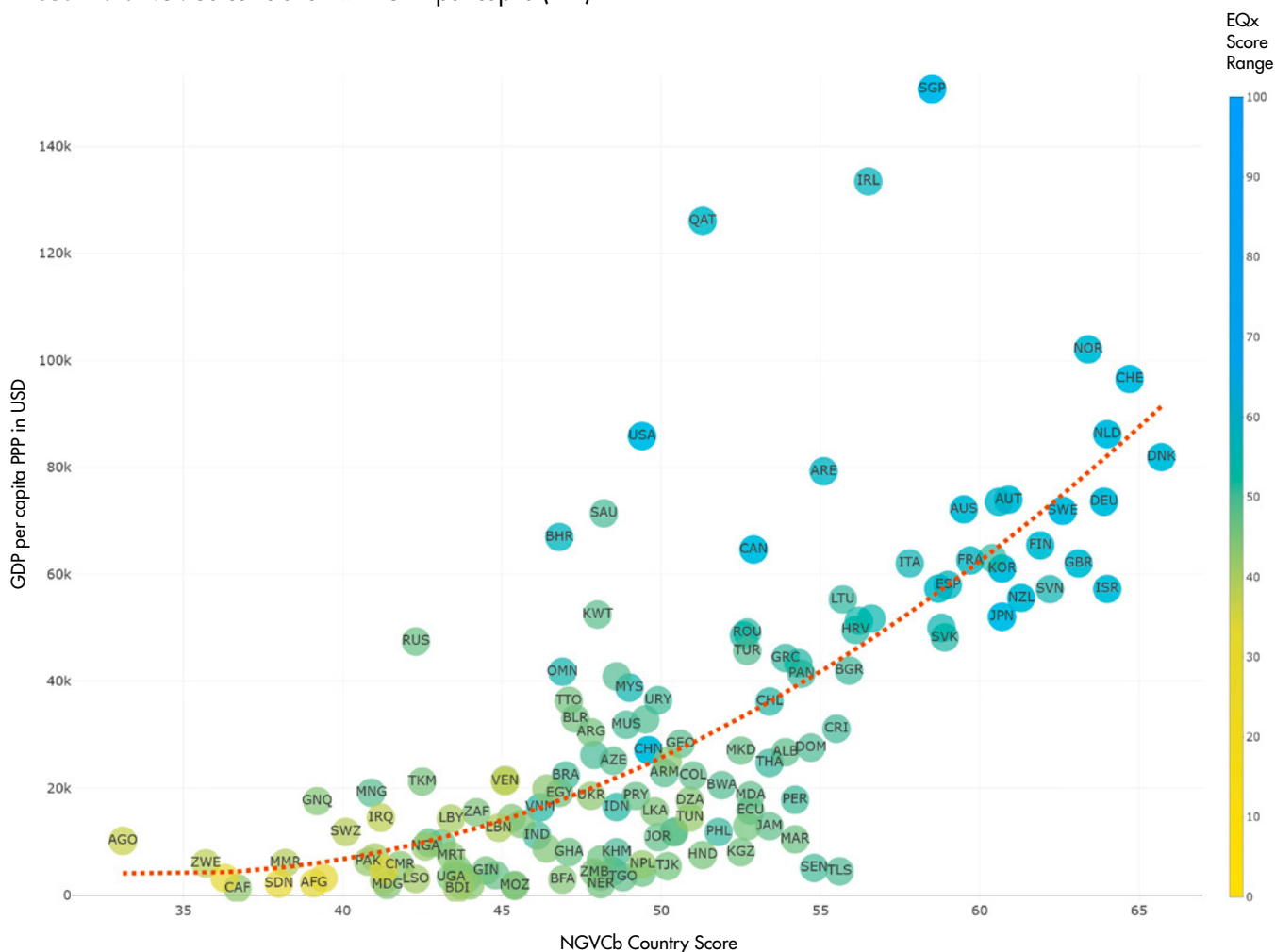
Visual 1.6: NextGen Value Creation Barometer 2026, selected country comparisons



Note: The spiderweb axes show a country's overall ranking.

The analysis in Section 1.7 provides a comprehensive interpretation of the NGVCb2026 results, while this introductory section focuses on a very particular point: how the NGVCb correlates with GDP per capita (PPP), see [Visual 1.7](#). This invites a range of analytical questions. For instance, if the EQx's correlation with GDP in [Visual 1.1](#) points to long-term economic growth prospects (e.g., over a 10-year horizon), does the NGVCb's correlation with GDP suggest an even longer developmental time horizon given its focus on intergenerational transfers? What would divergences between the two analyses imply for individual countries, and what would such divergences reveal about the theoretical significance of these two elite quality measurements?

Visual 1.7: NGVCb correlation with GDP per capita (PPP)



Note: Vertical axis plots GDP per capita, adjusted for PPP, in current intern. USD.
 Orange dashed line indicates a fitted quadratic regression line. Adjusted R-squared: 0.512
 Spearman correlation between NGVCb scores and GDP: 0.723
 Countries are colored according to their EQx score. A random selection of country codes is shown in case of overlap.
 Source: The World Bank, 2026.

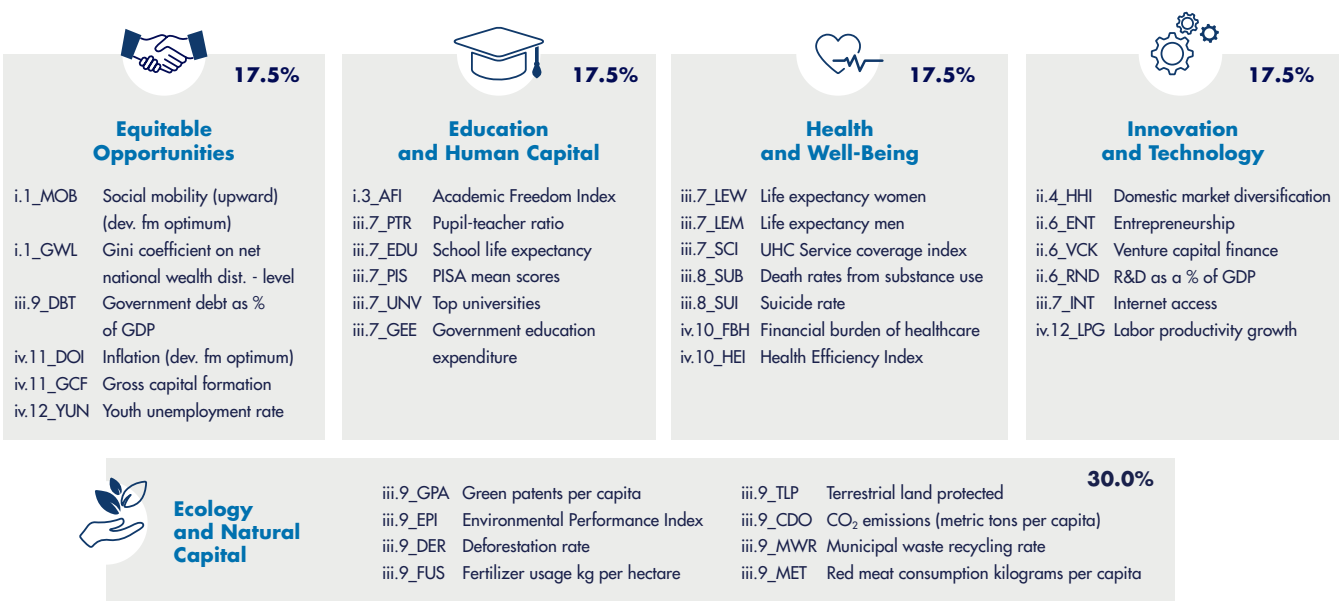
Table 1.1: NextGen Value Creation Barometer 2026 Global Rankings with its five components

	NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb) Rank	Difference to NGVCb2025	Difference to EQx2026	Ecology & Natural Capital	Equitable Opportunities	Education & Human Capital	Health & Well-Being	Innovation & Technology
Denmark	1	0	9	67	5	5	39	4
Switzerland	2	2	2	35	27	15	20	7
Israel	3	-1	12	97	43	22	8	2
Netherlands	4	-1	3	68	6	17	25	14
Germany	5	2	4	16	26	16	41	10
Norway	6	3	10	47	38	8	19	19
United Kingdom	7	-1	10	23	70	10	35	6
Sweden	8	-3	-3	48	105	1	29	9
Slovenia	9	-1	21	13	31	11	44	29
Finland	10	0	8	76	97	2	32	8
New Zealand	11	1	1	120	15	7	17	24
Austria	12	3	1	24	88	12	42	15
Japan	13	4	-10	59	65	46	9	12
Korea, Rep.	14	-3	-8	128	39	13	16	5
Belgium	15	1	4	91	66	3	48	17
Cyprus	16	-2	26	63	56	21	12	33
France	17	-4	6	32	103	30	36	11
Australia	18	0	-4	136	32	4	13	18
Spain	19	3	5	82	115	23	10	21
Slovak Republic	20	0	16	21	46	41	38	40
Estonia	21	0	7	64	84	6	72	20
Czech Republic	22	-3	-2	96	22	26	37	36
Singapore	23	0	-22	118	44	60	1	23
Italy	24	0	3	69	129	29	4	27
Portugal	25	0	6	89	119	31	28	25
Ireland	26	2	0	126	110	18	15	22
Poland	27	3	6	55	108	28	65	28
Croatia	28	-1	10	62	62	40	56	41
Bulgaria	29	0	19	15	55	45	82	53
Lithuania	30	6	14	80	45	24	96	34
Timor-Leste	31	25	29	10	4	47	88	112
Cuba	32	1	37	66	11	53	47	84
Costa Rica	33	1	18	77	118	25	24	72
United Arab Emirates	34	-8	-12	142	18	82	2	13
Senegal	35	-4	17	8	8	81	98	59
Dominican Republic	36	2	23	36	40	58	60	75
Panama	37	-5	10	22	86	85	11	90
Latvia	38	2	-3	65	59	20	106	52
Peru	39	7	11	40	80	50	43	79
Morocco	40	4	52	95	61	55	49	47
Greece	41	-6	2	34	146	39	23	38
Albania	42	9	31	52	90	54	31	80
Jamaica	43	-2	34	38	77	42	52	109
Chile	44	-7	-7	114	126	32	26	45
Thailand	45	-2	0	101	47	96	40	37
Canada	46	12	-38	146	58	27	30	16
Ecuador	47	6	40	50	81	57	55	88
Moldova	48	9	27	44	30	33	105	115
Turkey	49	1	14	129	57	80	22	32
Bolivia	50	-11	52	84	107	9	90	92
Romania	51	-6	-10	57	102	65	67	39
Hungary	52	-10	-18	70	100	64	76	30
Kyrgyz Republic	53	-1	44	92	20	49	83	100
North Macedonia	54	-6	31	85	111	62	34	62
Botswana	55	12	9	30	141	14	94	54
Philippines	56	9	-10	103	16	94	79	61
Honduras	57	15	48	39	52	56	69	135
Qatar	58	1	-37	144	24	98	3	26
Colombia	59	2	15	106	130	61	27	56
Algeria	60	4	59	111	101	67	33	76
Tunisia	61	-7	69	93	139	37	50	60
Georgia	62	-13	8	102	120	48	85	48
Uzbekistan	63	10	8	125	25	86	63	65
Namibia	64	-1	20	3	148	38	95	70
Bosnia and Herzegovina	65	-3	57	123	41	66	61	91
Tajikistan	66	3	37	75	54	100	66	86
Armenia	67	10	-1	58	124	75	73	58
Uruguay	68	3	-19	117	143	19	51	66
Jordan	69	6	12	99	128	102	18	57
Sri Lanka	70	16	40	12	93	93	62	130
China	71	-3	-60	143	85	92	45	3
Serbia	72	-6	-11	135	82	59	77	35
Tanzania	73	9	15	1	23	125	117	96
Nepal	74	14	58	27	91	52	97	120
United States	75	-20	-73	149	127	35	81	1
Paraguay	76	8	10	86	79	78	78	101
Malaysia	77	3	-48	139	73	95	21	49
Mauritius	78	-18	-20	110	64	74	86	87
Togo	79	8	-3	9	48	83	140	104
Kazakhstan	80	-4	-18	138	9	71	74	81
Cambodia	81	2	-24	20	10	143	92	93
Indonesia	82	3	-43	131	49	108	53	55
Azerbaijan	83	7	-16	108	83	105	54	85
Benin	84	21	-19	5	2	101	145	134
Saudi Arabia	85	8	-29	145	71	73	14	46
Kenya	86	3	7	41	104	72	120	77
Niger	87	9	12	28	1	103	137	129
Gambia, The	88	-9	-9	42	14	114	104	128
Kuwait	89	20	-17	151	78	34	5	98
Mexico	90	4	-35	116	95	68	71	99

	NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb) Rank	Difference to NGVCb2025	Difference to EQx2026	Ecology & Natural Capital	Equitable Opportunities	Education & Human Capital	Health & Well-Being	Innovation & Technology
Zambia	91	1	16	2	122	76	110	124
Argentina	92	-11	12	134	135	36	59	68
Ukraine	93	-19	33	94	92	70	99	95
Belarus	94	1	0	124	50	90	93	78
Ghana	95	-4	-4	60	117	91	112	71
Trinidad and Tobago	96	-18	4	130	68	63	75	111
Brazil	97	4	-43	132	134	44	80	50
Oman	98	21	-66	147	94	77	6	67
Burkina Faso	99	7	15	25	28	79	142	139
Bahrain	100	3	-75	150	53	89	7	73
Egypt, Arab Rep.	101	-1	-6	98	132	120	64	42
Nicaragua	102	-3	11	18	37	134	89	143
Iran, Islamic Rep.	103	1	24	121	74	121	68	69
Vietnam	104	11	-64	137	42	109	70	64
Côte d'Ivoire	105	-8	-25	17	67	104	131	116
India	106	4	-53	112	106	117	109	31
El Salvador	107	1	1	71	63	128	87	121
Mozambique	108	4	7	14	113	99	130	113
Liberia	109	-11	-11	74	19	113	132	122
Guatemala	110	1	6	90	87	97	108	114
Venezuela, RB	111	-64	34	11	136	141	46	105
Gabon	112	1	19	19	133	119	107	83
Lebanon	113	3	27	113	142	107	57	51
Rwanda	114	0	-31	53	96	127	119	82
Guinea	115	10	-19	6	21	146	129	125
South Africa	116	4	-7	122	145	43	115	63
Congo, Dem. Rep.	117	16	6	109	13	124	139	107
Guinea-Bissau	118	23	-36	4	51	138	127	147
Ethiopia	119	-12	5	26	35	148	123	106
Malawi	120	-2	15	43	112	110	118	132
Mali	121	3	-1	54	36	130	125	137
Sierra Leone	122	-52	-5	29	72	106	144	131
Burundi	123	-2	11	46	34	123	138	144
Papua New Guinea	124	-1	-18	104	17	115	124	150
Mauritania	125	9	0	105	29	122	114	146
Libya	126	2	13	133	138	88	91	43
Uganda	127	-1	-16	33	69	132	122	127
Bangladesh	128	-6	-39	115	89	133	101	74
Lao PDR	129	6	-51	119	7	142	102	136
Nigeria	130	-13	3	37	75	129	150	94
Turkmenistan	131	-29	-30	140	3	136	84	102
Russian Federation	132	-3	-42	148	60	87	111	44
Lesotho	133	-1	5	87	123	51	149	140
Cameroon	134	5	-13	81	99	137	133	97
Madagascar	135	2	-23	83	76	112	141	145
Chad	136	0	0	61	12	145	147	138
Syrian Arab Republic	137	-10	10	56	150	118	58	142
Iraq	138	0	6	127	121	111	100	110
Congo, Rep.	139	-8	-2	7	147	131	121	103
Mongolia	140	0	-72	141	33	69	126	133
Pakistan	141	1	-13	100	109	144	103	119
Eswatini	142	1	-1	88	144	84	135	123
Yemen, Rep.	143	2	6	31	140	116	113	151
Equatorial Guinea	144	-14	-26	78	116	149	143	89
Afghanistan	145	4	3	79	114	135	128	148
Myanmar	146	0	-4	107	125	140	134	117
Sudan	147	-3	3	73	131	150	116	126
Central African Republic	148	0	-19	51	98	151	151	141
Haiti	149	-2	2	45	151	126	136	108
Zimbabwe	150	0	-7	49	137	147	146	118
Angola	151	0	-5	72	149	139	148	149

Note: A difference of -9 means that a country ranks 9 positions lower in the NGVCb2026 compared to the EQx2026; while a positive difference indicates a better NGVCb ranking position.

Visual 1.8: NextGen Value Creation Barometer, 5 categories and 33 component Indicators



NextGen Value Creation Barometer in partnership with



1.8 The University of St.Gallen's EQx Toolset

The University of St.Gallen provides the EQx country comparison toolkit on its website. This allows you to visualize a series of Elite Quality country comparisons based on EQx and PanelEQx (PEQx) data. While not all data is included (e.g., Indicators), the aim is to facilitate the transmission of key Elite Quality data and statistics to students and faculty, as well as to the general public, in accordance with one of the University's core institutional principles: 'From insight to impact'.

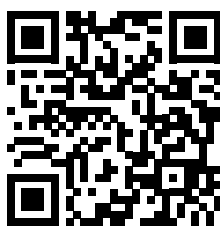
Another motivation for providing this service is to supply the basis for generating insights useful for macro-level policymaking and micro-level elite transformational leadership. By allowing users to compare elite systems worldwide in terms of aggregate sustainable value creation, the tools provide benchmarks to inform structural reforms.

Utilizing the Elite Quality Country Comparison Tools

The Elite Quality Country Comparison Tools are designed for all those curious about the state of the world and where it is heading on a country-by-country basis. They are intended for political economy analysts, students, researchers, journalists, policymakers and politicians, investors, business leaders, and the interested citizen. They provide unique perspectives on how national elite systems compare with one another in terms of their Value Creation and Value Extraction. The potential uses of the tools include:

1. **Comparing countries** on the quality of their political and economic elites to determine their relative future human and economic growth possibilities through convenient visualizations.
2. **Informing decision-making in international business** by using the EQx as a proxy for country risk in relation to activities like trade or investment.
3. Establishing how diverse sectors, industries, and elite coalitions in the political economy contribute to elite quality and prosperity **through the deep dive country analyses** of Sustainable Value Creation.
4. Developing **policy proposals** for structural reforms and institutional change to adjust rules, regulations, and the legal system so that the value creation areas of the economy are incentivized, and those that suffer from value transfers are reformed.
5. Undertaking **regional analyses** to assess the defining features of elite quality within regions and to identify top-performing countries as credible benchmarks.

<https://unisg.ch/elitequality>



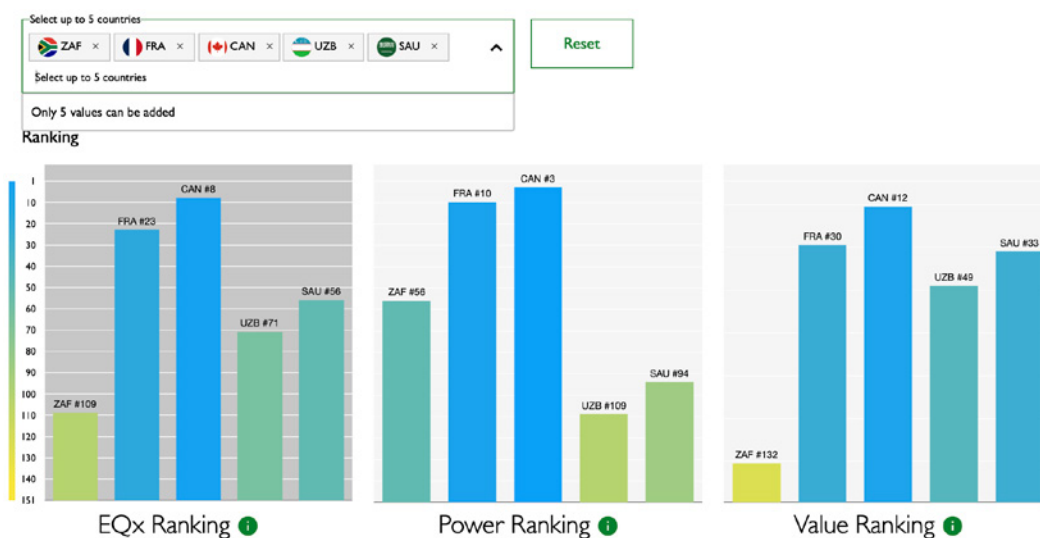
The website is a collaboration between the University of St.Gallen and the Foundation for Value Creation.

The Three EQx2026 Comparison Online Tools

- **Elite Quality Country Comparison:** Cross-country analysis of up to five countries, evaluating overall elite quality alongside the Power and Value Sub-Indices using EQx data.

Elite Quality Country Comparison Tool (1/3)

Can we measure if and when elites are 'good' or 'bad' for their nations? To what extent do elite business models focus on value creation rather than extraction? How powerful are elites? Do they use their power and coordination capacity to grow the economic pie for all, or do they rather attempt to increase their slice of the pie at the expense of non-elites? Compare up to five countries on their Elite Quality, the comparative power of their elites (a higher ranking denotes a less powerful elite) and the Value that they deliver.

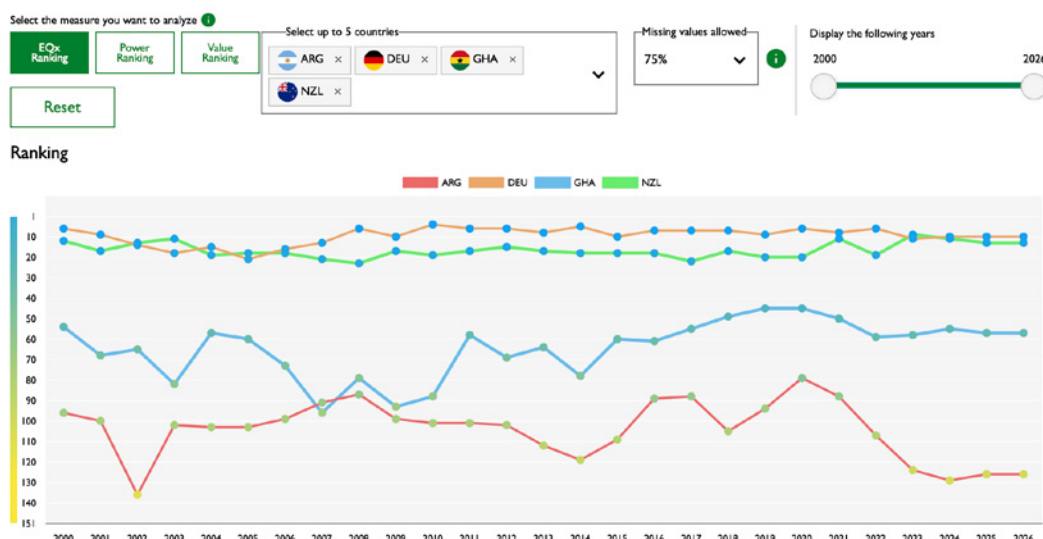


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- **Elite Quality Historical Country Comparison:** Cross-country, over-time analysis (since 2005) of up to five countries, examining overall elite quality and the Power and Value dimensions using PanelEQx data.

Elite Quality Historical Comparison Tool (2/3)

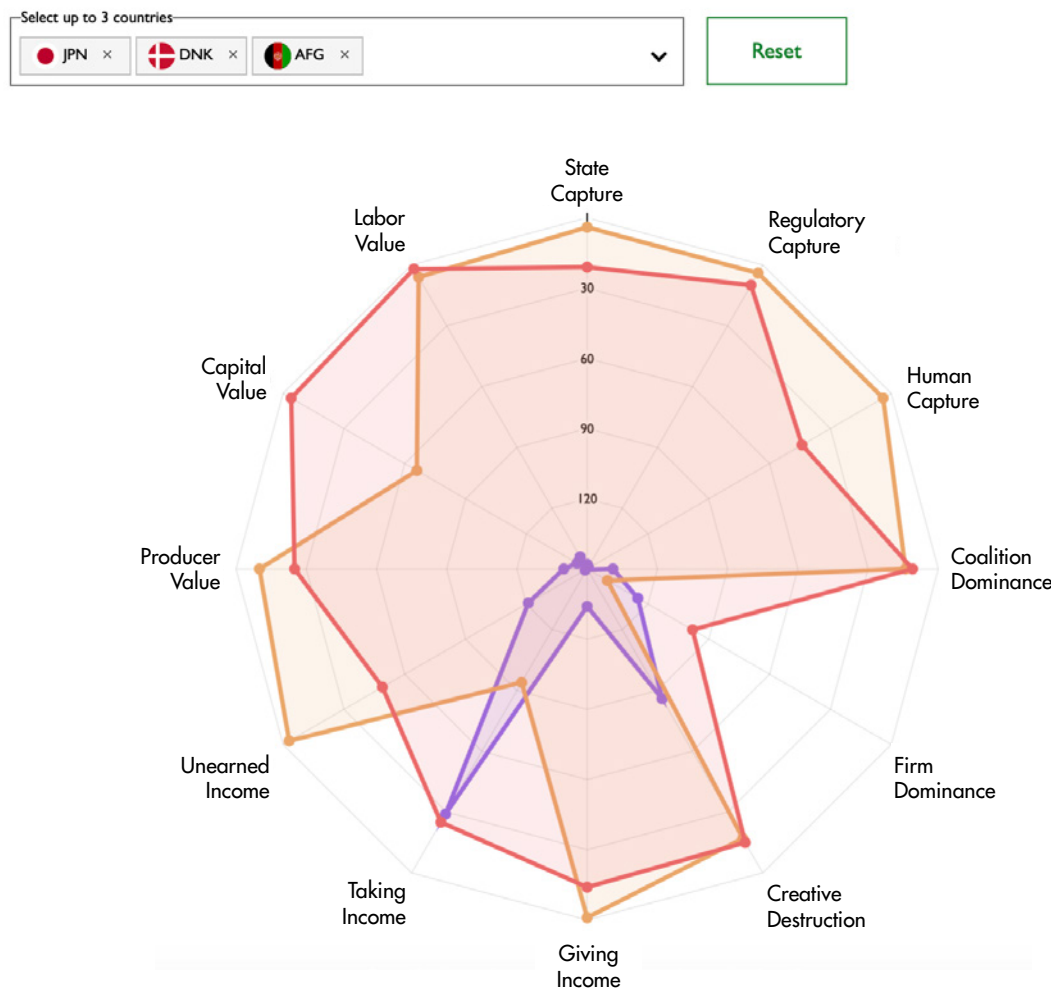
The annual EQx reports provide a temporal snapshot of how a country's elites perform in relation to each other in a particular year. But how does Elite Quality evolve over time? The PanelEQx (PEQx), a historical measure of annual Elite Quality starting in 2000, informs this tool. The PEQx2026 is based on a subset of the EQx2026 indicators. It is essential to specify the percentage of 'missing values allowed' you are comfortable with using (see box below). Compare up to five countries over time for their overall Elite Quality, Power, or Value rankings.

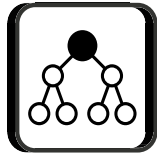


- **Elite Quality Country Comparison at the Pillar Level:** Cross-country comparison of up to three countries, drawing on EQx Pillar-level data.

Pillars of the Country Comparison Economy Analysis Tool (3/3)

The EQx has 12 Pillars that conceptually classify its component Indicators (148 were used in the EQx2026). Each of the 12 Pillars belongs to one of the four Index Areas: Political Power, Political Value, Economic Power and Economic Value. The Pillars serve the purpose of allowing analysis of specific dimensions of Elite Quality. Compare up to three countries based on their 12 Pillar rankings.





What is Power?

The capacity to enforce one's preferences;
Power is therefore conceived of as potential
future Value Extraction.



What is Value?

The outcome of first-order productive activities;
Value creation is inclusive as it increases the
size of the overall economic pie for all.

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What is Political?

The dimension where business model rules
are determined
and Value Creation/Extraction is enabled.



What is Economic?

The dimension where Value Creation/Extraction
is implemented
via elite business models.

2. Inside the Global Elite Quality Index (EQx)

Chapter 2 presents the conceptual political economy framework of the EQx anchored by the dual notions of Power and Value and discusses how these are operationalized within the EQx architecture. The discussion proceeds to review the index construction methodology that has been applied to the EQx.

2.1 Deep Dive into the EQx

The EQx proposes an analytical framework (see Casas-Klett, 2026) to interpret—and possibly transform—the state of the world’s political economies. It is based on a simple idea. The EQx posits that the business models chosen and run by elites determine economic and human development. That is, elites (the ‘who’) affect human and economic development outcomes (the ‘what’), sometimes directly and mostly indirectly via their sway on institutions (the ‘how’) that set the rules of the game. These rules bestow on elites a ‘license to operate’. Both the ‘how’ and the ‘what’ have been theoretically discussed at great length and are amply measured. Measuring the ‘who’ element in the political economy is the research gap that we seek to pursue. We do so at the national level, by considering national elite systems in terms of the aggregate Value Creation and Value Extraction impacts of their primary business models.

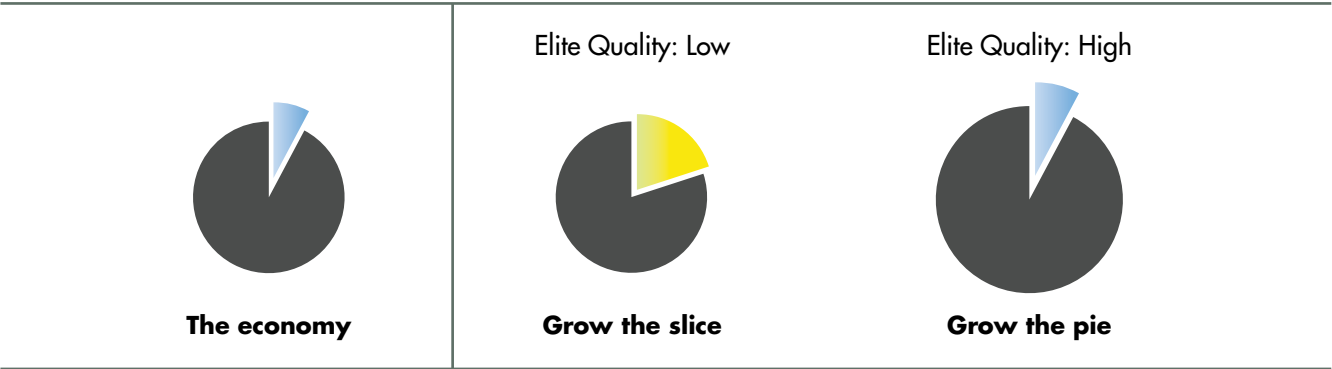
Elites are a mathematical certainty and exist in every society on earth. Their business models generate the most income and are run by leaders possessing the strongest coordination capacity over society’s key resources, such as human, financial, and other types of capital. Moreover, the business models of elites successfully accumulate wealth. Crucially, these business models can be located on a continuum, which ranges from Value Creation to Value Extraction. The latter represents rent seeking, where “a rent is an unearned re-

ward sought through a quest for privilege” (Hillman & Ursprung, 2015, p. 3). While rent-seeking models are beneficial for their operators, they result in social loss.

The EQx terms elites that run business models creating more value than they extract as, ‘high quality’. They grow the whole (economic) pie to increase their own wealth and, by doing so, enrich society as a whole. Visual 2.1 describes this metaphor visually. ‘Low quality’ elites, on the other hand, do the opposite and increase their own slice of the pie at the expense of non-elites. In short, elites can be high-quality value creators, or low-quality value extractors. Obviously, a value creating business model can be transformed into a rent seeking one, or vice versa. This fluidity motivates the annual release of the EQx with the aim of highlighting constructive changes towards transformational leadership made by elites and policymakers.

The EQx proposes that from a sustainability perspective, the operation of Value Creation business models is in the long-term best interests of the elites, their families, and associates. By doing this, elites grow both their own wealth and that of non-elites, thus gaining social legitimacy. Social and political stability are, after all, essential for prosperity. Furthermore, we argue that the prosperity of a nation as a whole depends primarily on the nature of the business models chosen by elites; whether elites allocate society’s key resources such as savings, talent, or land to value-boosting projects or to projects based on value transfers away from producers. At one extreme, ‘rentier capitalism’ is when “market and political power allows privileged individuals and businesses to extract a great deal of such rent from everybody else” (Wolf, 2019). In contrast, high-quality elites have a transformative role in the political economy—and on society in general—as, by definition, they give more than they take.

Visual 2.1: Macro perspective of Elite Quality: The economic impact of elite business model choices



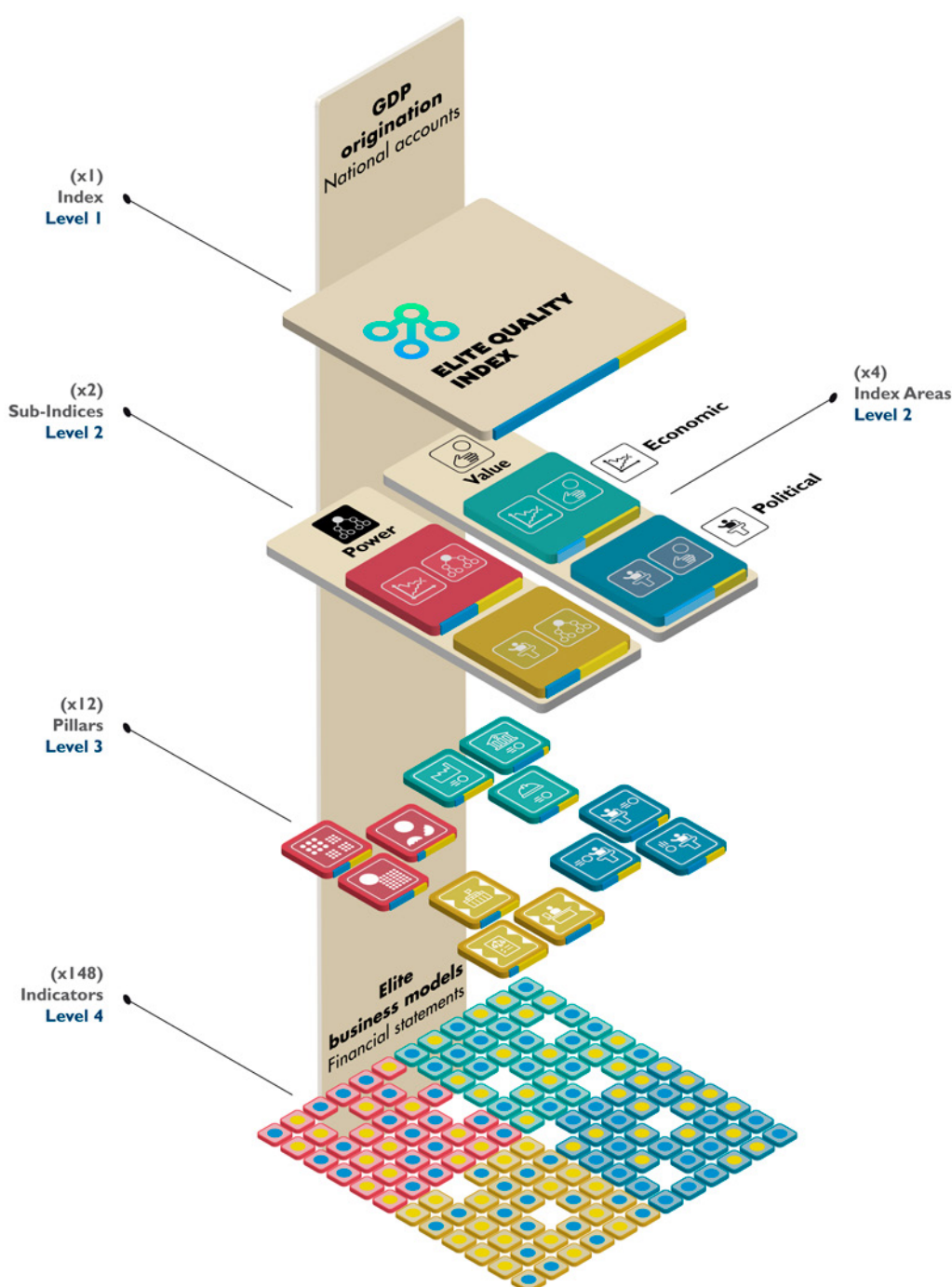
EQx Architecture

The EQx is a political economy index that measures the overall Elite Quality of nations in terms of the ability of elite business models to create value, rather than rent seek, as evidenced by aggregated datasets.

At the top of the EQx architecture (see [Visual 2.2](#)), all of the components of the Index come together to produce the EQx, with its Country Scores and Global Rankings. We deconstruct and operationalize Elite Quality through Sub-Indices I and II: Power and Value. The Value Sub-Index I provides

direct evidence of Value Creation and Extraction through elite business models, even though the latter might be easier to measure, since the results of rent seeking are more visible. The Power Sub-Index II conceptualizes the potential for Value Extraction, since there can be no Value Extraction without power. Hence, while Power is not Value Extraction per se, it is a necessary, albeit insufficient condition for it to take place. In many countries, elites enjoying high degrees of power invest in and operate inclusive Value Creation business models.

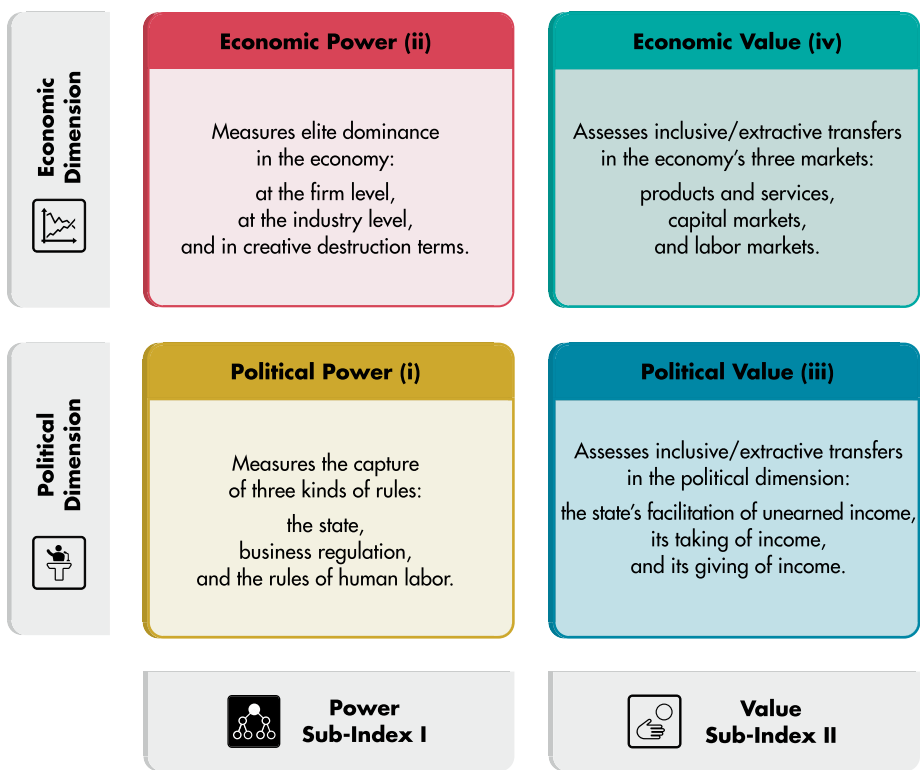
Visual 2.2: EQx Architecture. (Source: Derived from Figure 6.3 in Casas-Klett, 2026)



Each of EQx’ two Sub-Indices contain a political and an economic dimension. The former indicates where the rules of business are determined and Value Creation/Extraction is enabled, and the latter denotes where Value Creation/Extraction is actually implemented via suitable business models. This conceptual 2x2 brings to life the EQx’s matrix-like 4 Index Areas. Firstly, Political Power measures the capture of three kinds of rules: rules of the state, business regulation, and the rules of human labor. Secondly, Economic Power measures

elite dominance in the economy, at both the firm and industry level, as well as in terms of creative destruction. Thirdly, Political Value measures Value Extraction in the political dimension; the state’s unearned income, its taking of income, and its giving of income. Fourthly, Economic Value measures Value Extraction from the economy’s three markets: products and services, the capital markets, and the labor markets. The 4 Index Areas act as a matrix, the 4 quadrants of which are represented in [Visual 2.3](#).

Visual 2.3: The Four Index Areas: The Power and Value Sub-Indices and their Political and Economic Dimensions



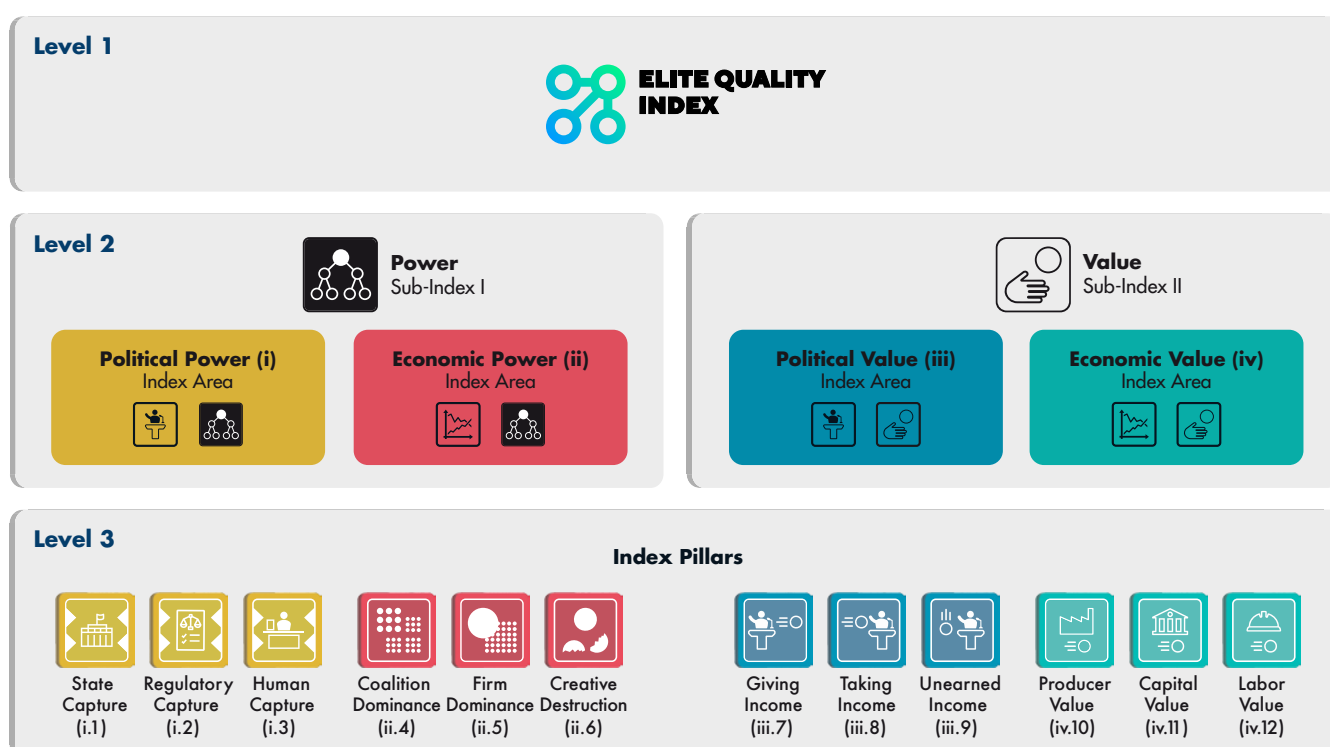
EQx Pillars

Each EQx Index Area is then complemented by 3 conceptually related Pillars; yielding a total of 12 Pillars in all (see [Visual 2.4](#)). The purpose of the Pillars is to define and create conceptual lenses through which we can approach, understand, and measure specific phenomena.

The Political Power Pillars (i) were selected to address the capture of 3 kinds of rules: the rules of the state via ‘State Capture’ (i.1), the rules of business regulation via ‘Regulatory Capture’ (i.2), and the rules for labor markets and civil service

jobs via ‘Human Capture’ (i.3). ‘State Capture’ addresses how distributional coalitions capture the state and its government branches, for example, through *Political corruption* (COR, i.1). ‘Regulatory Capture’ suggests the extent to which rules and regulations, both in terms of process and output, have been captured by interest groups. ‘Human Capture’ accounts for the power of labor and civil service coalitions, the power of those that can implement discriminatory practices, and the power of elite business models to influence wages and working conditions.

Visual 2.4: The 12 Level 3 Pillars in the EQx Architecture



The Economic Power Pillars (ii) measure elite ‘Coalition Dominance’ (ii.4) and ‘Firm Dominance’ (ii.5) within the economy, as well as their opposite: the extent of ‘Creative Destruction’ (ii.6). ‘Coalition Dominance’ examines the Economic Power of leading industries by measuring the degree of business diversity and the distribution of power in an economy through Indicators such as the *Economic Complexity Index* (ECI, ii.4). ‘Firm Dominance’ measures the power of single businesses within the economy, using Indicators such as *Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP* (FRG, ii.5). We borrow Schumpeter’s (1942) concept of ‘Creative Destruction’—the replacement of outdated business practices with innovative new structures—for the third Economic Power Pillar, which includes measures for *Entrepreneurship* (ENT, ii.6) and *Venture capital finance* (VCK, ii.6). The aim is to measure the pressures for renewal and disruption that exist within an economy and fuel Value Creation.

The Political Value Pillars (iii) consider ‘Giving Income’ (iii.7), ‘Taking Income’ (iii.8) and ‘Unearned Income’ (iii.9), reflecting policy decisions in the political sphere that relate to redistribution in its broadest sense: “from one subset of society to benefit a different subset” (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2012, p. 76). An important point here is that we only consider the merits of such redistribution in terms of Value and try to assess whether it has been extracted or created for each surveyed Indicator. ‘Giving Income’ measures how the government manages and uses public finances in terms of the provision of public goods such as education, or the amount of

subsidies distributed in an economy. ‘Taking Income’ addresses how the state collects such income, as in *Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)* (DTR, iii.8), or whether it allows the existence of business models that take the ultimate form of value—life—as in *Death rates from substance use disorders per 100,000 people* (SUB, iii.8). The ‘Unearned Income’ Pillar focuses on the exploitation of natural resources, such as *Natural resources rents as % of GDP* (NRR, iii.9), or extracting from the future at the expense of the present, like *Government debt as % of GDP* (DBT, iii.8). Thus, the Political Value Pillars offer a picture of the degree to which production has been channeled into or shifted away from innovative and wealth-creating sectors of the economy (Porter, 1990).

The Economic Value Pillars (iv) directly measure the extent of Value Creation and Value Extraction from the economy’s three markets: the products and services markets, the capital markets, and the labor markets. ‘Producer Value’ (iv.10) estimates the value created or the rents extracted by producers and suppliers in the market for goods and services. ‘Capital Value’ (iv.11) measures the value created or the rents extracted both directly and indirectly through participation in the financial market. ‘Labor Value’ (iv.12), which includes Indicators such as the *Unemployment rate* (UEM, iv.12) and the *Human flight and brain drain* (BRN, iv.12), allows us to assess the value created or the rents extracted in the labor markets, for example, from interventions in both supply and demand.

2.2 EQx Methodology

The EQx aims to be an academically grounded and statistically valid measure of national Elite Quality. The multi-dimensionality of the underlying concept is mirrored by the four-level architecture of the index, which allows for an easy interpretation of the state of Elite Quality in a particular country.

Visual 2.5 below illustrates the 9 separate steps in the process for constructing the index. Steps 1 and 2 are detailed in Casas-Klett (2026) and discussed in Section 2.1 and 2.3 of this Report. Steps 3 to 6 are summarized below. Step 8, the statistical assessment, is addressed in a peer-reviewed paper published in *Social Indicator Research* that critically reflects on the EQx2021 rankings (Diebold, 2022).

Throughout the index construction process, judgment calls are inevitable. Hence, our goal is to follow the OECD’s *Handbook on Constructing Composite Indicators* (2008), in that “transparency must be the guiding principle of the entire exercise” (p. 17). As a result, the following section describes exactly how the EQx is calculated, as well as the underlying assumptions.

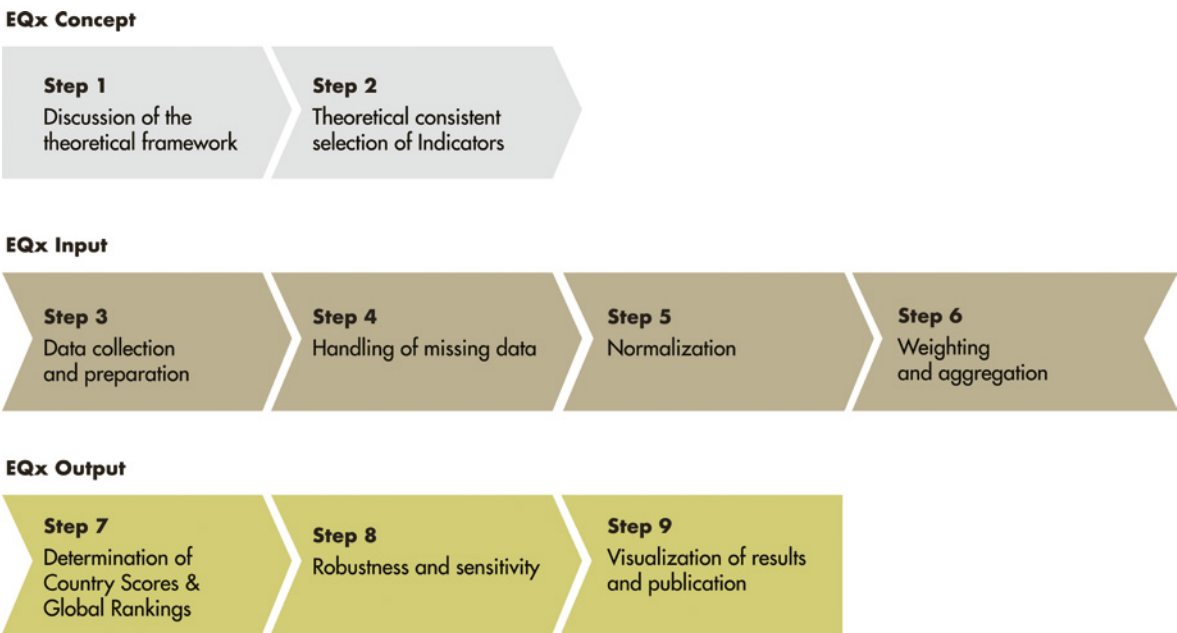
Selection of Indicators and Dataset Collection (Step 3)

All 148 EQx Indicators provide evidence of Value Creation or Value Extraction in the political economy, either at present, or potentially in the future. As a whole, their aim is to capture and measure all relevant aspects of Elite Quality, according to the Elite Quality theoretical framework, summarized in the Introduction of this section. For the full list of EQx Indicators, see Section 5.2.

The underlying datasets are collected from a variety of renowned international organizations (Section 7.2 provides a comprehensive list of the data sources for each individual Indicator). Datasets are then categorized according to whether and how they should be transformed before being utilized to create the EQx Indicators. Some Indicators are obtained directly from the original data; for example, *Control of corruption* (COC, i.1) uses one of the Worldwide Governance indicators provided by the World Bank. Other Indicators are obtained after some basic transformation of the source dataset, e.g., by setting absolute numbers in relation to a country’s total population or GDP. Another set of Indicators require more complex transformation, implying data cleaning and more extensive data repurposing, as is the case for *Top 3 industries as % of value added* (IVA, ii.4).

Generally, the most recently available data is used to compute EQx Indicators. That is, wherever possible, the EQx2026 uses data from 2025, and, in some cases, even from 2026.

Visual 2.5: EQx’s 9 step construction process



Handling of Missing Data (Step 4)

Fortunately, the datasets considered for the EQx are, for the most part, characterized by being relatively complete. Generally, the EQx approach to missing values aims to avoid any systematic bias in the index scores as a result of missing datapoints. That is, a lack of data should not penalize or favor any country but should solely influence the accuracy of its score.

High data quality is achieved in three main ways. Firstly, the EQx solely considers Indicators (as well as countries) that meet several minimum data requirements. Generally speaking, datasets are only included in the EQx analysis if they cover a minimum of 15% of the countries under consideration. Additionally, they must provide recent information on a countries' Elite Quality, i.e., no later than 2020 (although there are, on occasion, some exceptions to this rule). The selection of countries for the EQx2021 was based on the following criteria: countries were included if their index score was based on at least 40 datapoints, and, more specifically, on at least 3 datapoints per Index Area and 1 datapoint per Pillar in at least 11 Pillars. The EQx2026 includes the same countries as the EQx2021.

Secondly, if recent data is not available for only a small number of countries, the missing datapoints are imputed with the latest available data.

Thirdly, the EQx implements an "available-case analysis" (Little & Rubin, 2002, p. 54), where Indicators are not omitted if they have missing values but included if they fulfill the above minimum requirements. As a consequence, if the value for an Indicator is missing for a particular country, the weight of the missing Indicator is distributed among the remaining Indicators of the same Pillar in proportion to their respective weights. The EQx methodology thus builds on the premise that Indicators within the same Pillar measure similar aspects of Elite Quality.

For the EQx2026, a country's Index score is derived from a minimum of 77 datapoints (in the case of Equatorial Guinea). Of the 148 EQx2026 Indicators, roughly 83% cover at least half of all 151 countries included in the index, and almost 29% cover all 151 countries. On average, a country's index score is computed using 120 datapoints.

An obvious concern is that missing values are not completely random but based on a systematic pattern (OECD, 2008, p. 24), as data availability might be related to a country's Elite Quality. This could represent an important endogeneity bias for the EQx. However, a positive relationship between Country Scores and data availability would not necessarily indicate bias. Provided that the existing Indicators are unbiased, the EQx scores would not be biased, just less precise. By using less, but correct information, the state of Elite Quality would still be depicted. We are confident that this argument applies to the EQx, since it uses data from renowned and trustworthy international organizations.

Still, data constraints might hamper the cross-country comparability of EQx Country Scores. Some Indicators stem from different years, while others cover a heterogeneous set of countries. The latter implies that each Country Score relies on a different set of Indicators (Little & Rubin, 2002, p. 54), which might limit the meaningfulness of the international ranking. However, while these important limitations should be kept in mind, we are confident that the EQx offers valuable insights on aggregate Elite Quality in the considered countries. An uncertainty and sensitivity analysis performed on the EQx2021 suggests that the ranking positions of the top 50 countries are largely robust to modifications in key modelling assumptions. Ranking positions of middle and lower performing countries appear to be more sensitive towards methodological choices, and especially the availability of data. Any interpretation or conclusion on the Elite Quality of these countries based on their exact ranking should therefore be treated with caution, and ranking positions should not be taken at face value but rather be seen as indicative (Diebold, 2022).

Normalization of Indicator Values (Step 5)

Because indicators initially have different scales and measurement units, normalization is necessary prior to aggregating the data to “avoid adding up apples and oranges” (OECD, 2008, p. 27). Initially, a logarithmic transformation is applied to indicator datasets: firstly, if Pearson’s second coefficient of skewedness exceeds unity, indicating strong skewedness (Belfiore & Favero, 2019, p. 63); and secondly, if the indicator is not already based on an existing index. This is to improve the distribution of the data and thus yield more meaningful indicator scores. In total, 15 of the 148 EQx Indicators are based on a log transformation.

Subsequently, data is standardized, i.e., converted to a common scale (with mean zero and standard deviation one) by calculating z-scores:

$$I_{q,c}^z = \frac{x_{q,c} - \text{mean}(x_q)}{sd(x_q)}$$

where $x_{q,c}$ indicates the value of indicator q of country c , and $I_{q,c}^z$ denotes the standardized value. This improves the comparability of datasets with large differences in scales and units, as is the case with the EQx Indicators. Next, and only if necessary, outliers are winsorized to fall within a $[-2,+2]$ interval. The resulting values are then rescaled so that the Indicator scores all range between 0 and 100, using:

$$I_{q,c} = \left(\frac{I_{q,c}^z}{4} + 0.5\right) * 100$$

Lastly, and again, if necessary, Indicators are adjusted for polarity. That is, they are transformed so that—consistently across all datasets—a value close to 100 indicates a high level of Elite Quality, and a value close to 0 represents a low level of Elite Quality. For reflections on the index normalization scheme, see (Section 2.6).

Weighting Scheme (Step 6a)

The weighting scheme of any index is decisive since it represents an important determinant of the resulting scores and rankings. By weighting index elements, different levels of relevance can be attributed to them. Best practice in index construction suggests that weights must be explicitly consistent with the concept of the index and fully transparent. In other words, first, a weighting scheme must reflect what the index aims to measure and second, each of the datasets that constitute the index must have their weight assigned in a documented and traceable manner.

The weight of each Indicator in the EQx depends on its weight within its Pillar, the weight of that Pillar within its Index Area, the weight of that Index Area within its Sub-Index, and the weight of that Sub-Index within the overall EQx.

What does the EQx aim to measure? Again, the aim is to portray the overall Elite Quality of nations in terms of the aggregate Value Creation of a country’s elite business models as evidenced by aggregated datasets.

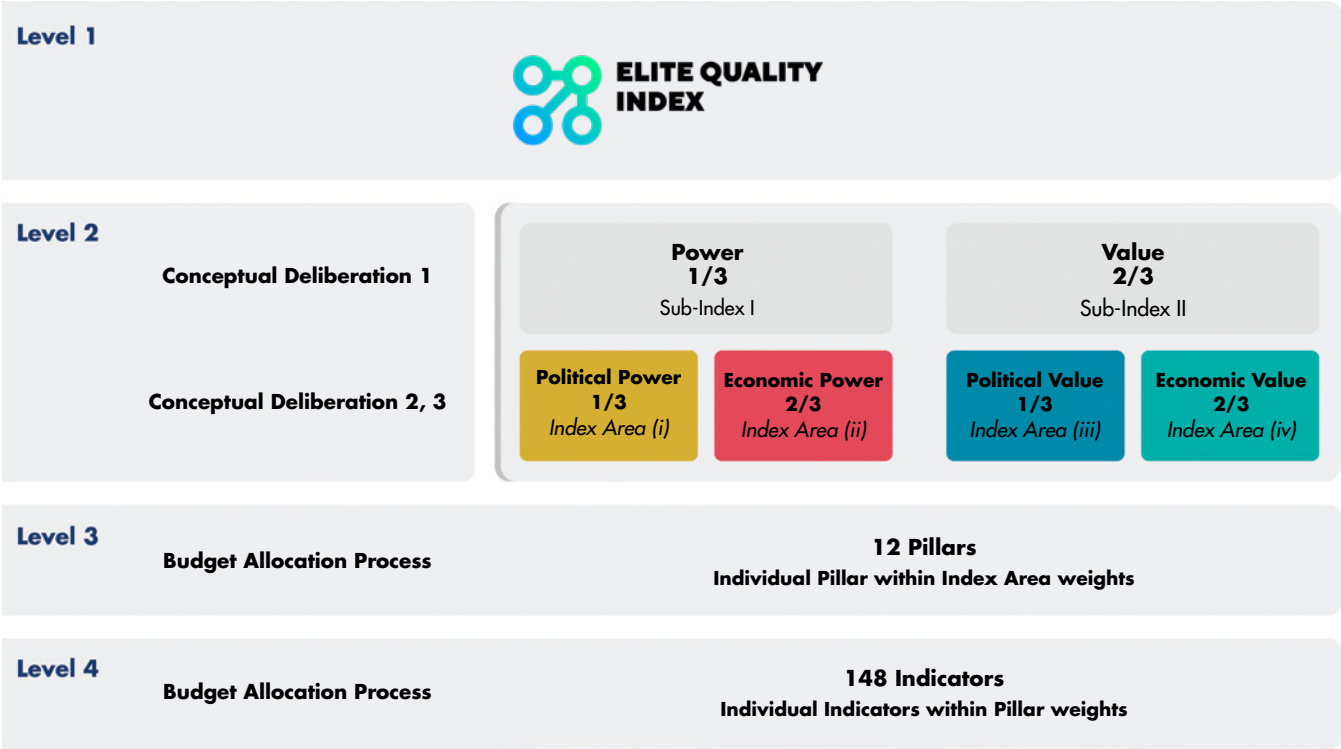
Sub-Index weights

The EQx sees Power as a necessary condition for Value Extraction and rent seeking. The Power Sub-Index I is thus a predictor of potential future Value Extraction. Therefore, the relative weighting for the two Sub-Indices, Power and Value, is conceptual and has been determined by the authors after thorough deliberation: the Power Sub-Index I has a weight of 1/3 whereas the Value Sub-Index II is weighted at 2/3.

Index Area weights

The EQx could also have been called ‘the political economy index’ because it measures Power and Value in the political economy. Accordingly, each of the EQx’s two Sub-Indices contain a political and economic dimension. The weights of the resulting two Index Areas within Power Sub-Index I and Value Sub-Index II are also the result of the conceptual design of the EQx and the authors’ judgments: the weights for both are established at roughly 1/3 : 2/3 (conceptual deliberations 2 and 3). This determines the weights of all four Index Areas: Political Power (PP), Economic Power (EP), Political Value (PV) and Economic Value (EV). For Power Sub-Index I, the rationale is that Economic Power is supreme, while Political Power reflects potentially extractive processes if these successfully transition into the economic arena. For Value Sub-Index II, the rationale is the higher significance—in terms of direct impact on citizens and economic agents—of the economic over the political in the overall Value Creation processes of the political economy. Anticipating the linear aggregation scheme discussed below,

Visual 2.6: EQx weighting overview



the three conceptual deliberations in weighting imply the following index area weights within the overall EQx: 11.1% (PP), 22.2% (EP), 22.2% (PV), and 44.4% (EV).

Pillar and Indicator weights

While the weights of the Sub-Indices and Index Areas are determined by conceptual deliberations, a panel of experts is used to determine the weights of the Pillars and Indicators. A Budget Allocation Process (BAP) is employed to establish the weighting of the Pillars within each of the 4 Index Areas, as well as weighting the Indicators within each of the 12 Pillars. Visual 2.6 summarizes the structure and weighting scheme used in the EQx. Section 5.1 lists all Indicators with their respective weights, both within their Pillar, as well as within the overall EQx.

Aggregation Scheme (Step 6b)

Finally, the EQx applies a linear aggregation scheme. This implies constant and full compensability between each aggregated element at the respective aggregation level (OECD, 2008, p. 33). Within Pillars, Indicators are assumed to measure similar aspects of Elite Quality, and as a consequence, full compensability is intended. A similar reasoning applies to the aggregation of Pillars within Index Areas. Moreover, a linear aggregation scheme transmits the relative importance—as determined by the underlying weighting scheme—of the elements that are aggregated at the respective level to the index (Santeramo, 2017, p. 131). Therefore, Index Areas and Sub-Indices are also linearly aggregated, to ensure a full transmission of the relative weights as implied by the theoretical framework.

2.3 The History-EQx (2021-2026): A Reflection on Trends, Limits, and Elite Systems

How stable is the sustainable value creation of national elite systems over time? How legitimate is it to compare EQx country rankings intertemporally, given that they are based on data from 151 nations? Now in its seventh year, the EQx has established itself as the leading global comparative measure of elite quality, making these questions not only relevant but essential. Two years ago, the EQx team wrote that: “the annual EQx reports are only partially comparable to each other.

This is because each annual iteration attempts to improve the index by adapting the list of Indicators to incorporate current events or newly discussed aspects of Elite Quality” (EQx2024, p. 32). At the highest level of abstraction, the EQx rankings are highly consistent with their focus on establishing value creation and extraction. Yet at the same time, the operationalization of elite quality reveals multiple factors that bias the aggregation, as was discussed last year. We list them in the box below.

Factors that challenge the historical comparability of the EQx

- **Fundamental theoretical positions**
e.g., rent seeking is deemed to be a property of the elite system that leads to institutional change and development outcomes.
- **Conceptual definition of the elements of the elite theory of economic development**
e.g., Power is deemed to be a predictor of potential future value extraction, representing a second-order transfer of value.
- **Methodological choices**
e.g., on normalization or aggregation.
- **Indicator selection**
i.e., what Indicators are included in the index.
- **Missing data**
i.e., many countries don't have relevant data, and so individual Indicators often cover only a partial set of the 151 countries, while data quality standards are not consistent across all the original sources used.
- **Methodological choices for missing data**
potentially determining the impact of missing data on the country ranking.
- **Errors**
e.g., conceptual, such as the misassignment of an Indicator to a Pillar category, or technical mistakes made during the data preparation phases.
- **Judgments by the index team**
e.g., in selecting the Indicators, weighting them, or establishing the Value Creation optimum when the underlying phenomena is deemed to be non-linear.

Given these factors, we asked last year how consistent and hence comparable the EQx is from year to year, from both the methodological and conceptual perspectives. To what degree is a historical analysis of the EQx results meaningful? Are there valid trends that emerge from comparing all of the EQx annual publications and how should we interpret the

movement of elite quality from one year to the next, and in relation to all previous years? If the potential problems, many of a technical and data-related nature, don't pose sufficient difficulties for the stability and comparability of the EQx, there are also additional challenges in the underlying reality of elite quality.

The shifting reality of elite quality that challenges the comparability of annual EQx publications over time

- **National elite business models are dynamic**

The organizations generating the highest levels of residual income change over time. Moreover, even when the organizations endure, the way their business models generate income shifts. In addition, even if the underlying organizations and their elite business models remain the same, something else is likely to change over time: their Value Creation Ratings (VCr) and Value Creation Positions (VCp), i.e., the proportion of value creation in relation to value extraction (see Section 2.7).

- **Social changes**

Society, belief systems, and values change through time requiring the EQx to evolve accordingly. For instance, it was decided to add three new Indicators in both 2021 and 2022 to address ecology and the SDGs, with a further 12 additions in 2023. Such far-reaching adjustments evidently impact the overall rankings. At the same time, the underlying reality (in this case the relationship between elite agency and the nature stakeholder) did not change to the same dramatic extent in the EQx from one year to the next. The change was caused by the judgments made by the EQx team, in concordance with their understanding of elite quality and how available data could approximate it.

- **Technological shifts**

As with social changes, incorporating technology shifts into the index means adjusting the collection of Indicators and how they are weighted. For instance, in the EQx2025, 5 new Indicators were added to the 2 already included to address the crucial area of AI. Given the rapid advances and impact of this technology, the EQx needed to more accurately reflect reality (weighting all AI-related Indicators at 8.8% of the total). Generally speaking, the judgments made by the EQx team to adjust for technological shifts are liable to initially undershoot and eventually overshoot reality on the ground.

- **Black swans**

The effects of high impact, low probability events test the resilience of an elite system and whether adaptation is inclusive or extractive. The performance of elite business models in crucial matters (such as how a health system performs in terms of the number of lives saved during a crisis) are mostly relevant only for the duration of an event (the effects of the COVID pandemic were initially captured by 5 Indicators in 2023, all of which were removed from the Index last year).

- **Delayed capture of value creation/extraction phenomena**

A temporal lag is unavoidably built into any annual index. Ideally, the EQx would be issued on a monthly basis to capture here and now events such as wars, pandemics, or President Trump's tariffs. But while some of the data used for the EQx is available in close to real time—such as inflation or unemployment rates—most Indicators suffer from temporal displacement. Reality is therefore understood and conceptualized with a delay. This becomes even more noticeable in how a particular phenomenon is operationalized and its associated data is captured.

Clear principles are needed to enable the intertemporal comparability of the 'HistoricalEQx' measurement

Despite the challenges discussed, the EQx team launched a measurement now known as the 'HistoricalEQx' last year. This section discusses the foundational rules or criteria that make it valid and meaningful to compare EQx scores across different historical time periods—notwithstanding changes in data availability, Indicator composition, and methodological adjustments over time. The measurement was created as a response to the PanelEQx (PEQx).

The PEQx was developed to carry out empirical research on elite quality in relation to other economic, political, managerial, and social variables. The PEQx adheres to the EQx methodology (Indicator selection, weighting, etc.) of a particular year and applies it to all previous years (i.e., the PEQx2026 is based on the EQx2026). Given the availability of historical data, it starts in 2005.

Conceptually, the PEQx corresponds to the EQx and maintains the conceptual framework and resulting multi-level architecture. However, taking into account the unavailability of some historical datasets, the PEQx is computed using only a subset of all EQx Indicators. The PEQx2026 covers 129 common denominator Indicators. Moreover, it is only available for a subset of EQx countries. The size of this subset depends on the amount of missing values a given researcher is willing to accept in the context of his or her research aims. That is, if one sets the PEQx2026 threshold at 10% missing values, data for 33 countries are available; at 20% missing values, coverage increases to 69 countries; and at 75% missing values, all 151 EQx countries remain. The PEQx provides a rigorous, comparative empirical measure of value creation and extraction by a countries' elite system over time. Additionally, it represents a flexible and promising tool for researchers interested in empirically analyzing the topic of elite quality.

However, in going back to the original question of this piece, the HistoricalEQx, even if compromised by methodological inconsistencies (like Indicator composition) and thus inadequate for series research applications, will supply important and discrete information. First, by incorporating temporary Indicators reflective of elite quality during particular crises (such as wars or COVID-19), the HistoricalEQx offers a picture of the elite system's sustainable value creation evolution during exceptionally challenging periods (while the more exacting PEQx must purge many of these important Indicators). Second, when important technological or social shifts occur, the HistoricalEQx is able to recount how value creation/extraction has comparatively adjusted due to new data categories.

For instance, it is plausible that AI becomes so important to the political economy that the EQx team decides that the Artificial Intelligence EQx-Indicator Family should double or triple its current weighting. Such a judgment would by no means be easy as it would need to reference and take into account diverging analyses on the impact of AI—e.g., estimates of AI's impact on the US economy's GDP last year range from 92% to 39% to virtually "zilch" (Ovide, 2025). However, regardless of these judgments, there is informational value in comparing elite quality across years even if the component Indicators differ. The unifying force of the EQx project, regardless of elite business model heterogeneity across years, is whether value creation or extraction capture a greater or smaller slice of the political economy. In short, socio-economic and technological shifts, as well as crises or black swans, lead to new collections of data sources and technical adjustments in how the EQx is scored, but the underlying focus on sustainable value creation reality remains the same and is thus comparable.

Given the constant evolution of the EQx in terms of how it operationalizes elite quality and selects appropriate data sources, what then can be said to be consistent and stable in the HistoricalEQx? Most importantly, these are its first principles, the foundational propositions that cannot be derived from any other assumptions. These include the ontological and epistemological bases of the EQx that consistently inform the nature of the judgments that add or subtract Indicators and adjust their weights.

The first principles enunciated constitute the basis for comparing annual EQx results in historical terms through a sound conceptual lens, grounded in ontological and epistemological consistency (rather than in methodological or data criteria matters which the PanelEQx seeks to address).

First principles that enable the intertemporal comparability of the HistoricalEQx

1. The socio-economic ontological position

Value creation and value extraction represent two discrete and opposing possibilities defining principal-stakeholder relationships that, as elite agency aggregates at the elite system level, constitute elite quality, the proportions of which are the critical defining factor for economic and human development.

2. The ontological sensitivity of elite quality to the world

Elite quality is in constant flux, continuously shaped by social change, technological shifts, economic conditions, and even subjective factors such as cognition and perception.

3. Epistemology on value transfers

It is possible to measure both value creation and value extraction at the elite system level using macro-level and other types of datasets.

4. Epistemology on elite quality's sensitivity to the world

Elite quality, conceived as the aggregation of value creation and value extraction at the national elite system level, can be operationalized as a comparative measurement despite being a complex socio-economic phenomenon anchored in context-specific elite business models and sensitive to all kinds of shocks and shifts whose impacts vary heterogeneously across countries.

5. Elite quality judgments' epistemological consistency and flaw

Because it is a socio-economic phenomenon sensitive to shocks and shifts, estimating comparative elite quality relies on periodically revising judgments, thereby introducing biases and heuristics, and constituting a methodological limitation.

The HistoricalEQx Over the Last Six Years

The HistoricalEQx is bound to be more volatile than other global social and economic comparative rankings. One must consider that elite agency is a phenomenon both causing and being influenced by global technological, geopolitical, and social shifts. In addition, judgments, responses, and the leadership of political and business elites are at times wildly inconsistent. Whether internal or external to the elite system, factors affecting value creation and enabling value extraction become endogenized in elite business models and at the elite system level and hence have varying sustainable value creation consequences across nations.

The HistoricalEQx is constructive in that it sends signals with the potential to improve the way in which elite systems engage in reforms and transformational leadership. The intertemporal comparisons also provide non-elites with leverage. A notional view of the HistoricalEQx2026 for 20 countries covering the last six years (2021–2026) is offered in [Visual 2.7](#).

Data Interpretation: Trends and Surprises

The most striking finding of the HistoricalEQx concerns the **United States**. After being ranked at #5 in the EQx2021, it fell precipitously to #15 the following year and dropped out of the top 20 completely in 2022. In 2023, it climbed back up to #16, and, over the last two years, has now jumped to the #2 spot. There has been considerable analysis of these wild fluctuations in the EQx reports, but one key question looms above all others: do the 2020s reflect a gradual US shift toward rent seeking that is only now being offset by the immense value creation of the country's leadership position in AI? If so, how sustainable is US value creation without the AI revolution and what would happen if these elite business models cease to produce sufficient value and the AI investment bubble bursts?

In contrast to the US, **Singapore** demonstrates remarkable stability by finishing at the very top of the EQx rankings in five of its six years. The Asian city-state elite consistently does well in preserving value-creating business models and constraining extractive transfers. Another repeat high achiever is **Switzerland**, which ranked #2 until EQx2023, when it came out on top—the only year that Singapore lost the leading position. Since then, however, Switzerland has declined by one position each year and now stands at #4. This is not a dramatic drop, but it is certainly a decline that invites further reflection.

Other countries have experienced more pronounced declines. For instance, **Norway** started at #8 but has been hovering at around #16 over the last three years. **Israel** began ranked #7 in the EQx2021, before jumping up to #3 in 2022, but has since been falling and now stands at #15. **Australia**, which was ranked #3 in the EQx2022, has fallen to #14. **Estonia** was also an early standout performer, ranking #12 and #11 in the first two years of the EQx, but has fallen out of the top 20 since 2025. Every elite system has made underlying elite business model choices that explain their respective declines.

Interestingly, some countries have moved in both directions over the last six years, only to end up where they started. **Denmark** was ranked #10 six years and is now at the same position, while **Sweden** was #6 in 2021 and #5 in 2026. Despite the ups and downs, their elite systems appear to tend toward a value creation and extraction equilibrium.

Some of the most significant improvements in comparative elite quality are seen in **Japan** and **Korea**, which started at #17 and #16 respectively and have now risen to #3 and #6 after remarkable advances in recent years. In Europe, **Germany**, which started at #14, has improved to #9. As many of the interpretations of the results of the EQx show, these are countries that may not be at the very top in terms of economic value creation, but perform strongly in political value creation, while their elite systems manage to constrain value extraction very effectively across the board.

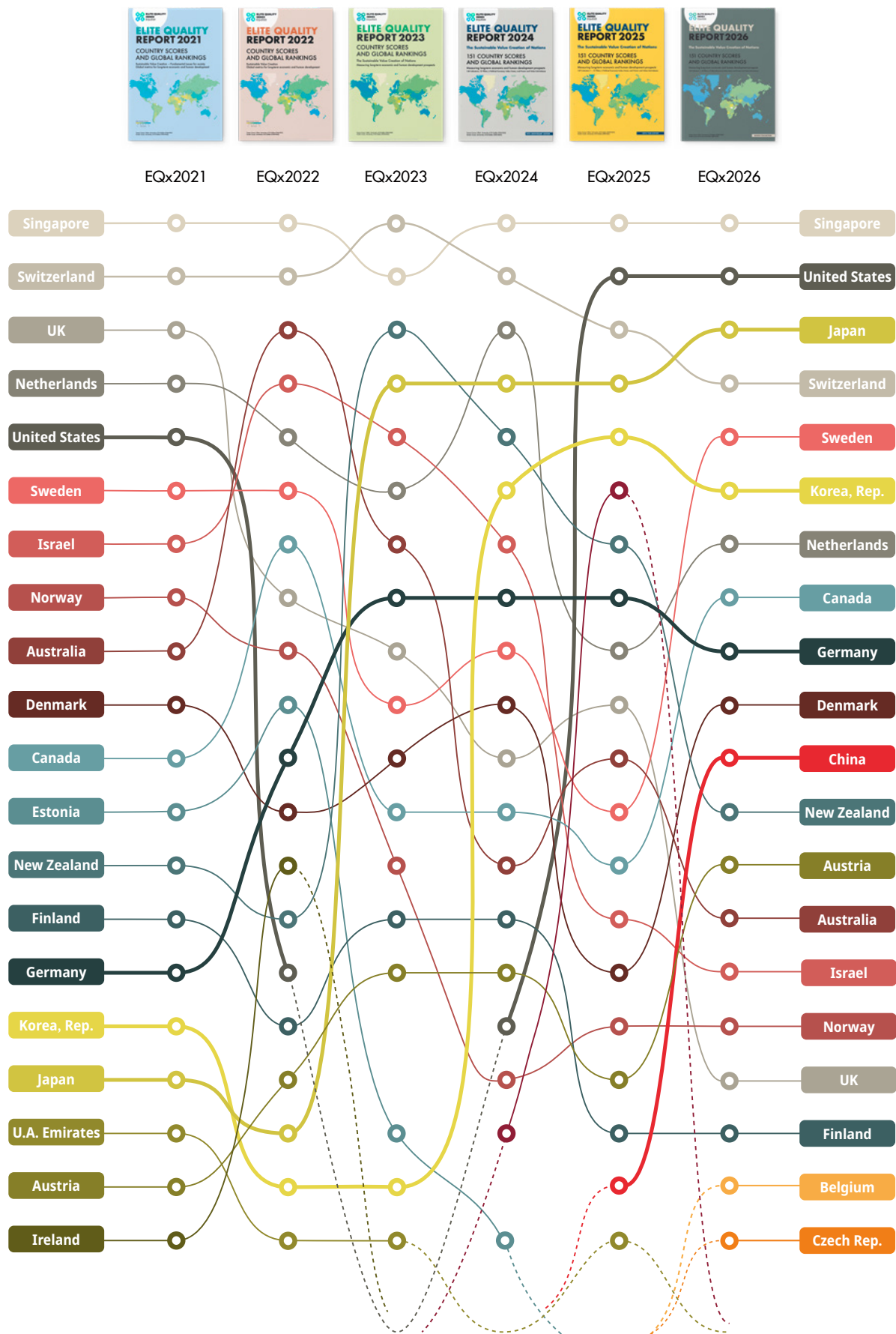
However, the true standout in terms of elite quality gains—and the only non-advanced country in the top 20—is **China**, which appeared for the first time last year at #19 and has now climbed to #11. The country has been followed closely in the EQx and many analyses attempt to explain its rise over the years.

Interestingly, two European countries that had not featured in the top 20 during the first five years of the EQx appear for the first time in 2026: **Belgium** is now at #19 and the **Czech Republic** at #20. The future trajectories of both will be watched closely.

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Visual 2.7: EQx library from 2021 to 2026



2.4 Towards an EQxAfrica: A Spotlight on the Continent

Motivation: Data constraints and the case for an Africa-adapted Index

How do African elite systems compare with each other in their respective contributions to their nation's value creation? This research note presents an initial, data-driven attempt to address this question by adapting the global Elite Quality Index (EQx) to the African context. We find that the global EQx may not necessarily provide the right set of Indicators to adequately reflect African realities.

The global EQx covers 151 countries, including 45 in Africa. A natural first step in assessing which nations have the best elite quality on the continent would be to extract the African subset from the global ranking. In doing so, we see that Senegal leads the African distribution (global rank #52), followed by Botswana (#64) and Benin (#65). At the lower end, Zimbabwe (#143), Angola (#146), and Sudan (#150) are all near the bottom of the global ranking.

42 However, African countries face substantial data limitations. On average, they have missing values for 27% of the 148 EQx2026 Indicators, and four countries lack data for more than 40% of all Indicators used. This is not a trivial issue, posing a challenge for meaningful cross-country comparisons. Previous methodological work by Diebold (2022) has shown that missing data introduces considerable uncertainty into the EQx rankings, particularly for middle- and lower-performing countries, with the author concluding that: "the most promising approach for improving (...) the explanatory power of the EQx ranking" is to improve "the data coverage of existing indicators or, alternatively, [reduce] the indicator list to reflect a narrower but, as a result, a more concise picture of elite quality" (p.18).

Building on this insight and on the basis of the current choices made in index construction, this first attempt at an 'African EQx'—which we will subsequently refer to as "EQxAfrica"—adopts a more focused approach. The country set is restricted to the 45 African countries included in the global EQx, while the Indicator set is reduced to the 68 Indicators that have either zero or at most one missing value across these 45 countries (Table 2.2 lists the selected Indicators). The EQxAfrica thus attempts to apply the global concept of elite quality—as well as its global weighting and aggregation methodology—

to the African continent, using a dataset tentatively tailored to regional data availability realities. By focusing on Indicators with near-complete coverage, the index mitigates distortions from missing data. But will this suffice to provide a more reliable basis for comparing elite business models across African countries? The correlation between the EQxAfrica ranking and the African subset of the global EQx is 0.754, suggesting that while both indices capture similar dimensions, the Africa-specific version highlights distinct aspects of elite quality.

Summary and Discussion of the EQxAfrica Ranking

Table 2.1 presents the EQxAfrica ranking based on the 68 Indicator subset, listing ranks for overall elite quality, as well as the four Index Areas. Visual 2.8 provides a map. The EQxAfrica ranking reveals substantial variations across the continent, and several country-level results deserve closer scrutiny—both for what they confirm and in terms of the assumptions they challenge.

South Africa ranks first overall, driven by particularly strong performance in Political Power (i, rank #2) and Economic Power (ii, rank #1). Its scores in Political Value (iii, rank #21) and Economic Value (iv, rank #14) are considerably weaker. This internal gap is analytically meaningful: South Africa has the most institutionally developed economy on the continent, with a diversified private sector and robust formal institutions, yet it also has one of the highest Gini coefficients in the world (i.1, GWL, rank #45) illustrating great inequalities. The index captures both sides of this: the potential for value creating robust intra-elite contests at the top is not realized. Rather, elites use whatever institutionally constrained power they have to rent seek, limiting the distribution of value to its co-creators.

Botswana ranks second overall and has the most consistent profile across all four Index Areas (Political Power (i), rank #3; Economic Power (ii), rank #6; Political Value (iii), rank #2; and Economic Value (iv): rank #11). Botswana channeled its diamond revenues into public goods—a well-documented case in the development literature (Hill, 1991; Iimi, 2006)—producing precisely the kind of profile the EQx is designed to reward: elite capacity paired with relatively broad value creation benefiting society at large.

Rwanda ranks #13 overall, but has a striking internal split: it ranks an exceptional #3 in Economic Power (ii) and a lowly #34 in Economic Value (iv). This divergence is one of the more

interesting findings in the data. The strong Economic Power ranking reflects institutions encouraging competition among business elites; but the low Economic Value score suggests that Rwanda's current 2025 GDP growth of 9.4%—over 5 percentage points above the Sub-Saharan Africa regional average of approximately 4.1%—may not be based on value creation and thus is unsustainable (IMF, 2025; NISR, n.d.). The index does not resolve what is driving this gap, but it certainly identifies it.

Despite being Africa's largest economy by GDP, Nigeria ranks a poor #22 overall—an outcome heavily influenced by its weak ranking of #38 in Political Power (i), one of the most notable results in the index. Its Economic Power (ii) ranking of #5 reflects the scale of competition in private sector activity. Yet the gap between Economic and Political Power performance captures a recurring theme in Nigeria's political economy: economic scale and diversity coexist with rather average regulatory (i.2, REQ, rank #20) and governance quality.

Niger's ranking of #9 in the overall EQxAfrica is the most counterintuitive result. It finishes #1 in Economic Value (iv) while ranking #24 in Political Power (i) and #33 in Economic Power (ii). As the limitations section discusses below, this likely reflects the index's structural bias toward formalized economic activity: Niger scores well on Indicators where its low extractive footprint or small formal sector produces a favorable reading, not because its elite business models are genuinely productive by the index's own standards.

Zimbabwe ranks #44 in the EQxAfrica, consistent with a long record of institutional deterioration and economic contraction. Its ranking of #16 in Political Value (iii) is the only anomaly—likely a product of how specific value Indicators are measured, as it is doubtful that a rather authoritarian African state generates Political Value to this degree, and hence it cannot be taken as a meaningful positive signal about sustainable elite quality given the context.

Limitations of the EQxAfrica and the EQx2026: Africa is Different

Social Structure, Power, and Ethnicity

A dimension conspicuously absent from the EQxAfrica—and the global EQx—is the organization of elite power along ethnic and communal lines. In much of sub-Saharan Africa, elite coalitions are not primarily constituted through formal economic or institutional channels but through ethnic, regional, and kinship networks that allocate resources, manage conflicts, and reproduce social order outside the state. The EQx's Indicators are structurally blind to this reality.

This matters for interpretation. In many African contexts, the primary mechanisms of resource allocation, conflict management, and social insurance operate through informal structures that sit outside the index' categories. Consider informality: penalising informal output treats as failure what is often the main arena of economic organization in Africa (Meagher, 2010; Harneit-Sievers, 2010). The same logic extends to social structure. Communal redistribution, lineage-based enterprise, and ethnically organized patronage networks are not simply absences of formal elite quality—they are an alternative architecture through which elite business models that have not scaled to a national level operate and are held accountable in many settings.

An index that cannot distinguish between these structures might systematically misread countries where ethnic power-sharing arrangements underpin political stability, or where customary authority substitutes for weak formal institutions. How elite coalitions manage ethnic diversity—whether through inclusive bargaining, exclusion, or predatory capture—has substantial consequences for the value creation and value extraction outcomes that the EQx aims to measure, but is hardly visible in the current framework.

Global Indicators that Miss Regional Realities

As noted above, the results of EQxAfrica—as well as the global EQx—must be caveated by the fact that they assume global Indicators are equally applicable and relevant in the African context. While part of the rationale for including Indicators in the EQx is the clear visibility and measurability of underlying elite business models, we must ask whether these are universal. Clearly not, as elite business models across countries will invariably be heterogeneous due to factor endowments, development stages, and political choices. To reinforce this point, consider the Indicators related to artificial intelligence (AI), billionaires, informal output, and natural resources rents.

Seven Indicators cover AI- and automation-related dynamics, meaning that more than 10% of the entire EQxAfrica Indicator subset is devoted to a domain in which most of the 45 African countries assessed do not participate or compete in at all. Only one of these seven Indicators provides data for all African countries (iii.7, GAR, *Government AI Readiness Index*). Four Indicators contain data only for South Africa (ii.6, API, *AI private investment*; ii.6, APC, *AI private investment per capita*; iii.7, AIP, *AI patent grants*; iv.10, GAI, *Global AI Index*), while the remaining two Indicators lack any data for the African continent (iv.10, AIM, *Number of notable AI Models*; iv.12, ROD, *Robot density in manufacturing industry*). Under the current methodology for these particular Indi-

cators, missing data are assigned a value of zero which—after normalization—results in a score of zero for the first four Indicators and missing values for the latter two. Consequently, these Indicators add limited explanatory value and may even introduce distortions, as South Africa is the only African country with multiple data points. Further, the normative implications could be misinterpreted, as it is not necessarily advisable that countries adopt specific elite business models and leapfrog development stages. For example, if African countries were to invest more in AI rather than in essential sectors such as healthcare or security, this would likely be considered as elites misallocating resources away from more basic forms of value creation and societal needs.

The billionaire Indicators have a similar problem. *Billionaires’ wealth as % of GDP* (ii.5, BIW) and *Billionaires’ creative destruction* (ii.6, BCD) assume the existence of a class of ultra-wealthy individuals whose behavior can be measured and is relevant in Africa. Most African countries have zero billionaires, even though they have a very wealthy and influential upper class compared to the non-elites. Moreover, it is debatable if they automatically create or extract value by their mere existence.

Beyond individual Indicators, the entire framework has a structural bias towards formalized institutional and economic activity, which is an unfair challenge for informally structured economies. Consider *Informal output as % of GDP* (i.2, INO). The EQx treats informality as a sign of elite failure—regulations are captured or dysfunctional, so economic activity retreats into the informal sector. However, the informal economy is where achievement norms, networked enterprise, and cosmopolitan flexibility operate and is deeply rooted in Africa’s fabric. Informal institutions represent a dual failure of development: without formal institutions, sustained economic growth remains structurally constrained, yet their persistence also reflects a rational escape from extractive formal economies, as people feel compelled to conceal their productive activities from predatory elites and rent-seeking states. De Soto (2000) documents this dynamic compellingly, showing how billions of people worldwide hold assets and conduct economic activity outside of formal legal systems precisely because those systems are exclusionary and extractive rather than enabling. Yet the paradox is that informal institutions, born out of exclusion, themselves engage in enormous sustainable value creation and represent entrepreneurial energy, social capital, and productive networks that formal data col-



Visual 2.8: EQxAfrica map

lection—as utilized by the EQx—systematically fails to capture because of its focus on elites rather than non-elites. To further illustrate this point, the market women of West Africa, the cross-border traders, and African mobile money networks are all manifestations of what Robinson calls latent assets (Henn & Robinson, 2023). Penalizing informality means penalizing elite systems that do not legitimize and institutionally protect non-elite business models. However, it also means penalizing the very mechanism through which African societies create value outside of captured formal institutions. The paradox of the institutionalization of economic activity can clearly be seen in the example of a country where more than 50% of GDP is informal (e.g., Tanzania); such a country can arguably have better elite quality than a state that has successfully monopolized and formalized economic activity but erects barriers to non-elite businesses and competition. The strong *Economic Value* (iv) rankings of Niger (#1), Burundi (#2), and Liberia (#3) are more likely an artifact of what the index can and cannot measure than a genuine signal of elite quality. In economies where formal sector activity is limited, the absence of measurable negative signals—extractive billionaires, large resource rents, high military spending—may produce a favorable reading that is not meaningful.

Natural resources rents as % of GDP (iii.9, NRR) penalizes resource dependence. Conceptually defensible, rents can signal elite extraction and are often historically related to the resource curse. For example, Equatorial Guinea's oil rents were captured by the Obiang family. Yet this logic is blind to how resource revenues are actually used. Several African countries successfully leveraged their resource endowments in an inclusive manner. Botswana's diamond rents, for instance, were channelled into public goods through precisely the kind of high-quality elite behavior the EQx seeks to measure and encourage. For a continent where natural resources are a structural feature of most economies, treating all resource rents as inherently extractive is therefore a significant limitation. At the same time, the EQx combines many Indicators that capture different facets of elite behavior, which helps prevent any single measure from dominating a country's overall position. Botswana's strong ranking despite its high natural resource rents illustrates this balancing effect, but it does not fully resolve the underlying conceptual issue: a uniform Indicator of resource rents remains problematic in economies where natural resources are an unavoidable and often development-shaping feature.

Towards an Index Better Aligned with Regional Realities

The EQxAfrica described in this research note is a regional index with global data plugged into it. The 68-Indicator subset was selected on the basis of data availability, not necessarily for conceptual fit—a limitation inherited from the global EQx. This creates three issues. First, some Indicators show no meaningful variation (e.g., the AI and billionaire clusters) because these aspects do not reflect prevalent elite business model reality (or only marginally so) in Africa. Second, several Indicators in the global EQx assume (under the current methodology) a universal rationale, the conceptual validity of which is called into question when elite business models are heterogeneous across the world and especially in the African context (e.g., informality, resource rents). Third, the EQx Indicator set is blind to region-specific dynamics, such as the organization of elite power along ethnic and communal lines, as is the case in many sub-Saharan African countries.

The result is an Index that can tell you something about how African countries compare on dimensions designed to measure elite quality in middle-income and advanced economies, but misses many of the elite business model realities that prevail on the continent. Developing a composite index that reflects African economic structures, institutional contexts, and elite dynamics more accurately remains an open task—one that calls for deeper conceptual work, improved data collection, and future research collaborations across the region.

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Table 2.1: EQxAfrica Ranking

Country Code	Country	EQxAfrica	Political Power	Economic Power	Political Value	Economic Value
ZAF	South Africa	1	2	1	21	14
BWA	Botswana	2	3	6	2	11
CIV	Côte d'Ivoire	3	13	23	6	6
NAM	Namibia	4	1	9	12	17
EGY	Egypt, Arab Rep.	5	18	2	1	36
SEN	Senegal	6	4	13	9	15
BEN	Benin	7	12	12	19	7
GHA	Ghana	8	6	20	5	18
NER	Niger	9	24	33	31	1
TGO	Togo	10	14	29	10	12
TZA	Tanzania	11	15	21	20	9
LBR	Liberia	12	30	26	26	3
RWA	Rwanda	13	7	3	13	34
MWI	Malawi	14	11	4	28	23
TUN	Tunisia	15	9	14	3	39
MDG	Madagascar	16	17	30	41	4
UGA	Uganda	17	19	36	23	8
ZMB	Zambia	18	16	11	29	13
KEN	Kenya	19	10	35	11	20
GMB	Gambia, The	20	20	8	8	32
BDI	Burundi	21	36	28	42	2
NGA	Nigeria	22	38	5	30	10
GNB	Guinea-Bissau	23	34	16	18	19
GIN	Guinea	24	26	18	14	28
MOZ	Mozambique	25	31	37	38	5
MAR	Morocco	26	5	34	15	40
LSO	Lesotho	27	8	15	24	38
SLE	Sierra Leone	28	21	27	27	27
DZA	Algeria	29	23	31	4	43
ETH	Ethiopia	30	25	24	37	22
GAB	Gabon	31	32	10	22	37
GNQ	Equatorial Guinea	32	39	17	39	16
CMR	Cameroon	33	29	25	33	29
AGO	Angola	34	27	22	36	30
MRT	Mauritania	35	33	7	17	42
BFA	Burkina Faso	36	22	43	25	31
SWZ	Eswatini	37	28	45	7	35
MLI	Mali	38	35	41	35	25
LYB	Libya	39	44	38	32	24
COG	Congo, Rep.	40	41	19	34	41
COD	Congo, Dem. Rep.	41	42	42	40	26
TCD	Chad	42	37	40	45	21
CAF	Central African Republic	43	43	44	44	33
ZWE	Zimbabwe	44	40	32	16	44
SDN	Sudan	45	45	39	43	45

Note: The table lists the EQxAfrica rankings using a subset of 68 EQx Indicators.

Table 2.2: Indicator Table EQxAfrica

Index Area	Pillar	Indicator Name	% of EQxAfrica countries covered
i. Political Power			
	i.1 State Capture		
		Political corruption	100
		Control of corruption	100
		E-Participation Index	100
		Press freedom	100
		Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	100
		Political globalization	97.8
		Women's Power Index	100
		Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	100
		Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	100
		Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	100
		Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	97.8
	i.2 Regulatory Capture		
		Regulatory quality	100
		Property rights	100
		Informal output as a % of GDP	97.8
	i.3 Human Capture		
		Global Slavery Index	97.8
		Forcibly displaced people as % of population	100
		Human Rights Index	100
		Academic Freedom Index	100
		Religion - Government Restriction Index	100
		LGBT+ inclusiveness	100
		Women, business and the law	100
ii. Economic Power			
	ii.4 Coalition Dominance		
		Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	100
		Criminal actors	100
	ii.5 Firm Dominance		
		Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	100
	ii.6 Creative Destruction		
		AI private investment	100
		AI private investment per capita	100
		Billionaire's creative destruction	100
Political Value			
	iii.7 Giving Income		
		Life expectancy women	100
		Life expectancy men	100
		UHC Service Coverage Index	100
		School life expectancy	97.8
		Government AI Readiness Index	100
		AI patent grants	100
		Online Service Index	100
		Internet access	100
		Sanitation facilities	100
		Electricity access	100
		Fossil fuel subsidies	97.8
	iii.8 Taking Income		
		Death rate from substance use disorders	100
		Suicide rate	100
		Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	100
		Global Cybersecurity Index	100

iii.9 Unearned Income	
Criminal markets	100
Natural resources rents as % of GDP	100
Environmental Performance Index	100
Renewable energy share	100
Deforestation rate	97.8
Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	100
Terrestrial land protected	100
CO ₂ emissions (metric tons per capita)	100
Fish consumption per capita	97.8
Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	97.8
Economic Value	
iv.10 Producer Value	
Density of medical staff	100
Global AI Index	100
Number of Notable AI Models	100
Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	97.8
Economic globalization	97.8
Trade freedom	100
Share of discrimin. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	100
Share of discrimin. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	100
iv.11 Capital Value	
GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	97.8
iv.12 Labor Value	
Labor force participation rate	100
Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	100
Robot density in manufacturing industry	100
Unemployment rate	100
Youth unemployment rate	100
Human flight and brain drain	100

Note: The table lists all Indicators included in the EQxAfrica as well as the share of African countries covered.

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2.5 The WorldEQx: A Thought Experiment to Evaluate Global Elite Quality

Humanity today stands at a crossroads between unprecedented technological potential and mounting ecological, social, and geopolitical pressures. How can we assess whether global development is moving toward sustainable value creation or deeper value extraction? In 2026, *Quo Vadis Terra* seems a very legitimate question.

The EQx is a global comparative index covering 151 countries, measuring elite quality in relative rather than absolute terms. A country's ranking reflects its performance in relation to 150 countries, not against an objective, external benchmark. Thus, the EQx is not designed to tell us much about the overall state of the world. To illustrate, should the elite quality of all nations decline, those countries where sustainable value creation fell the least would rank higher—the EQx would show elite quality to have improved when in fact it had not. While elite systems operate their business models primarily on a national basis, embedded in national institutions, an aggregate of global elite quality would provide additional information to benchmark national EQx results. That is, measuring sustainable value creation for the world as a whole would offer a reference point for interpreting domestic elite quality trends.

This contribution suggests that we engage in a structured thought experiment: the development of a global heuristic—the 'WorldEQx'—that would evaluate whether aggregate global elite agency shifts elite business models towards strategies that favor value creation or rent seeking. Such an instrument would provide powerful signals and analytical opportunities to international organizations such as the World Economic Forum, Milken Institute, or Aspen Ideas Festival, where elites reflect on their economic and societal roles in the future. Although there is no such thing as a 'global elite', we posit that a global measure is analytically useful because while elite agency remains rooted in national institutions, the global aggregation of value creation or value extraction practices would shed light on the absolute performance of local domestic elites. While the EQx assesses sustainable value creation at the country level, the WorldEQx would extend this logic to the global scale.

Methodologically, a WorldEQx would mirror the four-level EQx architecture (see Section 2.1), but adapt it to global data. One way to approach this could be to use a smaller set of broad Indicators (possibly 2-4 per Pillar), capturing worldwide patterns in innovation, health, education, employment, ecological sustainability, institutional quality, and economic phenomena reflecting either value creation or extractive value transfers. Each WorldEQx Indicator could then be evaluated across several time horizons: 1-3 years, 15 years, and 25 years. Methodologically, one could, for instance, score each Indicator on a -3 to +3 scale to reflect shifts toward either value creation or extraction. This simplified scoring system would not fully capture the complexity of global sustainable value creation, but would provide a transparent and workable heuristic. Indicators would ultimately be aggregated using the established EQx weighting scheme to produce global scores for Power, Value, and their political and economic dimensions.

The first question that the WorldEQx could shed light on is whether the first quarter of the 21st century, 2000-2025, has seen global elite quality improve or deteriorate. Equally importantly, the index could tell us what has happened in the last 10 years. For example, has the COVID-19 pandemic had a lasting impact on elite quality? The WorldEQx might detect an ascending trend, a zigzag of gains and losses, or a bleaker picture of things getting worse. It might also illuminate divergences between sustainable value creation in the political and business domains. In short, a WorldEQx could provide evidence to help answer an array of relevant questions.

In summary, the WorldEQx would seek to provide an initial empirical framework for assessing putative global elite behavior and long-term development prospects. While constrained by a simplified scoring system, limited Indicators, and coarse temporal resolution, such a measurement would offer a novel lens for evaluating whether global elites are steering humanity toward greater sustainable value creation or bolstering negative extractive dynamics.

2.7 From Firms to Nations: The EQx and the Value Creation Rating (VCr)

The EQx assesses The Sustainable Value Creation of Nations at the meso-level of the elite system—measuring how corporations, financial institutions, regulatory bodies, trade unions, NGOs, and military establishments collectively determine the institutional conditions for long-term economic and human development. Yet elite quality originates at the micro-level of individual organizations, and so measuring sustainable value creation firm-by-firm is not merely complementary to the EQx, but indispensable to it. Such a measurement is the mandate of the Value Creation Ratings Report 2025 proof-of-concept (VCr2025)—the second annual output of the SVC Initiative’s firm-level project, now expanded to cover 1,000 publicly listed firms across 44 countries and 10 sectors using 102 Sustainable Value Creation (SVC) Metrics (Casas-Klett and Nerlinger, 2025). What the EQx measures for nations, the VCr measures for organizations.

The ambition driving both projects is to equip managers, investors, and policymakers with the tools to weigh present profits and risk exposure against future value and risk origination. The foundational premise is straightforward: firms that consistently create more value than they extract are sustainable, and their aggregate agency benefits society at large. The VCr operationalizes this premise at the level of the individual business model, providing a rigorous, metrics-based account of how any given firm generates its revenue, and at whose expense—or benefit—it does so.

From the perspective of Sustainable Value Creation, value is everything that human beings deem worth appropriating. Its origins lie in first-order productive activities—agriculture, manufacturing, trade, and finance—that generate something genuinely new in the world. A central question then follows: who appropriates the value that is created, and in what proportion? That question reverberates throughout the entire political economy, because the answer depends critically on the institutional arrangements that the elite system both inhabits and reproduces. When value appropriation flows predominantly to those who created it, sustainable development becomes possible. When it is systematically captured by those that did not, extraction takes hold. Under this framework, a firm’s revenue and profits—as recorded in the profit and loss (P&L) statement—represent its value appropriation. In the context of the elite theory of economic development, three distinct configurations of value creation and appropriation emerge:

[a] ‘Value created and appropriated’. These are the inclusive activities accounted for in the P&L statement and are termed as ‘**net value creation**’. Under this positive default assumption, all value appropriated—as revenue or profits—is value created.

[b] ‘Value created but *not* appropriated’. This represents inclusive agency and is termed as ‘**value transfer-OUT**’. It benefits society at large and can be exemplified by innovation spillovers or the contributions of international business to an open global order and peace.

[c] ‘Value appropriated but *not* created’. This represents extractive agency and is termed as ‘**value transfer-IN**’. It includes subsidies or how a firm benefits from discriminatory practices.

Visual 2.9 shows the three relevant value categories in terms of their value creation/appropriation. Metrics are the data sources that, once established and computed, are aggregated to establish the transfer-IN/OUT amounts. Then, and as is graphically rendered, once the transfer-IN amount has been calculated it is correspondingly deducted from revenue (value appropriation) to establish net value creation. The resulting ratio defines the firm’s position on the spectrum from extraction to sustainability.

In practice, every firm both creates and transfers value—the two are not mutually exclusive. What matters is the proportion. Sustainable Value Creation takes the pragmatic position that high levels of genuine value creation can offset and compensate for value transfers. This realism is the precondition for driving meaningful, measurable change.

In short, a critical mission of the macro-level (EQx) and firm-level (VCr) projects is to develop measurements that can be used to address practical policy and strategy challenges. Both are innovative on account of their unorthodox elements and intuitive conceptual frameworks that focus on the business model with deep theoretical anchors in economics, management, and finance. The VCr provides original insights and new operational possibilities—such as establishing how productive risk-taking increases value and when offsets make value transfers admissible—and is designed to be actionable by boards, top management, and investors.

Visual 2.9: Categories of Value Creation and Value Extraction at the organizational micro-level (VCr) and their aggregation at the meso-level elite system (EQx) for macro-level economic outcomes (e.g., GDP growth) depicting the cases of low and high sustainable value creation firms (Adjustment of Figures 2.11 and 5.2, Casas-Klett, 2026)



The Stakeholder Architecture of Sustainable Value Creation

Sustainable Value Creation (SVC) is a framework that aligns financial performance and risk origination with the long-term sustainability of a business model. It is a uniquely comprehensive approach to double materiality: rather than treating financial returns and societal impact as separate reporting obligations, the SVC Initiative integrates them at the level of how a firm generates its revenue. This means examining value creation and the appropriateness of value transfers across the full range of stakeholder relationships that any business model depends upon and affects—from capital providers, customers, employees, and suppliers to regulators, civil society, and nature itself.

Table 2.4 maps 70 such stakeholder relationships, organized across 14 categories including Labor, Governance, Regulators, Nature, and Suppliers of various kinds. The comprehensiveness of this mapping is not incidental: it reflects the SVC Initiative's core conviction that the business model does not operate in a bounded market but is embedded in and co-constituted by a dense web of principal-stakeholder relationships. Value creation and value extraction both occur within and through these relationships. Measuring one without accounting for all of them produces a systematically incomplete picture of sustainability.

This stakeholder architecture also establishes the scope of what the VCr must measure. A firm that creates exceptional value for shareholders while systematically extracting it from employees, nature, or local communities is not sustainable—regardless of what its ESG score may suggest. By anchoring its Metrics in the full 70-stakeholder universe, the VCr ensures that the sustainability assessment is as broad as the actual reach of the business model. The result is a measurement that is simultaneously more demanding and more actionable than conventional ratings: more demanding because it leaves fewer forms of extraction unaccounted for, and more actionable because it identifies precisely where, and with which stakeholders, the balance between creation and extraction can be improved.

Table 2.4: Value co-creation stakeholders of the firm (Source: list compiled with recommendations from ChatGPT; categorization is the editors' own)

	Stakeholder	Type	Details & Examples
1	Banks, public lenders	Capital providers (debt)	Revolving credit, term loans
2	Bondholders	Capital providers (debt)	Public debt
3	Private lenders	Capital providers (debt)	Non-public loans, direct lenders, non-bank lenders
4	Banks (as investors)	Capital providers (equity, financial investors)	Investment banking arm
5	Pension funds (as investors)	Capital providers (equity, financial investors)	Institutional investors
6	Sovereign wealth funds	Capital providers (equity, financial investors)	Institutional investors
7	Private equity & venture capital firms	Capital providers (equity, financial investors)	Direct owners, growth capital
8	Shareholders	Capital providers (equity, strategic owners)	Individuals, family offices, funds, VCs
9	Founders / entrepreneurs	Capital providers (equity, strategic owners)	Company founders
10	Tax authorities	Capital providers (public)	National & local revenue agencies
11	Subsidy granting agencies	Capital providers (public)	Official funding sources
12	Export credit agencies / DFIs	Capital providers (public)	ECA support, development finance
13	Industry associations / chambers	Civil society	Trade groups
14	NGOs / advocacy groups	Civil society	Environment, labor, consumer
15	Government	Civil society	As representative of stakeholders at large, society
16	Local communities	Civil society	Residents near operations
17	Future generations	Civil society	Intergenerational transfers
18	Clients / end users	Customers	B2B/B2C buyers
19	Franchisees / licensees	Customers	Operate under brand/IP
20	Distributors / channel partners	Customers (sales structure)	Wholesalers, VARs
21	Retailers / resellers	Customers (sales structure)	Storefronts, e-commerce resellers
22	Board of directors	Governance	Independent & executive directors
23	External auditors	Governance	Financial statement auditors
24	Standards consortia	Governance	e.g., W3C, ISO committees
25	ESG rating providers	Governance	e.g., Sustainalytics, LSEG
26	Insurers	Governance (finance)	P&C, liability, health
27	Credit bureaus & business information providers	Governance (finance)	Dun & Bradstreet, Experian
28	Proxy advisory firms	Governance (finance)	ISS, Glass Lewis
29	Index providers	Governance (finance)	MSCI, FTSE Russell, S&P DJI
30	Rating agencies	Governance (finance)	S&P, Moody's, Fitch
31	Sell-side analysts	Governance (finance)	Broker research analysts

32	Employees & staff	Labor	FTEs, part-time
33	Contractors & freelancers	Labor	Gig workers, consultants
34	Trade unions / works councils	Labor	Collective bargaining bodies
35	Executive management	Management	C-suite, senior leadership
36	Wildlife, ecosystems, pollinators	Nature	Biomass
37	Animals	Nature	Domestic (also testing, etc.)
38	Atmosphere, climate systems, air	Nature	Environment
39	Water, aquifers, wetlands, oceans	Nature	Environment
40	Soil, forests, agriculture	Nature	Environment
41	Carbon credit registries & verifiers	Nature (governance)	e.g., Verra (VCS), Gold Standard
42	Social networks	Public narratives	Online content, blogs, etc
43	Media & press (traditional)	Public narratives	Journalists, outlets
44	Lobbyists / public affairs firms	Public narratives	K Street, EU, etc
45	Stock exchanges & listing authorities	Public sector	NYSE, NASDAQ, LSE, HKEX
46	Sectoral regulators / government agencies	Regulators	Industry-specific regulators
47	Competition / antitrust authorities	Regulators	Merger control, antitrust
48	Consumer protection agencies	Regulators	Truth-in-advertising, product safety
49	Labor & employment regulators	Regulators	Wage & hour, H&S
50	Environmental regulators	Regulators	Permitting, emissions, EHS
51	Export control & customs authorities	Regulators	Licensing, tariffs, clearance
52	Local & municipal governments	Regulators	Permits, zoning, community relations
53	Landlords / property owners	Suppliers (infrastructure)	Leased facilities
54	Utilities providers	Suppliers (infrastructure)	Power, water, telecoms
55	Academic & research institutions	Suppliers (knowledge)	R&D collaboration
56	Executive education / training partners	Suppliers (knowledge)	Universities, bootcamps
57	Data providers / market data vendors	Suppliers (knowledge)	Commercial datasets, feeds
58	Patent holders / licensors	Suppliers (knowledge)	Diverse, private, public
59	Component vendors	Suppliers (production)	Parts, products
60	Contract manufacturers	Suppliers (production)	OEM/ODM partners
61	Consulting, legal, other professional services	Suppliers (services)	External consultants, law firms
62	Payment processors, credit card firms	Suppliers (services)	Networks, gateways
63	Maintenance, repair & operations (MRO) vendors	Suppliers (services)	Equipment upkeep
64	Logistics providers, carriers	Suppliers (services)	3PLs, shippers
65	Call-centers / customer support partners	Suppliers (services)	CX outsourcers, e.g., Teleperformance, Foundever
66	Business process outsourcing (BPO) providers	Suppliers (services)	e.g., Accenture, TCS
67	IT / cloud service providers	Suppliers (technology)	IaaS, PaaS, SaaS
68	Cybersecurity vendors / IR partners	Suppliers (technology)	Prevention & incident response
69	AI suppliers	Suppliers (technology)	e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini
70	Cloud suppliers	Suppliers (technology)	e.g., AWS, Google Cloud, Azure

Measuring and Managing Sustainable Value Creation

The VCr2025 proof-of-concept introduces two distinct but related firm-level measurements (See also Casas-Klett & Nerlinger, 2025). The primary measurement, the Value Creation Rating (VCr), expresses the proportion of all value creation relative to a firm's total revenue, and an equivalent ratio of inclusive to extractive value transfers relative to revenue. (See details of the VCr formula in [Visual 2.11](#)).

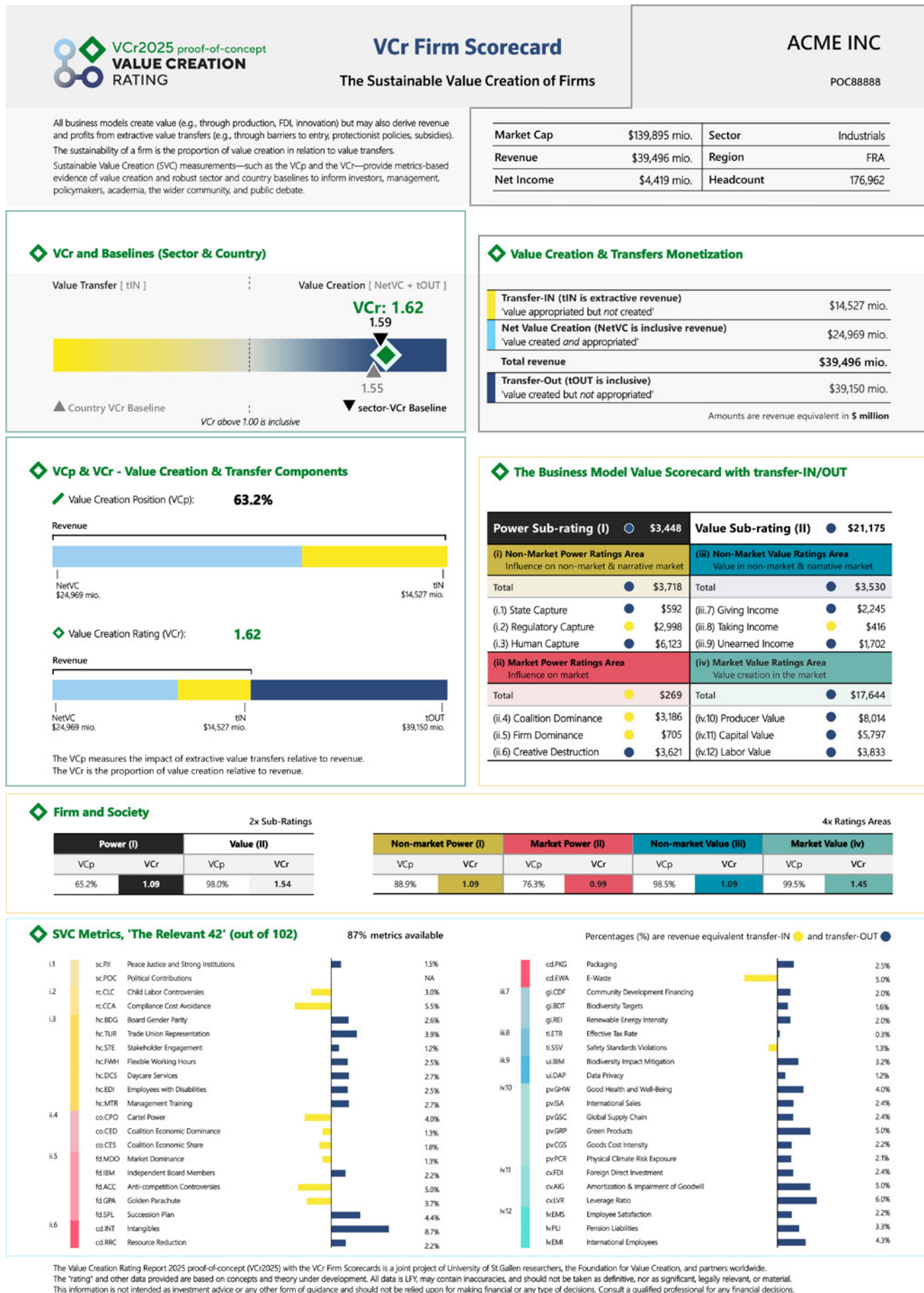
A VCr score above 1.00 indicates that the firm's value creation—net value creation plus inclusive transfer-OUT—exceeds its total revenue, signalling a genuinely inclusive business model. A score trending downward over time (for example, from 1.12 to 1.07) sends a clear signal to stakeholders that the proportion of extraction is rising—a trajectory that, unaddressed, can jeopardize the firm's social license to operate. The mean VCr score across the 1,000 firms in the VCr2025 proof-of-concept is 1.53, with a dispersion of country scores across 44 nations of 0.34—highlighting that sustainability is always relative to sectoral and national context.

Alongside the VCr, the Value Creation Position (VCp) provides a more direct, accessible entry point into firm-level sustainability analysis. While the VCr weighs both extractive and inclusive transfers, the VCp focuses exclusively on the proportion of transfer-IN relative to revenue—the share of a firm's revenue deriving from extractive activities. The VCp allows decision-makers to rapidly gauge the weight of a firm's extractive transfers without requiring the full VCr computation. In the VCr2025 proof-of-concept, the median VCp is 78.1%. Together, the VCr and VCp provide complementary lenses on business model sustainability: the VCp surfaces what is being extracted, while the VCr determines whether creation is sufficient to offset it.

The usefulness and credibility of the VCr depends on the quality of the underlying SVC Metrics and the judgments made in weighting them. These are the conceptually indivisible, discrete data points that capture quantifiable value creation and risk transfers (transfer-IN and transfer-OUT) at the level of the individual business model. The VCr2025 proof-of-concept employs 102 SVC Metrics—organized across 17 thematic areas and 12 Pillars—a substantial expansion from the 54 Metrics used in the inaugural VCr2024 pilot. Each Metric has been selected on the basis of its transfer-IN or transfer-OUT rationale and draws on unique, independently sourced datasets.

The SVC Metrics feed into a layered architecture: from individual Metrics upward to Pillars, from Pillars into four Rating Areas (Non-Market Power, Market Power, Non-Market Value, and Market Value), and from Rating Areas into two Sub-Ratings (Power and Value) that together produce the overall VCr and VCp. The establishment of firm-level VCr scores relies on a threestage process: (I) conceptual determination of SVC Metrics; (II) quantification of SVC Metrics as revenue-equivalent monetary amounts; and (III) calculation of SVC measurements by aggregating quantified Metrics into transfer-IN and transfer-OUT totals that feed into the VCr formula. [Visual 2.10](#) shows a sample VCr Firm Scorecard from the VCr2025 proof-of-concept, including all components from individual Metrics (equivalent to the EQx's Indicators) upwards.

Visual 2.10: A sample VCr Firm Scorecard from the VCr2025 proof-of-concept (Casas-Klett & Nerlinger, 2025)



Risk Origination: The Precondition of Value Creation

A defining conceptual contribution of Sustainable Value Creation—sharpened in the VCr2025 proof-of-concept—is the reframing of risk from something to be managed into something to be originated. In the complex and uncertain business environment of today, a firm cannot be a passive manager of risk and still expect to generate long-term value. Long-term success requires that firms actively originate risk—that is, assume purposeful, productive uncertainty in pursuit of genuinely new value. Risk origination is not merely a complement to value creation; it is its precondition. Without risk, there are no returns; and without productive risk origination, business models tend to retreat into extractive value transfers as a substitute for genuine creation.

This reframing has practical implications for how the VCr is interpreted. Revolutionizing risk means generating returns not by appropriating value others have created—through subsidies, market dominance, or regulatory capture—but by originating the conditions for new value. The VCr captures this by rewarding transfer-OUT (inclusive value that benefits stakeholders and society at large) alongside net value creation, and by penalizing transfer-IN (extractive appropriation). We argue that when both dimensions are accounted for, a far richer picture of firm sustainability emerges than any conventional financial or ESG metric can provide.

For a more technical but intendedly intuitive way to understand the operationalization of the VCr, see [Visual 2.10](#) and its depiction of the operational, conceptual, and equation-based definitions of the measurement.

Visual 2.11: Conceptual renditions of value creation and value extraction business models and their derived VCr scores (adapted from Figures 5.1a and 5.1b, Casas-Klett, 2026)

Value Creation Rating (VCr)

Concept

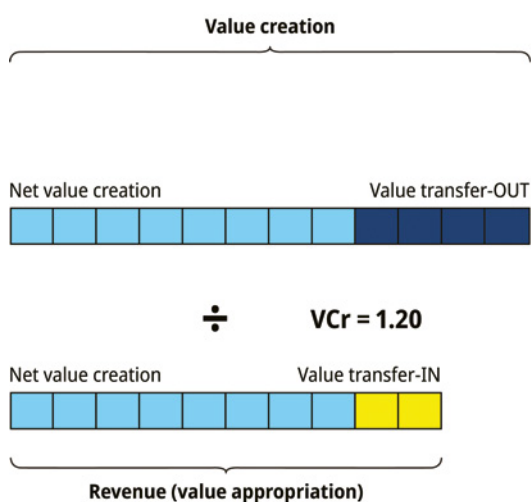
'The proportion
of value creation over revenue'

'A proportion
of inclusive vs extractive value transfers'

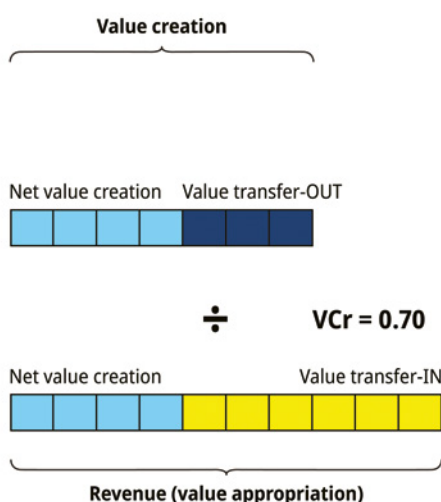
Equation

$$VCr_t^{R'} = \frac{R'_t - Vt_t^{R'in} + Vt_t^{R'out}}{R'_t}$$

(a) Inclusive business model (high value creation)



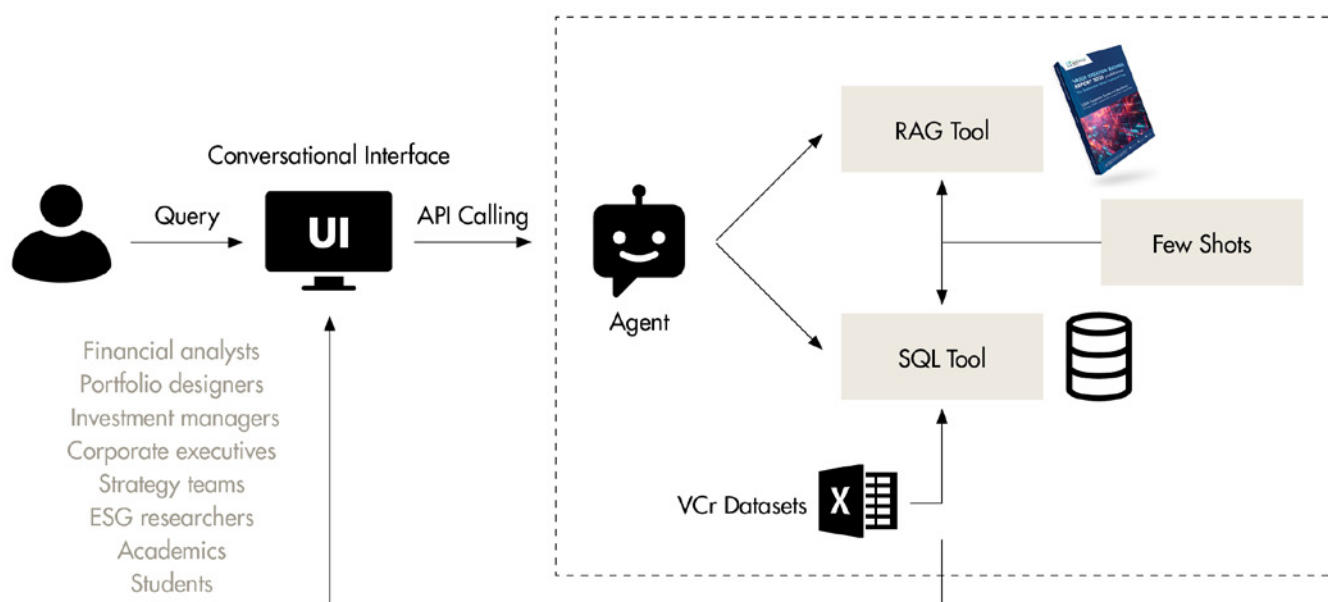
(b) Extractive business model (high value transfer)



New Applied Tools: The self-VCr and chatbotVCr

The VCr2025 proof-of-concept introduces two novel applied tools that extend the SVC Initiative's reach from published ratings into active organizational transformation. First, the self-VCr is a structured self-assessment survey enabling firms to conduct their own internal VCr analysis—identifying key transfer-IN and transfer-OUT activities, benchmarking against sector peers, and designing tailored sustainability improvement pathways without depending on external data collection. Second, the chatbotVCr provides a conversational AI interface through which managers, investors, and other stakeholders can query firm-level SVC data, explore scorecard components, and receive guidance on interpreting VCr and VCp scores in context. Together, these tools operationalize the SVC Initiative's transformational mandate: from measurement to action, and from published ratings to internal leadership decisions.

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Visual 2.12: The chatbotVCr's support of 'description' and 'interpretation' queries and of the underlying technology stack (Note: excludes any form of 'advice', as such guidance would constitute a regulated financial activity)

The Micro-to-Meso Transmission: Linking Firm Agency to Elite Quality

A fundamental architectural commitment of Sustainable Value Creation is that firm-level measurement must connect meaningfully to macro-level outcomes. This connection runs through the transmission mechanism by which individual firm agency aggregates into elite quality at the meso-level—and from there into the economic growth and human development possibilities that the EQx captures nationally. A high VCr score may or may not correlate directly with short-term financial performance, but it reliably contributes positively to long-term growth and development. The channel runs through lower transaction costs, higher coordination capacity in the political economy, and—above all—the expanded trust that firms earn from investors, customers, regulators, and communities when they demonstrably create more than they extract. This trust translates into stronger stakeholder relationships, more favorable institutional arrangements, and a more durable license to operate. Firms with high VCr scores become normative benchmarks: they demonstrate that it is possible to generate strong financial performance while simultaneously growing the pie—creating value for the entire stakeholder ecosystem rather than merely redistributing a fixed stock of value toward shareholders. In this way, the micro-level VCr feeds directly into the meso-level EQx: firms with inclusive business models raise the aggregate elite quality of the nations in which they operate, just as extractive firms depress it. [Visual 2.9](#) at the beginning of this section renders these relationships across the firm micro-level, elite meso-level, and macro-level economic outcomes.

Conclusion: Integrating the VCr into the EQx’ Long-Term Mission

Taken together, the EQx and the VCr constitute two levels of a single integrated measurement system for sustainable value creation. Both share the same foundational insight—that value is everything humans deem worth creating, not merely what is appropriated as revenue—and both are animated by the conviction that the minimization of value transfers, and the maximization of genuine value creation, is the form of sustainability that matters most for long-term economic and human development.

The VCr2025 proof-of-concept marks a decisive step in realizing that vision at scale. With 102 Metrics, 1,000 firm scorecards, sector-VCr benchmarks across 10 industries, country-level VCr data spanning 44 nations, and new applied tools including the self-VCr and chatbotVCr, it now offers a genuinely operational platform for transforming the assessment of risk and value—from the boardroom to the policy chamber, and from the individual firm to the economic development of nations.

*Martin Nerlinger and Tomas Casas-Klett,
University of St.Gallen, Switzerland*

2.8 Building and Shaping the EQx Community

The EQx research project was born with a spirit of openness, inclusiveness, and broad international participation. The conceptual framework and accompanying infrastructure are designed to foster the growth of a vibrant community motivated by transforming elites and Sustainable Value Creation.

We engage with both institutions and individuals, from users who are stimulated by the EQx rankings to those who wish to become stakeholders in the project and contribute as partners, researchers or patrons.

Follow the EQx Community

The project aims to be meaningful to those who care about taking the long view, building a sustainable society, transforming the political economy, generating ideas for new business models, using power for the greater good, creating value, investing in the future, or for others who are just interested in global rankings and current affairs.

The EQx can be followed on key social media platforms at [LinkedIn](#) and via our website: www.elitequality.org

Call to Researchers

The EQx2026 Report is a call to all researchers interested in joining the EQx academic community. We will be undertaking projects of both a theoretical and empirical nature, some targeted at publication in leading peer-reviewed journals, while others will focus on the task of providing practical insights for policymakers and firms, essential to making a real impact on business model transformation. Some research partners may wish to take responsibility for work in a particular country. We also encourage the submission of original ideas for new Indicators that describe Value Creation and Value Extraction phenomena in the economy. If you are interested in joining this unique research opportunity, or just learning more about our plans, get in touch with us at: research@elitequality.org

Do you wish to Partner with the Foundation for Value Creation (FVC)?

The non-profit Foundation for Value Creation leads the EQx outreach efforts, supports our research and publications program and develops other formats to advance Sustainable Value Creation narratives. We would be delighted to hear from potential benefactors. You may wish to associate your institution with the FVC—or become involved personally—for a variety of reasons. You could be a concerned citizen or running an elite business model; in either case there are many ways to support ideas that ‘grow the pie’ in the political economy. Together we can help steer our countries’ institutions and elite business models towards Sustainable Value Creation. Start a conversation with us now at: partner@valuecreation.org

"Whether one likes it or not, elites play a big role in a nation's success or failure. They can promote all-round well-being; but they can also be exploitative, stalling the nation's overall progress.

The newly created Elite Quality Index (EQx), under the academic leadership of the University of St.Gallen, is an exciting experiment in scoring and ranking the quality of elites in different nations. This work can potentially play a role in helping nations reform their leadership, thereby contributing to overall social welfare."

Kaushik Basu, Professor of Economics and Carl Marks Professor of International Studies,
Cornell University; Former Chief Economist of the World Bank

"Mainstream economic theory might have reached its limits in terms of practical application. Fiscal stimuli packages have indebted many countries, while monetary policies have given rise to the bane of inflation. At the same time, Sustainable Value Creation at the micro-level is all too often ignored in macroeconomic policymaking. In China we believe that courageous structural reform is an effective way forward out of crises and in support of inclusive economic development. Reforms must then be based on adjusting the incentive system so that elite business models create rather than transfer value. The elite theory of economic development provides a framework for such structural reform and captures complex trade-offs that require state capacity while at the same time referencing culture and history. Comparing countries based on Elite Quality and their creation of value is both innovative and difficult. The Elite Quality Index (EQx) is a first valuable initiative in this direction and should inspire debate between researchers, policymakers, and the concerned general public across the world."

Zhang Jun, Professor and Dean, School of Economics,
Fudan University, Shanghai, China

"The rise of elites with foresight explains Japan's transformation into a superpower in the 19th century and the post-war miracle. Its inability to let go of past successful experiences led to the bubble economy and subsequent stagnation. Elite quality, as operationalized in the EQx global index, is a distinctly productive framework for comparative evaluation. By describing the micro-level sustainable value creation fundamentals of the political economy, it provides a detailed elucidation of current economic reality and foresight into the growth prospects of nations."

Etsuro Shioji, Professor, Department of Commerce, Chuo University and
Specially Appointed Professor, Hitotsubashi Institute for Advanced Study, Hitotsubashi University

"By analyzing elite behavior and rent seeking, the Elite Quality Index report contains a trove of new insights for political economists. This innovative framework furnishes policymakers with a fresh set of tools to navigate the complexities of the global landscape. The integration of Global Trade Alert data on protectionist measures is particularly welcome, allowing for a nuanced understanding of how government interventions and trade dynamics affect a nation's ability to create sustainable value. The EQx report is an essential resource for anyone seeking to understand and navigate the ever-evolving world of political economy."

Simon Evenett, Professor, IMD;
Founder, St.Gallen Endowment for Prosperity through Trade

3. EQx2026 Results

3.1 Elite Quality Country Scores and Global Rankings

Table 3.1 (1/4): EQx2026 Table of Country Scores and Global Rankings with Power and Value Sub-Indices

EQx2026 Scores and Ranks										
Country	EQx			Sub-Indices						
	Rank	Trend vs EQx2025	Score	Power (I)			Value (II)			#data-points/148
				Rank	Trend vs EQx2025	Score	Rank	Trend vs EQx2025	Score	
Very High Quality Elites										
Singapore	1	➡ 0	66.1	17	⬆ 1	63.5	1	➡ 0	67.4	128
United States	2	➡ 0	65.0	1	⬆ 1	75.1	16	⬆ 1	60.0	145
Japan	3	⬆ 1	64.8	14	➡ 0	64.0	2	⬆ 2	65.1	143
Switzerland	4	⬇ -1	64.0	20	⬇ -9	62.5	3	➡ 0	64.8	141
Sweden	5	⬆ 7	63.8	2	⬇ -4	69.4	11	⬆ 5	60.9	141
Korea, Rep.	6	⬇ -1	63.6	16	⬆ 35	63.8	5	⬆ 3	63.5	139
Netherlands	7	⬆ 2	63.5	8	⬆ 4	66.7	7	⬆ 7	61.9	139
Canada	8	⬆ 5	63.3	3	⬆ 1	68.2	12	⬆ 9	60.8	141
Germany	9	⬇ -1	62.7	7	⬆ 1	67.1	14	⬆ 5	60.4	144
Denmark	10	⬆ 5	62.6	11	⬇ -2	65.0	8	⬆ 10	61.5	143
High Quality Elites										
China	11	⬆ 8	62.4	24	⬇ -14	60.0	4	⬆ 9	63.6	137
New Zealand	12	⬇ -5	62.1	5	⬆ 1	67.5	18	⬇ -8	59.4	127
Austria	13	⬆ 4	62.0	6	⬇ -9	67.2	19	⬆ 3	59.4	143
Australia	14	⬇ -3	61.4	18	➡ 0	63.1	13	⬇ -8	60.6	144
Israel	15	⬇ -1	61.4	13	⬆ 2	64.7	17	⬇ -6	59.8	139
Norway	16	➡ 0	61.1	21	⬇ -7	61.2	10	⬇ -1	61.1	141
United Kingdom	17	⬇ -7	60.9	9	⬆ 12	66.3	22	⬇ -7	58.2	146
Finland	18	➡ 0	60.5	12	⬇ -2	64.8	21	⬆ 3	58.3	143
Belgium	19	⬆ 5	59.6	4	⬆ 31	68.0	27	⬆ 9	55.4	145
Czech Republic	20	⬆ 1	59.4	25	⬆ 16	59.8	20	⬆ 3	59.2	136
Qatar	21	⬇ -15	59.3	46	⬇ -3	52.7	6	⬇ -4	62.7	117
United Arab Emirates	22	⬇ -2	58.8	33	⬇ -34	56.4	15	⬇ -9	60.0	126
France	23	⬇ -1	58.6	10	⬆ 23	65.6	30	⬇ -1	55.1	147
Spain	24	⬆ 3	58.4	19	⬇ -18	62.6	25	⬆ 6	56.4	145
Bahrain	25	➡ 0	57.8	53	⬆ 13	50.8	9	⬇ -2	61.3	106

Table 3.1 (2/4): EQx2026 Table of Country Scores and Global Rankings with Power and Value Sub-Indices

EQx2026 Scores and Ranks										
Country	EQx			Sub-Indices						
	Rank	Trend vs EQx2025	Score	Power (I)			Value (II)			#data-points/148
				Rank	Trend vs EQx2025	Score	Rank	Trend vs EQx2025	Score	
Quality Elites										
Ireland	26	⬇️ -3	57.5	32	⬇️ -38	57.5	23	⬇️ -11	57.5	144
Italy	27	⬆️ 9	56.2	30	⬇️ -13	58.1	29	⬆️ 8	55.2	145
Estonia	28	⬇️ -2	56.1	15	⬆️ 44	63.9	48	➡️ 0	52.2	136
Malaysia	29	⬆️ 2	55.6	34	⬇️ -19	56.4	28	⬇️ -1	55.2	136
Slovenia	30	⬆️ 5	55.6	29	⬇️ -16	58.9	35	⬆️ 10	54.0	130
Portugal	31	⬇️ -1	55.4	28	⬆️ 14	59.3	38	⬆️ 12	53.5	141
Oman	32	⬆️ 9	55.1	49	⬇️ -18	51.4	24	⬆️ 11	56.9	110
Poland	33	⬆️ 12	54.8	27	⬇️ -7	59.4	46	⬆️ 5	52.5	141
Hungary	34	⬆️ 8	54.1	36	⬆️ 16	55.9	41	⬆️ 3	53.3	140
Latvia	35	⬆️ 2	54.0	23	⬆️ 4	60.6	58	⬆️ 1	50.8	131
Slovak Republic	36	⬇️ -7	53.9	38	⬆️ 10	55.0	39	⬆️ 8	53.3	136
Chile	37	⬇️ -5	53.9	35	⬇️ -1	56.1	44	⬇️ -6	52.8	137
Croatia	38	⬆️ 14	53.5	26	⬇️ -16	59.4	61	⬆️ 11	50.6	133
Indonesia	39	➡️ 0	53.4	41	⬆️ 5	53.5	40	⬇️ -1	53.3	140
Vietnam	40	⬆️ 4	53.4	48	⬇️ -2	52.4	36	⬇️ -4	53.9	129
Romania	41	⬇️ -8	53.2	37	⬆️ 24	55.6	50	⬇️ -10	52.0	137
Cyprus	42	⬇️ -14	53.0	60	⬇️ -14	49.3	32	⬇️ -12	54.9	131
Greece	43	⬆️ 3	52.9	39	⬇️ -10	54.7	51	⬆️ 6	52.0	142
Lithuania	44	⬇️ -1	52.8	22	⬆️ 36	61.0	88	⬇️ -11	48.7	135
Thailand	45	⬇️ -5	52.3	65	⬇️ -22	48.6	34	⬇️ -6	54.1	141
Philippines	46	⬆️ 4	52.1	57	⬇️ -18	50.2	43	⬆️ 6	53.0	134
Panama	47	⬇️ -13	51.9	87	⬇️ -27	45.6	31	⬇️ -5	55.0	121
Bulgaria	48	⬇️ -10	51.9	40	⬆️ 29	54.4	62	⬇️ -1	50.6	140
Uruguay	49	⬇️ -2	51.8	31	⬆️ 40	57.9	87	⬇️ -9	48.8	123
Peru	50	⬇️ -2	51.8	51	⬆️ 8	50.8	47	⬆️ 7	52.2	135
Costa Rica	51	⬆️ 10	51.5	43	⬇️ -10	53.4	65	⬆️ 16	50.5	129
Senegal	52	⬆️ 4	51.4	68	⬇️ -27	47.8	42	⬆️ 11	53.2	114
India	53	⬆️ 7	51.4	45	⬆️ 78	53.0	63	⬆️ 16	50.6	136
Brazil	54	⬆️ 18	51.2	44	⬆️ 25	53.3	70	⬆️ 29	50.1	141
Mexico	55	⬆️ 10	50.9	42	⬆️ 10	53.5	77	⬆️ 10	49.6	139
Saudi Arabia	56	⬆️ 1	50.9	94	⬇️ -25	44.3	33	➡️ 0	54.2	122
Cambodia	57	⬇️ -4	50.6	130	⬇️ -42	39.8	26	⬇️ -1	56.0	118
Mauritius	58	⬇️ -3	50.6	64	⬇️ -11	48.8	55	⬇️ -3	51.5	115
Dominican Republic	59	⬇️ -5	50.5	67	⬇️ -11	48.0	53	⬇️ -11	51.7	114
Timor-Leste	60	⬆️ 10	50.4	102	⬇️ -33	43.4	37	⬆️ 32	53.8	85
Serbia	61	⬇️ -3	50.2	54	⬇️ -2	50.7	74	⬇️ -4	49.9	125
Kazakhstan	62	⬇️ -13	50.0	80	⬆️ 19	46.9	54	⬇️ -20	51.5	128
Turkey	63	⬆️ 21	50.0	62	⬆️ 8	49.2	66	⬆️ 28	50.4	140
Botswana	64	⬆️ 12	49.9	59	⬆️ 56	49.4	67	⬆️ 21	50.2	115
Benin	65	⬆️ 9	49.9	72	⬇️ -43	47.5	57	⬆️ 7	51.0	104
Armenia	66	⬇️ -15	49.7	63	⬆️ 11	49.2	73	⬆️ 3	49.9	118
Azerbaijan	67	⬇️ -5	49.4	105	⬇️ -13	43.3	45	⬇️ -2	52.5	114
Mongolia	68	⬇️ -1	49.3	71	⬆️ 9	47.6	69	⬇️ -11	50.1	115
Cuba	69	⬆️ 21	49.2	95	⬆️ 19	44.1	52	⬆️ 34	51.7	84
Georgia	70	⬇️ -6	49.1	90	⬆️ 3	44.9	56	⬇️ -10	51.2	124
Uzbekistan	71	⬇️ -2	49.1	109	⬇️ -10	42.9	49	⬇️ -8	52.2	111
Kuwait	72	⬇️ -9	49.1	77	⬇️ -38	47.1	71	⬇️ -15	50.1	114
Albania	73	⬆️ 8	48.9	75	⬇️ -18	47.3	76	⬆️ 6	49.7	120
Colombia	74	⬇️ -8	48.7	83	⬆️ 42	46.4	75	⬆️ 20	49.9	142
Moldova	75	⬇️ -2	48.6	55	⬆️ 21	50.4	94	⬇️ -11	47.8	117

Table 3.1 (3/4): EQx2026 Table of Country Scores and Global Rankings with Power and Value Sub-Indices

EQx2026 Scores and Ranks										
Country	EQx			Sub-Indices						
	Rank	Trend vs EQx2025	Score	Power (I)			Value (II)			#data-points/148
				Rank	Trend vs EQx2025	Score	Rank	Trend vs EQx2025	Score	
Middle Quality Elites										
Togo	76	↓ -8	48.5	82	↓ -10	46.5	78	↓ -18	49.5	106
Jamaica	77	↑ 2	48.4	84	↑ 45	46.2	80	↓ -12	49.4	107
Lao PDR	78	↓ -7	48.2	107	↓ -35	43.2	59	↓ -4	50.7	102
Gambia, The	79	↑ 16	48.2	86	↑ 5	45.6	79	↑ 22	49.4	98
Côte d'Ivoire	80	↓ -5	48.1	85	↓ -17	46.2	85	↓ -23	49.0	108
Jordan	81	↑ 20	48.0	61	↑ 12	49.2	97	↑ 25	47.4	119
Guinea-Bissau	82	↑ 21	47.9	112	↓ -19	42.7	64	↑ 25	50.5	87
Rwanda	83	↑ 2	47.9	58	↑ 17	49.7	101	↑ 6	47.1	113
Namibia	84	↑ 10	47.8	47	↑ 7	52.4	117	↑ 3	45.5	112
North Macedonia	85	↓ -2	47.8	76	↓ -23	47.1	90	↓ -5	48.1	116
Paraguay	86	↑ 3	47.7	110	↓ -61	42.9	68	↑ 7	50.2	116
Ecuador	87	↓ -7	47.7	78	→ 0	47.0	91	↓ -11	48.1	122
Tanzania	88	↑ 16	47.6	79	↑ 31	47.0	93	↑ 21	47.9	120
Bangladesh	89	↓ -30	47.6	92	↑ 44	44.6	84	↓ -18	49.0	127
Russian Federation	90	↑ 9	47.5	113	↓ -22	42.6	72	↑ 21	50.0	136
Ghana	91	↓ -13	47.4	52	↑ 45	50.8	115	↓ -19	45.7	120
Morocco	92	↓ -5	47.2	69	↑ 54	47.8	103	↑ 3	46.9	127
Kenya	93	↑ 12	46.8	66	↑ 31	48.1	112	↑ 4	46.2	123
Belarus	94	↓ -1	46.7	120	↓ -58	41.6	81	↓ -10	49.3	115
Egypt, Arab Rep.	95	↑ 7	46.7	81	↑ 4	46.8	105	↑ 3	46.6	128
Guinea	96	↑ 20	46.3	98	↑ 32	43.7	96	↑ 29	47.7	100
Kyrgyz Republic	97	↓ -5	46.2	124	↓ -12	40.6	82	↓ -15	49.1	115
Liberia	98	↓ -10	46.2	123	↓ -16	40.6	83	↓ -20	49.1	99
Niger	99	↓ -1	46.2	114	↓ -34	42.4	89	↑ 1	48.2	102
Trinidad and Tobago	100	↓ -9	46.2	88	↑ 29	45.3	107	↓ -23	46.6	110
Turkmenistan	101	↓ -24	46.1	141	↓ -69	37.0	60	↓ -30	50.6	84
Bolivia	102	↓ -20	46.0	106	↓ -17	43.2	98	↓ -33	47.3	107
Tajikistan	103	↓ -3	45.9	129	↓ -30	39.9	86	↓ -13	48.9	110
Argentina	104	↓ -18	45.8	50	↑ 48	51.4	128	↓ -4	43.0	134
Honduras	105	↑ 2	45.6	96	↓ -32	44.0	109	→ 0	46.3	114
Papua New Guinea	106	↓ -10	45.3	118	↑ 7	41.8	102	↓ -28	47.0	93
Zambia	107	↓ -10	45.2	97	↑ 7	44.0	113	↓ -21	45.8	115
El Salvador	108	→ 0	45.2	116	↓ -5	42.1	104	→ 0	46.7	116
South Africa	109	↑ 18	45.1	56	↑ 48	50.3	132	→ 0	42.4	135
Sri Lanka	110	↑ 16	45.0	73	↑ 39	47.5	124	↑ 7	43.7	118
Uganda	111	↑ 10	44.9	101	↓ -19	43.4	116	↑ 3	45.6	119
Madagascar	112	↓ -6	44.8	128	↑ 4	40.3	100	↓ -9	47.1	115
Nicaragua	113	↑ 5	44.8	137	↓ -43	38.3	92	↑ 10	48.0	109
Burkina Faso	114	↑ 17	44.7	119	↓ -60	41.8	110	↑ 18	46.2	113
Mozambique	115	↓ -3	44.7	134	↓ -15	38.7	95	↑ 5	47.7	116
Guatemala	116	↓ -7	44.4	126	↓ -35	40.3	108	↓ -10	46.4	118
Sierra Leone	117	↓ -4	44.3	89	↑ 17	45.3	123	→ 0	43.8	102
Equatorial Guinea	118	↓ -3	44.3	111	↑ 21	42.9	120	↓ -7	44.9	77
Algeria	119	↑ 4	44.1	115	↓ -12	42.3	119	↓ -4	45.1	117
Mali	120	↓ -3	43.9	131	↓ -9	39.4	111	→ 0	46.2	107
Cameroon	121	↑ 4	43.9	117	↑ 9	42.0	121	↓ -4	44.8	114
Bosnia and Herzegovina	122	↓ -3	43.9	100	↑ 34	43.6	122	↑ 4	44.0	117
Congo, Dem. Rep.	123	↑ 1	43.8	143	↓ -22	36.7	99	↑ 6	47.3	104
Ethiopia	124	↓ -13	43.7	93	↑ 52	44.4	125	↓ -4	43.3	115
Mauritania	125	↑ 9	43.6	132	↓ -13	39.3	114	↑ 13	45.8	102

Table 3.1 (4/4): EQx2026 Table of Country Scores and Global Rankings with Power and Value Sub-Indices

EQx2026 Scores and Ranks										
Country	EQx			Sub-Indices						
	Rank	Trend vs EQx2025	Score	Power (I)			Value (II)			#data-points/148
				Rank	Trend vs EQx2025	Score	Rank	Trend vs EQx2025	Score	
Lagging Elites										
Ukraine	126	↓ -12	43.6	70	↑ 21	47.8	138	→ 0	41.4	126
Iran, Islamic Rep.	127	↑ 3	43.5	140	↓ -70	37.2	106	↑ 4	46.6	115
Pakistan	128	↑ 4	42.8	99	↑ 47	43.6	131	↑ 2	42.5	121
Central African Republic	129	↑ 7	42.7	138	↓ -76	37.9	118	↑ 12	45.1	86
Tunisia	130	↓ -1	42.4	74	↑ 70	47.4	141	→ 0	40.0	124
Gabon	131	↑ 9	42.3	125	↓ -19	40.4	126	↑ 13	43.3	104
Nepal	132	↑ 1	42.3	103	↓ -6	43.3	136	↓ -1	41.7	113
Nigeria	133	↓ -11	42.2	104	↓ -21	43.3	135	↓ -23	41.7	123
Burundi	134	↓ -24	42.1	127	↑ 14	40.3	129	↓ -26	43.0	104
Malawi	135	↓ -15	41.9	91	↑ 12	44.9	139	↓ -21	40.4	112
Chad	136	↑ 3	41.6	135	↑ 6	38.7	127	↑ 10	43.1	95
Congo, Rep.	137	→ 0	41.3	136	↑ 6	38.5	130	↑ 6	42.7	99
Lesotho	138	↑ 3	41.1	108	↑ 33	43.1	140	↑ 4	40.1	101
Libya	139	↓ -1	40.5	139	↓ -16	37.5	133	↓ -4	42.0	85
Lebanon	140	↓ -5	39.9	121	↑ 8	41.5	143	↓ -9	39.1	117
Eswatini	141	↑ 4	39.1	149	↓ -34	33.4	134	↑ 8	42.0	103
Myanmar	142	↓ -14	39.0	148	↓ -7	33.9	137	↓ -40	41.5	111
Zimbabwe	143	↑ 1	38.3	122	↑ 16	40.8	145	→ 0	37.1	112
Iraq	144	↑ 2	37.8	144	↓ -16	35.3	142	↑ 4	39.1	98
Venezuela, RB	145	↓ -2	37.0	145	→ 0	34.8	144	↓ -4	38.2	108
Angola	146	↓ -4	36.8	133	↑ 14	38.9	146	↓ -3	35.7	115
Syrian Arab Republic	147	→ 0	33.5	142	↑ 4	37.0	148	→ 0	31.7	89
Afghanistan	148	↑ 3	33.5	151	→ 0	32.2	147	↑ 2	34.1	93
Yemen, Rep.	149	↓ -1	31.6	150	↓ -5	33.4	149	↓ -2	30.7	99
Sudan	150	↓ -1	31.1	147	↓ -4	33.9	150	→ 0	29.7	103
Haiti	151	↓ -1	29.8	146	↑ 3	34.6	151	→ 0	27.4	93

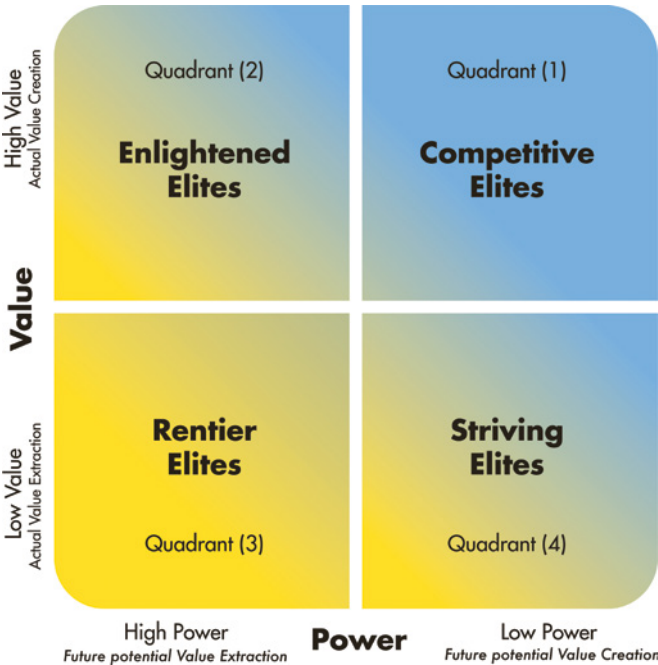
3.2 State of Elites Framework: Country Mapping

The State of Elites framework revolves around the EQx’s 2 Sub-Indices, Power and Value. Both represent the degree of Value Creation along a spectrum ranging from high to low.

It is important to emphasize that the State of Elites framework sees the interaction of the present with the future, as it reflects the fact that Power can be converted into Value Extraction. Value Extraction business models require Power to operate and thus Power is described as having future Value Extraction potential in Visual 3.1. In the framework, the 2 axes represent the 2 temporal perspectives and so every country finds itself in a position that captures information about the present (via Value) and the future (via Power).

The State of Elites framework is best comprehended through 4 possible conditions that describe a country’s elites in terms of their business models on aggregate: ‘competitive’, ‘enlightened’, ‘rentier’ and ‘striving’. The Power Sub-Index I and Value Sub-Index II Country Scores serve as the x- and y-axis of the 2x2 matrix which provide the coordinates that not just locate each political economy in the framework, but most importantly serve as a starting point for interpretive work. A country’s position is a unique and important source of insights to analyze its present situation as well as to understand its prospects, especially given our aim to support the development of prescriptive views.

Visual 3.1: The State of Elites Framework for Policy (Source: Derived from Casas-Klett, 2026, Figure 6.5)



Description of the 4 States of Elites

Quadrant 1 sees ‘competitive elites’ in a situation which most resembles a free market. This state is characterized by short-lived cycles of highly innovative and profitable elites that rise to the top in quick succession. If contests between elites are civil, that competition will produce a plethora of public goods, leading to human and economic development. Technological possibilities are seized, and long-term economic growth is maximized and limited only by the human capacity to innovate.

Quadrant 2 sees powerful elites that dominate the political economy. These dominant coalitions, however, refrain from Value Extraction despite having the ability to obtain rents, and instead choose to run value creating business models. The ‘enlightened elites’ state is one where elites are very powerful but nonetheless create substantial value.

Quadrant 3 exhibits ‘rentier elites’. Countries with economies in this state are characterized by highly dominant and powerful elites that have consolidated value extracting business models. Having captured the levers of power and overcome the resistance of productive forces, the elites have designed institutions that favor their business models at the expense of increasingly demoralized non-elites who have little incentive to invest in Value Creation activities.

Quadrant 4 sees free-for-all Value Extraction by a multitude of diverse agents. Low power elites compete for rents and Value Creation business models are absent, challenged by all sides. The ‘striving elites’ state is an “Absent Leviathan” situation (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2019) and a rather unstable one, with aspirational elites whose extractive rent seeking is real but has not (yet) scaled. Emerging interest groups engage in struggles of all kinds for dominant positions that will enable them to shape institutions and in turn protect and consolidate their business models.

EQx2026 State of Elites, Results

Employing the Power Sub-Index I and Value Sub-Index II Country Scores, we position each of the 151 countries covered in the EQx2026 in the State of Elites framework.

Visual 3.2: EQx2026 State of Elites Framework: Country Positions based on EQx Sub-Indices Power and Value

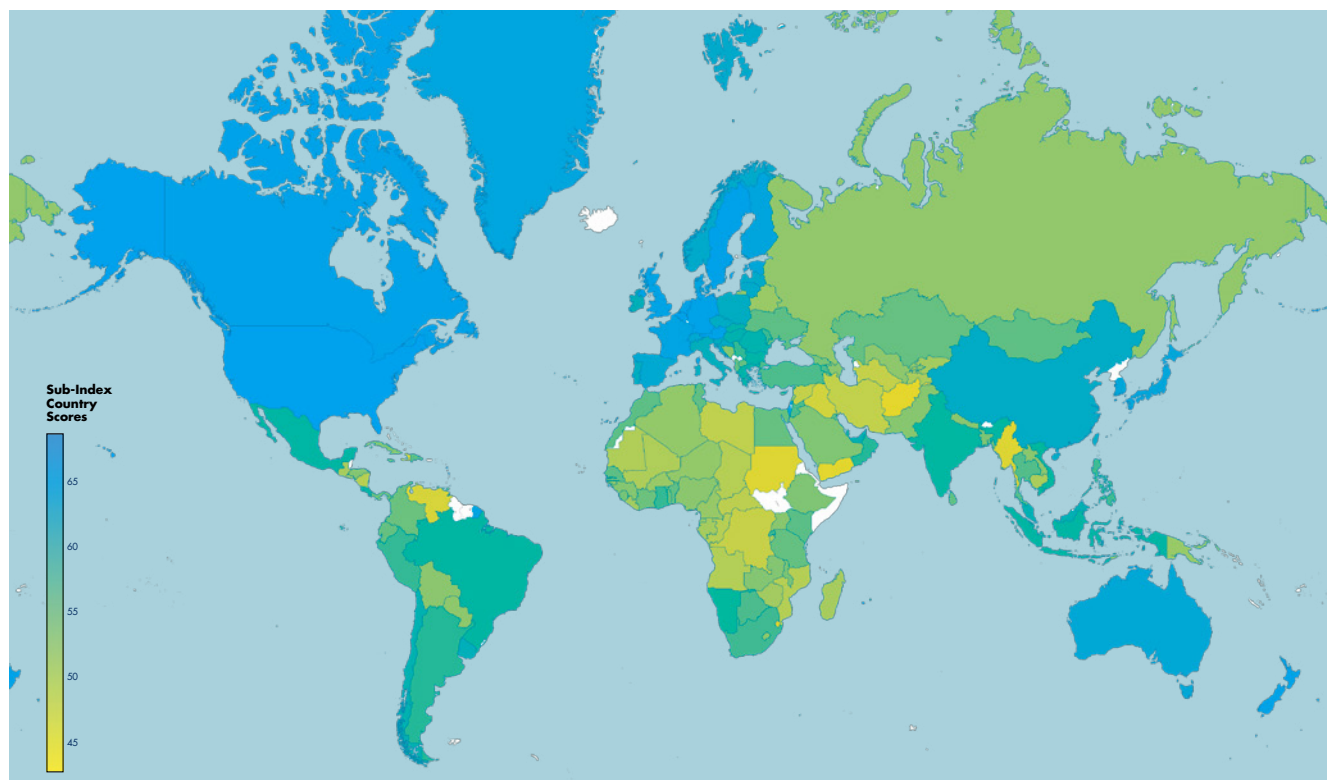


Note: Random selection of country codes are printed in case of country overlaps.

3.3 EQx2026 Power and Value Sub-Indices at a Glance

Further to the EQx country scores map provided on the inside cover, additional maps for the Power and Value Sub-Indices are presented here. Note the use of different colors to indicate the distance between the Power and Value scores of the featured countries. These provide many interpretative possibilities to explain how a country's political economy relates to its human and economic development outcomes. They reflect elite agency in the use of Power to shape inclusive or extractive institutional arrangements.

Visual 3.3: EQx2026 **Power Sub-Index** global map (colored according to Power Country Scores)

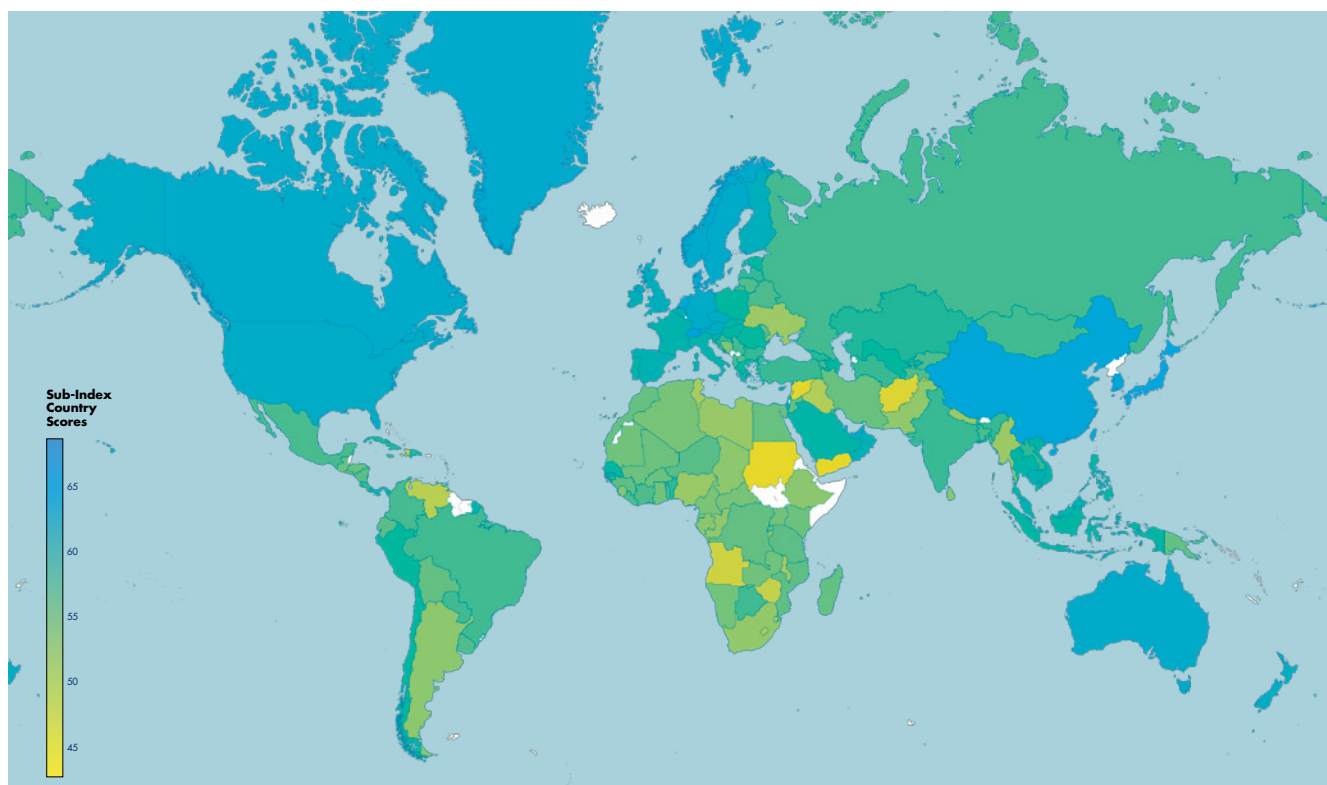


When examining the maps and related scores two thoughts should be kept in mind:

First, Power is defined as future potential Value Extraction. Assuming a homogenous tendency for Value Extraction by elites across the world, Value scores will, in the mid- to long-term, equalize with Power scores. However, due to discrete elite leadership profiles, cultural issues, historical experiences and other factors, the propensity for elites to extract varies across nations.

The second point to be mindful of is whether and where Power is not used for Value Extraction but rather for Value Creation. Elite systems that have low Power scores have managed to create an effective set of checks and balances for their elites. Elite systems where the Value scores are higher than those for Power, possess elites that keep their own Power in check and self-restrain their Value appropriation. By doing so, they create the necessary incentives to enlarge the overall size of the pie.

Visual 3.4: EQx2026 **Value Sub-Index** global map (colored according to Value Country Scores)

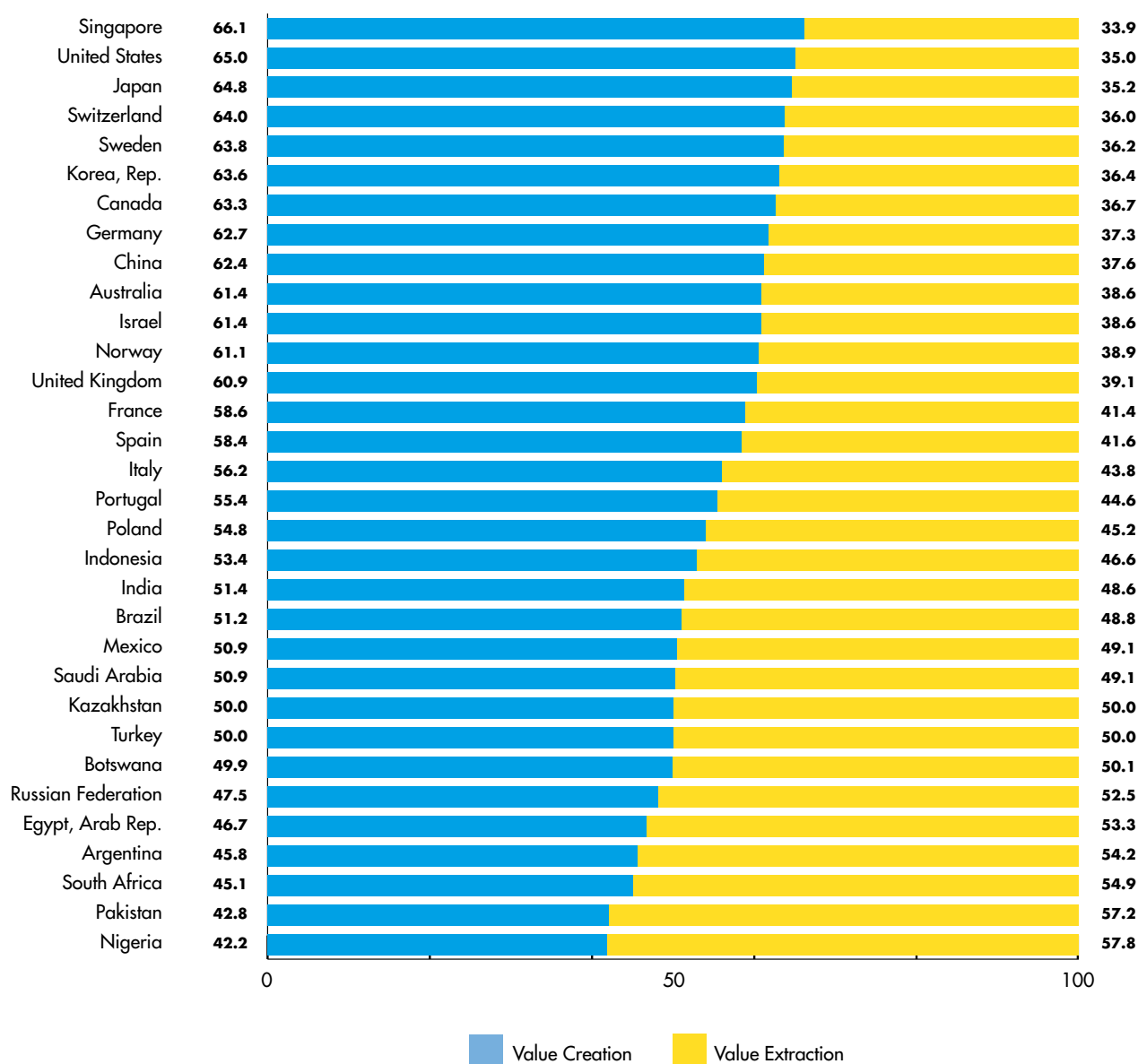


3.4 Value Configuration Framework: Value Creation and Extraction and Shares of Overall Economic Activity

The EQx ranks countries on their Elite Quality. That is, each country receives a score that represents a point on an imaginary Value Creation to Value Extraction spectrum of the political economy. These country scores are normalized within a range of 1 to 100, with 100 being the highest score, i.e., the best, in terms of Value Creation. To concretize the abstract Elite Quality aggregate, to support policy and social debates, and to facilitate the connection between the country-level EQx to the firm-level, we introduce here a visualization of the relative proportion of Value Creation vs Value Extraction business models within a given economy on a relative and comparative basis.

Converting the EQx scores into Value Creation percentages allows us to see the distance from a theoretically perfect 100%, assumed to be caused by the complete absence of value transfers derived from extractive business models. While figuratively speaking, country scores represent a point on a continuum, a heuristic where the range up to the country score position is determined to be Value Creation and the remainder is assumed to be Value Extraction. If the total economic pie is measured by GDP, Value Creation and Value Extraction jointly add up to 100% of national income. The 32 countries selected for inclusion are those from the pilot EQx2020.

Visual 3.5: EQx Value Creation vs Value Extraction on a conceptual continuum for selected 32 EQx countries



4. EQx2026 Analysis and Interpretation

The EQx project has developed a variety of interpretive formats. The 'Country Scorecard' captures on one convenient page the full set of a country's EQx Scores, from the headline Level 1 EQx Index score to the 148 more granular Level 4 Indicators.* The Country Scorecards can be utilized for interpretative purposes by offering a 360-degree view of a country's political economy.

Section 4.1 is a highlight of this report, offering deep-dive analyses of Country Scorecards by leading economists, political scientists, and management scholars from around the globe. Each analysis constitutes an original interpretation of how a given country has and will fare viewed through the prism of Elite Quality. Section 4.2 reviews three EQx-Indicator Families: Artificial Intelligence, Diversity & Inclusion and Ecology. Finally, Section 4.3 provides the Indicator Scorecard perspective, exploring individual phenomena of Value Creation/Extraction in comparative terms across countries.

*Note: EQx Country Scores are rounded. The rankings are derived from the full EQx Country Scores and thus can deviate from the rankings implied by the rounded Country Scores.

4.1 Country Scorecards: Deep-dive Analyses

Argentina

A High Power Ranking is not Converted into Value

The EQx2026 once again positions Argentina in a structurally unfavorable segment of the global ranking, placing the country a lowly #104 out of the 151 economies assessed. A review of the three-year trajectory reveals a clear and sustained deterioration in performance, with Argentina falling from #70 in 2024, to #86 in 2025, and now down to #104 in 2026.

There is no simple explanation. While it is tempting to look for a single factor, a responsible actor, or a headline, the EQx requires looking at the system as a whole. In 2026, a marked gap between the political and the economic dimensions of the index can be observed. Political components hold up relatively better, but the economic dimension lags: Economic Value (iv, rank #137) places the country near the bottom of the ranking. The Argentinian economy fails to convert its reasonable endowment of Power (rank #50)—including Political Power (i, rank #39) and Economic Power (ii, rank #60)—into Economic Value (iv, rank #128).

In practical terms, economic elites extract more than their power endowments should allow. Yet the key point is that these value transfers are not worth it: the Argentine elite pays a very high cost because the asset values for stocks or land are exceedingly low. This can also be correlated to one of the country's weakest points that ultimately weighs down the entire index score: Capital Value (iv.11), where it ranks a dismal #142.

The reforms made by the current Argentine administration are based on boosting international integration and enhancing domestic competition. But these *a priori* worthy initiatives have proven insufficient as the country's macroeconomic conditions and capital flows once again appear to be in a critical situation. The reforms have been insufficient to correct system deficiencies as can be illustrated by some of the EQx2026 scorecard data in the Capital Value (iv.11) and Producer Value (iv.10) Pillars:

- *Inflation* (DOI, iv.11, rank #130)
- *GDP deflator* (DEF, iv.11, rank #146)
- *Gross capital formation* (GCF, iv.11, rank #126)
- *Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures* (IPS, iv.10, rank #134)
- *Economic globalization* (EGL, iv.10, rank #111)
- *Trade freedom* (TRF, iv.10, rank #115)

Moreover, the EQx shows which dimensions of the elite system have deteriorated and which have resisted the general trend. The government has worked extensively to constrain public spending, as is evidenced by *General government expenditure as % of GDP* (GEX, iii.7, rank #1; rank #35 in 2025), although it is common to confuse public spending with public investment.

However, the key point—and possibly the most useful topic for public debate—is that when capital destroys value, the country loses its future. This is because capital is where a society makes decisions on whether it finances production and innovation or funds the survival of a fragile equilibrium and depredation. Young Argentines seem to understand this clearly, as they choose to emigrate to countries with higher-quality elites as is indicated by *Human flight and brain drain* (BRN, iv.12, rank #23) to escape an unsustainable *Youth unemployment rate* (YUN, iv.12, rank #114).

Argentina does not have a lack of talent and has intra-elite contests that should limit power and thus allow value creation elites to emerge. Yet the system somehow fails to translate that energy and potential into investment, productivity, and real competition.

The strategic question is not 'who wins' in the short term, but "what incentive model makes winning dependent on value creation". When that condition emerges, Argentina's elite coalitions will cease to be rent seeking and growth will ensue; stability will cease to be an aspiration and become a framework; and the country will stop crisis managing and begin to calmly plan its future.

It will be interesting to see whether Argentina, wrapped in a hegemonic stalemate that generates a value-destroying environment, can change the paradigm. Key reforms are necessary and include revising the tax system (*Corporate tax rate*, DCT, iii.8, rank #132), better incentives for competitive and productive business models, investment in infrastructure, and further improving educational quality. Ironically, the country invests heavily in education as can be seen in *Government education expenditure* (GEE, iii.7, rank #22) and *Pupil-teacher ratio* (PTR, iii.7, rank #8), but does not manage to translate that investment into high-quality outcomes, as can be seen by its modest rank in *PISA mean scores* (PIS, iii.7, rank #59).

Given the inherent and recurring problems the country experiences, it is essential that the Argentinian elite commit to rethinking how power can be converted into lasting and productive value creation for the country.

Pablo San Martin,
SMS Latinoamerica, Argentina

Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151
104
Rank change
1 year -18
3 years -25
EQx Score
45.8

Middle Quality Elite

92

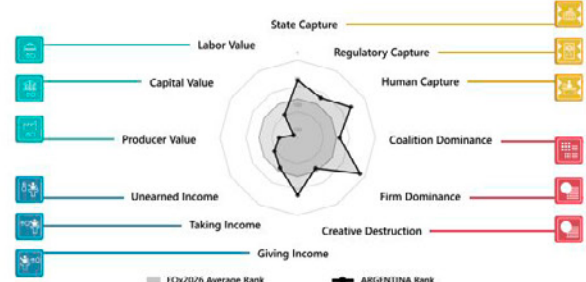
Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices			
Power		Value	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
50	51.4	128	43.0

EQx Index Areas							
Political Power (I)		Economic Power (II)		Political Value (III)		Economic Value (IV)	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
39	55.9	60	49.1	59	51.7	137	38.6

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	40	56.9
Regulatory Capture	62	49.6
Human Capture	32	63.3
Coalition Dominance	70	51.6
Firm Dominance	12	63.9
Creative Destruction	82	42.1
Giving Income	40	56.9
Taking Income	83	49.4
Unearned Income	99	47.8
Producer Value	115	41.4
Capital Value	142	26.6
Labor Value	100	47.6



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture (I.1)		
COR Political corruption	57	59.1
COC Control of corruption	72	46.2
OPG Open government	33	64.8
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	76	45.8
EPR E-Participation Index	65	58.4
PFD Press freedom	70	52.5
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	11	76.9
ADE Administrative decentralization	57	55.0
PGL Political globalization	21	80.7
WPI Women's Power Index	23	79.2
Regulatory Capture (I.2)		
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	76	49.4
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	41	63.1
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	23	63.8
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	112	30.3
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	37	43.8
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	99	30.5
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	53	52.1
CGP Constraints on government power	80	45.3
REQ Regulatory quality	56	45.7
REN Regulatory enforcement	106	34.0
CRO Crony capitalism	14	60.6
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	41	65.1
Human Capture (I.3)		
GSI Global Slavery Index	56	61.2
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	26	80.1
HRI Human Rights Index	70	60.5
ARI Academic Freedom Index	43	67.6
GRN LGBT+ Inclusiveness	31	76.7
WSB Women self-made billionaires	88	50.8
WBL Women, business and the law	44	61.8
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	44	63.7
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	46	67.5
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	11	70.3
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	61	51.3
HCI Domestic market diversification	81	38.4
EHI Economic Complexity Index	117	41.2
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	96	38.1
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	46	16.1
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	70	53.0
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	72	40.7
CRA Criminal actors	24	55.0
Firm Dominance (I.5)		
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	99	54.0
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	14	63.3
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	5	75.4
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	2	84.2
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	64	40.7
FRF Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	95	22.5
ENT Entrepreneurship	35	38.5
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	111	24.6
VCK Venture capital finance	35	47.2
VCA Venture capital availability	35	43.7
API AI private investment	62	55.0
APC AI private investment per capita	43	38.0
RND R&D as a % of GDP	27	60.9
EXR Firm exit ratio	57	63.7
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	51	64.5
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	40	69.6
LEW Life expectancy women	56	63.4
LEM Life expectancy men	8	87.2
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	59	29.8
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	51	33.0
EDU School life expectancy	22	77.1
PIS PISA mean scores	52	65.7
UNV Top universities	33	47.4
GEE Government education expenditure	49	67.8
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	65	50.8
AIP AI patent grants	43	66.9
OSI Online Service Index	21	74.2
NRI Network Readiness Index	18	76.6
INT Internet access		
GHI Global Hunger Index		
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety		

	Rank / 151	Score
Giving Income (II.7)		
GPS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	1	80.3
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	111	15.8
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	105	29.1
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	116	18.6
CSG Construction supply gap	1	64.8
SFA Sanitation facilities	107	34.7
FLA Electricity access	24	71.5
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	1	56.2
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	91	39.4
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	85	52.7
HOM Homicide rate	13	77.5
SUI Suicide rate	132	13.0
DIR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	29	40.6
DCT Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	65	56.9
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries	24	52.7
HDE Fiscal decentralization	61	58.7
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	70	48.0
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	64	43.0
CRM Criminal markets	66	50.3
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	120	28.9
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	68	40.2
GPA Green patents per capita	123	46.7
EPI Environmental Performance Index	53	58.4
RES Renewable energy share	114	29.5
OLU Ocean litter	17	66.9
DER Deforestation rate	93	52.8
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	18	69.9
TLP Terrestrial land protected	28	56.7
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	53	51.9
CDX CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	44	23.2
AIR Air Quality Index	49	66.3
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	146	2.8
WPC Waste collected per capita	43	45.2
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	102	43.5
FIS Fish consumption per capita	51	7.4
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	41	64.7
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	73	41.0
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	34	49.2
HEI Health Efficiency Index	31	69.3
DMS Density of medical staff	34	40.3
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	11	46.6
HAI Housing Affordability Index	98	39.4
RTD Rail track density	73	46.4
GAI Global AI Index	52	55.2
AJM Number of notable AI models	85	15.6
FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	111	29.5
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	115	34.9
BTB Barriers to FDI	62	48.8
OFB Open for business	134	4.3
EGL Economic globalization	22	56.1
TRF Trade freedom	45	62.5
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	130	0.0
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	146	0.0
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)		
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)		
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)		
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)		
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)		
FMI Financial Markets Index	58	47.7
GCF Gross capital formation	126	25.5
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP		
CRY Crypto ownership	47	13.3
UNN Unicorns		
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP		
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	48	37.0
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	21	65.6
LPG Labor productivity growth	93	37.4
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases		
LFP Labor force participation rate	76	52.4
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	90	55.2
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	21	41.8
UEN Unemployment rate	112	44.5
YUN Youth unemployment rate	114	36.1
BRN Human flight and brain drain	23	79.7

Cameroon

Powerful Elites must Constrain Value Extraction

Ranked 121st in the EQx2026, Cameroon is among the lowest-performing countries and demonstrates the consequences of the misuse of power. The EQx findings indicate that while elites retain sufficient sway to shape political and economic trajectories, their influence is largely channeled toward value extraction rather than shared prosperity. The challenges for Cameroon's elite system are painfully obvious in the results of the two EQx Sub-Indices. While the elites have sufficient power at their disposal (Power, rank #117), the accumulated value does not reflect the same proportions (Value, rank #121). Instead, it perpetuates a status quo characterized by feeble accountability and scarce value creation.

The four Index Areas make this structural paradox clearer. There are conspicuous weaknesses in the dimension of Political Power (i, rank #119). The very low rankings in *Political corruption* (COR, i.1, rank #148) and *Control of corruption* (COC, i.1, rank #130) attest to the fact that rent seeking is not incidental but inseparable from how elites operate. Corrective mechanisms are also weaker because *Constraints on government power* (CGP, i.1, rank #103) are limited, and *Press freedom* (PFD, i.1, rank #109) is curtailed. The incentives for reform remain structurally diminished in such an environment.

When it comes to Economic Power (ii, rank #102), the picture is more nuanced. The dominance of certain firms (ii.5, rank #108) and low score in the *Economic Complexity Index* (ECI, iv, rank #119) signal a narrow productive base. Regulatory contestability (ECR, i.2, rank #59) and *Government Support for Entrepreneurship* (GSE, ii.6, rank #29) meanwhile, suggest that intra-elite contests exist and that more productive business models are possible. However, the impact of this remains limited, partly due to the persistence of extractive informality (INO, i.2, rank #55), which fragments the economic landscape and inhibits productivity gains.

In terms of Political Value (iii, rank #125), Cameroon's weak performance in the *Human Rights Index* (HRI, i.3, rank #107), *Academic Freedom Index* (AFI, i.3, rank #118), and *LGBT+ inclusiveness* (LIN, i.3, rank #117) reflects sustained underinvestment in human capital and social cohesion. On the economic front, a very low ranking for *Producer Value* (iv.10, rank #135), coupled with educational (PTR, iii.7, rank #134) and healthcare (SCI, iii.7, rank #126) deficiencies, signify a structural incapacity to transform factor endowment into durable productivity growth. However, the EQx2026 also shows that the country has some bright spots. Strong performance in Cameroon's *Renewable energy share* (RES, iii.9, rank #13) and its emerging capabilities in innovation-related *AI private investment* (API, ii.6, rank #35) point to the presence of forward-looking segments within the elite. Nevertheless, these are exceptions, not the rule.

From a policy perspective, it is unlikely that incremental adjustments will suffice. Rather, there is a need for a fundamental change in the incentive structures guiding elite behavior. Improvements to *Regulatory enforcement* (REN, i.2, rank #105), *Property rights* (PRI, i.2, rank #111), and greater transparency are the first steps in this regard. Critically, though, aligning elite interests with long-term value creation will require credible limits to rent seeking and a rebalancing of the political-economic nexus. Failure to do so will lead to a proliferation of low value equilibria in which the reproduction of elite power results in stunted development. On the other hand, Cameroon should be able to harness its latent potential and shift towards a more inclusive and value-creating growth path if productive elites gain more traction in the system and are able to enhance institutional quality.

Omang Ombolo Messono,
University of Douala, Cameroon

Fabrice Assoumou Zambo,
University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon

Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151
121
Rank change
1 year **+4**
3 years **-1**
EQx Score
43.9

Middle Quality Elite

NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb)
134

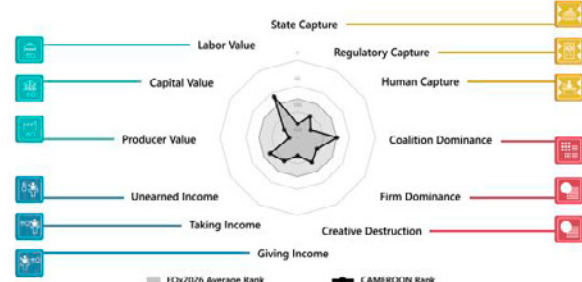
Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices			
Power		Value	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
117	42.0	121	44.8

EQx Index Areas							
Political Power (I)		Economic Power (II)		Political Value (III)		Economic Value (IV)	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
119	37.7	102	44.2	125	44.4	112	45.0

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	124	37.8
Regulatory Capture	103	37.0
Human Capture	122	38.4
Coalition Dominance	75	50.9
Firm Dominance	108	46.3
Creative Destruction	96	40.9
Giving Income	116	37.9
Taking Income	99	47.2
Unearned Income	89	49.4
Producer Value	135	35.8
Capital Value	121	42.7
Labor Value	60	54.2



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	148	13.9
COC Control of corruption	130	23.8
OPG Open government	110	23.3
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	78	42.4
EPR E-Participation Index	94	40.0
PFD Press freedom	109	34.7
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	88	41.5
ADE Administrative decentralization	107	23.5
PGL Political globalization	82	47.4
WPI Women's Power Index	71	45.8
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	124	0.0
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	94	43.6
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	69	58.0
GYC Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	28	53.4
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	111	30.9
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	59	50.6
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	103	26.6
CGP Constraints on government power	111	32.3
REQ Regulatory quality	105	29.6
REN Regulatory enforcement	111	30.3
PRI Property rights	111	30.3
CRO Crony capitalism	55	55.5
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	80	51.0
GSI Global Slavery Index	131	42.8
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	107	32.0
HRI Human Rights Index	118	21.9
ARI Academic Freedom Index	83	52.1
GLI LGBT+ Inclusiveness	117	24.0
WSB Women self-made billionaires	125	22.4
WBL Women, business and the law	67	56.8
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	73	56.1
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	84	32.5
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	64	61.4
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	119	20.9
HCI Domestic market diversification	1	83.7
ECI Economic Complexity Index	4	73.6
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	46	62.7
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	97	41.1
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	77	40.3
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	1	58.3
CRA Criminal actors	111	27.1
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	29	60.7
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	35	38.5
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	87	36.6
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	35	47.2
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	35	43.7
FRR Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	43	38.0
ENT Entrepreneurship	132	17.0
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	134	18.4
VCK Venture capital finance	126	17.2
VCA Venture capital availability	134	11.5
API AI private investment	107	32.6
APC AI private investment per capita		
RND R&D as a % of GDP		
EXR Firm exit ratio		
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction		
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs		
LEW Life expectancy women		
LEM Life expectancy men		
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index		
PTR Pupil teacher ratio		
EDU School life expectancy		
PIS PISA mean scores		
UNV Top universities		
GEE Government education expenditure		
GAR Government AI Readiness Index		
AIP AI patent grants		
OSI Online Service Index		
NRI Network Readiness Index		
INT Internet access		
GHI Global Hunger Index		
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety		

	Rank / 151	Score
GPSS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)		
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)		
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	28	75.0
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	33	72.0
CSG Construction supply gap		
SFA Sanitation facilities	116	18.6
FIA Electricity access	118	35.9
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	24	75.5
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	60	56.0
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	125	55.5
HOM Homicide rate	102	31.7
SUI Suicide rate	91	50.4
DTR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	4	80.8
DCR Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	120	25.8
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries		
HDE Fiscal decentralization		
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	76	50.1
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)		
CRM Criminal markets	112	28.9
DBT Government debt as % of GDP		
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	90	39.6
GPA Green patents per capita	128	42.5
EPI Environmental Performance Index	112	32.4
RES Renewable energy share	13	92.9
OLI Ocean litter	26	68.2
DER Deforestation rate	115	50.6
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	29	61.0
TLP Terrestrial land protected	105	35.1
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita		
CDI CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	24	67.7
AIR Air Quality Index	90	38.3
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	8	57.0
WPC Waste collected per capita	48	54.3
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	54	15.3
FIS Fish consumption per capita	98	43.9
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	28	73.6
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita		
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	87	52.4
HEI Health Efficiency Index		
DMS Density of medical staff	140	22.7
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	89	26.2
HAI Housing Affordability Index		
RTD Rail track density	96	19.3
GAI Global AI Index	34	40.3
AIM Number of notable AI models	11	46.6
FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	118	33.7
FDF Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	82	44.3
BTB Barriers to FDI		
OFB Open for business	59	42.5
EGL Economic globalization	139	14.2
TRF Trade freedom	135	18.3
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	98	31.3
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	62	66.2
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	1	56.6
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	84	41.5
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	71	56.8
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	60	53.6
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)		
FMI Financial Markets Index	128	27.8
GCF Gross capital formation	113	35.5
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP		
CRY Crypto ownership		
UNN Unicorns		
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP		
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita		
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires		
LPG Labor productivity growth	46	56.6
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases		
LFP Labor force participation rate	48	60.1
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	83	57.8
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	21	41.8
UEM Unemployment rate	49	64.2
YUN Youth unemployment rate	34	69.5
BRN Human flight and brain drain	121	28.1

Chile

The Diligent Student of the Latin American Neighborhood

Chile is a country that can be observed, even from space, as an extensive and narrow territorial strip, stretching over more than 4,300 kilometers and encompassing marked climatic and economic diversity. This heterogeneity is reflected in its productive structure, which combines the exploitation of natural resources through mining, fisheries, and agriculture (*Natural resources rents as % of GDP*, NRR, iii.9, rank #125) with a services sector integrated into the international economy. In this context, Chile has historically been characterized as an institutionally consolidated system, with intra-elite contests run on relatively stable rules. The EQx2026 allows for a deeper examination of the extent to which this institutional order effectively translates into sustainable value creation.

In the overall EQx ranking, Chile has seen a declining trajectory over recent years: from rank #30 (2024) to rank #32 (2025) and now down to rank #37 in 2026. This evolution does not point to an abrupt breakdown, but rather to a gradual erosion in the country's relative capacity to convert its institutional advantages into sustained value creation outcomes. This becomes more evident when observing the Sub-Indices. In 2025, Chile combined a Power Sub-Index ranking of #29 with a Value Sub-Index ranking of #38; in 2026, it maintains the same relative level of power (rank #29) but declines in value (rank #43). This suggests that while institutions remain highly effective at constraining power and facilitating productive competition, the prevailing state of affairs does not generate sufficient intra-elite contests to drive value creation.

The analysis by Index Areas reinforces this reading and supplies new insights. In 2025, Chile was well positioned in Political Power (i, rank #31) and Economic Power (ii, rank #27), with stronger results in Political Value (iii, rank #26) than in Economic Value (iv, rank #52). Its 2026 performance suggests some interesting trends: Political Power stays steady (i, rank #29), Economic Power falls (ii, rank #57), Political Value also declines (iii, rank #35), while Economic Value somewhat improves (iv, rank #44). In comparative terms, political elites generate more value than economic elites, yet this advantage has narrowed considerably, with the former creating less value and the latter significantly more. Thus, the political elite

value advantage over economic elites has shrunk from 26 places (ranks 26-52) to just 9 places (ranks 35-44). The state must remain vigilant that its inclusive capacity does not further erode, while economic elites should continue on their ascending value trajectory.

At the Pillar level, Chile retains relatively solid positions in the domains that reflect on institutional makeup. State Capture (i.1, rank #31), Regulatory Capture (i.2, rank #36), and Human Capture (i.3, rank #30) remain in intermediate-to-high ranges, consistent with favorable Indicators related to *Control of corruption* (COC, i.1., rank #21) and *Open government* (OPG, i.1, rank #23). These strengths explain a significant share of the resilience exhibited by the political-administrative system. Thus, the basis for government-led value creation is strong and unique in the region.

However, the EQx also reveals persistent structural distributive limitations, as seen in *Gini coefficient on net national wealth* and *Gini coefficient on income* (GWL, i.1, rank #134; GIL, i.1, rank #114) as well as in *Social Mobility* (MOB, i.1, rank #115). Indicators related to socio-economic advancement systematically appear in lagging positions, while income concentration remains among the highest in the world. These gaps constrain the system's ability to sustain social legitimacy, particularly in the context of slowing economic growth.

In the economic sphere, a pronounced deterioration in the Firm Dominance Pillar (ii.5, rank #96) stands out and illustrates that certain elite coalitions are becoming ever more powerful. This is accompanied by a sustained decline in Labor Value (iv.12, rank #102), meaning that labor elites such as trade unions are becoming more extractive, as is evidenced by weak relative performance in two key Indicators: *Unemployment rate* (UEM, iv.12, rank #119) and *Youth unemployment rate* (YUN, iv.12, rank #119).

Taken together, the EQx portrays Chile as a country with inclusive and coordinated elites and functional institutions, yet also with growing difficulties in translating that stability into sustainable value creation.

Angelo Jorquera,
Partner at SMS Chile, Chile

Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151 **37** Rank change 1 year **-5** 3 years **-6** EQx Score **53.9**

Quality Elite

NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb)

44

Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices

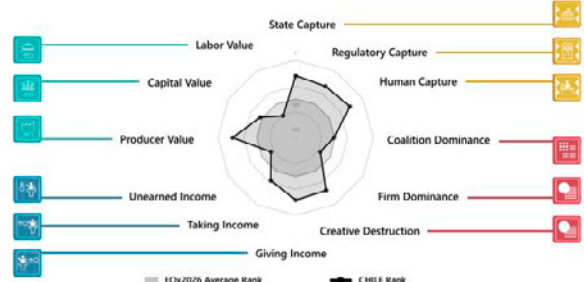
Power	Value
Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score
35 56.1	44 52.8

EQx Index Areas

Political Power (I)	Economic Power (II)	Political Value (III)	Economic Value (IV)
Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score
29 63.6	43 52.3	29 55.1	57 51.6

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	31	60.6
Regulatory Capture	36	65.6
Human Capture	30	64.9
Coalition Dominance	77	50.4
Firm Dominance	96	49.2
Creative Destruction	33	54.3
Giving Income	30	61.6
Taking Income	55	53.4
Unearned Income	96	48.6
Producer Value	29	58.6
Capital Value	72	50.6
Labor Value	102	47.2



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	22	84.2
COC Control of corruption	21	82.0
OPG Open government	23	76.8
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	43	59.7
EPR E-Participation Index	28	76.8
PFD Press freedom	54	60.7
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	69	50.1
ADE Administrative decentralization	31	74.8
PGL Political globalization	35	71.0
WPI Women's Power Index	19	82.7
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	115	16.3
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	145	8.5
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	134	19.6
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	21	64.1
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	114	28.3
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate		
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	43	59.8
CGP Constraints on government power	22	76.5
REQ Regulatory quality	30	72.2
REN Regulatory enforcement	34	64.5
PRI Property rights	40	68.1
CRO Crony capitalism	57	46.0
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	27	76.8
GSI Global Slavery Index	35	67.3
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	89	58.1
HRI Human Rights Index	34	71.4
AFI Academic Freedom Index	7	80.9
GLI Religion - Government Restriction Index	18	77.2
LRI LGBT+ Inclusiveness	28	78.9
WSB Women self made billionaires		
WBL Women, business and the law	84	51.7
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	67	49.9
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	109	28.0
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	68	57.3
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	72	40.3
HCI Domestic market diversification	114	42.4
EHI Economic Complexity Index	72	45.1
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	7	75.5
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	50	63.8
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	60	58.6
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	16	65.4
CRA Criminal actors	74	51.0
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	10	70.8
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	4	72.9
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	134	40.4
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	40	56.5
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	73	24.7
FRR Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	45	23.3
ENT Entrepreneurship	16	82.9
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	35	56.5
VCK Venture capital finance	35	38.5
VCA Venture capital availability	26	69.7
API AI private investment	35	47.2
APC AI private investment per capita	35	43.7
RND R&D as a % of GDP	73	47.1
EXR Firm exit ratio	62	36.8
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	31	63.5
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	18	67.1
LEW Life expectancy women	29	74.5
LEM Life expectancy men	27	79.9
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	26	74.1
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	61	62.3
EDU School life expectancy	20	76.4
PIS PISA mean scores	41	47.4
UNV Top universities	41	42.0
GEE Government education expenditure	48	62.1
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	46	67.1
AIP AI patent grants	33	47.4
OSI Online Service Index	30	74.3
NRI Network Readiness Index	50	58.4
INT Internet access	21	69.1
GHI Global Hunger Index		
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	24	73.3

	Rank / 151	Score
GPSS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)		
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	39	68.2
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	84	40.0
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	87	46.0
CSG Construction supply gap	9	74.9
SFA Sanitation facilities	19	82.8
FLA Electricity access	1	64.8
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	79	44.9
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	57	56.5
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	1	56.2
HOM Homicide rate	100	32.8
SUI Suicide rate	82	53.7
DIR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	75	49.5
DCR Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	49	64.2
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries		
HDE Fiscal decentralization	39	40.0
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	80	45.6
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	8	73.6
CRM Criminal markets	81	50.0
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	27	63.1
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	125	26.8
GPA Green patents per capita	45	44.7
EPI Environmental Performance Index	56	55.8
RES Renewable energy share	76	42.1
OLU Ocean litter	63	46.4
DER Deforestation rate	101	54.4
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	133	43.0
TLP Terrestrial land protected	56	57.2
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	21	61.7
CDX CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	98	51.7
AIR Air Quality Index	58	56.7
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita		
WPC Waste collected per capita	58	51.5
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate		
FIS Fish consumption per capita	87	51.2
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	139	12.1
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	26	49.0
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	95	48.9
HEI Health Efficiency Index	29	46.5
DMS Density of medical staff	50	59.8
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	42	67.1
HAI Housing Affordability Index		
RTD Rail track density	63	45.8
GAI Global AI Index	34	40.3
AJM Number of notable AI models	11	46.6
FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	20	64.4
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	23	61.7
BTB Barriers to FDI	26	69.3
OFB Open for business	42	52.3
EGL Economic globalization	49	64.1
TRF Trade freedom	54	66.3
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	24	76.6
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	23	74.4
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	66	55.6
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	44	62.6
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	90	55.6
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	118	52.3
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)		
FMI Financial Markets Index	40	63.5
GCF Gross capital formation	73	49.5
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP		
CRY Crypto ownership	31	50.5
UNN Unicorns	30	42.9
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	24	38.8
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	45	38.9
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	41	42.4
LPG Labor productivity growth	59	48.8
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	26	45.0
LFP Labor force participation rate	73	53.3
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	92	54.7
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	21	41.8
UEM Unemployment rate	119	39.1
YUN Youth unemployment rate	119	33.6
BRN Human flight and brain drain	29	72.3

China

State Capacity and a Unified National Market are the Keys for Inclusive Value Creation

China shows a remarkable rise in the EQx2026, moving up from #19 to #11. How do we explain and interpret the underlying structural dynamics that have contributed to such progress? The significant leap in China's position is not merely a numerical change; it reflects the fruits of strategic national policies and economic frameworks that have been carefully cultivated over decades. China's advancement in the EQx highlights its growing global influence, driven by a combination of state capacity, strategic coordination, and inclusive infrastructural development. These factors, all key elements of China's elite business models, have allowed the country to sustain competitive advantages and are deeply rooted in the interaction between the political and economic spheres.

China's Political Value (iii) is now ranked #8 globally, while Economic Value (iv) has risen even further to rank #5 after having been lower (than Political Value) for many years. This raises an interesting question: whether the high Political Value of the elite system is now boosting Economic Value? To understand how China's Political Value steers Economic Value creation, the development of foundational industries offers an important analytical entry point.

In 1982, the late reformist leader Deng Xiaoping remarked, when discussing the advantages of China's national system, that China is able to "coordinate the whole country as a single chessboard, concentrate resources, and ensure priority for key tasks" (Deng, 1993). Though plainly stated, this observation reveals a fact long underestimated in Western economics: the institutional advantages of a unified state in economic development extend far beyond political stability and decision-making efficiency. They also manifest as a deeper structural force—the elite capacity to plan and preemptively deploy strategic infrastructure with strong positive externalities on a nationwide scale, and to provide low-cost, 'inclusive' inputs to the entire production system through state capital.

China established one of the earliest modern states in human history during the Qin dynasty—a powerful polity characterized by an efficient bureaucratic system. Through meritocratic examinations, along with institutionalized systems of salary, promotion, and career advancement, governance transcended kinship and clan-based structures. Francis Fukuyama (2004) noted over two decades ago that China's state system demonstrates far greater efficiency than democratic India in executing large-scale infrastructure development and economic strategy. His observation points to a core distinction between unified states and federal or fragmented sovereign systems: political elites in the central government of a unified

state possess the authority and capacity to formulate and implement nationwide strategic plans. Their agency can define national priorities—such as high-speed rail networks, ultra-high-voltage power grids, the 'Eastern Data, Western Computing' initiative, and nationwide 5G coverage—and ensure their proper execution through a top-down administrative system, thereby avoiding the strategic fragmentation often caused by local interest groups or the endless intra-elite bargaining associated with electoral cycles in many countries.

To better appreciate the economic value of "strategic unity" one may look to Europe. The European Union represents a remarkable political experiment, encompassing over 400 million people, a shared currency (within the Eurozone), and highly developed economies. Yet, due to the fact that sovereignty is retained by its member states, the EU is in effect a fragmented elite system with 27-members. Because of this, the EU faces coordination challenges in cross-border infrastructure planning, and its firms, anchored by their own national elite systems, are unable to scale and meet the grand challenges of AI or the energy transition. This is such a critical point that an illustrative example is called for: the EU's electricity grid.

The EU has set a target for interconnectivity by 2030. However, research by the think tank Ember (2026) indicates that approximately 80% of the EU's electricity system—covering 11 countries and nearly 80% of generation capacity—is unlikely to meet this target. This shortfall is not primarily due to engineering difficulties, but rather to high coordination costs. For instance, Sweden vetoed the Hansa PowerBridge interconnection project with Germany on the grounds that it might raise domestic electricity prices. The Bay of Biscay interconnector between France and Spain required six years merely to reach a cost-sharing agreement, with a total investment of Euro 3.1 billion. Meanwhile, Cyprus still does not have any cross-border electricity interconnection. In 2024 alone, Europe curtailed 72 terawatt-hours of wind and solar energy due to grid bottlenecks—equivalent to Austria's total annual electricity consumption—while compensation costs reached Euro 8.9 billion.

If this wasted clean energy could be transmitted through a pan-European elite business model, with a unified grid supplying demand where and when it was needed, it would not only reduce electricity costs but also significantly lower carbon emissions. Yet in a union of sovereign states, each with their own elite system and parochial revenue-generating models, every cross-border transmission line requires approval from

multiple governments, repeated negotiations over cost allocation, environmental impact and land use, and independent regulatory procedures in each country. Environmental groups in one country can halt energy corridors urgently needed by another, and voters in one state may reject infrastructure projects beneficial to neighboring countries.

By contrast, when China undertakes projects such as West-to-East Power Transmission or ultra-high-voltage grid construction, it does not require protracted negotiations among dozens of provincial governments, nor must it contend with vetoes from regions concerned about local price increases. The central government holds complete cross-regional and cross-sectoral coordinating authority, enabling unified planning from a national perspective and implementation through state-owned enterprises.

Empirical data reinforces this point about inclusive value creation. China's industrial electricity prices are roughly 40% of those in the EU (Global Petrol Prices, 2025); mobile data costs are about one-fifteenth of those in the US (Visual Capitalist, 2024); mobile payment transaction fees are one-sixth to one-tenth of US credit card fees (McKinsey & Company, 2025); and logistics costs as a share of GDP declined from 18% in 2012 to 14.1% in 2024 (National Bureau of Statistics of China, 2025). These are not isolated statistics—they collectively indicate that a unified state, through strategic coordination and the inclusive provision of foundational inputs, creates systemic cost advantages for its production system.

In fact, China has consistently maintained the dominance of state capital in strategic sectors such as energy, electricity, telecommunications, and transportation. Rather than pursuing profit maximization, these elite entities implement national pricing policies and fulfill universal service obligations. Whether in high-rise apartments in Shanghai or remote pastoral areas in Tibet, access to electricity is ensured. Under this system, industrial electricity prices in China remain stable at around RMB 0.6 per kWh (approximately Euro 0.082) (CEIC Data, 2026), less than half the EU average (BusinessEurope, 2025).

Technological progress enhances value creation, yet tech elites can use their over-sized power endowments to implement value extraction. China's political elite provides robust checks and balances on business elites and blocks potentially extractive practices. Mobile payment fees provide perhaps the most illustrative example of inclusive value creation and constraints on value extraction. Today, Chinese consumers rou-

tinely complete nearly all transactions via mobile devices—from shopping and utility payments to rent and remittances—primarily through Alipay and WeChat Pay. This convenience has become seamlessly embedded in daily life. There are clear contrasts with the West.

In the US, the average merchant fee for Visa and Mastercard credit cards ranges from 2.05% to 2.35%, while American Express charges even higher fees, from 2.5% to 3.5% (Merchants Payments Coalition, 2025). In China, the merchant transaction fee for Alipay is approximately 0.55% (for offline QR code payments), and WeChat Pay's standard rate is 0.6% (Eckler, 2021). Through aggregators, the fee can be further reduced to 0.2% to 0.38%. The standard merchant fee for China UnionPay POS machines is 0.5% for debit cards (capped at 20 yuan) and 0.6% for credit cards. For discounted merchants, the fee is only 0.38%, and public institutions like hospitals and schools are exempt. The settlement network service fee for China UnionPay is capped at just 0.065%, far lower than the network fees for Visa and Mastercard. When comparing these figures, China's merchant payment fees (0.2% to 0.6%) are only one-sixth to one-tenth of the comprehensive credit card fees in the US (2% to 3.5%).

The essence of value creation in China lies in the combination of a cohesive national system and the economies of scale that are made possible in networks. For instance, such a system ensures that the vast domestic market absorbs high fixed investment costs. At the same time, constraints on value extraction are made possible via state-owned capital's 'non-profit-seeking' nature. This ensures that the prices for many services in basic industries remain at a level that supports the development of the entire production system, providing opportunities for value creation elsewhere in society.

China's unified national elite system grants the central government the strategic authority for cross-regional and cross-industry coordination, enabling infrastructure to be planned and implemented across the country in a coordinated and strategic manner. This avoids the sovereignty fragmentation dilemma typical in Europe and the market segmentation seen in India. For example, a high-voltage power line spanning over 3,000 kilometers from Xinjiang to Anhui would be almost unimaginable in the EU with its 27 sovereign nations and uncoordinated elite systems. The dominant role of state-owned capital in strategic infrastructure sectors like electricity, communications, transportation, computing power, and payment clearing ensures that products and services in these fields are provided at 'inclusive' low prices, benefiting both

industry and society as a whole. State-owned capital operates strategic infrastructure and generates lower returns, keeping service prices close to marginal cost. In EQx terms, China's Political Power (i) is high, as a global ranking of #61 shows, and while the elite theory sees power as potential future value extraction, the country's political elite clearly refrains from using power for extractive purposes.

Controlling extraction is a key incentive for value creation. The inclusive supply and strategic reduction of energy costs, logistics costs, communication costs, and transaction costs across the entire industrial chain have stimulated profound specialization and strong economies of scale in a single market of over 1.4 billion people. This combination of high elite quality operating at scale ultimately result in a cost advantage for China's manufacturing industry that is seemingly impossible to replicate elsewhere.

Looking further ahead, this dual advantage not only manifests itself in the current manufacturing climate but also lays the foundation for China's competitiveness in the new wave of technological revolutions. As shown in [Visual 1.1](#) in the introduction, China's predicted GDP per capita, based on its EQx score, far exceeds its actual GDP level, suggesting that there is significant economic growth ahead for the country on account of the sustainable value creation of its elite business models. The low cost of computers and hardware supports the development of AI, as does cheap electricity, while low-cost digital infrastructure nourishes the growth of China's entire digital economy.

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Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151 Rank change
11 1 year **+8**
3 years **+11** **62.4**

High Quality Elite

NextGen Value Creation
Barometer (NGVCb)

71

Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices

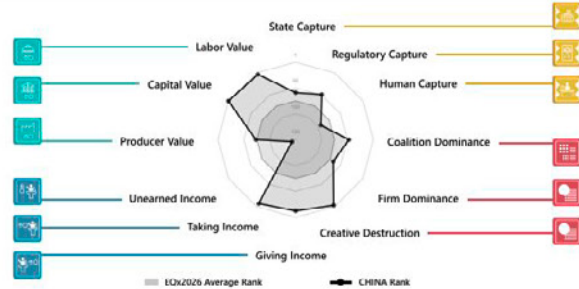
Power	Value
Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score
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EQx Index Areas

Political Power (I)	Economic Power (II)	Political Value (III)	Economic Value (IV)
Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score
61 51.3	6 64.4	8 59.4	5 65.8

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	60	50.5
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Firm Dominance	67	55.7
Creative Destruction	4	71.5
Giving Income	13	66.5
Taking Income	8	69.5
Unearned Income	143	36.5
Producer Value	74	49.4
Capital Value	1	75.1
Labor Value	5	70.0



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LEW Life expectancy women	43	67.2
LEM Life expectancy men	44	65.9
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	33	72.6
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	49	64.9
EDU School life expectancy	61	48.5
PIS PISA mean scores	1	100.0
UNV Top universities	71	26.3
GEE Government education expenditure	79	48.7
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	8	89.5
AIP AI patent grants	1	100.0
OSI Online Service Index	11	80.7
NRI Network Readiness Index	17	84.9
INT Internet access	34	68.0
GHI Global Hunger Index	30	71.8
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	15	79.0

	Rank / 151	Score
GPSS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)		
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	1	80.3
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses		
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	67	59.4
CSG Construction supply gap	13	68.5
SFA Sanitation facilities	55	65.1
FIA Electricity access	1	64.8
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	128	25.5
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	32	66.3
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	1	56.2
HOM Homicide rate	9	80.6
SUI Suicide rate	99	48.6
DIR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	44	66.0
DCT Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	3	77.0
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries		
HDE Fiscal decentralization	5	98.1
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	35	70.8
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	2	85.1
CRM Criminal markets	132	20.4
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	62	32.1
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	58	53.1
GPA Green patents per capita	16	60.7
EPI Environmental Performance Index	128	25.6
RES Renewable energy share	103	33.3
OLU Ocean litter	73	36.1
DER Deforestation rate	135	28.9
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	144	31.7
TLP Terrestrial land protected	81	45.4
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	29	54.6
CDX CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	134	31.3
AIR Air Quality Index	93	32.6
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	38	56.1
WPC Waste collected per capita	26	59.0
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate		
FIS Fish consumption per capita	139	0.0
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	131	18.3
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	1	100.0
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	127	0.0
HEI Health Efficiency Index	10	75.1
DMS Density of medical staff	65	50.4
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	33	72.2
HAI Housing Affordability Index	28	53.2
RTD Rail track density	74	36.6
GAJ Global AI Index	1	100.0
AJM Number of notable AI models	1	100.0
FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	112	35.6
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	112	38.7
BTB Barriers to FDI	81	26.0
OFB Open for business	52	47.0
EGL Economic globalization	107	30.7
TRF Trade freedom	64	57.0
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	130	3.9
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	139	0.0
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	117	55.0
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	145	13.1
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)		
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	68	53.5
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)		
FMI Financial Markets Index	20	85.4
GCF Gross capital formation	1	100.0
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP	16	59.8
CXY Crypto ownership	5	72.2
UNN Unicorns	1	100.0
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	6	68.1
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	29	44.1
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	17	73.1
LPG Labor productivity growth	6	84.5
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases		
LFP Labor force participation rate	57	58.6
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	46	63.0
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	1	100.0
UEM Unemployment rate	67	59.4
YUN Youth unemployment rate	94	49.4
BRN Human flight and brain drain	36	68.6

Georgia

An Overall Downward Trend Amid Political and Institutional Volatility

Georgia has experienced an intensification of both domestic political polarization and international criticism regarding its deviation from democratic standards over the last few years. Approximately 200 representatives of the ruling elite and judiciary were subjected to various international sanctions, including financial and visa restrictions. These measures were introduced amid allegations from international organizations concerning the country's democratic backsliding, which have naturally affected Indicators of elite quality. As a result, this year's EQx sees the country in decline, moving down from last year's global ranking of #64 to #70, while reversing some of the gains of the last years. This trend is partly driven by a weakening of Political Power (i), with this Index Area falling from rank #79 to rank #82. More worrisome is the significant deterioration in the Political Value Index Area (iii), down from rank #44 in 2025 to rank #65 this year.

These dynamics may be explained by the ongoing political instability, as well as growing debates over the legitimacy of the ruling elite, both domestically and among international actors. The adoption of a series of legislative initiatives, which international organizations characterize as restrictive and anti-democratic, was accompanied by a decline in *Press freedom* (PFD, i.1), falling from rank #84 to #92. There were also negative developments in the education sector. Throughout the year, legislative measures were adopted, including elements of educational reform, which, according to observers, pose risks to a free academic environment. As a result, the *Academic Freedom Index* (AFI, i.3) deteriorated from rank #49 to rank #60. In the medium term, there remains a likelihood of further degradation of this Indicator due to planned reforms aimed at centralizing the development of curricula, educational materials, and academic hiring procedures, which may limit the institutional autonomy of the academic environment. Despite the fact that *Government education expenditure* (GEE, iii.7) improved from rank #87 to #80, it is expected that under the planned educational reform programme, the authorities will be able to implement cuts and save a significant amount of financial resources this year.

Against the backdrop of overall political instability, there is also a clear deterioration in corruption-related Indicators. *Political corruption* (COR, i.1) worsened from rank #32 to #36, while *Control of corruption* (COC, i.1) declined from #35 to #41. During the past year, a number of high-ranking political figures were arrested, including a former prime minister who was found to be in possession of significant material assets, including cash, gold, and jewellery. At the same time, the interpretation of these events in the public and political discourse remains contradictory and is often viewed through the prism of political intra-elite contests and the struggle for influence, rather than as a genuine anti-corruption effort.

In the context of institutional changes, it is also worth noting an improvement in the Indicator for *Public employees as a % of total employment* (PUE, ii.4), which rose from rank #107 to rank #82. Formally, this dynamic may indicate a reduction in public sector employment and an increased role for the private sector. However, given the political context, this trend was largely driven by administrative decisions, including the mass layoffs of thousands of public servants deemed disloyal to the ruling elite, as well as the reorganization and abolition of certain state institutions. Evidently, this partly affected the *Unemployment rate* (UEM, iv.12), which worsened from rank #128 to #130. Although the *Youth unemployment rate* was already very high in the previous period, Georgia remains at a similar lowly level (YUN, iv.12, rank #137). Many young people, including those dismissed from public service, are leaving the country in search of employment opportunities abroad.

Probably as a result of the unstable political situation, the economic side of the EQx also offers little cause for optimism. *Economic Value* (iv) declined from rank #54 to #63, reflecting an overall deterioration in the ability of economic elites to create value. *Economic Power* (ii) remained stable, improving slightly from rank #108 to #107, but this dismal level highlights the urgent need to improve business competition and market efficiency.

Overall, the measurements on the EQx2026 scorecard reflect increasing institutional turbulence and a multilevel deterioration of the country's political and economic system.

Dr. Beka Chedia,
Associate Professor of Political Science,
East European University,
Tbilisi, Georgia

Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151 **70**
Rank change
1 year **-6**
3 years **-6**
EQx Score **49.1**

Quality Elite

NextGen Value Creation
Barometer (NGVCb) **62**

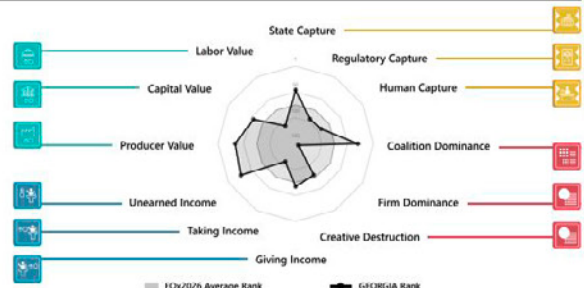
Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices			
Power		Value	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
90	44.9	56	51.2

EQx Index Areas							
Political Power (I)		Economic Power (II)		Political Value (III)		Economic Value (IV)	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
82	46.8	107	44.0	65	51.3	63	51.2

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	47	54.1
Regulatory Capture	96	40.2
Human Capture	94	46.3
Coalition Dominance	31	60.8
Firm Dominance	145	32.8
Creative Destruction	81	42.2
Giving Income	68	52.8
Taking Income	111	45.4
Unearned Income	29	57.2
Producer Value	34	57.6
Capital Value	57	52.4
Labor Value	111	45.0



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture (I.1)		
COR Political corruption	36	75.6
COC Control of corruption	41	63.9
OPG Open government	44	58.8
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	73	46.1
EPR E-Participation Index	73	52.3
PFD Press freedom	92	45.1
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	88	41.5
ADE Administrative decentralization	23	81.1
PGL Political globalization	112	29.6
WPI Women's Power Index	49	60.5
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	92	30.9
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	106	39.1
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	99	48.2
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	17	76.9
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	60	58.3
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	12	67.8
Regulatory Capture (I.2)		
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	47	57.8
CGP Constraints on government power	71	44.0
REQ Regulatory quality	37	68.7
REN Regulatory enforcement	43	55.9
PRI Property rights	48	59.6
CRO Crony capitalism	68	19.0
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	139	0.0
Human Capture (I.3)		
GSI Global Slavery Index	114	39.1
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	139	20.4
HRI Human Rights Index	53	58.0
AFI Academic Freedom Index	60	64.1
GLI Religion - Government Restriction Index	89	49.7
LRI LGBT+ Inclusiveness	48	65.7
WSB Women self made billionaires		
WBL Women, business and the law	50	63.6
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	38	64.5
Coalition Dominance (I.4)		
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	75	52.9
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	67	57.4
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	47	52.2
HCI Domestic market diversification	34	66.3
ECI Economic Complexity Index	54	53.5
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	82	36.7
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	18	70.6
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	64	57.1
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors		
CRA Criminal actors	12	84.5
Firm Dominance (I.5)		
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	71	40.8
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP		
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	149	16.9
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP		
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP		
FRR Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP		
Creative Destruction (I.6)		
ENT Entrepreneurship	63	40.9
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	15	80.5
VCK Venture capital finance	35	38.5
VCA Venture capital availability	97	33.6
API AI private investment	35	47.2
APC AI private investment per capita	35	43.7
RND R&D as a % of GDP	89	40.5
EXR Firm exit ratio	65	34.6
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	43	38.0
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs		
Giving Income (I.7)		
LEW Life expectancy women	68	61.1
LEM Life expectancy men	85	46.3
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	81	53.1
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	3	78.9
EDU School life expectancy	27	71.5
PIS PISA mean scores	62	74.3
UNV Top universities	45	37.8
GEE Government education expenditure	80	48.4
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	83	45.2
AIP AI patent grants	33	47.4
OSI Online Service Index	91	44.8
NRI Network Readiness Index	63	51.3
INT Internet access	74	62.9
GHI Global Hunger Index	12	76.2
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety		

	Rank / 151	Score
Giving Income (I.7)		
GPS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)		
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	1	80.3
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	90	34.8
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	91	42.9
Taking Income (I.8)		
CSG Construction supply gap		
SFA Sanitation facilities	57	61.1
FIA Electricity access	1	64.8
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	114	30.3
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	69	52.9
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	147	41.6
HOM Homicide rate	59	54.3
SUI Suicide rate	54	63.8
DIR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	113	15.9
DCT Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	120	25.8
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries		
HDE Fiscal decentralization	55	32.4
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	8	90.0
GEQ Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)		
Unearned Income (I.9)		
CRM Criminal markets	10	86.2
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	20	65.8
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	54	55.5
GPA Green patents per capita	47	44.1
EPI Environmental Performance Index	63	51.0
RES Renewable energy share	80	40.1
OLI Ocean litter	56	50.4
DER Deforestation rate	26	57.5
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	113	49.1
TLP Terrestrial land protected	108	31.3
Producer Value (I.10)		
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita		
CDQ CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	80	55.6
AIR Air Quality Index	49	59.2
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita		
WPC Waste collected per capita	35	56.1
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate		
FIS Fish consumption per capita	68	59.6
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	83	53.0
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	54	43.9
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	127	0.0
HEI Health Efficiency Index		
DMS Density of medical staff	31	72.8
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability		
HAI Housing Affordability Index	64	20.5
RTD Rail track density	33	68.1
GAI Global AI Index	34	40.3
AIM Number of notable AI models	11	46.6
FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	24	60.4
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	15	72.2
BTB Barriers to FDI	23	70.0
Capital Value (I.11)		
OFB Open for business		
EGL Economic globalization	26	78.0
TRF Trade freedom	7	85.2
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	11	88.2
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	9	76.7
DGI Share of discrimin. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	121	55.0
DGS Share of discrimin. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	50	59.8
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	78	56.4
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	73	53.5
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)		
FMI Financial Markets Index	95	30.6
GCF Gross capital formation	58	53.6
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP		
CRY Crypto ownership		
UNN Unicorns		
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP		
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	20	50.1
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	1	81.1
LPG Labor productivity growth	4	93.1
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases		
LFP Labor force participation rate	61	58.0
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	85	57.5
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	21	41.8
UEM Unemployment rate	130	28.2
YUN Youth unemployment rate	137	16.7
BRN Human flight and brain drain	125	25.7

Japan

Ascending to the Top 3, but Does it Now Face an Inequality and Populism Problem?

Japan has inched up from #4 to #3 in the EQx2026, which is a cause for celebration. The country follows the East Asian pattern, in which elite value creation (Value Sub-Index, rank #2) significantly outpaces constraints on elite power (Power Sub-Index, rank #14), with productive contributions nonetheless outweighing robust institutional checks. Considering the challenges that Japan faces, the elevation in its EQx ranking may be driven less by domestic improvements in elite value creation than by its deterioration in other countries.

Perhaps because of that, despite success in the comparative EQx, voters in Japan are dissatisfied with the status quo. This is reflected in the sudden rise of the right-wing 'Party of Do It Yourself', whose slogan is "Japanese First". In the July 2025 Upper House Election, the party went from having just 1 seat to taking fifteen. The party's ascent has been driven by rampant anti-immigrant sentiment on social media. It seems that Western-style right-wing populism has finally arrived in Japan, a country where foreigners only make up slightly over 3% of the population. So, why the frustration?

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One possible explanation is that the discontent has less to do with migration and more to do with rising inequality within the Japanese population. Japan has long been considered as a relatively egalitarian society. However, the data does not necessarily support this image as *Top 10% share of pre-tax national income* (INE, i.1, rank #61) and a *Gini coefficient* moderately above the OECD average (see, for example, GWC, i.1, rank #56) demonstrate. Part of this statistical tendency is attributable to the high percentage of elderly people in the population (*Life expectancy women*, LEW, ii.7, rank #1), whose incomes tend to vary widely. What is clear is that the government, by providing outstanding services (*Political Value*, iii, rank #4), has contributed to the perception of equality. This has helped maintain stability and peacefulness in Japanese society (*Homicide rate*, HOM, iii.8, rank #5).

However, there is now an ominous sign that the days when the Japanese perceived their society as egalitarian are over, due to an asset price boom. The Nikkei 225 stock index rose from Japanese Yen 8,455 at the end of 2011 to Japanese Yen 50,339 by the end of 2025. One could imagine that, if we included unrealized capital gains in our income measure, we would see a substantial rise in the Gini coefficient. This boom was partially driven by the Bank of Japan's accommodative policy stance; at the end of 2025, the policy rate was just 0.75%. The low interest rate produced both higher demand for risky assets and a currency depreciation; the real effective exchange rate today is lower than in 1970. The latter, in turn, resulted in higher profits for large exporters, pushing up their stock prices further. Meanwhile, higher prices of imported food and energy added to the hardships faced by low-income households.

Sanae Takaichi, Japan's first female prime minister, has a difficult job ahead of her. She must meet the high expectations of her most enthusiastic supporters: frustrated younger voters and right-wing social media users. They desperately want better lives today. At the same time, if the market perceives her as compromising already shaky fiscal discipline (*Government debt as % of GDP*, DBT, iii.9, rank #74), the government may have difficulty financing its deficits. This could result in a loss of funds needed to support these younger generations in their old age. Additionally, she must design her policies carefully to avoid further governmental intervention (see the *Share of discriminatory government interventions as % of total interventions, stock and flow*, DGI & DGS, iv.10, rank #118 and #141, respectively), which could stifle Japan's growth potential. The provision of quality government services underpinning a relatively egalitarian social contract will only be sustainable if elite business models generate adequate value, but Japan's ranking in the Producer Value Pillar (#25) is one of the weakest components of its performance in the EQx2026.

Etsuro Shioji, Professor, Department of Commerce, Chuo University and Specially Appointed Professor, Hitotsubashi Institute for Advanced Study, Hitotsubashi University



Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151 **3**
Rank change
1 year **+1**
3 years **+1**
EQx Score **64.8**

Very High Quality Elite

NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb) **13**

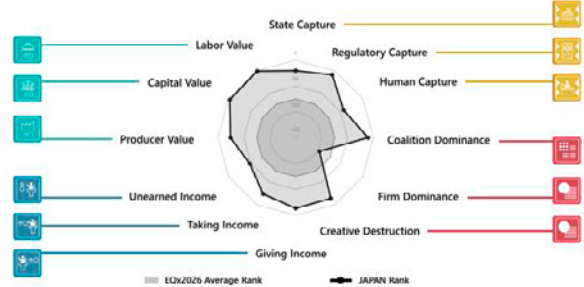
Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices			
Power		Value	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
14	64.0	2	65.1

EQx Index Areas							
Political Power (I)		Economic Power (II)		Political Value (III)		Economic Value (IV)	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
18	70.8	13	60.6	4	60.9	2	67.3

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	21	67.0
Regulatory Capture	10	82.7
Human Capture	44	59.6
Coalition Dominance	11	68.6
Firm Dominance	98	47.8
Creative Destruction	15	62.8
Giving Income	14	65.8
Taking Income	25	60.5
Unearned Income	49	54.6
Producer Value	25	60.2
Capital Value	4	65.7
Labor Value	2	74.3



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	20	85.9
COC Control of corruption	17	88.2
OPG Open government	21	79.5
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	29	68.0
EPR E-Participation Index	2	90.3
PFD Press freedom	52	61.8
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	1	100.0
ADE Administrative decentralization	36	69.4
PGL Political globalization	50	63.3
WPI Women's Power Index	115	32.0
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	20	74.5
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	61	54.5
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	42	63.0
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	56	46.6
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	43	63.5
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	20	63.5
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	16	80.9
CGP Constraints on government power	20	77.6
REQ Regulatory quality	17	86.7
REN Regulatory enforcement	15	91.8
PRI Property rights	7	90.8
CRO Crony capitalism	15	60.6
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	4	94.7
GSI Global Slavery Index	9	79.7
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	1	58.6
HRI Human Rights Index	29	76.3
AFI Academic Freedom Index	54	66.5
GRJ Religion - Government Restriction Index	3	87.9
LNI LGBT+ Inclusiveness	62	56.9
WSB Women self made billionaires	12	32.2
WBL Women, business and the law	91	49.9
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	115	4.7
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	41	65.4
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	43	68.2
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	67	43.4
HCI Domestic market diversification	62	61.5
EHI Economic Complexity Index	1	100.0
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	40	63.3
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	68	59.0
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	57	59.2
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	8	78.5
CRA Criminal actors	33	70.7
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	22	54.9
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	29	51.4
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	107	52.0
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	46	54.4
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	57	46.4
FRF Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	42	32.5
ENT Entrepreneurship	22	76.4
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	5	99.8
VCK Venture capital finance	20	41.9
VCA Venture capital availability	15	84.8
API AI private investment	14	49.8
APC AI private investment per capita	23	47.5
RND R&D as a % of GDP	6	89.2
EXR Firm exit ratio	66	34.2
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	13	83.5
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	42	42.3
LEW Life expectancy women	1	90.1
LEM Life expectancy men	5	88.4
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	23	75.6
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	45	66.4
EDU School life expectancy	44	65.1
PIS PISA mean scores	3	91.3
UNV Top universities	48	34.4
GEE Government education expenditure	97	38.7
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	14	84.1
AIP AI patent grants	4	60.5
OSI Online Service Index	9	82.4
NRI Network Readiness Index	12	88.8
INT Internet access	59	65.5
GHI Global Hunger Index		
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	3	86.8

	Rank / 151	Score
GPSS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	7	76.4
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	43	65.2
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses		
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	136	4.3
CSG Construction supply gap	15	67.4
SFA Sanitation facilities	6	85.6
FIA Electricity access	1	64.8
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	61	51.3
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	10	88.0
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	1	56.2
HOM Homicide rate	5	95.4
SUI Suicide rate	139	12.7
DIR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)		
DCT Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	81	46.7
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries		
HDE Fiscal decentralization	11	80.3
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	12	86.7
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	40	21.2
CRM Criminal markets	13	84.6
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	74	0.0
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	8	94.3
GPA Green patents per capita	1	100.0
EPI Environmental Performance Index	24	80.9
RES Renewable energy share	122	27.8
OLU Ocean litter	55	50.5
DER Deforestation rate	91	55.0
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	125	46.6
TLP Terrestrial land protected	23	77.0
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	46	31.1
CDX CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	131	35.2
AIR Air Quality Index	17	70.1
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita		
WPC Waste collected per capita	40	54.8
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	34	39.0
FIS Fish consumption per capita	139	0.0
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	97	44.4
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	1	100.0
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	93	49.8
HEI Health Efficiency Index	8	78.6
DMS Density of medical staff	14	91.4
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	16	76.6
HAI Housing Affordability Index	18	63.8
RTD Rail track density	56	50.7
GAI Global AI Index	9	86.8
AIM Number of notable AI models	11	46.6
FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	137	29.0
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	119	36.6
BTB Barriers to FDI	39	64.6
OFB Open for business	33	54.9
EGL Economic globalization	48	64.5
TRF Trade freedom	58	62.1
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	102	29.7
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	82	48.9
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	118	55.0
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	141	15.0
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	58	57.6
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	41	53.8
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	4	89.2
FMI Financial Markets Index	1	100.0
GCF Gross capital formation	45	59.0
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP	1	71.0
CRY Crypto ownership	1	84.6
UNN Unicorns	12	44.2
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	36	28.3
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	37	41.7
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	30	58.5
LPG Labor productivity growth	36	61.8
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	3	82.7
LFP Labor force participation rate	66	56.0
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	84	57.6
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	1	100.0
UEM Unemployment rate	23	68.5
YUN Youth unemployment rate	19	74.6
BRN Human flight and brain drain	23	79.7

Netherlands

How Frank Debates Lead to High Elite Quality Scores

In the EQx2026, the Netherlands is ranked #7, after ranking #9 in 2025 and #3 in 2024. The country records consistently high scores in the Pillars of Political Power (i, rank #2), Political Value (iii, rank #9), and Economic Value (iv, rank #11).

As I wrote in a commentary in the first edition of the EQx in 2021, these rankings may surprise some Dutch readers. My compatriots are notorious for not holding back their criticism when elites are failing to address people's concerns. Yet Dutch elites are listening.

Electricity access (ELA, iii.7, rank #1) is a case in point. People in the Netherlands are very concerned that people who move to newly built neighborhoods or establish new companies, do not have immediate access to electricity due to an overloaded electricity grid. This is one of the top concerns for the country in 2026. Understandably so, as such bottlenecks directly affect economic growth and well-being. The #1 ranking for this Indicator suggests that Dutch political elites have not turned a blind eye to these challenges, even if definitive solutions have not yet been found.

120

A second major concern in the Netherlands is housing. Prices for houses have exploded over the past decade, and housing shortages have become a key election issue. Yet, the EQx ranks the Netherlands #1 in the *Housing Affordability Index* (HAI, iv.10), suggesting that Dutch political and social elites heeded the message better than in most countries. Some Dutch readers will be unconvinced and ask "Let's see if they will actually deliver in the future". Of course, this is a reasonable response, but while current solutions may still be falling short from the point of view of many citizens, Dutch elites have evidently received the message.

Thirdly, Dutch economists are concerned about labor market scarcity (Labor Value, iv.12, rank #13) and the ageing society. These challenges are felt across many West and North European societies and are not unique to the Netherlands. However, the EQx data suggest that the Dutch *Labor force participation rate* (LFP, iv.12, rank #34) is not very high, while the *Unemployment rate* (UEM, iv.12, rank #51) and *Youth unemployment rate* (YUN, iv.12, rank #47) are not as low in comparative terms as Dutch readers might have expected. At the same time, the reported data on life expectancy suggest that Dutch women and men are on average reaching relatively high ages (*Life expectancy women and men*, LEW & LEM,

iii.7, rank #24 and #13 respectively). This is excellent news. However, this will continue to ignite the heated societal debate on whether to increase the retirement age (currently at 67 years). Many Dutch voters won't like this message.

The EQx does not cover every aspect relevant to the Dutch economy. For instance, the Netherlands has suffered from a nitrogen crisis caused by the highly concentrated export-oriented Dutch agricultural sector. Despite its small size, the country is one of the largest agricultural exporters in the world, which has led to very high nitrogen emissions. The report includes data on CO₂ emissions per capita (where the Netherlands scores poorly; CDO, iii.9, rank #123) but not specifically on nitrogen. Dutch political and economic elites have so far been unable to reduce nitrogen emissions, a failure that has had serious negative consequences on building new houses or launching infrastructure projects.

The Dutch score in the Economic Power Index Area is slightly lower (ii, rank #16), largely due to excessive Firm Dominance (ii.5, rank #141), which measures the power of single businesses within the economy. In a small country like the Netherlands, large and powerful companies can obtain important economic positions relatively easily. The Netherlands has also been very open to hosting foreign companies such as Airbus, Stellantis, and investment vehicles such as Exor (owned by the Agnelli family). Such companies have often chosen the country as their head office for tax reasons (*Corporate tax rate (dev. fm. optimum)*, iii.8, rank #37). However, in my view, such choices do not automatically jeopardize sustainable value creation for the Netherlands. Inevitably, small and open economies will score less well for Firm Dominance, as is borne out by the results for other similar nations in the EQx2026. It may be worthwhile to examine if the current operationalization or the weight applied to this Pillar suits the report's intentions.

In conclusion, Dutch citizens will continue to vocally express their concerns to the country's political and business elites. Such checks and balances are working well on average in the Netherlands, forcing Dutch elites to respond and remain focused on creating sustainable value.

Winfried Ruigrok, Professor of International Management,
University of St.Gallen, Switzerland

Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151

Rank change

EQx Score

NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb)

7

1 year **+2**
3 years **-1**

63.5

Very High Quality Elite

4

Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices

EQx Index Areas

Power	Rank / 151	Score
	8	66.7

Value	Rank / 151	Score
	7	61.9

Political Power (I)	Rank / 151	Score
	2	81.2

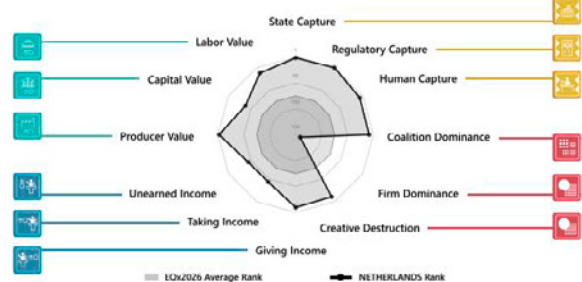
Economic Power (II)	Rank / 151	Score
	16	59.4

Political Value (III)	Rank / 151	Score
	9	59.4

Economic Value (IV)	Rank / 151	Score
	11	63.2

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	2	81.4
Regulatory Capture	1	86.6
Human Capture	8	73.7
Coalition Dominance	9	68.7
Firm Dominance	141	35.7
Creative Destruction	12	65.7
Giving Income	10	67.0
Taking Income	45	55.1
Unearned Income	45	54.9
Producer Value	3	68.9
Capital Value	39	55.8
Labor Value	13	65.5



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture (I.1)		
COR Political corruption	5	89.7
COC Control of corruption	1	100.0
OPG Open government	9	94.9
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	13	81.0
EPR E-Participation Index	11	85.4
PFD Press freedom	3	95.8
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	69	50.1
ADE Administrative decentralization	15	82.0
PGL Political globalization	8	88.7
WPI Women's Power Index	29	75.3
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	10	84.3
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	6	92.5
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	1	100.0
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	123	44.4
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	6	85.3
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	30	54.5
Regulatory Capture (I.2)		
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	4	99.6
CGP Constraints on government power	9	92.9
REQ Regulatory quality	8	97.0
REN Regulatory enforcement	9	97.4
PRI Property rights	6	91.7
CRO Crony capitalism	6	61.6
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	9	89.2
Human Capture (I.3)		
GSI Global Slavery Index	4	83.2
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	15	58.6
HRI Human Rights Index	6	98.4
AFI Academic Freedom Index	53	66.9
GRJ Religion - Government Restriction Index	37	68.8
LNI LGBT+ Inclusiveness	11	87.7
WSB Women self-made billionaires		
WBL Women, business and the law	1	81.0
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	72	45.5
Coalition Dominance (I.4)		
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	20	79.6
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	13	75.7
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	50	51.4
HCI Domestic market diversification	45	64.0
ECI Economic Complexity Index	22	78.6
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment		
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	14	71.8
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	51	62.0
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	4	84.5
CRA Criminal actors	48	62.8
Firm Dominance (I.5)		
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	51	43.4
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	9	66.8
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	102	52.9
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	71	36.2
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	82	0.0
FRR Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	49	17.1
Creative Destruction (I.6)		
ENT Entrepreneurship	1	100.0
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	21	71.3
VCK Venture capital finance	9	47.1
VCA Venture capital availability	10	87.8
API AI private investment	13	50.3
APC AI private investment per capita	9	74.6
RND R&D as a % of GDP	14	81.5
EXR Firm exit ratio	26	67.7
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	35	60.1
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs		
Giving Income (I.7)		
LEW Life expectancy women	24	76.6
LEM Life expectancy men	13	84.4
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	13	78.6
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	18	73.6
EDU School life expectancy	11	85.6
PIS PISA mean scores	24	67.7
UNV Top universities	24	60.6
GEE Government education expenditure	40	66.3
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	4	90.7
AIP AI patent grants	11	47.6
OSI Online Service Index	14	80.3
NRI Network Readiness Index	6	94.0
INT Internet access	12	70.3
GHI Global Hunger Index		
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	7	83.5

	Rank / 151	Score
Giving Income (I.7)		
GPS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	11	66.0
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	71	45.6
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	122	5.2
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	134	5.1
CSG Construction supply gap	7	76.1
SFA Sanitation facilities	12	84.4
FIA Electricity access	1	64.8
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	1	100.0
Taking Income (I.8)		
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	99	41.7
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	1	56.2
HOM Homicide rate	16	74.6
SUI Suicide rate	112	37.8
DIR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	115	14.5
DCR Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	37	71.9
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries		
HDE Fiscal decentralization	51	34.3
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	17	84.2
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	12	68.8
Unearned Income (I.9)		
CRM Criminal markets	76	51.0
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	30	62.3
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	26	71.6
GPA Green patents per capita	13	66.3
EPI Environmental Performance Index	12	92.6
RES Renewable energy share	104	32.6
OLI Ocean litter	54	51.1
DER Deforestation rate	33	57.5
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	130	43.9
TLP Terrestrial land protected	47	60.8
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	45	32.7
CDX CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	123	41.6
AIR Air Quality Index	20	69.6
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	65	52.1
WPC Waste collected per capita	67	50.7
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	5	86.5
FIS Fish consumption per capita	102	41.2
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	132	17.9
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	25	49.3
FBH Financial burden of healthcare		
HEI Health Efficiency Index	23	53.7
DMS Density of medical staff	15	91.0
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	3	80.3
HAI Housing Affordability Index	1	100.0
RTD Rail track density	53	52.7
GAI Global AI Index	21	73.9
AJM Number of notable AI models	11	46.6
Producer Value (I.10)		
FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)		
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)		
BTB Barriers to FDI	8	73.1
OFB Open for business	7	89.2
EGL Economic globalization	2	94.5
TRF Trade freedom	23	69.9
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	92	36.0
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	118	25.3
DGI Share of discrimin. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	103	55.1
DGS Share of discrimin. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	126	27.8
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	50	58.5
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	99	53.1
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	18	37.5
FMI Financial Markets Index	10	96.6
GCF Gross capital formation	107	37.9
Capital Value (I.11)		
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP		
CRY Crypto ownership	33	47.4
UNN Unicorns	12	44.2
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	17	44.1
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	19	50.6
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	28	59.0
LPG Labor productivity growth	82	39.3
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	18	57.7
LFP Labor force participation rate	34	65.0
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	32	64.8
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	11	89.8
UEM Unemployment rate	51	63.8
YUN Youth unemployment rate	47	65.1
BRN Human flight and brain drain	16	87.1

Norway

Sliding into a Resource Curse?

Norway's elite system has many strengths and hence the country continues to rank highly in several dimensions of the EQx2026. For instance, it performs extremely well in terms of Political Power (i, rank #5) and Economic Value (iv, rank #12). Norwegian society remains characterized by high levels of transparency, with very low levels of *Political corruption* (COR, i.1, rank #3), strong *Press freedom* (PFD, i.1, rank #19), and broad access to public goods such as education (EDU, iii.7, rank #9) and healthcare (HEI, iv.10, rank #9).

The main drag on Norway's overall ranking is found in the Economic Power Index Area (ii, rank #45). This weak performance is largely driven by excessive Firm Dominance (ii.5, rank #135) and, to a lesser extent, Coalition Dominance (ii.4, rank #39), combined with a relative lack of Creative Destruction (ii.6, rank #34). While this pattern has been visible in previous years, the 2026 results may suggest some entrenchment.

The core issue now being debated in Norway is whether the economic windfall from international energy crises is symptomatic of the Dutch disease or resource curse (*Natural resources rents as % of GDP*, NRR, iii. 9, rank #111). Will high revenues from energy and seafood exports allow politicians to relieve political pressure through popular spending practices at the expense of innovation, competition, and institutional support for new entrants?

The familiar picture from previous years is that geopolitical conflicts continue to generate substantial resource rents for the Norwegian economy. While this leads to a concentration of power and high profits for the energy and seafood sectors, the solution is not straightforward. Norway is a country with a limited supply of labor, which would make it counterproductive to allocate competences and resources to less profitable activities. Thus, the concentration of economic activity in these segments make sense.

The real question is if the politicians are able to invest the accumulating wealth into infrastructure and decisions that will be beneficial to the country once the boom subsides. So far, the boon from international crises has not been used by Norwegian politicians to advance structural reforms. An increasing numbers of voices are concerned that political responses have taken the form of compensatory spending (*General government expenditure as % of GDP* (dev. fm. optimum), GEX, iii. 7, rank #102). How do we know if resources are being reallocated toward long-term value creation?

The previous year saw Parliament passing regulations that compensate for international economic losses through subsidies (SNT, iii.7, rank #107). From left to right, politicians increasingly frame emerging challenges as "special cases" from which citizens should be insulated by government intervention. Politicians shield voters from market signals in electricity, fuel and food prices (*Global Food Security Index – affordability*, FSA, iv.10, rank #28). The effect from case to case is debatable, but do we see a broader trend where national wealth is diverted from long-term investments to short-term political favoritism?

The traditional political divides no longer show obvious distinctions between those for or against public spending on emergent crises. Economists and policy analysts have for some time interpreted this pattern as symptomatic of a resource boom and ensuing Dutch disease.

Several Indicators point to structural reserves that could enable more diversified and sustainable value creation in the future. Norway leads the *Human flight and brain drain* (BRN, iv.12, rank #1) and remains highly *Open for business* (OFB, iv.10, rank #4). There are strong *Constraints on government power* (CGP, i.2, rank #1), a high number of *Green patents per capita* (GPA, iii.9, rank #9), and a solid ranking in the *Government AI Readiness Index* (GAR, iii.7, rank #10), as well as for the *Number of notable AI models* (AIM, iv.10, rank #11). Norwegian society retains substantial capacity to reorient elite business model incentives toward a broader and more future focused mix of value creation activities if political and economic elites choose to exercise that option.

Jan Ketil Arnulf, Janicke L. Skar and Dag Morten Dalen,
Professors, BI Norwegian Business School

Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151

Rank change

EQx Score

NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb)

16

1 year
3 years
0
-3

61.1

High Quality Elite

6

Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices

EQx Index Areas

Power	Rank / 151	Score
	21	61.2

Value	Rank / 151	Score
	10	61.1

Political Power (I)	Rank / 151	Score
	5	79.8

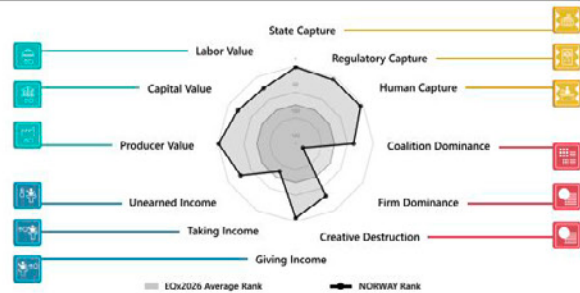
Economic Power (II)	Rank / 151	Score
	45	51.8

Political Value (III)	Rank / 151	Score
	17	57.7

Economic Value (IV)	Rank / 151	Score
	12	62.8

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	3	80.2
Regulatory Capture	7	83.3
Human Capture	6	74.6
Coalition Dominance	39	57.6
Firm Dominance	135	42.4
Creative Destruction	34	53.5
Giving Income	7	67.5
Taking Income	89	48.2
Unearned Income	28	57.4
Producer Value	2	68.9
Capital Value	22	59.9
Labor Value	27	60.7



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	3	90.2
COC Control of corruption	1	100.0
OPG Open government	1	100.0
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	20	74.1
EPR E-Participation Index	21	79.3
PFD Press freedom	1	100.0
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	50	58.7
ADE Administrative decentralization	1	100.0
PGL Political globalization	28	77.0
WPI Women's Power Index	1	100.0
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	61	50.1
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	5	92.7
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	9	69.8
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	114	45.7
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	9	82.6
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	25	57.6
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	18	79.4
CGP Constraints on government power	1	100.0
REQ Regulatory quality	10	95.7
REN Regulatory enforcement	1	100.0
PRI Property rights	3	93.6
CRO Crony capitalism	42	55.7
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	26	77.0
GSI Global Slavery Index	2	83.5
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	5	58.6
HRI Human Rights Index	1	100.0
AFI Academic Freedom Index	31	74.3
RLI Religion - Government Restriction Index	71	56.9
GIN LGBT+ Inclusiveness	1	92.1
WSB Women self made billionaires	19	76.4
WBL Women, business and the law	19	76.4
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	63	52.5
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	83	44.7
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	120	25.2
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	87	30.7
HDI Domestic market diversification	77	58.1
ECI Economic Complexity Index	42	62.3
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	15	71.6
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	114	0.0
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	6	82.8
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	5	92.4
CRA Criminal actors	29	49.0
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	17	62.0
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	120	46.4
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	57	49.8
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	81	6.7
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	40	33.3
FRF Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	20	80.1
ENT Entrepreneurship	80	34.4
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	28	40.1
VCK Venture capital finance	25	72.7
VCA Venture capital availability	22	47.8
API AI private investment	12	61.5
APC AI private investment per capita	23	74.6
RND R&D as a % of GDP	11	75.9
EXR Firm exit ratio	43	38.0
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	11	80.4
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	4	88.6
LEW Life expectancy women	7	81.6
LEM Life expectancy men	1	79.7
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	9	86.5
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	31	65.1
EDU School life expectancy	12	78.4
PIS PISA mean scores	28	70.5
UNV Top universities	10	87.6
GEE Government education expenditure	29	47.4
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	17	79.3
AIP AI patent grants	14	86.6
OSI Online Service Index	7	71.1
NRI Network Readiness Index	21	74.8
INT Internet access		
GHI Global Hunger Index		
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety		

	Rank / 151	Score
GPS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	14	59.7
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	102	30.7
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	107	21.8
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	101	30.4
CSG Construction supply gap	29	54.3
SFA Sanitation facilities	45	71.2
FIA Electricity access	1	64.8
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	1	100.0
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	129	25.8
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	1	56.2
HOM Homicide rate	20	73.7
SUI Suicide rate	118	31.0
DIR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	121	3.7
DCR Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	39	70.6
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries	23	52.6
HDE Fiscal decentralization	21	60.0
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	12	86.7
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	39	23.7
CRM Criminal markets	21	78.2
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	28	62.6
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	111	32.7
GPA Green patents per capita	9	76.6
EPI Environmental Performance Index	6	99.0
RES Renewable energy share	33	75.0
OLI Ocean litter	23	72.3
DER Deforestation rate	100	54.4
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	126	46.4
TLP Terrestrial land protected	21	77.4
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	55	10.9
CDX CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	125	40.0
AIR Air Quality Index	8	73.4
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	67	51.1
WPC Waste collected per capita	86	43.3
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	20	62.3
FIS Fish consumption per capita	139	0.0
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	118	26.0
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	16	52.0
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	9	76.4
HEI Health Efficiency Index	1	100.0
DMS Density of medical staff	28	73.3
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RTD Rail track density	27	69.8
GAI Global AI Index	11	46.6
AJM Number of notable AI models	84	41.0
FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	81	44.3
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	13	72.1
BTB Barriers to FDI	4	95.4
OFB Open for business	23	80.5
EGL Economic globalization	8	82.4
TRF Trade freedom	8	91.2
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	43	70.0
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	121	55.0
DGI Share of discrimin. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	147	12.0
DGS Share of discrimin. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	1	59.3
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	53	53.7
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	16	90.9
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	64	52.4
FMI Financial Markets Index	16	62.9
GCF Gross capital formation	20	43.3
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP	19	42.5
CRY Crypto ownership	10	65.7
UNN Unicorns	41	42.4
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	48	54.0
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	22	49.9
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	46	61.1
LPG Labor productivity growth	18	66.5
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	21	41.8
LFP Labor force participation rate	54	62.1
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	71	57.5
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	1	100.0
UEM Unemployment rate		
YUN Youth unemployment rate		
BRN Human flight and brain drain		

Peru

Caught Between Economic Dynamism and Institutional Fragility

Peru ranks at #50 in the EQx2026, placing the country in the top third of the global index. This position reflects an unstable balance between value creation and value extraction across the political and economic dimensions. While the Value Sub-Index (rank #47) and the Power Sub-Index (rank #51) performances are similar, Peru performs markedly better in the Economic Power Index Area (ii, rank #44) than in the Economic Value Index Area (iv, rank #59), suggesting that the full benefits of business competition do not translate into performance. This is exactly the opposite in the political arena where concentrated Political Power (i, rank #73) leads to Political Value (iii, rank #39). This configuration is consistent with an elite business system that is capable of generating productive activity but maintains wide margins for rent extraction by different business groups. On the other hand, modest state capacity is not employed to leverage rents but rather to deliver value for citizens.

Within the Economic Power (ii) Index Area, the most pronounced structural weakness is found in the Coalition Dominance Pillar (ii.4, rank #122). The high concentration of exports in extractive industries—as is reflected in the share of the *Top 3 industries exports as % of exports* (IEE, ii.4, rank #107)—particularly metallic mining and energy resources such as copper, gold, iron, oil, and gas, tends to stabilize rent-based elite coalitions and hampers productive diversification. Although the Creative Destruction Pillar (ii.6, rank #35) points to latent ambition and the potential for innovation, this is constrained by low investment in *R&D as a % of GDP* (RND, ii.6, rank #101) and relatively limited *Governmental support to entrepreneurship* (GSE, ii.6, rank #70).

In the Economic Value (iv) Index Area, the main bottleneck emerges in the Capital Value Pillar (iv.11, rank #115), pointing to a very inefficient allocation of capital processes. As a result, *Gross capital formation* (GCF, iv.11, rank #109) remains subdued, limiting accumulation and productivity growth. At the same time, a high *Labor force participation rate* (LFP, iv.12, rank #17) coexists with exceptionally high informality, reflected by *Informal output as a % of GDP* (INO, i.2, rank #139). This combination undermines job quality, fiscal capacity, and the consolidation of stable labor trajectories. In this context, persistently high *Human flight and brain drain* (BRN, iv.12, rank #84) represents a sustained loss of human capital.

Political Power (i) constitutes the most fragile dimension of Peru's profile. The State Capture Pillar (i.1, rank #74) and the Regulatory Capture Pillar (i.2, rank #91) indicate political institutions with a limited capacity to impose stable and credible rules. *Political corruption* (COR, i.1, rank #92), *Government's responsiveness to change* (RTC, i.1, rank #109), and imperfect *Regulatory enforcement* (REN, i.2, rank #70) generate short-term incentives that discourage sustained investment and long-term coordination. Institutional weaknesses are also reflected in social and distributive outcomes. In terms of equity, Peru displays high levels of wealth and income concentration, as evidenced by the poor *Gini coefficients on the levels of net wealth* (GWL, i.1, rank #132) and income (GIL, i.1, rank #104).

This poor performance in Political Power also leads to security issues like a high *Homicide rate* (HOM, iii.8, rank #107) and the presence of *Criminal markets* (CRM, iii.9, rank #115) that point to a consolidated criminal elite business model and persistent deficits in the provision of basic public goods. While the EQx offers no data on housing affordability for Peru, access to adequate housing remains a structural constraint for broad segments of the population. On the other hand, the outcomes for education and health are promising: *PISA mean scores* (PIS, iii.7, rank #54) and *Universal health service coverage* (SCI, iii.7, rank #73) suggest the existence of installed capacities that may yet translate into clear value creation. There are also some clearly positive outcomes in the Political Index Areas that explain why Political Value (rank #39) outperforms Political Power (rank #73). These include *Government debt as % of GDP* (DBT, iii.9, #11), the *Gender education gap* (GEG, iii.8, #3) and a variety of environmental Indicators.

Taken together, Peru's scorecard depicts an economy with clear pockets of dynamism, but with an institutional quality that does not keep pace. The central challenge does not lie solely in accelerating growth, but in redirecting elite incentives away from rent-based models—supported by firm concentration, informality, and weak rule enforcement—and nudging these towards value creation. This reorientation is a necessary condition for more robust, inclusive, and sustainable development.

Carlos Argote,
Managing Partner of SMS Peru

Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151 **50**
Rank change
1 year -2
3 years +7
EQx Score **51.8**

Quality Elite

NextGen Value Creation
Barometer (NGVCb) **39**

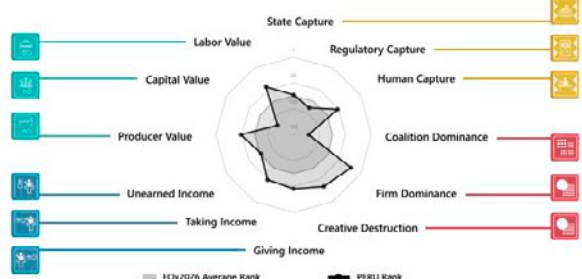
Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices			
Power		Value	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
51	50.8	47	52.2

EQx Index Areas							
Political Power (I)		Economic Power (II)		Political Value (III)		Economic Value (IV)	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
73	48.2	44	52.1	39	53.9	59	51.4

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	74	48.2
Regulatory Capture	91	41.6
Human Capture	53	57.2
Coalition Dominance	122	41.0
Firm Dominance	23	59.3
Creative Destruction	35	53.4
Giving Income	46	55.9
Taking Income	50	54.3
Unearned Income	78	50.8
Producer Value	49	53.8
Capital Value	115	43.7
Labor Value	44	56.6



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	92	36.5
COC Control of corruption	101	36.4
OPG Open government	56	51.2
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	109	25.6
EPR E-Participation Index	41	69.4
PFD Press freedom	108	34.9
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	141	51.0
PDE Political decentralization	11	76.9
ADE Administrative decentralization	26	77.5
PGL Political globalization	42	68.2
WPI Women's Power Index	43	63.3
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	82	38.3
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	139	12.4
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	132	20.2
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3 year growth rate	3	98.7
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	104	37.8
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1 year growth rate	26	57.5
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	97	31.4
CGP Constraints on government power	46	56.3
REQ Regulatory quality	61	53.7
REN Regulatory enforcement	70	39.9
PRI Property rights	80	43.5
CRO Crony capitalism	17	60.3
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	139	0.0
GSI Global Slavery Index	101	43.3
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	104	57.2
HRI Human Rights Index	71	47.4
ARI Academic Freedom Index	38	72.5
GLI Religion - Government Restriction Index	24	73.6
LRI LGBT+ Inclusiveness	42	70.1
WSB Women self made billionaires		
WBL Women, business and the law	24	73.7
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	46	60.0
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	107	28.1
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	87	52.0
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	75	36.1
HCI Domestic market diversification	94	51.8
EHI Economic Complexity Index	91	35.5
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	48	60.6
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	101	48.1
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	62	57.4
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	36	32.9
CRA Criminal actors	122	25.4
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	60	42.0
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP		
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	1	58.3
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	41	55.8
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	24	67.2
FRF Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	14	69.3
ENT Entrepreneurship	61	42.9
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	70	38.1
VCK Venture capital finance	35	38.5
VCA Venture capital availability	64	48.6
API AI private investment	35	47.2
APC AI private investment per capita	35	43.7
RND R&D as a % of GDP	101	32.1
EXR Firm exit ratio	71	26.8
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	1	100.0
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	32	53.9
LEW Life expectancy women	55	64.5
LEM Life expectancy men	42	66.6
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	73	57.6
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	57	63.1
EDU School life expectancy	53	60.0
PIS PISA mean scores	54	33.0
UNV Top universities	67	27.2
GEE Government education expenditure	67	52.2
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	56	63.4
AIP AI patent grants	33	47.4
OSI Online Service Index	37	71.9
NRI Network Readiness Index	78	43.5
INT Internet access	73	63.0
GHI Global Hunger Index	29	72.1
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	47	60.7

	Rank / 151	Score
GPSS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)		
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	60	51.8
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	72	46.7
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	19	75.2
CSG Construction supply gap		
SFA Sanitation facilities	67	56.7
FIA Electricity access	99	60.9
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	78	45.4
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	39	63.7
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	89	56.2
HOM Homicide rate	107	27.1
SUI Suicide rate	9	79.5
DIR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	60	58.3
DCR Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	80	48.2
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries	32	30.3
HDE Fiscal decentralization	61	30.5
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	78	46.3
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	3	84.2
CRM Criminal markets	115	27.5
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	11	70.5
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	117	30.0
GPA Green patents per capita	59	43.1
EPI Environmental Performance Index	70	49.3
RES Renewable energy share	73	43.3
OLU Ocean litter	64	43.6
DER Deforestation rate	124	46.5
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	80	55.1
TLP Terrestrial land protected	50	60.3
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	8	80.3
CDX CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	63	60.1
AIR Air Quality Index	61	55.9
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita		
WPC Waste collected per capita	30	57.5
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate		
FIS Fish consumption per capita	128	25.9
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	39	70.1
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	62	43.3
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	93	49.8
HEI Health Efficiency Index	37	36.8
DMS Density of medical staff	84	39.6
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	47	63.7
HAI Housing Affordability Index		
RTD Rail track density		
GAI Global AI Index	34	40.3
AIM Number of notable AI models	11	46.6
FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	60	49.0
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	61	49.0
BTB Barriers to FDI	16	71.9
OFB Open for business	38	53.4
EGL Economic globalization	56	58.1
TRF Trade freedom	16	74.6
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	118	20.6
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	73	57.4
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	63	55.6
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	53	58.9
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	1	59.3
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	95	53.2
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)		
FMI Financial Markets Index	59	47.6
GCF Gross capital formation	109	37.1
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP		
CRY Crypto ownership	16	62.9
UNN Unicorns		
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP		
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	62	34.4
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	62	3.7
LPG Labor productivity growth	41	60.4
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases		
LFP Labor force participation rate	17	78.2
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	69	60.6
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	21	41.8
UEM Unemployment rate	72	58.2
YUN Youth unemployment rate	50	63.7
BRN Human flight and brain drain	84	39.2

Portugal

Persistent Structural Imbalances Weigh on Elite Quality

In the EQx2026, Portugal's overall elite quality experienced a moderate decline (down 0.6 points from 2025 to a score of 55.4), and the country slipped one place in the overall global ranking (#31 out of 151 countries). This minor fall follows a much sharper deterioration in the previous edition and indicates at least a partial stabilization, albeit without reversing the downward trend.

This year's decline was driven by a significant decrease in the Power Sub-Index (rank #28, down from #18), more than offsetting an improvement in Value (rank #38, up from #50). The deterioration in Power was almost entirely due to Economic Power (ii, rank #40, dropping from #19) and its key Creative Destruction Pillar (ii.6, rank #41, down from #25), which reflects a further weakening in business dynamism and innovation diffusion following the 2025 decline. However, this year's drop is largely explained by more volatile Indicators, particularly in a relatively small economy such as Portugal. For example, *Billionaire's creative destruction* (BCD, ii.6, rank #43, dropping from #1) and *Firm exit ratio* (EXR, ii.6, rank #16, falling from #3) saw notable falls. By contrast, Political Power remained broadly stable (i, rank unchanged at #19), with only a marginal negative contribution and little change across Pillars.

The improvement in the Value Sub-Index can largely be attributed to the Economic Value area (iv, rank #51, improving from #66), although it remains structurally weak. Within this area, the Producer Value Pillar (iv.10, rank #13, up from #48) stands out as a major positive driver, stemming from gains in a few Indicators, notably the *Housing Affordability Index* (HAI, iv.10, rank #7, up from #54). This likely reflects recent fiscal measures (e.g., tax incentives for young buyers, reduced taxation on landlords, and VAT cuts on construction). While affordability pressures persist domestically, the EQx2026 also captures banking stability and price levels that remain relatively low in international terms. However, these gains were partly offset by the continued deterioration in both the Capital Value Pillar (iv.11, rank #102, down from #92) and the Labor Value Pillar (iv.12, rank #89, down from #79), confirming persistent structural weaknesses in investment and labor market performance.

The Political Value Index Area improved slightly (iii; rank #28, up from #32), with gains in the Giving Income (iii.7, rank #20, up from #27) and Taking Income (iii.8, rank #77, up from #82) Pillars—though the *Corporate tax rate* remains prohibitive (DCT, iii.8, rank unchanged at #114)—while the Unearned Income Pillar declined (iii.9, rank #61, down from #56). Overall, Political Value had limited impact on the EQx2026 outcome, reflecting its lower weight.

At the Pillar level, the contrast is clear: gains in Producer Value (iv, rank #13) and (to a lesser extent) parts of Political Value were outweighed by the sharp decline in Creative Destruction (ii, rank #41) and continued weaknesses in Labor and Capital Value.

Portugal's EQx2026 performance highlights a persistent structural imbalance: relatively strong institutions coexist with weak capital (low amounts of capital per worker), deepening labor market inefficiencies and resulting in declining economic dynamism. The fall in Economic Power—especially in the Creative Destruction Pillar—suggests that improvements in innovation inputs have yet to translate into sustained firm renewal.

In conclusion, Portugal's position at #31 in the EQx2026, still places it close to the first quintile, but also marks the first occurrence of two consecutive years of national decline in the index. Without stronger progress in investment, labor market performance, and business dynamism, the country risks remaining in a low-growth equilibrium, where relatively stronger political outcomes contrast with persistently weak economic Power and Value, underscoring the need for continued structural reform.

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Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151 **31** Rank change 1 year -1 3 years -1 EQx Score **55.4**

Quality Elite

NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb) **25**

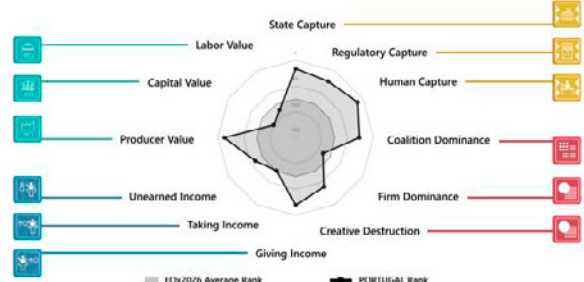
Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices			
Power		Value	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
28	59.3	38	53.5

EQx Index Areas							
Political Power (I)		Economic Power (II)		Political Value (III)		Economic Value (IV)	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
19	70.0	40	53.9	28	55.9	51	52.3

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	17	68.7
Regulatory Capture	25	70.8
Human Capture	13	70.7
Coalition Dominance	28	62.7
Firm Dominance	90	51.3
Creative Destruction	41	51.6
Giving Income	20	63.4
Taking Income	77	50.5
Unearned Income	61	53.2
Producer Value	13	62.9
Capital Value	102	46.1
Labor Value	89	49.6



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture (I.1)		
COR Political corruption	32	77.6
COC Control of corruption	28	74.9
OPG Open government	31	65.2
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	51	56.8
EPR E-Participation Index	63	59.6
PFD Press freedom	8	89.9
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	11	76.9
ADE Administrative decentralization	32	72.1
PGL Political globalization	11	84.1
WPI Women's Power Index	38	67.2
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	53	56.0
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	28	77.6
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	91	51.6
GYC Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	41	48.8
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	60	58.3
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	1	100.0
Regulatory Capture (I.2)		
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	75	41.7
CGP Constraints on government power	18	81.2
REQ Regulatory quality	31	71.1
REN Regulatory enforcement	37	60.3
PRI Property rights	17	86.0
CRO Crony capitalism	11	61.0
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	36	71.1
Human Capture (I.3)		
GSI Global Slavery Index	47	63.4
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	38	58.6
HRI Human Rights Index	12	90.7
AFI Academic Freedom Index	62	63.4
RLI Religion - Government Restriction Index	3	87.9
GIN LGBT+ Inclusiveness	1	92.1
WSB Women self-made billionaires		
WBL Women, business and the law	1	81.0
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	34	67.4
Coalition Dominance (I.4)		
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	8	88.4
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	49	66.4
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	60	47.5
HCI Domestic market diversification	48	63.8
ECI Economic Complexity Index	40	65.5
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment		
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	56	62.8
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	49	62.2
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	37	30.5
CRA Criminal actors	56	58.9
Firm Dominance (I.5)		
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	37	46.8
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	6	68.3
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	80	55.8
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	33	58.9
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	78	16.2
FRR Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP		
Creative Destruction (I.6)		
ENT Entrepreneurship	27	67.2
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	33	58.4
VCK Venture capital finance	29	40.0
VCA Venture capital availability	45	57.7
API AI private investment	27	47.4
APC AI private investment per capita	24	47.1
RND R&D as a % of GDP	21	76.2
EXR Firm exit ratio	16	71.9
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	43	38.0
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	20	66.1
Giving Income (I.7)		
LEW Life expectancy women	9	81.3
LEM Life expectancy men	23	80.6
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	4	83.1
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	26	72.6
EDU School life expectancy	16	79.3
PIS PISA mean scores	26	66.6
UNV Top universities	22	61.8
GEE Government education expenditure	58	56.9
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	28	76.0
AIP AI patent grants	27	47.4
OSI Online Service Index	51	67.0
NRI Network Readiness Index	27	72.8
INT Internet access	52	66.3
GHI Global Hunger Index		
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	4	84.9

	Rank / 151	Score
Giving Income (I.7)		
GPS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	32	7.8
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	62	51.7
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	91	34.1
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	124	18.0
CSG Construction supply gap	20	64.0
SFA Sanitation facilities	21	82.0
FIA Electricity access	1	64.8
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	10	94.7
Taking Income (I.8)		
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	67	53.8
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	1	56.2
HOM Homicide rate	18	73.8
SUI Suicide rate	113	37.0
DIR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	106	74.4
DCR Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	114	41.8
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries	9	68.9
HDE Fiscal decentralization	36	41.4
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	58	59.4
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	31	40.5
Unearned Income (I.9)		
CRM Criminal markets	45	65.1
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	66	27.7
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	23	73.4
GPA Green patents per capita	36	47.0
EPI Environmental Performance Index	23	82.0
RES Renewable energy share	63	48.4
OLI Ocean litter	44	57.6
DER Deforestation rate	85	55.3
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	116	48.4
TLP Terrestrial land protected	44	61.7
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	23	60.5
CDX CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	82	54.2
AIR Air Quality Index	10	73.1
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	50	55.5
WPC Waste collected per capita	73	49.7
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	28	52.7
FIS Fish consumption per capita	139	0.0
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	141	6.8
Producer Value (I.10)		
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	45	45.0
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	113	34.5
HEI Health Efficiency Index	25	50.1
DMS Density of medical staff	21	83.2
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	15	76.8
HAI Housing Affordability Index	7	88.3
RTD Rail track density	44	59.5
GAI Global AI Index	19	75.3
AIM Number of notable AI models	11	46.6
FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	32	57.0
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	31	57.9
BTB Barriers to FDI	3	73.6
OFB Open for business	19	65.5
EGL Economic globalization	19	82.2
TRF Trade freedom	23	69.9
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	86	38.6
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	105	35.7
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	105	55.1
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	121	29.0
Capital Value (I.11)		
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	1	59.3
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	87	53.3
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	24	29.0
FMI Financial Markets Index	28	77.9
GCF Gross capital formation	103	40.2
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP		
CRY Crypto ownership	36	44.3
UNN Unicorns		
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP		
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	62	34.4
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	62	3.7
LPG Labor productivity growth	90	37.9
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	8	67.8
LFP Labor force participation rate	100	43.5
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	31	64.8
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	21	41.8
UEM Unemployment rate	97	51.2
YUN Youth unemployment rate	115	36.1
BRN Human flight and brain drain	33	69.9

Singapore

Strengthened Elite Quality Reinforces the Country's Global Leadership

Singapore has once again demonstrated its position at the forefront of elite quality by retaining the number one ranking in the EQx2026. With an improved score of 66.1 compared to 65.6 the previous year, the city-state continues to showcase how its elites prioritize long-term, sustainable value creation. This strong result comes alongside impressive economic expansion, evidenced by a GDP (PPP) of USD 910 billion and GDP per capita (PPP) of USD 150,689. Political stability remains a key factor, with new Prime Minister Lawrence Wong maintaining seamless continuity in governance.

According to the EQx2026 findings, Singapore delivers balanced results across the four Index Areas. The Political Power area (i, rank #20, an improvement from #25 in 2025) and Economic Power area (ii, rank #14) indicate that the risks of elite value extraction are relatively contained. At the same time, the country achieves outstanding outcomes in Political Value (iii, rank #1) and Economic Value (iv, rank #1, advancing from #2 last year). These results highlight how Singapore's influential elites effectively limit value extraction while delivering significant political and economic value to broader society with intra-elite contests constructively grounded on strong economic, political, and social institutions.

The country's excellence in elite-driven value creation is clearly visible in numerous top-tier Indicator performances. Singapore holds the leading global position in *Regulatory quality* (REQ, i.2), *Regulatory enforcement* (REN, i.2), *Natural resource rents as % of GDP* (NRR, iii.9), *Health system efficiency* (HEI, iv.10), *Inward FDI stock as % of GDP* (FDS, iv.10), *Trade freedom* (TRF, iv.10), and *PISA mean scores* (PIS, iii.7). It also maintains world leadership in *Robot density within manufacturing* (ROD, iv.12).

Additional highlights include high scores in the *Global Food Security Index* (FSA, iv.10, rank #2), *UHC service coverage* (SCI, iii.7, rank #2), and *Network readiness* (NRI, iii.7, rank #2). Singapore further stands out for its ability to curb harmful influences, placing highly in the minimization of *Criminal actors* (CRA, ii.4, rank #4, a modest decline from #3 in 2025). In terms of technological capabilities, it now ranks sixth in the *Global AI Index* (GAI, iv.10).

This year's report particularly underscores Singapore's deepening commitment to artificial intelligence and innovation, achieving the top global rank in *AI private investment per capita* (APC, ii.6). Continued strengths in attracting foreign direct investment, maintaining open trade policies, and supporting venture capital further illustrate economic robustness. On the environmental front, the *Environmental Performance Index* score stayed steady (EPI, iii.9, rank #39), while limited *Press freedom* (PFD, i.1, rank #101) suggests that further progress remains possible in these domains.

These high-performing scores show that Singapore's elite models excel across a wide range of sectors, activities, and outcomes. Elite contributions to political and economic value are outstanding, not only in terms of governance and regulation but also across economic, social, educational, and technological domains. Unlike other high-performing countries in the EQx2026, elite value creation in Singapore is often state-mediated, as the government either owns or partly controls many leading enterprises and actively channels the fruits of the free market into communitarian objectives.

In terms of challenges, global disruptions caused by the current US/Israel and Iran conflict have once again reminded the small city-state of its dependence on global trade and international norms, and accentuated the need to maintain its innovation and competitiveness. Likewise, rapid technological acceleration in artificial intelligence points to upcoming disruptions that the Singapore government is anticipating, with relevant investments and efforts to upskill its workforce already underway.

Overall, Singapore's top ranking in the EQx2026 illustrates the effectiveness of highly capable elite business models that promote healthy competition, free markets, and global integration while delivering meaningful value to society. Through superior governance structures, economic integration, educational excellence, top tier healthcare performance, and technological preparedness, Singapore's overall trajectory affirms its success in facilitating broad-based societal value creation.

Alwyn Lim
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Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151

Rank change

EQx Score

NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb)

1

1 year
3 years

66.1

Very High Quality Elite

23

Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices

EQx Index Areas

Power	Rank / 151	Score
	17	63.5

Value	Rank / 151	Score
	1	67.4

Political Power (I)	Rank / 151	Score
	20	69.8

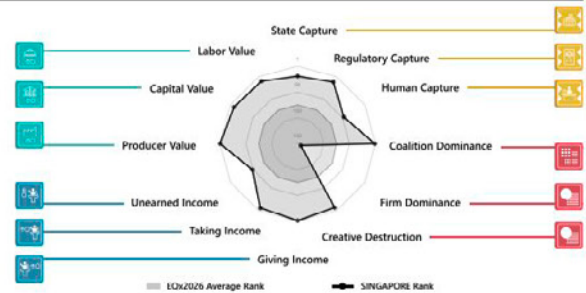
Economic Power (II)	Rank / 151	Score
	14	60.4

Political Value (III)	Rank / 151	Score
	1	66.7

Economic Value (IV)	Rank / 151	Score
	1	67.7

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	20	67.3
Regulatory Capture	13	80.3
Human Capture	48	58.8
Coalition Dominance	2	71.6
Firm Dominance	144	32.9
Creative Destruction	8	67.5
Giving Income	2	70.9
Taking Income	7	71.5
Unearned Income	50	54.6
Producer Value	1	73.8
Capital Value	9	64.3
Labor Value	11	66.1



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score		Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	12	88.7	GPS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)		
COC Control of corruption	1	100.0	GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)		
OPG Open government	32	64.9	SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	24	76.3
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	1	100.0	REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	48	68.7
EPR E-Participation Index	7	87.8	CSG Construction supply gap		
PFD Press freedom	101	38.8	SFA Sanitation facilities	1	86.1
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4	FIA Electricity access	1	64.8
PDE Political decentralization	33	68.3	FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	37	63.6
ADE Administrative decentralization	26	77.5	SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	1	100.0
PGL Political globalization	90	43.7	BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	1	56.2
WPI Women's Power Index	73	44.9	HOM Homicide rate	1	100.0
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)			SUI Suicide rate	86	52.4
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	78	48.9	DTR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	35	68.3
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	86	53.1	DCR Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	115	38.6
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	46	47.5	DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries		
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level			HDE Fiscal decentralization		
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate			GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	1	100.0
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	12	84.1	GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)		
CGP Constraints on government power	27	71.4	CRM Criminal markets	16	81.5
REQ Regulatory quality	1	100.0	DBT Government debt as % of GDP		
REN Regulatory enforcement	1	100.0	NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	1	100.0
PRI Property rights	12	89.8	GPA Green patents per capita	12	66.6
CRO Crony capitalism	62	41.3	EPI Environmental Performance Index	39	63.1
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	7	91.0	RES Renewable energy share	138	20.5
GSI Global Slavery Index	22	73.7	OLI Ocean litter		
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	29	58.6	DER Deforestation rate	22	57.5
HRI Human Rights Index	51	58.9	FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	102	51.6
AFI Academic Freedom Index	96	38.1	TLP Terrestrial land protected	129	23.0
RLI Religion - Government Restriction Index	137	12.8	CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	57	0.0
LGB+ LGBT+ inclusiveness	53	63.5	CDI CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	136	28.8
WSB Women self-made billionaires	7	53.7	AIR Air Quality Index	31	65.4
WBL Women, business and the law	71	55.4	HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	42	56.0
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	23	72.4	WPC Waste collected per capita	93	27.5
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	69	56.6	MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	7	83.2
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	78	55.2	FIS Fish consumption per capita		
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	45	52.9	MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita		
HCI Domestic market diversification	31	66.5	PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	1	100.0
EHI Economic Complexity Index	5	92.5	FBH Financial burden of healthcare	80	56.0
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	4	77.7	HEI Health Efficiency Index	1	100.0
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	83	53.9	DMS Density of medical staff	46	62.6
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	80	48.8	FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	2	80.9
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors			HAI Housing Affordability Index	38	46.4
CRA Criminal actors	4	94.4	RTD Rail track density		
SME SMEs per 1,000 people			GAI Global AI Index	6	88.0
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	26	52.5	AJM Number of notable AI models	5	63.7
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	142	28.7	FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	1	100.0
FNG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	73	32.4	FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	1	100.0
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	76	16.8	BTB Barriers to FDI	47	61.0
FRF Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	44	25.7	OFB Open for business	5	91.8
ENT Entrepreneurship	23	75.2	EGL Economic globalization	1	99.5
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	12	86.1	TRF Trade freedom	1	100.0
VCK Venture capital finance	35	38.5	IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	131	0.9
VCA Venture capital availability	4	99.8	IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	139	0.0
API AI private investment	16	49.6	DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	121	55.0
APC AI private investment per capita	1	100.0	DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	95	37.3
RND R&D as a % of GDP	16	80.7	IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	1	59.3
EXR Firm exit ratio	7	79.2	DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	55	53.7
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	34	61.6	DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)		
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	16	68.3	FMI Financial Markets Index	21	83.9
LEW Life expectancy women	4	85.0	GCF Gross capital formation	83	46.2
LEM Life expectancy men	9	86.8	GOL Gold demand as % of GDP	12	63.3
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	2	84.6	CRY Crypto ownership	42	28.8
PTR Pupil-teacher ratio	37	68.2	UNN Unicorns	9	45.9
EDU School life expectancy	24	73.7	UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	1	100.0
PIS PISA mean scores	1	100.0	BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	1	100.0
UNV Top universities	27	57.5	BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	38	45.4
GEE Government education expenditure	130	21.5	LPG Labor productivity growth	117	16.4
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	7	89.6	WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases		
AIP AI patent grants	14	47.6	LFP Labor force participation rate	24	70.7
OSI Online Service Index	6	86.4	LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	49	63.0
NRI Network Readiness Index	2	99.2	ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	1	100.0
INT Internet access	22	69.1	UEM Unemployment rate	42	65.7
GHI Global Hunger Index			YUN Youth unemployment rate	44	65.9
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	20	75.1	BRN Human flight and brain drain	9	96.9

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Ukraine

From Digital Capability to Institutional Credibility

The EQx2026 places Ukraine towards the bottom of the global rankings (EQx rank #126 of 151; NextGen Value Creation Barometer rank #93). This position reflects an elite system in which power is relatively constrained—through intra-elite contests—yet still outpaces the capacity of elites to create sustainable value. The divergence between the Power Sub-Index (rank #70) and the Value Sub-Index (rank #138) illustrates this imbalance. In EQx terms, such a configuration suggests that the separation of powers is not effectively translating into long-term value creation.

However, this overall result masks important variations across the four Index Areas if one differentiates between the economic and political dimensions. Ukraine performs comparatively better in Economic Power (ii, rank #59) than in Political Power (i, rank #89), meaning that business competition is more robust than in the political sphere. On the value side, outcomes in Political Value (iii, rank #123) and Economic Value (iv, rank #134) are similarly weak. Yet, the incongruence between Economic Power (#59) and Economic Value (#134) is stunning, attributable in large part to factors currently beyond the control of the national elite system but that will eventually need to be addressed at the political level.

At the Political Power Pillar level, Ukraine displays a mixed profile with the State Capture Pillar (i.1, rank #30) recording a comparatively stronger result, suggesting relatively greater constraints on narrow elite dominance than in many peer countries. By contrast, the Regulatory Capture Pillar (i.2, rank #105) and the Human Capture Pillar (i.3, rank #129) perform considerably less well. These results point to shortcomings in regulatory integrity, equal access to opportunity, and the preservation of non-elite agency.

A further defining feature of Ukraine's scorecard is its encouraging performance in digital governance. The country ranks first worldwide in the *E-participation Index* (EPR, i.1, rank #1) and also exhibits a strong result in online public service delivery (*Online Service Index*, OSI, iii.7, rank #5). High levels of *Administrative decentralization* (ADE, i.1, rank #13) further support implementation capacity at the sub-national level. Together, these Indicators point to substantial procedural and technological capacity for innovation at the institutional level, as well as transparency, coordination, and citizen-state interaction.

Nevertheless, this digital capability has not yet translated into broadly recognized elite business models. Performance remains constrained by investor confidence and long-term incentives, as seen in Indicators such as *Control of corruption* (COC, i.1, rank #99), *Regulatory enforcement* (REN, i.2, rank #97), and especially the protection of *Property rights* (PRI, i.2, rank #129). Most critically, very pronounced levels of *Human flight and brain drain* (BRN, iv.12, rank #147) limit the supply of current and future labor and skills and weigh on the long-term value creation potential of the nation.

Taken together, Ukraine's EQx results describe an elite system with extant procedural capacity but weak value outcomes. From an EQx perspective, progress depends on the extent to which existing institutional and digital strengths translate into predictable, rules-based arrangements that protect private property and incentivize elite business models based not on extraction but on sustainable value creation. The consolidation of such a model will be central to Ukraine's long-term development trajectory.

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and Yuliia V. Holovko,
Director, Reward, People Advisory Services, EY Ukraine



Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151
126
Rank change
1 year **-12**
3 years **-53**
EQx Score
43.6

Lagging Elite

NextGen Value Creation
Barometer (NGVCb)
93

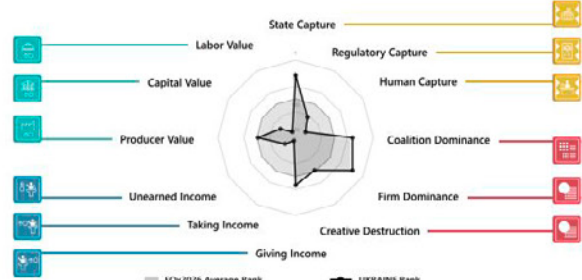
Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices			
Power		Value	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
70	47.8	138	41.4

EQx Index Areas							
Political Power (I)		Economic Power (II)		Political Value (III)		Economic Value (IV)	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
89	45.0	59	49.2	123	44.7	134	39.8

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	30	60.6
Regulatory Capture	105	36.4
Human Capture	129	35.9
Coalition Dominance	41	56.4
Firm Dominance	24	59.2
Creative Destruction	78	42.4
Giving Income	59	53.6
Taking Income	144	37.1
Unearned Income	127	43.0
Producer Value	78	49.1
Capital Value	117	43.5
Labor Value	138	29.2



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture (I.1)		
COR Political corruption	83	40.8
COC Control of corruption	99	37.6
OPG Open government	47	56.4
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	88	38.7
EPR E-Participation Index	1	91.5
PFD Press freedom	49	62.9
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	144	49.9
PDE Political decentralization	49	65.1
ADE Administrative decentralization	13	85.6
PGL Political globalization	31	75.3
WPI Women's Power Index	70	46.3
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	11	84.3
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	12	87.1
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	20	67.2
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	139	37.1
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	5	85.6
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	7	78.7
Regulatory Capture (I.2)		
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	86	38.2
CGP Constraints on government power	86	39.9
REQ Regulatory quality	86	43.6
REN Regulatory enforcement	97	32.9
PRI Property rights	129	21.8
CRO Crony capitalism	38	56.3
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	124	22.1
GSI Global Slavery Index	142	8.6
Human Capture (I.3)		
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population		
HRI Human Rights Index	112	31.0
ARI Academic Freedom Index	114	25.8
GLI Religion - Government Restriction Index	107	36.6
LRI LGBT+ Inclusiveness	42	70.1
WSB Women self made billionaires		
WBL Women, business and the law	61	59.0
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	13	80.8
Coalition Dominance (I.4)		
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	53	61.1
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	6	78.5
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	14	79.2
HDI Domestic market diversification	6	70.8
ECI Economic Complexity Index	44	61.4
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment		
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)		
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	108	20.7
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors		
CRA Criminal actors	113	33.3
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	89	39.0
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP		
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	111	51.4
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	1	66.5
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	11	72.2
FRR Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP		
Firm Dominance (I.5)		
ENT Entrepreneurship	68	39.6
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	56	44.6
VCK Venture capital finance	35	38.5
VCA Venture capital availability	71	45.6
API AI private investment	35	47.2
APC AI private investment per capita	35	43.7
RND R&D as a % of GDP	76	45.3
EXR Firm exit ratio		
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	43	38.0
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs		
Creative Destruction (I.6)		
LEW Life expectancy women	51	64.8
LEM Life expectancy men	100	37.1
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	52	65.1
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	28	71.4
EDU School life expectancy	79	49.5
PIS PISA mean scores	36	59.9
UNV Top universities	64	28.2
GEE Government education expenditure	42	65.8
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	38	69.1
AIP AI patent grants	33	47.4
OSI Online Service Index	5	86.7
NRI Network Readiness Index	39	61.8
INT Internet access	72	63.2
GHI Global Hunger Index	45	63.3
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	66	45.5

	Rank / 151	Score
Giving Income (II.7)		
GPS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	120	0.0
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	35	69.4
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	130	12.8
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	16	66.2
CSG Construction supply gap	26	81.0
SFA Sanitation facilities	1	64.8
FIA Electricity access	132	22.2
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	138	13.9
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	1	56.2
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	82	42.6
HOM Homicide rate	144	0.0
SUI Suicide rate	72	50.8
DTR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	82	45.0
DCR Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)		
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries	20	61.4
HDE Fiscal decentralization	61	58.7
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index		
GEQ Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)		
Taking Income (II.8)		
CRM Criminal markets	121	25.8
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	63	31.1
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	102	36.1
GPA Green patents per capita	66	42.9
EPI Environmental Performance Index	35	66.5
RES Renewable energy share	114	30.0
OLI Ocean litter	67	41.0
DER Deforestation rate	86	55.3
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	46	59.0
TLP Terrestrial land protected	95	39.5
Unearned Income (II.9)		
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita		
CDQ CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	94	52.7
AIR Air Quality Index	23	69.1
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	25	56.8
WPC Waste collected per capita	32	56.9
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	56	14.9
FIS Fish consumption per capita	91	49.0
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	80	54.3
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	48	44.7
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	60	59.8
HEI Health Efficiency Index		
DMS Density of medical staff	45	63.6
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	65	46.9
HAI Housing Affordability Index		
RTD Rail track density	23	73.2
GAI Global AI Index	34	40.3
AJM Number of notable AI models	11	46.6
FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	92	39.9
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	89	42.9
BTB Barriers to FDI	46	61.3
OFB Open for business	83	19.1
EGL Economic globalization	60	55.8
TRF Trade freedom	68	55.2
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	82	41.0
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	95	40.3
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	121	55.0
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	60	55.0
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	120	38.3
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	126	50.7
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)		
FMI Financial Markets Index	91	30.8
GCF Gross capital formation	114	34.6
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP		
CRY Crypto ownership		
UNN Unicorns		
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP		
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	47	38.3
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	1	81.1
LPG Labor productivity growth	118	11.0
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases		
LFP Labor force participation rate	115	35.2
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	86	57.0
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	21	41.8
UEM Unemployment rate	122	35.6
YUN Youth unemployment rate	109	40.7
BRN Human flight and brain drain	147	6.0

United States

A Leader Challenged by Its Own Success

The US remains one of the world's strongest elite systems and has risen to rank #2 in the EQx2026, but its long-term performance will depend on whether exceptional private dynamism can be matched by more inclusive political and social value creation. The country's elites remain one of the world's unmatched machines for turning capital, technology, and entrepreneurship into Value (rank #16). The fact that the country has remained on the podium across a change in administration makes that position even more striking. The immediate temptation will be—depending on where one stands politically—to attribute this either as the legacy of President Biden or as the early achievements of President Trump. But the more serious analytical conclusion is different: America's elite strength appears resilient across administrations. The real question is not how the US reached the top tier, but what could eventually cause it to slip from it.

On the Power side, the message of the scorecard is emphatic. The United States ranks #1 for Power, Economic Power (ii) and in Creative Destruction (ii.6). It leads the world in *Entrepreneurship* (ENT, ii.6, rank #1), *Venture capital finance* and *Venture capital availability* (VCK and VCA, ii.6, both rank #1), *AI private investment* (API, ii.6, rank #1), *Number of notable AI models* (AIM, iv.10, rank #1) and in the *Financial Markets Index* (FMI, iv.11, rank #1). Stanford's 2026 AI Index reports that US private AI investment reached USD 285.9 billion in 2025, by far the highest level in the world (Sajadieh et al., 2026). These are not marginal Indicators. They describe elite business models competing against each other and setting the pace in frontier innovation, scaling firms faster than anywhere else, and remaining the global benchmark for elite-driven economic dynamism.

The scorecard also points to an important institutional asymmetry within the American elite system. Political Value (iii, #72) vastly underperforms Economic Value (iv, #8), suggesting that US elites are more effective at generating value through the economic sphere than through the political one. This does not imply a captured political sphere, as is shown by Political Power (i, rank #17), which remains competitive and witnesses Paretian elite circulation. Of course, relative to the extraordinary dynamism of US markets, firms, and investors, American political elites are clearly less effective than their business counterparts as value generators and inefficiencies, some of which are associated with rent seeking, are a reality. The American elite system is certainly stronger at fostering private value creation than at leveraging state capacity to produce value for non-elites.

This institutional asymmetry also has distributive implications. The weak results for wealth inequality (GWL, i.1, rank #142), income inequality (GIL, i.1, rank #108), Unearned Income

(iii.9, rank #146), *Death rate from substance use disorders* (SUB, iii.8, rank #149), *Homicide rate* (HOM, iii.8, rank #97), *Suicide rate* (SUI, iii.9, rank #132) and several sustainability-related Indicators (RES, iii.9, rank #116 and DER, iii.9, rank #138) suggest that many of the dominant business models of US elites are not sufficiently inclusive in the way that they create and appropriate value. This matters especially on the public side: if political elites are less effective than private elites in creating value, they are also less able to constrain business power and ensure that stakeholders appropriate part of the value they co-create. The issue, then, is not simply that the US produces unequal outcomes; it is that its elite configuration remains stronger at generating value than enabling value appropriation for all of those that contribute to the value chain.

The ensuing risks are not only distributive, but also structural. America's exceptional ranking in the Creative Destruction Pillar (ii.6, rank #1) is paired with a much weaker result in the Firm Dominance Pillar (ii.5, rank #87), and a telling signal for *Crony capitalism* (CRO, i.2, rank #50). That combination points to a familiar tension in the US model: it is brilliant at supporting new business leaders, but less reassuring once those leaders consolidate power and have the capacity to extract value. The same elite system that rewards innovation can also amplify lobbying, regulatory influence, and selective advantage, allowing private winners to shape the policy environment in their favor. OECD reporting in 2025 reinforces that concern, noting a sharp increase in the effective tariff rate following changes to US trade policy, even as the macroeconomy remained resilient, with real GDP growth of 2.1% in 2025 and inflation standing at 2.7% by the end of that year.

In sum, the US remains what its EQx ranking suggests: a global champion in terms of sustainable value creation. But champions are not only judged by how high they rise. They are also judged on whether they can stay there. For the US, the challenge is no longer proving that its elites can create massive amounts of value, but in proving that their elite business models can, in tandem with political elites, refrain from extractive transfers and leverage their power for long-term sustainability to retain America's place on the EQx podium.

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Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151

Rank change

EQx Score

NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb)

2

1 year **0**
3 years **+19**

65.0

Very High Quality Elite

75

Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices

EQx Index Areas

Power	Rank / 151	Score
	1	75.1

Value	Rank / 151	Score
	16	60.0

Political Power (I)	Rank / 151	Score
	17	72.2

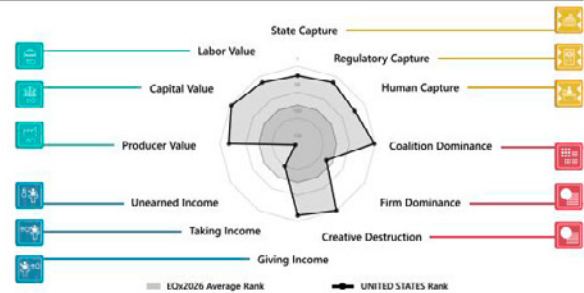
Economic Power (II)	Rank / 151	Score
	1	76.5

Political Value (III)	Rank / 151	Score
	72	50.9

Economic Value (IV)	Rank / 151	Score
	8	64.5

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	19	68.1
Regulatory Capture	14	79.6
Human Capture	24	67.6
Coalition Dominance	3	70.6
Firm Dominance	87	51.6
Creative Destruction	1	89.0
Giving Income	12	66.6
Taking Income	101	47.1
Unearned Income	146	35.0
Producer Value	18	61.5
Capital Value	3	66.5
Labor Value	14	65.0



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score		Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	16	86.9	GPS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	20	55.2
COC Control of corruption	22	81.5	GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	36	69.5
OPG Open government	19	81.3	SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	105	22.3
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	10	91.8	REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	102	29.9
EPR E-Participation Index	10	86.6	CSG Construction supply gap	18	64.8
PFD Press freedom	44	65.0	SFA Sanitation facilities	14	84.1
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4	FIA Electricity access	1	64.8
PDE Political decentralization	1	100.0	FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	75	46.9
ADE Administrative decentralization	10	96.5	SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	149	0.0
PGL Political globalization	14	83.7	BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	106	56.1
WPI Women's Power Index	53	57.8	HOM Homicide rate	97	34.7
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	76	40.1	SUI Suicide rate	132	20.8
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	92	44.7	DTR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	5	80.7
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	142	12.5	DCI Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	35	73.4
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	15	84.1	DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries		
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	108	32.2	HDE fiscal decentralization	6	95.0
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	43	41.6	GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	2	99.8
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	5	96.0	GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	25	51.0
CGP Constraints on government power	34	64.6	CRM Criminal markets	108	32.2
REQ Regulatory quality	15	87.3	DBT Government debt as % of GDP	72	10.4
REN Regulatory enforcement	25	76.5	NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	52	56.4
PRI Property rights	7	90.8	GPA Green patents per capita	8	78.0
CRO Crony capitalism	50	51.3	EPI Environmental Performance Index	32	72.0
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	2	98.5	RES Renewable energy share	116	29.7
GSI Global Slavery Index	38	66.6	OLI Ocean litter	53	51.2
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	9	58.6	DER Deforestation rate	138	0.0
HRI Human Rights Index	48	61.8	FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	97	52.4
AFI Academic Freedom Index	71	60.4	TLP Terrestrial land protected	94	39.6
GRJ Religion - Government Restriction Index	55	62.9	CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	57	0.0
LRI LGBT+ inclusiveness	28	78.9	CDI CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	143	7.1
WSB Women self-made billionaires	1	91.4	AIR Air Quality Index	12	72.6
WBL Women, business and the law	37	68.2	HAZ Hazardous waste per capita		
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	12	81.3	WPC Waste collected per capita	90	40.9
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	10	87.2	MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	30	44.2
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	23	73.2	FIS Fish consumption per capita	111	35.5
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	6	93.4	MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	145	3.2
HCI Domestic market diversification	18	69.0	PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	1	100.0
ECI Economic Complexity Index	10	89.1	FBH Financial burden of healthcare	45	62.8
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	66	48.2	HEI Health Efficiency Index	52	6.4
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	49	63.9	DMS Density of medical staff	7	98.1
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	6	71.8	FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	29	73.1
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	27	46.1	HAI Housing Affordability Index	22	57.6
CRA Criminal actors	74	51.0	RTD Rail track density	26	71.6
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	43	45.0	GAI Global AI Index	1	100.0
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	19	60.9	AJM Number of notable AI models	1	100.0
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	141	30.5	FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	45	51.9
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	72	35.7	FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	107	39.8
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	29	65.4	BTB Barriers to FDI	40	64.0
FRF Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	24	60.4	OFB Open for business	51	47.2
ENT Entrepreneurship	1	100.0	EGL Economic globalization	53	61.8
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	46	48.1	TRF Trade freedom	59	60.7
VCK Venture capital finance	1	100.0	IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	119	19.7
VCA Venture capital availability	1	100.0	IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	139	0.0
API AI private investment	1	100.0	DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	119	55.0
APC AI private investment per capita	1	100.0	DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	148	11.8
RND R&D as a % of GDP	3	90.2	IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	44	58.9
EXR Firm exit ratio			DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	1	53.9
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	33	62.5	DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	19	37.0
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	1	86.6	FMI Financial Markets Index	1	100.0
LEW Life expectancy women	37	70.3	GCF Gross capital formation	87	45.0
LEM Life expectancy men	36	71.6	GOL Gold demand as % of GDP	6	67.8
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	9	80.1	CRY Crypto ownership	9	66.0
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	35	69.1	UNN Unicorns	1	100.0
EDU School life expectancy	35	67.8	UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	4	88.6
PIS PISA mean scores	16	71.8	BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	6	81.8
UNV Top universities	40	44.0	BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	29	58.7
GEE Government education expenditure	30	70.0	LPG Labor productivity growth	100	33.8
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	1	100.0	WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	10	65.6
AIP AI patent grants	2	91.1	LFP Labor force participation rate	77	51.9
OSI Online Service Index	16	79.5	LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	56	62.6
NRI Network Readiness Index	1	100.0	ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	10	95.4
INT Internet access	30	68.5	UEM Unemployment rate	57	61.5
GHI Global Hunger Index			YUN Youth unemployment rate	54	62.4
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	10	81.9	BRN Human flight and brain drain	11	92.0

The Artificial Intelligence EQx-Indicator Family

How Artificial Intelligence Is Stratifying Value Creation

Artificial intelligence (AI) is often described as a general-purpose technology that enhances productivity and accelerates value creation across economies. However, the EQx2026 results suggest a more complex reality. AI is not simply amplifying value creation—it is reshaping its underlying structure. Countries are diverging into distinct tiers, where differences in capability, infrastructure, and systemic integration give rise to fundamentally different patterns and amounts of value creation. In this emerging landscape, AI is no longer a uniform force of value creation, but a stratifying one.

The Artificial Intelligence EQx-Indicator Family is constructed from multiple datasets capturing the Pillars of Creative Destruction, Giving Income, Producer Value, and Labor Value. These include the *Government AI Readiness Index* (GAR iii.7), the *Global AI Index* (GAI iv.10), the *Number of notable AI models* (AIM iv.10), *Robot density in manufacturing industry* (ROD, iv.12), *AI private investment* (API, ii.6) and its *per-capita variant* (APC, ii.6), and *AI patent grants* (AIP, iii.7). Together, these Indicators provide a comprehensive measure of a country's ability to generate and sustain AI-driven value.

Compared with the EQx2025 results, the relative positions of top-ranking countries—from the United States through Switzerland—remain broadly consistent, with only marginal shifts in rank order and limited variation in scores. This persistence suggests that AI performance is increasingly path-dependent, shaped by accumulated advantages in infrastructure, capital, and institutional capacity rather than short-term fluctuations.

At the top of the ranking with a score of 98.1, the United States continues to occupy a near-ceiling position, maintaining a substantial lead over all other countries. Although several advanced economies—including #3 Singapore at 80, #4 Sweden at 77.6, and #5 Korea at 76.7—remain firmly within the upper tier, the gap between the leader and the rest is neither closing nor meaningfully narrowing. Instead, the EQx score distribution reveals a steep gradient: a dominant leader, a small cluster of high-performing followers, and a broader group of countries with significantly lower scores. Importantly, differences within the second tier, from #6 Germany at 73.5 to #13 Denmark at 70.2 are relatively compressed, indicating that competition among these countries is incremental rather than transformative.

The United States' leading position in the EQx2026 AI ranking is not simply the result of superior model performance. Rather, it reflects a broader capacity to organize the full stack of AI value creation: capital, computing, frontier models, product deployment, and increasingly, policy coordination. From this perspective, the United States should be understood not merely as the strongest AI innovator, but as the principal system orchestrator in the global AI economy. In January 2025, OpenAI, SoftBank, and Oracle announced the Stargate joint venture, with plans to invest up to USD 500 billion in AI infrastructure in the United States (Holland & Jones, 2025). In March 2026, OpenAI introduced *GPT-5.4 Thinking*, presenting it as a frontier model that combines advances in reasoning, coding, tool use, and professional workflows (Kapuściński, 2026). The same month, the White House (2026) was pushing for what could become the first major federal AI law in the United States, indicating that AI competition had now become a matter of national legislative strategy as well as technological development. For now, the United States remains uniquely positioned to convert AI capability into systemic and scalable value creation.

While the EQx2026 results confirm the United States as the system-level leader in AI, #2 China at 86.4 occupies a distinct position as the only other economy capable of shaping an alternative pathway of value creation. In contrast to the United States, China's AI development is increasingly characterized by efficiency-driven scaling, where value is generated through cost optimization, rapid deployment, and tight integration with domestic markets. In 2025, the release of *DeepSeek-R1* drew global attention by demonstrating competitive performance at significantly lower training and deployment costs (Reuters, 2025a). ByteDance's AI assistant app *Doubao* surpassed 100 million daily active users, marking the first time a native AI assistant reached such a scale in China (Pan and Goh, 2026). ByteDance's release of the *Seedance 2.0* model reflects ongoing advances in video generation and creative AI, indicating a strategic focus on content production, media transformation, and consumer-facing applications (ByteDance Seed, 2026).

Countries covered: 151

Indicators included:

		Weight within Family	Weight within EQx
API	AI private investment	15,6%	2,3%
APC	AI private investment per capita	9,4%	1,4%
GAR	Government AI Readiness Index	10,1%	0,6%
AIP	AI patent grants	6,1%	0,3%
GAI	Global AI Index	18,5%	1,5%
AIM	Number of notable AI models	7,4%	0,6%
ROD	Robot density in manufacturing industry	33,0%	2,1%

Rationale

Artificial Intelligence (AI) will transform and supercharge Value Creation as well as patterns of investment, R&D, and business models. Cutting-edge AI technologies and AI firms are thus critical determinants in international competition. AI start-ups have the potential to disrupt existing elite business models and therefore create societal value via processes of creative destruction. Governments can generate political (and economic) value for national long-term development by providing the necessary infrastructure and regulatory environment for AI companies to thrive in.

 Artificial Intelligence Indicator Family, total weight **8,8%**

Rank /151	Country	Score	Rank /151	Country	Score	Rank /151	Country	Score
1	United States	98,1	51	Chile	47,2	101	Bolivia	42,9
2	China	86,4	52	Egypt, Arab Rep.	47,2	102	Uganda	42,9
3	Singapore	80,0	53	Qatar	47,1	103	Bosnia and Herzegovina	42,9
4	Sweden	77,6	54	Uruguay	47,1	104	Cameroon	42,7
5	Korea, Rep.	76,7	55	Argentina	47,0	105	Cambodia	42,6
6	Germany	73,5	56	Oman	46,7	106	Lebanon	42,6
7	Canada	73,0	57	Romania	46,7	107	Kyrgyz Republic	42,4
8	Japan	72,7	58	Bulgaria	46,7	108	Belarus	42,3
9	Austria	72,7	59	Peru	46,7	109	Trinidad and Tobago	42,3
10	Switzerland	71,6	60	Kazakhstan	46,7	110	Togo	41,9
11	Netherlands	71,6	61	Uzbekistan	46,6	111	Lao PDR	41,8
12	France	70,8	62	Colombia	46,6	112	Zimbabwe	41,8
13	Denmark	70,2	63	Jordan	46,6	113	Tajikistan	41,7
14	Spain	65,2	64	Ecuador	46,1	114	Burkina Faso	41,7
15	Italy	65,0	65	Mauritius	46,0	115	Guatemala	41,7
16	United Kingdom	64,5	66	Kenya	46,0	116	Iraq	41,7
17	Belgium	64,1	67	Azerbaijan	45,9	117	Lesotho	41,6
18	United Arab Emirates	63,7	68	Moldova	45,6	118	Cuba	41,5
19	Israel	63,3	69	Nigeria	45,6	119	Papua New Guinea	41,5
20	Finland	62,6	70	Croatia	45,5	120	Gabon	41,5
21	Slovenia	61,7	71	Rwanda	45,2	121	Libya	41,5
22	India	57,7	72	Bangladesh	45,2	122	Mauritania	41,4
23	Czech Republic	57,5	73	Iran, Islamic Rep.	45,2	123	Eswatini	41,4
24	Norway	56,5	74	Ghana	45,0	124	Angola	41,3
25	Ireland	56,1	75	Costa Rica	44,8	125	Congo, Dem. Rep.	41,0
26	Saudi Arabia	56,0	76	Sri Lanka	44,7	126	Venezuela, RB	41,0
27	Brazil	54,9	77	Pakistan	44,7	127	Malawi	40,8
28	Slovak Republic	54,3	78	Dominican Republic	44,4	128	Gambia, The	40,7
29	Portugal	53,8	79	Kuwait	44,4	129	Mali	40,7
30	Estonia	53,4	80	Zambia	44,4	130	Honduras	40,6
31	Poland	53,2	81	Albania	44,3	131	Turkmenistan	40,5
32	Russian Federation	51,6	82	Georgia	44,2	132	Nicaragua	40,4
33	Australia	51,5	83	Morocco	44,2	133	Mozambique	40,4
34	New Zealand	50,9	84	Tunisia	44,1	134	Syrian Arab Republic	40,3
35	Turkey	50,8	85	Benin	44,0	135	Madagascar	40,2
36	South Africa	49,0	86	Algeria	44,0	136	Myanmar	40,1
37	Mexico	48,6	87	Ethiopia	44,0	137	Sierra Leone	40,0
38	Lithuania	48,3	88	Tanzania	43,9	138	Congo, Rep.	39,8
39	Malaysia	47,9	89	Senegal	43,8	139	Timor-Leste	39,7
40	Hungary	47,9	90	Mongolia	43,8	140	Chad	39,7
41	Thailand	47,9	91	Côte d'Ivoire	43,8	141	Guinea	39,6
42	Serbia	47,5	92	Jamaica	43,7	142	Niger	39,5
43	Ukraine	47,5	93	Panama	43,5	143	Burundi	39,5
44	Greece	47,4	94	Armenia	43,5	144	Equatorial Guinea	39,3
45	Philippines	47,4	95	El Salvador	43,5	145	Sudan	39,3
46	Bahrain	47,3	96	Nepal	43,4	146	Liberia	39,2
47	Indonesia	47,3	97	North Macedonia	43,2	147	Afghanistan	39,2
48	Vietnam	47,3	98	Botswana	43,1	148	Haiti	39,1
49	Cyprus	47,3	99	Namibia	43,1	149	Yemen, Rep.	39,0
50	Latvia	47,2	100	Paraguay	43,1	150	Central African Republic	38,7
						151	Guinea-Bissau	38,6

The Elite Quality Report 2026 (EQx2026) provides Country Scores & Global Rank for 151 countries
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Moreover, the appearance of Unitree Robotics' humanoid robots on the Spring Festival Gala—performing *Yangge* dance in 2025 and martial-arts routines in 2026—illustrates how AI and robotics are being integrated into public life and national cultural narratives (Reuters, 2026a). Meta's announced acquisition of the agent startup Manus in December 2025, reportedly valued at USD 2-3 billion, suggests that Chinese-developed AI technologies are not only competitive domestically but also attractive within the global innovation landscape (Reuters, 2026b). Unlike their US counterparts, Chinese firms are investing heavily in application-layer innovation and rapid product diffusion with monetization running parallel to value creation. This reflects a distinct regime of value creation and appropriation, in which scale, accessibility, and rapid iteration take precedence over frontier capability alone.

Alongside China, #22 India with a score of 57.7 represents a different but increasingly important case: not yet a top-tier performer, but a country actively positioning itself to move up the AI hierarchy. In 2026, India's hosting of the India AI Impact Summit signals a growing recognition that participation in AI-driven value creation requires a coordinated national strategy (Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, 2026). India's strengths—large-scale digital infrastructure, a vast pool of technical talent, and a rapidly expanding digital economy—provide a foundation for future development. Its recent initiatives suggest an awareness that catching up in AI is not merely a technological challenge, but a systemic one involving policy coordination, infrastructure investment, and ecosystem formation. At the same time, its current EQx performance indicates that significant gaps remain in areas such as computing capacity, private investment, and advanced research capabilities.

Middle Eastern countries, such as #18, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at 63.7 and #26, Saudi Arabia at 56 are mid-ranking AI performers in EQx terms, but they are becoming infrastructure-intensive AI states. Their current ranking may understate their future strategic position because both are investing aggressively in data centers, cloud capacity, chips, and national AI platforms. In 2025, Saudi-backed Humain struck major deals with US chipmakers, including Nvidia and AMD, with AMD's partnership described as a USD 10 billion strategic tie-up (Reuters, 2025b). The 'Stargate UAE' project would bring the first phase of a massive AI data center online in 2026, likely with 100,000 Nvidia chips, as part of a broader plan to build one of the world's largest AI data-center campuses outside the United States (Reuters, 2025c). The strategic position of the UAE and Saudi Arabia is stronger than their rankings alone suggest. Both countries are investing heavily in computing centers, cloud infrastructure, chips, and national AI platforms to secure a greater role in future AI-driven value creation. Their approach underscores the growing importance of infrastructure ownership in determining a country's position within the global AI hierarchy.

In sum, the EQx2026 results show that by supercharging value creation, AI is also stratifying the world. Countries are diverging into distinct tiers, where infrastructure capacity, entrepreneurship and institutional innovation determine not only how much value is created, but how value is appropriated. As Michael Spence (2025), Nobel Prize winner, recently argued, "Whereas [AI] model development is happening largely in the United States and China, diffusion can and must take place everywhere." The challenge ahead is therefore not only to advance AI capabilities, but to ensure that their benefits diffuse more broadly across the global economy.

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The Diversity & Inclusion EQx-Indicator Family: Is AI the New Frontier for Elite Access?

The global landscape of Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) is entering a new phase shaped by technological transformation. Artificial intelligence (AI) is redefining how value is created and who can participate. While AI can broaden access to opportunity, it also risks reinforcing existing inequalities if access to its capabilities remains uneven.

In this context, inclusion is not only about formal rights or representation, but increasingly about access to productivity-enhancing technologies and the ability to use them effectively. Unequal access to AI can become a new form of value transfer, limiting societies' ability to fully leverage their human capital.

The Diversity & Inclusion EQx-Indicator Family highlights cross-country differences in the preconditions for inclusive participation in an AI-driven economy. Gender-related Indicators, such as *Women, business and the law* (i.3, WBL), the *Women's Power Index* (i.1, WPI), or the *Proportion of Women in senior and middle mgmt positions* (i.3, WMA) remain central. By reinforcing stereotypes or biases, AI risks amplifying disparities with regard to labor market participation or leadership for women and minority groups. Therefore, systems that already include gender equality are better positioned to translate AI into broad-based value creation. At the same time, the *Gender education gap* (iii.8, GEG) and *Labor force participation ratio – male vs female* (iv.12, LFR) underline that capability and exposure are critical. Access to AI tools alone is insufficient without the skills and opportunities to use them. Empirical evidence suggests that observed gender differences in AI adoption are driven less by preferences and more by disparities in access to support and training, confidence, and perceived controllability, which in turn affect usage, trust, and outcomes (e.g., Russo et al., 2025; Collie & Martin, 2024; Uğur & Dursun, 2025; Humlum & Vestergaard, 2025). Simi-

larly, institutional openness—reflected in Indicators like *LGBT+ inclusiveness* (i.3, LIN) and *Religion – Government Restriction Index* (i.3, GRI)—remains essential, as diverse and unrestricted participation strengthens innovation capacity in general and in AI-relevant sectors.

The five leading countries in this year's Diversity & Inclusion EQx-Indicator Family ranking—Moldova (rank #1), New Zealand (rank #2), Switzerland (rank #3), Germany (rank #4), and the UK (rank #5)—illustrate how these factors combine. For example, high female labor force participation in Moldova (LFR, rank #2), relatively small gender education gaps in the cases of Switzerland (GEG, rank #14), Germany (GEG, rank #11) and the UK (GEG, rank #15), and open institutional environments ensure that a broad share of the population can engage with AI-driven opportunities. In more advanced economies, strong legal frameworks and representation in leadership further support access to high-productivity sectors. In countries like Moldova and New Zealand, broad participation itself enables more inclusive diffusion of technological gains.

Looking ahead, the key question is whether AI will support inclusive elite circulation and formation or instead reinforce closed access patterns. Countries that combine strong D&I performance with widespread access to skills and technology are more likely to achieve broad-based value creation through AI. Those that do not risk deepening existing inequalities.

Ensuring inclusive access to and use of AI is therefore not only a social imperative but a central condition for sustainable value creation and economic growth in the years to come.

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Countries covered:	151	Weight within Family	Weight within EQx
Indicators included:			
WPI Women's Power Index	9,1%	0,3%	
WBL Religion - Government Restriction Index	0,9%	0,1%	
LIN LGBT+ inclusiveness	0,9%	0,1%	
GRI Women self made billionaires	1,7%	0,3%	
SHI Women, business and the law	1,7%	0,3%	
WSB Proportion of women in senior and middle mgt	1,7%	0,3%	
IWE Index of Women Entrepreneurs	28,3%	0,9%	
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	18,4%	0,6%	
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	37,4%	0,7%	

Diversity & Inclusion Indicator Family, total weight **3,6%**

Rationale

The Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) EQx-Indicator Family is a construct formed by 9 Indicators. The weighting of each Indicator is conceptual and is expected to evolve in future iterations of the EQx. The rationale for the D&I EQx-Indicator Family is simple. Any type of discrimination—from gender to religion—has a business model logic, constitutes a form of rent seeking, and compromises Value Creation. Those discriminated against face barriers that hinder or prevent them from realizing their full potential for Value Creation. Moreover, society at large suffers a serious loss, while the overall Value Creation potential of the economy is compromised.

Rank /151	Country	Score	Rank /151	Country	Score	Rank /151	Country	Score
1	Moldova	73,4	51	Nicaragua	58,3	101	Lesotho	51,4
2	New Zealand	69,0	52	Azerbaijan	58,1	102	Panama	51,2
3	Switzerland	68,9	53	Mexico	58,0	103	Latvia	51,1
4	Germany	68,8	54	Congo, Dem. Rep.	57,9	104	Hungary	51,0
5	United Kingdom	68,4	55	Congo, Rep.	57,8	105	El Salvador	50,6
6	Netherlands	68,2	56	Argentina	57,7	106	Central African Republic	50,6
7	Burundi	68,1	57	Mongolia	57,2	107	Turkmenistan	50,0
8	Bolivia	67,9	58	Madagascar	57,0	108	Russian Federation	49,9
9	Namibia	66,9	59	Indonesia	56,9	109	Malawi	48,8
10	China	66,0	60	Cuba	56,9	110	Mauritius	48,5
11	Mozambique	66,0	61	Ghana	56,9	111	Malaysia	48,4
12	Spain	65,9	62	Timor-Leste	56,5	112	Ethiopia	48,3
13	Albania	65,9	63	Brazil	56,3	113	Honduras	47,3
14	United States	65,8	64	Ukraine	56,0	114	Guinea	47,1
15	France	65,8	65	Angola	56,0	115	Senegal	47,0
16	Rwanda	65,5	66	Lao PDR	55,9	116	Chad	45,7
17	Austria	65,4	67	Eswatini	55,9	117	Bosnia and Herzegovina	45,4
18	Australia	65,2	68	Armenia	55,8	118	Qatar	44,2
19	South Africa	65,0	69	Croatia	55,6	119	Japan	43,6
20	Peru	64,9	70	Greece	55,4	120	United Arab Emirates	43,6
21	Belgium	64,6	71	Dominican Republic	55,4	121	Turkey	43,2
22	Serbia	64,2	72	Cambodia	55,2	122	Mali	43,2
23	Chile	64,1	73	Nigeria	55,2	123	Kyrgyz Republic	41,2
24	Finland	64,0	74	Haiti	55,2	124	Nepal	38,3
25	Norway	63,6	75	Czech Republic	55,0	125	Uzbekistan	37,6
26	Tanzania	62,9	76	Philippines	55,0	126	Venezuela, RB	37,1
27	Singapore	62,6	77	Gambia, The	55,0	127	Guatemala	35,4
28	Ireland	62,4	78	Uganda	54,8	128	Myanmar	34,8
29	Sierra Leone	62,1	79	Slovenia	54,7	129	India	32,7
30	Togo	61,9	80	Poland	54,7	130	Bahrain	32,2
31	Canada	61,2	81	Kazakhstan	54,5	131	Kuwait	31,2
32	Denmark	60,9	82	Côte d'Ivoire	54,4	132	Libya	31,2
33	Benin	60,8	83	Burkina Faso	54,3	133	Sri Lanka	28,0
34	Portugal	60,5	84	Ecuador	53,9	134	Bangladesh	27,7
35	Uruguay	60,5	85	Slovak Republic	53,8	135	Mauritania	26,7
36	Cyprus	60,3	86	Zambia	53,7	136	Tajikistan	24,2
37	Costa Rica	60,2	87	Belarus	53,6	137	Saudi Arabia	22,7
38	Sweden	60,0	88	Niger	53,5	138	Tunisia	21,9
39	Vietnam	59,9	89	Paraguay	53,2	139	Oman	13,2
40	Korea, Rep.	59,8	90	Estonia	53,1	140	Lebanon	11,6
41	Thailand	59,6	91	Bulgaria	53,1	141	Iraq	10,5
42	Botswana	59,6	92	Lithuania	52,8	142	Pakistan	9,1
43	Liberia	59,4	93	Italy	52,6	143	Morocco	7,8
44	Jamaica	59,1	94	Papua New Guinea	52,6	144	Jordan	7,5
45	Israel	59,0	95	Guinea-Bissau	52,4	145	Algeria	5,4
46	Trinidad and Tobago	58,8	96	Equatorial Guinea	52,1	146	Sudan	4,0
47	Georgia	58,7	97	Romania	51,9	147	Syrian Arab Republic	3,5
48	Colombia	58,7	98	North Macedonia	51,8	148	Iran, Islamic Rep.	3,4
49	Zimbabwe	58,6	99	Gabon	51,7	149	Egypt, Arab Rep.	2,6
50	Kenya	58,3	100	Cameroon	51,5	150	Yemen, Rep.	2,4
						151	Afghanistan	1,6

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4.3 EQx-Indicator Analyses

The Robot Density in Manufacturing Industry EQx-Indicator

The Data Flywheel: China's Elite System Makes a Comprehensive Bet on Robotics Innovation

China is undergoing a fundamental reconfiguration of its value creation paradigm—transitioning from a model of scale-based manufacturing to deployment-led intelligent evolution. The EQx2026 illustrates this development, as China has risen by 8 places to rank #11 in the global index. Compared with innovation systems that place stronger emphasis on frontier breakthroughs, China's robotics development has been particularly shaped by a systemic 'evolutionary flywheel' comprised of three interconnected loops: scenario-driven deployment, data-led refinement, and physical conversion. In 2026, China's global leading position in *Robot density in manufacturing industry* (ROD, iv.12, rank #1) serves as the operational foundation for this engine, providing the high-stress environments necessary to propel the *Number of notable AI models* (AIM, iv.10, rank #1) towards industrial-grade precision. This feedback loop has sustained resilient *Labor productivity growth* (LPG, iv.12, rank #6) (Wu et al., 2024; Li & Zhou, 2024), proving that value is now being created through the velocity of technological iteration rather than just the volume of physical output.

The first loop: Scenario pressure as a catalyst for innovation

The first loop of this flywheel is initiated by a vast array of deployment environments that function as high-frequency natural laboratories. These range from smart logistics and high-pressure precision manufacturing to complex yet highly replicable urban services. Taking the logistics sector as a primary example, China's industrial landscape provides extreme scenario pressures such as the massive concurrency and high-density throughput demands of e-commerce peaks, an environment epitomized by Geek+, the global leader in autonomous mobile robots (AMR). Confronted with the operational bottlenecks of traditional sorting, Geek+ was compelled to move beyond simple transport models to develop the PopPick system. This next-generation 'goods-to-person' solution was specifically engineered to operate reliably under high-pressure industrial environments, achieving a fourfold increase in storage density and a picking efficiency of 650 totes per hour (Geek+, 2026). Such massive, strategic deployment is not a mere application of existing tech; it is a forced adaptation to the world's most demanding operational constraints (Kegeleirs & Birattari, 2025), providing the critical mass of real-world activity required for the flywheel to begin its ascent.

The second loop: Converting data into cognitive refinement

The second loop of this flywheel converts raw operational volume into cognitive refinement. Beyond mere quantity, the value of China's deployment lies in the continuity, anomaly, and long-tail nature of the data generated. Unlike the sterilized datasets of laboratory simulations, real-world industrial environments present unpredictable physical constraints. These edge cases act as the primary fuel for refining notable AI models, forcing the transition from scripted automation to autonomous Embodied AI (Song et al., 2024). By processing millions of these real-world disruptions, the AI systems learn to navigate the entropy of physical space with a precision that lab-grown algorithms cannot replicate. Consequently, China's robotics systems will become progressively more intelligent through actual labor, achieving a level of operational resilience that defines the global productivity frontier.

The third loop: Physical conversion and policy diffusion

The third loop of the flywheel ensures that technological refinements are rapidly converted into low-cost, scalable physical assets. China's high economic complexity and deep repository of productive knowledge (ECI, ii.4, rank #20) provide a rich, diverse, and broad supply chain ecosystem for industrial robotics and embodied AI. The 'four-hour industrial circle' found in clusters like the Yangtze River Delta powers this conversion, allowing firms to source everything from actuators to sensors within a single afternoon. This vertical integration ensures that hardware optimizations generated by the data flywheel are swiftly prototyped and integrated into production lines. Under the 'Robot+' Application Action Implementation Plan, jointly released in 2023 by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) along with over a dozen other central government departments, China vowed to increase the use of robots in manufacturing, agriculture, logistics, energy, healthcare, education, and elderly services, among other areas. The Action Plan for Promoting Large-scale Equipment Renewals, released in 2024 by the State Council, further propels this physical scaling by providing the financial leverage for broad industrial adoption. Simultaneously, policy initiatives such as the National AI Innovative Application Pilot Zones accelerate the real-world deployment and widespread adoption of AI technologies across industries and society (Andreoni, Frattini & Prodi, 2026). In Pingshan, Shenzhen, the establishment of an AI-driven sanitation demonstration zone—integrated with 59 autonomous units—exemplifies

this. These zones act as regulatory ‘testbeds’ where the elite system lowers the cost of compliance and entry, allowing the data-refined intelligence of robots to scale from local pilots and become part of the national infrastructure.

Despite these systemic gains, China’s rapid automation faces a significant structural paradox, a potential trade-off evidenced by its low ranking in the *Youth unemployment rate* (YUN, iv.13, rank #94). The excellence in *Robot density* and *Labor productivity growth* masks a growing misalignment between the high-velocity demands of the intelligent flywheel and existing labor supply. To ensure the long-term resilience of this model, China’s elite system must pivot from the logic of labor substitution to one of labor augmentation. By leveraging its human capital potential, as is reflected in its stable performance in *Human flight and brain drain* (BRN, iv.12, rank #36), the strategic focus may shift toward the ‘721 Factory Model’ (PPTN, 2026; Kan et al., 2024) of advanced manufacturing transformation. In this paradigm, while 70% of standard tasks are automated, the integration of collaborative Embodied AI (20%) serves to empower, rather than replace, the critical 10% of human-centric decision-making.

Ultimately, the viability of China’s robotic leap depends on whether this three-step flywheel changes the task content of production and creates space for the younger generation to grow alongside the machines (Cheng et al., 2019; Acemoglu & Restrepo, 2019; Barravecchia et al., 2025), ensuring that industrial gains are converted into broader value appropriation and enable social mobility.

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The Construction Supply Gap (CSG): When Real Estate Markets are Healthy

Real estate encompasses a significant sector of industrial activity accounting for 18% to over 20% of GDP in major economies when considering the full economic footprint - including construction, brokerage, financing and ancillary services. Hence, it plays a pivotal role in societal development because of the wide impact of its comprehensive value chain. Moreover, housing supply is closely associated with housing affordability and is therefore a critical contributor to equality or inequality. A meticulously managed real estate market contributes substantially to a nation's economic prosperity and the welfare of its citizens. The opposite occurs when there is value extraction in the sector and the equilibrium between supply and demand diverges due to a variety of potential factors.

The supply and demand dynamics within the real estate sector and construction industry are interconnected, albeit with a time lag. An upsurge in demand for residential properties usually leads to heightened rental and purchasing costs that, in turn, ought to catalyze an increase in construction activities. However, given the nature of real estate as an important asset class and the characteristically prolonged duration of its delivery, a transient discrepancy—referred to in the EQx as the *Construction supply gap* (CSG, iii.7)—typically emerges. During periods of supply deficit, investors are inclined to capitalize on the prospects of elevated project yields, guided by the homogeneity in investment decisions. This can eventually lead to the opposite problem and precipitate a scenario of oversupply, culminating in a reduction in property prices. In severe instances, this phenomenon manifests itself as a 'real estate bubble', the bursting of which transcends the confines of the real estate sector, significantly undermining the stability of the financial system.

The CSG serves as a way to gauge the vitality of a nation's real estate sector. Empirical research underscores that marginal undersupply not only facilitates housing affordability in the long term, but also enhances the sector's profitability, thereby invigorating investment. Conversely, significant supply discrepancies or oligopolistic frameworks are deemed to be extractive, analogous to the conditions of oversupply, where investment is diverted to alternative sectors, leading to a contraction in construction output.

The CSG is calibrated to a baseline of 1.0, signifying the complete satisfaction of residential real estate demand. According to SwissForecast's research methodology, a perfect equilibrium of exactly 1.0 is in fact suboptimal: a slight undersupply better serves to stabilize market dynamics, preserve real es-

tate values, and foster continued investment, thereby safeguarding the financial sector against the ramifications of non-performing loans. A market in perfect equilibrium carries no buffer against sudden demand surges — any uptick in household formation or migration immediately strains supply, triggering sharp price spikes. Conversely, a thin undersupply keeps asset values stable enough to sustain collateral quality in lending portfolios and for private homeowners, thereby reducing systemic risk without significantly restricting access to housing. SwissForecast defines the empirically derived optimal range as broadly between 1.0 and 1.3.

An oversupply, indicated by a CSG exceeding this optimal range, can inflict severe repercussions on property owners, the financial sector, and investment availability. Historical precedents of such adverse outcomes have been observed in Spain (CSG, iii.7, rank #31), the US (rank #18), and Ireland (rank #14), all of which experienced painful corrections following extended periods of excess construction activity.

The 2026 rankings: Divergence deepens

The 2026 CSG Indicator results (based on 2025 data) reveal a striking polarization across European and global markets. The EQx scoring translates the original CSG into a 0–100 index, where higher values indicate a country's proximity to the empirically optimal supply range. At the upper end of this distribution, Belgium (CSG, iii.7, rank #1) leads the European field, sharing the top ranking with Poland (rank #1), followed by France (rank #5), and the Slovak Republic (rank #6)—markets that operate closest to the equilibrium between construction output and genuine housing demand.

Markets operating outside of the equilibrium are those that score below 1.0 or above 1.3. The original CSG value itself provides this distinction: countries below 1.0 face genuine undersupply, where demand chronically exceeds construction output; those above 1.3 operate in oversupply territory. Both conditions destroy value, but through opposite mechanisms — the former through unaffordability and rationing, the latter through price correction and stranded investment.

At the lower end of the distribution, Bulgaria (rank #47) registers the most extreme deviation in the dataset, pointing to a structural disconnect between supply and demand dynamics that warrants close attention. Canada (#47), Estonia (#46), and Croatia (#47) likewise return some of the lowest possible index scores. Serbia (rank #45), Israel (rank #44), and Korea



Sub-Index (Level 2)	Value
Index Area (Level 2)	Political Value
Pillar (Level 3)	Giving Income
Indicator ref. (Level 4)	iii.7_CSG
Indicator wgt. (in EQx)	0,3%
Indicator wgt. (in Pillar)	4,1%
Countries covered	49
Inclusion year	2024
Conceptual optimum	Yes
Data Source	SwissForecast (proprietary data)

Description

The Construction supply gap Indicator measures the health of a national real estate sector by comparing demand for housing in relation to available dwellings. This Indicator therefore measures supply as a percentage of demand. A positive value indicates an oversupply of housing while a negative value indicates an undersupply.

Rationale

Housing is an important public good and its adequate supply affects a nation's economic growth. It plays a key role in wealth creation and preservation and is an important factor in financial crises. The construction industry is also a major employer and contributor to GDP. It is crucial to stabilize house prices, as on the one hand, undersupply leads to price appreciation, reduced affordability, inequality, speculation, and the formation of price bubbles, as well as impaired economic growth. On the other hand, housing oversupply leads to the misallocation of resources, falling prices, and a drop in investment levels, causing a downturn in construction output. When housing supply is in line with demand, it supports the sustainable development of real estate value, encourages further investment, and ensures affordability. Due to the time lags associated with construction, a slight undersupply of housing in relation to demand is the optimal scenario.

Rank /49	Country	Score	Rank /49	Country	Score	Rank /49	Country	Score
1	Sweden	78,7						
1	Belgium	78,7						
1	Poland	78,7						
1	Iran, Islamic Rep.	78,7						
5	France	77,4						
6	Slovak Republic	76,8						
7	Netherlands	76,1						
8	Switzerland	75,1						
9	Chile	74,9						
10	Turkey	72,8						
11	United Kingdom	70,8						
12	Colombia	68,8						
13	China	68,5						
14	Ireland	68,1						
15	Japan	67,4						
16	Ukraine	66,2						
17	Denmark	65,9						
18	United States	64,8						
19	Hungary	64,8						
20	Portugal	64,0						
21	Lithuania	63,7						
22	Austria	61,9						
23	Cyprus	60,0						
24	Germany	59,5						
25	Greece	58,7						
26	Czech Republic	56,6						
27	Latvia	56,4						
28	Finland	55,8						
29	Norway	54,3						
30	Romania	48,6						
31	Spain	44,1						
32	Russian Federation	42,5						
33	Australia	42,3						
34	South Africa	38,3						
35	Korea, Rep.	37,0						
36	Slovenia	33,2						
37	Bosnia and Herzegovina	32,2						
38	North Macedonia	32,1						
39	Italy	28,5						
40	Kazakhstan	27,7						
41	Qatar	26,4						
42	Philippines	26,3						
43	Albania	20,4						
44	Israel	15,5						
45	Serbia	6,9						
46	Estonia	0,0						
47	Canada	0,0						
47	Croatia	0,0						
47	Bulgaria	0,0						

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(rank #35) also rank among the weaker performers. Korea registers a moderate level of oversupply relative to effective demand—a pattern driven by regional concentration of construction activity that does not always align with where household formation is strongest.

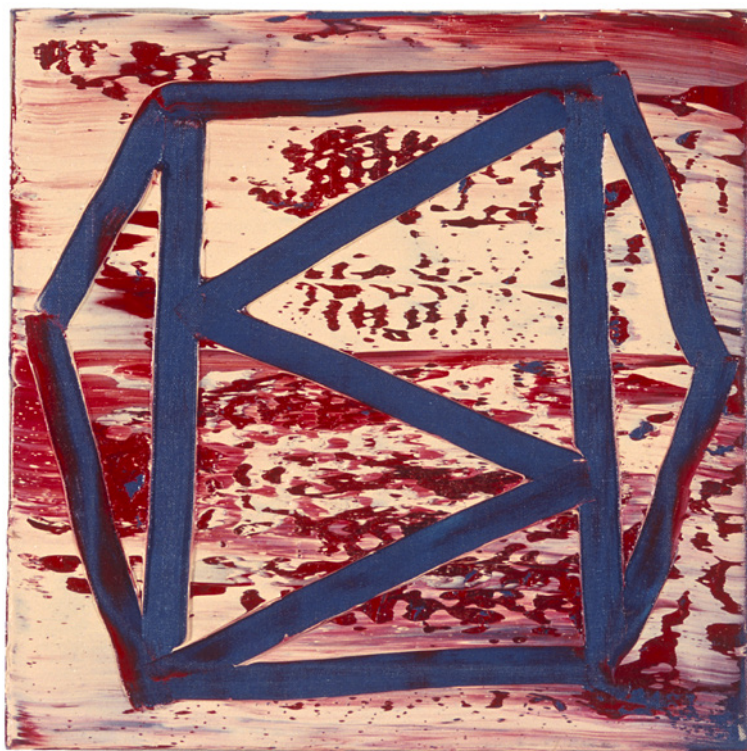
France's (#5) leading position contrasts Spain's current position reflects a structural reversal: once among the most extreme cases of oversupply ahead of the 2008 financial crisis, the market has progressively corrected — with metropolitan areas such as Madrid and Barcelona now exhibiting signs of undersupply, while peripheral regions continue to absorb legacy excess stock from the earlier building cycle. Germany (rank #24) holds a moderate position but has seen a notable downward shift in recent years, a consequence of elevated construction costs and tightening financing conditions that have materially dampened new residential completions.

Romania (rank #30) and Portugal (rank #20) show differentiated trajectories: while Romania remains below the cross-country average, Portugal scores above the mean, suggesting that earlier characterisations of acute undersupply may be overstated at the aggregate level, even if regional pockets of scarcity persist. China (rank #13) continues to register an above-average CSG score despite its headline-grabbing real estate crisis, reflecting the deeply uneven geographic distribution of housing stock, with oversupplied tier-3 cities masking acute shortages in tier-1 urban centers. Notably, even prime urban markets are not immune: residential prices in Shanghai and Beijing have declined approximately 30% from their respective peaks — signalling that the correction process is underway at the top of the market and representing a necessary, if painful, step toward long-term rebalancing.

The average cross-country index score stands at 50.3, indicating that the global construction sector as a whole sits in a state of moderate equilibrium. Nevertheless, the dispersion around this mean has widened, suggesting that individual country-level risks—on both the oversupply and undersupply sides—have intensified.

Given the integral role that construction plays in financial stability and housing affordability, the CSG remains a critical Indicator. Its inclusion in the EQx provides a valuable reference for evaluating the value creation or extraction that the sector is responsible for in a national economy, and the impact that this has on living standards.

*Hannah Langen,
SwissForecast, Switzerland*



Housing Affordability Index (HAI): Latest Developments Across the World

The *Housing Affordability Index* (HAI) goes beyond conventional price-to-income ratios by incorporating three interlocking variables: USD household income at purchasing power parity (PPP), normalized rent per square meter, and the home ownership percentage rate as a moderating factor. The underlying logic is subtle but crucial: a very high homeownership rate with low mortgage proportions is not treated as a sign of prosperity; rather, it often indicates that renting is unaffordable or unavailable. Conversely, countries with lower ownership rates are assessed primarily on the accessibility of their rental markets relative to incomes.

The 2026 data reveal a clear geographic pattern, with Western and Southern European nations dominating the top of the table. Belgium (HAI, iv.10, rank #1) claims the top spot, driven by a moderate ownership rate (71.9%) and a highly favorable rent-to-income ratio (0.204). Similarly, the Netherlands (jointly sharing rank #1) and Spain (rank #3) demonstrate that balanced housing markets with accessible rental options foster value creation. In these nations, elites have cultivated business models and regulatory environments that support a healthy equilibrium between renting and owning.

Conversely, several major Anglo-Saxon economies and high-cost hubs are clustered at the bottom, underscoring the breadth of the global housing challenge. Australia (rank #72) ranks second last, burdened by a high rent-to-income ratio (0.327) despite a moderate ownership rate (66.3%). The UK (rank #67) and New Zealand (#62) face similar problems. In these markets, value extraction is evident as high housing costs consume a disproportionately high share of household income, limiting discretionary spending and economic mobility.

A particularly illustrative example is Switzerland (rank #70). Despite having one of the world's lowest homeownership rates (42.3%) and very high incomes (USD 53,362 PPP), extremely high rents (USD 1,400/month) relative to income drag it down to the bottom tier. This highlights a critical vulnerability: even in markets where renting is the norm, unchecked rental inflation can severely erode affordability and extract value from the populace.

Furthermore, countries with exceptionally high ownership rates, such as Romania (95.6%, rank #57), reflect a different form of value extraction. In these contexts, high ownership often masks a lack of viable rental alternatives, forcing citizens to purchase property despite the financial strain or their mobility needs.

To address these challenges and promote sustainable economic growth, constructive action is imperative. Policymakers must focus on expanding the supply of affordable rental housing to reduce the forced reliance on homeownership. Implementing targeted rent stabilization measures and incentivizing the construction of diverse housing types can help balance the market. Without such interventions, the widening gap between income and housing costs will continue to stifle economic mobility and exacerbate inequality, particularly in advanced economies where the housing crisis is most acute.

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Sub-Index (Level 2)	Value
Index Area (Level 2)	Economic Value
Pillar (Level 3)	Unearned Income
Indicator ref. (Level 4)	iv.10_HAI
Indicator wgt. (in EQx)	0,6%
Indicator wgt. (in Pillar)	4,5%
Countries covered	73
Inclusion year	2024
Conceptual optimum	No
Data Source	SwissForecast (proprietary data)

Description

The Housing Affordability Index (HAI) measures national average house prices in relation to average local incomes. A high value in the HAI indicates affordable residential housing prices when compared to local incomes. A low value indicates unaffordable house prices when compared to local incomes.

Rationale

To be able to afford to buy a house is relevant in relation to the development of children, life satisfaction, and in addressing wealth inequalities. A widening gap between house prices and local incomes represents Value Extraction, as a reduction of affordability raises inequality and contributes to the segregation of social classes. House price growth that outpaces incomes translates into the elite business model of capital gains. Eventually, the decoupling of prices from incomes leads to unsustainable development and is a predictor of financial (and social) fragility. Affordable housing represents Value Creation.

Rank /73	Country	Score	Rank /73	Country	Score	Rank /73	Country	Score
1	Netherlands	100,0	51	Serbia	40,4			
1	Belgium	100,0	52	Russian Federation	38,8			
3	Spain	95,7	53	Slovak Republic	37,2			
4	Italy	95,2	54	Bolivia	36,1			
5	Czech Republic	94,4	55	Albania	34,4			
6	Brazil	89,0	56	Jordan	34,4			
7	Portugal	88,3	57	Romania	33,9			
8	Norway	87,7	58	Lao PDR	33,4			
9	Slovenia	86,9	59	Sweden	33,0			
10	Thailand	78,6	60	Iraq	31,7			
11	Azerbaijan	76,5	61	Kazakhstan	30,0			
12	Kenya	75,4	62	New Zealand	27,7			
13	Bangladesh	75,0	63	Israel	24,8			
14	Egypt, Arab Rep.	72,1	64	Georgia	20,5			
14	Trinidad and Tobago	72,1	65	Armenia	16,7			
16	Germany	71,6	66	Uzbekistan	14,5			
17	Malaysia	69,2	67	United Kingdom	14,3			
18	Japan	63,8	68	Costa Rica	12,8			
18	Finland	63,8	69	Ireland	10,9			
20	Mexico	59,2	70	Switzerland	10,7			
21	Estonia	58,0	71	Turkey	6,6			
22	United States	57,6	72	Australia	4,9			
23	Algeria	57,1	73	Uruguay	1,9			
24	Pakistan	55,9						
25	Canada	55,4						
26	Latvia	54,6						
27	Oman	54,3						
28	China	53,2						
29	Indonesia	52,7						
30	Myanmar	50,3						
31	North Macedonia	49,8						
32	Nepal	49,5						
33	Bulgaria	49,3						
34	Argentina	49,2						
35	India	48,5						
36	France	47,7						
37	Poland	47,4						
38	Singapore	46,4						
39	South Africa	46,2						
40	Korea, Rep.	45,3						
40	Greece	45,3						
42	Lithuania	44,9						
43	Austria	44,1						
44	Denmark	43,2						
45	Vietnam	43,0						
45	Cuba	43,0						
47	Hungary	42,2						
48	Cyprus	41,6						
49	Croatia	41,0						
49	Bosnia and Herzegovina	41,0						

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5. Indicators

This Chapter explains and discusses the sources for all data used to create the Indicators for the EQx Rankings. First, in Section 5.1, we offer an overview of all individual Indicators and the respective weight they are given at both the Pillar and

aggregate EQx level. Second, in Section 5.2, we provide descriptions of all 148 Indicators used (what we measure), as well as the rationale that underpins their inclusion in the EQx (why we measure).

5.1 Indicator Weighting Table Overview

Visual 5.1: EQx Indicator weighting table

TLA	Indicator Name	Within Pillar weight (BAP)	Within EQx weight
Sub-Index I: Power Index Area (i): Political Power			
Pillar (i.1)	State Capture		
COR	Political corruption	5.0%	0.2%
COC	Control of corruption	10.0%	0.4%
OPG	Open government	5.0%	0.2%
RTC	Government's responsiveness to change	10.0%	0.4%
EPR	E-Participation Index	7.5%	0.3%
PFD	Press freedom	7.5%	0.3%
NJK	Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2 years avg.)	7.5%	0.3%
PDE	Political decentralization	2.5%	0.1%
ADE	Administrative decentralization	2.5%	0.1%
PGL	Political globalization	7.5%	0.3%
WPI	Women's Power Index	7.5%	0.3%
MOB	Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	2.5%	0.1%
INE	Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	5.0%	0.2%
GWL	Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	5.0%	0.2%
GWC	Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	5.0%	0.2%
GIL	Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	5.0%	0.2%
GIC	Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	5.0%	0.2%
Pillar (i.2)	Regulatory Capture		
ECR	Ease of challenging regulations	4.3%	0.2%
CGP	Constraints on government power	8.7%	0.4%
REQ	Regulatory quality	17.4%	0.7%
REN	Regulatory enforcement	8.7%	0.4%
PRI	Property rights	21.7%	0.9%
CRO	Crony capitalism	21.7%	0.9%
INO	Informal output as a % of GDP	17.4%	0.7%
Pillar (i.3)	Human Capture		
GSI	Global Slavery Index	21.7%	0.7%
FDP	Forcibly displaced people as % of population	21.7%	0.7%
HRI	Human Rights Index	13.0%	0.4%
AFI	Academic Freedom Index	8.7%	0.3%
GRI	Religion - Government Restriction Index	4.3%	0.1%
LIN	LGBT+ inclusiveness	4.3%	0.1%
WSB	Women self made billionaires	8.7%	0.3%
WBL	Women, business and the law	8.7%	0.3%
WMA	Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	8.7%	0.3%

TLA	Indicator Name	Within Pillar weight (BAP)	Within EQx weight
Sub-Index I: Power Index Area (ii): Economic Power			
Pillar (ii.4)	Coalition Dominance		
IEE	Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	10.0%	0.5%
IEO	Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	3.3%	0.2%
IVA	Top 3 industries as % of value added	10.0%	0.5%
HHI	Domestic market diversification	13.3%	0.6%
ECI	Economic Complexity Index	16.7%	0.8%
PUE	Public employees as a % of total employment	10.0%	0.5%
MIL	Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	10.0%	0.5%
UNI	Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	6.7%	0.3%
BSN	Barriers in service & network sectors	3.3%	0.2%
CRA	Criminal actors	16.7%	0.8%
Pillar (ii.5)	Firm Dominance		
SME	SMEs per 1,000 people	14.3%	0.7%
FAM	Family business revenues as % of GDP	21.4%	1.1%
BIW	Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	7.1%	0.4%
FKG	Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	21.4%	1.1%
FRG	Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	14.3%	0.7%
FRR	Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	21.4%	1.1%
Pillar (ii.6)	Creative Destruction		
ii.6_ENT	Entrepreneurship	7.4%	0.9%
ii.6_GSE	Governmental support to entrepreneurship	3.7%	0.5%
ii.6_VCK	Venture capital finance	14.8%	1.8%
ii.6_VCA	Venture capital availability	7.4%	0.9%
ii.6_API	AI private investment	18.5%	2.3%
ii.6_APC	AI private investment per capita	11.1%	1.4%
ii.6_RND	R&D as a % of GDP	7.4%	0.9%
ii.6_EXR	Firm exit ratio	3.7%	0.5%
ii.6_BCD	Billionaire's creative destruction	18.5%	2.3%
ii.6_IWE	Index of Women Entrepreneurs	7.4%	0.9%

TLA	Indicator Name	Within Pillar weight (BAP)	Within EQx weight
Sub-Index II: Value Index Area (iii): Political Value			
Pillar (iii.7)	Giving Income		
LEW	Life expectancy women	2.7%	0.2%
LEM	Life expectancy men	2.7%	0.2%
SCI	UHC Service Coverage Index	5.5%	0.4%
PTR	Pupil-teacher ratio	4.1%	0.3%
EDU	School life expectancy	5.5%	0.4%
PIS	PISA mean scores	4.1%	0.3%
UNV	Top universities	4.1%	0.3%
GEE	Government education expenditure	5.5%	0.4%
GAR	Government AI Readiness Index	6.8%	0.6%
AIP	AI patent grants	4.1%	0.3%
OSI	Online Service Index	2.7%	0.2%
NRI	Network Readiness Index	2.7%	0.2%
INT	Internet access	2.7%	0.2%
GHI	Global Hunger Index	6.8%	0.6%
FSQ	Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	5.5%	0.4%
GPS	Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	4.1%	0.3%
GEX	General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	4.1%	0.3%
SNT	Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	5.5%	0.4%
REG	Regional redistribution as % of government budget	4.1%	0.3%
CSG	Construction supply gap	4.1%	0.3%
SFA	Sanitation facilities	2.7%	0.2%
ELA	Electricity access	4.1%	0.3%
FOS	Fossil fuel subsidies	5.5%	0.4%
Pillar (iii.8)	Taking Income		
SUB	Death rate from substance use disorders	15.4%	1.2%
BRD	Battle-related deaths per capita	15.4%	1.2%
HOM	Homicide rate	15.4%	1.2%
SUI	Suicide rate	11.5%	0.9%
DTR	Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	7.7%	0.6%
DCT	Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	15.4%	1.2%
DPS	Delta public vs private sector salaries	3.8%	0.3%
FDE	Fiscal decentralization	3.8%	0.3%
GCI	Global Cybersecurity Index	3.8%	0.3%
GEG	Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	7.7%	0.6%
Pillar (iii.9)	Unearned Income		
CRM	Criminal markets	11.4%	0.7%
DBT	Government debt as % of GDP	11.4%	0.7%
NRR	Natural resources rents as % of GDP	9.1%	0.5%
GPA	Green patents per capita	6.8%	0.4%
EPI	Environmental performance index	4.5%	0.3%
RES	Renewable energy share	6.8%	0.4%
OLI	Ocean litter	4.5%	0.3%
DER	Deforestation rate	4.5%	0.3%
FUS	Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	2.3%	0.1%
TLP	Terrestrial land protected	4.5%	0.3%
CDD	CO ₂ emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	6.8%	0.4%
CDO	CO ₂ emissions (metric tons per capita)	6.8%	0.4%
AIR	Air Quality Index	6.8%	0.4%
HAZ	Hazardous waste per capita	2.3%	0.1%
WPC	Waste collected per capita	2.3%	0.1%
MWR	Municipal waste recycling rate	2.3%	0.1%
FIS	Fish consumption per capita	2.3%	0.1%
MET	Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	4.5%	0.3%

TLA	Indicator Name	Within Pillar weight (BAP)	Within EQx weight
Sub-Index II: Value Index Area (iv): Economic Value			
Pillar (iv.10)	Producer Value		
PAT	Nr. of patent applications per capita	2.3%	0.3%
FBH	Financial burden of healthcare	6.8%	0.9%
HEI	Health Efficiency Index	2.3%	0.3%
DMS	Density of medical staff	4.5%	0.6%
FSA	Global Food Security Index - affordability	9.1%	1.2%
HAI	Housing Affordability Index	4.5%	0.6%
RTD	Rail track density	2.3%	0.3%
GAI	Global AI Index	11.4%	1.5%
AIM	Number of notable AI models	4.5%	0.6%
FDS	Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	4.5%	0.6%
FDF	Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	6.8%	0.9%
BTF	Barriers to FDI	6.8%	0.9%
OFB	Open for business	4.5%	0.6%
EGL	Economic globalization	6.8%	0.9%
TRF	Trade freedom	9.1%	1.2%
IPM	Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	2.3%	0.3%
IPS	Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	4.5%	0.6%
DGI	Share of discrimin. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	2.3%	0.3%
DGS	Share of discrimin. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	4.5%	0.6%
Pillar (iv.11)	Capital Value		
DOI	Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	15.2%	2.3%
DEF	GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	9.1%	1.4%
DNI	Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	12.1%	1.8%
FMI	Financial Markets Index	15.2%	2.3%
GCF	Gross capital formation	12.1%	1.8%
GOL	Gold demand as % of GDP	3.0%	0.5%
CRY	Crypto ownership	6.1%	0.9%
UNN	Unicorns	3.0%	0.5%
UNC	Unicorns as % of GDP	9.1%	1.4%
BSG	Billionaires self-made per capita	6.1%	0.9%
BSM	Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	9.1%	1.4%
Pillar (iv.12)	Labor Value		
LPG	Labor productivity growth	17.4%	2.9%
WLP	Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	13.0%	2.1%
LFP	Labor force participation rate	8.7%	1.4%
LFR	Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	4.3%	0.7%
ROD	Robot density in manufacturing industry	13.0%	2.1%
UEM	Unemployment rate	13.0%	2.1%
YUN	Youth unemployment rate	17.4%	2.9%
BRN	Human flight and brain drain	13.0%	2.1%

5.2 Indicator Table: Definitions and Rationale

Visual 5.2: EQx Indicator table

Indicator Name	A. Indicator Description – What we measure	Dataset reference	B. Indicator Rationale – Why we measure	Value Creation/Extraction
Sub-Index I: Power / Index Area (i): Political Power				
Pillar (i, 1): State Capture				
COR	Political corruption	The chosen Indicator dataset "includes measures of six distinct types of corruption that cover both different areas and levels of the polity realm, distinguishing between executive, legislative and judicial corruption. (...) The measures thus tap into several distinguished types of corruption: both 'petty' and 'grand'; both bribery and theft; both corruption aimed at influencing law making and that affecting implementation" (V-DEM, website).	Political corruption (COR) uses data from: Varieties of Democracies (V-DEM) Dataset, sub-set on Political Corruption	Value Extraction
COC	Control of corruption	The Control of corruption Indicator is derived from the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project that: "captures perceptions of the extent to which public power is exercised for private gain, including both petty and grand forms of corruption, as well as 'capture' of the state by elites and private interests" (World Bank, website).	Control of corruption (COC) uses data from: The World Bank, Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI)	Value Creation
OPG	Open government	Open government, a factor in the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index, measures "the openness of government defined by the extent to which a government shares information, empowers people with tools to hold the government accountable, and fosters citizen participation in public policy deliberations. This factor measures whether basic laws and information on legal rights are publicized and evaluates the quality of information published by the government" (World Justice Project, n.d).	Open government (OPG) uses data from: The World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index	Value Creation
RTC	Government's responsiveness to change	Government's responsiveness to change is measured through an indicator included in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index, which is based on the survey question: "In your country, to what extent does the government respond effectively to change (e.g. technological changes, societal and demographic trends, security and economic challenges)?" (WEF, website). The WEF Executive Opinion Survey captures the views of more than 16,000 business executives in 140 countries.	Government's responsiveness to change is a determining factor in incentivizing Value Creation business models. A state free from change-resistant vested interests is open to new possibilities, business models, and emerging interest groups inspired and enabled by technological, economic, geopolitical, etc., trends and disruptions. Value Creation opportunities are recognized and enabled from a regulatory perspective in such an environment.	Value Creation

Indicator Name		A. Indicator Description – What we measure		Dataset reference	B. Indicator Rationale – Why we measure		Value Creation/Extraction
EPR	E-Participation Index	The E-Participation Index aims to measure the possibilities offered by governments to its citizens to participate online; ranging from simply accessing information to engaging with and co-designing policies (UN, website).		The E-Participation Index (EPR) uses data from: The UN's E-Government Development Knowledge Base	The E-Participation Index highlights the involvement of citizens in the policy-making process as well as how effectively they are enabled to be involved in developing forward-looking Value Creation. E-Governments are on the rise as elites leverage increasingly available digital tools for technological transitions. More transparent and participative institutions empower non-elites to check elite Political Power and therefore better challenge rent-seeking business models. Greater participation in the political process also creates more trust in institutions and can foster a culture of innovation; an important factor in Value Creation.		Value Creation
PFD	Press freedom	Press freedom is measured by referencing the World Press Freedom Index and reflects the degree of freedom afforded to journalists in 180 countries. It is determined by pooling the responses of experts to a questionnaire devised by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The questionnaire covers "pluralism, media independence, media environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency, and the quality of the infrastructure that supports the production of news and information" (RSF, website).		Press freedom (PFD) uses data from: Reporters Without Borders, World Press Freedom Index	The greater the degree of Press freedom within a country, the greater the Value Creation in its political economy. It contributes to the creation of a vibrant market for ideas and enhances competition in the political and economic arenas. The provision of authentic information is critical. A high level of Press freedom puts pressure on rentier elites and shines a light on Value Extraction and rent-seeking activities that disadvantage society.		Value Creation
NUK	Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	NUK uses data from the Committee to Protect Journalists. It measures the number of a country's journalists killed, adjusted per million inhabitants. This Indicator includes all instances where journalists lose their lives, whether the death is connected to their professional life or not. This Indicator uses a two-year average.		Number of journalists killed per 1 million people (2 years average) (NUK) uses data from: The Committee to Protect Journalists	Journalists are a knowledge elite that provide checks and balances on political and business elites. When political elites kill journalists, either directly, through surrogates, or by failing to protect them against business elites, this reflects capture of the state apparatus by elites prepared to use the most horrifying of methods to suppress a narrative or information that challenges Value Extraction elite business models.		Value Extraction
PDE	Political decentralization	Political decentralization examines the self-governance powers afforded to local governments and assesses the degree of decentralization at the legislative and executive levels, as well as the provisions for direct democracy (Ivanyina & Shah, 2014).		Political decentralization (PDE) uses data from: Ivanyina & Shah (2014)	Political decentralization spreads Political Power by providing higher levels of autonomy for subnational governments. Local government is likely to be "more accountable to local citizens and more appropriate to local needs and preferences" (Johnson, 2003, p. vi) than a distant, centralized government. A direct local voice in executive and legislative institutions better supports local Value Creation models. On the other hand, Value Extraction is more likely if centralized legislative executive functions control relatively large budgets. As a counter argument, high levels of Political decentralization can be inefficient, eroding state capacity to provide public goods and leading to redundancy. *An optimal level for this Indicator might be established in the future.		Value Extraction

Indicator Name		A. Indicator Description – What we measure	Dataset reference	B. Indicator Rationale – Why we measure	Value Creation/Extraction
ADE	Administrative decentralization	Administrative decentralization measures "the ability of local governments to hire and fire and set terms of employment of local employees as well as having regulatory control over own functions" (Ivanyna & Shah, 2014, p.17).	Administrative decentralization (ADE) uses data from: Ivanyna & Shah (2014)	Administrative decentralization spreads out administrative power as local governments employ local people more sensitive to implementing rules that are consistent with local needs. This produces an additional layer of checks and balances to avoid the occurrence of State Capture and Value Extraction business models. More distributed power impedes rent-seeking activities by geographically removed officials and administrative elites. As a Weberian counter argument, local administrations might be captured by local elites who may then compromise the implementation of inclusive rules and regulations. *An optimal level for this Indicator, moderated by institutional quality, might be established in the future.	Value Creation
PGL	Political globalization	Political globalization is measured by using the political dimension of the KOF Globalization Index. It encompasses factors such as the number of embassies and international NGOs located in a particular country, as well as participation in UN peacekeeping missions. Moreover, it is comprised of variables relating to the membership of international/multilateral organizations and international/multilateral treaties.	Political globalization (PGL) uses data from: ETHZ, The KOF Globalization Index	The higher the level of Political globalization, the more constrained the Political Power of national elites becomes in the context of the sovereign state. International norms and accountability to supranational institutions such as the WTO limit elite power. International institutions are assumed to be inclusive.	Value Creation
WPI	Women's Power Index	The Women's Power Index measures the access of women to Political Power at the top echelons of the state. "It analyzes the proportion of women who serve as heads of state or government, in cabinets, in national legislatures, as candidates for national legislatures, and in local government bodies" (CFR, website).	The Women's Power Index (WPI) uses data from: The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)	The higher the levels of gender equality in the leading positions of Political Power, the higher the diversity of interests, business models and constituencies that will <i>a priori</i> be represented and considered for institutional legitimacy in the political economy. The Women's Power Index is an effective Indicator when considered in combination with other measures, such as Social mobility or Government responsiveness to change, that jointly constrain the potential for State Capture by narrow elite groups. As a counter argument, a high Women's Power Index score might signify the hold on power of family-based elites.	Value Creation

6. Country Scorecards

This Chapter comprises the complete collection of the 151 Country Scorecards included in the EQx2026.



Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151

54

Rank change

1 year **+18**
3 years **+15**

EQx Score

51.2

Quality Elite

NextGen Value Creation
Barometer (NGVCb)

97

Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices

EQx Index Areas

Power	Rank / 151	Score
	44	53.3

Value	Rank / 151	Score
	70	50.1

Political Power (I)	Rank / 151	Score
	71	48.4

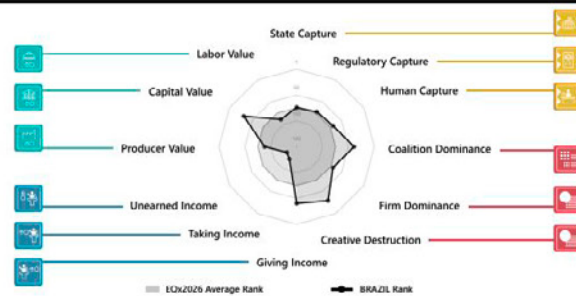
Economic Power (II)	Rank / 151	Score
	28	55.8

Political Value (III)	Rank / 151	Score
	99	47.8

Economic Value (IV)	Rank / 151	Score
	61	51.3

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	75	47.8
Regulatory Capture	73	45.8
Human Capture	70	52.8
Coalition Dominance	40	57.0
Firm Dominance	70	55.6
Creative Destruction	30	55.4
Giving Income	41	56.7
Taking Income	123	43.0
Unearned Income	129	42.3
Producer Value	89	47.6
Capital Value	33	56.6
Labor Value	90	49.3



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	64	55.1
COC Control of corruption	78	44.1
OPG Open government	41	60.7
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	112	24.3
EPR E-Participation Index	21	79.3
PFD Press freedom	50	62.7
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	4	85.5
ADE Administrative decentralization	15	82.0
PGL Political globalization	25	78.8
WPI Women's Power Index	63	49.5
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	120	11.7
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	144	9.5
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	135	16.4
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	31	52.8
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	134	0.0
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	33	51.0
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	107	27.5
CGP Constraints on government power	60	48.2
REQ Regulatory quality	84	43.8
REN Regulatory enforcement	57	44.9
PRI Property rights	63	49.7
CRO Crony capitalism	44	55.2
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	105	35.8
GSI Global Slavery Index	67	56.4
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	55	58.5
HRI Human Rights Index	107	32.0
ARI Academic Freedom Index	54	66.5
GLI Religion - Government Restriction Index	46	66.4
LRI LGBT+ Inclusiveness	11	87.7
WSB Women self made billionaires	17	3.3
WBL Women, business and the law	61	59.0
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	36	66.1
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	19	80.3
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	3	81.8
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	10	86.6
HCI Domestic market diversification	74	58.7
ECI Economic Complexity Index	47	58.7
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	64	51.4
MIL Military expenses as a % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	97	49.6
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	35	66.5
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	35	35.0
CRA Criminal actors	122	25.4
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	50	43.5
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	12	62.6
BWV Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	126	43.5
FKG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	28	59.8
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	51	54.1
FRR Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	27	57.6
ENT Entrepreneurship	108	27.7
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	72	37.1
VCK Venture capital finance	35	38.5
VCA Venture capital availability	64	48.6
API AI private investment	17	49.2
APC AI private investment per capita	27	45.4
RND R&D as a % of GDP	34	68.8
EXR Firm exit ratio	33	65.3
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	10	90.9
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	29	57.0
LEW Life expectancy women	71	60.7
LEM Life expectancy men	63	57.4
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	36	71.1
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	71	57.8
EDU School life expectancy	37	66.9
PIS PISA mean scores	57	30.8
UNV Top universities	68	26.6
GEE Government education expenditure	24	72.9
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	22	80.6
AIP AI patent grants	20	47.5
OSI Online Service Index	19	78.8
NRI Network Readiness Index	40	61.6
INT Internet access	64	64.3
GHI Global Hunger Index	21	74.2
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	35	69.9

	Rank / 151	Score
GPSS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	82	41.0
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	102	23.7
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	112	27.6
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	68	55.7
CSG Construction supply gap	82	64.6
SFA Sanitation facilities	66	50.1
FLA Electricity access	109	36.0
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	1	56.2
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	121	11.9
BKD Battle-related deaths per capita	78	54.1
HOM Homicide rate	38	67.5
SUI Suicide rate	129	19.4
DTR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	24	46.1
DCT Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	9	87.9
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries	41	67.8
FDE Fiscal decentralization	19	61.8
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	145	6.3
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	60	32.8
CRM Criminal markets	105	35.4
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	51	43.5
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	39	63.1
GPA Green patents per capita	45	64.1
EPI Environmental Performance Index	90	23.8
RES Renewable energy share	138	0.0
OU Ocean litter	140	35.6
DEF Deforestation rate	20	78.3
FLJ Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	10	79.5
TLP Terrestrial land protected	68	59.2
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	48	59.5
CDO CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	25	59.4
AIR Air Quality Index	57	64.0
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	136	15.3
WPC Waste collected per capita	35	47.1
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	89	51.2
FIS Fish consumption per capita	53	0.8
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	59	55.4
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	71	42.3
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	6	89.0
HEI Health Efficiency Index	54	52.6
DMS Density of medical staff	15	77.3
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	11	46.6
HAI Housing Affordability Index	66	46.1
RTD Rail track density	47	51.2
GAI Global AI Index	45	62.0
AIM Number of notable AI models	62	40.0
INW Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	112	29.4
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	82	55.3
BTB Barriers to FDI	146	12.2
OFB Open for business	103	53.7
EGL Economic globalization	71	53.5
TRF Trade freedom	3	89.6
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	17	87.1
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	122	29.2
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	3	70.1
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	11	45.3
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	22	39.4
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	46	38.3
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	52	35.1
FMI Financial Markets Index	67	44.1
GCF Gross capital formation	22	80.6
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP	20	47.5
CRY Crypto ownership	19	78.8
UNN Unicorns	40	61.6
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	64	64.3
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	21	74.2
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	35	69.9
LPG Labor productivity growth	69	55.3
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	93	54.6
LFP Labor force participation rate	21	41.8
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	108	45.6
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	106	43.3
UEM Unemployment rate	33	69.9
YUN Youth unemployment rate		
BRN Human flight and brain drain		



Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151

11

Rank change

1 year **+8**
3 years **+11**

EQx Score

62.4

High Quality Elite

NextGen Value Creation
Barometer (NGVCb)

71

Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices

Power	Rank / 151	Score
	24	60.0

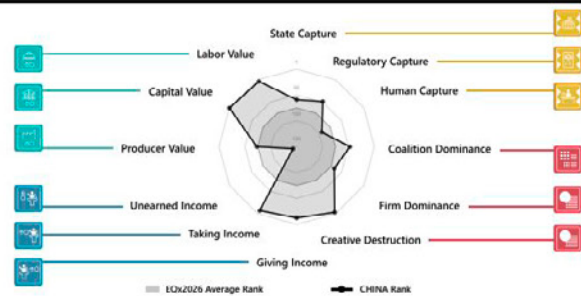
Value	Rank / 151	Score
	4	63.6

EQx Index Areas

Political Power (I)	Economic Power (II)	Political Value (III)	Economic Value (IV)
Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score
61 51.3	6 64.4	8 59.4	5 65.8

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	60	50.5
Regulatory Capture	50	55.7
Human Capture	95	46.1
Coalition Dominance	48	54.9
Firm Dominance	67	55.7
Creative Destruction	4	71.5
Giving Income	13	66.5
Taking Income	8	69.5
Unearned Income	143	36.5
Producer Value	74	49.4
Capital Value	1	75.1
Labor Value	5	70.0



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	76	45.6
COC Control of corruption	52	56.6
OPG Open government	92	32.9
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	44	59.4
EPR E-Participation Index	11	85.4
PFD Press freedom	149	0.0
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	120	23.3
ADE Administrative decentralization	14	82.9
PGL Political globalization	22	80.6
WPI Womens Power Index	90	40.0
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	75	40.9
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	62	54.4
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	87	52.4
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	122	44.5
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	76	51.3
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	48	36.0
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	32	69.9
CGP Constraints on government power	116	19.6
REQ Regulatory quality	70	49.7
REN Regulatory enforcement	53	45.6
PRI Property rights	73	46.4
CRO Crony capitalism	35	57.0
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	5	92.3
GSI Global Slavery Index	49	62.2
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	47	58.5
HRI Human Rights Index	147	12.7
AFI Academic Freedom Index	146	7.9
GRJ Religion - Government Restriction Index	148	0.0
LIN LGBT+ Inclusiveness	84	37.2
WSB Women self made billionaires	2	87.9
WBL Women, business and the law	95	48.9
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	47	62.3
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	51	66.0
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	51	66.0
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	7	70.7
HCI Domestic market diversification	20	80.4
ECI Economic Complexity Index	113	43.4
PLJ Public employees as a % of total employment	112	6.0
MIL Military expenses as a % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	44	21.0
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	92	43.1
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	29	66.7
CRA Criminal actors	7	94.0
SME SMEs per 1000 people	35	38.5
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	10	87.8
BWV Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	2	73.3
FKG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	25	47.1
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	13	83.9
FRR Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	18	71.6
ENT Entrepreneurship	1	100.0
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	25	63.5
VCK Venture capital finance	43	67.2
VCA Venture capital availability	44	65.9
API AI private investment	33	72.6
APC AI private investment per capita	49	64.9
RND R&D as a % of GDP	81	48.5
EXR Firm exit ratio	1	100.0
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	1	100.0
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	25	63.5
LEW Life expectancy women	43	67.2
LEM Life expectancy men	44	65.9
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	33	72.6
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	49	64.9
EDU School life expectancy	81	48.5
PIS PISA mean scores	1	100.0
UNV Top universities	71	26.3
GEE Government education expenditure	79	48.7
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	8	89.5
AIP AI patent grants	1	100.0
OSI Online Service Index	11	80.7
NRI Network Readiness Index	17	84.9
INT Internet access	34	68.0
GHI Global Hunger Index	30	71.8
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	15	79.0

	Rank / 151	Score
GPSS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	1	80.3
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	1	80.3
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	67	59.4
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	13	68.5
CSG Construction supply gap	55	65.1
SFA Sanitation facilities	1	64.8
FLA Electricity access	128	25.5
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	32	66.3
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	1	56.2
BKD Battle-related deaths per capita	9	80.6
HOM Homicide rate	99	48.6
SUI Suicide rate	44	66.0
DTR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	3	77.0
DCT Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	5	98.1
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries	35	70.8
FDE Fiscal decentralization	2	85.1
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	132	20.4
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	62	32.1
CRM Criminal markets	58	53.1
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	16	60.7
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	128	25.6
GPA Green patents per capita	103	33.3
EPI Environmental Performance Index	73	36.1
RES Renewable energy share	135	28.9
OU Ocean litter	144	31.7
DER Deforestation rate	81	45.4
FLJ Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	29	54.6
TLP Terrestrial land protected	134	31.3
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	93	32.6
CDO CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	38	56.1
AIR Air Quality Index	26	59.0
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	139	0.0
WPC Waste collected per capita	131	18.3
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	1	100.0
FIS Fish consumption per capita	127	0.0
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	10	75.1
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	65	50.4
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	33	72.2
HEI Health Efficiency Index	28	53.2
DMS Density of medical staff	74	36.6
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	1	100.0
HAI Housing Affordability Index	112	35.6
RTD Rail track density	112	38.7
GAI Global AI Index	81	26.0
AIM Number of notable AI models	52	47.0
INW Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	107	30.7
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	64	57.0
BTB Barriers to FDI	130	3.9
OFB Open for business	139	0.0
EGL Economic globalization	117	55.0
TRF Trade freedom	145	13.1
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	68	53.5
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	20	85.4
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	1	100.0
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	16	59.8
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	5	72.2
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	1	100.0
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	1	100.0
FMI Financial Markets Index	16	59.8
GCF Gross capital formation	5	72.2
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP	1	100.0
CXY Crypto ownership	6	68.1
UNN Unicorns	29	44.1
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	17	73.1
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	6	64.5
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	57	58.6
LPG Labor productivity growth	46	63.0
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	1	100.0
LFP Labor force participation rate	67	59.4
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	94	49.4
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	36	68.6
UEM Unemployment rate		
YUN Youth unemployment rate		
BRN Human flight and brain drain		

Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151

23

Rank change

1 year **-1**
3 years **-7**

EQx Score

58.6

High Quality Elite

NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb)

17

Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices

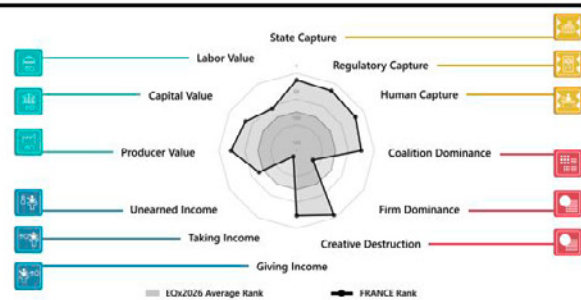
Power	Value
Rank / 151	Rank / 151
Score	Score
10	30
65.6	55.1

EQx Index Areas

Political Power (I)	Economic Power (II)	Political Value (III)	Economic Value (IV)
Rank / 151	Rank / 151	Rank / 151	Rank / 151
Score	Score	Score	Score
15	9	64	26
72.8	62.0	51.4	56.9

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	14	70.7
Regulatory Capture	17	78.2
Human Capture	20	68.1
Coalition Dominance	26	63.4
Firm Dominance	115	45.5
Creative Destruction	7	68.3
Giving Income	25	62.5
Taking Income	138	39.5
Unearned Income	67	52.4
Producer Value	24	60.6
Capital Value	37	56.3
Labor Value	57	54.6



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score		Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	17	86.8	GPS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	26	36.7
COC Control of corruption	19	84.8	GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	120	0.0
OPG Open government	15	86.2	SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	93	33.8
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	27	69.9	REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	138	0.0
EPR E-Participation Index	32	74.4	CSG Construction supply gap	5	77.4
PFD Press freedom	21	79.8	SFA Sanitation facilities	31	79.4
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4	FLA Electricity access	1	64.8
PDE Political decentralization	50	58.7	FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	12	89.9
ADE Administrative decentralization	25	78.4	SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	121	30.1
PGL Political globalization	2	92.3	BKD Battle-related deaths per capita	85	56.2
WPI Women's Power Index	24	79.1	HOM Homicide rate	46	62.2
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	42	59.1	SUI Suicide rate	137	16.0
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	21	81.0	DTR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	107	21.0
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	24	65.6	DCT Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	140	5.8
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	145	29.1	DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries	21	56.0
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	40	65.2	HDE Fiscal decentralization	26	53.6
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	62	26.0	GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	8	90.0
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	20	77.9	GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	20	57.7
CGP Constraints on government power	21	77.4	CRM Criminal markets	108	32.2
REQ Regulatory quality	21	81.8	DBT Government debt as % of GDP	71	15.6
REN Regulatory enforcement	19	82.9	NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	6	98.6
PRI Property rights	15	88.9	GPA Green patents per capita	18	57.1
CRO Crony capitalism	28	57.7	EPI Environmental Performance Index	11	92.9
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	13	84.9	RES Renewable energy share	96	35.0
GSI Global Slavery Index	21	74.1	OU Ocean litter	13	79.9
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	7	58.6	DER Deforestation rate	96	54.8
HRI Human Rights Index	10	93.6	FLJ Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	100	52.1
AFI Academic Freedom Index	27	76.1	TLP Terrestrial land protected	31	73.1
RLI Religion - Government Restriction Index	120	23.5	CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	31	51.6
LIN LGBT+ Inclusiveness	11	87.7	CDO CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	97	51.8
WSB Women self-made billionaires	14	30.9	AIR Air Quality Index	16	70.9
WBL Women, business and the law	1	81.0	HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	58	54.0
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	33	67.5	WPC Waste collected per capita	76	49.0
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	1	97.9	MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	12	70.8
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	10	76.7	FIS Fish consumption per capita	138	13.5
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	35	56.6	MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	133	17.1
HCI Domestic market diversification	14	70.0	FAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	18	51.0
ECI Economic Complexity Index	15	85.1	FBH Financial burden of healthcare		
PLJ Public employees as a % of total employment	90	30.5	HEI Health Efficiency Index	31	44.6
MIL Military expenses as a % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	91	51.4	DMS Density of medical staff	24	77.9
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	15	70.3	FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	11	78.5
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	42	23.4	HAI Housing Affordability Index	36	47.7
CRA Criminal actors	79	49.0	RTD Rail track density	29	69.8
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	67	41.4	GAI Global AI Index	12	82.7
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	8	67.3	AIM Number of notable AI models	4	69.4
BWV Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	143	28.4	INF Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	80	42.0
FKG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	66	44.0	FDF Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	91	42.7
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	58	46.3	BTB Barriers to FDI	22	70.2
FRR Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	41	33.0	OFB Open for business	47	50.8
ENT Entrepreneurship	12	94.5	EGL Economic globalization	20	81.9
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	20	72.5	TRF Trade freedom	23	69.9
VCK Venture capital finance	8	47.3	IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	97	32.6
VCA Venture capital availability	17	81.8	IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	128	10.2
API AI private investment	6	54.6	DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	113	55.1
APC AI private investment per capita	11	63.2	DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	133	21.0
RND R&D as a % of GDP	15	81.3	IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	1	59.3
EXR Firm exit ratio	13	72.3	DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	1	53.9
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	18	76.7	DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	20	36.6
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	10	74.0	FMI Financial Markets Index	13	95.9
LEW Life expectancy women	5	84.5	GCF Gross capital formation	90	43.9
LEM Life expectancy men	14	84.0	GOL Gold demand as % of GDP	4	69.8
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	13	78.6	CXY Crypto ownership	4	75.3
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	64	61.6	UNN Unicorns	6	48.2
EDU School life expectancy	34	68.7	UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	13	46.3
PIS PISA mean scores	25	66.9	BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	34	41.3
UNV Top universities	42	41.1	BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	53	34.4
GEE Government education expenditure	32	68.5	LPG Labor productivity growth	84	39.2
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	2	95.4	WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	23	49.1
AIP AI patent grants	8	48.2	LFP Labor force participation rate	113	36.9
OSI Online Service Index	34	72.6	LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	34	64.6
NRI Network Readiness Index	16	84.9	ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	18	75.6
INT Internet access	48	66.4	UEM Unemployment rate	104	46.7
GHI Global Hunger Index			YUN Youth unemployment rate	100	46.4
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	5	84.8	BRN Human flight and brain drain	16	87.1



Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151

Rank change

EQx Score

NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb)

9

1 year -1
3 years -1

62.7

Very High Quality Elite

5

Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices

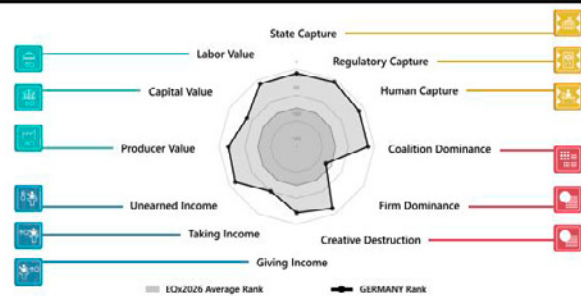
EQx Index Areas

Power	Value
Rank / 151	Rank / 151
Score	Score
7	67.1
14	60.4

Political Power (I)	Economic Power (II)	Political Value (III)	Economic Value (IV)
Rank / 151	Rank / 151	Rank / 151	Rank / 151
Score	Score	Score	Score
7	8	10	17
77.4	62.0	58.9	61.2

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	9	73.9
Regulatory Capture	6	83.5
Human Capture	12	70.9
Coalition Dominance	13	67.8
Firm Dominance	86	51.7
Creative Destruction	13	64.1
Giving Income	23	62.8
Taking Income	51	54.3
Unearned Income	14	59.7
Producer Value	19	61.4
Capital Value	40	55.5
Labor Value	10	66.3



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	6	89.5
COC Control of corruption	10	98.6
OPG Open government	12	92.4
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	17	76.8
EPR E-Participation Index	4	89.1
PFD Press freedom	11	89.4
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	11	76.9
ADE Administrative decentralization	29	76.6
PGL Political globalization	3	92.2
WPI Women's Power Index	25	78.5
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	15	80.8
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	36	71.1
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	60	60.1
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	116	45.4
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	44	63.2
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	61	26.3
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	8	91.3
CGP Constraints on government power	5	97.3
REQ Regulatory quality	12	91.1
REN Regulatory enforcement	7	98.6
PRI Property rights	7	90.8
CRO Crony capitalism	39	56.2
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	14	84.4
GSI Global Slavery Index	3	83.2
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	11	58.6
HRI Human Rights Index	8	96.5
ARI Academic Freedom Index	21	77.1
LRN Religion - Government Restriction Index	63	59.3
GRI LGBT+ Inclusiveness	11	87.7
WSB Women self-made billionaires	9	46.6
WBL Women, business and the law	1	81.0
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	83	38.0
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	21	79.4
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	27	71.8
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	69	41.3
HDI Domestic market diversification	3	71.5
ECI Economic Complexity Index	4	96.9
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	103	47.7
MIL Military expenses as a % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	53	60.3
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	7	78.7
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	7	78.7
CRA Criminal actors	65	56.9
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	49	43.7
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	2	77.3
BWV Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	135	39.0
FKG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	38	56.7
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	66	41.3
FRR Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	39	37.4
ENT Entrepreneurship	13	93.9
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	43	49.2
VCK Venture capital finance	14	44.7
VCA Venture capital availability	4	99.8
API AI private investment	7	52.8
APC AI private investment per capita	15	55.7
RND R&D as a % of GDP	9	87.7
EXR Firm exit ratio	41	56.9
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	36	59.1
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	6	77.8
LEW Life expectancy women	23	76.7
LEM Life expectancy men	29	79.1
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	4	81.1
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	25	72.7
EDU School life expectancy	17	78.7
PIS PISA mean scores	22	68.7
UNV Top universities	35	51.9
GEE Government education expenditure	38	67.2
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	6	90.1
AIP AI patent grants	5	51.1
OSI Online Service Index	12	80.5
NRI Network Readiness Index	9	93.3
INT Internet access	28	68.7
GHI Global Hunger Index		
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	22	74.5

	Rank / 151	Score
GPSS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	8	75.6
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	107	27.2
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	124	0.7
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	138	0.0
CSG Construction supply gap	24	59.5
SFA Sanitation facilities	15	83.9
FLA Electricity access	1	64.8
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	29	70.7
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	130	25.0
BKD Battle-related deaths per capita	1	56.2
HOM Homicide rate	30	69.4
SUI Suicide rate	116	31.8
DTR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	3	81.1
DCT Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	113	44.7
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries		
FDE Fiscal decentralization	1	100.0
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	27	76.2
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	11	71.1
CRM Criminal markets	84	49.3
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	50	48.5
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	10	88.7
GPA Green patents per capita	6	81.2
EPI Environmental Performance Index	1	100.0
RES Renewable energy share	88	37.4
OU Ocean litter	8	85.5
DER Deforestation rate	104	53.5
FLUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	99	52.3
TLP Terrestrial land protected	13	94.2
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	47	30.4
CDO CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	126	39.6
AIR Air Quality Index	22	69.4
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	64	52.2
WPC Waste collected per capita	80	46.6
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	1	100.0
FIS Fish consumption per capita	79	54.1
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	130	19.6
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	10	74.1
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	5	72.1
HEI Health Efficiency Index	43	28.7
DMS Density of medical staff	9	96.8
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	26	74.2
HAI Housing Affordability Index	16	71.6
RTD Rail track density	30	69.5
GAI Global AI Index	14	78.4
AIM Number of notable AI models	6	52.3
INFD Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	102	38.6
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	103	40.5
BTB Barriers to FDI	7	73.1
OFB Open for business	23	61.9
EGL Economic globalization	15	84.2
TRF Trade freedom	23	69.9
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	120	19.1
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	133	4.4
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	114	55.1
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	144	13.7
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	1	59.3
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	49	53.7
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	10	50.2
FMI Financial Markets Index	11	96.3
GCF Gross capital formation	91	43.9
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP	11	63.4
CRY Crypto ownership		
UNN Unicorns	5	49.3
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	20	42.1
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	73	46.6
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	60	24.3
LPG Labor productivity growth	94	37.1
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	17	59.8
LFP Labor force participation rate	83	49.2
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	53	62.7
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	1	100.0
UEM Unemployment rate	48	64.7
YUN Youth unemployment rate	38	68.4
BRN Human flight and brain drain	13	89.5

Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151 **53**
Rank change
1 year **+7**
3 years **+6**
EQx Score **51.4**

Quality Elite

NextGen Value Creation
Barometer (NGVCb)
106

Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices

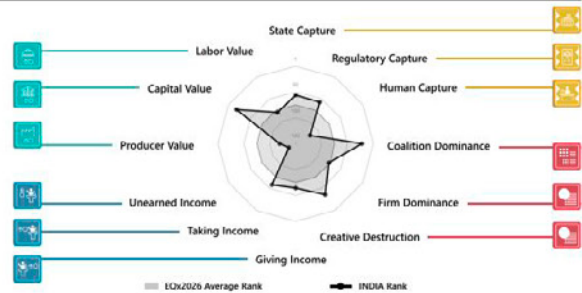
Power	Value
Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score
45 53.0	63 50.6

EQx Index Areas

Political Power (I)	Economic Power (II)	Political Value (III)	Economic Value (IV)
Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score
74 48.2	32 55.5	78 49.8	64 50.9

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	57	50.9
Regulatory Capture	58	51.9
Human Capture	119	39.5
Coalition Dominance	23	64.2
Firm Dominance	77	54.0
Creative Destruction	37	52.8
Giving Income	65	53.1
Taking Income	59	53.0
Unearned Income	136	41.2
Producer Value	120	39.6
Capital Value	19	60.1
Labor Value	81	51.4



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture (I.1)		
COR Political corruption	94	35.8
COC Control of corruption	70	47.0
OPG Open government	40	60.9
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	28	69.7
EPR E-Participation Index	59	60.9
PFJ Press freedom	127	21.7
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	123	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	33	68.3
ADE Administrative decentralization	64	50.5
PGL Political globalization	16	82.6
WPI Women's Power Index	51	59.5
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	117	13.0
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	137	13.6
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	77	55.5
GYC Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	147	0.0
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	4	85.9
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate		
Regulatory Capture (I.2)		
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	35	67.8
CGP Constraints on government power	52	53.2
REQ Regulatory quality	73	49.0
REN Regulatory enforcement	67	41.4
PRI Property rights	63	49.7
CRO Crony capitalism	61	41.3
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	32	72.3
Human Capture (I.3)		
GSI Global Slavery Index	121	37.8
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	45	58.6
HRI Human Rights Index	115	30.1
AFI Academic Freedom Index	134	15.9
GRJ Religion - Government Restriction Index	128	18.8
LNI LGBT+ Inclusiveness	59	59.1
WSB Women self-made billionaires	6	68.3
WBL Women, business and the law	106	43.5
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	117	1.3
Coalition Dominance (II.4)		
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	23	78.0
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	41	69.2
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	26	62.2
HDI Domestic market diversification	19	68.6
ECI Economic Complexity Index	37	67.3
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	74	69.4
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	111	43.8
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	73	53.4
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors		
CRA Criminal actors	48	62.8
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	109	35.9
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	10	65.3
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	145	24.1
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	47	54.2
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	39	59.4
FRR Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	23	60.8
Creative Destruction (II.6)		
ENT Entrepreneurship	69	39.5
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	1	100.0
VCK Venture capital finance	35	38.5
VCA Venture capital availability	17	81.8
API AI private investment	12	50.5
APC AI private investment per capita	31	44.1
RND R&D as a % of GDP	54	58.0
EXR Firm exit ratio	61	37.8
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	23	71.5
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	51	16.5
Giving Income (II.7)		
LEW Life expectancy women	96	42.7
LEM Life expectancy men	76	49.6
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	96	45.6
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	112	34.2
EDU School life expectancy	77	49.7
PIS PISA mean scores		
UNV Top universities	77	25.5
GEE Government education expenditure	71	50.1
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	27	76.6
AIP AI patent grants	6	48.7
OSI Online Service Index	41	70.0
NRI Network Readiness Index	45	58.8
INT Internet access	108	46.5
GHI Global Hunger Index	89	21.0
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	59	50.8

	Rank / 151	Score
Giving Income (II.7)		
GPS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)		
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	26	74.3
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	64	50.1
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	36	71.4
Taking Income (II.8)		
CSG Construction supply gap		
SFA Sanitation facilities	58	61.0
FIA Electricity access	88	64.3
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	116	30.3
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	49	61.3
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	96	56.2
HOM Homicide rate	75	48.2
SUI Suicide rate	115	33.6
DIR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	53	61.5
DCT Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	82	45.0
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries		
FDE Fiscal decentralization		
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	26	76.6
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	16	64.3
Unearned Income (II.9)		
CRM Criminal markets	137	16.4
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	58	36.8
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	73	46.0
GPA Green patents per capita	65	42.9
EPI Environmental Performance Index	146	9.0
RES Renewable energy share	61	50.8
OLI Ocean litter	72	39.1
DER Deforestation rate	111	51.8
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	123	46.9
TLP Terrestrial land protected	121	27.3
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	3	82.1
CDX CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	65	59.5
AIR Air Quality Index	109	0.0
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	20	56.9
WPC Waste collected per capita		
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate		
FIS Fish consumption per capita	63	62.8
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	15	77.4
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	46	44.9
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	127	0.0
HEI Health Efficiency Index		
DMS Density of medical staff	108	30.4
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	80	37.6
HAI Housing Affordability Index	35	48.5
RTD Rail track density	92	27.0
GAI Global AI Index	1	100.0
AJM Number of notable AI models	11	46.6
FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	125	33.0
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	99	40.9
BTB Barriers to FDI	78	28.6
OFB Open for business	45	51.5
EGL Economic globalization	120	26.9
TRF Trade freedom	126	27.0
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	117	21.5
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	139	0.0
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	77	55.4
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	80	43.6
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	48	58.7
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	50	53.7
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)		
FMI Financial Markets Index	24	80.5
GCF Gross capital formation	13	80.9
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP	21	37.1
CRY Crypto ownership	36	44.3
UNN Unicorns	3	54.6
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	7	67.1
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	54	36.1
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	50	36.2
LPG Labor productivity growth	20	70.4
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases		
LFP Labor force participation rate	111	37.6
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	137	20.7
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	21	41.8
UEM Unemployment rate	60	61.1
YUN Youth unemployment rate	98	47.6
BRN Human flight and brain drain	68	50.2

Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151 **27** Rank change **+9**
1 year **+5** 3 years
EQx Score **56.2**

Quality Elite

NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb)

24

Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices

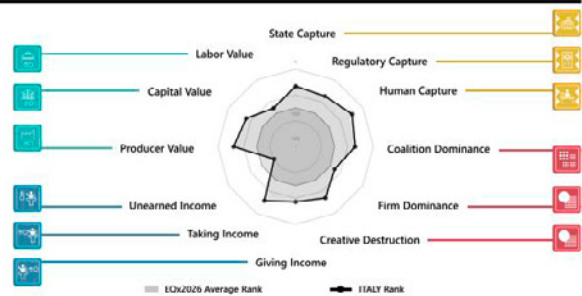
Power	Value
Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score
30 58.1	29 55.2

EQx Index Areas

Political Power (I)	Economic Power (II)	Political Value (III)	Economic Value (IV)
Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score	Rank / 151 Score
30 63.5	34 55.3	32 54.9	31 55.4

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	34	60.1
Regulatory Capture	38	64.1
Human Capture	25	67.3
Coalition Dominance	36	59.0
Firm Dominance	64	57.2
Creative Destruction	36	53.2
Giving Income	44	56.4
Taking Income	30	59.1
Unearned Income	103	47.3
Producer Value	31	57.8
Capital Value	41	55.2
Labor Value	65	53.6



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	37	74.9
COC Control of corruption	37	68.2
OPG Open government	29	68.8
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	116	22.2
EPR E-Participation Index	59	60.9
PFD Press freedom	36	68.3
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	4	85.5
ADE Administrative decentralization	64	50.5
PGL Political globalization	4	91.7
WPI Women's Power Index	36	68.9
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	66	46.7
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	14	86.0
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	78	55.4
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3 year growth rate	109	46.3
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	65	56.9
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1 year growth rate	60	27.3
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	117	21.0
CGP Constraints on government power	25	74.9
REQ Regulatory quality	39	68.5
REN Regulatory enforcement	35	62.7
PRI Property rights	31	78.5
CRO Crony capitalism	30	57.5
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	53	56.1
GSI Global Slavery Index	37	66.8
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	22	58.6
HRI Human Rights Index	9	95.5
AFI Academic Freedom Index	19	77.9
GRN Religion - Government Restriction Index	68	58.1
LRI LGBT+ Inclusiveness	58	61.3
WSB Women self made billionaires	5	69.5
WBL Women, business and the law	13	77.3
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	93	33.2
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	11	86.7
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	24	73.2
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	57	47.8
HDI Domestic market diversification	10	70.3
ECI Economic Complexity Index	17	83.4
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment		
MIL Military expenses as a % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	46	64.6
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	105	28.8
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	34	39.6
CRA Criminal actors	122	25.4
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	45	44.2
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	21	58.7
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	133	40.5
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	35	58.4
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	42	58.1
FRF Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	16	68.2
ENT Entrepreneurship	31	65.7
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	40	52.9
VCK Venture capital finance	24	40.7
VCA Venture capital availability	104	30.6
API AI private investment	15	49.7
APC AI private investment per capita	20	51.2
RND R&D as a % of GDP	31	72.4
EXR Firm exit ratio	28	66.7
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	30	65.1
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	38	44.6
LEW Life expectancy women	7	83.4
LEM Life expectancy men	7	87.9
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	20	77.1
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	15	74.2
EDU School life expectancy	23	74.3
PIS PISA mean scores	30	66.2
UNV Top universities	30	54.9
GEE Government education expenditure	76	49.7
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	25	79.6
AIP AI patent grants	12	47.6
OSI Online Service Index	58	64.4
NRI Network Readiness Index	24	76.1
INT Internet access	45	66.6
GHI Global Hunger Index		
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	28	72.1

	Rank / 151	Score
GP5 Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	33	6.7
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	109	23.0
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	104	23.2
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	138	0.0
CSG Construction supply gap	39	28.5
SFA Sanitation facilities	44	71.4
FIA Electricity access	1	64.8
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	26	72.0
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	28	68.8
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	1	56.2
HOM Homicide rate	11	78.3
SUI Suicide rate	71	56.5
DIR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	114	14.5
DCT Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	58	59.0
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries	18	60.9
HDE Fiscal decentralization	32	46.7
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	34	71.0
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	23	54.6
CRM Criminal markets	101	39.2
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	73	0.7
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	15	84.4
GPA Green patents per capita	26	51.5
EPI Environmental Performance Index	26	78.6
RES Renewable energy share	100	34.4
OLI Ocean litter	39	59.4
DER Deforestation rate	78	56.2
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	93	53.5
TLP Terrestrial land protected	52	58.6
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	33	50.6
CDX CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	109	46.9
AIR Air Quality Index	41	60.7
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	57	54.1
WPC Waste collected per capita	71	50.1
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	10	78.6
FIS Fish consumption per capita	133	20.5
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	121	23.7
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	24	49.6
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	55	60.6
HEI Health Efficiency Index	11	70.4
DMS Density of medical staff	33	69.7
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	17	76.2
HAI Housing Affordability Index	4	95.2
RTD Rail track density	41	63.1
GAI Global AI Index	25	71.3
AIM Number of notable AI models	11	46.6
FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	109	36.2
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	116	37.8
BTB Barriers to FDI	48	59.7
OFB Open for business	43	52.1
EGL Economic globalization	34	71.7
TRF Trade freedom	23	69.9
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	112	26.3
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	131	6.3
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	115	55.1
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	135	17.6
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	1	59.3
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	1	53.9
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	15	40.6
FMI Financial Markets Index	7	98.7
GCF Gross capital formation	77	47.4
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP		
CRY Crypto ownership	2	78.4
UNN Unicorns	25	43.1
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	38	26.5
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	22	46.8
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	55	30.2
LPG Labor productivity growth	82	39.3
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	12	64.7
LFP Labor force participation rate	131	22.7
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	97	52.6
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	13	83.3
UEM Unemployment rate	102	49.4
YUN Youth unemployment rate	117	34.8
BRN Human flight and brain drain	19	82.2



Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151

Rank change

EQx Score

NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb)

3

1 year **+1**
3 years **+1**

64.8

Very High Quality Elite

13

Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices

EQx Index Areas

Power	Rank / 151	Score
	14	64.0

Value	Rank / 151	Score
	2	65.1

Political Power (I)	Rank / 151	Score
	18	70.8

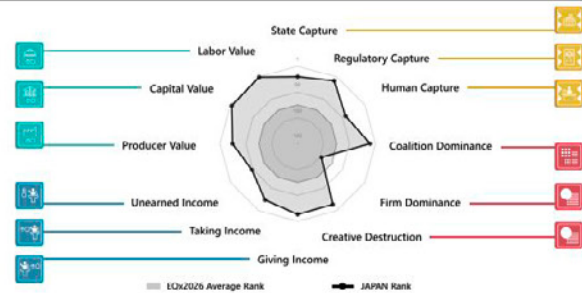
Economic Power (II)	Rank / 151	Score
	13	60.6

Political Value (III)	Rank / 151	Score
	4	60.9

Economic Value (IV)	Rank / 151	Score
	2	67.3

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	21	67.0
Regulatory Capture	10	82.7
Human Capture	44	59.6
Coalition Dominance	11	68.6
Firm Dominance	98	47.8
Creative Destruction	15	62.8
Giving Income	14	65.8
Taking Income	25	60.5
Unearned Income	49	54.6
Producer Value	25	60.2
Capital Value	4	65.7
Labor Value	2	74.3



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	20	85.9
COC Control of corruption	17	88.2
OPG Open government	21	79.5
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	29	68.0
EPR E-Participation Index	2	90.3
PFD Press freedom	52	61.8
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	1	100.0
ADE Administrative decentralization	36	69.4
PGL Political globalization	50	63.3
WPI Women's Power Index	115	32.0
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	20	74.5
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	61	54.5
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	42	63.0
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	56	46.6
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	43	63.5
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	20	63.5
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	16	80.9
CGP Constraints on government power	20	77.6
REQ Regulatory quality	17	86.7
REN Regulatory enforcement	15	91.8
PRI Property rights	7	90.8
CRO Crony capitalism	15	60.6
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	4	94.7
GSI Global Slavery Index	9	79.7
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	1	58.6
HRI Human Rights Index	29	76.3
AFI Academic Freedom Index	54	66.5
GRJ Religion - Government Restriction Index	3	87.9
LNI LGBT+ Inclusiveness	62	56.9
WSB Women self made billionaires	12	32.2
WBL Women, business and the law	91	49.9
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	115	4.7
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	41	65.4
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	43	68.2
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	67	43.4
HCI Domestic market diversification	62	61.5
EHI Economic Complexity Index	1	100.0
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	40	63.3
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	68	59.0
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	57	59.2
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	8	78.5
CRA Criminal actors	33	70.7
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	22	54.9
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	29	51.4
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	107	52.0
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	46	54.4
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	57	46.4
FRF Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	42	32.5
ENT Entrepreneurship	22	76.4
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	5	99.8
VCK Venture capital finance	20	41.9
VCA Venture capital availability	15	84.8
API AI private investment	14	49.8
APC AI private investment per capita	23	47.5
RND R&D as a % of GDP	6	89.2
EXR Firm exit ratio	66	34.2
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	13	83.5
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	42	42.3
LEW Life expectancy women	1	90.1
LEM Life expectancy men	5	88.4
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	23	75.6
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	45	66.4
EDU School life expectancy	44	65.1
PIS PISA mean scores	3	91.3
UNV Top universities	48	34.4
GEE Government education expenditure	97	38.7
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	14	84.1
AIP AI patent grants	4	60.5
OSI Online Service Index	9	82.4
NRI Network Readiness Index	12	88.8
INT Internet access	59	65.5
GHI Global Hunger Index		
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	3	86.8

	Rank / 151	Score
GPSS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	7	76.4
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	43	65.2
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses		
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	136	4.3
CSG Construction supply gap	15	67.4
SFA Sanitation facilities	6	85.6
FIA Electricity access	1	64.8
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	61	51.3
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	10	88.0
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	1	56.2
HOM Homicide rate	5	95.4
SUI Suicide rate	139	12.7
DIR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)		
DCT Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	81	46.7
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries		
HDE Fiscal decentralization	11	80.3
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	12	86.7
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	40	21.2
CRM Criminal markets	13	84.6
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	74	0.0
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	8	94.3
GPA Green patents per capita	1	100.0
EPI Environmental Performance Index	24	80.9
RES Renewable energy share	122	27.8
OLU Ocean litter	55	50.5
DER Deforestation rate	91	55.0
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	125	46.6
TLP Terrestrial land protected	23	77.0
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	46	31.1
CDX CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	131	35.2
AIR Air Quality Index	17	70.1
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita		
WPC Waste collected per capita	40	54.8
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	34	39.0
FIS Fish consumption per capita	139	0.0
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	97	44.4
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	1	100.0
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	93	49.8
HEI Health Efficiency Index	8	78.6
DMS Density of medical staff	14	91.4
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	16	76.6
HAI Housing Affordability Index	18	63.8
RTD Rail track density	56	50.7
GAI Global AI Index	9	86.8
AIM Number of notable AI models	11	46.6
FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	137	29.0
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	119	36.6
BTB Barriers to FDI	39	64.6
OFB Open for business	33	54.9
EGL Economic globalization	48	64.5
TRF Trade freedom	58	62.1
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	102	29.7
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	82	48.9
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	118	55.0
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	141	15.0
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	58	57.6
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	41	53.8
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	4	89.2
FMI Financial Markets Index	1	100.0
GCF Gross capital formation	45	59.0
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP	1	71.0
CRY Crypto ownership	1	84.6
UNN Unicorns	12	44.2
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	36	28.3
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	37	41.7
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	30	58.5
LPG Labor productivity growth	36	61.8
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	3	82.7
LFP Labor force participation rate	66	56.0
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	84	57.6
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	1	100.0
UEM Unemployment rate	23	68.5
YUN Youth unemployment rate	19	74.6
BRN Human flight and brain drain	23	79.7

Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151

Rank change

EQx Score

NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb)

90

1 year **+9**
3 years **+13**

47.5

Middle Quality Elite

132

Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices

EQx Index Areas

Power	Rank / 151	Score
	113	42.6

Value	Rank / 151	Score
	72	50.0

Political Power (I)	Rank / 151	Score
	137	31.4

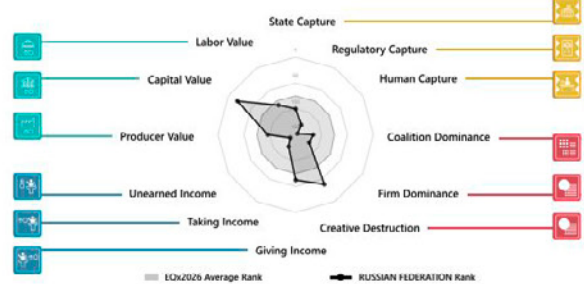
Economic Power (II)	Rank / 151	Score
	64	48.2

Political Value (III)	Rank / 151	Score
	119	45.2

Economic Value (IV)	Rank / 151	Score
	49	52.3

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	101	44.3
Regulatory Capture	129	26.8
Human Capture	147	20.7
Coalition Dominance	117	41.8
Firm Dominance	121	44.7
Creative Destruction	40	52.0
Giving Income	63	53.1
Taking Income	124	42.8
Unearned Income	139	38.0
Producer Value	97	45.5
Capital Value	21	59.9
Labor Value	85	50.7



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	118	26.2
COC Control of corruption	109	32.1
OPG Open government	77	38.6
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	54	55.3
EPR E-Participation Index	63	59.6
PFD Press freedom	144	10.6
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	126	52.3
PDE Political decentralization	31	72.6
ADE Administrative decentralization	83	41.5
PGL Political globalization	12	83.8
WPI Women's Power Index	137	21.3
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	45	58.5
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	113	33.3
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	143	11.0
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	121	44.7
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	49	61.2
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	11	68.4
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	84	40.0
CGP Constraints on government power	119	18.2
REQ Regulatory quality	131	23.3
REN Regulatory enforcement	80	37.5
PRI Property rights	136	18.9
CRO Crony capitalism	67	31.6
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	111	29.7
GSI Global Slavery Index	145	7.2
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	144	0.0
HRI Human Rights Index	147	12.7
AFI Academic Freedom Index	125	19.9
GLI Religion - Government Restriction Index	145	3.3
LRI LGBT+ Inclusiveness	109	26.2
WSB Women self made billionaires	8	52.1
WBL Women, business and the law	110	41.6
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	22	72.8
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	97	37.7
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	37	70.0
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	37	70.0
HDI Domestic market diversification	9	70.4
ECI Economic Complexity Index	48	58.7
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	140	0.0
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	94	38.6
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	94	38.6
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	122	25.4
CRA Criminal actors	78	40.2
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	43	30.4
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	146	23.7
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	27	59.9
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	60	44.1
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	29	54.2
FRF Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	70	39.1
ENT Entrepreneurship	77	35.9
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	35	38.5
VCK Venture capital finance	84	39.6
VCA Venture capital availability	35	47.2
API AI private investment	35	43.7
APC AI private investment per capita	41	64.8
RND R&D as a % of GDP	20	70.3
EXR Firm exit ratio	17	77.1
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	70	60.9
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	97	38.3
LEW Life expectancy women	40	69.6
LEM Life expectancy men	75	55.8
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	50	60.7
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	23	69.1
EDU School life expectancy	9	76.7
PIS PISA mean scores	37	67.3
UNV Top universities	69	51.1
GEE Government education expenditure	44	67.4
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	18	47.5
AIP AI patent grants	53	65.9
OSI Online Service Index	37	62.5
NRI Network Readiness Index	23	69.1
INT Internet access	9	76.7
GHI Global Hunger Index	37	67.3
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	37	67.3

	Rank / 151	Score
GPS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	30	73.4
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	120	8.7
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	118	23.5
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	32	42.5
CSG Construction supply gap	65	57.9
SFA Sanitation facilities	1	64.8
FIA Electricity access	141	13.8
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	145	3.4
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	143	51.4
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	103	31.7
HOM Homicide rate	144	0.0
SUI Suicide rate	14	77.2
DIR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	3	77.0
DCT Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	8	88.9
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries	11	86.9
HDE Fiscal decentralization	140	13.3
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	3	77.6
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	140	13.3
CRM Criminal markets	3	77.6
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	129	25.7
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	60	43.1
GPA Green patents per capita	68	49.7
EPI Environmental Performance Index	133	22.4
RES Renewable energy share	51	52.7
OLU Ocean litter	138	0.0
DER Deforestation rate	40	60.1
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	103	36.1
TLP Terrestrial land protected	40	40.0
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	139	15.4
CDX CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	26	68.1
AIR Air Quality Index	71	43.1
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	114	34.0
WPC Waste collected per capita	116	27.8
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	23	50.1
FIS Fish consumption per capita	46	62.7
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	50	18.7
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	26	75.3
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	50	61.2
HEI Health Efficiency Index	52	38.8
DMS Density of medical staff	15	77.2
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	26	71.2
HAI Housing Affordability Index	11	46.6
RTD Rail track density	134	31.1
GAI Global AI Index	122	35.7
AJM Number of notable AI models	87	0.0
IFD Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	114	28.4
IFD Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	90	46.4
BTB Barriers to FDI	111	26.5
OFB Open for business	137	1.5
EGL Economic globalization	58	55.7
TRF Trade freedom	83	42.5
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	114	45.8
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	122	51.9
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	36	67.7
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	44	59.4
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	17	59.8
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	23	69.1
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	36	67.7
FMI Financial Markets Index	44	59.4
GCF Gross capital formation	17	59.8
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP	11	58.5
CRY Crypto ownership	16	80.5
UNN Unicorns	92	37.6
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	34	28.3
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	81	50.5
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	76	59.1
LPG Labor productivity growth	21	41.8
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	22	68.6
LFP Labor force participation rate	52	62.7
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	43	62.5
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry		
UEN Unemployment rate		
YUN Youth unemployment rate		
BRN Human flight and brain drain		

Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151 **17**
Rank change
1 year **-7**
3 years **-8**
EQx Score **60.9**

High Quality Elite

NextGen Value Creation Barometer (NGVCb) **7**

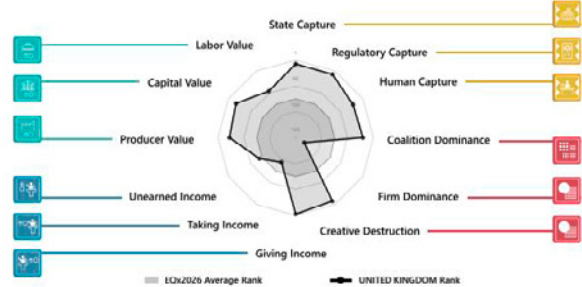
Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices			
Power		Value	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
9	66.3	22	58.2

EQx Index Areas							
Political Power (I)		Economic Power (II)		Political Value (III)		Economic Value (IV)	
Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score	Rank / 151	Score
10	76.4	11	61.2	23	56.6	22	59.1

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	8	76.2
Regulatory Capture	9	83.0
Human Capture	23	67.7
Coalition Dominance	21	64.5
Firm Dominance	132	43.4
Creative Destruction	9	67.3
Giving Income	3	69.2
Taking Income	96	47.5
Unearned Income	70	52.0
Producer Value	23	60.8
Capital Value	18	60.8
Labor Value	47	56.1



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	15	87.7
COC Control of corruption	15	92.0
OPG Open government	10	93.9
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	21	74.0
EPR E-Participation Index	4	89.1
PFD Press freedom	17	82.8
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	33	68.3
ADE Administrative decentralization	46	64.9
PGL Political globalization	1	93.0
WPI Women's Power Index	17	86.3
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	19	75.2
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	29	76.0
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	14	69.2
GWG Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	125	43.7
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	44	63.2
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	34	49.5
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	13	83.6
CGP Constraints on government power	10	92.3
REQ Regulatory quality	11	91.5
REN Regulatory enforcement	16	90.3
PRI Property rights	7	90.8
CRO Crony capitalism	40	56.2
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	8	90.0
GSI Global Slavery Index	15	75.7
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	12	58.6
HRI Human Rights Index	30	75.3
ARI Academic Freedom Index	51	67.6
GLI Religion - Government Restriction Index	55	62.9
LRI LGBT+ Inclusiveness	11	87.7
WSB Women self made billionaires	11	36.6
WBL Women, business and the law	13	77.3
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	21	72.9
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	26	77.7
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	48	66.4
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	4	95.3
HCI Domestic market diversification	16	69.2
ECI Economic Complexity Index	9	89.5
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	99	21.8
MIL Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	74	56.8
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	81	46.5
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	2	90.8
CRA Criminal actors	97	41.1
SME SMEs per 1,000 people	36	47.0
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	23	43.9
BIW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	117	49.7
FXG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	60	49.0
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	70	34.4
FRR Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	37	39.0
ENT Entrepreneurship	1	100.0
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	60	42.5
VCK Venture capital finance	7	48.6
VCA Venture capital availability	9	90.8
API AI private investment	3	59.9
APC AI private investment per capita	8	76.9
RND R&D as a % of GDP	11	86.2
EXR Firm exit ratio	1	85.9
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	40	52.1
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	8	74.7
LEW Life expectancy women	28	74.9
LEM Life expectancy men	24	80.3
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	4	83.1
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	40	67.4
EDU School life expectancy	13	81.0
PIS PISA mean scores	12	74.0
UNV Top universities	9	80.2
GEE Government education expenditure	21	77.3
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	3	91.4
AIP AI patent grants	7	48.2
OSI Online Service Index	7	83.5
NRI Network Readiness Index	8	93.4
INT Internet access	14	69.9
GHI Global Hunger Index		
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	17	76.9

	Rank / 151	Score
GPSS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	13	60.9
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	69	47.0
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	76	44.1
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	110	28.2
CSG Construction supply gap	11	70.8
SFA Sanitation facilities	10	84.7
FIA Electricity access	1	64.8
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	28	71.3
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	135	17.0
BKI Battle-related deaths per capita	81	56.2
HOM Homicide rate		
SUI Suicide rate	104	45.8
DIR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	122	1.9
DCR Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	3	77.0
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries		
HDE Fiscal decentralization	45	36.7
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	14	86.4
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	15	65.8
CRM Criminal markets	94	43.9
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	67	23.5
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	37	65.3
GPA Green patents per capita	17	59.7
EPI Environmental Performance Index	1	100.0
RES Renewable energy share	107	31.8
OLU Ocean litter	34	63.4
DER Deforestation rate	80	55.9
FUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	119	47.5
TLP Terrestrial land protected	28	74.7
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	38	45.8
CDX CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	103	49.4
AIR Air Quality Index	15	72.1
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita	52	55.4
WPC Waste collected per capita	57	51.6
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	14	69.6
FIS Fish consumption per capita	96	44.2
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	110	28.9
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	14	54.1
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	27	66.7
HEI Health Efficiency Index	38	34.2
DMS Density of medical staff	23	78.6
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	10	78.8
HAI Housing Affordability Index	67	14.3
RTD Rail track density	45	59.3
GAI Global AI Index	5	88.6
AJM Number of notable AI models	6	52.3
FDS Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	12	67.9
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	130	33.5
BTB Barriers to FDI	1	75.0
OFB Open for business	48	50.6
EGL Economic globalization	18	82.4
TRF Trade freedom	10	78.7
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	115	23.5
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	122	20.8
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	120	55.0
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	139	16.9
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	61	57.4
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	79	53.4
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	16	38.1
FMI Financial Markets Index	1	100.0
GCF Gross capital formation	111	36.2
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP	5	68.0
CRY Crypto ownership	26	56.7
UNN Unicorns	4	54.0
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	8	65.8
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	16	55.4
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	18	72.8
LPG Labor productivity growth	81	39.4
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	13	63.9
LFP Labor force participation rate	79	51.1
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	38	64.3
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	21	41.8
UEM Unemployment rate	59	61.5
YUN Youth unemployment rate	79	55.6
BRN Human flight and brain drain	20	80.9



Level 1 - Index

EQx Rank / 151

Rank change

EQx Score

NextGen Value Creation
Barometer (NGVCb)

2

1 year **0**
3 years **+19**

65.0

Very High Quality Elite

75

Level 2 - Sub-Indices [x2]
Index Areas [x4]

EQx Sub-Indices

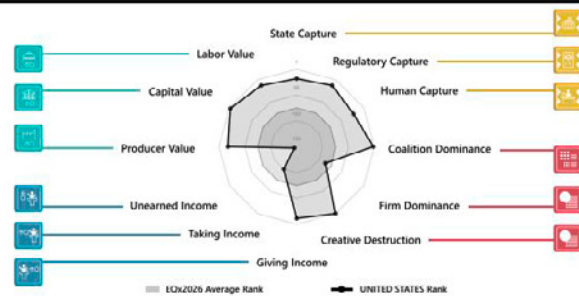
EQx Index Areas

Power	Value
Rank / 151	Rank / 151
Score	Score
1	16
75.1	60.0

Political Power (I)	Economic Power (II)	Political Value (III)	Economic Value (IV)
Rank / 151	Rank / 151	Rank / 151	Rank / 151
Score	Score	Score	Score
17	1	72	8
72.2	76.5	50.9	64.5

Level 3 - Pillars [x12]

	Rank / 151	Score
State Capture	19	68.1
Regulatory Capture	14	79.6
Human Capture	24	67.6
Coalition Dominance	3	70.6
Firm Dominance	87	51.6
Creative Destruction	1	89.0
Giving Income	12	66.6
Taking Income	101	47.1
Unearned Income	146	35.0
Producer Value	18	61.5
Capital Value	3	66.5
Labor Value	14	65.0



Level 4 - EQx Indicators [x148]

	Rank / 151	Score
COR Political corruption	16	86.9
COC Control of corruption	22	81.5
OPG Open government	19	81.3
RTC Government's responsiveness to change	10	91.8
EPR E-Participation Index	10	86.6
PFD Press freedom	44	65.0
NIK Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	1	52.4
PDE Political decentralization	1	100.0
ADE Administrative decentralization	10	96.5
PGL Political globalization	14	83.7
WPI Womens Power Index	53	57.8
MOB Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	76	40.1
INE Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	92	44.7
GWL Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	142	12.5
GWV Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	15	84.1
GIL Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	108	32.2
GIC Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	43	41.6
ECR Ease of challenging regulations	5	96.0
CGP Constraints on government power	34	64.6
REQ Regulatory quality	15	87.3
REN Regulatory enforcement	25	76.5
PRI Property rights	7	90.8
CRO Crony capitalism	50	51.3
INO Informal output as a % of GDP	2	98.5
GSI Global Slavery Index	38	66.6
FDP Forcibly displaced people as % of population	9	58.6
HRI Human Rights Index	48	61.8
ARI Academic Freedom Index	71	60.4
GRN Religion - Government Restriction Index	55	62.9
LRI LGBT+ Inclusiveness	28	78.9
WSB Women self made billionaires	1	91.4
WBL Women, business and the law	37	68.2
WMA Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	12	81.3
IEE Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	10	87.2
IEO Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	23	73.2
IVA Top 3 industries as % of value added	6	93.4
HCI Domestic market diversification	18	69.0
ECI Economic Complexity Index	10	89.1
PLU Public employees as a % of total employment	66	48.2
MIL Military expenses as a % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	49	63.9
UNI Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	6	71.8
BSN Barriers in service & network sectors	27	46.1
CRA Criminal actors	74	51.0
SME SMEs per 1000 people	43	45.0
IAM Family business revenues as % of GDP	19	60.9
BAW Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	141	30.5
FKG Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	72	35.7
FRG Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	29	65.4
FRR Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	24	60.4
ENT Entrepreneurship	1	100.0
GSE Governmental support to entrepreneurship	46	48.1
VCK Venture capital finance	1	100.0
VCA Venture capital availability	1	100.0
API AI private investment	1	100.0
APC AI private investment per capita	1	100.0
RND R&D as a % of GDP	3	90.2
EXR Firm exit ratio		
BCD Billionaire's creative destruction	33	62.5
IWF Index of Women Entrepreneurs	1	86.6
LEW Life expectancy women	37	70.3
LEM Life expectancy men	36	71.6
SCI UHC Service Coverage Index	9	80.1
PTR Pupil teacher ratio	35	69.1
EDU School life expectancy	35	67.8
PIS PISA mean scores	16	71.8
UNV Top universities	40	44.0
GEE Government education expenditure	30	70.0
GAR Government AI Readiness Index	1	100.0
AIP AI patent grants	2	91.1
OSI Online Service Index	16	79.5
NRI Network Readiness Index	1	100.0
INT Internet access	30	68.5
GHI Global Hunger Index		
FSQ Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	10	81.9

	Rank / 151	Score
GPSS Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	20	55.2
GEX General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	36	69.5
SNT Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	105	22.3
REG Regional redistribution as % of government budget	102	29.9
CSG Construction supply gap	18	64.8
SFA Sanitation facilities	14	84.1
FLA Electricity access	1	64.8
FOS Fossil fuel subsidies	75	46.9
SUB Death rate from substance use disorders	149	0.0
BKD Battle-related deaths per capita	106	56.1
HOM Homicide rate	97	34.7
SUI Suicide rate	132	20.8
DTR Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	5	80.7
DCT Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	35	73.4
DPS Delta public vs private sector salaries		
FDE Fiscal decentralization	6	95.0
GCI Global Cybersecurity Index	2	99.8
GEG Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	25	51.0
CRM Criminal markets	108	32.2
DBT Government debt as % of GDP	72	10.4
NRR Natural resources rents as % of GDP	52	56.4
GPA Green patents per capita	8	78.0
EPI Environmental Performance Index	32	72.0
RES Renewable energy share	116	29.7
OU Ocean litter	53	51.2
DER Deforestation rate	138	0.0
FLUS Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	97	52.4
TLP Terrestrial land protected	94	39.6
CDD CO2 emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	57	0.0
CDO CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	143	7.1
AIR Air Quality Index	12	72.6
HAZ Hazardous waste per capita		
WPC Waste collected per capita	90	40.9
MWR Municipal waste recycling rate	30	44.2
FIS Fish consumption per capita	111	35.5
MEI Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	145	3.2
PAT Nr. of patent applications per capita	1	100.0
FBH Financial burden of healthcare	45	62.8
HEI Health Efficiency Index	52	6.4
DMS Density of medical staff	7	98.1
FSA Global Food Security Index - affordability	29	73.1
HAI Housing Affordability Index	22	57.6
RTD Rail track density	26	71.6
GAI Global AI Index	1	100.0
AIM Number of notable AI models	1	100.0
IFDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	45	51.9
FDI Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	107	39.8
BTB Barriers to FDI	40	64.0
OFB Open for business	51	47.2
EGL Economic globalization	53	61.8
TRF Trade freedom	59	60.7
IPM Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	119	19.7
IPS Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	139	0.0
DGI Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	119	55.0
DGS Share of discrim. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	148	11.8
IXI Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	44	58.9
DEF GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	1	53.9
DNI Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	19	37.0
FMI Financial Markets Index	1	100.0
GCF Gross capital formation	87	45.0
GOL Gold demand as % of GDP	6	67.8
CRY Crypto ownership	9	66.0
UNN Unicorns	1	100.0
UNC Unicorns as % of GDP	4	88.6
BSG Billionaires self-made per capita	6	88.6
BSM Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	29	58.7
LPG Labor productivity growth	100	33.8
WLP Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	10	65.6
LFP Labor force participation rate	77	51.9
LFR Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	56	62.6
ROD Robot density in manufacturing industry	10	95.4
UEM Unemployment rate	57	61.5
YUN Youth unemployment rate	54	62.4
BRN Human flight and brain drain	11	92.0

7. References

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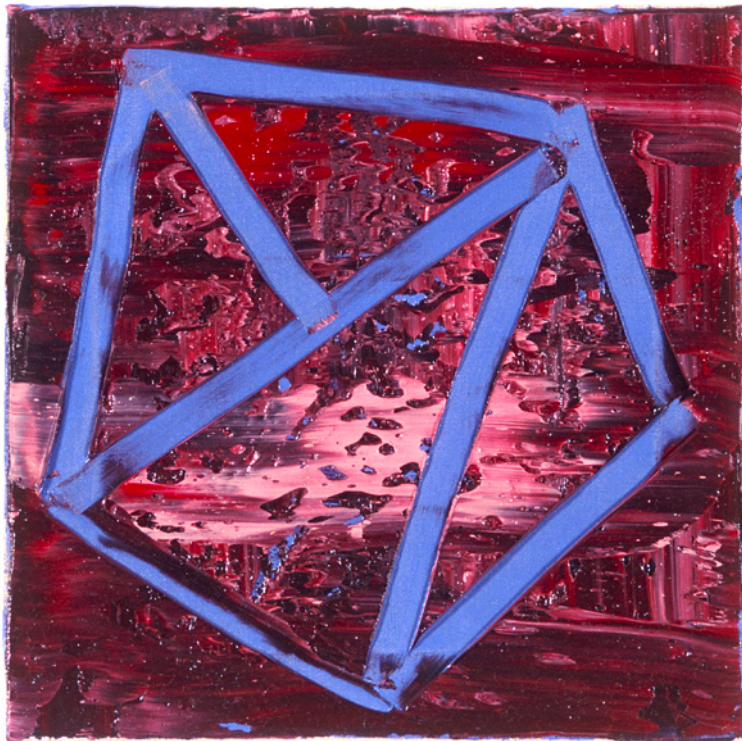
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7.2 Data Sources and Indicator References

Indicator Name		Data Source Reference
Sub-Index I: Power / Index Area (i): Political Power		
Pillar (i.1): State Capture		
COR	Political corruption	i.1 • Political corruption (COR), uses data from: Varieties of Democracies (V-DEM)* [Dataset] Coppedge, Michael, John Gerring, Carl Henrik Knutsen, Staffan I. Lindberg, Jan Teorell, David Altman, Fabio Angiolillo, Michael Bernhard, Agnes Cornell, M. Steven Fish, Linnea Fox, Lisa Gastaldi, Haakon Gjerløw, Adam Glynn, Ana Good God, Allen Hicken, Katrin Kinzelbach, Joshua Krusell, Kyle L. Marquardt, Kelly McMann, Valeriya Mechkova, Juraj Medzihorsky, Anja Neundorff, Pamela Paxton, Daniel Pemstein, Josefina Pernes, Johannes von Römer, Brigitte Seim, Rachel Sigman, Svend-Erik Skaaning, Jeffrey Staton, Aksel Sundström, Marcus Tannenbergh, Eitan Tzelgov, Yi-ting Wang, Tore Wig, Steven Wilson and Daniel Ziblatt. 2026. "V-Dem [Country-Year/Country-Date] Dataset v16" Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project. https://archive.ourworldindata.org/20260417-112857/grapher/deliberative-democracy-index-vdem.html [Related Paper] Pemstein, Daniel, Kyle L. Marquardt, Eitan Tzelgov, Yi-ting Wang, Juraj Medzihorsky, Joshua Krusell, Farhad Miri, and Johannes von Römer. 2026. "The V-Dem Measurement Model: Latent Variable Analysis for Cross-National and Cross-Temporal Expert-Coded Data". V-Dem Working Paper No. 21. 11th edition. University of Gothenburg: Varieties of Democracy Institute.
COC	Control of corruption	i.1 • Control of corruption (COC), uses data from: The World Bank, Worldwide Governance indicators (WGI)* [Dataset] Worldwide Governance Indicators, 2025 Revision, World Bank (https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/worldwide-governance-indicators), Accessed on 12/15/2025 [Related Paper] Kaufmann, Daniel & Aart C. Kraay. (2024). "The Worldwide Governance Indicators: Methodology and 2024 Update." Policy Research Working Paper. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.
OPG	Open government	i.1 • Open government (OPG), uses data from: The World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index [Report] World Justice Project. (2025). WJP Rule of Law Index 2025 (Factor 3: Open Government). Retrieved December 03, 2025 from: https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/
RTC	Government's responsiveness to change	i.1 • Government's responsiveness to change (GRC), uses data from: World Economic Forum, The Global Competitiveness Index [Report] World Economic Forum. (2020). <i>Global Competitiveness Report 2020</i>. Retrieved January 10, 2024, from: https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GlobalCompetitivenessReport2020.pdf

EPR	E-Participation Index	i.1 • E-Participation Index (EPR), uses data from: The UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, E-Government Development Knowledge Base [Dataset] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2024). 2024 E-Government Development Index [Dataset]. Retrieved December 6, 2024, from: https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/Data-Center
PFD	Press freedom	i.1 • Press freedom (PFD), uses data from: Reporters Without Borders, World Press Freedom Index [Dataset] Reporters Without Borders. (2025). World Press Freedom Index 2025 [Dataset]. Retrieved December 03, 2025 from: https://rsf.org/en/index
NJK	Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.)	i.1 • Nr. of journalists killed per 1 million people (2yrs avg.) (NJK), uses data from: The Committee to Protect Journalists [Dataset] Committee to Protect Journalists. (2026). Journalists Killed, Motive Confirmed or Unconfirmed. Retrieved January 20, 2026, from: https://cpj.org/data [Dataset] The World Bank. (2025). Population, total [Indicator ID: SP.POP.TOT]. Retrieved December 03, 2025, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL
PDE	Political decentralization	i.1 • Political decentralization (PDE), uses data from: Ivanyina & Shah (2014)* [Dataset] Ivanyina, M. & Shah, A. (2014). <i>How Close Is Your Government to Its People? Worldwide Indicators on Localization and Decentralization</i> [Dataset]. Harvard Dataverse, V2. Retrieved January 15, 2024, from: https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/24566 [Related paper] Ivanyina, M. & Shah, A. (2014). <i>How Close Is Your Government to Its People? Worldwide Indicators on Localization and Decentralization. Economics: The Open-Access, Open-Assessment E-Journal</i>, 8 (2014-3): 1–61. Retrieved January 15, 2024, from: http://dx.doi.org/10.5018/economics-ejournal.ja.2014-3
ADE	Administrative decentralization	i.1 • Administrative decentralization (ADE), uses data from: Ivanyina & Shah (2014)* [Dataset] Ivanyina, M. & Shah, A. (2014). <i>How Close Is Your Government to Its People? Worldwide Indicators on Localization and Decentralization</i> [Dataset]. Harvard Dataverse, V2. Retrieved January 15, 2024, from: https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/24566 [Related Paper] Ivanyina, M. & Shah, A. (2014). <i>How Close Is Your Government to Its People? Worldwide Indicators on Localization and Decentralization. Economics: The Open-Access, Open-Assessment E-Journal</i>, 8 (2014-3): 1–61. Retrieved January 15, 2024, from: http://dx.doi.org/10.5018/economics-ejournal.ja.2014-3

PGL	Political globalization	i.1 • Political globalization (PGL), uses data from: ETHZ, The KOF Globalisation Index* [Dataset] The KOF Globalisation Index 2025. Indicator KOFPoGI (Political Globalisation).URL: https://kof.ethz.ch/en/forecasts-and-indicators/indicators/kof-globalisation-index.html. Retrieved on January 20 2026. [Dataset description article] Gygli, Savina, Florian Haelg, Niklas Potrafke and Jan-Egbert Sturm (2019): The KOF Globalisation Index – Revisited, Review of International Organizations, 14(3), 543- 574 https://doi.org/10.1007/s11558-019-09344-2 [Related Paper] Dreher, Axel (2006): Does Globalization Affect Growth? Evidence from a new Index of Globalization, Applied Economics 38, 10: 1091-1110.	GWC	Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate	i.1 • Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - 3-year growth rate (GWC), uses data from: The World Inequality Lab, World Inequality database (WID) [Dataset] The World Inequality Lab. (2025). World Inequality Database. Indicator: Gini coefficient on net personal wealth. Retrieved on December 03, 2025 from: https://wid.world/data/ [Related Paper] Bajard, F., Chancel, L., Moshrif, R., Piketty, T. (2021). “Global Wealth Inequality on WID. world: Estimates and Imputations”
			GIL	Gini coefficient on income dist. - level	i.1 • Gini coefficient on income dist. - level (GIL), uses data from: The World Inequality Lab, World Inequality database (WID) [Dataset] World Bank. (2025). Gini index. Retrieved on December 03, 2025. Retrieved from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI
WPI	Women’s Power Index	i.1 • Women’s Power Index (WPI), uses data from: The Council of Foreign Relations (CFR) [Dataset] Council of Foreign Relations. (2025). Women’s Power Index [Dataset]. Retrieved January 1, 2026, from: https://www.cfr.org/article/womens-power-index	GIC	Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate	i.1 • Gini coefficient on income dist. - 1-year growth rate (GIC), uses data from: The World Inequality Lab, World Inequality database (WID) [Dataset] World Bank. (2025). Gini index. Retrieved on December 03, 2025. Retrieved from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI
MOB	Social mobility (upward) (dev. fm optimum)	i.1 • Social mobility (upward) (MOB), uses data from: The World Bank (Development Research Group), GDIM Database* [Dataset] Munoz, Ercio and Roy van der Weide. 2025. Intergenerational income mobility around the world: A new database. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 11166. Database update from 2023 March. Indicator BHQ4_randomtiebreak. Retrieved January 11, 2024, from: https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/brief/what-is-the-global-database-on-intergenerational-mobility-gdim [Related Paper] Van der Weide, R., Lakner, C., Mahler, D. G., Narayan, A., Ramasubbaiah, R. (2023). Intergenerational mobility around the world: A new database. <i>Journal of Development Economics</i>, Vol 166. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2023.103167	Pillar (i.2): Regulatory Capture		
			ECR	Ease of challenging regulations	i.2 • Ease of challenging regulations (ECR), uses data from: The World Economic Forum (WEF), The Global Competitiveness Index [Dataset] World Economic Forum. (2019). <i>The Global Competitiveness Report 2019</i>. (Efficiency of legal framework in challenging regulations, scale 1-7) [Dataset]. Retrieved January 15, 2024, from: https://www.humanprogress.org/dataset/efficiency-of-legal-framework-in-challenging-regulations/
			CGP	Constraints on government power	i.2 • Constraints on government power (CGP), uses data from: The World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index [Dataset] World Justice Project. (2025). WJP Rule of Law Index 2025 (Factor 1: Constraints on government power) [Dataset]. Retrieved 03 December, 2025 from: https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/
INE	Top 10% share of pre-tax national income	i.1 • Top 10% share of pre-tax national income (INE), uses data from: The World Inequality Lab, World Inequality database (WID) [Dataset] The World Inequality Lab. (2025). World Inequality database [Dataset] Indicator: Pre-tax national income, Top 10% share. Retrieved on December 03, 2025 from: https://wid.world/data/	REQ	Regulatory quality	i.2 • Regulatory quality (REQ), uses data from: The World Bank, Worldwide Governance indicators (WGI) [Dataset] Worldwide Governance Indicators, 2025 Revision, World Bank (https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/worldwide-governance-indicators). Accessed on 12/15/2025. [Related Paper] Kaufmann, Daniel & Aart C. Kraay. (2024). “The Worldwide Governance Indicators: Methodology and 2024 Update.” Policy Research Working Paper. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.
GWL	Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level	i.1 • Gini coefficient on net national wealth dist. - level (GWL), uses data from: The World Inequality Lab, World Inequality database (WID) [Dataset] The World Inequality Lab. (2025). World Inequality Database. Indicator: Gini coefficient on net personal wealth. Retrieved on December 03, 2025 from: https://wid.world/data/ [Related Paper] Bajard, F., Chancel, L., Moshrif, R., Piketty, T. (2021). “Global Wealth Inequality on WID. world: Estimates and Imputations”. Retrieved from https://wid.world/document/global-wealth-inequality-on-wid-world-estimates-and-imputations-world-inequality-lab-technical-note-2021-16/	REN	Regulatory enforcement	i.2 • Regulatory enforcement (REN), uses data from: The World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index [Dataset] World Justice Project. (2025). WJP Rule of Law Index 2025. Retrieved December 03, 2025, from: https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/

PRI	Property rights	i.2• Property rights (PRI), uses data from: The Heritage Foundation, Index of Economic Freedom (IEF) [Dataset] The Heritage Foundation. (2025). Index of Economic Freedom (Property Rights Index). Retrieved January 8, 2026, from: https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/herit_property_rights/	AFI	Academic Freedom Index	i.3• Academic Freedom Index (AFI) uses data from: Varieties of Democracies (V-DEM), Academic Freedom Index* [Dataset] Coppedge, Michael, John Gerring, Carl Henrik Knutsen, Staffan I. Lindberg, Jan Teorell, David Altman, Michael Bernhard et al. 2025. "V-Dem [Country-Year/Country-Date] Dataset v15" Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project. https://doi.org/10.23696/vdemds25 [Related Paper] Spannagel, J., & Kinzelbach, K. (2023). The Academic Freedom Index and its indicators: Introduction to new global time-series V-Dem data. <i>Quality & Quantity</i>, 57: 3969–3989. doi:10.1007/s11135-022-01544-0
CRO	Crony capitalism	i.2• Crony capitalism (CRO), uses data from: Forbes [World's Billionaires List] & The World Bank [GDP data] [Dataset] Forbes. (2024). Forbes Billionaires List 2024 [Dataset]. Retrieved January 1, 2026, from: https://www.forbes.com/billionaires/ [Dataset] The World Bank. (n.d.). GDP (current US\$) [indicator ID: NY.GDP.MKTP.CD]. Retrieved January 12, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD	GRI	Religion - Government Restriction Index	i.3• Religion - Government Restriction Index (GRI), uses data from: Pew Research Center, Government Restrictions Index (GRI)* [Source] Pew Research Center. (2024, December 18). Restrictions on religion 2022: Government restrictions index (GRI) and social hostilities index (SHI). Retrieved from https://www.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2024/12/PR_2024.12.18_restrictions-on-religion-2022_report.pdf
INO	Informal output as a % of GDP	i.2• Informal output as a % of GDP (INO), uses data from: The World Bank Informality Database.* [Dataset] The World Bank. (2022). World Bank Informality Database. Retrieved January 25, 2024, from: https://www.worldbank.org/en/research/brief/informal-economy-database [Related Paper] Elgin, C., Kose, M. A., Ohnsorge, F., & Yu, S. (2021). <i>Understanding informality</i> (CERP Discussion Paper 16497). Centre for Economic Policy Research, London.	LIN	LGBT+ inclusiveness	i.3• LGBT+ inclusiveness (LIN), uses data from: The Franklin & Marshall Global Barometer of Gay Rights* [Dataset] F&M Global Barometers. F&M Global Barometer of Unified LGBT Rights, 2011-2023. Dataset, Version 3. 2025. F&M Global Barometers. https://www.fandmglobalbarometers.org/gbur-results
Pillar (i.3): Human Capture			WSB	Women self-made billionaires	i.3• Women self-made billionaires (WSB), uses data from: Forbes, World's Billionaires List [Dataset] Forbes. (2023). <i>Forbes Billionaires List 2023</i> [Dataset]. Retrieved January 1, 2024, from: https://www.forbes.com/sites/chase-withorn/2024/04/02/forbes-worlds-billionaires-list-2024-the-top-200/
GSI	Global Slavery Index	i.3• Global Slavery Index (GSI), uses data from: The Minderoo Foundation's Walk Free Initiative [Report] The Minderoo Foundation. (2023). <i>The Global Slavery Index 2023</i>. Retrieved January 15, 2024, from: https://www.walkfree.org/global-slavery-index/downloads/	WBL	Women, business and the law	i.3• Women, business and the law (WBL), uses data from: The World Bank, Women, Business and the Law* [Dataset] The World Bank. (2024). Women, Business and the Law Data for 1971-2024 [Dataset]. Retrieved January 16, 2025, from: https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/wbl-data [Report] World Bank. (2023). <i>Women, Business and the Law 2023</i>. Washington, DC: World Bank. Retrieved January 23, 2024, from: https://doi.org/10.1596/978-1-4648-1944-5
FDP	Forcibly displaced population as % of population	i.3• Forcibly displaced population as % of population (FDP), uses data from: UNHCR, Refugee Population Statistics Database (for forcibly displaced populations) & The World Bank (Population data) [Dataset] UNHCR. (n.d.). Refugee Population Statistics Database. Forcibly displaced population as % of population [Dataset]. Retrieved January 20, 2026, from: https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download?url=pW9yAD [Dataset] The World Bank. (n.d.). Population, total [indicator ID: SP.POP.TOT]. Retrieved January 20, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL	WMA	Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (dev. fm optimum)	i.3• Proportion of women in senior and middle mgmt positions (WMA), uses data from: The International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT Database [Dataset] International Labour Organization (ILO). (2026). ILOSTAT Database, SDG indicator 5.5.2 – Proportion of women in senior and middle management positions (%) Annual. Indicator code: SDG_0552_NOC_RT_A [Dataset]. Retrieved January 01, 2026, from: https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/
HRI	Human Rights Index	i.3• Human Rights Index (HRI), uses data from: The Fund for Peace, Fragile States Index. [Dataset] The Fund for Peace. (n.d.). Fragile States Index. P3 Human Rights [Dataset]. Retrieved January 14, 2025, from: https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/human_rights_rule_law_index/			

Sub-Index I: Power / Index Area (ii): Economic Power		
Pillar (ii.4): Industry Dominance		
IEE	Top 3 industries exports as % of exports	ii.4• Top 3 industries exports as % of exports (IEE), uses data from: United Nations, Comtrade Database (exports) [Dataset] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Trade Statistics. UN Comtrade Database (2025) [Dataset] Annual goods exports, total and 2-digit BEC (Rev.4) commodities. Retrieved December 03, 2025, from: https://comtradeplus.un.org/
IEO	Top 1 industry exports as % of exports	ii.4• Top 1 industry exports as % of exports (IEO), uses data from: United Nations, Comtrade Database (exports) [Dataset] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Trade Statistics. UN Comtrade Database (2025) [Dataset] Annual goods exports, total and 2-digit BEC (Rev.4) commodities. Retrieved December 03, 2025, from: https://comtradeplus.un.org/
IVA	Top 3 industries as % of value added	ii.4• Top 3 industries as % of value added (IVA), uses data from: United Nations Statistics Division (Economic Statistics Branch), National Accounts Estimates of Main Aggregates [Dataset] United Nations Statistics Division (Economic Statistics Branch). (n.d.). National Accounts Estimates of Main Aggregates Gross Value Added by Kind of Economic Activity at current prices – U.S. dollars [Dataset]. Retrieved January 18, 2025, from: http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?q=industries&d=SNA&f=group_code%3a204
HHI	Domestic market diversification	ii.4• Domestic market diversification (HHI), uses data from: The World Bank's World Integrated Trade Solutions [Dataset] The World Bank, World Integrated Trade Solutions (n.d.). HH Market Concentration Index by Country 1988-2023 [Dataset]. Retrieved January 19, 2025 from https://wits.worldbank.org/CountryProfile/en/country/by-country/startyear/1st/endyear/1st/indicator/HH-MKT-CNCNTRTN-NDX
ECI	Economic Complexity Index	ii.4• Economic Complexity Index (ECI), uses data from: The Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC), Economic Complexity Index [Dataset] The Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC). (n.d.). Economic Complexity Ranking of Countries (1998-2023) [Dataset]. Retrieved December 03, 2025, from: https://oec.world/en/rankings/eci/hs6/hs96?tab=ranking
PUE	Public employees as a % of total employment	ii.4• Public employees as a % of total employment (PUE), uses data from: International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT Database [Dataset] International Labour Organization (ILO). (2025). ILOSTAT Database: Employment by sex and institutional sector (thousands) Annual. Indicator code: PSE_TPSE_GOV_NB_A [Dataset]. Retrieved January 01, 2026, from: https://ilostat.ilo.org/data

MIL	Military expenses as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	ii.4• Military expenses as % of GDP (MIL), uses data from: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Military Expenditure Database [Dataset] Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). (n.d.). SIPRI Military Expenditure Database [Dataset]. Retrieved January 01, 2026, from: https://www.sipri.org/databases/milex
UNI	Unionization rate (dev. fm optimum)	ii.4• Unionization rate (UNI), uses data from: International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT Database [Dataset] International Labour Organization (ILO). (2022). ILOSTAT Database: Industrial Relations Data (IRdata). Trade union density rate (%) Annual. Indicator code: ILR_TUMT_NOC_RT_A [Dataset]. Retrieved January 11, 2024, from: https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/industrial-relations/
BSN	Barriers in service & network sectors	ii.4• Barriers in service & network sectors (BSN), uses data from: OECD Product Market Regulation Statistics [Dataset] OECD. (2024). Indicators of Product Market Regulation [Dataset]. Retrieved January 01, 2026, from: https://www.oecd.org/economy/reform/indicators-of-productmarketregulation/
CRA	Criminal actors	ii.4• Criminal actors (CRA), uses data from: The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, Organized Crime Index [Report] The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime. (2025). Organized Crime Index 2025. Retrieved January 03, 2026, from: https://ocindex.net/downloads
Pillar (ii.5): Firm Dominance		
SME	SMEs per 1,000 people	ii.5• SMEs per 1,000 people (SME), uses data from: SME Finance Forum, MSME Economic indicators [Dataset] SME Finance Forum. (2019). MSME Economic indicators Database 2019 [Dataset]. Retrieved May 13, 2021, from: https://www.smeffinanceforum.org/data-sites/msme-country-indicators
FAM	Family business revenues as % of GDP	ii.5• Family business revenues as % of GDP (FAM), uses data from: Global Family Business Index* [Dataset] 2025 EY and University of St.Gallen Global 500 Family Business Index. (2025). Global Family Business Index. CFB-HSG. Retrieved January 01, 2026, from: http://familybusinessindex.com/ [Dataset] The World Bank. (n.d.). GDP (current US\$) [indicator ID: NY.GDP.MKTP.CD]. Retrieved January 14, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD

BIW	Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP	ii.5• Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP (BIW), uses data from: Forbes (World's Billionaires List), The World Bank (GDP data) [Dataset] Forbes. (2024). Forbes Billionaires List 2024 [Dataset]. Retrieved January 1, 2026, from: https://www.forbes.com/sites/chase-withorn/2024/04/02/forbes-worlds-billionaires-list-2024-the-top-200/ [Dataset] The World Bank. (n.d.). GDP (current US\$) [indicator ID: NY.GDP.MKTP.CD]. Retrieved January 14, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD	VCA	Venture capital availability	ii.6• Venture capital availability (VCA), uses data from: World Economic Forum (WEF), The Global Competitiveness Index [Dataset] World Economic Forum. (2020). <i>World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Index: Venture capital availability, 1-7 (best)</i> [Dataset]. Retrieved January 26, 2024, from: https://prosperitydata360.worldbank.org/en/home
FKG	Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP	ii.5• Top 10 firms market cap as % of GDP (FKG), uses data from: Refinitiv Eikon [Dataset] Eikon. (2025). Company-based data: Revenue, Profit, Market Capitalization [Data set - 2024 Data]. Retrieved from: https://eikon.thomsonreuters.com/index.html Note: Refinitiv Eikon has been rebranded as LSEG Workspace.	API	AI private investment	AI private investment (API), uses data from: Stanford University, the Global AI Vibrancy Tool and the Artificial Intelligence Index [Dataset] Stanford University. (2025). Global AI Vibrancy Tool. Retrieved January 26, 2026 from: https://aiindex.stanford.edu/vibrancy [Report] Nestor Maslej, Loredana Fattorini, Raymond Perrault, Yolanda Gil, Vanessa Parli, Njenga Kariuki, Emily Capstick, Anka Reuel, Erik Brynjolfsson, John Etchemendy, Katrina Ligett, Terah Lyons, James Manyika, Juan Carlos Niebles, Yoav Shoham, Russell Wald, Toby Walsh, Armin Hamrah, Lapo Santarlasci, Julia Betts Latufo, Alexandra Rome, Andrew Shi, Sukrut Oak. "Artificial Intelligence Index Report 2025", AI Index Steering Committee, Institute for Human-Centered AI, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, April 2025. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2504.07139
FRG	Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP	ii.5• Top 3 firms revenues as % of GDP (FRG), uses data from: Refinitiv Eikon [Dataset] Eikon. (2025). Company-based data: Revenue, Profit, Market Capitalization [Data set - 2024 Data]. Retrieved from: https://eikon.thomsonreuters.com/index.html Note: Refinitiv Eikon has been rebranded as LSEG Workspace.	APC	AI private investment per capita	AI private investment per capita (APC), uses data from: Stanford University, the Global AI Vibrancy Tool and the Artificial Intelligence Index [Dataset] Stanford University. (2025). Global AI Vibrancy Tool. Retrieved January 26, 2026 from: https://aiindex.stanford.edu/vibrancy [Report] Nestor Maslej, Loredana Fattorini, Raymond Perrault, Yolanda Gil, Vanessa Parli, Njenga Kariuki, Emily Capstick, Anka Reuel, Erik Brynjolfsson, John Etchemendy, Katrina Ligett, Terah Lyons, James Manyika, Juan Carlos Niebles, Yoav Shoham, Russell Wald, Toby Walsh, Armin Hamrah, Lapo Santarlasci, Julia Betts Latufo, Alexandra Rome, Andrew Shi, Sukrut Oak. "Artificial Intelligence Index Report 2025", AI Index Steering Committee, Institute for Human-Centered AI, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, April 2025. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2504.07139
FRR	Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP	ii.5• Top 30 firms revenues as % of GDP (FRR), uses data from: Refinitiv Eikon [Dataset] Eikon. (2025). Company-based data: Revenue, Profit, Market Capitalization [Data set - 2024 Data]. Retrieved from: https://eikon.thomsonreuters.com/index.html Note: Refinitiv Eikon has been rebranded as LSEG Workspace.			
Pillar (ii.6): Creative Destruction					
ENT	Entrepreneurship	ii.6• Entrepreneurship (ENT), uses data from: The Global Entrepreneurship and Development Institute (GEDi), Global Entrepreneurship & Development Index [Report] Ács, Z. J., Lloyd, A., & Szerb L. (n.d.). <i>Global Entrepreneurship Index 2018</i>. Retrieved May 13, 2021, from: https://theledi.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2017/11/GEI-2018-1.pdf	RND	R&D as a % of GDP	ii.6• R&D as a % of GDP (RND), uses data from: The UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Global Database on Research and Experimental Development (R&D) [Dataset] The World Bank. (n.d.). Research and development expenditure (% of GDP) [indicator ID: GB.XP.D.RSDV.GD.ZS]. Retrieved January 01, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/GB.XPD.RSDV.GD.ZS
GSE	Governmental support to entrepreneurship	ii.6• Governmental support to entrepreneurship (GSE), uses data from: Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM), 'Government Support and Policies' sub-indicator of the Entrepreneurial Framework Conditions [Dataset] Global Entrepreneurship Monitor. (n.d.). Entrepreneurial Framework Conditions. Indicator: Government Support and Policies [Dataset]. Retrieved January 15, 2026, from: https://www.gemconsortium.org/data/key-nes	EXR	Firm exit ratio	ii.6• Firm exit ratio (EXR), uses data from: World Bank (Entrepreneurship Database) [Dataset] World Bank. (2025). Closed firm density. Retrieved January 02, 2026, from: https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/entrepreneurship/closed-firms
VCK	Venture capital finance	ii.6• Venture capital finance (VCK), uses data from: OECD [Dataset] OECD. (2023). Venture Capital Investments (Market Statistics). Retrieved January 29, 2024, from: https://data-explorer.oecd.org/	BCD	Billionaire's creative destruction	ii.6 • Billionaire's creative destruction (BCD), uses data from: Forbes, World's Billionaires List [Dataset] Forbes. (2024). Forbes Billionaires List 2024 [Dataset]. Retrieved January 1, 2026, from: https://www.forbes.com/sites/chase-withorn/2024/04/02/forbes-worlds-billionaires-list-2024-the-top-200/

IWE	Index of Women Entrepreneurs	ii.6• Index of Women Entrepreneurs (IWE), uses data from: Mastercard, Index of Women Entrepreneurs [Dataset] Mastercard. (2022). The Mastercard Index of Women Entrepreneurs 2022 Report [Dataset]. Retrieved January 10, 2023, from: https://www.mastercard.com/news/media/phwevxcx/the-mastercard-index-of-women-entrepreneurs.pdf	PIS	PISA mean scores	iii.7• PISA mean scores (PIS), uses data from: OECD PISA Results [Dataset] OECD. (2022). PISA 2022 Results (Volume I) – What Students Know and Can Do [Dataset]. Retrieved January 24, 2024, from: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/pisa-2022-technical-report_01820d6d-en
Sub-Index II: Value / Index Area (iii): Political Value			UNV	Top universities	iii.7• Top universities (UNV), uses data from: QS World University Rankings [Dataset] QS World University Rankings. (2025). QS World University Rankings 2025. Retrieved January 16, 2026, from: https://www.qs.com/insights/rankings-released-qs-world-university-rankings-2025
Pillar (iii.7): Giving Income			GEE	Government education expenditure	iii.7• Government education expenditure (GEE), uses data from: The World Bank [Dataset] The World Bank, UNESCO Institute for Statistics (n.d.). Government expenditure on education, total (% of GDP) [Dataset]. Retrieved January 3, 2026, from https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.XPD.TOTL.GD.ZS
LEW	Life expectancy women	iii.7• Life expectancy women (LEW), uses data from: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs* [Dataset] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2024). World Population Prospects 2024, Online Edition. File GEN/01/REV1: Demographic indicators by region, subregion and country, annually for 1950k-2100. Estimate of 'Female Life Expectancy at Birth (years)'. URL: https://population.un.org/wpp/downloads?folder=Standard%20Projections&group=Most%20used	GAR	Government AI Readiness Index	iii.7• Government AI Readiness Index (GAR), uses data from: Oxford Insights' Government AI Readiness Index 2025 [Dataset] Oxford Insights. (2025). Government AI Readiness Index 2025 (Total score). Retrieved January 26, 2026 from: https://staging2.oxfordinsights.com/ai-readiness/government-ai-readiness-index-2025/
LEM	Life expectancy men	iii.7• Life expectancy men (LEM), uses data from: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs* [Dataset] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2024). World Population Prospects 2024, Online Edition. File GEN/01/REV1: Demographic indicators by region, subregion and country, annually for 1950k-2100. Estimate of 'Female Life Expectancy at Birth (years)'. URL: https://population.un.org/wpp/downloads?folder=Standard%20Projections&group=Most%20used	AIP	AI patent grants	AI patent grants (AIP), uses data from: Stanford University, the Global AI Vibrancy Tool and the Artificial Intelligence Index [Dataset] Stanford University. (2026). Global AI Vibrancy Tool. Retrieved January 26, 2026 from: https://aiindex.stanford.edu/vibrancy [Related Report] Nestor Maslej, Loredana Fattorini, Raymond Perrault, Yolanda Gil, Vanessa Parli, Njenga Kariuki, Emily Capstick, Anka Reuel, Erik Brynjolfsson, John Etchemendy, Katrina Ligett, Terah Lyons, James Manyika, Juan Carlos Nieves, Yoav Shoham, Russell Wald, Toby Walsh, Armin Hamrah, Lapo Santarasci, Julia Betts Lotufo, Alexandra Rome, Andrew Shi, Sukrut Oak. "Artificial Intelligence Index Report 2025", AI Index Steering Committee, Institute for Human-Centered AI, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, April 2025. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2504.07139
SCI	UHC Service Coverage Index	iii.7• UHC Service Coverage Index (SCI), uses data from: The World Bank and the World Health Organization's Global Health Observatory Data Repository [Dataset] The World Bank, World Health Organization, Global Health Observatory Data Repository (n.d.). UHC Service Coverage Index [Dataset]. Retrieved January 15, 2024, from https://data.who.int/indicators/i/3805B1E/9A706FD	OSI	Online Service Index	iii.7• Online Service Index (OSI), uses data from: The UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, E-Government Development Knowledge Base [Dataset] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2024). 2024 E-Government Development Index [Dataset]. Retrieved January 12, 2025, from: https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/Data-Center
PTR	Pupil-teacher ratio	iii.7• Pupil-teacher ratio (PTR), uses data from: The World Bank [Dataset] The World Bank, UNESCO Institute for Statistics (n.d.). Pupil-teacher ratio, primary [Dataset]. Retrieved January 19, 2023, from https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.PRM.ENRL.TC.ZS			
EDU	School life expectancy	iii.7• School life expectancy (EDU), uses data from: UNESCO Institute for Statistics [Dataset] UNESCO Institute for Statistics (n.d.). School life expectancy by level of education [Dataset]. Retrieved January 12, 2026, from: http://data.uis.unesco.org			

NRI	Network Readiness Index	iii.7• Network Readiness Index (NRI), uses data from: Portulans Institute, Network Readiness Index (NRI) [Dataset] Portulans Institute. (2024). Network Readiness Index 2024: Benchmarking the Future of the Network Economy [Dataset]. Retrieved January 15, 2025, from: https://networkreadinessindex.org/	REG	Regional redistribution as % of government budget	iii.7• Regional redistribution as % of government budget (REG), uses data from: The Fraser Institute* [Dataset] Gwartney, J., Lawson, R., Hall, J., & Murphy, R. (2025). Economic Freedom of the World: 2025 Annual Report. Fraser Institute. Retrieved January 10, 2026, from: www.fraserinstitute.org/economic-freedom/dataset
INT	Internet access	iii.7• Internet access (INT), uses data from: The World Bank, International Telecommunications Union (ITU) [Dataset] The World Bank (n.d.). Individuals using the internet (% of population) [indicator ID: IT.NET.USER.ZS] [Dataset]. Retrieved January 8, 2026, from https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.USER.ZS	CSG	Construction supply gap	iii.7• Construction supply gap (CSG), uses data from: SwissForecast 2026 Construction Supply Gap [Dataset] SwissForecast (2026). SwissForecast 2026 Construction Supply Gap data [Proprietary data]. Available upon request.
GHI	Global Hunger Index	iii.7• Global Hunger Index (GHI), uses data from: The Global Hunger Index [Dataset] Global Hunger Index. (2025). 2025 Global Hunger Index. Retrieved January 3, 2026, from: https://www.globalhungerindex.org/de/download/all.html	SFA	Sanitation facilities	iii.7• Sanitation facilities (SFA), uses data from: World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF, Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene [Dataset] World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF, Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene. (2024). Estimates for drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services by country (2000-2024) [Dataset]. Retrieved January 9, 2026, from: https://washdata.org/data/downloads#WLD [Related Article] WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene. (n.d.). Sanitation. Retrieved December 23, 2023, from: https://washdata.org/monitoring/sanitation
FSQ	Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety	iii.7• Global Food Security Index - availability, quality & safety (FSQ), uses data from: The Economist Intelligence Unit, Global Food Security Index (GFSI) [Dataset] The Economist Intelligence Unit. (2022). Global Food Security Index [Dataset]. Retrieved November 26, 2022, from: https://impact.economist.com/sustainability/project/food-security-index/download-the-index	ELA	Electricity access	iii.7• Electricity access (ELA), uses data from: The World Bank, World Development indicators (WDI) [Dataset] The World Bank, World Development Indicators (WDI). (2026). Access to electricity (% of population) (EG.ELC.ACCS.ZS) [Dataset]. Retrieved January 10, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.ACCS.ZS [Related Report] IEA, IRENA, UNSD, World Bank, & WHO. (2023). <i>Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report 2023</i>. World Bank. Retrieved December 23, 2023, from: https://www.irena.org/Publications/2023/Jun/Tracking-SDG7-2023
GPS	Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	iii.7• Expenditure on general public services as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum) (GPS), uses data from: OECD, The Classification of the Functions of government (COFOG)* [Dataset] OECD. (2026). General government spending [Data set]. OECD. Retrieved January 18, 2026, from: https://www.oecd.org/en/data/indicators/general-government-spending.html	FOS	Fossil fuel subsidies	iii.7• Fossil fuel subsidies (FOS), uses data from: The International Monetary Fund (IMF), Climate Change Dashboard [Dataset] The International Monetary Fund (IMF), Climate Change Dashboard. (2026). Fossil Fuel Subsidies [Dataset]. Retrieved January 11, 2026 from: https://climatedata.imf.org/datasets/d48cfd2124954fb0900cef95f2db2724_0/explore [Related Paper] Parry, I. W. H., Black, S., & Vernon, N. (2021). <i>Still Not Getting Energy Prices Right: A Global and Country Update of Fossil Fuel Subsidies</i>. Retrieved September 23, 2023, from: https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2021/09/23/Still-Not-Getting-Energy-Prices-Right-A-Global-and-Country-Update-of-Fossil-Fuel-Subsidies-466004
GEX	General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	iii.7• General government expenditure as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum) (GEX), uses data from: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) [Dataset] International Monetary Fund. (2025). Government expenditure, percent of GDP (% of GDP). [Dataset]. Retrieved February 5, 2026, from: https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/exp@FPP/USA/FRA/JPN/GBR/SWE/ESP/ITA/ZAF/IND			
SNT	Subsidies and transfers as % of expenses	iii.7• Subsidies and transfers as % of GDP (SNT), uses data from: The International Monetary Fund (IMF), Government Finance Statistics (GFS) (Retrieved from the World Bank) [Dataset] The World Bank. (2025). Subsidies and other transfers (% of expense) [Indicator ID: GC.XPN.TRFT.ZS]. Retrieved January 21, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/GC.XPN.TRFT.ZS			

Pillar (iii.8): Taking Income		
SUB	Death rate from substance use disorders	iii.8• Death rate from substance use disorders (SUB), uses data from: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), Global Burden of Disease Collaborative Network* [Dataset] Global Burden of Disease Collaborative Network. Global Burden of Disease Study 2023 (GBD 2023) Results. Seattle, United States: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), 2023 Retrieved December 03, 2025, from: https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-results/
BRD	Battle-related deaths per capita	iii.8• Battle-related deaths per capita (BRD), uses data from: Uppsala Conflict Data Program (Retrieved from the World Bank) [Dataset] The World Bank, Uppsala Conflict Data Program. (2024). Battle-related deaths (number of people) [Dataset]. Retrieved January 3, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/VC.BTL.DETH [Related Paper] Pettersson, T, Davis, S., Deniz, A., Engström, G., Hawach, N., Höglbladh, S., Sollenberg, M., & Öberg, M. (2021). Organized violence 1989-2020, with a special emphasis on Syria. <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 58(4), 809-825. https://doi.org/10.1177/00223433211026126
HOM	Homicide rate	iii.8• Homicide rate (HOM), uses data from: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) [Dataset] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2025). Global Study on Homicide [Dataset] Retrieved January 6, 2026 from: https://dataunodc.un.org/dp-intentional-homicide-victims
SUI	Suicide rate	iii.8• Suicide rate (SUI), uses data from: The World Health Organization (WHO) [Dataset] World Health Organization (WHO). (n.d.). Suicide mortality rate (per 100,000 population) [Dataset]. Retrieved January 4, 2026, from: https://data.who.int/indicators/i/16BBF41
DTR	Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum)	iii.8• Tax revenue as % of GDP (dev. fm optimum) (DTR), uses data from: The International Monetary Fund (IMF), Government Finance Statistics (GFS), OECD GDP Estimates (Retrieved from the World Bank) [Dataset] The World Bank. (2025). Tax revenue (% of GDP) [Indicator ID: GC.TAX.TOTL.GD.ZS]. Retrieved December 04, 2025, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/GC.TAX.TOTL.GD.ZS
DCT	Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum)	iii.8• Corporate tax rate (dev. fm optimum) (DCT), uses data from: Tax foundation (Corporate Tax Rates around the World) [Dataset] Tax Foundation. (2024). Corporate Tax Rates around the World, 2025 [Dataset]. Retrieved January 3, 2026, from: https://taxfoundation.org/data/all/global/corporate-tax-rates-by-country-2025/

DPS	Delta public vs private sector salaries	iii.8• Delta public vs private sector salaries (DPS), uses data from: The World Bank [Dataset] The World Bank, Worldwide Bureaucracy indicators (WVBI). (2023). Public sector wage premium (compared to all private employees) [Dataset]. Retrieved January 10, 2026, from: https://databank.worldbank.org/id/79880b83
FDE	Fiscal decentralization	iii.8• Fiscal decentralization (FDE), uses data from: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) [Dataset] The International Monetary Fund (IMF). (n.d.). Fiscal Decentralization [Dataset]. Retrieved January 16, 2024, from: https://data.imf.org/?sk=1C28EBFB-62B3-4B0C-AED3-048EEEBB684F [Related Paper] Uledó, V., Ncuti, C., Kabanda, M., Hu, C., & Xiang, Y. (2018). The IMF fiscal decentralization dataset: a primer. International Monetary Fund, Washington.
GCI	Global Cybersecurity Index	iii.8• Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI), uses data from: International Telecommunication Union (ITU), The Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) [Dataset] International Telecommunication Union (ITU). (2024). <i>Global Cybersecurity Index 2020</i>. Retrieved January 10, 2024, from: https://www.itu.int/epublications/fr/publication/global-cybersecurity-index-2024/en
GEG	Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum)	iii.8• Gender education gap (dev. fm optimum) (GEG), uses data from: OECD* [Dataset] OECD (2025), Adult education level (indicator). doi: 10.1787/36bce3fe-en (Accessed on 05 January 2026).
Pillar (iii.9): Unearned Income		
CRM	Criminal markets	iii.9• Criminal markets (CRM), uses data from: The Organized Crime Index [Report] The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime. (2025). Organized Crime Index 2025. Retrieved January 4, 2026, from: https://ocindex.net/downloads
DBT	Government debt as % of GDP	iii.9• Government debt as % of GDP (DBT), uses data from: The Global Economy [Dataset] TheGlobalEconomy.com. (n.d.). Government debt by country, around the world [Dataset]. Retrieved January 3, 2026, from: https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/government_debt/
NRR	Natural resources rents as % of GDP	iii.9• Natural resources rents as % of GDP (NRR), uses data from: The World Bank [Dataset] The World Bank, The Changing Wealth of Nations. (n.d.). Total natural resources rents (% of GDP) [Dataset]. Retrieved January 15, 2024, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.TOTL.RT.ZS [Related Book] The World Bank. (2011). <i>The changing wealth of nations: Measuring sustainable development in the new millennium</i>. Washington, DC: World Bank.

GPA	Green patents per capita	iii.9• Green patents per capita (GPA), uses data from: OECD [Dataset] OECD, Intellectual Property Database. (2025). Innovation in environmental-related technologies [Dataset]. Retrieved January 3, 2026, from: https://www.oecd.org/en/data/indicators/patents-on-environment-technologies.html
EPI	Environmental Performance Index	iii.9• Environmental Performance Index (EPI), uses data from: Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy, Environmental Performance index (EPI)* [Dataset] Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy, Environmental Performance index (EPI). (2024). 2024 EPI Results [Dataset]. Retrieved January 16, 2025, from: https://epi.yale.edu/measure/2024/EPI [Related Report] Block, S., Emerson, J. W., Esty, D. C., de Sherbinin, A., Wendling, Z. A., et al. (2024). 2024 Environmental Performance Index. New Haven, CT: Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy. epi.yale.edu
RES	Renewable energy share	iii.9• Renewable energy share (RES), uses data from: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs [Dataset] United Nations Statistics Division. (n.d.). SDG Indicators database (Indicator 7.2.1: Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption) [Data set]. Retrieved January 20, 2026, from: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database
OLI	Ocean litter	iii.9• Ocean litter (OLI), uses data from: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs [Dataset] United Nations Statistics Division. (n.d.). SDG Indicators database (Indicator 14.1.1: Beach litter originating from national land-based sources that ends in the ocean (Tonnes)) [Data set]. Retrieved January 20, 2026, from: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database
DER	Deforestation rate	iii.9• Deforestation rate (DER), uses data from: Global Forest Watch [Dataset] Forest Monitoring, Land Use & Deforestation Trends. (n.d.). Global Forest Watch. Retrieved January 10, 2025, from: https://www.globalforestwatch.org/
FUS	Fertilizer usage kg per hectare	iii.9• Fertilizer usage kg per hectare (FUS), uses data from: The World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization [Dataset] The World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization. (n.d.). Fertilizer consumption (kilograms per hectare of arable land) [Dataset]. Retrieved January 10, 2026, from: https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators/Series/AG.CON.FERT.ZS

TLP	Terrestrial land protected	iii.9• Terrestrial land protected (TLP), uses data from: United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) [Dataset] United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Environmental indicators. (n.d.). Terrestrial protected areas [Dataset]. Retrieved January 22, 2024, from https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/qindicators.cshhtml
CDD	CO ₂ emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita	iii.9• CO₂ emissions embodied in domestic final demand per capita (CDD), uses data from: OECD, Trade in Embodied CO₂ Database (TECO2) [Dataset] OECD, Trade in Embodied CO₂ Database (TECO2). (2022). Carbon dioxide emissions embodied in international trade (2021 ed.) [Dataset]. Retrieved February 12, 2024, from: https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=IO_GHG_2021
CDO	CO ₂ emissions (metric tons per capita)	iii.9• CO₂ emissions (metric tons per capita) (CDO), uses data from: Our World In Data* [Dataset] Hannah Ritchie, Pablo Rosado, and Max Roser (2023) - "CO₂ and Greenhouse Gas Emissions" Published online at OurWorldInData.org. Retrieved from: https://ourworldindata.org/co2-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions [Online Resource]
AIR	Air Quality Index	iii.9• Air Quality Index (AIR), uses data from: iQAIR [Dataset] iQAIR. (n.d.). World's most polluted countries & regions (historical data 2018-2025). Retrieved January 10, 2026, from: https://www.iqair.com/us/world-most-polluted-countries
HAZ	Hazardous waste per capita	iii.9• Hazardous waste per capita (HAZ), uses data from: United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) [Dataset] United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Environment indicators. (n.d.). Hazardous waste generated per capita [Dataset]. Retrieved January 20, 2025, from https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/qindicators.cshhtml
WPC	Waste collected per capita	iii.9• Waste collected per capita (WPC), uses data from: United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) & The World Bank [Dataset] United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Economic indicators. (n.d.). Municipal waste collected [Dataset]. Retrieved January 10, 2026, from: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/qindicators.cshhtml [Dataset] The World Bank. (n.d.). Population, total [Dataset]. Retrieved January 11, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL
MWR	Municipal waste recycling rate	iii.9• Municipal waste recycling rate (MWR), uses data from: United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) [Dataset] United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Economic indicators. (n.d.). Percentage of municipal waste collected which is recycled [Dataset]. Retrieved January 11, 2024, from: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/qindicators.cshhtml

FIS	Fishing consumption per capita	iii.9• Fishing consumption per capita (FIS), uses data from: United Nations Statistic Division (UNSD), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) & Our World in Data. [Dataset] United Nations Statistic Division (UNSD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). (2025). Food Balance Sheets [Dataset]. Retrieved January 10, 2026, from: https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FBS [Related Article] Ritchie, H., & Roser, M. (2021). <i>Fish and Overfishing</i>. Our World in Data. Retrieved January 22, 2025, from: https://ourworldindata.org/fish-and-overfishing	DMS	Density of medical staff	iv.10• Density of medical staff (DMS), uses data from: World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Health Workforce Statistics, OECD (Retrieved from The World Bank) [Dataset] The World Bank, World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Health Workforce Statistics, OECD. (n.d.). Physicians (per 1,000 people) [Dataset]. Retrieved March 12, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.MED.PHYS.ZS [Dataset] The World Bank, World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Health Workforce Statistics, OECD. (n.d.). Nurses and midwives (per 1,000 people) [Dataset]. Retrieved March 12, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.MED.NUMW.P3
MET	Red meat consumption kilograms per capita	iii.9• Red meat consumption kilograms per capita (MET), uses data from: United Nations Statistic Division (UNSD), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) & Our World in Data [Dataset] United Nations Statistic Division (UNSD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). (2025). Food Balance Sheets [Dataset]. Retrieved January 10, 2026, from: https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FBS [Related Article] Ritchie, H., Rosado, P., & Roser, M. (2023). <i>Meat and Dairy Production</i>. Our World in Data. Retrieved January 11, 2025, from: https://ourworldindata.org/meat-production	FSA	Global Food Security Index - affordability	iv.10• Global Food Security Index - affordability (FSA), uses data from: Economist Impact, Global Food Security Index (GFSI) [Dataset & Related Report] Economist Impact, Global Food Security Index (GFSI). (2022). Global Food Security Index 2022 [Dataset]. Retrieved November 26, 2022, from: https://impact.economist.com/sustainability/project/food-security-index/download-the-index
Sub-Index II: Value / Index Area (iv): Economic Value			HAI	Housing Affordability Index	iv.10• Housing Affordability Index (HAI), uses data from: SwissForecast. 2026 Affordable Housing Index [Dataset] SwissForecast. (2026). Affordable Housing Index [Proprietary data]. Available upon request.
Pillar (iv.10): Producer Rent			RTD	Rail track density	iv.10• Rail track density (RTD), uses data from: The World Bank, World Development indicators (WDI), International Union of Railways (UIC) & The World Bank [Dataset] The World Bank, World Development indicators (WDI), International Union of Railways (UIC). (2024). Rail lines (total route-km) (IS.RRS.TOTL.KM) [Dataset]. Retrieved February 15, 2024, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IS.RRS.TOTL.KM [Dataset] The World Bank. (2022). Population, total [Dataset]. Retrieved January 11, 2024, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL
PAT	Nr. of patent applications per capita	iv.10• Nr. of patent applications per capita (PAT), uses data from: The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Patent Report (Retrieved from The World Bank) [Dataset] The World Bank, The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Patent Report. (n.d.). Patent applications, residents [Dataset]. Retrieved January 4, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IP.PAT.RESD	GAI	Global AI Index	iv.10• Global AI Index (GAI), uses data from: Tortoise [Dataset] Tortoise. (2025). The Global AI Index [Dataset]. Retrieved January 26, 2026, from: https://www.tortoisemedia.com/intelligence/global-ai#data [Report] Nestor Maslej, Loredana Fattorini, Raymond Perrault, Yolanda Gil, Vanessa Parli, Njenga Kariuki, Emily Capstick, Anka Reuel, Erik Brynjolfsson, John Etchemendy, Katrina Ligett, Terah Lyons, James Manyika, Juan Carlos Niebles, Yoav Shoham, Russell Wald, Toby Walsh, Armin Hamrah, Lapo Santarlasci, Julia Betts Lotufo, Alexandra Rome, Andrew Shi, Sukrut Oak. "Artificial Intelligence Index Report 2025", AI Index Steering Committee, Institute for Human-Centered AI, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, April 2025. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2504.07139
FBH	Financial burden of healthcare	iv.10• Financial burden of healthcare (FBH), uses data from: World Health Organization (WHO) Global Health Observatory (Retrieved from The World Bank) [Dataset] The World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO) Global Health Observatory. (2023). Proportion of population spending more than 25% of household consumption or income on out-of-pocket health care expenditure (%) [Dataset]. Retrieved January 16, 2024, from: https://databank.worldbank.org/source/health-nutrition-and-population-statistics/Series/SH.UHC.OOPC.25.ZS	HEI	Health Efficiency Index	iv.10• Health Efficiency Index (HEI), uses data from: Bloomberg [Article] Miller, L. J., & Lu, W. (2020). <i>Asia Trounces U.S. in Health-Efficiency Index Amid Pandemic</i>. Bloomberg Online. Retrieved January 17, 2024, from: https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-12-18/asia-trounces-u-s-in-health-efficiency-index-amid-pandemic

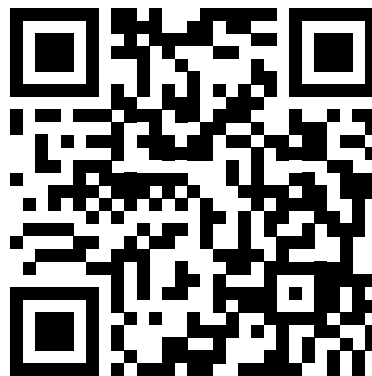
AIF	AI number of foundation models	AI number of foundation models (AIF), uses data from: Stanford University, the Global AI Vibrancy Tool and the Artificial Intelligence Index [Dataset] Stanford University. (2025). Global AI Vibrancy Tool. Retrieved January 25, 2025 from: https://aiindex.stanford.edu/vibrancy [Report] Nestor Maslej, Loredana Fattorini, Raymond Perrault, Yolanda Gil, Vanessa Parli, Njenga Kariuki, Emily Capstick, Anka Reuel, Erik Brynjolfsson, John Etchemendy, Katrina Ligett, Terah Lyons, James Manyika, Juan Carlos Niebles, Yoav Shoham, Russell Wald, Toby Walsh, Armin Hamrah, Lapo Santarlasci, Julia Betts Lotufo, Alexandra Rome, Andrew Shi, Sukrut Oak. "Artificial Intelligence Index Report 2025", AI Index Steering Committee, Institute for Human-Centered AI, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, April 2025. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2504.07139	EGL	Economic globalization	iv.10• Economic globalization (EGL), uses data from: ETHZ, The KOF Globalisation Index* [Dataset] Gygli, Savina, Florian Haelg, Niklas Potrafke and Jan-Egbert Sturm (2019): The KOF Globalisation Index – Revisited. <i>Review of International Organizations</i>, 14(3), 543-574 https://doi.org/10.1007/s11558-019-09344-2 [Related Paper] Dreher, Axel (2006): Does Globalization Affect Growth? Evidence from a new Index of Globalization, <i>Applied Economics</i> 38, 10: 1091-1110.
FDS	Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock)	iv.10• Inward FDI as a % of GDP (stock) (FDI), uses data from: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Statistics [Dataset] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Statistics. (2025). Foreign direct investment: Inward and outward flows and stock, annual [Dataset]. Retrieved January 4, 2026, from: https://unctadstat.unctad.org/datacentre/dataviewer/US.FdiFlowsStock	TRF	Trade freedom	iv.10• Trade freedom (TRF), uses data from: The Heritage Foundation, Index of Economic Freedom (IEF) [Dataset] The Heritage Foundation. (2025). Country Rankings. Index of Economic Freedom. Retrieved January 11, 2026, from: https://www.heritage.org/index/download.
FDF	Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.)	iv.10• Inward FDI as a % of GDP (flow, 3yrs avg.) (FDF), uses data from: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Statistics [Dataset] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Statistics. (2025). Foreign direct investment: Inward and outward flows and stock, annual [Dataset]. Retrieved January 4, 2026, from: https://unctadstat.unctad.org/datacentre/dataviewer/US.FdiFlowsStock	IPM	Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow)	iv.10• Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (flow) (IPM), uses data from: The Global Trade Alert* [Related paper] Evenett, S. J. (2019). Protectionism, state discrimination, and international business since the onset of the Global Financial Crisis. <i>Journal of International Business Policy</i> 2, 9–36. doi. org/10.1057/s42214-019-00021-0 [Related paper] Simon J. Evenett and Johannes Fritz (2020). The Global Trade Alert database handbook. Manuscript, 26 October 2022. Available at: https://gtaupload.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Uploads/web/GTA+handbook.pdf
BTF	Barriers to FDI	iv.10• Barriers to FDI (BTF), uses data from: OECD, FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness Index (FDI Index) [Dataset] OECD, FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness Index (FDI Index). (n.d.). OECD FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness Index [Dataset]. Retrieved January 5, 2026, from: https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/sub-issues/sustainable-investment/fdi-regulatory-restrictiveness-index.html	IPS	Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock)	iv.10• Share of imports targeted by protectionist measures (stock) (IPS), uses data from: The Global Trade Alert* [Related paper] Evenett, S. J. (2019). Protectionism, state discrimination, and international business since the onset of the Global Financial Crisis. <i>Journal of International Business Policy</i> 2, 9–36. doi. org/10.1057/s42214-019-00021-0 [Related paper] Simon J. Evenett and Johannes Fritz (2020). The Global Trade Alert database handbook. Manuscript, 26 October 2022. Available at: https://gtaupload.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Uploads/web/GTA+handbook.pdf
OFB	Open for business	iv.10• Open for Business (OFB), uses data from: U.S. News & World Report LP [Dataset] U.S. News & World Report LP. (2024). Best Countries 2024: Global rankings, international news and data insights [Dataset]. Retrieved January 15, 2025, from: https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/rankings	DGI	Share of discrimn. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow)	iv.10• Share of discrimn. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (flow) (DGI), uses data from: The Global Trade Alert* [Related paper] Evenett, S. J. (2019). Protectionism, state discrimination, and international business since the onset of the Global Financial Crisis. <i>Journal of International Business Policy</i> 2, 9–36. doi. org/10.1057/s42214-019-00021-0 [Related paper] Simon J. Evenett and Johannes Fritz (2020). The Global Trade Alert database handbook. Manuscript, 26 October 2022. Available at: https://gtaupload.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Uploads/web/GTA+handbook.pdf

DGS	Share of discrimin. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock)	iv.10 • Share of discrimin. govt. intervent. as % of total intervent. (stock) (DGS), uses data from: The Global Trade Alert* [Related paper] Evenett, S. J. (2019). Protectionism, state discrimination, and international business since the onset of the Global Financial Crisis. <i>Journal of International Business Policy</i> 2, 9–36. doi. org/10.1057/s42214-019-00021-0 [Related paper] Simon J. Evenett and Johannes Fritz (2020). The Global Trade Alert database handbook. Manuscript, 26 October 2022. Available at: https://gtaupload.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Uploads/web/GTA+handbook.pdf	GCF	Gross capital formation	iv.11 • Gross capital formation (GCF) uses data from: World Bank national accounts data, OECD National Accounts data files (Retrieved from The World Bank) [Dataset] The World Bank, World Bank national accounts data, OECD National Accounts data files. (n.d.). Gross capital formation (% of GDP) [Dataset]. Retrieved January 10, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NE.GDI.TOTL.ZS
Pillar (iv.11): Capital Rent			GOL	Gold demand as % of GDP	iv.11 • Gold demand as % of GDP (GOL), uses data from: World Gold Council [Dataset] World Gold Council. (2024). Historical demand and supply [Dataset]. Retrieved February 12, 2024, from: https://www.gold.org/goldhub/data/gold-demand-by-country
DOI	Inflation (dev. fm optimum)	iv.11 • Inflation (dev. fm optimum) (DOI), uses data from: International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Economic Outlook [Dataset] International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Economic Outlook. (2025). Inflation rate, average consumer prices, Annual percent change [Dataset]. Retrieved January 10, 2026, from: https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/PCPIPCH@WEO/WEOORLD?year=2025	CRY	Crypto ownership	iv.11 • Crypto ownership (CRY), uses data from: Statista [Dataset] Statista. (2025). Share of respondents who indicated they either owned or used cryptocurrencies in 56 countries and territories worldwide from 2019 to 2025 [Dataset]. Retrieved February 16, 2026, from https://www.statista.com/statistics/1202468/global-cryptocurrency-ownership/
DEF	GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum)	iv.11 • GDP deflator index growth rate (dev. fm optimum) (DEF), uses data from: International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Economic Outlook [Dataset] International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Economic Outlook. (2025). Inflation rate, average consumer prices, Annual percent change [Dataset]. Retrieved January 10, 2026, from: https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/PCPIPCH@WEO/WEOORLD?year=2025	UNN	Unicorns	iv.11 • Unicorns (UNN), uses data from: Hurun Research Institute [Dataset] Hurun Research Institute. (2025). Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2025. Retrieved January 6, 2026, from: https://www.hurun.co.uk/hurun-global-unicorn-index-2025
DNI	Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum)	iv.11 • Neutral interest rate (dev. fm optimum) (DNI), uses data from: OECD (Money Supply Data) & World Bank, National Accounts Data (GDP growth)* [Dataset] OECD. (2025). Narrow money (M1) (indicator). https://www.oecd.org/en/data/indicators/narrow-money-m1.html [Dataset] The World Bank. (n.d.). GDP growth (annual %) [indicator ID: NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG]. Retrieved January 13, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG	UNC	Unicorns as % of GDP	iv.11 • Unicorns as % of GDP (UNC), uses data from: The Hurun Research Institute & World Bank [Dataset] Hurun Research Institute. (2025). Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2025. Retrieved January 6, 2026, from: https://www.hurun.co.uk/hurun-global-unicorn-index-2025 [Dataset] The World Bank. (n.d.). GDP (current US\$) [indicator ID: NY.GDP.MKTP.CD]. Retrieved January 6, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD
FMI	Financial Markets Index	iv.11 • Financial Markets Index (FMI), uses data from: International Monetary Fund (IMF) Strategy, Policy, and Review Department, Financial Development Index Database [Dataset] International Monetary Fund (IMF) Strategy, Policy, and Review Department, Financial Development Index Database. (2023). Financial Development (FD) Index, Financial Markets (FM) Index. Retrieved January 12, 2024, from: https://data.imf.org/en/datasets/IMF.MCM:FDI	BSG	Billionaires self-made per capita	iv.11 • Billionaires self-made per capita (BSG), uses data from: Forbes & The World Bank [Dataset] Forbes. (2024). Forbes World's Billionaires List, The Richest in 2024 [Dataset]. Retrieved January 10, 2026, from: https://www.forbes.com/sites/chasewithorn/2024/04/02/forbes-worlds-billionaires-list-2024-the-top-200/ [Dataset] The World Bank. (n.d.). Population, total [Dataset]. Retrieved January 10, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL

BSM	Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires	iv.11 • Billionaires self-made as % of total billionaires (BSM), uses data from: Forbes [Dataset] Forbes. (2024). Forbes World's Billionaires List, The Richest in 2024 [Dataset]. Retrieved January 10, 2026, from: https://www.forbes.com/sites/chasewithhorn/2024/04/02/forbes-worlds-billionaires-list-2024-the-top-200/
Pillar (iv.12): Labor Rent		
LPG	Labor productivity growth	iv.12 • Labor productivity growth (LPG), uses data from: The Conference Board, Total Economy Database™ [Dataset] The Conference Board, Total Economy Database™. (2023). Total Economy Database™ - Data [Dataset]. Retrieved January 16, 2024, from: https://www.conference-board.org/topics/total-economy-database
WLP	Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases	iv.12 • Delta real wage vs labor productivity increases (WLP), uses data from: OECD, GDP per capita and productivity growth [Dataset] OECD, GDP per capita and productivity growth. (2024). Labour compensation per hour worked [Dataset]. Retrieved January 16, 2024, from: https://data.oecd.org/lprdy/labour-compensation-per-hour-worked.htm#indicator-chart [Dataset] OECD, GDP per capita and productivity growth. (2024). GDP per hour worked [Dataset]. Retrieved January 16, 2024, from: https://www.oecd.org/en/data/indicators/gdp-per-hour-worked.html
LFP	Labor force participation rate	v.12 • Labor force participation rate (LFP), uses data from: International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT, ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST) Database [Dataset] International Labour Organization. (2025). ILOSTAT database. Labour force participation rate by sex and age [ILO modelled estimates] (Code: EAP_2WAP_SEX_AGE_RT_A). Retrieved March 12, 2026, from: https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/population-and-labour-force/
LFR	Labor force participation ratio - male vs female	iv.12 • Labor force participation ratio - male vs female (LFR), uses data from: World Bank, World Development indicators (WDI) database, International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT (Retrieved from The World Bank) [Dataset] International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT. (n.d.). Ratio of female to male labor force participation rate (%) (modeled ILO estimate) [Dataset]. Retrieved February 2, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FM.ZS
ROD	Robot density in manufacturing industry	Robot density in manufacturing industry (ROD), uses data from: The International Federation of Robotics [Press Release] International Federation of Robotics. (2025). Global Robot Density in Factories Doubled in Seven Years. Retrieved January 25, 2025 from: https://ifr.org/ifr-press-releases/news/global-robot-density-in-factories-doubled-in-seven-years

UEM	Unemployment rate	iv.12 • Unemployment rate (UEM), uses data from: International Labour Organization, ILO Modelled Estimates and Projections database (ILOEST), ILOSTAT (Retrieved from The World Bank) [Dataset] International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT. (n.d.). Ratio of female to male labor force participation rate (%) (modeled ILO estimate) [Dataset]. Retrieved January 7, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FM.ZS
YUN	Youth unemployment rate	iv.12 • Youth unemployment rate (YUN), uses data from: International Labour Organization, ILO Modelled Estimates and Projections database (ILOEST), ILOSTAT (Retrieved from The World Bank) [Dataset] International Labour Organization, ILO Modelled Estimates and Projections database (ILOEST), ILOSTAT. (n.d.). Unemployment, youth total (% of total labor force ages 15-24) (modeled ILO estimate) [Dataset]. Retrieved January 7, 2026, from: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.1524.ZS
BRN	Human flight and brain drain	iv.12 • Human flight and brain drain (BRN), uses data from: The Fund for Peace, Fragile States Index [Dataset] The Fund for Peace, Fragile States Index. (2024). E3: Human Flight and Brain Drain [Dataset]. Retrieved January 16, 2025, from: https://fragilestatesindex.org/global-data/ [Related Report] The Fund for Peace, Fragile States Index. (2024). Fragile States Index Annual Report 2024. Retrieved January 16, 2025, from: https://fragilestatesindex.org

From insight
to impact.



<https://unisg.ch/elitequality>

*The website is a collaboration between
the University of St.Gallen and the Foundation for Value Creation*

7.3 Artistic Acknowledgments

Paintings Credit

Joaquim Chancho generously gave permission to display his artwork to enhance the EQx2026 aesthetic experience. The details on the paintings included in the Report are described below:

Page 7: Joaquim Chancho. Painting 617. 2004. Oil on canvas. 35 x 35 cm.
Page 75: Joaquim Chancho. Painting 628. 2004. Oil on canvas. 35 x 35 cm.
Page 91: Joaquim Chancho. Painting 618. 2004. Oil on canvas. 35 x 35 cm.
Page 113: Joaquim Chancho. Painting 620. 2004. Oil on canvas. 35 x 35 cm.
Page 131: Joaquim Chancho. Painting 606. 2004. Oil on canvas. 32 x 32 cm.
Page 151: Joaquim Chancho. Painting 610. 2004. Oil on canvas. 25 x 25 cm.
Page 167: Joaquim Chancho. Painting 619. 2004. Oil on canvas. 35 x 35 cm.
Page 209: Joaquim Chancho. Painting 623. 2004. Oil on canvas. 32 x 32 cm.
Page 363: Joaquim Chancho. Painting 609. 2004. Oil on canvas. 32 x 32 cm.

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Joaquim Chancho (born Spain, 1943) is a Professor at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Barcelona, where he also lives. He has staged a hundred individual exhibitions of his work across Europe, Asia and the Americas and has also participated in many domestic and international art fairs. His work is included in the collections of a diverse range of institutions and museums.

For details visit: www.joaquimchancho.com

Pictures Credit

Page viii: Luca Zanier Photograph, with permission Corridors of Power Project, Stiftsbibliothek I St.Gallen.

Editorial Disclaimer

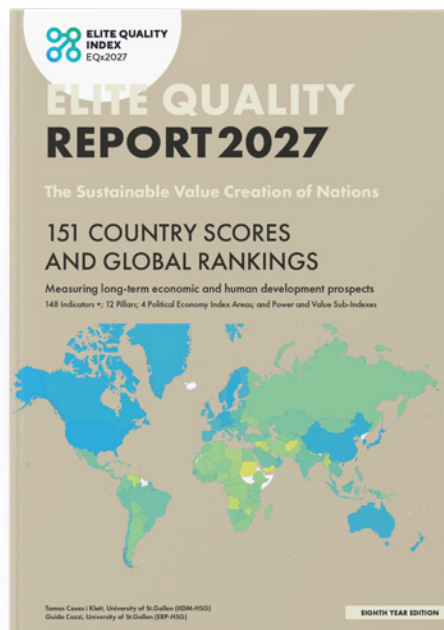
All of the contributions to the EQx2026 are the responsibility of the authors, who were granted full editorial freedom and selected the Indicators, Pillars, Sub-Indices and Index Areas that they wished to focus on in their analyses of Elite Quality.

Style Note

All the original terms used in the EQx2026 such as 'Elite Quality' or 'enlightened elites' use single quotation marks when first introduced. Thereafter the quotation marks will disappear, but the term might, on occasion be rendered in italics. Terms that depict a component of the EQx2026 are capitalized. For example, 'Power Sub-Index', 'Economic Dimension', 'Political Value Index Area', 'Creative Destruction Pillar' or 'Indicator'. When we refer to individual Pillars, they are followed by their specific Pillar Code: for example, 'Creative Destruction (ii.6)'. Individual Indicators are referred to in italics and are followed by their Indicator Code in brackets: for example, '*Crony capitalism* (CRO, i.2)'. All references to indices in the EQx2026 are italicized: for example, '*Environmental Performance Index*'. Terms that represent proprietary frameworks such as: 'State of Elites' or 'Index Area' are capitalized.

Forthcoming: EQx2027

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The Elite Quality Report 2027: The Sustainable Value Creation of Nations, will be the eighth annual EQx report and is planned for release in the Spring of 2027. The EQx2027 will continue to cover 151 countries and provide the international comparative scores of national elite systems to create the leading political economy measurement index. The 148 Indicators used for the EQx2026, reflecting Value Creation and Value Extraction phenomena in the political economy and society at large, will be re-assessed for the EQx2027, while new Indicator candidates will also be considered for inclusion. In addition, the Panel-EQx (PEQx) dataset, launched in 2023 and utilized in research, will be further enhanced to evaluate the historical performance of Elite Quality for countries across the globe.

Conceptually, sustainability at the firm level parallels sustainability in the political economy, as measured by the EQx. The EQx2027 will leverage the insights from the full micro-level 'Sustainable Value Creation of Firms' report that is planned for the end of 2026. Firm-level Sustainable Value Creation is the beginning of the transmission chain that leads to Elite Quality at the macro-level and affects economic and human development outcomes.

EQx Team

The Foundation for Value Creation is in deep gratitude to its partners and supporters for their insights, resources and valuable guidance during the conception and production of this report. The team that participated in this year's Elite Quality Index (EQx2026) is acknowledged below:



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The EQx is a global collaborative effort, and its academic leadership rests with two institutes at the University of St.Gallen: the Institute for International Management and Diversity Management (IIDM-HSG) and the Institute for Economic Research and Policy (ERP-HSG). The project has also benefited from the data, methodological inputs, analysis, and outreach work of a wider network committed to the idea that measuring the aggregate Sustainable Value Creation of Nations is driven by the agency of elite business models and holds the key to economic and human development.

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The relationship between the Foundation for Value Creation (FVC) and the Elite Quality Index® (EQx)

The Foundation for Value Creation (FVC or 'Foundation') is a St.Gallen-based non-profit foundation, supervised by the Swiss Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations (Eidgenössische Stiftungsaufsicht, ESA). The Foundation's vision and its purpose (Stiftungszweck), articulated in its statutes (Satzung), include the generation of innovative, evidence-based insights into Value Creation. The Foundation's resources are allocated and audited in compliance with its purpose and applicable Swiss laws.

Measuring the degree of Value Creation in a political economy is the objective of the Elite Quality Index® (EQx) project. The underlying assumption of the EQx, shared by the FVC, is that the extent to which elite business models create value, rather than extract it, significantly contributes to a country's economic growth and human development. The Foundation realizes its purpose by supporting the EQx in three ways.

Firstly, the Foundation makes the development of the EQx possible, by coordinating the international partner network, providing support for research initiatives, and by assisting in the publication of the report and dissemination of the results. Dissemination activities include the participation in and organization of international, local and digital events, as well as establishing a collaborative platform for partners to work on and share EQx data. Secondly, the Foundation sees the EQx as a unique intellectual asset for a wide range of educational initiatives. These include university courses for new generations of students, innovative formats for the broader public, as well as custom programs for the top leadership of organizations, governments and institutions. Thirdly, the EQx provides a distinct practice-oriented analytical toolset that can be leveraged for the transformation and renewal of elite business models from Value Extraction towards inclusive Value Creation. The EQx results and interpretations of them can provoke the reflection and analysis that precedes transformative action. The international and open platform collaborative approach of the Foundation enables such impacts, aiming deep into societies and the core of political economies.

If you are interested in learning more about the FVC or having a conversation, please contact us at: partner@valuecreation.org

Purpose

The Elite Quality Index (EQx) aims to produce innovative and evidence-based insights on Sustainable Value Creation and national elite quality around the world. Through research projects and the EQx partner network, we seek to identify the causes of economic growth and human development, as well as the factors behind the rise and fall of nations and organizations. At a time of global disruption, the original ideas and frameworks included in this report provide an alternative understanding of public and policy debates about the future direction of the political economy. The ultimate aim is to identify and initiate ways to transform business models from Value Extraction to Value Creation. To this end, we wish to encourage international dialogue across generations, social groups, elites and non-elites.

We produce novel tools for knowledge dissemination in a variety of educational formats, and offer value-oriented, inclusive narratives for societies.

“Reforms must then be based on adjusting the incentive system so that elite business models create rather than transfer value.”

Zhang Jun
Fudan University

“The EQx report is an essential resource for anyone seeking to understand and navigate the ever-evolving world of political economy.”

Simon Evenett
IMD

“Whether one likes it or not, elites play a big role in a nation’s success or failure. They can promote all-round well-being; but they can also be exploitative, stalling the nation’s overall progress.”

Kaushik Basu
Cornell University

“By describing the micro-level sustainable value creation fundamentals of the political economy, (the EQx) furnishes detailed elucidation of current economic reality and foresight into the growth prospects of nations.”

Etsuro Shioji
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