

DATA AT A GLANCE

## The Asia-Pacific is a Peaceful Region After All

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The Global Peace Index (GPI) ranks countries around the world in terms of peace. The index measures three domains of peace—societal safety and security, ongoing domestic and international conflict, and militarization. Countries are given a score from 1 to 5, with lower scores suggestive of being more peaceful, and higher scores of being less peaceful.

A total of 163 countries were covered, 19 of which are in the Asia-Pacific region. The data are important amidst the perception that the region—or some parts of it—is not peaceful.

Table 1 presents the GPI scores and the regional and global rankings of Asia-Pacific countries. Overall, the Asia-Pacific is a peaceful region (mean: 1.91). While some countries in the region are less peaceful, their level of non-peacefulness was found to be only moderate.

New Zealand (1.19), Singapore (1.38), and Japan (1.39) have the highest level of peace in the region, and hardly surprisingly, these three countries also form part of the world's top 10 countries, where peace is almost total.

The region's least peaceful countries among those shown in the table are the Philippines and North Korea, but the scores—at 2.51 and 2.95, respectively—strongly indicate that, even in these two countries, peace has not been altogether abandoned.

### Reference

Institute for Economics & Peace. (2018). *Global peace index 2018: Measuring peace in a complex world*. Retrieved from <http://visionofhumanity.org/reports/>

**Table 1**

*GPI Scores and Global Rank of Asia-Pacific Countries*

Country	GPI Score	Global Rank
New Zealand	1.19	2
Singapore	1.38	8
Japan	1.39	9
Australia	1.44	13
Malaysia	1.62	25
Taiwan	1.74	34
Laos	1.82	46
Mongolia	1.82	46
South Korea	1.82	49
Indonesia	1.85	55
Timor-Leste	1.90	59
Vietnam	1.91	60
Cambodia	2.10	96
Papua New Guinea	2.11	100
China	2.24	112
Thailand	2.26	113
Myanmar	2.30	122
Philippines	2.51	137
North Korea	2.95	150
Mean	1.91	