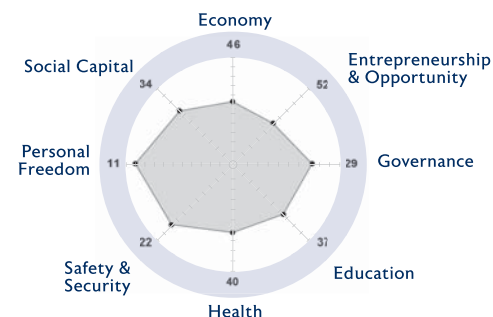




Fast Facts

Average life satisfaction	6.3/10 (2009)	Literacy rate (% of adult population)	98% (2008)
Population	3.4 mn (2010 Est.)	Life Expectancy	76 years (2008)
GDP per capita (PPP)	\$13,961 (2010 Est.)	Business Start-up Costs (% of Gross National Income)	40.0% (2008)
GDP (PPP)	\$46.9 bn (2010 Est.)	76.9% of people believe society is meritocratic*	(2009)
Political System	Republic	48.1% of people feel personal safety*	(2009)
Freedom House rating	Free (2010)	28.0% of people find others trustworthy*	(2009)

Sub-Index Rankings



Index Comparisons (Rank/No of countries)

Legatum Prosperity Index	28/110
Average Life Satisfaction Ranking	33/110
Per Capita GDP Ranking	47/110
WEF Global Competitiveness Index	64/139
UN Human Development Index	50/182
Heritage/WSJ Economic Freedom Index	33/179
TI Corruption Perceptions Index	25/180
Vision of Humanity Global Peace Index	24/149

Economy

Uruguay's economy is growing and public perceptions are positive

RANKED 46TH

Uruguay has an inflation rate of 7.9% and a gross domestic savings rate of 19%, placing the country below the global** average for both variables. Official unemployment is above average at 9.2%, and 46%* of the population reports to be in paid or unpaid employment, placing Uruguay 79th and 64th overall. The Uruguayan economy has been growing an average annual 7.7% in GDP per capita between 2004 and 2008, and, Uruguayans are very optimistic about further improving of economic conditions, reporting the 15th highest* expectations overall. More than two out of 5* believe that the local job market provides opportunities. Uruguay ranks 35th for its affordability of food and shelter, and two thirds* of people express satisfaction with their standard of living, placing Uruguay 50th overall. Uruguay has a fairly small market and the value of the physical capital available to its workers falls below global average. High-tech exports present 4.2% of total manufactured goods, but levels of foreign direct investment place the country in the top third of the Index. Uruguay's banking system appears efficient with only 1% of loans currently non-performing, among the lowest 10 such rates globally, although a surprisingly low 65%* of Uruguayans report confidence in the country's financial institutions.

Entrepreneurship & Opportunity

Uruguay's infrastructure limits entrepreneurial opportunities and there are significant barriers to entry

RANKED 52ND

R&D spending amounts to 1% of GDP, slightly above the global average, however, income from royalty receipts remains low, placing Uruguay 76th on this variable. Only 0.1% of total goods exports are ICT goods, among the 20 lowest in the Index. Business start-up costs are among the 20 highest in the Index at 40% of GNI per capita, and access to communication technology, in terms of mobile phones per person, bandwidth and per capita secure internet servers, is only average, all of which suggest a moderate infrastructure for entrepreneurship. Despite this, three-quarters* of Uruguayans believe that their city is a good place to start a business, placing the country in the top third on positive perceptions of the entrepreneurial climate, and possibly indicating a large informal sector. Group based inequality across different socio-economic groups in education and jobs is among the 30 lowest globally. However, only 77%* of the population feels that working hard will get you ahead, placing Uruguay 68th, on this variable.

Governance

Uruguay's democratic institutions enjoy high approval among the population

RANKED 29TH

Uruguay is a democratic country, but has only moderately effective political institutions. The last major constitutional changes took place 23 years ago, placing Uruguay in the top half of the Index for the stability of its regime. There is a high degree of competition within both executive and legislative branches of government. Whilst regulation of government is well established, a low level of political constraint indicates a lack of systemic checks and balances. Public confidence in the government was high in 2009 at 70%*, placing Uruguay 22nd, on this variable. This approval extends to the country's efforts to deal with the poor and the preserve the environment; Uruguay ranking in the top 15* for the high proportion of the population expressing satisfaction on both accounts. Public perceptions of corruption within government and business are low*, perhaps contributing to these high levels of public approval. Investment and competition are only moderately regulated, but the rule of law is fairly well respected in Uruguay, and three out of 5* Uruguayans express confidence in the judicial system, with Uruguay ranking 38th and 47th, respectively, on these variables. At the same time, public confidence in the military is extremely low at 55%, placing Uruguay in the bottom 25 of the Index on this variable. Uruguayans enjoy full political rights, and 19%* had voiced their opinion to a public officials the previous month, when surveyed in 2009. Over 85%* of the population are confident in the honesty of elections, among the 10 highest levels of public confidence in the Index.

Education

Uruguay's educational system is well regarded, ensuring high levels of enrolment

RANKED 37TH

Uruguay has high levels of enrolment in educational institutions, ranking 25th at the primary level, 44th at the secondary level and 24th at the tertiary level. Uruguay maintains near gender equality in primary and secondary education. Class sizes are small with, on average, one teacher for every 16 pupils in primary schools, and public perceptions of Uruguay's educational system are positive: 82%* of the population is satisfied with the quality of education, while 78%* of Uruguayans believe that children have opportunities to learn and grow everyday, placing Uruguay 22nd and 50th, respectively, on these variables. The level of education in Uruguay's workforce falls below global average for secondary education, but is slightly higher for tertiary education, placing Uruguay 66th and 47th, respectively, for these variables.

Health

Moderate government expenditure produces mixed measurements of public health

RANKED 40TH

Uruguayans enjoy a health-adjusted life expectancy of 66 years, placing them above the global average. The rate of infant mortality falls below global average at 1.2% and the rate of undernourishment is among the 10 lowest overall. The government spends approximately \$1,000 (PPP) per capita on health, translating into an above global average number of hospital beds and universal access to improved sanitation facilities. Accordingly, 95%* of Uruguayans are satisfied with water quality, placing Uruguay eighth on this variable. Immunisation against infectious diseases falls below the global average at 94%, but an above global average 96% of the population are immunised against measles. The death rate from respiratory diseases is fairly high, placing Uruguay 71st on this variable, yet incidence of tuberculosis is fairly low in the country. Public satisfaction with personal health was high in 2009, with three quarters* of the population feeling well-rested, placing Uruguay 26th* for both these variables. Only one in five* Uruguayans reported significant health problems. However, high levels of mental stress appear to prevail among the population, with 45%* of Uruguayans expressing to have worried a significant part of the day prior to being surveyed in 2009, among the 10 highest levels overall. Four out of five* Uruguayans stated their satisfaction with the beauty of their immediate environment.

Safety & Security

Uruguay is safe politically, but there is significant brain drain, along with high rates of petty crime

RANKED 22ND

Uruguay has an extremely safe, stable society. There are almost no internally displaced persons or refugees, with Uruguay ranking second on this variable. A very low level of group grievances based on recent or past injustices places Uruguay eighth overall and indicates a well integrated society. However, there are some demographic pressures resulting from border disputes, ownership or occupancy of land, access to transportation outlets, control of religious or historical sites, and proximity to environmental hazards. There were no deaths from civil or ethnic conflict in 2008 and an absence of state-sponsored repression or violence places Uruguay at the top of the Index, and public perception is that most* people are not afraid to express their political views openly, placing Uruguay 11th on this variable. Nonetheless, emigration among the country's professionals, intellectuals and middle classes is considerable, placing Uruguay 56th globally. A quarter* of the population reported to have property stolen in the past 12 months when surveyed in 2009, and more than one out of 10* Uruguayans said to have been victim of an assault over the same time frame. Less than half* of the population feels safe walking home alone at night.

Personal Freedom

Uruguayans enjoy full freedom of expression and are extremely tolerant of immigrants and racial and ethnic minorities

RANKED 11TH

Uruguayans enjoy full civil liberties. A fairly high 83%* of the population expresses satisfaction with the level of freedom of expression, belief, association, and personal autonomy, the 30th highest rate in the Index. Uruguayans perceive their society to be welcoming to immigrants and ethnic and religious minorities. A very high 86%* of the population believes that the area where they live is a good place for immigrants, and an equal number believe it to be a good place for ethnic and religious minorities. Uruguay places in the top 15 of the Index on both variables.

Social Capital

Uruguayans have strong personal networks although community engagement is rather weak

RANKED 34TH

Social trust is fairly high in Uruguay, with almost three out of 10* Uruguayans believing that others generally can be trusted. However, community engagement is rather weak. Uruguay ranks 73rd* and 66th* for the number of its citizens reporting to have donated to charity and spent time volunteering the previous month, when surveyed in 2009. Only 43%* of Uruguayans had helped a stranger over the same time frame, placing Uruguay below the global average on this variable. Religious communities do not appear to play a significant role in Uruguayan society indicating weak access to religious support networks. Only 16%* of the population confirmed that they had attended a place of worship in the previous seven days during same survey, among the 15 lowest levels globally. A low 43%* of Uruguayans are married, suggesting low access to familial networks, but more than nine out of 10* say to have relatives or friends they can count on in times of need, among the 20 highest levels overall, suggesting strong personal networks.

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

Regional Ranking: The Americas

Rank	Country
7	Canada
10	United States
28	Uruguay
32	Chile
33	Costa Rica
40	Panama
41	Argentina
44	Trinidad and Tobago
45	Brazil
53	Mexico
55	Jamaica
56	Belize
65	Colombia
67	Paraguay
68	Dominican Republic
73	Peru
75	Venezuela
77	Ecuador
78	El Salvador
81	Guatemala
82	Bolivia
85	Honduras
87	Nicaragua