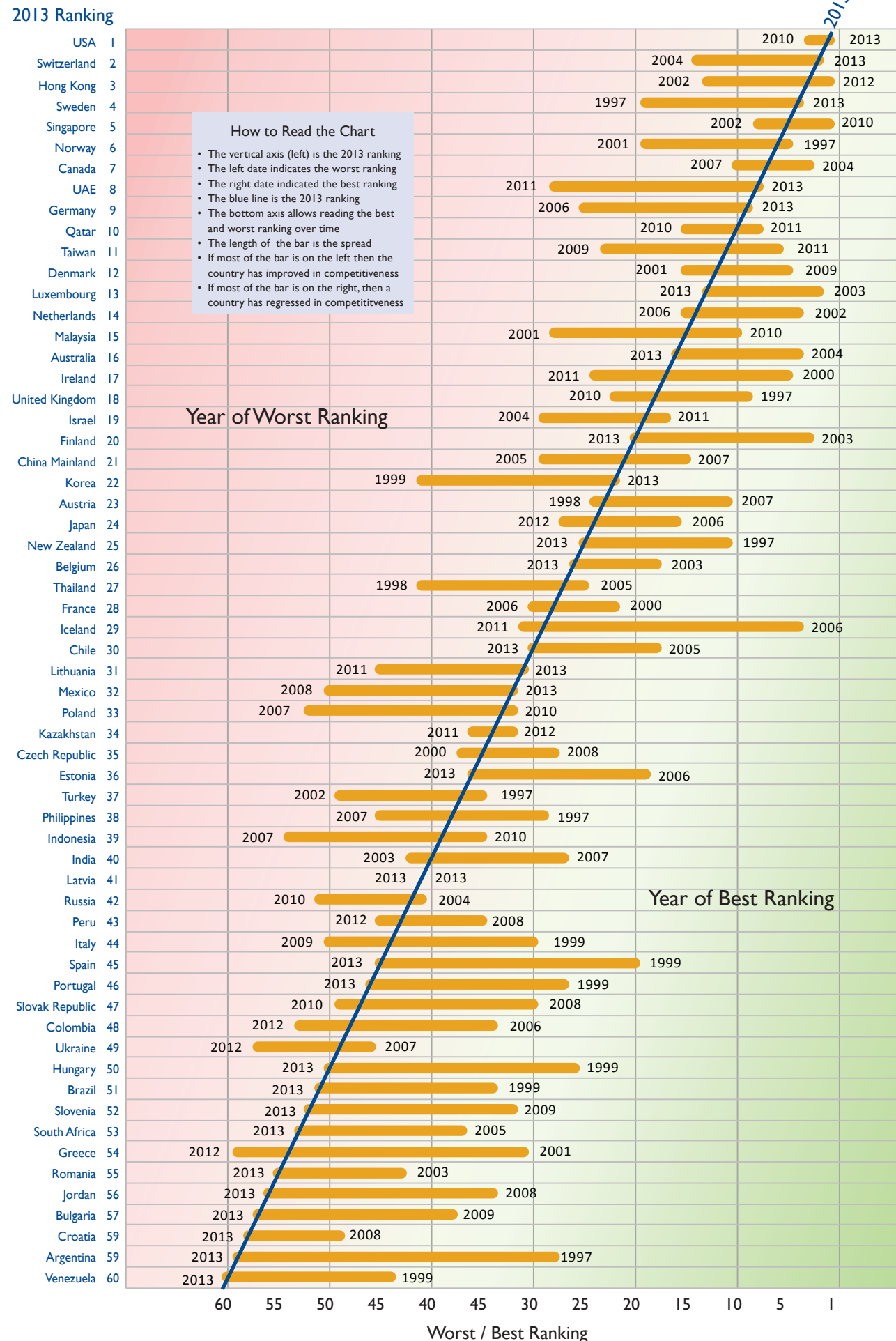


WORLD COMPETITIVENESS IN

PERSPECTIVE 1997-2013



The IMD's World Competitiveness Center has been calculating the competitiveness of nations since 1989. In 1997, the globalization of the world's economy led us to move from a split ranking (advanced vs. emerging economies) to an integrated one. Because the robust methodology has been maintained since then, it is now possible to track a country's competitiveness evolution over that period of time.

How the chart is elaborated?

- The vertical axis on the left indicates the 2013 ranking and the name of the country.
- The blue 2013 diagonal line from top to bottom indicates the same ranking, which also intersects with the axis below.
- In addition, the horizontal axis allows to read the best and worst rankings over time.
- Each country's bar highlights on the left the worst competitiveness ranking and its date and on the right the best ranking and its date.
- The length of the bar indicates the spread between the two; a long bar can mean dynamism and/or volatility – a shorter bar meaning stability/and or inertia.

Example: Ireland

- Ireland ranks 17th in the 2013 scoreboard (left axis).
- Ireland's bar indicates that its best ranking was in 2000 (on the right) and the worst in 2011 (on the left) and the respective positions can be read on the bottom axis.
- The length of the bar means a large spread between the two results (dynamism and/or volatility).
- Since the 2013 results diagonal intersects Ireland's bar closer to its worst point, it suggests that Ireland has regressed in competitiveness. The worst ranking date (2011) is more recent than the best ranking date (2000) confirming this.

Trends

- Countries with a short bar (spread) at the top of the scoreboard have shown consistency in competitiveness. This is the case of the USA (1st), Singapore (5th) and Canada (7th).
- However a similar short bar (spread) lower in the scoreboard, rather means inertia, such as for France (28th) and Belgium (26th).
- Countries with a long bar (spread) mainly on the left of the 2013 diagonal have shown dynamism in improving their competitiveness. These are Hong Kong (3rd), Taiwan (11th), Norway (6th), Korea (22nd) or Poland (33th).
- However countries with a similar long bar (spread) on the right of the 2013 diagonal rather show volatility and a regression in competitiveness. This is the case of Iceland (29th), Spain (45th), Slovenia (52nd), Greece (54th) and Argentina (59th).
- If a country spread is a longer bar equally on both sides of the 2013 diagonal, it suggests volatility, such as Malaysia (15th) or Indonesia (39th).