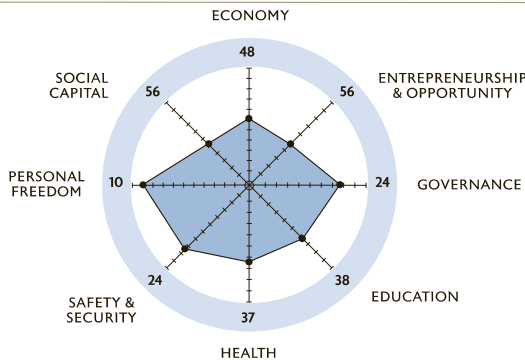




### FAST FACTS

Average life satisfaction (Rated 0 > 10)	6.1	Literacy rate (% of adult population) (2009)	98.3%
Population mn. (2011 Est.)	3.37	Life expectancy years (2009)	76.1
GDP per capita (PPP) (2011 Est.)	\$15,121	Business start-up costs (% of Gross National Income) (2011)	42.1%
GDP (PPP) bn. (2011 Est.)	\$50.94	% of people believe society is meritocratic* (2011)	83.9%
Freedom House rating (2011)	Free	% of people feel personal safety* (2010)	50.0%
Political System	Constitutional Republic	% of people find others trustworthy* (2010)	27.5%

### SUB-INDEX RANKINGS



### INDEX OF COMPARISONS

	Rank/ No. of countries
Legatum Prosperity Index	29/110
Average Life Satisfaction Ranking	43/110
Per Capita GDP Ranking	46/110
WEF Global Competitiveness Index	64/139
UN Human Development Index	52/169
Heritage/WJS Economic Freedom Index	33/179
TI Corruption Perceptions Index	24/178
Vision of Humanity Global Peace Index	21/153

### ECONOMY:

Uruguay's economy is growing and public perceptions are positive

RANKED  
**48**

Uruguay has an inflation rate of over 7%, and a gross domestic savings rate of 19%, placing the country 83rd and 62nd, respectively. Official unemployment is above average at 7.3%, while 54%\* of the population reports to be in paid or unpaid employment, placing Uruguay 52nd and 55th, respectively. The Uruguayan economy grew at an annual average of almost 6% in GDP per capita between 2005 and 2009, and Uruguayans are very optimistic about further improving of economic conditions, reporting the 11th highest\* expectations globally\*\*. Similarly, 50%\* of Uruguayans believe that the local job market will improve, ranking the country 23rd. Uruguay ranks 48th for the affordability of food and shelter, and two-thirds\* of people expressed satisfaction with their standards of living, placing Uruguay 54th overall, on this variable. However, Uruguay has a relatively small market, and the value of physical capital available to its workers places the country 60th. High-tech exports make up 5.4% of total manufactured goods, which is around the global average, but foreign direct investment performance, as measured by both net inflows and volatility, places Uruguay in the top 30 countries on 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 63%\* of Uruguayans report confidence in the country's financial institutions.

### ENTREPRENEURSHIP & OPPORTUNITY:

Uruguay's infrastructure limits entrepreneurial opportunities yet perceptions are positive

RANKED  
**56**

R&D spending amounts to 1% of GDP, slightly above the global average, yet income from royalty receipts is low, placing Uruguay 76th on this variable. Only 0.1% of total exports are ICT goods, among the 20 lowest levels in the Index. Business start-up costs are among the 20 highest in the Index, at over 42% of GNI per capita, and access to communication technology, in terms of mobile phones per person, internet bandwidth and per capita secure internet servers, place 35th, 80th, and 45th, respectively, suggesting the existence of moderate infrastructure for entrepreneurship. Despite this, 84%\* of Uruguayans believe that their local area is a good place to start a business, placing the country in the top 10 on this variable. Levels of group-based inequality across different socio-economic groups is amongst the 30 lowest globally, but this does not translate subjectively: only 84%\* of the population feels that working hard will get them ahead in life, placing Uruguay 67th on this variable.

### GOVERNANCE:

Uruguay's democratic institutions enjoy high approval among the population despite only moderate effectiveness

RANKED  
**24**

Uruguay is a democratic country, but has only moderately effective political institutions. The last major constitutional changes took place almost a quarter of a century ago, placing Uruguay in the top half of the Index for the regime. There is a high degree of competition within both executive and legislative branches of government, ranking the country joint second on this variable. Whilst regulation of government is well established, below average levels of political constraint indicate a lack of systemic checks and balances on individuals' influence over policy. Public approval of the government was high in 2010 at 78%\*, placing Uruguay 13th on this variable. This approval extends to the country's efforts to deal with poverty and preserve the environment; Uruguay places just outside the top 10 for the high proportion of the population expressing satisfaction on both counts. Public perceptions of corruption within government and business are low\*, perhaps contributing to these high levels of public approval. Investment and competition are moderately regulated, but the rule of law is well respected in Uruguay, and three out of five\* Uruguayans expressed confidence in the judicial system, with Uruguay ranking 48th, 33rd and 40th, respectively, on these variables. Yet concurrently, public confidence in the military is low at 59%, placing Uruguay in the bottom 25 of the Index, on this variable. Uruguayans enjoy full political rights, and 23%\* had voiced their opinion to a public officials in the month before being surveyed in 2010. Similarly, over 85%\* of the population were 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**  
**38**

Uruguay has high levels of enrolment in educational institutions, ranking 13th at the primary level, 57th at the secondary level and 25th at the tertiary level. Uruguay maintains near gender equality in primary and secondary education and class sizes are small, with an average of one teacher for every 15 pupils in primary schools. Despite this, public perceptions of Uruguay's educational system are mixed: eight out of ten\* of the population was satisfied with the quality of education, only 69%\* believed that children have opportunities to learn and grow every day, placing Uruguay 25th and 67th, respectively, on these variables. The level of education in Uruguay's workforce falls below the global average for secondary education, but is slightly higher for tertiary education, placing Uruguay 66th and 48th, respectively, on these variables.

## HEALTH:

Moderate government expenditure produces mixed outcomes and perceptions on public health

**RANKED**  
**37**

Uruguayans enjoy a life expectancy of 67 years, when adjusted for healthy years lived, placing them above the global average. The rate of infant mortality falls just below the global average, with 1.1% of babies dying before their first birthday, and the rate of undernourishment is among the five lowest in the Index. While the government spends approximately 1,250 USD (PPP) per capita on health, this translates into only a globally average number of hospital beds and universal access to improved sanitation facilities. Accordingly, 94%\* of Uruguayans were satisfied with water quality, placing Uruguay 11th on this variable. Immunisation against infectious diseases fell just above the global average at 95%, and an average 94% of the population were immunised against measles. The number of deaths from respiratory diseases is fairly high, placing Uruguay 72nd on this variable, yet tuberculosis specifically was relatively rare in Uruguay. Public satisfaction with personal health was high in 2010, at 84%\*, while over three quarters\* of the population felt well-rested, placing Uruguay 36th and 33rd respectively on these variables, and some 77%\* of Uruguayans claimed to be satisfied with the beauty of their immediate environment. However, an above average quarter\* of Uruguayans reported significant health problems. High levels of stress appear to prevail among the population, with four in ten\* expressing worry during a significant part of the day prior to being surveyed in 2010, among the 25 highest levels overall.

## SAFETY & SECURITY:

Uruguay is safe and stable, but high crime rates encourage emigration

**RANKED**  
**24**

There are almost no internally displaced persons or refugees, with Uruguay ranking fourth on this variable. A very low level of group grievances based on recent or past injustices places Uruguay seventh 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, ranking the country 31st, on this variable. There were no deaths from civil or ethnic conflict reported in 2010, and an absence of state-sponsored repression places Uruguay at the joint top of the Index. The prevailing public perception is that most\* people are not afraid to express their political views openly, placing Uruguay 25th, on this variable. Nonetheless, emigration among the country's professionals, intellectuals and middle classes is considerable, placing Uruguay 54th globally. This may relate to crime levels, which are high. A quarter\* of the population reported having suffered the theft of property in the year prior to a 2010 survey, while almost one out of 10\* claimed to have been a victim of an assault over the same timeframe, ranking the country 99th and 78th, respectively, on these variables. Consequently, only half\* of the population felt safe walking home alone at night.

## PERSONAL FREEDOM:

Uruguayans enjoy full freedom of expression and are extremely tolerant of 'outsiders'

**RANKED**  
**10**

Uruguayans enjoy full civil liberties. A fairly high 83%\* of the population expressed satisfaction with the level of freedom of expression, belief, association, and personal autonomy, the 26th highest rate in the Index. Uruguayans perceive their society to be welcoming to immigrants and ethnic and religious minorities. A very high 88%\* of the population believes that the area where they live is a good place for immigrants, and 83%\* believe it to be a good place for ethnic and racial minorities – Uruguay places in the top 20 of the Index on both variables.

## SOCIAL CAPITAL:

Uruguayans have strong personal networks, although community engagement is rather weak

**RANKED**  
**56**

Social trust is fairly high in Uruguay by global standards, with almost three out of 10\* Uruguayans believing that others generally can be trusted. However, community engagement is rather weak: Uruguay ranks 82nd\* and 86th\*, respectively, for the number of its citizens reporting to have donated to charity and spent time volunteering in the month prior to being surveyed in 2010. Only 39%\* of Uruguayans had helped a stranger over the same timeframe, placing Uruguay well below the global average on this variable. Religious communities do not appear to play a significant role in Uruguayan society – just 17%\* of the population confirmed that they had attended a place of worship in the seven days prior to the survey in 2010 – indicating weak access to religious support networks. A low 41%\* of Uruguayans are married, suggesting below average access to familial networks, but almost nine out of 10\* claim to have relatives or friends they can count on in times of need, which ranks the country 41st, on this variable.

\* Data is 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. The term 'average' refers to the average performance in the Index for the referenced variable.

### REGIONAL RANKING: Americas

RANK	COUNTRY
6	Canada
10	United States
<b>29</b>	<b>Uruguay</b>
31	Chile
34	Costa Rica
37	Panama
39	Argentina
42	Brazil
47	Trinidad and Tobago
53	Mexico
55	Jamaica
56	Belize
57	Paraguay
61	Colombia
68	Peru
72	Dominican Republic
73	Venezuela
77	El Salvador
83	Ecuador
84	Guatemala
85	Bolivia
86	Nicaragua
87	Honduras