

Press release - for immediate disclosure

USA only ranked 41st of 180 countries in the Global Sustainable Competitiveness Index 2015

Zurich/Ilsan; December 15, 2015 – The USA is ranked 41th of 180 countries in the Global Sustainable Competitiveness Index 2015, an index that measured the competitiveness – now, and the future development potential – based on 106 quantitative (numerical) indicators across 5 pillars of competitiveness: the availability of natural capital, resource intensity, social cohesion, intellectual capital, and the framework that support sustainable & competitive future development (governance capital), and is considered a more comprehensive measurement than the GDP.

The [Global Sustainable Competitiveness Index](#) is topped by Scandinavian economies, followed by Northern-central European countries. The highest ranked non-European countries are Japan (11), New Zealand (12), and Canada (16). China (25) and Russia (33) both rank higher than the US. The full background report and detailed scores can be downloaded [here](#).

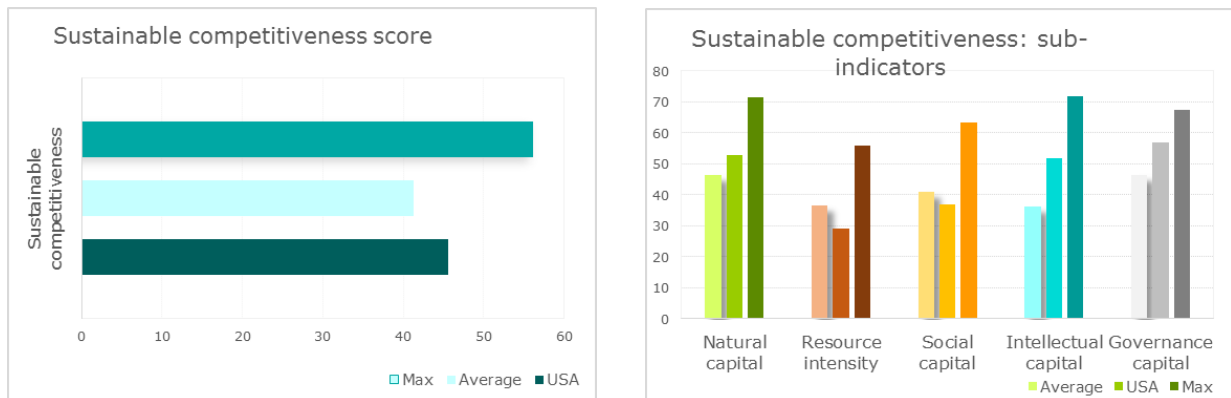
The US scores below the global average in resource intensity and social cohesion, and while the intellectual capital score is considerably above the global average, it is also significantly below the global best score. In none of the fundamental 5 criteria the US scores in the global top 10. Key findings include:

- Natural capital: rank 50 of 180. While the US has large biodiversity, the decline of several resources (in particular the availability of fresh-water), environmental degradation and pollution negatively affect the natural capital score compared to higher ranked nations
- Resource intensity: 159 of 180. Not surprisingly, the US does not score well in resource efficiency. The US not only uses significant amounts of resources per head and GDP, but efficiency gains are also slow compared to leading economies
- Social capital: 113 of 180. High crime and violence rates, and the growing inequity amongst society groups, negatively affect score and prevent the country on fully capitalising on internal human resources
- Intellectual capital: 22 of 180. High school enrolment rates and high number of patent applications (both per capita and GDP) ensure a fairly high score. However, the gap in education quality (the US has the World's best, but probably also the World Worst universities), decreasing quality of school, and declining expenditure for R&D undermine the future growth potential
- Governance capital: 19 of 180. The sheer size of the US economy gives the country a undisputed advantage in influencing World policies and treaties according to its will. However, declining investments in infrastructure, services, and industrial manufacturing are a worrying sign in the perspective of future development.

Sustainable competitiveness is the ability to generate wealth and income, and provide security and freedom for all citizens without compromising the ability of future generations to sustain or increase current levels of the same.

The findings of the Global Sustainable Competitiveness Index indicate that the fundamentals that form the basis of future development, innovation and growth success of the country are more fragile than generally considered (or acknowledged).

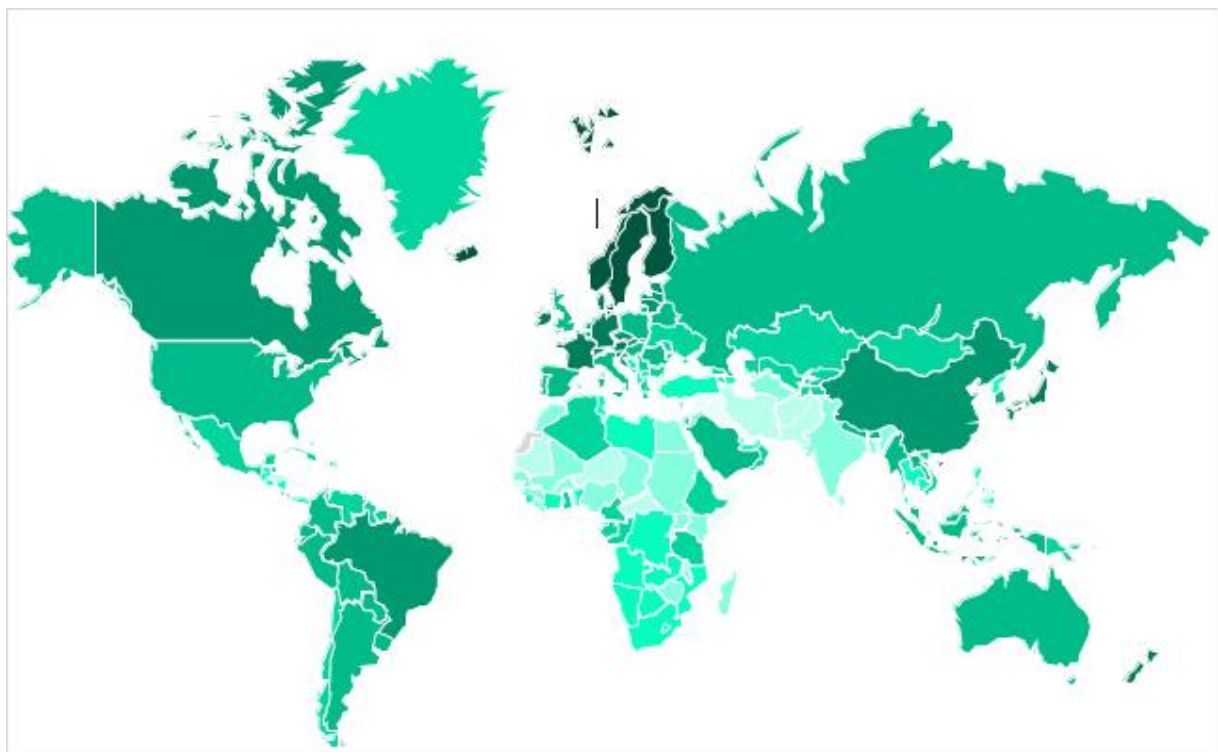
US overall sustainable competitiveness score and scores in the 5 sub-criteria:



Sustainable Competitiveness means the ability to generate wealth and income and provide security and freedom for all citizens without compromising the ability of future generations to sustain or increase current levels of the above.

The findings suggest that it would be wise to look at policies and strategic direction of the economy, social policies, and innovation drivers from a sustainable competitive perspective in order to guarantee the sustained capability to remain sustainable competitive in the international environment and the globalised markets.

The Global Sustainable Competitiveness World Map: dark colour indicates high, light low sustainable competitiveness



About the Global Sustainable Competitiveness Index:

The Index is published since 2012 (currently in the 4th edition) by SolAbility. The Index has been models based on modifies and accepted models of sustainable development and growth success. The index is based purely on performance (quantitative) indicators to completely eliminate subjectivity. The index is calculated based on data-sets made available for the wider public by the World Bank, the IMF and a few selected external indices (such as the Transparency International Corruption Index). For more information on the methodology, please visit our website at <http://solability.com/the-global-sustainable-competitiveness-index/methodology/> or download the Sustainable Competiveness Report 2015 [here](#). The Global Sustainable Competitiveness Index is a non-commercial project finance by SolAbility commercial activities as consulting agency.

About SolAbility

SolAbility Sustainable Intelligence is and independent think-tank and corporate sustainability advisory boutique. Our corporate clients have been recognized for sustainable leadership through topping the DJS World index in their respective industries.



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