



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Research and Information Service Briefing Note

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# Northern Ireland's Global Competitiveness in Comparison

## 1 Introduction

In response to a research request by the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment this briefing note sought to compare economic conditions in regions where Invest NI's global offices were located. As comparable sub-national data was unavailable, country level data has been used in order to make comparisons.

The global data within the table below is sourced from the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index 2012-2013. The index ranks and scores 144 countries on a wide range of economic factors using statistics collected by recognised international agencies and from the World Economic Forum's Annual Executive Survey to capture concepts that require qualitative assessment.<sup>1</sup>

The data for Northern Ireland has been obtained from the Competitiveness Index for Northern Ireland 2012-2013. This index, commissioned by the Economic Advisory Group for Northern Ireland, uses the same methodology as the World Economic Forum and therefore we can compare and place Northern Ireland in a global context.<sup>2</sup> Thus

<sup>1</sup>World Economic Forum (2013), Global Competitiveness Report 2012-2013, [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GlobalCompetitivenessReport\\_2012-13.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GlobalCompetitivenessReport_2012-13.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Economic Advisory Group NI (2013), Competitiveness Index for Northern Ireland 2012-2013, <http://www.eagni.com/fs/doc/publications/eagcompetitiveness-index-report.pdf>

we can add Northern Ireland to the Global Competitiveness Index, which now enlarges the sample from 144 to 145 countries.

## 2 Northern Ireland's Global Competitiveness

Alongside Northern Ireland (NI), the below table ranks (out of 145) and scores (worst 1-7 best) the following countries (where Invest NI's global offices are located):

- Germany;
- Republic of Ireland (RoI);
- United Kingdom (UK);
- United States (US);
- United Arab Emirates (UAE);
- India;
- China;
- Singapore;
- Japan;
- Saudi Arabia (Saudi).

**Table 1:** Global Competitiveness Index<sup>3</sup>: Northern Ireland in Comparison<sup>4</sup>

<b>Country: Score 1-7  Rank /145</b>	<b>Overall</b>		<b>Quality of Electricity Supply</b>		<b>Availability of Financial Services</b>		<b>Government Support for Improved Business Performance</b>		<b>Quality of Overall Infrastructure</b>		<b>Quality of Educational system</b>	
<b>NI</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>42nd</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>32nd</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>87th</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>69th</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>79th</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>30th</b>
<b>Germany</b>	5.5	6th	6.4	19th	5.8	18th	4.5	22nd	6.2	9th	4.9	20th
<b>RoI</b>	4.9	27th	6.5	18th	4.5	78th	4.1	44th	5.2	37th	5.3	9th
<b>UK</b>	5.4	8th	6.7	8th	4.1	3rd	4.1	42nd	5.6	24th	4.7	27th
<b>US</b>	5.5	7th	6.0	34th	4.2	12th	4.2	33rd	5.6	25th	4.7	28th
<b>UAE</b>	5.1	24th	6.4	20th	5.7	27th	5.7	3rd	6.4	6th	5.0	17th
<b>India</b>	4.3	60th	3.2	111th	3.6	44th	3.6	76th	3.8	88th	4.4	35th
<b>China</b>	4.8	29th	5.2	60th	4.6	68th	4.3	32nd	4.3	69th	3.9	58th
<b>Singapore</b>	5.7	2nd	6.7	6th	6.1	9th	5.9	2nd	6.5	2nd	5.8	3rd
<b>Japan</b>	5.4	10th	5.9	37th	5.2	36th	3.6	72nd	5.9	16th	4.2	44th
<b>Saudi</b>	5.2	18th	6.3	21st	5.3	31st	5.2	5th	5.8	23rd	4.4	33rd

Given that Invest NI's global offices are located in some of the world's most advanced economies, and some of the world's largest developing economies, NI is generally less competitive in comparison, placed 42<sup>nd</sup> out of the 145 countries in the overall index. India, which is placed 60<sup>th</sup>, is the only country where Invest NI offices are located that scores lower than NI in the overall index.

On 'Quality of Electricity Supply' NI is placed 32<sup>nd</sup> in the index, behind Germany, RoI, UK, UAE, Singapore and Saudi Arabia. NI scores marginally higher than Japan and US, and considerably higher than India and China.

On 'Availability of Financial Services' NI is in 87<sup>th</sup> place, last among countries where Invest NI have offices. RoI is also low scoring in this area placing 78<sup>th</sup>, while UK and Singapore are high scorers in this category.

In the category 'Government Support for Improved Business Performance' NI places comparatively low in 69<sup>th</sup>, scoring marginally better than India and Japan, lower than RoI and UK, and considerably lower than Singapore and Saudi Arabia who score highly in this category.

On 'Quality of Overall Infrastructure' NI places 79<sup>th</sup>, slightly higher than India and marginally lower than China. NI is ranked lower than the UK and RoI, and considerably lower than UAE, Singapore and Germany who score highly in this area.

<sup>3</sup> World Economic Forum (2013), Global Competitiveness Report 2012- 2013,

[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GlobalCompetitivenessReport\\_2012-13.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GlobalCompetitivenessReport_2012-13.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Economic Advisory Group NI (2013), Competitiveness Index for Northern Ireland 2012-2013,

<http://www.eagni.com/fs/doc/publications/eagcompetitiveness-index-report.pdf>

In terms of 'Quality of Educational System' NI performs relatively average in comparison. NI scores better than India, China and Japan and Saudi Arabia, marginally lower than UK and US and considerably lower than Singapore and RoI, who are top performers in this category.

Overall, NI is more competitive than its average score on 'Quality of Electricity Supply' and 'Quality of Educational System', though is less competitive than the average score on 'Availability of Financial Services', 'Quality of Overall Infrastructure', and 'Government Support for Improved Business Performance'.