

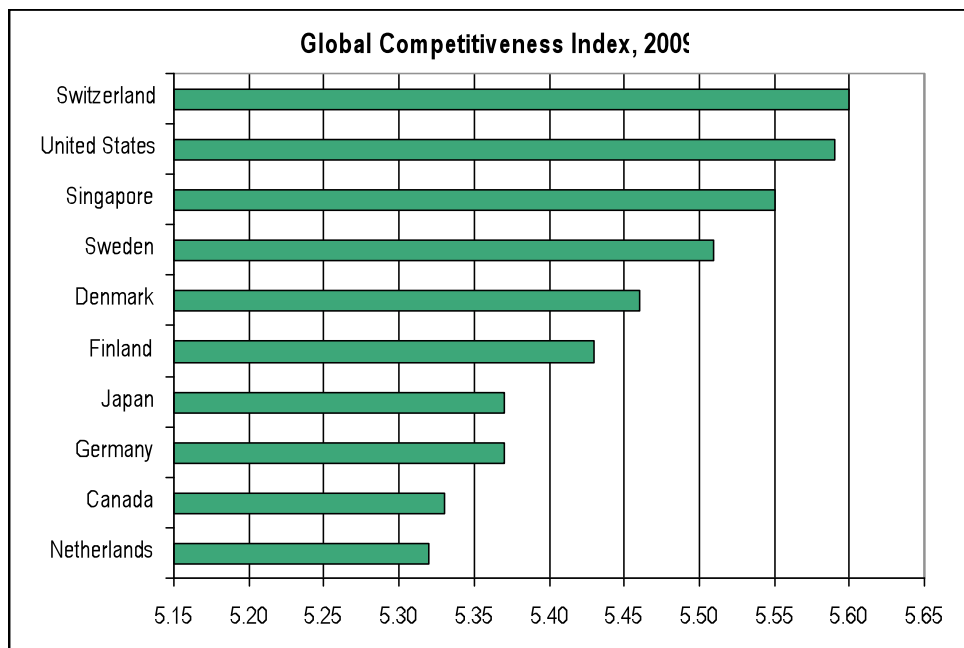
Switzerland Ranks Highest on Global Competitiveness

According to *The Global Competitiveness Report, 2009-2010*, Switzerland has taken over the top spot in terms of the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI). The index was developed for the World Economic Forum in 2004. It involves 12 pillars of competitiveness at the national level:

- institutions,
- infrastructure,
- macroeconomic stability,
- health and primary education,
- higher education and training,
- goods market efficiency,
- labor market efficiency,
- financial market sophistication,
- technological readiness,
- market size,
- business sophistication, and
- innovation.

The chart shows the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) for the nations/economies that ranked in the top ten among the 133 featured in the study. The twelve pillars were measured via 110 indicators, details for which are available in the larger report. The data are from publicly-available sources and the Executive Opinion Survey, which is conducted by the World Economic Forum with its Partner Institutes, which are leading research institutes and business organizations across the globe. The most recent survey polled more than 13,000 business leaders in the 133 countries/economies featured in the study.

The same set of ten nations was in the top ten on the GCI for both 2008 and 2009, but they played musical chairs in the rankings. For example, Switzerland moved from the number two to number one spot in the past year due to lower macroeconomic stability and weakening financial markets in the United States in 2009 versus 2008.



Source: CPST analysis of data from World Economic Forum. 2009. *The Global Competitiveness Report, 2009-2010*.

According to Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, “The strong interdependence among the world’s economies makes this truly a global economic crisis in every sense. Policy-makers are presently struggling with ways of managing these new economic challenges, while preparing the economies to perform well in a future economic landscape characterized by growing uncertainty. In a difficult global economic environment, it is more important than ever for countries to put into place strong fundamentals underpinning economic growth and development.”

And what are competitive economies? According to the report’s co-author, economics professor Xavier Sala-i-Martin of Columbia University, “Competitive economies are those that have in place factors driving the productivity enhancements on which their present and future prosperity is built.”

“Meeting the Global Innovation Challenge” is the theme for this year’s CPST Annual Meeting, which will be held on November 5-6 in Washington, DC. Panels on energy, biotechnology and information technology, three of the key areas for scientific and engineering innovation will provide a closer look at how these three economic sectors enable the United States to meet challenges of a shrinking world and increasingly interdependent labor and product markets. More information about the Annual Meeting is available on the CPST homepage.

For more information about the World Economic Forum and its most recent report, visit the organization’s website at the address, below.

On the Web: <http://www.weforum.org/en/index.htm>

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