

CSIS Who's Ranked Number One?

September 11, 2026

CSIS Who's Ranked Number One?, draw from Nina Gohel, "The United States and China: Still Not Number One," CSIS Trustee China Hand Blog, September 11, 2026.

Indicator	U.S. Rank	U.S. Score	China Rank	China Score	Top-Ranked Performer	Top-Ranked Performer's Score	Source
General Income and Performance							
Gross National Income per Capita (USD)	9	75,332	74	20,701	Singapore	116,633	Our World in Data
Labor Productivity (GDP, USD per hour of work)	13	81.80	150	20.59	Ireland	164.70	International Labour Organization
Post-Tax National Income of the Top 10% Population (%)	22	30.7	41	28.4	Colombia	42.7	Our World in Data
Poverty Headcount Ratio at National Poverty Line (% of population)	26	2	1	0	China	0	World Bank
Global Competitiveness Rank	10	86.8	12	84.4	Singapore	81.3	Institute for Management Development
Commercial Wealth							
Number of Billionaires	1	902	2	450	United States	902	CEO World
Top 500 Global Brands: Number of Brands	1	192	2	68	United States	192	Brand Finance
Fortune Global 500: Number of Companies	1	141	2	116	United States	141	Fortune
Fortune Global 500: Total Revenue (USD millions)	1	15,503,616	2	9,852,461	United States	15,503,616	Fortune
Fortune Global 500: Total Profit (USD millions)	1	1,584,865	2	525,905	United States	1,584,865	Fortune
Innovation							

Note: Data are from 2025 or, when not available, from the most recent available year.

Global Innovation Index	3	61.7	10	56.6	Switzerland	66.0	WIPO
Patents Granted	2	603,194	1	1,044,777	China	1,044,777	WIPO
Patent Applications	2	603,194	1	1,828,054	China	1,828,054	WIPO
Resident Patent Applications	2	270,295	1	1,672,001	China	1,672,001	WIPO
Nonresident Patent Applications	1	332,899	2	156,053	United States	332,899	WIPO
Research and Development Spending (% of GDP)	5	2.84	15	2.58	Israel	6.35	World Bank
Digital Technology							
World Digital Competitiveness Rank	2	99.29	12	87.79	Switzerland	100	Institute for Management Development
National Cyber Security Index (Cyber Preparedness) (%)	29	84.17	62	69.17	Albania	98.33	National Cyber Security Index
Individuals Using the Internet (% of population)	31	95	51	92	Saudi Arabia	100	World Bank
Fixed Broadband Subscriptions (% of population)	29	38.86	9	47.19	Gibraltar	60.97	World Bank
Top 500 Supercomputers: Number of Computers	1	161	4	31	United States	161	Statista
Artificial Intelligence							
Global AI Vibrancy Rank	1	78.6	2	36.95	United States	78.6	Stanford University
Number of Notable Machine Learning Models	1	59	2	35	United States	59	Stanford University
Chatbot Arena Performance Score	1	1,385	2	1,362	United States	1,385	Stanford University
Global Private Investment in AI (USD billions)	1	285.88	2	12.41	United States	285.88	Stanford University
Number of Data Centers Worldwide	1	4,423	5	369	United States	4,423	Statista
Society							
Happiness Index (%)	23	6.816	65	6.074	Finland	7.764	World Happiness Report
Social Progress Index (%)	32	81.76	73	68.82	Norway	91.73	Social Progress
Global Religiosity Score (%)	24	54	37	24	Pakistan	94	Gallup International
Number of Top 100 Ranked Universities	1	26	4	5	United States	26	QS Top Universities

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Charity Donors (% of population)	36	63	18	71	Ireland	77	Charities Aids Foundation
Human Development Index	17	0.938	78	0.797	Iceland	0.972	World Population Review
Tolerance (Inclusiveness Index)	75	60.57	115	51.19	New Zealand	82.11	UC Berkeley
Good Country Index	50	71.26	71	59.19	Finland	100	Good Country
Democracy and Freedom							
Global Freedom Score	70	81	192	189	Finland	100	Freedom House
Internet Freedom Score	15	73	71	9	Iceland	94	Freedom House
Human Freedom Index	15	8.71	149	4.93	Switzerland	9.15	World Population Review
Personal Freedom Score	22	9.15	153	4.08	Switzerland	9.77	World Population Review
Press Freedom Index Score	44	71.22	181	22.97	Norway	95.18	World Population Review
Voting-Age Population Turnout (% who voted)	117	52.79	N/A	N/A	Paraguay	99.85	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral
Governance							
Government Effectiveness Index (-2.5 to 2.5)	23	1	46	0.68	Singapore	2	World Bank
Rule of Law Index	27	0.68	92	0.48	Denmark	0.90	World Justice Project
Political Stability Score	122	64.27	126	63.28	Liechtenstein	92.92	World Population Review
Corruption Perceptions Index	29	64	76	43	Denmark	89	Transparency International
Violence and Crime							
Firearm Deaths (% of global)	1	17.94	85	0.10	United States	17.94	World Population Review
Firearm Deaths (per 100,000 population)	20	14.00	203	0.02	El Salvador	42.51	World Population Review
Criminality Rate	59	5.9	45	6.3	Myanmar	8.1	World Population Review
Crime Index	58	49.2	136	23.5	Haiti	81.0	Numbeo
Incarceration (per 100,000 population)	4	542	106	119	El Salvador	1,659	Our World in Data
Safety Index	91	50.8	12	76.5	United Arab Emirates	85.2	Numbeo

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Resilience Score	27	7	56	5.5	Finland	8.4	World Population Review
Environment							
Environmental Performance Index	26	58.54	129	33.88	Estonia	74.79	Yale
Biodiversity Share (% of land and sea)	10	7.21	3	9.57	Brazil	12.61	World Rainforests
Climate Change Performance Index	62	21.84	51	44.45	Denmark	80.52	CCPI
Carbon Emissions (metric tons of CO2)	2	4,632	1	13,125	China	13,125	Our World in Data
Carbon Emissions per Capita (metric tons of CO2)	16	13.59	27	9.13	Palau	63.73	Our World in Data
Nitrous Oxide Emissions (%)	3	9.9	1	31.7	China	31.7	World Bank
Health							
Health Care Index	15	56.71	46	41.40	Taiwan	78.72	World Population Review
Medical Infrastructure Score	24	79.73	75	69.67	Japan	98.70	World Population Review
Medicine Availability and Cost Score	21	68.59	55	55.99	Ireland	96.22	World Population Review
Government Readiness Score	22	75.73	48	65.36	Japan	98.74	World Population Review
Life Expectancy at Birth (years)	62	79.8	69	79.0	Monaco	86.7	World Population Review
Healthcare Expenditure (% of GDP)	3	16.69	106	5.94	Tuvalu	27.09	World Bank
Hospital Beds (per 1,000 inhabitants)	86	2.7	25	5.6	Monaco	22.0	World Bank
Obesity Rate (% of population)	181	41.83	25	9.07	Vietnam	2.49	World Population Review
Clean Water Access (% of population with access to safely managed drinking water)	43	97.6	N/A	94.3	Hungary and 10 other countries	100	Our World in Data
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	56	6	158	4	San Marino	1	World Bank
Immunization of Measles (% of children ages 12–23 months)	84	92	67	95	St. Vincent and the Grenadines and other 18 countries	99	World Bank

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Median Age	63	38.9	55	40.2	Monaco	56.9	World Population Review
Military							
Nuclear Weapons (warheads)	2	5,042	3	620	Russia	5,420	Arms Control Association
Military Expenditure (USD millions)	1	954,000	2	336,000	United States	954,000	Military Spend
Military Expenditure (% of GDP)	1	3.1	2	1.7	United States	31	Military Spend
Armed Forces Personnel (USD millions)	3	1.3156	1	2.0350	China	2.0350	World Population Review
Armed Forces Personnel (per 1,000 of population)	70	6	131	2	North Korea	288	World Bank
Military Strength (Power Index)	1	0.074	3	0.092	United States	0.074	Global Fire Power

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