

Measuring the Statistical Performance of Countries: An Overview of Updates to the World Bank Statistical Capacity Index

Technical Note

World Bank SPI Team*

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Summary: National statistical systems are facing significant challenges. These challenges arise from increasing demands for high quality and trustworthy data to guide decision making, coupled with the rapidly changing landscape of the data revolution. To emphasize the urgent need for transformation and to help create a mechanism for learning amongst national statistical systems, the World Bank has developed new Statistical Performance Indicators (SPI) to monitor the statistical performance of countries. The SPI framework focuses on five key pillars of a country's statistical performance: (i) data use, (ii) data services, (iii) data products, (iv) data sources, and (v) data infrastructure. The SPI will replace the Statistical Capacity Indicator (SCI) that the World Bank has regularly published since 2004. This note discusses the motivation behind the new SPI methodology, outlines some of its major features, and describes a new index based on the indicators.

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1 Motivation

National statistical systems are at the heart of the successful governance of nations. They provide an essential public service, helping governments make decisions about the economy, society and environment and enabling citizens to hold those governments to account.

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development has created a framework of goals and targets of universal applicability, designed to ensure that no one is left behind. This agenda requires national statistical systems to work together with other stakeholders within and across nations and regions to measure progress in a consistent and relevant way. At the same time, the data revolution has resulted in previously unimaginable sources of data becoming available that can be mobilized in support of the 2030 agenda in an open, transparent, and ethical manner.

However, many nations are struggling to build the necessary financial, human and technological capability to meet these goals. Assessing and improving the capacity of national statistical systems has long been part of the global agenda for statistics. Capacity assessment tools have been developed by organizations including PARIS21, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the US Census Bureau.

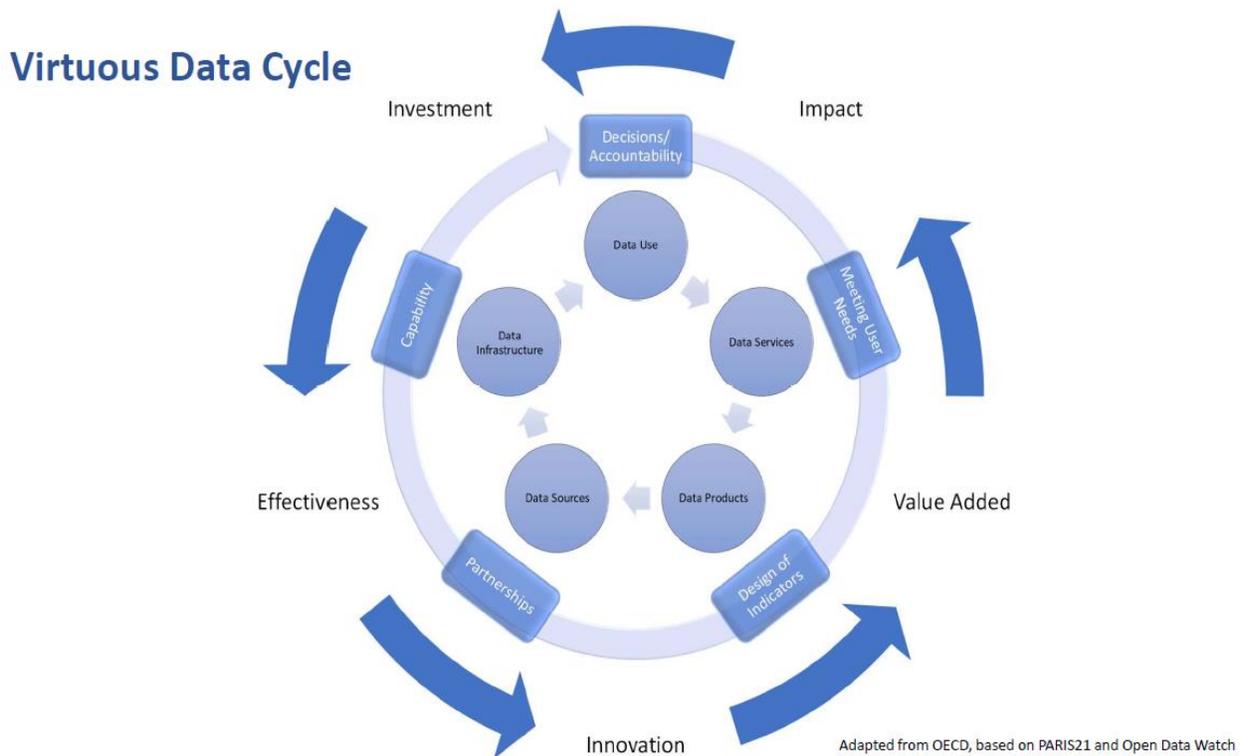
Since 2004, the World Bank's Statistical Capacity Indicator (SCI) has been part of this global toolkit. The SCI has been used by several national and international agencies to measure progress in statistical capacity building and related investments. To remain useful in the current and future data landscape, the SCI needs to be updated. The SCI incorporates only a limited number of indicators and does not assess use of data sources beyond traditional censuses and surveys. Neither does the SCI consider data dissemination and how data are used. Finally, the SCI places a large weight on statistical output and activities, while neglecting the infrastructure and resource components of statistical systems.

The COVID-19 pandemic has added extra motivation and impetus for understanding and improving the performance of national statistical systems. Without good statistics, countries are hamstrung in their response to the pandemic and in navigating towards a better future. The statistical performance indicators proposed in this paper are a response to that motivation. The indicators are intended to be applicable to all nations and to be forward looking and comprehensive. They are designed to be used by national governments and statistical offices as well as international agencies and donors. The aim is to help create a learning data ecosystem that can develop and adapt iteratively to the ever-changing requirements of government and citizens for better data to support better decisions.

2 Overview of the SPI Framework

The new Statistical Performance Indicators (SPI) build on the Statistical Capacity Indicator (SCI), which the World Bank regularly published between 2004 and 2021. The SPI framework covers several of the same attributes as the SCI, such as statistical methodology, data, and periodicity, but expands into new areas as well. The goals of introducing the SPI are: to offer a forward looking framework, to measure all statistical systems – from less mature to highly advanced, to cover the entire national statistical system - not just the National Statistical Office (NSO), and to provide countries incentives to build modern statistical systems. To help build transparency and confidence in the work, as well as to improve understanding and encourage further experimentation, refinement, and improvement of the measures, the data and the code underlying the construction of the SPI are made open.¹

Figure 2.1: Virtuous Data Cycle



¹ The code and data are available on [github](#) licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#), which allows users to freely share, copy, and redistribute any of the materials, as well as adapt, remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, so long as appropriate credit is given the SPI team and the other teams described under the license.

By helping countries identify the strengths and weaknesses of their national statistical system, the SPI can be a guide to decisions about priorities for investment and can help identify partner countries from which they might learn. This in turn can help both donor and recipient countries ensure that development assistance is targeted on areas of most national benefit. The SPI follows an approach that considers the system as a whole, which incorporates users, producers and partners at various levels. The indicators are designed to be dynamic and forward looking. Improvements in performance can be represented as a virtuous data cycle that can become self-sustaining.

In this model, adapted from work done by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, PARIS21 and Open Data Watch, investment in data leads to higher levels of effectiveness which drives innovation, value added and impact.

The impact sought from national statistical systems is better decisions and stronger accountability. The way in which national statistical systems contribute to better decisions and stronger accountability is by meeting user needs for statistics. Such user needs are in turn met by the design and production of statistics and statistical indicators. The process of design and production relies on a wide range of organizations, working in partnership with the national statistical office as part of the national statistical system to develop and utilize richer data sources. To be successful the whole data ecosystem needs to build its capability to adapt and thrive.

Statistics have no value unless they are used. Consequently, the first pillar of the SPI is **data use**. A successful statistical system is one that produces data products that are highly used.

To meet user needs, the statistical system must develop a range of services that connect data users and producers and facilitate dialogue between them. The second pillar of the SPI is therefore **data services** that are trusted by users. A successful statistical system is one with highly valued and well used statistical services.

The dialogue between users and suppliers in turn drives the design and quality of statistical products that are created to meet the country requirement. These products should incorporate accuracy, timeliness, frequency, comparability, and levels of disaggregation. The third pillar of the SPI is therefore **data products**. A successful statistical system is one that generates high quality statistical indicators that can also track progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In order to create the required products, the statistical system needs to make use of a variety of sources from both within and outside the government. This will include making use of traditional data collection methods like censuses and surveys, and also administrative data, geospatial data, and data generated from the private sector and from citizens. It follows that the fourth pillar of the SPI is **data sources**. A successful statistical system is one which draws on all types of data sources relevant to the indicators that are to be produced.

To complete the virtuous data cycle, the capability of the statistical system needs to be reviewed continuously to ensure that it is strong enough to deliver the data products and

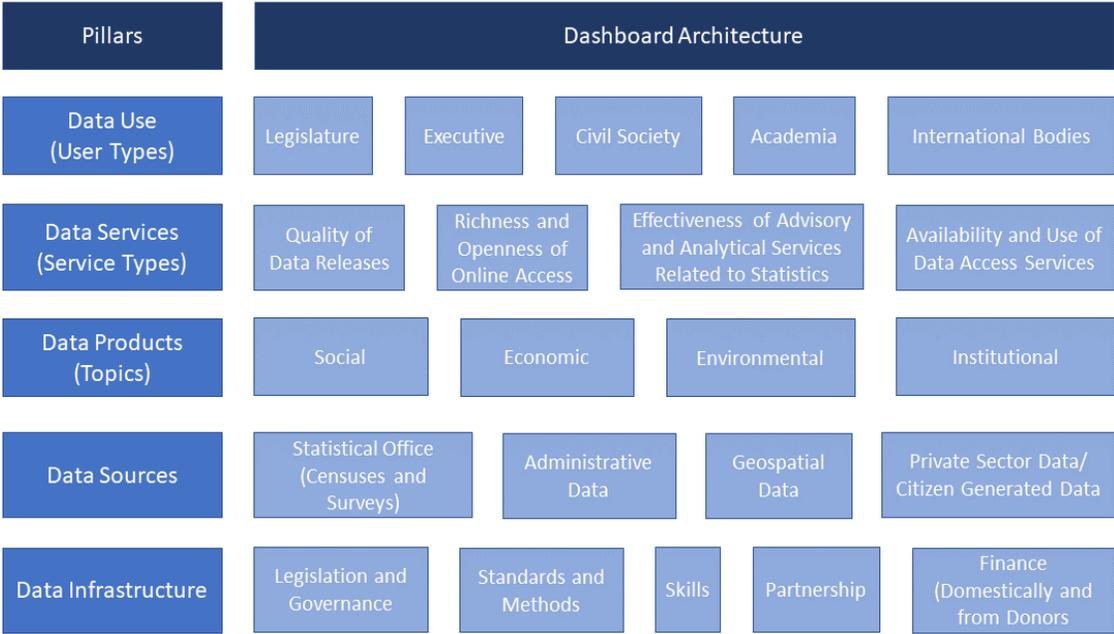
services and to promote data use. The fifth pillar of the SPI is therefore **data infrastructure**. A successful statistical system is one that develops both hard infrastructure (legislation, governance, standards) and soft infrastructure (skills, partnerships) and has the financial resources to deliver.

3 Pillars and Dimensions of the SPI

The pillars of the SPI establish the essential interconnecting elements of a national statistical system. Each one must be healthy for the system as a whole to generate high levels of value. The pillars correspond to the components of an efficient organizational scorecard: outcomes (benefits for users) are delivered through outputs (services) which are generated by effective internal processes (design and delivery of products). These require the right inputs (data sources) and capabilities (infrastructure).

Each of the five pillars has specific attributes which we call *dimensions*. These dimensions offer distinct components of the pillars by which to judge a country’s statistical performance. The framework offers 5 pillars and 22 associated dimensions. The framework of the SPI is shown in Figure 3.1 below.

Figure 3.1: The Pillars and Dimensions that Construct the New SPI



The dimensions break down each pillar into the core components or attributes of the system. It is likely that the balance between these dimensions will vary across countries and overtime but all are important, and a mature statistical system will score well against each of them. By setting them out in this way, it is possible for countries to ask questions about whether they have the balance right, given their domestic circumstances, when they compare themselves to other countries. The results provide a tool to explore what future investment is needed and where suitable comparators might be found.

3.1 Pillar 1: Data use

The data use (outcome) pillar is segmented by five types of users: (i) the legislature, (ii) the executive branch, (iii) civil society (including sub-national actors), (iv) academia and (v) international bodies. Each dimension would have associated indicators to measure performance. A mature system would score well across all dimensions whereas a less mature one would have weaker scores along certain dimensions. The gaps would give insights into prioritization among user groups and help answer questions as to why the existing services are not resulting in higher use of national statistics in a particular segment.

3.2 Pillar 2: Data services

The data services (output) pillar is segmented by four service types: (i) the quality of data releases, (ii) the richness and openness of online access, (iii) the effectiveness of advisory and analytical services related to statistics, and (iv) the availability and use of data access services such as secure microdata access. Advisory and analytical services might incorporate elements related to data stewardship services including input to national data strategies, advice on data ethics and calling out misuse of data in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

3.3 Pillar 3: Data products

The data products (internal process) pillar is segmented by four topics and organized into (i) social, (ii) economic, (iii) environmental, and (iv) institutional dimensions using the typology of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This approach anchors the national statistical system's performance around the essential data required to support the achievement of the 2030 global goals, and enables comparisons across countries so that a global view can be generated while enabling country specific emphasis to reflect the user needs of that country.

3.4 Pillar 4: Data sources

The data sources (input) pillar is segmented by four types of sources generated by (i) the statistical office (censuses and surveys), and sources accessed from elsewhere such as (ii) administrative data, (iii) geospatial data, and (iv) private sector data and citizen generated data. The appropriate balance between these source types will vary depending on a country's institutional setting and the maturity of its statistical system. High scores should

reflect the extent to which the sources being utilized enable the necessary statistical indicators to be generated. For example, a low score on environment statistics (in the data production pillar) may reflect a lack of use of (and low score for) geospatial data (in the data sources pillar). This type of linkage is inherent in the data cycle approach and can help highlight areas for investment required if country needs are to be met.

3.5 Pillar 5: Data infrastructure

The data infrastructure (capability) pillar includes hard and soft infrastructure segments, itemizing essential cross cutting requirements for an effective statistical system. The segments are: (i) legislation and governance covering the existence of laws and a functioning institutional framework for the statistical system; (ii) standards and methods addressing compliance with recognized frameworks and concepts; (iii) skills including level of skills within the statistical system and among users (statistical literacy); (iv) partnerships reflecting the need for the statistical system to be inclusive and coherent; and (v) finance mobilized both domestically and from donors.

3.6 A Dashboard

A score for each indicator, dimension, and pillar, and an overall score derived by aggregating the indicators (over these dimensions or over time), would:

- i. facilitate an understanding of the maturity of the national statistical system (in relation to others, e.g., quintile groups of countries).
- ii. highlight relative strengths and weaknesses of the system and give an indication of the extent to which the official statistics can be relied upon.
- iii. point to which other countries a particular country could learn from as it seeks to improve and create incentives to develop in a forward looking way.
- iv. allow assessments of progress and provide a starting point for assessments of return on investments for funding on capacity building.
- v. encourage continuous improvement. As countries improve, the bar for performance would also get higher.

Putting the scores together creates a dashboard for each national statistical system and the ability to generate a variety of tools to enable comparison and analysis.

4 Statistical Performance Indicators

4.1 SPI Dimensions and Indicators

Each dimension of the five pillars incorporates several indicators. These Statistical Performance Indicators embody the granular measures of performance. They can be

aggregated to levels of dimensions and pillars, and finally to an overall performance score to get a higher level or a more general perspective of a country's performance.

The indicators are designed to act as proxy measures of performance for each dimension. While not comprehensive, they should add value in assessing country performance along that dimension. The intention is for the pillars and dimensions to be the focus rather than the specific indicators.

The indicators for the SPI are selected following these principles: (i) use of publicly accessible data; (ii) transparent methodology; (iii) easy replicability; (iv) a time series to track performance; (v) clear portrayal of outcomes and their supporting elements; (vi) being reflective of the SDGs; (vii) enable at-a-glance comparisons on a global scale.

Benefitting from large scale data collection efforts by organizations such as the World Bank, IMF, Open Data Watch, PARIS21, the ILO, WHO, UNESCO, IHSN, and the UN, among others, 51 indicators covering 14 out of the 22 dimensions for the dashboard have been compiled. These 51 indicators provide data for each of the five pillars on data use, data services, data products, data sources, and data infrastructure. Yet, there remain major gaps in several pillars because indicators to assess performance still need to be developed, and in some cases, indicators have limited data coverage. This data availability challenge impedes efforts to measure the performance of statistical systems in certain areas and going forward countries and their international partners must work together to fill these gaps.

Below is a brief description of the indicators (or lack thereof) we have available for the 22 dimensions in the SPI framework. A detailed description of the indicators is also available in the annex. For as many as eight dimensions there was no indicator with a developed methodology, or the data collection for that measure was incomplete.

- **Dimension 1.1: Data use by national legislature:** *Not included because of lack of established methodology. In principle it may be possible to utilize websites of national legislatures but this will require further work and assessment.*
- **Dimension 1.2: Data use by national executive branch:** *Not included because of lack of established methodology. There are some usable data sources (as used by (PARIS21 2019)) but gaps in data across countries have prevented full adoption.*
- **Dimension 1.3: Data use by civil society:** *Not included because of lack of established methodology. There are some usable data sources with good coverage, for example from social media but more data is required to help assess and allow for likely biases between and within countries.*
- **Dimension 1.4: Data use by academia:** *Not included because of lack of established methodology. We have not been able to find usable data sources with global coverage on which a new methodology could be developed.*

- **Dimension 1.5: Data use by international organizations:** *Five measures of usefulness or reliability of country produced measures for international organizations have been included. First, on comparability of poverty estimates for the World Bank reporting on international poverty using [Povcalnet](#) (Castaneda Aguilar et al. 2020). Second on usable surveys for statistics on child mortality for the [UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation](#) (UNIGME). Third on accuracy of debt reporting as classified by the World Bank (Source: [World Bank WDI metadata](#)). Fourth, on availability of safely managed drinking water data for use by [WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme](#). Fifth, on labor force participation data for use by [ILO](#). While these data sources provide only a partial coverage of data used by international organizations, they do provide an indication of the performance of the national statistical system.*
- **Dimension 2.1: Data Releases:** *SDDS/e-GDDS subscription. This indicator is based on whether the country subscribes to IMF SDDS+, SDDS, or e-GDDS standards. The source is the IMF Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board. This is a reliable data source but we recognize that it is a proxy for the concept we are seeking to capture rather than a direct measurement.*
- **Dimension 2.2: Online access:** *ODIN Open Data Openness score (Crowell et al). This is a well-established data source with good country coverage, which scores countries based on whether indicators are available online in a format that is machine readable, in a non-proprietary format, downloadable, with metadata available and terms of use. Scores range from 0-1. For more details, consult the [ODIN technical documentation](#)*
- **Dimension 2.3: Advisory/ Analytical Services:** *Not included because of lack of established methodology. This could be a new indicator of the number of non-recurring products on NSO website (ad hoc/experimental rather than regular releases). The indicator is the number of products found. No established source exists for this indicator.*
- **Dimension 2.4: Data access services:** *NADA metadata. This indicator checks whether NADA microdata cataloging is available for surveys produced by NSO. NADA is an open source microdata cataloging system, compliant with the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) and Dublin Cores RDF metadata standards. Source: NSO websites.*
- **Dimension 3.1: Social Statistics:** *Availability of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals 1-6, measured by an average score. The primary data source is the UN SDG database. While this is a database with comprehensive coverage that all countries have signed up to, many countries are not yet submitting all their available national data. For this reason, scores for some countries thus may not fully capture their performance in calculating the indicators. For OECD countries, we supplement the UN SDG database with comparable data submitted to the OECD following the methodology in [Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets 2019: An Assessment of Where OECD Countries Stand](#).*

- **Dimension 3.2: Economic Statistics:** Availability of Goal 7-12 indicators, measured by an average score. See 3.1.
- **Dimension 3.3: Environmental Statistics:** Availability of Goal 13 & 15 indicators, measured by an average score. Goal 14 - Life on Water - is not included because land-locked countries do not report on these indicators. See 3.1.
- **Dimension 3.4: Institutional Statistics:** Availability of Goal 16-17 indicators measured by an average score. See 3.1.
- **Dimension 4.1: Censuses and Surveys:** Availability of recent censuses and surveys covering broad areas. The following censuses and surveys are considered: Population & Housing census, Agriculture census, Business/establishment census, Household Survey on income/ consumption/ expenditure/ budget/ Integrated Survey, Agriculture survey, Labor Force Survey, Health/Demographic survey, Business/establishment survey. Source: NSO websites, World Bank microdata library, ILO microdata library, IHSN microdata library.
- **Dimension 4.2: Administrative Data:** Availability of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) indicator. An ideal indicator for this dimension would include a score based on the density of administrative data available in sectors including social protection, education, labor, and health. However, social protection, education, health, and labor admin data indicators are not included because of lack of established methodology. While several promising sources for administrative data from the World Bank's ASPIRE team, WHO, UNESCO, and ILO have been identified, these were not included due to incomplete coverage across countries. Further research and data collection effort would be needed to fill in this information, so that a more comprehensive picture of administrative data availability can be produced.
- **Dimension 4.3: Geospatial Data:** Geospatial data available at 1st Admin Level. This data source from Open Data Watch focuses on data availability at the sub-national level and provides a partial understanding of a country's ability to produce geospatial data. A research and data collection effort is needed to develop a more comprehensive global database of the availability of key geospatial indicators.
- **Dimension 4.4: Private/citizen generated data:** Not included because of lack of established methodology. Currently no comprehensive source exists to measure the use of private and citizen generated data in national statistical systems, and this should be another area where more data collection is needed by the international community.
- **Dimension 5.1: Legislation and governance:** This indicator is based on PARIS21 indicators on SDG 17.18.2 (national statistical legislation compliance with UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics), existence of National Statistical Council, national statistical strategy generation, national statistical plan. Limited country

coverage makes cross country comparison limited. As a result, this is included in the dashboard, but not in the overall SPI score or index.

- **Dimension 5.2: Standards and Methods:** *This set of indicators is based on countries' use of internationally accepted and recommended methodologies, classifications and standards regarding data integration. These indicators help facilitate data exchange and provide the foundation for the preparation of relevant statistical indicators. The following methods and standards are considered: System of national accounts in use, National Accounts base year, Classification of national industry, CPI base year, Classification of household consumption, Classification of status of employment, Central government accounting status, Compilation of government finance statistics, Compilation of monetary and financial statistics, Business process. Further work could improve the validity of this indicator and reduce the risk that countries may be incentivized to adopt only traditional standards and methods and neglect innovative solutions that may be more valid in the current context.*
- **Dimension 5.3: Skills:** *Not included because of lack of established methodology or suitable data sources. A new indicator drawing on PARIS21 indicators such as statistical society presence and data literacy could be developed and is an area of future work.*
- **Dimension 5.4: Partnerships:** *Not included because of lack of established methodology or suitable data sources. A new indicator based on textual analysis of NSS reports/websites for references to partner organizations could be developed. This is an area of future work.*
- **Dimension 5.5: Finance:** *The indicator is based on PARIS21 SDG indicators (SDG 17.18.3 (national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation). It is included in dashboard, but not in the overall SPI score or index because of insufficient country coverage. For more details: (Yu Tian 2020).*

4.2 Data gaps

The approach taken to the development of the SPI has been to start with a *first best* framework and then try and find suitable indicators to help measure progress against that framework. This has revealed a significant number of data gaps. In many critical areas of national statistical system performance, at present there is no available data to construct measures. This calls for a substantial research agenda, requiring a wide range of countries, international agencies and other organizations to work together to produce globally comparable, comprehensive, consistent and transparent information about national statistical systems.

An area of particular concern is the pillar of data use. Currently, the dashboard only features indicators for one of the five dimensions of data use, which is data use by international organizations. Indicators on whether statistical systems are providing useful data to their national governments (legislature and executive branches), to civil society,

and to academia are absent. Thus the dashboard does not yet assess if national statistical systems are meeting the data needs of a large swathe of users.

Under the pillar of data services an area that needs improvement is the measurement of advisory and analytical services provided by NSOs, such as data stewardship services. By measuring this type of work done by NSOs that goes beyond producing data, the international community and the NSOs themselves can better assess whether this type of support is in place.

In the data sources pillar, more information is needed in the areas of administrative data, geospatial data, and private and citizen generated data. On administrative data, the picture is incomplete with no measures of whether countries have administrative data systems in place to measure health, education, labor, and social protection program statistics. For the geospatial indicator, there is a proxy measure of whether the country is able to produce indicators at the sub-national level, but as yet, no understanding of how countries are using geospatial information in other ways, for instance using satellite data. And while the world is increasingly awash with private and citizen generated data (e.g., on mobility, job search, or social networking), on a global scale there is no reliable source to measure how national statistical systems are incorporating this information.

Finally, several of the ‘soft’ components of the data infrastructure pillar lack adequate data. This includes the areas of skills and of partnerships between entities in the national statistical system. The dashboard makes use of the PARIS21 led SDG indicator on whether the statistical legislations in countries met the standards of the UN Fundamental Principles of Statistics, but this was not incorporated into the overall SPI score, because of inadequate country coverage. This is also true of the PARIS21 led SDG indicator on whether the national statistical system is fully funded. Countries would need to be encouraged to report on this information.

4.3 Sources of Data for the SPI

The SPI draws on a variety of data sources to create the indicators. A guiding principle is that the SPI rely on openly available data from credible sources, such as international organizations and NSO websites. The SPI team used web scraping, accessed publicly available databases, or in some cases visited NSO websites to acquire the information. While greater detail for each specific indicator can be found in the [technical documentation](#) describing each indicator, a general overview is provided here.

For pillar 1 on data use, data is collected from four distinct sources. The World Bank supplies data for indicators on availability of comparable poverty data (from the World Bank’s [Povcalnet](#) system), and the indicator on quality of debt service data (from the World Bank’s World Development Indicators or [WDI metadata](#)). Data on the availability of under 5 child mortality data comes from the [UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation](#). The indicator on availability of safely managed drinking water data is sourced from the [WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme](#). The indicator on the availability of source data for measuring labor force participation comes from the [ILO](#). Each of these

sources will be updated annually prior to each annual data release. The date the data is updated for each of these sources is available in our technical documentation.

For pillar 2 on data services, information on data dissemination subscription is collected from the [IMF's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board](#). This and the WDI metadata follow the same update schedule and the release these two sources are identical. The online access indicator is sourced from the Open Data Watch ODIN openness score. The date of the data download is available in the technical description for this indicator. The indicator for data access services is based on (i) whether a portal is available, (ii) compliant with the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) and with Dublin Core's RDF metadata standards, and (iii) which has a listing of surveys and microdata sets that can provide the necessary data and reference for follow-up. This information is collected manually by visiting each NSO website.

For the data products dimension, indicators are generated using the UN Global SDG monitoring database. For each SDG indicator, the database is checked to see whether a value is available within a five year window. (for instance, for 2019 if a value is available between 2015-2019. For OECD countries, the UN SDG database is supplemented with comparable data submitted to the OECD following the methodology in [Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets 2019: An Assessment of Where OECD Countries Stand](#). The decision to supplement the UN Global SDG monitoring database using this OECD database was taken, because a clear methodology had been established to do so. The UN Global SDG monitoring database was chosen as a primary source, rather than individual NSO websites, because data submitted to the UN Global SDG monitoring database goes through a standardized process including quality control and detailed documentation.

For dimension 4, on censuses and surveys, two complementary approaches are taken to collecting data. The first is to make use of data submitted to the World Bank, IHSN, ILO, and FAO microdata libraries. Only surveys that are marked as nationally representative are used, and surveys are classified (as either health surveys, agriculture surveys, labor force surveys, etc.) using the classifications submitted to the microdata libraries. The contents of searches on these databases are available in the github repository. The second approach is a manual data collection effort, where NSO websites have been visited to be sure no surveys were missed. To be included in this search, the survey or census must be publicly available and accessible. If surveys or censuses are missed in this search, the easiest way for a country to get it included would be to create an entry for the survey at one of the microdata libraries. Information on the completeness of the Civil Registry and Vital Statistics (CRVS) is sourced from the UN SDG global monitoring database. Information on whether data is available at the 1st administrative level, for the geospatial indicator, is sourced from Open Data Watch, as is the data openness score.

For dimension 5, data on the legislation indicator and finance indicators (compiled by PARIS21) are pulled from the UN SDG global monitoring database. Indicators in the standards and methods pillar are sourced primarily through the IMF. Information on the system of national accounts in use and national accounts base year are sourced through the World Bank's WDI metadata. Data for the business process indicator is sourced through the

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

A full description of each specific indicator is available in Appendix A6 and in the [SPI github repository](#).

5 SPI Index Methodology

An overall score is produced by combining the Statistical Performance Indicators to yield one single index. The statistical performance indicators have a nested structure, and the SPI overall score is formed by sequentially aggregating each level.

To begin we produce a score for each dimension, which, unless otherwise stated, is an unweighted average of the indicators within that dimension. For instance, the Standards and Methods dimension will be formed by taking the unweighted average of the indicators for the system of national accounts in use, national accounts base year, classification of national industry, CPI base year, classification of household consumption, etc.

$$SPI.DIM_{ctpd} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_I} \frac{SPI.IND_{ctdpi}}{N_I}$$

where $SPI.IND_{ctdpi}$ is an indicator score in dimension d, pillar p, in time period t, and country c (e.g. population census score).

After computing a score for each dimension, a score for each pillar is computed, as either an unweighted or weighted average of the dimensions in that pillar. For pillars 1, 2, 4, and 5, the unweighted average of the dimensions within each pillar is taken. For pillar 3 on data products, we take a weighted average of the dimension scores, where the weights are based on the number of SDGs in each dimension (6 SDGs in dimension 3.1 on social statistics, 6 SDGs in dimension 3.2 on economic statistics, 2 in dimension 3.3 on environmental statistics, and 2 in dimension 3.4 on institutional statistics).² This reflects a perspective that all SDGs are of equal importance, and therefore the dimensions are weighted accordingly. Additionally, for Pillar 4 on data sources, censuses and surveys are given separate weights, so that censuses, surveys, admin data, and geospatial data each receives a weight of 1/4. While censuses and surveys are in the same pillar in the framework, and therefore each would typically only receive a weight of 1/6 (for a total weight of 1/3) in this dimension, because of their importance in producing many

² SDG 14 - Life Below Water - is omitted because land-locked countries do not report on these indicators.

indicators, they are given extra weight such that they each gets a weight of 1/4 (for a total weight of 1/2).

$$SPI.PIL_{ctp} = \sum_{d=1}^{N_d} \frac{\omega_{pd} \times SPI.DIM_{ctpd}}{N_d}$$

ω_{dp} is the weight for dimension d in pillar p.³

After calculating the scores for each pillar, the SPI overall score is derived by taking the simple average across the 5 pillars.

The SPI overall score has a maximum score of 100 and a minimum of 0. A score of 100 would indicate that a country has every single element that we measure. A score of 0 indicates that none are in available. To be precise:

$$SPI.INDEX_{ct} = \sum_{p=1}^{N_p} \frac{SPI.PIL_{ctp}}{N_p}$$

Where SPI.INDEX is the SPI overall score. SPI.PIL are the 5 SPI pillar scores listed above. In the notation, c is a country, t is the date, p is a pillar, and N_p is the number of pillars (5 in total).

The nested structure of the index and the summation methods used to build an overall score meet the axiomatic properties outlined in Cameron et al. 2021.⁴ These properties include symmetry, monotonicity, and subgroup decomposability. Symmetry refers to property where if the values of two indicators in a nesting are switched, then the resulting index scores are unaffected. Monotonicity implies that if the value of an indicator improves, then the resulting index scores improve as well. Subgroup decomposability results from the fact that the scores are a weighted average of the subgroups (either indicators, dimensions, pillars) that make up that score and so can be written as a linear combination of those subgroups.

³ The [SPI online dashboard](#) provides a tool allowing users to customize the pillar and overall scores by adjusting the weight they place on dimensions and pillars.

⁴ An earlier version of the journal publication was released as a [World Bank Policy Research paper](#), Cameron et al. 2019.

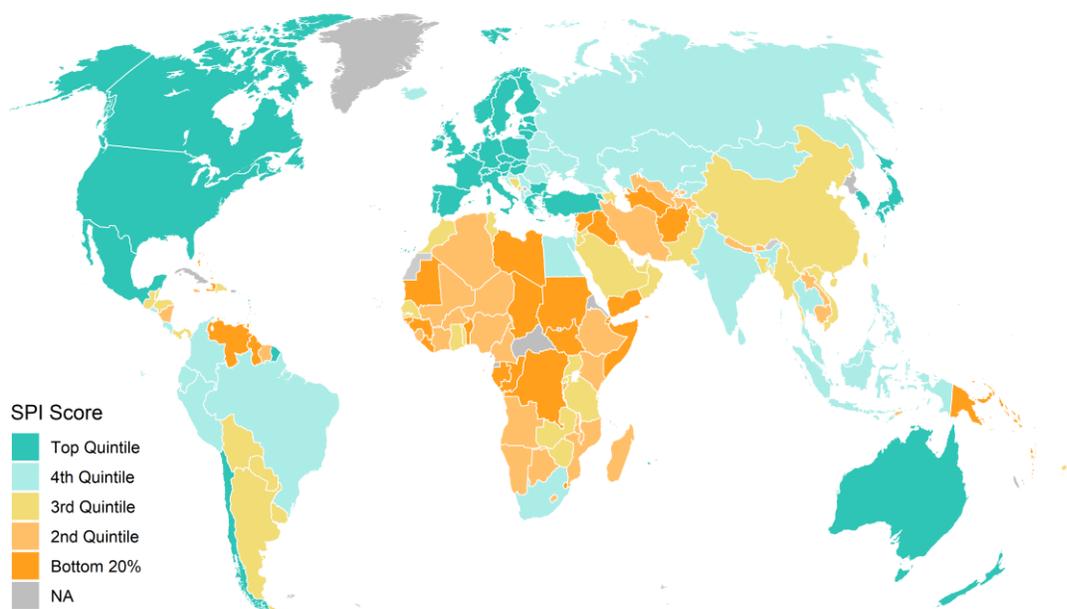
6 SPI Overall Scores

The purpose of the SPI is to help countries assess and improve the performance of their statistical systems. The presentation of SPI overall scores is designed to reflect that aim. Small differences between countries should not be highlighted since they can reflect imprecision arising from the currently available indicators rather than meaningful differences in performance. Instead, the presentation of overall SPI scores focuses on larger groupings of countries reflecting broad categories of performance as measured by the indicator framework. In total there are 174 countries with sufficient data to compute an index value. This set of countries covers 99.2 percent of the world population.

Countries are grouped into five categories as shown on the map in Figure 6.1:

- **Top Quintile:** Countries with the highest 20% of SPI overall scores (shading in dark green).
- **4th Quintile:** Countries in the 4th quintile, or those above the 60th percentile but below the 80th percentile (shading in light green).
- **3rd Quintile:** Countries in the 3rd quintile, or those between the 40th and 60th percentile (shading in yellow).
- **2nd Quintile:** Countries in the 2nd quintile, or those above the 20th percentile but below the 40th percentile (shading in light orange).
- **Bottom 20%:** Countries in the bottom 20% (shading in dark orange).

Figure 6.1: SPI Overall Score by Quintile in 2019



Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators

The countries scoring in the top 20% have an average SPI overall score of 86.4. A maximum score of 100 would indicate that a country has every single element in place that is measured through the SPI. Meanwhile, countries in the bottom 20% score significantly worse, with an average score of 37.5. Individual country scores are presented in Table A.1 in the Appendix.

Table 6.1: Table of SPI Overall and Pillar Scores by Quintile Group in 2019

Label	Top Quintile	4th Quintile	3rd Quintile	2nd Quintile	Bottom 20%
SPI Overall Score	86.4	75.1	62.2	54.0	37.5
Pillar 1 - Data Use – Score	98.9	94.6	88.5	77.6	53.0
Pillar 2 - Data Services – Score	91.3	82.4	64.8	59.3	38.5
Pillar 3 - Data Products – Score	72.3	66.4	64.0	59.6	48.0
Pillar 4 - Data Sources – Score	72.5	60.6	49.8	38.7	22.3
Pillar 5 - Data Infrastructure – Score	97.1	71.4	43.8	34.9	25.4

Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.

To highlight a few specific indicators, countries in the top 20% on average get nearly perfect scores in terms of the debt reporting to the World Bank. The top 20% of countries in the SPI overall score have an average score on their debt reporting of 1, with a maximum score of 1 and minimum score of 0, while those in the bottom 20% on the SPI overall score have an average score of 0.7. To take another example, when looking at scores on whether a population census has been conducted recently, countries in the top 20% score on average 1 on our population census indicator, with a max score of 1 and minimum score of 0, while those in the bottom 20% on our SPI overall score receive 0.8 points on the population census indicator.⁵ The table below shows differences across maturity groups for a select set of indicators.

⁵ The population census indicator is scored so that countries with more recent population censuses get higher scores. A score of 1 is given to countries with a population census conducted in the past 10 years. A score of 0.5 is given if a population census is done in the past 20 years. Zero points are given otherwise.

Table 6.2: Table of SPI Overall and Select SPI Indicators by Quintile Group in 2019

Label	Top Quintile	4th Quintile	3rd Quintile	2nd Quintile	Bottom 20%
SPI Overall Score	86.4	75.1	62.2	54.0	37.5
Quality of Debt service data according to World Bank	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.7
ODIN Open Data Openness score	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3
GOAL 1: No Poverty	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.4
Population & Housing census	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8
CPI base year	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1

Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.

6.1 SPI Overall Score by Region and Income Group

There are large differences in the SPI overall score across World Bank regions and income groups. Overall, North America has the highest average overall SPI score, while the Sub-Saharan Africa region has the lowest average score.⁶ There is also a clear gradient with respect to income groups. Countries classified as low income have lower scores on average than countries classified as middle income. High income countries have the highest average SPI overall score.

Finally, regarding progress over time, the SPI overall score values have been relatively stable across regions since 2016. There has been some modest increase in the SPI overall scores for middle income and high income countries, with little progress for low income countries.

⁶ All tables and figures show unweighted summary statistics (i.e. the summary statistics do not weight by population).

Figure 6.2.A: SPI Overall Score by Region in 2019

Based on data for 2019 or the latest year available

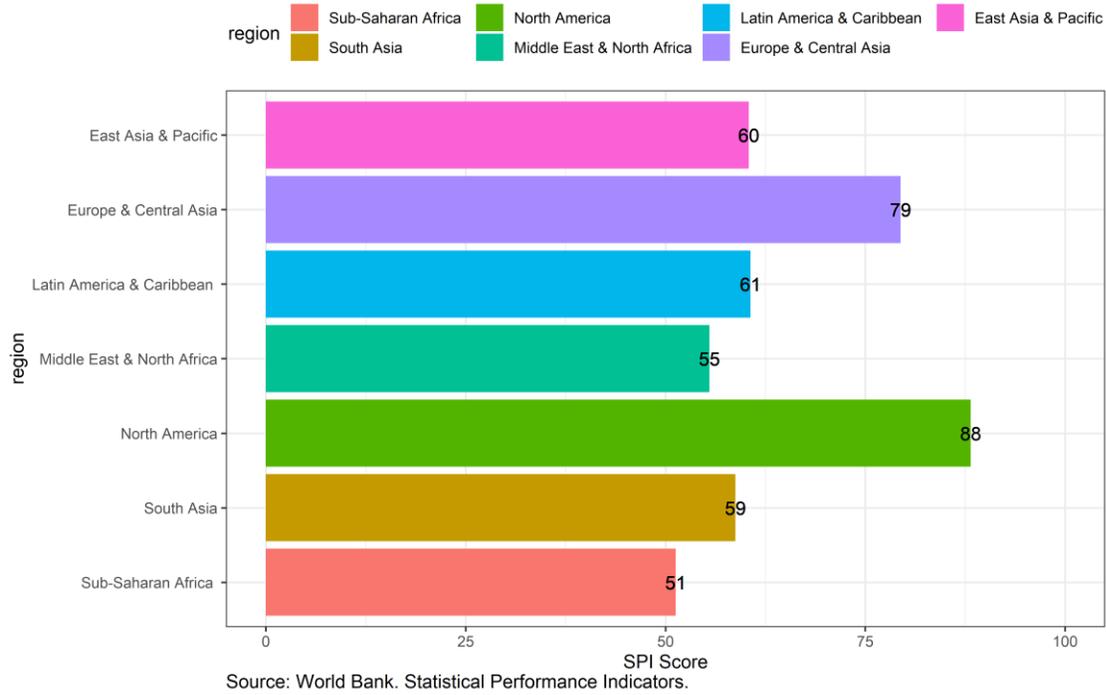


Figure 6.2.B: SPI Overall Score by Income Group in 2019

Based on data for 2019 or the latest year available

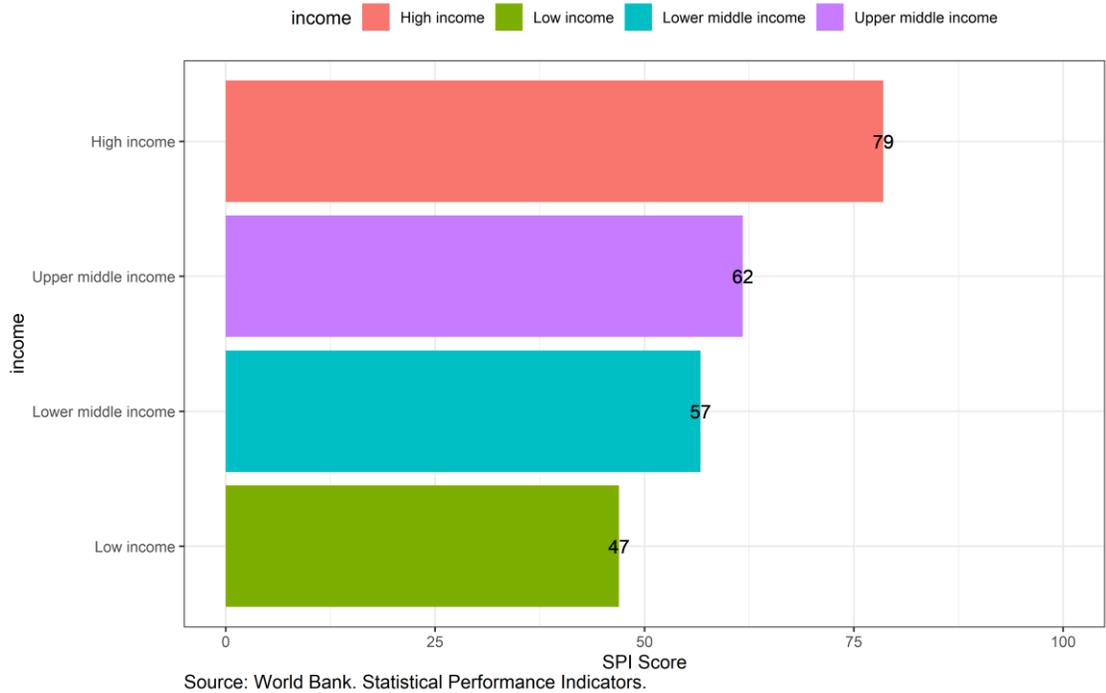
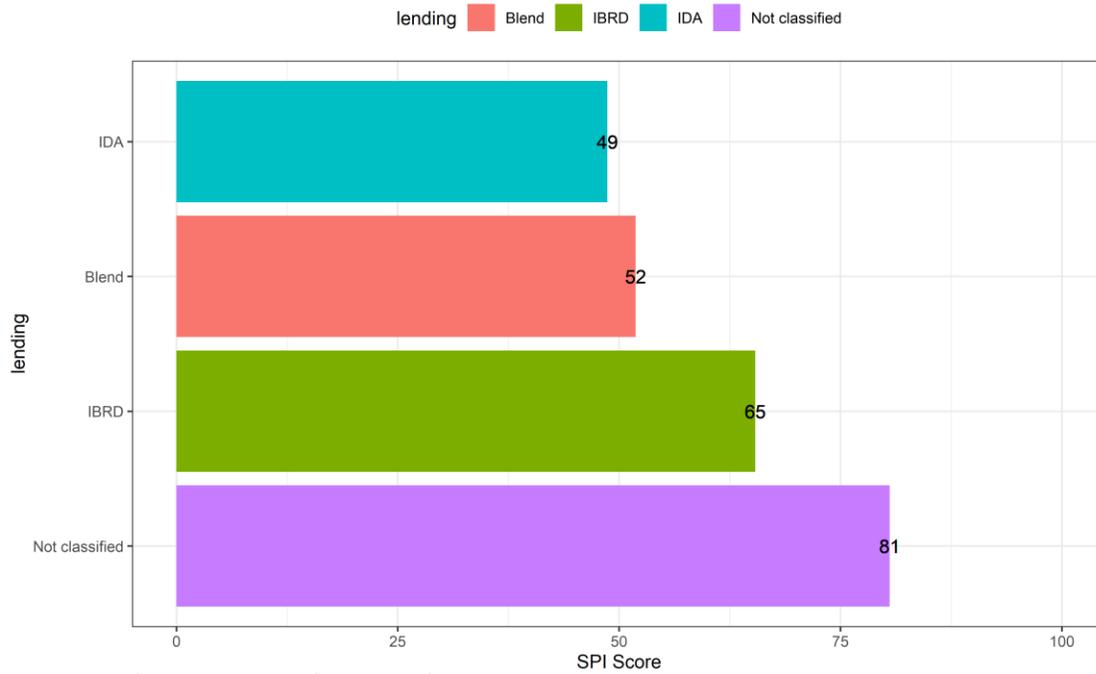


Figure 6.2.C: SPI Overall Score by Lending Group in 2019

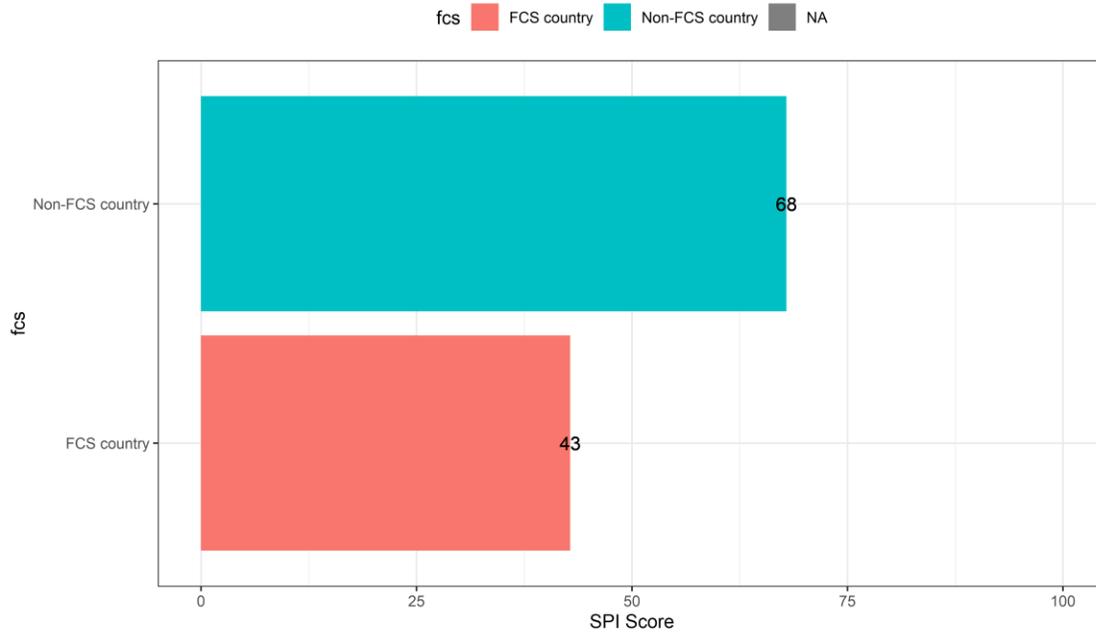
Based on data for 2019 or the latest year available



Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.

Figure 6.2.D: SPI Overall Score by Fragile/Conflict Situation Status in 2019

Based on data for 2019 or the latest year available



Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators. Non-FCS countries include all countries not classified as FCS. This includes high income countries.

Figure 6.2.E: SPI Overall Score by Year (2016-19)

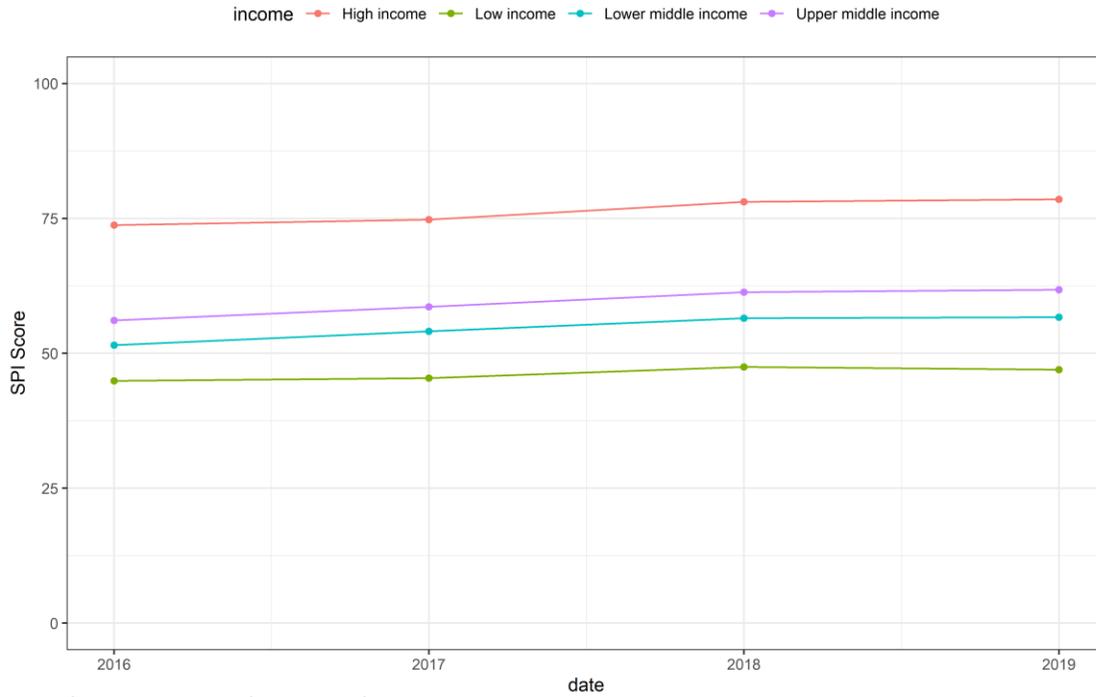
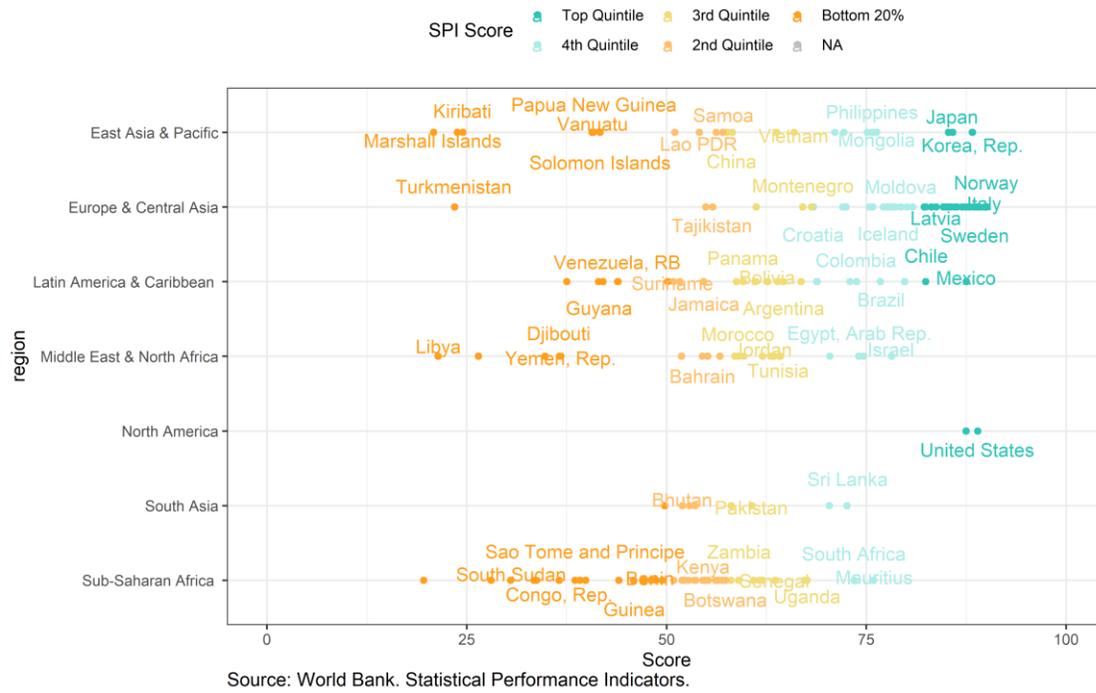


Figure 6.3: SPI Overall Scores by Country and Region in 2019

Based on data for 2019 or the latest year available



In addition to large differences across regions, there is significant variation in the SPI overall scores within regions. For instance, in the Latin America & Caribbean, Mexico is the highest scoring country with a score of 87.5. However, Haiti, the lowest scoring country in the region, earns a substantially lower score of 37.5. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the highest scoring country is Mauritius with a score of 75.9, while the lowest scoring country is Somalia with a score of 19.6. In the East Asia and Pacific region, the top scoring country is Korea, Rep. with a score of 88.3, while the lowest is Marshall Islands with a score of 20.9.

6.2 SPI Scores by Pillar

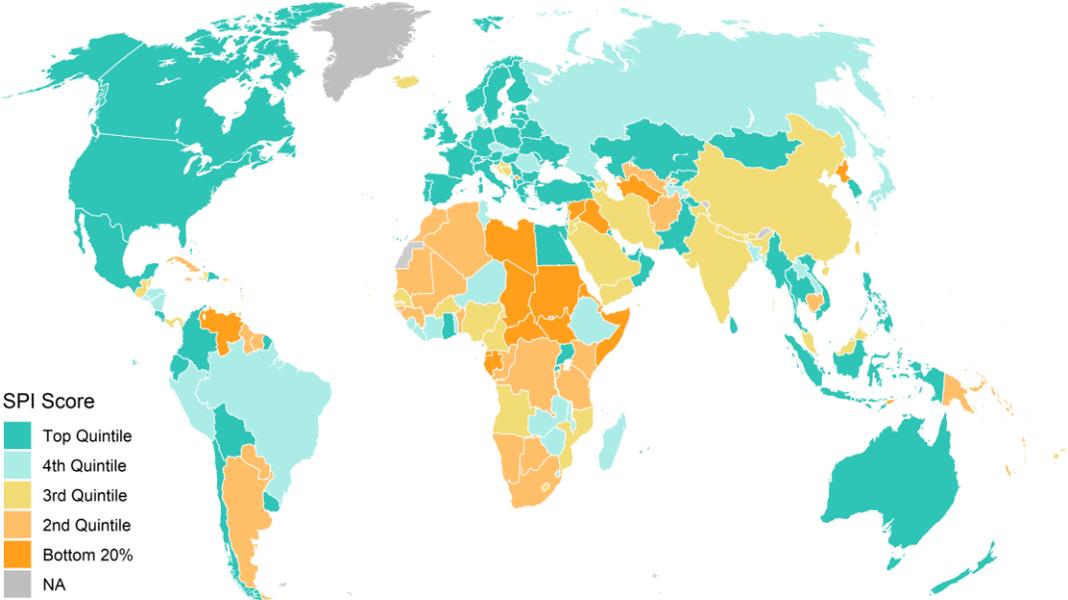
By presenting scores for each of the pillars – data use, data services, data products, data sources, and data infrastructure – that compose the SPI overall score, it is possible to show where variation across countries is coming from and to assess the specific areas in which countries may be struggling.

6.2.1 Pillar 1: Data Use

Figure 6.3 shows a world map displaying countries based on data use score quintiles. Overall, the high income countries in North America and Europe tend to rate most highly along this dimension, whereas Sub Saharan African countries tend to lag.

Figure 6.4: Pillar 1: Data Use Scores by Quintile in 2019

Pillar 1: Data Use Scores

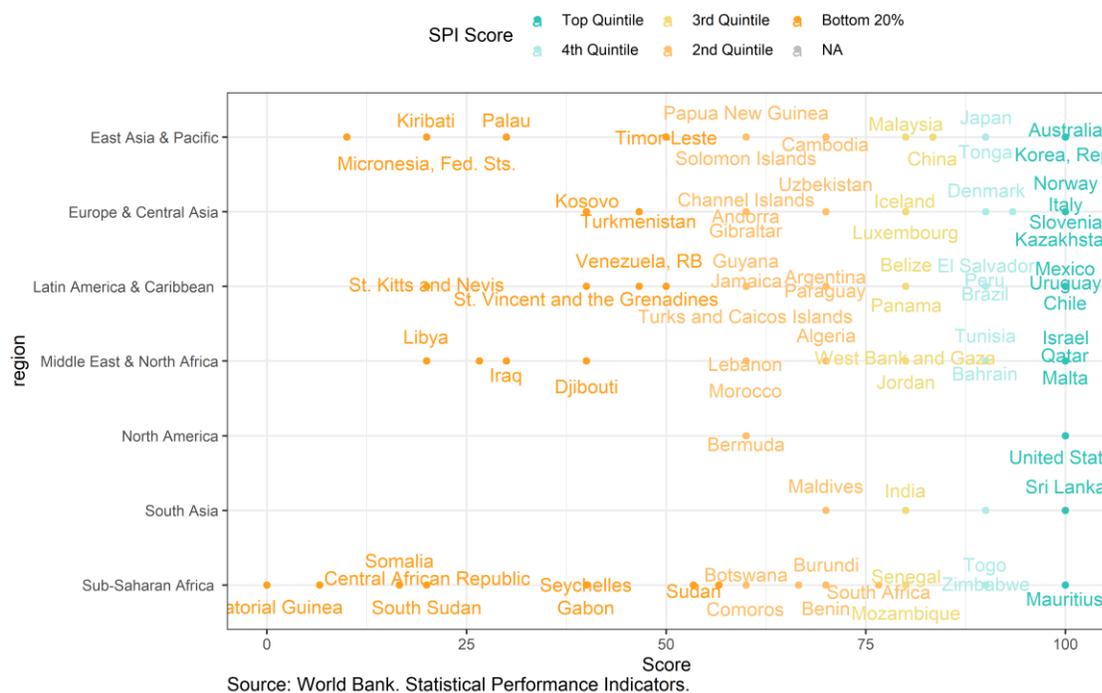


Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators

When looking by country, there is significant dispersion within regions. It is also notable that several countries including the United States, Mexico, Finland, and Costa Rica, among others, receive the maximum possible score in this pillar of 100. Several countries receive the minimum score, including the Syrian Arab Republic, South Sudan, Namibia, and Nauru, among others.

Figure 6.5: Pillar 1: Data Use Scores by Country and Region in 2019

Based on data for 2019 or the latest year available



The table below shows the average score on each indicator in pillar 1 by maturity group. Countries in the top 20% possess nearly all of the components in pillar 1, while countries in the bottom 20% are lacking in many areas. Countries in the bottom 20% in terms of maturity on pillar 1 have an average of 0.1 on the comparable poverty estimate indicator, an average of 0.6 on the availability of under 5 mortality data, and an average of 0.7 on debt reporting.

Table 6.3: Select Pillar 1 Indicator Scores by SPI Overall Score Quintile Group in 2019

Label	Top Quintile	4th Quintile	3rd Quintile	2nd Quintile	Bottom 20%
Pillar 1 - Data Use – Score	98.9	94.6	88.5	77.6	53.0
Availability of Comparable Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.1

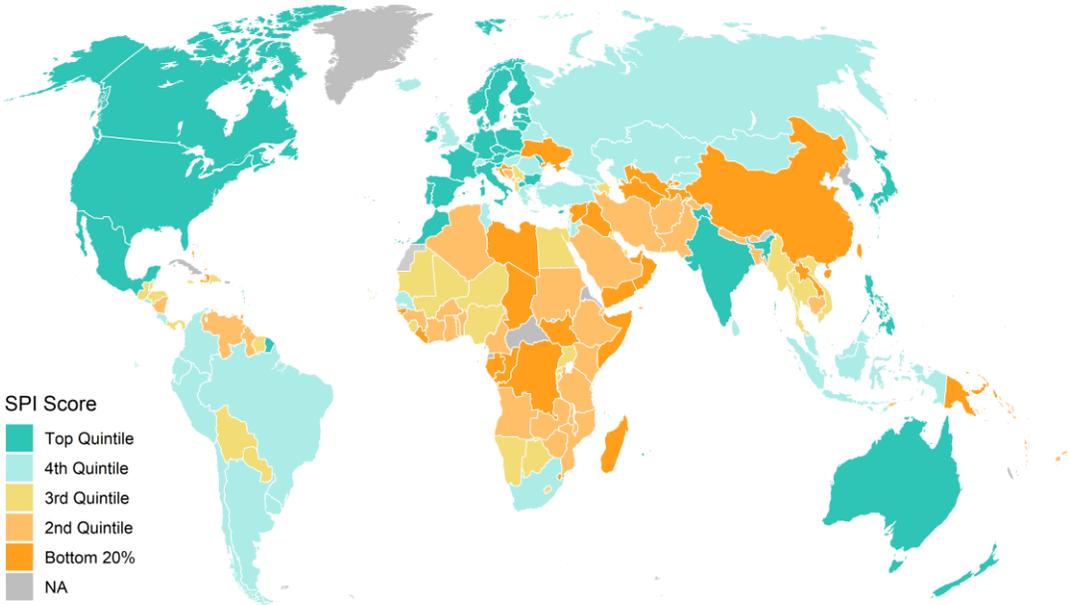
Label	Top Quintile	4th Quintile	3rd Quintile	2nd Quintile	Bottom 20%
Availability of Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births) data meeting quality standards for UN IGME	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.6
Quality of Debt service data according to World Bank	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.7
Safely Managed Drinking Water	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9
Labor force participation rate by sex/age (%)	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.2

Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.

6.2.2 Pillar 2: Data Services

For pillar 2 on data services, again high income countries tend to score highest along this pillar. In addition, India, Morocco, and the Philippines scored highly as well in this pillar. This pillar contains four indicators: quality of data releases, online accessibility, advisory and analytical services (not included), and the availability and use of data access services.

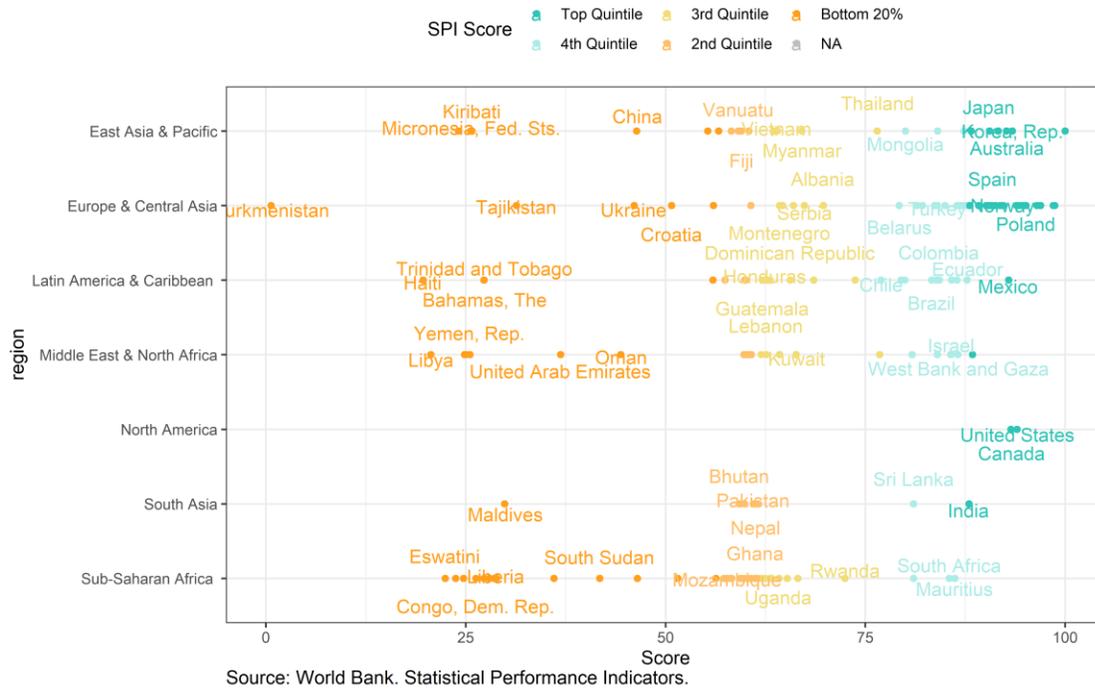
Figure 6.6: Pillar 2: Data Services Scores by Quintile in 2019



Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators

Figure 6.7: Pillar 2: Data Services Scores by Country and Region in 2019

Based on data for 2019 or the latest year available



In terms of specific indicators, the top 20% of countries in pillar 2 receive an average score of 1 on the indicator measuring country adoption of the IMF’s data dissemination standards, while those in the bottom 20% receive an average score of 0.5. Countries in the bottom 20% receive an average data openness score, produced by Open Data Watch, of 0. This indicator is made up of several sub-indicators including whether data is available in machine readable format, a non-proprietary format, has download options, metadata available, and terms of use. For instance, in the bottom 20% of countries the score on whether data is available in a machine readable format is only 0.3 out of a maximum of 1. Additionally, countries in the bottom 20% only score an average of 0.4 on the measure of whether metadata meeting the standards of the Database Documentation Initiative (DDI) is available for surveys conducted.

Table 6.4: Select Pillar 2 Indicator Scores by SPI Overall Score Quintile Group in 2019

Label	Top Quintile	4th Quintile	3rd Quintile	2nd Quintile	Bottom 20%
Pillar 2 - Data Services – Score	91.3	82.4	64.8	59.3	38.5

Label	Top Quintile	4th Quintile	3rd Quintile	2nd Quintile	Bottom 20%
SDDS/e-GDDS subscription	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.5
ODIN Open Data Openness score	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3
Machine Readability Score	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2
Non-Proprietary format Score	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.5
Download Options Score	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2
Metadata Available Score	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3
Terms of Use Score	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0
NADA metadata	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.4

Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators and Open Data Watch.

6.2.3 Pillar 3: Data Products

For the data products pillar, we examine whether countries are reporting data to monitor the SDG goals. For this pillar, indicators are produced using the UN Global SDG monitoring database. For each SDG indicator, we check whether a value is available within a five-year window for a reference year. For instance, for the date of 2019, we examine whether any value is available between the years 2015-2019.

For this indicator, there is a weaker relationship between a country's income level and their performance in this pillar. No countries receive a maximum score of 100, which would indicate that they report on every SDG indicator at least once inside a 5-year window. Additionally, no country scores 0, which would indicate that they have reported no information for any of the SDG indicators.

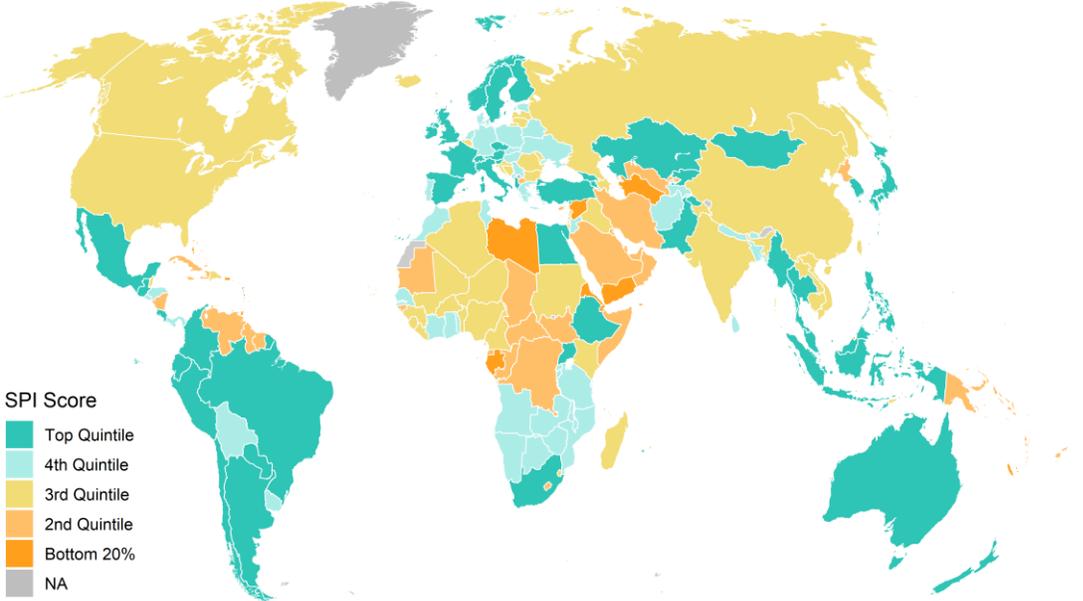
While it is conceivable that some countries may have data for these indicators on their NSO websites, which may not be integrated into the UN Global SDG monitoring database, we took the perspective that to produce a data product that is fully usable a country's national statistical system ought to provide that information in an internationally comparable way. For countries that have not reported values for SDG monitoring, but do possess a value, a simple way to improve their score on this pillar would be to submit all of their indicators to

the UN database. For OECD countries, we did supplement the UN SDG database with comparable data submitted to the OECD following the methodology in [Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets 2019: An Assessment of Where OECD Countries Stand](#). We chose to supplement the UN Global SDG monitoring database using this OECD database, because a clear methodology had been established to do so. Even with this supplemental data from the OECD included, there is considerable room for improvement in reporting on the SDGs.

We exclude values that were produced by an international organization through modeling.⁷ We do include values that are either country reported, country adjusted, estimated, or are included as global monitoring data. These classifications are based on information in the [UN SDG metadata](#).

Figure 6.8: Pillar 3: Data Products Scores by Quintile in 2019

Pillar 3: Data Products Scores

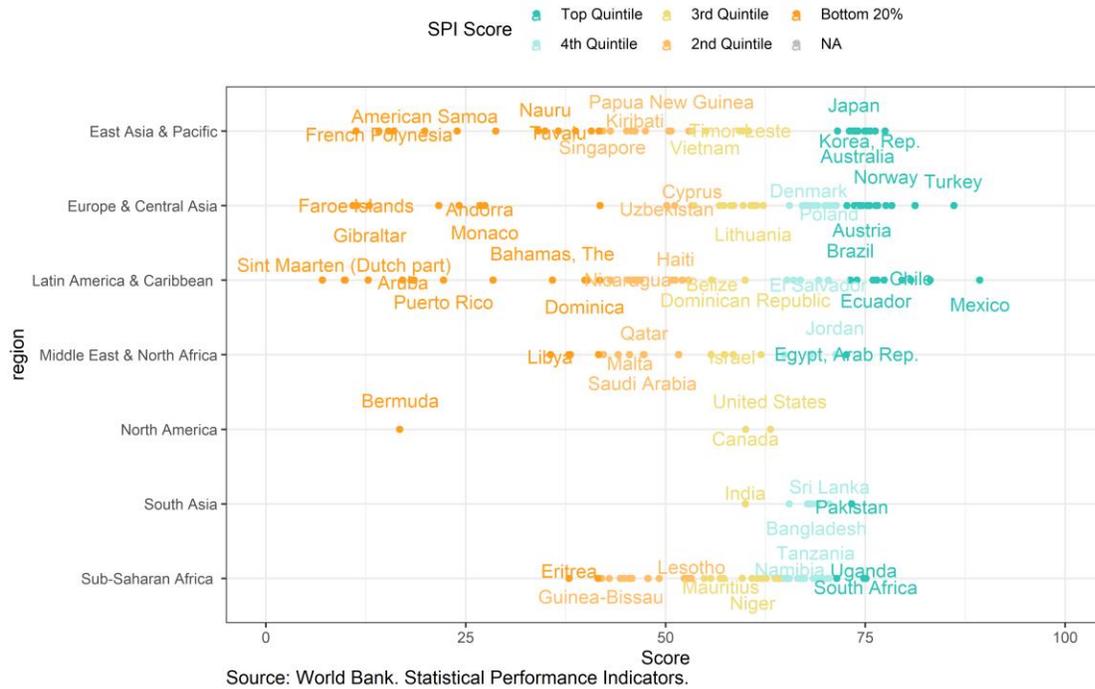


Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators

⁷ Modeled data refers to data produced by the agency on the basis of other covariates when there is a complete lack of data on the variable being estimated. This is different from estimated data, which is based on national data, such as surveys or administrative records, or other sources but on the same variable being estimated, produced by the international agency when country data for some year(s) is not available, when multiple sources exist, or when there are data quality issues.

Figure 6.9: Pillar 3: Data Products Scores by Country and Region in 2019

Based on data for 2019 or the latest year available



Even countries in the top 20% of the data production pillar have significant room for improvement in reporting on the SDGs. The average score for the top 20% of countries is 72.3, while for the bottom 20% it is 48.0. For a specific goal such as for SDG 1 on poverty, the top 20% receives an average of 0.8 out of a maximum of 1. This means that the top performing countries are reporting on 80 percent of SDG 1 indicators between 2015-2019. In contrast, the bottom 20% receive an average score of 0.4. The table below shows the full set of breakdowns by SDGs, suggesting reporting on SDG 5 on Gender lags other goals.⁸

Table 6.5: Select Pillar 3 Indicator Scores by SPI Overall Score Quintile Group in 2019

Label	Top Quintile	4th Quintile	3rd Quintile	2nd Quintile	Bottom 20%
Pillar 3 - Data Products – Score	72.3	66.4	64.0	59.6	48.0
GOAL 1: No Poverty	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.4

⁸ Analysis of an earlier version of the UN database on the SDGs also points to less data coverage for SDG 5 on gender equality compared to other goals (Dang and Serajuddin, 2020).

Label	Top Quintile	4th Quintile	3rd Quintile	2nd Quintile	Bottom 20%
GOAL 2: Zero Hunger	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5
GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
GOAL 4: Quality Education	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3
GOAL 5: Gender Equality	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2
GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7
GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3
GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.3
GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3
GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4
GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5
GOAL 13: Climate Action	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.3
GOAL 15: Life on Land	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8
GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4
GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5

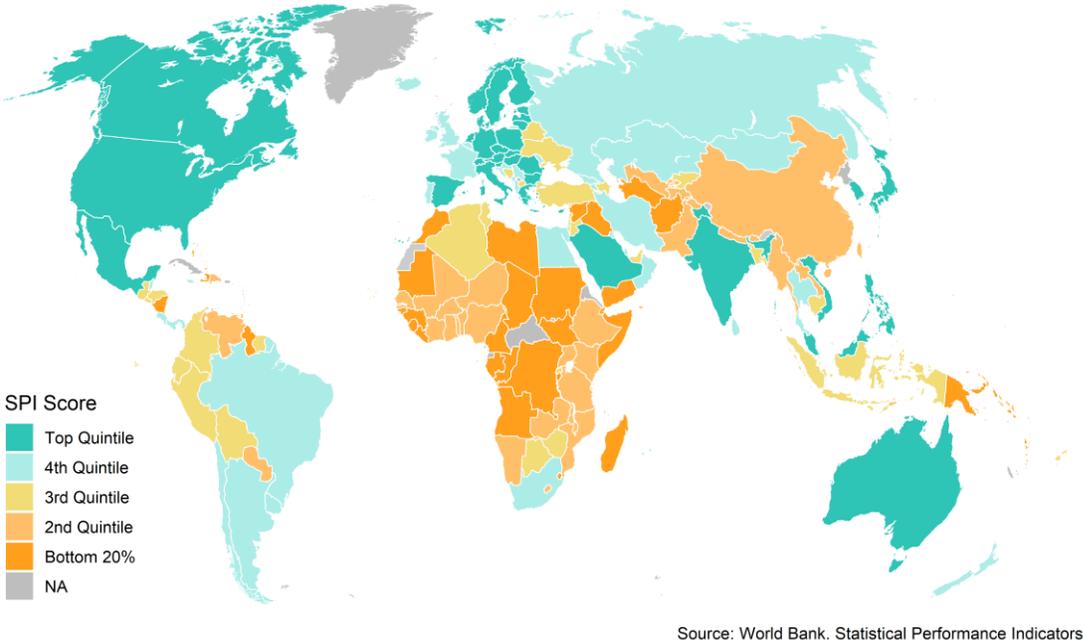
Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators, UN Global SDG monitoring database & OECD.

6.2.4 Pillar 4: Data Sources

Pillar 4 examines whether countries have the data sources available that are necessary to produce statistics for public use. It includes three aspects of data sources: censuses and surveys, administrative data, and geospatial data. Private and citizen generated data is an important area that is at present not incorporated due to the lack of an established source. For censuses and surveys, the score reflects both whether a data source exists and how recently the source was produced, as both are needed for accurate reporting of current conditions. For administrative data and geospatial data, proxies regarding the state of these data systems are used.

Figure 6.10: Pillar 4: Data Sources Scores by Quintile in 2019

Pillar 4: Data Sources Scores



When looking at the country chart, again there is significant variability across countries. No country receives the maximum score of 100, with many countries falling short particularly on our geospatial indicator. Somalia is the only country that receives 0 points on this indicator, which is the minimum score.

Countries in the top 20% for pillar 4 have an average score of 72.5, while countries in the bottom 20% have an average score of 22.3. The gap between the top 20% and bottom 20% for the population and housing census indicator is 0.2 points on a scale from 0 to 1. The gap for countries conducting a business/establishment survey is 0.9. The scores for even top performing countries on our geospatial indicator are low. The average score for the top 20% in pillar 4 is 0.3, while it is 0.1 for the bottom 20%.

Figure 6.11: Pillar 4: Data Sources Scores by Country and Region in 2019

Based on data for 2019 or the latest year available



Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.

Table 6.6: Select Pillar 4 Indicator Scores by SPI Overall Score Quintile Group in 2019

Label	Top Quintile	4th Quintile	3rd Quintile	2nd Quintile	Bottom 20%
Pillar 4 - Data Sources – Score	72.5	60.6	49.8	38.7	22.3
Population/Housing census	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8
Agriculture census	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.2
Business/establishment census	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0
Household Survey on Income	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.6
Agriculture survey	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0
Labor Force Survey	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.3
Health/Demo. survey	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7

Label	Top Quintile	4th Quintile	3rd Quintile	2nd Quintile	Bottom 20%
Business/establishment survey	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.0
CRVS (WDI)	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.1
Geospatial data available at 1st Admin Level	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1

Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators and Open Data Watch.

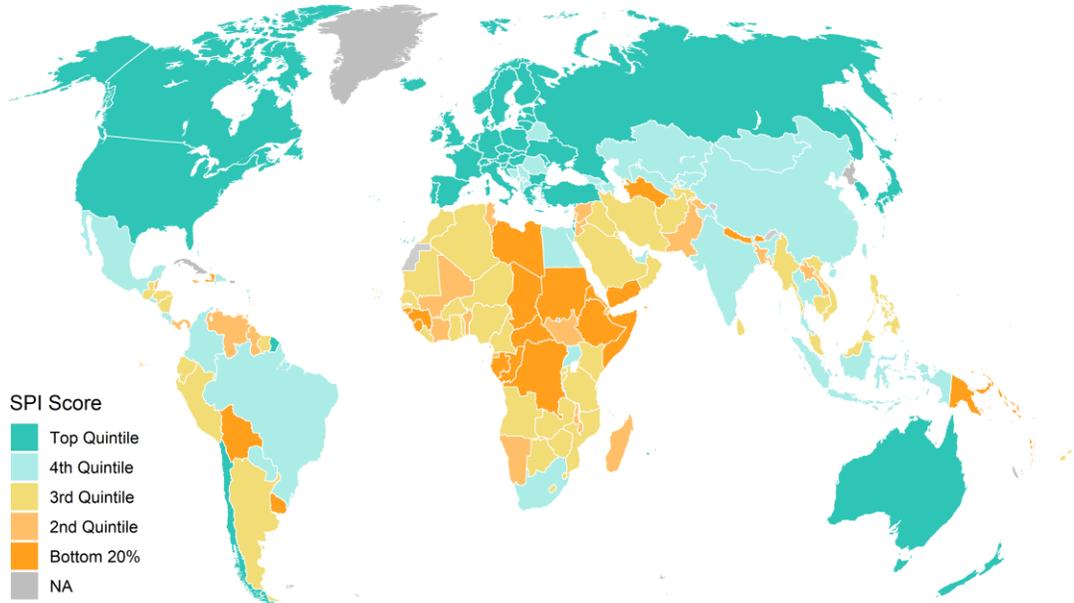
6.2.5 Pillar 5: Data Infrastructure

The fifth pillar measures whether countries have the hard and soft infrastructure to produce the data sources, data products, and data services to produce useful data. For the pillar 5 sub-score, the only usable data is on a set of ten methods, standards, and classifications. Internationally accepted and recommended methodology, classifications and standards provide the basis for national statistical offices (NSOs) for their activities on data integration, facilitating data exchange, and establish the foundation for preparing relevant statistical indicators. The following methods and standards are considered: System of National Accounts in use, National Accounts base year, classification of national industry, CPI base year, classification of household consumption, classification of status of employment, Central Government accounting status, compilation of government finance statistics, compilation of monetary and financial statistics, and business process. Data has also been collected on statistical legislation and governance, as well as on finance, but these indicators currently lack adequate country coverage to be included in the index.

Countries scoring in the top 20% tend to be concentrated among the high income countries, and on average score 97.1 on this pillar, very close to the maximum score of 100. In stark contrast, countries in the bottom 20% have an average score of 25.4. Several countries score the maximum of 100 in the data infrastructure pillar. One country, Somalia, scores 0 points in this pillar.

Figure 6.12: Pillar 5: Data Infrastructure Scores by Quintile in 2019

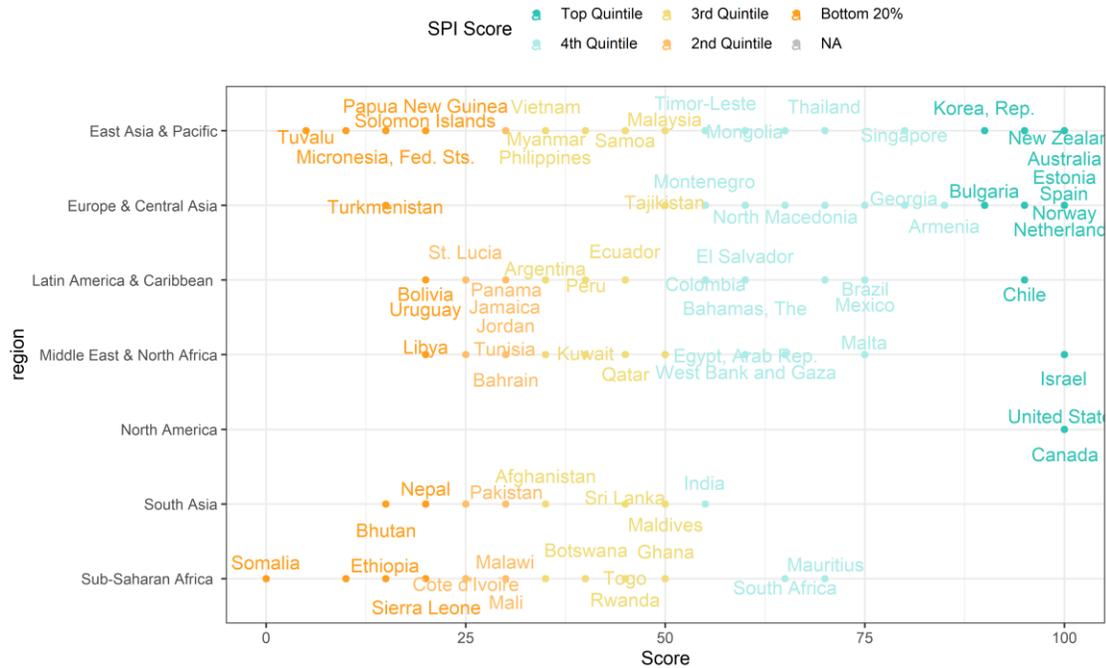
Pillar 5: Data Infrastructure Scores



Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators

Figure 6.13: Pillar 5: Data Infrastructure Scores by Country and Region in 2019

Based on data for 2019 or the latest year available



Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.

Among countries in the top 20%, the average score is near 100 across all the indicators of pillar 5. In the bottom 20%, countries on average score close to zero points for the CPI base year, classification of status of employment, central government accounting status, compilation of government finance statistics, and business process indicators. Bottom 20% countries score above 0.5 points on the System of National Accounts in use and compilation of monetary and financial statistics indicators.

Table 6.7: Select Pillar 5 Indicator Scores by SPI Overall Score Quintile Group in 2019

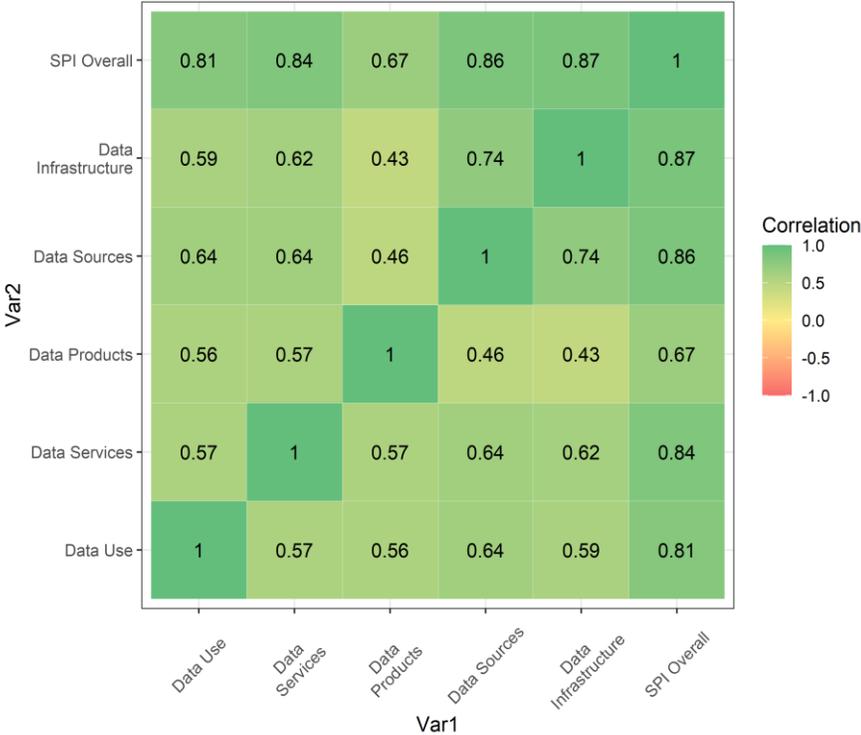
Label	Top Quintile	4th Quintile	3rd Quintile	2nd Quintile	Bottom 20%
Pillar 5 - Data Infrastructure – Score	97.1	71.4	43.8	34.9	25.4
System of national accounts in use	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.5
National Accounts base year	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2
Classification of national industry	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.3
CPI base year	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1
Classification of household consumption	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.5
Classification of status of employment	1.0	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
Central government accounting status	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.1
Compilation of government finance statistics	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.1
Compilation of monetary and financial statistics	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8
Business process	1.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators, IMF, and PARIS21.

6.2.6 Correlations between SPI pillars

In the following chart, correlations between the SPI overall score and the individual SPI pillar scores are shown. All pillars are positively correlated with one another. At the same time, no pillar is perfectly correlated with any of the other pillars, which indicates that each pillar provides additional information on the statistical performance of countries. The pillar with the single highest correlation with the overall measure is pillar 1 on data use; pillar 3 on data products has the lowest overall correlation with the overall SPI score.

Figure 6.14: Correlation Between SPI pillars in 2019



6.3 SPI Scores by Dimension and Indicator

The differences across regions, income groups, and countries in the SPI overall score arise from differences in performance across indicators. One country may achieve a certain final score by excelling in the area of data sources, while another may reach a similar final score by excelling in data infrastructure. By studying the dimensions and indicators for countries in detail, one can understand which of the dimensions and indicators drive the differences between countries.

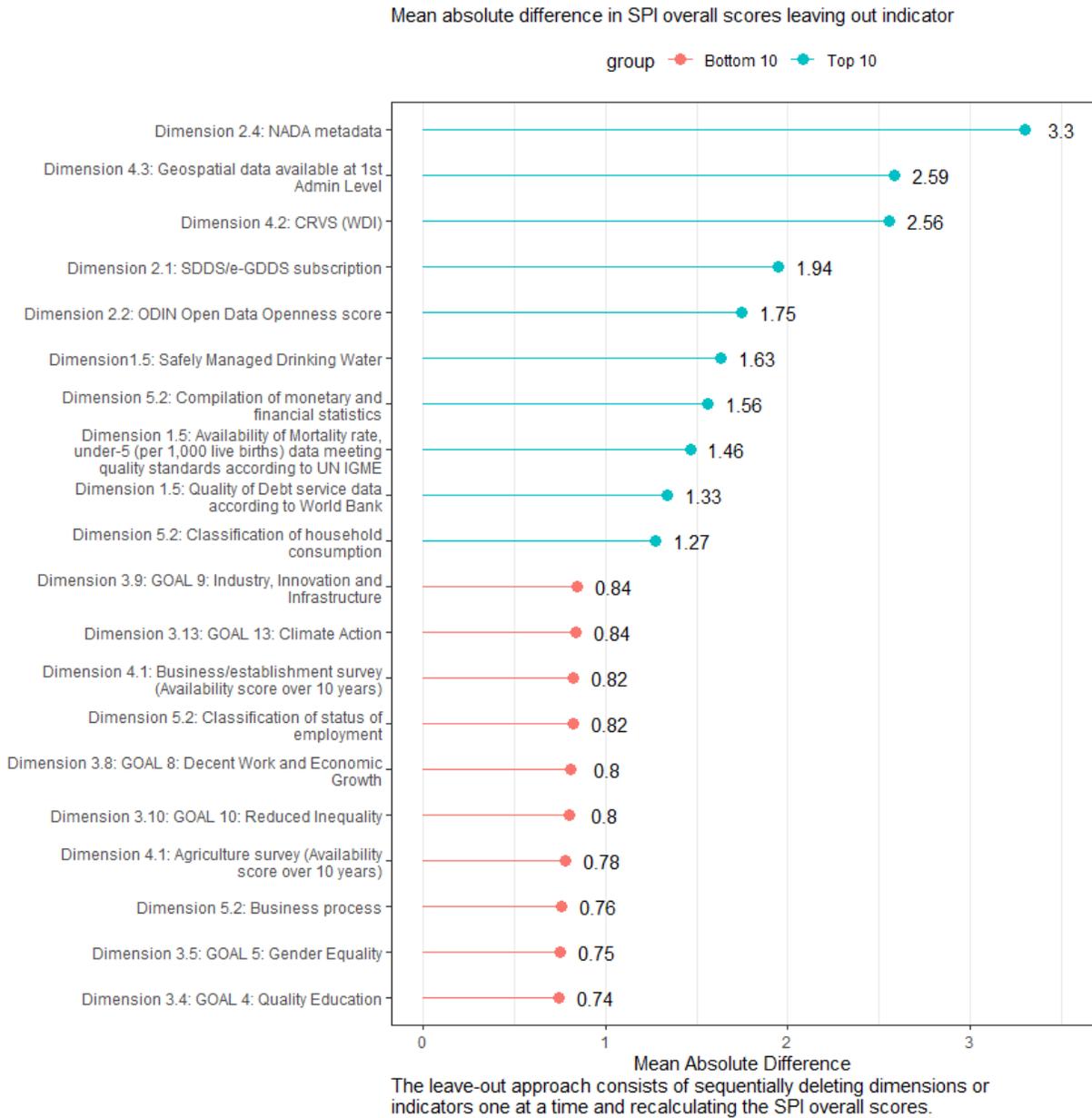
To understand which dimensions and indicators are most impactful in determining differences across countries, applying a 'leave-out approach' to calculating the SPI overall scores can be illustrative. The leave-out approach is similar in spirit to a jackknife approach (see Miller (1974) for an introduction), which has been used in a variety of situations to examine the sensitivity of estimates to leaving out specific observations. The leave-out approach would consist of sequentially deleting indicators one at a time and recalculating the SPI overall scores. By sequentially omitting indicators, we can calculate the total difference between the SPI overall score incorporating all indicators and an alternative SPI score that is calculated by omitting a single indicator. The dimensions and indicators can then be ranked based on the extent of the total differences each produce.

Specifically, the approach is as follows:

1. Calculate the SPI overall score for each country using all dimensions and indicators, $SPI.INDEX_c$.
2. For each indicator $j = 1, \dots, J$:
 - Generate an alternative SPI score omitting indicator j , $SPI.INDEX_c^{-j}$.
 - Calculate difference between the original score and the alternative score for each country in a year t , $e_c^{-j} = SPI.INDEX_c - SPI.INDEX_c^{-j}$
 - Calculate the mean absolute difference across all countries, $E^{-j} = \sum_{c=1}^{N_c} |e_c^{-j}| / C$
3. Sort indicators based on E^{-j} .

The indicator that drives the single largest difference between the SPI overall score and an alternative score omitting the indicator is the NADA metadata availability indicator in dimension 2.4 on data access services. This is closely followed by the indicator on whether geospatial information is available and whether a complete civil registration and vital statistics system (CRVS) is available. The indicators creating the smallest difference when omitted tend to be the individual indicators in pillar 3 on data products. The indicator with the single smallest difference is in Pillar 3.4 on SDG 4

Figure 6.15: SPI Indicator Importance for Top 10 and Bottom 10 Indicators in 2019



7 Analysis

7.1 Unique Values

Calculating the number of unique scores for the overall score provides a useful data check. If the SPI overall score produces a large number of tied scores, for instance, then the index

will be less able to distinguish between the statistical performance of countries. Reassuringly, for 2019, there are 174 unique scores for 174 countries, meaning no tied values.

When looking at each specific pillar, there are only 18 unique scores for the pillar on data use. The data use pillar score comes solely from dimension 1.5 on data use by international organizations. Similarly, pillar 5 has 20 unique scores. On the other hand, for pillar 2, there are 163 unique scores, for both pillars 3 and 4 there are 173 unique scores.

7.2 Relationship to GDP Per Capita and the Human Capital Index

The correlation between the SPI overall score and the log of GDP per capita and the World Bank's Human Capital Index (Bank 2020) provide a face validity check between the SPI index and other outcomes. This analysis is not meant to assert a causal relationship, only to assess whether the SPI index is correlated with other outcomes in ways that might be expected. The source for GDP per capita comes from the World Bank's World Development Indicators (WDI) database (NY.GDP.PCAP.KD). The GDP per capita numbers are in constant 2010 US\$.

We would expect a strong positive relationship between GDP per capita of countries and their statistical system, as higher income countries would tend to have more resources available for statistical production. In fact, there is a strong relationship between the two. The correlation in 2019 between log GDP per capita and the SPI overall score is 0.66.⁹

Another measure of a country's development is the Human Capital Index (HCI) developed by the World Bank (Kraay 2019). The Human Capital Index is designed to capture the amount of human capital a child born today can expect to attain by age 18 in a country. The index combines a country's child mortality, learning adjusted years of schooling, adult survival rates & stunting into one index.¹⁰ Again, a strong positive relationship between a country's HCI value and their Statistical Performance Indicators index might be expected, as countries with a more developed human capital stock are likely to have greater capacity to produce statistics. Again, this is what we see. The correlation between the 2018 value of the HCI (the latest value available at the time of this writing) and the 2018 value of the SPI overall score is 0.79.

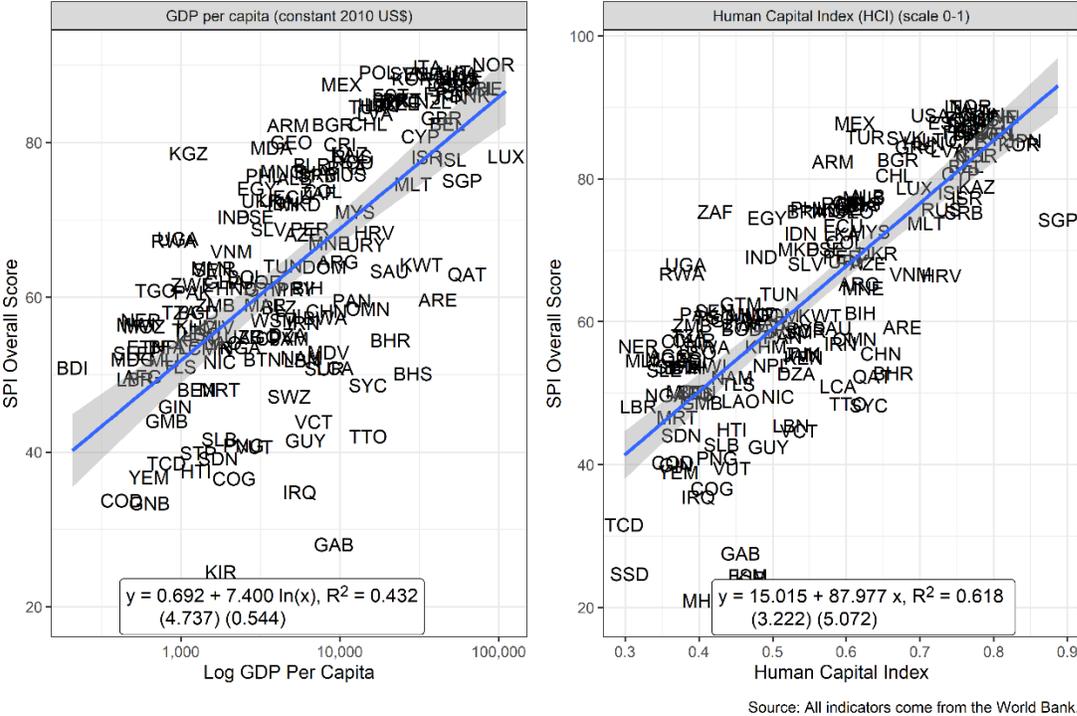
Below we show the scatter plot of the relationship between log GDP per capita, the HCI, and our SPI overall score for the years 2016-2019. In general, countries with higher per capita

⁹ To understand what effect taking the log has on this correlation, the correlation in 2019 between (non-logged) GDP per capita and the SPI overall score is 0.58.

¹⁰ For more details, visit the [Human Capital Index website](#)

income and higher levels of human capital tend to have better performing statistical systems as measured by the SPI.

Figure 7.1: Plot of SPI overall score on Human Capital Index and GDP per capita



Source: All indicators come from the World Bank.

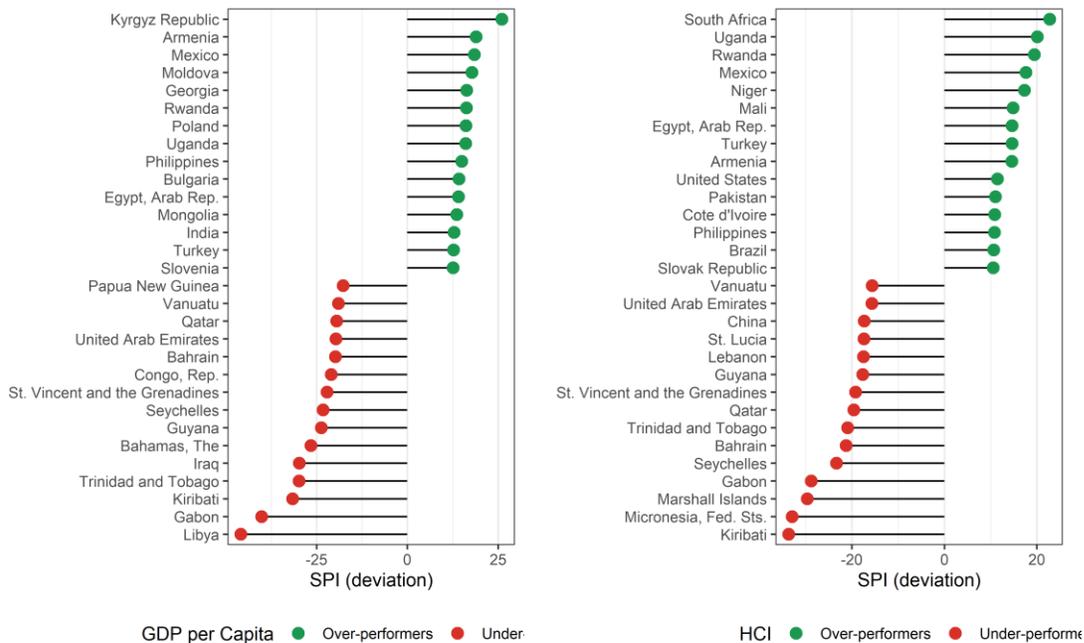
To highlight countries where these relationships do not hold as well, the next figure shows the 15 countries that most over-perform and the 15 countries that most under-perform on the SPI Index compared to their levels of GDP per capita and the Human Capital Index. We would not necessarily expect a perfect fit between our SPI overall score and GDP per capita and the Human Capital Index, as countries differ in the resources put into their statistical system, even conditional on their levels of development. Highlighting outliers can sometimes be a useful exercise for determining how sound a measure is in capturing the ground realities.

To produce this figure, we use OLS regression to estimate a linear model of the SPI overall score in 2019 on log GDP per capita for the same year. The residual can be interpreted as the difference between the country’s SPI overall score value and the expected index value based on their GDP per capita. Countries with values of the residual greater than zero are over-performing based on their GDP per capita and countries with residuals less than zero are under-performing. The corresponding figure for the Human Capital Index is calculated similarly.

Figure 7.2 identifies countries that appear to have better performing statistical systems than might be expected by their GDP per capita or Human Capital Index performance (e.g.,

Rwanda, Uganda, Egypt, Mexico, Philippines, Armenia and Turkey appear in green on both charts). There are also countries that appear to have poorer performing statistical systems than expected (e.g. several small island states appear in red on both charts).

Figure 7.2: Top 15 Over/Under-Performers on SPI overall score compared to GDP per capita and Human Capital Index in 2019



Over and under performers calculated for GDP per capita by using OLS regression of SPI overall score in 2019 on Log GDP per capita and calculating residuals from this regression. Over and Under performers for Human Capital Index calculated similarly.

7.3 Relationship to Government Effectiveness

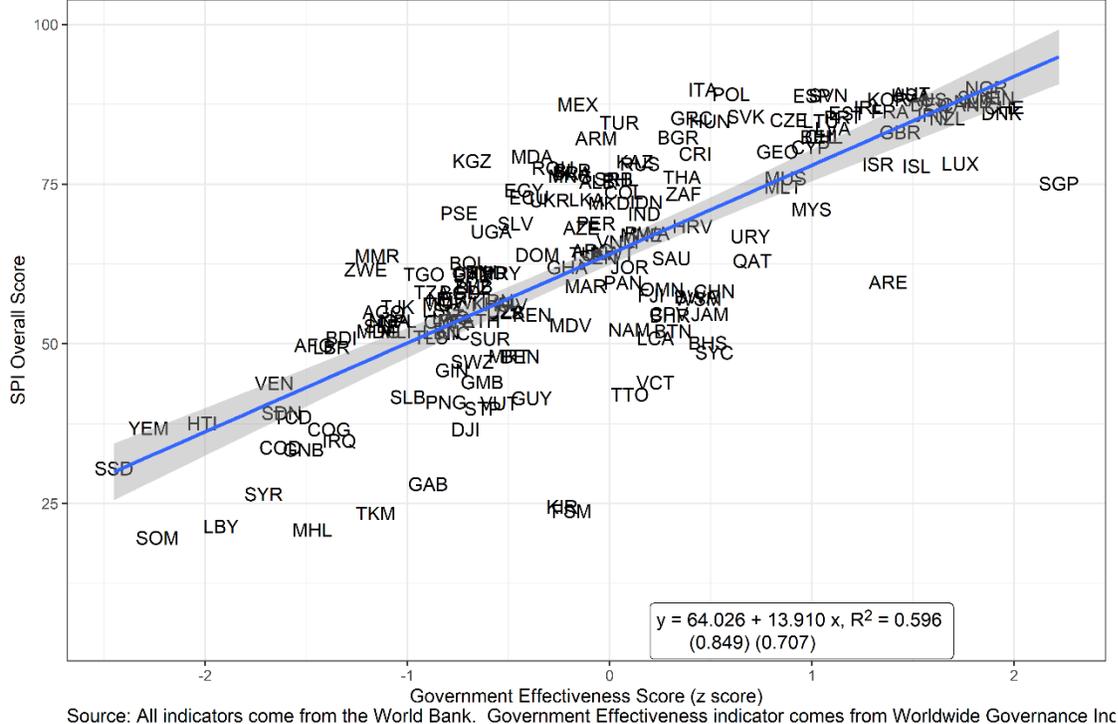
A common justification for improving statistical systems is that doing so can lead to better governance. Without good statistics, countries may be flying blind on where to target resources to improve the public welfare. Also, good statistics can help hold public officials accountable for progress toward reaching a country’s goals. In this next section, we show the relationship between our SPI overall score and an estimate of government effectiveness produced by the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) is analyzed. A strong relationship between the SPI measure of statistical performance and the WGI measure of governmental effectiveness is found.

(Kraay, Kaufmann, and Mastruzzi 2010) produce a set of Worldwide Governance Indicators, including a measure of government effectiveness. According to the WGI metadata, the government effectiveness indicator captures perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government’s commitment to such policies. The estimate gives the

country's score on the aggregate indicator, in units of a standard normal distribution, i.e. ranging from approximately -2.5 to 2.5.¹¹ The government effectiveness indicator is available from 1996 to 2019.

There is a strong relationship between the SPI overall score and the government effectiveness indicator, the correlation between the two in 2019 being 0.77. The scatterplot below shows the relationship between the SPI overall score and the government effectiveness indicator.

Figure 7.3: Plot of SPI overall score on Government Effectiveness in 2019



To tease out to what extent the relationship between the government effectiveness indicator and the SPI is due to other factors, we present results from an OLS regression below. While a more detailed study could be conducted to better understand the processes relating the two, the simple regression suggests a relationship between government

¹¹ Detailed documentation of the WGI, interactive tools for exploring the data, and full access to the underlying source data available at www.govindicators.org. The WGI are produced by Daniel Kaufmann (Natural Resource Governance Institute and Brookings Institution) and Aart Kraay (World Bank Development Research Group).

effectiveness and statistical performance after accounting for income and regional characteristics of a country.

The regression model used takes the following form:

$$G_{ctr} = \alpha_t + \gamma_r + \beta SPI.INDEX_{ctr} + \theta X_{ctr} + \epsilon_{ctr}$$

where Y_{ctri} is the government effectiveness estimate for country i , in time period t , and region r . $SPI.INDEX_{ctri}$ is the SPI overall score. X_{ctri} is a set of control variables in the regression. This includes log GDP per capita from the World Bank WDI. ϵ_{ctri} is the error term. α_t is an indicator variable for each year and γ_r is a regional indicator variable.

The table below shows the estimated effect of the statistical performance measure on government effectiveness. Full results from this regression are shown in a table in the appendix. The estimated coefficient is statistically significant at the 0.1% level, and implies that a 10 point increase in the SPI overall score is associated with a 0.2 standard deviation increase in government effectiveness. For context, this 10 point jump in the SPI would roughly take a country from approximately the median to the 58th percentile in terms of government effectiveness.

Table 7.1: Linear Regressions of Government Effectiveness Score on SPI Overall Score. 2016-19

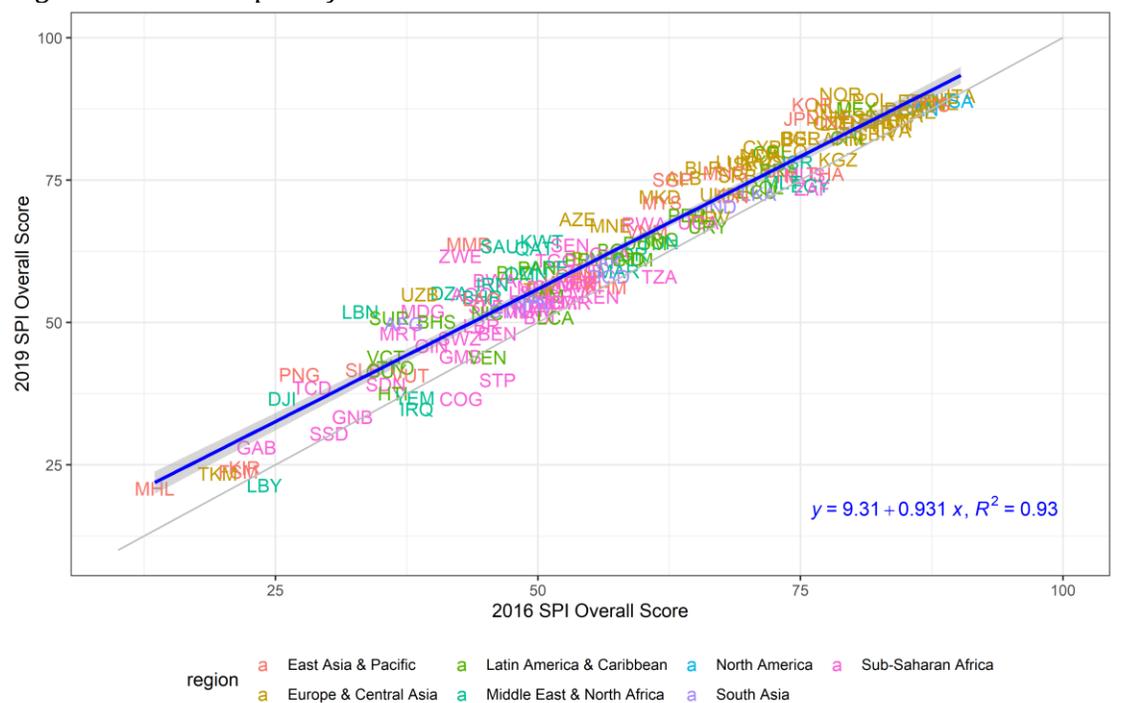
Government Effectiveness	
SPI Overall Score	0.020 *** (0.002)
N	668
R2	0.844
<p>*** p < 0.001; ** p < 0.01; * p < 0.05. Regression also includes log GDP per capita, year indicator variables, and region indicator variables as controls. Heteroskedasticity robust standard errors in parenthesis.</p>	

Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.

7.4 Changes in the Index over Time

To assess how the index values changes over time, comparisons have been made between the index values in 2016 and 2019. The SPI overall score is quite stable across 2016 and 2019, with a correlation of 0.96.

Figure 7.4: Scatterplot of 2019 SPI overall score & 2016 SPI overall score



While scores were relatively stable over time, some countries did see large improvements in their score from 2016. The country that improved most on the index from 2016 to 2019 was Myanmar, which improved by 20.3 points (out of 100). The table below shows the changes in the SPI overall score for the top 10 improvers.

Table 7.2: Top 10 Countries with Largest Changes from 2016-2019.

Country	SPI Overall Score 2019	SPI Overall Score 2016	Difference
Myanmar	63.8	43.4	20.3
Zimbabwe	61.7	42.6	19.0
Lebanon	51.9	33.1	18.8
Saudi Arabia	63.4	46.4	17.0
Uzbekistan	54.9	38.7	16.2
Suriname	50.8	35.8	15.0
Azerbaijan	68.1	53.8	14.3
Kuwait	64.2	50.4	13.8

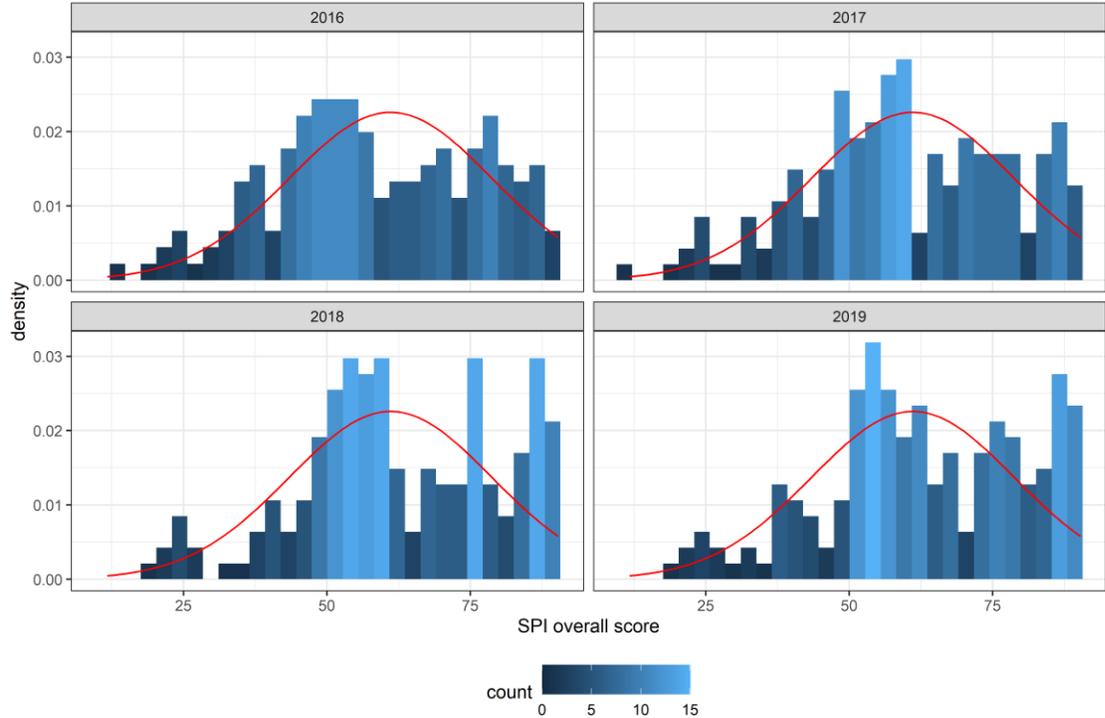
Algeria	55.1	41.6	13.6
Papua New Guinea	40.8	27.3	13.5

Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.

7.5 Density Plots

As another check, the distribution of scores across countries for each year has been presented and compared to a normal distribution. This exercise checks for whether the distribution of the SPI overall scores contains significant skew or fat tails. There is some indication of a bunching of scores near the top of the distribution of SPI scores. This is due to a large number of OECD countries possessing similar scores. This is not unexpected as OECD requires member countries to adhere to certain standards and to regularly report on a large set of indicators. These countries also include several of the highest income countries in the world that tend to be on the frontier of statistical production.

Figure 7.5: Distribution of SPI overall score across Countries



8 Additional Project Information

8.1 Process for Inquiring about and Validating the Data

The data for the Statistical Performance Indicators are collected from established public and open sources. The team makes every effort to ensure that the data presented in the Statistical Performance Indicators are accurate, but it is possible that the sources used to assign values for the indicators are occasionally not up to date or accurate despite these efforts. Countries and all other users have the opportunity to inquire about the values that make up the indicators through contacting the Bank directly or via data@worldbank.org.

8.2 Process for Updating Indicators

While the framework put forth in this note is designed to capture the contours of statistical systems around the world over the next decade and beyond, the indicators themselves are expected to improve over time. Changing indicators over time does come with a tradeoff: while it would improve the measurement of statistical performance, it would break the comparability with previous measures. Recognizing this trade-off, we plan to follow a 2- to 3-year cycle when, new indicators may be introduced and current indicators re-evaluated based on feedback from stakeholders and users, including national authorities. Whenever such a change takes place, the historical SPI series would need to be updated for comparability over time. In order to be completely transparent, all changes to methodology will be tracked through a publicly available [github repository](#) and all code and underlying data to produce the indicators will be published.

8.3 Links to Resources

The following resources are available to learn more about the project.

1. The SPI [Project Website](#) provides an overview of the project, allows users to quickly explore some of the SPI data, and offers a link to the World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives, the SPI World Bank policy research working paper, and a list of frequently asked questions.
2. The SPI [Github repository](#) contains the raw data used to produce our indicators, code to reproduce the values for all of our indicators and overall scores written in R, which is an open source statistical language, and a final data set available in CSV and Stata format. A detailed Readme file is available detailing how to use the code. The repository is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which means users are free to share or adapt any of the materials available, so long as appropriate credit is given to the SPI team. The github repository also contains the version control history, which documents every change in the data and code of the entire project dating back to July 2020 to build confidence and transparency.

3. The SPI [Interactive Dashboard](#) is available for a more detailed exploration of the data. In this application, it is possible to map any of the 51 Statistical Performance Indicators, to explore a country report for each of the 174 countries, and use a tool to see how the SPI overall scores change when alternative weights are applied to the dimensions and pillars.

9 Conclusion

The new Statistical Performance Indicators (SPI) will replace the Statistical Capacity Index (SCI), which the World Bank has regularly published since 2004. Although the goals are the same, to offer a better tool to measure the statistical systems of countries, the new SPI framework has expanded into new areas including in the areas of data use, administrative data, geospatial data, data services, and data infrastructure. The SPI provides a framework that can help countries measure where they stand in several dimensions and offers an ambitious measurement agenda for the international community.

The goal of the SPI is to offer a framework that is forward looking, measures less mature statistical systems as well as advanced systems, covers the broader national statistical system beyond the National Statistical Office (NSO), and gives countries incentives to build a modern statistical system. The project uses open data and open code to build confidence in the work. The data will also be updated on a yearly basis to track progress over time.

More research and data collection is, however, needed to improve measurement. Several of the dimensions of the SPI do not have measurable indicators yet. One of the functions of the dashboard is to motivate action on the part of the international community to help improve the collection of data so we can better measure these areas.

Countries and international organizations need to know the current capabilities of national statistical systems, and the new SPI is meant to provide insights into this. Through the SPI, there is the potential for countries and donors to create mechanisms for learning from their peers to develop a virtuous cycle of investment, effectiveness, innovation, value added, and impact.

Appendix

A.1 Country SPI Overall and Pillar Scores

Below, the full list of countries by their SPI overall score in 2019 is presented. The first column is the country name and the following columns are the overall SPI score and the sub-scores for pillars 1,2,3,4 and 5.

The purpose of the SPI is to help countries assess and improve the performance of their statistical systems. The presentation of SPI overall scores is designed to reflect that aim. Small differences between countries should not be stressed since they are likely to reflect imprecision arising from the currently available indicators rather than meaningful differences in performance. Instead, presentation of overall SPI scores focuses on larger groupings of countries reflecting broad categories of performance as measured by the indicator framework.

Countries shaded in dark orange are the lowest performing, countries in dark green are the highest performing. Countries are grouped into five groups:

- **Top Quintile:** Countries in the Top quintile are classified in this group. Shading in dark green.
- **4th Quintile:** Countries in the 4th quintile, or those above the 60th percentile but below the 80th percentile are in this group. Shading in light green.
- **3rd Quintile:** Countries in the 3rd quintile, or those between the 40th and 60th percentile, are classified in this group. Shading in yellow.
- **2nd Quintile:** Countries in the 2nd quintile, or those above the 20th percentile but below the 40th percentile, are in this group. Shading in light orange.
- **Bottom 20%:** Countries in the bottom 20% are classified in this group. Shading in dark orange.

Table A.1: SPI overall score and Pillar Scores by country: 2019

Country	SPI overall score	Pillar 1: Data Use	Pillar 2: Data Services	Pillar 3: Data Products	Pillar 4: Data Sources	Pillar 5: Data Infrastructure
Norway	90.1	100.0	92.2	77.6	80.7	100.0
Italy	89.8	100.0	91.9	75.3	81.8	100.0
Austria	89.1	100.0	91.3	74.6	79.8	100.0
Poland	89.1	100.0	95.1	70.5	79.7	100.0
Slovenia	88.9	100.0	96.9	76.3	71.4	100.0
United States	88.9	100.0	94.0	63.1	87.5	100.0
Spain	88.9	100.0	90.9	75.5	77.9	100.0
Sweden	88.5	100.0	94.9	75.2	72.5	100.0
Finland	88.5	100.0	94.9	75.2	72.2	100.0
Korea, Rep.	88.3	100.0	93.4	75.6	82.4	90.0
Australia	88.2	100.0	92.7	74.1	74.5	100.0
Netherlands	88.0	100.0	98.5	71.4	69.9	100.0
Mexico	87.5	100.0	92.9	89.3	80.3	75.0
Germany	87.5	100.0	96.5	71.1	74.9	95.0
Canada	87.5	100.0	93.2	60.0	84.1	100.0
Ireland	87.0	100.0	94.7	74.1	66.3	100.0
Switzerland	87.0	100.0	87.7	76.6	80.9	90.0
France	86.3	100.0	90.8	74.3	66.6	100.0
Denmark	86.1	90.0	98.7	68.0	73.9	100.0
Estonia	86.1	100.0	93.9	67.5	68.9	100.0
Japan	85.8	90.0	90.5	73.5	80.0	95.0
Slovak Republic	85.6	90.0	94.9	70.0	73.1	100.0
Portugal	85.5	100.0	90.8	71.0	65.8	100.0
Greece	85.4	100.0	87.5	68.5	70.8	100.0

Country	SPI overall score	Pillar 1: Data Use	Pillar 2: Data Services	Pillar 3: Data Products	Pillar 4: Data Sources	Pillar 5: Data Infrastructure
New Zealand	85.3	100.0	91.6	71.5	63.2	100.0
Czech Republic	85.1	90.0	90.1	74.6	75.6	95.0
Lithuania	84.9	100.0	91.8	61.0	71.9	100.0
Hungary	84.8	100.0	86.9	69.0	68.3	100.0
Turkey	84.6	100.0	84.0	86.1	53.1	100.0
Latvia	83.7	100.0	89.2	61.4	68.0	100.0
United Kingdom	83.2	100.0	86.8	74.0	64.9	90.0
Chile	82.4	100.0	77.0	80.7	59.5	95.0
Belgium	82.4	100.0	83.9	62.2	65.9	100.0
Bulgaria	82.3	100.0	90.1	60.7	70.8	90.0
Armenia	82.2	100.0	85.0	81.2	59.9	85.0
Cyprus	80.8	100.0	92.3	53.3	73.3	85.0
Georgia	80.1	100.0	86.5	73.7	60.1	80.0
Costa Rica	79.8	100.0	86.5	76.0	66.5	70.0
Moldova	79.3	100.0	94.2	53.6	58.8	90.0
Kyrgyz Republic	78.6	100.0	81.5	73.6	53.1	85.0
Kazakhstan	78.6	100.0	82.1	78.3	62.4	70.0
Luxembourg	78.2	80.0	90.4	61.3	59.3	100.0
Russian Federation	78.2	93.4	83.7	58.5	65.4	90.0
Israel	78.1	100.0	85.7	58.5	46.5	100.0
Iceland	77.8	80.0	87.8	59.7	61.7	100.0
Romania	77.5	90.0	87.2	56.7	73.6	80.0
Belarus	77.1	100.0	79.2	67.9	53.6	85.0

Country	SPI overall score	Pillar 1: Data Use	Pillar 2: Data Services	Pillar 3: Data Products	Pillar 4: Data Sources	Pillar 5: Data Infrastructure
Brazil	76.8	90.0	83.3	73.1	62.4	75.0
Mongolia	76.3	100.0	80.0	77.5	63.9	60.0
Thailand	76.1	100.0	76.5	76.2	57.9	70.0
Mauritius	75.9	100.0	86.2	57.0	66.4	70.0
Serbia	75.8	100.0	67.4	68.4	63.2	80.0
Philippines	75.7	100.0	88.3	75.2	80.2	35.0
Albania	75.4	100.0	69.8	72.7	59.4	75.0
Singapore	75.1	100.0	100.0	42.2	53.3	80.0
Malta	74.6	100.0	84.0	45.5	68.6	75.0
Egypt, Arab Rep.	74.1	100.0	76.8	72.6	60.9	60.0
Colombia	73.8	100.0	84.3	83.1	46.4	55.0
South Africa	73.5	76.6	85.5	75.1	65.2	65.0
Ecuador	72.9	100.0	87.7	76.4	55.6	45.0
Sri Lanka	72.6	100.0	81.0	70.5	66.4	45.0
Ukraine	72.5	100.0	46.1	67.3	49.0	100.0
Indonesia	72.2	100.0	87.3	74.9	43.8	55.0
North Macedonia	72.0	100.0	88.1	51.1	56.0	65.0
Malaysia	71.1	80.0	84.0	73.0	68.2	50.0
West Bank and Gaza	70.4	80.0	86.6	55.7	69.9	60.0
India	70.4	80.0	88.0	60.0	68.9	55.0
Peru	68.8	90.0	85.8	77.3	51.1	40.0
El Salvador	68.8	90.0	79.9	69.1	44.9	60.0
Croatia	68.4	80.0	50.8	57.3	63.9	90.0

Country	SPI overall score	Pillar 1: Data Use	Pillar 2: Data Services	Pillar 3: Data Products	Pillar 4: Data Sources	Pillar 5: Data Infrastructure
Azerbaijan	68.1	80.0	64.6	61.0	55.1	80.0
Uganda	67.6	100.0	64.2	74.8	33.9	65.0
Rwanda	67.3	100.0	72.4	69.6	49.4	45.0
Montenegro	67.0	90.0	64.3	67.1	58.7	55.0
Uruguay	66.8	100.0	83.9	66.0	64.2	20.0
Vietnam	66.0	100.0	64.0	55.1	75.7	35.0
Argentina	64.6	70.0	79.5	79.6	58.9	35.0
Kuwait	64.2	100.0	66.3	51.7	63.1	40.0
Tunisia	64.1	90.0	85.7	64.9	49.8	30.0
Dominican Republic	63.9	100.0	65.6	60.0	34.1	60.0
Myanmar	63.8	100.0	67.1	73.8	42.9	35.0
Senegal	63.6	80.0	81.0	66.9	39.9	50.0
Saudi Arabia	63.4	80.0	60.7	47.2	79.0	50.0
Qatar	63.0	100.0	62.0	47.3	60.8	45.0
Bolivia	62.7	100.0	68.5	70.4	54.4	20.0
Jordan	62.0	80.0	80.8	71.3	47.9	30.0
Ghana	62.0	100.0	61.3	65.1	33.6	50.0
Zimbabwe	61.7	90.0	59.9	70.2	43.1	45.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	61.2	80.0	60.7	58.1	47.4	60.0
Honduras	61.2	90.0	62.4	66.9	46.7	40.0
Paraguay	61.1	70.0	63.1	76.4	40.8	55.0
Guatemala	61.0	80.0	62.1	73.9	54.1	35.0
Togo	60.9	90.0	59.8	68.5	41.0	45.0
Pakistan	60.7	100.0	61.0	73.3	39.1	30.0

Country	SPI overall score	Pillar 1: Data Use	Pillar 2: Data Services	Pillar 3: Data Products	Pillar 4: Data Sources	Pillar 5: Data Infrastructure
United Arab Emirates	59.7	100.0	36.9	42.2	54.2	65.0
Panama	59.6	80.0	62.8	65.2	59.9	30.0
Morocco	59.0	60.0	88.4	68.2	28.5	50.0
Zambia	59.0	90.0	57.8	70.5	36.8	40.0
Belize	58.8	80.0	62.3	55.8	65.7	30.0
Oman	58.5	100.0	44.4	44.1	64.2	40.0
China	58.2	83.4	46.4	59.7	36.6	65.0
Tanzania	58.1	76.6	60.7	68.8	39.3	45.0
Bangladesh	58.1	90.0	61.6	69.0	44.8	25.0
Fiji	57.6	80.0	59.5	52.9	50.6	45.0
Botswana	57.3	60.0	66.6	65.4	54.8	40.0
Samoa	57.0	90.0	63.5	50.4	36.3	45.0
Niger	57.0	90.0	62.0	60.8	37.3	35.0
Iran, Islamic Rep.	56.7	80.0	59.8	51.6	57.0	35.0
Malawi	56.5	90.0	61.2	66.5	34.7	30.0
Mozambique	56.2	80.0	57.6	67.4	36.2	40.0
Cambodia	56.2	70.0	59.2	60.4	46.4	45.0
Cote d'Ivoire	56.1	90.0	59.9	68.5	37.2	25.0
Tajikistan	55.8	90.0	31.4	65.5	41.9	50.0
Lesotho	55.2	80.0	63.3	53.2	39.7	40.0
Algeria	55.1	70.0	60.1	57.4	48.2	40.0
Angola	54.9	80.0	57.3	68.6	28.9	40.0
Uzbekistan	54.9	70.0	56.0	50.1	33.4	65.0
Cabo Verde	54.7	80.0	59.3	59.6	54.4	20.0

Country	SPI overall score	Pillar 1: Data Use	Pillar 2: Data Services	Pillar 3: Data Products	Pillar 4: Data Sources	Pillar 5: Data Infrastructure
Jamaica	54.6	60.0	73.7	52.9	56.6	30.0
Kenya	54.5	70.0	60.5	61.4	35.8	45.0
Bahrain	54.5	90.0	64.3	41.6	46.5	30.0
Lao PDR	54.1	90.0	56.6	53.4	40.5	30.0
Burkina Faso	53.6	80.0	59.6	62.0	31.5	35.0
Ethiopia	53.6	90.0	60.0	71.4	31.6	15.0
Nigeria	53.6	80.0	62.4	54.8	30.6	40.0
Nepal	53.6	80.0	61.3	68.0	38.5	20.0
Cameroon	53.5	80.0	61.6	64.5	26.3	35.0
Maldives	52.9	70.0	29.9	65.5	49.1	50.0
Sierra Leone	52.8	90.0	65.2	62.0	26.6	20.0
Namibia	52.2	70.0	63.1	65.5	32.5	30.0
Bhutan	52.0	80.0	59.2	67.8	37.9	15.0
Madagascar	52.0	90.0	56.3	62.6	21.0	30.0
Mali	51.9	66.6	63.1	64.2	35.7	30.0
Lebanon	51.9	60.0	62.6	57.4	49.4	30.0
Nicaragua	51.7	90.0	60.0	45.4	27.9	35.0
Timor-Leste	51.0	50.0	58.2	59.3	32.7	55.0
Burundi	50.9	70.0	61.7	68.9	19.0	35.0
St. Lucia	50.9	80.0	55.9	46.0	47.5	25.0
Suriname	50.8	60.0	62.4	46.6	50.0	35.0
Bahamas, The	50.1	100.0	27.3	35.8	27.5	60.0
Afghanistan	49.8	70.0	59.9	68.3	15.6	35.0
Liberia	49.4	90.0	28.8	56.8	26.5	45.0
Seychelles	48.6	40.0	46.5	52.8	53.9	50.0

Country	SPI overall score	Pillar 1: Data Use	Pillar 2: Data Services	Pillar 3: Data Products	Pillar 4: Data Sources	Pillar 5: Data Infrastructure
Mauritania	48.1	70.0	62.5	47.8	25.1	35.0
Benin	48.0	70.0	58.3	57.3	29.7	25.0
Eswatini	47.2	90.0	22.4	63.7	19.8	40.0
Guinea	45.9	70.0	61.4	57.1	20.9	20.0
Gambia, The	44.0	60.0	28.5	64.9	31.6	35.0
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	43.9	40.0	62.7	41.8	40.2	35.0
Venezuela, RB	43.9	46.6	59.9	52.1	35.8	25.0
Trinidad and Tobago	42.1	60.0	27.3	40.2	42.8	40.0
Solomon Islands	41.7	60.0	60.4	47.5	20.4	20.0
Guyana	41.5	60.0	57.4	46.1	18.9	25.0
Papua New Guinea	40.8	60.0	55.3	50.7	18.3	20.0
Vanuatu	40.7	60.0	59.1	45.7	23.6	15.0
Sao Tome and Principe	39.9	60.0	24.7	42.9	41.7	30.0
Sudan	39.2	53.4	57.9	55.7	18.8	10.0
Chad	38.5	56.6	51.5	52.4	17.2	15.0
Haiti	37.5	80.0	19.7	51.2	16.7	20.0
Yemen, Rep.	36.8	80.0	25.5	37.9	20.4	20.0
Djibouti	36.6	40.0	60.4	41.6	16.1	25.0
Congo, Rep.	36.6	60.0	27.9	47.8	27.2	20.0
Iraq	34.8	30.0	25.0	62.0	22.1	35.0
Congo, Dem. Rep.	33.8	60.0	26.3	44.3	18.2	20.0
Guinea-Bissau	33.4	60.0	27.3	42.0	17.8	20.0

Country	SPI overall score	Pillar 1: Data Use	Pillar 2: Data Services	Pillar 3: Data Products	Pillar 4: Data Sources	Pillar 5: Data Infrastructure
South Sudan	30.5	20.0	41.8	45.8	14.9	30.0
Gabon	28.1	40.0	23.7	41.6	15.0	20.0
Syrian Arab Republic	26.5	26.6	24.8	38.1	17.7	25.0
Kiribati	24.5	20.0	25.8	46.2	15.5	15.0
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	23.8	20.0	25.6	41.7	16.8	15.0
Turkmenistan	23.5	46.6	0.6	41.8	13.3	15.0
Libya	21.4	20.0	20.6	35.6	10.8	20.0
Marshall Islands	20.9	20.0	24.1	38.7	11.5	10.0
Somalia	19.6	16.6	36.0	45.5	0.0	0.0
American Samoa		30.0		19.9		
Andorra		60.0		26.8		
Antigua and Barbuda		20.0		46.4		25.0
Aruba		60.0		17.1		
Barbados		80.0		50.8		30.0
Bermuda		60.0		16.7		
British Virgin Islands		40.0		18.2		
Brunei Darussalam		100.0		40.7		45.0
Cayman Islands		40.0		17.1		
Central African Republic		20.0		49.2		20.0

Country	SPI overall score	Pillar 1: Data Use	Pillar 2: Data Services	Pillar 3: Data Products	Pillar 4: Data Sources	Pillar 5: Data Infrastructure
Channel Islands		60.0				
Comoros		60.0		52.7		30.0
Cuba		70.0		46.9		
Curacao		40.0		18.5		
Dominica		20.0		39.9		35.0
Equatorial Guinea		0.0		44.9		25.0
Eritrea		6.6		37.9		10.0
Faroe Islands		60.0		11.4		
French Polynesia		60.0		14.1		
Gibraltar		60.0		12.9		
Greenland		50.0		12.5		
Grenada		50.0		43.1		25.0
Guam		60.0		15.3		
Hong Kong SAR, China		80.0		28.7		
Isle of Man		60.0		10.9		
Korea, Dem. People's Rep.		20.0		43.1		
Kosovo		40.0	66.0			60.0
Liechtenstein		60.0		24.2		
Macao SAR, China		80.0		23.9		
Monaco		60.0		27.4		
Nauru		20.0		34.9		5.0

Country	SPI overall score	Pillar 1: Data Use	Pillar 2: Data Services	Pillar 3: Data Products	Pillar 4: Data Sources	Pillar 5: Data Infrastructure
New Caledonia		70.0		16.0		
Northern Mariana Islands		60.0		11.3		
Palau		30.0		34.1		40.0
Puerto Rico		80.0		22.2		
San Marino		60.0		21.6		60.0
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)		40.0		9.8		
St. Kitts and Nevis		20.0		28.4		25.0
St. Martin (French part)		40.0		7.1		
Taiwan, China		60.0				
Tonga		90.0		45.1		35.0
Turks and Caicos Islands		60.0		12.8		
Tuvalu		10.0		36.6		5.0
Virgin Islands (U.S.)		60.0		9.9		

Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.

A.2 Country SPI overall scores over time

Table A.2: SPI overall scores over time

Country	2019	2018	2017	2016
Norway	90.1	90.2	82.6	78.8
Italy	89.8	90.1	90.1	90.3
Austria	89.1	89.5	87.9	88.0
Poland	89.1	88.6	82.6	81.7
Slovenia	88.9	89.0	88.3	86.9
United States	88.9	88.9	87.1	89.6
Spain	88.9	87.8	86.8	86.1
Sweden	88.5	88.7	88.7	88.0
Finland	88.5	88.7	88.5	87.5
Korea, Rep.	88.3	84.8	78.5	76.2
Australia	88.2	88.4	89.1	87.4
Netherlands	88.0	87.9	80.2	78.1
Mexico	87.5	87.8	88.7	80.4
Germany	87.5	87.4	85.6	84.9
Canada	87.5	86.6	86.4	86.3
Ireland	87.0	86.3	85.6	83.9
Switzerland	87.0	88.3	86.9	86.1
France	86.3	86.6	86.5	84.9
Denmark	86.1	86.3	79.1	77.4
Estonia	86.1	86.8	80.2	80.6
Japan	85.8	85.4	76.7	75.1
Slovak Republic	85.6	85.7	85.7	82.2
Portugal	85.5	85.6	85.8	84.0
Greece	85.4	84.4	83.9	82.5

Country	2019	2018	2017	2016
New Zealand	85.3	83.3	83.6	79.0
Czech Republic	85.1	85.2	78.5	78.0
Lithuania	84.9	85.4	78.7	78.6
Hungary	84.8	85.0	84.5	83.8
Turkey	84.6	85.8	85.0	80.5
Latvia	83.7	84.0	84.3	83.9
United Kingdom	83.2	83.3	83.1	82.0
Chile	82.4	80.5	78.9	79.7
Belgium	82.4	81.8	75.6	75.0
Bulgaria	82.3	82.7	76.8	75.0
Armenia	82.2	82.4	81.4	79.1
Cyprus	80.8	80.7	71.6	71.3
Georgia	80.1	75.4	76.9	73.7
Costa Rica	79.8	76.7	77.9	72.0
Moldova	79.3	75.6	69.2	71.2
Kyrgyz Republic	78.6	75.8	77.6	78.6
Kazakhstan	78.6	78.9	72.1	71.0
Luxembourg	78.2	78.7	71.0	68.7
Russian Federation	78.2	75.7	73.5	71.6
Israel	78.1	77.4	77.3	74.7
Iceland	77.8	78.1	71.7	69.4
Romania	77.5	76.5	70.5	
Belarus	77.1	75.5	65.4	65.7
Brazil	76.8	75.4	72.1	72.9
Mongolia	76.3	76.5	73.8	67.8
Thailand	76.1	76.4	75.9	77.4

Country	2019	2018	2017	2016
Mauritius	75.9	77.3	76.3	75.4
Serbia	75.8	75.3	73.7	69.0
Philippines	75.7	75.9	74.5	73.2
Albania	75.4	77.6	67.7	63.9
Singapore	75.1	74.3	65.2	62.8
Malta	74.6	73.8	73.4	73.3
Egypt, Arab Rep.	74.1	74.5	74.4	75.9
Colombia	73.8	71.1	71.7	71.6
South Africa	73.5	75.4	75.9	76.2
Ecuador	72.9	73.4	71.5	70.9
Sri Lanka	72.6	72.3	72.5	71.0
Ukraine	72.5	69.6	68.3	67.3
Indonesia	72.2	72.4	70.5	68.6
North Macedonia	72.0	70.1	65.0	61.6
Malaysia	71.1	72.6	64.7	61.8
West Bank and Gaza	70.4	70.2	60.8	
India	70.4	69.1	64.7	67.4
Peru	68.8	69.1	67.5	64.2
El Salvador	68.8	68.1	67.1	66.0
Croatia	68.4	66.5	61.0	66.4
Azerbaijan	68.1	68.2	60.2	53.8
Uganda	67.6	68.0	69.1	65.3
Rwanda	67.3	66.7	67.4	60.1
Montenegro	67.0	64.7	60.0	56.9
Uruguay	66.8	68.5	69.0	66.2
Vietnam	66.0	66.6	64.5	60.4

Country	2019	2018	2017	2016
Argentina	64.6	65.3	65.1	61.5
Kuwait	64.2	60.9	55.2	50.4
Tunisia	64.1	63.9	59.5	61.6
Dominican Republic	63.9	60.9	63.4	60.2
Myanmar	63.8	60.9	53.6	43.4
Senegal	63.6	61.5	58.4	53.1
Saudi Arabia	63.4	59.1	50.9	46.4
Qatar	63.0	52.4	52.2	49.6
Bolivia	62.7	62.1	60.8	57.4
Jordan	62.0	58.7	58.2	58.7
Ghana	62.0	60.2	60.2	56.8
Zimbabwe	61.7	59.5	50.3	42.6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	61.2	61.2	55.2	54.7
Honduras	61.2	61.1	60.5	58.2
Paraguay	61.1	59.0	57.1	54.4
Guatemala	61.0	62.5	62.3	59.0
Togo	60.9	60.6	57.8	51.7
Pakistan	60.7	61.0	58.3	56.3
United Arab Emirates	59.7	59.3	58.7	51.0
Panama	59.6	57.9	52.6	49.9
Morocco	59.0	59.9	57.0	57.7
Zambia	59.0	59.5	58.8	54.4
Belize	58.8	58.5	51.7	47.7
Oman	58.5	57.6	56.6	48.9
China	58.2	55.5	55.2	53.6
Tanzania	58.1	58.0	64.8	61.6

Country	2019	2018	2017	2016
Bangladesh	58.1	59.0	59.3	56.8
Fiji	57.6	58.1	59.0	54.5
Botswana	57.3	56.5	56.9	45.9
Samoa	57.0	58.6	58.2	52.8
Niger	57.0	56.5	56.3	53.6
Iran, Islamic Rep.	56.7	56.9	49.1	45.7
Malawi	56.5	53.8	55.8	53.8
Mozambique	56.2	54.8	55.4	50.0
Cambodia	56.2	56.5	57.5	56.5
Cote d'Ivoire	56.1	57.3	55.7	50.4
Tajikistan	55.8	55.5	54.9	50.2
Lesotho	55.2	55.7	54.4	49.0
Algeria	55.1	52.7	45.7	41.6
Angola	54.9	55.2	46.7	43.7
Uzbekistan	54.9	51.2	44.6	38.7
Cabo Verde	54.7	54.6	55.2	52.7
Jamaica	54.6	55.3	49.8	50.7
Kenya	54.5	55.0	57.3	55.9
Bahrain	54.5	52.8	47.0	44.7
Lao PDR	54.1	48.9	48.3	44.7
Burkina Faso	53.6	53.7	51.4	49.1
Ethiopia	53.6	53.6	55.5	50.8
Nigeria	53.6	49.7	49.2	51.8
Nepal	53.6	53.9	54.9	49.4
Cameroon	53.5	57.4	57.0	53.0
Maldives	52.9	50.7	49.5	49.6

Country	2019	2018	2017	2016
Sierra Leone	52.8	53.2	49.5	45.1
Namibia	52.2	52.2	52.6	49.5
Bhutan	52.0	52.2	52.4	47.2
Madagascar	52.0	50.2	41.7	39.0
Mali	51.9	54.6	52.4	48.2
Lebanon	51.9	45.4	37.9	33.1
Nicaragua	51.7	49.5	45.6	45.2
Timor-Leste	51.0	51.3	44.8	
Burundi	50.9	54.5	54.2	50.1
St. Lucia	50.9	51.0	48.0	51.7
Suriname	50.8	52.7	41.8	35.8
Bahamas, The	50.1	52.6	42.4	40.4
Afghanistan	49.8	49.8	42.6	37.2
Liberia	49.4	48.1	47.8	44.6
Seychelles	48.6	48.3	48.3	
Mauritania	48.1	46.6	40.8	36.9
Benin	48.0	50.1	48.7	46.2
Eswatini	47.2	53.7	45.7	42.5
Guinea	45.9	40.0	41.8	39.9
Gambia, The	44.0	48.6	46.9	42.6
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	43.9	44.7	37.9	35.5
Venezuela, RB	43.9	45.0	48.2	45.2
Trinidad and Tobago	42.1	48.5	41.0	36.4
Solomon Islands	41.7	42.8	36.9	33.4
Guyana	41.5	42.5	32.7	35.6
Papua New Guinea	40.8	40.9	33.1	27.3

Country	2019	2018	2017	2016
Vanuatu	40.7	39.5	40.5	37.8
Sao Tome and Principe	39.9	49.7	49.4	46.2
Sudan	39.2	44.1	36.0	35.5
Chad	38.5	31.6	31.7	28.5
Haiti	37.5	44.9	38.3	36.2
Yemen, Rep.	36.8	38.9	42.4	38.3
Djibouti	36.6	37.1	29.5	25.6
Congo, Rep.	36.6	36.7	37.6	42.7
Iraq	34.8	35.5	36.0	38.5
Congo, Dem. Rep.	33.8	40.3	32.8	
Guinea-Bissau	33.4	41.7	41.1	32.3
South Sudan	30.5	24.7	23.3	30.1
Gabon	28.1	27.6	28.0	23.2
Syrian Arab Republic	26.5	26.0	21.8	
Kiribati	24.5	24.1	24.4	22.1
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	23.8	24.5	24.0	21.5
Turkmenistan	23.5	21.0	22.6	19.5
Libya	21.4	23.4	23.2	23.9
Marshall Islands	20.9	21.0	20.2	13.5
Somalia	19.6	19.7	11.8	

Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.

A.3 SPI Overall and Pillar Scores by Region, Income, & Lending

Table A.3: Table of SPI Overall and Pillar Scores by Region in 2019

Label	East Asia & Pacific	Europe & Central Asia	Latin America & Caribbean	Middle East & North Africa	North America	South Asia	Sub-Saharan Africa
SPI Overall Score	60.4	79.4	60.6	55.5	88.2	58.7	51.3
Pillar 1 - Data Use - Score	69.6	88.3	69.9	75.6	86.7	83.8	69.6
Pillar 2 - Data Services - Score	67.0	81.6	66.4	60.1	93.6	62.7	54.9
Pillar 3 - Data Products - Score	49.0	60.5	49.7	52.0	46.6	67.8	59.1
Pillar 4 - Data Sources - Score	47.3	64.3	48.5	46.7	85.8	45.0	32.7
Pillar 5 - Data Infrastructure - Score	45.3	87.3	40.9	43.1	100.0	34.4	33.4

Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.

Table A.4: Table of SPI Overall and Pillar Scores by Income Group in 2019

Label	Low income	Lower middle income	Upper middle income	High income
SPI Overall Score	47.0	56.7	61.8	78.5
Pillar 1 - Data Use - Score	66.1	78.9	72.6	79.9
Pillar 2 - Data Services - Score	48.6	62.4	66.4	82.2
Pillar 3 - Data Products - Score	57.1	60.7	60.5	47.9

Label	Low income	Lower middle income	Upper middle income	High income
Pillar 4 - Data Sources - Score	26.0	40.9	49.0	67.8
Pillar 5 - Data Infrastructure - Score	28.6	39.7	49.3	78.1
Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.				

Table A.5: Table of SPI Overall and Pillar Scores by Lending Group in 2019

Label	IDA	Blend	IBRD	Not classified
SPI Overall Score	46.5	53.0	67.9	81.3
Pillar 1 - Data Use - Score	63.5	72.0	83.2	85.2
Pillar 2 - Data Services – Score	50.1	58.0	71.2	86.5
Pillar 3 - Data Products – Score	54.0	57.3	63.2	51.5
Pillar 4 - Data Sources – Score	31.0	34.8	55.1	69.9
Pillar 5 - Data Infrastructure - Score	30.9	43.0	59.9	87.0
Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.				

Figure A.1: SPI Pillar 1 - Data Use Score - By Region in 2019

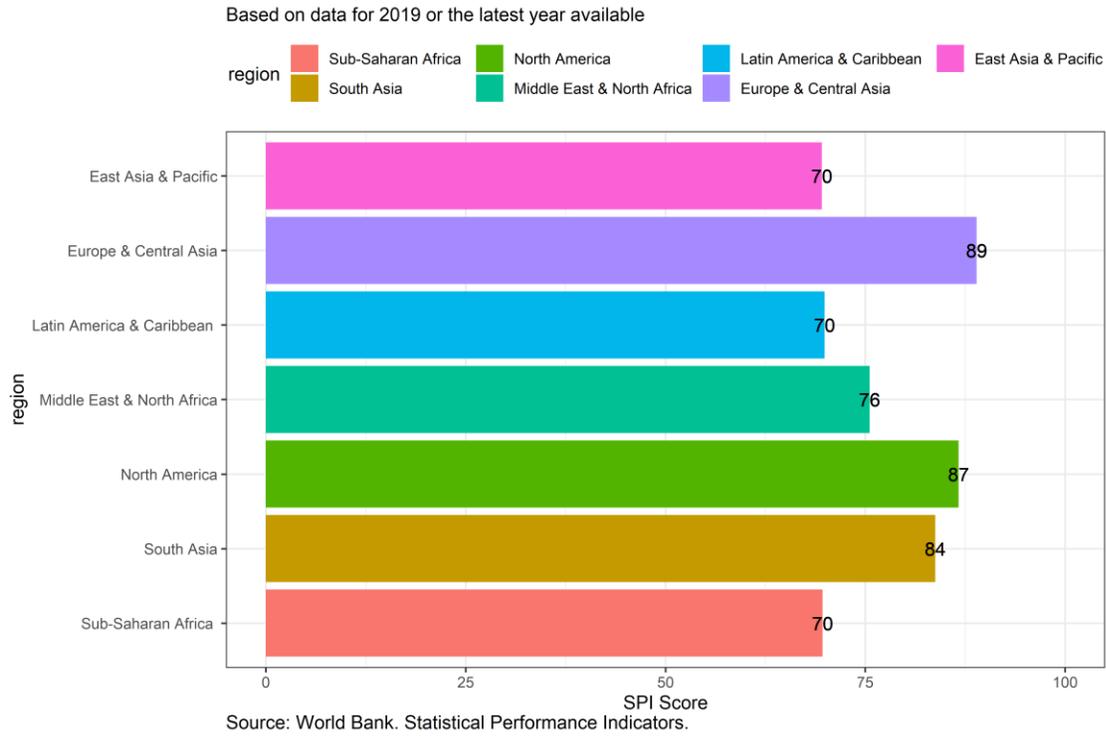


Figure A.2: SPI Pillar 2 - Data Services Score - By Region in 2019

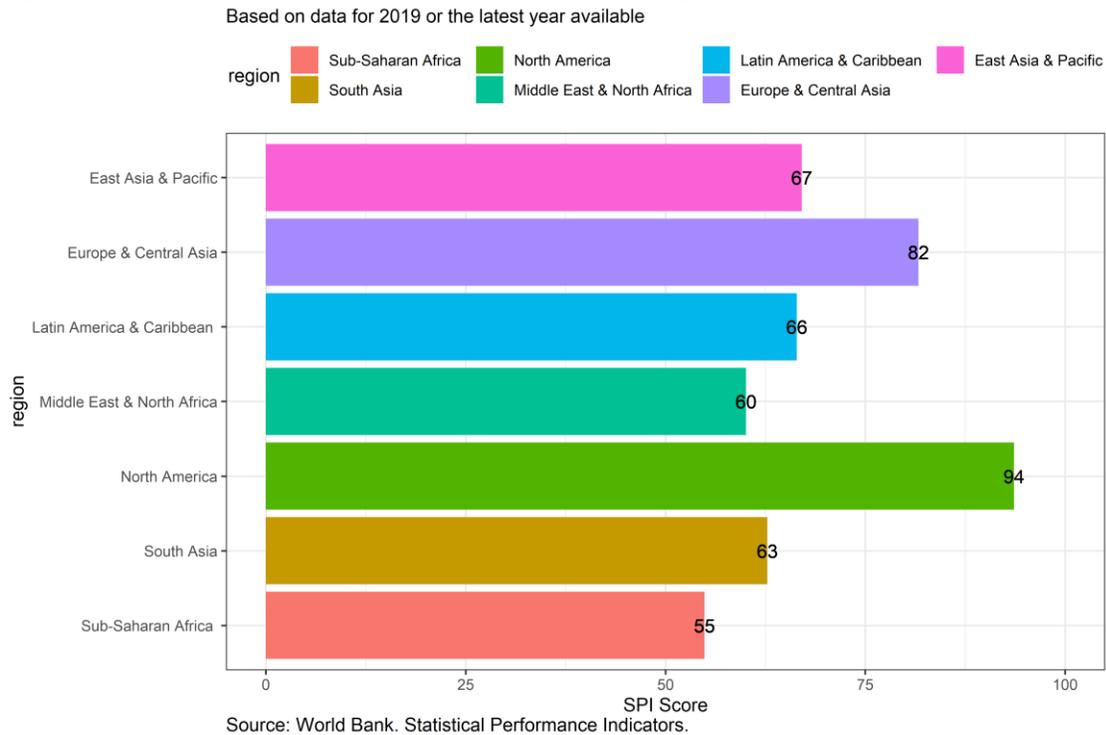
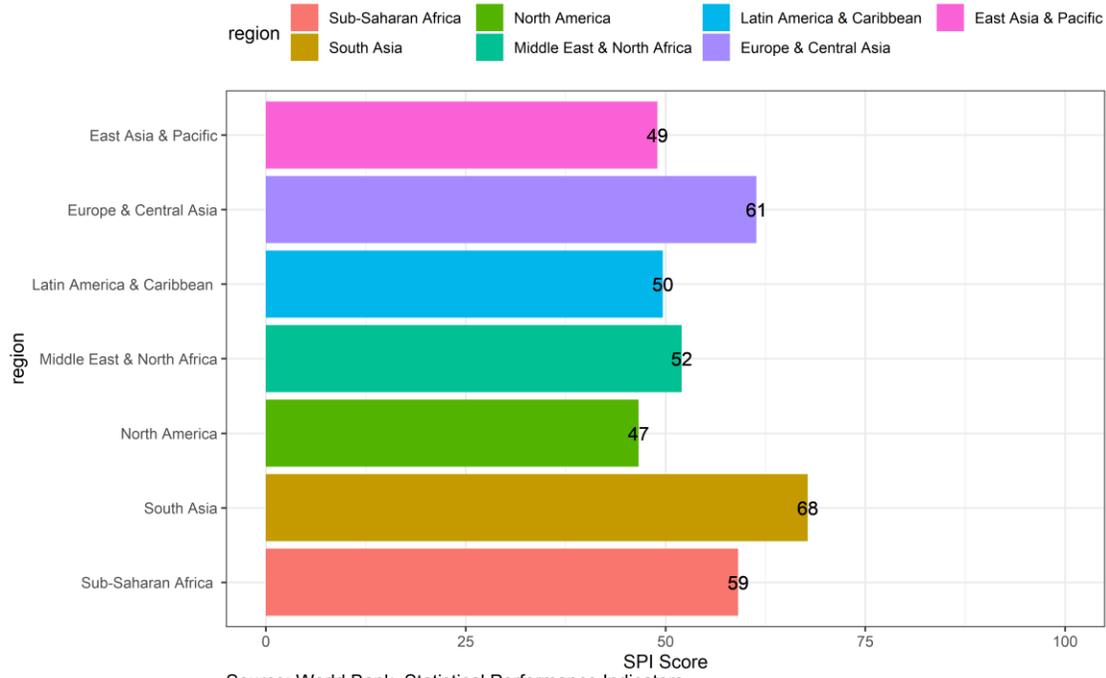


Figure A.3: SPI Pillar 3 - Data Products Score - By Region in 2019

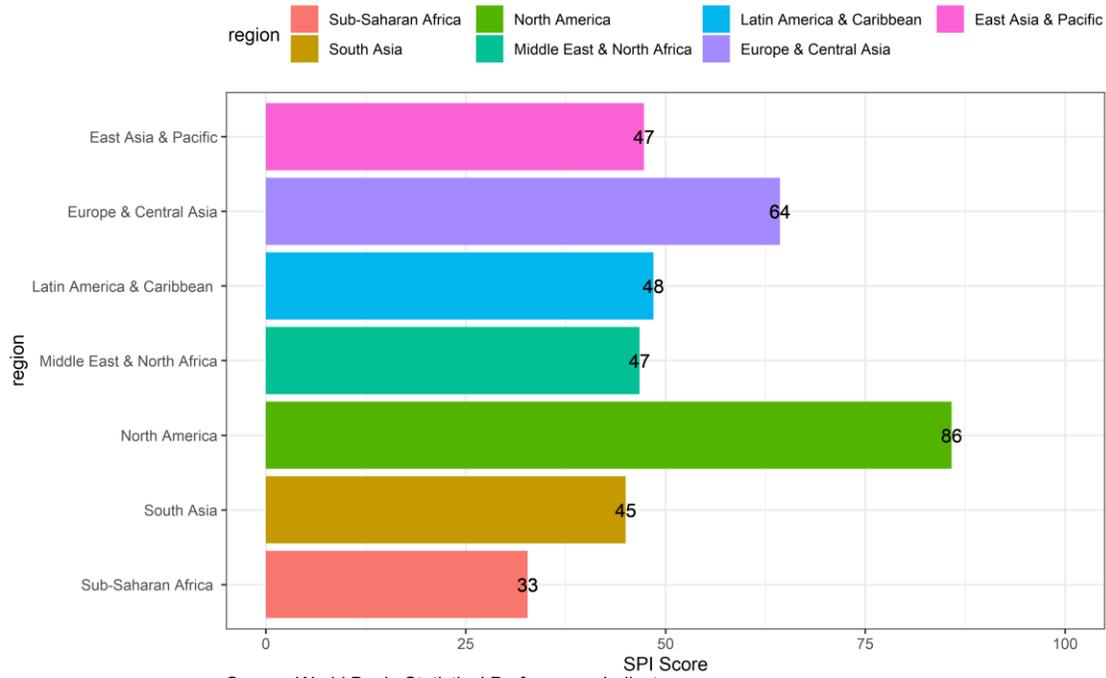
Based on data for 2019 or the latest year available



Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.

Figure A.4: SPI Pillar 4 - Data Sources Score - By Region in 2019

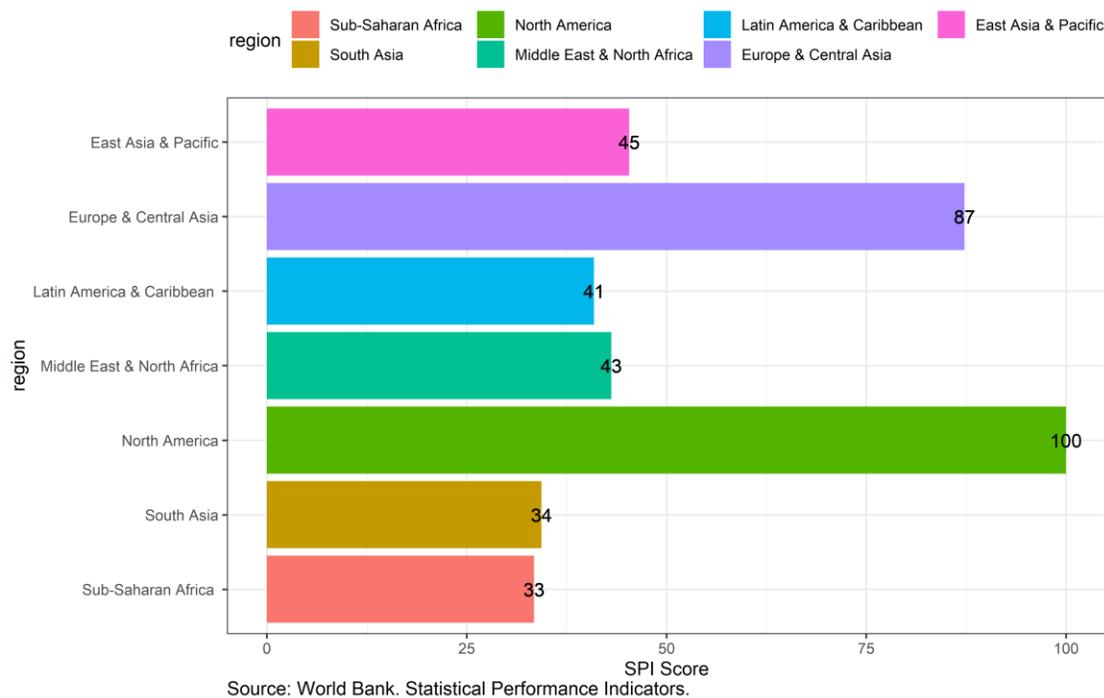
Based on data for 2019 or the latest year available



Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.

Figure A.5: SPI Pillar 5 - Data Infrastructure Score - By Region in 2019

Based on data for 2019 or the latest year available

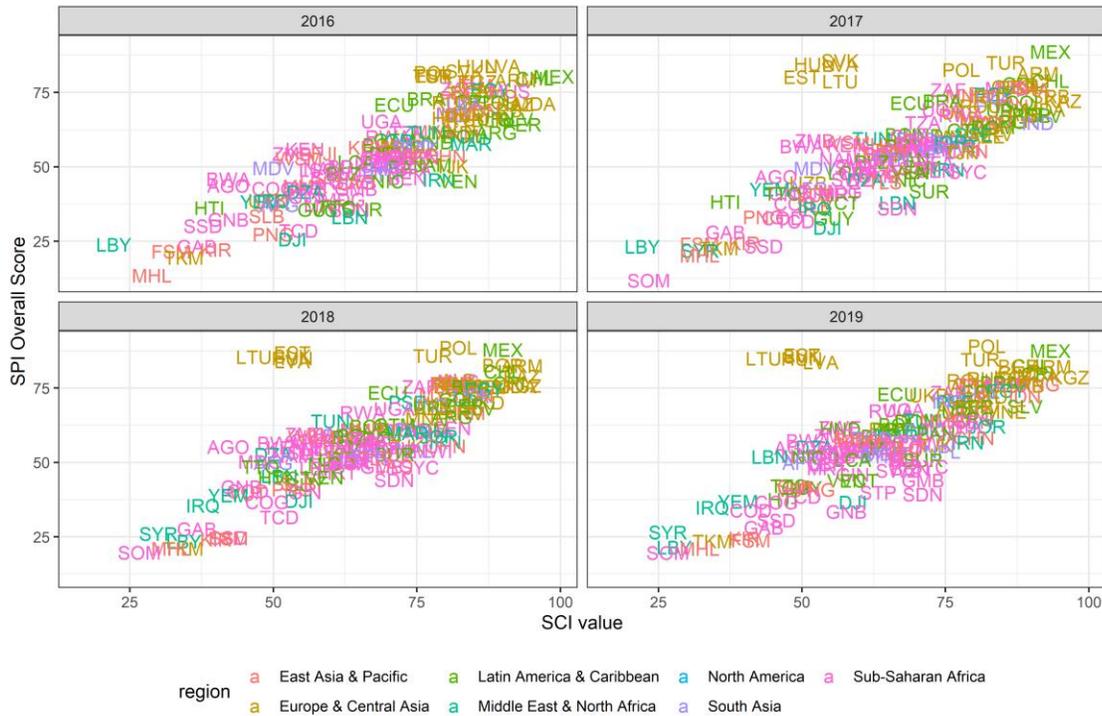


A.4 Comparison to other measures of statistical performance

Next, the SPI is compared with several other indices of statistical performance that have been created. This provides a sense of how rankings differ across measures, how they correlate with other outcomes, and how the distributions of scores compare. These are the SCI, the Open Data Watch index (ODIN), and version 0 of the SPI overall score that was produced in Cameron et al (2021).

We first compare the SPI overall score to the older World Bank [Statistical Capacity Index](#). The correlation between the SPI overall score and the SCI is 0.765.

Figure A.6: Scatterplot of Statistical Capacity Index (SCI) and SPI Overall Score



Next, the relationship is shown between Log GDP per capita, the SCI and the SPI overall score using linear regression. The Open Data Watch ODIN score and the version of the Statistical Performance Index developed in (Cameron et al. 2021) are also included. While showing a strong relationship between an index and log GDP per capita does not suggest a causal relationship, it does provide a face validity check of the index.

Overall, the new SPI overall score has the strongest relationship to GDP per capita. The linear regression estimates indicate that a 1% increase in GDP per capita is associated with a 0.1 point increase in the SPI overall score. The R-squared from this regression is 0.38. Heteroskedasticity robust standard errors are shown in the table.

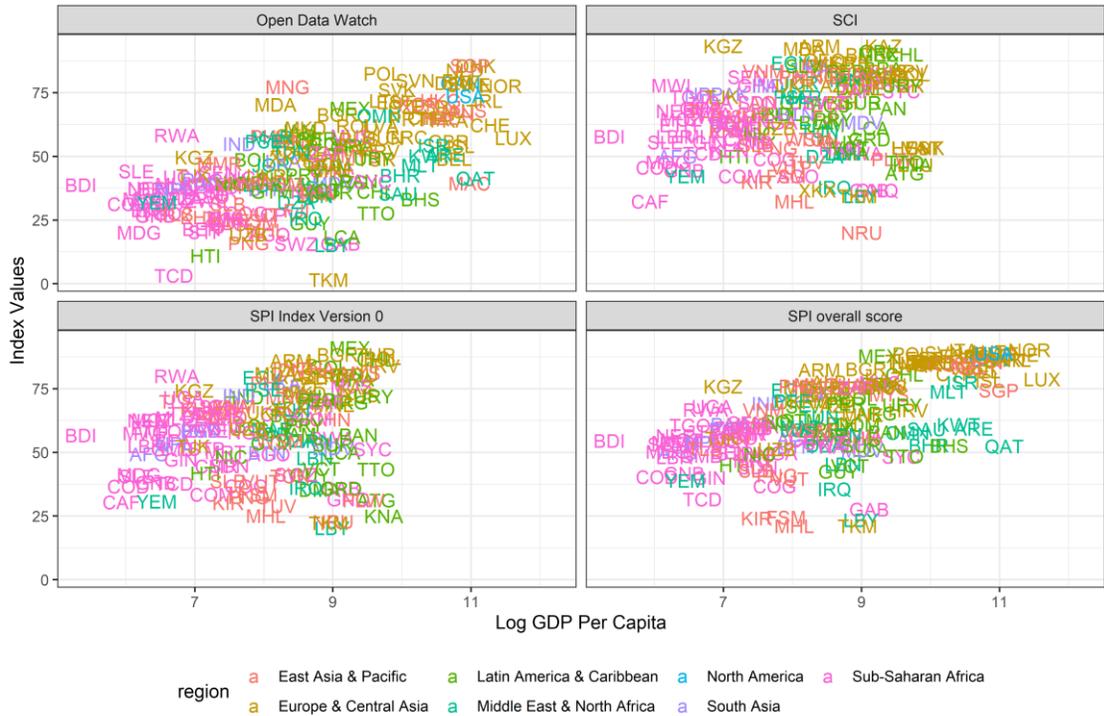
Table A.6: Relationship between Statical Performance Measures and GDP per capita.

	SPI overall score	SCI	Open Data Watch	SPI Version 0
Log GDP per Capita	7.09 ***	2.71 ***	7.31 ***	3.84 ***
	(0.30)	(0.58)	(0.34)	(0.77)
Year: 2017	2.18	-1.40	0.53	-0.06
	(1.55)	(1.90)	(1.43)	(1.90)

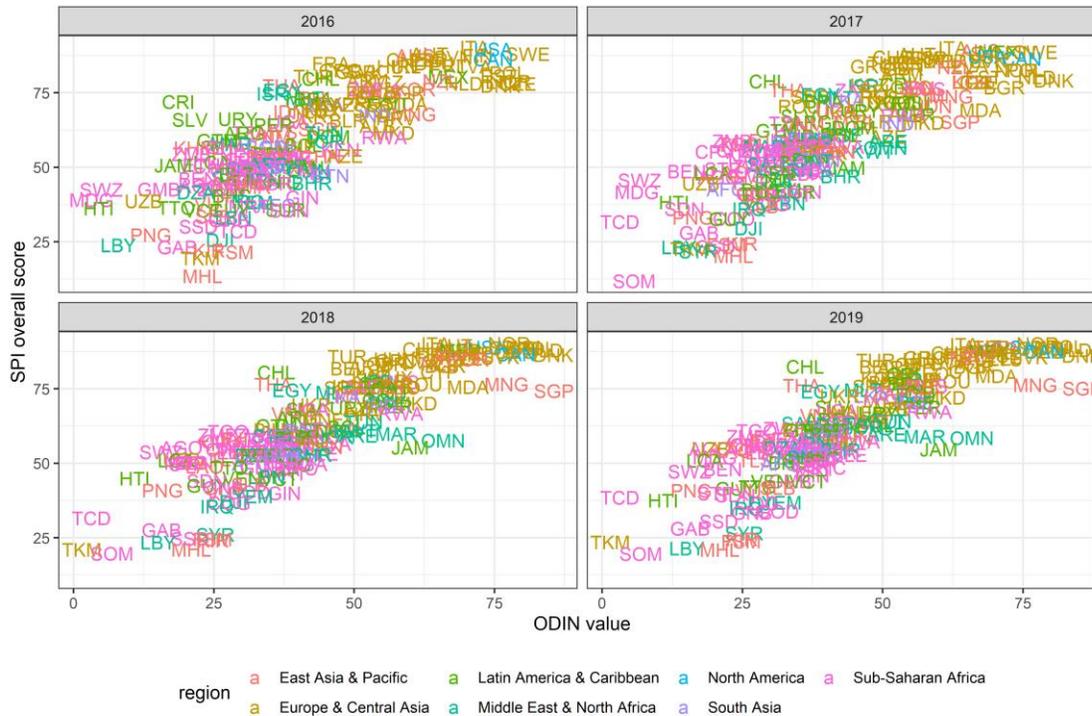
Year: 2018	4.73 **	-2.67	4.64 **	4.48 *
	(1.51)	(1.85)	(1.48)	(1.94)
Year: 2019	5.56 ***	-2.40	5.09 ***	
	(1.47)	(1.85)	(1.46)	
Intercept	-2.20	45.79 ***	-22.18 ***	23.02 ***
	(2.77)	(4.73)	(3.00)	(6.07)
N	668	572	686	417
R2	0.38	0.04	0.39	0.07

*** p < 0.001; ** p < 0.01; * p < 0.05. Heteroskedasticity Robust Std Errors in Parenthesis

Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.



We compare the SPI overall score to the [Open Data Watch](#) rankings of country statistical systems. The correlation between the SPI overall score and the ODIN index is 0.84



As a final comparison, the new SPI overall score is compared with the index developed by Cameron et al. (2021), which can be thought of as a version 0 of the SPI overall score. The authors use similar data sources for their index. However, there are some differences.

First, the similarities. The methodology for constructing the index is the same. Also, the censuses and surveys (Indicator 4.1) and standards and methods (Indicator 5.2) are identical. The indicator for data releases (Indicator 2.1) and data services (Indicator 2.4) are pulled from the information collected in the fourth dimension on dissemination practices from version 0 of the SPI in Cameron et al. (2021). Finally, both indicators include an indicator for Complete Vital Registration Statistics (CRVS). The CRVS indicator is in the administrative data section of the new SPI overall score, while it was in the standards, methods, and classifications section of the SPI version 0.

As for differences, SPI version 0 had four dimensions, namely: (i) Methodology, Standards and Classifications (MSC), which provides information on the technology being used by the NSS; (ii) Census and Surveys (CS), which describes the intermediate products of the NSS; (iii) Availability of Key Indicators (AKI), which focuses on key final products needed for policy; and (iv) Dissemination Practices and Openness (DPO), which evaluates the extent to which products are publicly disseminated.

The indicator on AKI, from version 0, is conceptually similar to the Data Products dimension in the new SPI, but uses different sources of data and the DPO section is similar to the SPI data services section, but draws on some different sources in some cases.

We compare the SPI overall score to the SPI version 0. The correlation between the SPI overall score and the version 0 index is 0.932

Figure A.7: Scatterplot of new SPI overall score on SPI Version 0 Index



A.5 Other Tables and Figures

Table A.7: Linear Regressions of Government Effectiveness Score on SPI Overall Score from 2016-19

	Government Effectiveness
SPI Overall Score	0.020 ***
	(0.002)
Log GDP per Capita	0.502 ***
	(0.015)
2017	-0.059
	(0.041)
2018	-0.126 **

	(0.042)
2019	-0.137 **
	(0.042)
Europe & Central Asia	-0.441 ***
	(0.048)
Latin America & Caribbean	-0.450 ***
	(0.056)
Middle East & North Africa	-0.514 ***
	(0.065)
North America	-0.239 **
	(0.082)
South Asia	-0.040
	(0.083)
Sub-Saharan Africa	-0.040
	(0.054)
Intercept	-5.217 ***
	(0.124)
N	668
R2	0.844
*** p < 0.001; ** p < 0.01; * p < 0.05. Heteroskedasticity Robust Std Errors in Parenthesis.	
Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.	

A.6 Indicator Metadata

Table A.8: SPI Indicator Metadata

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
Availability of Comparable Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day	Dimension 1.5	Comparability data from World Bank's Povcalnet	1 Point. Comparable data lasting at least two years within past 5 years. 0 Points. No comparable data within past 5 years
Availability of Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births) data meeting quality standards according to UN IGME	Dimension 1.5	Child Mortality Metadata from UN IGME	1 Point. At least three indicators that met UN IGME standards within past 5 years. 0.67 Points. Two indicators that met UN IGME standards within past 5 years. 0.33 Points. One indicators that met UN IGME standards within past 5 years 0 Points. None within past 5 years
Quality of Debt service data according to World Bank	Dimension 1.5	Debt Reporting Metadata from World Bank	1 Points. Actual value. 0.67 Points. Preliminary value 0.33 Points. Estimated value. 0 Points. No value

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
Safely Managed Drinking Water	Dimension 1.5	Availability of Safely Managed Drinking Water data for use by JMP	<p>1 Point. At least two estimates, with breakdowns for urban/rural areas, within an 8 year window</p> <p>0.5 Points. At least two estimates, but not an urban/rural breakdown, within an 8 year window</p> <p>0 Points. Otherwise</p>
Labor force participation rate by sex and age (%)	Dimension 1.5	Labor force participation data for use by ILO	<p>1 Point. Country has a labor force survey based estimate in past 5 years of labor force participation broken down by total, male, and female & estimated value from ILO is within 10 percentage points of value reported by national government.</p> <p>0.5 Point. Country has labor force survey or is within 10 points of ILO, but not both</p>

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
			0 Points. Otherwise
SDDS/e-GDDS subscription	Dimension 2.1	The Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and electronic General Data Dissemination Standard (e-GDDS) were established by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for member countries that have or that might seek access to international capital markets, to guide them in providing their economic and financial data to the public. Although subscription is voluntary, the subscribing member needs to be committed to observing the standard and provide information about its data and data dissemination practices (metadata). The metadata are posted on the IMF's SDDS and e-GDDS websites.	Point. Subscribing to IMF SDDS+ or SDDS standards 0.5 Points. Subscribing to IMF e-GDDS standards. 0 Points. Otherwise
ODIN Open Data Openness score	Dimension 2.2	ODW Openness score	Our source for this indicator is Open Data Watch. Scores range from 0-1. Because ODIN did not release scores for 2019, the 2018 value of the ODW Openness score was used as the value for 2019. For more details,

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
			consult the ODIN technical documentation.
NSO Website	Dimension 2.3	New indicator of number of non-recurring products on NSO website (ad hoc/experimental rather than regular releases). The indicator is the number of products found.	No established methodology.
NADA metadata	Dimension 2.4	NADA/NSO websites. Statistical systems must be open and transparent about their methods and procedures and provide access to adequate metadata – detailed descriptions of the methods and procedures used to produce the data.	1 Point. Yes, available. 0 Points. No
GOAL 1: No Poverty	Dimension 3.1	SDG Goal 1 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 1 with value produced by countries statistical system
GOAL 2: Zero Hunger	Dimension 3.2	SDG Goal 2 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 2 with value produced by countries statistical system
GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being	Dimension 3.3	SDG Goal 3 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 3 with value produced by countries statistical system

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
GOAL 4: Quality Education	Dimension 3.4	SDG Goal 4 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 4 with value produced by countries statistical system
GOAL 5: Gender Equality	Dimension 3.5	SDG Goal 5 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 5 with value produced by countries statistical system
GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	Dimension 3.6	SDG Goal 6 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 6 with value produced by countries statistical system
GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	Dimension 3.7	SDG Goal 7 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 7 with value produced by countries statistical system
GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	Dimension 3.8	SDG Goal 8 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 8 with value produced by countries statistical system
GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Dimension 3.9	SDG Goal 9 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 9 with value produced by countries statistical system

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality	Dimension 3.10	SDG Goal 10 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 10 with value produced by countries statistical system
GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	Dimension 3.11	SDG Goal 11 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 11 with value produced by countries statistical system
GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	Dimension 3.12	SDG Goal 12 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 12 with value produced by countries statistical system
GOAL 13: Climate Action	Dimension 3.13	SDG Goal 13 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 13 with value produced by countries statistical system
GOAL 14: Life Below Water	Dimension 3.14	SDG Goal 14 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 14 with value produced by countries statistical system
GOAL 15: Life on Land	Dimension 3.15	SDG Goal 15 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 15 with value produced by countries statistical system

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	Dimension 3.16	SDG Goal 16 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 16 with value produced by countries statistical system
GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal	Dimension 3.17	SDG Goal 17 data availability. Source: UN Global SDG Indicators Database	Fraction of Indicators in Goal 17 with value produced by countries statistical system
Population & Housing census	Dimension 4.1	Population censuses collect data on the size, distribution and composition of population and information on a broad range of social and economic characteristics of the population. It also provides sampling frames for household and other surveys. Housing censuses provide information on the supply of housing units, the structural characteristics and facilities, and health and the development of normal family living conditions. Data obtained as part of the population census, including data on homeless persons, are often used in the presentation and analysis of the results of the housing census. It is recommended that population and housing	1 Point. Population census done within last 10 years. 0.5 Points. Population census done within last 20 years. 0 Points. Otherwise

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
		censuses be conducted at least every 10 years.	
Agriculture census	Dimension 4.1	Agriculture censuses collect information on agricultural activities, such as size of holding, land tenure, land use, employment and production, and provide basic structural data and sampling frames for agricultural surveys. Censuses of agriculture normally involves collecting key structural data by complete enumeration of all agricultural holdings, in combination with more detailed structural data using sampling methods. It is recommended that agricultural censuses be conducted at least every 10 years.	1 Point. census done within last 10 years. 0.5 Points. census done within last 20 years. 0 Points. Otherwise
Business/establishment census	Dimension 4.1	Business/establishment censuses provide valuable information on all economic activities, number of employed and size of establishments in the economy. Business Register information is establishment-based and includes business location, organization type (e.g. subsidiary or parent), industry classification, and operating data (e.g., receipts and employment).	1 Point. census done within last 10 years. 0.5 Points. census done within last 20 years. 0 Points. Otherwise
Household Survey on income, etc	Dimension 4.1	These surveys collect data on household income (including income	1 Point. 3 or more surveys done within

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
		<p>in kind), consumption and expenditure. They typically include income, expenditure, and consumption surveys, household budget surveys, integrated surveys. It is recommended that surveys on income and expenditure be conducted at least every 3 to 5 years.</p>	<p>past 10 years. 0.6 Points. 2 surveys done within past 10 years. 0.3 Points. 1 survey done within past 10 years. 0 Points. None within past 10 years</p>
Agriculture survey	Dimension 4.1	<p>Agricultural surveys refer to surveys of agricultural holdings based on the sampling frames established by the agricultural census. These are surveys on agricultural land, production, crops and livestock, aquaculture, labor and cost, and time use. Some issues, such as gender and food security, are of interest to most agriculture surveys.</p>	<p>1 Point. 3 or more surveys done within past 10 years. 0.6 Points. 2 surveys done within past 10 years. 0.3 Points. 1 survey done within past 10 years. 0 Points. None within past 10 years</p>
Labor Force Survey	Dimension 4.1	<p>Labor force survey is a standard household-based survey of work-related statistics at the national and sub-national employment or unemployment levels, rates or trends. The surveys also provide the characteristics of the employed or unemployed, including labor force status by age or gender, breakdowns between employees and the self-employed, public versus private sector employment, multiple</p>	<p>1 Point. 3 or more surveys done within past 10 years. 0.6 Points. 2 surveys done within past 10 years. 0.3 Points. 1 survey done within past 10 years. 0 Points. None within past 10 years</p>

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
		job-holding, hiring, job creation, and duration of unemployment.	
Health/Demographic survey	Dimension 4.1	Health surveys collect information on various aspects of health of populations, such as health expenditure, access, utilization, and outcomes. They typically include Demographic and Health Surveys. It is recommended that health surveys be conducted at least every 3 to 5 years.	1 Point. 3 or more surveys done within past 10 years. 0.6 Points. 2 surveys done within past 10 years. 0.3 Points. 1 survey done within past 10 years. 0 Points. None within past 10 years
Business/establishment survey	Dimension 4.1	The business/establishment survey provides information on employment, hours, and earnings of employees from a sample of business establishments including private and public, entities that are classified based on an establishment's principal activity from the business or establishment census. Establishment surveys include surveys of businesses, farms, and institutions. They may ask for information about the establishment itself and/or employee characteristics and demographics.	1 Point. 3 or more surveys done within past 10 years. 0.6 Points. 2 surveys done within past 10 years. 0.3 Points. 1 survey done within past 10 years. 0 Points. None within past 10 years
Social Protection Admin (ASPIRE)	Dimension 4.2	Administrative data available on social protection programs from ASPIRE (World Bank) databases	Scoring is 1 if administrative data is available to produce

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
			beneficiary counts or expenditures for any social protection and labor program, 0 otherwise. In order to smooth out gaps in reporting, we take a moving 5 year average of the score.
Education (UNESCO)	Dimension 4.2	Administrative of nationally representative learning assessment	In order to score this indicator, we calculate the fraction of the indicators that were produced in a country in a year. In order to smooth out variation from year to year in reporting or conducting national assessments, we take a moving 5 year average.
CRVS (WDI)	Dimension 4.2	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) complete	Birth registrations 90% complete and death registration 75% complete according to UNSD.
Labor Admin (ILO)	Dimension 4.2	Administrative data available for labor statistics from ILO databases	To produce a score, we calculate the percentage of six admin

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
Geospatial data available at 1st Admin Level	Dimension 4.3	Indicator data availability at sub-national levels	<p>sources that are available for a country in a given year. In order to smooth out gaps in reporting, we take a moving 5 year average of the score.</p> <p>Our source for this indicator is Open Data Watch. Because ODIN did not release scores for 2019, the 2018 value of the ODW score was used as the value for 2019. Indicator is whether data available at first administrative data level. Scores range from 0-100. For more details, consult the ODIN technical documentation.</p>
NSO Website	Dimension 4.4	New indicator based on references to private/citizen generated data in metadata relating to content on NSO website	
Legislation Indicator based on PARIS21 indicators on SDG 17.18.2	Dimension 5.1	Based on PARIS21 indicators on SDG 17.18.2 (national statistical legislation compliance with UN	Scores is 1 if the country has a national statistical legislation

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
		<p>Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics), existence of National Statistical Council, national statistical strategy generation, national statistical plan. Also include some other legislative aspects that foster good use of statistics eg freedom of information, privacy/transparency, good governance (eg free and fair elections).</p>	<p>compliant with United Nations Fundamental Principles of Statistics. Scores of 0 or scores with missing values are treated the same (both given a score of zero).</p>
System of national accounts in use	Dimension 5.2	<p>The national accounts data are compiled using the concepts, definitions, framework, and methodology of the System of National Account 2008 (SNA2008) or European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010). The manual has evolved to meet the changing economic structure, to follow systematic accounting and ensure international compatibility.</p>	<p>Scoring: 1 point for using SNA2008 or ESA 2010, 0.5 points for using SNA 1993 or ESA 1995. 0 points otherwise</p>
National Accounts base year	Dimension 5.2	<p>National accounts base year is the year used as the base period for constant price calculations in the country's national accounts. It is recommended that the base year of constant price estimates be changed periodically to reflect changes in economic structure and relative prices.</p>	<p>1 point for chained price, 0.5 for reference period within past 10 years. 0 points otherwise.</p>

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
Classification of national industry	Dimension 5.2	The industrial production data are compiled using the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Rev.4 and Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE) Rev.2. ISIC Rev.4 is a standard classification of economic activities arranged so that entities can be classified per the activity they carry out using criteria such as input, output and use of the products produced, more emphasis has been given to the character of the production process in defining and delineating ISIC classes for international comparability. The manual and classification have changed to cover the complete scope of industrial production, employment, and GDP and other statistical areas.	1 Point. Latest version is adopted (ISIC Rev 4, NACE Rev 2 or a compatible classification). 0.5 Points. Previous version is used (ISIC Rev 3, NACE Rev 1 or a compatible classification). 0 Points. Otherwise
CPI base year	Dimension 5.2	Consumer Price Index serves as indicators of inflation and reflects changes in the cost of acquiring a fixed basket of goods and services by the average consumer. Weights are usually derived from consumer expenditure surveys and the CPI base year refers to the year the weights	1 Point. Annual chain linking. 0.5 Points. Base year in last 10 years. 0 points. Otherwise

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
Classification of household consumption	Dimension 5.2	<p>were derived. It is recommended that the base year be changed periodically to reflect changes in expenditure structure.</p> <p>Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) is used in household budget surveys, consumer price indices and international comparisons of gross domestic product (GDP) and its component expenditures. Although COICOP is not strictly linked to any particular model of consumer behavior, the classification is designed to broadly reflect differences in income elasticities. It is an integral part of the SNA1993 and more detailed subdivision of the classes provide comparability between countries and between statistics in these different areas.</p>	<p>1 Point. Follow Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP). 0 Points. Otherwise</p>
Classification of status of employment	Dimension 5.2	<p>Classification of status of employment refers to employment data that are compiled using the current international standard International Classification of Status in Employment (ISCE-93). It classifies jobs with respect to the type of explicit or implicit contract of employment between the job holder</p>	<p>1 Point. Follow International Labour Organization, International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93) or 2012 North American Industry Classification</p>

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
		and the economic unit in which he or she is employed. Therefore, it aims to provide the basis for production of internationally comparable statistics on the employment relationship, including the distinction between salaried employment and self-employment.	System (NAICS). 0 Points Otherwise.
Central government accounting status	Dimension 5.2	Government finance accounting status refers to the accounting basis for reporting central government financial data. For many countries' government finance data, have been consolidated into one set of accounts capturing all the central government's fiscal activities and following noncash recording basis. Budgetary central government accounts do not necessarily include all central government units, the picture they provide of central government activities is usually incomplete.	1 Point. Consolidated central government accounting follows noncash recording basis. 0.5 Points. Consolidated central government accounting follows cash recording basis. 0 Points. Otherwise
Compilation of government finance statistics	Dimension 5.2	Compilation of government finance statistics refers to the Government Finance Statistics Manual (GFSM) in use for compiling the data. It provides guidelines on the institutional structure of governments and the presentation of fiscal data in a format similar to	1 Point. Follow the latest Government Finance Statistical Manual (2014)/ ESA2010. 0.5 Points. Previous version is used (GFSM 2001).

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
		business accounting with a balance sheet and income statement plus guidelines on the treatment of exchange rate and other valuation adjustments. The latest manual GFSM2014 is harmonized with the SNA2008.	0 Points. Otherwise
Compilation of monetary and financial statistics	Dimension 5.2	Compilation of monetary and financial statistics refers to the Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual (MFSM) in use. It covers concepts, definitions, classifications of financial instruments and sectors, and accounting rules, and provides a comprehensive analytic framework for monetary and financial planning and policy determination. The Monetary and Finance Statistics: Compilation Guide (2008) provides detailed guidelines for the compilation of monetary and financial statistics in addition to MFSM.	1 Point. Follow the latest Monetary and Finance Statistics Manual (2000) or Monetary and Finance Statistics: Compilation Guide (2008/2016). 0 Points. Otherwise
Business process	Dimension 5.2	The Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) aims to describe statistics production in a general and process-oriented way. It is used both within and between statistical offices as a common basis for work with statistics production in different ways, such as quality, efficiency,	1 Point. GSBPM is in use. 0 Points. Otherwise

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
		standardization, and process-orientation. It is used for all types of surveys, and "business" is not related to "business statistics" but refers to the statistical office, simply expressed.	
PARIS21 indicator on data literacy	Dimension 5.3	PARIS21 indicators such as statistical society presence and data literacy. PARIS21 may also have material on Internal skills capacity and numbers of statistically qualified people in the country.	The source is Paris 21. Score ranges from 0 to 100. Following the PARIS21 scoring, the score is the weighted sum of each of the four components' scores, whose relative weight is reported in brackets: i) Basic Consideration (25%); ii) Diagnosis and quantification (24%); iii) Statistical Analysis (22%); iv) Disaggregation (29%).
Partnerships	Dimension 5.4	New indicator based on textual analysis of NSS reports/websites for references to partner organisations.	
Finance Indicator based on PARIS21 indicators on SDG 17.18.3 & SDG 17.19.1	Dimension 5.5	Indicator based on PARIS21 SDG indicators (SDG 17.18.3 (national statistical plan that is fully funded and under	Scores is 1 if the country has a national statistical plan that is fully

Indicator Name	Dimension	Brief Description	Scoring
		implementation) and SDG 17.19.1 (value of resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity)). Could also incorporate indicator of NSO budget as a percentage of GDP.	funded and under implementation. Scores of 0 or scores with missing values are treated the same (both given a score of zero).

Source: World Bank. Statistical Performance Indicators.

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