



PRESS RELEASE

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Namibia falls 9 places in WEF competitiveness rankings

The World Economic Forum's *Global Competitiveness Report 2011-2012* is now available at

<http://www.weforum.org/issues/global-competitiveness>

The report comes out amid multiple challenges to the global economy and a continuing shift in the balance of economic activity away from advanced economies and toward emerging markets. Policymakers are struggling to find ways to manage the present economic challenges while preparing their economies to perform well in an increasingly complex global landscape and the report offers a unique tool in addressing some key issues. This year's report findings show that Switzerland tops the overall rankings. Singapore overtakes Sweden for second position. Northern and Western European countries dominate the top 10 with Sweden (3rd), Finland (4th), Germany (6th), the Netherlands (7th), Denmark (8th) and the United Kingdom (10th). Japan remains the second-ranked Asian economy at 9th place, despite falling three places since last year.

Within the Eurozone, Germany maintains the lead, although it goes down one position to sixth place, while the Netherlands (7th) improves by one position in the rankings, France drops three places to 18th, and Greece continues its downward trend to 90th. Competitiveness-enhancing reforms will play a key role in revitalizing growth in the region and tackling its key challenges, fiscal consolidation and persistent unemployment. The results show that while competitiveness in advanced economies has stagnated over the past seven years, in many emerging markets it has improved, placing their growth on a more stable footing and mirroring the shift in economic activity from advanced to emerging economies.

The People's Republic of China (26th) continues to lead the way among large developing economies, improving by one more place and solidifying its position among the top 30. Among the four other BRICS economies, South Africa (50th) and Brazil (53rd) move upwards while India (56th) and Russia (66th) experience small declines. Several Asian economies perform strongly, with Japan (9th) and Hong Kong SAR (11th) also in the top 20.

In sub-Saharan Africa, South Africa (50th) and Mauritius (54th) feature in the top half of the rankings, followed by second-tier best regional performers Rwanda (70th), Botswana (80th) and Namibia (83rd). For further details on the global rankings see the main report.



Namibia's performance

Namibia is ranked at 83 out of 142 countries in the Global Competitiveness Index 2011–2012 down from 74th in the 2010-11 rankings.

To quote from the *Global Competitiveness Report 2011-2012's* opening chapter:

“Namibia falls nine places this year to 83rd place, with a particular weakening of the macroeconomic environment since last year, caused in large part by a significant government budget deficit in 2010. The country continues to benefit from a solid institutional environment (43rd), with well-protected property rights, an independent judiciary, and strong public trust of politicians. The country's transport infrastructure is also good by regional standards (40th) and its labour market (57th) functions fairly well. Financial markets are well developed by international standards (36th) along with a solid confidence in financial institutions. With regard to weaknesses, as in much of the region, Namibia's health and education indicators are worrisome.

The country is ranked a low 116th on the health sub-pillar, with high infant mortality and low life expectancy— the result, in large part, of the high rates of communicable diseases. On the educational side, enrollment rates remain low and the quality of the educational system remains poor, ranked 127th. In addition, Namibia could do more to harness new technologies to improve its productivity levels; it currently shows low penetration rates of new technologies such as mobile phones and the Internet.”

According to the survey element of the report's findings, the most problematic factors for doing business in Namibia are:

Inadequately educated workforce (16.9% of respondents)
Poor work ethic in national labour force (11.9%)
Inefficient government bureaucracy (11.4%)
Corruption (11.2%)

For more on Namibia's performance please check page 270 of the main report available as a download at

<http://www.weforum.org/issues/global-competitiveness>

The Institute for Public Policy Research is the partner institute for the World Economic Forum in Namibia.

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