



Fiscal Policy and Politics

Linking Economic and Political Data

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Political Data

Is there a relationship among different data related to Fiscal Policy?

By comparing a group of countries, can we detect relationships between the results of Fiscal Policy and HDI, Gini, Tax burden, Democracy, Pisa, Life-satisfaction, Debt, Health, Unemployment and Suicide ?

- Norway, Denmark, Sweden, France, Germany and the UK

Human Development Index

Country	World Rank	Change	Score
Norway	2	-1	0.966
Denmark	5	+1	0.952
Sweden	5	0	0.952
Germany	7	-3	0.950
USA	20	-5	0.927
France	28	-3	0.910

Gini score (intranational inequality)

Country	Year	Change	Score
Norway	2019	Improving	27.7
Denmark	2021	Worsening	28.3
Sweden	2021	Worsening	29.8
Germany	2020	Worsening	32,4
USA	2022	Worsening	41.3
France	2021	Worsening	31.5

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI?locations=us>

Tax Burden (Tax as % of GDP) including social security

Country	Year	Change	Score
Norway	2017		38.8
Denmark	2017		45.7
Sweden	2017		44.4
Germany	2017		37.6
USA	2017		26.8
France	2017		46.1

Democracy Index

Country		Change 2006/2024	Score
Norway		+0.26	9.81
Denmark		-0.24	9.28
Sweden		-0.49	9.39
Germany		-0.09	8.73
USA		-0.37	7.85
France		-0.08	7.99

<https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/democracy-index-eiu?tab=table>

PISA (education level) 2022

Country		Change	Score
Norway			1,423
Denmark			1,472
Sweden			1,463
Germany			1,447
USA			1,468
France			1,435

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/pisa-scores-by-country>

Life Satisfaction

Country		Rank / 41	Score
Norway		9	7.3
Denmark		3	7.5
Sweden		7	7.3
Germany		8	7.3
USA		14	7.0
France		20	6.7

<https://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/topics/life-satisfaction/>

Debt as % to GDP

Country	2025		Score
Norway			44.3
Denmark			29.3
Sweden			31.5
Germany			62.9
USA			122
France			111

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/debt-to-gdp-ratio-by-country>

Hospital beds / 1,000

Country	2025	Change	Score
Norway		Worsening	3.4
Denmark		Stable	2.5
Sweden		Worsening	2.0
Germany		Worsening	7.8
USA		Worsening	2.7
France		Worsening	6.0

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.MED.BEDS.ZS>

Unemployment

Country		Change	Score
Norway			4.2
Denmark			7.0
Sweden			8.5
Germany			3.4
USA			4.2
France			7.8

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1115276/unemployment-in-europe-by-country/>

Suicide rate / 100K

Country		Score 2000	Score 2019
Norway		13	9.9
Denmark		12.5	7.6
Sweden		12.5	12.2
Germany		11.2	8.3
USA		10	14.5
France		15.8	9.7

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_suicide_rate

Data and comparison

The tables provide basic data and don't go into detail. For example, in Germany the unemployment rate is low because of draconian rules regulating unemployment (see '[The German Miracle?](#)'). Hospital beds available may be related to improved medical care or to under-investment.

What I find disheartening is the overall downward trend in some data such as HDI, Gini and Democracy.

Clearer comparisons require deeper research into causes, and separating data into gender, age-group, historical direction and specific events such as COVID.