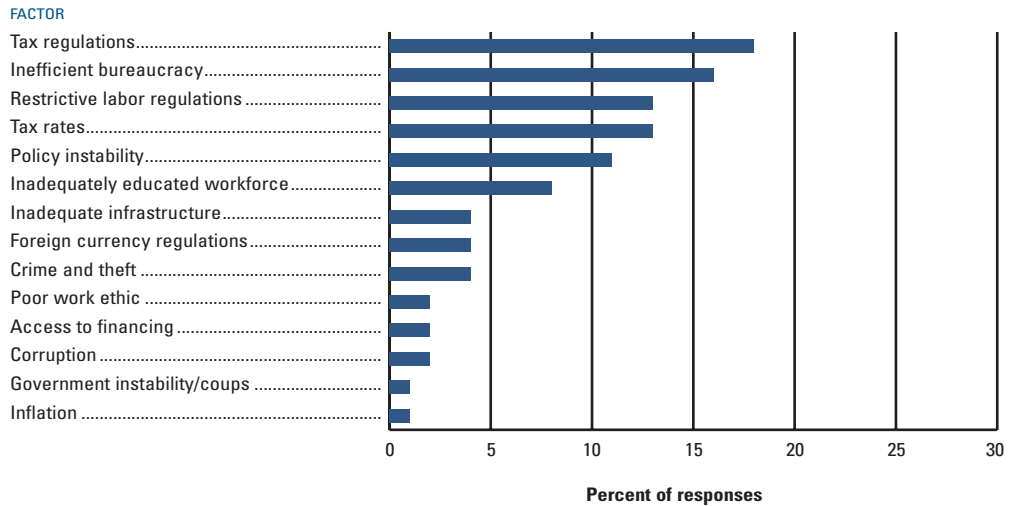


# United States

## Competitiveness Rankings

|   |           |   |          |
|---|-----------|---|----------|
| <b>Growth Competitiveness Index Rank</b>          | <b>2</b>  | <b>Business Competitiveness Index Rank</b>                          | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Macroeconomic Environment Index Rank</b> ..... | <b>14</b> | <b>Sophistication of Company Operations and Strategy Rank</b> ..... | <b>2</b> |
| Macroeconomic Stability Subindex Rank .....       | 52        | <b>Quality of the National Business Environment Rank</b> .....      | <b>2</b> |
| Government Waste Subindex Rank .....              | 16        |   |          |
| Country Credit Rating Rank .....                  | 3         |   |          |
| <b>Public Institutions Index Rank</b> .....       | <b>17</b> |   |          |
| Contracts and Law Subindex Rank .....             | 17        |   |          |
| Corruption Subindex Rank .....                    | 24        |   |          |
| <b>Technology Index Rank</b> .....                | <b>1</b>  |   |          |
| Innovation Subindex Rank .....                    | 1         |   |          |
| ICT Subindex Rank .....                           | 5         |   |          |

## The Most Problematic Factors for Doing Business



Note: From a list of 14 factors, respondents were asked to select the five most problematic for doing business in their country and to rank them between 1 (most problematic) and 5. The bars in the figure show the responses weighted according to their rankings.

Source: World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey (2003)

# National competitiveness balance sheet

| NOTABLE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES                           |  | NOTABLE COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGES                        |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Growth Competitiveness Index                             | Rank/102   | Growth Competitiveness Index                             | Rank/102   |
| <b>Macroeconomic Environment</b>                         |  | <b>Macroeconomic Environment</b>                         |  |
| 2.17   | Country credit rating, 2003 .....3                             | 2.19   | National savings rate, 2002 .....93                            |
| <b>Public Institutions</b>                               |  | 2.21   | Real exchange rate, 2002 .....82                               |
| 6.03   | Property rights.....9  | 2.01   | Recession expectations .....54                                 |
| <b>Technology</b>  |  | 2.18   | Government surplus/deficit, 2002.....50                        |
| 3.06   | Company spending on research and development .....1            | 2.09   | Access to credit .....38                                       |
| 3.17   | Utility patents, 2002 .....1                                   | 2.03   | Extent of distortive government subsidies .....33              |
| 3.21   | Internet hosts, 2002.....1                                     | 2.20   | Inflation, 2002 .....18  |
| 3.23   | Personal computers, 2002 .....1                                | 2.22   | Interest rate spread, 2002.....16                              |
| 3.01   | Technological sophistication.....2                             | 7.08   | Diversion of public funds .....16                              |
| 3.08   | University/industry research collaboration .....2              | 7.10   | Public trust of politicians .....15                            |
| 3.13   | Quality of competition in the ISP sector .....2                | <b>Public Institutions</b>                               |  |
| 3.18   | Tertiary enrollment .....4                                     | 6.17   | Organized crime .....29  |
| 3.16   | Laws relating to ICT .....5                                    | 7.02   | Irregular payments in public utilities .....27                 |
| 3.20   | Internet users, 2002.....5                                     | 7.01   | Irregular payments in exports and imports .....21              |
| 3.02   | Firm-level technology absorption .....6                        | 7.03   | Irregular payments in tax collection .....21                   |
| 3.22   | Telephone lines, 2002 .....6                                   | <b>Technology</b>  |  |
| 3.12   | Internet access in schools .....10                             | 3.19   | Cellular telephones, 2002.....34                               |
| <b>Business Competitiveness Index</b>                    |  | 6.08   | Favoritism in decisions of government officials.....19         |
| <b>Sophistication of Company Operations and Strategy</b> |  | 3.15   | Government success in ICT promotion .....18                    |
| 3.06   | Company spending on research and development .....1            | 3.14   | Government prioritization of ICT .....15                       |
| 10.14  | Extent of incentive compensation .....1                        | 6.01   | Judicial independence.....13                                   |
| 10.07  | Extent of marketing.....1                                      | <b>Business Competitiveness Index</b>                    |  |
| <b>Quality of the National Business Environment</b>      |  | <b>Sophistication of Company Operations and Strategy</b> |  |
| 9.10   | Local availability of specialized research and training .....1 | 10.10  | Extent of regional sales.....16                                |
| 3.05   | Quality of scientific research institutions .....1             | <b>Quality of the National Business Environment</b>      |  |
| 3.17   | Utility patents, 2002 .....1                                   | 4.03   | Quality of math and science education.....38                   |
| <b>Other Indicators</b>                                  |  | 3.19   | Cellular telephones, 2002.....32                               |
| 10.23  | Company promotion of volunteerism .....1                       | 2.14   | Hidden trade barriers.....31                                   |
| 10.22  | Charitable causes involvement .....1                           | <b>Other Indicators</b>                                  |  |
| 10.21  | Pay and productivity .....1                                    | 2.02   | Business costs of terrorism .....93                            |
| 4.09   | Brain drain .....1   | 7.12   | Policy consequences of legal political donations .....85       |
| 10.19  | Flexibility of wage determination .....3                       | 4.07   | Business impact of HIV/AIDS .....70                            |
| 8.03   | Extent of market dominance.....4                               | 11.07  | Compliance with international agreements .....60               |
| 8.10   | Regional disparities in quality of business environment...4    | 4.10   | Maternity leave legislation .....52                            |
| 10.18  | Hiring and firing practices .....4                             | 8.09   | Wage equality of women in the workplace .....51                |
| 2.10   | Government intervention in corporate investment .....5         | 6.11   | Efficiency of the tax system .....45                           |
| 10.25  | Availability of company financial information .....7           | 4.06   | Business impact of tuberculosis .....40                        |
| 11.13  | Prevalence of environmental management systems.....7           | 4.04   | Disparity in healthcare quality .....40                        |
| 6.05   | Freedom of the press .....7                                    | 4.08   | Impact of HIV/AIDS on FDI .....35                              |
| 6.10   | Effectiveness of law-making bodies .....8                      | 4.05   | Business impact of malaria .....33                             |
| 2.04   | Extent of distortive government intervention .....8            | 6.16   | Government effectiveness in reducing income inequality .....32 |
| 4.11   | Maternity laws' impact on hiring women .....9                  | 11.08  | Clarity and stability of regulations .....31                   |
|  |  | 11.12  | Political context of environmental gains .....31               |
|  |  | 6.15   | Government effectiveness in reducing poverty.....29            |

Note: The Business Competitiveness Index applies different criteria for selecting a country's competitive advantages and disadvantages. Please refer to the section "How Country Profiles Work" for further details.