



## Developed countries are more vulnerable to cybercrime

### NordVPN's Cyber Risk Index suggests that cybercrime increases with wages and time spent online

**May 27, 2020.** Residents of developed countries are more likely to become victims of cybercrime, according to the new [Cyber Risk Index](#) by NordVPN. The defining qualities of developed countries — high-income economy, advanced technological infrastructure, urbanization, and digitalization — are the same factors that increase the prevalence of cybercrime.

NordVPN's Cyber Risk Index covers 50 countries comprising 70% of the world population.

#### Countries with the highest cyber risk

No	Country	CRI
1	Iceland	● 0.839
2	Sweden	● 0.809
3	United Arab Emirates	● 0.774
4	Norway	● 0.729
5	United States	● 0.713
6	Singapore	● 0.670
7	Ireland	● 0.664
8	New Zealand	● 0.660
9	Denmark	● 0.657
10	United Kingdom	● 0.647

#### Countries with the lowest cyber risk

No	Country	CRI
41	Ukraine	● 0.361
42	Iran	● 0.349
43	Philippines	● 0.337
44	Thailand	● 0.334
45	China	● 0.326
46	South Africa	● 0.300
47	Indonesia	● 0.291
48	Iraq	● 0.290
49	Nigeria	● 0.239
50	India	● 0.186

#### The most dangerous place to be online

Northern Europe is the most dangerous region when it comes to cyber risk, while North America is a close second. In both regions, more than 9 out of 10 people use the internet, 8 out of 10 shop online, and 7 out of 10 use Facebook. This leads to increased exposure to cyber threats.

“Cybercriminals don’t look for victims, they look for opportunities — much like pickpockets in crowded places,” says Daniel Markuson, a digital privacy expert at [NordVPN](#). “Spend enough time in a packed bus, and a pickpocket will ‘accidentally’ bump into you. Same story online. Your cyber risk increases with every extra hour online.”



The average monthly wages in Northern Europe and North America are among the highest in the world. “As your income increases, it’s only natural to enjoy the comfort of online shopping and other paid services. But that makes you a much more enticing target for cybercriminals.”

### India is the safest. Or is it?

In India, only a third of the population use the internet, and less than a quarter have smartphones. A tiny share of all Indians use Instagram (5.8%), watch video on demand (7.1%), or play online games (6.6%). The monthly wage in India is 13 times lower than the average of the 50 countries analyzed. That makes India the safest country covered by NordVPN’s Cyber Risk Index. But there are some important caveats.

“Cyber Risk Index reflects the big picture, the country-wide statistics,” says Daniel Markuson, [NordVPN](#)’s digital privacy expert. “Indians who do use the internet, spend a lot of time online — more than an hour longer than the average. They probably live in cities and get higher wages. That puts them at a much higher cyber risk than the average Indian.”

In countries with huge income inequality, low levels of urbanization, or low internet penetration, a small segment of the population may face a much larger cyber risk than the general population.

### The method behind the Cyber Risk Index

NordVPN created the Index in partnership with Statista, the world’s leading business data provider. The Index was created in three stages. First, Statista collected socio-economic, digital, cyber, and crime data from 50 selected countries. Second, NordVPN analyzed the data’s positive and negative impact on cyber risk and calculated the correlation between the first three data sets (socio-economic, digital, cyber) and the fourth (crime).

Finally, NordVPN trimmed the data down to the 14 most significant factors, used them to create the Index, and ranked the 50 countries according to the cyber risk they’re facing.

No	Factor
1	Urban population
2	Monthly average wage
3	Tourism
4	Internet penetration

No	Factor
8	Online games penetration
9	VoD penetration
10	Public Wi-Fi availability
11	Facebook penetration



5	Smartphone penetration
6	Time spent on the internet
7	E-commerce penetration

1	Instagram penetration
2	
1	Crime Index
3	
1	Global Cybersecurity Index
4	

## **ABOUT NORDVPN**

NordVPN is the world's most advanced VPN service provider, used by over 12 million internet users worldwide. NordVPN provides double VPN encryption, malware blocking, and Onion Over VPN. The product is very user-friendly, offers one of the best prices on the market, has over 5,000 servers in 60 countries worldwide, and is P2P friendly. One of the key features of NordVPN is the zero-log policy. For more information: [nordvpn.com](https://nordvpn.com).