

Most Statistically Interesting Country Survey

Purpose

The purpose of the survey is to judge which country of the world is the most statistically interesting. There is good reason to think that a country identified thus is likely to be an interesting country in its own right and therefore worthy of further study and perhaps visitations.

The following system has been devised as a fair and reasonable way in which to identify such a country.

Metrics

The survey will make use of applied metrics in order to identify statistical interest ratings.

A metric is a unit of measurement for a country. Some common metrics might be:

- Population of the country
- Area/size of the country
- Total public spending

Metrics may also be relative to the country's size or population or derived in some other way. Some common derived metrics may be:

- Persons per square km
- Public spending per person
- Physicians per person
- Arable land as a proportion of total land mass
- Coastline as a proportion of total land mass
- Relative wealth distribution

Scoring

24 metrics will be chosen at random from a list of all interesting published metrics.

2 metrics will be selected and "scored" in each calendar month of 2019.

Each country will be given points for each metric depending on how interesting it's value is for that metric. The section below describes how these points are assigned.

The country with the highest number of total points for the 24 metrics will be considered the most statistically interesting country.

In the event of a tie, where the top scoring countries share the same points score at the end of the survey:

- The country with the highest number of non joint first places, whether lowest or highest, will be declared the winner.
- In the event that the number of clear first places is also identical, all tied countries will be declared joint winners of being most interesting.

For example, the total metrics points system for 3 example countries might result in:

Month	Metric	Hobnobland	Garibaldistan	Shortbread
January	Population	20 points	0 points	0 points
January	Area/size	3 points	5 points	0 points
February	Arable land	20 points	5 points	2 points
February	Literacy rate	5 points	0 points	20 points
March	..and so on..
..
December	Public spending	0 points	5 points	2 points
Total		48 points	15 points	24 points

In this example, Hobnobland would be declared the most statistically exciting country of the 3 shown here.

Metrics point system

Points will be assigned to each country that appears as one of the highest or lowest countries when the list of countries is sorted by the chosen metric. The following points will be assigned depending upon the country's position within the list of all countries:

- **1st highest or lowest – 20 points**
- **2nd highest or lowest – 15 points**
- **3rd – 12 points**
- **4th – 9 points**
- **5th – 7 points**
- **6th – 5 points**
- **7th - 4 points**
- **8th – 3 points**
- **9th – 2 points**
- **10th – 1 point**

For example, the following points might be assigned for the “population” metric.

Highest populated countries				Least populated countries			
	Country	Population	Points		Country	Population	Points
1 st	Hobnobland	100000	20	190 th	Angelland	1400	0
2 nd	Bourbon Republic	90000	15	191 st	Bara Birthstan	1300	1
3 rd	Kingdom of Nice	80000	12	192 nd	Battenburg	1200	2
4 th	Arrowroot	70000	9	193 rd	Carrotland	1100	3
5 th	Rich Tea Republic	60000	7	194 th	Dundeeland	1000	4
6 th	Garibaldistan	50000	5	195 th	Eccle Kingdom	900	5
7 th	Shortbread	40000	4	196 th	Plumstan	800	7
8 th	Jammieland	30000	3	197 th	Butterland	700	9
9 th	Dodger Union	20000	2	198 th	Fancy Rep	600	12
10	North Oreo	10000	1	199 th	Jaffamark	500	15
11	South Oreo	9900	0	200 th	Muffinada	400	20

In the event of a tie, where more than one country shares the same value for the chosen metric, all countries that are tied will be given the points of the *lowest* scoring country in that range. So, for example:

- If 3 countries are tied in 2nd place, all 3 countries will be given the points for a 4th place country (ie, 9 points).
- If 4 countries are tied in 8th place, all 4 countries will be given the points for an 11th place country (ie, 0 points).

Highest populated countries				Least populated countries			
	Country	Population	Points		Country	Population	Points
1 st	Hobnobland	100000	20	190 th	Angelland	1100	0
2 nd	Bourbon Republic	90000	9		Bara Birthstan	1100	0
	Kingdom of Nice	90000	9		Battenburg	1100	0
	Arrowroot	90000	9		Carrotland	1100	0
5 th	Rich Tea Republic	60000	7	194 th	Dundeeland	1000	4
6 th	Garibaldistan	50000	5	195 th	Eccle Kingdom	900	5
7 th	Shortbread	40000	4	196 th	Plumstan	800	7
8 th	Jammieland	30000	3	197 th	Butterland	700	9
9 th	Dodger Union	20000	2	198 th	Fancy Rep	600	12
10	North Oreo	10000	1	199 th	Jaffamark	500	15
11	South Oreo	9900	0	200 th	Muffinada	400	20

In very unusual circumstances, the author may declare the highest or lowest metric values non-scoring where it is considered random, irrelevant or meaningless.

Uncertain metric values

If the value of a metric is unknown for a country, that country will not take part in the survey for that particular metric and will, by definition, be given 0 points for that metric.

If a value of a metric is given as a range of two values, the average of the two values will count towards the survey. For example:

- *Population is between 90,000 and 100,000*: The country will be given the metric value of 95,000.

If only a minimum value is known for that metric, that minimum value will count towards the survey since there is no more definite value to base the metric on. For example:

- *Population is at least 90,000*: Metric value is 90000.
- *Minimum population is 80,000*: Metric value is 80000.

If only a maximum value is known for that metric, that maximum value will count towards the survey since there is no more definite value to base the metric on. For example:

- *Population is up to 90,000 people*: Metric value is 90000.
- *Maximum population is 80,000*: Metric value is 80000.

The author may, at their discretion, calculate the metric value based upon a sensible combination of values or other factors, where the actual value may be deemed as more complex, or completely eliminate the country from the scoring for that metric where there is sufficient uncertainty as to the state of the real value. For example:

- *Population of Hobnobland is Oat district: 10,000, Sugarland: 20,000, Flour area: 50,000*: Author may sum up the total population from the population of its constituent areas to 80,000.

- *Population of Hobnobland is between 1 person and 50 billion people*: Author may eliminate the country from the scoring for this metric since the range of values provides too much uncertainty.
- *Population of Hobnobland was 20,000 in the last census in 1762*: Author may eliminate the country from the scoring if the values are too far out of date.

Invalid metrics

The metric in its entirety will be considered null and void, and will not contribute to the total points of the survey, under *any* of the following circumstances:

- The value of the metric is known for only 30 countries or less.
- The value of the metric for the 10th highest and 10th lowest country is the same.

Sources of information

The values of each metric will be selected from one of the following extensive sources of information:

Source	Homepage
The World Bank	http://www.worldbank.org/
NationMaster	https://www.nationmaster.com/
United Nations Data	http://data.un.org/
CIA World Factbook	https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/

In the event that the same metric is chosen from more than one source, the second metric will be reselected. For example:

- If the “Population” metric is selected from “The World Bank” in January and the “Population” metric is chosen from “NationMaster” in February, the selected metric will not be scored for February. Instead a different metric will be chosen for February.

Qualifying countries

Countries will qualify for inclusion in the survey if they:

- Are a sovereign state recognised by at least 80 states worldwide and;
- Are represented within at least 2 of the sources of information.

External territories, dependencies and autonomous regions within sovereign states will not qualify for inclusion in the survey.