Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I access the Index?

A: Go to http://rcii.gsu.edu/ and click on Subscription and Contact Info at the top of the page. Follow the instructions for both establishing an account in the RCII system AND subscribing. **You must use the same email for both steps.** Once you have subscribed you can access the RCII by signing in on the Subscriber Access page using your email and the password you created in the RCII system. If you are accessing the RCII through a Realizeit subscription, access the tool through your college’s online learning management system.

Q: How much is a subscription to the RCII? How long are the account subscriptions valid?

A: Students and faculty have two subscription options: a full year at $50.00 or a semester (5-month) at $25.00. A standard non-academic one-year subscription is $100.00. If you have other questions concerning subscriptions, please contact us at rcii@gsu.edu.

Q: How many variables are in the RCII?

A: The 2022 RCII consists of 513 variables (including 382 raw data variables), 126 sub-dimensions, and four macro-dimensions, for a total of 1,735,479 data points. The number of raw data variables and sub-dimensions fluctuates from one year to the next depending on data availability, but any structural changes to the RCII are always harmonized across all years of the RCII with each new release.

Q: What can I do with the RCII? How can I customize the RCII? What do each of the tabs on the RCII do? How do I access data on all 199 countries in the RCII?

A: For information on the functionality of the RCII, including how to visualize data, see the tutorials on the RCII web page.

Q: How can I access RCII at my school/work?

A: The RCII is available at http://rcii.gsu.edu, or through your college’s online learning management system if you have a Realizeit subscription. It is recommended that users access the RCII through an up-to-date browser. It is not recommended that users access the RCII through smartphones at this time.
Q: How can I report data issues, bugs, or other concerns with the RCII?

A: Email us at rcii@gsu.edu. Please include a detailed description. If possible, please also provide screen captures to help document the issue.

Q: How often does the RCII update its data? Where does the data in the RCII come from?

A: Data for the RCII is collected each year. Many of our sources release their information in the late fall, which means that the RCII releases an updated version the following spring. A list of sources used in the RCII, as well as links to their websites, can be found on the RCII homepage.

Q: What’s changed since last year’s RCII?

A: The 2022 RCII has the following changes from last year’s version:

• The RCII added a new year’s worth of data for 2021.
• At 85% data availability for the most recent year, the RCII ranks and scores 125 countries.
• Largely because of difficulties in gathering data caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, a few of our sources did not publish as regularly scheduled. These include the World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Report, the World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index, and the OECD’s Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) report. At this point, we expect each of these sources will resume their normal publication schedule going forward. As such, the data normally gathered from these sources has been carried forward for the data-year 2021 (we call this the “Silver Rule”).
• The World Bank has announced that they will discontinue their Doing Business Report, with the last report having published in 2020 for the data year 2019. According to the World Bank, they will be replacing this report with a new structure in late 2023. This year’s RCII has Silver Ruled last years Doing Business data, as there is currently no workable alternative available.
• This year’s RCII has introduced new functionality, which includes the ability to visualize data by country groupings (formerly Regions and Clusters in previous years’ indices), the ability to search for news and reporting from selected sources based on the user’s choice of country and variable, the ability to visualize microstates on the map function, and the ability to create scatter plots visualizing potential relationships between variables in the charting function. These new features will be explained in more detail in our tutorials, which are accessible on the main website.
Q: What does the RCII score/rank mean? How are they calculated?

A: Think baseball! You want to be ranked #1 in the league and batting 1000. For more detailed information on the mathematical calculations behind the RCII, please see the academic paper, which is archived on our website here.

Q: Can I use the RCII for academic research? Can I publish my research using the RCII?

A: We welcome and encourage you to use the RCII for your research. Data and/or visualizations from the RCII may be used for academic purposes, including publication of any academic research. Data and/or visualizations from the RCII must be cited as follows: Robinson Country Intelligence Index, Georgia State University. Data and/or visualizations from the RCII must accurately represent the information contained in the RCII.