

Which economy did best in 2024?

We rank countries on five measures

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Yet, as ever, the rosy global picture conceals wide variation between countries. To assess these differences, we have compiled data on five economic and financial indicators—GDP, stockmarket performance, core inflation, unemployment and government deficits—for 37 mostly rich countries. We then ranked each economy based on its performance to create a combined score. The table shows these rankings. Who are the winners?

Country	GDP Q4 2023-Q3 2024†, % change	Share prices % change on a year earlier†	Core consumer prices % increase on a year earlier‡
1 Spain	3.5	17.1	2.4
2 Ireland	2.0	17.6	2.3
3= Denmark	2.5	7.8	1.1
3= Greece	3.7	10.6	3.5
5 Italy	0.6	12.4	1.8
20 United States	2.5	23.6	3.5

Sangria time

OECD countries*, 2024

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Country	Core consumer prices % increase on a year earlier‡	Unemployment Q4 2023-Q3 2024, %- point change**	Primary balance % of GDP††
1 Spain	2.4	-0.7	-0.6
2 Ireland	2.3	-0.3	4.2
3= Denmark	1.1	-0.1	1.1
3= Greece	3.5	-0.6	2.1
5 Italy	1.8	-1.4	-0.1
20 United States	3.5	0.4	-3.7

*Excluding Costa Rica

†Or to latest quarter annualised

#National stockmarket indices, adjusted for inflation, November 2024

\$Nov 2024 or latest

**Dec 2023 to Oct 2024 (or latest available)

††Estimate

Sources: IMF; OECD; *The Economist*