



Singapore

Progress Map Singapore

While floods or landslides are not uncommon in tropical Singapore, and technically earthquakes can also occur, the country is naturally protected from tsunamis by its surrounding islands. Nonetheless, Singaporeans clearly desire more progress when it comes to implementing projects to reduce the effects of natural catastrophes. One aspect of nature that is currently the subject of heated discussion in Singapore is the rising of sea levels. Only recently, the Singaporean government declared its intention to look into solutions dealing with the issue, thus complying with its citizens wish to see faster progress on this issue.¹

Another aspect that touches on the issue of climate change is the increase in availability of e-mobility. As in most other countries surveyed, this is an area where there is a marked and widespread desire for progress.

Singapore is already considered to be very attractive for business. But its citizens are still interested in seeing further progress in this regard: on free trade and low corporate taxes, for example; on the issue of regulations, however, they would like to see the dial turned back. The influx of foreign experts – a logical consequence of being a global hub – is viewed positively, but with slightly less desire for progress. While Singapore has developed spectacularly over the last decades, the comfort gained comes at a higher cost for living. This is something where the country would rather turn the dial back slightly.

The transition from an economy strongly focused on manufacturing to a modern, knowledge-based economy is an issue on which Singaporeans would rather maintain the status quo.

Learning itself has a high value, however: lifelong learning is an area where there is a desire to see faster progress. On the other hand, the issue of parentocracy – where a child's education must conform to the wealth and wishes of parents rather than the abilities and efforts of the pupil – is viewed with some criticism.

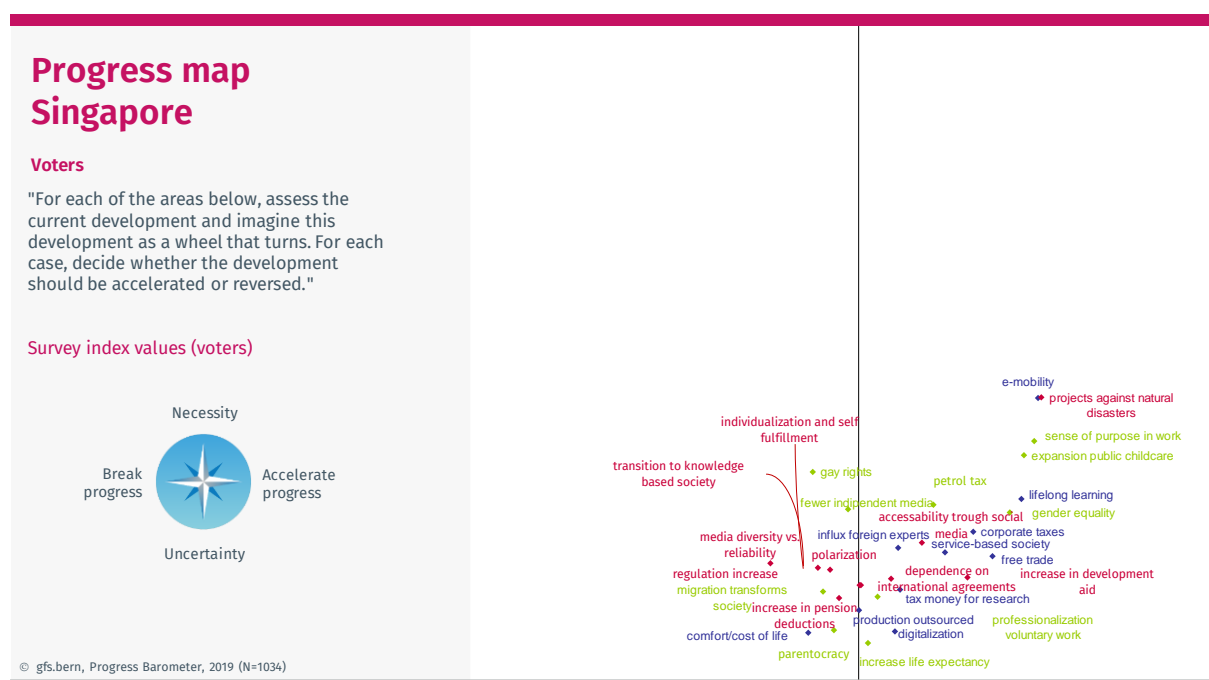


¹ <https://www.preventionweb.net/news/view/68339>

Singaporeans are not averse to being dependent on international agreements and are willing to spend more money on global development aid.

The question of equality for men and women also scores a high index value in Singapore, indicating a desire for more progress. Closely linked with this is a desire among Singapore's citizens for more to be done to expand public childcare. The desire for progress in gender equality and gay rights go hand in hand in most other countries. However, this is not the case in Singapore, where the population prefers to slow down the expansion of homosexual rights.

The possibility of disseminating information on the internet has brought about a media revolution. On the upside, much more diverse information is available. On the downside, however, information is not necessarily scientifically or journalistically verifiable. The trade-off between availability and reliability is viewed with criticism in Singapore. Accordingly, Singapore would like to slow down the loss of independent media.



Desire for Progress in Singapore

Overall, Singaporeans want to see the wheels of progress in their country turning slightly faster than in the past. Of all 16 countries surveyed, Singapore ranks number 8 and thus right in the middle of the table. The desire to see things moving faster is strongest in the area of society, followed by economic issues. In terms of political developments, Singaporeans want to maintain the status quo.

Singapore's self- assessment of progress

When asked how Singaporeans themselves would rate progress in their country, 71% are of the opinion that Singapore is currently very progressive or somewhat progressive when it comes to economic issues, 67% think the same of social progress, whereas only 51% would rate Singapore progressive when it comes to current political developments.

Further information



Future prospects: Singaporeans are comparatively optimistic about their future. The proportion of people fully satisfied with their current life, however, is roughly 10% below the average of all 16 countries surveyed. 74% feel that their status of belonging to the country's middle class is increasingly under pressure and 62% very much or rather agree with the statement that there is a risk their children will not be as well off as the respondents themselves are now; 25% are at least quite confident they will have enough money to live comfortably when retired.



Assessment of past 10 years: When it comes to how much the country has improved over the last 10 years, Singapore ranks among the best (4th out of 16) in this year's Progress Barometer. The changes have been most notable with regard to improvement in infrastructure (72%), national security (66%) and the effort to educate society (63%).



Social cohesion: Singapore is among the countries that agree most with the idea that the end of a progress phase has been reached with the growing risk of a backlash destroying what has been achieved so far (54% agree completely or tend to agree). 64% of Singapore's voters believe that only a small minority is getting richer, while all others miss out on the benefits of developments, and 69% think government should do more to prevent this gap from becoming even wider.



Battle against climate change: While the introduction of a fuel tax is not the top progress issue, Singaporeans also do not show a clear aversion to such a policy. They also think government should do more to prevent companies from polluting the environment (75%). There is also quite a few who believe in the power of innovation: 47% tend to agree that giving up air travel or eating meat is not necessary, but that new technologies will save the climate instead.