

Annual tables

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As clinicians, world leaders and policymakers race to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, publication speed and transparency have never been more important. Research will inform how we overcome these unprecedented challenges.

With the release of the *Nature Index 2020 Annual Tables*, we celebrate the institutions and countries producing high-quality natural-sciences research. Our metric, Share, formally referred to as Fractional Count (FC), is based on an institution's or country's contribution to articles published in 82 journals tracked by the Nature Index database. These journals were selected by committees of 58 leading researchers in the natural sciences, who were asked to nominate the journals in which they would most like to publish their best work. Their deliberations were validated by a survey of more than 6,000 scientists worldwide.

Although the Nature Index Annual Tables compare institutions and countries based on counts of their research outputs in Nature Index journals, our measures alone do not tell the whole story. We recognize, in line with the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment, that outputs from scientific research include not only journal articles, but data, software, intellectual property and highly trained young scientists. We encourage readers to weigh Nature Index data alongside information from other sources when considering research quality and institutional performance.

In the *Nature Index 2020 Annual Tables*, we see strong performances from institutions with considerable funding and reputation, such as the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Harvard University and the Max Planck Society. There are surprises, too, as the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) enters the top ten in 8th position, rising from 17th in the 2019 Annual Tables, with a 25.58% increase in adjusted Share* (see S44) in the Nature Index. In the Rising Stars table, which tracks an institution's growth in output from 2015 to 2019, USTC is second only to the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, which achieved a 242% increase in adjusted Share.

For stories of achievement that go beyond the metrics, as well as Rising Stars tables in the life sciences, physical sciences, chemistry, and Earth and environmental sciences, visit www.natureindex.com.

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