

Mori Memorial Foundation's GPCI 2019 Report: London loses momentum, Tokyo is sluggish and Paris trends upward



48 of the world's major cities as ranked by Mori Memorial Foundation's GPCI 2019 Report

Tokyo, November 19, 2019 — London, New York, Tokyo and Paris were again named the world's most comprehensively attractive cities, in that order, in the Global Power City Index (GPCI) 2019 report published by The Mori Memorial Foundation's Institute for Urban Strategies, a research body established by Mori Building, a leading urban developer in Tokyo. Since 2008, the annual GPCI report has been ranking 40 or more major cities in terms of "magnetism," or overall power to attract creative individuals and enterprises from around the world. Cities are rated in terms of 70 indicators in six categories (functions): Economy, R&D, Cultural Interaction, Livability, Environment and Accessibility. In an effort to deal with changes in the conditions surrounding global cities, the GPCI is continuously improving its indicators and data-collection methods. In GPCI 2019, indicators such as "Tourist Attractions," "Nightlife Options," "Variety of Workplace Options" and "Public Transportation Use" were added. Four cities—Melbourne, Helsinki, Dublin and Tel Aviv—were newly added due to their strengths in business and livability.

Amidst increasing opacity in the global economy and rising awareness of environmental issues, London saw its comprehensive score fall after eight years of holding onto the top position in the GPCI. Although the scores of New York, Tokyo and Paris all decreased for their own reasons, the degree of Tokyo's fall widened its gap with New York, although the gap between Tokyo and Paris narrowed. Paris continued to move forward following its successful bid in 2017 to host the 2024 Olympic Games, overcoming a previous downtrend following the city's 2015 terrorist attacks.

A large number of challenging events occurred or continued to occur in 2019, such as U.S.-China trade friction, the UK's intended withdrawal from the EU and protests in Hong Kong. Noticeable effects on GPCI 2019 scores included Beijing and Shanghai's sluggish "GDP Growth Rate" and London's falling number of "World's Top 500 Companies." Hong Kong will likely feel the effects of its political unrest in the GPCI 2020.

Regarding international activity related to the environment, the G20 Summit in June 2019, Osaka adopted a target to reduce the amount of new plastic waste in the world's oceans to zero by 2050, reflecting strengthening awareness of the environment. Also, cities in Northern Europe and Australia scored higher than before.

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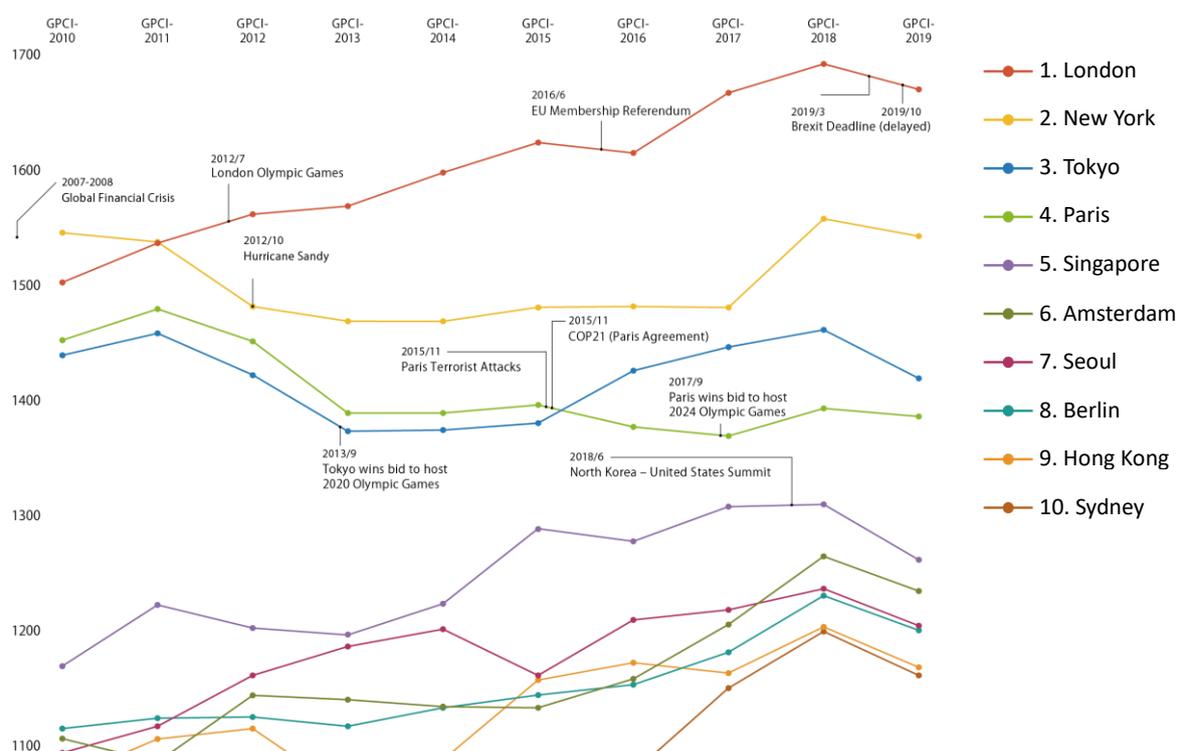
Highlights (cities from #1-10)

- London (#1), which saw its score rise following the 2016 EU membership referendum, marked a decrease in score for the indicators “Nominal GDP” and “World’s Top 500 Companies,” perhaps due to confusion surrounding the Brexit negotiations. Nevertheless, the city still possesses superior strengths overall, with 12 of its 16 indicators in Cultural Interaction placing in the top 5.
- New York (#2) was once again first in the Economy and Research & Development categories, earning high scores for “Nominal GDP,” “Stock Market Capitalization” and “Number of Researchers.” In Cultural Interaction and Accessibility, it placed second and third, respectively, but fell slightly in Livability and Environment. Both “Availability of Skilled Human Resources” and “Number of Foreign Residents” showed falling trends due to human talent shifting to other domestic or international cities.
- Tokyo (#3), despite a drop in its comprehensive score, remained in third place. As the city moves toward hosting the Olympic Games, its Cultural Interaction scores have increased. The city scored well in “Attractiveness of Dining Options”, while “Number of Museums” and “Nightlife Options” were relatively low, compared to the other top four cities, indicating a need for more attractive tourist attractions.
- Paris (#4), following a drop in score after the 2015 terrorist attacks, received improved scores in “Number of Foreign Visitors” and “Number of Murders.” Competition between Paris and Tokyo to boost urban power is anticipated as the two cities prepare to host the Olympic Games in 2024 and 2020, respectively.
- Singapore (#5) once again proved to be a stable city amidst global challenges, ranking first in “Political, Economic and Business Risk,” second in “Economic Freedom,” and up from ninth to sixth in Economy overall. Singapore still retains its high score in “Number of Foreign Visitors” and “Number of Foreign Residents,” showing its status as Asia’s leading international hub.
- Amsterdam (#6), well known for its inclusivity, was second in Livability behind only Paris. Despite the city’s relatively small size, its popularity as a destination for entertainment was reflected in a third-place ranking in the newly added “Nightlife Options” indicator.
- Seoul (#7) scored exceptionally well in Research & Development, landing in the top 10 in five of eight indicators. Seoul, a major shopping hub, was third in “Attractiveness of Shopping Options.” Along with other Asian cities such as Singapore, Taipei (#39) and Hong Kong (#9), Seoul scored highly in “Waste Recycle Rate,” one strong point among Asian cities that otherwise remain far behind in Environment overall.
- Berlin (#8) performed well as a highly livable city with a strong art and culture scene. Along with Madrid (#13), Berlin was in the 10 in Livability thanks to excellent scores in the “Cost of Living” and “Ease of Living” indicator groups. Berlin also scored highly in “Number of Museums,” “Art Market Environment” and “Nightlife Options” to place seventh in Cultural Interaction.
- Hong Kong (#9) maintained its business-friendly image with excellent scores in “Economic Freedom,” “Corporate Tax Rate” and “Political, Economic and Business Risk.” Fourth in “Stock Market Capitalization” and first in “International Freight Flows,” Hong Kong flexed its significant economic power.
- Sydney (#10) held onto its environmental status as the only top-10 city overall to score in the Environment top 10. What’s more, it still ranked eighth in Economy. Sydney is also an educational destination, ranking third among all cities for “Number of International Students.”

Other highlights

- The North American cities Los Angeles (#12), Boston (#25), Chicago (#26) and San Francisco (#18) were strong in “Research and Development Expenditure” and “Winners of Prizes in Science and Technology,” all placing in the top 10 in Research & Development once again. Toronto (#16) and Vancouver (#23) achieved high scores across most indicators, especially in “Social Freedom and Equality” and “Economic Risk of Natural Disaster.”
- As with last year, the top cities in Environment were in Switzerland, Australia and Northern Europe. Zurich (#15) and Geneva (#34) performed especially well in “Natural Environment” group indicators such as “Urban Greenery,” “Water Quality” and “CO₂ Emissions.” Stockholm (#14), Copenhagen (#20) and Helsinki (#28) scored well in “Water Quality” and “Renewable Energy Rate.”
- Certain Asian cities showed considerable improvement in Economy, with Beijing (#24) overtaking Tokyo due to improvement in “Political, Economic and Business Risk.” Also, Singapore surpassed Hong Kong in Economy.
- Cities in Asia and the Middle East capitalized on their abundant facilities for foreign visitors. Dubai (#19) and Bangkok (#40) marked high scores in “Number of Foreign Visitors” and “Number of Luxury Hotel Rooms” and were in the top 10 for “Nightlife Options.”
- Dubai and Madrid (#13) both saw their comprehensive scores rise thanks to Dubai’s “Political, Economic and Business Risk” and “Variety of Workplace Options” and Madrid’s “GDP Growth Rate” and “Traffic Congestion.”
- Among cities newly added to the GPCI, Melbourne scored highest at #11, followed by Helsinki (#28), Dublin (#33) and Tel Aviv (#38). Melbourne and Helsinki both achieved strong results in Environment, with Melbourne also performing well in Livability, while Dublin and Tel Aviv possess high “GDP Growth Rate,” with Dublin especially proving itself to be particularly specialized in Economy. Tel Aviv, known globally as a prominent technology hub, also returns a rank of #7 in “Startup Environment.”

Top-10 GPCI Cities (2010-2019)



Comprehensive Ranking

