

Hong Kong rankings

Overview

Hong Kong has achieved impressive progress as Asia's world city, which is reflected in various international rankings covering a range of areas.

Economy and business

- **World's freest economy** (Canada-based Fraser Institute: Economic Freedom of the World 2025 Annual Report)
- **World No.1 for investment environment; Asia-Pacific No.1 and World No.2 for enterprise conditions** (Legatum Institute: Legatum Prosperity Index 2023)
- **World No.2 for infrastructure & market access** (Legatum Institute: Legatum Prosperity Index 2023)
- **World No.3 for economic quality** (Legatum Institute: Legatum Prosperity Index 2023)
- **World No.3 and Asia-Pacific No. 2 for competitiveness** (International Institute for Management Development (IMD): World Competitiveness Yearbook 2025)
- **Asia-Pacific No.6 for corporate governance** (CG Watch 2023 compiled by Asian Corporate Governance Association and CLSA Limited)

Finance

- **World No.3 and Asia-Pacific No.1 global financial centre** (UK-based Z/Yen and China Development Institute from Shenzhen: Global Financial Centres Index released in September 2025)
- **Leading investment hub: World No.3 and World No. 5** for foreign direct investment inflows and outflows respectively in 2024 (UNCTAD: World Investment Report 2025)
- **World's 6th largest and Asia's 3rd largest stock market** by market capitalisation among exchanges at end-November 2025 (US\$6,164 billion)
- **World No.1 for Initial Public Offering (IPO) funds raised** in 2025¹ (US\$36.64 billion)
- **World's largest offshore RMB hub** with total deposits of RMB 1,119.8 billion (end-November 2025)
- **Highest concentration of insurers in Asia** (160 authorised insurers)

Innovation and Technology

- **Asia-Pacific No.2 and World No.4 for digital competitiveness** (IMD: World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2025)
- **World's lowest** taxed data centre market (Cushman & Wakefield: 2025 Global Data Center Market Comparison)
- **Asia-Pacific No.5** hub for development of new technology (Smart Centres Index by UK-based Z/Yen released in December 2025)
- **Asia-Pacific No.2 and World No.3 for digital intelligence** (Digital Intelligence Index 2020 compiled by US-based The Fletcher School at Tufts University and Mastercard)

¹ Funds raised exclude fundraising by listing of special purpose acquisition companies.

- **World No.1 innovation cluster** - Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou cluster [World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO): Global Innovation Index 2025]
- **World No.8 and Asia No.2** smart city (International Society for Urban Informatics: ISUI Smart City Index 2025)
- **South East Asia, East Asia & Oceania No.5 and World No.15 for innovation performance** (WIPO: Global Innovation Index 2025)
- Among **World's Top 20** smart cities (IMD: Smart City Index 2025)

Transport and infrastructure

- **World No.1 air cargo hub** and **World No.9 busiest airport for international passengers** (Airports Council International: World busiest airport rankings 2024)
- **Airport of the Year 2025** (Air Cargo Week: World Air Cargo Awards 2025)
- **World No.4 airport** (Business Traveller Asia-Pacific Awards 2025)
- **Asia's Leading Airport** and **China's Leading Airport** (World Travel Awards 2024)
- **World No.4 international maritime centre** (Xinhua and Baltic Exchange: 2025 Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index)
- **World No.1 public transport system** (2025) (Time Out magazine index survey)
- **World No.2 public transit system** and **Asia No.1 sustainable mobility system** (Oliver Wyman Forum in partnership with University of California, Berkeley: Urban Mobility Readiness Index 2024)

Education and talent

- **5 universities in World Top 100 for 4 consecutive years:** Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026/ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2026: HKU (33rd/11th), CUHK (41st/32nd), HKUST (58th/44th), CityU (75th/63rd) and PolyU (83rd/54th)
- **5 universities in Top 20 in Asia:** Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2025/QS World University Rankings: Asia 2026/US News and World Report: Best Global Universities Rankings 2025-2026: HKU (6th/1st/6th), CUHK (9th/7th/5th), HKUST (12th/6th/19th), CityU (16th/7th/9th) and PolyU (18th/10th/11th)
- **World's 4 most international universities:** Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025: CityU (1st), HKUST (2nd), PolyU (3rd) and HKU (4th)
- **3 "young" universities in World Top 10 for 3 consecutive years:** Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2024: HKUST (3rd), CityU (4th) and PolyU (7th)
- **3 EMBA programmes in World Top 25:** Financial Times EMBA Ranking 2025: Kellogg-HKUST EMBA programme (4th); HKU-Fudan MBA (International) programme (19th); CUHK EMBA Programme (22nd). QS EMBA Rankings 2025 (Joint Programmes): Kellogg/HKUST EMBA programme (6th); HKU/Fudan IMBA programme (14th)
- In 2024, Bloomberg Businessweek ranked the **HKUST's MBA programme No.1 in Asia**
- In 2022, The Economist rated the **HKU's MBA programme No.1 in Asia**
- **World No.1 for 4 subjects:** Hospitality and Tourism Management (PolyU), Management (PolyU) and Transportation Science & Technology (PolyU) (ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2025); Education (HKU) (US News and World Report: Best Global Universities Rankings by Subjects 2025-2026)
- **World Top 10 subjects:** Dentistry (HKU, 2nd), Education (HKU, 3rd), Nursing (CUHK, 5th), Linguistics (HKU, 9th/ CUHK, 10th) and Geography (HKU, 10th) (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025)

- **Asia No.1 subjects:** Arts and Humanities (HKU), Endocrinology and Metabolism (CUHK), Gastroenterology and Hepatology (CUHK), Immunology (HKU), Infectious Diseases (HKU), Microbiology (HKU), Public, Environmental and Occupational Health (HKU) and Social Sciences and Public Health (PolyU) (US News and World Report: Best Global Universities Rankings by Subjects 2024-2025); Dentistry (HKU), Education (HKU) and Nursing (CUHK) (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025)
- **World No.4 and Asia No.1 for talent competitiveness** (IMD: World Talent Ranking 2025)

Safety, security, rule of law, leisure

- **World No.2 most preferred seat for arbitration** (Queen Mary University of London: International Arbitration Survey 2025)
- **World No.4 and Asia No.1** global city (Schroders Global Cities Index 2024)
- **World No.5 and Asia No. 2** for entrepreneurs to live in (UK tech company SumUp: The Best Cities for Entrepreneurs to Live in 2024)
- **Asia No.2 and World No.18 for control of corruption; Asia No.2 and World No.8 for regulatory quality; Asia No.3 and World No.16 for government effectiveness; and Asia No.5 for rule of law** (World Bank: Worldwide Governance Indicators, 2025 updates)
- **World No.10 and Asia No.4 for order and security and World No.9 and Asia No.2 for absence of corruption** (2025 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index)
- **Asia-Pacific No.2 and World No.12** least corrupt place among 182 countries/territories (Transparency International: Corruption Perceptions Index 2025)
- **World No.8 for human development** based on life expectancy, access to knowledge and standard of living (United Nations' Human Development Report 2025)
- **World's No.7 and Asia's No.4** leading global city (A.T. Kearney's 2025 Global Cities Index)
- **World's No.2** best business city (Business Traveller Asia-Pacific Awards 2024)
- **World No.14 and Asia No.3** best city (Time Out magazine: The 50 best cities in the world for 2025)
- **World No.3 most Muslim-friendly travel destination** (non-Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and recipient of the **Most Promising Muslim-Friendly Destination of the Year** award (Mastercard-CrescentRating Global Muslim Travel Index 2025)
- Among **World's "Coolest Neighbourhoods"** for five consecutive years: Sheung Wan (2025), Kowloon City (2024); Sheung Wan (2023); Wan Chai (2022); Sai Kung (2021) (Time Out magazine index survey)
- **World's No.2 "Coolest Street"** in 2024 : **Hollywood Road** in Central, Hong Kong Island (Time Out magazine index survey)

(Revision date: February 13, 2026)

FEBRUARY 2026