

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.2 and Asia-Pacific No. 2 for competitiveness** (International Institute for Management Development (IMD): World Competitiveness Yearbook 2026)
- **Asia-Pacific No.6 for corporate governance** (CG Watch 2023 compiled by Asian Corporate Governance Association and CLSA Limited)

Finance and trade

- **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 March 2026)
- **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 7th largest and Asia's 4th largest stock market** by market capitalisation among exchanges at end-April 2026 (around US\$6,128 billion)
- **World No.1 for Initial Public Offering (IPO) funds raised** in the first quarter of 2026¹ (US\$14.08 billion)
- **World's largest offshore RMB hub** with total deposits of RMB 1,181 billion (end-February 2026)
- **World's largest cross-boundary wealth management centre** (Boston Consulting Group: Global Wealth Report 2026)
- **Highest concentration of insurers in Asia** (over 160 authorised insurers)
- **World's 5th largest trading entity in merchandise trade** (World Trade Organization: Global Trade Outlook and Statistics released in March 2026)

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: 2026 Global Data Center Market Comparison)

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

- **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)
- **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 25** smart cities (IMD: Smart City Index 2026)

Transport and infrastructure

- **Best Airport in the World** (Global Travel Awards 2026)
- **Best Airport in China** (2026 TTG China Travel Awards)
- **World No.1 air cargo hub** and **World No.8 busiest airport for international passengers** (Airports Council International: World busiest airport rankings 2025)
- **Airport of the Year 2026** (Air Cargo Week: World Air Cargo Awards 2026)
- **World No.4 airport** (Business Traveller Asia-Pacific Awards 2025)
- **Asia's Leading Airport** and **China's Leading Airport** (World Travel Awards 2025)
- **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 2027: HKU (33rd/11th), CUHK (41st/18th), HKUST (58th/33rd), CityU (73rd/52nd) and PolyU (80th/50th)
- **5 universities in Top 20 in Asia:** Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2026/QS World University Rankings: Asia 2026/US News and World Report: Best Global Universities Rankings 2026-2027: HKU (6th/1st/8th), CUHK (10th/7th/5th), HKUST (12th/6th/17th), CityU (14th/7th/9th) and PolyU (18th/10th/11th)
- **World's 4 most international universities:** Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026: CityU (1st), HKUST (2nd), HKU (3rd) and CUHK (14th)
- **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 (5th); HKU/Fudan IMBA programme (18th)
- In 2025-26, Bloomberg Businessweek ranked the **HKUST's MBA programme No.2 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 and Educational Research (CUHK) (US News and World Report: Best Global Universities Rankings by Subjects 2026-2027)
- **World Top 10 subjects:** Dentistry (HKU, 2nd), Education & Training (HKU, 5th / EdUHK, 7th), Nursing (CUHK, 6th) and Performing Arts (HKAPA, 10th) (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026)
- **Asia No.1 subjects:** Arts and Humanities (CUHK), Clinical Medicine (CUHK), Endocrinology and Metabolism (CUHK), Gastroenterology and Hepatology (CUHK), Immunology (HKU), Infectious Diseases (HKU) and Microbiology (HKU) (US News and World Report: Best Global Universities Rankings by Subjects 2026-2027); Dentistry (HKU), Education and Training (HKU), Nursing (CUHK) and Performing Arts (HKAPA) (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026)
- **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.15 and Asia No.5** best city (Time Out magazine: The 50 best cities in the world for 2026)
- **World's No.2** in international arrivals / **World's No.2** most-visited city (Euromonitor International's Top 100 City Destinations Index 2025)
- **World No.2 most Muslim-friendly travel destination** (non-Organization of Islamic Cooperation) (Mastercard-CrescentRating Global Muslim Travel Index 2026)
- 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)
- **Kai Tak Sports Park:** Among **World's Greatest Places of 2026** (Time Magazine: The World's Greatest Places of 2026) / **Venue of the Year** (TheStadiumBusiness Awards 2026)

