

# 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 2024 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)
- **World top 10 business environment** [World Bank Group (World Bank): Business Ready 2024 Report]
- **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 March 2025)
- **Leading investment hub: World No.4 and World No. 5** for foreign direct investment inflows and outflows respectively in 2023 (UNCTAD: World Investment Report 2024)
- **World's 6<sup>th</sup> largest and Asia's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest stock market** by market capitalisation among exchanges at end-April 2025 (US\$5,008 billion)
- **World No.4 for Initial Public Offering (IPO) funds raised** in 2024
- **World's largest offshore RMB hub** with total deposits of RMB 1,147.8 billion (end-April 2025)
- **Highest concentration of insurers in Asia** (over 150 authorised insurers)

## Innovation and Technology

- **Asia-Pacific No.3 and World No.7 for digital competitiveness** (IMD: World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2024)
- **World's lowest taxed data centre market** (Cushman & Wakefield: 2025 Global Data Center Market Comparison)
- **Asia-Pacific No.4 hub for development of new technology** (Smart Centres Index by UK-based Z/Yen released in May 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)
- **South East Asia & Oceania No.5 and World No.18 for innovation performance** (World

Intellectual Property Organization: Global Innovation Index 2024)

- 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 2022** (Air Cargo Week: World Air Cargo Awards 2022)
- **World No.2 airport** (Business Traveller Asia-Pacific Awards 2024)
- **Asia's Leading Airport** and **China's Leading Airport** (World Travel Awards 2024)
- **World No.4 international maritime centre** (Xinhua and Baltic Exchange: 2024 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**: Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025/Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2026: HKU (35<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>), CUHK (44<sup>th</sup>/32<sup>nd</sup>), HKUST (66<sup>th</sup>/44<sup>th</sup>), CityU (80<sup>th</sup>/63<sup>rd</sup>) and PolyU (84<sup>th</sup>/54<sup>th</sup>)
- **5 universities in Top 20 in Asia**: Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2024/QS World University Rankings: Asia 2025/US News and World Report: Best Global Universities Rankings 2024-2025: HKU (6<sup>th</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>), CUHK (10<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>), HKUST (12<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>), CityU (15<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>) and PolyU (19<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>)
- **World's 4 most international universities**: Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025: CityU (1<sup>st</sup>), HKUST (2<sup>nd</sup>), PolyU (3<sup>rd</sup>) and HKU (4<sup>th</sup>)
- **3 "young" universities in World Top 10**: Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2024: HKUST (3<sup>rd</sup>), CityU (4<sup>th</sup>) and PolyU (7<sup>th</sup>)
- **3 EMBA programmes in World Top 25**: Financial Times EMBA Ranking 2024: CUHK Business School EMBA Programme (22<sup>nd</sup>); HKU/Fudan MBA (International) programme (24<sup>th</sup>). QS EMBA Rankings 2024 (Joint Programmes): Kellogg-HKUST EMBA programme (6<sup>th</sup>); HKU/Fudan MBA (International) programme (15<sup>th</sup>)
- 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 3 subjects**: Hospitality and Tourism Management (PolyU) and Library and Information Science (CityU) (ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2024); Education (HKU) (US News and World Report: Best Global Universities Rankings by Subjects 2024-2025)
- **World Top 10 subjects**: Dentistry (HKU, 2<sup>nd</sup>), Education (HKU, 3<sup>rd</sup>), Nursing (CUHK, 5<sup>th</sup>), Linguistics (HKU, 9<sup>th</sup>/CUHK, 10<sup>th</sup>) and Geography (HKU, 10<sup>th</sup>) (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)

- **Asia No.2 and World No.9 for talent competitiveness** (IMD: World Talent Ranking 2024)

#### **Safety, security, rule of law, leisure**

- **World No.3 most preferred seat for arbitration** (Queen Mary University of London: International Arbitration Survey 2021)
- **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.15 for control of corruption; Asia No.3 and World No.14 for regulatory quality; Asia No.3 and World No.16 for government effectiveness; and Asia No.3 for rule of law** (World Bank: Worldwide Governance Indicators, 2024 updates)
- **World No.9 and Asia No.3 for order and security and World No.10 and Asia No.2 for absence of corruption** (2024 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index)
- **Asia-Pacific No.2 and World No.17** least corrupt place among 180 countries/territories (Transparency International: Corruption Perceptions Index 2024)
- **World No.4 for human development** based on life expectancy, access to knowledge and standard of living (United Nations' 2023/2024 Human Development Index)
- **World No.2 for success in developing human capital** based on health, education and survivability (World Bank: Human Capital Index 2020)
- **World No.8 safest city; World No.1 and No.3 for infrastructure security and health security, respectively** (The Economist Intelligence Unit's Safe Cities Index 2021)
- **World's No.9 and Asia's No.5** leading global city (A.T. Kearney's 2024 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 four consecutive years: 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)

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