OXFORD ECONOMICS GLOBAL CITIES INDEX

2026

OXFORD ECONOMICS

Tokyo, Japan
Overall Rank: 9th

Foreword

In more than two decades of analysing city economies, I have not known a period of such successive, wide-ranging shocks as those we have seen in recent years. They have threatened not just to slow cities but to fundamentally change how they operate: a pandemic that emptied their offices, geopolitical tension and conflicts that have unsettled supply chains and trade, a cost-of-living squeeze that is pricing workers out of the places where they are most productive, and artificial intelligence now reshaping the labour markets on which cities depend. But cities have absorbed all of it. Their hold on the global economy has tightened rather than loosened, and the most advanced, service-based economies have gained the most. That is the most consequential finding in this year's Global Cities Index.

That resilience is clearest at the top of the rankings. New York and London lead, the top three are unchanged, and eight of the top 10 from our 2025 ranking reappear. Their advantage is self-reinforcing: strong institutions and vibrant economies attract talent and capital, which in turn deepen the very conditions that drew them. Yet these cities are more than centres of resilience. Their dense networks of businesses, institutions, and people make them engines of adaptation, which is why shocks have tended to accelerate change in them rather than halt it.

Beneath that stability, the map of opportunity is being redrawn. Asia is where this is clearest. The world's economic gravity has shifted there over a generation, and not only towards the largest cities: rising output and expanding labour markets have pushed a whole tier of Asian cities up our rankings. What unites the cities rising fastest is not geography but their climb up the global value chain into technology, advanced manufacturing, and business services, and their success in converting that into improving living standards. That thread runs through our new Cities to Watch section, which picks out emerging stars in every region, from Tallinn to Bengaluru, Nairobi to Monterrey.

Those are very different places on very different paths, which is the point: no two cities are the same. Each has its own mix of characteristics, and understanding that mix is what a sound location decision rests on. That is what our index is for. It assesses 1,000 cities on the same terms, so that a mid-sized European metro and a fast-growing African megacity can be judged on a comparable basis.

The Global Cities Index records the progress cities are making across a comprehensive range of metrics. Sitting alongside our forecasts and scenario models, its ability to highlight how paths change under different conditions and its capacity for comparability shows you not just where cities stand today, but also where they are heading.

Mark Britton
Managing Director of City Services
at Oxford Economics

About Oxford Economics

Oxford Economics is the world's leading independent economic advisory firm. Covering over 200 countries, 100 industrial sectors, and 8,000 cities and regions, we provide insights and solutions that empower clients to make informed decisions faster in an increasingly complex and uncertain world. For more information, visit https://www.oxfordeconomics.com.

Our Cities Solutions

Behind the Global Cities Index is Oxford Economics' dedicated Cities and Regions team, comprising more than 40 economists with deep expertise in spatial data, urban dynamics, and forecasting.

The same expertise underpins our wider city and regional forecasting services, which combine harmonised local data, long-term forecasts, and scenario analysis for over 8,000 locations worldwide. Our analysis helps organisations understand where growth is occurring, where risks are building, and how local economies are expected to change over time.

Alongside these forecasting services, we provide bespoke consulting support. Using geospatial modelling, we can drill down to hyperlocal and neighbourhood levels, delivering tailored forecasts, market sizing, and impact analysis around a specific question and geography.

Across both our subscription services and bespoke consulting, we bring together local insight and forward-looking analysis to provide a clearer view of how markets and places are evolving, helping organisations think globally, act locally, and plan confidently.

To learn more about our capabilities and the index, visit
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The modelling and results presented here are based on information provided by third parties, upon which Oxford Economics has relied in producing its report and forecasts in good faith. Any subsequent revision or update of those data will affect the assessments and projections shown.

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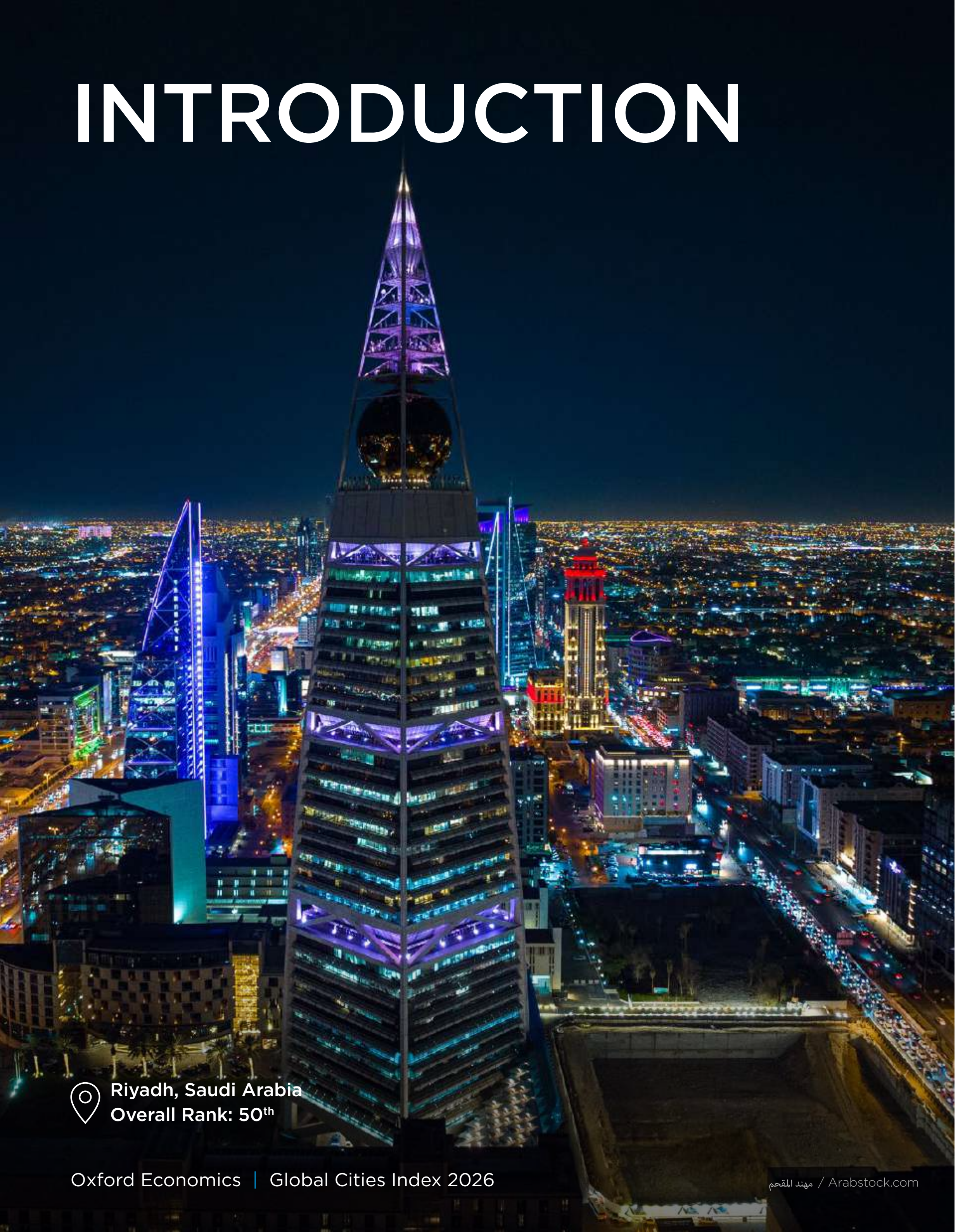
INTRODUCTION



Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Overall Rank: 50th

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We are living through a period of unprecedented change and uncertainty. Yet the global economy and the cities that power it have not only remained remarkably stable but have delivered significant growth and opportunity for their residents. Even the Covid-19 pandemic, predicted to usher in a new era of urban flight, has not led to anything of the sort. In fact, cities have become more important, not less, and it's the most advanced, service-based economies that are leading the way—the very ones that were supposed to fall in the face of home working.

While our index for 2026 continues to highlight the strength and importance of the established superstar cities—New York, London, Paris, and Tokyo—the global landscape is not standing still. The key movement is the rapid shift in the world's economic gravity to Asia. China's cities have been at the forefront of this, with megacities like Shanghai rising from the 70th-largest economy by GDP in 2000 to 12th today. Southern Asian cities like Jakarta, Manila, Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Ho Chi Minh City have followed suit, and they have all seen substantial increases in their economic output and labour market opportunities, helping propel them up the index.

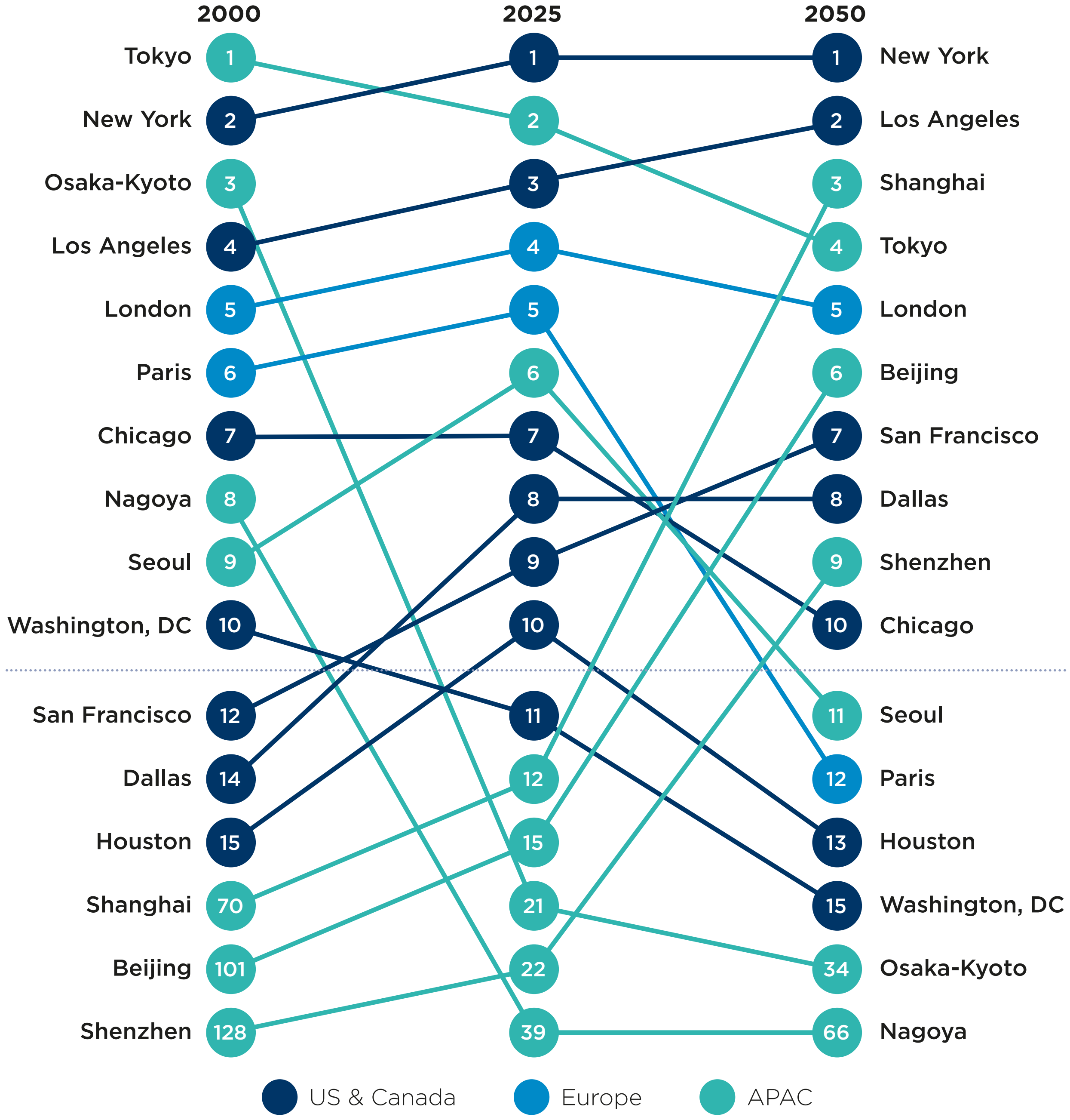
The same is true across the Middle East, where cities like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Riyadh have all burst onto the global scene and are increasingly attracting the world's highest-skilled workers and most innovative businesses. Riyadh, for example, has created more jobs in the last five years than any other city on the planet. The conflict in Iran is currently threatening some of this progress, but a combination of deep financial buffers and strong long-term fundamentals means the region's major cities will continue to drive strong growth.

With economic development will come substantial gains across the index's Human Capital, Quality of Life, and Environmental categories, as rising real incomes and investment into the technologies of tomorrow future-proof growth and sustainable development. These tectonic shifts in economic geography are already creating substantial opportunities for businesses and people alike—and will continue to do so. For instance, the number of high-income households across the world is projected to nearly double by 2050, with almost two in five of these households coming from just India and China alone. In fact, just five Chinese cities will add more high-income households over this period than Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East combined.

But it isn't just in Asia and the established Western powerhouses where opportunities lie. African cities will see their populations boom and their consumer markets expand, backed by significant growth in their industrial economies and services base. Meanwhile, Latin American cities such as Lima and Buenos Aires are leveraging their deep skills base and relatively low housing expenditure to climb the rankings this year, offering substantial consumer market opportunities in the process.

It's within this realm of opportunity that the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index and associated forecasting expertise can give businesses and policymakers the advantage over peers, providing a comprehensive view of what is changing within economies and how that change will play out over the coming decades. With a coverage of 1,000 cities across the globe, the insight is unparalleled and allows strategic decisions to be made with confidence and purpose.

The world's largest city economies, 2000–2050 (Nominal US$)



Overview of leaders and changes

The 2026 update of our Global Cities Index reflects the latest assessment of the structural advantages, opportunities, and challenges facing cities. In our index, we score cities based on a range of metrics across five categories: Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment, and Governance. Leveraging our best-in-class urban economic forecasts, and supplemented by other publicly available datasets, we have created a globally consistent dataset of characteristics for the 1,000 largest cities in the world. As a result, the Global Cities Index provides a holistic, data-driven approach to city rankings, scoring them not just on their economic performance, but also considering several other important dimensions that influence their standing in the world.

Our 2026 Global Cities Index is testament to the strength, stability, and opportunities across the world's top cities. New York and London, for example, remain at the pinnacle of our index, largely due to the size of their economies and the strength of their labour market.

Cities across North America and Europe dominate the top reaches of our index, with the US alone accounting for 30 of the top 100 cities. Yet the drivers of this dominance between the two regions differs. In the US, it is strong scores across the Economics and Human Capital categories that drive their elevated position. In Europe, however, it is outperformance across the Quality of Life, Environmental, and Governance categories. These differences are emblematic of current trends and policy priorities, as the US continues to post strong economic gains, while Europe retains its advantage in resident amenities and liveability.

Reflecting the entrenched advantages of the world's most powerful cities, the top three in our rankings are unchanged from last year, while eight of the top 10 from 2025 also reappear. The relative stability of the rankings year on year reflects the index's strength in understanding structural, long-term drivers of city outcomes. Should GDP growth decline in one year, or a large corporation relocate its headquarters, that does not fundamentally change the nature of these superstar cities and what makes them attractive places to live and work.

Daniel L. Locke / Shutterstock.com

In fact, the strength of our leading cities lies in their relatively broad success across all the categories in our Global Cities Index. This is indicative of the circular and self-reinforcing nature of success—cities with strong institutions and a vibrant economy can attract the most sought-after corporations and talent, pushing them onto a growth cycle that can lead to a significant upward trajectory in our rankings.

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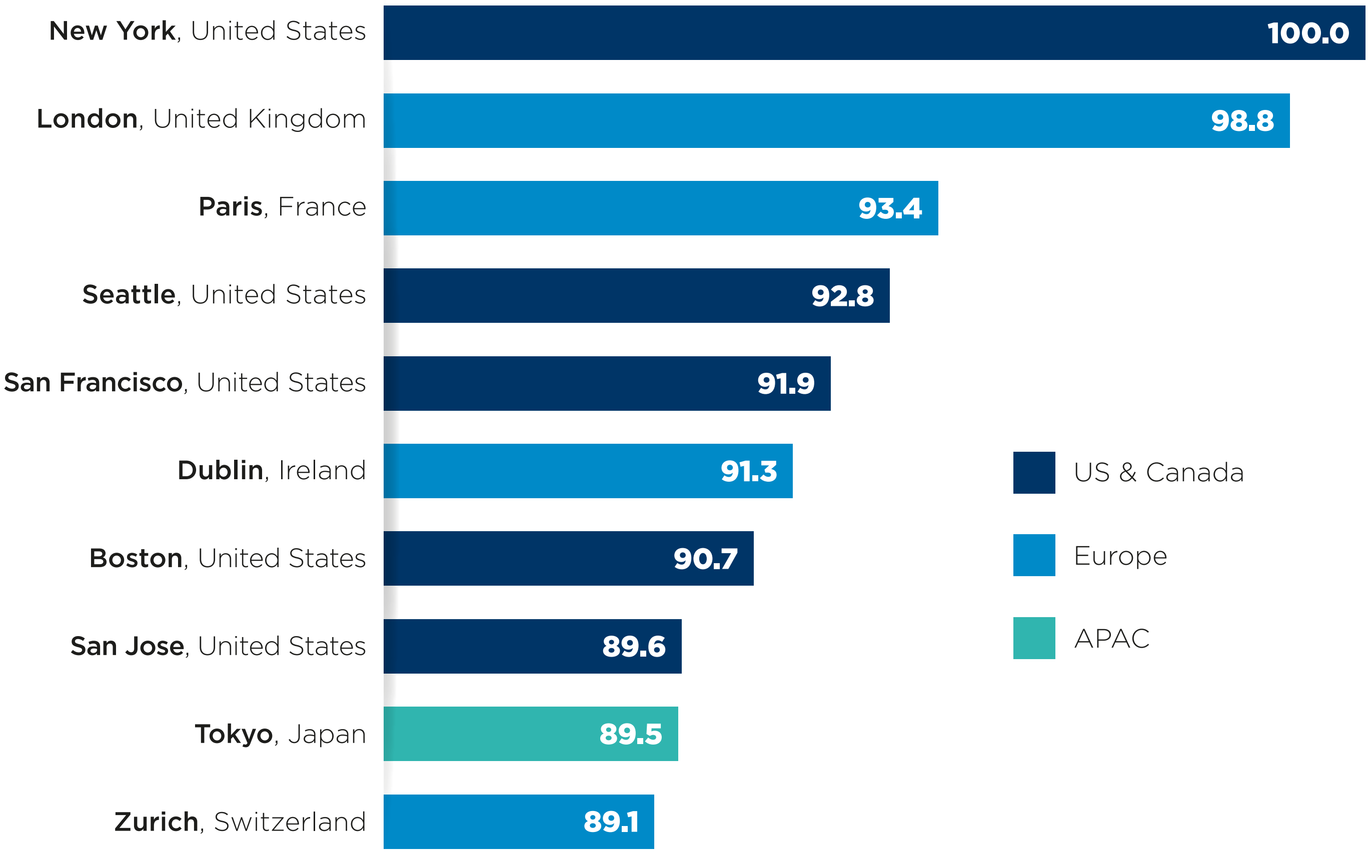
A region that has begun to capture this broad growth model in recent decades is the Middle East. Its major cities have cemented themselves as key players in the global economy by attracting the world's brightest workers and most innovative companies. However, the conflict in Iran threatens to undermine this hugely successful growth model, with the region's ability to attract skilled workers and capital hit by wider geopolitical uncertainty. This highlights how challenges in just one category of our index can seep through into weaker performance elsewhere.

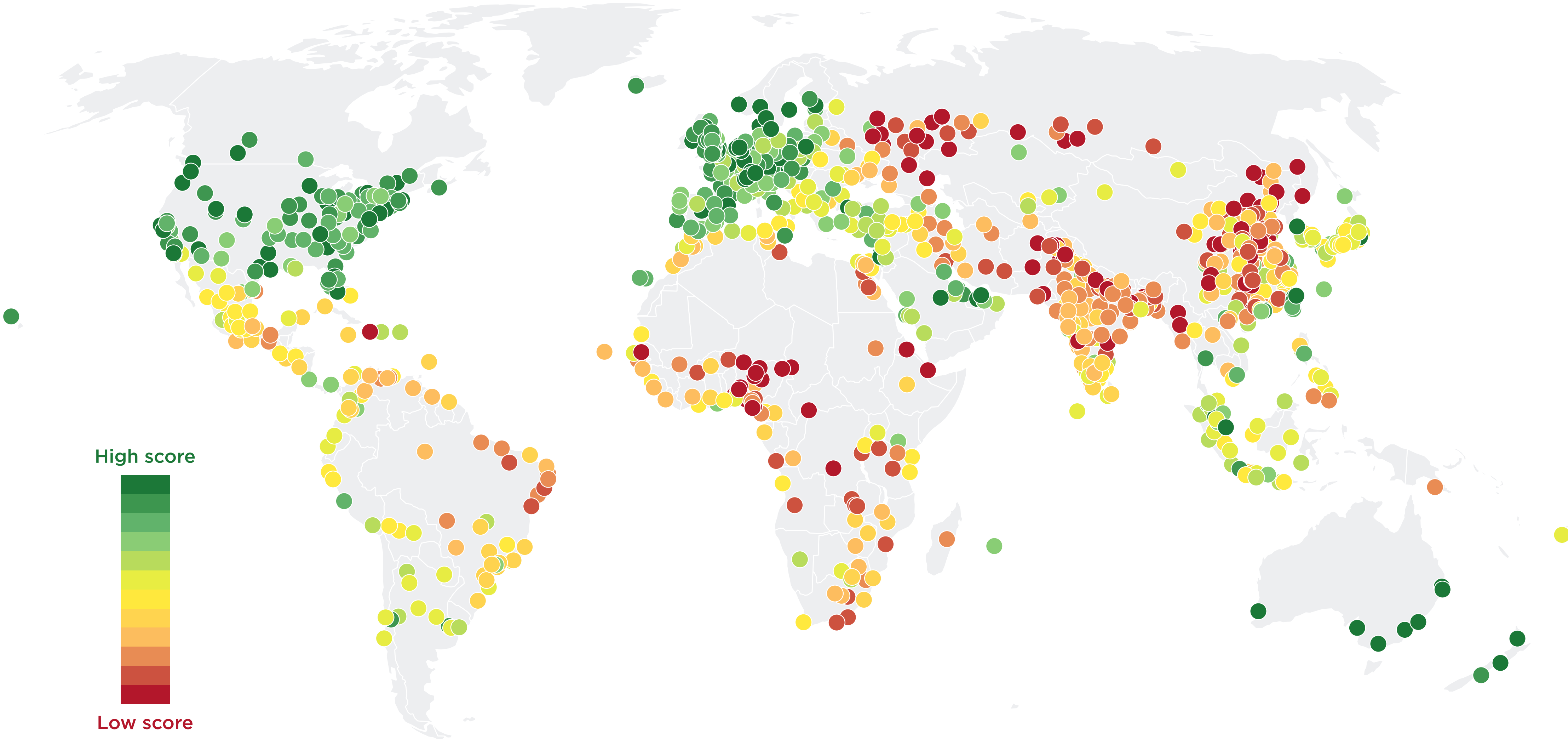
That said, the strength of the Middle East's major cities is deep, and we continue to expect them to climb our rankings going forward, potentially with even greater dynamism once a lasting resolution to the conflict is found. Our current forecasts reinforce this, with the Middle Eastern cities of Riyadh, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Doha expected to collectively add more than 1.8 million jobs in business services between 2025 and 2050—three-quarters of a million more than New York, London, Paris, and Berlin combined. The long-term structural advantages of Middle Eastern cities—supported by vast sovereign wealth funds and advanced infrastructure—mean both Dubai and Riyadh have now entered our global top 50, highlighting the resilience of the region.

Top 10 cities by overall score



Regional trends in the Global Cities Index

Examining the overall rankings for our 1,000 cities reveals interesting regional trends. Among the 10 regions, it is unsurprising that North America, Western Europe, and Oceania perform best, as cities in these regions tend to score highly across all five categories. At the other end of the spectrum, the regions of Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia have the lowest average scores.



Understanding future growth trends

Given the self-reinforcing nature of success, identifying which cities are poised to see the greatest economic growth over the coming decades provides the key to understanding where future opportunities may lie, and which cities are worth watching out for.

Our 2026 index report seeks to do just that, utilising our forecasts across a range of metrics relevant to city outcomes to assess the outlook for the global urban economy. Will the cities at the top of our rankings maintain their positions? Or will new leaders emerge?

The top of the Global Cities Index is currently dominated by cities in Europe and North America, taking 78 of the first 100 spots in our rankings. And these cities are likely to continue to lead, as we expect five of the 10 largest absolute increases in GDP over the next two and a half decades to be found in cities within these regions. This reflects their ability to attract highly skilled workers and innovative businesses, but also the fact that their existing large size requires only relatively small rates of GDP growth to deliver substantial increases in output.

However, the rest of the world is not standing still. In fact, major cities across Asia are currently dominating global growth trends, and we anticipate that this will continue. Chinese and Indian cities will be at the forefront, combining large population sizes with significant gains in productivity and income. Shanghai, Beijing, and Delhi are all currently ranked outside the top 100 in our index, but they will see some of the largest increases in GDP through to 2050.

This growth will transform the shape of the global economy as urban centres across these regions converge with many of their more advanced peers. By 2050, we project the Chinese and Indian share of GDP across our major global cities to be above that of Europe, while Shanghai is set to overtake San Francisco next year. This is despite Shanghai being just a quarter of its size at the turn of the millennium.

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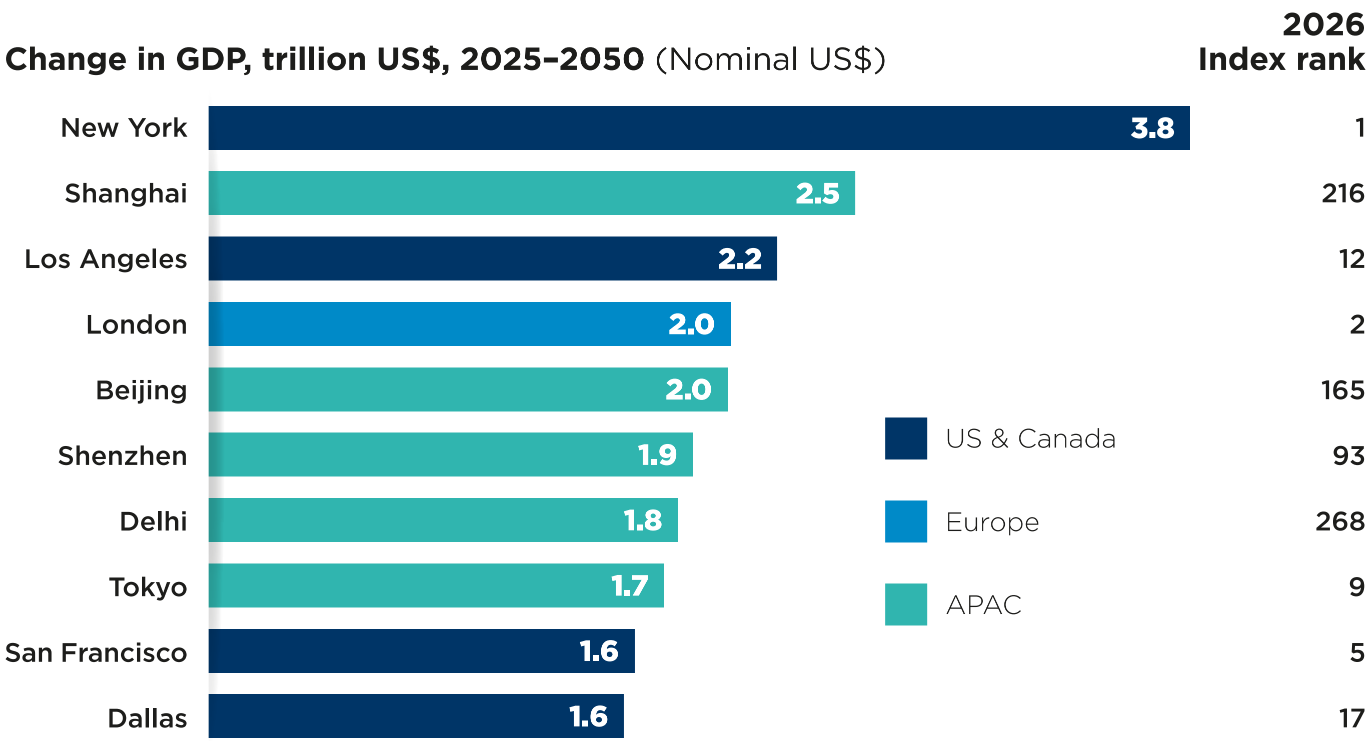
Change in GDP, trillion US$, 2025–2050 (Nominal US$)



Climbing the global value chain is the route to growth

A key driver of this transformation in emerging cities is their shifting sectoral compositions. With greater exposure to high-productivity sectors, from advanced manufacturing to tech and financial and business services, their economies increasingly resemble those of the cities that typically dominate the top of our Economics rankings.

China, once more, provides the most powerful example of these shifts. Its export profile is increasingly similar to that of advanced economies like Japan, the EU, and the US, as it has moved up the global value chain to manufacture higher-value export goods. This is typified by the success of Shenzhen-based BYD, now the largest manufacturer of electric vehicles globally.

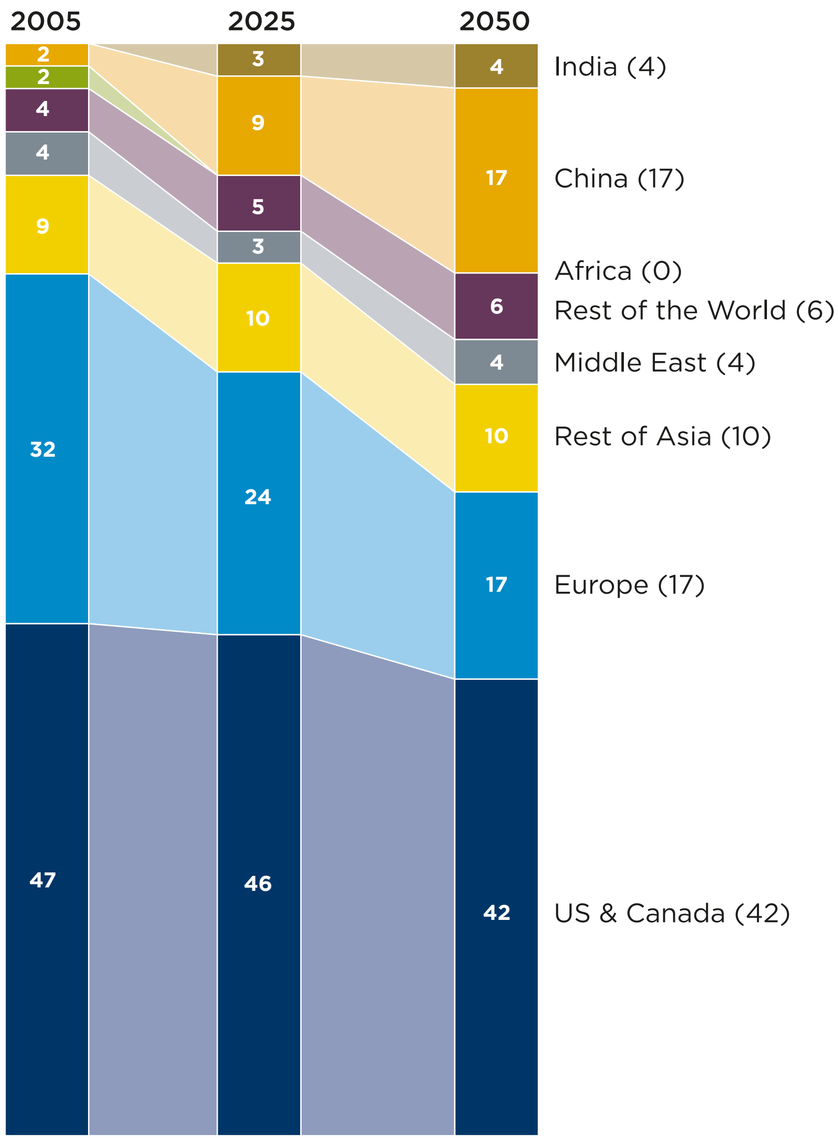
And Chinese cities aren't just world-leading in advanced manufacturing, they're also growing rapidly across advanced services sectors. Hangzhou-based DeepSeek (AI) and Alibaba (e-commerce) are both global leaders across tech sectors, and we project Shanghai will be the second-largest city for financial and business services output by 2050, behind only New York.

There are also numerous other examples throughout Asia of this structural transformation driving economic expansion. Several cities in India will lead growth in financial and business services through to 2050, with Bengaluru emerging as a global tech hub. Although artificial intelligence and automation obviously pose a risk to the outlook across the globe, many of these cities, like Shenzhen in China and Bengaluru in India, are at the forefront of these developments and, if they leverage advances effectively, could see rapid economic growth.

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam's largest city, is a good example of the diversity of growth and opportunity across the region. It will combine growth in both the services sector and higher value-added manufacturing to see its economy increasingly converge with that of western peers. By 2050, we expect its GDP size to be almost equal that of Berlin—despite being less than half its size today.

Financial and business services GVA, 2005–2050

Number of cities in the top 100



However, growth opportunities are not limited to Asian markets. Cities across the globe that are moving up the value chain will outperform their respective regional averages, from Peru's capital city of Lima all the way to Riyadh. This is producing global convergence in outcomes, but also regional divergence, as these major cities increasingly dominate their national economies and wider labour markets.

This pattern holds across advanced markets in Western Europe and North America too, where major cities that succeed at attracting and retaining skilled workers are outperforming their domestic peers. Eindhoven (Netherlands), Austin (United States), and Manchester (United Kingdom) are all perfect examples of this trend in recent years, and continued outperformance will see them move up the rankings.

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Shenzhen, China
Overall Rank: 93rd

Cities with strong human capital are well placed to capture growth opportunities

Economic growth and opportunity exist within a virtuous cycle, with those at the top of our rankings typifying this self-reinforcing dynamic. For example, moving up the value chain attracts and retains skilled workers for the higher-productivity, higher-wage sectors. Alongside this, strong industries incentivise higher levels of educational and skills attainment, as returns to upskilling labour are higher. The end result is an increase in the stock of human capital, which further incentivises investment, accelerating economic growth further still.

By contrast, poorly performing places have weak economic growth, a brain drain of highly skilled workers to places with better job opportunities, limited skills attainment due to the poor return to labour, and limited business investment due to a weak skills profile. Hence, a vicious cycle, or skills trap, saps economic growth and outcomes. This explains the strong relationship between scores in our Economic and Human Capital categories.

Many of our regional growth leaders over the next couple of decades will be those who can utilise their strong skills base and highly educated workforce to position themselves as regional hubs for high value-added sectors of the economy. In Latin America, for example, Lima and Santiago, the capital cities of Peru and Chile, respectively, both benefit from strong academic institutions that are creating a deep internal skills base central to their growth in advanced service sectors.

The same is true in Central and Eastern Europe. Estonia's capital city, Tallinn, has harnessed its workforce to drive its burgeoning tech sector, while Warsaw is one of several of Poland's high-performing cities establishing itself as an IT and finance hub, attracting major global firms thanks to its strong pool of labour. These new job opportunities are increasingly breaking the aforementioned skills traps, and reversing decades of brain drain.

The Middle East, meanwhile, provides some of the best examples of a region harnessing this human capital and growth interaction. Four of its major cities (Abu Dhabi, Doha, Dubai, and Riyadh) are in the top 20 of our Human Capital category rankings this year, having attracted many young workers from across the globe thanks to their expanding advanced services sectors. Growth in Riyadh and Dubai has been particularly notable—Riyadh alone has added more jobs in financial and business services between 2010 and 2025 than all major German cities combined—which has seen them rise rapidly up our index in the last couple of years, as they are increasingly competing with established markets for talent and investment.

While the conflict in Iran has elevated near-term risk, Human Capital scores in these Middle Eastern cities are aided by a favourable demographic profile. The region will have the lowest share of the population aged 65 and above across the next two and a half decades of any region outside of Africa. This will support economic expansion, consumer activity, and investment potential.

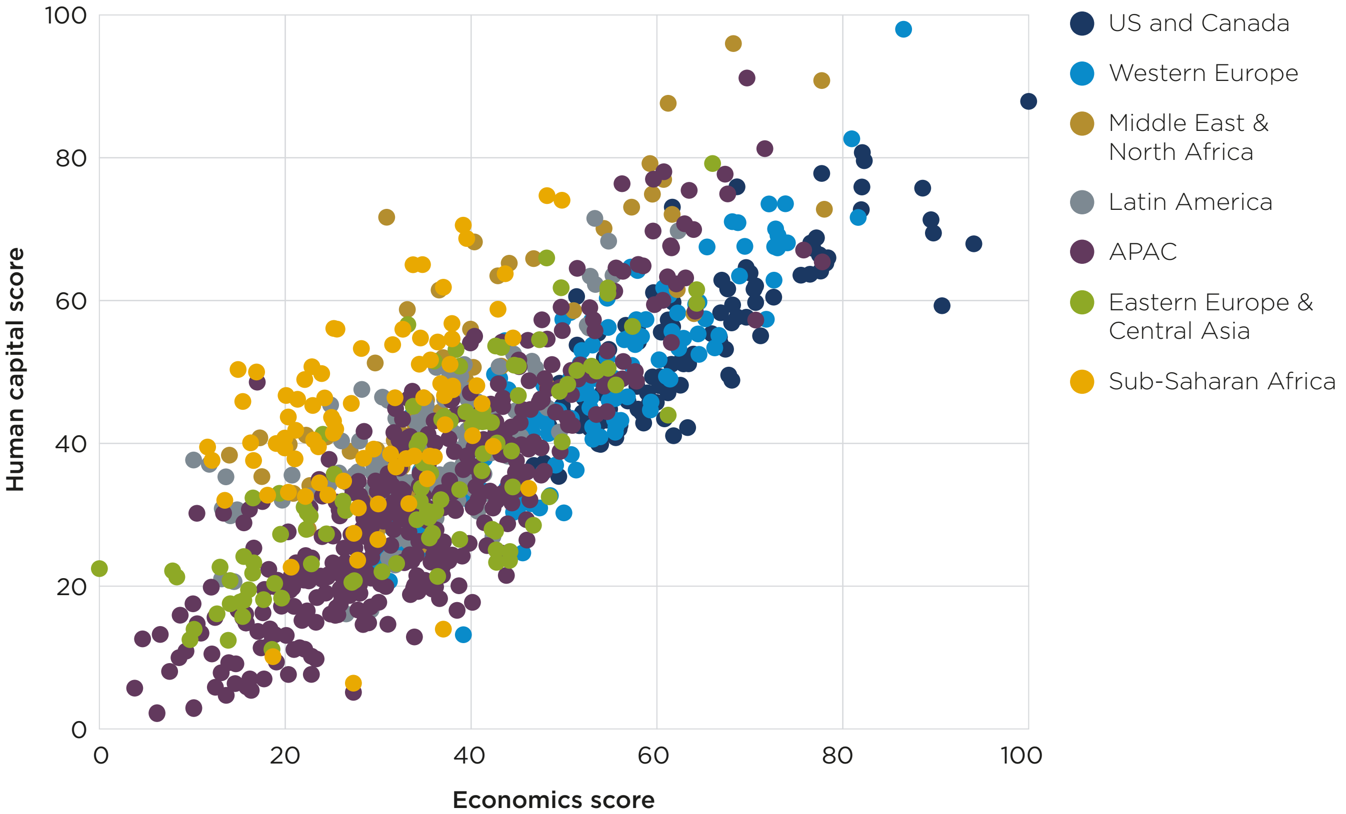
It is in Africa, however, where the biggest demographic expansion will be. Of the 100 fastest-growing populations across major cities over the period to 2050, 70 will be in Africa. Collectively, major African cities will add 213 million people to their populations by 2050, which is 200 million more than across all major European cities over this period. This change is entirely driven by a youthful population, high birth rates, and longer life expectancy—which is in contrast to dynamics in other parts of the world where migration is the main driver of population growth.

This youthful and fast-growing population will contribute to substantial employment growth. In fact, African cities will account for more than half of all employment growth across our major cities through to 2050. Nigeria's Lagos, the largest city in Africa, will add almost 10.4 million jobs, while Cairo (Egypt) will add 4.7 million—almost three times as many as in London.

The key, however, to transformational economic growth will be ensuring that this employment growth is in high-productivity sectors. Accra (Ghana), Dakar (Senegal), and Lagos (Nigeria) will all see growing employment in the key service industries of finance and tech over our forecast period. But for these cities to harness the potential this provides, they will need to ensure the required skills are available within their workforces to attract higher-value jobs in these industries. Failure to do so will see African cities growing in size but not in average wealth—a worrying combination in a region with such a large youth bulge and weaker institutions.

Of the 100 fastest-growing populations across major cities over the period to 2050, 70 will be in Africa. Collectively, major African cities will add 213 million people to their populations by 2050, which is 200 million more than across all major European cities over this period.

Economics vs Human Capital, 2026



Largest 20 major global cities by population, 2010–2050

Quality of life is a key driver of economic outcomes

The virtuous cycle of growth drives, and is driven, by quality-of-life improvements. This is because economic growth, particularly productivity-driven economic growth, unlocks increases in living standards. As the economic geography of the globe moves eastwards, we expect to see a convergence in Quality of Life scores between these emerging cities and many of our current leaders.

Eastern European cities, for example, account for just 10 of our top 100 Quality of Life scores in the current index, considerably fewer than in Western Europe (68), and exemplified by stark differences in average per person incomes. But we expect this disparity in outcomes to decline in the coming decades, with Warsaw this year surpassing Paris in average income per person (in Purchasing Power Parity terms), while cities like Lithuania's Vilnius will follow suit before the end of the decade.

The starkest examples of convergence, however, are once again found in Asia. More than 54 million high-income households will be added in Asian cities over the next 25 years, eventually accounting for a third of the world's urban high-income households—as many as in US cities. Almost two-thirds of new Asian high-income households will be generated in China's major cities, led by Shanghai and Shenzhen.

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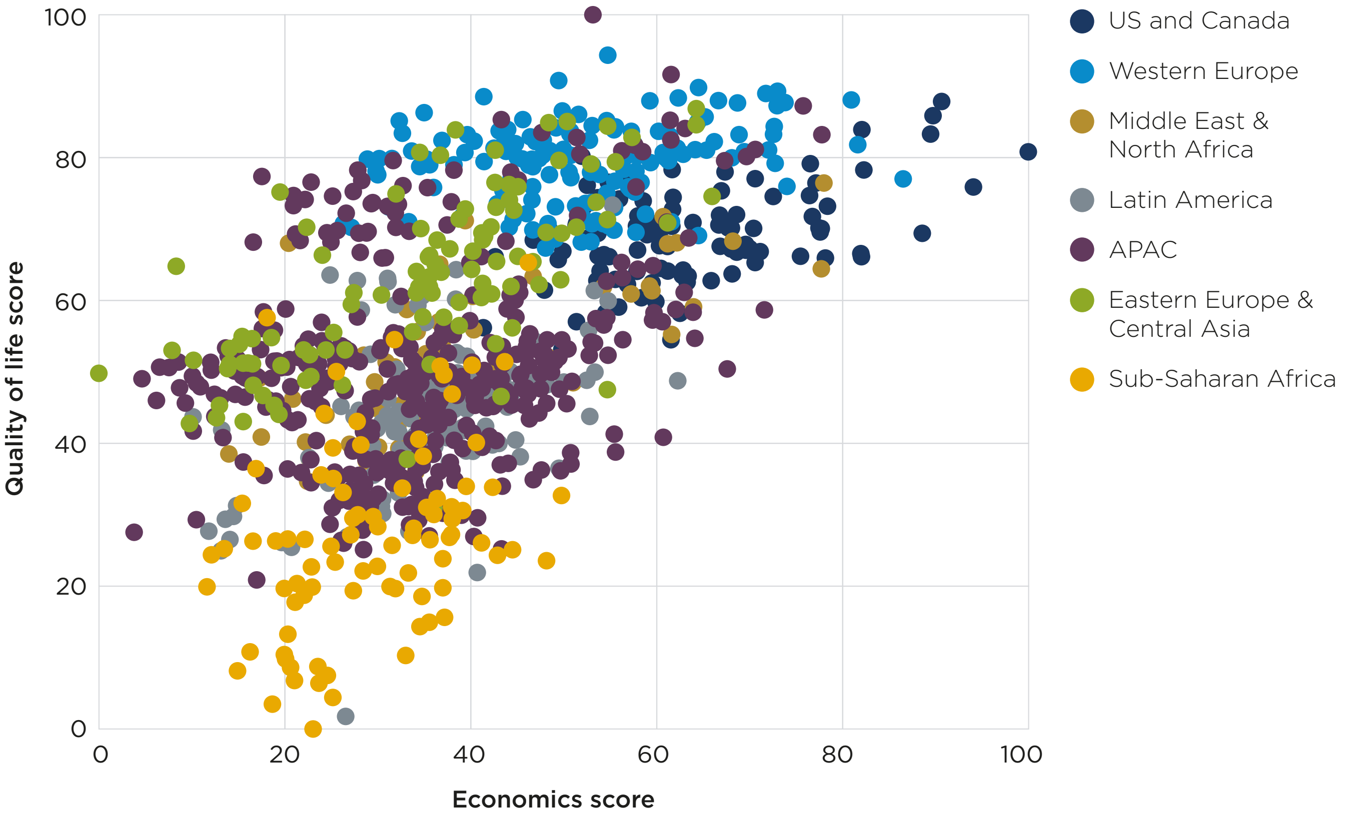
At the same time, millions of people across Asia will be lifted out of low-income status and into the global consumer class. Raising average income levels in the process, this substantial growth is also reshaping global consumer markets and reinforcing economic trends, as businesses continue their Asian expansion to maintain proximity to their consumers.

Economics vs Quality of Life, 2026

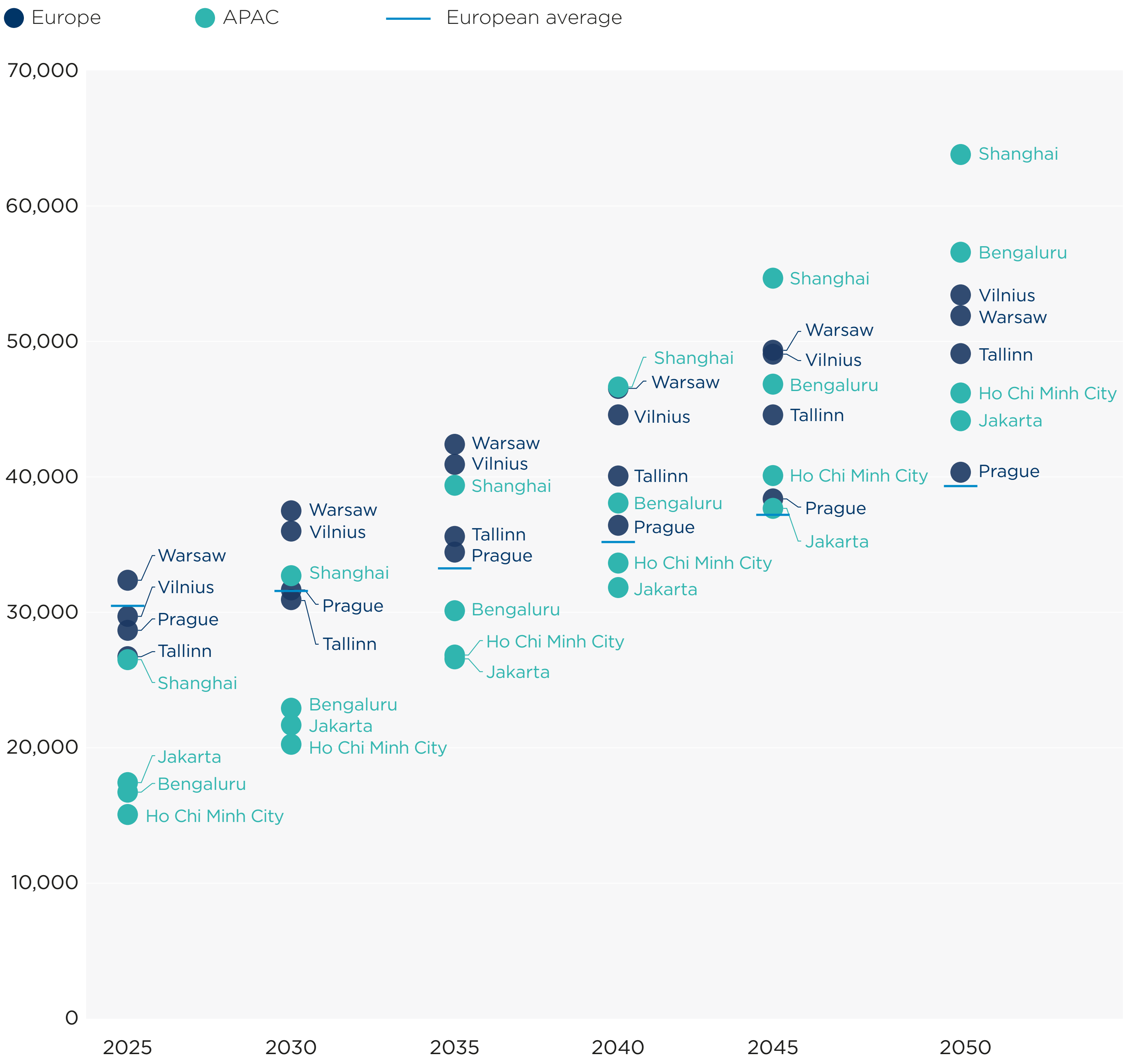


As incomes rise across the distribution, many of Asia's cities will see notable gains in average pay. Ho Chi Minh City, for example, is currently ranked outside the top 500 for average incomes per person, with earnings less than half of the European average. Yet, driven by its rapid development, we forecast average incomes to overtake the European average in 2045. The same is true of Jakarta, the Indonesian capital, which is projected to add more than 1.7 million high-income households over the next 25 years, with its development supported by Indonesia's abundant natural resources and its relatively young, highly skilled workforce.

In many cases, these cities will be able to use economic development to drive up average incomes while keeping housing costs significantly lower than their advanced-city counterparts. This will provide a further competitive advantage to their Quality of Life scores, as residents will spend less of their incomes on housing.

Indeed, places such as London, Dublin, and New York are still struggling under the weight of high housing costs. In response, many cities are positioning themselves as attractive alternatives to larger domestic counterparts, given their relative affordability. Toulouse has demonstrated this in France, drawing workers away from Paris, as have several US metros, given the boom in youthful populations and businesses across Southern states like South Carolina, North Carolina, and Texas. If cities are able to combine rising incomes with relatively low housing costs, their Quality of Life scores will see a major boost.

Average income per person, selected global cities, real US$ PPP



The global urban landscape is increasingly multipolar

These developments are not inevitable. Progress depends on multiple factors, and cities that are able to unlock synergies across our Global Cities Index categories have the best chance of joining our global leaders. Governance and the Environment will play a pivotal role in this, as these two categories shape the others. Strong institutions and a stable environment provide the foundations for a growing economy, and the conditions for human capital and quality of life to flourish.

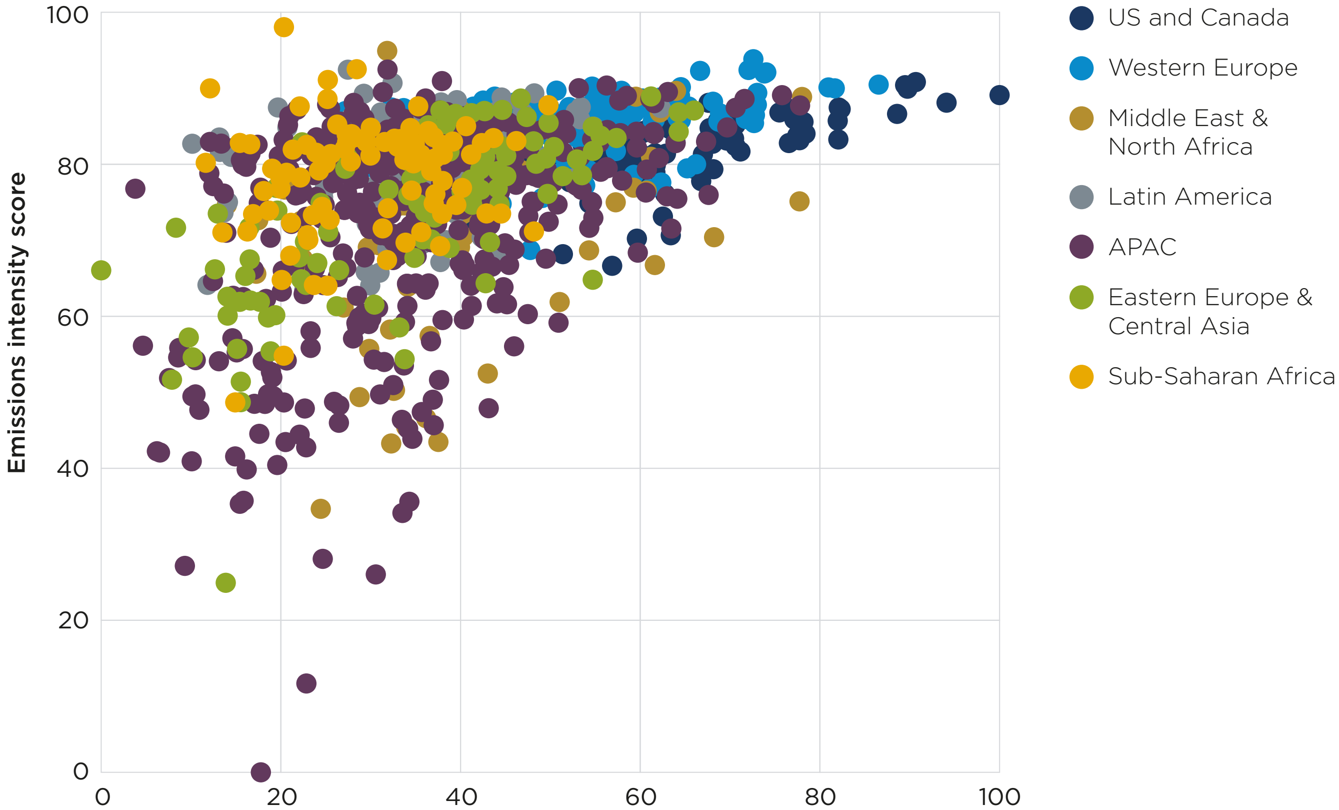
The rollout of green energy technologies, alongside a shift toward less resource-intensive service sectors, may also see emissions trajectories in developing economies plateau in the coming decades, even as their economies grow.

The interaction between these two categories matters too, as Governance will heavily influence the Environment category's future outlook. Cities advancing green initiatives will likely see favourable emissions intensity scores, as seen with Medellín's (Colombia) electric transport network.

The rollout of green energy technologies, alongside a shift toward less resource-intensive service sectors, may also see emissions trajectories in developing economies plateau in the coming decades, even as their economies grow. This creates opportunities for cities with poor emissions intensity scores, such as Jakarta (Indonesia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), to converge with the global city average.

Similarly, China's institutional push for renewables could remove a key barrier its cities face in climbing the rankings. China leads the world in building solar and wind capacity, accounts for half of the 10 bestselling electric vehicle manufacturers globally, and cities like Shenzhen are at the forefront of sustainable innovation. As renewables take a larger share of the energy mix, we expect emissions intensity scores in Chinese cities to improve.

Economics vs Emissions, 2026



Our forecasts therefore provide a way to assess the performance of 1,000 major global cities across multiple metrics, enabling us to analyse what this means for the future shape of the global urban economy. Many current leaders will remain near the top, as their existing strengths and the virtuous cycles that accompany their growth continue to propel them forward. But opportunities across major hubs will broaden, and new entrants will emerge up the rankings.

We expect cities in the Asia Pacific and the Middle East to see significant gains in the coming years, as economic growth lifts living standards and quality of life, while also positively shaping environmental and governance outcomes. But there are pockets of cities throughout the world that are utilising their deep skills base to move up the global value chain, reshaping their urban economies to take advantage of the tech boom and raise living standards.

These shifts will significantly alter the geography of the global urban economy over the coming decades. As a result, our Global Cities Index will blend change with stability, as opportunities across the globe deepen and broaden, offering significant returns and consumer market expansion.

Medellín, Colombia
Overall Rank: 370th

Alexander Canas Arango/ Shutterstock.com

CITIES TO WATCH

Monterrey, Mexico
Overall Rank: 314th

CITIES TO WATCH

Europe

- Eindhoven
- Manchester
- Tallinn
- Toulouse
- Warsaw

North America

- Boise
- Durham
- Edmonton
- Jacksonville
- San Antonio

Latin America

- Brasília
- Lima
- Medellín
- Monterrey
- Santiago

Asia Pacific

- Bengaluru
- Ho Chi Minh City
- Kuala Lumpur
- Shenzhen
- Tashkent

Africa

- Accra
- Cairo
- Dakar
- Luanda
- Nairobi

Middle East

- Abu Dhabi
- Dubai
- Riyadh

In our Global Cities Index report for this year, we've chosen to look beyond the established metropolises of the world and highlight some of the emerging stars of the global economy. The result is our new **Cities to Watch** section, which brings together a selection of cities in each region of the globe—cities we're excited about, and ones we think investors should take notice of.

The message I had for the team when compiling their list for each region was to pick cities that have a compelling narrative, that are charting a dynamic growth path, and that our forecasting models project will deliver strong growth over the next decade. The list for each region is therefore not exhaustive. Rather, it's our attempt at diluting a world of opportunity into a small, fast-growing subset of places that are increasingly attractive places for talent and innovation.

The sheer depth and breadth of opportunity across the world today comes through in our selections, which also highlight that national-level analysis can only take you so far. There is so much going on below the surface, with cities and regions regularly outperforming their national economies and offering substantial growth opportunities for investors. These cities are emblematic of that diversity.

Liam Sides
Director, City Services

Europe
Top cities to watch

Are there any strong but under-the-radar performers left in the Old World? Absolutely. Leaving aside the behemoths of London and Paris, as well as the extremely well-to-do Nordic and Swiss cities, I have picked five exciting yet different locations to watch.

Warsaw and Tallinn stand out as Europe's two emerging stars. The Polish capital is by far the bigger of the two, and is the largest centre for finance, business, and commerce in Central and Eastern Europe. Having climbed over 100 places to 61st in this edition of the index, Warsaw also benefits from a very positive economic outlook. Tallinn, on the other hand, is a smaller but even more dynamic city, largely driven by its excellence in ICT and tech. We forecast that this will give the Estonian capital the strongest GDP growth among major EU cities over the next decade.

Ongoing struggles of the European industrial sector are well known; however, some cities have managed to buck this trend—with two prominent examples in Toulouse and Eindhoven. Both have achieved this by specialising in very high-value manufacturing: Toulouse primarily in aerospace, while Eindhoven is home to the world's leading manufacturer of equipment used for semiconductor production. Innovation and R&D-centred growth will enable Toulouse and Eindhoven to remain at the forefront, helping them deliver increasingly diverse economic activity.

My final city is Manchester, which in recent years has seen the strongest GDP and productivity growth among the UK's cities, as well as some of the largest employment gains in Europe. This has been partly achieved through the city's rich cultural offering and lower costs attracting many younger workers, while being supported by substantial infrastructure investment and its excellent university.

So, no, I don't think it is all 'doom and gloom' for Europe, as these five cities demonstrate that dynamism and opportunity are very much alive across the continent.

Dmitriy Gruzinov
Lead Economist,
Europe

Warsaw, Poland
Overall Rank: 61st

EUROPE: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Eindhoven | Netherlands

Eindhoven is a relatively small city by European standards, but what it lacks in scale it more than makes up for in economic dynamism. As one of Europe's most innovative major urban centres, the city has a leading R&D and advanced manufacturing cluster—known as 'Brainport Eindhoven'—at the heart of the local economy. Over 5,000 high-tech, knowledge-based companies are located in the city region, with specialisms in areas such as semiconductor production, AI, green technology, and more.

The city's core sectors form a key part of the ongoing tech revolution, placing Eindhoven in a strong position to thrive over the coming years. The reliance on high-productivity manufacturing and research-focused sectors helps to set Eindhoven apart from its more services-orientated peers, and it means that, rather unusually for a Western European city, the thriving industrial sector will be a key driver of economic growth going forward. In fact, we expect Eindhoven's industrial output to see one of the strongest expansions in Europe over the period to 2030, and overall GDP growth in the city will be outpaced only by the fast-growing, lower-income cities of Central and Eastern Europe and a handful of Western European peers.

This healthy performance will be supported by the city's highly skilled and well-paid workforce, which will continue to expand at a strong pace as business demand creates more job opportunities. Favourable tax incentives for talented expats also help, but it is not just employment opportunities that make the city a desirable place to relocate to. Eindhoven's residents also enjoy a high quality of life, with low crime rates, strong transport connectivity, and access to numerous recreational and green spaces. This allows the city to retain residents over the longer term, further boosting Eindhoven's economic potential.

However, Eindhoven's future successes will also bring about challenges. The most pressing of which is ensuring that the housing supply can keep pace with the extra 28,000 people we expect to live in the city by 2040. This is one of the key downside risks that could constrain the outlook for Eindhoven going forward, although significant recent investments from the government and the private sector to improve housing provision and local infrastructure should help ease these pressures.

All in all, the economic prospects for Eindhoven look favourable and we expect the city to continue punching well above its weight on the European stage. This means that, rather fittingly for a city once famous for mass producing Philips' lightbulbs, Eindhoven will remain a bright spot in the European economy for years to come.

Iurii Dzivinskyi / Shutterstock.com

RANKINGS

OVERALL	80th
ECONOMICS	123rd
HUMAN CAPITAL	210th
QUALITY OF LIFE	45th
ENVIRONMENT	176th
GOVERNANCE	51st

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$74 billion
GDP per person:	US$92,400
Population:	800,000

STRENGTHS

- High GDP per person
- Lower emissions intensity
- Many recreation and cultural sites

WEAKNESSES

- Older age profile
- High housing expenditure
- Larger rainfall anomalies

ARCHETYPES

- Industrial hub

Manchester | United Kingdom

Manchester is booming. Since 2010, the city has experienced some of Europe's largest employment gains, has outpaced all other cities in the UK for both GDP and productivity growth, and has firmly positioned itself as a destination for professional services firms. Long in London's shadow, Manchester is increasingly attracting and retaining skilled graduates and charting a growth path that is being spoken of as a model to follow for the UK's other major economies.

A thriving cultural scene—with long-term investments into sport, the arts, and creative industries—have supported Manchester's expansion. In particular, its two football clubs, Manchester City and United, have projected the city's image globally and created strong brand recognition to drive investment. The music scene has also grown, with the recently opened Co-op Live hosting the 2026 and 2027 BRIT Awards, complementing the existing AO Arena as a major draw for international artists and events.

The appeal of the city to the young and skilled is also clear, with its centre seeing huge population growth. In fact, since the global financial crisis, central Manchester's population has expanded by around 25%, far more than the UK's other cities and one of the highest rates of growth in Europe. The increase has been concentrated in younger populations, helping to raise employment, consumer market opportunities, and—alongside growth in the city's world-leading universities—driven a more knowledge-based economy.

Supporting this, Manchester has seen substantial investment in the critical infrastructure needed to drive a more diverse and agglomeration-led economy. Housing delivery and density in the city centre has increased significantly, while the local transport network has expanded more than any other UK city except London over the last 20 years. Manchester is also strategically positioned between the major cities of Leeds and Sheffield to the east and Liverpool to the west, giving the city substantial room for growth. Upcoming upgrades to rail lines to these dynamic cities have the potential to boost growth further, by more effectively connecting Manchester to a larger pool of skilled workers and businesses.

We expect this strong performance to continue, with Manchester set to add the fifth-largest number of jobs across Europe over the next 25 years. A central driver is the financial and business services sector, with the city expected to add significantly more roles in this sector than much larger services centres in Europe such as Paris and Berlin. Expanding office space has supported this, as Manchester experienced one of the largest percentage increases of any major Western European city over the last decade, and this delivery mindset will continue to push the city up our rankings.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	90th
ECONOMICS	74th
HUMAN CAPITAL	114th
QUALITY OF LIFE	280th
ENVIRONMENT	93rd
GOVERNANCE	140th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$194 billion
GDP per person:	US$53,700
Population:	3.6 million

STRENGTHS

- High educational attainment
- High economic stability
- Large GDP size

WEAKNESSES

- High housing expenditure
- Higher crime rate
- Larger rainfall anomalies

ARCHETYPES

- Sustainable City

EUROPE: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Tallinn | Estonia

Tallinn may be one of Europe's smaller capitals, but its economic influence is outsized. The city generates around 58% of Estonia's total GDP, making it one of the most nationally dominant capitals in Europe. This concentration of activity along with huge momentum in high-productivity industries, like tech and professional services, has pushed the city onto the radar of the Global Cities Index, with Tallinn forecast to be the fastest-growing major city in the EU over the next decade.

The Estonian capital has consistently ranked among the top European performers in our forecasts for GDP and productivity growth. Much of this momentum stems from Estonia's successful post-Soviet integration with Western and Northern Europe, marked by EU accession and significant infrastructure improvements.

Tallinn has been at the centre of these trends, and the development of projects such as the Rail Baltica corridor and the planned Helsinki-Tallinn undersea rail tunnel is expected to further embed the city within the wider European market. This institutional strength has helped cultivate an investment-friendly business environment, transforming Tallinn into an emerging tech city with a vibrant startup scene that has produced globally recognised names such as Skype, Bolt, and Wise.

Going forward, strong productivity in established high-value sectors will drive Tallinn's robust expansion, with the city's nominal GDP positioned to almost double over the next decade and overtake Porto and Bologna by 2050. Central to this trajectory is the city's rapidly expanding ICT sector, which has consistently outpaced the European average over the past decade. The agglomeration of economic activity in Tallinn is even more pronounced in this sector, where the capital region accounts for 88% of Estonia's output, reinforcing the city's outsized role within the national economy. Estonia also has strong AI adoption rates relative to its Central and Eastern European peers, reflecting the growing role of advanced digital tools in supporting Tallinn's productivity gains.

While there are, of course, some caveats to Tallinn's strong outlook—not least its weak demographic trends and environmental concerns—the fundamentals of high productivity growth and rising incomes are strong. This will improve living standards and quality of life, helping attract skilled workers and driving increases in consumption rates. Overall, the city may be small, but its presence in the global economy is increasingly relevant.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	207th
ECONOMICS	338th
HUMAN CAPITAL	228th
QUALITY OF LIFE	161st
ENVIRONMENT	422nd
GOVERNANCE	59th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$30 billion
GDP per person:	US$45,800
Population:	650,000

STRENGTHS

- Good air quality
- High educational attainment
- Many recreation and cultural sites

WEAKNESSES

- Slower employment growth
- Larger rainfall anomalies
- High housing expenditure

ARCHETYPES

- Cultural Capital

EUROPE: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Toulouse | France

While Paris dominates the rankings for French cities in our Global Cities Index, the success of Toulouse—which places third nationally and 126th overall—highlights the strong opportunities that exist outside of the capital. In a country with an ageing population, industrial pressures, and rising political instability, Toulouse is a clear green shoot of opportunity and dynamism.

Georgios Tsichlis / Shutterstock.com

A major factor that underpins the success of Toulouse is the city's ability to position itself as an attractive alternative to its larger peers. The cost of living in the city is much lower compared with Paris, and this, coupled with a warmer climate and high quality of life, has made Toulouse a desirable place for people to relocate to. As a result, we expect inward migration trends to remain healthy and forecast the population to grow by 57,000 over the next four years—by far the most of any French city.

Unlike other parts of southern France, which are also no strangers to sun-seeking migration, movers to Toulouse tend to be younger, higher skilled, and drawn in by opportunities in the city's thriving local economy. In particular, Toulouse is a powerhouse in the global aerospace industry, with a significant presence of major global companies such as Airbus, Thales, Liebherr and more. Prospects here remain favourable as long order backlogs suggest healthy demand in the sector, while increases in defence-related spending across Europe should also provide a boost over the coming years. But the city's economy is also becoming increasingly diverse, with ICT and business services sectors gaining prominence. Strong contributions from these sectors have helped Toulouse become one of Western Europe's fastest-growing cities over recent years and should provide a positive impetus for expansion going forward.

This healthy growth in highly specialised and therefore well-paid sectors, in combination with a rapidly expanding consumer base, also bodes well for the city's retail sector. Over the medium term, we expect Toulouse to lead France for retail sales growth, averaging 1.8% per year through to 2030. This will be equivalent to an extra €1.1 billion annual spend (in real terms), helping the city strengthen its position as France's fourth-largest consumer market.

While the outlook is undoubtedly favourable by French standards, this isn't to say there isn't room for improvement. For one, a potential downturn in the aerospace sector would be a major blow to the local economy, and the rapidly expanding population is also adding strain to the local housing market. But we remain positive about Toulouse and expect the city to reaffirm its position as one of France's few winners over the coming years.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	126th
ECONOMICS	131st
HUMAN CAPITAL	333rd
QUALITY OF LIFE	118th
ENVIRONMENT	47th
GOVERNANCE	317th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$85 billion
GDP per person:	US$54,100
Population:	1.6 million

STRENGTHS

- Fast population growth
- High life expectancy
- High economic stability

WEAKNESSES

- High housing expenditure
- Larger temperature anomalies
- Older age profile

ARCHETYPES

- Cultural Capital

EUROPE: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Warsaw | Poland

While many cities in Central and Eastern Europe have become increasingly relevant in the 2026 Global Cities Index, one city in particular stands out—the capital of Poland, Warsaw. The city has combined rapid economic growth over the last two decades with significant employment gains. Today, Warsaw is firmly positioned as the regional leader for finance, tech, ICT, and business services, and is the second-largest city economy in Central and Eastern Europe behind Moscow.

The city's robust growth has been underpinned by its expanding skills base, anchored by leading academic institutions. Chief among them are the University of Warsaw—Poland's largest university—and the Warsaw University of Technology. Together, they are significant contributors to the city's academic ecosystem of over 250,000 students, reinforcing Warsaw's appeal to businesses and investors. This increasingly dynamic business and educational environment is also helping to reverse the country's long-standing brain drain, as Polish wages and career opportunities continue to converge with those available in Germany and the UK.

Looking ahead, Warsaw will maintain this strong position in the region and is set to dominate our GDP and productivity growth outlook across Europe, continuing to outpace more established cities in Western and Northern Europe. Over the next five years, for instance, Warsaw is set to be among the fastest-growing cities in Europe, with an average annual growth rate of approximately 3%—almost double the European city average. This growth will be largely productivity-driven and will increasingly help mitigate the impact of the weak demographic trends putting pressure on the region.

Productivity advances will also raise income levels and help drive quality of life improvements. In fact, over the next 10 years, Warsaw's income growth will be among the fastest in Europe. This will translate into significant increases in the city's consumer market—growing at 3.3% per annum between 2026 and 2030—far outpacing other European cities. A core driver of this is Warsaw's expanding middle class, which will propel Warsaw's consumer spending past more established markets like Lisbon and Lyon in size by 2050.

Warsaw's deep skills and investor base, stable and diverse economic growth, and rapidly expanding consumer market make it a city that businesses should take note of. It is a city helping to drive Europe's own eastward shift in economic geography and will increasingly compete with established peers in Western Europe. By 2050, we expect average household disposable income to increase by around 35% in real terms, leaving the city with income levels exceeding those of Porto and Seville.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	61st
ECONOMICS	77th
HUMAN CAPITAL	104th
QUALITY OF LIFE	32nd
ENVIRONMENT	364th
GOVERNANCE	290th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$193 billion
GDP per person:	US$56,200
Population:	3.4 million

STRENGTHS

- High educational attainment
- Higher income equality
- Many recreation and cultural sites

WEAKNESSES

- Older age profile
- Larger temperature anomalies
- Poorer air quality

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

North America
Top cities to watch

Despite a series of global headwinds in recent years, several metros across North America have defied expectations to post steady gains across a broad swath of sectors. The five we have picked—Boise, Durham, Jacksonville, San Antonio, and Edmonton—epitomise the continent's exceptionalism, combining strong productivity increases with robust and diverse employment growth.

Boise is cementing its position as a leading site for tech investment and entrepreneurs, many of whom flock to the region for its enviable mountain climate. But its economy is also balanced by the fact that it has a large university and is the state capital. Likewise, Durham has enjoyed robust population growth as many seek to work in its high-skilled tech and life sciences sectors clustered in the locale. Several pharmaceutical companies have chosen Durham for expansion projects, given its proximity to leading universities and business-friendly climate centred around the renowned Research Triangle.

San Antonio and Jacksonville have followed similar growth trajectories, anchored by major military bases, strong tourism sectors, and increasingly diversified economies. San Antonio combines its government presence with iconic attractions like the River Walk and the Alamo, while Jacksonville pairs its beaches with a growing banking and fintech hub.

Not to be outdone, Edmonton's growth has broadly expanded beyond its concentrated oil sector. It too has attracted significant in-migration given that it is Alberta's capital and home to the University of Alberta, which serves as a substantial public-sector and research base. Indeed, its high-skilled business services sectors have contributed the lion's share of job growth over the last few years.

While other Texas, Florida, Carolina, Mountain Region, and Canadian metros have seen steady growth over the last few years, these five have outperformed most others on many fronts, yet are often overlooked as they aren't 'gateway' metros. Looking ahead, we expect them to continue leading their peers.

Barbara Denham
Lead Economist,
North America

Anthony Bernard-Sasges
Senior Economist,
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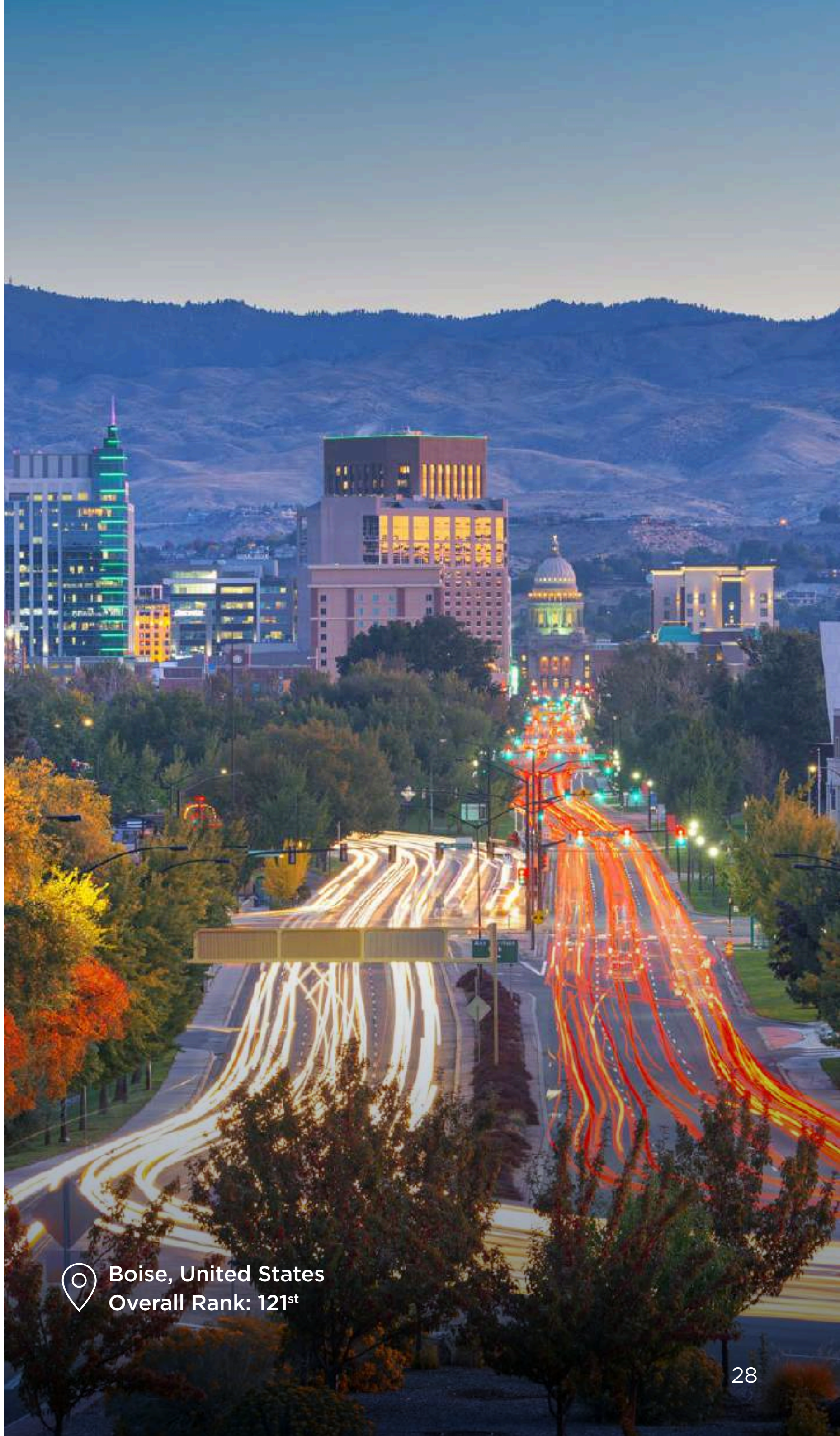


Boise, United States
Overall Rank: 121st

NORTH AMERICA: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Boise | United States

Several US cities across the Rocky Mountain area have seen tremendous in-migration and tech start-up activity during and since the Covid-19 pandemic, but Boise has been, by many measures, ground zero for this movement. As it already had a thriving economy, given its large university (Boise State) and burgeoning tech sector, it was able to absorb the growth more efficiently than other smaller cities in the broader region. Although growth has decelerated slightly, Boise remains a popular destination for aspiring entrepreneurs and tourists alike thanks to its mountain views and numerous outdoor amenities.

Boise's growth has been driven by a tech-heavy workforce, a steady influx of educated newcomers, and businesses looking to capitalise on its business-friendly climate and skilled talent pool. Boise State alone produces nearly 1,000 STEM graduates a year, with many opting to remain in the 'Treasure Valley' for work. Indeed, Micron Technology is building a $15 billion advanced memory chip facility adjacent to its existing plant with a planned 2027 opening. Other major tech companies include Hewlett-Packard, Agilent Technologies, Allied Business Solutions, and Applied Materials. Outside of tech, Boise has seen strong growth in healthcare and construction, owing to its rapid population expansion, and as the state capital, it has a stable government sector. The city also benefits from a substantial leisure and hospitality sector, with a high concentration of arts (Ballet Idaho and Opera Idaho), museums, and tourism activities, such as skiing, hiking, and kayaking.

We expect Boise to continue to lead in many economic measures, despite recent declines in tech jobs. And although house prices have risen in recent years, the city's relative affordability will continue to draw many seeking lower costs. Boise is forecast to see population growth of 1.1% in the US in the coming years, and this expansion will help support the labour market and consumer sectors. In fact, consumer spending is forecast to increase at 3.3% per year over the next five years, well above the US average. And with Boise's quality-of-life benefits drawing significant senior in-migration, both consumer and investor opportunities will be broad.

With substantial tech-led productivity growth expected, Boise will continue to serve as a major Mountain Region economy that attracts entrepreneurs and workers seeking a high quality of life with a relatively low cost of living. As several semiconductor supply chain companies—Air Liquide and Exyte—and tech-related firms—Kount and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories—expand the ecosystem of activity and investing in the region, Boise is clearly a standout city and poised to continue to top our rankings.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	121st
ECONOMICS	141st
HUMAN CAPITAL	183rd
QUALITY OF LIFE	219th
ENVIRONMENT	35th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$63 billion
GDP per person:	US$72,600
Population:	860,000

STRENGTHS

- High income per person
- Good air quality
- High educational attainment

WEAKNESSES

- Older age profile
- High housing expenditure
- Larger temperature anomalies

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

NORTH AMERICA: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Durham | United States

Durham has often stood in the shadow of its larger sibling city, Raleigh, but it frequently outshines it nevertheless. Durham's population is less than 40% of Raleigh's, but its GDP reaches nearly half the size of Raleigh's total. As a result, Durham's GDP per capita ranks in the top 20 of our index's 1,000 cities, with its knowledge-based economy at the centre of dynamics. It has broad activity across life sciences, pharmaceuticals, tech, and education, and it is anchored by two of the three universities—Duke University and University of NC at Chapel Hill—earning the 'Research Triangle' moniker for the dual-metro area.

Durham saw tremendous in-migration during and since the Covid-19 pandemic, as many from Northern states sought a more temperate climate and better job opportunities. Companies and entrepreneurs have and will continue to be attracted to the region, as they draw upon the high-skilled graduates of its universities. Leading tech companies include IBM, Cisco, and Wolfspeed the latter of which recently expanded in Siler City. Prominent biotech and pharmaceuticals firms include BioCryst, Merck, GSK, Eli Lilly, Novartis, and AbbVie—many of which are expanding in the metro and operating in Research Triangle Park, based (mostly) in Durham. Popularity of its famed universities has motivated University of NC leaders to expand, with plans to add 2,000 more students across 100+ acres.

zimmytws / Shutterstock.com

Recent population figures reported North Carolina was the top state for domestic in-migration, surpassing Texas and Florida. While both domestic and international migration trends have decelerated, Durham will continue to outperform, as its expected 2026–2030 population growth of 0.7% will be more than twice that of the US. It is also poised to see healthy GDP and job growth ahead thanks to the combination of its high-skilled industry concentration and continued net in-migration. Its forecast average GDP growth rate of 2.7% and job growth rate of 0.3% both exceed the US average over the 2026–2030 period. Strong productivity gains will yield robust income and consumer spending growth of 2.9% and 2.8%, respectively, which are also higher than the national rate.

Moreover, affordability remains competitive in the metro as house prices have increased at a slower rate than the US. This comparative advantage spills over to the business cost equation as well, which is why companies seeking to expand choose Durham and the Research Triangle region—a trend we don't see changing any time soon.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	142nd
ECONOMICS	109th
HUMAN CAPITAL	141st
QUALITY OF LIFE	347th
ENVIRONMENT	230th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$76 billion
GDP per person:	US$121,500
Population:	620,000

STRENGTHS

- High GDP per person
- Lower emissions intensity
- Strong business environment

WEAKNESSES

- Older age profile
- Higher crime rate
- More severe natural disasters

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

NORTH AMERICA: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Edmonton | Canada

Edmonton, Canada's fifth-largest city, is best known for its role in the country's significant oil and gas industry. And while its economic fortunes have long been tied to the performance of this volatile sector, the city is in the process of diversifying its economy to support more sustainable, long-term growth. A commitment to this diversification, combined with the city's structural advantages, suggest Edmonton is poised to make significant gains in the Global Cities Index in the coming decade, making it a key city to watch in North America.

Edmonton is among North America's fastest-growing urban economies, with strong gains in GDP, employment, and population. In fact, over the next five years, Edmonton's employment and population will grow at the second-fastest rate of any city in the US and Canada, as high-paying jobs in the business services and oil sectors continue to attract young workers from across Canada. As Alberta's capital and home to the University of Alberta, Edmonton also benefits from a substantial public sector and research base that is helping underpin greater diversification and support strong growth in the business services sector of the economy.

The combination of robust GDP, employment, and population growth will also have positive downstream effects. Disposable incomes in the city—which are already higher than the national average—are set to rise at one of the fastest rates in Canada, boosting consumer spending. On the demographics side, a growing population, especially due to the in-migration of working-age adults, will help keep the metro's age profile younger than most other cities in North America. This supports the city's cultural vibrancy: it hosts various food and cultural festivals year-round, earning the nickname 'Canada's Festival City'.

A consequence of the rapid population growth across Canadian cities in recent years has been housing affordability falling to record lows, as housing supply has been unable to keep up with new demand in many metros. However, Edmonton remains more affordable than many of Canada's other major cities. This is another key driver supporting the city's growth, as newcomers are attracted to the relatively lower cost of living.

Recent developments—such as the expansion of the Trans Mountain Pipeline to transport more oil from Edmonton to the Port of Vancouver and proposed carbon capture projects by Alberta-based oil producers—suggest the city remains firmly invested in the future of fossil fuels. But as the world transitions to more sustainable energy sources, the city is well positioned to leverage its increasing dynamism for long-term growth.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	125th
ECONOMICS	126th
HUMAN CAPITAL	107th
QUALITY OF LIFE	240th
ENVIRONMENT	759th
GOVERNANCE	61st

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$81 billion
GDP per person:	US$48,200
Population:	1.7 million

STRENGTHS

- Fast population growth
- Higher income equality
- Strong institutions

WEAKNESSES

- Larger temperature anomalies
- Higher housing expenditure
- Less economic stability

ARCHETYPES

- Industrial Hub

NORTH AMERICA: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Jacksonville | United States

Jacksonville is a standout city—even by fast-growing Florida standards. Its broad-based growth in recent years has earned it an upgrade in the Global City Index rankings for this year. While much of its growth has been fuelled by in-migration and population gains, it is increasingly being recognised on a global scale for its burgeoning finance, tech, fintech, and professional business services sectors.

Indeed, Jacksonville's economy is anchored by this diverse mix of industries, starting with its large banking presence—Bank of America, TIAA, Wells Fargo, BBVA, Truist all operate here. This foundation has in turn helped catalyse a thriving fintech sector, including firms like FIS, Nymbus, and Black Knight. Tech is another standout as it contributed 26% of the city's total GDP growth in 2025. That strength shows up in the broader numbers too, as Jacksonville's GDP-per-job metric ranks in the top 20 metros nationally.

Home to Naval Air Station Jacksonville, it also has a large federal workforce that supports many defence contractors such as Northrop Grumman, Boeing, and Collins Aerospace, as well as several VA hospitals. Moreover, its leading employers include a broad swath of headquarters across different sectors based in the region. Finally, Jacksonville is renowned for its temperate climate and leisure and hospitality offerings

including miles of beaches, wildlife preserves, and water sports.

Despite recent job declines, Jacksonville is forecast to see above-average tech job gains ahead. Likewise, we forecast healthier tech GDP and productivity increases than the US average. Indeed, Jacksonville's move up in our rankings in recent years is in no small part due to its tech sector contributions. Still, much of the metro's economic growth has and will continue to be generated from in-migration, which is forecast to account for most of the total population change. While international and domestic migration trends have slowed considerably compared with the previous five years, Jacksonville is poised to see some of the highest in-migration and population growth of all leading US metros. Jacksonville's total expected population growth of 1.0% per year through 2030 is nearly four times the US rate. This will spur above average job gains in healthcare, retail, and local government to name a few.

Alongside strong economic growth, Jacksonville's skills base is expanding, which in turn is boosting average income levels. Johnson & Johnson announced plans for a $1 billion expansion in its Vision division. Separately, entrepreneurs are investing in a defence innovation campus near the Keystone Airport. Income and consumer spending growth forecasts, both averaging 2.9% per year, are above the US equivalent average and position Jacksonville as a city on the move.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	134th
ECONOMICS	70th
HUMAN CAPITAL	164th
QUALITY OF LIFE	364th
ENVIRONMENT	198th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$148 billion
GDP per person:	US$83,200
Population:	1.8 million

STRENGTHS

- High income per person
- Smaller rainfall anomalies
- Large GDP size

WEAKNESSES

- Older age profile
- Higher housing expenditure
- Higher crime rate

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

NORTH AMERICA: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

San Antonio | United States

Texas's metros have outpaced most leading US metros, but San Antonio has done so at a quieter and more balanced pace than its larger state peers, moving it up in the overall 2026 Global Cities Index rankings. Its consistent GDP growth over the last few years, together with steady employment gains, has helped it emerge as a city to watch. Its GDP ranks it as the 31st-largest economy in the US. Leading sectors fuelling its economy include federal government and defence contractors, finance, mining, and leisure and hospitality.

San Antonio has a uniquely diverse economy that has been the backbone of its stability. It is home to the Joint Base San Antonio, which not only employs a large civilian federal and military workforce, but it supports several defence contractors such as Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, L3 Harris, and Boeing, as well as several VA hospitals. Its large finance sector includes USAA—an insurance company for military veterans and one of the metro's biggest employers. Likewise, its significant state and local government sector includes the fifth-largest University of Texas campus (UTSA) and the UT Health San Antonio Multispecialty and Research Hospital. Finally, San Antonio serves as a tourism destination within the region, with such popular attractions as The Alamo and River Walk lined with numerous restaurants, retail, and hotels.

San Antonio is forecast to outpace most leading metros with respect to both GDP and job growth through 2030, with finance, retail, and manufacturing enjoying the highest GDP growth relative to the US average, with leisure and hospitality and healthcare seeing the strongest job gains. San Antonio is also poised to outperform most large US metros with respect to population, income, and consumer spending growth over this period, with spending rising at a rate exceeding the US average by a wide margin. Much of the growth will be population driven, highlighting the city's attractiveness to workers.

In fact, it is San Antonio's labour market measures that particularly stand out. Its large state university anchors these trends and this strong performance. The metro also has an outsized presence of corporate headquarters, including H-E-B, Valero Energy, and iHeartMedia. It's auto manufacturing sector is expanding, as Toyota plans to double its assembly plant footprint on the South Side. As a relatively affordable place to live and do business, San Antonio will continue to appeal to businesses and consumers alike, and we anticipate it rising up our rankings going forward.

Kelly A. Williams / Shutterstock.com

RANKINGS

OVERALL	114th
ECONOMICS	54th
HUMAN CAPITAL	120th
QUALITY OF LIFE	351st
ENVIRONMENT	340th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$210 billion
GDP per person:	US$74,600
Population:	2.8 million

STRENGTHS

- High income per person
- Large GDP size
- Fast population growth

WEAKNESSES

- More severe natural disasters
- Lower income equality
- Larger temperature anomalies

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

Latin America
Top cities to watch

While growth dynamics across the Latin American cities are often overlooked—particularly relative to fast-growing regions like the Middle East and Asia—there remain plenty of opportunities to take notice of. The five cities I've chosen offer a mix between mature established capitals and emerging metropolitan economies. A common theme across them all is a shift toward more productivity-led expansion as they progress up the value chain.

Three of my choices are capital cities. Brasília, the unique purpose-built capital of Brazil, long anchored by its strong federal core, is now catalysing growth in complementary industries like financial and business services. In Chile, Santiago is charting a similar course, with financial and business services already accounting for over a quarter of the local economy. The city is positioning itself as an increasingly attractive location for nearshored shared services and higher-value professional activities. Then there is Lima, the primary entrepôt of Peru. The city is expected to see average income levels surpass major regional peers in the coming years, while investment in key infrastructure bodes well for future growth potential.

My non-capital city choices offer a contrast. Monterrey has truly been North America's big nearshoring winner in recent years, with its deep integration into US supply chains reinforcing its role as Mexico's industrial powerhouse.

Are challenges on the horizon? Yes. But we think the city has strong fundamentals that aren't going anywhere soon.

Medellín is at an earlier stage in its economic development than the other four cities. The city has made significant strides in shedding the legacy of its cartel past through a prolonged period of urban and social transformation. Cable-car mass transit has helped lift Medellín to new heights, and we believe it is now poised for the next stage in its progression.

Together, these cities demonstrate that—even in a slower-growing region—there are significant and diverse opportunities.

Jonathan Stewart
Lead Economist,
Latin America

ByDroneVideos / Shutterstock.com

Brasília, Brazil
Overall Rank: 335th

LATIN AMERICA: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Brasília | Brazil

As Brazil's planned, purpose-built capital for federal government functions, Brasília is unlike any other city in South America. It has matured into one of South America's most stable and productive economies, owing to its highly skilled and well-compensated workforce in formal, service-oriented employment. The capital's employment growth has been truly remarkable considering its sectoral mix, rising at an annual average rate of 2.9% over the past 20 years—the second-fastest among South American cities in our Global Cities Index.

Brasília's economy rests on two key pillars: a powerful federal core and sophisticated financial and business services activity. Home to a vast array of government activities—such as the federal executive to Congress, the superior courts, independent regulators, audit and prosecution bodies, and the Federal District government—public services account for 30% of the city's employment and have acted as a counter-cyclical anchor to the economy. Owing, in part, to its sheer scale, we forecast public services to continue to underpin Brasília's growth over the next decade, accounting for close to two-fifths of the city's total employment increase and a fifth of its economic expansion.

Alongside the public sector anchor, Brasília's service sectors are increasingly moving up the value-added chain. Catalysed by the unique concentration of key decision-makers, regulators, and corporate functions, the capital's financial and business services sector is emblematic of this shift and has gained significant momentum in recent years. Over the last two decades, the financial and business services sector has been the fastest-growing part of the economy by a clear margin, with GVA rising at an annual average rate of 4.7% compared with 3.3% nationally. And looking ahead, we expect this outperformance to continue. The capital is well positioned for future growth in specialised govtech, fintech, and professional services, as the city's strong public sector concentration increasingly attracts business activity from private firms. Productivity gains will be instrumental to future growth—as an ageing population weighs on employment growth—while the city's unique, highly planned infrastructure and spatial layout continue to deepen agglomeration effects.

That said, Brasília's sectoral mix is already very productive, with the city generating the third-highest GDP per person of any South American city. The wage premia associated with these high-skilled formal roles have also entrenched a broad middle class, strengthening household purchasing power and lifting Brasília to the second-highest income per person in South America in our index. Meanwhile, its intentional urban setting and service-based structure help deliver low emissions intensity and better air quality.

We think Brasília is one to watch, as its predominantly service-led economy continues to climb the value-added chain, supported by its highly skilled formal workforce and unique spatial characteristics.


Erich Sacco / Shutterstock.com

RANKINGS

OVERALL	335th
ECONOMICS	315th
HUMAN CAPITAL	214th
QUALITY OF LIFE	599th
ENVIRONMENT	76th
GOVERNANCE	554th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$80 billion
GDP per person:	US$25,200
Population:	3.2 million

STRENGTHS

- High income per person
- High life expectancy
- Lower emissions intensity

WEAKNESSES

- Less economic diversity
- Lower income equality
- Larger rainfall anomalies

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

LATIN AMERICA: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Lima | Peru

Across Latin America, an unfortunate reality is that major cities—for a multitude of reasons—tend to underperform their respective national economies, rather than driving national economic growth as we're accustomed to seeing in major cities across other regions. Lima, however, is an exception to this trend. The city truly anchors the Peruvian economy and has seen rapid economic growth over the past two decades.

Lima has a deep skills base, and its labour force has been a central engine of the city's expansion. Peru has significantly grown tertiary education enrolment and attainment since the turn of the century, resulting in one of the highest participation rates in the region. Lima's strong academic institutions have supplied the skilled labour that has facilitated growth in finance and business services. Meanwhile, large scale rural-to-urban migration has expanded both the city's consumer base and labour pool. This demographic inflow has supported growth in construction and consumer services and, while it has increased housing pressures, the city still ranks very favourably in our index for housing expenditure.

Looking ahead, we expect Lima to strengthen its position in the region and remain among the top-ranked South American cities in our index through 2035. GDP growth will significantly outpace all other major Latin American cities over the next decade (3.2%), more than double the rate of São Paulo and rivalling the growth expected in some of Europe's and the Middle East's most dynamic cities. One of the more significant catalysts for growth over the next decade is the Chancay Megaport. The $3.5 billion Chinese-backed project located just north of Lima would provide a direct deep-water link to Asia and could cut shipping times to China by up to 20 days, with the potential to position Lima as a key regional logistics hub.

While we still expect to see a strong contribution to growth from Lima's labour force over the coming decade, productivity growth will play a larger role than it has over the previous 20 years. Rising productivity—as Lima shifts towards higher-value economic activity—will also help to support strong income growth. By 2050, we expect average household disposable income to increase by over 40% in real terms, leaving the city with income levels exceeding that of São Paulo and Bogotá—having already surpassed Rio de Janeiro in 2021.

Lima's skilled and growing workforce, history of strong and stable economic growth, and strategic importance as a gateway to Asian markets make it an enticing investment prospect with diverse opportunities.

Eduardo Vidal Gutierrez / Shutterstock.com

RANKINGS

OVERALL	196th
ECONOMICS	183rd
HUMAN CAPITAL	51st
QUALITY OF LIFE	400th
ENVIRONMENT	376th
GOVERNANCE	506th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$152 billion
GDP per person:	US$13,000
Population:	11.7 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- More economic diversity
- Lower housing expenditure

WEAKNESSES

- Higher crime rates
- More severe natural disasters
- Poorer air quality

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader
- Developing Megacity

LATIN AMERICA: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Medellín | Colombia

Once associated with cartel violence, Medellín is a city striving to shake off the shackles of its past. The city has made huge progress over the past two decades through a prolonged period of urban and social transformation. Nothing quite encapsulates the city's progress better than the dramatic fall in its murder rate—from 380 per 100,000 inhabitants at its peak in 1991 to 13 per 100,000 in 2024. Over the same period, Medellín has also enjoyed strong economic and labour market growth, with its share of the national economy steadily increasing.

Oscar Garces / Shutterstock.com

A major catalyst for this transformation has been the development of 'Metrocable', the world's first urban cable-car system designed for mass public transport. Beyond improving mobility, the system fundamentally reshaped how hillside communities accessed the rest of the city, directly tackling long-standing spatial inequalities. Its environmental advantages have been equally significant; powered by electricity, Metrocable offers a low-emission, congestion-free alternative to road-based transport. Improved connectivity has also broadened access to employment opportunities, raised participation in the labour market, and underpinned robust job creation. Between 2006 and 2025, employment growth in the city averaged 2.5% per year, broadly matching the growth recorded in Lima, one of Latin America's leading performers. The composition of the labour market was also reshaped over this period. Employment in financial and business services more than doubled as a share of the city's total employment over the period, highlighting Medellín's shift towards higher-value activities and a more diversified economic base.

Looking ahead, we believe Medellín's success story is set to continue. We expect sustained economic and employment growth over the coming decade, driven increasingly by productivity gains as the city consolidates its transition toward knowledge-intensive, higher value-added sectors. These dynamics will elevate the city's regional standing and make it a more important player in South America. The pivot to higher value-added activity will also feed into strong average income growth in the city. In fact, Medellín's average income level is set to overtake major Latin American peers—including Buenos Aires and São Paulo—by the 2040s. This represents a huge transformation, given that as recently as 2014, Buenos Aires' average income was roughly twice Medellín's.

Medellín's evolution has been exceptional. Targeted investments in transport, education, and public space have underpinned its huge shift, positioning Medellín as a leading Latin American case study in social urbanism and inclusive growth. But there is still more to come from Colombia's second city, with economic potential that has yet to be realised—and for this reason, it's a city that businesses should take notice of.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	370th
ECONOMICS	348th
HUMAN CAPITAL	203rd
QUALITY OF LIFE	700th
ENVIRONMENT	338th
GOVERNANCE	404th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$50 billion
GDP per person:	US$12,500
Population:	4.0 million

STRENGTHS

- Many corporate headquarters
- Lower housing expenditure
- Lower emissions intensity

WEAKNESSES

- Higher crime rates
- Lower income equality
- Lower educational attainment

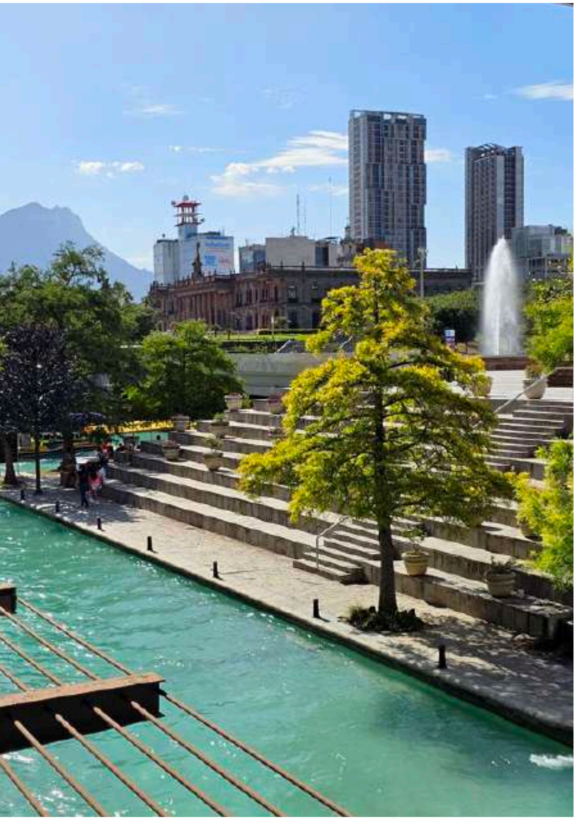
ARCHETYPES

- Industrial Hub

LATIN AMERICA: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Monterrey | Mexico

Monterrey has long been regarded as the industrial capital of Mexico. Over the last two decades, the city has outpaced the national average in terms of GDP growth—consolidating its position as a regional powerhouse. The combined effects of nearshoring and a strengthening labour force have been at the centre of this, and together they have positioned Monterrey's industrial sector as a leading centre of manufacturing activity both nationally and across the wider region.



Arlette Lopez / Shutterstock.com

Second only to Mexico City, Monterrey is one of the largest metropolitan economies in the Central American and Caribbean region by GDP size and has a particularly strong industrial presence, accounting for over a third of both the city's output and workforce. Historically anchored in steel, cement, and glass, the city has evolved into one of the most advanced manufacturing ecosystems in the region, with clusters in automotive components, industrial machinery, electronics, and other higher-value manufacturing. Nearshoring and strong integration with US supply chains will continue to reinforce its role as a major industrial hub, although USMCA negotiations do provide a backdrop of uncertainty.

As clustering effects deepen, industry is expected to remain the largest contributor to Monterrey's economic growth over the next decade. A competitive business environment and the pooling of skilled labour will support specialised business activity, reinforced by a strong pipeline of engineers and technical specialists from universities such as Tecnológico de Monterrey. As growth becomes increasingly productivity-led, Monterrey will maintain its position as one of the most important economic centres in Latin America.

The wider economy will also benefit from this movement up the value-added chain. Higher wages associated with advanced manufacturing—while remaining more cost-competitive than many North American peers—are expected to raise average income levels across the city, with real household disposable income rising by around 71% by 2050, outpacing the Mexico average of 55%. Sectors reliant on local household spending are expected to benefit from stronger demand, with consumer services GVA growth projected to be the city's fastest over the next decade, averaging 2.5%. Over the same period, Monterrey's export-oriented industries are projected to expand at an average of 1.9% per year, accounting for over a third of the city's total economic expansion. Growth will be primarily driven by strong external demand, supported by the city's established manufacturing base, deep integration with North American supply chains, and its growing role as a hub for nearshoring activity.

While current uncertainty around Mexico's trading relationship persists, Monterrey's scale, connectivity, and institutional strength position it to be resilient and among the most strategically important cities in Latin America. With nearshoring already reshaping North American supply chains, the city is emerging as a key hub for investment, industry, and regional economic leadership.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	314th
ECONOMICS	226th
HUMAN CAPITAL	148th
QUALITY OF LIFE	608th
ENVIRONMENT	482nd
GOVERNANCE	519th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$131 billion
GDP per person:	US$24,100
Population:	5.5 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- Fast population growth
- Many corporate headquarters

WEAKNESSES

- Higher crime rate
- Larger temperature anomalies
- Less economic diversity

ARCHETYPES

- Industrial Hub

Santiago | Chile

Santiago—Chile's capital and economic heart—is a regional hub with a deep professional services sector. Its national importance, economic diversity, strong institutional presence, deep skills base, and favourable business environment have delivered robust economic and employment growth in recent years. These dynamics have been self-reinforcing, making Santiago the fourth-largest economy in South America and the second-highest-ranking South America city in our index.

The strength of Santiago's labour market is unquestionable in the South American context, built upon centuries of institutional, educational, and cultural heritage. Home to the nation's oldest and most prestigious universities, and to key financial and political institutions, the city benefits from a stable political climate and supportive government policy. Together, these have attracted many corporate headquarters across industries and enabled competitive growth, with GDP rising at an annual average rate of 3.4% between 2005 and 2025—outpacing other major regional capitals, including Buenos Aires, Brasília, and Asunción.

Santiago's recent performance has been underpinned by its prominent financial and business services cluster in the northeast of the city—which accounts for over a quarter of the local economy. Timezone alignment to North America, continued infrastructure investment, and competitive operating costs have positioned the city as an increasingly attractive location for nearshored shared services and higher-value professional activities. Looking ahead, the cluster will continue to support Santiago's economic expansion as it makes a gradual transition towards productivity-led growth over the next decade as agglomeration effects deepen.

Meanwhile, programs that catalyse entrepreneurship and technology adoption have matured—with sustained support from universities, investment banks, and NGOs—expanding a pipeline of startups in fintech, service software, and clean tech. Santiago's smaller transport, logistics, and ICT sectors have become notable growth hotspots, expanding faster than any other sector over the past two decades. We forecast that these sectors will account for close to a fifth of Santiago's economic growth over the next decade, bolstered by accelerating digitalisation, investment inflows, and major transport infrastructure upgrades.

The city's large consumer services sector—which accounts for a third of employment and over a fifth of GDP—has also been instrumental in attracting and maintaining wider business activity. Looking ahead, the sector will continue to benefit from reliable service demand, experiencing healthy growth of 2.3% on average over the next decade. Such services and recreational activities, combined with the wage premia associated with high-value financial and business services, ICT, and tech-enabled logistics, support a relatively high quality of life and the third-largest consumer market in South America by GDP size.

Backed by deep human capital, strong institutions, a diverse sectoral mix, and promising transport and digital infrastructure investment, Santiago's economic outlook for the next decade is stable and healthy.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	155th
ECONOMICS	210th
HUMAN CAPITAL	36th
QUALITY OF LIFE	381st
ENVIRONMENT	662nd
GOVERNANCE	122nd

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$146 billion
GDP per person:	US$17,700
Population:	8.3 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- Many corporate headquarters
- High life expectancy

WEAKNESSES

- Older age profile
- Poorer air quality
- Larger rainfall anomalies

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

Asia Pacific
Top cities to watch

Asia's emerging cities are shifting the world's economic centre of gravity and increasingly challenging the dominance of advanced economy cities in the highest ranks of our Global Cities Index. The five rising stars we have chosen are among the region's strongest contenders for future top positions.

Knocking on the door of the world's top 50 is Kuala Lumpur. The Malaysian capital looks poised to trade places with higher-ranking cities by leveraging its impressive human capital and prominence as a financial services centre to challenge regional neighbours like Singapore as a cost-effective and dynamic destination for global business. Ho Chi Minh City also shares some of Kuala Lumpur's strengths as a gateway into Southeast Asian markets and is rising in the ranks as the primary business and financial services engine for Vietnam.

Just inside the top 100 and increasingly making its mark on the world stage is Shenzhen, the world's 14th-largest metropolis and China's 'Silicon Valley'. Arguably the crowning jewel of China's rapid economic ascent of the past 50 years, Shenzhen continues to be at the frontier of the country's development, pushing forward its economic growth and technological prowess.

Also among our top five cities to watch, we have Bengaluru in India. The city is harnessing its strengths in information and knowledge sectors and welcoming a mass of multinational firms to grow at breakneck speed. We forecast the south Indian metropolis to be the 10th-fastest-expanding city economy of our 1,000 global cities over the next five years. Meanwhile, with Uzbekistan undergoing its ambitious programme of economic liberalisation and WTO accession in sight, its capital Tashkent at the heart of Central Asia is rocketing up our rankings, with rapidly expanding construction, finance, and business service sectors.

Taken together, the trajectories of these cities suggests that the next reshuffle of the global urban rankings will increasingly feature Asia's rising metropolitan centres towards the very top.

Scott McEwan
Lead Economist,
Asia Pacific

Elizabeth Martindale
Senior Economist,
Asia Pacific

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Overall Rank: 65th

ASIA PACIFIC: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Bengaluru | India

Snehit Photo / Shutterstock.com

Since the liberalisation of India's economy in the early 1990s, Bengaluru has transformed from an up-and-coming urban centre to the internationally known tech capital of India. Indeed, over the past 25 years, Bengaluru's population has more than doubled to over 14 million today, cementing it as one of India's megacities. GDP has grown by close to 10% on average per year since 2000, recording many years of double-digit growth. Much of Bengaluru's growth story can be attributed to the successful initiatives led by the Karnataka State Government in attracting FDI and developing its IT sector.

We expect this success to continue, with Bengaluru being the fifth-fastest-growing city to 2030 out of the top 1,000 cities within our Global Cities Index. It will also rank within the top 100 cities for employment growth. Much of the city's expansion will be driven by the IT sector, which should support Bengaluru's position as a world leader in Business Process Outsourcing (BPO). While AI will inevitably change this market, we expect the city will push into more advanced technology services such as R&D, Deep Tech, as well as AI. The Karnataka Government, for instance, is planning to build a new AI city just outside of Bengaluru's urban area, supporting many jobs for Bengaluru's residents. Coupled with Karnataka Information Technology Policy 2025-30, which outlines extensive fiscal and non-fiscal support for IT, BPO, and infrastructure companies, we expect strong levels of FDI over the next five years.

As well as leading in the technology sector, Bengaluru is emerging as a hub of knowledge with a highly skilled workforce and broad labour market. This is supported by the thousands of foreign corporations based within the city, such as Google and Microsoft. International firms will continue to be attracted to Bengaluru as it can provide young, educated graduates from its hundreds of colleges.

However, the quality of life in Bengaluru is a growing challenge, as its resources are coming under strain from its dense population. Public transport and roads are congested, putting pressure on air quality and pollution. While the quality of housing supply for poorer residents in the form of slums and hostels remains a concern, the city is reacting, creating more metro services and pushing for more affordable housing. As Bengaluru progresses on its path to become one of Southern Asia's top destinations for tech R&D, this should empower its workforce, supporting wages, standards of living, and long-term economic development.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	311th
ECONOMICS	176th
HUMAN CAPITAL	106th
QUALITY OF LIFE	775th
ENVIRONMENT	528th
GOVERNANCE	415th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$314 billion
GDP per person:	US$9,200
Population:	14.5 million

STRENGTHS

- Strong GDP growth
- Many universities
- Large GDP size

WEAKNESSES

- Lower income equality
- Lower life expectancy
- Poorer air quality

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader
- Developing Megacity
- Emerging Standout

ASIA PACIFIC: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Ho Chi Minh City | Vietnam

Vietnam's emergence in recent years as a key player in global trade has propelled Ho Chi Minh City to become a hub for international activity and a gateway into South Asian markets. Strong economic growth has been driven by increased trade activity, advancing production capabilities for higher value-added manufacturing, and a rapidly expanding services sector. Together, these factors provide a strong foundation for growth through to 2050, helping Ho Chi Minh City to become an economic powerhouse and earning it a place among our key cities to watch across Asia Pacific.

Ho Chi Minh City's strength is in the Economics category, where it ranks within the top 150 cities from our index. Movements to diversify trade activity away from China (often touted as China+1) have greatly benefitted Vietnam, where growth in total exports has exceeded 20% in recent years. Ho Chi Minh City's role as Vietnam's export engine and home to the largest port in the country has driven economic growth in the city, and we expect it to rank among the 50 fastest-growing cities over the next five years. The city is an attractive location for foreign direct investment, which has hit record highs in recent years, encouraging expansion in manufacturing (including higher-value electronic goods) as well as in business service sectors.

Another of Ho Chi Minh City's top-performing categories within our index is Human Capital. The city not only has the largest population in Vietnam, but it is also the second-fastest-growing and the youngest. A large population—especially one so densely populated—does come with the consequence of congestion, aggravated by poor infrastructure. But the development of a new metro line and road infrastructure projects are examples of targeted public strategies to remedy this. Furthermore, quality-of-life improvements will also come from major income gains in the coming years. Ho Chi Minh City's relatively high-income equality will mean the distribution of income gains across the population will be relatively wide.

The outlook for Ho Chi Minh City over the next decade will be interesting to watch. As Ho Chi Minh City continues to develop, it is very likely that the city will come across many issues that developed urban cores have commonly faced: rising living costs, housing shortages, inequality in wealth, and more. How these issues are dealt with will ultimately influence how major of a global hub Ho Chi Minh City can become in the 21st century.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	205th
ECONOMICS	142nd
HUMAN CAPITAL	71st
QUALITY OF LIFE	342nd
ENVIRONMENT	555th
GOVERNANCE	625th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$128 billion
GDP per person:	US$9,000
Population:	14.2 million

STRENGTHS

- Fast GDP growth
- Higher income equality
- High economic stability

WEAKNESSES

- Lower educational attainment
- Poorer air quality
- Lower life expectancy

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader
- Developing Megacity
- Emerging Standout

ASIA PACIFIC: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Kuala Lumpur | Malaysia

For decades, Southeast Asia's urban economic landscape has been dominated by Singapore—the region's pre-eminent finance and trading hub. However, 220 miles to the northwest, Kuala Lumpur is gaining attention as a fast-growing, dynamic city with global relevance. Our Global Cities Index has seen its overall position rise to 65, cementing it as one of the highest-ranking cities from an emerging economy. This score is supported by strong growth: we forecast it to expand on average 4.9% per year between 2026 and 2030, outpacing the wider Malaysian economy.

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The tech sector is a key driver of this growth. For three decades, Kuala Lumpur has been a central location in the Multimedia Super Corridor (Malaysia's high-tech special economic zone) which has established it as a hub for digital services and technology startups. The city is Malaysia's leading location for data centres, hosting around half of the country's total facilities, and recent multi-billion-dollar investments from tech giants such as Google and Amazon Web Services show strong confidence in the city's digital economy.

Another major strength underpinning Kuala Lumpur's economic performance is its deep pool of human capital. High English proficiency, top institutions like the University of Malaya, and a relatively young population support an internationally competitive labour force. Combined with lower operating costs relative to regional heavyweights such as Singapore, Kuala Lumpur is attracting international firms looking to establish operations in Southeast Asia. The city's expanding finance and business services sector reflects this trend and is projected to grow strongly, by 5.1% annually over the period to 2030. Its flagship financial district, the Tun Razak Exchange, opened in 2024 and already hosts big names, including HSBC and Prudential. Kuala Lumpur is also a leader in Islamic finance, which accounts for nearly half of its financial activity.

High quality of life is another strength of the city, with Kuala Lumpur offering great modern amenities, extensive public transport, a very low crime rate, good healthcare, and a cost of living significantly below most global cities. This is very positive for the population, including its many high-spending 'digital nomads' attracted from overseas. It has also contributed to establishing Kuala Lumpur as a major tourist destination, receiving nearly 16 million international visits in 2024. Together these factors support growing consumer spending. with total retail sales expected to expand by 5.1% annually between 2026 and 2030.

Singapore may remain the region's dominant global hub. However, Kuala Lumpur's combination of lower costs, strong human capital, and expanding finance and technology sectors make it a vibrant city of opportunity that is poised to break into the top 50 soon.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	65th
ECONOMICS	83rd
HUMAN CAPITAL	22nd
QUALITY OF LIFE	283rd
ENVIRONMENT	318th
GOVERNANCE	183rd

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$184 billion
GDP per person:	US$19,600
Population:	9.4 million

STRENGTHS

- Many universities
- Lower crime rate
- Large GDP size

WEAKNESSES

- Higher emissions intensity
- Lower life expectancy
- Lower GDP per person

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

ASIA PACIFIC: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Shenzhen | China

No history of China's rapid economic rise over the past 50 years would be complete without mentioning Shenzhen, the booming high-tech metropolis on the country's southern coast, bordering Hong Kong. When Shenzhen was designated as China's first special economic zone in 1980—a key reform-era experiment that opened the city up to foreign investment and market-oriented liberalisation—the city's population was in the tens of thousands, and its economy was less than 1% the size of its more advanced neighbour. Today, however, Shenzhen's population exceeds 20 million, generates a GDP that has surpassed Hong Kong's, and is a leading national (and international) city for advanced manufacturing, finance, and IT services.

Shenzhen is mainland China's top-ranked city in our Global Cities Index, and its rising stature among the world's most important cities is driven by its economic strength and leading role in innovating and commercialising new technologies. Known as China's 'Silicon Valley', Shenzhen hosts the headquarters and operations of some of the country's largest and most valuable technology firms, including Huawei and Tencent, as well as large clusters of businesses advancing global capabilities in robotics and artificial intelligence. The city is also home to BYD, the world's largest producer of electric vehicles.

Another major element of Shenzhen's strong position is its human capital. Workers from across China have long been drawn to the economic opportunities created within the city and are driving its fast population growth. Already the 14th-largest metropolis in the world, we expect Shenzhen to move past Shanghai to become the 11th-largest by 2050. A remarkable result of Shenzhen's attractiveness to internal migrants is its young age profile—a key characteristic that sets it apart from others in China, particularly given the country's rapidly ageing demographics. Shenzhen's largest population cohort is aged between 25 and 29, while in Beijing and Shanghai, it is those aged between 35 and 39.

While the standard of living in Shenzhen has no doubt increased dramatically since 1980—per capita incomes are now third highest in mainland China and rising—the city underperforms on housing costs and income inequality metrics. And, like other major Chinese cities, air quality measures rank poorly by international standards. Yet, progress is promising, particularly as the city is often used as a test bed for green initiatives such as carbon labelling, as well as its rapid adoption of EVs for personal and public transportation. Certainly, there is little doubt about Shenzhen's remarkable transformation over the past 50 years, and it will be fascinating to see how the city evolves in the coming decades.

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RANKINGS

OVERALL	93rd
ECONOMICS	38th
HUMAN CAPITAL	8th
QUALITY OF LIFE	412th
ENVIRONMENT	568th
GOVERNANCE	655th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$572 billion
GDP per person:	US$27,900
Population:	20.5 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- Many corporate headquarters
- Lower emissions intensity

WEAKNESSES

- Lower income equality
- High housing expenditure
- More severe natural disasters

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

ASIA PACIFIC: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Tashkent | Uzbekistan

Tashkent is emerging as one of Central Asia's most promising city economies. Prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union, Tashkent was a major industrial city within the USSR. But since liberation and opening up to international markets, the city has diversified. Today, the Uzbek capital is growing strongly, with booming construction- and investment-led expansions across a range of sectors. And, unlike many other Eastern European and Central Asian cities, its population is still growing well.

Tashkent stands out for its economic performance, as the fastest-growing city across Central Asia and Eastern Europe in terms of GDP and ranking among the top 50 cities globally. We forecast the city to grow by over 7% on average each year between 2026 and 2030.

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The city is emerging as a regional leader in technology and finance, encouraged by government initiatives to attract foreign firms and elevate Uzbek ones. Their flagship project is the Tashkent IT Park, a technology hub and free economic zone that has attracted a large number of resident companies. In addition, the Uzbekistan - 2030 strategy includes plans to develop an international finance centre. The city's transformation is visible in its skyline, thanks to a booming construction sector. The centrepiece is 'New Tashkent', a large-scale megaproject reportedly worth tens of billions of dollars, aiming to build a highly modern new city district designed to house a substantial new population. Plans are also in the works for a new international airport, which will improve the city's appeal as a transit hub.

Geopolitics has also raised the city's profile. Russia's invasion of Ukraine prompted some businesses and capital from Russia to search for more neutral harbours. Much of Tashkent's appeal is its position along the 'Middle Corridor' trade route that connects Europe and Asia, while bypassing Russia. This location is also helping make it a key regional logistics hub.

An additional strength is Tashkent's skills base. The city places just outside the top 10% of global cities and sixth across its region for Human Capital, with a growing pool of skilled labour a key attraction for many businesses. GDP per capita remains low, which implies cost attractiveness and considerable potential for catch-up growth—but this also increases the risk of brain drain of talent to wealthier countries.

Another challenge that will be important to monitor is environmental pressures, especially water stress, as Uzbekistan is reliant on external sources for 80% of its water. How effectively these risks are managed will shape whether Tashkent is able to sustain its current economic momentum and growing regional leadership.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	343rd
ECONOMICS	188th
HUMAN CAPITAL	108th
QUALITY OF LIFE	644th
ENVIRONMENT	806th
GOVERNANCE	825th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$44 billion
GDP per person:	US$8,500
Population:	5.2 million

STRENGTHS

- Fast GDP growth
- High economic stability
- Fast population growth

WEAKNESSES

- Larger temperature anomalies
- High emissions intensity
- High housing expenditure

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

Africa
Top cities to watch

Although African cities don't rank among the top positions of the 2026 Global Cities Index, they are nonetheless gaining prominence on the global stage. Driven by fast-growing populations, expanding labour markets, structural economic shifts, and rising technological adoption, African cities are set to remain among the world's fastest-growing urban economies. While improvements in living standards will be uneven, the continent's global influence is growing, with these five cities at the forefront.

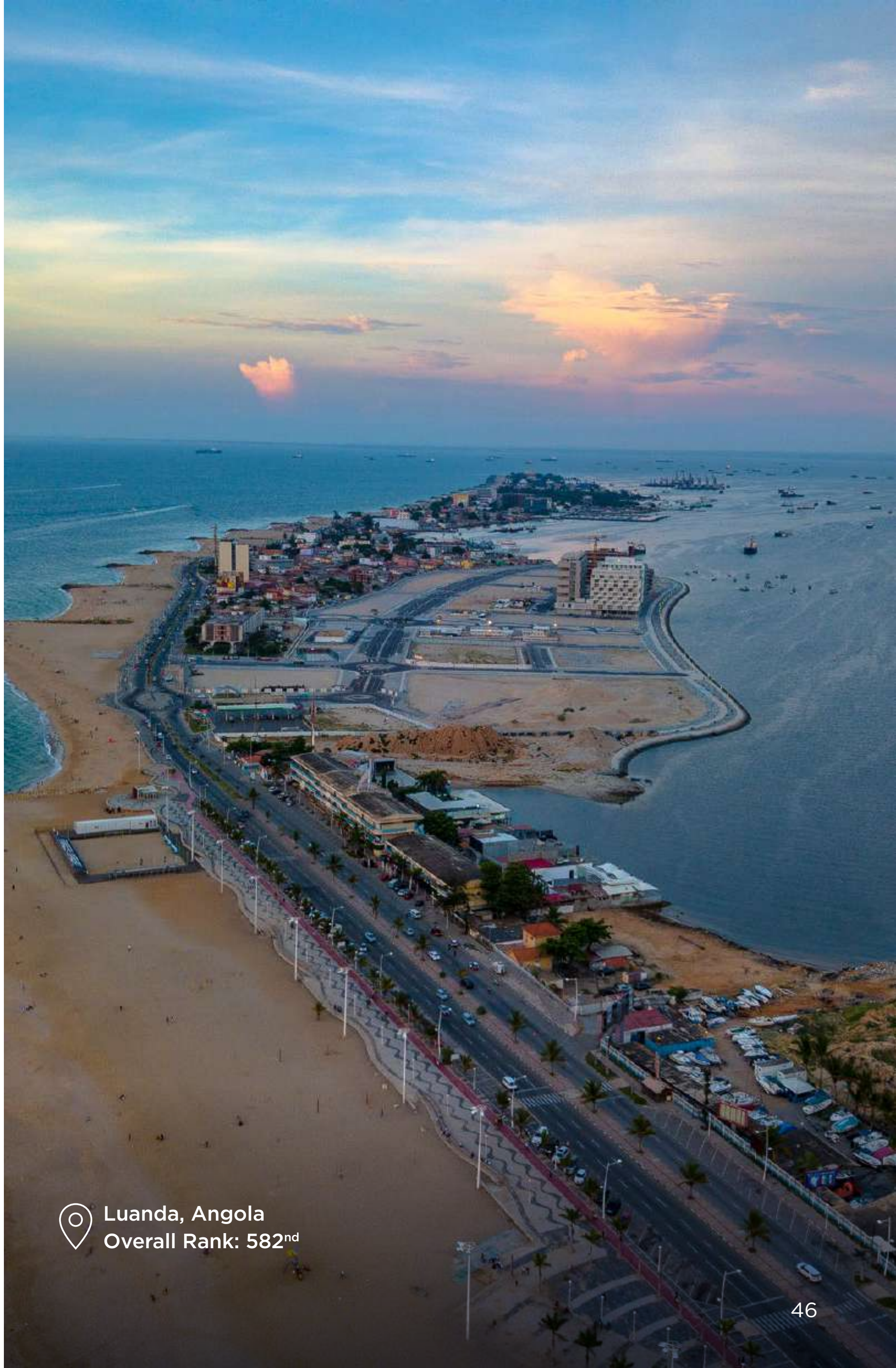
Nairobi, a.k.a. the 'Silicon Savannah', is firmly establishing itself as Africa's fintech capital. A deep pool of tech talent, strong digital infrastructure, and a vibrant innovation ecosystem have helped Nairobi evolve from a regional hub into one of Africa's most dynamic urban economies. Accra, on the opposite side of the continent, is following a similar trajectory. Its growing tech sector and strengthening business services base are helping it emerge as West Africa's next major innovation centre.

Dakar, meanwhile, is a city that has quietly become one of Africa's strongest performers in higher-value professional and scientific services. Rapid workforce upskilling and strategic investments in knowledge-based sectors are pushing the Senegalese capital into an increasingly influential role.

Two other cities illustrate Africa's growing industrial and trade potential. Luanda is accelerating efforts to modernise its port and broaden its economic base beyond oil. Meanwhile Cairo, Africa's largest and most diversified economy, continues to leverage its strategic geographic location, deep trade links, and expanding tech sector to reinforce its position as a continental powerhouse.

Together, these five cities are set to generate a third of GDP growth among African cities on the Global Cities Index in the next 25 years—an indication of Africa's accelerating urban transformation. But they represent only part of a wider rise in fortunes and are a testament to how genuine dynamism, diversification, and technological progress are reshaping Africa's urban future.

Michael Becker
Economist, Africa



Luanda, Angola
Overall Rank: 582nd

AFRICA: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Accra | Ghana

Accra, the capital of Ghana, is emerging as one of Africa's most modernised and strategically positioned metropolitan economies. Mirroring the continent's broader growth trends, the city is seeing major developments across all aspects of society but stands out for its ability to attract more sophisticated sectors. The capital sits at an exciting intersection between well-established industries, like manufacturing and retail, and the more rapidly expanding fintech sector shaping its growth prospects. With Accra on track to expand into a megacity by 2042, it is upgrading its infrastructure to support both population growth and emerging sectors.

Accra is set to become the fifth-largest economy in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2050. Growth will be broad-based, but the industrial economy will be a central pillar, with manufacturing and construction contributing significantly. Indeed, Accra is leveraging the national $10 billion 'Big Push' infrastructure programme to upgrade road networks. Strong domestic demand for construction materials is fuelling the high-growth building materials manufacturing subsector, while more export-oriented manufacturing—like pharmaceuticals and food production—will also benefit from the improved infrastructure and remain important to the economy.

Omri Eliyahu / Shutterstock.com

Despite its large industrial base, Accra's most dynamic growth is occurring in the ICT sector. Propelled by a digitalisation strategy backed by $200 million from the World Bank, the sector has grown by roughly 19% a year since 2014. Over the period, it has recorded the third-fastest pace in Africa, and it is now the city's largest sector. Accra has also established itself as a major African hub for fintech, underpinned by one of the continent's most mature mobile-money systems. And ICT is expected to remain strong, with forecasts of nearly 6% annual growth over the next 10 years.

Alongside ICT, healthcare is expanding rapidly, growing around 6% annually to 2035. Modernisation efforts and rising demand from a growing population have prompted the government to scale up primary healthcare, with public-sector employment expected to rise significantly over the same period. This investment is timely: we forecast that Accra's over-65 population will quadruple to 1.1 million by 2050. Despite ageing faster, we still expect strong natural population growth in the city—reaching nearly 12 million by 2050, an increase of 5 million that would make it the 11th-largest city by population across Africa. Two-thirds of this growth will come from the working-age population, driving labour force expansion, with consumer services accounting for half of new jobs. Rising employment will bring quality-of-life improvements through increased average incomes, which are already above the African city average.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	302nd
ECONOMICS	371st
HUMAN CAPITAL	83rd
QUALITY OF LIFE	529th
ENVIRONMENT	276th
GOVERNANCE	413th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$41 billion
GDP per person:	US$6,000
Population:	6.9 million

STRENGTHS

- Fast employment growth
- Lower housing expenditure
- Smaller rainfall anomalies

WEAKNESSES

- Lower life expectancy
- Lower educational attainment
- Less economic stability

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

AFRICA: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Cairo | Egypt

Although Cairo's ancient legacy remains central to its global image, the city is engaging in major economic and technological advancements that are shaping its future. Situated at a strategic junction linking Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, the capital's position underpins its strong economy and supports Cairo's status as the highest-ranking African city in our Global Cities Index. This momentum is likely to carry the city further up the rankings going forward, while its geographic location will continue to shape trade flows, diplomacy, and cross-regional business. These strengths, combined with its enduring appeal, have helped Cairo grow beyond the scale of a typical megacity and reinforce its position as Africa's largest city economy.

Cairo has developed a diverse and increasingly sophisticated economic base. This breadth of sectoral strength is expected to underpin substantial GDP growth of 4% per year between 2026 and 2035—around 1.3 percentage points above the global urban average. While growth is set to be broad-based, information and communication will be the primary engine of expansion. Projected to grow at 7.8% annually through 2035, the sector is seeing significant investment in digital infrastructure and skills, driven by the government's ICT 2030 strategy to modernise the economy. Coupled with the country's growing use of Special Economic Zones, these developments leave Cairo well placed to strengthen its role as an international hub, especially as multinationals leverage the capital's proximity to the Suez Canal and its dynamic, evolving economy.

As Cairo's economy expands, the benefits will be shared across a very large, and growing, population. Already heavily congested with around 30 million residents in 2025, Cairo is expected to house a further 10 million people by 2050, making it the fourth-largest city in the Global Cities Index. This scale places significant pressure on infrastructure and services, prompting new approaches. Cairo has long experimented with satellite developments and is now pursuing this strategy at scale through the $58 billion New Administrative Capital. This megaproject will host the government's future base of operations, with state-of-the-art facilities, while moving people out of Cairo's urban core. If fully realised, this new development could provide meaningful relief to Cairo's overstretched core and offer a capital fit for the future.

While Cairo will continue to modernise its economy, Egypt's archaeological wonders will remain a major draw for tourists. In 2026, international visits are set to reach 1.2 million, surpassing pre-Covid-19 levels. We expect Cairo to leverage its heritage through new cultural investments—most notably the new Grand Egyptian Museum—which will further strengthen Cairo's tourism sector and enhance its global visibility. Over 40% of the 5 million additional jobs added over the next 25 years will be across a range of sectors supporting the city's efforts, including retail, hospitality, and tourism.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	255th
ECONOMICS	196th
HUMAN CAPITAL	42nd
QUALITY OF LIFE	376th
ENVIRONMENT	798th
GOVERNANCE	830th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$169 billion
GDP per person:	US$5,700
Population:	29.9 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- Fast employment growth
- Higher income equality

WEAKNESSES

- Lower GDP per person
- Poorer air quality
- Lower life expectancy

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader
- Developing Megacity

AFRICA: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Dakar | Senegal

Cities across Africa are steadily improving their standing, with Dakar among the strongest performers. Shaped by continent-wide dynamics, Dakar's strategic coastal position for trade and its rapidly growing population place it at the centre of the region's economic transformation—and the city is well positioned to benefit from both. A large cohort of young workers, combined with a strong entrepreneurial culture, is boosting employment, particularly in higher-value sectors like finance and professional services. With its coastal dynamism and ambitious young workforce, Dakar is consolidating its position as a city poised for an era of growth.

Dakar's youthful demographic profile is increasingly visible globally—most notably as it prepares to host Africa's first major Olympic event, the 2026 Summer Youth Olympics. Its demographic transition will also occur more rapidly than African city peers, with the sizeable youth cohort ageing into the economically active population, shifting Dakar's population distribution more quickly toward working-age groups. This acceleration gives the capital a rare demographic window: a wave of new workers entering the labour market just as the city deepens its economic diversification. As a result, employment is expected to double by 2050, creating 1.8 million new jobs.

However, Dakar's long-term potential is also being shaped by a clear paradox: the city is driving Senegal's economic modernisation while simultaneously grappling with one of the lowest educational attainment levels globally. Low attainment remains one of Dakar's most significant bottlenecks, influencing both labour-market outcomes and productivity. This skills gap risks constraining output and limiting growth in technical roles across higher-value industries. Fortunately, national education reforms aim to better align skills development with private-sector needs and expand technical education programmes across Dakar. The education sector is forecast to grow by 4.3% annually to 2035, as universities accommodate a rising student population and train the next generation. If successful, these reforms could turn a key constraint into a long-term comparative advantage.

While Dakar's largest employer will still be consumer services—which is set to employ 1.5 million in 2050— the city is entering a new chapter in its development. The education reforms position the capital for growth in skilled sectors, led by professional and scientific services, where GVA is forecast to grow 5.6% annually over the next decade. Growth is not just confined to this sector, though: GDP is set to climb almost 4% annually to 2050—nearly double the global cities average—with traditional strengths like motorsports and manufacturing continuing to contribute alongside newer industries. Still, Dakar's economic story will increasingly be written in offices over factories as the city pivots towards financial and business services. These sectors will drive roughly 30% of total GVA growth going forward, gradually overtaking industry and signalling Dakar's evolution into a modern, diversified, service-driven metropolitan economy.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	478th
ECONOMICS	498th
HUMAN CAPITAL	283rd
QUALITY OF LIFE	658th
ENVIRONMENT	479th
GOVERNANCE	594th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$15 billion
GDP per person:	US$3,600
Population:	4.1 million

STRENGTHS

- Fast employment growth
- Higher income equality
- Less severe natural disasters

WEAKNESSES

- Lower educational attainment
- Lower income per person
- Less economic stability

ARCHETYPES

- Emerging Standout

AFRICA: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Luanda | Angola

Luanda's coastal geography has always shaped its identity, but as Angola accelerates its shift away from oil dependence, the city's maritime position is taking on new strategic importance. Sitting on the Atlantic and linking southern Africa with Brazil, the US, and Europe, Luanda is well placed to serve as a key gateway in emerging trans-Atlantic trade corridors. This position aligns with Angola's efforts to rebalance its economy: oil's contribution to Luanda's output has already fallen sharply, from more than 30% in the mid-2000s to a projected 7% by 2035. Combined with rapid population growth and rising domestic demand, Luanda is poised to become Sub-Saharan Africa's largest city economy by 2050, with output approaching $231 billion, the size of Frankfurt's economy today.

Angola aims to position Luanda as the anchor of a new southern Atlantic logistics network. Major port investments are underpinning this goal, with the Port of Luanda commencing a $250 million expansion project. The project is designed to modernise the port and shift Angola away from being a traditional oil exporter toward becoming a broader logistics and maritime services hub, supporting the national strategy to connect regional producers to global markets more efficiently. Given this investment, Luanda's transport and storage sector is expected to grow by 5% annually between 2026 and 2035, strengthening the city's place in global supply chains.

As Luanda's economy undergoes this structural rebalancing, non-oil sectors are also expanding. A fast-growing population and rising incomes are boosting demand for goods and services, propelling retail and hospitality growth. Indeed, consumer services is already employing half the workforce, and the sector is set to become the city's largest by GVA in 2033. Alongside strong growth in the private sector, public administration will also expand significantly. This shift is supported by Angola's push to formalise the economy through strengthened social security systems, a national government initiative driven from the capital.

Although the city is diversifying well, Luanda is confronting a demographic reality. The capital is experiencing extremely rapid population growth: its resident base is expected to double to 20 million by 2050. On the one hand, a rapidly expanding urban market will fuel long-term economic dynamism. On the other hand, the associated pressures are already visible, with utilities issues and housing shortages constricting growth. To keep pace, the government is deploying large-scale housing and infrastructure initiatives, many of which are supported by foreign investment. If capital investment accelerates sufficiently, Luanda could turn its population surge into a major source of economic strength. But this is not a given, and serious hurdles will need clearing to help the city meet its potential.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	582nd
ECONOMICS	661st
HUMAN CAPITAL	157th
QUALITY OF LIFE	885th
ENVIRONMENT	82nd
GOVERNANCE	914th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$52 billion
GDP per person:	US$4,900
Population:	10.6 million

STRENGTHS

- Fast population growth
- Younger age profile
- Smaller rainfall anomalies

WEAKNESSES

- Lower income equality
- Less economic stability
- Lower life expectancy

ARCHETYPES

- Developing Megacity

AFRICA: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Nairobi | Kenya

Nairobi is entering a new stage of global growth, building on its role as East Africa's commercial anchor and driven by tech dynamism and demographic momentum. Long recognised as a regional gateway, the city is now asserting itself as an innovation hub, with highly concentrated sectors like finance and tech boosting the city's profile. Its young and rapidly expanding workforce is reshaping the city's economic structure, driving strong employment growth in consumer services and cementing Nairobi's position as a major industrial centre. As the city navigates the pressures of rapid urbanisation associated with its gradual expansion into a megacity, continued institutional strength and a dynamic digital economy will enable Nairobi to play an increasingly pivotal role in Africa's urban future.

The city's position as a regional financial hub is underpinned by Kenya's strategic role within the East African Community and the city's expanding knowledge-based economy. This enables the city to serve as a natural gateway for firms to fast-growing regional markets. Over three-quarters of Kenyan financial activity is situated in Nairobi, and this concentration reflects an increasingly sophisticated services base and rising demand for banking, investment, and fintech activity across East Africa. Nairobi's reputation as the 'Silicon Savannah' is especially well earned, given that fintech has seen substantial investment and is making an increasingly important contribution to the economy. As a result, finance and IT will be Nairobi's fast-growing sectors at 4.1% and 5.5% per year, respectively, over the next 25 years, bolstering the city's emergence as a leading financial centre and tech magnet.

Nairobi is also set to benefit from a shifting global industrial landscape, with cities across the region expected to see significant gains in industry. The Kenyan capital, in particular, is projected to generate industrial output surpassing $38 billion by 2050, growing by 4.4% per year in real terms. Major construction projects looking to address ageing infrastructure have further reinforced Nairobi's momentum. Upgrades to transport and logistics networks have improved connectivity across the region, supporting broader economic integration, especially in industry and manufacturing. With industrial activity nearly tripling, the resulting output surge will fuel substantial employment growth, adding an estimated 700,000 jobs. This marks the 12th-largest expansion seen in the Global Cities Index.

With its population set to almost double, we forecast Nairobi to become a megacity by 2050, reaching 12 million people. Its young population provides a strong foundation for growth in labour-intensive sectors, while rapid expansion will broaden consumer markets and open new opportunities for investment. Indeed, the growing demand across consumer services keeps the sector as the largest employer in the city. This combination will make Nairobi one of Africa's most compelling markets to watch.

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RANKINGS

OVERALL	327th
ECONOMICS	262nd
HUMAN CAPITAL	26th
QUALITY OF LIFE	891st
ENVIRONMENT	325th
GOVERNANCE	816th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$42 billion
GDP per person:	US$6,100
Population:	6.8 million

STRENGTHS

- Younger age profile
- High economic stability
- Lower emissions intensity

WEAKNESSES

- Lower life expectancy
- Larger rainfall anomalies
- Lower income per person

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

Middle East
Top cities to watch

Middle Eastern cities have emerged onto the global stage with astonishing pace in the past few decades, propelled forward by investment, strong leadership and strategic direction, and rapid migration. The three Middle Eastern cities we've chosen may at first glance seem unsurprising, given they are among the largest in the region. But the growing contribution of these cities on the global stage can't be ignored.

It goes without saying that the US-Israel war with Iran has led to significant disruption in the Middle East, and several cities across the region will see substantial declines in economic output in 2026. However, the Global Cities Index takes a longer-term view of the structural strengths and weaknesses of cities, while simultaneously accounting for near-term disruption—both through our economic growth forecasts and Governance metrics that capture geopolitical risks and instability. The enduring power of these cities will outlast and weather the economic disruption this year, as each makes its ascent into the top tier of the world's cities.

Between them, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Riyadh, have attracted more than 8.5 million net-new residents through positive migration in the last 25 years. In contrast, the five top-scoring cities in our Global Cities Index have together lost more than half a million residents to out-migration. At the same time, their economies have grown by an average of 6% per year, compared with just 2.1% in the other leading cities. And in terms of job creation, for every job added in the top-scoring cities more than two jobs were generated in these Middle Eastern standouts. And it's not just their economic might that is growing. They are also becoming cultural and sporting heavyweights, with international brands and tournaments increasingly choosing these Middle Eastern hubs for events and brand partnerships.

We expect these cities to continue to exert a growth premium over more advanced US and European cities, attracting migrants and creating millions of new jobs. The future is bright for the Middle East, and these are the cities that I'm most excited about.

George Bowen
Lead Economist,
Middle East

Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Overall Rank: 42nd

Abu Dhabi | United Arab Emirates

Abu Dhabi is a city at the heart of the UAE's thriving economy, serving as both the nation's capital and the centre of its strategically important oil industry. Economic development in the rest of the Emirates, and the wider Gulf region, feeds off the success of Abu Dhabi's economy. It is also a city in full economic diversification and transformation mode. In the early 2000s, oil accounted for more than 40% of economic activity—but today, this has declined to just over 20% and is expected to fall further still. A range of targeted, high-value specialisms have emerged to support growth across finance, culture, advanced manufacturing, and media, each complementing rather than competing with Dubai. This economic renaissance coupled with substantial urban investment have set the foundations for a meteoric rise into the top tier of global cities.

The investments materialising in Saadiyat Cultural District are a standout example of the transformation of Abu Dhabi's economy and built environment. The area on Saadiyat island—a mixed-use development intended to position Abu Dhabi as the cultural capital of the Gulf—is just 2.5km in size but has attracted billions of dollars of investment. Through international partnerships with world-renowned cultural organisations like the Louvre and the Guggenheim Foundation, five different major museums, a range of cultural institutions, performance venues, and public spaces are opening across the district. These projects aren't just stimulating investment, tourism, and jobs, they are also supporting the wider ecosystem of high-end residential real estate, retail, and business activity, drawing on the benefits of a virtuous cycle of culture and prosperity in driving economic growth.

Abu Dhabi's financial sector is set apart from other GCC financial hubs as a centre for institutional asset management and large-scale capital allocation, anchored by sovereign wealth funds like the Mubadala Investment Company and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. Financial services will be among the fastest-growing sectors in Abu Dhabi over the coming decades, overtaking oil activities to become the city's largest economic sector by 2050. This dynamic high-value service sector growth continues to attract firms and highly skilled migrants to the city, underpinning high scores across our Human Capital metrics.

Overall, it is only the waning long-term growth of oil activities that is holding Abu Dhabi back from being the region's fastest-growing city. In fact, its non-oil GDP growth is expected to be faster than Dubai's, as is the rate of employment growth. With robust long-term growth prospects, we expect it to continue moving up through the rankings of the world's most robust cities, particularly in terms of quality of life. The city also boasts our strongest expectations for per-person income growth of any in the Middle East—buoyed by continued investment, rapid productivity gains, and generous government incentives and programs.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	84th
ECONOMICS	110th
HUMAN CAPITAL	6th
QUALITY OF LIFE	298th
ENVIRONMENT	714th
GOVERNANCE	511th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$160 billion
GDP per person:	US$68,400
Population:	2.3 million

STRENGTHS

- Many corporate headquarters
- Younger age profiles
- Lower crime rate

WEAKNESSES

- Poorer air quality
- Less economic stability
- High housing expenditure

ARCHETYPES

- Industrial Hub

MIDDLE EAST: TOP CITIES TO WATCH

Dubai | United Arab Emirates

Dubai has seen incredible transformation over the last three decades, growing into one of the world's largest cities; both in terms of the number of people who live there and the value those residents bring to Dubai's economy. But the city's transformation isn't over yet. Through sustained investment that continues to fuel the UAE's economic diversification, Dubai's metro area will grow to become the 60th-largest city in the world by 2050—a size exceeding most European capitals.

In the early 2000s, Dubai was still developing rapidly, and growth was underpinned by construction and basic consumer services sectors that demanded high volumes of migrant labour, contributing to the quadrupling of the city's population over the last 25 years. The structure of the economy continues to evolve, however, and major global events like Expo 2020 and initiatives like the Dubai Economic Agenda and the UAE Centennial 2071 plan reinforce the authorities' ambitions for economic development in the city. Financial services and other knowledge-intensive sectors have become increasingly important to Dubai, attracting more specialised and skilled workers. As a result, it now has one of the most diversified financial ecosystems in the GCC, with prominent activities across both investment banking, asset management, insurance, and fintech.

Dubai's strengths lie not only in its dynamic and rapidly growing economy, but in its ability to attract workers, students, and businesses, highlighted by its Human Capital score—the second-highest of all cities globally. More than 90% of the population is foreign-born, which helps the city maintain a young age profile and ensure sustained labour market potential over the coming years. The government's initiatives also single out education as being vital to training the next generation of highly skilled professionals, and the numerous high-ranking universities and international campuses across the metro area have already seen rapid growth in enrolment in recent years.

Looking forward, not only will Dubai grow to become the Middle East's third-largest city economy; it will also be the region's fastest-growing over the next 25 years, with an average annual growth rate of more than 3%—faster than each of the world's 10 largest city economies. Nevertheless, the city still faces significant challenges over the coming years. The availability and affordability of housing are both substantial concerns for residents, and the city is also exposed to regional geopolitical tensions, which have risen significantly in recent years. But overall, we believe that Dubai's strong economy, rapid job creation, and ability to attract some of the world's top companies and talent will cement its position as not only the strongest city in the Middle East, but as one of the strongest in the world.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	42nd
ECONOMICS	53rd
HUMAN CAPITAL	2nd
QUALITY OF LIFE	290th
ENVIRONMENT	684th
GOVERNANCE	511th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$209 billion
GDP per person:	US$31,100
Population:	6.7 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- Younger age profile
- Many universities

WEAKNESSES

- High housing expenditure
- Poorer air quality
- Lower income equality

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

Riyadh | Saudi Arabia

Riyadh is a city at the heart of national economic diversification and transformation efforts. Historically, Saudi Arabia's economy has been dominated by oil production, which accounted for over 40% of activity in the 2005–2015 period. However, under the strategic Vision 2030 programme announced in 2016, diversification efforts spearheaded by Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman have already significantly reduced this to 23% of GDP, and Riyadh has been the engine of the Kingdom's non-oil growth. Over the last five years, the city's economy grew at an average rate of more than 11% per year—the eighth-fastest on the planet. The number of tourists has more than doubled, 3 million new jobs have been created, and the population has surged to almost 8.6 million (up from 6.7 million in 2021). On track to become both a megacity and an urban economic powerhouse, Riyadh is truly a city on the move.


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At the heart of this development is a series of megaprojects, some of which are already bringing benefits to the city. One example is the King Abdullah Financial District, home to Saudi National Bank, Riyad Bank, and the Public Investment Fund, which combined manage around $1.5 trillion of assets. At the same time, construction of the city's other 'gigaprojects' like Diriyah and Qiddiya continues, and new infrastructure such as the Riyadh metro is already delivering benefits to the city's growing population. While some developments have been scaled back, the city nevertheless remains home to some of the world's largest and most ambitious projects, each of which will demand significant numbers of workers. Indeed, Riyadh is expected to add more industrial jobs over the next 25 years than any other city in our Index.

Much of this investment is centred around Riyadh's thriving economy, but authorities have also placed significant emphasis on improving residents' quality of life. Recreation and culture spending has targeted expansion under Vision 2030, and Riyadh will see some the lion's share of this growth over the coming years. The city is also set to host Expo 2030, and beyond that the FIFA World Cup in 2034—each of which will improve the built environment, increase the opportunities available for residents, and contribute to a growing sports and tourism economy. They also help build the city's international reputation as a destination for both visitors and migrants.

Overall, the next five years should be exciting for the city as it continues to enjoy the fruits of the investment and strategic direction that have helped propel it through our Global Cities Index rankings in recent years. By 2030, Riyadh will remain the Middle East's largest city economy, and by 2050, it is expected to surpass major metros like Singapore and Osaka-Kyoto to become the 30th-largest city economy in the world.

RANKINGS

OVERALL	50th
ECONOMICS	18th
HUMAN CAPITAL	4th
QUALITY OF LIFE	341st
ENVIRONMENT	761st
GOVERNANCE	644th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$438 billion
GDP per person:	US$51,100
Population:	8.6 million

STRENGTHS

- Fast employment growth
- Younger age profile
- High income per person

WEAKNESSES

- Lower income equality
- Poorer air quality
- High emissions intensity

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

THE TOP 50 CITIES

New York, United States
Overall Rank: 1st

1 New York | United States

New York continues to lead our Global Cities Index. As the economic capital of the United States, it combines global leadership across finance, tech, advertising, fashion, and media, with high productivity rates to top the Economics category. It has the largest metro economy in the world, nearly double that of the next-biggest cities (Tokyo and Los Angeles), and benefits from stable long-term GDP dynamics. While New York has lower economic diversity than other cities—chiefly due to the outsized role of its finance sector—its outlook remains strong.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, New York also performs well in the Human Capital category, where it has the fifth-highest score of our 1,000 cities. World-class universities and renowned cultural institutions help attract skilled workers and innovative business alike, with New York home to the largest number of corporate headquarters in the US (and the fifth-most globally). This dynamic ecosystem of opportunity helps explain why New York is the biggest city in the US by population, with over 20 million people residing in the metro area. While the city is more exposed than others to the current administration's restrictive immigration policies, the attraction and dynamism of New York is set to continue.

The city also performs well for Quality of Life, with New York ranking fifth-highest in North America. The core driver of this is the city's high income levels and access to some of the world's most exciting recreation and cultural sites. New York's high housing costs, however, do hold the city back and are fuelling a backlash. Housing affordability was top of the agenda in the Mayoral election last year, and failure to tackle the sky-high living costs will increasingly undermine the city's performance in the index. A visible sign of this is in the city's population growth, which has underperformed the national rate for the last decade, as poor housing availability has forced workers and increasingly businesses to locate where costs are lower.

Where the city performs less well is in the Environment and Governance categories. Volatile temperatures and severe natural disasters expose the city to the increasing frequency of climate-related challenges, while political uncertainty in the US is affecting business and consumer confidence. Yet, even in this, New York has key strengths, including a highly welcoming business environment and strong local institutions, which maintain a level of resilience difficult to replicate elsewhere. Overall, while there are areas with room for improvement, particularly around housing and environmental risks, New York continues to dominate the Global Cities Index, and we expect this strong economic performance to help it defend that title for years to come.

Marcio Jose Bastos Silva / Shutterstock.com

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	1st
HUMAN CAPITAL	5th
QUALITY OF LIFE	86th
ENVIRONMENT	262nd
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$2.6 trillion
GDP per person:	US$129,300
Population:	20.1 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- Many corporate headquarters
- High income per person

WEAKNESSES

- Lower income equality
- High housing expenditure
- Less economic diversity

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader
- Cultural Capital

2 **London** | United Kingdom

London remains one of the clearest examples of a truly global city. Its influence extends across business, science and technology, education, and the arts, giving it a reach that few other cities can equal. That strength is also reflected in its seventh-place ranking in our Economics pillar, thanks to the scale of its economy—the fourth-largest worldwide—and its track record of stable growth.

London's human capital is one of its defining strengths. The city ranks first in our Human Capital category, supported by its concentration of higher education institutions and ability to generate some of the highest levels of educational attainment globally. London also benefits from its continued appeal to highly educated migrants, with foreign-born residents accounting for around 40% of the population. For employers, that provides access to a deep and varied talent pool; for the city, it supports population growth and a younger demographic than many peer cities, such as New York, Tokyo, and Paris.

This highly skilled and diverse workforce underpins London's productivity and supports higher average incomes. However, as is the case in New York, much of the city's wealth is concentrated in a relatively small number of neighbourhoods. London's Quality of Life score is also weighed down by its housing affordability crisis, with residents devoting a larger share of their income to housing costs than those in nearly any other city of the world. This reflects deep-rooted constraints on the supply of affordable homes, which will take both time and political resolve to address.

London performs strongly in the Environment category, especially given its size. It compares favourably with peer cities on carbon emissions intensity, supported by its services-oriented economy with a relatively low carbon footprint. Policies such as the congestion charge and central London's ultra-low emission zone (ULEZ) have also helped improve air quality, placing London in the top quartile of cities globally. Its 64th-place ranking in the Environment category is a notable achievement for a city of this scale, especially as smaller cities usually dominate this measure.

London has navigated the UK's recent political upheaval, including Brexit, better than many had anticipated. Its status as a global financial centre remains intact, and the city continues to stand out as a leading location for business and financial services, as well as one of Europe's largest digital economies. Alongside its deep base of knowledge-intensive industries, diverse and highly skilled workforce, strong position in data centre development, elite universities, and unmatched cultural offer, London is well placed to remain one of the world's top-performing global cities for years to come.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	7th
HUMAN CAPITAL	1st
QUALITY OF LIFE	147th
ENVIRONMENT	64th
GOVERNANCE	140th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$1.2 trillion
GDP per person:	US$91,500
Population:	12.7 million

STRENGTHS

- Many Universities
- Large GDP size
- Lower emissions intensity

WEAKNESSES

- High housing expenditure
- Less economic diversity
- Lower income equality

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader
- Cultural Capital
- Sustainable City

3 **Paris** | France

For centuries, Paris has stood as one of the most significant cities in the world, forging a path as a leader in diplomacy, commerce, sciences, culture, and gastronomy. With an economy chiefly focused on services, it is now the fifth-largest city in the world in terms of GDP, and the second-largest in Europe after London. Paris is also a cultural behemoth, and the presence of many historical landmarks has helped to make the French capital one of the world's top tourist destinations, attracting millions of visitors each year.

The importance of Paris as an economic and cultural powerhouse is well reflected in our Human Capital category, where it has the seventh-highest score globally. Paris is the biggest city in a historically highly centralised country, and although regional development strategies have been in place for decades, the capital still has the largest concentration of major company headquarters, renowned universities, key decision-making institutions, and various international organisations. As a result, it draws in many highly educated workers from across France and abroad.

These residents are also attracted by the city's high quality of life, which scores in the top 10 globally and is considerably ahead of similar-sized peers such as London, Tokyo, or New York. This is thanks to a long life expectancy, relatively high average income per person, and easy access to culture. Along with over 1,800 listed monuments and 130 museums, Paris has a diverse cultural scene, supported by proactive national and local policies, such as an allowance for young people to access cultural activities. However, the city still faces its challenges. Perhaps the greatest of these is related to the housing market, as affordability has worsened over time due to persistent overdemand and undersupply—a difficulty shared with many other European cities.

Paris also somewhat underperforms in the Environment category. This is partly linked to changing weather patterns, such as extreme heatwaves, which are likely to become more common as a result of climate change. That said, the city has committed to ambitious environmental policies designed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Another area of weakness for Paris is in the Governance category. The French government has attempted to change investors' perceptions of heavy bureaucracy and red tape by offering incentives to attract foreign businesses to France. However, political instability has become commonplace in recent times and looks unlikely to abate anytime soon given budgetary difficulties and upcoming elections. This has weakened the business environment and could deter future investment if it continues. But despite challenges, Paris' structural strengths remain, and the city will continue to be a dominant force on both the European and global stages.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	13th
HUMAN CAPITAL	7th
QUALITY OF LIFE	10th
ENVIRONMENT	83rd
GOVERNANCE	317th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$1.0 trillion
GDP per person:	US$76,900
Population:	13.4 million

STRENGTHS

- Many Universities
- Large GDP size
- Many recreation and cultural sites

WEAKNESSES

- High housing expenditure
- Larger temperature anomalies
- Slower GDP growth

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader
- Cultural Capital
- Sustainable City

4 **Seattle** | United States

Seattle's economic strength propels it to the fourth spot of our 2026 Global Cities Index. This is largely thanks to the city's major tech sector—home to both Microsoft and Amazon—which rivals those of any other city in the world. The metro also boasts major players in other industries such as aerospace (Boeing) and is home to major retail headquarters (Starbucks, Costco, and Nordstrom). This range of large employers gives the city one of the highest levels of GDP per person in our index and a healthy economic diversity measure.

Seattle's sizeable tech and aerospace sectors are composed of a highly educated workforce, which facilitates the metro's commendable Human Capital ranking in the top 10 nationally and top 50 globally. However, the downside risk of the Trump administration's immigration policies will likely limit international immigration to the city, reducing population growth and the share of foreign-born residents. This may hold Seattle back from making gains in the Human Capital category in the next few years.

The city scores favourably in the Quality of Life category as a concentration of high-value sectors results in Seattle residents having a very high income per person (fourth in the world). However, this can be a double-edged sword, as income inequality is also considerably high in the city. This is especially concerning as Seattle's consistent population growth and limited housing supply are set to contribute to increasingly unaffordable house prices and rents. Still, Seattle's Quality of Life is boosted by its diverse culture and arts offerings, including the Seattle Art Museum (SAM), the Seattle Symphony, and Seattle Opera company. The city is also known for its contemporary music scene, being the birthplace of grunge and key to the emergence of alternative rock bands such as Nirvana and Pearl Jam. As a result, Seattle ranks second in the US in the Quality of Life category.

With close proximity to the coastline and several major national parks, Seattle residents enjoy a wide range of recreational and outdoor amenities. Between an inlet of the Pacific Ocean and Lake Washington, it has a wide selection of urban parks and natural landscapes. In terms of the Environment rankings, Seattle performs well thanks to its good air quality and low emissions. However, temperature anomalies and vulnerability to coastal flooding and storms detract from its standing in this category.

Seattle's strong business environment and reputable institutions underpin its Governance rank, but like the rest of the US, political instability weakens the city's score. Despite vulnerabilities, Seattle's excellent scores in four out of our five categories result in an overall ranking within the global top five.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	4th
HUMAN CAPITAL	47th
QUALITY OF LIFE	22nd
ENVIRONMENT	28th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$632 billion
GDP per person:	US$152,000
Population:	4.2 million

STRENGTHS

- High income per person
- Lower emissions intensity
- Large GDP size

WEAKNESSES

- Lower income equality
- High housing expenditure
- Higher crime rate

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader
- Cultural Capital

5 San Francisco | United States

San Francisco's global ranking reflects a robust economy that is heavily driven by the advantages and disadvantages of its large tech sector. A broad range of high-profile corporations underpin the metro's economic performance: from tech companies like Meta, Salesforce, Uber, and Yelp to fashion brands like Levi Strauss and the Gap to financial firms like Wells Fargo. San Francisco's top Economics score is attributed to it having the second-highest GDP per person in the world, behind only San Jose. It also ranks within the top five for GDP size and growth in the US. However, the tech sector has been notoriously volatile over the past several years, particularly following the dot-com and housing busts of the 2000s. Likewise, the metro's banking sector, concentrated near Montgomery Street, has faced challenges associated with the same instability. While San Francisco's key industries are top performers, the metro remains vulnerable to the turbulence of the tech sector.

San Francisco's Human Capital score is also highly dependent on the ever-changing perceptions of the city's liveability. With its high cost of living and a legacy of booms and busts, San Francisco sees considerable swings in net migration patterns that yield lower-than-average population growth and faster ageing of the population. In recent years, the in-migration of those under 34 has declined sharply, but expansions by AI companies over the last year could again reverse this trend. Thanks to the attractiveness of the tech sector, San Francisco's foreign-born population is still considerably higher than most.

While many earn enviable salaries paid by tech and finance firms, income inequality is pervasive, which drags on the city's Quality of Life score. The result is increasingly high unaffordability, and the cost of housing remains expensive even relative to the top earners. At the same time, the city is known for its charming streetscapes and popular tourism destinations—such as Fisherman's Wharf, the Presidio, Lombard Street, and Alcatraz. These factors, along with other museums and arts institutions, make San Francisco home to more cultural amenities than most other US cities.

Regarding the city's Environment ranking, a well-developed transport network frees residents from a reliance on cars and helps keep emission intensities low. A lack of heavy manufacturing in the area also means San Francisco's air quality is better than most. As the current mayoral administration has addressed many quality-of-life issues that had been plaguing the city in recent years, San Francisco remains a top city in the world. Time will tell whether the volatility of the tech sector and housing market will cause San Francisco to move up or down in future rankings.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	5th
HUMAN CAPITAL	37th
QUALITY OF LIFE	50th
ENVIRONMENT	54th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$842 billion
GDP per person:	US$181,900
Population:	4.6 million

STRENGTHS

- High GDP per person
- Many corporate headquarters
- Lower emissions intensity

WEAKNESSES

- High housing expenditure
- Lower income equality
- Slower population growth

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader
- Cultural Capital

6 Dublin | Ireland

Dublin stands as one of Europe's key economic players, boasting the third-highest GDP per capita among our 1,000 global cities. However, this headline figure can be misleading, as it is being inflated by the operations of large multinationals rather than reflecting the city's underlying economic health. A closer look at other indicators paints a fuller picture. For example, Dublin consistently ranks among Europe's top cities for employment growth. The city's recent economic momentum has been driven largely by tech, finance, and pharmaceuticals, all high-value sectors that bring prosperity but also expose the city to global market fluctuations, tempering its economic stability.

At the heart of Dublin's success is its stock of human capital. The city enjoys one of Western Europe's most favourable demographic profiles, with a growing and relatively young population. Access to top-tier institutions like Trinity College, Dublin supports a highly skilled talent pool, which in turn attracts major corporations such as Accenture to set up headquarters in the city. These factors have helped Dublin achieve a strong global ranking for Human Capital, placing 35th in our latest global ranking.

However, Dublin faces challenges when it comes to Quality of Life. Housing costs are exceptionally high, placing the city in the bottom quartile globally and making it one of Europe's priciest housing markets, which reflects Ireland's ongoing housing crisis. Still, incomes remain robust, buoyed by high earners working in the Docklands and the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

On the environmental front, Dublin shines. The city benefits from a temperate climate, low pollution levels, and ambitious climate initiatives, with a goal of climate neutrality by 2030. Flooding along the River Liffey during storms remains the primary environmental risk, but overall, the city scores highly for liveability.

As Ireland's political centre, Dublin enjoys the stability of a representative democracy and strong civil protections. Its business environment, however, is only average compared with other Western European cities. The city faces notable challenges, including a severe housing shortage, limited economic diversity, and vulnerabilities linked to its concentrated sectoral mix. Despite the hurdles, Dublin has secured a very healthy position in the index, anchored by robust economic growth, a highly skilled workforce, and a strong environmental profile.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	12th
HUMAN CAPITAL	35th
QUALITY OF LIFE	70th
ENVIRONMENT	9th
GOVERNANCE	58th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$371 billion
GDP per person:	US$159,700
Population:	2.3 million

STRENGTHS

- High GDP per person
- Many universities
- Lower emissions intensity

WEAKNESSES

- Less economic stability
- High housing expenditure
- Less economic diversity

ARCHETYPES

- Sustainable City

7 **Boston** | United States

Boston owes its top 10 ranking to its status as an innovation and technology hub, with world-class life sciences and tech sectors. Combined, these two industries help the city achieve the 13th-largest GDP in the world, and the eighth-largest in per-person terms. Boston's R&D-based sectors make up such an important share of the city's output that its economy is less diverse than nearly every other city in North America. Although reliance on such a select group of industries has proven to be risky for other metros, Boston is relatively less exposed to volatility as its R&D-based sectors are less unpredictable than financial or commodity-based industries.

Boston is perhaps best known for its world-renowned universities, including Harvard and MIT, attracting talented students, academics, and researchers from abroad. Because of this, Bostonians have among the highest levels of educational attainment in the world. The city's universities foster a culture of innovation and cutting-edge research, bolstered by the many companies—particularly those in the healthcare and tech sectors, such as Moderna and Biogen—that are headquartered in Cambridge. Due to its role as a global education and innovation capital, Boston ranks ninth globally in Human Capital.

Boston's stature in the knowledge economy ultimately creates some of the highest average incomes in the world (top five in the nation), boosting the city's Quality of Life score. However, similar to other high-income metros, Boston exhibits a considerable degree of income inequality. Its residents face other disparities as well, especially related to housing and education. Still, other Quality of Life metrics solidify Boston's ranking as third in the country; this includes a notably high life expectancy, low crime rate, and a multitude of recreation and cultural sites, many of which are related to Boston's role in the founding of the United States.

When it comes to the Environment category, Boston fares well with regards to air quality and emissions intensity, with a relatively sizeable public transit system and ample green spaces. However, the city faces challenges concerning natural disaster management, particularly flooding. Research shows that many neighbourhoods in Boston that were originally built on marshlands are sinking into the ground, further exacerbating the challenges posed by rising sea levels. On the whole, more will need to be done to protect Boston's residents from the growing climate hazards facing the city.

Like other US cities, Boston's Governance score is driven by its strong business environment but rising political instability. While its established institutions remain stable, there is an increasing risk that the Trump administration's NIH and NSF funding cuts will affect the city's many universities, which could threaten Boston's position as a global hub of innovation and education in the future.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	9th
HUMAN CAPITAL	9th
QUALITY OF LIFE	40th
ENVIRONMENT	289th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$681 billion
GDP per person:	US$135,300
Population:	5.0 million

STRENGTHS

- High income per person
- Many universities
- High educational attainment

WEAKNESSES

- Lower income equality
- Less economic diversity
- More severe natural disasters

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader
- Cultural Capital

8 San Jose | United States

San Jose is home to the renowned Silicon Valley, which is what contributes to its third spot in the Economics ranking and eighth spot overall in the Global Cities Index. With technology firms such as Apple, Alphabet (Google), and Nvidia generating significantly higher GDP than most companies, San Jose's GDP per person is the highest of all 1,000 cities. However, the tech sector has experienced booms and busts over the years and given that there are few large companies outside of tech operating in Silicon Valley, the lack of economic diversity makes San Jose more exposed to this volatility.

San Jose's Human Capital score is underpinned by the concentration of some of the brightest minds around the globe, many aspiring to work for high-profile tech companies. A large foreign-born population and a relatively high corporate headquarters measure are key contributors to San Jose's position in this category. However, San Jose's Human Capital is hampered by an ageing population, as well as its low population growth. Although it attracts healthy in-migration of young and foreign workers, it struggles to retain some middle-aged individuals who grapple with the high cost of living.

Complementing San Jose's impressive Economics and Human Capital scores is the city's commendable result in the Quality of Life category. As the highest-ranking US city in this category, its position is solidified by the fact that many of San Jose's residents are high-income earners, with over a third of the households earning more than $350,000 per year—four times the US average. While this is an impressive feat, an unfortunate byproduct is the high level of income inequality, for which it ranks in the bottom third globally. With its abundant wealth, popular restaurants, and shopping mecca on Santana Row, San Jose has a surplus of recreational amenities. Adding to this, the San Jose Museum of Art, the Center for Performing Arts, and other sites grant the city a place in the top 25 in the US for recreation and cultural sites, and inside the top 200 globally.

San Jose's overall emissions intensity is lower than most Californian towns, and it has little heavy manufacturing outside of computers and semiconductors. This boosts the city's Environment score. However, this score is somewhat weighed down by the city's higher severity of natural disasters due to forest fires near the Diablo Mountain Range, which is vulnerable during dry periods, and its high risk of earthquakes. Aside from its lower Governance score, which is the case for all US cities, San Jose ranks higher in the other four categories, highlighting the well-rounded nature of this global tech hub.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	3rd
HUMAN CAPITAL	121st
QUALITY OF LIFE	13th
ENVIRONMENT	52nd
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$474 billion
GDP per person:	US$238,700
Population:	2.0 million

STRENGTHS

- High GDP per person
- Many corporate headquarters
- Lower emissions intensity

WEAKNESSES

- Larger temperature anomalies
- More severe natural disasters
- Slower population growth

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader

9 **Tokyo** | Japan

A prolonged period of stagnation since the 1990s, often referred to as the Lost Decades, has weakened narratives about Tokyo, but the city's position in the Global Cities Index is self-evident. Indeed, Tokyo is the highest-ranked city in Asia. The Japanese capital is a vital financial centre within the global context, and despite recent growing competition from other APAC cities, it is still one of the top three-largest cities in the world in terms of GDP. The city has exhibited slow economic growth in comparison to its global peers, such as London and New York. However, its sheer size and economic might, diverse economy of industry and services, and high scores across metrics in the Human Capital and Quality of Life categories mean it remains a vibrant city of enormous international importance.

The area where Tokyo excels most is in the Human Capital category, ranking third in the world. While worries about Japan's ageing population have grabbed headlines, the population of Tokyo is one of the biggest globally and among the youngest in Japan, largely due to internal migration of individuals relocating to the city, where the universities and job opportunities remain concentrated. High educational attainment means the majority of national and numerous international corporations are based in Tokyo, close to the Japanese government and administrative institutions.

However, Tokyo's size and magnitude also come with problems, which become evident when examining certain aspects of the city's liveability. Just like in other megacities across the world, residents face high housing expenditure, with space in central Tokyo coming at a considerable cost. In addition, Tokyo faces problems similar to Japan overall in terms of stagnating wages and relatively lower incomes per person than those enjoyed in other advanced economy cities. However, Tokyo still places highly for Quality of Life thanks to its long life expectancy, low crime rate, and abundance of recreation and cultural sites.

Environmentally, Tokyo has moderate levels of pollution, although its air quality is significantly higher than most other cities in East Asia. The city performs far better in emissions intensity, which suggests that the city's pollution levels are negatively affected by activity of regional neighbours. Where Tokyo's Environment ranking does take a significant hit is in its exposure to natural disasters. Their potential severity—especially for earthquakes and typhoons—is higher than in nearly every other city in the world.

An established economy, extensive human capital, and strong and secure institutions have created a stable metropolis that appeals to businesses and individuals, both domestically and internationally. Tokyo should remain highly relevant in the global rankings in the coming years, but the presence of increasing competition from faster-growing cities and challenges related to Japan's ageing population cannot be ignored.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	45th
HUMAN CAPITAL	3rd
QUALITY OF LIFE	99th
ENVIRONMENT	454th
GOVERNANCE	21st

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$1.5 trillion
GDP per person:	US$41,500
Population:	36.2 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- Many corporate headquarters
- High life expectancy

WEAKNESSES

- Older age profile
- Slower GDP growth
- More severe natural disasters

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader
- Cultural Capital
- Legacy City

10 **Zurich** | Switzerland

After briefly dropping out of the top 10 in the Global Cities Index last year, Zurich is back at number 10 in 2026. Despite not being the largest in terms of population or GDP size, the Swiss city scores in the top 50 in four of the five categories—reflecting its broad-based strength. At the heart of Zurich's solid score for Economics is its very high GDP per capita, which ranks ninth globally and fifth in Europe. This is largely a reflection of Zurich's industry mix, with extremely productive financial and professional services, and also some high value-added manufacturing—focused primarily on technology and life sciences.

In the Human Capital category, Zurich's strengths shine even brighter. The city is home to several globally recognised higher education institutions, such as ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich, and ZHAW. This presence of elite universities in the city, coupled with an excellent and accessible educational system, helps Zurich rank third globally for educational attainment. In turn, this supports recruitment at the many financial institutions and multinational corporations that have established operations in the city.

If people come to Zurich for the education and employment opportunities, they stay for the city's liveability; Zurich's best ranking is the Quality of Life category. To begin with, incomes per person are very high, ranking second in Europe. Further boosting the city's Quality of Life score is its long life expectancy, also ranked among the highest globally. Where Zurich does struggle in this category, however, is in housing costs. But it is no surprise that Zurich's lakefront location and snow-capped mountain skyline come with the downside of high house prices and rents.

The city's visually stunning location comes with another downside, as seen in the Environment category. Zurich's climate can be quite volatile, with large swings in temperatures and rainfall. The severity of natural disasters, especially flooding, is also considered a moderate risk. These incidents are likely to get worse as the effects of climate change intensify, which explains Zurich's urgency in responding to the climate crisis, with the city committing to achieving net zero emissions by 2040.

In the Governance category, Zurich benefits from Switzerland's strong institutions and political stability, ranking among the highest in the world. This, in turn, helps to support business activity and investment in the city. Overall, Zurich's diversified strengths of highly productive sectors, an educated workforce, and strong institutions are driving continued gains in its performance, enabling the city to return to the top 10 in the Global Cities Index for 2026.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	29th
HUMAN CAPITAL	27th
QUALITY OF LIFE	14th
ENVIRONMENT	124th
GOVERNANCE	46th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$216 billion
GDP per person:	US$131,500
Population:	1.6 million

STRENGTHS

- Strong institutions
- High educational attainment
- High life expectancy

WEAKNESSES

- Slower GDP growth
- Larger temperature anomalies
- High housing expenditure

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader
- Cultural Capital
- Sustainable City

11 **Oslo** | Norway

Steadily climbing the rankings is Oslo, which secures 11th place overall. Unlike many other cities in our index, Oslo's strength is broad-based, with the city featuring in the top 50 across all categories. Despite not being a large economy in global terms, Oslo's boasts a high GDP per person at US$92,000, the city's residents are wealthy, and personal taxes are notably lower compared with its Nordic peers (albeit high by global standards), thanks to levies on Norway's sizeable oil and gas industry.

Oslo's well-rounded performance is characterised by its stability. The local economy is highly diversified, which means Oslo is less exposed to sector-specific downturns than some of its peers. As a result, GDP growth has remained at a broadly consistent and healthy rate over the past 15 years. This has been supported by a favourable political climate. Civil liberties are well-protected by strong institutions, and the threat of political instability is low. This lack of volatility and risk has made Oslo an attractive destination to do business, and unsurprisingly, the city scores well in the Economics and Governance categories.

This favourable economic and political background is supported by Oslo's well-educated and young workforce, many of whom are foreign-born and enjoy a high quality of life. In fact, residents of the city tend to live some of the longest lives in the world and life satisfaction is among the highest in Europe. Part of this is because of the numerous recreational facilities and outdoor spaces that the city has to offer. These include famous museums, the redeveloped seafront district of Aker Brygge, and numerous urban skiing spots.


Gallwis / Shutterstock.com

However, this quality of life comes at a cost. While incomes are high, the city is famously one of the most expensive places to live in the world, and housing costs comprise a particularly large share of resident's incomes. This weighs on Oslo's ranking in the Quality of Life category, but the city is far from alone in this, as housing market challenges remain a key concern for many European peers.

Oslo's 'weakest' category is the Environment, but notably, it still features well within the top decile globally. Emissions intensity is very low in the city, and the air quality is high, helped in part by the large swathes of forested areas that surround it. Where Oslo falls in this category is through temperature and rainfall anomalies, a common problem for cities as far north as this. But, by and large, Oslo is a city that consistently performs well in all areas in our index, and this has helped secure its position as the top-performing Nordic city.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	30th
HUMAN CAPITAL	48th
QUALITY OF LIFE	6th
ENVIRONMENT	50th
GOVERNANCE	8th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$140 billion
GDP per person:	US$92,000
Population:	1.5 million

STRENGTHS

- High economic stability
- Strong civil liberties
- Many recreation and cultural sites

WEAKNESSES

- High housing expenditure
- Larger temperature anomalies
- Larger rainfall anomalies

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader
- Cultural Capital
- Sustainable City

12 Los Angeles | United States

One of the largest metropolitan areas in the world, with renowned entertainment and film sectors, Los Angeles performs well in most metrics for the Global Cities Index. For starters, the city has the third-largest GDP in the world, only behind New York City and Tokyo. While best known for Hollywood and major studios like Paramount and Warner Brothers, Los Angeles also boasts healthy tech and high-end manufacturing sectors, including a large aerospace base. SpaceX and Anduril are just two of several aerospace companies with production facilities in the metro. The entertainment sector has experienced persistent volatility in recent years, although its GDP has generally remained high. These three sectors—film, tech, and aerospace—drive the city's high GDP per person.

Behind Economics, Human Capital is Los Angeles' best attribute, ranking 55th overall. The city is the second-most popular destination for immigrants to the US (other than New York), drawn to its world-class tech and creative industries. The metro's renowned universities, including USC and UCLA, also attract students from across the US and globally, further contributing to the city's overall educational attainment. Despite the appeal, Los Angeles has suffered significant out-migration over the last few years as many seek to escape the high cost of living. Also weighing on its population growth are the Trump administration's immigration policies, which will continue to affect international immigration to the city.

Los Angeles ranks less favourably for its Quality of Life measure due to several factors, including its aforementioned high living costs. Residents spend significantly more of their incomes on housing than in most other cities, largely due to strict zoning regulations preventing higher-density construction. Los Angeles also faces considerable income inequality and a relatively high crime rate. Still, for those employed in the city's key industries, incomes per person are among the highest globally, and Los Angeles has some of the most accessible and exciting recreation and cultural sites of any US city, boosting its Quality of Life score.

Finally, Los Angeles's sprawl and limited public transportation cause a heavy reliance on cars, which often exacerbates air quality issues. Yet, there are relatively few heavy manufacturing companies in the metro, making its overall emissions score better than most major US cities. But weighing the most on LA's Environment score is the relative severity of natural disasters, most recently seen in the destructive wildfires that engulfed parts of the metro in January 2025.

While strong performance in the Economics and Human Capital categories solidifies Los Angeles as 12th in the index, its weaker Quality of Life holds it back from a stronger result. With future improvements in this space, Los Angeles would be well positioned to move even closer to the top.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	2nd
HUMAN CAPITAL	55th
QUALITY OF LIFE	165th
ENVIRONMENT	158th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$1.4 trillion
GDP per person:	US$110,400
Population:	12.9 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- Many universities
- High income per person

WEAKNESSES

- More severe natural disasters
- Lower income equality
- Slower population growth

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader
- Cultural Capital

13 **Sydney** | Australia

Sydney is the financial capital of Australia and hosts a large business services sector, as well as key institutions like the Reserve Bank of Australia and Australia's stock exchange. With an outreach both into Australia and the Asia Pacific region, Sydney has attracted many foreign companies over the years and currently has the largest number of corporate headquarters among Australian cities.

Sydney falls just outside the top 20 in our index for the Economics category. This high ranking is mostly driven by the size of its economy—indeed, Sydney is the largest city in Australia in terms of GDP. Sydney's economy gets a large contribution from tourism as it is home to some of Australia's most famed landmarks, including the Opera House, the Harbour Bridge, and Bondi Beach.

Quality of Life is one of Sydney's highest-scoring metrics, supported by the city's low crime rate, long life expectancy, high household incomes, and abundance of world-class recreation and cultural sites. However, a major weakness in the form of high housing costs persists. Property prices and rents have risen steeply in the city due to rapid growth in population, and the housing supply has not been able to keep up. Indeed, Sydney's housing supply is constrained by its geographical location on the coastline and regulatory restrictions protecting heritage neighbourhoods. As such, residents of Sydney have very high levels of housing expenditure, which weighs on the city's Quality of Life score.

Another of Sydney's strengths is its scores within the Human Capital category. With two universities in the 'Group of Eight' and several others, Sydney offers a broad array of higher education opportunities. This contributes to the city's high average educational attainment level and attracts many foreign students. In addition, Sydney has one of the most diverse populations of any major city globally and the relatively high share of foreign-born population enriches its workforce.

In the Environment category, Sydney ranks lower than some of its peers. Because of its subtropical climate, Sydney faces more severe temperature and rainfall anomalies than Melbourne (a city with a milder, more temperate climate). Also, Sydney tends to be more affected by bush fires due to its forested surroundings, further increasing the environmental hazards. Altogether, this weakens its Environment score.

Still the foremost city in Australia, Sydney remains to be an attractive place for individuals and companies alike. Sydney continues to jostle with Melbourne for the highest spots in the index—in the 2026 edition, it comes out ahead.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	26th
HUMAN CAPITAL	63rd
QUALITY OF LIFE	17th
ENVIRONMENT	68th
GOVERNANCE	13th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$398 billion
GDP per person:	US$70,500
Population:	5.6 million

STRENGTHS

- Many universities
- Lower crime rate
- Strong institutions

WEAKNESSES

- High housing expenditure
- Larger temperature anomalies
- Older age profile

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader
- Cultural Capital
- Sustainable City

14 **Washington, DC** | United States

Washington's position as the seat of the US federal government drives the city's distinguished Economics ranking. This score is boosted by the overall size of its GDP (11th globally) and a strong GDP per capita figure. While Washington has a respectable services sector that supports government operations, including law firms, non-profits, consultancies, defence contractors, and hotels, the largest share of economic activity can be attributed to its public administration sector. The sector's outsized role in the economy means that Washington has one of the least diversified economies in the US. The public sector also tends to be less productive than others, which partly explains Washington's slower GDP growth relative to other US cities. And the Trump administration's policies focused on cutting the federal workforce have added a major downside risk to the city's economy and reduced employment growth in the short term.

Washington's second-best category in the Global Cities Index is in the Human Capital category. The city's residents are among the most educated in the world (and the most educated in the US), which is a byproduct of many of them working in Washington's several policymaking arenas. The city also ranks highly thanks to the high concentration of corporate headquarters and universities looking to benefit from proximity to the federal government. The percentage of the foreign-born population boosts this category as well, a result of the many foreign diplomats stationed there.

Washington's substantial economic performance and incomes per person are driven by the prevalence of well-paid government jobs, which in turn support the city's Quality of Life score. Additional benefits come from a respectable recreation and culture infrastructure score for its size, with its plethora of museums (including 17 Smithsonian Museums alone) and monuments catering to tourists and residents alike. However, a relatively high level of inequality (a feature of most American cities) and crime rate hinder Washington from climbing further up the Quality of Life rankings.

The city's Environment score takes a considerable hit as the region faces comparatively severe natural disasters and can experience volatile temperatures. But Washington gains points for having good air quality and one of the lowest emission intensities of any American city. This is largely thanks to the city's broad public transportation infrastructure and lack of carbon-intensive industries.

Like other US cities, Washington's Governance score is brought down by the increasing instability of the US political system, which may be more apparent in the nation's capital. Overall, the city's fortunes are closely tied to its role as the US capital. In good times, Washington attracts new residents and visitors to its halls of power. But in bad times, the political upheaval can be crippling, causing government shutdowns, mass layoffs, and sluggish growth.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	8th
HUMAN CAPITAL	10th
QUALITY OF LIFE	130th
ENVIRONMENT	308th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$780 billion
GDP per person:	US$120,600
Population:	6.5 million

STRENGTHS

- High educational attainment
- High income per person
- Large GDP size

WEAKNESSES

- Slower GDP growth
- More severe natural disasters
- Less economic diversity

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader

15 **Stockholm** | Sweden

Stockholm comes in at 15th in our rankings, making it the second-highest-placed Nordic city after Oslo (11th). The city's strength in our index lies in its consistency, as one of only seven cities to rank in the top 100 for every category. As the economic hub of Sweden and the Nordics, Stockholm is the largest city in the region by both GDP and population. Its Economics score is further bolstered by a relatively high GDP per person, and its diverse economy leaves it less exposed to sector-specific shocks than many of its peers. As a result, Stockholm has achieved healthy GDP growth by Western European standards.

Closely tied to the city's strong economy is its performance in the Human Capital category. Numerous global corporations have established their headquarters in Stockholm to reap the benefits of the highly educated talent pool from the city's top-tier universities. This makes Stockholm an attractive city to do business, which in turn has boosted the number of job opportunities, supported healthy population growth and has resulted in the city having one of the youngest age profiles in Western Europe.

People and businesses also choose Stockholm for its high standards of living, which includes one of the highest life expectancies in the world. Additionally, the city offers many recreation and cultural activities, such as the Vasa Museum, Skansen, and the many islands in its archipelago, which have become popular destinations for Swedes and international visitors alike. However, like many other cities at the top of our rankings, Stockholm's housing market remains a key challenge. On average, residents spend a larger share of their income on housing than in most other cities. While rent-controlled housing is available, the average wait time is currently several years, and this pushes residents into the secondary market where sublets are often more expensive and less secure. With its high rates of population growth, it is likely that Stockholm's housing market will become further strained without government intervention through supply-side channels. However, it is a testament to the city's overall strength that its worst-performing category still scores in the top decile globally.

In the Environment category, competing forces are at play. While Stockholm has one of the lowest CO_2 emissions intensities and among the best air quality of any city globally, it has particularly volatile temperatures. This is a common problem across the Nordic region and is likely to worsen as the impacts of climate change continue to grow.

Stockholm also benefits from Sweden's strong institutions that enable political stability and a business-friendly environment. In addition, residents of Stockholm have among the most robust civil liberties protections in the world. The city's strength lies in its strength across all five categories in our index, with no glaring weaknesses in any of the categories.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	36th
HUMAN CAPITAL	28th
QUALITY OF LIFE	77th
ENVIRONMENT	7th
GOVERNANCE	10th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$221 billion
GDP per person:	US$89,600
Population:	2.5 million

STRENGTHS

- Lower emissions intensity
- Many corporate headquarters
- Strong civil liberties

WEAKNESSES

- Larger temperature anomalies
- High housing expenditure
- Older age profile

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader
- Cultural Capital
- Sustainable City

16 **Melbourne** | Australia

Melbourne ranks 16th overall in the Global Cities Index, dropping a few spots on the index from last year to land just below its slightly larger and more famous counterpart, Sydney. Despite falling in the overall rankings, Melbourne remains a premier city for economy, liveability, and business—standing shoulder to shoulder with Sydney and the rest of the top 20 in our index this year. Indeed, Melbourne has, in the last two decades, been catching up to Sydney in aspects ranging from economics to population size. Because of its many art galleries and the fact that it hosts major sports events—including the Australian Open—Melbourne is widely considered to be the cultural and sporting capital of Australia.

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Melbourne's strong performance in terms of its economics is a result of multiple different metrics. As the second-largest city in Australia by GDP, Melbourne ranks within the top 20 cities worldwide in the Economics category. Also boasting a diversified, service-oriented economy, with a large business services sector and leading research facilities in healthcare, the city has been able to grow at a relatively high and stable rate in recent years. Overall, Melbourne's achievement in the Economics category is centred around it being a global city, with a diverse and durable economy.

Another key strength for Melbourne is the Human Capital category, sitting within the top 10% of cities. This score is attributable to its many high-quality universities, with two of them belonging to the prestigious 'Group of Eight'. Melbourne's fast-growing economy makes it an appealing destination for immigrants, and over the past few years, the city has attracted many foreign workers.

Melbourne places just outside of the top 50 in the Quality of Life category. The city's fast-growing population has made housing increasingly unaffordable, as is the case in most Australian cities. Nevertheless, Melbourne does rank highly in terms of life expectancy, thanks to its world-class healthcare system comprised of over 150 public and private hospitals. Melbourne is also a very safe city, and its low crime rate supports the overall Quality of Life score.

Similarly, Melbourne places within the top 10% of all cities in the Environment category. The presence of few heavy industries and its geographical location mean that the city has a low emissions intensity, while also benefitting from a relatively stable climate with mild rainfall anomalies. However, the intensity of natural disasters in Melbourne is higher than elsewhere, placing it near the global average.

Like the rest of Australia, Melbourne's high quality government institutions and democratic system promote a high degree of stability, civil liberty, and an open business environment, underpinning the city's high ranking in the Governance category.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	17th
HUMAN CAPITAL	68th
QUALITY OF LIFE	54th
ENVIRONMENT	49th
GOVERNANCE	13th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$339 billion
GDP per person:	US$62,200
Population:	5.4 million

STRENGTHS

- High life expectancy
- Lower crime rate
- Strong business environment

WEAKNESSES

- High housing expenditure
- Older age profile
- More severe natural disasters

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader
- Sustainable City

17 **Dallas** | United States

Dallas has recorded consistently strong economic growth in recent years, landing it in the sixth spot for Economics, and 17th overall in our Global Cities Index. What was once a railroad and cotton-trading centre about a century ago is now the fourth-largest metropolitan economy in the US and the eighth-largest in the world. Diversification away from oil production since the 1980s into downstream oil refining and other high-value services sectors means that the city is less beholden to oil booms and busts, and it is now among the most stable economies in the world. The business-friendly climate, meanwhile, has stimulated growth across industries and enticed the relocation of many major corporations, including Caterpillar, AECOM, Toyota, CBRE, and Charles Schwab. Several homegrown brand names include Texas Instruments, AT&T, American Airlines, and Southwest Airlines.

Thanks to the substantial number of corporate headquarters and reputable universities located in Dallas, the city's Human Capital measure is among the top performers. However, when considering other measures of Human Capital, the city somewhat underperforms. Namely, Dallas's demographic profile is relatively weak compared with its peers, with an increasing share of the population approaching retirement age. Educational attainment in the city is also lower than most other US metros. Nevertheless, in the global context, Dallas still ranks a very strong 21st in this category.

Housing affordability has increasingly become an issue in recent years, exacerbated by the city's high level of income inequality, both of which weigh on Dallas' Quality of Life ranking. While there are some notable recreational and outdoor amenities, such as the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, and cultural institutions like the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the city lacks the breadth of art and cultural offerings of other leading cities. Still, its exceedingly high average (disposable) income does provide an offset to these drags, partly driven by the lack of a Texas state income tax. But this alone is not enough to overcome Dallas' other liveability challenges.

Of the categories in our index, Dallas's lowest performance is in the Environment rankings. Expansive urban sprawl, along with limited public transit infrastructure, results in a heavy reliance on private vehicles. This contributes to high levels of traffic and poorer air quality compared with most cities in the US. Moreover, frequent heatwaves and the heightened potential severity of natural disasters significantly downgrade Dallas' standing. Without more concrete plans to address these climate change hazards, the city risks further sliding in this category (and in others) in future years.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	6th
HUMAN CAPITAL	21st
QUALITY OF LIFE	275th
ENVIRONMENT	378th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$845 billion
GDP per person:	US$99,800
Population:	8.5 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- Many corporate headquarters
- High economic stability

WEAKNESSES

- Larger temperature anomalies
- Lower income equality
- More severe natural disasters

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader

18 Copenhagen | Denmark

Copenhagen's overall ranking is unchanged in this year's update of our Global Cities Index, with the city remaining 18th—three places behind its Nordic peer Stockholm. Despite being smaller in size, the Danish capital has a lot going for it. In particular, one of the city's great strengths is in the Economics category, where it benefits from high scores for economic stability and GDP per person. Copenhagen's stability is aided by its broad-based economy, hosting a wide range of headquarters across numerous industries. This includes the pharma giant Novo Nordisk, one of the world's largest shipping companies Maersk, Danske Bank (finance), and Carlsberg (beverages). Transport is another important sector for the city, with Copenhagen Airport the busiest in the Nordic region, and a major hub for European travellers.

Copenhagen also performs well in the Human Capital category, with its labour force scoring very highly for educational attainment. This is supported by the strong reputation of the city's universities, represented primarily by University of Copenhagen, Technical University of Denmark, and the Copenhagen Business School. The city is also successful in attracting skilled workers from abroad, with one in five residents being foreign-born.

The Danish capital ranks somewhat lower in our Quality of Life category, primarily due to its limited and expensive housing. In a recent Eurostat survey, only 13.5% of Copenhagen's residents indicated that it was easy to find good housing at a reasonable price—one of the lowest rates among 80 major European cities.

The government has acknowledged this issue, and to help alleviate housing shortages, there are long-term plans to build an artificial island (to be called Lynetteholm) in the Copenhagen harbour, which would accommodate 35,000 homes. On brighter note, Copenhagen benefits from a relatively high income per person, a long life expectancy, and rich cultural offerings—including the world-renowned Tivoli Gardens amusement park in the centre of the city.

In addition to having many green spaces, Copenhagen enjoys a low emissions intensity, in part due to its extensive public transportation network and bike-friendly infrastructure. Despite already being the ninth-best city in the world in terms of emissions intensity, Copenhagen aims to achieve climate positivity by 2035 with respect to direct CO_2-emissions within the city. However, weighing on Copenhagen's Environment ranking is its volatile temperatures—a challenge shared by many Northern cities.

Finally, Copenhagen scores the highest in the Governance category. In particular, the Danish capital achieves the strongest results across all cities for its favourable business environment and institutional quality, reflecting low levels of corruption and administrative burdens. This, in turn, reinforces the city's strong economic and demographic performance and helps support future growth.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	28th
HUMAN CAPITAL	53rd
QUALITY OF LIFE	160th
ENVIRONMENT	15th
GOVERNANCE	1st

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$220 billion
GDP per person:	US$99,000
Population:	2.2 million

STRENGTHS

- High economic stability
- Lower emissions intensity
- Strong business environment

WEAKNESSES

- High housing expenditure
- Older age profile
- Larger temperature anomalies

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader
- Cultural Capital
- Sustainable City

19 **Munich** | Germany

Munich remains the highest-ranked German city in our index, with strong performances in the Economics, Human Capital, and Quality of Life categories. The city can trace its success back to the German Economic Miracle—the period of rapid post-war reconstruction and growth seen in Western Germany—which has contributed to its current large economy and high per-person income. Munich benefits from being the capital of Bavaria, which has a distinct culture as well as being Germany's second-largest state in both population and GDP terms. Munich's economy further profits from hosting the headquarters of many large multinational corporations including BMW, Siemens, and Allianz, as well as Apple's largest engineering hub outside the US. However, not everyone shares equally in Munich's economic success, and its high income inequality (among the worst in Western Europe) and high costs of housing weigh on the city's Quality of Life score—although Munich still ranks 16th globally in this category.

Munich's concentration of corporate headquarters and other job opportunities attract a skilled workforce, giving the city a high rank in the Human Capital category. Further contributions come from the city's universities and high educational attainment; Munich is home to the Ludwig Maximillian University and the Technical University of Munich, which are two of the best universities in Germany. However, Munich, like the rest of Germany, faces a demographic challenge in the form of an older age profile—although, thanks to its popularity, this is not as acute in Munich as in other German cities.

The city's high quality of life is supported by competitive wages, high life expectancy, and many recreation and cultural offerings. Munich's wealth of cultural assets contributes to a strong performance in this indicator, with major attractions including the Marienplatz, Nymphenburg Palace, the Olympiapark, as well as the Kunstareal (museum quarter). Every autumn Munich hosts the world-famous Oktoberfest, drawing large numbers of international visitors, a testament to its cultural significance. Munich's central location in Europe also means it is well-connected to other cities by rail. This good public transportation infrastructure helps to support a lower emissions intensity. However, the city has been prone to heatwaves in recent years, and anomalies in both temperature and rainfall bring down its Environment ranking.

Finally, Munich enjoys a relatively strong Governance score, due to Germany's high rankings in all indicators in this category. Munich itself contributes to the institutional scores as it hosts the EU Patent Office, which safeguards intellectual property rights across the bloc. Overall, Munich boasts a host of strengths and potential across the five categories, and we expect it to continue being a leading European city for the foreseeable future.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	31st
HUMAN CAPITAL	61st
QUALITY OF LIFE	16th
ENVIRONMENT	168th
GOVERNANCE	90th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$305 billion
GDP per person:	US$100,300
Population:	3.0 million

STRENGTHS

- High educational attainment
- High GDP per person
- Many recreation and cultural sites

WEAKNESSES

- Larger temperature anomalies
- Older age profile
- Slower GDP growth

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader
- Cultural Capital

20 Toronto | Canada

Toronto is Canada's most populous city and largest economy; it is accordingly the nation's highest-scoring city in the Global Cities Index. As Canada's premier centre for business, finance, culture, and art, it is home to the country's largest banks and media outlets. Positioned in the top 20 for both Economics and Human Capital, the city's relevance is not only keenly felt in Canada but also around the world. Toronto remains one of the most historically stable economies in North America, yet it continues to boast some of the most robust employment growth in the region.

Persistent economic growth in Toronto is sustained in large part due to its high level of migration. The city is a prime destination for international immigrants to Canada—roughly half of the city's population was born outside of Canada, making it one of the most multicultural and cosmopolitan cities in the world. While the lower immigration targets announced by the federal government in 2025 have slowed the pace of growth compared with 2022–2024, the city still has the largest share of foreign-born residents in North America. This, along with Toronto's function as a corporate and educational hub, helps boost its Human Capital score. Canada's five largest banks are headquartered in the city, as are many hospitality and communications companies. Several universities are also located in the city, most notably the world-renowned University of Toronto, a key trailblazer in the medical field.

While Toronto's rapid population growth of the past few years has boosted its Human Capital score, it may have negatively affected the city's Quality of Life score. Namely, the influx of new arrivals has put pressure on the metro's already expensive housing market. Unaffordability remains near record highs, and residents have to spend more of their income on housing than residents of nearly every other city in the world. The government of Ontario has sought to increase housing construction targets, but improvements in affordability will take several years. Despite this, Toronto still ranks around the top quarter of cities in Quality of Life, given its high levels of life expectancy, recreation and cultural sites, and income equality.

Toronto's weakest category in our index is the Environment, due in part to its relatively volatile climate, especially in winter, although summer heatwaves are an increasing risk due to climate change. Like all Canadian cities, Toronto benefits from the robust civil liberties protections enforced by the government, earning the city a strong Governance score. Despite housing market challenges and a temperamental climate, Toronto remains a popular destination for new residents from across the world. While many cities in the developed world struggle to maintain their population and employment growth, Toronto is projected to be a strong contender in the rankings for years to come.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	19th
HUMAN CAPITAL	14th
QUALITY OF LIFE	259th
ENVIRONMENT	292nd
GOVERNANCE	61st

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$481 billion
GDP per person:	US$67,800
Population:	7.1 million

STRENGTHS

- High economic stability
- Large foreign-born population
- Many corporate headquarters

WEAKNESSES

- High housing expenditure
- Larger temperature anomalies
- Less economic diversity

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader

21 Amsterdam | Netherlands

Amsterdam ranks 21st overall in our index and cements its position firmly inside Europe's top 10. The city's strengths are multifaceted, but the Dutch capital performs best in the Economics category, as one of Europe's largest and most dynamic economies. Business services, financial services, and ICT make up a large share of GDP, but the city's location means that the transport sector is also notable. Schiphol airport, for example, is one of the busiest in Europe, while the Port of Amsterdam serves the important North Sea Canal. Together, these help to make the wider Amsterdam region a key node for trade across many industries, ranging from floriculture to steel and cocoa.

The Dutch capital also performs well in the Human Capital category, where it benefits from a highly educated workforce. This helps explain why a diverse range of multinational firms, such as AkzoNobel (chemicals), Philips (electronics), and KPMG (professional services) have chosen to place their headquarters in the city. Businesses are also moving to Zuidas, Amsterdam's rapidly growing business district, which will house new offices, homes, and amenities. This will help to meet the rising demand from a growing population, with the city particularly successful at attracting skilled workers from abroad.

These workers are partly drawn in by the city's high quality of life. Amsterdam boasts a wide range of cultural sites including the Rijksmuseum and Van Gogh Museum, as well as offering a vibrant nightlife. The population also enjoys a relatively long life expectancy and average incomes are high, but like other major European cities, housing in Amsterdam is expensive and securing somewhere to live is often challenging. Housebuilding has not kept pace with demand despite ambitious targets, and a recent sell-off in rental properties has put increased pressure on that market. Housing is therefore a key issue for Amsterdam's residents and will need to be addressed if the city wants to remain an attractive destination for inward migration.

Amsterdam also underperforms in our Environment category due to increasing high-temperature anomalies and the risk of flooding to the city's canal system from rising sea levels. Robust defences are in place, but further prevention measures may be required as these issues worsen in the years to come. That said, Amsterdam is a leader in many areas of environmental policy, and the local government has set out ambitious targets for achieving carbon neutrality and becoming a fully circular economy. The city scores highly in our Governance category, which reflects the Netherland's historical reputation for strong civil liberties and protections for residents and businesses. All in all, this contributes to a well-rounded score for Amsterdam that reflects the city's many strengths.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	33rd
HUMAN CAPITAL	58th
QUALITY OF LIFE	35th
ENVIRONMENT	212th
GOVERNANCE	51st

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$286 billion
GDP per person:	US$94,600
Population:	3.0 million

STRENGTHS

- High GDP per person
- Strong institutions
- Many recreation and cultural sites

WEAKNESSES

- Less economic diversity
- Older age profile
- More severe natural disasters

ARCHETYPES

- Cultural Capital

22 **Berlin** | Germany

As Germany's capital and one of the EU's most populous cities, Berlin unsurprisingly performs strongly in the Economics and Human Capital categories, as well as boasting an excellent Quality of Life score. The city's high rank in Economics comes from its large GDP and relative economic stability and diversity, reflecting Berlin's status as a hub for startups and creative industries. The city also scores well in the Governance category due to Germany's high institutional quality, political stability, and civil liberties. However, like the rest of Germany, Berlin faces the challenge of an ageing population.

Education in Berlin is world class, and the city ranks as best in the world for educational attainment—contributing to its strong score in Human Capital. It has three large universities: the Technical University of Berlin, the Humboldt University, and the Free University of Berlin, as well as several smaller institutions. Access to higher education in Germany is more affordable compared with other cities in advanced economies, allowing for a more meritocratic progression through education.

Berlin was uniquely divided into two halves during the Cold War, a division that still shapes the characteristics of its eastern and western districts. Berlin's storied 20th-century history contributes to its excellent recreation and cultural sites, ranked second globally. It is home to world-famous landmarks such as the Brandenburg Gate, the East Side Gallery, and the Fernsehturm (TV Tower), as well as a plethora of museums, memorials, theatres, and art galleries. The city also has a long tradition of radical thought and artistic expression—in the 1920s, it was famed for its cabaret, and in the 21st century, it has gained a reputation for its music scene and nightlife, drawing visitors from around the world. Also contributing to its high score in recreation and cultural sites is the abundance of green space and parks, notably the Tiergarten and the Tempelhofer Feld (a repurposed airport). This helps Berlin place 15th in Quality of Life globally.

Berlin is served by Brandenburg Airport, the third-largest in Germany, which is well-connected to the city centre by public transport. Despite Berlin's ample green space and good transportation infrastructure, which help it to achieve above-average air quality, the city's lowest-ranking category is Environment. This is largely due to the city's significant temperature anomalies: in recent years Berlin has experienced several heatwaves, with temperatures reaching well-above average in summer months. As older residents face greater health risks from persistent heat, heat mitigation is becoming particularly important in Berlin given its ageing population. Like many other European cities, Berlin will need to adapt to climate-related hazards in order to maximise its future potential.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	50th
HUMAN CAPITAL	39th
QUALITY OF LIFE	15th
ENVIRONMENT	182nd
GOVERNANCE	90th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$306 billion
GDP per person:	US$60,600
Population:	5.0 million

STRENGTHS

- High educational attainment
- Many universities
- Many recreation and cultural sites

WEAKNESSES

- Larger temperature anomalies
- Older age profile
- Slower GDP growth

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader
- Cultural Capital
- Sustainable City

23 Geneva | Switzerland


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Geneva doubles the Swiss presence in the top 25 of the Global Cities Index, ranking 13 places below Zurich, and is only one of seven cities in the world to be in the top 100 across all five index categories. Geneva's per capita GDP is the seventh-highest globally, making it the cornerstone of the city's performance in the Economics category. Its economy is also relatively stable, as a significant share of activity comes from numerous international organisations located around Geneva, including the headquarters of many UN bodies. Although this sector does tend to grow more slowly, this is balanced out by the other major industry in Geneva—the much more dynamic financial services. The city hosts one of the world's largest marketplaces for the trading of oil, sugar, grains, and other commodities, offsetting some of the sluggishness from the public sector.

Unsurprisingly, the concentration of international organisations and the city's central role in global trade have attracted many international workers and residents. Geneva has the highest share of foreign-born residents across all European cities, and this has helped boost its rank in the Human Capital category. Their presence has also raised the city's educational attainment score, reflecting the high qualifications required to work for such organisations. The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), one of the world's largest research facilities, is also based in Geneva and attracts scientists and engineers from across the world.

In the Quality of Life category, Geneva ranks 51st globally. One of its key strengths is in life expectancy, which is among the longest in the world. Also contributing to the city's favourable score in this category is its location: nestled between the Alps and Lake Geneva, residents have access to a wide range of outdoor recreational activities, from world-class skiing in the winter to swimming and hiking in the summer. But as is the case with many Swiss cities, high housing costs present a significant downside.

Another consequence of the city's location is its relatively weaker Environment score. Lake Geneva poses a flooding risk to some neighbourhoods, and the mountains cause significant temperature anomalies, as the weather can change dramatically from one day to the next. Conversely, Geneva's Environment score is boosted by the city's low emissions intensity, ranking third-best in the world and claiming the top spot in Europe, thanks to an economy that is largely driven by services rather than carbon-intensive industries.

In line with other Swiss cities, Geneva also ranks highly in the Governance category, supported by strong institutions and political stability. Switzerland's centuries-long stance of neutrality on the international stage continues to pay off to this day, with Geneva's far-reaching global influence being a prime example of this.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	34th
HUMAN CAPITAL	93rd
QUALITY OF LIFE	51st
ENVIRONMENT	80th
GOVERNANCE	46th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$92 billion
GDP per person:	US$144,400
Population:	640,000

STRENGTHS

- High GDP per person
- High life expectancy
- Lower emissions intensity

WEAKNESSES

- Larger temperature anomalies
- Slower GDP growth
- High housing expenditure

ARCHETYPES

- Cultural Capital
- Sustainable City

24 **Vancouver** | Canada

Vancouver is one of Canada's biggest and fastest-growing cities, with broad appeal for businesses and residents alike. The metro has experienced steady economic growth over the past decade and has one of the fastest employment growth rates of North American cities. Still, Vancouver is not without its challenges: its economy leans heavily on finance, real estate, and tech sectors, and this lack of diversity poses risks to future growth if these sectors face difficulty.

Nonetheless, persistent job growth in its tech sector underpins Vancouver's high Human Capital ranking. The industry attracts workers from around the world, and many US tech firms have established offices in Vancouver in order to recruit talent from overseas. In a similar vein, several transport and energy companies are headquartered in the city to take advantage of its port, the largest in Canada. Consequently, Vancouver's population outlook remains strong, and the city has a high share of foreign-born residents. Vancouverites are also highly educated, again contributing to the city's overall human capital.

Beyond the city's economic draw, Vancouver also attracts new residents due to its high quality of life. Flanked by the Pacific Ocean and snow-capped mountains, Vancouver's proximity to outdoor amenities enhances its Quality of Life score. The outdoorsy culture of the city also likely contributes to its residents' high life expectancy. However, Vancouver's scenic views and back-to-nature lifestyle come at a cost: namely, in the form of housing. House prices and rental costs are an enduring challenge for city administrators. The Vancouver housing market has regularly topped lists of the most expensive in the world since the early 2010s, and Vancouverites typically spend a larger portion of their income on housing than residents in nearly every other city in the world.

And Vancouver's landscape is not the only factor drawing its residents outdoors—it also boasts very good air quality and a high Environment score. The city has taken considerable steps to reduce its carbon emissions, first with the Greenest City Action Plan, which concluded in 2020, and subsequently with the Climate Emergency Action Plan. Initiatives such as these are essential for a city exposed to large temperature anomalies, wildfires, and coastal storm surges. Thankfully, Vancouver has historically been proactive in implementing well-defined energy transition and climate adaptation plans.

Famous for its various scenic qualities, it is no surprise that Vancouver is such an attractive destination for many Canadians and international migrants. For those who can handle the steep housing costs, there are few other cities that can match Vancouver's economic strength and human capital.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	52nd
HUMAN CAPITAL	19th
QUALITY OF LIFE	215th
ENVIRONMENT	29th
GOVERNANCE	61st

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$178 billion
GDP per person:	US$57,700
Population:	3.1 million

STRENGTHS

- High economic stability
- Large foreign-born population
- Many recreation and cultural sites

WEAKNESSES

- High housing expenditure
- Less economic diversity
- Higher crime rate

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader
- Sustainable City

25 **Brussels** | Belgium

Brussels is the capital of Belgium and acts as the unofficial capital of the European Union. Indeed, Brussels hosts the EU's key institutions—the Council, the Commission, and the Parliament—in what is known as the European quarters. The capital also hosts the NATO headquarters and the secretariats of several pan-European organisations. The presence of these institutions has allowed an ecosystem of public-sector-related services industries to emerge. This includes public affairs, consulting, policy research, and communications. Due to the size and permanency of the government sector, the city enjoys stable (albeit slow) economic growth, something reflected in the city's Economics score.

The duality of Brussels' role as the capital of Belgium and of the EU gives the city a unique dynamic. The Belgian inhabitants of Brussels share the city with a plethora of highly educated professionals coming from all over Europe (and to some extent the world) to work for the EU institutions and related service industries. Thus, Brussels scores highly in terms of educational attainment and foreign-born population. However, it is also plagued by high levels of unemployment and youth unemployment, mostly affecting its low-skilled population outside the 'Brussels bubble'. This term is used to refer to those working in the EU policy circles and reflects the duality of the city where locals and expats share the city but lead very different lives.

Brussels faces several constraints that weigh on its Quality of Life ranking in the index. One of which is income inequality, a direct outcome of the aforementioned two-speed labour market in the city. However, like many European capitals, Brussels has a vibrant cultural life, and its inhabitants can enjoy a multitude of high-quality museums and galleries.

Brussels' biggest weakness in our index is its Environment score. The city suffers from high levels of air pollution relative to other European cities, in part due to dense car traffic on the ring road surrounding the city centre. The high car usage is related to Belgium's generous tax breaks on company cars, which promotes car ownership. In an effort reduce car-related air pollution, Brussels municipality is using a combination of taxes and a reduction on the authorised speed in the city to 30km/h.

While Brussels is likely to continue suffering from deficiencies relating to its patchy governance structure, its role as the policy hub of Europe will endure, making it an impressively global city given its size.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	32nd
HUMAN CAPITAL	43rd
QUALITY OF LIFE	119th
ENVIRONMENT	186th
GOVERNANCE	85th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$263 billion
GDP per person:	US$76,100
Population:	3.5 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- Many universities
- High economic stability

WEAKNESSES

- Slower GDP growth
- Older age profile
- Larger rainfall anomalies

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader
- Sustainable City

26 **Helsinki** | Finland

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The Finnish capital, Helsinki, ranks 26th in our index, marking an improvement on last year, but still faring worse than its Nordic peers. As is often the case, Helsinki tends to be the weakest-performing of these capitals, in part due to its less favourable economic structure. The Helsinki economy is much more reliant on typically slower-growing and less productive sectors, such as public services and manufacturing. Therefore, GDP growth in the city has been relatively lacklustre, with GDP per person also lower than its peers. Overall, these factors weigh on the city's score in the Economics category.

However, this underperformance against Nordic rivals should not overshadow the fact that Helsinki is still a successful city. The capital is wealthy, with relatively high incomes per person supporting a strong consumer base. The labour force is very well educated, and the high English language proficiency helps to make the city an attractive place to do business for international companies. The wider political environment is also stable as Helsinki, and Finland more generally, ranks well for institutional quality and protection of civil liberties. It is therefore no surprise that Helsinki is one of the top performers in our Governance category.

One of the city's other strengths lie in its high quality of life. The Nordic economic model that residents benefit from include well-functioning public services, a high-quality education system, and well-paying jobs across the occupational spectrum. Additionally, the city scores well for access to recreation and cultural sites, ranging from the city's famous music and design scenes to the two national parks situated at the periphery of the metropolitan area's boundaries. Helsinki's residents also benefit from close social ties with Tallinn in Estonia. Joined by a two-hour ferry across the Gulf of Finland, this passenger crossing consistently ranks as one of the busiest in the world, with roughly 9 million trips taken annually.

Despite scoring highly in our Quality of Life category, the city still struggles with several challenges. Like many cities in the top of our rankings, housing is expensive (although, over the past year, house prices have been falling because of increased supply in the city). Additionally, Helsinki experiences significant rainfall and temperature volatility, a recurrent difficulty among the Nordic capitals. These climate anomalies will likely become even more exaggerated in the coming years as the planet continues to warm. Overall, Helsinki performs well for a city of its size and places comfortably in the top 50.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	71st
HUMAN CAPITAL	59th
QUALITY OF LIFE	78th
ENVIRONMENT	58th
GOVERNANCE	6th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$115 billion
GDP per person:	US$70,600
Population:	1.6 million

STRENGTHS

- Many recreation and cultural sites
- Good air quality
- Strong institutions

WEAKNESSES

- High housing expenditure
- Larger temperature anomalies
- Slower GDP growth

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader
- Cultural Capital

27 Luxembourg | Luxembourg

Securing the 27th place is Luxembourg City. It is one of the smallest cities in the top 50, both in terms of population and GDP, but for what the city lacks in quantity, it makes up for with quality. Specifically, quality of life. It places in the top 25 globally for recreation and cultural sites, thanks to its rich history and many notable museums, and Luxembourg City is the only city to have been crowned a European Capital of Culture twice. Residents of Luxembourg City also benefit from high incomes, which are relatively evenly distributed—a rare combination. All these characteristics contribute to Luxembourg City's achievement of having the seventh-highest Quality of Life score in the world.

Supporting Luxembourg City's high incomes is its robust economy. While its total GDP does not rank in the top 100 globally, in per-person terms, Luxembourg City has the sixth-largest GDP in the world. This is mostly due to the city's role in the financial services sector, where it specialises in providing banking and wealth management services to a predominantly international clientele. As such, the city's economy is among the least diverse in Europe, with growth heavily dependent on the financial sector. Ultimately, this results in a high-risk, high-reward growth strategy: Luxembourg City has among the fastest GDP growth rates in Western Europe, but it is also highly exposed to financial market volatility and regulatory changes.

In addition to being a financial hub, Luxembourg City is also one of the de facto capitals of the European Union as the seat of several EU institutions and agencies. Because it is an international centre for finance and policymaking, Luxembourg City has one of the largest shares of foreign-born residents in the world. This trend is set to continue, as the city is forecast to have one of the fastest population growth rates in Western Europe over the next few years, further improving Luxembourg City's Human Capital score.

Luxembourg City's second-worst category is the Environment, but this is largely due to climate, rather than policy. The city has a relatively low emissions intensity, as much of its economic output comes from the low-carbon financial sector. However, it suffers from significant temperature and rainfall anomalies. Large swings in temperatures and rainfall have led to heatwaves and flash floods in Luxembourg City in recent years, and these risks will continue to grow as the impacts of climate change worsen.

In many ways, Luxembourg City is unique among the world's premier business hubs, having distributed its financial revenues more equally for its residents. This is in part due to its political stability and strong institutions, resulting in a high Governance score. While Luxembourg City's prosperity is largely at the mercy of the global financial sector, for now, the city has maximised the benefits of its circumstances.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	37th
HUMAN CAPITAL	135th
QUALITY OF LIFE	7th
ENVIRONMENT	134th
GOVERNANCE	60th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$101 billion
GDP per person:	US$147,400
Population:	690,000

STRENGTHS

- High GDP per person
- Many recreation and cultural sites
- Large foreign-born population

WEAKNESSES

- Larger temperature anomalies
- Larger rainfall anomalies
- Less economic diversity

ARCHETYPES

- Cultural Capital
- Sustainable City

28 Houston | United States

Houston is the 10th-largest economy in our Global Cities Index, with much of its activity tied to its international and vertically integrated oil and gas industry. Operations in these sectors span downstream, midstream, and upstream in Houston, including the major fuel refining and petrochemicals sectors. Beyond the sheer size of its economy, Houston's GDP per person is among the highest in the world, due in part to the high concentration of high-value companies such as Schlumberger, Shell Oil Company, and ExxonMobil. Although the city has a contingent of aerospace and logistics industries, and has diversified into biomedical research and tech, its fortunes remain closely tied to oil and gas. While its economic stability and growth lag other leading cities, Houston lands at a commendable 10th place in our Economics ranking.

The numerous corporate headquarters based in Houston help attract world-class talent, helping it rank 20th in Human Capital. Besides the energy sector giants operating out of Houston, other major companies such as Hewlett-Packard and Sysco also have head offices in the city. Houston boasts some big players in terms of educational institutions, with the likes of Rice University, the University of Houston, and several medical schools linked to the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical complex in the world. Despite this, Houston only performs moderately in terms of educational attainment. An older age profile for the population also slightly weakens its score in this category.

The downside of Houston's high incomes within the energy, aerospace, and medical research sectors is a high level of income inequality, which drags on its Quality of Life score. The city's comparatively high crime rate also prevents it from climbing up further in this category. Although Houston does not have as many recreation and cultural sites as the top cities in the index, residents still enjoy a variety of arts, cultural, and recreational activities, including the city's Museum District, NASA's Space Center Houston, and the second-most-visited zoo in the US, the Houston Zoo.

Houston's Environment score is hindered by several factors, namely its urban sprawl and underdeveloped public transportation infrastructure, which result in a strong reliance on cars and significant traffic congestion. This contributes to reduced air quality and high CO_2 emissions, which is already negatively affected by Houston's large oil and gas sector, particularly the fuel refining process. Vulnerability to natural disasters is another weakness of Houston's—flooding and hurricanes are major risks for its inhabitants (as Hurricane Harvey demonstrated in 2017). Undoubtedly, Houston is a leading business centre that plays a key role in supporting the US economy, but given its shortcomings in other categories, it is not as well-rounded as the top metros in our index.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	10th
HUMAN CAPITAL	20th
QUALITY OF LIFE	323rd
ENVIRONMENT	379th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$795 billion
GDP per person:	US$100,800
Population:	7.9 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- Many corporate headquarters
- High income per person

WEAKNESSES

- Lower income equality
- Higher crime rate
- More severe natural disasters

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

29 Singapore | Singapore

Singapore is the second-ranking Asian city in our index and the only one in Southern Asia to land in the top 50 worldwide. Its strategic location on the Malacca Strait and its small open economy make Singapore one of the most globally economically integrated cities in the world, and a leading trade hub in Asia. This is both a strength and a weakness: Singapore's economy thrives when the global economy grows, but it is exposed to risks when there is a downturn.

Singapore is the fifth-largest city economy in Asia and boasts the highest level of GDP per person among the Asian cities in our index. The city has a thriving financial services sector with a global reach, as well as large business services and information and communications sectors. The city has also been able to sustain its advanced, high-tech manufacturing industry and activities relating to global trade. However, its Economics score takes a hit due to the slower employment growth facing the city, as its population is one of the fastest-ageing in the world.

The city ranks highly in the Human Capital category. Its position within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) means Singapore is often used as hub for companies operating in the region. Consequently, it hosts many corporate headquarters, particularly those operating in the financial services sector. Singapore also boasts many world-class universities, which are widely recognised as being at the cutting edge of research in numerous fields.

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But where Singapore really shines is the Quality of Life category—the city is ranked third globally, supported by high levels of income and low levels of crime. Singapore's excellent healthcare system also contributes to this achievement, as it has resulted in a life expectancy among the best in our rankings. However, one important drawback residents face is high housing costs relative to other cities in the region, an issue exacerbated by limited land availability. Size constrains also play a role in Singapore's Environment score.

The city struggles with relatively poor air quality, in part due to sacrificing green spaces to support economic activity. Large rainfall anomalies are common due to the city's tropical climate, but the city's CO_2 emissions intensity is among the best in Southern Asia.

In terms of Governance, Singapore both excels and underperforms. The city has achieved high political stability thanks to the uninterrupted rule of the People's Action Party (PAP), and Singapore also ranks relatively highly for doing business and for the quality of its institutions. However, civil liberties tend to be constrained.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	103rd
HUMAN CAPITAL	60th
QUALITY OF LIFE	3rd
ENVIRONMENT	106th
GOVERNANCE	120th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$604 billion
GDP per person:	US$99,400
Population:	6.1 million

STRENGTHS

- Lower crime rate
- Large GDP size
- High political stability

WEAKNESSES

- Slower employment growth
- Larger rainfall anomalies
- Weaker civil liberties

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader

30 **Madrid** | Spain

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Discussions of Europe's most important cities have traditionally centred on London and Paris, but in recent years, Madrid has steadily entered the conversation. Backed by a dynamic and resilient economy, a business-friendly environment, and a highly skilled workforce, the Spanish capital has risen to 30th in our latest 2026 Global Cities Index ranking.

While Madrid remains the driving force behind Spain's economy, its importance increasingly extends beyond national borders. In recent years, the city has contributed as much to Eurozone GDP growth as some major national economies, underscoring its role as a key regional growth engine. An essential source of Madrid's success is its diverse economic structure. Alongside its role as Spain's political and financial centre, Madrid has established itself as a major technology hub, attracting substantial investment from global firms. This appeal is reinforced by the regional government's low-tax, low-regulation approach, the city's strategic location, and, more recently, the diversion of investment from Catalonia following years of political uncertainty.

Madrid's economic dynamism is closely linked to its strong human capital. The city benefits from a well-educated and diverse workforce, supported by a concentration of universities and business schools that rank highly on a global scale. Many programmes are closely integrated with local corporations and institutions, creating a steady pipeline of talent that fuels economic growth. While demographic challenges, such as an ageing population, persist, recent migration reforms have bolstered the workforce. In particular, this has supported a wave of Latino workers to the city, and Madrid now rivals Miami's reputation as the 'capital of Latin America'. However, with the population now exceeding 7 million, rapid growth has intensified housing pressures, contributed to high income inequality, and weighed on the city's Quality of Life score. Madrid Nuevo Norte, one of Europe's largest urban redevelopment projects, is intended to help address some of these challenges, although further structural reforms will likely be needed to improve housing affordability and support long-term liveability.

Sustainability is central to Nuevo Norte and to the city's evolving '360 environmental strategy', which aims for carbon neutrality by 2050. Madrid has made notable progress, earning the EU Mission Label for its climate mitigation efforts. The city performs well in the Environment category overall, with low emissions intensity and modest rainfall anomalies; the primary challenge is extreme summer heat, which ranks among the highest in Europe.

Madrid's rise demonstrates that becoming a top-tier global city requires success on more than one front. The city excels across multiple pillars—economy, human capital, and sustainability—and now faces the next challenge: breaking into the elite tier of global cities.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	55th
HUMAN CAPITAL	38th
QUALITY OF LIFE	101st
ENVIRONMENT	66th
GOVERNANCE	166th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$385 billion
GDP per person:	US$51,800
Population:	7.4 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- High life expectancy
- Lower emissions intensity

WEAKNESSES

- Larger temperature anomalies
- High housing expenditure
- Older age profile

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader
- Sustainable City

31 **Atlanta** | United States

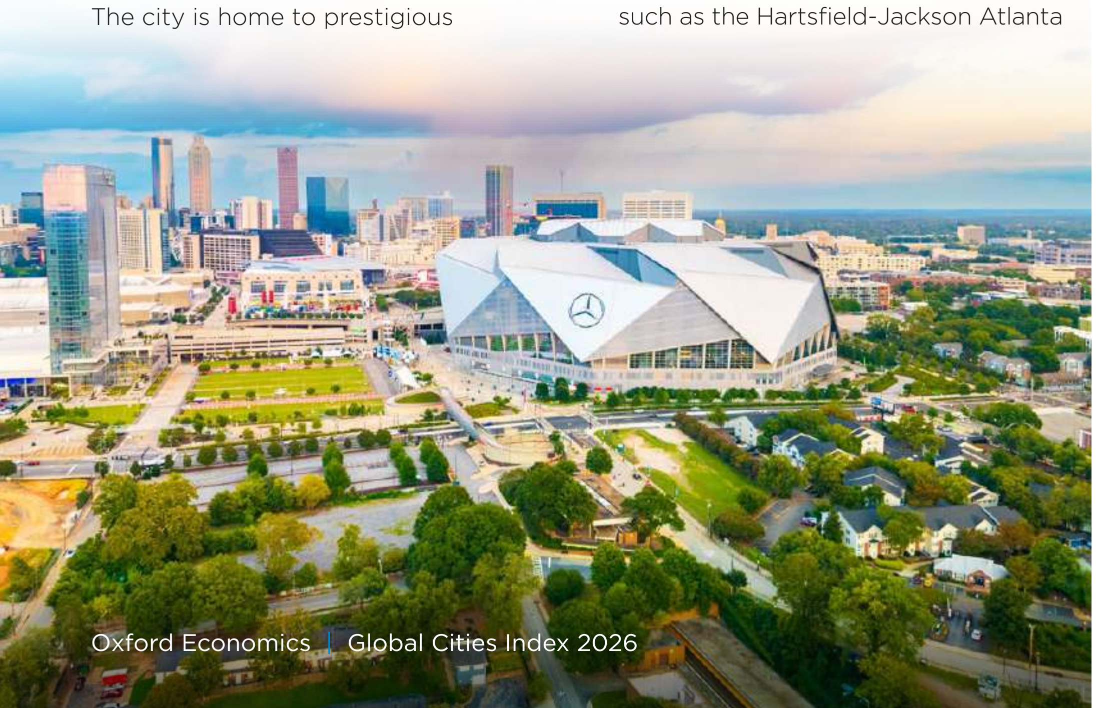
Atlanta obtains a prominent rank in our 2026 index; its commendable standing in the Economics and Human Capital metrics lands the city just outside the top 30. It has a particularly stable economy with a high concentration of corporate headquarters, most notably Coca-Cola, CNN, Home Depot, and Delta Airlines. As a transport and logistics hub for the southern US, Atlanta has the ninth-largest economy in the country. Its strong Economics score, buoyed by its high GDP, places it just short of the top 10 cities globally. As the state capital of Georgia, with renowned state universities, Atlanta's government sector helps steer consistent economic growth.

Like other large US metros, Atlanta succeeds in attracting and producing a highly educated and skilled workforce. The city is home to prestigious universities (including Emory and Georgia Tech), which foster corporate activity and boost population. The city is on par with the US in terms of foreign-born population and educational attainment. Furthermore, Atlanta is home to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which employs many highly educated scientists. Taken together, these factors place Atlanta 32nd for Human Capital globally.

With a vibrant though concentrated economy, Atlanta's main strength is its economic performance and GDP. When considering GDP per person, however, Atlanta ranks relatively low for the region, indicative of the uneven distribution of income within the city. Indeed, although Atlanta has an excellent portfolio of corporate HQs and infrastructure, such as the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (one of the busiest passenger airports globally and a hub for Delta), not all residents enjoy an equal share of its success.

Atlanta also underperforms other large cities on Quality of Life. Its comparatively low ranking is caused by economic segregation that is exacerbated by significant income inequality; Atlanta lies in the bottom half of our global rankings for this metric. Higher levels of income inequality can also signal lower life expectancy, which, for Atlanta, is lower than two-thirds of US cities. Moreover, the city's housing market is facing increased pressure due to a combination of supply constraints, gentrification, sprawled development, and inflation. Housing expenditures will continue to be a major issue facing Atlanta's working and lower-middle classes for the foreseeable future.

When it comes to the Environment category, Atlanta performs better, landing just outside the top 100 for rainfall anomalies. Yet, its exposure to natural disasters, especially hurricanes, weighs on its overall ranking. Traffic congestion and urban sprawl also cause air quality issues, which can have implications for life expectancy. Like several other US cities in the top 50, Atlanta's shortcomings in the Quality of Life and Environment categories are partially offset by its strong Economics and Human Capital scores.



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RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	11th
HUMAN CAPITAL	32nd
QUALITY OF LIFE	314th
ENVIRONMENT	241st
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$634 billion
GDP per person:	US$97,900
Population:	6.5 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- Many corporate headquarters
- Many universities

WEAKNESSES

- More severe natural disasters
- Higher crime rate
- High housing expenditure

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

32 Denver | United States

Denver sits just east of the Rocky Mountains and just outside the top 30 in our index. Its strong contingent of financial, information, and professional services sectors underpins the city's GDP in both aggregate and per-person terms, boosting its Economic score. Still, although Denver's sectoral concentration has led it to be a financial powerhouse in the western US, the city lacks economic diversity compared with other leading cities. While the metro economy is one of the most stable in the United States, its GDP and employment growth are more moderate relative to other global peers.

Denver's score in most categories in the index are highly influenced by the presence of high-paying, information-centred jobs in the city. When it comes to educational attainment, it is second only to Washington, DC, in North America. These types of jobs attract highly educated, skilled labour from around the country, helping Denver land in the top 50 globally for this metric. Additionally, the businesses that host these jobs do not just have branches in Denver, but have put down roots in the Rockies, as the city houses multiple global corporate headquarters, further boosting its overall Human Capital ranking.

Denver boasts a world-class level of income per person, ranking sixth globally. However, the city does not fare as well in other Quality of Life categories, as incomes here are unequally distributed and residents face high housing expenditure. Still, its top 200 score can be attributed to high-paying information sector jobs in tandem with an abundance of recreation, cultural, and natural sites available to visitors and residents.

The environment is very important to Denverites, and the city's Environment ranking is a reflection of that. Denver sees very limited air pollution, owing to its low carbon-intensive industry mix and lack of heavy manufacturing. Additionally, with recent efforts made to promote alternative methods of transportation, Denver has made significant improvements to its cycling infrastructure, and residents can also enjoy easy access to a well-connected light rail. However, Denver is not without its challenges; the city is subject to considerable temperature and rainfall anomalies thanks to its famously arid climate.

Due to its position at the forefront of the professional and information sectors, Denver rightfully claims its place towards the top of the Global Cities Index. This centralised focus has attracted top talent from other parts of the country and has allowed these workers to be well-compensated for their performance. Looking forward, those in Denver can endeavour to diversify the broader economy and enjoy their 300 days of sunshine.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	22nd
HUMAN CAPITAL	49th
QUALITY OF LIFE	155th
ENVIRONMENT	295th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$346 billion
GDP per person:	US$111,900
Population:	3.1 million

STRENGTHS

- High income per person
- High educational attainment
- Good air quality

WEAKNESSES

- Larger temperature anomalies
- Larger rainfall anomalies
- Less economic diversity

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

33 **Minneapolis** | United States

Encompassing both Twin Cities (Minneapolis and St. Paul), the Minneapolis metropolitan area performs considerably well in our Global Cities Index due to its consistent economic prowess. A wide range of industries operate within Minneapolis, ranging from health and retail to transportation and trade, with a corresponding assortment of corporate headquarters, such as Target, 3M, Best Buy, Cummins, and US Bancorp. Thanks to the broad scope of activities in Minneapolis, the city is one of the most stable economies globally. The overall size of the economy and high GDP per person breakdown help elevate Minneapolis to 24th in the Economics rankings.

The assembly of such high-value companies in Minneapolis fosters demand for an educated workforce, composed of individuals from an expansive array of academic disciplines. Of cities in North America, Minneapolis ranks sixth in terms of educational attainment. A network of universities, including the University of Minnesota, helps to maintain the flow of skilled workers. However, an ageing population makes the city's age profile relatively unfavourable compared with other major cities in our index. All in all, Minneapolis has a well-rounded performance for Human Capital, ranking 54th in the category.

Similar to other cities with a high income per person, Minneapolis suffers from above-average income inequality. This brings Minneapolis' Quality of Life rank down to 120th, echoing the issues seen in other American cities, such as Chicago and Boston. Yet, Minneapolitans have access to more affordable housing relative to most US cities, as indicated by its housing expenditure measure. The city also has a number of arts and culture attractions, including several national sports teams, immersive museums, and the annual Minnesota State Fair. It also has the biggest mall in the United States.

Placing 440th, the Environment is Minneapolis' worst-ranked category by a wide margin. Minnesotans are used to the frigid, blizzard-ridden winters, but it may come as a surprise that Minneapolis has some of the worst temperature anomalies of all cities in the Global Cities Index. Due to the city's geographical position in the northern Midwest, Minneapolis is also exposed to various natural disasters, including tornadoes, winter storms, and flooding. The city's best metric in this category is air quality, which may be partly because Minneapolis is considered one of the most bikeable cities in the US.

Despite enduring large swings in temperatures and the more-than-occasional blizzard, Minneapolitans enjoy high incomes and a healthy business environment, driving the city's success in the index. Improvements in the Quality of Life and Environment categories would likely propel the city farther up the rankings in future editions of the Global Cities Index.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	24th
HUMAN CAPITAL	54th
QUALITY OF LIFE	120th
ENVIRONMENT	440th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$388 billion
GDP per person:	US$102,300
Population:	3.8 million

STRENGTHS

- High economic stability
- High educational attainment
- High income per person

WEAKNESSES

- Larger temperature anomalies
- Older age profile
- More severe natural disasters

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

34 Tel Aviv | Israel

Tel Aviv is one of just three Middle Eastern cities to make the top 50, ranking highly thanks to its Economics and Human Capital scores. In many ways, the city's booming tech industry powers its ranking in both these categories. 'Silicon Wadi', as the city is sometimes known, is home to both startups and more established businesses across the tech spectrum, from defence to finance to biotech. These businesses drive the economy, helping Tel Aviv rank in the top decile globally for GDP size and GDP per person. However, Tel Aviv's economy—and Israel's as a whole—has taken a significant hit since the attacks on 7 October 2023 and the subsequent war, and the conflict with Iran has only added to regional geopolitical risks.

Tel Aviv's tech cluster fosters an ecosystem of innovation, bolstering the city's Human Capital score. The presence of institutions like Bar-Ilan University and Tel Aviv University fuels the research and development that underpins much of the city's tech sector, helping Tel Aviv achieve one of the highest rates of educational attainment in the MENA region. And while Israel has always had a history of attracting foreign-born residents—particularly from the Jewish diaspora—in recent years, the existence of highly paid jobs in the tech sector has played a role as well. But despite an inflow of young workers, Tel Aviv still has the oldest population in the region, slightly lowering its Human Capital score.

The city's Quality of Life category also benefits from the tech sector, primarily through its well-paid jobs that boosts Tel Aviv's income per person to rank within the global top 100. Residents also benefit from the highest life expectancy in the region thanks to Tel Aviv's robust healthcare system, although they must contend with high housing costs as well. In the Environment category, since much of Tel Aviv's growth comes from the lower-carbon tech and professional service industries, the city has a very low emissions intensity.

The city's weakest category is Governance, a reflection of Israel's unique geopolitical situation. Political stability in Israel is among the worst in the world, a combination of the impacts of the Israeli-Hamas war, the government's attempts to roll back judicial authority, and large-scale protests. Regional geopolitical tensions with Iran and its allies also play a significant role, particularly the recent conflict in Iran and the renewed attacks on Hezbollah in Lebanon. Although Tel Aviv remains slated to perform well in the rankings in the coming years from a structural standpoint, questions surrounding the long-term effects of the terror attacks, Israel's military interventions, and the grave political instability pose serious risks.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	16th
HUMAN CAPITAL	31st
QUALITY OF LIFE	156th
ENVIRONMENT	234th
GOVERNANCE	401st

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$267 billion
GDP per person:	US$86,300
Population:	3.1 million

STRENGTHS

- Lower emissions intensity
- Many corporate headquarters
- Large GDP size

WEAKNESSES

- Less political stability
- Older age profile
- High housing expenditure

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

35 Vienna | Austria

Vienna's 35th rank in our index is a reflection of the city's strong scores across the Economics, Human Capital, and Quality of Life categories. Within the former, the Austrian capital does particularly well for economic stability and diversity, with the city having prominent business services, trade, and public services sectors, as well as a smaller manufacturing base. However, the outlook for Vienna is relatively modest in both the global and European context, similar to that of Austria itself.

Nevertheless, the city attracts many high-skilled migrants, which is reflected in strong scores for educational attainment. It is also very close to Bratislava, to the point that the two cities are often considered as one metropolitan area. This is another advantage for Vienna, as it is able to draw on additional workers from the Slovakian capital. Vienna scores highly for its universities too, with city being renowned for its leading life sciences research.

As one of the world's most beautiful and culturally rich cities, home to the famous Vienna State Opera and the Schönbrunn Palace, it is not surprising that Vienna fares well in our Quality of Life category. Fairly high average incomes and long life expectancies are additional areas of strength for the city. Vienna does have a lower score for housing affordability, at least in the global context, but its housing rental market is divided into apartments owned by the city (cheaper, older, and harder to get) and private apartments (usually newer and significantly more expensive). But Vienna does offer free, all-day kindergartens, affordable and reliable public transport, and tap water sourced straight from the Alps.

As well as having very clean water, Vienna's CO_2 emissions intensity is relatively low. However, the city's ranking in the Environment category is brought down by unfavourable scores for temperature anomalies and natural disasters. Located on the Danube River, Vienna is at a high risk of flooding—but the city's government is naturally aware of this, and its 1980s-built flood defences are among the best in the world. To remain one of the world's most liveable cities, in 2022 Vienna committed to becoming carbon-neutral by 2040, with points of action including phasing out fossil-fuel-based heating systems, expanding public transport, and planting 25,000 new trees.

Finally, Vienna also benefits from Austria's strong institutions and political stability, achieving a high score in the Governance category. The city itself has a strong stance on human rights and provides support for newly arrived residents through its StartWien program, which includes free counselling and advice available in over 20 languages. Vienna's future in the index will partly depend on how it manages to execute its carbon-neutral plan, and whether that can boost its economic growth.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	48th
HUMAN CAPITAL	57th
QUALITY OF LIFE	85th
ENVIRONMENT	272nd
GOVERNANCE	79th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$206 billion
GDP per person:	US$65,200
Population:	3.2 million

STRENGTHS

- Many recreation and cultural sites
- More economic diversity
- High economic stability

WEAKNESSES

- Slower GDP growth
- High housing expenditure
- Larger temperature anomalies

ARCHETYPES

- Cultural Capital
- Sustainable City

36 Brisbane | Australia

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The capital of Queensland, Brisbane, ranks 36th in the Global Cities Index. Its economy benefits from high levels of GDP, and employment growth is among the fastest in Australia. This is in part thanks to the city's involvement in the mining industry. However, this reliance also means that Brisbane's economic growth tends to fluctuate with the global commodities markets. But, with other sectors like education, tourism, and technology continuously growing in strength, these are likely to dampen economic shocks in the future. Overall, this culminates in Brisbane placing 40th in the Economics category.

Brisbane's economic dynamism also means that the city is a desirable location for immigration, attracting a large foreign-born population. As such, the city's continued capacity to attract talent—from the rest of Australia and abroad—means that Brisbane ranks relatively well in terms of population growth. Another one of Brisbane's strengths is its well-educated and young workforce; in fact, it boasts one of the youngest populations out of Australia's major cities. On a related note, Brisbane is home to two major universities, and one of them, The University of Queensland, is part of Australia's elite 'Group of Eight' universities.

One of Brisbane's weakest relative scores is in Quality of Life, although it is still in the top 100 globally. The city's high cost of housing dampens its ranking here; Brisbane's growing population has caused demand for housing to increase, while supply has struggled to keep pace. However, one aspect in which Brisbane fares better is life expectancy. Residents can rely on the city's state-of-the-art healthcare infrastructure, including the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital, which is the largest hospital in the Southern Hemisphere. The city's relatively low crime rate, in a global context, also boosts its Quality of Life score.

The severity of potential natural disasters weakens the city's Environment score. Brisbane is subject to floods, as it sits on a floodplain, which has led to it being hit several times by damaging and deadly floods in recent history. The 2010 Queensland floods, for example, caused widespread damage to the city. Brisbane's humid subtropical climate also means it faces natural disaster risks from storms and cyclones, and it can experience large rainfall anomalies. However, the city's low emissions intensity and good air quality lift its score in this category.

Brisbane scores among the highest in our index in terms of Governance, along with Australia's other cities. The city benefits from Australia's strong record on advancing political rights and civil liberties. Brisbane has a robust economy with a capable workforce, but it will need to invest more in its housing and other infrastructure to improve affordability for residents and manage the effects of climate change.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	40th
HUMAN CAPITAL	142nd
QUALITY OF LIFE	75th
ENVIRONMENT	36th
GOVERNANCE	13th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$180 billion
GDP per person:	US$63,200
Population:	2.8 million

STRENGTHS

- High life expectancy
- Good air quality
- Strong institutions

WEAKNESSES

- More natural disasters
- Fewer corporate headquarters
- High housing expenditure

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

37 San Diego | United States

San Diego's economic structure helps maintain its status as one of the most stable economies in our Global Cities Index, composed of tourism, tech, defence, and international trade. Its Economics score also reflects a high GDP per person that is driven by its tech sector, as well as its concentrated life sciences sector, including Scripps Research Institute and the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. But, despite its strong Economics score, San Diego suffers from weaker employment growth than other top US cities.

San Diego has a mixed demographic profile: it is older than the global average, but younger in a North American context. Meanwhile, the city boasts a large foreign-born population, given its location as a port city bordering Tijuana in Mexico. San Diego's Human Capital score is bolstered by the considerable number of corporate headquarters in its bounds, such as Illumina, Qualcomm, and General Atomics. The city also has a selection of universities and access to the wider Californian university ecosystem. However, San Diego still experiences low population growth, partly due to its relatively high cost of living, but it still lands the city in the top 100 for this category.

San Diego's Quality of Life score is largely determined by the high incomes it offers its residents and the associated costs of living in the city. Thanks to its tech and biomedical industries, San Diego's income levels rank 17th-highest in the world, but property costs mean residents spend more on housing than most other North American cities. San Diego compensates for this somewhat with good recreation and culture amenities, such as the world-famous San Diego Zoo, amusement parks Legoland and SeaWorld, and several museums. Although its income inequality ranks more favourably than that of Los Angeles and San Francisco, it still sits in the bottom half globally. Despite this, San Diego has among the best life expectancies in North America, reflecting its robust healthcare system and pristine environment.

Thanks to San Diego's Mediterranean climate with mild winters, warm summers, and semi-arid weather, it achieves the sixth-highest Environment ranking in North America. Residents enjoy good air quality, which is helped by the city's low carbon emissions intensity. While the city is somewhat vulnerable to natural disasters (including earthquakes and wildfires), San Diego's Environment ranking is fortified by climate regulations and initiatives in green infrastructure that aim to enhance its urban environment even more. San Diego is perhaps a product of good fortune, given its seaside environs and mild climate, but it has reinforced the hand it was dealt with a strong economy and commitment to a sustainable future.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	25th
HUMAN CAPITAL	84th
QUALITY OF LIFE	178th
ENVIRONMENT	37th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$346 billion
GDP per person:	US$105,400
Population:	3.3 million

STRENGTHS

- High GDP per person
- Smaller rainfall anomalies
- Good air quality

WEAKNESSES

- High housing expenditure
- Older age profile
- Lower income equality

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

38 Seoul | South Korea

Seoul, the capital city of South Korea and one of the major economic centres of both Asia and the world, has the sixth-largest GDP of our 1,000 Global Cities, the product of decades of remarkable economic growth. Its Economics score is lifted by robust economic stability, a well-diversified structure, and a sturdy industrial base. Like Tokyo, however, the city's ageing demographics are dragging on its ability to compete with emerging economies in terms of output and jobs growth. As a result, Seoul is likely to gradually cede further places in the highest ranks of our overall index.

Still, it remains that Seoul ranks alongside Tokyo as one of the two best cities in Asia, or 15th globally, in Human Capital. Seoul has a strong culture of academic elitism and multiple prestigious higher education institutions, namely the university group known as 'SKY', which includes Seoul National University, Korea University, and Yonsei University. Furthermore, Seoul is home to myriad multinational companies, fuelling its Human Capital ranking. These include LG, Kia Corporation, as well as the advanced design and manufacturing operations of Samsung at Suwon, located within Seoul's Functional Urban Area.

However, Seoul's performances on Quality of Life measures are mixed. The city has high housing costs, with house prices having surged in recent years and expensive rental costs now covering a more sizeable portion of incomes for working-class residents. Yet, life expectancy in Seoul is among the highest in the world, having risen steadily over the past few decades due to factors such as advancements in healthcare and improvements in living standards. Seoul also maintains a vibrant and abundant cultural scene, anchored by the global K-pop industry, which is undeniably a source of international soft power.

The Environment category has the lowest ranking out of the five categories, with its score diminished by relatively poor air quality. Seoul's climate anomalies cause extreme patterns of temperature and precipitation, with the effect of such anomalies further exaggerated during summer and winter. Summertime sees prolonged periods of extreme heat, whereas the winter often brings freezing temperatures, alongside heavy snowfall, or unusually warm spells.

South Korea has a history of political stability since its transition to democracy in the late 20th century, although this has at times been tested—most recently during President Yoon Suk Yeol's tenure and his attempted insurrection in late 2024. Since that episode has ended, Seoul's overall Governance score has marginally improved.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	62nd
HUMAN CAPITAL	15th
QUALITY OF LIFE	113th
ENVIRONMENT	618th
GOVERNANCE	125th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$970 billion
GDP per person:	US$39,600
Population:	24.5 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- Many universities
- High life expectancy

WEAKNESSES

- Larger rainfall anomalies
- Slower employment growth
- Older age profile

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader

39 **Hamburg** | Germany

Hamburg is one of Europe's most important port hubs and Germany's third-largest urban area, boasting a prosperous population as well as a diverse and stable economy. Hamburg's GDP per capita is one of the highest in Germany, reflecting both its highly productive industries and its status as a major European trade centre. Hamburg has a long maritime history, and its port—the third-largest in the EU—continues to be a key driver of the local economy, in addition to giving the city its unique character. But Hamburg's economy extends beyond shipping and trade; it is a major media hub and has a significant presence in aerospace and tech. These factors contribute to Hamburg's solid Economics ranking, especially in terms of economic diversity and stability, though the city's modest growth outlook tempers its standing.

Education is another strength for Hamburg. The city has several universities, including the prestigious University of Hamburg and the Hamburg University of Technology. As in other German cities, citizens also benefit from an affordable higher education system, allowing for broad and continued access to learning opportunities. Hamburg therefore performs well in the Human Capital category, particularly in educational attainment, where it has one of the best rankings globally. However, Hamburg's ageing demographic structure slightly lowers the city's score in this category.

Hamburg's cultural scene makes it one of Germany's most attractive cities. The HafenCity, one of Europe's largest inner-city developments, is a major draw. It includes the historic Speicherstadt district, a UNESCO World Heritage site, as well as the Elbphilharmonie concert hall, a striking modernist rebuilding of a warehouse. Hamburg is also famed for its nightlife, centred around the Reeperbahn and St. Pauli. Despite these assets, Hamburg's Quality of Life score suffers relative to other German cities due to high housing costs and greater income inequality.

The Environment is Hamburg's weakest category. The city is prone to large temperature and rainfall anomalies and more severe natural disasters than in most other parts of Europe—

particularly flooding, due to its low-lying geographic position. But thanks to its diversified economy, Hamburg has among the lowest emissions intensities in Germany, as well as good air quality, somewhat aiding its score in this category.

Finally, Hamburg enjoys a relatively high score for Governance, reflecting Germany's strong institutions and civil liberties. Despite some challenges, Hamburg remains one of the continent's most prosperous and globally connected cities. With its solid economic base, high educational attainment, rich cultural offerings, and status as a trade hub, Hamburg continues to be a vital part of both the national and European landscape.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	49th
HUMAN CAPITAL	88th
QUALITY OF LIFE	52nd
ENVIRONMENT	170th
GOVERNANCE	90th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$260 billion
GDP per person:	US$75,200
Population:	3.5 million

STRENGTHS

- High educational attainment
- More economic diversity
- High economic stability

WEAKNESSES

- Slower GDP growth
- Older age profile
- Larger rainfall anomalies

ARCHETYPES

- Cultural Capital

40 **Bergen** | Norway

Bergen is one of the smallest city economies inside the top 50, but what the city lacks in economic muscle it makes up for in other categories. Bergen's greatest strength lies in the Quality of Life category, placing second globally, behind only Canberra in Australia. Notably, Bergen has a particularly high number of recreation and cultural sites per person, which include the historic waterfront district (Bryggen), as well as the seven mountains that surround the city which offer scenic views and hiking trails. These factors, coupled with the city's geographic location as the 'gateway to the Norwegian fjords', have made Bergen an increasingly popular tourist destination.

Bergen is also a desirable place to live for residents. The life expectancy in the city is long, and income inequality is low, with most residents earning relatively high incomes. These elements have helped to attract young and well-educated workers to the city across numerous sectors, such as financial services, aquaculture, and marine research. However, the city's small scale means that it does not have the global presence of some of its peers in terms of universities or corporate headquarters. This drags down its performance in the Human Capital category.

However, what differentiates Bergen from many of its peers is that it is a major hub for the oil and gas industry. Numerous production sites are located off the city's coast, and this has brought a significant amount of economic activity and jobs to Bergen in oil and gas service and supply sectors. While this has boosted the local economy, it does mean that the city is more exposed to fluctuations in the oil and gas industry. This explains why GDP growth is often more volatile than in economies driven by private services, such as Oslo's, which harms Bergen's overall rank in the Economics category.

Despite the city's large oil and gas sector, Bergen ranks sixth overall in the Environment category. Norway exports most of the oil it produces, relying on renewable energy at home. Combined with the country's strict environmental regulations, this limits the environmental impact of the oil and gas industry and results in a low emissions intensity. The city's natural geography—surrounded by sea, mountains, and forest—helps give it the fifth-best air quality globally, and although Bergen experiences significant temperature anomalies, natural disasters in the city tend to be less severe than elsewhere.

Altogether, Bergen is a strong-performing city in our index. However, its smaller scale is holding it back for Economics and Human Capital, and this means it is unlikely to challenge its much larger Nordic peers in the upper echelons of the rankings anytime soon.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	185th
HUMAN CAPITAL	151st
QUALITY OF LIFE	2nd
ENVIRONMENT	3rd
GOVERNANCE	8th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$33 billion
GDP per person:	US$75,800
Population:	440,000

STRENGTHS

- Many recreation and cultural sites
- High life expectancy
- Good air quality

WEAKNESSES

- Older age profile
- Smaller GDP size
- Less economic stability

ARCHETYPES

- Cultural Capital

41 **Phoenix** | United States

Phoenix is a well-rounded city, with respectable performances across categories in our Global Cities Index, ultimately ranking 41st overall. Economic growth in Arizona's state capital is driven by steady in-migration and its attractiveness as a low-cost alternative to West Coast metros for both residents and businesses. Phoenix's Economic ranking is underpinned by the overall size of its GDP. While GDP per person in Phoenix is relatively high, it is lower than in most other US cities, as it generates more GDP from healthcare as opposed to tech and high-value-add professional and business services. The city's manufacturing sector, meanwhile, is poised to see a boost in the coming years, as both Intel and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation are building large production facilities ('fabs') in the region.

Phoenix's Human Capital score also benefits from the resurgence of in-migration from high-skilled workers attracted to the city. Indeed, high proportions of the foreign-born population and educated individuals help bolster this category. However, the real driver of Phoenix's Human Capital score is its concentration of regional headquarters, including those for Microsoft, Intel, and Honeywell. These companies avail themselves of the skilled labour in the city, thereby creating a positive feedback loop that attracts more highly skilled workers to the area. However, the city's relatively older population significantly drags on this category, and Phoenix has long been seen as a retirement destination. Still, this reputation has started to change due to its relatively lower business and housing costs, and it has recently attracted younger people eager to take advantage of its healthy job growth opportunities.

Similar to its economy, Phoenix's infrastructure has grown outward, and this sprawling development weighs on its Quality of Life score. While the city sits within a beautiful natural landscape with mountain views, the number of recreation and cultural sites has not expanded in step with its overall population growth, resulting in fewer amenities than other major US cities. While Phoenix offers healthy incomes per person in a global context, compared with the rest of the US, incomes are less outstanding. On the flip side, income inequality is less of an issue here than in most other major US cities.

In the Environment rankings, Phoenix ranks just outside the top 100, in large part due to its healthy air quality, despite the lack of public transportation options and a heavy reliance on cars. Located in one of the sunniest regions of the country, Phoenix's climate is fairly consistent, with smaller rainfall anomalies than elsewhere. With a robust economy and picturesque location, Phoenix is primed to climb the rankings if it can leverage its positive employment loop and improve liveability.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	21st
HUMAN CAPITAL	64th
QUALITY OF LIFE	256th
ENVIRONMENT	107th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$459 billion
GDP per person:	US$87,900
Population:	5.2 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- Good air quality
- Many corporate headquarters

WEAKNESSES

- Older age profile
- Higher crime rate
- Fewer recreation and cultural sites

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

42 Dubai | United Arab Emirates

The 2026 Global Cities Index sees Dubai move into the top 50 for the first time, reflecting the growing presence of the city on the world stage. Dubai ranks highly for its Economics score, thanks to its large economy, which has evolved rapidly over the last 30 years. In the early 2000s, construction was one of the city's key drivers of economic growth, accounting for as much as 13% of total activity. Now, real estate is a more central facet of Dubai's economy. Similarly, retail trade and other more basic, consumer-centric services have been consistently declining in importance, while higher-value, business-oriented offerings like finance, technology, and professional services have become increasingly prominent. These structural shifts have built a modern and dynamic economy with breadth and stability, which underpins both Dubai's economic heft and its robust long-term growth outlook.

Perhaps more impressive however is Dubai's Human Capital score, the second-highest of all cities. The city is world renowned for attracting an enormous migrant population, who account for more than nine in 10 residents. These young and highly skilled workers contribute to one of the youngest age profiles of any city, supporting strong population growth and job creation. And while migration has historically been more transient, immigration reforms such as the Golden Visa and Retirement Visa program are intended to incentivise longer-term stays—particularly for higher-income individuals.

With jobs becoming increasingly concentrated in higher-wage sectors, and with one of the most generous personal tax regimes anywhere in the world, Dubai scores well for its elevated levels of average income. However, the city is also plagued by some of the most expensive real estate in the world, with price per square foot having increased by more than 70% since 2021. While Dubai has sustained strong migration flows in recent years, the cost of living in the city is becoming an increasingly large concern for residents and potential migrants alike.

Dubai's climate, while undeniably hot and dry, is among the more predictable of major global centres. Its pollution statistics, however, are more concerning, with high emissions intensity and poor air quality. Dubai International Airport is one of the busiest in the world, particularly as a layover for international flights. Such a heavy volume of air traffic is a substantial negative contributor to the city's emissions intensity, while large volumes of private car usage and the desert biome depress Dubai's air quality.

Institutional quality in Dubai has continued trending upward over recent years, with the United Arab Emirates continually ranking near the top of global competitiveness indices. However, the geopolitical risks brought about by the US-Israel war with Iran have led to an overall downgrade to the UAE's Governance score, reflecting growing unpredictability and instability across the region.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	53rd
HUMAN CAPITAL	2nd
QUALITY OF LIFE	290th
ENVIRONMENT	684th
GOVERNANCE	511th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$209 billion
GDP per person:	US$31,100
Population:	6.7 million

STRENGTHS

- Large foreign-born population
- Younger age profile
- Large GDP size

WEAKNESSES

- High housing expenditure
- Poorer air quality
- High emissions intensity

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

43 **Basel** | Switzerland

Basel is once again in the Global Cities Index top 50 this year, with strong performances in the Quality of Life and Governance categories helping the city maintain its position. Switzerland's unofficial cultural capital is centred around the arts: the city is home to the Kunstmuseum, home of the oldest public art collection in the world, and hosts Art Basel, one of the world's premier international art fairs. The city's score in the Quality of Life category is further bolstered by its long life expectancy and high disposable incomes. Basel leads all Swiss cities in income per person, and also has the lowest housing expenditure. Together, these factors place Basel 11th globally in the Quality of Life ranking.

Basel's high incomes are the product of a strong economy, supported by a large presence of high-value manufacturing, especially in chemicals and pharmaceuticals. The city also has deep roots in financial services, with the sector still contributing significantly to economic activity. Basel ranks fourth globally in terms of GDP per person, outperformed only by a few of America's tech-centred cities. Basel's reliance on these key sectors, however, lowers its score for economic diversity, which in turn drags on its overall ranking in Economics.

Basel's role in the pharmaceutical industry benefits its Human Capital score as well. Major multinational pharmaceutical producers, such as Novartis and Roche, are headquartered in the city alongside other chemical and biotech manufactures. As a result, Basel attracts many residents from abroad, who are often well educated and looking for employment. Despite this, the city has an older demographic profile and is placed in the bottom decile globally on this measure. Linked to that, Basel's projected population growth lags that of other Swiss peers, further weakening its overall score in Human Capital.

The city also slightly underperforms in the Environment category, although it still ranks second nationally and within the top decile globally. A key strength is its low emissions intensity, which is particularly impressive given Basel's large manufacturing base when compared with other Swiss cities. However, its geographical location on the Rhine comes with significant flooding risks, making Basel more exposed to natural disasters.

Conversely, Basel scores relatively well for Governance, benefitting from Switzerland's strong institutions and civil liberties. Overall, despite challenges related to an ageing population and climate change, Basel remains a top city with a world-class quality of life and a highly productive economy.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	67th
HUMAN CAPITAL	167th
QUALITY OF LIFE	11th
ENVIRONMENT	95th
GOVERNANCE	46th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$89 billion
GDP per person:	US$156,300
Population:	570,000

STRENGTHS

- High GDP per person
- High life expectancy
- Lower emissions intensity

WEAKNESSES

- Larger temperature anomalies
- Older age profile
- Higher housing expenditure

ARCHETYPES

- Cultural Capital

44 **Perth** | Australia

Western Australia's capital, Perth, ranks fourth in Australia and 44th overall in our index. The city's performance is broad-based, placing in the top 100 for every category except Environment. It's best known as the operational and export base for large parts of Australia's important mining sector, which is both a strength and a weakness. On the one hand, mining activities generate substantial economic benefits for the city, contributing to a high GDP per person as well as a high rate of growth for a developed economy. On the other, Perth's reliance on the sector does make it vulnerable to commodity price and demand fluctuations.

Perth's mining sector enables the city to attract many foreign-born inhabitants seeking high-paying opportunities in its labour market. Accordingly, Perth has the second-fastest population growth and the second-largest share of foreign-born residents in Australia. The city also benefits from a well-educated workforce, supported by the presence of multiple universities, one of which is a part of the 'Group of Eight'. These elements combine to drive Perth's strong performance in the Human Capital category, in which it is ranked within the top 10% worldwide.

High incomes associated with the mining industry mean that Perth's inhabitants enjoy a good quality of life on average. However, not all of Perth's residents benefit from the sector's windfall, which

creates elevated income inequality by Australian standards. Residents also face the challenge of high housing costs, which weigh on Perth's overall Quality of Life score. And its geographic isolation means that Perth does not provide the same access to cultural life as some of its Australian east coast peers.

Perhaps surprisingly, given its large mining sector, Perth scores relatively well on environmental quality. This is because mining activities are extraction-focused and involve few air-polluting transformation activities. Furthermore, these activities tend to be located away from the city's living quarters. However, the severity of potential natural disasters and climate anomalies pushes down Perth's Environment ranking.

Perth's fortunes have been closely tied to its mining sector, which is expected to remain a key pillar of growth. But, going forward, the city's growing services industry will help diversify its economy. A key priority will be continuing to attract talent to sustain its current growth path.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	86th
HUMAN CAPITAL	91st
QUALITY OF LIFE	38th
ENVIRONMENT	169th
GOVERNANCE	13th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$239 billion
GDP per person:	US$97,000
Population:	2.5 million

STRENGTHS

- High GDP per person
- Many universities
- Lower emissions intensity

WEAKNESSES

- Less economic diversity
- More severe natural disasters
- Higher housing expenditure

ARCHETYPES

- Industrial Hub

45 **Canberra** | Australia

Canberra was built in the early 20th century to serve as Australia's capital city. Its economy is smaller than that of other Australian cities in the index and is highly geared towards the public sector and related service industries. Sectoral diversity is consequently low, but given the permanency of the government sector, this does not translate into economic instability. Canberra's focus on high-paying government and service-sector jobs also means that the city has the second-highest level of GDP per person in Australia, putting it towards the top end of global rankings for that metric. Overall, Canberra ranks 211th in the Economics category.

Its most impressive result is ranking first globally in the Quality of Life category. This is driven by the city's high salaries combined with its low degree of income inequality, thanks to an abundance of stable, high-paying government jobs. Canberra also has excellent healthcare and ranks well in terms of life expectancy. And while it is not traditionally seen as a cultural hub, its smaller population means that it scores very well in terms of recreation and cultural sites per person.

In the Human Capital category, Canberra ranks 140th thanks to a highly educated and relatively young population by Australian standards. The city punches above its weight in terms of higher education availability, being home to the Australian National University, which is regarded as one of Australia's best. However, given its strong focus on government institutions, Canberra has fewer corporate headquarters than most of its Australian peers and tends to attract fewer foreign workers.

Canberra's main weakness is its environment. Large temperature and rainfall anomalies subject the city to serious natural disasters. Its nickname 'The Bush Capital' owes to its location in the middle of the Australian bush, which makes it particularly vulnerable to wildfires. These wildfires can worsen air quality during the fire season, a trend made worse by Canberra sitting in a valley, which causes smoke to be trapped over the city.

As the capital and home of its government, Canberra especially benefits from Australia's high quality of governance. The city ranks 13th globally in the Governance category, supported by Australia's high levels of public-sector effectiveness and political stability. Overall, Canberra is a true government city, in which many of its inhabitants are tied to the public sector in some capacity. This has benefitted the Canberrans, who, thanks to the abundance of government jobs, are among the highest and most equally paid in the Global Cities Index.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	211th
HUMAN CAPITAL	140th
QUALITY OF LIFE	1st
ENVIRONMENT	89th
GOVERNANCE	13th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$39 billion
GDP per person:	US$81,100
Population:	490,000

STRENGTHS

- High life expectancy
- High educational attainment
- Higher income equality

WEAKNESSES

- Less economic diversity
- Smaller GDP size
- Larger temperature anomalies

ARCHETYPES

- Sustainable City

46 Austin | United States

Steve Heap / Shutterstock.com

Austin is one of the fastest-growing economies in North America in both GDP and employment terms. Known for its entrepreneurial spirit and rapidly growing tech sector, Austin is expected to remain an economic powerhouse for the foreseeable future. Along with its favourable population dynamics and high living standards, these factors land Austin within the top 50 for the Global Cities Index. Its best-performing category is Economics; as the state capital and home to a large state university, the city has a government presence that bolsters its economic stability. However, the large tech and government sectors mean Austin is less economically diverse than its peers, representing the only real weakness in its Economics score.

In recent years, Austin has been successful in fostering robust in-migration thanks to its favourable cost of living and ample job prospects. Tech-related fields are particularly attractive for Austin's expanding foreign-born population seeking growing job opportunities. This trend has extended to businesses as well; Austin has attracted several corporate relocations, including Tesla, Oracle, and Charles Schwab. Moreover, Samsung is expanding its semiconductor manufacturing in Taylor, while Tesla and SpaceX are building two Terafab plants (among other projects) in the metro. Further boosting Austin's Human Capital score is its reputable universities, including the University of Texas at Austin, along with its youthful demographic profile, which contributes to the city's innovative and forward-thinking culture.

While many of Austin's residents can reap the benefits of its rapidly growing economy in the form of high incomes, others miss out, resulting in high levels of income inequality. Thankfully, housing expenditure is lower than in two-thirds of US cities, due to a housing construction boom in recent years. Also adding to Austin's Quality of Life Score is its popular live music scene, including the famous Austin City Limits music festival, as well as its multi-media SXSW event. Still, like many fast-growing cities, Austin's amenities have not grown in step with its economy, and it ranks in the bottom third of US metros for recreation and cultural sites.

Austin's weakest scoring category, Environment, is largely determined by its geography. The city is prone to natural disasters, such as wildfires and flooding from hurricanes. Temperature anomalies are also an issue, as evidenced by the severe ice storm of 2021. Although Austin has a limited public transportation network and a high reliance on cars, it has less heavy manufacturing than other US cities, resulting in a more favourable emissions intensity. Overall, Austin's economic outlook is very promising; maintaining the city's liveability along with this growth will be key to jumping up the rankings in the future.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	23rd
HUMAN CAPITAL	62nd
QUALITY OF LIFE	220th
ENVIRONMENT	293rd
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$286 billion
GDP per person:	US$109,500
Population:	2.6 million

STRENGTHS

- High income per person
- Lower emissions intensity
- Fast population growth

WEAKNESSES

- More severe natural disasters
- Lower income equality
- Less economic diversity

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

47 **Chicago** | United States

Evgeny Karandaev / Shutterstock.com

As one of North America's largest and most stable economies, Chicago ranks highly within our Global Cities Index, clearing the top 50. With a substantial population in both its downtown and suburbs generating economic activity in a diverse range of sectors, the city's GDP per person is among the highest in the world. Economic performance has historically been tied to the financial sector in the iconic Chicago Loop, but the city is also home to a broad swathe of high-level headquarters firms including McDonald's, Wrigley's, Motorola, Conagra, Archer Daniels Midland, Uline, AbbVie, and Abbott Laboratories.

A key reason Chicago ranks so highly is the city's reputable concentration of human capital. It has among the most universities in North America—including the University of Chicago, Northwestern, DePaul, and Loyola—which contribute to Chicago's wide talent pool. The city also stands out for its high percentage of foreign-born population and dynamic age profile compared with other global cities. However, there has been a steady stream of out-migration from Chicago in recent years, placing its population growth in the bottom half of our index and the lowest in North America.

Two categories in which the Windy City struggles are the Environment and Quality of Life. Chicago scores low when it comes to temperature anomalies—lake-effect snow, along with the urban heat island effect, results in significant fluctuations that lower its Environment score. The city also faces relatively high air pollution due to human and industrial activities, making Chicago's air quality ranking among the worst in North America. Notably, the city's active public transit system does reduce some car traffic and helps the city avoid the worst pollution issues present in more sprawling US metros.

While the Chicago's Quality of Life ranks among the top quintile globally, when compared with the top North American cities, Chicago's performance is relatively weak. The city boasts elevated average incomes, but Chicago faces an acute income inequality issue, with high-earning households disproportionately benefitting from the city's high-value industries. This imbalance can lead to limited access to quality healthcare and lower life expectancies for some less affluent residents. Offsetting some of Chicago's challenges in the Quality of Life category, the city's numerous cultural institutions, including the Art Institute and Symphony Orchestra, as well as popular destinations such as the Millennium Park and Navy Pier, have broad appeal to residents and visitors alike.

Historically, Chicago's relevance to the US and global economy has provided it with a growing population and a skilled workforce. But as the city faces a shrinking population, it remains to be seen if Chicago can stay competitive in future rankings.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	14th
HUMAN CAPITAL	65th
QUALITY OF LIFE	200th
ENVIRONMENT	494th
GOVERNANCE	198th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$967 billion
GDP per person:	US$102,500
Population:	9.4 million

STRENGTHS

- Large GDP size
- Many corporate headquarters
- Many universities

WEAKNESSES

- Larger temperature anomalies
- Slower population growth
- Lower income equality

ARCHETYPES

- Global Leader

48 **Taipei** | Taiwan

The global demand for AI-related hardware has supercharged Taipei's economic growth and launched the city into our index's top 50, rising 12 places to 48th. As the world's epicentre for semiconductor manufacturing, Taiwan's capital hosts multiple major fabrication facilities, including those of TSMC, the world's largest chipmaker. Beyond semiconductors, the city is also the island's focal point for finance and IT, and with the 34th-largest urban GDP in the world, Taipei's economic might is unquestionable. However, its long-term growth potential faces intense competition from Asia's younger, emerging city economies.

Human Capital is a source of strength for Taipei, ranking seventh within East Asia. Opportunities in the city attract workers and students alike, with Taipei boasting the best educational attainment across Taiwan and one of the densest clusters of universities in the world. Prominent corporations, such as Taiwan Cooperative Bank, China Airlines, and Foxconn, have been keen to capitalise on this highly educated population, planting roots in Taipei and helping the city rank seventh globally for the concentration of corporate headquarters. While Taipei's business-friendly environment brings in young talent, the city is facing a challenge shared by other advanced East Asian economies: ageing demographics are weighing down both population and employment growth.

Taipei shines brightest in the Quality of Life category, coming in at an impressive 26th globally. Anchoring this score is a long life expectancy, as well as access to many recreation and cultural sites. Residents also enjoy high average incomes, although income inequality is a growing concern in the capital relative to the rest of the country, and housing costs are creating a bigger squeeze on household budgets than elsewhere.

Taipei is one of the most exposed cities in the world to natural disasters, significantly deflating its Environmental score. Situated within the Pacific Ocean's 'Ring of Fire', the city is at significant risk of typhoons and earthquakes. However, Taipei makes up ground with stronger outcomes for emissions intensity, as the government pursues net zero targets through its extensive metro system and a brand-new carbon pricing scheme. And while residents are well accustomed to the hot, humid summers stemming from the subtropical climate, the City of Azaleas enjoys relatively stable temperatures all year long.

The recent surge in AI development, paired with a solid foundation in human capital, has fuelled Taipei's recent economic growth spurt, allowing the city to sit in the driver's seat of an emerging technology.

The question now is how long will the AI hype last, and whether Taipei's economy can keep thriving without it, or whether the pressures associated with a stagnating population will continue to encroach on its outlook for growth.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	106th
HUMAN CAPITAL	56th
QUALITY OF LIFE	26th
ENVIRONMENT	472nd
GOVERNANCE	72nd

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$375 billion
GDP per person:	US$40,800
Population:	9.2 million

STRENGTHS

- Many corporate headquarters
- Lower crime rate
- Large GDP size

WEAKNESSES

- Slower population growth
- Older age profile
- More severe natural disasters

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader
- Industrial Hub

49 **Bern** | Switzerland

Despite being a relatively small city, both in terms of population and the size of its economy, the de facto Swiss capital places in the top 50—largely on its strength in the Quality of Life category. Although all Swiss cities score highly in this category, Bern leads the national ranking and places fifth globally. This top score is achieved through its long life expectancy and many recreation and cultural sites. The city's well-preserved medieval old town is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and its picturesque surroundings, including the Aare River and nearby mountains, provide ample opportunities for outdoor activities. In addition, Bern enjoys the highest levels of income equality and the lowest crime rate in Switzerland.

Bern's role as the de facto capital of Switzerland means that the city is home to many government agencies, embassies, and the Swiss parliament. As a result, the public sector plays a significant role in the city's economy, and there are positives and negatives that come with this. Public sector activity often grows slowly and suffers from low productivity, and historically, the Bern economy has underperformed its Swiss peers. On the other hand, economic growth is very stable in Bern, and the city has lower exposure to global economic shocks compared with other European cities.

Bern's weakest category is Human Capital, although relative to other European peers, it sits comfortably inside the top half. The main reason for this is demographic factors: Bern has the oldest age profile among Swiss cities, in addition to muted projected population growth. Weak population growth can be explained by the city having fewer universities and corporate headquarters compared with Geneva or Zurich, suggesting fewer learning or job opportunities in the city.

For the Environmental category, Bern places just outside the top decile globally. This is mostly explained by the city's exposure to both temperature and rainfall anomalies, largely due to a combination of its geographic location on the Swiss plateau as well as the effects of climate change in recent years. On a more positive note, the city's large public sector and smaller industrial base keep emissions intensity very low, ranking 19th globally and eighth in Europe.

Bern scores strongly in the Governance category, driven by the high quality of Swiss institutions, stability in its political system, and commitment to upholding the rights of its residents. Zurich may be the financial capital of Switzerland, Geneva the diplomatic capital, and Basel the cultural capital, but Bern still plays an important role in Swiss society as the country's governmental capital.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	73rd
HUMAN CAPITAL	205th
QUALITY OF LIFE	5th
ENVIRONMENT	112th
GOVERNANCE	46th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$57 billion
GDP per person:	US$107,900
Population:	530,000

STRENGTHS

- Many recreation and cultural sites
- High economic stability
- Lower emissions intensity

WEAKNESSES

- Larger temperature anomalies
- Older age profile
- Slower GDP growth

ARCHETYPES

- Cultural Capital

50 Riyadh | Saudi Arabia

Riyadh has climbed to take the 50th spot in the rankings—a feat reflective of the significant economic and social development occurring in the city. Riyadh scores well in the Economics category thanks to its strong outlook, with GDP and employment growth among the fastest in the region. The city has also been more shielded than other Middle Eastern cities from the US-Israel war with Iran, displaying notable resilience to the disruption caused. Indeed, over the last few decades, it is the only city in the Middle East not to have experienced an annual decline in GDP growth, highlighting the strong trajectory brought about by diversification efforts and targeted investment and policymaking.

Riyadh's strongest-performing metric is its Human Capital score, which ranks fourth globally. It has a large pool of foreign-born residents (comprising just under 60% of the total population), underpinning one of the youngest age profiles of any city, and providing the impetus for among the strongest rates of population and employment growth. It also boasts a significant representation of universities and corporate headquarters, with the latter benefitting from the Kingdom's Regional Headquarters Program, which has already incentivised around 700 multinational firms to incorporate their regional headquarters in the city.

Some of the most significant improvements over the last few years have been in Quality of Life. Income per person in Riyadh is among the top 10% globally, while housing costs relative to income remain significantly below other cities in the region. It is true that average house prices and rents have grown substantially in the recent past, but the introduction of a rent cap has frozen both residential and commercial rent increases until 2030. This should temper any short-term increases in housing costs for residents, but interventions in property markets aren't risk free. We will be watching market dynamics closely, particularly as demand for housing continues to swell over the next few years. Where Riyadh underperforms is in income equality, with a significant gap between the average income of Saudis and non-Saudis. There are also fewer recreation and cultural amenities in the city compared with other regional hubs, however, as megaprojects across the city are completed, this measure should improve in the coming years.

As with other cities in desert biomes, Riyadh faces significant air quality challenges, ranking among the poorest globally. High private car usage not only contributes to poor air quality, but also high emissions intensity, weighing heavily on the city's Environment score. Developments like the Riyadh Metro should gradually support access to public transport and lower these scores, but any improvements will be incremental and likely slow to materialise.

RANKINGS

ECONOMICS	18th
HUMAN CAPITAL	4th
QUALITY OF LIFE	341st
ENVIRONMENT	761st
GOVERNANCE	644th

KEY FIGURES IN 2025

GDP:	US$438 billion
GDP per person:	US$51,100
Population:	8.6 million

STRENGTHS

- High income per person
- Younger age profile
- Fast employment growth

WEAKNESSES

- Poorer air quality
- Lower income equality
- High emissions intensity

ARCHETYPES

- Regional Leader

METHODOLOGY

Paris, France
Overall Rank: 3rd

Methodology

The Oxford Economics Global Cities Index is a holistic ranking of the 1,000 cities included in our Global Cities Forecasting Service. While our best-in-class economic forecasts underpin these rankings, cities are scored across five different categories to achieve a well-rounded comparison of locations. The five categories are Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment, and Governance.

- The **Economics** category contains indicators that measure the economic size, structure, and growth of each city, examining both historical performance and future potential.
- The **Human Capital** category contains indicators that measure the educational and business environments of each city, in conjunction with demographic trends.
- The **Quality of Life** category contains indicators that measure the benefits of living in each city and residents' wellbeing, covering financial and health outcomes, as well as access to amenities.
- The **Environment** category contains indicators that measure the natural environment of each city on issues related to climate change.
- The **Governance** category contains indicators that measure the political stability of a city and the degree to which residents' rights are protected. In recognition of the fact that national governments—not just those at the city level—have a significant influence on these outcomes, this category is measured at the national level, rather than at the city level. As a result, every city in a given country is given the same score.

The full list of indicators in each of these categories is included below:

Category	Indicator	Description
Economics	GDP size	The size of the city's gross domestic product
	GDP growth	The five-year GDP forecast for the city
	Economic stability	The consistency of the city's GDP growth in the past decade
	GDP per person	The size of the city's GDP divided by its population
	Employment growth	The five-year employment forecast for the city
	Economic diversity	The relative size of each sector of the city's economy (calculated using the Herfindahl-Hirschman index)
Human Capital	Population growth	The five-year population forecast for the city
	Age profile	The ratio of the city's residents aged 65+ to the residents aged between 15 and 64 (roughly retired population over working-age population)
	Universities	The number of universities in the city weighted by their rankings
	Corporate headquarters	The number of the world's 10,000 largest corporations headquartered in the city
	Educational attainment	An average of the mean years of schooling of adults aged 25+ and the expected years of schooling of children aged 6 for a city's residents
	Foreign-born population	The share of the population residing in the city that was born outside of the city's country
Quality of Life	Income equality	The Gini coefficient for total household income in the city (a measure of household income equality)
	Income per person	The total household disposable income of the city divided by its population, adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP) across countries
	Housing expenditure	The share of household disposable income spent on housing and utilities in the city
	Life expectancy	The life expectancy at birth for residents of the city
	Crime rate	The city's homicide rate per 100,000 residents, scaled by globally consistent, country-level homicide data
	Recreation and cultural sites	An average of the total number of recreation and cultural sites in the city, and the number of sites divided by its population
Environment	Air quality	The mean PM2.5 concentration in the city
	Emissions intensity	The sum of CO_2 emissions in the city divided by its GDP
	Natural disasters	The potential severity of six natural hazards in the city: coastal flooding, cyclones, earthquakes, riverine flooding, tornadoes, and wildfires
	Temperature anomalies	The average yearly temperature anomaly for the city, calculated as the difference between the daily maximum temperature and its long-run average
	Rainfall anomalies	The average yearly rainfall anomaly for the city, calculated as the difference between the total monthly rainfall and its long-run average
Governance	Institutions	An aggregate score of the institutional context and rule of law of the city's country
	Political stability	An aggregate score of the likelihood of political instability and violence in the city's country
	Business environment	An aggregate score of the ease of doing business and the control of corruption in the city's country
	Civil liberties	An aggregate score of the political rights and civil liberties of residents of the city's country

The indicators included in the Global Cities Index are not an exhaustive list of the characteristics to consider when comparing cities. Rather, they are among what we believe to be the most relevant traits, as well as a reflection of the harmonised data available at the city level across 163 countries.

After collecting data for each indicator for all cities, normalised scores were created for each indicator by assigning the highest-scoring city a score of 100 for that indicator, the lowest-scoring city a score of 0, and distributing the rest of the cities' scores across that range. The scores for each indicator within a category were combined to create a total score for that category for each city. The total score for each category was then normalised. The city's final overall score was calculated by taking a weighted average of each category's normalised score, using the weights in the table below:

Category	Weight
Economics	30%
Human Capital	25%
Quality of Life	25%
Environment	10%
Governance	10%
Overall	**100%**

The result is an overall score for each of the 1,000 cities that considers not only the city's economic performance, but also how well educated it is, the wellbeing of its residents, the volatility of its climate, any political risks facing the city, and much more. This not only allows cities to be ranked in a more holistic manner, but also identifies their relative strengths and weaknesses across the five categories.

We aim to update the index on an annual basis. As a part of our update process, we increase data coverage and quality wherever possible. Due to improvements made to the index each year, a city's change in rank over time is not necessarily a like-for-like comparison and may instead reflect an evolving methodology rather than a genuine improvement or a deterioration in performance.

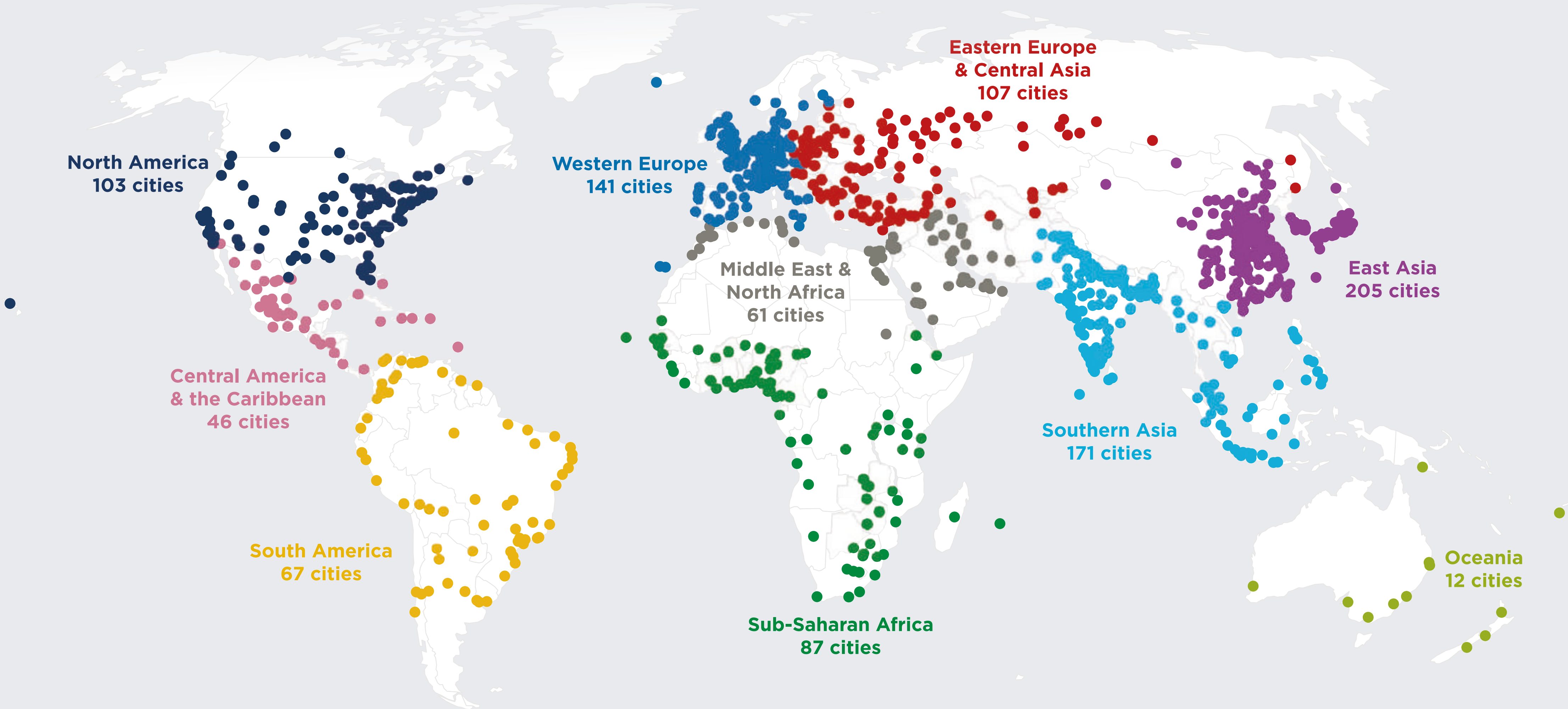
A note on city geographical definitions

Consistent geographical definitions are vital when comparing the economies of different cities, which is why Oxford Economics employs the concept of Functional Urban Areas (FUAs) in the Global Cities Index. Each FUA captures two key elements of a city: the areas of highly intense economic activity in the city cores, and the areas of economic activity associated with a city's periphery, in its less dense but still important commuting zones.

In the European Union and OECD member countries, we employ the methodology proposed by the OECD to delineate FUAs, using their published definitions, and building up economic and demographic datasets from a municipal basis to reach a comprehensive dataset for each FUA. In the rest of the world, we adapt the OECD's estimated FUA definitions to align with local-level municipal boundaries, using a similar methodology proposed for EU and OECD member countries. As a result, we can confidently compare New York to Lagos, Cairo to Sydney, and Chongqing to Vienna.

Oxford Economics’ 1,000 Global Cities

The Global Cities Index covers the 1,000 largest cities in the world, which are located in 163 different countries.



City archetypes methodology

In order to allow cities to be compared with their closest peers that share similar characteristics, we have classified cities into archetypes based on the indicators that comprise the Global Cities Index.

Each archetype is based on a set of quantitatively defined metrics. For example, the Global Leaders are defined by the size of their economy, the importance of their finance and business sectors, their incomes per person, and the number of universities and corporate headquarters located there. The filters for each archetype result in groups of similar cities that can be considered their closest peers around the globe and share a similar narrative. The archetypes and their characteristics are listed below.

To ensure the robustness of the archetypes, econometric checks and a literature review were conducted. The econometric checks involved performing principal component analysis (PCA) and comparing the classification to the results of various cluster analysis algorithms, including k-means clustering, hierarchical clustering, and Gaussian mixture models. Additionally, the classification was validated qualitatively through a literature review of existing city typologies. The selected archetypes are not exhaustive, and many cities fit into more than one classification. To create archetypes that are distinct yet coherent, not all 1,000 cities are classified.

Archetype	Characteristics
Global Leaders	The true 'global cities' that drive the world economy. They are the largest cities in the world by GDP and are financial and business hubs, with many corporate headquarters and universities.
Regional Leaders	Important and large cities in their regions, but not as economically powerful on the global stage as the Global Leaders. They outperform their respective countries on metrics, such as economic growth and income per person, and tend to have more universities and business activity than neighbouring cities.
Cultural Capitals	Mostly smaller cities that have high quality of life. They have many cultural sites and a sizeable share of foreign-born residents. They tend to attract residents and tourists alike due to their amenities and educational opportunities.
Sustainable Cities	Cities that have prioritised sustainable growth and are focused on adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change. They have low emissions intensities and are focused on the clean energy transition, with the political stability to support their climate goals.
Industrial Hubs	Cities dependent on extraction or manufacturing to drive growth. They tend to have low economic diversity and experience volatile growth due to the nature of their key industries. These cities often have high emissions intensities.
Legacy Cities	Cities facing a demographic challenge from ageing (and falling) populations. As a result, GDP growth is slowing or stagnant and they often struggle to attract immigrants, leading to a low share of foreign-born residents.
Developing Megacities	Very large urban areas (over 10 million residents) in the developing world. Their infrastructure investments have often struggled to keep up with the increasing population, and they have low levels of income per person.
Emerging Standouts	Cities in the developing world that are outperforming their respective countries. They attract residents due to their fast productivity growth and higher levels of income per person than their country as a whole.

Archetype	Number of cities	City list (alphabetical order)
Global Leaders	21	Beijing, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Hong Kong, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Munich, New York, Paris, San Francisco, San Jose (US), Seattle, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto, Washington, DC
Regional Leaders	72	Abidjan, Accra, Astana, Atlanta, Auckland, Austin, Baku, Bangkok, Barcelona, Bengaluru, Berlin, Bogotá, Boise, Brasília, Brisbane, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Casablanca, Chengdu, Chennai, Copenhagen, Delhi, Denver, Dubai, Durham, Frankfurt am Main, Guangzhou, Helsinki, Ho Chi Minh City, Houston, Istanbul, Jacksonville, Jakarta, Johannesburg, Karachi, Kuala Lumpur, Lima, Lisbon, Lyon, Manila, Melbourne, Mexico City, Miami, Minneapolis, Montreal, Moscow, Mumbai, Nairobi, Osaka-Kyoto, Oslo, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, Prague, Rio de Janeiro, Riyadh, Rome, San Antonio, San Diego, Santiago, São Paulo, Shenzhen, St Petersburg, Stockholm, Taipei, Tashkent, Tel Aviv, Tianjin, Vancouver, Warsaw, Zurich
Cultural Capitals	64	Aachen, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Barcelona, Basel, Beijing, Bergen, Berlin, Bern, Bonn, Boston, Bremen, Budapest, Cambridge, Copenhagen, Dresden, Düsseldorf, Edinburgh, Florence, Freiburg im Breisgau, Geneva, Ghent, Gothenburg, Granada, Graz, Grenoble, Hamburg, Helsinki, Kyiv, Liège, Lisbon, Ljubljana, London, Los Angeles, Luxembourg City, Milan, Montpellier, Münster, Munich, Nantes, New York, Nice, Osaka-Kyoto, Oslo, Padua, Paris, Prague, Reykjavik, Riga, Rome, Rotterdam, Ruhr, San Francisco, Seattle, Stockholm, Sydney, Tallinn, The Hague, Tokyo, Toulouse, Venice, Vienna, Wellington, Zurich
Sustainable Cities	63	Aarhus, Auckland, Bari, Belfast, Berlin, Birmingham (UK), Bonn, Bordeaux, Bournemouth, Bridgetown, Brighton and Hove, Bristol, Brussels, Cambridge, Canberra, Catania, Copenhagen, Dublin, Düsseldorf, Edinburgh, Frankfurt am Main, Geneva, Genoa, Granada, Helsinki, Kiel, Las Palmas, Lausanne, Leeds, Lille, Lisbon, Liverpool, London, Luxembourg City, Madrid, Malé, Malmö, Manchester, Melbourne, Montevideo, Montpellier, Münster, Nantes, Nassau, Oslo, Palermo, Paris, Porto, Rennes, Reykjavik, San José (Costa Rica), Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Sapporo, Stockholm, Sydney, The Hague, Toulon, Utrecht, Vancouver, Vienna, Vilnius, Wellington, Zurich
Industrial Hubs	54	Abu Dhabi, Ahvaz, Al Ain, Arequipa, Baghdad, Baku, Baoji, Baotou, Basra, Bokaro, Cheonan, Chongqing, Dammam, Dhaka, Dhanbad, Doha, Edmonton, Eindhoven, Gumi, Haiphong, Hefei, Huizhou, Kinshasa, Kuching, Kuwait City, Libreville, Lubumbashi, Mandalay, Medellín, Monterrey, Muscat, Nagoya, N'Djamena, Perth, Pohang, Saltillo, San Luis Potosí, São Gonçalo, Stuttgart, Suez, Surat, Suzhou (Jiangsu), Taichung, Taipei, Tianjin, Torreón, Tyumen, Ulsan, Wolfsburg, Wuhan, Xiamen, Yamoussoukro, Yulin, Zhongshan
Legacy Cities	50	Bari, Bilbao, Busan, Catania, Changwon, Dijon, Dresden, Erfurt, Florence, Fushun, Genoa, Gumi, Halle an der Saale, Hamamatsu, Hiroshima, Jeonju, Kagoshima, Kanazawa, Kitakyushu, Kumamoto, Lens, Lille, Łódź, Matsuyama, Mito, Nagoya, Niigata, Numazu, Okayama, Osaka-Kyoto, Palermo, Pohang, Rouen, Ryazan, San Juan, Sapporo, Sendai, Takamatsu, Takasaki, Tokushima, Tokyo, Toyama, Toyohashi, Tula, Turin, Utsunomiya, Venice, Wakayama, Weihai, Yaroslavl
Developing Megacities	25	Bangkok, Bengaluru, Cairo, Chengdu, Chennai, Delhi, Dhaka, Dongguan, Ho Chi Minh City, Hyderabad (India), Jakarta, Karachi, Kinshasa, Kolkata, Lagos, Lahore, Lima, Luanda, Manila, Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Surabaya, Tehran, Wuhan
Emerging Standouts	57	Agra, Ahmedabad, Amravati, Amritsar, Bacolod, Belagavi, Bengaluru, Bhavnagar, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Bokaro, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu City, Chandigarh, Chennai, Coimbatore, Davao City, Dakar, Delhi, General Santos, Georgetown (Guyana), Guntur, Gwalior, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hubballi-Dharwad, Hyderabad (India), Jabalpur, Jaipur, Jalandhar, Jamshedpur, Kalaburagi, Kannur, Kolkata, Ludhiana, Madurai, Makassar, Mangaluru, Meerut, Mumbai, Mysuru, Nagpur, Nellore, Patna, Pune, Rajkot, Salem, Solapur, Surat, Tiruchirappalli, Tiruppur, Udaipur, Ulaanbaatar, Vadodara, Vellore, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam

1,000 GLOBAL CITIES RANKINGS

Boston, United States
Overall Rank: 7th

1–25

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
1	New York	United States	1	5	86	262	198
2	London	United Kingdom	7	1	147	64	140
3	Paris	France	13	7	10	83	317
4	Seattle	United States	4	47	22	28	198
5	San Francisco	United States	5	37	50	54	198
6	Dublin	Ireland	12	35	70	9	58
7	Boston	United States	9	9	40	289	198
8	San Jose	United States	3	121	13	52	198
9	Tokyo	Japan	45	3	99	454	21
10	Zurich	Switzerland	29	27	14	124	46
11	Oslo	Norway	30	48	6	50	8
12	Los Angeles	United States	2	55	165	158	198
13	Sydney	Australia	26	63	17	68	13
14	Washington, DC	United States	8	10	130	308	198
15	Stockholm	Sweden	36	28	77	7	10
16	Melbourne	Australia	17	68	54	49	13
17	Dallas	United States	6	21	275	378	198
18	Copenhagen	Denmark	28	53	160	15	1
19	Munich	Germany	31	61	16	168	90
20	Toronto	Canada	19	14	259	292	61
21	Amsterdam	Netherlands	33	58	35	212	51
22	Berlin	Germany	50	39	15	182	90
23	Geneva	Switzerland	34	93	51	80	46
24	Vancouver	Canada	52	19	215	29	61
25	Brussels	Belgium	32	43	119	186	85

26–50

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
26	Helsinki	Finland	71	59	78	58	6
27	Luxembourg City	Luxembourg	37	135	7	134	60
28	Houston	United States	10	20	323	379	198
29	Singapore	Singapore	103	60	3	106	120
30	Madrid	Spain	55	38	101	66	166
31	Atlanta	United States	11	32	314	241	198
32	Denver	United States	22	49	155	295	198
33	Minneapolis	United States	24	54	120	440	198
34	Tel Aviv	Israel	16	31	156	234	401
35	Vienna	Austria	48	57	85	272	79
36	Brisbane	Australia	40	142	75	36	13
37	San Diego	United States	25	84	178	37	198
38	Seoul	South Korea	62	15	113	618	125
39	Hamburg	Germany	49	88	52	170	90
40	Bergen	Norway	185	151	2	3	8
41	Phoenix	United States	21	64	256	107	198
42	Dubai	United Arab Emirates	53	2	290	684	511
43	Basel	Switzerland	67	167	11	95	46
44	Perth	Australia	86	91	38	169	13
45	Canberra	Australia	211	140	1	89	13
46	Austin	United States	23	62	220	293	198
47	Chicago	United States	14	65	200	494	198
48	Taipei	Taiwan	106	56	26	472	72
49	Bern	Switzerland	73	205	5	112	46
50	Riyadh	Saudi Arabia	18	4	341	761	644

51–75

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
51	Prague	Czechia	76	117	18	209	82
52	Miami	United States	15	69	328	122	198
53	Portland	United States	41	116	145	31	198
54	Utrecht	Netherlands	75	165	30	101	51
55	Gothenburg	Sweden	108	109	114	48	10
56	Philadelphia	United States	20	80	267	330	198
57	Antwerp	Belgium	72	134	23	238	85
58	Lausanne	Switzerland	144	79	97	125	46
59	Salt Lake City	United States	35	111	181	218	198
60	Auckland	New Zealand	113	90	232	43	3
61	Warsaw	Poland	77	104	32	364	290
62	Montreal	Canada	63	92	171	446	61
63	Frankfurt am Main	Germany	78	118	76	269	90
64	Istanbul	Turkey	69	11	180	480	596
65	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	83	22	283	318	183
66	Nashville	United States	27	85	319	286	198
67	Rotterdam	Netherlands	68	195	65	389	51
68	Ghent	Belgium	92	196	9	312	85
69	Calgary	Canada	100	29	247	561	61
70	Adelaide	Australia	105	186	59	227	13
71	Edinburgh	United Kingdom	157	75	169	14	140
72	Barcelona	Spain	117	99	88	223	166
73	Charlotte	United States	47	76	299	248	198
74	The Hague	Netherlands	153	161	67	87	51
75	Wellington	New Zealand	165	263	81	4	3

76–100

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
76	Aarhus	Denmark	162	180	128	34	1
77	Malmö	Sweden	189	112	175	12	10
78	Gold Coast	Australia	151	243	71	10	13
79	Baltimore	United States	43	102	258	365	198
80	Eindhoven	Netherlands	123	210	45	176	51
81	Orlando	United States	42	96	334	114	198
82	Columbus	United States	44	82	304	339	198
83	Osaka-Kyoto	Japan	237	78	58	384	21
84	Abu Dhabi	United Arab Emirates	110	6	298	714	511
85	Raleigh	United States	60	101	238	239	198
86	Milan	Italy	94	130	72	313	301
87	Hong Kong	Hong Kong SAR, China	138	74	84	488	196
88	Lyon	France	88	175	91	130	317
89	Las Vegas	United States	57	144	306	25	198
90	Manchester	United Kingdom	74	114	280	93	140
91	Reykjavik	Iceland	250	128	49	226	20
92	Tampa	United States	46	133	308	187	198
93	Shenzhen	China	38	8	412	568	655
94	Riverside	United States	39	168	311	142	198
95	Madison	United States	61	198	135	460	198
96	Christchurch	New Zealand	147	270	164	57	3
97	Stuttgart	Germany	258	136	19	254	90
98	Düsseldorf	Germany	107	265	55	400	90
99	Linz	Austria	132	356	12	287	79
100	Cambridge	United Kingdom	140	170	153	88	140

101–125

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
101	Provo	United States	98	115	208	266	198
102	Indianapolis	United States	51	132	312	283	198
103	Leeds	United Kingdom	102	160	231	74	140
104	Ottawa-Gatineau	Canada	161	147	139	393	61
105	Graz	Austria	155	227	46	366	79
106	Omaha	United States	99	150	129	475	198
107	Richmond	United States	64	129	301	307	198
108	Glasgow	United Kingdom	148	138	268	19	140
109	Sacramento	United States	58	249	255	71	198
110	Valletta	Malta	191	209	27	97	339
111	Budapest	Hungary	154	149	57	321	345
112	Bristol	United Kingdom	152	189	174	61	140
113	Kansas City	United States	66	171	243	371	198
114	San Antonio	United States	54	120	351	340	198
115	Oxford	United Kingdom	158	172	162	103	140
116	Cologne	Germany	114	254	102	430	90
117	Cincinnati	United States	65	187	216	462	198
118	Birmingham	United Kingdom	136	137	213	181	140
119	Rome	Italy	149	166	134	255	301
120	Tampere	Finland	251	271	137	32	6
121	Boise	United States	141	183	219	35	198
122	Bangkok	Thailand	166	18	332	467	392
123	Doha	Qatar	118	17	221	812	636
124	Honolulu	United States	97	450	182	1	198
125	Edmonton	Canada	126	107	240	759	61

126–150

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
126	Toulouse	France	131	333	118	47	317
127	Freiburg im Breisgau	Germany	235	304	21	178	90
128	Wrocław	Poland	186	238	34	343	290
129	Grand Rapids	United States	82	204	233	348	198
130	Grenoble	France	270	290	4	120	317
131	St. Louis	United States	56	267	257	374	198
132	Nuremberg	Germany	171	423	36	136	90
133	Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	Canada	241	110	244	275	61
134	Jacksonville	United States	70	164	364	198	198
135	Nantes	France	177	394	41	40	317
136	Arnhem	Netherlands	213	425	33	190	51
137	Bordeaux	France	160	309	96	85	317
138	Buenos Aires	Argentina	179	86	197	259	394
139	Worcester	United States	150	176	168	486	198
140	Jakarta	Indonesia	59	23	561	553	372
141	Poznań	Poland	172	278	116	163	290
142	Durham	United States	109	141	347	230	198
143	Ruhr	Germany	249	257	44	413	90
144	Haifa	Israel	95	103	296	436	401
145	Rennes	France	167	398	117	16	317
146	Münster	Germany	221	348	61	196	90
147	Providence	United States	203	163	183	249	198
148	Lisbon	Portugal	372	182	66	148	118
149	Des Moines	United States	182	199	152	380	198
150	Newcastle upon Tyne	United Kingdom	215	244	191	51	140

151–175

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
151	Halifax	Canada	238	191	235	160	61
152	Liverpool	United Kingdom	214	192	241	79	140
153	Leicester	United Kingdom	218	143	292	133	140
154	Bratislava	Slovakia	253	277	29	258	316
155	Santiago	Chile	210	36	381	662	122
156	Belfast	United Kingdom	175	318	206	41	140
157	Hsinchu	Taiwan	381	185	25	546	72
158	Cardiff	United Kingdom	178	259	262	46	140
159	Taichung	Taiwan	232	225	90	645	72
160	Augsburg	Germany	294	279	60	210	90
161	Quebec City	Canada	230	367	98	279	61
162	Bonn	Germany	273	360	37	221	90
163	Oxnard	United States	137	409	188	62	198
164	Kraków	Poland	217	230	121	442	290
165	Beijing	China	127	16	338	804	655
166	Montpellier	France	219	311	138	73	317
167	Southampton	United Kingdom	206	261	229	63	140
168	Winnipeg	Canada	145	152	348	588	61
169	Greenville	United States	89	219	345	296	198
170	Oklahoma City	United States	120	162	340	463	198
171	Jeddah	Saudi Arabia	133	12	374	836	644
172	Charleston	United States	84	218	354	382	198
173	Colorado Springs	United States	122	282	279	288	198
174	Manila	Philippines	128	46	426	362	583
175	Detroit	United States	121	255	300	305	198

176–200

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
176	Virginia Beach	United States	112	301	302	216	198
177	Louisville	United States	90	206	353	443	198
178	Sheffield	United Kingdom	197	250	239	191	140
179	Jerusalem	Israel	80	131	406	215	401
180	Valencia	Spain	227	292	193	99	166
181	Brighton and Hove	United Kingdom	229	296	222	53	140
182	Nottingham	United Kingdom	233	217	224	202	140
183	Mainz	Germany	406	247	73	150	90
184	Mannheim-Ludwigshafen	Germany	387	258	43	314	90
185	Gdańsk	Poland	268	298	111	189	290
186	Coventry	United Kingdom	231	201	293	161	140
187	Northampton	United Kingdom	181	329	245	105	140
188	Karlsruhe	Germany	365	294	39	323	90
189	Bielefeld	Germany	212	463	125	231	90
190	Nagoya	Japan	337	212	148	464	21
191	Bridgeport	United States	266	274	110	327	198
192	Fukuoka	Japan	236	264	217	466	21
193	Hamilton	Canada	228	317	203	368	61
194	Dammam	Saudi Arabia	130	24	382	784	644
195	Harrisburg	United States	135	303	278	346	198
196	Lima	Peru	183	51	400	376	506
197	Pittsburgh	United States	146	286	246	420	198
198	Nicosia	Cyprus	401	193	79	316	195
199	Liège	Belgium	200	453	140	355	85
200	Palma de Mallorca	Spain	314	395	109	39	166

201–225

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
201	Ankara	Turkey	187	100	227	521	596
202	Allentown	United States	115	389	223	451	198
203	Marseille	France	174	436	150	172	317
204	Bremen	Germany	246	387	144	263	90
205	Ho Chi Minh City	Vietnam	142	71	342	555	625
206	Guangzhou	China	81	44	415	726	655
207	Tallinn	Estonia	338	228	161	422	59
208	Strasbourg	France	271	362	95	192	317
209	Ljubljana	Slovenia	489	200	42	385	137
210	Milwaukee	United States	134	337	265	426	198
211	Bilbao	Spain	247	521	93	84	166
212	Málaga	Spain	319	380	124	60	166
213	Kaohsiung	Taiwan	296	325	47	723	72
214	Bucharest	Romania	111	375	234	419	346
215	Albany	United States	168	417	184	303	198
216	Shanghai	China	87	40	383	858	655
217	Aberdeen	United Kingdom	394	248	195	27	140
218	Manama	Bahrain	156	30	389	676	822
219	Zaragoza	Spain	279	433	141	75	166
220	Hartford	United States	225	368	158	369	198
221	Mexico City	Mexico	93	45	610	508	519
222	Bologna	Italy	304	376	64	341	301
223	Hanover	Germany	311	383	127	302	90
224	Cleveland	United States	143	353	307	284	198
225	Little Rock	United States	129	256	368	458	198

226–250

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
226	Knoxville	United States	85	426	367	256	198
227	Tulsa	United States	194	207	315	499	198
228	Kuwait City	Kuwait	101	33	449	763	814
229	Seville	Spain	274	358	202	159	166
230	Fresno	United States	139	369	397	55	198
231	Groningen	Netherlands	295	574	94	298	51
232	Cape Coral	United States	180	352	322	147	198
233	Aachen	Germany	312	403	163	236	90
234	Bournemouth	United Kingdom	324	392	212	42	140
235	Birmingham	United States	91	280	418	519	198
236	Brno	Czechia	280	658	31	360	82
237	Memphis	United States	104	222	462	421	198
238	Columbia	United States	124	336	401	280	198
239	Santa Cruz de Tenerife	Spain	353	527	146	8	166
240	Dresden	Germany	421	634	8	177	90
241	Sarasota	United States	202	482	276	132	198
242	New Haven	United States	234	420	214	333	198
243	Hanoi	Vietnam	164	81	357	766	625
244	Buffalo	United States	222	427	282	225	198
245	Stockton	United States	159	330	371	395	198
246	Palm Bay	United States	201	410	318	183	198
247	Derby	United Kingdom	282	441	237	113	140
248	Las Palmas	Spain	420	537	115	22	166
249	Tainan	Taiwan	355	424	136	567	72
250	Tucson	United States	173	457	359	92	198

251–275

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
251	Winston-Salem	United States	198	302	373	326	198
252	Athens	Greece	347	226	209	332	348
253	Kiel	Germany	470	524	89	81	90
254	Wiesbaden	Germany	442	505	63	267	90
255	Cairo	Egypt	196	42	376	798	830
256	Porto	Portugal	635	374	82	69	118
257	Murcia	Spain	313	439	186	252	166
258	Kingston upon Hull	United Kingdom	289	411	303	115	140
259	Rochester	United States	281	421	254	165	198
260	Portsmouth	United Kingdom	310	472	261	59	140
261	Tours	France	256	732	74	131	317
262	Hangzhou	China	96	94	410	820	655
263	Albuquerque	United States	199	484	346	90	198
264	Vilnius	Lithuania	468	364	207	127	78
265	Almaty	Kazakhstan	288	66	269	845	622
266	Lille	France	242	567	199	166	317
267	Orléans	France	316	688	56	118	317
268	Delhi	India	116	13	781	915	415
269	El Paso	United States	169	428	407	109	198
270	Padua	Italy	329	682	24	270	301
271	Vigo	Spain	368	624	83	100	166
272	Verona	Italy	278	653	80	300	301
273	Al Ain	United Arab Emirates	308	67	355	713	511
274	Granada	Spain	375	501	170	137	166
275	Modesto	United States	204	460	362	128	198

276–300

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
276	Nice	France	301	703	105	78	317
277	Leipzig	Germany	358	669	69	301	90
278	A Coruña	Spain	344	723	68	117	166
279	Georgetown	Malaysia	457	188	333	174	183
280	Panama City	Panama	224	153	442	324	371
281	Astana	Kazakhstan	264	98	360	630	622
282	Wichita	United States	257	370	310	459	198
283	Bakersfield	United States	193	397	416	205	198
284	Toulon	France	340	706	100	70	317
285	Middlesbrough	United Kingdom	275	553	284	188	140
286	Greensboro	United States	290	272	380	344	198
287	Tbilisi	Georgia	302	179	372	392	370
288	Johor Bahru	Malaysia	336	233	370	424	183
289	Alicante	Spain	361	509	251	164	166
290	Wuhan	China	79	127	457	874	655
291	Macao	Macao SAR, China	504	324	189	356	197
292	São Paulo	Brazil	208	95	572	517	554
293	Suzhou (Jiangsu)	China	119	113	428	880	655
294	Nanjing	China	125	119	417	904	655
295	Florence	Italy	460	662	53	243	301
296	Clermont-Ferrand	France	527	646	62	72	317
297	San José	Costa Rica	305	237	467	320	182
298	Syracuse	United States	306	555	287	224	198
299	Bogotá	Colombia	220	89	734	473	404
300	Akron	United States	293	549	289	363	198

301–325

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
301	Busan	South Korea	494	514	132	514	125
302	Accra	Ghana	371	83	529	276	413
303	Sofia	Bulgaria	261	473	274	483	366
304	Kyiv	Ukraine	240	240	249	474	865
305	Port Louis	Mauritius	321	623	335	96	121
306	Dijon	France	331	811	106	138	317
307	Braunschweig-Salzgitter	Germany	604	569	126	261	90
308	Surabaya	Indonesia	216	251	468	388	372
309	Bergamo	Italy	569	508	123	387	301
310	Dayton	United States	272	590	329	373	198
311	Bengaluru	India	176	106	775	528	415
312	Malacca	Malaysia	432	361	321	415	183
313	Moscow	Russia	205	242	190	501	949
314	Monterrey	Mexico	226	148	608	482	519
315	Charleroi	Belgium	349	728	226	351	85
316	Baton Rouge	United States	239	393	429	569	198
317	Turin	Italy	493	668	122	214	301
318	Naha	Japan	370	640	291	503	21
319	McAllen	United States	259	345	490	425	198
320	Cheongju	South Korea	578	444	167	621	125
321	Xiamen	China	209	159	471	650	655
322	Sapporo	Japan	515	629	242	291	21
323	Baku	Azerbaijan	482	231	225	504	639
324	Toledo	United States	402	510	324	403	198
325	Medina	Saudi Arabia	444	52	440	677	644

326–350

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
326	Hiroshima	Japan	656	632	159	331	21
327	Nairobi	Kenya	262	26	891	325	816
328	Kuantan	Malaysia	356	496	391	237	183
329	Białystok	Poland	403	764	154	336	290
330	Mumbai	India	170	77	817	782	415
331	Erfurt	Germany	660	778	48	219	90
332	Venice	Italy	590	758	20	438	301
333	İzmir	Turkey	339	307	320	552	596
334	Chengdu	China	190	202	424	817	655
335	Brasília	Brazil	315	214	599	76	554
336	Lublin	Poland	603	678	87	433	290
337	Bydgoszcz	Poland	362	830	157	322	290
338	Xi'an	China	223	123	509	824	655
339	Valladolid	Spain	582	804	108	102	166
340	Katowice	Poland	532	666	92	608	290
341	Butterworth-Bukit Mertajam	Malaysia	458	300	427	447	183
342	Antalya	Turkey	412	407	248	538	596
343	Tashkent	Uzbekistan	188	108	644	806	825
344	Genoa	Italy	669	810	28	157	301
345	Łódź	Poland	360	809	187	390	290
346	Hefei	China	163	215	461	834	655
347	Dongguan	China	260	158	464	760	655
348	Qingdao	China	192	363	365	826	655
349	Tijuana	Mexico	285	349	627	38	519
350	Zhuhai	China	323	181	466	524	655

351–375

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
351	Riga	Latvia	599	622	260	206	139
352	İzmit	Turkey	429	404	271	537	596
353	Szczecin	Poland	396	836	205	211	290
354	Zagreb	Croatia	530	391	350	406	344
355	Saint-Étienne	France	696	755	103	104	317
356	Sendai	Japan	683	709	210	306	21
357	Mecca	Saudi Arabia	393	87	546	694	644
358	Daejeon	South Korea	677	525	196	612	125
359	Algiers	Algeria	469	268	228	441	862
360	Ningbo	China	195	284	433	793	655
361	Rouen	France	558	798	166	91	317
362	Bursa	Turkey	418	402	281	610	596
363	Tirana	Albania	507	399	305	375	517
364	Ipoh	Malaysia	346	573	399	522	183
365	Amman	Jordan	363	70	684	623	820
366	Kuala Muda	Malaysia	447	557	392	281	183
367	Wolfsburg	Germany	733	776	133	195	90
368	Guadalajara	Mexico	255	285	614	507	519
369	Khamis Mushait	Saudi Arabia	450	235	394	490	644
370	Medellín	Colombia	348	203	700	338	404
371	Medan	Indonesia	254	386	697	193	372
372	Changwon	South Korea	777	604	131	573	125
373	Halle an der Saale	Germany	723	807	104	329	90
374	Muscat	Oman	711	34	532	700	631
375	Da Nang	Vietnam	335	408	384	578	625

376–400

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
376	Chongqing	China	184	262	508	835	655
377	Padang	Indonesia	244	418	611	487	372
378	Cheonan	South Korea	681	544	252	619	125
379	Daegu	South Korea	705	581	201	615	125
380	Jeonju	South Korea	693	762	112	580	125
381	Chennai	India	263	122	854	633	415
382	Denpasar	Indonesia	325	572	477	67	372
383	Jinan	China	207	372	425	816	655
384	Casablanca	Morocco	384	229	593	274	615
385	Mendoza	Argentina	487	373	344	628	394
386	Kota Kinabalu	Malaysia	577	554	378	246	183
387	New Orleans	United States	423	494	435	525	198
388	Angeles City	Philippines	391	276	488	484	583
389	Makassar	Indonesia	265	513	643	151	372
390	Adapazarı	Turkey	449	384	309	698	596
391	Caen	France	751	846	107	44	317
392	Johannesburg	South Africa	287	25	964	861	353
393	Taif	Saudi Arabia	651	125	411	622	644
394	Samsun	Turkey	395	477	330	658	596
395	Bandar Lampung	Indonesia	299	499	641	126	372
396	Yogyakarta	Indonesia	303	334	727	309	372
397	Konya	Turkey	426	357	369	669	596
398	Haikou	China	320	269	549	513	655
399	Santo Domingo	Dominican Republic	345	359	645	217	510
400	Mersin	Turkey	354	511	375	600	596

401–425

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
401	Al Hofuf	Saudi Arabia	541	105	430	872	644
402	Nanchang	China	284	289	463	769	655
403	Naples	Italy	644	796	230	152	301
404	Okayama	Japan	745	753	194	604	21
405	Montevideo	Uruguay	366	530	713	311	138
406	Kumamoto	Japan	642	813	264	452	21
407	Kanazawa	Japan	752	760	272	319	21
408	San Juan	Puerto Rico	779	571	363	20	340
409	Bandung	Indonesia	330	355	637	502	372
410	Foshan	China	291	260	501	771	655
411	Windhoek	Namibia	439	281	796	56	364
412	Nancy	France	728	833	142	180	317
413	Nanning	China	317	354	447	656	655
414	Hamamatsu	Japan	825	777	179	377	21
415	Salta	Argentina	706	328	358	497	394
416	Kayseri	Turkey	454	422	343	730	596
417	Arequipa	Peru	766	291	413	86	506
418	Ostrava	Czechia	680	842	176	492	82
419	Rosario	Argentina	488	507	398	435	394
420	Valparaíso	Chile	829	341	352	594	122
421	Hyderabad	India	248	241	818	657	415
422	Belgrade	Serbia	309	752	331	353	653
423	Kuching	Malaysia	716	630	327	257	183
424	Gwangju	South Korea	765	756	149	562	125
425	Seremban	Malaysia	517	631	436	185	183

426–450

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
426	Ulaanbaatar	Mongolia	443	169	677	765	365
427	Pune	India	297	139	853	731	415
428	Concepción	Chile	597	563	393	624	122
429	Jinhua	China	252	416	487	743	655
430	Zhengzhou	China	277	224	573	862	655
431	Quito	Ecuador	479	253	506	277	828
432	La Plata	Argentina	610	414	405	432	394
433	Colombo	Sri Lanka	378	480	476	315	637
434	Semarang	Indonesia	322	504	659	337	372
435	Guiyang	China	276	366	528	727	655
436	Malé	Maldives	685	351	626	65	343
437	Pekanbaru	Indonesia	512	462	499	156	372
438	Palembang	Indonesia	332	487	581	511	372
439	Thessaloniki	Greece	576	739	325	347	348
440	Suva	Fiji	557	400	750	6	352
441	Chihuahua	Mexico	437	332	692	194	519
442	Bari	Italy	701	883	204	108	301
443	Chişinău	Moldova	351	619	437	404	518
444	Kota Bharu	Malaysia	676	466	448	427	183
445	Rabat	Morocco	455	413	579	144	615
446	Asunción	Paraguay	461	319	511	418	652
447	Taiyuan	China	269	288	514	918	655
448	Guayaquil	Ecuador	471	223	712	123	828
449	Gaborone	Botswana	630	73	938	294	342
450	San Miguel de Tucumán	Argentina	586	342	432	634	394

451–475

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
451	Varna	Bulgaria	548	726	337	396	366
452	Takamatsu	Japan	785	863	172	532	21
453	Lens	France	473	963	218	184	317
454	St Petersburg	Russia	425	518	285	207	949
455	Matsuyama	Japan	798	859	211	359	21
456	Fuzhou	China	377	316	545	660	655
457	Chiayi	Taiwan	741	805	192	729	72
458	Constantine	Algeria	536	365	336	591	862
459	Tehran	Iran	243	126	615	859	937
460	Banjarmasin	Indonesia	328	620	706	111	372
461	Bishkek	Kyrgyzstan	383	194	667	671	844
462	Urumqi	China	300	321	497	892	655
463	Campinas	Brazil	405	350	651	575	554
464	Adana	Turkey	431	568	396	632	596
465	Denizli	Turkey	570	534	317	679	596
466	Niigata	Japan	769	850	313	245	21
467	Hermosillo	Mexico	496	435	617	149	519
468	Utsunomiya	Japan	828	773	294	431	21
469	Skopje	North Macedonia	411	759	388	595	363
470	Davao City	Philippines	424	464	623	299	583
471	Jiangmen	China	414	340	469	741	655
472	Kunming	China	400	405	513	582	655
473	Juárez City	Mexico	438	488	655	173	519
474	Cebu City	Philippines	373	442	670	437	583
475	Kampala	Uganda	474	41	913	498	860

476–500

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
476	Alexandria	Egypt	526	208	481	695	830
477	Thrissur	India	334	611	584	468	415
478	Dakar	Senegal	498	283	658	479	594
479	Toyohashi	Japan	870	817	185	491	21
480	Cali	Colombia	333	452	825	197	404
481	Córdoba	Argentina	684	388	404	661	394
482	Beirut	Lebanon	283	287	512	719	924
483	Mérida	Mexico	413	517	647	350	519
484	Santa Cruz de la Sierra	Bolivia	390	232	625	685	854
485	Lagos	Nigeria	465	50	882	563	872
486	Iași	Romania	398	808	472	278	346
487	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	545	236	771	334	554
488	Mito	Japan	775	891	273	450	21
489	Kochi	India	404	419	701	607	415
490	Barranquilla	Colombia	510	252	841	220	404
491	Gaziantep	Turkey	521	381	421	770	596
492	Samarinda	Indonesia	649	455	598	119	372
493	Kahramanmaraş	Turkey	606	468	379	693	596
494	Mexicali	Mexico	508	299	778	244	519
495	Ulsan	South Korea	925	679	143	654	125
496	Kolkata	India	245	305	843	854	415
497	Querétaro	Mexico	463	430	691	383	519
498	Florianópolis	Brazil	585	379	654	250	554
499	Kozhikode	India	407	456	710	570	415
500	Batman	Turkey	613	490	349	772	596

501–525

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
501	Jiaxing	China	342	547	422	828	655
502	Tunis	Tunisia	737	216	613	493	514
503	Diyarbakır	Turkey	571	532	377	707	596
504	Bacolod	Philippines	433	589	624	208	583
505	Kagoshima	Japan	750	950	266	310	21
506	Cape Town	South Africa	523	97	963	478	353
507	Pohang	South Korea	856	822	151	603	125
508	Yichang	China	292	570	521	724	655
509	Pontianak	Indonesia	352	686	702	240	372
510	Catania	Italy	804	892	236	140	301
511	Mataram	Indonesia	464	526	757	154	372
512	Podgorica	Montenegro	866	730	250	242	351
513	Port Said	Egypt	687	335	553	129	830
514	Yerevan	Armenia	481	628	402	715	552
515	Dhaka	Bangladesh	286	178	696	930	903
516	Palermo	Italy	789	909	253	167	301
517	Toyama	Japan	835	871	270	515	21
518	Trujillo	Peru	485	596	498	559	506
519	La Paz	Bolivia	376	489	616	423	854
520	Kigali	Rwanda	543	184	895	290	553
521	Abidjan	Côte d'Ivoire	392	124	962	251	826
522	Tokushima	Japan	815	941	263	367	21
523	Suez	Egypt	584	327	500	611	830
524	Chiclayo	Peru	484	673	576	228	506
525	Culiacán	Mexico	422	582	687	398	519

526–550

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
526	Toluca	Mexico	388	445	797	505	519
527	Nouakchott	Mauritania	452	449	547	626	821
528	Nassau	Bahamas	668	540	812	30	341
529	Torreón	Mexico	568	502	631	361	519
530	Cagayan de Oro	Philippines	446	498	656	601	583
531	Tegucigalpa	Honduras	343	446	786	265	845
532	Tampico	Mexico	357	661	569	653	519
533	Belo Horizonte	Brazil	466	471	814	153	554
534	León	Mexico	462	595	718	213	519
535	Cochabamba	Bolivia	467	295	621	673	854
536	Guatemala City	Guatemala	267	434	847	606	654
537	Conakry	Guinea	520	308	582	328	918
538	Tiruchirappalli	India	318	670	744	558	415
539	Wakayama	Japan	877	873	288	449	21
540	Bucaramanga	Colombia	505	566	664	455	404
541	Kitakyushu	Japan	881	839	277	599	21
542	Jambi	Indonesia	475	565	811	116	372
543	San Luis Potosí	Mexico	537	584	568	470	519
544	Morelia	Mexico	435	711	604	391	519
545	Sarajevo	Bosnia and Herzegovina	544	870	286	397	815
546	Van	Turkey	840	443	316	720	596
547	Ganzhou	China	359	486	666	739	655
548	Takasaki	Japan	932	802	295	408	21
549	Tasikmalaya	Indonesia	397	676	788	233	372
550	Shymkent	Kazakhstan	629	346	444	898	622

551–575

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
551	Douala	Cameroon	533	275	550	448	930
552	Zhongshan	China	662	390	486	674	655
553	Lomé	Togo	503	145	936	204	843
554	Wuhu	China	298	586	580	890	655
555	Baghdad	Iraq	456	155	690	767	933
556	Lanzhou	China	374	522	535	907	655
557	Suqian	China	367	751	408	851	655
558	Chandigarh	India	307	474	871	750	415
559	Mombasa	Kenya	408	491	883	98	816
560	Malatya	Turkey	616	746	386	647	596
561	Durango	Mexico	579	592	707	264	519
562	Puducherry	India	640	451	719	551	415
563	Dar es Salaam	Tanzania	350	173	959	543	846
564	Coimbatore	India	506	326	839	692	415
565	Nantong	China	341	627	504	868	655
566	Can Tho	Vietnam	522	792	439	414	625
567	Cuernavaca	Mexico	492	577	720	545	519
568	Shenyang	China	634	297	522	887	655
569	Aguascalientes	Mexico	472	612	767	352	519
570	Numazu	Japan	885	975	198	386	21
571	Ahmedabad	India	379	347	881	795	415
572	Yinchuan	China	399	437	600	932	655
573	Puebla	Mexico	476	551	761	557	519
574	Chiang Mai	Thailand	664	695	395	783	392
575	Lviv	Ukraine	575	782	356	273	865

576–600

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
576	Madurai	India	428	515	808	681	415
577	Kharkiv	Ukraine	580	724	361	520	865
578	Caracas	Venezuela	519	323	648	145	985
579	Gumi	South Korea	884	927	177	629	125
580	Yueqing	China	327	745	502	825	655
581	Hohhot	China	553	476	470	856	655
582	Luanda	Angola	661	157	885	82	914
583	Putian	China	440	618	668	544	655
584	Oran	Algeria	892	485	297	428	862
585	Maputo	Mozambique	500	177	907	200	916
586	Dnipro	Ukraine	594	548	419	638	865
587	Harare	Zimbabwe	816	156	571	586	912
588	Sfax	Tunisia	758	681	507	179	514
589	Cancún	Mexico	547	740	694	175	519
590	Curitiba	Brazil	619	406	777	587	554
591	Cirebon	Indonesia	451	697	774	461	372
592	Wenzhou	China	495	700	450	708	655
593	Pereira	Colombia	502	685	772	335	404
594	Lusaka	Zambia	598	72	981	583	632
595	Changsha	China	658	478	454	814	655
596	Quanzhou	China	419	749	566	637	655
597	Ouagadougou	Burkina Faso	689	314	460	696	921
598	Bridgetown	Barbados	748	932	503	21	315
599	Fortaleza	Brazil	643	461	934	2	554
600	San Salvador	El Salvador	417	645	759	560	640

601–625

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
601	Cotonou	Benin	497	293	923	345	818
602	Paramaribo	Suriname	410	779	800	162	593
603	Saltillo	Mexico	809	470	709	268	519
604	Minsk	Belarus	906	772	173	317	857
605	Odesa	Ukraine	562	768	387	535	865
606	Chenzhou	China	511	601	570	753	655
607	Porto Alegre	Brazil	551	636	806	222	554
608	Libreville	Gabon	768	197	799	235	911
609	Pretoria	South Africa	567	211	946	773	353
610	Vellore	India	531	641	732	635	415
611	Ludhiana	India	385	519	844	863	415
612	Pekalongan	Indonesia	540	806	756	135	372
613	Havana	Cuba	703	823	366	453	824
614	Nashik	India	415	633	779	789	415
615	Nagpur	India	364	608	842	794	415
616	Tianjin	China	692	438	446	935	655
617	Celaya	Mexico	559	617	791	481	519
618	Cartagena	Colombia	730	542	765	477	404
619	São Gonçalo	Brazil	782	585	737	146	554
620	Dagupan	Philippines	632	516	785	585	583
621	Lianyungang	China	427	580	638	920	655
622	Tangier	Morocco	592	794	680	143	615
623	Kollam	India	453	922	533	518	415
624	Thiruvananthapuram	India	556	787	671	489	415
625	Ribeirão Preto	Brazil	637	607	743	542	554

626–650

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
626	Baixada Santista	Brazil	704	659	676	407	554
627	Mysuru	India	605	579	764	659	415
628	Durban	South Africa	601	174	985	429	353
629	Agadir	Morocco	727	564	665	523	615
630	Yaoundé	Cameroon	607	220	784	549	930
631	Oaxaca	Mexico	679	783	563	410	519
632	Dehradun	India	552	479	879	614	415
633	Erbil	Iraq	612	377	443	811	933
634	Jaipur	India	478	371	918	754	415
635	Managua	Nicaragua	717	310	751	412	890
636	Kumasi	Ghana	823	401	809	381	413
637	Fuyang	China	326	786	636	844	655
638	Blantyre	Malawi	509	221	942	717	642
639	Huai'an	China	409	704	605	896	655
640	São José dos Campos	Brazil	773	469	721	641	554
641	Isfahan	Iran	389	344	657	919	937
642	Reynosa	Mexico	673	693	724	469	519
643	Plovdiv	Bulgaria	790	886	403	536	366
644	Changzhou	China	534	665	456	927	655
645	Zunyi	China	382	812	601	777	655
646	Aurangabad	India	602	536	819	711	415
647	Islamabad-Rawalpindi	Pakistan	491	378	787	721	891
648	Kandy	Sri Lanka	818	680	517	349	637
649	Sorocaba	Brazil	686	588	736	648	554
650	El-Mansoura	Egypt	657	448	699	776	830

651–675

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
651	Ibagué	Colombia	564	715	801	572	404
652	Joinville	Brazil	742	575	803	370	554
653	Addis Ababa	Ethiopia	593	313	824	485	929
654	Shantou	China	674	654	622	668	655
655	Fes	Morocco	631	647	805	465	615
656	Dalian	China	666	663	452	888	655
657	Goiânia	Brazil	715	558	897	110	554
658	Veracruz	Mexico	708	698	731	539	519
659	Vitória-Vila Velha	Brazil	738	559	863	232	554
660	Irapuato	Mexico	561	775	802	409	519
661	Tyumen	Russia	566	578	544	512	949
662	Tanta	Egypt	690	467	758	689	830
663	Kingston	Jamaica	436	725	969	155	350
664	Bozhou	China	369	864	650	757	655
665	Mangaluru	India	587	788	722	655	415
666	Shangrao	China	501	815	585	705	655
667	Haiphong	Vietnam	712	895	326	882	625
668	Ashgabat	Turkmenistan	650	146	830	926	919
669	Monrovia	Liberia	844	246	862	402	842
670	Krasnodar	Russia	480	784	434	554	949
671	Marrakech	Morocco	722	667	716	576	615
672	Dushanbe	Tajikistan	555	213	912	801	859
673	Yulin	China	621	690	538	866	655
674	Yamoussoukro	Côte d'Ivoire	583	597	909	94	826
675	Solapur	India	591	727	823	640	415

676–700

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
676	Praia	Cape Verde	726	689	930	45	362
677	Cúcuta	Colombia	675	594	889	495	404
678	Baotou	China	697	614	453	955	655
679	Bulawayo	Zimbabwe	839	315	728	476	912
680	Freetown	Sierra Leone	919	649	423	253	850
681	Deyang	China	477	818	590	809	655
682	Qingyuan	China	615	718	689	725	655
683	Belagavi	India	609	789	792	533	415
684	Salem	India	539	651	857	748	415
685	Yancheng	China	416	797	715	827	655
686	Handan	China	441	691	704	941	655
687	Kathmandu	Nepal	670	562	840	639	635
688	Bloemfontein	South Africa	518	415	983	506	353
689	Erode	India	546	763	790	732	415
690	Xalapa	Mexico	709	674	747	733	519
691	Udaipur	India	581	747	755	821	415
692	Indore	India	380	644	957	697	415
693	Mahalla el-Kubra	Egypt	655	605	794	571	830
694	Binzhou	China	589	735	575	901	655
695	Kaifeng	China	459	793	634	893	655
696	Kottayam	India	807	865	475	540	415
697	Surat	India	633	483	834	938	415
698	Sousse	Tunisia	886	643	678	401	514
699	Vasai-Virar	India	434	664	921	742	415
700	Mykolaiv	Ukraine	783	881	385	372	865

701–725

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
701	Zaporizhzhia	Ukraine	718	854	390	620	865
702	Vadodara	India	499	638	852	889	415
703	Suzhou (Anhui)	China	386	820	620	957	655
704	Tiruppur	India	574	791	821	643	415
705	Maracaibo	Venezuela	448	625	816	229	985
706	Jalandhar	India	490	720	872	802	415
707	Hubballi-Dharwad	India	667	743	867	496	415
708	Meknes	Morocco	724	754	807	304	615
709	Acapulco	Mexico	688	845	770	358	519
710	Zhenjiang	China	720	606	482	977	655
711	Manaus	Brazil	714	533	915	530	554
712	Nanchong	China	483	894	630	749	655
713	Srinagar	India	694	683	835	703	415
714	Bhopal	India	445	692	940	683	415
715	Kolhapur	India	560	814	822	651	415
716	Natal	Brazil	797	610	941	17	554
717	Phnom Penh	Cambodia	647	320	906	781	853
718	Changchun	China	788	639	518	900	655
719	Bhubaneswar	India	595	652	892	737	415
720	Kazan	Russia	821	583	445	541	949
721	Georgetown	Guyana	719	729	904	139	592
722	Valencia	Venezuela	516	598	783	434	985
723	Lilongwe	Malawi	627	528	931	590	642
724	Kinshasa	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	822	154	869	509	994
725	Lucknow	India	641	493	929	808	415

726–750

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
726	Campo Grande	Brazil	814	576	866	500	554
727	Shijiazhuang	China	622	713	642	939	655
728	Qom	Iran	514	312	753	969	937
729	Taizhou (Zhejiang)	China	721	889	495	667	655
730	Bengbu	China	563	903	516	832	655
731	Luxor	Egypt	794	512	798	691	830
732	Xuchang	China	653	741	652	906	655
733	Dazhou	China	486	934	662	670	655
734	Qujing	China	542	825	708	800	655
735	Shiraz	Iran	549	396	762	895	937
736	Harbin	China	841	656	465	914	655
737	Yichun	China	528	861	740	706	655
738	Polokwane	South Africa	682	561	978	456	353
739	Guntur	India	625	893	793	581	415
740	Amravati	India	746	821	776	566	415
741	Abuja	Nigeria	695	190	953	786	872
742	Yuncheng	China	645	766	640	916	655
743	Guayana City	Venezuela	743	621	674	247	985
744	Vientiane	Lao PDR	842	780	431	738	851
745	Moradabad	India	698	694	833	831	415
746	Kimberley	South Africa	700	520	973	593	353
747	Amritsar	India	624	705	874	841	415
748	Bissau	Guinea-Bissau	740	503	920	271	861
749	Anyang	China	600	721	619	992	655
750	Zagazig	Egypt	869	447	795	701	830

751–775

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
751	Nam Dinh	Vietnam	778	931	420	788	625
752	Raipur	India	665	626	827	947	415
753	Jodhpur	India	710	717	850	792	415
754	Huaihua	China	550	897	693	768	655
755	Visakhapatnam	India	638	828	646	959	415
756	Cuiabá	Brazil	832	613	876	529	554
757	Bamako	Mali	554	531	916	357	932
758	Xiaogan	China	538	917	583	867	655
759	Shangqiu	China	535	826	683	931	655
760	Huanggang	China	588	879	574	922	655
761	Lu'an	China	529	847	603	968	655
762	Banjul	Gambia	805	603	888	417	819
763	Chattogram	Bangladesh	702	600	653	924	903
764	Prayagraj	India	735	744	837	813	415
765	Khartoum	Sudan	430	339	951	688	999
766	Bikaner	India	691	731	877	822	415
767	Gwalior	India	573	707	939	758	415
768	Warangal	India	626	966	698	672	415
769	Rostov-on-Don	Russia	801	719	492	577	949
770	Belém	Brazil	888	587	955	24	554
771	Matamoros	Mexico	863	655	826	627	519
772	Kannur	India	843	876	711	531	415
773	Mashhad	Iran	623	412	738	963	937
774	Guwahati	India	608	616	926	903	415
775	Makhachkala	Russia	837	771	493	260	949

776–800

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
776	Malabo	Equatorial Guinea	931	245	848	445	923
777	Mbabane	Eswatini	827	385	954	631	641
778	Zhanjiang	China	756	862	726	589	655
779	Rajshahi	Bangladesh	847	599	542	852	903
780	Jabalpur	India	636	831	902	642	415
781	Kalaburagi	India	813	716	868	722	415
782	Yangon	Myanmar	736	602	673	699	991
783	Patna	India	699	795	855	815	415
784	Bareilly	India	767	675	894	785	415
785	Hengshui	China	513	832	741	975	655
786	Aracaju	Brazil	967	593	924	5	554
787	Rasht	Iran	663	560	733	873	937
788	Huizhou	China	940	712	606	644	655
789	Recife	Brazil	903	671	950	13	554
790	Zhoukou	China	565	835	725	960	655
791	Ma'anshan	China	639	912	480	981	655
792	Ranchi	India	772	650	898	818	415
793	Tabriz	Iran	732	506	717	899	937
794	Yiwu	China	811	925	478	756	655
795	Cuttack	India	620	816	884	838	415
796	Jiangyin	China	628	900	587	954	655
797	Kota	India	525	699	914	976	415
798	Berhampore	India	654	838	870	803	415
799	Kermanshah	Iran	678	552	760	865	937
800	Villahermosa	Mexico	987	543	739	652	519

801–825

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
801	Yekaterinburg	Russia	874	696	491	592	949
802	Onitsha	Nigeria	791	338	937	678	872
803	Lahore	Pakistan	596	684	845	848	891
804	Aligarh	India	739	722	896	869	415
805	Arusha	Tanzania	646	687	970	285	846
806	João Pessoa	Brazil	956	714	903	18	554
807	Basra	Iraq	618	492	856	897	933
808	Jammu	India	792	774	887	712	415
809	Novosibirsk	Russia	806	677	628	686	949
810	Huzhou	China	838	908	479	823	655
811	Khulna	Bangladesh	831	541	612	974	903
812	Xiangyang	China	796	901	496	917	655
813	Voronezh	Russia	860	738	505	613	949
814	Asyut	Egypt	862	615	828	709	830
815	Huainan	China	611	907	577	989	655
816	Guilin	China	875	877	474	819	655
817	Owerri	Nigeria	854	234	967	596	872
818	General Santos	Philippines	887	899	752	416	583
819	Grande São Luís	Brazil	980	550	933	33	554
820	Yantai	China	864	882	459	885	655
821	Gorakhpur	India	774	769	864	870	415
822	Zibo	China	802	837	484	985	655
823	Zamboanga City	Philippines	946	750	838	282	583
824	Rajkot	India	770	829	886	702	415
825	Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)	India	812	737	899	774	415

826–850

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
826	Maracay	Venezuela	672	824	773	297	985
827	Meerut	India	761	742	893	871	415
828	Gomel	Belarus	993	872	339	516	857
829	Port Moresby	Papua New Guinea	930	273	971	405	823
830	Antananarivo	Madagascar	572	529	984	574	852
831	Barquisimeto	Venezuela	648	790	813	471	985
832	Varanasi	India	755	781	831	952	415
833	Tuxtla Gutiérrez	Mexico	970	708	766	625	519
834	Sylhet	Bangladesh	744	800	763	735	903
835	Puyang	China	771	910	530	948	655
836	Jining	China	817	929	551	842	655
837	Ufa	Russia	935	660	540	526	949
838	Zhumadian	China	760	843	769	875	655
839	Urmia	Iran	671	556	810	933	937
840	Faiyum	Egypt	926	591	780	787	830
841	Karachi	Pakistan	731	635	860	860	891
842	Bobo-Dioulasso	Burkina Faso	780	827	748	602	921
843	Jiaozuo	China	861	702	675	982	655
844	Jamshedpur	India	763	767	880	934	415
845	Linfen	China	747	874	679	949	655
846	Kitwe	Zambia	880	322	972	790	632
847	Tomsk	Russia	868	761	607	584	949
848	Mwanza	Tanzania	729	785	966	171	846
849	Ndola	Zambia	853	343	975	829	632
850	Enugu	Nigeria	950	331	901	609	872

851–875

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
851	Yueyang	China	800	867	649	943	655
852	Asansol	India	614	887	851	979	415
853	Bhilai Nagar	India	713	748	846	998	415
854	Salvador	Brazil	960	736	945	26	554
855	Tangshan	China	707	954	562	967	655
856	Xining	China	845	869	639	909	655
857	Ahvaz	Iran	928	458	597	913	937
858	Bhavnagar	India	849	915	789	751	415
859	Bujumbura	Burundi	819	429	965	534	927
860	Zhangjiagang	China	810	902	539	983	655
861	Agra	India	896	765	849	837	415
862	Niamey	Niger	776	701	917	550	920
863	Gaya	India	793	911	861	791	415
864	Tai'an	China	898	964	409	912	655
865	Beira	Mozambique	652	538	989	203	916
866	Sohag	Egypt	865	757	873	675	830
867	Yangzhou	China	867	935	541	881	655
868	Zhuzhou	China	913	896	527	883	655
869	Nizhny Novgorod	Russia	936	857	458	399	949
870	Luoyang	China	897	884	554	929	655
871	Kerman	Iran	836	454	730	994	937
872	Saharanpur	India	826	841	910	779	415
873	Irkutsk	Russia	858	844	591	666	949
874	Huambo	Angola	871	657	944	201	914
875	Brazzaville	Congo	872	266	980	649	925

876–900

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
876	Huangshi	China	833	858	595	996	655
877	Buffalo City	South Africa	834	648	994	342	353
878	Maceió	Brazil	959	885	919	23	554
879	Pointe-Noire	Congo	934	546	949	77	925
880	Zhaoqing	China	979	898	534	704	655
881	Ibadan	Nigeria	895	382	943	797	872
882	Xuzhou	China	889	868	632	946	655
883	Cumilla	Bangladesh	781	801	804	876	903
884	Krasnoyarsk	Russia	907	642	729	762	949
885	Weihai	China	922	990	414	752	655
886	Gqeberha	South Africa	883	539	995	444	353
887	Maseru	Lesotho	848	495	991	690	369
888	Langfang	China	851	949	564	937	655
889	Xiangtan	China	908	878	526	972	655
890	Mianyang	China	927	972	489	747	655
891	Faizabad	India	820	943	858	830	415
892	Datong	China	891	906	523	987	655
893	Nellore	India	787	997	815	636	415
894	Peshawar	Pakistan	659	834	908	807	891
895	Mymensingh	Bangladesh	734	799	829	940	903
896	Dodoma	Tanzania	784	770	979	411	846
897	Tripoli	Libya	963	523	820	457	998
898	Zhangzhou	China	945	940	669	680	655
899	Kanpur	India	803	803	952	911	415
900	Linyi	China	911	962	441	961	655

901–925

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
901	Penza	Russia	941	905	536	439	949
902	Huaibei	China	905	926	557	962	655
903	Muzaffarpur	India	725	921	890	970	415
904	Maoming	China	917	956	685	746	655
905	Teresina	Brazil	971	875	960	11	554
906	Saratov	Russia	933	840	629	565	949
907	Lubumbashi	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	762	535	968	664	994
908	Hardoi	India	876	947	859	775	415
909	Zahedan	Iran	754	710	836	950	937
910	Weifang	China	924	936	438	991	655
911	Multan	Pakistan	617	866	911	891	891
912	Dongying	China	878	971	515	945	655
913	Chelyabinsk	Russia	947	819	537	740	949
914	Liuzhou	China	953	930	525	925	655
915	Qinhuangdao	China	943	951	560	877	655
916	Xinxiang	China	918	852	681	984	655
917	Vladivostok	Russia	904	916	548	718	949
918	Izhevsk	Russia	951	944	451	564	949
919	Zaozhuang	China	873	973	519	973	655
920	Sangli	India	859	987	832	687	415
921	Yaroslavl	Russia	916	974	455	527	949
922	Kabul	Afghanistan	759	432	958	910	1000
923	Ulyanovsk	Russia	962	880	543	605	949
924	Touba	Senegal	786	991	922	394	594
925	Aba	Nigeria	882	431	982	764	872

926–950

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
926	Bogura	Bangladesh	902	890	723	839	903
927	Tula	Russia	952	920	473	663	949
928	Ryazan	Russia	961	923	485	598	949
929	Khabarovsk	Russia	923	918	663	548	949
930	Quetta	Pakistan	757	948	878	734	891
931	Jingzhou	China	944	952	594	928	655
932	Vijayawada	India	893	988	746	879	415
933	Heze	China	857	978	589	986	655
934	Jiujiang	China	915	965	596	956	655
935	Mardan	Pakistan	749	928	905	755	891
936	Cangzhou	China	850	981	688	944	655
937	Djibouti City	Djibouti	524	957	976	354	928
938	Anshan	China	955	933	520	988	655
939	Nanyang	China	929	959	592	953	655
940	N'Djamena	Chad	910	481	948	778	983
941	Asmara	Eritrea	977	545	961	121	984
942	Perm	Russia	973	848	703	547	949
943	Faisalabad	Pakistan	753	856	927	857	891
944	Omsk	Russia	912	888	705	745	949
945	Baoji	China	976	945	660	846	655
946	Mandalay	Myanmar	879	855	745	796	991
947	Abbottabad	Pakistan	764	955	932	556	891
948	Hengyang	China	964	983	510	894	655
949	Nay Pyi Taw	Myanmar	969	733	782	736	991
950	Volgograd	Russia	994	853	494	682	949

951–975

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
951	Rizhao	China	966	998	483	810	655
952	Hyderabad	Pakistan	795	913	900	855	891
953	Shahjahanpur	India	855	860	875	999	415
954	Bangui	Central African Republic	901	459	977	616	997
955	Yibin	China	978	977	565	864	655
956	Port Harcourt	Nigeria	899	306	990	853	872
957	Ilorin	Nigeria	981	497	974	597	872
958	Liaocheng	China	949	946	586	995	655
959	Taizhou (Jiangsu)	China	937	996	609	843	655
960	Sialkot	Pakistan	808	914	947	716	891
961	Jinzhou	China	991	942	635	886	655
962	Xianyang	China	920	970	714	951	655
963	Jilin	China	988	924	588	978	655
964	Ogbomosho	Nigeria	968	672	956	665	872
965	Dhanbad	India	984	734	925	966	415
966	Xinyang	China	939	989	552	958	655
967	Qiqihar	China	992	980	531	849	655
968	Changde	China	957	984	661	908	655
969	Xingtai	China	909	982	686	980	655
970	Zhangjiakou	China	958	992	567	923	655
971	Mbuji-Mayi	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	894	637	986	141	994
972	Benin City	Nigeria	954	239	993	850	872
973	Abeokuta	Nigeria	938	475	987	646	872
974	Baoding	China	983	953	618	964	655
975	Orenburg	Russia	974	937	742	510	949

976–1000

Rank	City	Country	Economics	Human Capital	Quality of Life	Environment	Governance
976	Gujranwala	Pakistan	830	939	928	805	891
977	Pingdingshan	China	982	960	633	971	655
978	Astrakhan	Russia	985	958	524	710	949
979	Kaduna	Nigeria	824	440	997	902	872
980	Barnaul	Russia	948	919	749	780	949
981	Jos	Nigeria	900	500	988	833	872
982	Zhaotong	China	975	994	735	744	655
983	Chifeng	China	995	985	556	878	655
984	Anqing	China	942	993	558	993	655
985	Samara	Russia	1000	851	578	579	949
986	Shaoyang	China	972	986	672	942	655
987	Bokaro	India	921	904	865	1000	415
988	Daqing	China	998	967	602	921	655
989	Fushun	China	996	961	555	990	655
990	Lipetsk	Russia	965	969	559	905	949
991	Zaria	Nigeria	852	465	1000	840	872
992	Kano	Nigeria	846	609	996	884	872
993	Dezhou	China	990	976	695	997	655
994	Novokuznetsk	Russia	989	968	754	799	949
995	Maiduguri	Nigeria	890	849	992	728	872
996	Guigang	China	997	1000	682	936	655
997	Port-au-Prince	Haiti	799	938	999	199	936
998	Weinan	China	986	999	768	965	655
999	Sultanpur (Uttar Pradesh)	India	999	995	935	847	415
1000	Sokoto	Nigeria	914	979	998	617	872

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