

London solidifies lead, New York rises fast and Tokyo retains 3rd in global rankings

The Mori Memorial Foundation's GPCI 2018 Report ranks the world's 44 most attractive cities



Tokyo, October 18, 2018 — London, New York, Tokyo and Paris were again named the world's most comprehensively attractive cities, in that order, in the Global Power City Index (GPCI) 2018 report published today by [The Mori Memorial Foundation's Institute for Urban Strategies](#), a research body established by [Mori Building](#), a leading urban developer in Tokyo. The annual GPCI report has ranked 44 major cities in terms of “magnetism,” or overall power to attract creative individuals and enterprises from around the world, since 2008. Cities are rated in terms of 70 indicators in six categories: Economy, R&D, Cultural Interaction, Livability, Environment, and Accessibility. Although the top rankings did not change significantly this year, the results reflect ongoing changes in global trends and how major cities are driving these changes.

London stands alone, New York rises fast, Tokyo creates separation and Paris recovers

The top four cities remain unchanged from last year, with London, New York, Tokyo and Paris maintaining their respective one-through-four positions. **London** continued to surge ahead and even increase its score by further leveraging the undiminished momentum of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The city upgraded its previously weakest category, Livability, and continued to show overwhelming strength in Cultural Interaction. While uncertainty exists regarding the U.K.'s exit from the EU, balanced strengths across several categories give London the potential to turn challenges into opportunities, extend its commanding lead and continue forward as the top-ranked city.

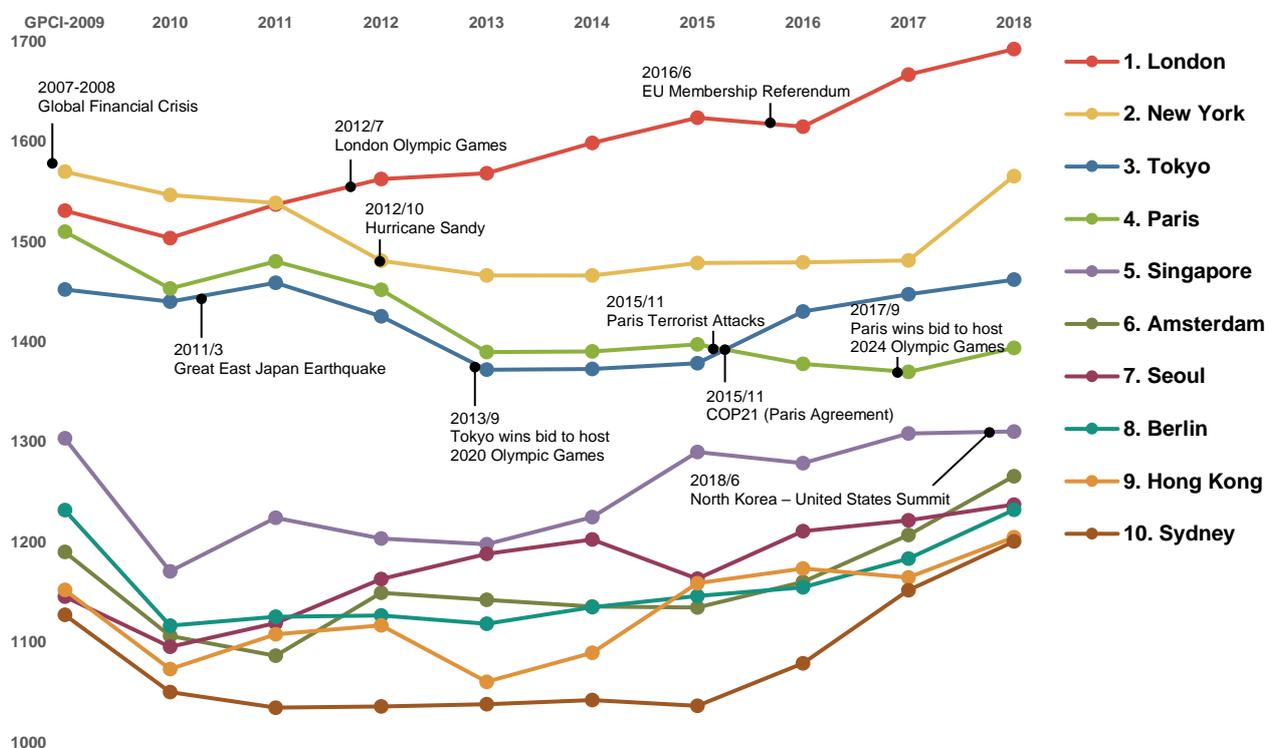
With the global financial crisis finally behind it, **New York** marked its highest one-year score increase since the GPCI rankings began, as it benefits from the effects of a strong evaluation in Startup Environment and Variety of Workplace Options. New York also maintained its top position in the both field of Research & Development, and Economy due to improved results in Corporate Tax Rate. Trade friction and the negative impact on U.S. GDP growth could influence New York's future ranking. Environment and Livability remain significant weaknesses. **Tokyo** broke into the top 10 for Livability due to an improvement in Total Working Hours, helping to put the city in the top 10 in all categories except Environment. Tokyo has now boosted its score every year since 2015. However, scored relatively low in Commitment to Climate Action and dropped from #12 to #29 in Environment. Much attention will be focused on whether Tokyo, like London, can continue to build on its score before and after hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020. **Paris**, after slipping to fourth following multiple terrorist attacks in 2015, recovered to boost its overall score, including in Number of Foreign Visitors. With the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games now official, Paris will likely compete with Tokyo for Games-related growth.

Other Highlights (Cities from #5)

- **Singapore** (#5), which has long dominated Economic Freedom, Corporate Tax Rate, and International Conferences, now ranks first globally in Employee Life Satisfaction and first in Asia for Startup Environment. Improvements in Number of Foreign Visitors and high scores in Number of Foreign Residents established Singapore as Asia’s leading international business hub.
- **Amsterdam** (#6) continues to be ranked favorably as a supportive, tech-ready city for business. The city was first in ICT Readiness and eighth in Startup Environment, and was evaluated as offering a high quality of life, including ranking second in Employee Life Satisfaction behind only Singapore. Amsterdam, along with nearby **Frankfurt** (#15), also gained a high rank in Accessibility (6th overall), by providing excellent connectivity to international cities through direct flights and short Travel Time to International Airports from its city center.
- **Seoul** (#7) remained in the overall top 10 and once again scored highly as an elite city for Research and Development. A prime location for innovation, Seoul ranked third in Number of Researchers, fifth in Research and Development Expenditure, and second in Number of Patents. In the Environment category, it led all Asian cities in Commitment to Climate Action (14th overall) and Waste Recycle Rate (1st overall).
- **Berlin** (#8) achieved a well-balanced score, including a top ranking in Livability as well as sixth overall in Cultural Interaction for its abundant opportunities in this category. Berlin possesses strengths in Environment, leading Europe (fourth overall) in Waste Recycle Rate and first among the top 10 (fifth overall) in Green Coverage.
- **Hong Kong** (#9), known for its economic and financial power, was fifth overall in the Economy category. Business-friendly policies placed the city first in Economic Freedom and second in Corporate Tax Rate, following only **Dubai** (#29). Thanks to its well-functioning port, Hong Kong was first in International Freight Flows. It was also first in Asia (third overall) in World’s Top Universities.
- **Sydney** (#10) flexed its strong economy to score fifth in Economic Freedom and seventh in Variety of Workplace Options. It also excelled in Environment, ranking first among the GPCI top 10. Its excellent air quality was rated first in SO2 and NO2 Density and fourth in SPM Density. Sydney was also sixth in Commitment to Climate Action.
- Several cities in North America ranked highly in Economy and Environment, while London, New York and Tokyo all increased their Livability rankings. Among European cities traditionally strong in Livability and Environment, **Amsterdam** (#6) and **Stockholm** (#11) performed well in the Economy category to increase their overall scores and elevate their rankings. Many North American and European cities increased their overall scores with strong performances in new indicators such as Working Styles, Startups and Commitment to the Environment. Conversely, many Asian cities were slower to adapt to new requirements for global cities.
- North American cities rose dramatically this year, buoyed by bullish economic conditions and reduced corporate taxes. All U.S. cities saw their GPCI scores increase. **San Francisco** climbed from #17 to #13 thanks to strong scores in Economy and Environment, while **Los Angeles** (#12), **Chicago** (#19), **Boston** (#20) and **Washington, DC** (#27) also improved their scores from last year.
- Canadian cities **Toronto** (#14) and **Vancouver** (#21) improved in Economy, Livability, and Environment, with Toronto achieving the largest overall increase in score among all 44 GPCI cities.

- Cities in Asia and the Middle East boast a high number of facilities supporting visitors, evident from the indicators Number of Luxury Hotel Guest Rooms and Number of Hotels in which 8 of the top 10 cities are located in these regions. **Bangkok** (#36) boosts top positions in both indicators, while **Dubai** (#29), **Shanghai** (#26) and **Singapore** (#5) round out the top 4 in Number of Luxury Hotel Guest Rooms. **Beijing** (#23), **Kuala Lumpur** (#32) and **Jakarta** (#41) also gained high scores in Number of Hotels.
- Any other cities that raised their overall rankings from last year included **Zurich** (#18 to #16), **Copenhagen** (#20 to #18), **Madrid** (#27 to #22), **Geneva** (#34 to #30), **Milan** (#32 to #31), **Moscow** (#35 to #33), **Taipei** (#36 to #35), **Buenos Aires** (#40 to #38) and **Johannesburg** (#44 to #42).

Top-10 GPCI Cities (2009-2018)



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GPCI Comprehensive Rankings (44 Cities)

