

Cities of Opportunity 6

Singapore

Asia's leading city leaps to #3

1st in 2 indicators



Cities of Opportunity 6 analyzes the development of 30 global cities, and through their performance seeks to add insight on the policies and actions that make cities function best.

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Singapore leaps 4 places in the overall rankings from 7th place in 2012. It once again ranks highest among Asian cities in the report, and is 1 of only 4 cities—including London, Stockholm, and Sydney—to rank 1st in more than 1 indicator. Generally, Singapore scores in the top 10 in 7 of our 10 indicators.

#1 in doing business...

Singapore remains at the very top in ease of doing business with policies that attract and retain business investment. Its performance here is extraordinarily consistent, with the city ranking in the top 5 in 7 of the 8 variables (falling out of that elite group only in number of foreign missions). It:

- Ranks 1st in ease of entry, level of shareholder protection, and operational risk climate;
- Ranks 2nd in resolving insolvency and workforce management risk;
- Ranks 3rd in ease of starting a business; and
- Ranks 5th in employee regulations.

Overall



Ease of doing business



Transportation and infrastructure

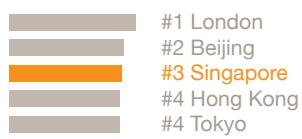


...and in the quality of its transport and infrastructure

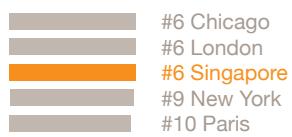
Singapore also tops the rankings in transportation and infrastructure, as it did in 2012, finishing in the top 10 in 5 out of the 6 variables. Specifically, it:

- Ranks 1st in housing, arguably the most important variable in the indicator;
- Ties for 3rd with Paris, Stockholm and Berlin in public transport systems;
- Scores 6th in major construction activity; and
- Finishes in 10th place in mass transit coverage and licensed taxis.

City gateway



Health, safety and security



3rd most important global gateway after London and Beijing

Improving 6 places on its 9th-place ranking in 2012, Singapore ranks 3rd out of our 30 cities in the city gateway indicator. It:

- Ranks 1st in top 100 airports;
- Comes in 2nd in international tourists; and
- Finishes 3rd in international association meetings—the only non-European city in the top 5.

The only Asian city in the top 10 in health, safety and security

Singapore ties for 6th in this indicator with Chicago and London, and is the only Asian city in the top 10. It also finishes in 2nd place for lowest crime, as well as for best health system.

Beats both Paris and New York in demographics and livability

Singapore ties Hong Kong for 5th in this indicator, scoring higher than Paris, Stockholm, Toronto, Chicago, and New York.

Areas for improvement: Costs and environmental sustainability

Singapore's lowest ranking in any indicator is in cost, in which it finishes 19th, in the bottom half of the table. Scoring 17th in the iPhone index, 20th in business occupancy and purchasing power, and 25th in cost of living confirms the need to improve its competitiveness in this critical indicator.

Singapore also falls into the bottom half of the ranking (tied with Mexico City for 16th) in sustainability and the natural environment, although it finishes in the top 10 (#10) in clean air. Improving its performance in both recycling and public park space would raise its overall score in this particular indicator.