

Cities of Opportunity 6

Milan

#18 globally

#1 in financial services, #4 in health system

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.

Released May 2014

#18 globally/#1 in financial services, #4 in health system

The capital of Italian fashion maintains its #1 rank from 2012 in financial and business services employment and also scores an impressive #4 for its health services. Although it dips slightly in the overall rankings, Milan remains in the top half for a third of all variables.

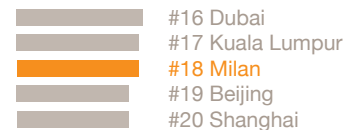
A stylish financial dynamo...

Milan employs more people in financial and business services than any other city, and ranks in the top 10 in both productivity (#10) and flight departures (#4). The city also scores well, just slipping out of the top 10, in 2 important variables that measure livability: quality of living (#11) and cultural vibrancy (#12). It is no surprise, then, that the pride of Lombardy is also the 14th most attractive global city, beating out tourist magnets such as Stockholm, Dubai, Rio de Janeiro, and Buenos Aires.

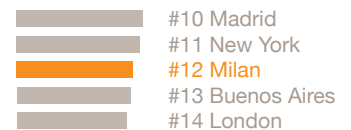
...but the city falls out of the top 10 in 2 quality-of-life indicators

At #12 in each indicator, Milan misses the top 10 in health, safety and security and sustainability and the natural environment. Its fall is particularly notable in sustainability, in which it ranked #5 in 2012. Still, the city ranks 13th in public parks and recycling.

Overall



Sustainability and the natural environment



Health, safety and security



Milan also falls 2 places from its 2012 10th-place in health, safety and security—although it ranks 4th globally for its health system. It also finishes #12 in crime, outscoring London, Paris, and every US city.

Preparing for the technological future

Milan's single biggest improvement this year is in broadband quality, with a 12-rank advance to #6 globally, right behind Berlin and ahead of not only Madrid and Paris, but also Tokyo and New York. Milan also rises 3 places since 2012 in software development.

The main challenge: Improve the business climate and raise GDP

Milan lands in or near the bottom 5 in 7 variables, with scores that are largely unchanged since or worse than in 2012. The only areas in which it has made significant gains are broadband quality and math/science skills. Of course, these results are undoubtedly due, to a significant extent, to the eurozone crisis—which, fortunately, finally seems to be slowly coming to an end. In the event, Milan's most immediate concern should be to create—or re-establish—a more favorable business climate, especially considering that the city has:

- The lowest working age population of all cities in this report;
- The 2nd lowest GDP growth (after Madrid);
- The 3rd least flexible employee regulations—although, interestingly, Milan fares better than London in this variable;
- The 4th lowest construction activity, but 4th highest total corporate taxes;
- The 5th lowest score in Internet access for schoolchildren; and
- The 7th highest living costs, behind not only Toronto, but also New York and San Francisco.

With a business environment that supports enhanced growth, however, it should be easier for the city to begin tackling all of its other issues.

Technology readiness

