

2007 MasterCard Worldwide Centers of Commerce Index™

Singapore

Singapore ranks sixth in the MasterCard Worldwide Centers of Commerce Index; among Asia/Pacific cities in the Index, it ranks third. The Index compares the world's 50 leading cities against six dimensions that measure their ability to connect markets and commerce globally and is compiled from research by a panel of eight independent economic, urban development and social-science experts from leading academic and research institutions around the world.

Legal and Political Framework Ranking^{*}: 1 in Asia/Pacific, 3 overall

- Singapore ranks behind only Sweden and Denmark in this dimension.
- Singapore is among the top five cities in terms of ease of dealing with licenses.
- With the lowest import cost per container of goods and the least time taken for a cargo of imported goods to arrive, Singapore is the third easiest country overall for trading to take place across borders.
- Singapore has the highest Moody's Foreign Currency Government Bond Rating of Aaa.

Economic Stability Ranking^{*}: 1 in Asia/Pacific, 11 overall

- Among all the countries ranked, Singapore has the most stable exchange rate.
- Singapore has one of the most stable inflation rates in Asia/Pacific, second only to Japan.

Ease of Doing Business Ranking: 1 in Asia/Pacific, 4 overall

- Singapore ranks above London and New York in this dimension.
- Singapore holds the top global rating in investor protection, defined as protecting minority shareholders from the misuse of corporate assets by directors for their personal gain.
- Singapore holds the top rating in terms of basic utilities and transportation services provided.
- Singapore's corporate tax is among the lowest in Asia/Pacific, higher only than Hong Kong's.
- The city scores highest out of all cities in Asia/Pacific in terms of health and safety.

Financial Flow Ranking: 7 in Asia/Pacific, 16 overall

- Singapore ranks behind Asian cities Tokyo, Seoul, Mumbai, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Sydney in this dimension.

^{*} This dimension is comprised of country-level data only.

- While the volume of equities traded in Singapore is lower than that in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Sydney, the city ranks higher than these markets volume of bond transactions.

###

(c) 2007 MasterCard

Business Center Ranking: 2 in Asia/Pacific, 3 overall

- Singapore scores above key business centers New York and Tokyo in this dimension.
- Singapore ranks sixth globally in terms of the number of international air passenger traffic through its airports.
- Singapore ranks third in commercial real estate development; its ratio of high rise buildings to total buildings is 1.68 times that of New York.
- Singapore ranks fifth globally as a destination for conventions, exhibitions and meetings, and hosted a third more ICAA Association Meetings in 2005 than Hong Kong.

Knowledge Creation and Information Flow Ranking: 3 in Asia/Pacific, 18 overall

- Singapore scores above Hong Kong in this dimension, but is behind Tokyo and Seoul.
- Singapore leads Hong Kong in patent applications per million people but is behind Japan, Korea and Australia, scoring fourth in the region.
- The term "Singapore" receives the most Google hits (in all languages) of all cities in Asia/Pacific, ranking eleventh globally. It receives 5.7 times more than Hong Kong, almost twice that of Bangkok and 1.5 times that of Shanghai.

Asia/Pacific cities included in the top 50 Worldwide Centers of Commerce are Bangkok, Beijing, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Melbourne, Mumbai, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney and Tokyo.

###