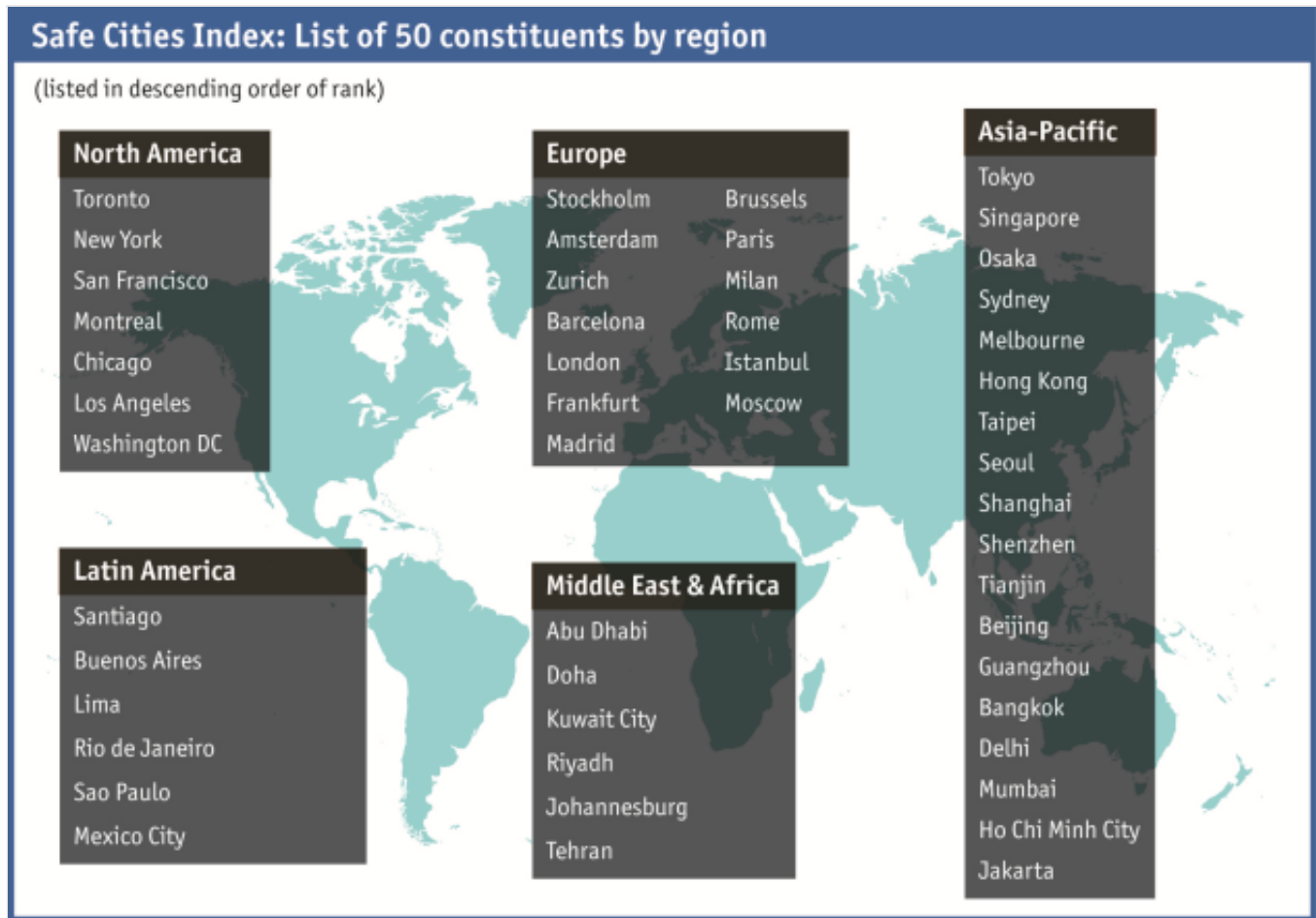


## 20 safest cities in the world, 2015



*The Economist Intelligence Unit ranked these 50 cities for overall safety in four categories.*

The world is increasingly urban, a trend that's expected to continue for decades. In the United States, at least 80 percent of the population lives in a city or suburb.

Those concentrations of people create economies of scale but also risks, like violent crime, contagious diseases, even digital network vulnerabilities.

The Economist Intelligence Unit ranked the 50 cities listed above for overall safety, using an index of indicators in four categories. (The 50 indexed cities were chosen partly for how representative they were of their region and partly for whether data points were accessible.) All five of the U.S. cities on the list showed up in the top 20, but only one — New York — appeared in the top 10.

The four categories:

**Personal safety.** The most obvious category, this one takes into account illegal activity, police engagement and the prevalence of violent crime. No U.S. city shows up in the top 10 worldwide, though Toronto does, at No. 7. Singapore is No. 1. Of the five U.S. cities in the index, Washington ranks highest

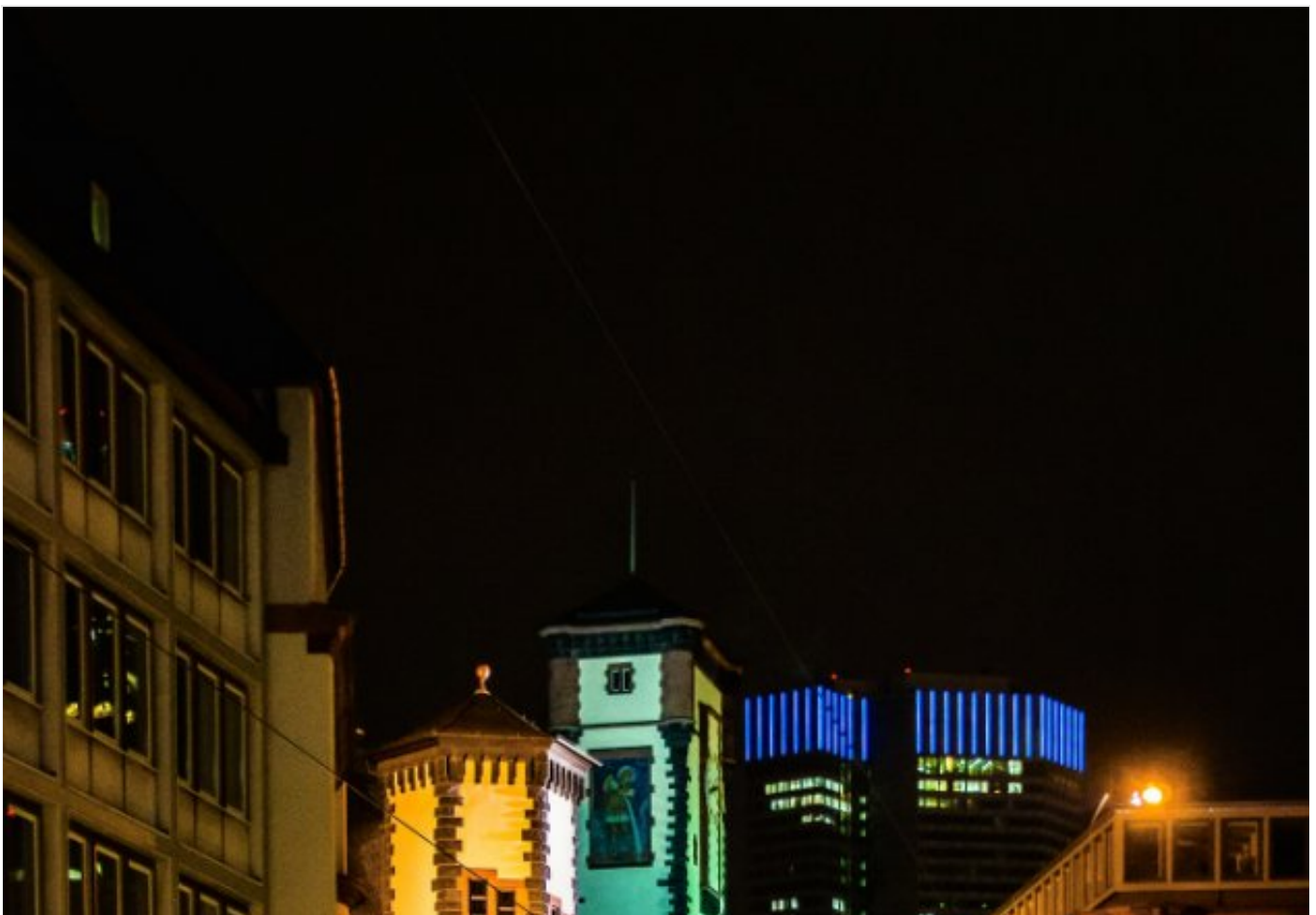
at No. 17, followed by San Francisco at 21, Los Angeles at 23, Chicago at 25 and New York at 28.

**Health security.** Data that went into this measurement included the ratio of hospitals to population size and residents' life expectancy. Surprisingly, New York comes in at No. 2 — the only North American city to show up in this category's top 10, which is dominated by European cities. Zurich is No. 1.

**Infrastructure safety.** This category measures factors including road quality, car accidents and pedestrian deaths per year, deaths from natural disasters, and the percentage of the population living in urban slums. The only U.S. city in the top 10, San Francisco, just barely makes it there, tying with Abu Dhabi for No. 10.

**Digital security.** Here, the United States has its best showing, with four out of its five indexed cities appearing in the top 10. (Alarmingly, it's the nation's capital that does not have a strong enough score.) The presence of cyber security teams contributes to a higher score in this category, while a high frequency of identity theft and large amounts of money lost to online crime are a couple of the factors that drive a score down. New York (3) and L.A. (6) both beat out San Francisco in this category, possibly because the tech hub's extensive reliance on digital technology also creates vulnerabilities.

These are the 20 safest cities:





*(Photo: J. Heribert Pohl, Flickr)*

## 20. FRANKFURT, GERMANY

*(Photo: Frank Friedrichs, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 73.05 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 16 out of 50 cities

**Health security ranking:** 4 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 20 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 33 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 79

## 19. WASHINGTON, D.C.

*(Photo: Darshan Vaishnav, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 73.37 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 17 out of 50 cities

**Health security ranking:** 19 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 29 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 15 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 76

*(Photo: Conor Ogle, Flickr)*

## 18. LONDON

*(Photo: Christian, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 73.83 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 12 out of 50 cities

**Health security ranking:** 22 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 25 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 16 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 82

*(Photo: Neil Kremer, Flickr)*

## 17. LOS ANGELES

*(Photo: Michael Smith, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 74.24 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 23 out of 50 cities

**Health security ranking:** 26 out of 50  
cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 19 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 6 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 80

*(Photo: Trey Ratcliff, Flickr)*

## 16. CHICAGO

*(Photo: Zach Ellerbrook, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 74.89 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 25 out of 50 cities

**Health security ranking:** 23 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 13 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 10 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 78

*(Photo: Pablo Fernandez, Flickr)*

## 15. BARCELONA, SPAIN

**Safest Cities Index score:** 75.16 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 11 out of 50 cities

**Health security ranking:** 7 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 14 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 29 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 82

## 14. MONTREAL, CANADA

*(Photo: Michael Vesia, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 75.6 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 29 out of 50 cities

**Health security ranking:** 20 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 6 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 11 out of 50 cities (tied with Toronto)

**Life expectancy:** 81

## 13. TAIPEI, TAIWAN

*(Photo: Kah-Wai Lin, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 76.51 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 5 out of 50

cities

**Health security ranking:** 9 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 22 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 21 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 83

*(Photo: Trey Ratcliff, Flickr)*

## 12. SAN FRANCISCO

*(Photo: Thomas Hawk, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 76.63 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 21 out of 50 cities

**Health security ranking:** 16 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 10 out of 50 cities (tied with Abu Dhabi)

**Digital security ranking:** 8 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 80

*(Photo: Spreng Ben, Flickr)*

## 11. HONG KONG

*(Photo: Thomas Birke, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 77.24 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 6 out of 50 cities

**Health security ranking:** 15 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 40 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 4 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 84

*(Photo: Pablo Fernandez, Flickr)*

## 10. NEW YORK CITY

*(Photo: Axel Taferner, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 78.08 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 28 out of 50 cities

**Health security ranking:** 2 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 16 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 3 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 81

## 9. MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

**Safest Cities Index score:** 78.67 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 8 out of 50 cities

**Health security ranking:** 14 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 2 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 20 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 86

*(Photo: John Ryan, Flickr)*

## 8. TORONTO, CANADA

*(Photo: Paul Bica, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 78.81 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 7 out of 50

cities

**Health security ranking:** 21 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 8 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 11 out of 50 cities (tied with Montreal)

**Life expectancy:** 81

*(Photo: Juan Rubiano, Flickr)*

## 7. ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

*(Photo: Reto Fetz, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 78.84 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 13 out of 50 cities

**Health security ranking:** 1 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 1 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 19 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 84

*(Photo: Brian Yap, Flickr)*

## 6. SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

*(Photo: Pedro Szekely, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 78.91 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 10 out of 50 cities

**Health security ranking:** 17 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 3 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 14 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 81

## 5. AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

*(Photo: Claudio A. Mufarrege, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 79.19 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 9 out of 50

cities

**Health security ranking:** 13 out of 50

cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 4 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 17 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 82

*(Photo: Hector Melo A., Flickr)*

#### **4. STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN**

*(Photo: Dennis Jarvis, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 80.02 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 4 out of 50  
cities

**Health security ranking:** 10 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 21 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 7 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 82

*(Photo: Christopher Chan, Flickr)*

#### **3. OSAKA, JAPAN**

**Safest Cities Index score:** 82.36 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 2 out of 50  
cities

**Health security ranking:** 6 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 12 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 5 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 83

*(Photo: William Cho, Flickr)*

#### **2. SINGAPORE**

*(Photo: William Cho, Flickr)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 84.61 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 1 out of 50  
cities

**Health security ranking:** 12 out of 50  
cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 7 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 2 out of 50



cities

**Life expectancy: 82**

*(Photo: Loic Lagarde, Flickr)*

## 1. TOKYO

*(Photo: DILLEmma Photography)*

**Safest Cities Index score:** 85.63 out of 100 (with 100 the best possible)

**Personal safety ranking:** 3 out of 50 cities

**Health security ranking:** 8 out of 50 cities

**Infrastructure safety ranking:** 5 out of 50 cities

**Digital security ranking:** 1 out of 50 cities

**Life expectancy:** 82