



# Report on Sustainable Competitiveness of Cities Worldwide

(2012-2013)

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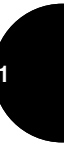
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# Table of contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1.Global comparison: cities in developed countries of Europe and North America have significant advantages in global sustainable competitiveness</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.Regional comparison: Rankings of cities in the Northern Hemisphere remain relatively stable, while those of cities in the Southern Hemisphere change greatly</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3.International comparison: cities in developing countries are moving down the list</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4.Conclusions</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Appendix</b>	<b>10</b>

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## Introduction of GUCR

The Global Urban Competitiveness Report (GUCR) is a cooperative research conducted by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and UN-Habitat focusing on sustainable urban competitiveness, urban land and urban finance. Led by Prof. Ni Pengfei and Mr. Marco Kamiya, the project is participated by experts from CASS, UN-Habitat and well-known scholars in relevant fields. Through theoretical research and empirical investigation, the report establishes an indicator system to measure the economic competitiveness and sustainable competitiveness of more

than 1,000 cities in the world. Meanwhile, it selects important issues of global urban development as the themes for in-depth studies, aiming to promote the implementation of the UN 2030 agenda through the assessment of urban competitiveness. Currently, five annual reports have been published successively, among which GUCR (2018-2019) was launched at the UN headquarters in New York City during the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, and the GUCR (2019-2020) was released in Abu Dhabi during the 10th World Urban Forum.

## About the Authors

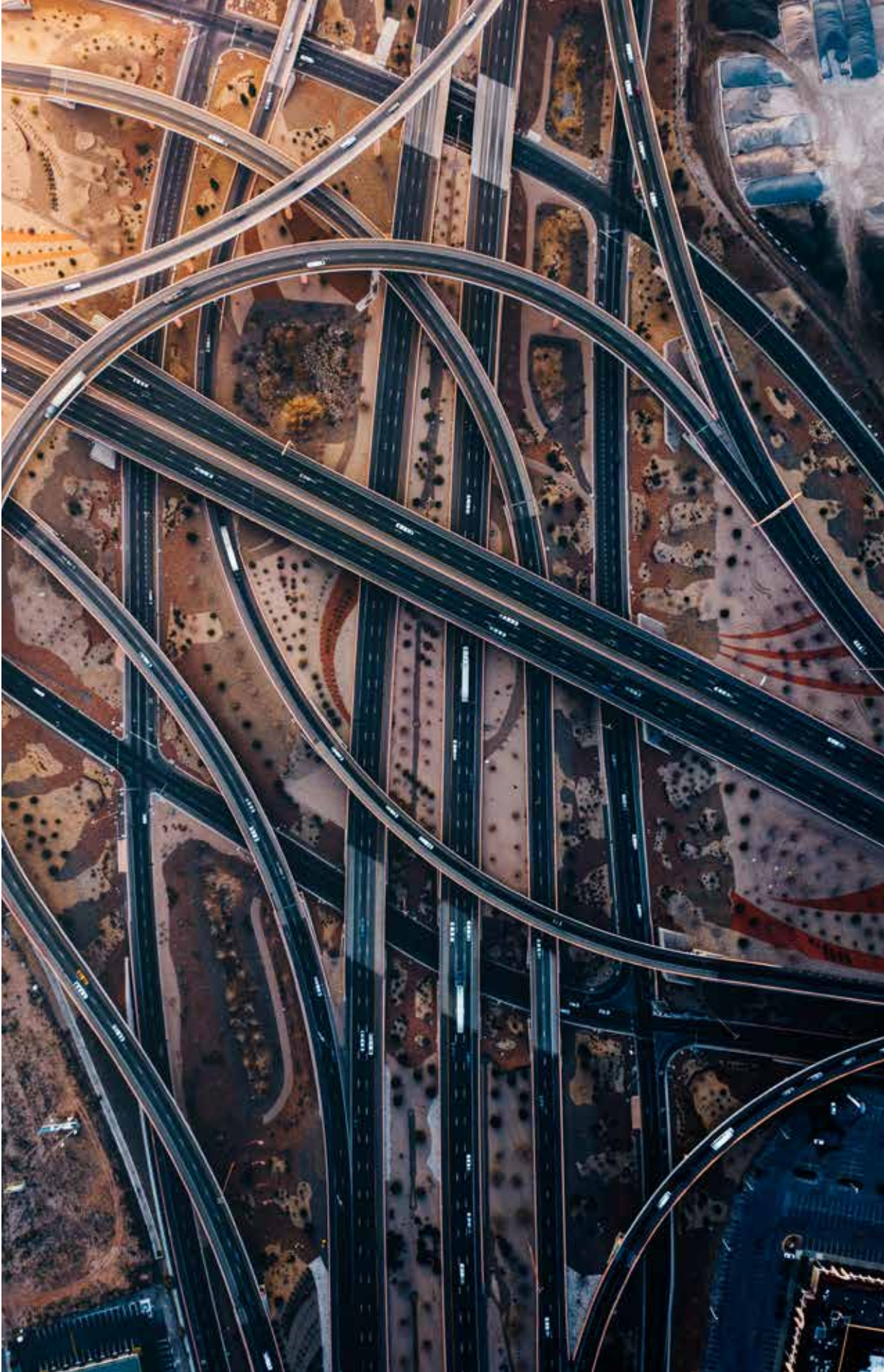


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## Introduction

In 2010, the global economy recovered from the aftermath of the financial crisis. Trade and investment picked up, and globalization accelerated. According to the International Monetary Fund, the real GDP growth of the world in 2010 was 4.8%, that of developed economies was 2.7%, and that of emerging and developing economies was 7.1%; global trade was expected to grow by 11.4%. In general, the three major economies, i.e. the United States,

Japan and Europe, all showed signs of a moderate recovery; while emerging economies demonstrated strong upward momentum. At the same time, the global urbanization process continued, and Africa and Asia had the greatest potential. New technologies boomed. In 2010, Apple Inc. of the United States became the world's largest technology company, and mobile Internet technologies rose as a new force leading towards changes in cities worldwide.

## 1

## Global comparison: cities in developed countries of Europe and North America have significant advantages in global sustainable competitiveness

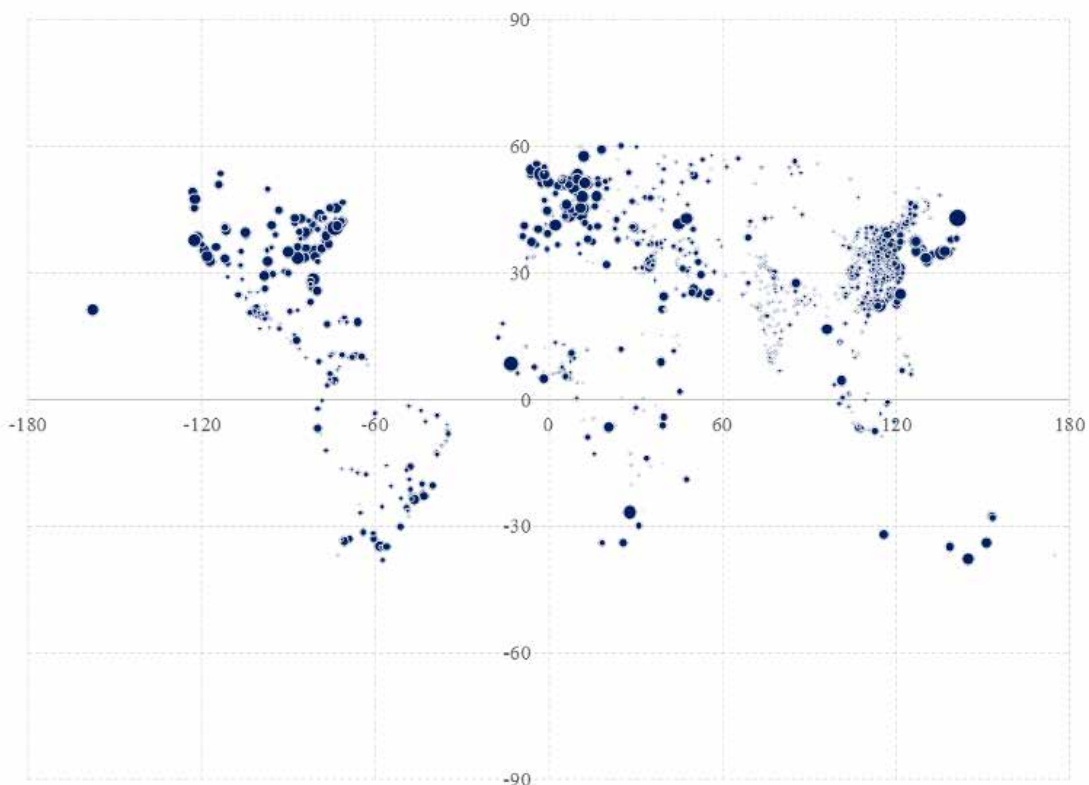
**Table 1 Top 20 cities by sustainable competitiveness, 2012–2013**

City	Ranking	City	Ranking
Tokyo	1	Stuttgart	11
New York-Newark	2	Seoul	12
Singapore	3	Philadelphia	13
Paris	4	Boston	14
Hong Kong	5	Frankfurt	15
London	6	Moscow	16
Osaka	7	Madrid	17
Chicago	8	Munich	18
Barcelona	9	Taipei	19
San Francisco-Oakland	10	Berlin	20

For the year 2010, the standard deviation of sustainable competitiveness of cities worldwide is 0.169, slightly higher than that for 2009 (0.164). At the continental level, Oceanian cities has the highest average sustainable competitiveness, which is 0.598, followed by North America with a

score of 0.468 and Europe with a score of 0.460. South America, Asia and Africa have lower scores, respectively 0.354, 0.285 and 0.202. Compared with the averages of 2009, North America sees the sharpest growth, which is 4%, while Asia witnesses the lowest growth.

**Figure 1 Distribution of sustainable competitiveness of cities worldwide, 2010**

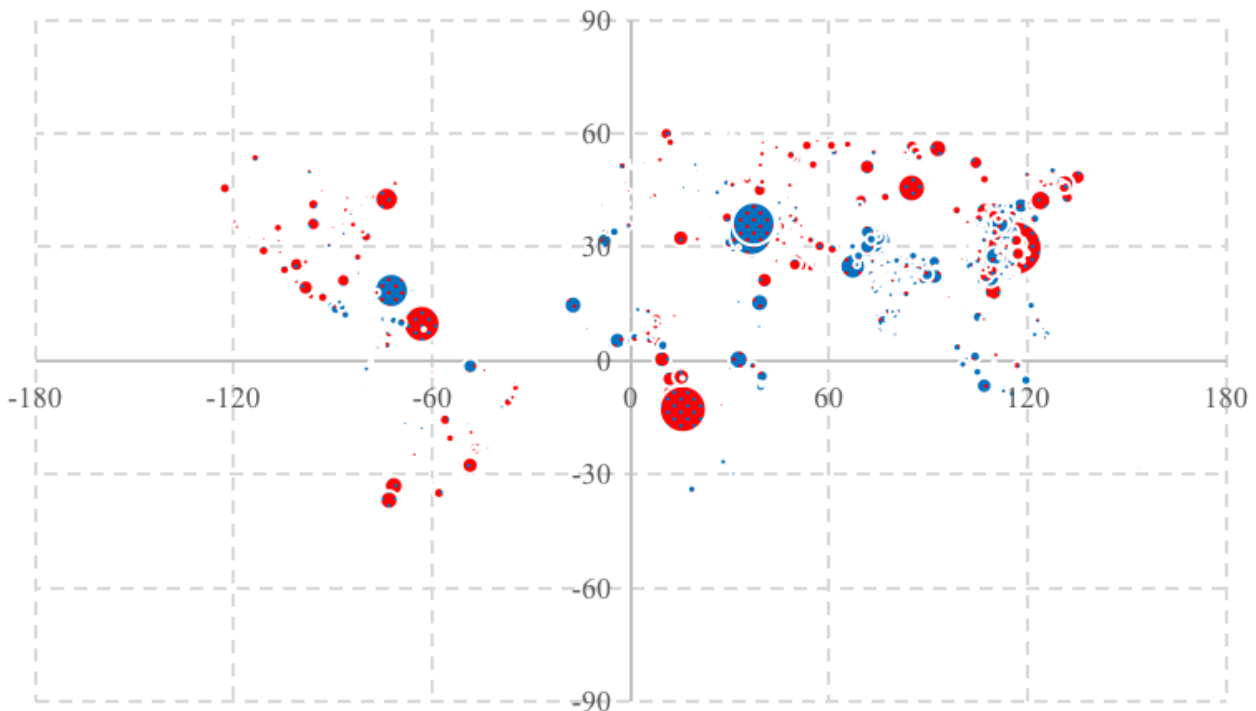




As is seen in Table 1, the Top 20 cities in terms of sustainable competitiveness for 2010 are Tokyo, New York-Newark, Singapore, Paris, Hong Kong, London, Osaka, Chicago, Barcelona, San Francisco-Oakland, Stuttgart, Seoul, Philadelphia, Boston, Frankfurt, Moscow, Madrid, Munich, Taipei and Berlin. Nine of these cities are in Europe, six in Asia and five in North America, basically the same as in 2009. Specifically, Munich of Germany moved up from the 21st place in 2009 to the 19th mainly due to the rapid increase of its high-income population increment and Boston of the United States is up from the 17th place to 14th thanks to the rapid increase of its high-income population density. These two cities have made the most obvious progress among the 20 cities.

As for the Top 200, North America has the largest number of entries, with 63 cities on the list; followed by Europe with 59, Asia with 57, South America with 12, Oceania with 7, and Africa with 2. Compared with 2009, the number of Asian cities among the Top 200 see the sharpest fall, down by 4; while North America see the biggest increase, up by 3. Thus, from the overall ranking of all sample cities, the Top 20 or Top 200, developed countries developed countries in Europe and North America are still the most competitive. In addition, the average sustainable competitiveness score of cities in G20 countries is 0.355, about 11% higher than the global average, and also slightly higher than the world average of 2009 (0.345).

**Figure 2 Changes in global rankings by sustainable competitiveness, 2012-2013**



Note: Red indicates positive change in ranking while blue indicates negative change, and the bigger the dot the greater the change of ranking

## 2 Regional comparison: Rankings of cities in the Northern Hemisphere remain relatively stable, while those of cities in the Southern Hemisphere change greatly

Table 2 Top 10 cities by continent, 2010

Ranking	N. America	Europe	Asia	S. America	Africa
1	New York-Newark	Paris	Tokyo	Buenos Aires	Tripoli
2	Chicago	London	Singapore	Sao Paulo	Pretoria
3	San Francisco-Oakland	Barcelona	Hong Kong	Santiago de Chile	Johannesburg
4	Philadelphia	Stuttgart	Osaka	Rio de Janeiro	Cape Town
5	Boston	Frankfurt	Seoul	Bogota	Luanda
6	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana	Moscow	Taipei	Lima	Algiers
7	Toronto	Madrid	Hiroshima	Montevideo	Oran
8	Miami	Munich	Nagoya	Porto Alegre	Durban
9	Houston	Berlin	Kitakyushu-Fukuoka	Brasilia	Lagos
10	Cleveland	Rome	Shenzhen	Greater Vitória	Benghazi

For the year 2010, the top 10 cities of North America by sustainable competitiveness are New York-Newark, Chicago, San Francisco-Oakland, Philadelphia, Boston, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Toronto, Miami, Houston and Cleveland, the fastest growth over 2009 is seen in Boston,

rankings. Paris moves farthest on the list of high-income population density, up five positions.

For the year 2010, the Top 10 cities of Asia by sustainable competitiveness are Tokyo, Singapore, Hong Kong, Osaka, Seoul, Taipei, Hiroshima, Nagoya, Kitakyushu-Fukuoka and Shenzhen. Compared with

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