

LOWY INSTITUTE

GLOBAL DIPLOMACY INDEX

2019

ABOUT

The 2019 Lowy Institute Global Diplomacy Index visualises the diplomatic networks of 61 G20, OECD and Asian countries and territories, allowing users to compare the most significant diplomatic networks in the world. The 2019 edition now makes data available across three years – 2016, 2017 and 2019 – and sees the addition of one new country, Lithuania, which joined the OECD in July 2018.

The original Index was released in March 2016 and covered 42 countries in the G20 and OECD. In December 2017 a second edition was released, expanding the Index by 17 Asian countries and Latvia, which acceded to the OECD in 2016.

The Index's interactive map highlights gaps and concentrations in diplomatic networks, and indicates strengths and weaknesses in geographic coverage and geopolitical reach. It ranks each country in terms of its diplomatic network against other G20, OECD and Asian players. Users can view the global map of networks, select and view individual country networks on the map, prepare side-by-side comparisons of networks, as well as see diplomatic representations city by city for any of the three years.

The complete datasets for 2016, 2017 and 2019 are available for download on the website.

RANKINGS

Rankings are calculated on the basis of total posts, and in the event of an equal result, on the number of embassies or high commissions. Where the equal result persists, the number of permanent missions is used, followed by the number of consulates and consulates-general.

SOURCES

The data in the Global Diplomacy Index derives from a combination of sources. These include preliminary desk research on foreign ministry websites of each of the 61 countries and territories, followed by direct data exchanges between the Lowy Institute and the relevant ministries of foreign affairs, their embassies and consulates. Secondary sources such as media reports and the internet archive [Wayback Machine](#) were consulted where necessary, to assist in identifying or confirming post openings or closures. Information was cross-checked using multiple sources. Information on ministry websites, directories of missions and ministry annual reports was checked against information provided directly by foreign ministries, and clarified where necessary. While every measure has been taken to verify each diplomatic post, and its date of opening or closure, the data is only as accurate as the information we receive from our sources.

CRITERIA

Foreign ministries use different conventions when presenting their diplomatic missions on official websites. Consequently, a standardised set of criteria was applied in the compilation of data on this Index, as follows:

Included:

- Embassies and High Commissions
- Consulates-General and Consulates, provided they are headed by a dedicated home-based head/chief of mission with accreditation in the host country
- Permanent missions and representations or delegations to multilateral organisations such as the UN, EU, NATO and OECD, which are headed by a separate head/chief of mission
- Representations or delegations to countries where there is no formal diplomatic relationship, provided they are headed by a dedicated home-based head/chief of mission.

Excluded:

- Honorary consulates
- Offices which are exclusively trade, development/cooperation offices or cultural institutions
- Consular sections of embassies
- Consular branches or offices which are not headed by a dedicated home-based head of mission with accreditation in the host country
- Embassies or posts which are temporarily closed.

TIMEFRAME

Data collection for the 2019 Global Diplomacy Index was undertaken in two phases.

September 2018 to December 2018	Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam
July 2019 to October 2019	Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States

Data for 2017 and 2019 was comprehensively updated between September 2018 and October 2019. Data for 2016 was selectively corrected retrospectively where more information had become available since publication.

Data collection for the 2017 Index commenced in February 2017 and closed in October 2017. Data collection for the 2016 Index commenced in February 2015 and closed in December 2015.

GDP AND POPULATION

[Population](#) and [GDP](#) (market exchange rates, current US\$) data was sourced from the World Bank. Both datasets were last updated on 28 October 2019.

AUTHORS

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REFERENCE SITES

The following is a list of the principal government websites consulted in the process of collecting data for this project. The list is not exhaustive.

Country	Site (addresses as at November 2019)	Language
Argentina	https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/representaciones	Spanish
Australia	http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/our-locations/missions/Pages/our-embassies-and-consulates-overseas.aspx	English
Austria	http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassies-consulates/search-for-austrian-representations/	German
Bangladesh	https://mofa.gov.bd/missions	English
Belgium	http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/services/embassies_and_consulates/belgian_embassies_and_consulates_abroad/	English
Bhutan	http://www.mfa.gov.bt/?page_id=42	English
Brazil	http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5967:brasileiras-no-exterior-2&catid=2&lang=en&Itemid=292	English
Brunei Darussalam	http://www.mfa.gov.bn/Pages/Diplomatic-Mission.aspx	English
Cambodia	https://www.mfaic.gov.kh/cambodia-missions-abroad	English
Canada	http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/country-pays/index.aspx?lang=eng	English
Chile	https://chile.gob.cl/en/embajadas/ https://chile.gob.cl/en/consulados/	English
China	http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zwjg_665342/	English
Czech Republic	http://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/diplomatic_missions/czech_missions_abroad/	English
Denmark	http://um.dk/en/about-us/organisation/find-us-abroad/	English
Estonia	http://vm.ee/en/embassies-and-representations	English
Finland	http://formin.finland.fi/public/default.aspx?nodeid=49529&contentlan=2&culture=en-US	English
France	http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/annuaire-et-adresses-du-maedi/ambassades-et-consulats-francais-a-l-etranger/	French

Germany	http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/AAmt/Auslandsvertretungen/Uebersicht_node.html	English
Greece	http://www.mfa.gr/en/appendix/greece-bilateral-relations/a.html	English
Hungary	http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-foreign-affairs-and-trade/missions	English
Iceland	https://www.government.is/diplomatic-missions/iceland-abroad/	English
India	http://www.mea.gov.in/indian-missions-abroad-new.htm	English
Indonesia	https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/page/missions/mission	English
Ireland	https://www.dfa.ie/embassies/	English
Israel	http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/AboutTheMinistry/Pages/Israel-%20Diplomatic%20Missions%20Abroad.aspx	English
Italy	http://www.esteri.it/mae/en/ministero/laretediplomatica	English
Japan	http://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/over/	English
Korea (Republic of)	http://www.mofa.go.kr/ENG/ministry/overseas/asia/index.jsp?menu=m_50_70	English
Laos (People's Democratic Republic)	http://www.mofa.gov.la/index.php/the-ministry/overseas-mission	English
Latvia	http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/policy/latvian-diplomatic-missions-abroad	English
Lithuania	http://keliauk.urm.lt/en/embasycontacts	English
Luxembourg	https://maee.gouvernement.lu/fr/missions-diplomatiques/missions-diplomatiques-et-consulaires-luxembourgeoises.html	French
Malaysia	http://www.kln.gov.my/web/guest/malaysian-mission	English
Mexico	http://directorio.sre.gob.mx/index.php	Spanish
Mongolia	http://www.consul.mn/eng/05dtg.php	English
Myanmar	http://www.mofa.gov.mm/?page_id=358	English
Nepal	http://mofa.gov.np/embassy-of-nepal/ http://mofa.gov.np/consulates-general-of-nepal/	English
Netherlands	https://www.government.nl/topics/embassies-consulates-and-other-representations/contents	English
New Zealand	http://mfat.govt.nz/Embassies/1-NZ-representatives-overseas/index.php	English
Norway	https://www.norway.no/en/	English

Pakistan	http://www.mofa.gov.pk/content.php?pageID=missions	English
Philippines	https://www.cfo.gov.ph/links/philippine-embassies-and-consulates-abroad.html	English
Poland	http://www.msz.gov.pl/en/travel_to_poland/polands_missions_abroad/p_olish_missions_abroad	English
Portugal	http://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/ministerios/mne/quero-saber-mais/sobre-o-ministerio/representacoes-diplomaticas-portuguesas/embaixadas-e-postos-consulares.aspx	Portuguese
Russia	http://www.mid.ru/en/maps	English
Saudi Arabia	http://www.mofa.gov.sa/sites/mofaen/SaudiMissionsAbroad/SaudiEmbassiesAbroad/Pages/default.aspx	Arabic
Singapore	https://www.mfa.gov.sg/Overseas-Missions/Find-A-Singapore-Overseas-Mission	English
Slovak Republic	http://www.foreign.gov.sk/web/en/ministry/slovak_diplomatic_missions/slovak_envoys	English
Slovenia	http://www.mzz.gov.si/en/representations_abroad/	English
South Africa	http://www.dirco.gov.za/webmissions/index.html	English
Spain	http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/en/ServiciosAlCiudadano/Paginas/embaixadasconsulados.aspx	Spanish
Sweden	http://www.swedenabroad.com/	English
Switzerland	https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home.html#	English
Taiwan*	http://www.mofa.gov.tw/en/Content_List.aspx?n=D7B7F1B4196DD582	English
Thailand	http://www.thaiembassy.org/main/ http://www.mfa.go.th/main/en/org-chart	English
Turkey	http://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkish-representations.en.mfa	English
United Kingdom	https://www.gov.uk/government/world	English
United States	http://www.usembassy.gov/	English
Vietnam	http://www.chinhphu.vn/portal/page/portal/English/foreignembassies	English

*Taiwan is included in the Index as a self-governing territory. It is recognised by some countries. It is not a UN member state.