

LOWY INSTITUTE

GLOBAL DIPLOMACY INDEX

2021

ABOUT

The 2021 Lowy Institute Global Diplomacy Index visualises the diplomatic networks of 65 G20, OECD and Asian countries and territories, allowing users to compare the most significant diplomatic networks in the world. The 2021 edition now makes data available across four years – 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2021 – and sees the addition of four new countries and organisations. Colombia and Costa Rica joined the OECD in 2021, while the diplomatic networks of the European External Action Service and Papua New Guinea have also been added to the Index.

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 2019 edition of the Index further added Lithuania, which joined the OECD in July 2018.

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 four years.

The complete datasets for 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2021 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 is derived from a combination of sources. These include preliminary desk research on foreign ministry websites of each of the 65 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
- Representative offices 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
- Posts which are not headed by a dedicated home-based head of mission with accreditation and residence in the host country
- Embassies or posts which are temporarily closed
- Posts representing governments in their overseas or dependent territories.

TIMEFRAME

Data collection for the 2021 Global Diplomacy Index was undertaken between March and August 2021. Data collection for the 2019 Index was undertaken in two phases; the first from September-December 2018, and the second from July-October 2019.

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](#) data (2020) was sourced from the World Bank. [GDP](#) (market exchange rates, current US\$, 2021 estimates) data was sourced from the IMF World Economic Outlook database.

AUTHORS

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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We would also like to extend our thanks to Xuyang Dong for providing background research and assistance in fact-checking the data.

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 August 2021)
Argentina	https://cancilleria.gob.ar/representaciones
Australia	https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/corporate/annual-reports/Pages/annual-reports
Austria	https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassies-consulates/search-for-austrian-representations/
Bangladesh	https://mofa.gov.bd/
Belgium	https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/services/embassies and consulates/belgian embassies and consulates abroad
Bhutan	http://www.mfa.gov.bt
Brazil	https://www.gov.br/mre/en/subjects/missions/brazilian-missions-abroad-1. http://www.portalconsular.itamaraty.gov.br/representacoes-do-brasil-no-mundo
Brunei Darussalam	http://www.mfa.gov.bn/Pages/missions-abroad02.aspx
Cambodia	https://mfaic.gov.kh/EmbassyCambodiaMissionAbroad
Canada	https://international.gc.ca/world-monde/country-pays/index.aspx?lang=eng https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international relations-relations_internationales/partnerships_organizations-partenariats_organisations.aspx?lang=eng
Chile	https://chile.gob.cl/
China	https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zwjg_665342/
Colombia	https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/embajadas-consulados-colombia-exterior
Costa Rica	https://www.rree.go.cr/?sec=exterior&cat=politica&cont=481&letra=A https://www.rree.go.cr/?sec=exterior&cat=politica&cont=524 https://www.rree.go.cr/?sec=inicio&cat=contactos&cont=642&dpto=0&key=
Czech Republic	https://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/diplomatic_missions/czech_missions_abroad/index.html
Denmark	http://um.dk/en/about-us/organisation/find-us-abroad/
Estonia	https://vm.ee/en/country-representations/estonian-representations https://vm.ee/en/estonias-representations-international-organisations
European Union	https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/area/geo_en
Finland	https://um.fi/finland-s-representation-abroad-by-country

France	https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/annuaires-du-ministere-de-l-europe-et-des-affaires-etrangeres/ambassades-et-consulats-francais-a-l-etranger/#representation102356 https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/annuaires-du-ministere-de-l-europe-et-des-affaires-etrangeres/representations-permanentes-de-la-france-aupres-des-organisations/article/representations-permanentes-de-la-france-aupres-des-organisations
Germany	https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen
Greece	https://www.mfa.gr/en/appendix/greece-bilateral-relations/a.html
Hungary	https://konzuliszolgalat.kormany.hu/hu-missions-abroad
Iceland	https://www.government.is/diplomatic-missions/
India	https://www.mea.gov.in/indian-missions-abroad-new.htm
Indonesia	https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/page/29/kedutaan_konsulat
Ireland	https://www.dfa.ie/embassies/irish-embassies-abroad/
Israel	https://www.gov.il/en/Departments/dynamiccollectors/israeli-consular-services?skip=0
Italy	https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/ministero/laretediplomatica
Japan	https://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/over/index.html
South Korea (Republic of)	http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/returnInfoPage.do
North Korea (Democratic People's Republic)	https://www.northkoreaintheworld.org/diplomatic/dprk-embassies-worldwide
Laos (People's Democratic Republic)	http://www.mofa.gov.la/index.php/the-ministry/overseas-mission
Latvia	https://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/policy/latvian-diplomatic-missions-abroad https://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/diplomatic-missions
Lithuania	https://keliauk.urm.lt/keliauantiems/valstybes-kuriuose-veikia-lietuvos-respublikos-diplomatines-atstovybes-ir-konsulines-istaigos
Luxembourg	https://maee.gouvernement.lu/fr/missions-diplomatiques/missions-diplomatiques-et-consulaires-luxembourgeoises.html
Malaysia	https://www.kln.gov.my/web/guest/malaysian-mission?p_p id=quickfinder WAR quickfinder4portlet&p_p lifecycle=1&p_p state=normal&p_p mode=view&p_p col id= 118 INSTANCE JFEhAIfuUBN column-1&p_p col count=3& quickfinder WAR quickfinder4portlet javax.portlet.action=selectCountry

Mexico	https://directorio.sre.gob.mx/index.php/consulados-de-mexico-en-el-exterior
Mongolia	http://mfa.gov.mn/en/mongolian-foreign-policy/diplomatic-relations/diplomatic-missions-abroad/ http://www.consul.mn/eng/index.php?moduls=2
Myanmar	https://www.mofa.gov.mm/
Nepal	https://mofa.gov.np/departmentsmissions/
Netherlands	https://www.government.nl/topics/embassies-consulates-and-other-representations/overview-countries-and-regions
New Zealand	https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/embassies/
Norway	https://www.norway.no/en/
Pakistan	http://mofa.gov.pk/mission-abroad/
Papua New Guinea	https://ica.gov.pg/overseas-mission-and-posts
Philippines	https://dfa.gov.ph/about/dfa-directory/our-foreign-service-posts-dfa
Poland	https://www.gov.pl/web/diplomacy/polands-missions-abroad
Portugal	https://portaldascomunidades.mne.gov.pt/pt/rede-consular/asia
Russia	http://www.mid.ru/en/maps
Saudi Arabia	https://www.mofa.gov.sa/sites/mofaen/SaudiMissionsAbroad/SaudiEmbassiesAbroad/Pages/default.aspx
Singapore	https://www.mfa.gov.sg/Overseas-Missions/Find-A-Singapore-Overseas-Mission
Slovak Republic	https://www.mzv.sk/web/en/ministry/slovak_diplomatic_missions https://www.mzv.sk/web/en/ministry/slovak_diplomatic_missions/slovak_envoys
Slovenia	https://www.gov.si/en/countries/
South Africa	http://www.dirco.gov.za/foreign/sa_abroad/hom.htm
Spain	http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/en/ServiciosAlCiudadano/Paginas/embajadasconsulados.aspx#
Sri Lanka	https://mfa.gov.lk/sri-lanka-missions/
Sweden	https://www.swedenabroad.se/sv/utlandsmyndigheter/#

Switzerland	https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/foreign-policy/international-organizations/switzerland-in-international-organizations.html . https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/eda/en/documents/das-eda/organisation-eda/eda-vertretungsverzeichnis_EN.pdf
Taiwan*	https://www.roc-taiwan.org/portalOfDiplomaticMission_en.html#ALL
Thailand	https://www.mfa.go.th/en/organization?menu=5d5bd3cb15e39c306002a973
Turkey	https://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkish-representations.en.mfa
United Kingdom	https://www.gov.uk/world
United States	https://www.usembassy.gov/
Vietnam	http://omw.mofa.gov.vn/en-us/Pages/default.aspx

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