The Henley Passport Index
Q2 Update
April 2020
The information provided here reflects the 2020 Henley Passport Index ranking on 7 April 2020, and in certain instances, coronavirus-related travel bans may take precedence over the visa information recorded here.

About the Henley Passport Index

The Henley Passport Index is the original and most authoritative ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa. The index includes 199 passports and 227 travel destinations, giving users the most extensive and reliable information about their global access and mobility. With historical data spanning 15 years and regularly updated expert analysis on the latest shifts in passport power, the index is an invaluable resource for global citizens and the standard reference tool for governments in this field.

Explore the world

As well as allowing users to discover the strength of their own passports, henleypassportindex.com enables them to compare their passport to others, looking at differences in access and learning where their passport ranks regionally as well as globally. The site also allows users to explore 15 years' worth of historical data, discovering how the strength of their passport has changed over the years and looking at top climbers and fallers on the index.

Robust, reliable, and accurate

The ranking is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which maintains the world's largest and most accurate database of travel information, and is enhanced by the Henley & Partners Research Department.

The index's scoring system was developed to give users a nuanced, practical, and reliable overview of their passport's power. Each passport is scored on the total number of destinations that the holder can access visa-free. For each travel destination, if no visa is required, then a score of 1 is created for that passport. This also applies if passport holders can obtain a visa on arrival, a visitor’s permit, or an electronic travel authority (ETA) upon entry.

Where a visa is required, or where a passport holder must apply for a government-approved electronic visa (e-Visa) before departure, a score of 0 is assigned. The same applies if they need pre-departure approval for a visa on arrival.

Find out where you can travel visa-free

View your passport ranking over 15 years

Compare your passport power

Improve your passport power

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<table>
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<th>Rank</th>
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- **Rank Passport Visa-free Score**
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  - 15 Malaysia 175
  - 16 Chile 174
  - 17 Romania 172
  - 18 United Arab Emirates 171
  - 19 Argentina 170
  - 20 Brazil 168
  - 21 Brunei 167
  - 22 Barbados 166
  - 23 Israel 160
  - 24 Mexico 159
  - 25 St. Kitts and Nevis 156
  - 26 Bahamas 155
  - 27 Uruguay 153
  - 28 Antigua and Barbuda 151
  - 29 Seychelles 150
  - 30 Trinidad and Tobago 149
  - 31 Vatican City 148
  - 32 St. Vincent and the Grenadines 147
  - 33 St. Lucia 146
  - 34 Taiwan (Chinese Taipei) 144
  - 35 Grenada 143
  - 36 Paraguay 142
  - 37 Panama 141
  - 38 Dominica 140
  - 39 Peru 135
  - 40 El Salvador 134
  - 41 Honduras 133
  - 42 Guatemala 132
  - 43 Samoa 131
  - 44 Solomon Islands 130
  - 45 Vanuatu 129
  - 46 Nicaragua 128
  - 47 Ukraine 127
  - 48 Venezuela 126
  - 49 Marshall Islands 125
  - 50 Palau Islands 124
  - 51 Micronesia 123
  - 52 Russian Federation 122
  - 53 Bosnia and Herzegovina 121
  - 54 Georgia 120
  - 55 Albania 119
  - 56 Turkey 118
  - 57 Belize 117
  - 58 South Africa 116
  - 59 Ecuador 115

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Q2 Insights and Analysis: Record-Breaking Global Mobility Grounded by COVID-19 Pandemic

With global travel almost at a standstill, the latest results of the Henley Passport Index offer disturbing insight into the havoc the COVID-19 pandemic is indiscriminately wreaking. Since its inception in 2006, the index has provided the authoritative annual ranking of global passport strength. Travel freedom has increased dramatically over the period — in 2006, a citizen could travel to 58 destinations on average without a visa from the host nation; 14 years later, this number has almost doubled to 107. The first ranking of the new decade published in January this year conclusively confirmed that overall, people were the most globally mobile than we had ever been in the history of humankind, with the top-ranking passport (Japan) offering its holders access to a record-breaking 191 destinations without requiring a visa in advance. Just three months later, the picture looks very different indeed.

Japan’s passport continues to hold the top spot on the Henley Passport Index as we enter the second quarter of 2020, but the reality is that current stringent travel restrictions mean that most non-essential travel for Japanese nationals is heavily curtailed. This is true for almost every country of course, as more travel bans are implemented daily, and ever-more stringent coronavirus lockdown regulations are imposed by governments worldwide. With 3.5 billion people, nearly half the global population, presently living in voluntary or mandatory confinement, the latest results from the index — which is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) — raise challenging questions about what travel freedom and global mobility really mean, both currently and in a deeply uncertain post-pandemic future.

The combined effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on public health, the global economy, and social behavior may augur deeper shifts in our human geography — our distribution around the world. This may seem ironic given today’s border closures and standstill in global transportation, but as the curtain lifts, people will seek to move from poorly governed and ill-prepared places to more proactive countries with better medical care or where involuntary quarantine, whenever it strikes next, is less torturous. Once quarantines lift, expect more people to gather their belongings and head to countries affordable enough to start fresh.

The pandemic has divided the world into ‘red zones’ that failed to test, quarantine, and treat COVID-19 patients adequately and ‘green zones’ that performed well under the circumstances and flattened the curve. The density of social contact in cities — that accommodate over 60% of the global population — makes them petri dishes for the spread of contagious diseases. Affluent, modern cities such Madrid, Milan, and New York have nonetheless become virus hotspots. It is not yet clear how many people will succumb to the virus in developing countries that have sprawling mega-cities with teeming slums. Some countries will prioritize public health and welfare but citizens of countries whose governments have been overwhelmed by the virus will make a more concerted effort to emigrate.

Amid the looming economic depression, millions of urban dwellers will no longer be able to afford their rents and may soon uproot. Although asset prices in cities may significantly correct after the pandemic, rural areas remain more affordable and have the appeal of lower infection rates.

Besides epidemiological and economic factors, technology will drive people’s thinking. Telecommuting and cloud-based work are the new normal. As internet accessibility accelerates it will be more widely accepted for FaceTime to replace face time. Digital talent will further stoke its claim to remote work from geographies of choice.

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Could entire nations benefit from post-pandemic migration? It is too soon to know if any countries have truly been spared, but it is clear that COVID-19 is spreading more rapidly in places that are roughly 27 degrees north latitude, where much of the world’s population is concentrated. It is worth exploring whether countries with colder or warmer temperatures, lower population densities, or less intensive participation in global supply chains are safer.

The pandemic has not minimized climate change. Rising temperatures imply longer flu seasons. Frequent droughts are ravaging agriculture in the world’s largest food producing countries. Signals are emerging around how coronavirus is stressing agricultural supply chains. Farms in the US and Europe are short of seasonal farm workers as cross-border flows have slowed, leaving food supply at risk.
The Impact of Health Security on Travel Freedom

Uğur Altundal and Ömer Zarpli
Researchers in Political Science at Syracuse University in the US and the University of Pittsburgh in the US, respectively

In general, governments adopt travel restrictions temporarily, in response to short-term health needs. For example, measures such as social distancing, which reduces face-to-face interaction, are believed to be effective in preventing the spread of airborne viruses such as COVID-19 and eventually in bringing down the number of infections. As a result, governments have issued travel bans and stay-at-home orders, canceled international flights, and closed border entry checkpoints. Although for now these steps seem to have been taken temporarily, they are likely to affect international mobility in the long run for several reasons.

Many countries unilaterally, bilaterally, or multilaterally waive their visa requirements. Generally, countries open their borders to citizens of other countries when it is economically beneficial to do so, and security risks are minimal. Visa waivers increase tourism, business travel, and bilateral economic transactions such as trade and investment. Other factors such as common languages, economic, political, historical, and/or cultural ties, and the quality of democracy increase the likelihood of visa agreements being signed between countries. Before waiving visas, some countries such as the US also take into account visa overstay rates, visa refusal rates, the use of biometric passports, the level of law enforcement, immigration enforcement interests, and commitment to sharing information on terrorism and crime.

Until now, countries do not appear to have considered health security as a determinant or requirement when assessing visa waivers. However, increasing public health concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic may change this. Historically, when the resolution that established passports was common practice in the 20th century, is for countries to assess the quality of the healthcare systems of other countries based on their preparedness for and early detection of epidemics of potential international concern, mitigation, the quality of their health sectors, their capacity, and the risk environment. The quality of health security could become a consideration for visa waivers, especially for countries with economies that do not depend on inbound tourism.

A proxy to travelers having to carry health certificates, which was common practice in the 20th century, is for countries to assess the quality of the healthcare systems of other countries based on their preparedness for and early detection of epidemics of potential international concern, mitigation, the quality of their health sectors, their capacity, and the risk environment. The quality of health security could become a consideration for visa waivers, especially for countries with economies that do not depend on inbound tourism.

Although in future health preparedness could become a significant factor in visa waiver agreements, economic and security-related factors appear to be more prominent at present. This is borne out by the fact that countries such as Bulgaria, Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Romania, and Slovakia have high visa-free scores in the Henley Passport Index despite having low scores in the 2019 Global Health Security Index.

At the same time there is a positive correlation between health security and visa freedom. Countries that rank higher in the Global Health Security Index tend to have stronger passports, on average. Australia, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden, the UK, and the US all rank high in both indexes.

Climate Change Inertia, Inequality, and the Travel Freedom Gap

Charles Phillips
Independent researcher and consultant for Oxford Business Group whose field of expertise is energy and climate change policy in the Middle East

Since the early 1990s the UN-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has noted that human migration caused by shoreline erosion, coastal flooding, and agricultural disruption may be the single greatest impact of climate change.

Today, climate change is already affecting migration patterns. This can be seen through extreme weather events, which have been increasing in frequency and intensity as global temperatures increase. Mass displacement triggered by extreme weather events is becoming the norm. In 2018, 17.2 million people were displaced due to national disasters, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), and a further 7 million by mid-2019, with East Asia, the Pacific, and South Asia being the most affected. The World Bank projects that by 2050, 143 million people in Latin America, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa could move within their own countries if no action is taken on climate change.

A significant challenge for quantifying and accurately projecting climate-induced migration is the slow-onset nature of climate change. As a long-term phenomenon, climate change amplifies existing migration pressures and drivers in addition to causing immediate displacement due to catastrophic climate-related weather events.

Where mitigation and adaptation to climate change factors that might displacement people are not possible, greater movement of people can be expected. Climate-induced migration will involve people in environmentally vulnerable regions moving within their own countries and also attempting to move to wealthier countries as their capacity to survive in their places of origin deteriorates.

Despite broad international frameworks that address the issue, holistic policies enacted by governments are few, and widespread environmentally-induced migration can thus be expected in future, with a trend towards greater movement of people as global temperatures increase. Both wealthier countries and poorer countries will face disruption from such movement.

While climate mitigation, adaptation, and some level of relocation will be needed, the widening gap in travel freedom between citizens from developed and developing countries of the world will make it increasingly difficult for those most affected by climate change to move.

A considerable barrier impeding international resettlement is that environmental migrants and environmental or climate refugees are not well defined in international law. The current legal definition for a refugee, based on the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, does not include environmental or climate refugees; those forced to flee due to loss of livelihood or habitat.

A major source of inequality is the relationship between responsibility and impacts. Those least responsible for emitting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere are often most affected by the adverse impacts of climate change. They are also less able to move and travel.

Planning for likely patterns of both internal and international migration induced by environmental pressures will be needed in 2020 and beyond.
The need to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the closure of numerous international borders and the introduction of severe restrictions to mobility, even within countries. This necessary attempt to achieve social distancing must neither hinder the global collective effort to find a way to treat the disease by creating a vaccine nor impede the ensuing solidarity across countries.

The landscape of our world has changed in just a few weeks, and life after the pandemic will certainly be deeply different with respect to what we are all accustomed to. Humanity is confronted with a truly global challenge against which no country — irrespective of its level of income — can fully protect itself. This pandemic could thus trigger renewed and more intense international cooperation, something that has (so far) not happened with the other major global challenge that the world is currently facing, namely climate change. But the pandemic will also lead us to consider the increased mobility, even within countries. This necessary attempt to achieve social distancing must neither hinder the global collective effort to find a way to treat the disease by creating a vaccine nor impede the ensuing solidarity across countries.

The world might become more interconnected, or major chaems might divide countries and cause a sharp decline in international migration flows. Our hope is that international success in the fight against the current pandemic in the coming weeks or months will be able to reduce the risk of increasing barriers to human mobility in the years to come.

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Strongest Passports in Q2 2020

1st
Visa-free access to 191 destinations
Japan

2nd
Visa-free access to 190 destinations
Singapore

3rd
Visa-free access to 189 destinations
Germany
South Korea

4th
Visa-free access to 188 destinations
Finland
Italy
Luxembourg
Spain

5th
Visa-free access to 187 destinations
Austria
Denmark

Weakest Passports in Q2 2020

105th
Visa-free access to 33 destinations
Somalia
Yemen

106th
Visa-free access to 32 destinations
Pakistan

107th
Visa-free access to 29 destinations
Syria

108th
Visa-free access to 28 destinations
Iraq

109th
Visa-free access to 26 destinations
Afghanistan

Moving into the second quarter of 2020, Japan remains in the top spot on the Henley Passport Index, with a visa-free or visa-on-arrival score of 191. Singapore sits in 2nd place with 190, and Germany and South Korea hold joint-3rd place, with citizens of those countries able to access 189 destinations around the world without a prior visa. At the other end of the global mobility spectrum, the Afghan passport remains the world’s weakest, in 109th place, with a visa-free or visa-on-arrival score of just 26.

This infographic shows the countries that occupy the highest and lowest ranks on the Henley Passport Index. In certain cases, a rank is shared by multiple countries if these countries all have the same level of visa-free or visa-on-arrival access.
Passport Power Worldwide

This map shows the differences in relative passport power on a global scale, with light gray used to indicate the passports with the lowest visa-free or visa-on-arrival scores and dark blue used to indicate the passports with the highest scores.
Biggest Climbers and Fallers on the Henley Passport Index: 2010 to 2020

This graph shows the countries that have climbed the highest up the Henley Passport Index rankings over the past decade, as well as those that have fallen most sharply over that period.

### Biggest Climbers Since 2010

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### Biggest Fallers Since 2010

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Henley & Partners is the global leader in residence and citizenship planning. Each year, hundreds of wealthy individuals and their advisors rely on our expertise and experience in this area. The firm’s highly qualified professionals work together as one team in over 30 offices worldwide.

The concept of residence and citizenship planning was created by Henley & Partners in the 1990s. As globalization has expanded, residence and citizenship have become topics of significant interest among the increasing number of internationally mobile entrepreneurs and investors whom we proudly serve every day.

The firm also runs a leading government advisory practice that has raised more than USD 8 billion in foreign direct investment. Trusted by governments, the firm has been involved in strategic consulting and in the design, set-up, and operation of the world’s most successful residence and citizenship programs.

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