



TEN KEY TAKE-AWAYS

- 1** The world's overall level of global connectedness finally surpassed its pre-crisis peak during 2014 and continued to increase, but more slowly, in 2015.
- 2** While international trade remained under pressure in 2015, increases were reported on the depth (intensity) of capital, people, and especially information flows.
- 3** Actual levels of global connectedness are still only a fraction of what people estimate them to be, suggesting an opportunity to correct misperceptions and apprehensions.
- 4** Distance still matters—even online. Most international flows take place within rather than between regions.
- 5** Europe remains the world's most globally connected region, with 8 of the 10 most connected countries—which reminds us what its disintegration might put at risk.

**6**

The Netherlands is the top-ranked country overall; Singapore tops the rankings in terms of depth and the United Kingdom in terms of breadth.

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Emerging economies trade as intensively as advanced economies, but advanced economies are four to nine times as deeply integrated into international capital, information, and people flows.

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Globalization and urbanization combine to prompt strong interest in global cities, but prior research on them is subject to numerous shortcomings.

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Singapore tops both of our new city-level globalization indexes: Globalization Hotspots (cities with the most intense international flows) and Globalization Giants (cities with the largest absolute international flows).

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Looking forward, the future of globalization is shrouded in an unusual amount of ambiguity, and depends critically on the choices of policymakers around the world.