

UN agency: Europe leads in readiness for online shopping

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In this Aug. 3, 2017, file photo, packages ride on a conveyor system at an Amazon fulfillment center in Baltimore. Amazon, Walmart and others are promising to deliver more of their goods in a day and this holiday season will be the first real test of whether they can make that happen. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

The U.N.'s trade and development agency estimates that Europe, led by the Netherlands, leads the world in readiness for online shopping.

UNCTAD's annual business-to-consumer e-commerce index ranked the United States again in the teens, at 13th - largely because of its relatively low share of people using the Internet compared to other developed countries.

Russia ranked 40th and China 56th while Hong Kong came in at No. 15.

The agency said Tuesday over 80% of Internet users in six European countries shop online, versus under 10% in some poorer countries.

The rankings are based on use of the Internet as well as access to secure internet servers, reliable postal services, and financial institution or mobile-

money-service providers.

UNCTAD called the report provisional, cautioning that some data dates to 2017.

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