

# Worldwide Cost of Living

## The city-by-city guide to the cost of living and working abroad

This semi-annual survey details the cost of living in 140 cities worldwide. It can be used to set pay for foreign assignments, assess market entry price conditions, or compare quality of life between cities.

The survey data is used to create three services:

**Worldwide Cost of Living** — assists in setting or negotiating salaries for expatriates by delivering semi-annually updated indices reflecting the difference between locations.

**CityData** — offers detailed historical price data going back as far as 1990 for market analysis and price variation studies.

**The Global Liveability Report** — assesses local living conditions to benchmark the degree of development or hardship a location presents.

### Methodology

More than 50,000 individual prices are collected in each survey, which take place each March and September and are published in June and December. EIU researchers survey a range of stores: supermarkets, mid-priced stores, and higher priced specialty outlets. Prices reflect costs for more than 160 items—from food, toiletries and clothing, to domestic help, transport, and utility bills—in each city. All prices and products are consistent between cities to ensure valid comparability.

Additionally a range of qualitative liveability indicators are scored by correspondents and combined with quantitative factors. All of the data are checked by an analytical team in London to ensure accuracy and consistency.

### The Worldwide Cost of Living Survey [www.worldwidecostofliving.com](http://www.worldwidecostofliving.com)

This purpose-built internet tool quickly calculates cost-of-living allowances and builds compensation packages.

The survey weights the prices of items gathered across different categories to generate easy-to-understand comparative cost of living indices between a (free) base city and one or more host cities of your choice. The base city index is expressed as 100 and host city indices are given as a percentage of this.

Indices can be tailored in a variety of ways and the service also includes a basic salary calculator to address tax, accommodation, and savings factors alongside the relative cost of living. Each city is accompanied by an orientation report, which includes a liveability index alongside political, economic, demographic and tax analysis for the country in which the city is based.

### How will Worldwide Cost of Living help you?

- [Compare cost-of-living differences](#) across cities.
- [Access all our data](#) on a particular city to gain a complete picture of its price levels and business costs.
- [Download the data](#) straight to your desktop in Excel®—you can then feed the raw figures into your own compensation models and software applications.
- [Access background information](#) on the local environment in each city, from the Liveability score to the housing market.
- [Use interactive features](#) to tailor the exchange rate or items used to individual packages.
- [Build cost-of-living allowances](#) into compensation packages with our online salary calculator.

### CityData

CityData is a price archive with data on more than 160 products and services in 140 cities worldwide dating back as far as 1990. The broad dataset that CityData supplies is used by academic and public sectors bodies for price dispersion and private consumption research. It also supplied corporate clients with data that can be interpreted for market entry price strategies or consumer research.

### CityData delivers:

- Semi-annual updates on prices in 140 cities.
- Prices on 160 products and services in each city.
- Annually updated historical data as far back as 1990.
- Data supplied from two stores (supermarket and mid-priced) to supply retail channel intelligence.

**Which cities are covered?**

The products allow for comparisons in over 140 cities in over 90 countries. For a full list please visit

[www.worldwidecostofliving.com](http://www.worldwidecostofliving.com)

**Alternative access choices:**

- Citydata access via IP control or username:
  - eiu.com at data.eiu.com
  - Bureau van Dijk at eiu.bvdep.com
  - Alacra at eiu.alacra.com (also provides series selector).

**Interface features:**

- Downloadable Excel® tables.
- Prices available in a range of currencies using alternative exchange rates.
- Series codes and definitions.
- Automatic graphing.
- Preset searches and saved searches.

**Liveability**

[www.eiu.com/globalliveabilityreport](http://www.eiu.com/globalliveabilityreport)

The concept of liveability is simple: it assesses which locations around the world provide the best or the worst living conditions. The EIU's liveability rating quantifies the challenges that might be presented to an individual's lifestyle in 140 cities worldwide. This can be used for a variety of purposes, from assessing whether a location justifies a "hardship" allowance for visitors to measuring how a city performs in relation to its peers in terms of liveability or the broad subcategories it encompasses. Each city is assigned a score for over 30 qualitative and

quantitative factors across five broad categories:

- Stability
- Healthcare
- Culture and environment
- Education
- Infrastructure

**There are three EIU Liveability products:**

● **Global Liveability Ranking and Summary** — This report will provide you with the methodology and summary of findings both globally and regionally, including average scores by region. This will be accompanied by a table listing the ranking position and overall liveability scale.

● **Global Liveability Complete Study** — This report provides the full score breakdown by category for individual indicators for the 140 cities in the survey. Each city profile presents a one page overview of the score breakdown including the overall liveability score, rank and index compared to New York. It also supplies the category scores (also indexed to New York) and the liveability rating assigned to each indicator used to compile the ranking. These can be purchased individually or all 140 cities can be purchased as one report.

● **Global Liveability Interactive Matrix** — This interactive Excel® workbook provides the full dataset for the current liveability survey across all 140 cities and all indicators. These can be viewed, filtered, and ranked across categories, indicators, cities, and region. The liveability matrix provides scope to compare scores for single indicators and across categories in a global or regional context, or for customised selections of cities. (Workbook contains three worksheets: ranks by category, ranks by indicator, and grouped by score for each indicator).

**Americas**

The Economist Intelligence Unit  
750 Third Ave, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10017 USA  
Tel: +1 212 698 9717  
Fax: +1 212 586 0248  
e-mail: [americas@eiu.com](mailto:americas@eiu.com)

**Europe, Middle East, & Africa**

The Economist Intelligence Unit  
20 Cabot Square  
London, E14 4QW  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7576 8181  
Fax: +44(0)20 7576 8476  
e-mail: [london@eiu.com](mailto:london@eiu.com)

**Asia & Australasia**

The Economist Intelligence Unit  
6001 Central Plaza  
18 Harbour Road, Wanchai  
Hong Kong  
Tel: + 852 2585 3888  
Fax: +852 2802 7638  
e-mail: [asia@eiu.com](mailto:asia@eiu.com)