



The World's Most Liveable Cities

Every year, *Mercer Human Resource Consulting* compiles lists to find the best places in the world to live in. One of these is the *Quality of Living List* where 221 cities are compared using many criteria and New York, the city Mercer calls home, is given a baseline of 100.

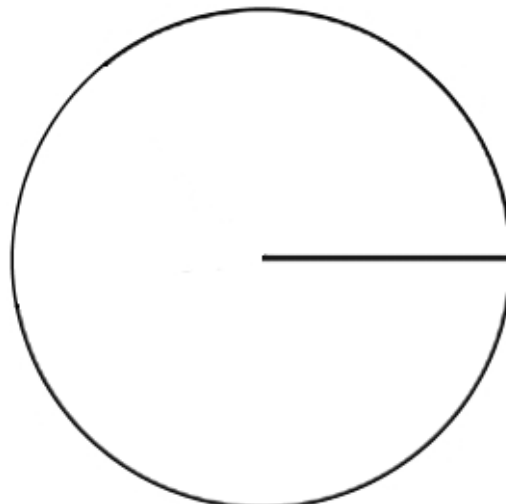
1. Which cities do you think appear at the top of the list? Give reasons for your answers.

2. Compare the following cities. Try to put them in order of which you think offer the highest quality of living.

| Honolulu | Dusseldorf | Bagdad | Vienna | Singapore |
|----------|------------|--------|--------|-----------|
|----------|------------|--------|--------|-----------|



3. Which criteria do you think are important when trying to find the best place to live? Enter your ideas in this pie-chart.





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In 2010, cities in Western Europe dominated the top of Mercer's quality of living list. Vienna came first with an index of 108.8 and was closely followed by Zurich at 108. Three cities in Switzerland and three in Germany all appeared in the top ten. Other entries at the top were cities in Canada, New Zealand and Australia. The lowest-ranking Western European cities were Leipzig (64) and Athens (75). Levels of quality of living continued to improve in Eastern Europe, where Prague (70) was the highest-ranking city followed by Budapest (73) and Ljubljana (77).

Top entries from other countries included the USA, where Honolulu (31) was immediately followed by San Francisco (32). Singapore (28) remained the highest ranking city in Asia and Baghdad (221) lingered at the bottom of the table. There, security and stability continued to have a negative impact on the city's quality of living and despite having recently seen a slight improvement in its score, the city remained far behind Bangui (27.4) in the Central African Republic.

The criteria used by Mercer in the 2010 list included: safety, education, hygiene, health care, culture, environment, recreation, political-economic stability and public transportation.

Mercer also issues several other lists including a personal safety list and an 'Eco-city' list. The lists are important because they help multi-national companies decide where to open offices or plants and how much they need to pay their employees.

4. Here is a copy of the top of the 2010 table. How does the list compare to the cities you listed earlier?

| Mercer Human Resource Consulting Worldwide Quality of Living Survey 2010 | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Base City: New York, USA (=100) | | | | | |
| Rank 2010 | Rank 2007 | City | Country | Index 2010 | Index 2007 |
| 1 | 3 | VIENNA | Austria | 108.6 | 107.7 |
| 2 | 1 | ZURICH | Switzerland | 108 | 108.1 |
| 3 | 2 | GENEVA | Switzerland | 107.9 | 108.0 |
| 4 | 3 | VANCOUVER | Canada | 107.4 | 107.7 |
| | 5 | AUCKLAND | New Zealand | 107.4 | 107.3 |
| 6 | 5 | DUSSELDORF | Germany | 107.2 | 107.3 |
| 7 | 7 | FRANKFURT | Germany | 107 | 107.1 |
| | 8 | MUNICH | Germany | 107 | 106.9 |
| 9 | 9 | BERN | Switzerland | 106.5 | 106.5 |
| 10 | 9 | SYDNEY | Australia | 106.3 | 106.5 |

5. What do you think future lists will look like? Which cities do you expect to climb to a higher position? Which do you think might remain stable?