

Worldwide Cost of Living

The city-by-city guide to the costs of living and working overseas

The Economist Intelligence Unit's Worldwide Cost of Living service is the ultimate Internet tool for calculating cost-of-living and hardship allowances for expatriates and business travellers, and building compensation packages to match.

Covering the cost of more than 160 products and services in over 135 cities in 92 countries, this service gives you the information you want, when you want it. It enables you to select just the data you need for the specific cities relevant to your business. It allows you to include or exclude specific items—company cars, for example—and to change currencies and exchange rates so that the service always reflects your company's individual compensation policies. The service also includes a hardship index that rates each city on the level of day-to-day hardship it presents for expatriate employees.

How will Worldwide Cost of Living help you?

- Compare cost-of-living differences across as many cities as you like.
- 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 hardship index to the housing market.
- Dynamically plot the data online as bar charts or line graphs.
- Build cost-of-living allowances into compensation packages with our online salary calculator.

What prices are provided?

The survey gathers detailed information on the cost of more than 160 items—from food, toiletries and clothing to domestic help, transport and utility bills—in every city. More than 50,000 individual prices are collected in each survey round, and surveys are updated each June and December. A cost-of-living index is calculated from the price data to express the difference in the cost of living between any two cities. The prices are broken down as follows:

Food

STAPLES: white bread, butter, margarine, white rice, spaghetti, flour, sugar, cheese, cornflakes, yogurt, milk, olive oil, and peanut or corn oil.

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES: potatoes, onions, mushrooms, tomatoes, carrots, oranges, apples, lemons, bananas, lettuce and eggs.

CANNED FOOD: peas, tomatoes, peaches and sliced pineapples.

MEAT AND FISH: beef, veal, lamb, pork, ham, bacon, chicken, frozen fish and fresh fish.

BEVERAGES: instant coffee, ground coffee, tea bags, cocoa, drinking chocolate, Coca-Cola, tonic water, mineral water and orange juice.

Alcohol

Wine, beer, scotch whisky, gin, vermouth, cognac and liqueur.

Household supplies

Soap, laundry detergent, toilet tissue, dishwashing liquid, insect-killer spray, light bulbs, batteries, frying pan, electric toaster, laundry and dry cleaning.

Personal care

Aspirins, razor blades, toothpaste, facial tissues, hand lotion, shampoo & conditioner, lipstick and haircuts.

Tobacco

Marlboro cigarettes, local cigarettes and pipe tobacco.

Clothing

MEN'S: business suit, shirt and shoes, raincoat and wool mixture socks.

WOMEN'S: daytime dress, town shoes, cardigan, raincoat, and tights or panty hose.

CHILDREN'S: jeans, dress shoes, sportswear shoes, girl's dress, boy's dress jacket, boy's dress trousers.

Utilities

Telephone rental and call charges, average gas bill, average electricity bill, average water bill and average heating oil costs.

Domestic help

Domestic cleaning rates, maid's monthly wages and babysitter's hourly rate.

Recreation

Compact disc album, colour TV, personal computer, colour film, colour picture development, foreign and local newspapers, international weekly news magazine, paperbacks, three-course dinner, and cinema and theatre seats.

Transport

CAR PRICES: low-priced car, compact car, family car and deluxe car.
CAR MAINTENANCE: yearly road tax or registration, tune-up, car insurance, regular unleaded petrol.

TAXI PRICES: initial meter charge, additional kilometre and airport to city centre rates.

Housing rents

Rents for furnished residential apartments, unfurnished residential apartments, furnished residential houses and unfurnished residential houses.

Schools, health and sports

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS: tuition fees, extra costs and kindergarten at French, German and American/English schools.

HEALTH AND SPORTS: routine check-up, dentist visit, greens fees on public golf course, hourly rate for tennis court, six tennis balls, entrance fee to public swimming pool.

Business trip costs

Typical daily cost of a business trip, hotel charge, hire car costs, meal price, fast-food snack, regular unleaded petrol, taxi rates, international and local newspapers, international weekly news magazine, seat at cinema.

Disposable income (not available for every city)

Percentage of gross salary remaining after taxes and deductions for single person, married person and person with children.

Introducing our hardship index

The Economist Intelligence Unit's hardship index quantifies the level of hardship in all of the locations covered by the Worldwide Cost of Living Survey. There are three broad categories of hardship: Health and safety; Culture and environment; and Infrastructure. In each section a mixture of quantitative and qualitative data are used, which are combined to give an overall hardship score. The hardship index is supplemented by an extensive city information report.

Which cities does Worldwide Cost of Living cover?

Abidjan, Abu Dhabi, Adelaide, Al Khobar, Algiers, Amman, Almaty, Amsterdam, Asunción, Athens, Atlanta, Auckland, Bahrain, Baku, Bandar Seri Begawan, Bangkok, Barcelona, Beijing, Belgrade, Berlin, Bogotá, Boston, Bratislava, Brisbane, Brussels, Bucharest, Budapest, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Calgary, Caracas, Casablanca, Chicago, Cleveland, Colombo, Copenhagen, Dakar, Dalian, Damascus, Detroit, Dhaka, Doha, Douala, Dubai, Dublin, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Geneva, Guangzhou, Guatemala, Hamburg, Hanoi, Harare, Helsinki, Ho Chi Minh, Hong Kong, Honolulu, Houston,

Istanbul, Jakarta, Jeddah, Johannesburg, Karachi, Kiev, Kuala Lumpur, Kuwait, Lagos, Lexington, Lima, Lisbon, London, Los Angeles, Lusaka, Luxembourg, Lyon, Madrid, Manchester, Manila, Melbourne, Mexico City, Miami, Milan, Minneapolis, Montevideo, Montreal, Moscow, Mumbai, Munich, Muscat, Nairobi, New Delhi, New York, Osaka Kobe, Oslo, Panama City, Paris, Perth, Phnom Penh, Pittsburgh, Port Moresby, Prague, Pretoria, Quito, Reykjavík, Rio de Janeiro, Riyadh, Rome, San Francisco, San Jose, San Juan, Santiago, São Paulo, Seattle, Seoul, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Singapore, Sofia, St Petersburg, Stockholm, Sydney, Taipei, Tashkent, Tehran, Tel Aviv, Tianjin, Tokyo, Toronto, Tripoli, Tunis, Vancouver, Vienna, Warsaw, Washington, Wellington, Zurich

Where does Worldwide Cost of Living get its data?

The prices in the Worldwide Cost of Living Survey are collected twice a year by Economist Intelligence Unit researchers. Prices are gathered from supermarkets, medium-priced retailers and more expensive speciality shops, so different types of distribution channels can be compared. The prices are not recommended retail prices or manufacturers' costs—they reflect what the paying customer is charged.

The Economist Intelligence Unit devotes considerable resources to data collection, analysis and forecasting. We have more than 100 full-time analysts and economists based in our offices in London, New York, Hong Kong, Vienna and other locations worldwide. To support this team, we maintain a global network of more than 500 analysts.

About our partner, e-Numerate Solutions Inc

The Economist Intelligence Unit developed the Worldwide Cost of Living site in association with e-Numerate Solutions Inc. e-Numerate Solutions has invented a numbers-based computer language that is revolutionising the way the world analyses, displays and shares numbers. By combining our data and analysis with e-Numerate's software, we have created an Internet service that enables you to graph, manipulate, compare, search, import and display cost-of-living indices instantly, with point-and-click ease.

How to order

For more information, call or e-mail your nearest Economist Intelligence Unit office. For a complete listing of all our office locations and representatives, please visit www.eiu.com/service.

Quantec Research (Pty) Ltd

420 Sussex Avenue
Lynnwood
Pretoria 0081
South Africa
Tel: +27(0)12 361 5154
Fax: +27(0)12 348 5874
E-mail: ei@quantec.co.za

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