



Cost of Living Comparisons



The State of New South Wales offers an affordable lifestyle and its capital, Sydney, is among the less expensive of the world's global cities.

Mercer Human Resource Consulting's Worldwide Cost of Living Survey 2009 ranked Sydney equal 66th in terms of "expensiveness" from a list of 143 cities. The 2009 Cost of Living Survey results represent a dramatic decline for Sydney, dropping 51 places from 15th in 2008. According to Mercer Consulting, considerable fluctuations worldwide, coupled with the dramatic depreciation of the Australian dollar against the US dollar have been the primary factors accounting for Sydney's significant plunge. This decline showcases Sydney as an even more affordable and competitive location compared with other major cities in the Asia Pacific region such as Tokyo (rank one), Hong Kong (fifth), Beijing (ninth), Singapore (tenth), and Seoul (fifty-one), and Taipei (sixty one).

The cost of living survey is based on the cost of a basket of more than 200 standard goods and services representing expatriate spending habits, including housing. Australia generally offers less expensive housing, food, healthcare, education, and entertainment activities compared to other developed countries.

Cost of Living Comparisons, 2009 (1)

City	Index (2)	Rank
Auckland	54.0	138
Mumbai	75.5	=66
Sydney	75.5	=66
Taipei	77.0	61
Seoul	80.6	51
Frankfurt	80.9	48
Abu Dhabi	86.7	26
Rome	91.2	18
London	92.7	16
Paris	95.1	13
Singapore	98.0	10
Beijing	99.6	9
New York	100.0	8
Hong Kong	108.7	5
Geneva	109.2	4
Moscow	115.4	3
Tokyo	143.7	1

Footnotes:

1: The Cost-of-Living Index covers 143 cities across six continents and is weighted and composed of more than 200 items which represent typical expatriate spending patterns. Items measured in the survey include housing, transport, food, clothing, household goods and entertainment.

2: Cost index of basket of goods in major cities excluding housing (New York City = 100). Data is as at March 2008.

Source: Mercer Human Resource Consulting, 24 July 2008, www.imercer.com