

MERCER COST OF LIVING SURVEY 2009

Mercer Consulting has released the results of their annual *Cost of Living Survey* for 2009. This survey covers 143 cities across six continents and measures the comparative cost of over 200 items in each location, including housing, transport, food, clothing, household goods and entertainment.

Findings

Adelaide remains the most affordable city in Australia and one of the most affordable cities in the Asian Pacific region. Adelaide's ranking improved to 130th in the world from 73rd place in 2008 (higher rankings mean lower cost of living).

Table 1: Cost of Living Index – Selected Cities

Rank 2009	Rank 2008	City
1	2	Tokyo, Japan
2	11	Osaka, Japan
5	6	Hong Kong, HK
9	20	Beijing, China
10	13	Singapore, Singapore
66	15	Sydney, Australia
92	36	Melbourne, Australia
116	57	Brisbane, Australia
117	53	Perth, Australia
130	73	Adelaide, Australia
138	78	Auckland, New Zealand
139	93	Wellington, New Zealand

Note:

1. *Rankings are in order of most expensive city to least expensive city. The ranking of 1 indicates the most expensive city.*
2. *A bigger number in 2009 compared to 2008 indicates improvements in the cost of living compared to the other cities.*

According to Mercer, cities in Australia and New Zealand have significantly improved their rankings in 2009 following dramatic currency depreciations against the US dollar. Across the Asia Pacific region, Australian cities are extremely cost competitive destinations for global workers in comparison to cities such as Beijing, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Osaka, which have all deteriorated in the rankings this year.

Source: Mercer Consulting, Cost of Living Survey 2009