

The Global Liveability Index 2025

Ranking the world's most liveable cities



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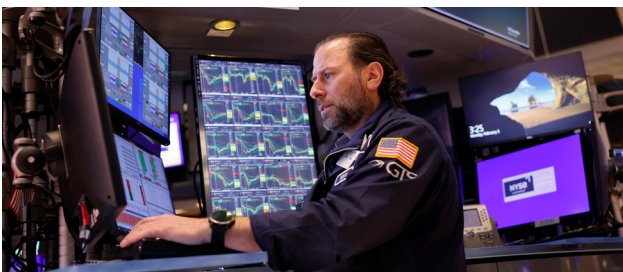
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The complete analysis summarised in this report is available through our Country Analysis service. To arrange a bespoke demonstration or explore its features and content, please contact us or visit eiu.com/country-analysis

Key findings from the latest Global Liveability Survey

- In EIU's Liveability Index for 2025 **Copenhagen has overtaken Vienna to become the most liveable city in the world.** The Austrian city outscored its Danish counterpart on healthcare, but Copenhagen scored a perfect 100 for stability, education and infrastructure, taking it to first place.
- **Vienna saw its score for stability drop sharply**, in the wake of a bomb threat in the lead-in to a (subsequently cancelled) Taylor Swift concert in summer 2024 and the discovery of a planned attack on a city train station in 2025. Its demotion ended a three-year run at the top of the rankings, as it joined Zurich (Switzerland) in second place.
- **The average liveability score across the 173 cities in the index was the same as last year**, at 76.1 out of 100. Stability scores declined on average, as they did last year, but the effect was offset by year-on-year increases in the scores for education, healthcare and infrastructure.
- **The most improved city is Al Khobar (Saudi Arabia)**, which saw its scores for healthcare and education rise sharply, taking it up 13 places. **Calgary (Canada) saw the biggest fall down the rankings**, tumbling from fifth place to 18th. Three UK cities—Manchester, London and Edinburgh—were also among the biggest fallers as their stability scores dropped.
- **Damascus (Syria) is still the least liveable of the 173 cities in the survey**, with Tripoli (Libya) one place above it. Despite last year's regime change, Syria's capital city continues to be scarred by years of civil war and has seen no improvement in liveability.

Copenhagen is now the world's most liveable city











Copenhagen (Denmark) has knocked Vienna off the top of EIU's Liveability Index in 2025, ending a three-year run of dominance by the Austrian city. The assessment scores 173 cities across the world on 30 indicators, divided into five categories: stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education

and infrastructure, with the aim of showing how comfortable these cities are to live in. This year, Copenhagen moved up from second place, after getting perfect scores of 100 for three of the five categories: stability, education and infrastructure.

The Global Liveability Index 2025

Ranking the world's most liveable cities

Top ten positions

City	Location	Rank	Index	Stability	Healthcare	Culture and environment			Infrastructure
						Education	Healthcare	Environment	
Copenhagen	 Denmark	1	98.0	100.0	95.8	95.4	100.0	100.0	100.0
Vienna	 Austria	2	97.1	95.0	100.0	93.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
Zurich	 Switzerland	2	97.1	95.0	100.0	96.3	100.0	100.0	96.4
Melbourne	 Australia	4	97.0	95.0	100.0	95.8	100.0	100.0	96.4
Geneva	 Switzerland	5	96.8	95.0	100.0	94.9	100.0	100.0	96.4
Sydney	 Australia	6	96.6	95.0	100.0	94.4	100.0	100.0	96.4
Osaka	 Japan	7	96.0	100.0	100.0	86.8	100.0	100.0	96.4
Auckland	 New Zealand	7	96.0	95.0	95.8	97.9	100.0	100.0	92.9
Adelaide	 Australia	9	95.9	95.0	100.0	91.4	100.0	100.0	96.4
Vancouver	 Canada	10	95.8	95.0	95.8	97.2	100.0	100.0	92.9

Source: EIU.

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Cities in western Europe and developed countries in Asia-Pacific continue to dominate the top end of the rankings in this year's survey (conducted between April 14th and May 11th). Vienna, which fell to joint second place, saw a sharp decline in its stability score following recent terrorism scares, but attained perfect scores for healthcare, education and infrastructure.

It was joined in second place by Zurich (Switzerland), while Geneva (also Switzerland) came in fifth. Between them, in fourth place, was Melbourne, with two other Australian cities, Sydney and Adelaide, also making the top ten. As in previous surveys, the rest of the leading cities were spread across Japan, New Zealand and Canada.

Liveability remains under pressure

The average score for liveability across the 173 cities in the index stands at 76.1 out of 100, the same as in 2024. However, scores in the stability category have continued to fall amid geopolitical tensions, civil unrest and widespread housing crises. In several west European cities, terrorist attacks and threats, as well as a rising incidence of crime and xenophobia, continue to undermine stability. In Tehran (Iran), and cities in Taiwan and India, stability scores have dropped as the threat of military conflict has intensified.

In Tehran, geopolitical instability has increased amid the escalation in the Israeli-Gaza conflict, the collapse of the Iranian-backed regime in Syria and increasing tension with the US. The lower stability scores for Taiwanese cities reflect increasing uncertainty over China's

intentions as it tries to tighten control over the Taiwan Strait. For the Indian cities in the rankings, the downgrade follows one of the worst terrorist attacks targeting civilians in the country, which led to military confrontation with its neighbour, Pakistan. Although a ceasefire was subsequently agreed, the relationship between the two nuclear-armed neighbours remains hostile.

More positively, scores for healthcare, education and infrastructure all saw marginal improvements on average across the 173 cities. For healthcare, the upswing was driven by cities in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, where oil-rich governments have been extending public healthcare systems and attracting investment into building hospitals.

Western Europe is the most liveable region

Western Europe remains the best-performing region for liveability, having achieved the top scores in four of the five categories and outpaced only by North America for education. However, the region's score for stability has fallen since 2024, amid more frequent terrorism threats, riots and antisemitic attacks.

The 25 cities in **North America** saw their average overall score slip slightly to 90.4 in the latest survey. This was largely owing to a decline in healthcare scores for the four Canadian cities, where

the debate over funding for the decentralised national health service remains unresolved. With the Trump administration in the US proposing to cut public spending on education and healthcare, the region remains susceptible to further downgrades in future editions of this report.

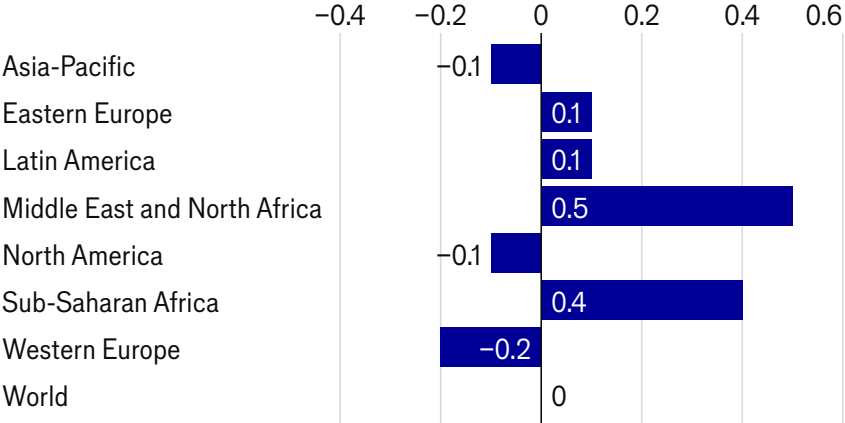
As always, **Asia-Pacific** has the widest range of scores. Its most liveable city, Melbourne (Australia), came fourth in the rankings this year, while its least liveable, Dhaka (Bangladesh), came 171st (down three places following the political upheaval in the country in 2024).

Three of the most liveable regions see a drop in scores

Index change, year on year

Source: EIU.

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Damascus is still the world's least liveable city

The bottom of our liveability rankings is largely filled by cities from the Middle East and Africa. We still rate Damascus (Syria) as the least comfortable city in the world to live in. Syria saw a dramatic change of regime in December 2024, when its Baathist government was toppled after 61 years in power. However, the city's average liveability score of

30.7 out of 100 is unchanged since last year, with scores for stability and healthcare remaining particularly poor. The overall score for Damascus is nearly ten points lower than that of the next-worst city—Tripoli (Libya)—which also scores badly for stability and has not seen any improvement in its overall score since last year, either.











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Bottom ten positions

City	Location	Rank	Index	Stability	Culture and			
					Healthcare	environment	Education	Infrastructure
Caracas	 Venezuela	164	44.9	35.0	37.5	45.1	66.7	53.6
Kyiv	 Ukraine	165	44.5	40.0	41.7	53.2	75.0	26.8
Port Moresby	 PNG	166	44.1	30.0	41.7	52.5	58.3	46.4
Harare	 Zimbabwe	167	43.8	40.0	29.2	56.7	66.7	35.7
Lagos	 Nigeria	168	43.5	30.0	37.5	54.4	41.7	53.6
Algiers	 Algeria	169	42.8	35.0	54.2	45.4	58.3	30.4
Karachi	 Pakistan	170	42.7	20.0	54.2	35.9	75.0	51.8
Dhaka	 Bangladesh	171	41.7	45.0	41.7	40.5	66.7	26.8
Tripoli	 Libya	172	40.1	30.0	45.8	37.5	58.3	41.1
Damascus	 Syria	173	30.7	20.0	29.2	40.5	33.3	32.1

Source: EIU.

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Al Khobar has climbed up the rankings, but Calgary has fallen

Al Khobar in Saudi Arabia has seen the biggest improvement since last year. The Kingdom is investing heavily in improving access to healthcare and education under Vision 2030, a far-reaching economic diversification programme intended to reduce the country's reliance on oil. Jakarta in Indonesia has also seen a substantial improvement in liveability based on

its improved stability score. This reflects incremental progress made by the country's security forces in reducing its vulnerability to terrorism. Anti-government student protests in March 2025 posed risks to stability, but they have since calmed. However, recent floods sounded a warning about the long-term climate risks to the low-lying city.

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Biggest movers up the rankings in the past 12 months

City	Location	Rank	Index	Rank move	Index move
Al Khobar	 Saudi Arabia	135	62.4	13	3.4
Jakarta	 Indonesia	132	62.9	10	2.5
Bangkok	 Thailand	116	69.4	6	2.5
Chiang Mai	 Thailand	130	63.8	6	2.5
Athens	 Greece	85	78.1	6	2.5
Hong Kong	 Hong Kong*	44	90.4	6	0.2
Luxembourg	 Luxembourg	11	95.6	6	0.7
Abu Dhabi	 United Arab Emirates	72	83.3	4	1.6
Montreal	 Canada	19	93.8	4	0.4
Miami	 United States of America	44	90.4	3	0.0
Portland	 United States of America	44	90.4	3	0.0
Milan	 Italy	49	89.5	3	0.0
Indianapolis	 United States of America	50	89.4	3	0.0
Charlotte	 United States of America	50	89.4	3	0.0
Dubai	 United Arab Emirates	75	82.5	3	1.7
Surabaya	 Indonesia	150	57.1	3	1.2
Jeddah	 Saudi Arabia	127	64.7	3	1.7
Abidjan	 Cote d'Ivoire	156	54.1	3	1.5
Rio de Janeiro	 Brazil	111	70.9	3	0.7

Source: EIU.

*Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China.
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Biggest movers down the rankings in the past 12 months

City	Location	Rank	Index	Rank move	Index move
Calgary	 Canada	18	94.7	-13	-2.1
Nouméa	 New Caledonia	90	76.8	-10	-2.5
Manchester	 United Kingdom	52	89.3	-9	-1.3
Rotterdam	 Netherlands	52	89.3	-9	-1.3
London	 United Kingdom	54	89.2	-9	-1.3
Amsterdam	 Netherlands	25	93.3	-6	-1.3
Edinburgh	 United Kingdom	64	87.3	-5	-1.2
Taichung	 Taiwan	79	80.7	-5	-1.3
Toronto	 Canada	16	94.9	-4	-0.9
Lisbon	 Portugal	60	88.3	-4	-0.7

Source: EIU.

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The biggest movers down the liveability rankings include some previous members of the top ten. In 2024 Calgary came in at number five in our index, but this year (like the other three Canadian cities in the survey) it saw a decline in its score for healthcare as strains in the country's national health service intensified, making it the biggest faller in the rankings. Toronto also fell, from 12th to 16th place, with

Vancouver the only Canadian city in the top ten.

Three major UK cities lower down the rankings—Manchester, London and Edinburgh—also saw their scores in the stability category fall. The UK saw widespread rioting in 2024, sparked by an attack by an individual on a children's centre in Southport (during which three children were killed).

About EIU's liveability survey

How does it work?

The concept of liveability is simple. It assesses which locations around the world provide the best—and worst—living conditions. The liveability scores have a broad range of applications, from benchmarking perceived development levels to assigning hardship allowances as part of expatriate relocation packages. Our liveability ratings quantify the challenges to an individual's lifestyle expectations in any given location and allow for direct comparison between locations.

Every city is assigned a rating of relative comfort for over 30 qualitative and quantitative factors, across five broad categories: stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure. Each factor in a city is rated as acceptable, tolerable, uncomfortable, undesirable or intolerable. For qualitative indicators, we award a rating based on the judgement of our in-house analysts and in-city contributors. For quantitative indicators, a rating is calculated based on the relative performance of a number of external data points.

The scores are then compiled and weighted to provide a score of 1-100, where 1 is considered intolerable and 100 is considered ideal. The liveability rating is provided both as an overall score and as a score for each category. To provide points of reference, the score is also given for each category relative to New York and an overall position in the ranking of 173 cities is provided.

The suggested liveability scale:

Companies pay a premium (usually a percentage of a salary) to employees who move to cities where living conditions are particularly difficult and there is excessive physical hardship or a notably unhealthy environment.

We have given a suggested allowance to correspond with the rating. However, the actual level of the allowance is often dictated by individual company policy. It is common, for example, for companies to pay higher allowances—sometimes as much as double our suggested level.

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Rating	City	Suggested allowance (%)
80-100	There are few, if any, challenges to living standards	0
70-80	Day-to-day living is fine, in general, but some aspects of life may entail problems	5
60-70	Negative factors have an impact on day-to-day living	10
50-60	Liveability is substantially constrained	15
50 or less	Most aspects of living are severely restricted	20

How is the rating calculated?

The liveability score is reached through category weights, which are equally divided into relevant subcategories to ensure that the score covers as many indicators as possible. Indicators are scored as acceptable, tolerable, uncomfortable, undesirable or intolerable. These are then weighted

to produce a rating, where 100 means that liveability in a city is ideal and 1 means that it is intolerable.

For qualitative variables, we award an "EIU rating" based on the judgement of our in-house expert country analysts and a field correspondent based in each city. For quantitative variables, we calculate a rating based on the relative performance of a location using external data sources.

Category 1: stability (weight: 25% of total)

Indicator	Source
Prevalence of petty crime	EIU rating
Prevalence of violent crime	EIU rating
Threat of terror	EIU rating
Threat of military conflict	EIU rating
Threat of civil unrest/conflict	EIU rating

Category 2: healthcare (weight: 20% of total)

Indicator	Source
Availability of private healthcare	EIU rating
Quality of private healthcare	EIU rating
Availability of public healthcare	EIU rating
Quality of public healthcare	EIU rating
Availability of over-the-counter drugs	EIU rating
General healthcare indicators	Adapted from World Bank

Category 3: culture and environment (weight: 25% of total)

Indicator	Source
Humidity/temperature rating	Adapted from average weather conditions
Discomfort caused to travellers by climate	EIU rating
Level of corruption	Adapted from Transparency International
Social or religious restrictions	EIU rating
Level of censorship	EIU rating
Sporting availability	EIU rating of 3 sport indicators
Cultural availability	EIU rating of 4 cultural indicators
Food & drink	EIU rating of 3 cultural indicators
Consumer goods & services	EIU rating of product availability

Category 4: education (weight: 10% of total)

Indicator	Source
Availability of private education	EIU rating
Quality of private education	EIU rating
Public education indicators	Adapted from World Bank

Category 5: infrastructure (weight: 20% of total)

Indicator	Source
Quality of road network	EIU rating
Quality of public transport	EIU rating
Quality of international links	EIU rating
Availability of good quality housing	EIU rating
Quality of energy provision	EIU rating
Quality of water provision	EIU rating
Quality of telecommunications	EIU rating

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Meet the EIU team



Ana Nicholls

Director, industry analysis

Ana oversees EIU's industry subscription services in London, managing websites, reports, data and forecasts across six industry sectors and acting as lead analyst for our healthcare and automotive analysis. Ana also works closely with clients in those two sectors, particularly on projects related to value-based health and healthcare policymaking.

★ **Specialist subjects**
Automotive, business environment, healthcare

🌐 **Languages**
English, French

📍 **Location**
London



Barsali Bhattacharyya

Deputy director,
industry analysis

With over a decade of experience, Barsali is an industry expert and a frequent speaker on geopolitical and macroeconomic trends and their implications on consumers and businesses. Barsali is deputy director of industry research, leading a global in shaping EIU's in-house views on global topics concerning a range of businesses. She is the lead analyst for the consumer and retail sector and The Global Liveability Index.

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📍 **Location**
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Akshay Rathi

Senior data analyst

Akshay manages EIU's city-level data, including The Global Liveability Index. His work focuses on analysing data and ensuring accuracy and structure, while collaborating with multiple stakeholders to support robust, reliable insights. He also leads data operations for other key indices such as sustainability and cost of living, and contributes to data workflows and visualisation across EIU's rating products.

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