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## **Москва возглавила список самых дорогих городов мира для приезжих**

Москва третий год подряд занимает первое место в рейтинге самых дорогих городов мира для приезжих, составленном Mercer Human Resource Consulting. Об этом сообщается в [пресс-релизе](#) компании.

Второе место занял Токио, поднявшись по сравнению с 2007 годом на две ступеньки рейтинга. Третья строчка досталась Лондону, в прошлом году занимавшему вторую позицию. Четвертое и пятое места заняли Осло и Сеул соответственно. Самым дешевым (143 место) в мире городом в шестой раз признана столица Парагвая Асунсьон.

При составлении рейтинга исследователи принимают во внимание цены более двухсот различных товаров и услуг (в том числе аренды жилья, питания и бензина) в 143 городах мира, напоминает BBC News. За эталон принята стоимость набора товаров в самом дорогом городе США, Нью-Йорке, который в нынешнем рейтинге Mercer спустился на семь ступенек и занял только 22 место.

По сравнению с ценами в Нью-Йорке, Шанхае, Амстердаме или Мадриде московские цены выше почти в полтора раза, отмечает агентство Reuters.

## Mercer's 2008 Cost of Living survey highlights

Last updated: 24 July 2008

<b>SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Moscow is still the most expensive city for expatriates; Asunción in Paraguay is the cheapest</b></li> <li>▪ <b>European and Asian cities dominate the top 10</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Weakening of US dollar causes significant changes in rankings</b></li> </ul>
<b>Key features &amp; benefits</b>	
<b>Top 5 ranking for cities by region</b>	
<b>Top 50 cities worldwide</b>	
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Contrary to the trend observed last year the gap between the world's most and least expensive cities now seems to be widening.

Yvonne Traber, a principal and research manager at Mercer, commented: "Current market conditions have led to the further weakening of the US dollar which, coupled with the strengthening of the Euro and many other currencies, has caused significant changes in this year's rankings.

"Although the traditionally expensive cities of Western Europe and Asia still feature in the top 20, cities in Eastern Europe, Brazil and India are creeping up the list. Conversely, some locations such as Stockholm and New York now appear less costly by comparison.

"Our research confirms the global trend in price increases for certain foodstuffs and petrol, though the rise is not consistent in all locations. This is partly balanced by decreasing prices for certain commodities such as electronic and electrical goods. We attribute this to cheaper imports from developing countries, especially China, and to advances in technology.

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"Keeping on top of the changes in expatriate cost of living is essential so companies can ensure their employees are compensated fairly and at competitive rates when stationed abroad.

"In some cases, cost of living increases may be correlated to countries with a high rate of economic growth. Companies may assign high priority to expansion in these economies but may have to deal with inflationary pressures due to competition for expatriate-level housing and other services, as observed in our surveys," she noted.

Mercer's 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. It is the world's most comprehensive cost of living survey and is used to help multinational companies and governments determine compensation allowances for their expatriate employees.

**Key**



We sat down with Ulrico Lucchi to discuss the Cost of Living Survey results for 2008.

[View our webcast](#)  
*NB: This videocast is provided by our sister site [imercer.com](http://imercer.com)*

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## Cost of living top 5 ranking cities by region

Top 5 cities - Asia Pacific	Top 5 cities - Americas	Top 5 cities - Europe, Middle East & Africa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tokyo, Japan (2nd)</li> <li>▪ Seoul, South Korea (5th)</li> <li>▪ Hong Kong, China (6th)</li> <li>▪ Osaka, Japan (11th)</li> <li>▪ Singapore, Singapore (13th)</li> </ul> <p><i>The lowest ranking city in Asia was was Karachi, Pakistan (141st)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New York City, US (22nd)</li> <li>▪ São Paulo, Brazil (25th)</li> <li>▪ Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (31st)</li> <li>▪ Toronto, Canada (54th)</li> <li>▪ Los Angeles, US (55th)</li> </ul> <p><i>The lowest ranking city in the Americas was Asunción, Paraguay (143rd)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Moscow, Russia (1st)</li> <li>▪ London, UK (3rd)</li> <li>▪ Oslo, Norway (4th)</li> <li>▪ Copenhagen, Denmark (7th)</li> <li>▪ Geneva, Switzerland (8th)</li> </ul> <p><i>The lowest ranking city from Europe, Middle East &amp; Africa was Johannesburg, South Africa (140th)</i></p>

### Cost of living top 50 cities

Base City: New York, US (= 100)

**Please note:** *The Cost of Living Indices below have been prepared specifically for the purpose of the press release. The indices are based on Mercer's cost of living database and are modified to include housing and to reflect constant weighting and basket items. The results may differ from those calculated for Mercer's clients who use the results solely for the purpose of expatriate compensation. We do not recommend that expatriates*

*use the figures represented here to compare their own compensation packages.*

Rank March 2008	Rank March 2007	City	Country	Cost of living Index March 2008	Cost of living Index March 2007
1	1	Moscow	Russia	142.4	134.4
2	4	Tokyo	Japan	127.0	122.1
3	2	London	UK	125.0	126.3
4	10	Oslo	Norway	118.3	105.8
5	3	Seoul	South Korea	117.7	122.4
6	5	Hong Kong	China	117.6	119.4
7	6	Copenhagen	Denmark	117.2	110.2
8	7	Geneva	Switzerland	115.8	109.8
9	9	Zurich	Switzerland	112.7	107.6
10	11	Milan	Italy	111.3	104.4
11	8	Osaka	Japan	110.0	108.4
12	13	Paris	France	109.4	101.4
13	14	Singapore	Singapore	109.1	100.4
14	17	Tel Aviv	Israel	105.0	97.7
15	21	Sydney	Australia	104.1	94.9
16	16	Dublin	Ireland	103.9	99.6
16	18	Rome	Italy	103.9	97.6
18	12	St. Petersburg	Russia	103.1	103.0
19	19	Vienna	Austria	102.3	96.9
20	20	Beijing	China	101.9	95.9
21	22	Helsinki	Finland	101.1	93.3
22	15	New York City	US	100.0	100.0
23	38	Istanbul	Turkey	99.4	87.7
24	26	Shanghai	China	98.3	92.1
25	25	Amsterdam	Netherlands	97.0	92.2
25	29	Athens	Greece	97.0	90.6
25	62	São Paulo	Brazil	97.0	82.8
28	26	Madrid	Spain	96.7	92.1

29	49	Prague	Czech Rep.	96.0	85.6
30	37	Lagos	Nigeria	95.9	88.0
31	31	Barcelona	Spain	95.2	89.2
31	64	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	95.2	82.5
31	23	Stockholm	Sweden	95.2	93.1
34	24	Douala	Cameroon	95.1	92.9
35	67	Warsaw	Poland	95.0	82.4
36	64	Melbourne	Australia	94.2	82.5
37	39	Munich	Germany	93.1	87.6
38	45	Berlin	Germany	93.0	85.9
39	44	Brussels	Belgium	92.9	86.5
40	40	Frankfurt	Germany	92.5	87.4
41	33	Dakar	Senegal	92.2	89.0
42	28	Kiev	Ukraine	91.7	91.4
43	43	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	91.3	87.0
44	30	Almaty	Kazakhstan	90.7	89.6
45	31	Bratislava	Slovakia	90.6	89.2
46	45	Düsseldorf	Germany	90.4	85.9
46	72	Riga	Latvia	90.4	81.5
48	52	Mumbai	India	90.3	84.9
49	59	Zagreb	Croatia	90.0	83.5
50	57	Hamburg	Germany	89.9	84.2

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### Why is it important to revise cost of living allowances regularly?

Amongst the various elements of expatriation packages, a regular revision of the Cost of Living Allowance can be most critical to expatriates, as COLA has a direct impact on their purchasing power when transferred abroad.

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The cost of living allowance (COLA) also referred to as "goods and services allowance" is calculated on basis of an index that measures differences in costs between home and host locations. The application of this index on a part of the home salary, often referred as the "spendable income" portion, results in the cost of living allowance. But what if the cost of living in the host location is significantly lower than in the home country?

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