

# Highest Quality of Life

## Austria: Undisputed leader in the EU

Today Austria is a prosperous, stable and thriving country, looking back at a long and eventful history. Across the globe, Austria is valued as a nation with a rich cultural heritage, a popular travel destination and business partner, thanks to its broad spectrum of cultural offerings, marvelous landscape and a dynamic and innovative economy.

The selection of a business location is primarily driven by economic considerations. However, the underlying basis for excellence and top-rate performance of employees is a feeling of well-being and feeling good in the environment in which they live and work. This represents a decisive competitive advantage for Austria. There is hardly any country in the world which offers a comparable quality of life.

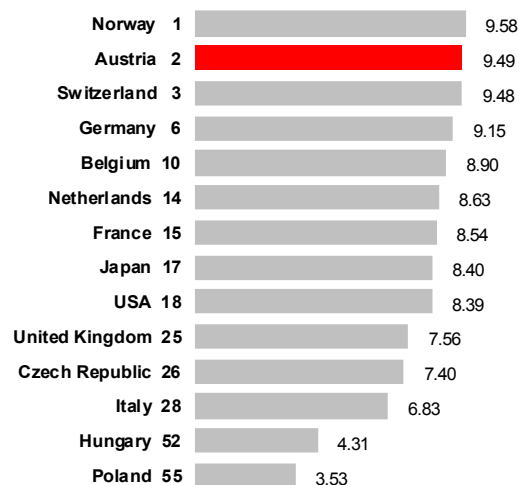
The high quality of life is reflected in the low crime rate, the high level of social security and an attractive shopping and recreational infrastructure.

Austria is a country boasting a diverse range of cultural, sporting and recreational activities. There is something suitable for every taste, fancy and age, whether a person's preference is opera, operetta, musicals, plays, concerts, exhibitions and much more.

Austria's health care system is considered to be one of the best in the world. Excellent health care is provided by specialists and top medical institutes along with a dense network of public and private hospitals.

### Unmatched Quality of Life

10 = The nation's quality of life is very high



Source: World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2013

## Vienna is the world's most popular city for managers

Vienna has the best living standard in the world. Austria's capital city offers precisely those location factors which managers value in business cities, such as stability, security, education and health care.

According to the latest "Quality of Living Survey 2011" prepared by the international Mercer Consulting Group, Vienna was ranked the most livable capital city in the world, ahead of Zurich, Auckland and Munich. For the fourth straight year Vienna was rated as the top place to live for employees of foreign institutions and companies. Vienna was given the highest marks in various categories, for example for its public transportation system and living standards. European cities dominated the top 25 in the ranking. Major cities such as Paris (29<sup>th</sup>), London (38<sup>th</sup>) and New York (44<sup>th</sup>) ranked far behind Vienna.

This study concluded that there is still a huge difference between Eastern Europe and Western Europe. However, the standard of living has improved in many Eastern European cities due to EU membership and the favorable economic development. Prague and Budapest were rated as the cities in Eastern Europe with the highest quality of life, ranked 69<sup>th</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> respectively.

On balance, the Mercer Consulting Group evaluated the quality of life in 221 large cities according to 39 criteria which are of relevance to expatriates. The study took social, political, economic and environmental aspects into consideration as well as personal safety and the range of health care, education and transportation services.

Rank	City	Country
1	Vienna	Austria
2	Zurich	Switzerland
3	Auckland	New Zealand
4	Munich	Germany
5	Vancouver	Canada
7	Frankfurt	Germany
9	Copenhagen	Denmark
12	Amsterdam	Netherlands
16	Berlin	Germany
19	Luxembourg	Luxembourg
20	Stockholm	Sweden
22	Brussels	Belgium
29	Paris	France
38	London	United Kingdom
44	New York	USA
44	Tokyo	Japan
49	Madrid	Spain
52	Rome	Italy
69	Prague	Czech Republic
74	Budapest	Hungary
75	Ljubljana	Slovenia
84	Warsaw	Poland

Source: Mercer Consulting – Worldwide Quality of Living Survey 2012

## Attractive price level

Vienna offers a diverse cultural offering and entertainment opportunities as well as attractive shopping and leisure time activities.

In addition, the cost of living in Vienna is affordable, according to the worldwide Cost-of-Living Survey 2012 by Mercer. Vienna was given a good ranking of 48<sup>th</sup> in the study, which evaluates the living costs for employees sent to work in 214 large cities abroad, including rents, public transportation, leisure time activities, food and clothing.

Tokyo is the most expensive city for expatriates surpassing Luanda (Angola). Osaka in Japan ranks third. Moscow remains in the fourth position and is the most expensive European city.

The top ten ranking comprises five Asian cities, three European urban centers and two African cities.

Rank	City	Country
1	Tokyo	Japan
2	Luanda	Angola
3	Osaka	Japan
4	Moscow	Russia
5	Geneva	Switzerland
6	Zurich	Switzerland
7	Singapore	Singapore
8	N'Djamena	Chad
9	Hong Kong	Hong Kong
10	Nagoya	Japan
18	Oslo	Norway
21	Copenhagen	Denmark
25	London	United Kingdom
33	New York City	USA
37	Paris	France
42	Rome	Italy
46	Stockholm	Sweden
48	Vienna	Austria
57	Amsterdam	Netherlands
69	Prague	Czech Republic
71	Brussels	Belgium

New York City = Base city

Source: Mercer Consulting – Worldwide Cost of Living Survey 2012

## Austria is an environmental role model

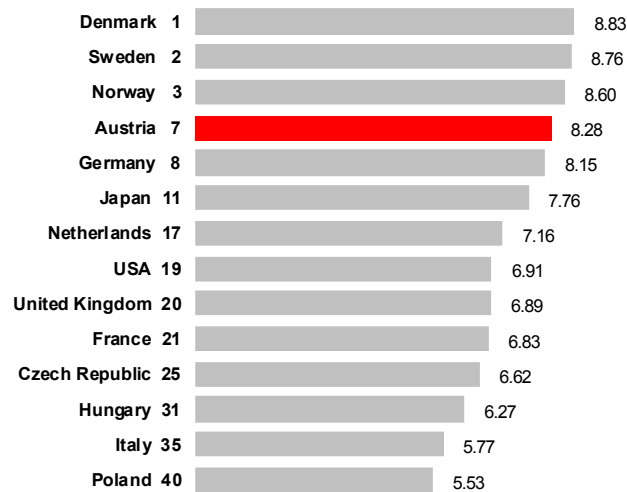
Well-preserved environment with science beauty, natural resources, a largely well-kept cultural landscape, green fields and meadows, crystal-clear water, excellent air quality levels and much more all contribute to the high quality of life in Austria. Industrial and economic progress have not blocked but rather facilitated an overall improvement of these values.

A positive symbiosis between the agricultural sector and the environment is also ensured. Austria has the highest proportion of biological agriculture compared to other countries in Europe.

Foresighted environmental policies, a highly developed environmental consciousness and ecologically sensitive production technologies ensure that Austria will remain a model nation in environmental protection.

### Clean Environment

10 = No environmental pollution



Source: World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2013

## International educational opportunities

But it is not only the wide-ranging choice of leisure activities in a secure environment that makes foreign managers quickly feel at home. Austrians' wide knowledge of foreign languages means that communication is not a problem.

German language courses are offered by the Goethe-Institute, Vienna University and many adult education colleges.

Austria also presents a comprehensive choice of schools and universities offering instruction in a variety of languages.

These include, among others:

- Vienna International School ([www.vis.ac.at](http://www.vis.ac.at))
- American International School ([www.ais.at](http://www.ais.at))
- Danube International School ([www.danubeschool.at](http://www.danubeschool.at))
- Webster University Vienna ([www.webster.ac.at](http://www.webster.ac.at))
- The International University Vienna ([www.iuvienna.edu](http://www.iuvienna.edu))
- Vienna Christian School ([www.viennachristianschool.org](http://www.viennachristianschool.org))
- Japanese School in Vienna ([www.japaneseschool.at](http://www.japaneseschool.at))
- Lycée Français de Vienne ([www.lyceefrancais.at](http://www.lyceefrancais.at))
- The Swedish School in Vienna ([www.svenskaskolan.at](http://www.svenskaskolan.at))
- Skola Komensky ([www.komensky.at](http://www.komensky.at))
- EMS European Middle School Neustiftgasse ([www.emsneustiftgasse.at](http://www.emsneustiftgasse.at))
- Al-Azhar Vienna Islamic International School



"Austria offers the comfort and infrastructure of a Western industrial nation. The high quality of life is an advantage when it comes to attracting top executives from around the world to our headquarters here."