

Cities of Opportunity 6 Sydney

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the top 10**

**#1 in
sustainability
and livability**

Cities of Opportunity 6 analyzes the development of 30 global cities, and through their performance seeks to add insight on the policies and actions that make cities function best.

Released May 2014

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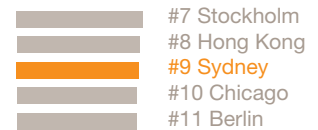
Sydney recovers its top 10 ranking in Cities of Opportunity by moving from #11 to #9 overall since our last report. Moreover, Australia's largest city scores in the top 10 in 4 indicators and in more than half of the variables.

A great place to live—and to move to

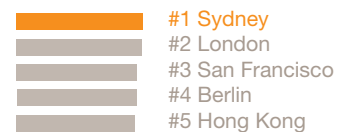
As in 2012, this coastal city's comparative advantages shine in the three indicators that measure living standards. Sydney ranks 1st in demographics and liveability; ties for 1st with Stockholm in sustainability; and ties for 2nd with Toronto (just behind Stockholm) in health, safety and security. Regarding demographics, the city:

- Ranks #2 for quality of living and lack of traffic congestion;
- Finishes 3rd for relocation attractiveness (a new variable taken directly from the PwC survey of 15,000 of its global staff); and
- Scores a 4th- and 7th-place, respectively, for ease of commute and cultural vibrancy.

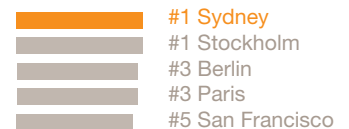
Overall



Demographics and liveability



Sustainability and the natural environment



Not just livable, but sustainable as well

This year, Sydney ties Stockholm for the top rank in sustainability and the natural environment and:

- Ranks 1st for air quality;
- Finishes 6th in recycling (up from 11th in 2012); and
- Scores in the top 10 (#8) for public park space.

World class care and low crime...

Sydney also excels in health, safety and security, tying Toronto for 2nd place, right below Stockholm. It:

- Ranks 2nd in end of life care—just behind London but ahead of all other European and North American cities;
- Finishes 3rd for hospitals and health employment;
- Ranks 5th for its low crime rate; and
- Finishes 10th for health system performance.

...and in the top 10 in intellectual capital and innovation

Sydney remains in the top 10 in 2014 for intellectual capital and innovation and:

- Maintains its top rank from 2012 in literacy and enrollment;
- Ranks 6th in entrepreneurial environment;
- Finishes in 7th place in the world university rankings; and
- Scores an 8th-place in public libraries.

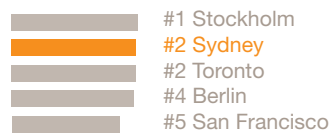
Ranks #12 in cost overall as high wages offset high living costs

Sydney has moved 17 places overall in the cost indicator since 2012, rising to #12. This is primarily because of Sydney's 1st-place finish in purchasing power and 3rd place in the iPhone index (or working hours needed to buy an iPhone). Its excellent performance in these 2 variables point to the high wages Sydneysiders receive to offset their higher cost of living.

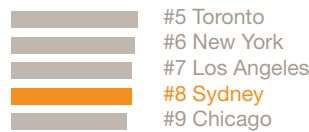
Room for growth: Maintaining business investment and improving transport

Sydney ranks 13th in both economic clout and ease of doing business. Since it ranks 1st in ease of starting a business, it is clearly those factors related to developing and maintaining a business that are problematic (the city falls to the bottom half of the ranking, for example, in both employee regulations and shareholder protection). Given its comparatively low GDP growth (#24) and shortage of skilled workers (#26 in working age population), Sydney needs to do more to enhance its business climate.

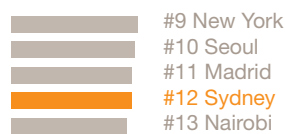
Health, safety and security



Intellectual capital and innovation



Cost



That climate would also benefit tremendously from improvements in transport and infrastructure, in which Sydney ranks 25th—an admittedly striking result for such an uncongested and sustainable city. (Just to give one example of several in this indicator, Sydney falls into the bottom 3rd in mass transit coverage, below Mexico City, Tokyo, and Los Angeles.) In the end, Sydney's low scores in transport and infrastructure not only raise the costs of doing business, but might also deter tourists from visiting a city that they otherwise might find very attractive.