



World's Most and Least Livable Cities in 2022 – The Indices

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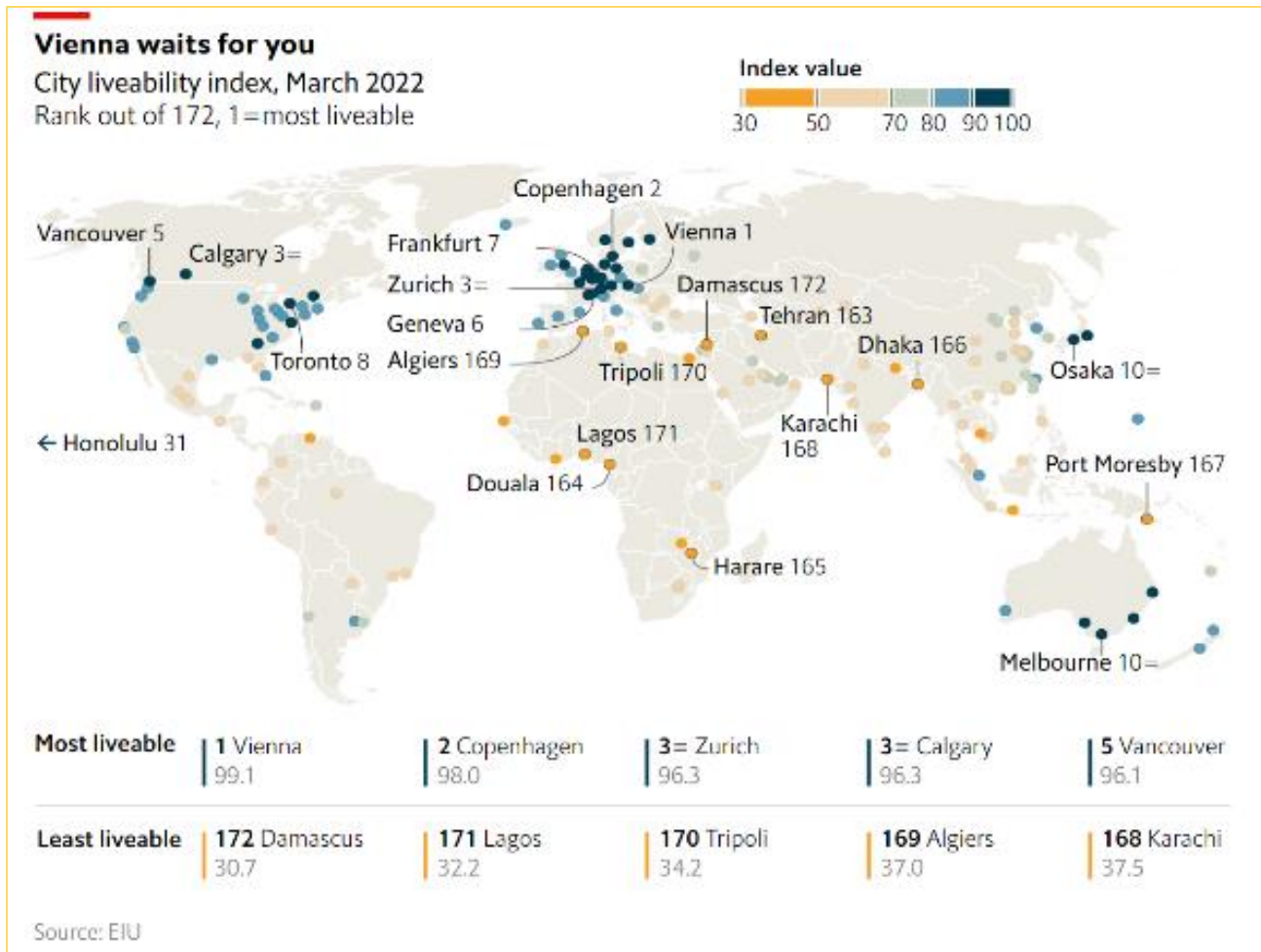
THE KEY FINDINGS OF THE LATEST LIVABILITY STUDY

- Livability Index has risen sharply in the 2022 survey (conducted between February 14th and March 13th). Scores for culture and environment, healthcare and education have improved on the back of covid - 19 curbs being eased. However, the global average score remains below pre-pandemic levels.
- A rollback of covid-19 restrictions has translated into livability rankings resembling those seen before the pandemic. Vienna (Austria) tops the rankings in 2022, as it did in 2019 and 2018.
- Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24th has forced to exclude Kiev (Ukraine) from the survey.
- The conflict has influenced rankings for Moscow and St. Petersburg (Russia). Both cities recorded a fall in scores owing to increased instability, censorship, imposition of Western sanctions and corporates withdrawing their operations from the country.
- Eastern European cities slip in the rankings amid increased geopolitical risks. If the cost-of-living crisis were to trigger further discord in international ties or domestic politics, stability scores would be likely to slide further for such cities next year.
- Western European and Canadian cities dominate the top of the rankings. Life is almost back to normal in these cities on account of high covid-19 vaccination rates and the easing of restrictions.
- Copenhagen (Denmark) has moved up 13 places from its position 12 months ago, to second, and Zurich (Switzerland) now shares third place with Calgary (Canada), which has risen from 18th position.
- Damascus (Syria) and Tripoli (Libya) continue to languish at the bottom of the list, along with Lagos (Nigeria)—as they are facing issues like social unrest, terrorism and conflict. However, most of the cities in the bottom ten have improved their scores compared with last year, as pandemic-induced pressures have eased.
- 33 new cities had been added to the rankings, one-third of them in China. This brings the total number of cities to 172, excluding Kiev.
- Many of the new entrants, such as Surabaya (Indonesia) and Chongqing (China), are already fast-growing business destinations.

THE OVERVIEW

- For the past two years, the global livability rankings have been largely driven by the covid-19 pandemic, with lockdowns and social distancing measures affecting scores for culture, education and healthcare in cities across the world.
- However, in the most recent survey, the index has normalized, as restrictions have been lifted in many countries. Vienna, which slipped to 12th place in our rankings in early 2021 as its museums and restaurants were closed, has since rebounded to first place, the position it held in 2018 and 2019. Stability and good

infrastructure are the city's main charms for its inhabitants, supported by good healthcare and plenty of opportunities for culture and entertainment.



Source: EIU

THE TOP 10 POSITIONS

City	Country	Rank	Index	Stability	Healthcare	Culture and Environment	Education	Infrastructure
Vienna	Austria	1	99.1	100.0	100.0	96.3	100.0	100.0
Copenhagen	Denmark	2	98.0	100.0	95.8	95.4	100.0	100.0
Zurich	Switzerland	3	96.3	95.0	100.0	96.3	91.7	96.4
Calgary	Canada	3	96.3	95.0	100.0	90.0	100.0	100.0
Vancouver	Canada	5	96.1	90.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	92.9
Geneva	Switzerland	6	95.9	95.0	100.0	94.9	91.7	96.4
Frankfurt	Germany	7	95.7	90.0	100.0	96.3	91.7	100.0
Toronto	Canada	8	95.4	95.0	100.0	95.4	100.0	89.3
Amsterdam	Netherland	9	95.3	90.0	100.0	97.2	91.7	96.4
Osaka	Japan	10	95.1	100.0	100.0	83.1	100.0	96.4
Melbourne	Australia	10	95.1	95.0	83.3	98.6	100.0	100.0

Source: EIU

THE BOTTOM 10 POSITIONS

City	Country	Rank	Index	Stability	Healthcare	Culture and Environment	Education	Infrastructure
Tehran	Iran	163	44.0	55.0	45.8	32.9	50.0	39.3
Douala	Cameroon	164	43.3	60.0	25.0	45.6	33.3	42.9
Harare	Zimbabwe	165	40.9	40.0	20.8	51.9	66.7	35.7
Dhaka	Bangladesh	166	39.2	55.0	29.2	40.5	41.7	26.8
Port Moresby	PNG	167	38.8	30.0	37.5	38.0	50.0	46.4
Karachi	Pakistan	168	37.5	20.0	33.3	35.2	66.7	51.8
Algiers	Algeria	169	37.0	35.0	29.2	45.4	50.0	30.4
Tripoli	Libya	170	34.2	30.0	29.2	33.8	41.7	41.1
Lagos	Nigeria	171	32.2	20.0	20.8	44.9	25.0	46.4
Damascus	Syria	172	30.7	20.0	29.2	40.5	33.3	32.1

Source: EIU

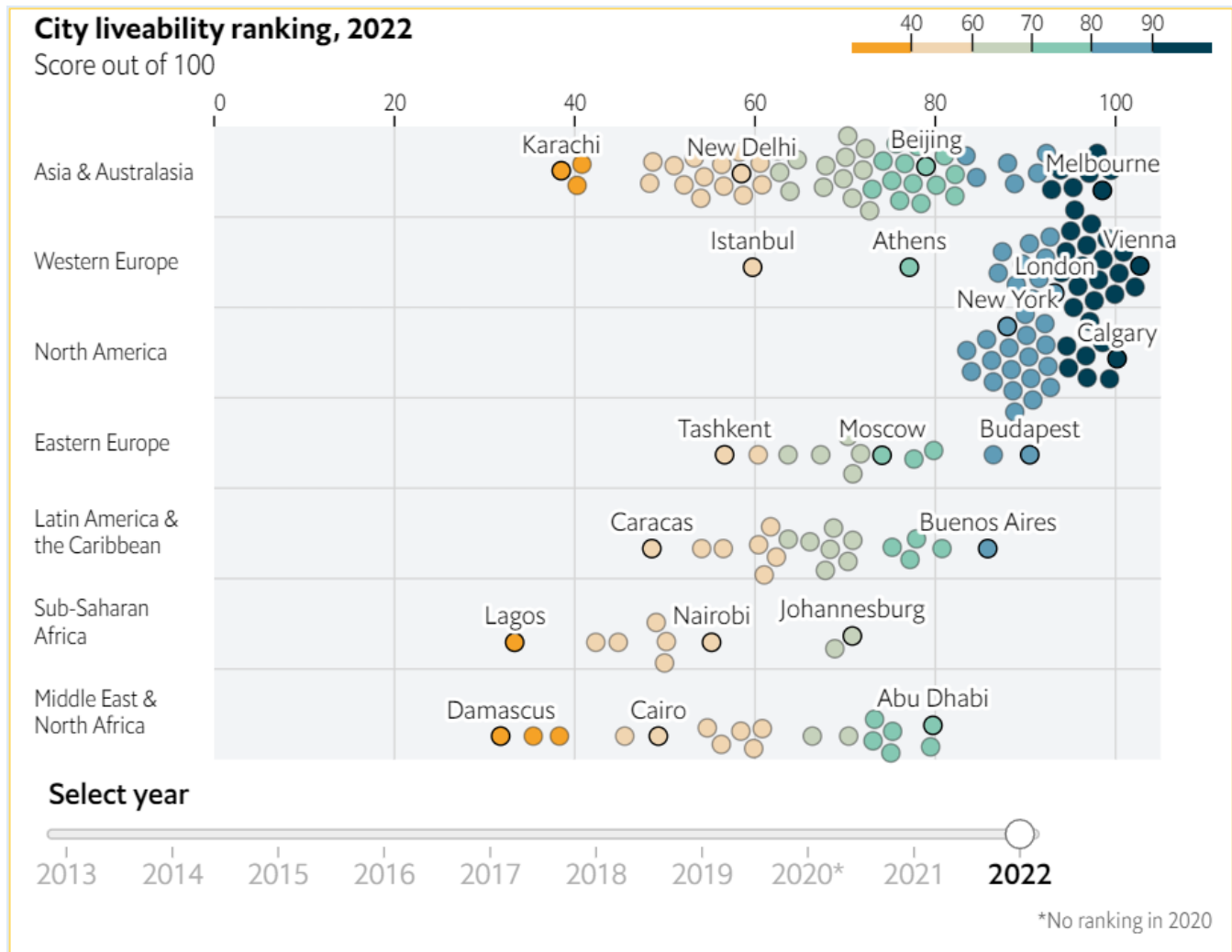
THE PANDEMIC CONTINUES TO DRIVE THE BIGGEST MOVES

- The biggest moves up our rankings are by cities in western Europe. Most German, UK and French cities had slipped in our survey a year ago because they were still under covid restrictions imposed as the Delta wave spread across the continent.
- This has changed with covid-19 in the process of becoming endemic and normalcy largely being restored. Frankfurt has climbed by an impressive 32 places over the past year to seventh, while Hamburg is up by 31 places to 16th. Three Canadian cities have seen a similar trajectory and have made it back into the top ten.
- Cities in New Zealand and Australia are listed among the biggest fallers in our rankings, including Wellington and Auckland, which tumbled by 46 and 33 places respectively. Both countries benefited in early 2021, when covid vaccines were scarce: their closed borders kept cases down, keeping livability high. Auckland came top of the early 2021 survey.
- However, this changed as a more infectious covid-19 wave struck in late 2021, which made closed borders less of a defense. Although New Zealand's lockdowns ended in December, before our survey period, its cities no longer have a covid advantage over well-vaccinated European and Canadian cities.
- In Australia, some states were slower to lift restrictions than others. As a result, Perth and Adelaide have lost ground since last year, and Melbourne is once again Australia's highest-ranked city. Adjusting policy dynamically will remain key to staying on top.

LIVABILITY IS AT RISK OVER THE NEXT YEAR

- The war in Ukraine and covid restrictions will continue to affect cities' livability over the next year.
- The pandemic is not yet over. The core assumption is that a new variant will cause a global wave of cases later this year, but that it will not be more aggressive than Delta or prove resistant to current vaccines. High- and middle-income cities will use a combination of social restrictions and a renewed vaccination push to contain the variant, affecting livability again. Those with low vaccination rates and a poor social safety net, particularly cities in Africa, are more likely to live with rising caseloads and the resulting disruption.

- China, although it is lifting its city lockdowns for now, is expected to keep its zerocovid policies in place until at least late 2022.
- Meanwhile, the war in Ukraine will continue to be a threat to security throughout the next year at least. It is expected that the active phase of the war to continue during 2022 before giving way to more entrenched hostility. Even without escalation, the conflict will continue to fuel global inflation and dampen economic growth. Higher global commodity prices, particularly for energy and food, will weigh on livability in many cities over the coming months and could spark conflict in some.
- Even where stability is not threatened, the cost-of-living crisis will dampen investment in infrastructure, healthcare and education, as well as the consumer spending that supports cultural life.



Source: EIU

THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

- Global prices for many goods, particularly food and fuel, rose sharply in 2021 and have since soared because of the war in Ukraine. Russia is a major oil and gas exporter, but together with Ukraine accounts for 30% of global trade in wheat, 17% in maize and more than 50% in sunflower seed oil.

- It has been raised its 2022 forecast for global average consumer price inflation to 8.5%, the highest for 26 years. Inflation rates will subsequently ease, but we expect prices to remain high for as long as the conflict rages. Although costs do not form part of the livability survey.
- This sharp spike in inflation will put quality of life in many cities at risk, particularly if there are also interruptions to food and fuel supplies caused by the war in Ukraine. Either residents will be forced to pay much higher prices (making it harder to enjoy the culture and environment of their cities) or governments will take on more of the burden (which will risk their ability to provide high-quality public services).
- Rising interest rates in most countries will also make borrowing and debt repayments more expensive, reducing consumer spending further. Some businesses, including hotels and restaurants already weakened by the pandemic, may not survive, reducing livability further.

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