The percentage shown is the difference in the total index between 1998 and 2018 overall quality of living.

Note:
* Select cities with significant increases in quality of living over the past 20 years (ranking in 1998 vs. 2018).

Background on QOL

- Improving infrastructure (airports, public transport, etc.) and concerted efforts over the past few decades to continuously improve public services, transportation offerings and personal safety.
- Attracting mobile talent.

The QOL 20th anniversary edition shows the highest increases in quality of living for select cities by region and what growth cities are doing to attract expatriates, combined with a slight development in infrastructure.

- In recent decades, the people of cities throughout the growth economies have witnessed an exponential increase in their living standards as part of rapidly expanding middle-class and affluent populations.
- Many of these cities have started attracting multinational businesses setting up new operations.
- International recognition as one of the best cities in which to live, work and retire can accelerate profitable business growth and societal progress.

Partner and President of Mercer’s EuroPac Region. “The driving factors have been improvements in public services, transportation offerings and personal safety, as well as increased availability of increased living standards, a competitive labor market and talent availability, economic and political stability. Africa continues to have some remarkable successes — countries that have achieved economic and political stability, poverty, natural disasters and lack of adequate infrastructure.

- Some countries have experienced high economic growth — but also considerable challenges, including political and economic turmoil, poverty, natural disasters and lack of adequate infrastructure.

- In Europe, some of the highest increases in living standards over the last 20 years have been observed in Amsterdam, Brussels and Copenhagen. As two of the fastest-growing economies in the world, China and India have seen improvements in the city’s infrastructure since the end of 90s, combined with greater economic and political stability.

In North America, increases in living standards have been more muted compared to Europe, with North American cities witnessing only marginal increases. With those increases being due to infrastructure developments, several locations in Central and Latin America saw living standards increase following improvements in public services, transportation offerings and personal safety.

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