

2017 Best Cities for Families

Study reveals the best cities to raise a family, based on factors such as maternity laws, affordability and happiness.

- **Copenhagen, Denmark** is the best city for families, as one of the safest, happiest cities in the world, with affordable housing based on PPP* and excellent maternity/paternity laws.
- **13 out of the top 20 best cities for families are in Europe**, with 3 Canadian cities, 3 Australian and 1 from New Zealand making up the remainder.

Berlin, Germany, 15/11/2017 - Online real estate portal for home buyers and sellers [Homeday](#) have released a study revealing the best cities for families worldwide. After thousands of successful property sales, Homeday learnt through conversing with homebuyers that young families looking to settle down is one of the core engines of the home purchasing industry. They commissioned this study in order to help potential property buyers and sellers make data-led decisions.

To begin research, Homeday first asked hundreds of parents what makes a city great for raising a family. Using the answers, they then determined the main categories to study; city infrastructure, maternity laws, healthcare quality, happiness levels, activities for children, and expert perception. After analysing thousands of cities around the world for data relating to these categories, they then determined the final list of 100 best cities for families. Every city which is featured in this final index has been hand-picked from thousands of possibilities so should be considered an excellent place to raise a family.

Within these main categories, there are 15 factors; Housing, Education System, Safety, Affordability, Unemployment, Pollution, Transportation, Maternity/Paternity Law, Healthcare, Happiness, Kid Friendly Airports, Activities for Kids, Green Spaces, and then we polled 30,000 parenting professionals and journalists for their Expert Perception. These factors were chosen based on what parents confirmed were important when choosing a city to settle in, and give an overview of the best cities for young families to both live and visit around the world. Every city in the final list was analysed for these 15 factors and then awarded a score to determine a final ranking.

“Our real estate agents agree that the ultimate importance for most young families searching for real estate, is a location which is good for their family development.” says Steffen Wicker, Managing Director at Homeday. “For those families trying to decide where to put down roots, they need data-led research more than ever to help them make an informed decision. We hope that this study will make the all-important choice of where to raise a family that bit easier for young movers.”

The table below reveals the results for **Copenhagen, Denmark**. Scores are from 1 - 10, with 10 meaning that the city ranks very highly for this factor:

Copenhagen, Denmark ranks 1 with a total score of 8.43				
Housing	Education System	Safety	Affordability based on PPP	Unemployment
9.73	7.15	9.27	5.73	7.45
Pollution	Transportation	Maternity/Paternity Law	Healthcare	Happiness
8.82	6.18	8.22	7.91	9.91
Kid Friendly Airports	Activities for Kids	Green Spaces	Parents	Professionals
8.73	8.64	7.84	9.7	9.5

N.B. This is a sample of the full results which can be found here: <https://www.homeday.de/en/family-index-international/>

The table below reveals a sample of the results for the **top 20 cities for families**:

#	City	Country	Housing	Education System	Maternity/Paternity Law	Healthcare	Happiness	Activities for Kids	Total Score
1	Copenhagen	Denmark	9.73	7.15	8.22	7.91	9.91	8.64	8.43
2	Oslo	Norway	9.18	7.15	8.91	7.36	10.00	7.18	8.32
3	Zurich	Switzerland	7.91	8.55	2.48	9.91	9.73	5.00	8.20
4	Stockholm	Sweden	4.27	7.87	9.31	10.00	8.64	7.64	8.18
5	Hamburg	Germany	9.36	8.72	7.13	9.09	7.00	7.55	8.14
6	Vancouver	Canada	5.82	9.45	7.63	7.82	9.09	8.55	8.09
7	Basel	Switzerland	8.82	7.84	2.48	9.91	9.73	4.05	8.04
8	Toronto	Canada	4.09	9.45	7.63	7.82	9.09	8.18	8.01
9	Stuttgart	Germany	7.27	8.55	7.13	9.09	7.00	7.45	7.98
10	Munich	Germany	5.27	8.77	7.13	9.09	7.00	8.82	7.96
11	Lausanne	Switzerland	7.64	8.55	2.48	9.91	9.73	2.73	7.90
12	Vienna	Austria	6.64	5.41	9.21	8.36	8.09	9.36	7.76
13	Sydney	Australia	4.87	6.89	1.30	7.09	8.64	9.33	7.75
14	Helsinki	Finland	4.54	9.17	9.90	7.36	9.27	7.00	7.75
15	Melbourne	Australia	5.54	8.24	1.30	7.09	8.64	8.88	7.75
16	Bern	Switzerland	8.36	7.85	2.48	9.91	9.73	2.64	7.73
17	Montreal	Canada	4.09	9.45	7.63	7.82	9.09	8.91	7.72
18	Brisbane	Australia	8.09	6.59	1.30	7.09	8.64	6.64	7.68
19	Auckland	New Zealand	4.45	8.01	3.77	8.18	8.82	7.55	7.66
20	Frankfurt	Germany	9.18	8.65	7.13	9.09	7.00	9.09	7.61

N.B. To find a full explanation of each factor, please see the methodology at the bottom of the press release. This is a sample of the full results which can be found here: <https://www.homeday.de/en/family-index-international/>

Further Findings:

- **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia** ranks first for Housing, followed by Dubai, UAE and Muscat, Oman.
- **Hong Kong, China** ranks first for Education, followed by Japanese cities Tokyo and Osaka.
- **Lausanne, Switzerland** ranks first for Safety, followed by Abu Dhabi, UAE and fellow Swiss city Geneva.
- **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia** ranks first for Affordability (based on PPP), followed by Houston, USA and Hannover, Germany.
- **Doha, Qatar** ranks first for low Unemployment, followed by Bangkok, Thailand and Beijing, China.
- **Reykjavik, Iceland** ranks first for Pollution, followed by New Zealand cities Wellington and Auckland.
- **Bern, Switzerland** ranks first for Transportation, followed by fellow Swiss cities Lausanne and Basel.
- **Sofia, Bulgaria** ranks first for Maternity/Paternity Laws, followed jointly by Helsinki, Finland and Budapest, Hungary.
- On a national level, **Sweden** ranks first for Healthcare, while Switzerland and France rank second and third respectively.
- **Oslo, Norway** ranks first for Happiness, followed by Copenhagen, Denmark and Reykjavik, Iceland.
- **Sydney, Australia** ranks first for Kid Friendly Airports, followed by Singapore, Singapore and Oslo, Norway.
- **Paris, France** ranks first for Activities for Kids, followed by Berlin, Germany and Lyon, France.
- **Stuttgart, Germany** ranks first for Green Spaces, followed by Edinburgh, UK and Luxembourg, Luxembourg.
- The Parents' Expert Perception poll puts **Copenhagen, Denmark** first place, followed by Lausanne, Switzerland and Luxembourg, Luxembourg.
- The Professionals' Expert Perception poll puts **Hamburg, Germany** first place, followed jointly by Copenhagen, Denmark and Basel, Switzerland.

* PPP=Purchasing Power Parity

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About "Homeday": Homeday believes that buying and selling real estate should be as easy and convenient as possible. Therefore, they combine unique technology with professional, personal advice and local real estate agents with excellent market knowledge to make the entire real estate sale process smooth and practical. Homeday was founded in 2014 by Steffen Wicker, Dmitri Uvarovski and Philipp Reichle and now has more than 60 employees.

Pressemitteilung

Methodology

To select the cities in the ranking, we first asked hundreds of parents what makes a city great for raising a family. Using these answers, we determined five categories for the study; City, Maternity Law and Health, Happiness, Travel and Activities and Expert Perception. We then analysed thousands of cities around the world for data relating to these categories to determine the final list of 100 best cities for families. There are many cities not featured in this index which are also undeniably great for families to live in. But with digitalization meaning that people can live and work anywhere, we aimed to reveal the many possibilities for young families, both close to home and across the globe.

For the final list of 100 cities, we then analysed each of them for 15 factors (including parent poll and professional poll) and awarded every city a score based on how well they did for each factor. A full description of each of these factors can be found below.

To create the final list, we ranked the raw data from highest to lowest value and then awarded a standard score based on their ranking in the following manner:

$$Score_i = 1 + 9 \left(\frac{x_i - x_{min}}{x_{max} - x_{min}} \right)$$

$$Final\ Score_i = 39\% City_i + 13\% Mat.\ Law\ and\ Health_i + 5\% Happiness_i + \\ + 19.5\% Travel\ and\ Activities_i + 23.5\% Expert\ Perception_i$$

Scores are from 1 - 10—the higher the score, the better the city is for families based on that particular factor. Therefore, a score of 10 indicates that the city is very good for raising a family based on that factor. Please note that this list features the best cities for families out of thousands, so every city in this list should be considered good for raising a family.

City

Housing

- This represents the affordability of housing according to salary and average house prices. The higher the score, the more affordable the housing in the city.
- Annual Net Salary in EUR. *Source:* Average Salary Survey Data
- Average price of buying a house (per sq m), per city. *Source:* Global Property Guide, World Bank and OECD.

Education System

- This reveals the quality of education in the city. The higher the score, the better the education.
- Average PISA scores in mathematics, reading and science. *Source:* PISA-Program for international student assessment, OECD.
- TIMMS 2015 scores (grade 8). *Source:* TIMMS-Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study. Adjusted to PISA.
- Expenditure on education. *Source:* UN data. Adjusted to PISA.

Safety

- This score reveals how safe the city is based on both evidence of crime and perception of security. The higher the score, the safer the city.
- Weighted official average rate of theft and murders in the city. Then this was weighted with the local perception of security per capita. *Source:* UN official data from the city's Police Department when available and safety perception poll.

Affordability Based on PPP

- This score represents what people can afford (salary, costs of living). The more affordable, the higher the score.
- GDP per capita (PPP-Purchasing Power Parity). *Source:* CIA World Factbook
- Annual Net Salary in EUR. *Source:* Average Salary Surveys
- Cost of living: (cost of fast food, dinner out, public transport (monthly), rent (85 m2 furnished accommodation)). *Source:* expanistan (survey)

Unemployment

- This reveals the unemployment rate in a city. The lower the unemployment, the higher the score.
- Unemployment rate in the city. *Sources:* local official reports and OECD.

Pollution

- This score indicates the levels of air, noise and light pollution in each city. The less pollution, the higher the score.
- Pollution Air: Annual mean, ug/m3. *Source:* WHO
- Pollution Noise: Survey of the perception of noise on the city. *Source:* Mimi Hearing Index 2017.
- Pollution Light: Mean light levels in the country. *Source:* lightpollutionmap.info

Transportation

- The score represents how good the transport in a city is, looking at both road congestion and off-road alternatives. The less congestion and higher levels of satisfaction with public transport, the higher the score.
- Congestion level in the city. *Source:* TomTom Traffic index, NRIX traffic scorecard (adjusted to TomTom), Google traffic (adjusted to TomTom).
- Satisfaction with public transportation. *Sources:* Eurostat EU perception survey, surveys of individual countries, and surveys from peer-reviewed journals.

Maternity Law and Health

National Maternity/Paternity Law

- This score represents how good the maternity/paternity laws are. The higher the score, the better the laws.
- Paid maternity leave available in weeks (country). *Source:* OECD, country government sites.
- Full paid parental leave available (maternity and paternity) in weeks. *Source:* OECD, country government sites.
- Percentage of men taking paternity leave to represent the effectiveness of having paternal leave. *Source:* country government sites.

Healthcare

- This score indicates how good the healthcare is. The higher the score, the better the healthcare system.
- Percentage of GDP spent on healthcare. *Source:* World bank
- Percentage of population covered by private or public health insurance. *Source:* OECD, local government reports.

Happiness

Happiness

- This score shows how happy the people are in the city. The higher the score, the happier the people.
- UN Happiness Score. *Source:* World Happiness Report

Travel and Activities

Kid Friendly Airports

- This score shows how kid friendly the local airports are, for those families visiting with young children. The higher the score, the more kid friendly the airport.
- Number of airports per city and subjective ranking of kid-friendliness. *Source:* Airport Authority Data

Activities for Kids

- This score measures how friendly the city is for kids (eg. on vacation, or on weekends and bank holidays). The higher the score, the better the activities for kids.
- Number of adventure parks. *Source:* yelp, tripadvisor, foursquare.
- Number of museums. *Source:* yelp, tripadvisor, foursquare.
- Number of hotels. *Source:* various local tourism pages.
- Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index 2017 edition. *Source:* World Economic Forum.
- The state of the world's children. *Source:* Children in an Urban World Unicef report and data in terms of under 5 mortality rate, a critical indicator of the wellbeing of children.

Green spaces

- This score indicates how many green spaces a city has, the higher the score, the higher the number of green spaces.
- *Source:* Used Google Maps API service to calculate the percentage of public green spaces inside the city limits.

Expert Perception

Parents

- This score is created from a representative poll. The higher the score, the better the perception.
- *Source:* Hundreds of parents were asked what factors contribute to a good family city, plus how good their city is for raising a family.

Professionals

- This score is created from a representative poll. The higher the score, the better the perception.
- *Source:* over 30,000 parenting experts and family journalists were asked to rate how good their city is for raising a family.