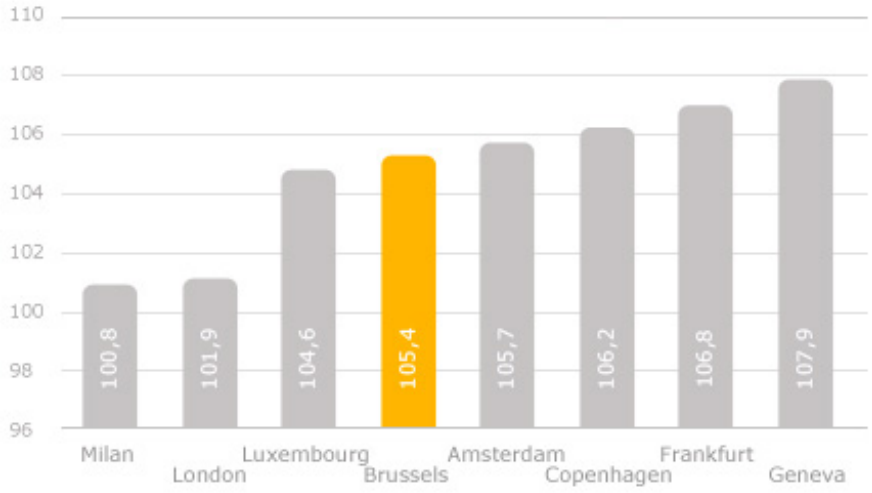
EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE

Brussels ranks as one of the cheapest and most pleasant cities in Europe to live in (Mercer Human Resources 2009). This comes as no surprise: the city offers spacious housing, low rents and affordable residential real estate. Brussels is the second greenest city in Europe, with numerous gardens and parks only a short walk or drive away.

Transportation, food and other items were consistently cheaper in Brussels than in other major business centres in Europe, according to the survey. In fact, the survey concluded that Brussels was one of the least expensive capitals in Western Europe, not including the new Member States of the EU.

Quality of life index



Source: Mercer Human Resources – Quality of Living Index 2009 (New York = 100)

Cost of living index

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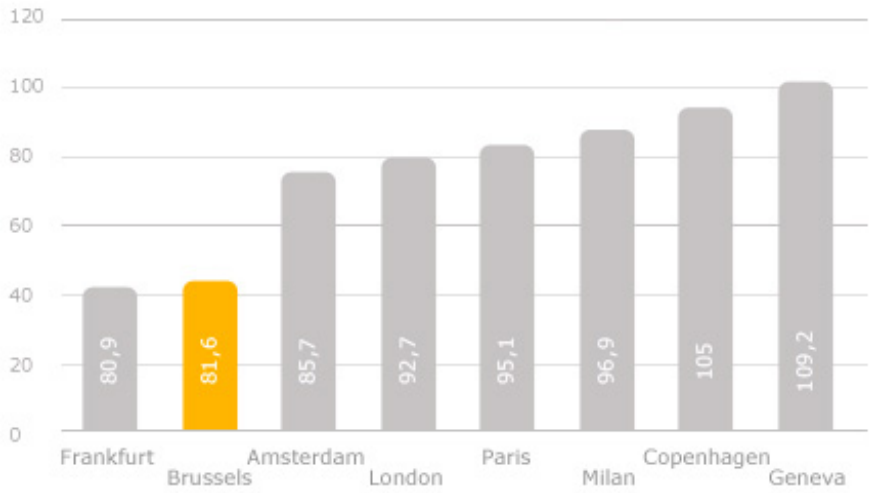
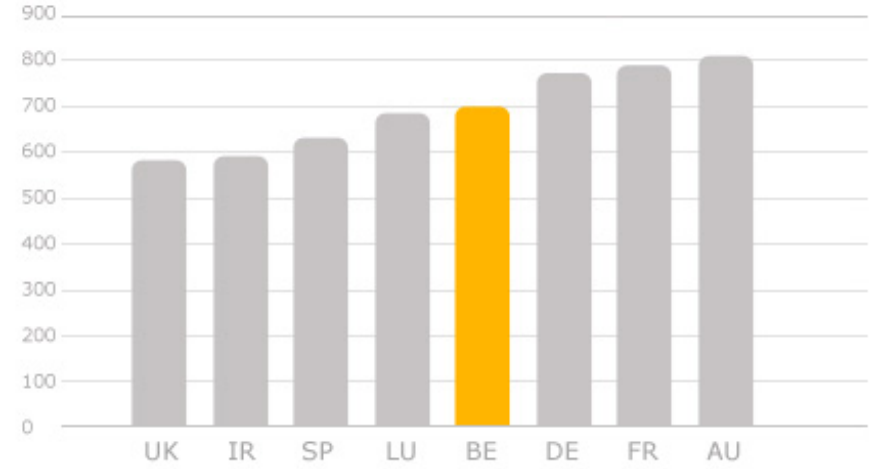


Source: Mercer Human Resources – Quality of Living Index 2009 (New York = 100)

Education and healthcare

Choice in education is second to none as Brussels boasts a wide range of international schools offering various international curricula. There are many alternatives open to parents at the nursery, primary or secondary school level, including local, European and international schools.

Belgium is also acknowledged as having one of the best healthcare systems in the world; in Brussels alone there are 30 private and public hospitals providing more than 80,000 beds; and with over 40,000 doctors serving a population of around 10 million people, queues for treatment are rare.



Criteria examined:
Patient rights and information, waiting times, outcomes, 'generosity' of public healthcare systems, pharmaceutical
Source: Health consumer powerhouse, Euro-Canada Health Consumer Index 2008

Culture and leisure

In terms of culture, the Baroque splendour of the Unesco World Heritage 'Grand Place' and the 1958 World Expo's 'Atomium' may be some of the city's more instantly recognisable landmarks, but with over a hundred museums, a world-class opera house, a busy concert calendar and lively theatre and performing arts scene,
Brussels offers expats a rich and vibrant cultural life, too.

Shoppers are spoilt for choice with great shopping to be found both within the city and just down the road in neighbouring Paris and Antwerp. For dining out, the possibilities are endless as there are more than 3,000 restaurants for a population of just over 1 million.

Some of Brussels' famous sons & daughters:

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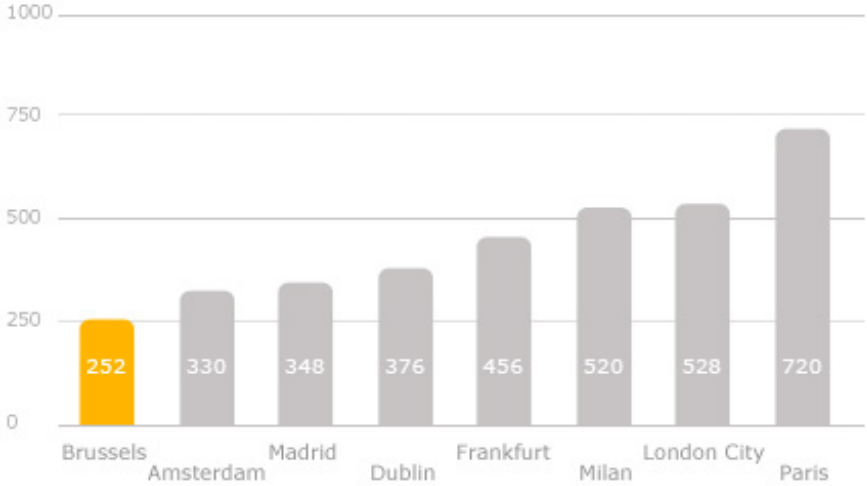
Magritte, master of surrealism.
Jacques Brel, world-famous troubadour.
Victor Horta, father of Art Nouveau.
Hergé, creator of Tintin.
Toots Thielemans, Jazz virtuoso.
Audrey Hepburn, Hollywood star.
...and the inimitable Manneken Pis!

Brussels highlights:

More than 3,000 restaurants.
173 hotels.
Over 100 museums.
20 international schools.
5 university hospitals.
4 universities.
World's best chocolate and beers.

Benchmark Office (Prime Rent Location)



Source: CB Richard Ellis, Q4 2009
(Rental measure - Eur/m2 pa)

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