

Researchers Rank Cities with Best Work-Life Balance

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Balance (Noun) /'bæləns/ a situation in which different things exist in good or correct amounts
Example: Sometimes it's hard to find a balance between family and work.
2. Finance (Noun) /'faɪnəns/ the use and management of large amounts of money
Example: The finance minister will announce the government's new budget tomorrow.
3. Condition (Noun) /kən'dɪʃən/ the circumstances in which people live, work, etc.
Example: The strikers demanded better working conditions.
4. Analyze (Verb) /'ænləɪz/ to study or examine something in detail
Example: Of the 13 countries analyzed, South Korea was found to be the most expensive place to raise a child.
5. Rank (Verb) /ræŋk/ to be or put someone or something on a list that shows how good, important, etc. they are
Example: Paris was ranked the most attractive city for tourists in 2021.
6. Rating (Noun) /'reɪtɪŋ/ a measurement of how good, popular, etc. someone or something is
Example: I always check if a hotel has a good rating on TripAdvisor before booking a room.



While it's important to work hard, it's also important to be able to enjoy life when you're not working — what's referred to as having a good work-life balance. And according to a report by UK finance website MoneyNerd, some cities offer better work-life balance and working conditions than others.

Researchers analyzed 25 cities around the world based on things like work-life balance, cost of living, average salary and number of jobs available. The data was taken from places like the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Happiness Report, and career-focused websites like LinkedIn.

Based on this data, the researchers ranked Copenhagen in Denmark as the city with the best total pay and work-life balance. Copenhagen, the results showed, had an average salary of nearly \$44,500, and it received a work-life balance rating of 8.6 out of 10. It also got the highest happiness rating on the list — 7.6 out of 10.

The Dutch capital, Amsterdam, was second, with a slightly lower average salary and work-life balance rating. New York, which was ranked third, had the highest cost of living rating. Perhaps this isn't surprising — in December 2022, the Economist Intelligence Unit ranked New York and Singapore as the most expensive cities in the world.

But according to MoneyNerd's results, New York had a much higher average salary than Copenhagen or Amsterdam, at almost \$71,500. And it had many more jobs available across six different industries than any other city on the list. The cities with the worst total work-life balance and salary were Beijing, the Portuguese capital of Lisbon, and Budapest, Hungary.

DISCUSSION

1. What are your thoughts on the findings of MoneyNerd's report?
2. Which of the top five cities on the list could you see yourself living in?
3. Where do you imagine your town or city ranks on the list?
4. What would you say are the best things about life in your town or city?
5. Does your job offer a good work-life balance?

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