

Quality of Living

City Survey

WELLINGTON

NEW ZEALAND

September 2012 Survey

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1 Political and social environment

	Criteria	Scores
1.1	Relationship with other countries	10
1.2	Internal stability	10
1.3	Crime	8
1.4	Law enforcement	9
1.5	Ease of entry and exit	8

Comment:

The relationship between New Zealand and other countries is good. Demonstrations and strikes are occasional and do not tend to cause any disruption to daily life. Wellington is generally a safe city, however, a few violent crimes occur and common-sense precautions should be taken when venturing outside especially at the night. Most foreign nationals must hold a valid passport and a visa before entering New Zealand. Work permits are reasonably easy to obtain.

2 Economic environment

	Criteria	Scores
2.1	Currency Exchange regulations	10
2.2	Banking services	10

Comment:

There are branches or subsidiaries of major international banks represented in Wellington. The banking service is very good and most international transactions can be made without delay. Currency can be exchanged at all banks, post offices and some hotels.

3 Socio-cultural environment

	Criteria	Scores
3.1	Limitations on personal freedom	10
3.2	Media and censorship	9

Comment:

In New Zealand, there are no limitations on freedom of movement and on the free practice of religion. New Zealand has censorship regulations for television and other media governing the broadcasting or publishing material of an offensive nature (e.g. explicit sexual content or excessive violence). Cable television is available. Most international newspapers are also available in Wellington.

4 Medical and health considerations

	Criteria	Scores
4.1	Hospital services	10
4.2	Medical supplies	9
4.3	Infectious diseases	9
4.4	Water potability	10
4.5	Waste removal	9
4.6	Sewage	9
4.7	Air pollution	10
4.8	Troublesome and destructive animals and insects	9

Comment:

Both public and private health services are of a high standard. Medical treatment is excellent and almost all treatments can be done in the country, although waiting lists do exist for public hospital treatments. Medicines are widely available, though some new and highly priced medicine might be difficult to obtain, as it is not subsidised.

Serious infectious diseases are rare. However, there has been a troublesome incidence of measles in New Zealand, and, in the northern part of the country, the incidence of meningitis has been on the rise.

Food and water are safe to eat and drink. There have been upgrades to the major sewage treatment and disposal plants in the past year. Air pollution is no major concern in Wellington. Sand flies are common in New Zealand but are considered a nuisance rather than a health hazard.

5 Schools and education

	Criteria	Scores
5.1	Schools	6

Comment:

There is a good choice of private and public schools in Wellington offering all levels of education, but few international schools.

6 Public services and transport

	Criteria	Scores
6.1	Electricity	10
6.2	Water availability	10
6.3	Telephone	10
6.4	Mail	10
6.5	Public transport	9
6.6	Traffic congestion	8
6.7	Airport	4

Comment:

The telephone system in New Zealand is very good. The mail service and utilities are efficient, and public transport is comprehensive (consisting of buses, trolleybuses, urban trains, ferries and trams). Traffic is often congested during rush hours. Wellington International Airport is situated 8km from the city centre. Apart from flights to Australia, there are few international departures and most journeys require a connecting flight.

7 Recreation

	Criteria	Scores
7.1	Variety of restaurants	9
7.2	Theatrical and musical performances	8
7.3	Cinemas	9
7.4	Sport and leisure activities	10

Comment:

Wellington has a good range of restaurants serving good quality food. There is also a good selection of cultural performances and venues such as theatres and concert halls. There are many cinemas, both in the city and suburbs, and the choice of films screened is excellent. Wellington has a large range of sport and leisure activities.

8 Consumer goods

	Criteria	Scores
8.1	Food (Meat and Fish)	10
8.2	Food (Fruit and Vegetables)	10
8.3	Daily consumption items	10
8.4	Alcoholic beverages	9
8.5	Automobiles	9

Comment:

Good quality food, including fresh fruit and vegetables, is widely available. Most consumer goods are also available in Wellington. A wide range of alcoholic beverages can be obtained. Such beverages are available seven days a week, although on Sundays stores selling spirits may have limited opening hours. Popular models of cars are available for immediate delivery. Some luxury or rare models may have to be pre-ordered.

9 Housing

	Criteria	Scores
9.1	Housing	10
9.2	Household appliances and furniture	10
9.3	Household maintenance and repair	10

Comment:

There are many attractive rental properties available in Wellington, including both apartments and houses. The more prestigious areas are Kelburn, Khandallah, Oriental Bay, Whitby, Wellington Central and Thorndon.

Domestic appliances and furniture are widely available.

10 Natural environment

	Criteria	Scores
10.1	Climate	9
10.2	Record of natural disasters	8

Comment:

Wellington has a temperate climate with mild winters and hot summers. No natural disasters occur, although tropical cyclones and earthquakes are a risk.