

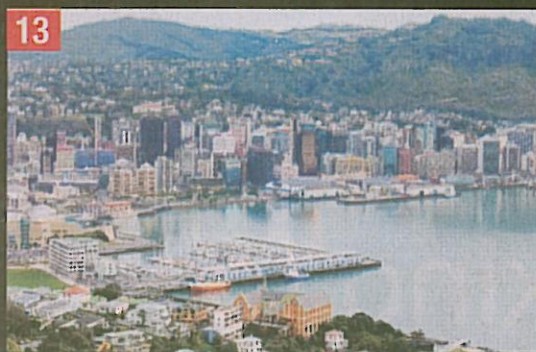
## WORLD CITIES

## THE BEST

1	Vienna, Austria
2	Zurich, Switzerland
3	<b>Auckland, New Zealand</b>
4	Munich, Germany
5=	Dusseldorf, Germany
5=	Vancouver, Canada
7	Frankfurt, Germany
8	Geneva, Switzerland
9=	Bern, Switzerland
9=	Copenhagen, Denmark
11	Sydney, Australia
12	Amsterdam, Netherlands
13	<b>Wellington, New Zealand</b>

## THE WORST

221	Baghdad, Iraq
220	Bangui, Central African Republic
219	N'Djamena, Chad
218	Port-au-Prince, Haiti
217	Khartoum, Sudan
216	Sana'a, Yemen
214=	Tbilisi, Georgia
214=	Brazzaville, Congo
213	Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
212	Nouakchott, Mauritania



## WHY AUCKLAND RANKS

- New Zealand's commercial capital, with qualities of an international city.
- High quality of education offered through schools and universities.
- Good surrounding environment such as parks and beaches.
- Wide selection of restaurants and other amenities.
- Quality housing close to the city.

HERALD GRAPHIC

## Auckland up to third on liveable city list

by Nicholas Jones

New Zealand cities have been ranked among the most liveable in the world, with Auckland coming third behind only Vienna and Zurich.

Auckland moved up one place from last year and Wellington came in at fifth in the Mercer 2011 Quality of Living Survey. Sydney was the best of the Australian cities at 11th; Melbourne as 18th and Perth 21st.

The survey evaluated 221 cities — compared with New York City — on politics, socio-economics, health, education, transport and housing.

Auckland was the only Southern

Georgina Harley, leader of Mercer's Information Product Solutions business, said Auckland and Wellington ticked all the quality of living boxes — but Auckland had an edge.

"While Wellington is the political capital, Auckland is the commercial capital of New Zealand. It has more amenities, the weather is considered more pleasant and it has the qualities of an international city."

The survey said that in an uncertain global climate, Auckland and Wellington promised "retreat from economic and political unrest".

"In contrast to Europe and the United States, New Zealand has a rela-

tion from economic uncertainty," Ms Harley said.

But a stable economy was only part of why the cities rated well. New Zealand cities provided quality housing close to the city, infrastructure, comprehensive healthcare, a wide selection of restaurants, good education and a good wider environment.

"New Zealand's high living standards provide a potentially compelling case for attracting international talent to our shores," Ms Harley said.

Mayor Len Brown said the ranking showed Auckland was on track to become the world's most liveable city.

"Moving up on the scale is no small

"International indicators like this give us a global profile and are proof of what Aucklanders already know: this is a fantastic city to live in."

Yesterday Mr Brown released the results of the first annual scorecard for Auckland's liveability, divided into four categories — communities, transport, economic and the environment.

It showed the index had lifted by 2.4 percentage points from a base index of 100 since the creation of the Super City 12 months ago. Progress had been made in cleaning up graffiti, improving public transport, adult employment and income, but Auckland had slipped back on exports, gross domestic