

A ccording to¹¹¹ World Economic Forum's (WEF) 2016-2017 Global Competitivenes Report, Germany ranks fifth in the world, after Switzerland, Singapore and the United Statess. Although Germany ranked down by a rank comparing to the previous year, its economic competitiveness has been rising when looking at the competitiveness index. Germany's competitive advantages include highly matured businesses, superior labor education, high acceptance of new technologies, and an environment beneficial to the development of technologies. Frankfurt is the largest city in central and western Germany and the fifth largest city in Germany. It is a diverse city with various different cultures, over 50% of the population has an immigrant background, and one quarter of it has a foreign nationality. Due to its advantageous geographical location, Frankfurt has also become an important transportation hub in the region. Its main train station has Germany's second largest passenger flow; the Rhein-Main Airport is also the largest commercial airport in Germany and the most important terminal in Europe.

Two years ago, ^[2] A.T. Kearney issued a report on the confidence assessment of foreign direct investment, announcing the top 25 countries in the world with the highest confidence index, and Germany is the most attractive destination for foreign direct investment in Europe. Furthermore, many foreign financial investors also choose Frankfurt as their base for development. The financial industry is one of the major industries in Frankfurt, other than having more than 320 banks, the European Central Bank and the Deutsche Bundesbank are also located in Frankfurt, which is essentially the economic center of Germany and the European Union. The Frankfurt Stock Exchange is also one of the largest stock exchanges in the world and no operates over 90% of Germany's stock exchanges. According to a report by the European Cities Monitor, Frankfurt is ranked third in the rank of the most important cities in Europe since the 1990s after London and Paris. Having over 100 Foreign Consulate General and and consulates, Frankfurt has become one of the non-capital cities in the world with the most diplomatic representations; among them, the Consulate General of the United States, Frankfurt is the largest U.S. overseas consulate in the world.

According to last year's annual survey of the Association of Foreign Investors in Real Estate, Frankfurt was ranked in the top five among the regions most favored by foreign investors in the world. In addition, the Global Property Guide points out that the quantitative easing program launched by the European Central Bank is estimated at about \$65 billion a month, raising public concerns about real estate bubble in several eurozone, while Germany and Norway have the highest risk. Deutsche Bundesbank also acknowledged the possibility that housing prices in Germany may be overvalued, but has ruled out existence of the real estate bubble; though the bank thinks the value of houses in Germany may be overvalued by 15% to 10%, but the quarterly increase, in apartment prices in southern Germany for the second-rater of 2017 Frankfurt, did indeed increase by 21.87%, reaching 3,167euro per square meters (approx. USD 3,694). Single and double family homes price rose 14.62%, reaching 2,500euro per square meters (approx. USD 2,916). During the same period, Frankfurt saw an average of about 550,000 euros for an apartment of 120 square meters, which is equivalent to 36 ping.

^[3] Mercer Management Consulting recently announced the results of the 19th Annual Quality of Living survey, which ranked 231 cities from a total of 450 cities, and Frankfurt, Germany ranked seventh, a rating above Geneva, Switzerland and Copenhagen, Denmark. The informational considerations include the political stability of the city, the crime rate, the economic environment, individual and cultural freedom, health services, education standards, transport, housing and the environment, showing the overall urban quality of Frankfurt.

[1] World Economic Forum (WEF) is a foundation of non-profit organization founded in1971, headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland. It is known for its annual winter meetings in Davos, the ski resort in Switzerland. Each of the forums brings together world leaders in business, politics, academia and media to discuss the most pressing issue in the world.

[2] Founded in Chicago in 1926, for more than 80 years, A.T. Kearney has been developed as a leading high-value management consulting firm.

[3] Mercer Management Consulting, a human resources management consulting firm, headquartered in New York, USA, is recognized as one of the world's leading commercial organizations.

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