

**Abridged Version**

2007-2008  
International Water  
Report & Cost Survey

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# Introduction

I am pleased to present you with the *NUS Consulting Group's 2007-2008 International Water Report and Cost Survey* providing a timely update on what is happening in this industry as well as comparative movements in worldwide prices.

This year's benchmark report, published by NUS Consulting Group, reveals some interesting developments in the world's water industry with 11 of the 14 countries surveyed showing an increase in pricing. Two countries revealed no increase over the last year with one country claiming a modest decrease in water cost. Germany claims top honors as the most expensive surveyed country in terms of water with the United States being the least expensive. Australia experienced the largest year-on-year increase in pricing at 18.5 percent. Over the past two years, average water rates in Australia have grown by more than 35 percent.

Australia's significant price increase was mainly attributable to certain environmental conditions. While the country continues to show some signs of coming out of its prolonged drought, water restrictions still remain in many areas and significant revenue is being raised to ensure future supplies.

In Europe, price increases this year were mild in comparison to previous survey periods; however, some of the highest water prices in the world can be found on the Continent. Germany retains its rank of the most expensive surveyed country closely followed by Belgium. It is generally thought that higher prices will make the consuming public more sensitive to water issues thus promoting greater conservation measures.

In North America, Canada for the fourth year in a row experienced water price increases well beyond the country's annual inflation rate. Further increases are expected as the nation invests more towards volume based pricing and promoting conservation efforts. The United States reported an average water pricing increase of 7.2 percent over the past year.

Given these developments around the world, medium to large business consumers of water can no longer rely on cheap and abundant supplies. With fleeting opportunities for savings and the reality of ever higher prices, consumers must take an active role when it comes to their water purchases.

The NUS Consulting Group, founded nearly 75 years ago, is the world's pre-eminent independent energy and telecommunications cost control and consulting organization. Operating around the world through 11 wholly owned subsidiaries, NUS Consulting combines the expertise of 450 energy and telecommunications professionals with cutting-edge technology and the world's largest tariff and pricing database to serve over 15,000 clients.

I trust you will find the following survey not only interesting, but also a useful tool in achieving a better understanding of global water markets.

Richard D. Sultanian  
Co-President

# NUS Consulting Group International Water Report 2008 Cost Comparison

<u>2008 Rank</u>	<u>2007 Rank</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Cost (US¢)/m<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>2006/2007 Change</u>	<u>5 Year Trend (2003/2008)</u>
1	1	Germany	301.0	+1.6%	+4.4%
2	2	Belgium	291.7	+13.2%	+79.9%
3	3	United Kingdom	237.0	+6.5%	+48.2%
4	4	France	199.6	+0.2%	+13.8%
5	5	Austria	188.9	+1.3%	+4.1%
6	6	Netherlands	183.4	-0.4%	-1.0%
7	7	Australia	181.5	+18.5%	+86.4%
8	8	Italy	157.8	+4.7%	+35.4%
9	11	Spain	130.8	+9.8%	+11.0%
10	9	Sweden	128.0	0.0%	+34.2%
11	10	Finland	127.2	0.0%	+24.1%
12	12	Canada	102.2	+6.7%	+54.6%
13	13	South Africa	102.0	+9.2%	+70.0%
14	14	United States	74.1	+7.2%	+29.8%

*The survey is based on prices as of 1 July 2008 for a consumer with an annual usage of 10,000 cubic meters. All prices are in US cents per cubic meter and exclude VAT. Where there is more than a single supplier, an unweighted average of available prices was used. The percentage change is calculated using the local currency in order to eliminate currency movement distortion.*

## International Water Cost Comparison 2008

