



## Survey Finds World Water Rates Rising

A recent survey by the NUS Consulting Group studying water rates around the world found that water rates increased in 12 of 14 countries surveyed.

	Ranking		Cost (US¢)	Change
	Current	Prior	Cubic meter	Year On Year
Germany	1	1	178.1	0.0%
Denmark	2	2	172.0	+0.8
United Kingdom	3	3	123.2	+3.2%
The Netherlands	4	4	113.8	-0.5
France	5	5	108.3	+3.3
Belgium	6	6	101.9	+3.9%
Italy	7	7	72.7	+1.5%
Spain	8	8	71.2	+3.5%
Finland	9	9	64.3	+4.9%
Sweden	10	10	61.5	+1.1%
Australia	11	11	54.7	+4.7%
United States	12	12	54.3	+4.0%
South Africa	13	14	42.8	+20.4%
Canada	14	13	37.6	+2.9%

*The survey is based on prices as of July 1, 2002 for an organization with an annual usage of 10,000 cubic meters. All prices are in US cents per cubic meter and exclude applicable taxes. Where there is more than a single supplier, an unweighted average of available prices was used. The percentage change for each country is calculated using the local currency in order to eliminate currency movement distortion.*

Europe has the highest water rates in the world, with Germany and Denmark leading the way. As the supply becomes less secure, residents and businesses alike must prepare themselves for higher prices.

Although water rates in the United States are significantly lower than in most European countries, they are still high enough in most states for our precision irrigation technology to create significant cost savings through the reduction of irrigated water consumption by 40% to 80%. And, of course, rates have increased since this survey and will continue to increase.

In North America, the issues of water quality, scarcity of supply and aging infrastructure are becoming dominant issues. Federal regulations have led to local municipalities increasing pricing. Many aging water systems are faced with massive costs to meet regulations. Water restrictions and price increases are becoming the norm. Huntington, WV had the most expensive water of the cities surveyed.