Rice Work Time

When comparing two different countries, it is natural to ask which one is more expensive to live in. This is an easy question to ask but is difficult to answer because the two countries have different currencies and not all of the same products are available in each country. The Union Bank of Switzerland solved this problem by comparing the amount of time the average person in a country must work to earn enough to buy 1 kg of rice. Based on a 2006 survey in 70 cities worldwide, the global average is 16 minutes. Cultural as well as economic factors affect the work time required to buy rice. For example, in countries where rice is considered a staple food compared to bread, it typically takes less time to purchase a kilo of rice than a kilo of bread. See the maps below for the work time required to buy a kilo of rice in specific cities.
Rice Work Time
North America

Los Angeles 10 min
Chicago 10 min
Montreal 9 min
* Toronto 6 min
* New York 8 min
Miami 11 min
* Mexico City 22 min
Rice Work Time
South America
Rice Work Time
Western Europe
Rice Work Time
Asia
Rice Work Time

Oceana