

At home in Germany: DE-CIX survey for the German government's Digital Summit shows what is important to citizens when choosing where to live

- **Affordable housing costs important for 71%**
- **56% of Germans depend on public transport**
- **People across Germany have Internet problems at home on average six times a month**

Frankfurt am Main, 21. October 2024. A new representative survey* conducted by DE-CIX ahead of the upcoming Digital Summit organized by the German government reveals what matters to Germans when choosing a home. Whether in the countryside, a village, or a city, 71% consider affordable housing costs to be an important factor when choosing where to live. 62% of respondents value having enough living space, such as for hobbies, family, and leisure activities. For 56%, the quality of public transportation determines how livable a locality is. Furthermore, 53% of respondents consider reliable and fast Internet access to be important for where they live, whereas only 46% place importance on enough family doctors in the vicinity. In contrast, adequate parking spaces for cars (33%) and e-charging stations (6%) are deemed less important, according to the survey by DE-CIX, the world's leading Internet Exchange operator.

Affordable housing costs: Moving is an option for 74%

Wars, energy crises, and inflation have made everyday life more expensive. The costs associated with having a home are particularly significant not only for Germans aged 45 to 54 (76%) but also for those aged 16 to 24 (58%), who are at the beginning of their life and career paths. Among those who prioritize affordable housing costs, 74% would be willing to move for a better offer. The same applies to 64% of Germans who value childcare facilities and would pack their moving boxes for more daycare alternatives. And mobility also plays a central role: 68% of city dwellers and 45% of those in rural areas consider public transportation to be important in their place of residence.

Internet problems: Respondents face issues, on average, six times a month

Whether for entertainment (54%), information (50%), or shopping (46%), Germans go online frequently. Additionally, 37% of respondents use the Internet to manage their finances, and 34%

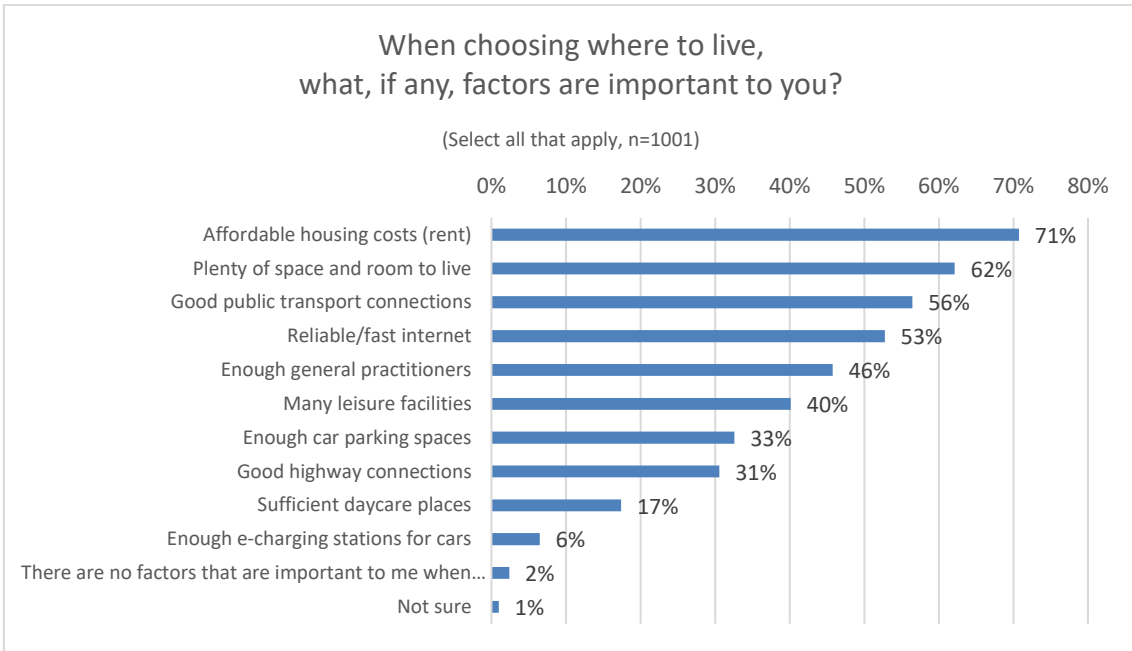
for work. Notably, while 41% of participants aged 55 and older handle their banking and financial matters online, this applies to only 25% of those aged 16 to 24. With regard to Internet connectivity, consumers have an average of six reasons to complain each month. 6% of respondents face problems daily, 8% two to three days a week, and 11% each for once a week and every two to three weeks. What's more, 47% of respondents who value fast and reliable Internet would consider moving for better connectivity.

DE-CIX at the Digital Summit: Sovereign digitalization as a question of infrastructure

"Our survey not only highlights what keeps Germans in their homes but also what motivates them to move," says Ivo Ivanov, CEO of DE-CIX. "In addition to costs and the attractiveness of the housing offer itself, it is primarily infrastructure issues that are now intertwined with quality of life." With a focus on the importance of infrastructure for sovereign digitalization, Ivanov will discuss these topics at the German government's Digital Summit in Frankfurt am Main this month. Under the motto "Germany Digital – Innovative. Sovereign. International," more than 1,500 participants from business, science, civil society, and politics will exchange ideas on October 21 and 22 at Kap Europa.

Improving Internet Experience: Living and surfing in city and countryside

When asked what needs to happen to improve their Internet experience, the survey respondents who have Internet at their current place of residence present a clear consensus: 44% of consumers see expanded mobile and fiber optic network rollout as a solution. 26% hold the federal government accountable for investment in network infrastructure, while 24% see the states as responsible. Depending on where respondents live, the pressure for action varies: while 24% of city dwellers believe the Internet is not in need of improvement, this view is only held by 15% of users living and surfing in rural areas.



* The online survey of 1,001 consumers across Germany aged 16 and older was conducted from September 25 to 30, 2024. All results are representative of the German population. Censuswide conducted the survey on behalf of DE-CIX. The institute, based in the UK, employs members of and abides by the Market Research Society and British Polling Council, which adhere to the principles of the European Society for Opinion and Market Research (ESOMAR).

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About DE-CIX

DE-CIX is the world’s leading operator of Internet Exchanges (IXs). DE-CIX offers its interconnection services in close to 60 locations in Europe, Africa, North and South America, the Middle East, and Asia. Accessible from data centers in over 600 cities world-wide, DE-CIX interconnects thousands of network operators (carriers), Internet service providers (ISPs), content providers and enterprise networks from more than 100 countries, and offers peering, cloud, and other interconnection services. DE-CIX in Frankfurt, Germany, is one of the largest Internet Exchanges in the world, with a data volume of almost 40 Exabytes per year (as of 2023) and close to 1100 connected networks. Close to 250 colleagues from over 35 different nations form the foundation of the DE-CIX success story in Germany and around the world. Since the beginning of the commercial Internet, DE-CIX has had a decisive influence – in a range of leading global bodies, such as the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) – on co-defining guiding principles for the Internet of the present and the future. As the operator of critical IT infrastructure, DE-CIX bears a great responsibility for the seamless, fast, and secure data exchange between people, enterprises, and organizations at its locations around the globe.

Further information at www.de-cix.net

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