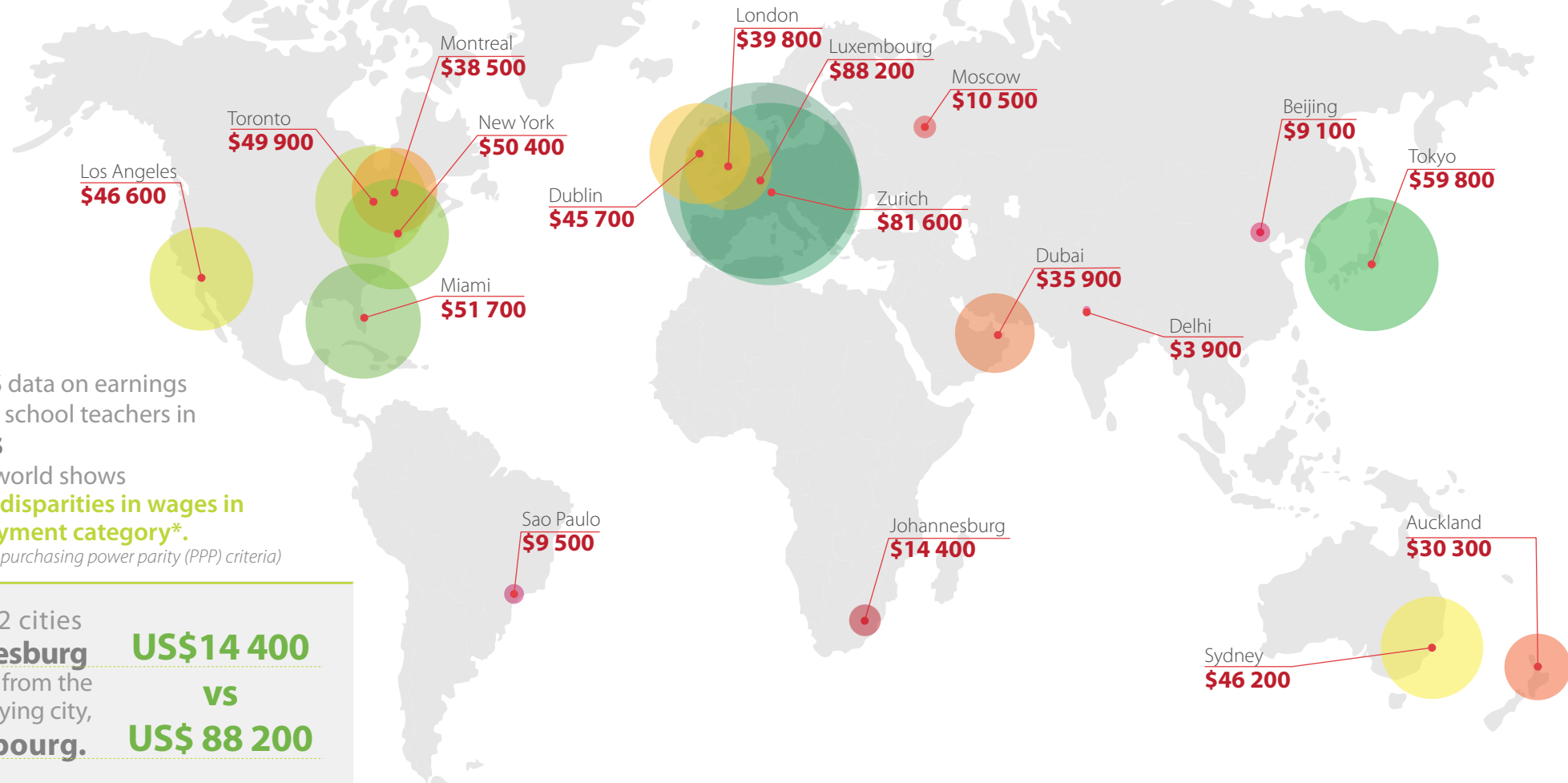


14 INTERNATIONAL WAGE DIFFERENTIALS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS



Recent UBS data on earnings for primary school teachers in **72 cities** across the world shows **significant disparities in wages in this employment category***.

(Based on a US\$ purchasing power parity (PPP) criteria)

Out of 72 cities **Johannesburg** ranks 43rd from the highest paying city, **Luxembourg**.

US\$14 400 **vs** **US\$ 88 200**

International wage differentials present local teachers with **incentives to migrate to 'greener pastures'** where teacher salaries are higher e.g. other professions or Europe, North America and Australia.

(South African Council for Education, 2011)

CONCLUSION

- Retaining teachers at the primary or foundational phase of the intellectual development of children is of the highest importance.
- Teacher attrition may be further exacerbated by the shortage of primary-level teachers, as a higher teaching load falls on fewer shoulders.
- There is need to improve teacher wages and provide opportunities for professional development as is the case elsewhere e.g. Australia, Europe and North America.
- There are limited data sources which track teacher-movement from South Africa and government needs to upscale the monitoring and tracking process.



*Refer to www.gcro.ac.za/reports-data/data for more information