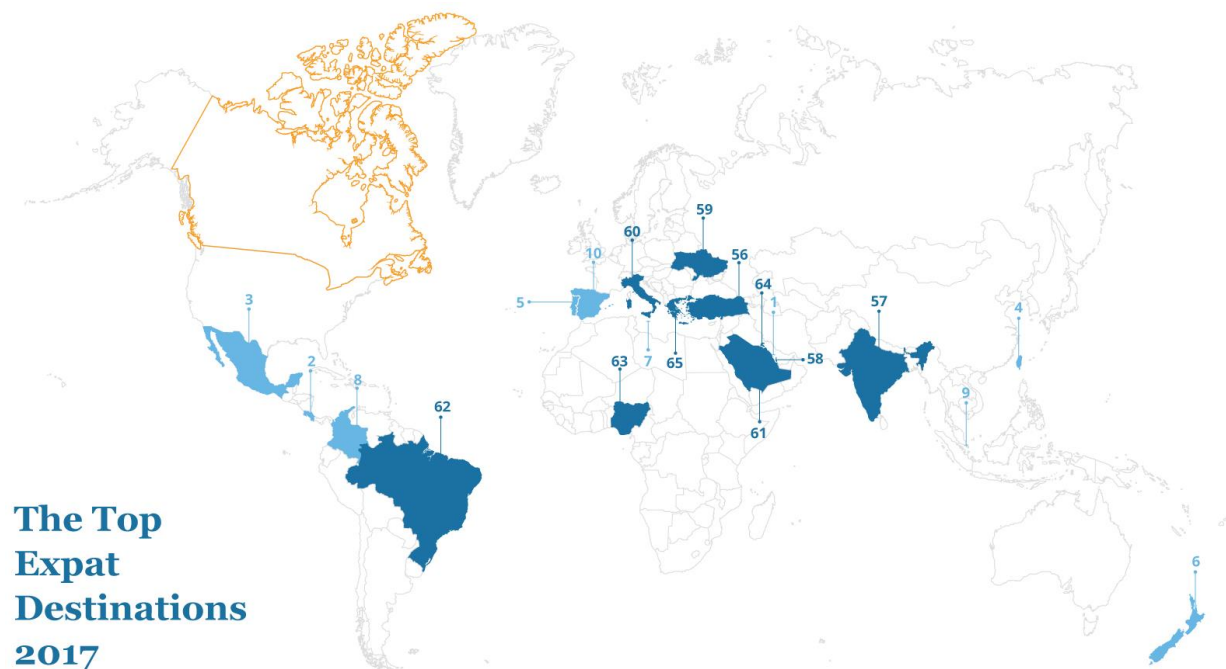


***Expatriate Insider 2017* Survey Reveals: Canada — The Next American Dream for Expats?**

Canada's safe and politically stable environment attracts expats, but career prospects continue to draw foreigners to the USA.

- Nearly nine in ten expats in Canada (88%) rate the political stability positively, over 50 percentage points more than in the USA (36%).
- More expats in the USA (66%) than in Canada (52%) believe that they make more money than they would in their home country.
- Canadian friendliness towards foreign residents is rated positively by 81 percent of expats, compared to only 68 percent saying the same about US Americans.

Munich, 06 September 2017 — The United States of America has long been known as the land of unlimited opportunity, but could Canada steal that title? Among expats, Canada performs better in terms of quality of life and ranks better overall. Expats feel safer in Canada and are content with the political situation; therefore, they are more likely to stay forever. However, expats in the USA are financially better off and career prospects remain high, as the [Expatriate Insider 2017](#) survey reveals. With nearly 13,000 respondents living and working abroad, it is one of the most extensive expat studies, conducted yearly by [InterNations](#), the largest expat community worldwide. Apart from offering an in-depth analysis of life abroad, the survey ranks 65 countries by a variety of factors such as quality of life, working abroad, and settling in. While Canada achieves a good 16th place, the USA only ranks 43rd. However, this year's top 10 destinations for expats are Bahrain, Costa Rica, Mexico, Taiwan, Portugal, New Zealand, Malta, Colombia, Singapore, and Spain.



The Top Expatriate Destinations 2017

Top 10

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1 Bahrain | 6 New Zealand |
| 2 Costa Rica | 7 Malta |
| 3 Mexico | 8 Colombia |
| 4 Taiwan | 9 Singapore |
| 5 Portugal | 10 Spain |

Bottom 10

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| 56 Turkey | 61 Saudi Arabia |
| 57 India | 62 Brazil |
| 58 Qatar | 63 Nigeria |
| 59 Ukraine | 64 Kuwait |
| 60 Italy | 65 Greece |

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 11 Czech Republic | 18 Thailand | 26 UAE | 34 Australia | 42 South Africa | 50 Russia |
| 12 Vietnam | 19 Romania | 27 Switzerland | 35 Kazakhstan | 43 USA | 51 Chile |
| 13 Netherlands | 20 Norway | 28 Austria | 36 Panama | 44 Israel | 52 Argentina |
| 14 Luxembourg | 21 Finland | 29 Philippines | 37 Kenya | 45 Ireland | 53 Indonesia |
| 15 Malaysia | 22 Sweden | 30 Denmark | 38 France | 46 Uganda | 54 United Kingdom |
| 16 Canada | 23 Germany | 31 South Korea | 39 Hong Kong | 47 Peru | 55 China |
| 17 Oman | 24 Cambodia | 32 Belgium | 40 Japan | 48 Myanmar | |
| | 25 Ecuador | 33 Cyprus | 41 Hungary | 49 Poland | |

Canada Trumps the USA Politically

Expats in Canada are incredibly happy with the country's political situation: nearly nine in ten expats (88%) are satisfied with Canada's political stability, compared to just over half the expats across the globe (56%). The USA, on the other hand, performs below average, as only 36 percent are satisfied with its political stability — over 50 percentage points less than in Canada! Additionally, not a single expat in Canada gives this factor the worst possible rating, whereas 11 percent in the USA do. A Dutch expat in the USA shares their concern about the "current political situation", with a Canadian respondent echoing these worries — the "political situation upsets" them and they "feel as if the country is heading in the wrong direction". In fact, 15 percent of expats saw the political situation in the USA as a potential disadvantage prior to moving there, compared to one percent of respondents about to move to Canada. Foreign residents in Canada are not only happy with local politics, but with safety and security as well. A US American expat appreciates that Canada offers "peace, stability, inclusion, and diversity". Almost all expats in Canada are satisfied with their personal safety (96%) and the country's peacefulness (94%). In the USA, however, only 67 percent judge their personal safety favorably, and 62 percent rate the country's peacefulness positively. Moreover, while only one percent of expats in Canada rate each of these factors negatively, 16 and 19 percent respectively give the USA a negative rating in this respect.

Expats in the USA Work More — Those in Canada Earn Less

Although the USA ranks worse than Canada for working abroad in general (28th vs. 16th), it performs better with regard to job and careers, 13 places ahead of Canada (9th vs. 22nd). In fact, a foreign assignment is the main reason why expats move to the USA (15%), whereas a better quality of life is what attracts the biggest share of expats to Canada (17%): more than nine in ten (91%) are satisfied with the quality of the local environment, compared to only 69 percent in the USA. Expats in Canada also tend to have more free time to enjoy their clean environment; they only work 42.3 hours per week in a full-time job, compared to 45 hours in the USA. Unsurprisingly, 67 percent of expats in Canada are satisfied with their working hours, compared to 54 percent in the USA. Expats in the USA, on the other hand, are slightly more optimistic about their career prospects (65% vs. 61% positive ratings) — but both countries rank well above the global average of 53 percent. A Canadian expat living in the USA states that "the career opportunities are incredible", and another Canadian says "it is a very inspiring environment for successful work".

Although 73 percent of expats rate the state of the Canadian economy positively, which is slightly above the positive ratings for the US economy (69%), low incomes seem to be an issue in Canada: only 36 percent think that their disposable household income is more than enough for their daily expenses, as opposed to the US average of 46 percent. Moreover, expats in the USA (66%) are more likely than those working in Canada (52%) to believe that they earn more than they would for a similar job in their home country. One major financial issue for both Canada and the USA is the affordability of housing: over four in ten percent of expats living in Canada (42%) and half of expats in the USA rate this factor negatively. However, maybe Canada's healthcare system makes up for these difficulties in finding affordable accommodation: three-quarters of expats in Canada consider healthcare to be affordable, compared to a mere 16 percent in the USA. One Canadian expat highlights the "high cost of healthcare" as one of the negative aspects of expat life in the USA.

Life in Canada

	2017*		2016**
Overall Rank	16	▼ 4	12
Quality of Life	13	▼ 1	12
Ease of Settling In	23	▼ 10	13
Working Abroad	16	▲ 7	23
Family Life (out of 45 countries)	23	▼ 2	21
Personal Finance	47	▲ 6	53
Cost of Living	37		37

*out of 65 countries

**out of 67 countries

83% generally satisfied

US Americans Are More Outgoing, but Canadians Are Nicer

Although expats have to overcome various obstacles in both countries, they are more likely to settle down in Canada than in the USA: 45 percent of expats consider staying in Canada forever, but only 34 percent in the USA feel the same — however, both results are well above the worldwide average of 29 percent. Adapting to the Canadian culture does not seem to be a problem for foreign residents as three-quarters agree that it is easy, compared to 70 percent in the USA and 62 percent worldwide. One of the reasons might be the Canadians' friendly attitude: more than eight in ten expats (81%) judge their attitude towards foreign residents positively, while 68 percent of expats in the USA would say the same about the local population. A French expat describes Canadians as *"open-minded, tolerant, and benevolent"*. Interestingly, though, 64 percent of expats describe US Americans as outgoing rather than reserved, compared to 41 percent of expats saying the same about Canadians. However, that outgoing attitude can hide some cultural pitfalls. A Slovenian expat in the USA says that *"although Americans are very nice on the surface, it is difficult to establish a true relationship with people"*, and a German expat complains about the *"superficiality of people"* in the USA.

Life in the United States

	2017*		2016**
Overall Rank	43	▼ 17	26
Quality of Life	47	▼ 12	35
Ease of Settling In	28	▼ 7	21
Working Abroad	28	▼ 2	26
Family Life (out of 45 countries)	36	▼ 4	32
Personal Finance	37	▲ 2	39
Cost of Living	41	▼ 5	36

79% generally satisfied

A Heartwarming Welcome Leads Bahrain, Costa Rica, and Mexico to the Top

For the first time since the *Expat Insider* survey was introduced, none of the previous year's top 3 destinations lead the ranking: Surprise winner Bahrain even leaps from 19th position to 1st place, winning the overall ranking. The Gulf State makes it easy for expats to feel at home due to its friendly local residents — nearly nine out of ten expats (86%) rate the friendly attitude of Bahrainis towards expats positively. In addition, about three-quarters of expats in Bahrain (73%) are satisfied with their jobs, compared to a global average of 64 percent. Runner-up Costa Rica and Mexico on third place also rank among the top 20 in terms of working abroad, but are even more valued for their extremely friendly local population. In fact, nearly nine in ten expats (87%) rate the friendly attitude of locals towards foreign residents positively in both countries, compared to a global average of only 67 percent of expats feeling this way about their destination.

Greece, Kuwait, and Nigeria Are the Worst Destinations for Expats Again

The countries featured in the bottom 3, on the other hand, have remained the same for the third year in a row: Greece has now hit rock bottom, ranking last overall, as well as in terms of working abroad, personal finance, and family life. Half of the respondents in Greece say that their household income is not enough to cover their daily expenses, which is more than twice the global average (23%). The main issue in Nigeria and Kuwait, 63rd and 64th out of 65 countries, remains the constant struggle with the quality of life: more than two in ten expats in Kuwait (23%) are unhappy with their life in general, compared to only 10 percent of expats worldwide. In Nigeria, safety and security cause additional problems, with nearly seven out of ten (68%) rating their personal safety negatively.

About the InterNations Expat Insider 2017 Survey

For its annual [Expat Insider survey](#), InterNations asked about 13,000 expatriates representing 166 nationalities and living in 188 countries or territories to provide information on various aspects of expat life, as well as their gender, age, and nationality. Participants were asked to rate 43 different aspects of life abroad on a scale of one to seven. The rating process emphasized the respondents' personal satisfaction with these aspects and considered both emotional topics as well as more factual aspects with equal weight. The respondents' ratings of the individual factors were then bundled in various combinations for a total of 16 subcategories, and their mean values were used to draw up six topical indices: Quality of Life, Ease of Settling In, Working Abroad, Family Life, Personal Finance, and Cost of Living Index. Except for the

latter, all indices were further averaged in order to rank 65 expatriate destinations around the world. In 2017 the top 10 were Bahrain, Costa Rica, Mexico, Taiwan, Portugal, New Zealand, Malta, Colombia, Singapore, and Spain.

For a country to be featured in the indices and consequently in the overall ranking, a sample size of at least 75 survey participants per country was necessary. The only exception to this is the Family Life Index, where a sample size of more than 40 respondents raising children abroad was required. In 2017, 65 and 45 countries respectively met these requirements. However, in most countries the sample size exceeded 100 participants.

About InterNations

With 2.8 million members in 390 cities around the world, InterNations (<http://www.internations.org>) is the largest global network and information site for people who live and work abroad. InterNations offers global and local networking both online and face-to-face. At around 6,000 monthly events and activities, expatriates have the opportunity to meet with other global minds. Online services include country and city guides created by a team of professional writers, guest contributions about life abroad, and discussion forums to help members with topics such as local housing and job searching. InterNations membership is by approval only to ensure we remain a community of trust.

The InterNations app is available for Android and iOS and can be downloaded for free on [Google Play](#) and the [App Store](#).

Find more information about InterNations on our [press pages](#), [company website](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), or in our [Expat Magazine](#).

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