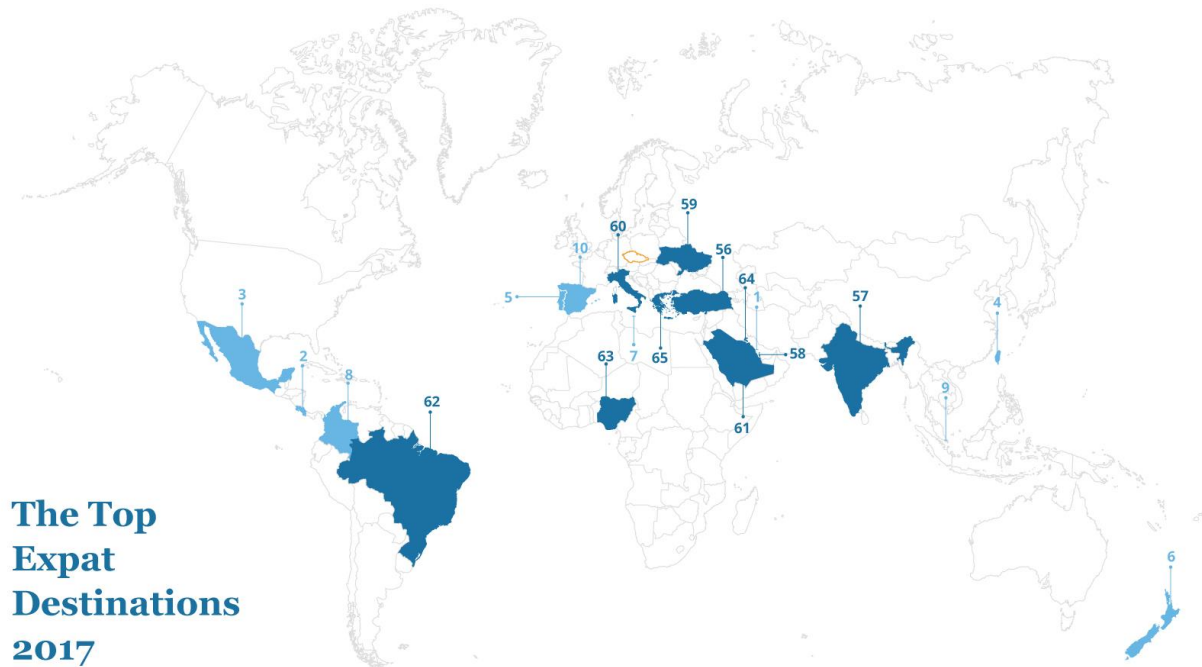


Expatriate Insider 2017 Survey Reveals: Czech Republic Is the Best Country for Working Abroad

Excellent working conditions, affordable living costs, and a great family life make expats happy in the Czech Republic.

- The Czech Republic ranks first in the world for working abroad, with three-quarters of expats rating work-life balance (73%), job security (74%) and job satisfaction (75%) positively.
- Expat parents especially appreciate their children's safety (98%) as well as the quality and affordability of education (85% and 66%, respectively).
- An unfriendly population and the language barrier make it hard to settle in and find a support network, with nearly half the expats (49%) struggling to make local friends.

Munich, 06 September 2017 — Ranking first in terms of working abroad and third for family life, the Czech Republic is an expat haven for professionals and families alike. Despite a strong economy and high-quality education, there are certain disadvantages to living in this Central European country. The difficult Czech language and a lack of openness among the local population make it challenging to break out of the expat bubble and settle in, 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 the Czech Republic achieves a great 11th place, it just missed this year's top 10 destinations for expats, which include Bahrain, Costa Rica, Mexico, Taiwan, Portugal, New Zealand, Malta, Colombia, Singapore, and Spain.



The Top Expat 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

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

Great Working Conditions despite Low Incomes

Gaining eight places since 2016, the Czech Republic now ranks first worldwide in terms of working abroad. Nearly three-quarters of expats are happy with their work-life balance (73%) and satisfied with their job security (74%), making this Central European country a great destination for expats planning to work abroad. A further three-quarters rate their overall job satisfaction positively, too, with one Australian stating, “My working conditions are excellent here.” Such high satisfaction rates are somewhat surprising, since incomes are relatively low in the Czech Republic. Just about one in eight (12%) have access to a household income of over 100,000 USD a year — almost ten percentage points less than the global average of 21 percent. Since the cost of living in the Czech Republic is fairly low, however, expats are not too concerned about their incomes. Nearly four-fifths (78%) saw the cost of living as a potential benefit prior to moving, and they were not disappointed: over eight in ten (84%) rate general living expenses positively — a huge difference from the global average of just 48 percent. One particular aspect that expats are happy with is the affordability of accommodation, which over two-thirds (68%) rate favorably.

Expat Children in the Czech Republic: Safe and Well-Educated

Ranking 3rd out of 45 countries in terms of family life, the Czech Republic really is the perfect destination for those moving abroad with their little ones. Nearly all expat parents (98%) are happy with their children’s safety. One British expat points out that their kids can be “safe and independent” in the Czech Republic. It is not only safety and security that pleases expat parents, but also education. Over five in six (85%) rate the quality of education favorably, while two-thirds claim that education is easy to afford — over 20 percentage points more than the global average of 45 percent. This could be connected to the fact that the majority of expat parents in the Czech Republic (58%) opt to send their kids to a local state school (which tends to be a cheaper option), compared to only 33 percent worldwide.

The Czech Language Makes Settling In a Struggle

Despite gaining six places in terms of settling in since 2016, the Czech Republic still ranks a disappointing 52nd out of 65 countries. The local language, which over four-fifths (82%) find difficult to learn, is one of the reasons for this poor performance. About one in six expats (16%) cannot speak Czech at all, and over half the respondents (51%) only speak it a little. This is particularly problematic, since over two-fifths (43%) believe that it is challenging to live in this country without speaking the local language. Problems do not just arise from the Czech language itself, though: over half the respondents (54%) have felt unwelcome because of their own language or accent. This might be one of the reasons why over a quarter (26%) do not feel at home in their host country’s culture. Language barriers prove to be challenging for expats trying to establish new friendships in the Czech Republic. Nearly two-fifths of respondents (37%) claim that their social circle mostly consist of other expats, and two-thirds (67%) state they consider the language barrier a reason for this —31 percentage points more than the global average. Moreover, expats are not impressed by the friendliness of the local residents in general, with nearly one-third (31%) rating this aspect negatively. One Romanian expat, for example, complained about the “lack of openness among local people”.

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

Life in the Czech Republic

	2017*		2016**
Overall Rank	11	▼ 1	10
Quality of Life	5	▲ 2	7
Ease of Settling In	52	▲ 6	58
Working Abroad	1	▲ 8	9
Family Life (out of 45 countries)	3	▼ 1	2
Personal Finance	16	▲ 11	27
Cost of Living	5	▲ 3	8



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 44 countries respectively met these requirements. However, in most countries the sample size exceeded 100 participants.

About InterNations

With 2.7 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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