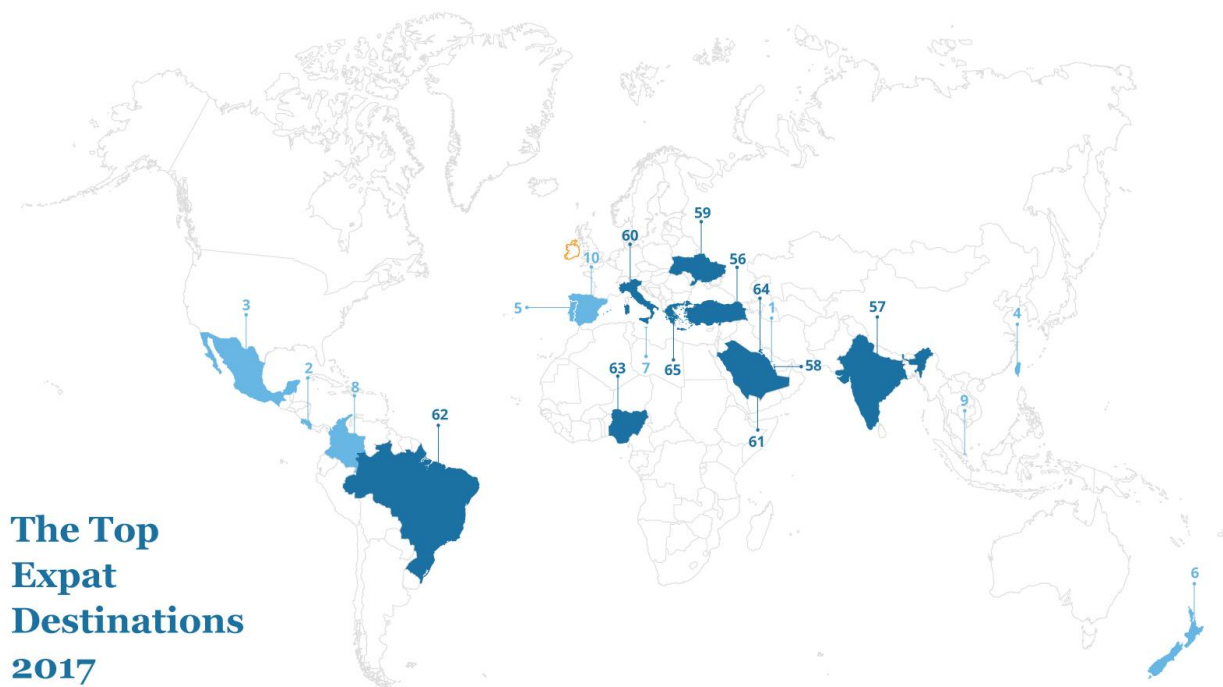


Expatriate Insider 2017 Survey Reveals: There Is No Pot of Gold in Ireland for Expats Anymore

Expats in Ireland still benefit from a safe environment and friendly locals, but high costs of living drive even the Irish away.

- Ireland's quality of environment is rated positively by more than eight out of ten expats (82%), but the gray weather overshadows the country's beauty.
- Expats in Ireland are satisfied with their career prospects (63%), but the high costs make living in the country unaffordable (57% negative ratings).
- The Irish seem to be popular all over the world: they have few problems with the language barrier, and 60 percent believe that it is easy to make friends abroad.

Munich, 06 September 2017 — Ireland ranks among the top 20 expat destinations in terms of settling in. However, when it comes to personal finance, the island finds itself among the bottom 5: high costs for healthcare and housing make expat life difficult and even cause the Irish to move abroad, 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 Ireland lands on a below-average 45th place, this year's top 10 destinations for expats are 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	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	

Friendly and Safe Ireland Tempts Expats to Stay Forever

A friendly population and a safe environment are typical of the expat experience in Ireland. Expats living on the Emerald Isle seem to be happy with their new life: nearly half of them (49%) will possibly stay there forever, compared to only 29 percent of expats worldwide planning to do so. The friendly Irish might have something to do with this — more than four in five expats (84%) rate the general friendliness of the local population positively. The country also ranks exceptionally well for safety and peacefulness (90% satisfied). A Swedish expat living in Ireland appreciates the “friendly people who know how to have a laugh and enjoy themselves” as well as “good career prospects through all the multinational companies”. Many respondents seem to agree with this statement, as more than six in ten working expats (63%) are satisfied with their career prospects and even more (66%) rate their overall job satisfaction positively. This could be due to the fact that Ireland has become an attractive option for international businesses setting up their European headquarters there: Dublin has transformed into a virtual tech hub that is home to LinkedIn, Google, and Facebook, and many more. Owing to the growing IT sector, 14 percent of expats in Ireland work in this field.

Ireland — Too Pricey and Too Gray

Despite the outstanding quality of the environment, which is rated positively by 82 percent of the expats living in Ireland, the gloomy Irish weather takes its toll: three in five expats (60%) rate this factor negatively, as opposed to a global average of only 22 percent judging the weather in their respective country of residence unfavorably. Moreover, when it comes to personal finance, Ireland ranks a poor 60th out of 65 countries, which is only slightly better than the economically troubled destinations Italy (63rd) and Greece (65th). The cost of living in Ireland seem to be of particular concern to expats: more than half the respondents (55%) rate the affordability of healthcare negatively, and even more (69%) believe that housing is difficult to afford. A US American expat living in Ireland complains that “the housing market is atrocious, and the overall cost of living is quite high”. It seems that the mythical pot of gold cannot be found in Ireland anymore. More than one-third of expats in Ireland (36%) think that their disposable income is not enough to cover all their daily expenses. However, while the majority of expats in Ireland in 2016 said that they were recruited by a local company (13%), the most cited reason in 2017 is moving for love (19%). This may be another explanation why so many expats do not want to leave Ireland behind, all difficulties notwithstanding.

Life in Ireland

	2017*		2016**
Overall Rank	45	▲ 9	56
Quality of Life	50	▲ 4	54
Ease of Settling In	20	▲ 3	23
Working Abroad	26	▲ 20	46
Family Life (out of 45 countries)	33		N/A
Personal Finance	60	▲ 5	65
Cost of Living	52	▲ 5	57

*out of 65 countries

**out of 67 countries

77% generally satisfied

The Irish Charm Knows No Borders

The Irish seem to be popular all over the world: their friendliness could explain why more than eight in ten Irish expats (82%) have never felt unwelcome because of their nationality, compared to an average 65 percent of expats worldwide. In addition to this, three in five Irish expats (60%) think it is easy to make new friends while living abroad. The Irish have a certain advantage, though: according to the *Expats Insider 2017*

survey, respondents from English-speaking countries are more likely to have local friends. In fact, close to a quarter of Irish expats (23%) say that their friends are mostly local residents. Perhaps this ease in communicating and socializing is one of the reasons why the Irish feel comfortable abroad and why more than two in five (42%) want to possibly stay abroad forever. However, it is the financial situation and the high cost of living that seem to drive the Irish away: close to one in six (16%) explain that this was one of

Satisfaction



Expat Profile

Average age



Gender split



Relationship status



the reasons for their decision to relocate. Additionally, more than four in ten Irish expats (44%) considered the cost of living in their new home a potential benefit before their move.

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](#).

Press Contact

Vera Grossmann
Media Spokesperson

InterNations GmbH
Schwanthalerstrasse 39
80336 Munich, Germany

Tel: +49 (0)89 461 3324 79
Fax: +49 (0)89 461 3324 99
Email: press@internations.org
Homepage: www.internations.org/press