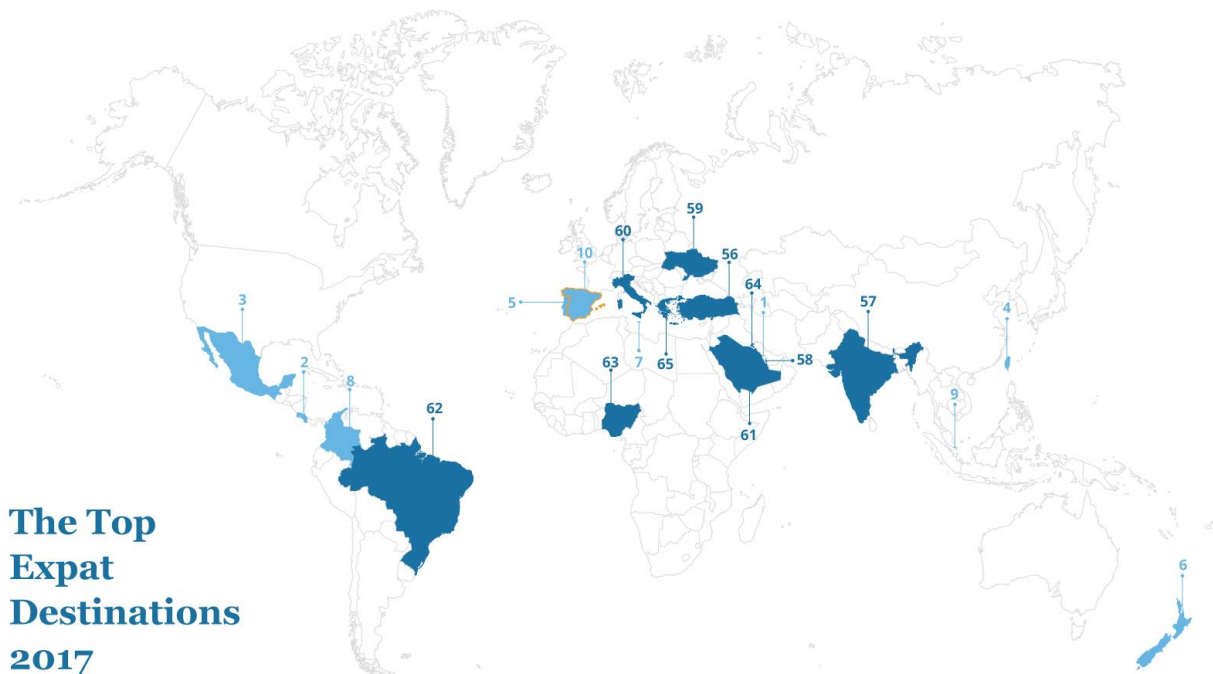


Expats Insider 2017 Survey Reveals: Spain Is Great for Retiring but Not for Pursuing a Career

Foreign residents enjoy Spain's affordable and relaxed lifestyle, but continue to be disappointed by economic conditions.

- *Spain ranks among the bottom 15 countries for working abroad for the fourth year in a row, as foreign residents worry about their career prospects (32%) and job security (28%).*
- *Expats value the family culture in Spain and more than nine in ten parents (91%) are satisfied with the attitude of Spaniards towards families with kids.*
- *Spaniards move a lot, but miss home: twelve percent think they will never feel at home abroad, which is five percentage points more than the global average.*

Munich, 06 September 2017 — While Spain ranks in the top 10 in terms of quality of life for the fourth year in a row, it is still among the worst countries for working abroad. However, with almost a quarter of expats in Spain (24%) being retired, boosting their career does not appear to be a top priority for expats in the region. Spaniards themselves mainly move abroad in search of better job opportunities, as the [Expats 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 Spain achieves an impressive 10th place, this year's top 10 destinations for expats also include Bahrain, Costa Rica, Mexico, Taiwan, Portugal, New Zealand, Malta, Colombia, and Singapore.



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	

Spain Is Not the Place to Make Big Money

Even before moving to Spain, expats already see the country's economy and labor market as the biggest potential disadvantage. Once in Spain, nearly four in ten (39%) rate the state of the economy negatively, compared to only 25 percent of expats worldwide feeling this way about their respective country. Spain can be found in the bottom 15 expat destinations in terms of working abroad for the fourth year in a row, ranking 52nd out of 65 countries in 2017. In fact, about three in ten respondents feel negatively about their career prospects (32%) and worry about job security (28%). One British expat living in Spain states that *"life gets more serious year on year as people get squeezed with lower wages and less security"*. The poor economy may be one of the reasons why, with 24 percent, retirees make up the biggest group of foreign residents in Spain. It may not be the place to make big money, but it can surely be the place to enjoy your savings: expats are extremely satisfied with the general cost of living in Spain, with 82 percent rating this factor positively.

Spaniards Welcome Families with Open Arms

Not only retirees, but expats in general enjoy an improved quality of life in Spain: more than three times the global average (8%) name this as their main reason for moving to Spain (26%). Expat families are treated especially well in Spain — moving up an impressive 18 places in terms of family life compared to 2016, the country is seen as one of the best places for families, ranking 8th out of 45 countries. Expat parents particularly appreciate the availability and cost of childcare as well as education: Spain ranks in the top 10 worldwide for both. One British expat in Spain also emphasizes the *"strong family culture"* there, and 91 percent of expat parents rate the friendliness of Spaniards towards families with kids positively. However, it is not only families who feel welcome, as more than half of expats in Spain (52%) find making local friends easy. In fact, more than three-quarters consider it easy to settle down in Spain and state they feel at home in the local culture (77% each), compared to only 59 and 60 percent of expats agreeing globally. Several respondents highlight Spain's *"laid back lifestyle"*, echoing a focus on life outside of work.

Life in Spain

	2017*		2016**
Overall Rank	10	▲ 4	14
Quality of Life	3	▲ 1	4
Ease of Settling In	14	▼ 5	9
Working Abroad	52	▲ 2	54
Family Life (out of 45 countries)	8	▲ 18	26
Personal Finance	41	▲ 5	46
Cost of Living	7	▲ 5	12

*out of 65 countries

**out of 67 countries



Spanish Abroad: Financially Better Off

Spanish expats are moving abroad in search for better incomes: close to two-thirds (66%) say they saw the economy and labor markets abroad as an advantage before relocating, and they are not disappointed. In fact, 62 percent of Spanish expats earn more in their host country than they would in a similar position at home. A Spanish expat notes the main advantages of life in Luxembourg to be *"working hours versus salary"* as well as *"safety at work"*. However,

Satisfaction



Expat Profile



despite higher salaries and job security abroad, Spaniards cannot really be kept away from home. Only 15 percent plan to settle in their host nation indefinitely, compared to 29 percent of expats worldwide considering staying forever. Perhaps they miss the high quality of life in sunny Spain, but Spaniards struggle to feel at home abroad. In fact, one-fifth states that they do not yet feel at home in their respective country and more than one in ten (12%) do not think they ever will, which is five percentage points more than the global average. However, this has not stopped Spaniards from moving around: overtaking the global average by ten percentage points, 35 percent of Spaniards have lived in three or more foreign countries prior to their current stay. Eight out of the top 10 most popular destinations for Spaniards are found in Europe, with the biggest share choosing the United Kingdom. Despite BREXIT, 13 percent of all Spanish expatriates live in the UK in 2017, an increase of 5 percentage points since 2016.

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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