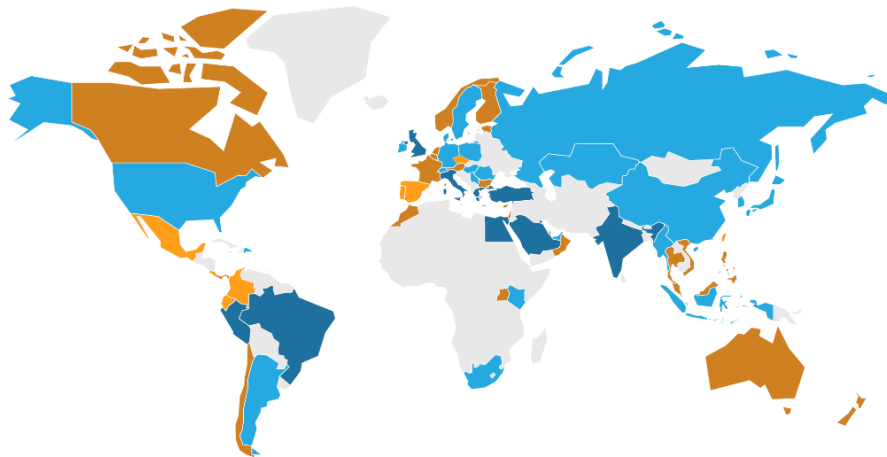


Expats Insider 2018 Reveals: Expats in Australia Feel Welcome Again

Australia recovers from a dip in last year's survey, thanks to improvements in quality of life, ease of settling in, and working life.

- Australia ranks 12th out of 68 countries in the *Expats Insider 2018* survey. The top 10 destinations for expats are Bahrain, Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica, Spain, Colombia, and Czechia.
- More than three-quarters of the expats in Australia (76%) consider the attitude of the Australian population towards foreign residents friendly in 2018, compared to 67 percent in 2017.
- Close to half the expats in Australia (46%) say their disposable household income is more than enough to cover daily living expenses, which is below the global average (51%), but above 2017's share (31%).
- Australian expats are about five years older than the global average (49.0 years vs. 44.2 years globally).

Munich, 6 September 2018 — After ranking among the top 10 countries for expats from 2014 to 2016, Australia plummeted to 34th rank in 2017: now the land down under is back up, coming in 12th place out of 68 countries in the *Expats Insider 2018* survey. Expats in Australia enjoy a better-than-ever quality of life and feel welcome in their new home again. However, many still struggle with the high cost of living and their personal finances, as the [Expats Insider 2018 survey](#) reveals. With more than 18,000 respondents living and working abroad, it is one of the most extensive expat studies, conducted annually by [InterNations](#), the largest expat community worldwide. Apart from offering an in-depth analysis of life abroad, the survey ranks 68 countries by a variety of factors such as quality of life, working abroad, and settling in. While Australia narrowly misses being featured among the ten best-rated countries, this year's top 10 destinations for expats are Bahrain, Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica, Spain, Colombia, and Czechia.



The Best Destinations for Expats in 2018

1 Bahrain	9 Colombia	16 Netherlands	24 Austria	32 Morocco	39 Poland	47 USA	55 China	62 Peru
2 Taiwan	10 Czechia	17 Malaysia	25 Norway	33 Chile	40 UAE	48 Dominican Rep.	56 Hong Kong	63 Egypt
3 Ecuador	11 New Zealand	18 Thailand	26 Uganda	34 France	41 South Korea	49 Kazakhstan	57 Serbia	64 Turkey
4 Mexico	12 Australia	19 Canada	27 Estonia	35 Denmark	42 Japan	50 Indonesia	58 Argentina	65 Brazil
5 Singapore	13 Panama	20 Malta	28 Philippines	36 Germany	43 Ireland	51 Kenya	59 United Kingdom	66 India
6 Portugal	14 Vietnam	21 Bulgaria	29 Belgium	37 Romania	44 Switzerland	52 South Africa	60 Greece	67 Saudi Arabia
7 Costa Rica	15 Luxembourg	22 Israel	30 Cyprus	38 Qatar	45 Hungary	53 Myanmar	61 Italy	68 Kuwait
8 Spain		23 Finland	31 Oman		46 Sweden	54 Russia		

Best Destinations Worst Destinations

Click on the map for a video and more information about the *Expats Insider 2018* survey

High Quality of Life and a Welcoming Population

Australia is back on track in terms of quality of life, moving up 15 ranks since last year (from 23rd to 8th). In fact, more than nine in ten expats (94%) are happy with the quality of the environment (vs. 88% in 2017), and 90 percent are satisfied with the available leisure activities (vs. 75% globally). Both these shares are far above the global average in 2018 (69% and 78%, respectively).

Additionally, the new Digital Life subcategory also helps Australia to climb up the ranks: 83 percent of expats are happy with the availability of government services online (vs. 55% globally), and nearly everyone (95%) finds it easy to pay without cash (vs. 78% globally). Only the access to high-speed internet at home seems to be problematic, with 23 percent of expats in Australia rating it negatively, compared to 16 percent globally.

LIFE IN OCEANIA		
	Australia	New Zealand
Overall Rank	12	11
Quality of Life	8	11
Ease of Settling In	19	22
Working Abroad	13	10
Family Life	17	10
Personal Finance	40	58
Cost of Living	50	54

Moreover, expats seem to find it easier to settle in, with Australia gaining twelve ranks within the last year (from 31st to 19th). More than three-quarters (76%) now rate the attitude of the Australian population towards foreign residents positively, which is nine percentage points more than in 2017 (67%). This year, nearly one in three expats (32%) even give it the best possible rating (vs. 24% in 2017). *"I am astonished by the people, their kindness, and the welcoming and laid-back attitude,"* an expat from France shares. In fact, 55 percent of expats find it easy to make local friends in Australia, which is twelve percentage points more than in 2017 (43%).

Expats Have More Time and More Money

After ranking a low 32nd in 2017, Australia has also improved in terms of working life, coming in 13th out of 68 countries this year. Two-thirds of expats (66%) are happy with their career prospects, compared to just 54 percent in 2017. The latest result is eleven percentage points more than the global average in 2018 (55%). Additionally, close to three in four expats (74%) rate their working hours favorably, which is 14 percentage points more than in 2017 (60%). What is more, seven in ten (70%) are satisfied with their work-life balance, compared to 63 percent in 2017. A Dutch expat is happy that *"work-life balance is respected in Australia"*.

Despite improving by 22 positions in terms of personal finance (from 62nd in 2017 to 40th in 2018), Australia still lands in the lower half of this ranking. On the one hand, 46 percent of expats state that their disposable household income is more than enough to cover their living expenses, which is 15 percentage points more than in 2017 (31%). On the other hand, this is still below the global average of 51 percent. *"It is so expensive here,"* a British expat comments, while an expat from Taiwan thinks that *"Australia is a great place to live as long as you are rich"*. Interestingly, 15 percent of expats in Australia have a gross yearly household income of more than 150,000 USD, which is not only slightly above the global average (12%), but also above last year's share (11%). Maybe this is one reason why just 14 percent rate their financial situation negatively in 2018 (vs. 31% in 2017).

Australians Abroad: Older Expats Seeking an Adventure

With an average age of 49 years, Australian expats are almost five years older than the average expat (44.2 years). When asked why they moved abroad (multiple answers possible), 29 percent stated that they were looking for an adventure or a personal challenge, which is the most cited reason (vs. 24%

globally). In fact, it seems like the Australians respondents have a particularly strong sense of wanderlust: 38 percent have lived in three or more foreign countries before, compared to 29 percent globally. *"I like the opportunity to see more of a country, which I have always wanted to experience,"* an Australian expat in Italy says, while another respondent in Luxembourg appreciates that *"it is very central, which makes it ideal for traveling"*.

Interestingly, their sense of adventure only seems to be temporary: 62 percent consider it likely to return to Australia at some point (vs. 43% globally). Close to half (48%) even think it very likely, which is 17 percentage points more than the global average (31%). *"Belgium is so far from home,"* an Australian expat bemoans, and one in Romania admits to being *"homesick for my own country"*.

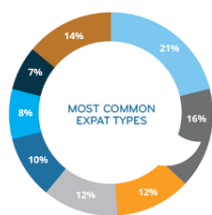
Top 3 Countries for Expats Are Great for Working Abroad and Easy to Settle In

2017's surprise winner **Bahrain** defends its first place, thanks to excellent results for working abroad and ease of settling in (1st for both). Seven in ten expats in Bahrain (70%) are happy with their career prospects (vs. 55% globally), and 81 percent find it easy to settle down in this country (vs. 59% globally). *"I do not feel like an expat in Bahrain,"* says an Indian respondent. *"I feel at home here"*. More than three-quarters of the expats living in runner-up **Taiwan** (76%) are satisfied with their job security (vs. 59% globally), with the destination ranking first in the world for this factor. Taiwan also offers the world's highest quality of life, and 77 percent of expats feel at home there (vs. 64% globally). Coming in third place, **Ecuador** is one the biggest winners of the *Expats Insider 2018* survey, moving up 22 ranks since 2017 (25th out of 65). While less than half the expats in Ecuador (46%) were satisfied with their career prospects in 2017, 69 percent are happy now. Moreover, 76 percent find it easy to settle down in this Latin American country (vs. 59% globally).

Bottom 3 Countries for Expats Rank Low for Quality of Life

India (66th), Saudi Arabia (67th), and Kuwait (68th) do not only rank at the bottom of the overall league table, but they are also among the worst destinations in terms quality of life. Expats in **India** are dealing with the world's lowest quality of the environment: more than four in five (82%) are unhappy with this factor (vs. 19% globally). Over two in five (41%) even give it the worst possible rating, which is more than ten times the global average (4%). *"I do not like the quality of the air, all the trash, and the pollution,"* an expat from the USA says. *"It is very dirty all over the country"*. Around half the expats in **Kuwait** (52%) and **Saudi Arabia** (47%) are also unhappy with this factor. Moreover, the two Gulf States rank last and second to last for the ease of settling in. About half the expats in Kuwait (47%) and Saudi Arabia (51%) find it hard to get used to the local culture, compared to 21 percent globally.

Read More about *Expats Insider* and the InterNations Community



The 7 Most Common Expat Types and Why They Move Abroad

Although every expat journey is unique, there are similarities when it comes to their motivation for moving and their lifestyle abroad. Based on the insights of more than 18,000 expats, InterNations presents the first comprehensive expat typology with the 7 most common expat types that roam the world.

Country-specific versions are available in different languages in the download section at the end of the press release.



InterNations Country and City Guides

In more than 200 destination guides InterNations offers valuable tips and information about expats' destinations, including helpful advice from other members.

If you would like to access the complete guides, please get in touch via press@internations.org.



InterNations Surpasses 3 Million Members

In April 2018 the world's largest expat community reached 3 million members, which equals a growth of 20 percent within the last twelve months. InterNations also expanded its international range to 420 cities around the world with 30 new communities.



Ten Moments That Made InterNations

Growing from a start-up to a global network has been an incredible journey. Here are the stand-out moments that got us to a decade of connecting global minds.

About the InterNations *Expat Insider 2018* Survey

For its annual [Expat Insider survey](#), InterNations asked more than 18,000 expatriates representing 178 nationalities and living in 187 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 up to 48 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 17 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 68 expatriate destinations around the world. In 2018, the top 10 are Bahrain, Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica, Spain, Colombia, and Czechia.

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 at least 40 respondents raising children abroad was required. In 2018, 68 and 50 countries respectively met these requirements. However, in most countries the sample size exceeded 100 participants.

About InterNations

With 3.2 million members in 420 cities around the world, InterNations (www.internations.org) is the largest global community 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 official events and activities per month, expatriates have the opportunity to meet 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 the local job or housing search. 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 [Expatriate Magazine](#).

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