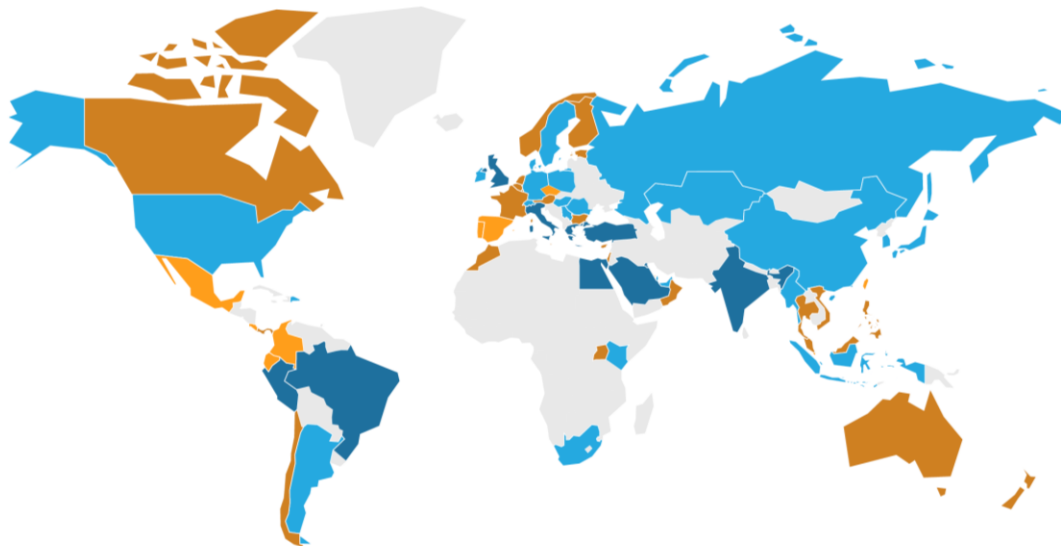


Expat Insider 2018 Survey Reveals: Austria Is Perfect for Families but Hard to Get Used To

Expats rate health, safety, and economy top in Austria, yet they find it hard to make friends and struggle financially.

- Austria ranks 24th out of 68 countries in the Expat Insider 2018 survey. The top 10 destinations for expats are Bahrain, Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica, Spain, Colombia, and Czechia.
- Austria ranks 5th out 68 countries for quality of life and 2nd out of 50 countries for family life.
- Nearly half of expats in Austria (48%) find it challenging to make local friends (vs. 36% globally).
- Over three in five Austrians abroad (64%) have lived in three or more foreign countries, making them some of the world's most experienced expats.

Munich, 6 September 2018 — Expats in Austria are particularly happy with the quality of life and the great opportunities for families in the country. However, they continue to find it difficult to make local friends and learn the language, as the [Expat 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 Austria achieves an above-average 24th place, 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			

 Best Destinations  Worst Destinations

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

Austria Is the Place to Go for a Great Quality of Life and Families

LIFE IN AUSTRIA			
	2018*		2017**
Overall Rank	24	▲ 4	28
Quality of Life	5	▲ 2	7
Ease of Settling In	61	▲ 3	64
Working Abroad	19		19
Family Life <small>out of 50 countries</small>	2	▲ 9	11
Personal Finance	41	▲ 3	44
Cost of Living	34	▼ 2	32
	<small>*out of 68 countries</small>		<small>**out of 65 countries</small>

80% generally satisfied

For the fifth year in a row, Austria ranks in the top 10 when it comes to the quality of life, coming in 5th out of 68 countries in the *Expats Insider 2018* survey. Almost all expats in Austria (97%) agree that the quality of the local environment is good, and more than nine out of ten (91%) find the country peaceful. In addition to that, 81 percent agree that medical care in the country is affordable, while another 87 percent are happy with its quality.

Life in Austria also seems to be beneficial for families, with over nine in ten expats with dependent children (92%) satisfied with family life in general. A staggering 96 percent of expat parents in Austria believe that their children's health is generally good, while the same percentage rate their children's safety positively (96%). *"It is a wonderful place to raise a family —*

the country is safe, there is access to affordable healthcare and education and lots of outdoor recreational activities," says a US American expat. Thanks to that, Austria ranks an excellent 2nd out of 50 countries in terms of family life, only beaten by Finland.

The Grass May Not Be Greener over the Austrian Alps

Expats in Austria have a tough time settling in and finding local friends: close to half (48%) say they find connecting with local residents challenging (vs. 36% globally). Austria's poor ranking for friendliness (65th out of 68) — only Sweden, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait perform worse in this area — surely does not help either. *"The general unfriendliness of people even when you are trying to speak the language makes it harder to integrate,"* an expat from Portugal shares.

With 61 percent of expats in Austria finding it hard to learn German, this seems to be a major issue. In fact, more than half the expats in Austria who are unhappy with their life in general (52%) state that this is due the language barrier. This is more than twice the global average (25%). It is therefore no surprise that 29 percent of expats do not feel at home in the local culture (vs. 24% worldwide).

Aside from personal issues, expats in Austria also seem to struggle financially, ranking the country 41st out of 68 countries for personal finances. In fact, 29 percent have a gross yearly household income of more than 75,000 USD, compared to 36 percent of expats worldwide. Additionally, just 49 percent of expats are happy with their career prospects, which is six percentage points less than the global average (55%). *"It is very difficult for an educated person to find a job in Austria,"* says an expat from Armenia. Interestingly, this is despite the fact that the state of the Austrian economy is rated a lot better than the global average (88% positive ratings vs. 64% globally).

Austrians Abroad: Long-Distance Love and a Longing for Home

Austrians abroad are truly expat pioneers and global adventurers: more than three in five (64%) have lived in three or more foreign countries compared to just 49 percent of expats worldwide. Close to one in five (19%) have even lived in six or more foreign countries. Given their tendency to live in many different places, it is unsurprising that close to seven in ten Austrian expats in a relationship (68%) are together with someone from a country another than Austria. Yet for some of them, life abroad comes

at a cost: an above-average percentage of Austrians abroad find themselves in a long-distance relationship (18% vs. 12% globally).

It seems that Austrian expats are also worried about losing the quality of life they are used to back home: 15 percent considered the general living standards a potential drawback of moving abroad. Additionally, close to three in ten (27%) say they regarded the healthcare standards of their respective future host country a disadvantage before relocating, which is twelve percentage points more than the global average (15%). An Austrian expat living in Italy says: *"I do not like the healthcare system, everything takes longer than in my hometown."*

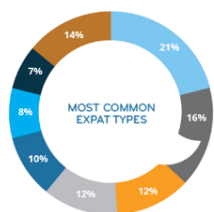
Top 3 Countries for Expats Are Great for Working Abroad and Easy to Settle In

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 *Expatriate Insider* 2018 Survey

For its annual [Expatriate 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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