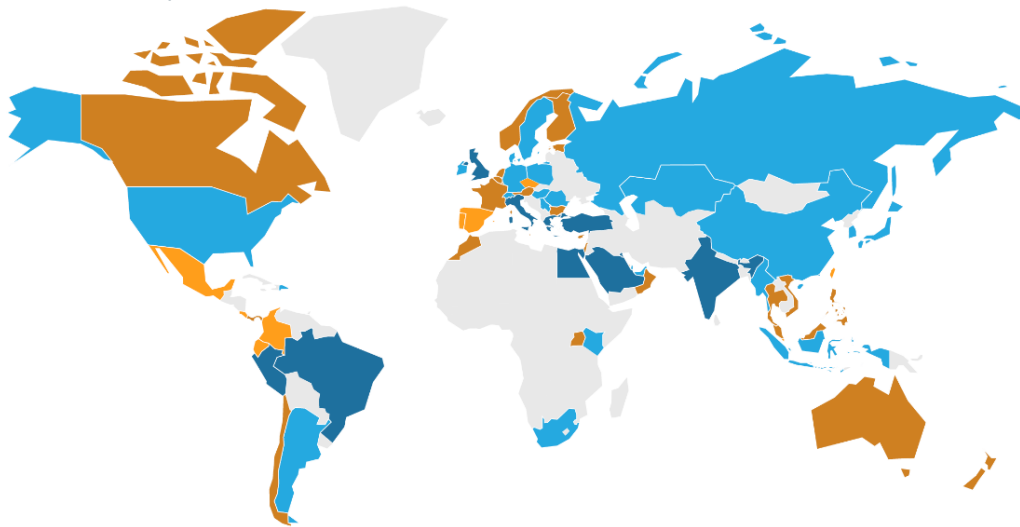


Expatriate Insider 2018 Survey Reveals: Expats Find the Irish Friendlier Again

While expats in Ireland struggle with their finances, they at least feel welcomed by the locals.

- Ireland ranks a low 43rd out of 68 countries in the Expatriate Insider 2018 survey. The top 10 destinations for expats are Bahrain, Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica, Spain, Colombia, and Czechia.
- More than four in five expats find the Irish's attitude towards foreign residents friendly (vs. 66% globally), and 42 percent even think it could not be any better.
- Healthcare in Ireland ranks in the bottom 10 for affordability (62nd), with only 38 percent rating medical expenses favorably (vs. 59% worldwide).
- The majority of Irish expats (57%) says they were looking forward to better weather abroad prior to their relocation, and 37 percent can imagine staying in their host country forever.

Munich, 6 September 2018 — Ireland redeems its reputation as a welcoming country for expats, gaining ten ranks in terms of friendliness, coming in 13th out of 68 for this aspect in 2018. However, a lack of leisure activities and the unaffordability of life in general leave expats worried, as the [Expatriate 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 Ireland achieves a low 43rd 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	54 Russia		

 Best Destinations  Worst Destinations

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

Expats Find the Irish Friendlier Again

After mediocre ranks in 2017, Ireland has regained 14 places for both the general friendliness of the population and friendly attitude towards foreign residents. More than four in five expats in Ireland (81%) are happy with the local attitude towards them, which is not only 15 percentage points more than the global average (66%) but also five percentage points more than in 2017 (76%). In 2018, more than two in five (42%) even give it the best possible rating (vs. 28% globally), boosting the country from rank 30th to 16th for the friendliness towards foreign residents. Ratings for the general friendliness of the population have also rocketed from 20th rank in 2017 to 6th in 2018: almost nine in ten expats (88%) find the Irish generally friendly (vs. 69% globally), and 55 percent could not be any happier here. One Ukrainian finds that the Irish are *"very positive and friendly people"*. Maybe that is the reason why 55 percent find it easy to make friends with locals, compared to 45 percent globally. In fact, more than a quarter of expats in Ireland (28%) say their friends are mostly local residents, which is nine percentage points more than the global average (19%).

Expats feel at home in Ireland, ranking the country 10th out of 68 countries, an increase of six places since 2017 (16th). Close to three quarters (73%) claim to feel at home in the Irish culture (vs. 60% globally), and 78 percent find it easy to get used to it, which is 16 percentage points more than the global average (62%). In fact, Ireland ranks sixth for the ease of getting used to the local culture, only beaten by Bahrain (1st), Portugal, Spain, Mexico, and Canada (5th).

It Is Not Just the Bad Weather Causing a Low Quality of Life

Across the years, expats in Ireland have never been particularly satisfied with the weather: in 2018, only 22 percent rate this factor positively, compared to 61 percent globally. Half of the expats (50%) even say they saw the weather as a potential disadvantage prior to moving to Ireland, compared to just 21 percent globally. However, the weather is not the only factor causing Ireland's low ranking for quality of life: although the country has improved slightly since 2017 (50th), it still only comes in 46th place out of 68 countries this year.

Ireland ranks in the bottom 10 countries for affordability of healthcare (62nd), only performing better than Switzerland (63rd), Brazil, Kenya, Kuwait, Myanmar, and the USA (68th). In fact, less than two in five (38%) find healthcare affordable in Ireland, which is 21 percentage points less than the global average (59%). What is more, it seems like despite high costs, expats cannot expect a high quality, ranking the country 57th for the latter. What is more, just about half (53%) rate the quality of medical care in Ireland positively (vs. 67% globally). One British expat summarizes: *"The healthcare and waiting times are terrible and very expensive, even for children."*

It does not look much better when it comes to working in Ireland. Compared to last year, the country lost most ground in terms of job security (18th to 29th in 2018) and work-life balance (29th to 45th in 2018). Interestingly, it seems that the low satisfaction with work-life balance is not due to a strong dissatisfaction with working hours, as 67 percent of expats are satisfied with that factor (vs. 62% globally). It might be much more influenced by a lack of leisure activities for expats to pursue in their free time. Just 67 percent rate the availability of leisure activities generally well, compared to a global average of 75 percent. One Portuguese expat states to *"not have much of a social life outside of work"*, while another from Spain mentions that they *"do not have the money to spend on socializing"*.

In fact, Ireland ranks 65th out of 68 countries for personal finance, only better than Argentina (66th), Italy, and Greece (68th). Just 65 percent think their disposable household income is enough or more

than enough to cover daily costs (vs. 78% globally). Consequently, less than three in five (56%) are happy with their financial situation, compared to 67 percent globally.

The Irish Trade Gloomy Weather against Love and Jobs Abroad

With the majority of expats in Ireland (53%) being unhappy with the local climate and weather, it is understandable that 57 percent of Irish leaving their country say they saw the climate and weather as a potential benefit before moving abroad (vs. 45% globally). However, while sunnier shores are a nice perk, and 12 percent of Irish expats indeed move abroad for a better quality of life, their most popular main reasons for relocating are different ones.

More than one in seven Irish (14%) moved because they found a job abroad on their own (vs. 12% globally), and the same share names love as their most important reason (14% vs. 12% globally). In fact, nearly half the Irish expats in a relationship (47%) are together with someone from their current country of residence (vs. 35% globally). An Irish expat living in Australia shares that the best thing about living abroad is *"being with family"*. More than half the Irish who are happy with their life abroad state that this is largely due to their family also being happy (53%).

Almost one-third of Irish expats (31%) have been living abroad in their current host country for more than ten years, compared to just 24 percent globally. It also does not seem like this will change any time soon: 37 percent of Irish expats can imagine possibly staying forever in their current country of residence, which is five percentage more than the global average (32%). *"It suits the way I like to live,"* says one Irish expat about life in Thailand.

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 *Expat 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

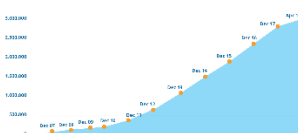
Country-specific versions are available in different languages in the download section at the end of the press release.



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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