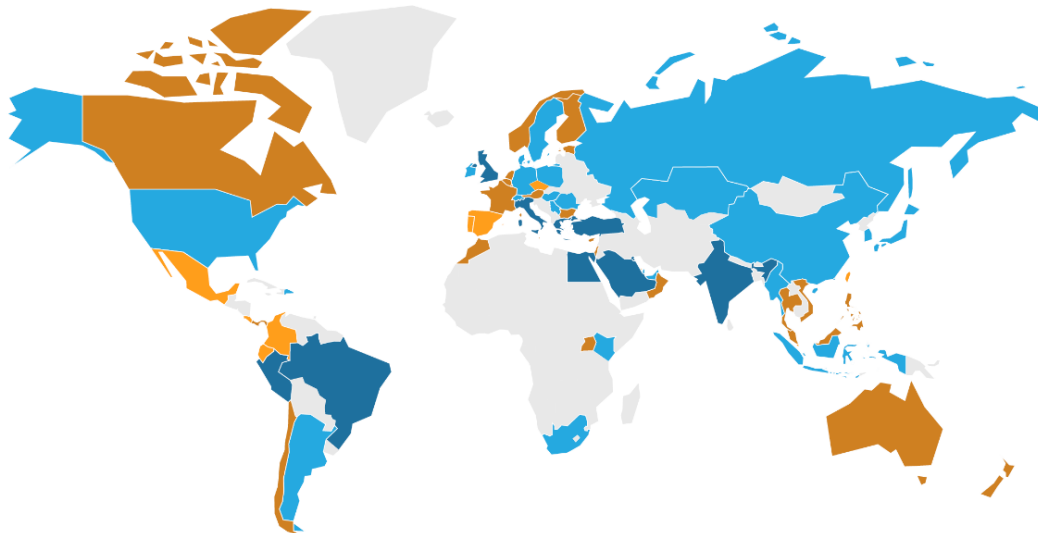


Expats Insider 2018 Survey Reveals: Expats in Italy Suffer Financially, but Their Social Life Is Thriving

Working life in Italy continues to disappoint expats, but good weather and friendly locals make them stay.

- Italy ranks 61st 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.
- 45 percent of the expats living in Italy are unhappy with their career prospects (vs. 25% globally), and 34 percent worry about their job security (vs. 21% globally).
- The majority of expats in Italy is happy with the local climate and weather (84%) as well as their travel opportunities (89%).
- One-third of the Italians abroad have moved to find better work opportunities (vs. 21% globally).

Munich, 6 September 2018 — Expats in Italy are less satisfied than ever with their personal finances and professional life. Many Italians themselves leave the country for very similar reasons, searching for better (and more lucrative) job opportunities abroad. While Italy also fails to offer expats a good digital infrastructure, it is not only the weather and leisure options that make them happy, 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 yearly 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 Italy continues its downwards trend and ranks a low 61st 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 *Expats Insider 2018* survey

Little Professional Growth and Financial Potential

Ever since the *Expatriate Insider* survey was first conducted in 2014, Italy has ranked in the bottom 10 countries for working life (58th out of 61 countries in 2014) as well as personal finance (60th out of 61 in 2014). This year, the country reaches a new low, coming in second-to-last place (67th out of 68 countries) for both, with only Greece being rated worse.

In fact, Italy's economy continues to worry expats: just a quarter (25%) is happy with this factor, compared to a global average of 64 percent. An expat from Israel living in Italy expresses their dissatisfaction with the *"economic situation, the huge lack of efficiency at work, and the low salaries"*. However, this did not necessarily come as a surprise as 27 percent considered the local economy to be a potential disadvantage even before relocating to Italy (vs. 10% globally).

Over four in ten expats in Italy (45%) are unhappy with their career prospects (vs. 25% globally), and 34 percent worry about their job security (vs. 21% globally). *"Life is very expensive while the salary is pretty low, even for highly qualified professionals"*, an Albanian expat living in Italy comments. In fact, nearly two in three expats in Italy (65%) have a gross yearly household income of less than 50,000 USD, which is 17 percentage points more than the global average (48%). What is more, one-third (33%) also states that their disposable income is not enough to cover everything they need in daily life (vs. 22% globally).

Lastly, Italy scores low for digital life (57th out of 68): 27 percent are unhappy with the lack of high-speed internet at home (vs. 16% globally), 23 percent find it hard to pay without cash (vs. 13% globally), and close to half (49%) are dissatisfied with the availability of online government services (vs. 26% globally).

A Sunny Life to Be Shared with Local Friends

While expats' low satisfaction with the country's digital infrastructure drags Italy down when it comes to the quality of life (43rd out of 68), expats are still satisfied with some factors here: the majority is happy with the weather (84% vs. 61% globally) as well as the available leisure options (75% vs. 75% globally). An Armenian expat living in Italy finds *"the huge choice of things to do — from seaside to mountains, from food and wine to art — is the best thing about Italy."* Additionally, 89 percent rate their travel opportunities positively, and 61 percent even give this factor the best possible rating (vs. 49% globally).

While 65 percent of expats find it hard to live in Italy without local language skills (vs. 39% globally), actually learning Italian does not seem to be an issue: more than half (54%) find this easy, and 40 percent speak Italian very well (vs. 27% of expats with excellent local language skills worldwide). Maybe it is due to the lack of a language barrier that 34 percent of expats are mainly friends with locals, which is nearly twice the global average (19%). *"People are very friendly towards foreigners in*

LIFE IN ITALY			
	2018*		2017**
Overall Rank	61	▼ 1	60
Quality of Life	43	▼ 9	34
Ease of Settling In	43	▼ 2	41
Working Abroad	67	▼ 3	64
Family Life <small>out of 50 countries</small>	39	▼ 1	38
Personal Finance	67	▼ 4	63
Cost of Living	38	▼ 4	34
	<small>*out of 68 countries</small>		<small>**out of 65 countries</small>
68% generally satisfied			

Italy," says a British expat, while a respondent from the USA appreciates that *"people take the time to talk to each other"*. Consequently, about two-thirds (67%) feel at home in Italy. Another fact might have also helped with settling in: more than half the expats who are in a relationship (51%) have an Italian partner.

Italians Abroad: Go-Getters and Veterans of Expat Life

Italians leaving their home country are somewhat younger than the average expat (42.1 years vs. 44.2 years globally) and very well educated: more than half of them (56%) hold a post-graduate degree or even a PhD (vs. 48% globally). Their main reason to relocate is to look for better job opportunities (33% vs. 21% globally): they found a job abroad on their own (15% vs. 12% globally), were recruited by a local company (15% vs. 7% globally) or were planning to start their own business abroad (3% vs. 2% globally). And the move seems to pay off: seven in ten (70%) think that they make more abroad than they would in a similar job back home (vs. 53% globally).

Italians are no strangers to life abroad: close to one in five (19%) have already lived in more than four other countries (vs. 16% globally). Maybe it is due to their experience that most of them (58%) are able to speak the local language fairly well or even very well (vs. 46% globally). However, despite a low language barrier, Italians abroad seem to stick together. Close to half of them (46%) find it hard to make local friends, ten percentage points more than the global average (36%). Moreover, 45 percent say that their social circle mainly consists of other expats, compared to just 34 percent of expats globally. *"It is hard to make new friends and have a social life, especially with local people"*, according to an Italian living in Denmark. Maybe it is the lack of local friends that explains why 27 percent do not feel at home in their new country of residence yet (vs. 22% globally), and 17 percent think they never will (vs. 15% globally).

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).

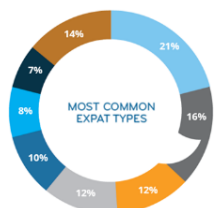
Bottom 3 Countries for Expats Rank Low for Quality of Life

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 *Expats Insider* 2018 Survey

For its annual [Expats 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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