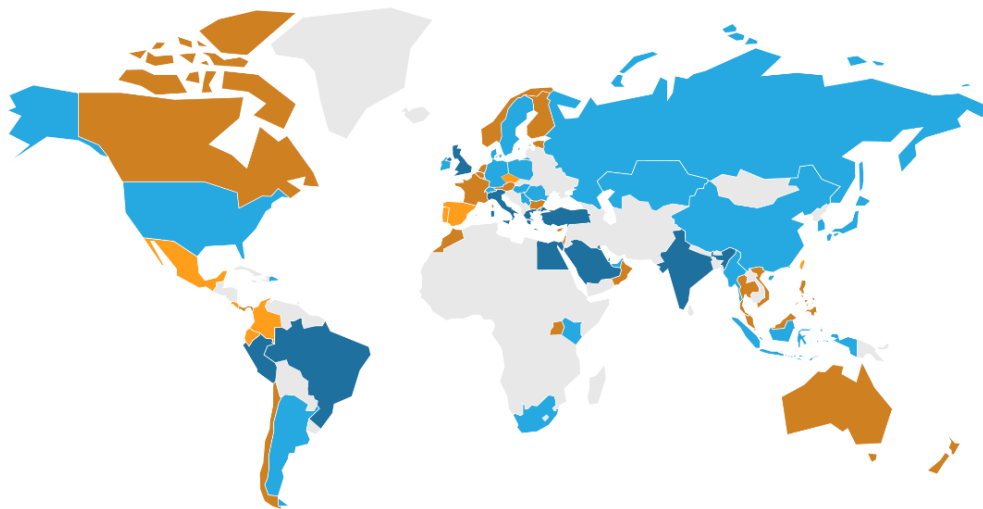


Expatriate Insider 2018 Survey Reveals: Expats Appreciate the High Quality of Life in Portugal

Friendly locals and a great quality of life ensure that Portugal remains an attractive destination for expats, but working life fails to impress.

- Portugal ranks 6th 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.
- Nearly all expats (94%) in Portugal rate the climate and weather positively (vs. 61% globally).
- Only 39 percent of expats living in Portugal are happy with their career prospects, which is 16 percentage points less than the global average (55%).
- 62 percent of Portuguese expats find it likely that they will return to Portugal in the future (vs. 43% globally).

Munich, 6 September 2018 — For the second time in a row Portugal makes it into the top 10 of the *Expatriate Insider* survey, ranking an impressive 6th out of 68 countries in 2018. A high quality of life and the ease of settling in are among the reasons for expats' high satisfaction with life in Portugal. However, low career prospects leave them dissatisfied with their working life 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. Portugal lands in an excellent 6th place among the top 10 destinations for expats, only beaten by Bahrain, Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, and Singapore, and followed by 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 in Portugal Enjoy a Warm Welcome and a High Quality of Life

After Portugal being rated the world's most welcoming country in 2017, 87 percent of expats describe the local population's attitude towards foreign residents as friendly in 2018. This is seven percentage points less than last year (94%), but still an incredible 21 percentage points more than the global average (66%). A British expat living in Portugal think that *"the Portuguese could not be any friendlier or more accommodating"*. Given how friendly the local residents in Portugal are, it is no surprise that 64 percent of expats find it easy to make local friends there (vs. 45% globally). Perhaps it is the warm welcome that helps the majority of expats (82%) feel at home in the local culture, compared to only 60 percent worldwide.

Ranking 2nd out of 68 countries for quality of life, Portugal is only beaten by Taiwan in this regard. In fact, this is one of Portugal's biggest pull factors: 28 percent of expats moved there in search for a better quality of life, compared to only 10 percent of expats worldwide relocating for the same reason. The majority of expats in Portugal (94%) is happy with the climate and weather (vs. 61% globally), and 88 percent rate the available leisure options positively (vs. 75% globally).

What is more, Portugal ranks among the top 10 countries for personal safety: nearly all expats (98%) are satisfied with this factor, compared to a global average of 82 percent. Close to every expat in Portugal (98%) also considers the country generally peaceful (vs. 78% globally), and more than three-quarters (77%) even give it the best possible rating (vs. 43% globally). Thanks to these impressive results, Portugal ranks 2nd out of 68 destinations for peacefulness, only beaten by Luxembourg. Maybe it is due to all these reasons that more than nine in ten expats in Portugal (91%) feel generally satisfied with their life abroad, compared to 75 percent globally.

LIFE IN PORTUGAL			
	2018*		2017**
Overall Rank	6	▼ 1	5
Quality of Life	2	▼ 1	1
Ease of Settling In	5	▼ 1	4
Working Abroad	48	▲ 5	53
Family Life <small>out of 50 countries</small>	9		N/A
Personal Finance	45	▼ 17	28
Cost of Living	11	▼ 7	4
	<small>*out of 68 countries</small>		<small>**out of 65 countries</small>
91% generally satisfied			

Poor Career Prospects for Five Years in a Row

Ranking 48th out of 68 countries for working abroad, Portugal has improved slightly since last year (53th), but generally speaking, expats are still disappointed with this aspect of life in Portugal. Close to two in five (37%) are unhappy with their career prospects, which is twelve percentage points more than the global average (25%). *"There are few professional opportunities,"* a British expat says, while another expat from Zimbabwe bemoans the *"lack of job opportunities"*. In fact, Portugal ranks in the bottom 10 countries for career prospects for the fifth consecutive year (62nd in 2018). Moreover, just 53 percent of expats in Portugal rate the country's state of economy positively (vs. 64% globally) — and only three percent consider the economy *very good*, which is less than one-eighth of the global average (25%).

Even before moving to Portugal, more than one in five expats (23%) considered the economy and/or labor market a potential disadvantage (vs. 10% globally). It is therefore no surprise that just eleven percent moved to the country for work-related reasons, compared to 31 percent of expats globally.

Portuguese Expats Are Longing for Home

As career prospects in Portugal are rated rather negatively, it is easy to see why 45 percent of Portuguese expats move abroad for work-related reasons (vs. 31% globally): about one in six each (17%) either found a job abroad on their own (vs. 12% globally) or were sent abroad by their employer (vs. 10% globally). Another ten percent were recruited by a local company (vs. 7% globally), and two percent planned on starting their own business abroad, the same as the global average. Portuguese expats are satisfied with their career prospects (67% vs. 55% globally) and job security (67% vs. 59% globally) in their new country of residence. *"The business opportunities are great, and it is easy to find a job,"* says a Portuguese expat living in China.

However, while their professional life is thriving, Portuguese expats seem to struggle personally. Many (44%) find it hard to make local friends, which is eight percentage points more than the global average (36%). One Portuguese expat considers *"the difficulty of making friends and the cold people"* the most negative aspects of life in Belgium. Interestingly, their social issues do not seem to be due to the language barrier: more than one-third of Portuguese expats (35%) speak the local language very well (vs. 27% globally). Maybe it is the lack of a social life that leads to 62 percent of Portuguese expats believing they will return home at some point (vs. 43% globally) — close to half (48%) even find it *very likely* (vs. 31% globally).

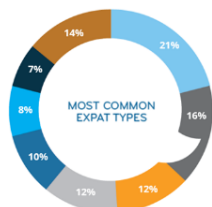
Top 3 Countries for Expats Are Great for Working Abroad and Easy to Settle In

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 *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.

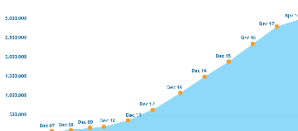
Country-specific versions are available in different languages in the download section at the end of the press release.



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](#).

Press Contact

Vera Grossmann
Media Spokesperson

InterNations GmbH
Schwanthalerstrasse 39
80336 Munich, Germany

Tel: +49 (0)89 461 3324 79

Fax: +49 (0)89 461 3324 99

Email: press@internations.org

Homepage: <http://www.internations.org/press>