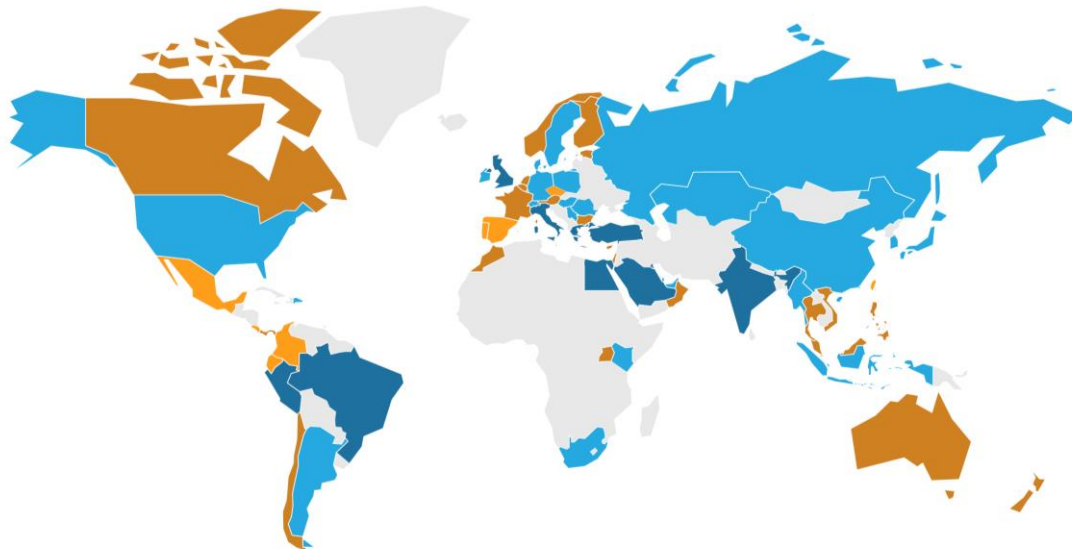


Expatriate Insider 2018 Survey Reveals: Expats Feel at Home in Spain, While the Spanish Leave for a Better Work Life

Spain's rocky political and economic climate seems to be the only thing holding it back.

- Spain ranks 8th out of 68 countries in the Expatriate Insider 2018 survey. More top 10 destinations for expats include Bahrain, Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Czechia.
- More than three in ten expats (31%) come to Spain for a better quality of life, compared to just 10 percent moving for that reason globally.
- Just 49 percent of expats in Spain are happy with the state of the Spanish economy (vs. 64% globally).
- Spaniards mainly move abroad for work (53%), and 74 percent believe that they make more abroad than in a similar job back home (vs. 53% globally).

Munich, 6 September 2018 — For the second year in a row, Spain ranks among the top 10 countries for expats thanks to its high quality of life and ease of settling in. Expats living in Spain particularly value the friendliness of locals and the available leisure activities. However, the country's economic issues continue to pull it down, 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. Spain ranks with an excellent 8th place in the top 10 destinations for expats, only beaten by Bahrain, Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica and followed by 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

Sunny Skies and Friendly Locals Make Expats Happy

Ranking 3rd out of 68 countries for quality of life, this is one of Spain's main assets: in fact, 31 percent of expats name the search for a better quality of life as their most important reason for moving to Spain, which is more than three times the global average (10%). Close to every expat in Spain (96%) is happy with the climate and weather (vs. 61% globally), and 68 percent even give it the best possible rating (vs. 26% globally). The same applies to the leisure activities: they are regarded positively by 93 percent, which is 18 percentage points higher than the global average (75%). An expat from the UK shares: *"I really like the good social life, the mainly good weather, and the friendly locals."*

More than four in five expats in Spain (83%) rate the attitude of the local residents towards foreigners as friendly, compared to just 66 percent of expats worldwide. Maybe that is the reason why more than three in five (61%) find it easy to make local friends in Spain (vs. 45% globally). Being surrounded by friendly locals, it is no surprise that 81 percent of expats in Spain feel at home in the country, compared to just 64 percent globally. *"It is very easy to feel at home in Spain,"* says a German expat, while a respondent originally from the Netherlands states: *"Mallorca is my home!"* In fact, close to three in five expats (59%) find it likely or even very likely that they will never return home (vs. 38% globally). Maybe it is due to the great quality of life and ease of settling in that close to nine in ten expats in Spain (87%) are generally happy with their life (vs. 76% globally).

An Uncertain Economy and Unstable Careers

Despite the many positives that come with a relocation to Spain, expats continue to worry about the state of the Spanish economy, ranking the country 48th out of 68 for this factor. In fact, less than half (49%) consider the economy to be in a good state, which is 15 percentage points less than the global average (64%). An expat from Brazil shares how unhappy they are with *"the political crisis, the bad economy, and the lower salaries for workers compared to the rest of the EU"*.

LIFE IN SPAIN			
	2018*		2017**
Overall Rank	8	▲ 2	10
Quality of Life	3		3
Ease of Settling In	7	▲ 7	14
Working Abroad	43	▲ 9	52
Family Life <small>out of 50 countries</small>	13	▼ 5	8
Personal Finance	39	▲ 2	41
Cost of Living	12	▼ 5	7
	<small>*out of 68 countries</small>		<small>**out of 65 countries</small>

90% generally satisfied

Coming in 43rd out of 68 countries for working abroad, Spain shows some improvement from last year's ranking (52nd out of 65), but it is still far from the top. Three in ten (30%) are unhappy with their career prospects (vs. 25 % globally), and another 27 percent are not content with their job security (vs. 21% globally). *"There is a lack of work opportunities for self-employed foreign professionals,"* shares an expat from Colombia.

Additionally, just 35 percent of expats in Spain have a gross yearly household income of more than 50,000 USD, which is 17 percentage points less than the global average (52%). However, thanks to the low costs of living (12th out of 68), it still seems to be enough: close to four in five expats (78%) state to have about enough or more than enough to cover everything they need for

daily life, which is exactly the same share as the global average.

Spanish Abroad: Higher Incomes, Fewer Friends

More than half the Spanish expats (53%) moved abroad for work-related reasons, compared to just 31 percent of expats globally: one in five (20%) found a job on their own (vs. 12% globally), 18 percent were sent abroad by their employer (vs. 10% globally), 12 percent were recruited by a local company (vs. 7% globally), and three percent went to start their own business abroad (vs. 2% globally). Close to two-thirds of Spanish expats (65%) say they considered the local economy and/or labor market to be a potential benefit of moving abroad, which is 18 percentage points more than the global average (47%). And it seems like they were able to make the move count, as 74 percent believe that they earn more than they would in a similar job back home (vs. 53% globally), and 31 percent even believe that it is *a lot more* (vs. 25% globally).

On the downside, Spanish expats seem to struggle socially: close to half of them (49%) find it hard to make local friends abroad, compared to just 36 percent of expats worldwide. *"It is so difficult to make real friends among the locals,"* a Spanish expat living in Germany says, *"that is one of the main obstacles of not really settling in here."* This seems to be true for many, as 55 percent of Spanish expats who are unhappy abroad name a lack of socializing opportunities as one reason for their unhappiness. Maybe this contributes to the fact that close half (48%) are mainly friends with other expats (vs. 34% globally).

In the long run, work opportunities cannot seem to compensate the lack of a social life: 58 percent believe it is likely that they will return to Spain at some point, compared to 43 percent globally. In fact, 26 percent do not feel at home abroad yet (vs. 22% globally), and another 22 percent even believe that they never will (vs. 15% globally).

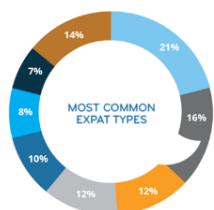
Top 3 Countries for Expats Are Great for Working Abroad and Easy to Settle In

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 *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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