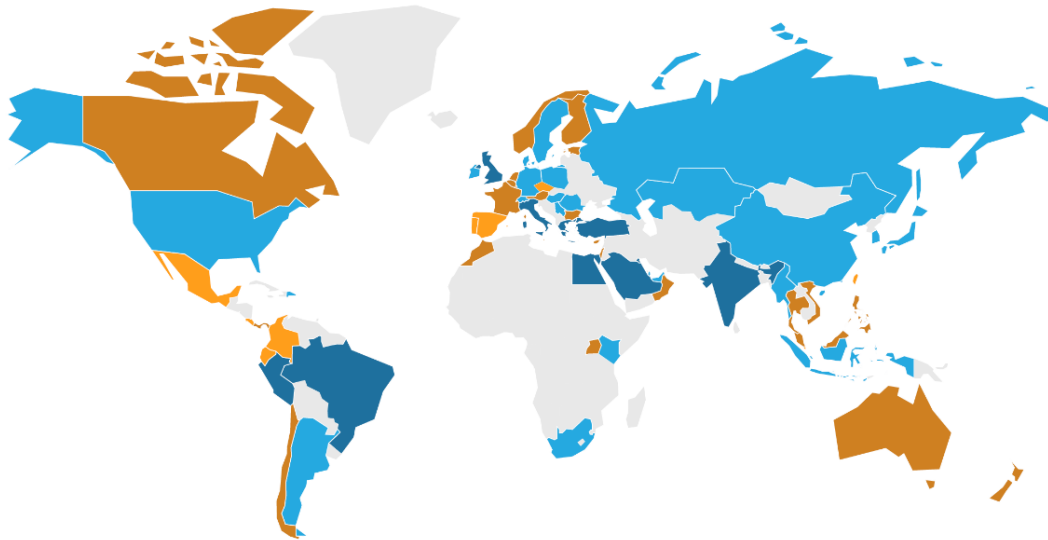


Expats Insider 2018 Survey Reveals: Switzerland Loses in Popularity against International Competition

Expats destinations such as Bahrain or Taiwan leave Switzerland far behind, except for its quality of life.

- *Expats' satisfaction with Switzerland is continuously worsening, dropping 40 positions since 2014 to 44th place 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.*
- *Switzerland experienced the biggest decline in terms of working abroad and family life, losing 16 and 14 positions, respectively, since 2014.*
- *The country remains a top scorer for the quality of environment, traveling and transportation, political stability, peacefulness, and personal safety.*
- *Swiss abroad may suffer a loss of income but find happiness in their intercultural relationships.*

Munich, 6 September 2018 — Switzerland is one of the biggest losers of this year's *Expats Insider* survey, having dropped 17 positions in the global ranking since 2017 and 40 since 2014. While expats in Switzerland are increasingly unsatisfied with their life, international destinations such as Bahrain and Taiwan continue to delight, 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 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 Switzerland lands on a poor 44th 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

Building a Career or Raising a Family — Not in Switzerland?

The opinions of expats living in Switzerland worsened across all indices, but most considerably for working abroad and family life. While the country used to be a top destination for career-driven expats just a few years ago, it seems to have lost attractiveness over the years: about one-fifth of expats express dissatisfaction with their job in general (19%) as well as working hours, work-life balance, and job security (all 21%). Slightly more than one quarter of the respondents (26%) even say that they are unhappy about their career prospects in Switzerland. For example, a Swedish expat complains about the *“lack of flexibility on the job market, such as for part time jobs on higher levels”*, while a Lithuanian expat addresses the *“difficulty to enter the labor market without previous local working experience”*. While great ratings for the state of the economy (93% positive responses) manage to push the country up the ranks a bit, it still loses 16 positions compared to 2014 and is now 20th for working abroad, just before Mexico, Israel, and China.

Expats in Switzerland continue to be dissatisfied with language-related aspects (51st out of 68 destinations), feeling at home (61st), friendliness of the locals (64th), finding friends (65th), and cost of living (67th). Next to this, the country receives its worst results in terms of family life, dropping 14 positions from 20th in 2014 to a below-average 34th place out of 50 countries in 2018. Switzerland's biggest weakness seems to lie with the options, availability, and affordability of childcare (43%, 61%, and 74% negative responses). In these areas, it ranks almost on a par with countries such as Kuwait (for options), Brazil (for availability), or the USA and the UK (for affordability). Expat parents' opinion regarding the friendly attitude towards families with children is also below average (16% negative responses vs. 7% globally).

LIFE IN SWITZERLAND			
	2018*		2017**
Overall Rank	44	▼ 17	27
Quality of Life	9	▼ 1	8
Ease of Settling In	65	▼ 4	61
Working Abroad	20	▼ 7	13
Family Life <small>out of 50 countries</small>	34	▼ 7	27
Personal Finance	32	▼ 6	26
Cost of Living	67	▼ 3	64
	<small>*out of 68 countries</small>		<small>**out of 65 countries</small>

78% generally satisfied

Where Switzerland Remains a Top Scorer

Expats in Switzerland may often not feel welcome, but they definitely appreciate the quality environment (97% positive answers) with the *“proximity to beautiful mountains and lakes”*, as a US American puts it; the travel opportunities (93%) and transportation infrastructure (96%), where *“trains run on time”*, according to another US American; as well as the political stability (93%), peacefulness (95%), and safety (96%) that the country has to offer. For all these factors, Switzerland has been ranking among the top countries for five years in a row now. This year, it again does particularly well for political stability (2nd), followed by the quality of environment (3rd), travel opportunities and the transportation infrastructure (4th each), children's safety (5th), peacefulness (6th), and personal safety (9th).

The Swiss Abroad: Love Trumps Money

Most Swiss expats suffer a loss of income when moving abroad, with 64 percent of working respondents believing that they earn less than what they would get in a similar position in Switzerland. For nearly two in five (38%), it is even a lot less. Nonetheless, with about three in ten respondents (29%), work-related reasons still account for the most common motivation among Swiss moving abroad. Their most common industries are finance (11%) and the public sector: one in ten Swiss who are working abroad (10%) is employed in the latter, compared to a global average of only three percent.

With 20 percent, moving for love or with a partner is the second-most common reason for relocating. On a global level, the largest part of expats in a relationship are of the same nationality as their partner

(43%) and met in their home country (49%). Swiss expats, on the other hand, are most probable to be in an intercultural relationship with someone from their new country of residence (46%), and only 27 percent have a Swiss partner. Correspondingly, they have most commonly met their partner in their now home (44%) rather than in Switzerland (31%). Over one-quarter of the Swiss abroad even have a partner of an entirely different nationality (27% vs. 22% global average) and/or have met them neither in Switzerland nor in their new country of residence (25% vs. 19% globally). Regardless of when and where they've met, nine in ten Swiss expats in a relationship are generally satisfied with it, while more than half (54%) even state to be completely happy.

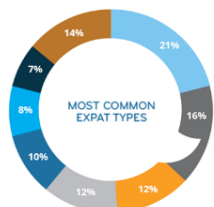
Top 3 Countries for Expats Are Great for Working Abroad and Easy to Settle In

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 *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 [Expat Magazine](#).

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