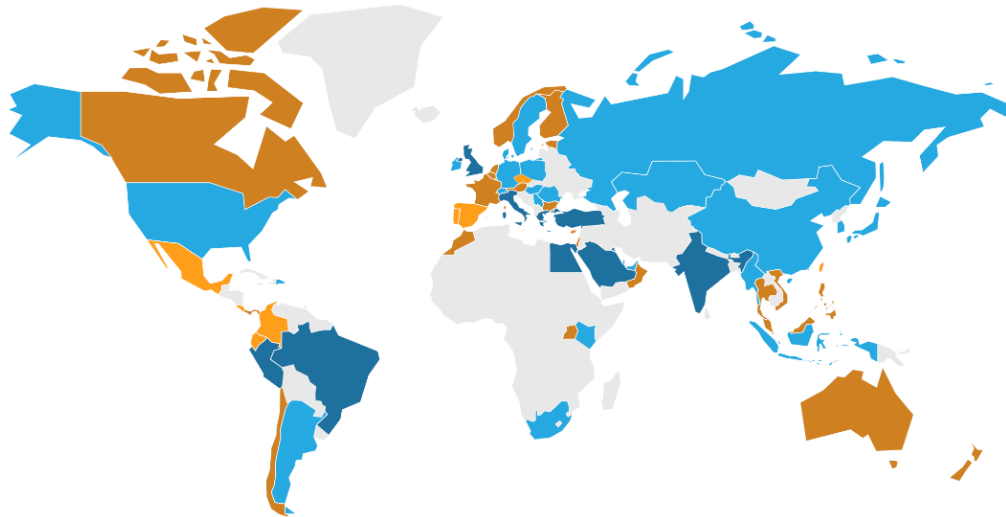


## Expatriate Insider 2018 Survey Reveals: Working Life in the UK Disappoints Expats

While expats' satisfaction with their working life and quality of life is still dropping, they are impressed with the country's digital infrastructure.

- The UK ranks a poor 59th 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.
- Expats' satisfaction with their working life has fallen from 29th out of 65 countries in 2017 to only 44th out of 68 countries in 2018.
- The UK ranks highly for digital life (15th out of 68 countries): nearly every expat (95%) finds it easy to pay without cash (vs. 78% globally).
- British expats are in it for the long haul as 37 percent have been living in their host country for more than ten years (vs. 24% globally).

Munich, 6 September 2018 — For the fifth year in a row, satisfaction with expat life in the United Kingdom has become worse, with the country ending up in the bottom ten for the first time. Expats struggle with a low quality of life, poor personal finances, and an unsatisfying working life. However, the country's digital infrastructure is rated very positively, 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 the UK achieves only a poor 59th 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 in the UK Less Satisfied Than Ever

LIFE IN THE UK			
	2018*		2017**
<b>Overall Rank</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>▼ 5</b>	<b>54</b>
Quality of Life	45	▼ 4	41
Ease of Settling In	48	▼ 4	44
Working Abroad	44	▼ 15	29
Family Life <small>out of 50 countries</small>	37	▼ 3	34
Personal Finance	62	▼ 3	59
Cost of Living	56	▲ 2	58

\*out of 68 countries      \*\*out of 65 countries

**65%** generally satisfied

Satisfaction with expat life in the UK has dropped in every index of the *Expat Insider 2018* survey, particularly in terms of working abroad (from 29th place to 44th), quality of life (from 41st to 45th), and personal finance (from 59th to 62nd). When it comes to satisfaction with career prospects, the UK has even dropped from an excellent 5th place in 2017 to ranking only 24th this year. *"Leaving the EU seriously damages my job prospects,"* an expat from the US fears. In fact, just 61 percent of expats are satisfied with their careers prospects in 2018, which is five percentage points less than in 2017 (66%).

As usual, it is partly the gloomy weather pulling the UK down the ranks for quality of life: close to three in five (59%) are dissatisfied with the local climate, compared to just 22 percent of expats globally. But

there is more to the bad performance regarding the UK's quality of life: 77 percent of expats in the UK rate their personal safety positively (vs. 82% globally), and just over half (52%) are happy with the country's political stability (vs. 63% globally).

Lastly, expats also seem to worry about their personal finances as close to three in five (59%) state that their disposable household income is not enough or just about enough to cover everything need (vs. 49% globally). *"The high cost of living and childcare"* are two topics that bother an expat from South Africa most, and many expats seem to agree. Half of them (50%) are unhappy with the cost of living (vs. 31% globally), and over seven in ten (73%) rate the costs of childcare negatively (vs. 39% globally).

## Good Digital Life Offers Some Consolation

Despite a drop in satisfaction with many aspects of expat life, the UK excels when it comes to digital life, ranking 15th out of 68 countries worldwide. *"You can pay for everything online,"* an expat from Romania shares. In fact, just one percent of expats in the UK finds it hard to pay without cash, compared to 13 percent of expats struggling with this globally. What is more, expats in the UK show above-average satisfaction with their unrestricted access to online services such as social media (89% vs. 80% globally) and the availability of administrative and/or government services online (73% vs. 55% globally). Regarding the latter, close to one-third (32%) even could not be any happier, which is nine percentage points more than the global average (23%). An expat from France is happy that *"all services are accessible online or via phone seven days a week"*.

## Brits Abroad: In it for the Long Haul

According to the *Expat Insider 2018* survey, 37 percent of the British respondents have lived in their host country for more than ten years, compared to just 24 percent of expats worldwide. Moreover, 50 percent of Brits say they may stay in their current country of residence forever (vs. 32% globally). This might be due to the fact that one in four (25%) is a retiree, which is more than twice the global average (11%). *"As a retiree I could not afford to live like this in my home country,"* a British expat in Spain reports. In fact, nearly one in five British expats (19%) moved for a better quality of life (vs. 10% globally) and more than half (52%) saw the cost of living as a potential benefit of moving (vs. 42% globally).

Although many British expats have lived in their host country for a long time, only 34 percent can speak the local language fairly or very well compared to a global average of 46 percent. *"It is difficult to learn the German language,"* a British expat living in Austria complains. However, most Brits abroad may not necessarily need any local language skills as 58 percent find it easy to live in their host country without them (vs. 46% globally). The language barrier does not seem to stop them from settling in, though. For example, a British expat in Portugal says: *"It is a country where I easily feel at home, more than in my country of origin."* Exactly three-quarters of British expats (75%) feel at home abroad, which is eleven percentage points more than the global average (64%).

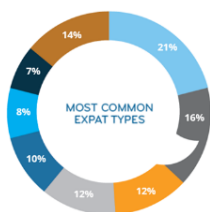
### Top 3 Countries for Expats Are Great for Working Abroad and Easy to Settle In

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](mailto: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](http://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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