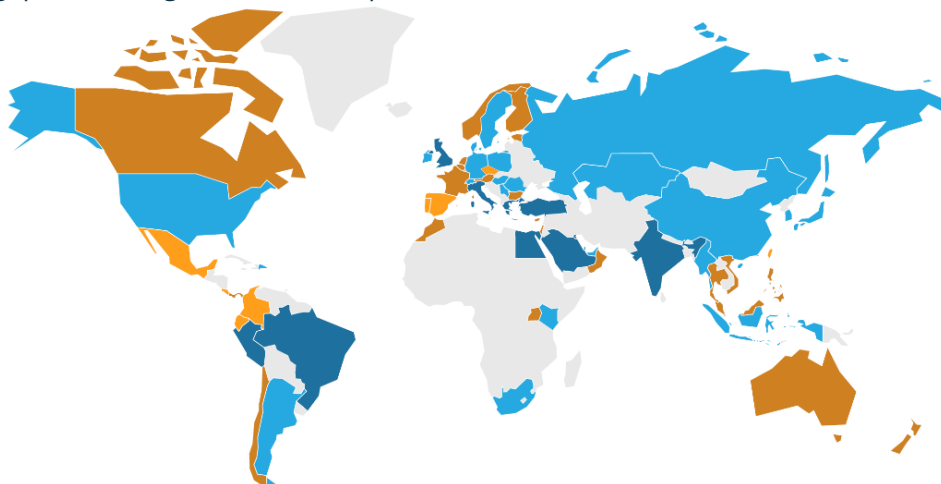


Expatriate Insider 2018 Survey Reveals: USA Rank Among the 15 Least Safe Countries for Expats in the World

High-tech destination USA offers great career prospects, but expats are concerned with their personal safety and expensive healthcare.

- The USA ranks a low 47th 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.
- The USA ranks among the bottom 15 countries for safety and security, worse than Indonesia and Myanmar and just before Mexico, the Philippines, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, India, Argentina, Turkey, Peru, Kenya, South Africa, and Brazil.
- Close to seven in ten expats in the USA (67%) are happy with their career prospects, which is twelve percentage points more than the global average (55%).
- US American expats feel at home abroad (74%), and 44 percent can imagine staying forever.

Munich, 6 September 2018 — Expats' satisfaction with the quality of life in the USA varies widely: many worry about their personal safety, as well as the country's political stability, and they are dissatisfied with the healthcare system as well. On the other hand, the country ranks among the top 10 for digital life, thanks to high levels of satisfaction with the access to online services and the ability to pay without cash, 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 USA comes in a low 47th 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			

■ Best Destinations ■ Worst Destinations

Click on the map for a video and more information about the *Expatriate Insider 2018* survey

The USA: No Longer a Safe Place for Expats and Their Families?

Expats' satisfaction with safety and security in the USA keeps getting worse: after losing 20 ranks within a year, going from ranking 31st in 2016 to 51st in 2017, the country falls another five places in 2018 (56th). It now ranks among the 15 least safe countries worldwide, along with destinations such as Myanmar, Egypt, India, Brazil, and South Africa. Only 67 percent of expats in the USA rate their personal safety positively, which is 15 percentage points less than the global average in 2018 (82%). Even prior to relocating just one-third (33%) considered their personal safety as a potential advantage of moving to the USA (vs. 53% globally). Moreover, three in ten expats (30%) are dissatisfied with the country's political stability. While this is an improvement compared to last year (43%), it is still far higher than the global average of expats who are concerned about this factor (17%). *"I do not like the current political climate, the lack of gun control, and the prevalence of school shootings"*, a British expat says about life in the USA. In fact, expats parents in the USA fear for their children's safety: just about three in five (59%) think that their kids are safe in their new country of residence, which is 22 percentage points less than the global average (81%).

LIFE IN THE USA			
	2018*		2017**
Overall Rank	47	▼ 4	43
Quality of Life	47		47
Ease of Settling In	33	▼ 5	28
Working Abroad	31	▼ 3	28
Family Life <small>out of 50 countries</small>	40	▼ 4	36
Personal Finance	46	▼ 9	37
Cost of Living <small>*out of 68 countries</small>	46	▲ 5	41 <small>**out of 65 countries</small>

74% generally satisfied

Healthcare in the USA: High Costs, but Low Quality

Another low-rated aspect of the quality of life in the USA is the country's healthcare system: 71% of newly arrived expats do not understand it (vs. 31% globally), and 36 percent of all respondents in the USA considered it a potential disadvantage before moving (vs. 15% globally). *"The healthcare system is too expensive and for many foreigners unaffordable,"* an expat from Ukraine thinks. In fact, with 68 percent of expats considering healthcare in the USA hard to afford (vs. 27% globally) it is hardly a surprise that the USA ranks last worldwide for this factor. What is more, the available healthcare also does not seem to live up to the respondents' expectations: more than one-quarter (26%) rate the quality of medical care in the USA negatively, which is eight percentage points more than the global average (18%). The country lands in a below-average 44th place out of 68 for this factor, worse than such destinations as India (43rd), Turkey (33rd), and South Africa (24th).

Digital Development Fosters Career Opportunities

Despite the declining ratings for personal safety and healthcare, the USA manages not to fall any further in terms of quality of life (47th in both 2017 and 2018), thanks to its very good results for digital life. The country ranks 10th out of 68 destinations worldwide in this new subcategory, receiving its best ratings for the ease of paying without cash: nearly all expats (95%) find this easy, compared to 78 percent globally, and 74 percent even think it could not be any easier (vs. 48% globally). Expats in the USA are also satisfied with the access to high-speed internet at home (90% vs. 75% globally) and the unrestricted access to online services such as social media (93% vs. 80% globally).

Considering the great ratings for digital life, it might not be surprising to hear that the main field of expats working in the USA is IT (14%). *"The USA is a mecca for science and technology"*, a French expat

says. *"There are lots of opportunities"*. In fact, the country's labor market in general seems to be attractive for expats: two in three respondents (67%) are happy with their career prospects (vs. 55% globally), and nearly three in five (59%) considered the state of the local economy a benefit before moving (vs. 47% globally). *"The work environment is very good and professional, with many opportunities to advance"*, says a British expat in the USA. Close to half the recently arrived expats (48%) find it easy to apply for a job in the USA (e.g. contacting companies, attending interviews), compared to 41 percent globally.

US Americans Move Abroad for Love and Enjoy Affordable Healthcare

US American expats are true romantics: one in six respondents (17%) moved abroad for love (vs. 12% globally), which makes this reason their main motivation for relocating. Out of those US Americans abroad who are in a committed relationship, 50 percent share their life with someone from their new country of residence (vs. 35% globally). This is the second-highest share of expats with a local partner in the world — only expats from Peru are in a relationship with a local resident more often (58%).

Maybe being romantically involved with a local partner also helps US American expats to settle in abroad: close to three in ten (28%) are mainly friends with locals (vs. 19% globally), and nearly three-quarters (74%) feel at home in their host country (vs. 64% globally). *"I feel at home in Switzerland,"* a US American expat confirms. *"I have been living here for more than half my life"*. In fact, 27 percent of US American expats have been living in their current country of residence for more than ten years (vs. 24% globally), and four in nine (44%) can imagine staying abroad forever, twelve percentage points more than the global average (32%).

What is more, expats from the USA are particularly satisfied with the available healthcare abroad, which might be partly due to the unsatisfying healthcare system back home: close to four in five (79%) find healthcare in their new country of residence affordable (vs. 59% globally), and more than three-quarters (76%) rate the quality of medical care positively (vs. 67% globally). A US American expat living in Germany simply enjoys the *"higher quality of life with lower costs of living"*. In fact, 58 percent of US American expats say that their disposable household income is more than enough to cover their daily living expenses abroad (vs. 51% globally) — despite the fact that four in nine (44%) think their income abroad is lower than what they would make in a comparable position in the USA (vs. 27% globally).

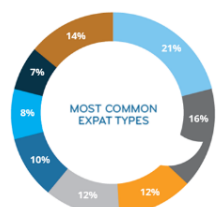
Top 3 Countries for Expats Are Great for Working Abroad and Easy to Settle In

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.

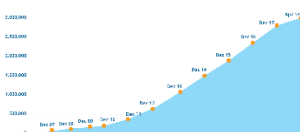
Country-specific versions are available in different languages in the download section at the end of the press release.



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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