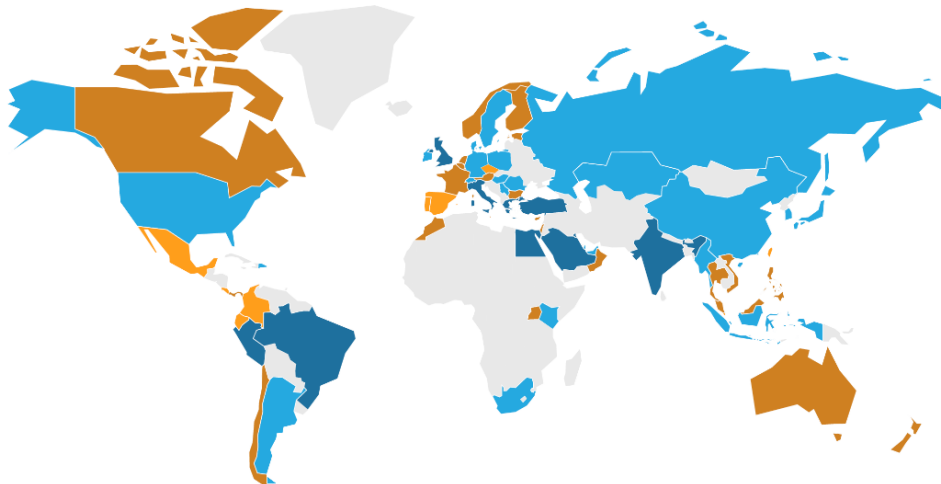


Expatriate Insider 2018 Survey Reveals: Germany among the Three Worst Countries for the Ease of Settling in Abroad

Expats punish Germany's unwelcoming atmosphere for foreign residents with increasingly worse ratings.

- *Expats' satisfaction with Germany is steadily getting worse: since 2014, the country has dropped 24 positions to an average 36th place 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.*
- *Germany now ranks among the three worst-rated countries in the world for the ease of settling in, only beating Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in this subcategory.*
- *Another sore point is Germany's digital infrastructure: expats rate it 53rd out of 68 countries worldwide, just before Argentina and right after Greece.*
- *Love is the second-most common motivation for Germans moving abroad, following closely behind work-related reasons.*

Munich, 6 September 2018 — Expats in Germany feel increasingly troubled by cultural differences, language issues and — most of all — the unfriendly attitude of the local population. This has a negative impact on their personal happiness, putting Germany among the ten worst-rated countries in the world for this factor, 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 yearly 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 Germany lands on an average 36th 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

Hitting Rock Bottom: Germany's Welcome for Foreigners Rated Worse Than Ever

Germany has been experiencing a steady downward trend from a very good 12th position (out of 61) in 2014 to an average 36th place (out of 68) in this year's global expat ranking. This negative tendency mainly reflects Germany's increasingly poor rating when it comes to the ease of settling in (66th): it now ranks among the least welcoming countries in the world along with Switzerland (65th), Saudi

LIFE IN GERMANY			
	2018*		2017**
Overall Rank	36	▼ 13	23
Quality of Life	26	▼ 16	10
Ease of Settling In	66	▼ 10	56
Working Abroad	8	▼ 1	7
Family Life <small>out of 50 countries</small>	18	▲ 4	22
Personal Finance	34	▼ 1	33
Cost of Living	32	▼ 5	27
	<small>*out of 68 countries</small>		<small>**out of 65 countries</small>

Arabia (67th), and Kuwait (68th). One out of three expats in Germany (34%) struggles with getting used to the local culture (vs. 21% globally), more than half (56%) have trouble making local friends (vs. 36% globally), and almost two-thirds (64%) find it hard to learn the local language (vs. 45% globally). A Canadian expat complains about *"the lack of understanding for what the advantages of a multicultural society are"*, while a US expat describes Germany as a *"very cold and isolating place to live"*.

What is worse, just 51 percent consider the local attitude towards foreigners to be friendly, compared to 66 percent agreeing to this on a global level. Consequently, more than one-third of expats living in Germany (34%) do not feel at

home in the local culture, whereas only about one-quarter of all expats worldwide (24%) share this sentiment.

Despite the impressive ratings for Germany's state of the economy (3rd), job security (7th), and affordable education (8th), the less than welcoming atmosphere in Germany seems to negatively impact expats' personal happiness in general. It ranks among the ten worst countries in the world for this factor, along with, Serbia, Egypt, Finland, the UK, Denmark, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait.

Germany Imports Tech Experts, but Performs Poorly for Digital Infrastructure

The top field of work for expats in Germany is information technology, with one in five (20%) working in this sector, compared to about one in eight globally (12%). This does not (yet) seem to benefit the country's digital infrastructure, though: Germany only ranks 53rd out of 68 countries in this subcategory. For example, it is the only European destination among the ten worst-rated countries for cashless payment options, with 35 percent of expats reporting difficulties in this respect, compared to just 13 percent worldwide. Or, as an Australian survey participant puts it: *"It is annoying that Germany is almost a complete cash society"*. The lacking availability of high-speed internet is perceived just as negatively as in countries like South Africa or Turkey, with barely three in ten expats in Germany (29%) considering it very good, as opposed to about two in five (41%) around the world.

Introducing the new Digital Life subcategory in the Quality of Life Index of the survey has profoundly impacted Germany's performance in this index. Its ongoing decline from 5th place in 2014 to ranking 10th in 2017 reaches a new low this year: Germany now ranks 26th out of 68 countries for quality of life — something that used to be one of its biggest perks for expats.

Germans Abroad: Successful Managers and Surprisingly Many Romantics

To a large extent, Germans who are living abroad are highly educated, with nearly three in five (59%) having a postgraduate degree or a PhD, compared to a global average of 48 percent. Their education

seems to predestine them for a successful career: about one in six (17%) hold a management position abroad. In this group, more than four in five (84%) work in middle or even top management. The most popular industries for Germans working abroad are manufacturing & engineering (13%), IT (9%), and healthcare (8%).

Interestingly, however, job opportunities are not the only main motivation for Germans deciding to move abroad. More than one-fifth of German expats (21%) actually name love as one of their reasons for relocating, while globally 17% say the same. In fact, more than seven in ten German expats in a relationship (73%) are romantically involved with someone who has a different nationality, and a majority (66%) of Germans also met their partner abroad. Globally, slightly more than half of all expats state the same (57% and 51%, respectively).

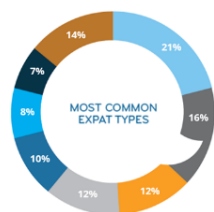
Top 3 Countries for Expats Are Great for Working Abroad and Easy to Settle In

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](#).



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>