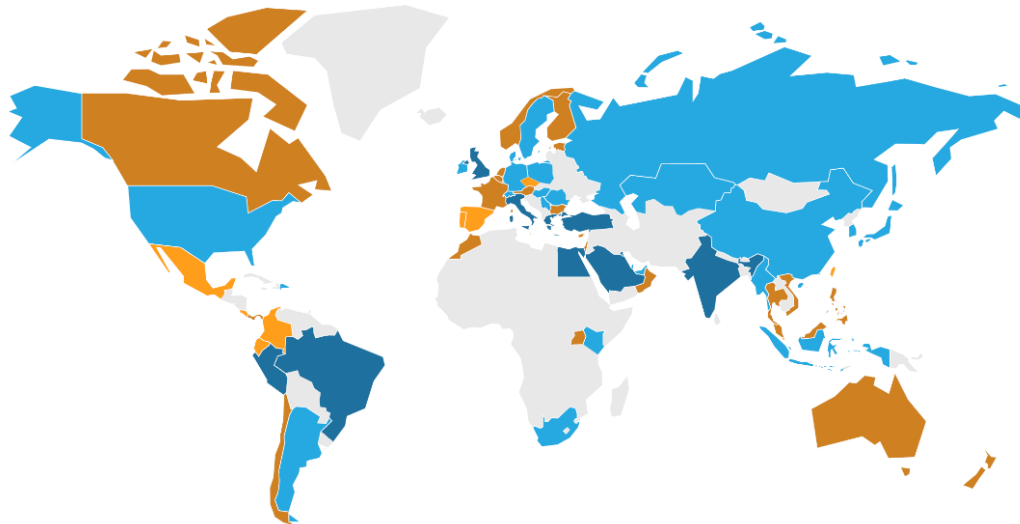


Expat Insider 2018 Survey Reveals: Ecuador Is the Best Country for Expats in Latin America

Expats in Ecuador are satisfied with their finances, career opportunities, and friendships.

- Ecuador (3rd), Mexico (4th), Costa Rica (7th), and Colombia (9th) rank in the top 10 destinations of the Expat Insider 2018 survey, together with Bahrain (1st), Taiwan (2nd), Singapore (5th), Portugal (6th), Spain (8th), and Czechia (10th).
- The results for Panama (13th), Chile (33rd), and Argentina (58th) are rather mixed, while Peru (62nd) and Brazil (65th) feature among the bottom 10 countries.

Munich, 6 September 2018 — Latin America is home to some of the best-ranking expat destinations across the globe, but also to some of the worst-rated ones. Ecuador (3rd) has recovered from last year's drop to 25th place, followed by Mexico (4th), which remains ever popular among expats. Costa Rica (7th) has lost five ranks since 2017 (2nd) but maintains its place in the top 10, together with Colombia (9th). Panama (13th) narrowly misses the top 10 ranking, while Chile (33th) gives a rather lackluster performance. At the bottom of the list, Argentina (58th), Peru (62nd), and Brazil (65th) turn out to be disappointing destinations, as the [Expat 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 results across Latin America vary strongly, 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 *Expat Insider 2018* survey

Plenty of Opportunities for Both Work and Leisure in Ecuador

After dropping to 25th place last year, Ecuador regains its place among the top 3 destinations for expats in 2018. Expats agree that it is easy to settle down in Ecuador: more than three-quarters (76%) find it easy to get used to the local culture (vs. 62% globally), and almost four in five expats (77%) are satisfied with making new friends abroad (vs. 57% worldwide). Perhaps this is also due to the many socializing and leisure activities that Ecuador provides, which are rated positively by 82 percent of expats (vs. 66% globally).

Moreover, Ecuador ranks second for career prospects, only beaten by Bahrain. The country has moved up an impressive 60 ranks since last year's *Expatriate Insider* survey for this factor (62nd out of 65 in 2017). Not only are 69 percent of expats happy with their career opportunities (vs. 55% globally), but they are also pleased with their overall working conditions: satisfaction with working hours (77%) and work-life balance (79%) is the highest across Latin America, as well as above the global average (62% and 61%, respectively). Nearly seven in ten (68%) are also satisfied with their personal job security (second only to Chile with 75% positive ratings) — working expats in Ecuador only seem to worry about the state of the local economy (41st out of 68).

Lastly, expats are also extremely happy with their personal finances: more than four in five (83%) rate them positively, ranking the country second for this factor, with just slightly worse results than top-ranking Colombia (84%). In fact, 20 percent of expats in Ecuador have relocated there to improve their financial situation (vs. 5% globally). The low cost of living (84% positive ratings vs. 51% globally) and the affordability of healthcare (83% positive ratings) might have contributed to this decision. The latter is the best result across all Latin American countries featured in the survey, as well as 24 percentage points higher than the global average (59%). *"I like the low cost of living and the high personal spiritual benefits,"* says an expat from the USA. *"I knew instantly I belonged in this community!"*

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 of the biggest winners of the *Expatriate 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).

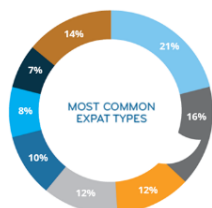
Bottom 3 Countries for Expats Rank Low for Quality of Life

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 of 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 *Expats Insider* 2018 Survey

For its annual [Expats 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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