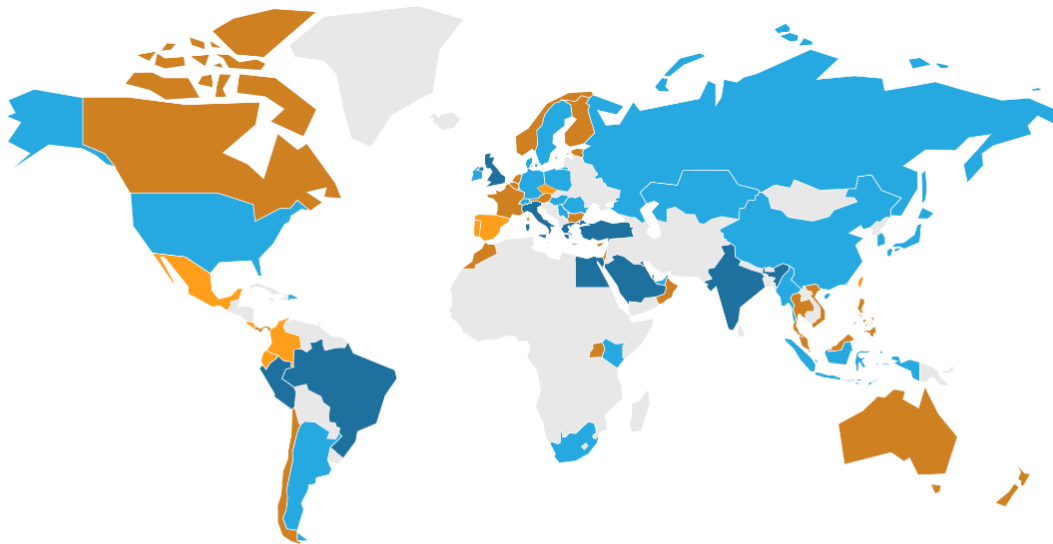


Expatriate Insider 2018 Survey Reveals: Plenty of Jobs but Few Friends for Expats in Panama

Panama is one of the least friendly countries for expats in Latin America.

- *Ecuador (3rd), Mexico (4th), Costa Rica (7th), and Colombia (9th) rank in the top 10 destinations of the Expatriate 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 (33rd) 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 [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 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 *Expatriate Insider 2018* survey

Making Friends Is Not as Easy as Boosting Your Career in Panama

Panama has made some impressive improvements among expats, rising from last year's 36th position in the survey to ranking 13th out of 68 countries in 2018. This change for the better is, among other factors, due to attractive job opportunities: two-thirds of respondents (67%) are happy with their career prospects. Among the Latin American destinations, this result is only beaten by Ecuador (69%), and overall it is twelve percentage points higher than the global average (55%). However, when it comes to overall job satisfaction, the share of expats rating it positively (70%) is just five percentage points above the global average (65%). This might be, for example, due to the long working hours (46.2 h per week vs. 44.0 h globally) — across Latin America, only expats in Peru work longer hours (46.5 h).

Although less than half the expats in Panama (45%) rate the cost of living positively (vs. 51% globally), expats still manage to cover their expenses: two in three (66%) say that their disposable household income is more than enough for everything they need in daily life, which is 14 percentage points more than the global average (51%).

While Panama is one of the best countries across Latin America for career prospects, it is one of the least friendliest countries in the region. More than one in four expats (26%) rates the attitude towards foreign residents negatively (vs. 19% globally), and two in five (40%) are mostly friends with other expats (vs. 34% globally). *"Most people here are just passing by, which makes it difficult to have long, meaningful relationships"*, confirms a Brazilian expat living in Panama. The local language, however, does not seem to be a barrier as almost three out of four expats (73%) agree that it is easy to learn (vs. 36% globally), and for nearly two in five (39%) it is the same as their mother tongue (vs. 11% 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 *Expatriate Insider* and the InterNations Community



The 7 Most Common Expatriate Types and Why They Move Abroad

Although every expatriate 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 expatriates, InterNations presents the first comprehensive expatriate typology with the 7 most common expatriate 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 expatriates' 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 expatriate 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 *Expatriate Insider* 2018 Survey

For its annual [Expatriate 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 expatriate 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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