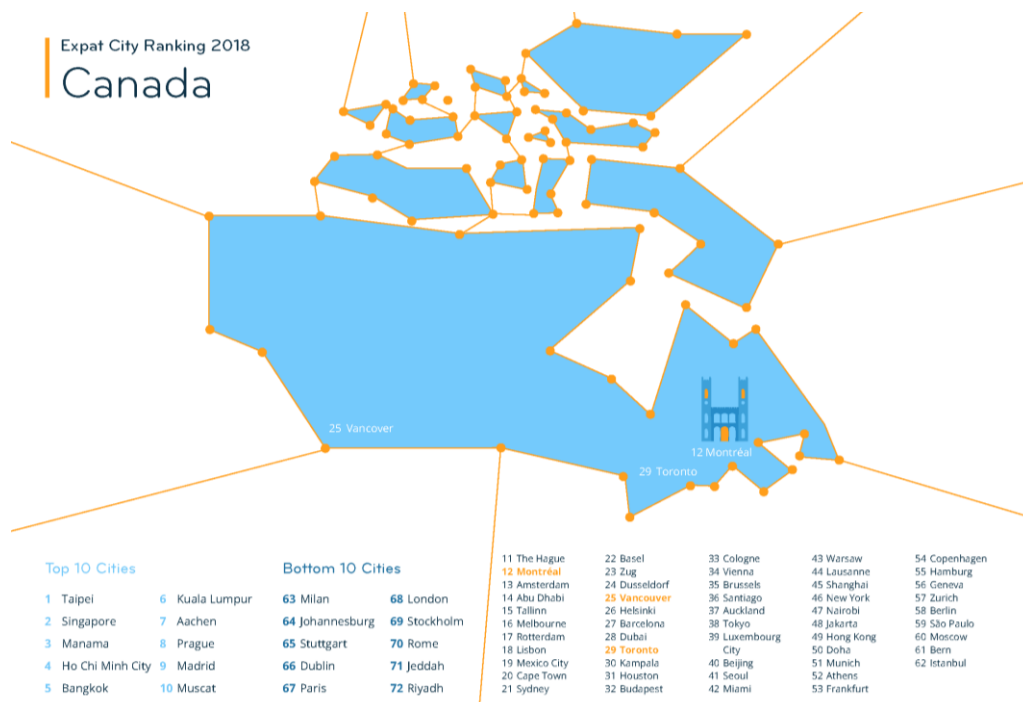


Expatriate City Ranking 2018: Montréal Is the Best Canadian City for Expats, Beating Vancouver and Toronto

Finance & housing troubles expats in Toronto and Vancouver, while those in Montréal are unhappy with the quality of urban living.

- Montréal (12th) ranks ahead of Vancouver (25th) and Toronto (29th) in the Expatriate City Ranking 2018 by InterNations. The top 10 cities for expats are Taipei, Singapore, Manama, Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Aachen, Prague, Madrid, and Muscat.
- Finance & housing pose an issue in Toronto (62nd) and Vancouver (70th), with the latter only better than Stockholm (71st) and Dublin (72nd).
- Expats in Vancouver are very happy with the quality (7th) but not the cost of living (71st).
- Montréal is the worst Canadian city in terms of urban work life (43rd), far behind Toronto (23rd) and Vancouver (10th).

Munich, 20 November 2018 — Montréal (12th), Vancouver (25th), and Toronto (29th) rank in the upper half of the Expatriate City Ranking 2018. Each Canadian city surveyed comes with its own perks: Vancouver offers the highest quality of urban living (7th out of 72 cities), getting settled is easiest in Toronto (12th), and Montréal is the best Canadian city for expats' finance & housing (17th). The so-far unpublished Expatriate City Ranking 2018 is based on this year's [Expatriate Insider survey](#), conducted by [InterNations](#), the largest expat community worldwide. With more than 18,000 respondents living and working abroad, it is one of the most extensive expat studies in the world. Apart from offering an in-depth analysis of expat life in 72 cities, the survey ranks them by a variety of factors such as quality of urban living, getting settled, urban work life, as well as finance & housing. The top 10 cities for expats in 2018 are Taipei, Singapore, Manama, Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Aachen, Prague, Madrid, and Muscat.



Housing Is Stress Free in Montréal (12th), but Expats' Careers May Suffer

Ranking 12th out of 72 cities worldwide in the Expat City Ranking 2018, Montréal is the best Canadian city in the eyes of expats. Respondents there are particularly satisfied with the ease of finding (12th) and affording (7th) housing — ranking Montréal far ahead of Toronto (43rd and 61st) and Vancouver (59th and 68th). In fact, 56 percent of expats in Montréal are satisfied with the affordability of housing (vs. 37% globally), and a further 73 percent agree it is easy for expats to find a place to live, compared to 52 percent worldwide. Montréal also does better regarding the local cost of living in general: 58 percent of expats in Montréal are satisfied with this factor, compared to just 28 percent in Toronto and 15 percent in Vancouver.

However, lower costs of life do not seem to guarantee a good quality of urban living. In fact, the Canadian city ranks 40th out of 72 cities worldwide for the latter and even in the bottom 10 for the availability (67th) and quality (64th) of healthcare. Around three in ten expats (29% and 33%, respectively) are unhappy with these factors, compared to 11 and 18 percent worldwide. *"The access to healthcare is poor,"* says an US American expat living in Montréal.

Local career opportunities also seem to pose a problem for expats in Montréal: the city ranks 52nd worldwide and far behind Vancouver (23rd) and Toronto (29th). *"It is not easy to find a job in the working field you love,"* an expat from Belgium shares. In fact, 32 percent are unhappy with their career prospects in Montréal (vs. 27% globally).

Vancouver (25th) Offers an Excellent Quality of Urban Living but at a Cost

Coming in 25th place out of 72 cities overall, Vancouver ranks in the top 15 for three out of five main categories in the Expat City Ranking 2018. However, it also ranks among the three worst cities in the world in terms of finance & housing (70th) as well as local cost of living (71st), just before New York City. In fact, close to three-quarters (73%) are unsatisfied with the cost of living in Vancouver, which is 43 percentage points more than the average across Canada (33%).

"The cost of living is extremely high," shares a British expat, *"meanwhile salaries are low"*. Maybe that is the reason why more than half (53%) state that their disposable household income is not enough to cover their daily costs, compared to just 22 percent globally. Moreover, around five in six expats in Vancouver (84%) rate the affordability of housing negatively (vs. 44% globally), and 51 percent even give it the worst possible rating. One Australian expat mentions: *"The cost of rent in Vancouver is prohibitively expensive."*

On the bright side, close to four in five expats (79%) are overall satisfied with their jobs in Vancouver. An expat from the Philippines points out that there are *"great career opportunities for expats"*. Around three-quarters (74%) also agree that their work-life balance is a benefit of expat life in Vancouver (vs. 61% globally).

Lastly, Vancouver receives its best results for its quality of urban living (7th worldwide), far ahead of Toronto (27th) and Montréal (40th). Expats are particularly satisfied with the quality of the city's urban environment (5th), just after Zug, Stockholm, Bern, and Lausanne. Close to every expat (95%) is satisfied with this factor, compared to 70 percent globally. The city also ranks 12th in terms for leisure & climate. More than five in six expats are happy with the city's leisure options (84%) as well as the weather (82%), compared to 74 and 55 percent globally.

Expats Settle In with Ease in Toronto (29th) but Struggle Financially

Ranking 29th in the Expat City Ranking, Toronto is the worst Canadian city surveyed, but still among the better half of the 72 cities worldwide. Finance & housing are what drags the city down the ranks: Toronto places among the bottom 10 worldwide in this regard, though still slight ahead of Vancouver (62nd vs. 70th). More than seven in ten expats (71%) are unhappy with the affordability of housing in Toronto, compared to 44 percent worldwide. A Mexican expat living points out the *"high cost of living and housing"* as drawbacks of lie in Toronto. Moreover, one-third of expats (33%) are unhappy with their financial situation (vs. 25% globally), and a further 33 percent claim their disposable household income is not enough to cover daily expenses (vs. 22% globally).

Despite these issues, getting settled in Toronto seems to be a breeze: Ontario's capital ranks 7th out of 72 cities for expats finding it easy to get used to the local culture — just between Montréal (4th) and Vancouver (10th). A German expat living in Toronto is happy about the *"friendliness and openness of Canadians"*. Three-quarters (75%) also state that they are happy with the general friendliness of the local residence compared to a global average of only 62 percent.

Lastly, Toronto ranks in the upper midfield for both urban work life (23rd) and the quality of urban living (27th). While expats are happy with the affordability of medical care (83% satisfied vs. 59% globally), Toronto performs poorly with regards to public transit: ranking 54th out of 72 countries, 26 percent of respondents are unsatisfied with the local transportation in Toronto (vs. 19% globally).

The Best and Worst Cities for Expats

Taipei (1st), Singapore (2nd), and Manama (3rd) top the list of the Expat City Ranking 2018. This is largely due to how easy expats find it to settle in to life in these cities. This might be related to the friendliness of the local population and the personal safety in the cities. In fact, Taipei is rated the world's friendliest city by expats, with 94 percent finding the local residents friendly. *"People here are so friendly and always want to help,"* shares an expat from the Netherlands. The majority of expats in Manama (87%) also agrees that there is a friendly attitude toward foreign residents in the city, compared to 62 percent globally. Personal safety is one of the biggest perks of expat life in Singapore: 88 percent state to feel completely safe in the city (vs. 48% globally). *"It is easy for everyone to enjoy life here without worrying about safety,"* shares an expat from India.

On the other hand, Riyadh (72nd), Jeddah (71st), and Rome (70th) rank at the bottom of the list. While all three cities receive low ratings across the board, they seem to be particularly disappointing in terms of urban work life: close to three in five expats in Rome (58%) are dissatisfied with the local career opportunities (vs. 27% globally). An Albanian expat states that *"career opportunities are non-existent"*. Meanwhile, Jeddah and Riyadh are rated the two worst cities in the world for work-life balance: 34 and 38 percent, respectively, are unsatisfied with this factor (vs. 20% globally).

Read More about the Best and Worst Cities for Expats



Best & Worst
Cities for Expats



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Living Index



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Urban Work Life
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About the Expat City Ranking 2018

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. In 2018, the fifth year the survey was conducted, respondents were also invited to share their opinions on the city they are currently living in.

Participants were asked to rate more than 25 different aspects of urban 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 13 subcategories, and their mean values were used to draw up four topical indices: Quality of Urban Living, Getting Settled, Urban Work Life, and Finance & Housing. These were further averaged in order to rank 72 cities worldwide. In 2018, the top 10 cities for expats are Taipei, Singapore, Manama, Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Aachen, Prague, Madrid, and Muscat.

In total, the responses used for the city ranking represent 11,966 expats living in 55 countries. For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2018, a sample size of at least 45 survey participants per city was required; 72 cities in 47 different countries made this threshold in 2018.

About InterNations

With 3.3 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](#).

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