

Expats Rank Auckland among the Worst Cities in the World for Finances, Housing, and Local Cost of Living

The annual Expat City Ranking reveals how expats rate life in 82 cities around the world, including Auckland.

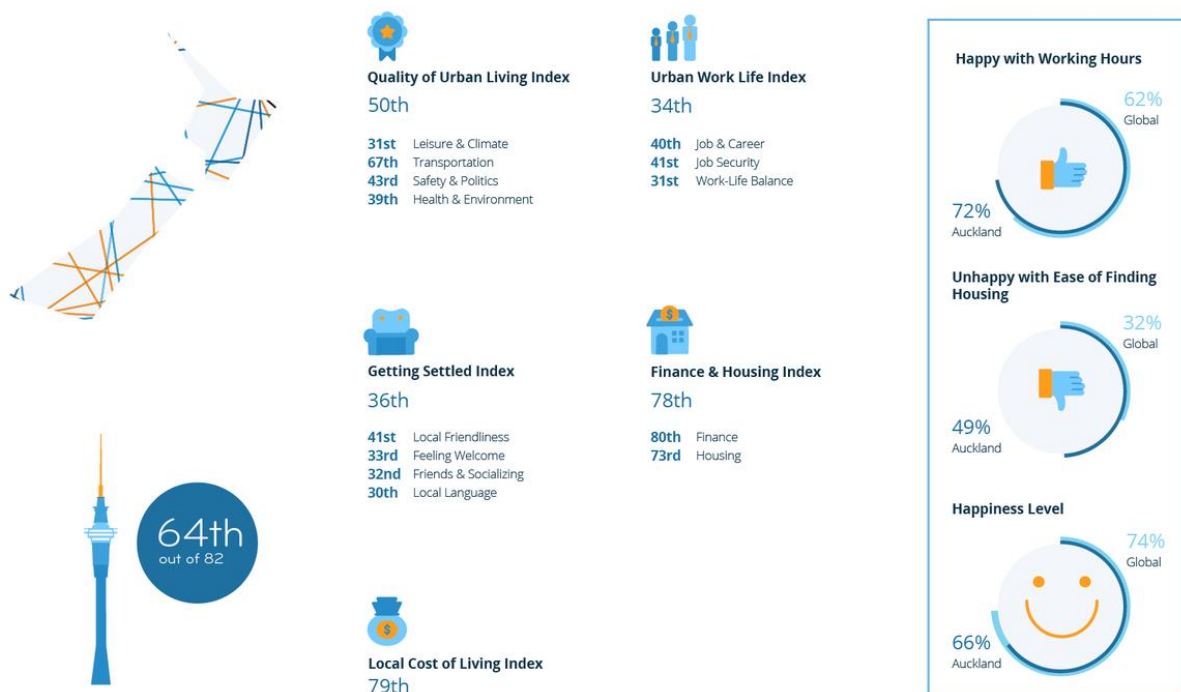
- Auckland ranks 64th out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019. It performs best in the Urban Work Life Index (34th) and worst in the Local Cost of Living Index (79th).
- Based on the ranking, Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Montréal, Lisbon, Barcelona, Zug, The Hague, and Basel are the best cities to move to in 2020.
- Kuwait City (82nd), Rome, Milan, Lagos (Nigeria), Paris, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Lima, New York City, and Yangon (73rd) are the world's worst cities.

Munich, 3 December 2019 — Auckland comes a low 64th out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019 by [InterNations](#), the world's largest expat community with more than 3.5 million members. The city even lands in the bottom 5 of the Finance & Housing and Local Cost of Living Indices. What is more, Auckland ranks worse than ever in terms of quality of life, mainly due to expats being less satisfied with the available leisure options and their personal safety.

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations, which is with more than 20,000 respondents in 2019 one of the most extensive surveys about living and working abroad. In 2019, 82 cities around the globe are analyzed in the survey, offering in-depth information about five areas of expat life: Quality of Urban Living, Getting Settled, Urban Work Life, Finance & Housing, and Local Cost of Living. Taken together, the first four areas make up the Expat City Ranking, which reveals the best and worst cities to move to in 2020.

Expat City Ranking 2019

Expat Life in Auckland



What Expats Think about Life in Auckland

64. Auckland

Auckland drops 27 places to come 64th out of 82 cities in 2019, making it one of the biggest losers in the Expat City Ranking 2019. The city's biggest losses occur in the Quality of Urban Living Index (34th in 2018 to 50th in 2019). Although expats in Auckland are still very much pleased with the local climate and weather (70% vs. 59% globally), they are less happy with the available leisure options than the global average (71% vs. 74% globally) and compared to the share happy in 2018 (90%). Likewise, while the majority of expats (83%) is pleased with the political stability (vs. 61% globally), the share that rates their personal safety positively has dropped from 95% in 2018 to just 77% in 2019. This is now even below the global average of 81% — however, the survey was conducted in February and March 2019, around the same time when the Christchurch mosque attack happened, which may well have affected Auckland's rating. Lastly, expats are also dissatisfied with the local transportation (44% unhappy vs. 19% globally).

However, expats are the least satisfied with their financial prospects, ranking the city third to last in the Finance subcategory (80th), ahead of only Vancouver (81st) and Athens (82nd). Nearly two in five expats (38%) do not have sufficient disposable household income to cover their daily costs (vs. 23% globally), and 42% are dissatisfied with their financial situation (vs. 26% globally). Expats also struggle with the cost of living (79th), as three-quarters (75%) are unhappy with this factor, which is nearly twice the global average (38%). *"The goods are really expensive,"* remarks a Hungarian expat, adding that *"public transport is really bad, housing is expensive, and salaries are not as high as in the USA or Australia."* Indeed, Auckland also ranks in the bottom 10 for housing (73rd), with nearly half the expats (49%) agreeing that it is difficult to find housing (vs. 32% globally), and over four in five (81%) saying that it is unaffordable (vs. 44% globally). More than half (53%) even give Auckland the worst possible rating for this factor (vs. 14% globally).

About the Expat City Ranking 2019

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual [Expat Insider survey](#) by InterNations. For the survey, more than 20,000 expatriates representing 178 nationalities and living in 187 countries or territories provided information on various aspects of expat life. In addition to their satisfaction with life in their host country, 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 82 cities worldwide. In 2019, the top 10 cities for expats are Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Montréal, Lisbon, Barcelona, Zug, The Hague, and Basel. The survey also includes a Local Cost of Living Index, which does, however, not factor into the overall ranking to avoid overrepresenting financial aspects.

For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2019, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per city was required.

About InterNations

With more than 3.5 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.

Find more information about InterNations on our [press page](#), [in our company blog](#), or in our [magazine](#).

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