

## Athens Lacks Career Opportunities, but Expats Feel at Home

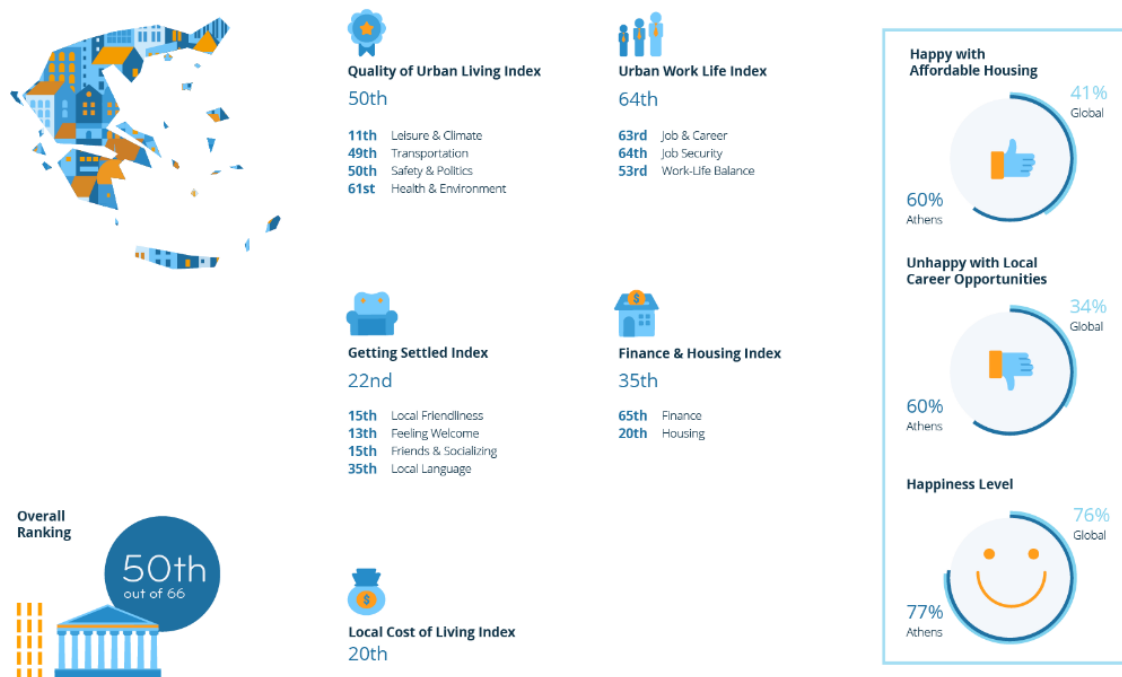
The Expat City Ranking 2020 reveals the best and worst cities for expats around the world, including Athens.

- Out of 66 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2020, Athens ranks 50th. It ranks best in the Local Cost of Living Index (20th) and worst in the Urban Work Life Index (64th).
- Valencia (1st), Alicante, Lisbon, Panama City, Singapore, Málaga, Buenos Aires, Kuala Lumpur, Madrid, and Abu Dhabi (10th) are the top 10 cities for expats to live in 2020.
- On the other hand, expats consider Salmiya in Kuwait (66th), Rome, Seoul, Milan, Nairobi, Paris, Johannesburg, Santiago, Dublin, and Hong Kong (57th) the world's worst cities to live in.

Munich, 26 November 2020 — Athens ranks 50th in the Expat City Ranking 2020 by [InterNations](#), the world's largest expat community with around 4 million members. It performs best in the Local Cost of Living Index (20th), followed by the Getting Settled Index (22th), with many expats feeling at home in Athens. While the city receives average results in the Finance & Housing Index (35th), it performs poorly in the Quality of Urban Living Index (50th). Expats' satisfaction with the local climate and weather cannot make up for their unhappiness with transportation, safety and politics, as well as health and environment. Lastly, the Greek city lands in the bottom 3 of the Urban Work Life Index (64th), only ahead of Salmiya (65th) and Rome (66th).

Expat City Ranking 2020

### Expat Life in Athens



The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations, which is one of the most extensive surveys about living and working abroad, with more than 15,000 respondents in 2020. This year, 66 cities around the globe are analyzed in the survey, which offers 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. Together, the first four topics make up the Expat City Ranking, which reveals the best and worst cities for expats to live in. As the data was collected in March 2020, just before COVID-19 turned into a global pandemic, one question, however, remains: Will these cities still come out on top in a post-COVID world?

## What Expats Think about Life in Athens

### **50. Athens Lacks Career Opportunities, but Expats Feel at Home**

Athens comes in at a low 50th place out of 66 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2020. The Greek capital performs particularly poorly in the Urban Work Life Index (64th). In Athens, 60% of expats rate the local career options negatively (vs. 34% globally), and more than half (55%) are not satisfied with the state of the local economy (vs 18% globally). A 58-years-old British expat says that the *“job opportunities are not as good as in other countries, especially for my age group”*. Maybe it is due to the job market that Athens also performs poorly in terms of finances. In fact, it ranks 65th in the Finances subcategory – only ahead of Milan — and even last in the world for expats’ satisfaction with their personal finances. Only 44% of expats are satisfied with their financial situation (vs. 61% globally). Since housing, however, is both affordable (60% positive ratings vs. 41% globally) and quite easy to find (55% positive ratings vs. 55% globally), Athens still lands in an average 35th place in the Finance & Housing Index.

Athens ranks just slightly better in the Quality of Urban Living Index (50th) than with regard to working life. Expats’ unhappiness with many factors, such as the quality of the urban environment (43% negative ratings vs. 21% globally), cannot be made up for by the great local climate and weather (95% positive ratings vs. 64% globally). Lastly, the Greek capital performs best in the Getting Settled Index (22nd). Over three in four expats (77%) feel at home in Athens (vs. 64% globally), and close to five in six (82%) describe the local population as friendly towards foreign residents (vs. 66% globally). *“Greek people are very welcoming and easy-going,”* shares a Finnish expat. Additionally, more than two-thirds of the respondents (69%) are happy with their social life in Athens (vs. 59% globally).

### **About the Expat City Ranking 2020**

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations. For the survey, more than 15,000 expatriates representing 173 nationalities and living in 181 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, considering both emotional topics and 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 66 cities worldwide. In 2020, the top 10 cities for expats are Valencia, Alicante, Lisbon, Panama City, Singapore, Málaga, Buenos Aires, Kuala Lumpur, Madrid, and Abu Dhabi. 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 2020, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per city was required.

### **About InterNations**

With around 4 million members in 420 cities around the world, [InterNations](#) is the largest global community and a source of information for people who live and work abroad. InterNations offers global and local networking and socializing, both online and face to face. At around 6,000 events and activities per month, expatriates have the opportunity to meet other global minds. Online services include discussion forums and helpful articles with personal expat experiences, tips, and information about life abroad. Membership is by approval only to ensure we remain a community of trust. InterNations is part of the New Work SE, a group of brands that offer products and services for a better working life.

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