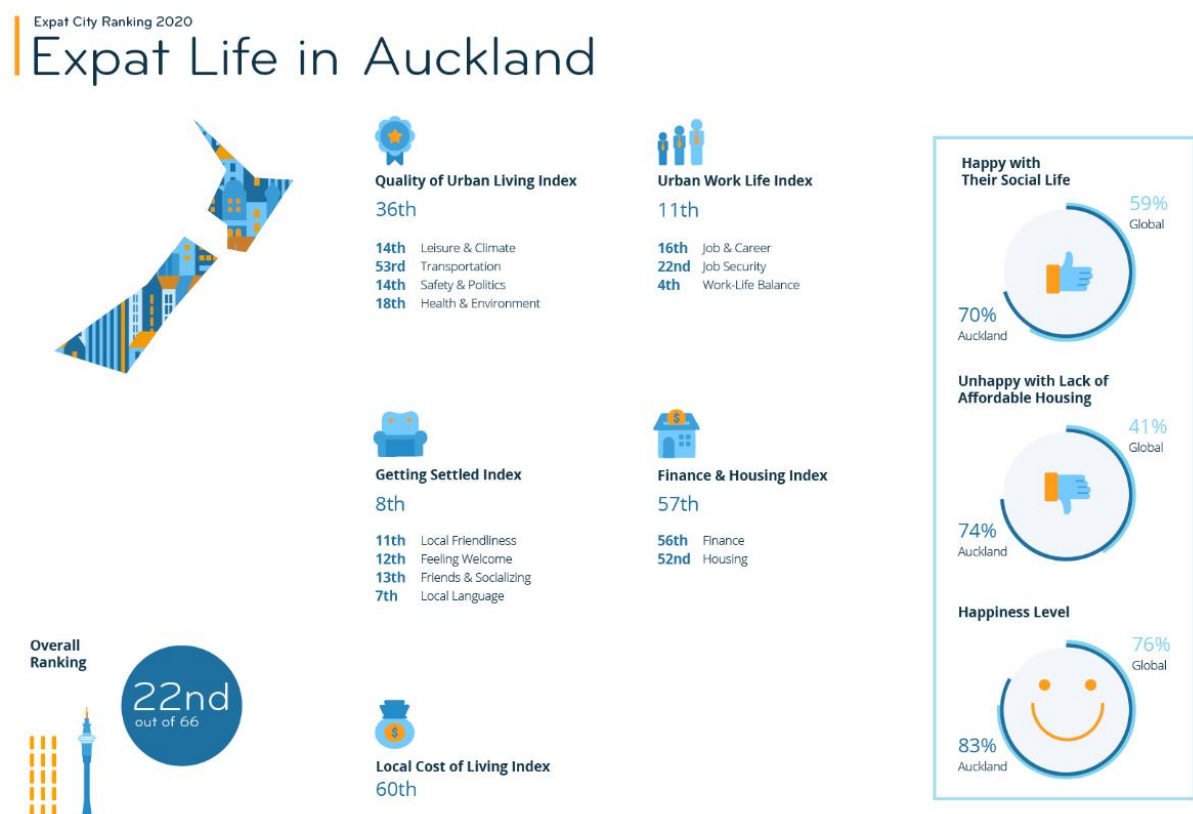


Auckland: Friendly Locals, Good Working Life, but Extreme Expenses for Expats

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

- Out of 66 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2020, Auckland comes in 22nd. It ranks best in the Getting Settled Index (8th) and worst in the Local Cost of Living Index (60th).
- 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 — Auckland ranks 22nd in the Expat City Ranking 2020 by [InterNations](https://www.internations.org/), the world's largest expat community with around 4 million members. It performs best in the Getting Settled (8th) and Urban Work Life (11th) Indices, as expats are happy with their local career opportunities and work-life balance. While it ranks at an average 36th place in the Quality of Urban Living Index, it lands among the bottom 10 in the Finance & Housing (57th) and Local Cost of Living (60th) Indices.



The [Expat City Ranking](https://www.internations.org/) 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 Auckland

22. Auckland: Friendly Locals, Good Working Life, but Extreme Expenses

Auckland ranks 22nd out of 66 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2020, ending up in both the top 10 and the bottom 10 cities worldwide, depending on the topic. It performs best in the Getting Settled Index (8th): most expats are happy with the friendliness of the locals, both in general (81% vs. 68% globally) and towards foreign residents in particular (78% vs. 66% globally). Additionally, Auckland comes 12th in the Feeling Welcome subcategory, with 78% of expats finding it easy to get used to the local culture (vs. 61% globally). An expat from France says that *"people are open-minded and easy-going"*. The city also performs well in the Urban Work Life Index (11th): expats are not only really happy with their work-life balance (79% vs. 64% globally), but also with the local career opportunities (62% vs. 43% globally) and their job security (63% vs. 59% globally).

However, all of these benefits seem to come at a high price: Auckland does very poorly in the Finance & Housing (57th) and the Local Cost of Living (60th) Indices. More than one in four survey respondents (26%) are dissatisfied with their financial situation (vs. 21% globally), and 69% rate the local cost of living negatively (vs. 36% globally). Moreover, the city also ranks 52nd in the Housing subcategory, with 74% of expats saying that housing is unaffordable (vs. 41% globally). A Venezuelan expat says that the *"housing prices and living costs are very expensive"*.

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.

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

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