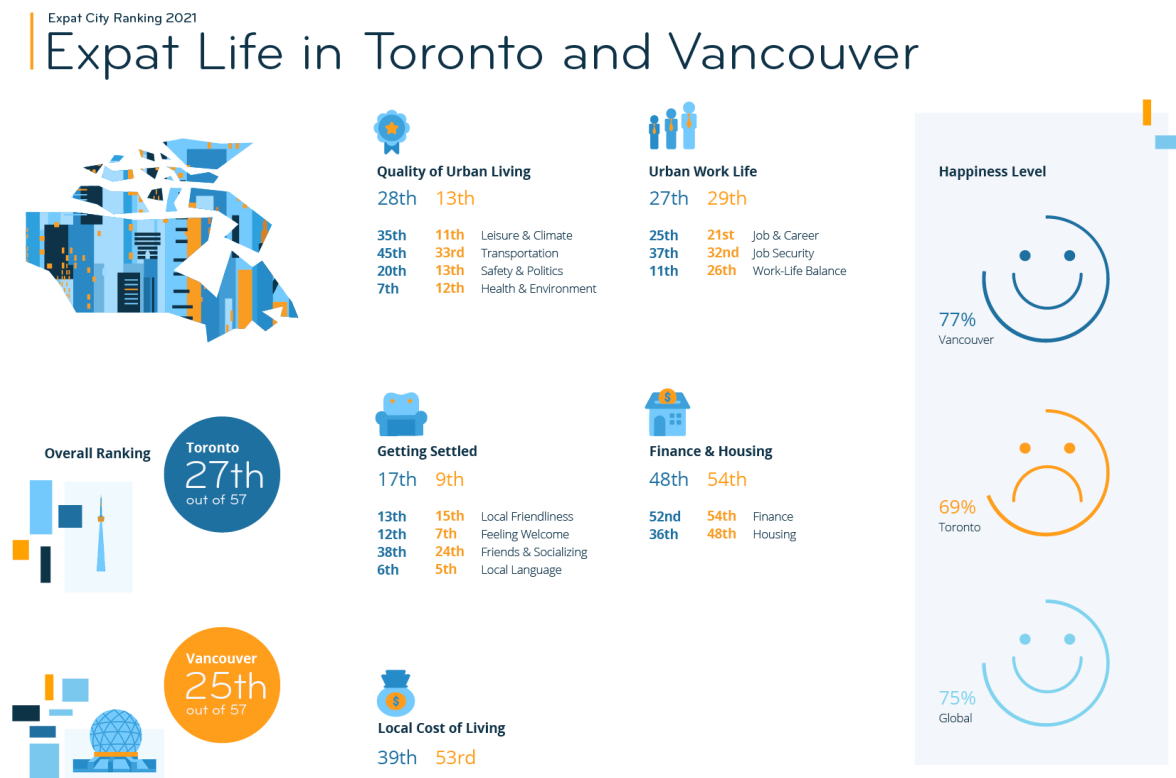


How Expats Rate Their Life in Toronto and Vancouver

The Expat City Ranking 2021 reveals the best and worst cities for expats around the world, including Toronto and Vancouver.

- Out of 57 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2021, both Vancouver (25th) and Toronto (27th) rank midfield.
- Kuala Lumpur (1st), Málaga, Dubai, Sydney, Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City, Prague, Mexico City, Basel, and Madrid (10th) are the top 10 cities for expats to live in 2021.
- On the other hand, expats consider Rome (57th), Milan, Johannesburg, Istanbul, Tokyo, Cairo, Paris, Maastricht, Moscow, and New York (48th) the world's worst cities to live in.

Munich, 1 December 2021 — Vancouver ranks 25th out of 57, followed by Toronto in 27th place in the Expat City Ranking 2021 by [InterNations](https://www.internations.org/), the world's largest expat community with over 4 million members. Both Canadian cities ranks among the bottom 10 worldwide in the Finance & Housing Index, but the local cost of living is perceived worse in Vancouver than in Toronto. While both destinations seem to offer expats a fairly average working life, Vancouver stands out for its 9th rank in the Getting Settled Index, where Toronto only comes 17th. Vancouver also beats Toronto when it comes to the local quality of life.



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 12,420 respondents in 2021. This year, 57 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.

What Expats Think about Life in Toronto and Vancouver

25 | Vancouver: Expats Pay a High Price for the Great Quality of Life

Ranking 25th out of 57 in the Expat City Ranking 2021, Vancouver performs best in the **Getting Settled Index** (9th). Expats find it easy to get used to the local culture (81% vs. 65% globally) and feel at home there (73% vs. 65% globally). Interestingly, expats in Vancouver also find it easier to make friends (21st) and are happier with their social life (22nd) than those in Toronto (38th and 41st, respectively).

Vancouver ranks nearly as well in the **Quality of Urban Living Index** (13th). Apart from the political stability (10th) and the affordability of healthcare (10th), which are rated positively across Canada in general, expats point out the urban environment (2nd) as a particular highlight. More than nine in ten (91%) are happy with this factor (vs. 71% globally), and 61% even consider it *very good* (vs. 32% globally). Only Stockholm (1st) ranks better in this regard. *"I love the peaceful environment, the beautiful surroundings, and the closeness to nature,"* says a female expat from Poland about life in Vancouver.

While its result in the **Urban Work Life Index** (29th) is still all right, Vancouver ends up in the bottom 10 for two indices. It ranks 53rd in the **Local Cost of Living Index**: 72% are unhappy with this factor, compared to 34% globally. It also places 54th in the **Finance & Housing Index**, only ahead of Milan (55th), Munich (56th), and Dublin (57th). More than a quarter (27%) are unhappy with their financial situation (vs. 19% globally), and 42% say that their disposable household income is not enough to cover expenses (vs. 23% globally). To make things worse, housing is hard to find (33% vs. 23% globally) and to afford (75% vs. 39% globally). More than two in five (41%) even consider it to be *completely* unaffordable, compared to 12% globally.

27 | Toronto: Short Working Hours and a Culture That Is Easy to Get Used To

Toronto ranks 27th out of 57 in the Expat City Ranking, performing best in the **Getting Settled Index** (17th). More than four in five expats (82%) describe the locals as generally friendly towards foreign residents (vs. 67% globally), and 75% find it easy to get used to the local culture (vs. 65% globally). *"I like how multicultural Canada is,"* says a female expat from Turkey. *"I have friends from all over the world."* Nevertheless, 44% find it hard to make new friends (vs. 32% globally), and 32% are unhappy with their social life (vs. 25% globally).

Toronto also performs well in the **Urban Work Life Index** (27th), even slightly better than Vancouver (29th). This is mainly due to expats' high satisfaction with their work-life balance (76% vs. 66% globally) and working hours (75% vs. 66% globally). In fact, the average working week (full-time and part-time jobs combined) is shorter in Toronto (36.1 hours) than in Vancouver (37.9 hours) — and both cities are well below the global average (39.9 hours).

While the city does well enough in the **Quality of Urban Living Index** (28th), this is not the case in the **Finance & Housing Index** (48th). The Finance Subcategory (52nd) is the bigger issue: 30% are unhappy with their financial situation (vs. 19% globally), and 35% say that their disposable household income is not enough to cover expenses (vs. 23% globally). The Housing Subcategory (36th) looks better at first glance, but housing is still unaffordable (67% vs. 39% globally) and hard to find (28% vs. 23% globally). *"Housing costs are astronomical,"* a male expat from the USA complains. Lastly, Toronto ranks 39th in the **Local Cost of Living Index**, which is a lot better than Vancouver (53rd), but 54% are still unhappy with this factor (vs. 34% globally).

About the Expat City Ranking 2021

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations. For the survey, InterNations asked 12,420 expats representing 174 nationalities and living in 186 countries or territories to provide information on various aspects of expat life, as well as their gender, age, and nationality. 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 all cities worldwide that had the required number of participants for the minimum sample size. (The survey also includes a Local Cost of Living Index, which does, however, not factor into the overall ranking to avoid overrepresenting financial aspects.) In 2021, the top 10 cities for expats are Kuala Lumpur (1st), Málaga, Dubai, Sydney, Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City, Prague, Mexico City, Basel, and Madrid (10th).

For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2021, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per city was required. In total, 57 cities met this requirement.

About InterNations

With more than 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](#).

Press Contact

Stephanie Anko-Hubik
Media Spokesperson

InterNations GmbH
Schwanthalerstrasse 39
80336 Munich, Germany

Email: press@internations.org
Homepage: <https://www.internations.org/press>