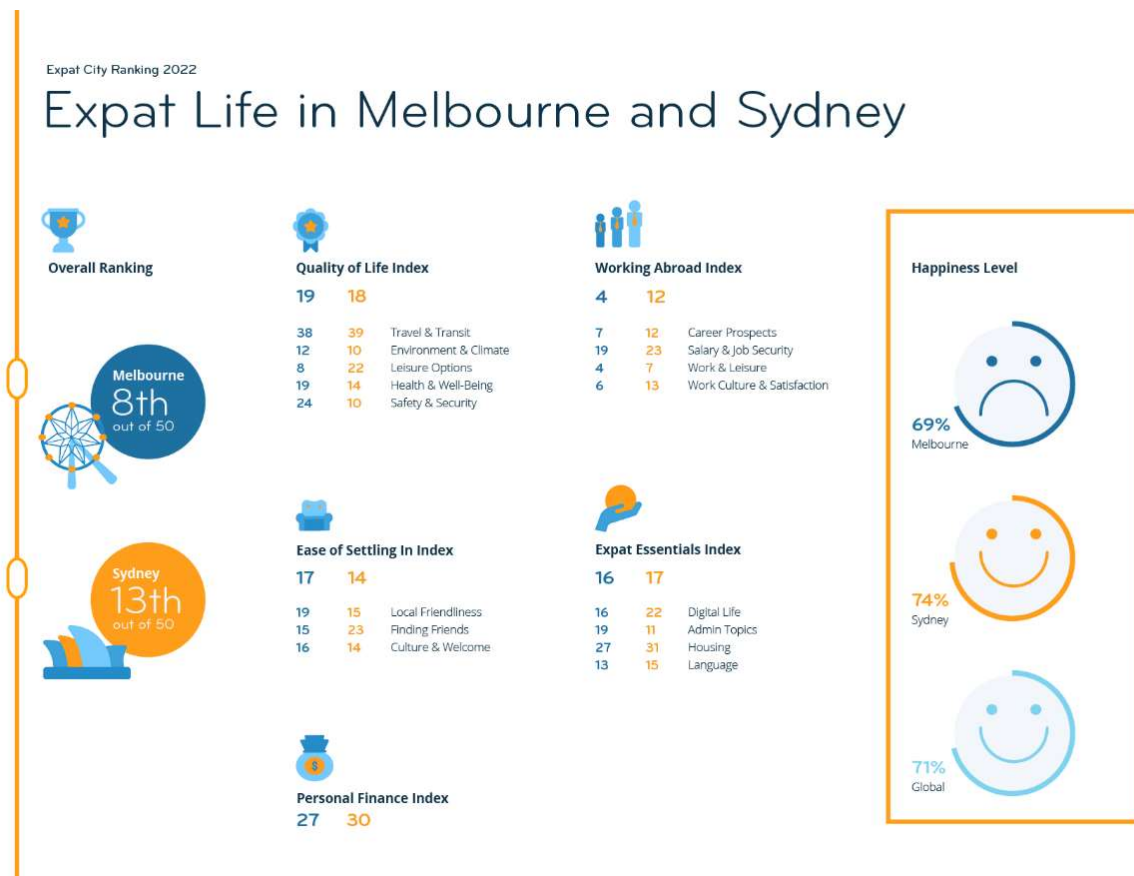


Australian Cities Offer Expats a Great Working Life Overseas, but the Opportunity Does Not Come Cheap

The Expat City Ranking 2022 reveals the best and worst cities for expats around the world, including Melbourne and Sydney.

- Melbourne comes 8th out of 50 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2022, with Sydney following in 13th place. Both perform best in the Working Abroad Index and worst in the Personal Finance Index.
- In 2022, Valencia (1st), Dubai, Mexico City, Lisbon, Madrid, Bangkok, Basel, Melbourne, Abu Dhabi, and Singapore (10th) are the top 10 cities for expats to live in.
- On the other hand, expats consider Johannesburg (50th), Frankfurt, Paris, Istanbul, Hong Kong, Hamburg, Milan, Vancouver, Tokyo, and Rome (41st) the world's worst cities to live in.

Munich, 29 November 2022 — Melbourne ranks 8th out of 50 in the Expat City Ranking 2022 by [InterNations](https://www.internations.org/), the world's largest expat community with over 4.5 million members, and Sydney does not follow far behind in 13th place. Both Australian cities excel in the Working Abroad Index. Their performance with regard to the Ease of Settling In, Expat Essentials, and the Quality of Life is slightly more mixed, but they still receive above-average results in these three indices. However, the Personal Finance Index is the weakest point for both cities, for Sydney (30th) even more so than Melbourne (27th).



The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations. It is one of the most extensive surveys about living and working abroad, with 11,970 respondents in 2022. A total of 50 cities around the globe are featured this year, offering in-depth information about five areas of expat life: Quality of Life, Ease of Settling In, Working Abroad, Personal Finance, and the new Expat Essentials Index, which covers digital life, admin topics, housing, and language.

What Expats Think about Life in Melbourne and Sydney

8 | Melbourne: An Easy City to Get Used To

Melbourne ranks 8th out of 50 in the Expat City Ranking 2022, performing best in the **Working Abroad Index** (4th). Expats are happy with their working hours (73% happy vs. 63% globally) and work-life balance (72% vs. 62% globally). Another 68% rate their career opportunities positively (vs. 58% globally), while 61% view the job market favorably (vs. 47% globally). Moreover, seven in ten (70%) agree they are paid fairly (vs. 62% globally). It is hardly surprising then that 77% report overall job satisfaction (vs. 64% globally).

In the **Expat Essentials Index** (16th), Melbourne's results are not quite as stellar but still really good. Expats do agree it is easy to open a local bank account (81% happy vs. 64% globally) and to deal with the local authorities (53% vs. 40% globally). However, getting a visa to move there is something 49% struggled with (vs. 24% globally). Housing is another hot issue: 30% consider it difficult to find (vs. 27% globally), while 59% say it is hard to afford (vs. 43% globally).

The **Personal Finance Index** in general is the one where Melbourne does worst (27th): 38% rate the cost of living unfavorably, a little more than the global average of 35%, and 24% are dissatisfied with their financial situation (vs. 21% globally). *"I worry about the housing market and the rising cost of living in general,"* an Armenian-Lebanese expat shares.

Nevertheless, expats feel welcome in Melbourne (67% vs. 66% globally). They find it slightly easier to make local friends than in other destinations (46% vs. 42% globally), and they consider the local residents generally friendly (72% vs. 66% globally). Moreover, 74% find it easy to get used to the local culture (vs. 62% globally). The city ranks in a decent 17th place in the **Ease of Settling In Index**.

Finally, Melbourne comes 19th in the **Quality of Life Index**. Expats benefit from great Leisure Options (8th), for example, the opportunities for recreational sports (86% happy vs. 75% globally). The city offers a pleasant urban environment (79% happy vs. 67% globally) and top air quality (83% vs. 65% globally). *"The climate and the natural beauty are not surpassed by much,"* says an expat from Italy.

13 | Sydney: A City Full of Opportunities

In the Expat City Ranking 2022, Sydney places 13th. Like Melbourne, it does best in the **Working Abroad Index** (12th). Here, too, expats appreciate their working hours (75% vs. 63% globally), the job market (71% vs. 47% globally), and fair pay (68% vs. 62% globally). They also agree that the business culture supports flexibility (78% vs. 60% globally), independent work (62% vs. 45% globally), and creativity (61% vs. 51% globally).

Sydney ranks 14th in the **Ease of Settling In Index**. Expats not only find it easy to get used to the local culture (78% vs. 62% globally). They also describe the local population as generally friendly (71% happy vs. 66% globally) and friendly towards foreign residents (70% vs. 65% globally). About two in three expats (65%) have a personal support network in Sydney (vs. 59% globally).

In the **Expat Essentials Index** (17th), Sydney ranks first for the ease of opening a local bank account. Similar to Melbourne, expats find it easy to deal with the local bureaucracy (67% happy vs. 40% globally), but it was hard to get a visa to relocate there (42% unhappy vs. 24% globally). They also like the availability of government services online (74% vs. 61% globally). However, the housing market seems even worse than in Melbourne: 77% consider housing in Sydney unaffordable (vs. 59% in Melbourne and 43% globally). More generally speaking, the **Personal Finance Index** (30th) is Sydney's weakest point. Nearly three in five expats (59%) think that the local cost of living is too high (vs. 35% globally).

Respondents at least get to enjoy a relatively high **Quality of Life** in Sydney, which ranks 18th in this index. Expats love the natural environment (7th), the climate and weather (10th), and the freedom to openly express themselves and their opinions (9th). Sydney offers even better opportunities for recreational sports than Melbourne (91% happy vs. 86% in Melbourne and 75% globally). However, expats are less enthusiastic about the culture and nightlife (66% happy vs. 83% in Melbourne and 67% globally). Still: *"Not only are there plenty of work and educational opportunities, but the overall quality of life is outstanding,"* says an expat from the UK.

You can find out more about the 50 cities featured in the Expat City Ranking in the full report as well as in the press release about the best and worst destinations worldwide (both available under "Downloads" in the email).

About the Expat City Ranking 2022

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations. For the survey, InterNations asked 11,970 expats representing 177 nationalities and living in 181 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 up to 56 different aspects of urban life abroad on a scale of one to seven. The rating process emphasized their personal satisfaction with these aspects, considering both emotional topics and more factual aspects with equal weight. The individual factors were then bundled in various combinations for a total of 16 subcategories, and their mean values were used to draw up five topical indices: Quality of Life, Ease of Settling In, Working Abroad, Personal Finance, and Expat Essentials. These were further averaged — together with the responses to the question "All things considered, how happy are you with your life abroad in general?" — to create the Expat City Ranking. In 2022, the top 10 cities for expats are Valencia (1st), Dubai, Mexico City, Lisbon, Madrid, Bangkok, Basel, Melbourne, Abu Dhabi, and Singapore (10th).

For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2022, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per destination was required. In total, 50 cities met this requirement.

About InterNations

With more than 4.5 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](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) for updates and data insights on expat life.

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