

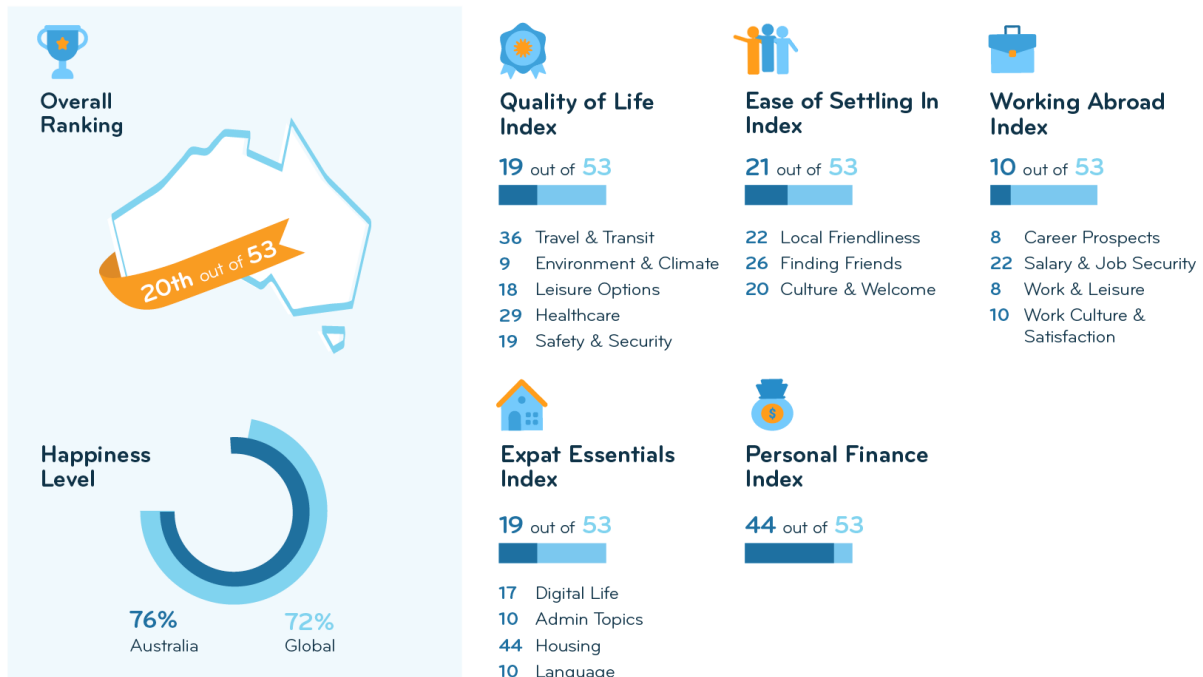
## Working in Australia Is Great, but Life Is Unaffordable

The *Expat Insider 2023* survey by InterNations reveals the best and worst destinations for living and working abroad.

- Australia ranks **20th out of 53 destinations**: expats enjoy a great working life and natural environment but struggle to afford living there.
- **Mexico (1st), Spain, Panama, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Bahrain, and Portugal (10th)** are the best destinations for expats in 2023.
- The worst countries for expats are **Kuwait (53rd), Norway, Türkiye, South Korea, Germany, South Africa, Italy, Malta, New Zealand, and Japan (44th)**.
- This year also marks the **10th anniversary of the Expat Insider survey**. In the past decade, it has become one of the most cited studies on life abroad.

Munich, 11 July 2023 — [InterNations](https://www.internations.org), the **world's largest expat community** with more than 4.8 million members, has published the latest results of its annual *Expat Insider* survey. This year also marks the survey's 10th anniversary. With more than 12,000 respondents, *Expat Insider* is one of the **most extensive surveys about living and working abroad**. It provides insights into expat life in 53 destinations, offering in-depth information on the respondents' satisfaction with their respective countries in these five indices: **Quality of Life, Ease of Settling In, Working Abroad, Personal Finance, and the Expat Essentials Index**, which covers housing, administration, language, and digital life.

### | How Expats Rate Life in Australia



## Australia in the *Expatriate Insider 2023* Survey

**Australia comes 20th out of 53 destinations** in the *Expatriate Insider 2023* survey. Expats rate it very highly as a destination for **Working Abroad** (10th) and are especially happy with the local job market (2nd). The natural environment and the ability to freely express themselves (both 10th) are more major highlights. However, expats struggle with their **Personal Finances** (44th) and local housing costs (46th). Overall, **76% of expats are happy with their life in Australia**, compared to 72% globally.

### Top-Tier Work Culture

Expats praise working life in Australia, voting the country 10th in the **Working Abroad Index**. They are especially satisfied with their **Career Prospects** (8th): Australia ranks 2nd for its job market. Nearly two in three expats (64%) are happy with their personal career opportunities there (vs. 57% globally).

And once they get a job, they seem to **enjoy the work culture** too. Expats report that the local business culture promotes independent work (62% happy vs. 46% globally), creativity (64% vs. 51% globally), and flexibility (80% vs. 60% globally). This flexibility may also have a positive impact on their high **satisfaction with their work-life balance** (9th) and working hours (10th). Despite all this, the country only ranks midfield for overall job satisfaction (30th).

### It's Beautiful, but Isolated

When it comes to the **Quality of Life** (19th), the Land Down Under has a **major drawback**. Australia ranks 51st for its travel opportunities, which may not be much of a surprise, considering its location. But expats can experience a lot without leaving the country's shores.

Australia ranks 9th in the **Environment & Climate Subcategory**. Most expats (93%) praise its natural environment (vs. 84% globally). *"Australia is one of the most beautiful places I know, with unique wildlife, beautiful beaches, and tropical rainforests,"* shares an Italian expat. And while its culture and nightlife leave a lot to be desired (20% unhappy vs. 15% globally), expats enjoy the many opportunities for recreational sports (87% happy vs. 75% globally).

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*"Australia is too far from any other place in the world ...  
even New Zealand is 3.5 hours away!" – Expat in Melbourne*

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### Troubles with the Basics of Expat Life

Australia ranks midfield throughout the **Ease of Settling In Index** (21st), with fairly average results for all factors. However, there are many ups and downs in the **Expatriate Essentials Index** (19th). The **Admin Topics Subcategory** (10th) reflects these contrasts. While expats find it very easy to set up a bank account (2nd), it is very difficult to obtain a visa to move there (46th).

Australia's **Digital Life** (17th) also gets mixed reviews. Nearly all expats (96%) say it is easy to pay without cash (vs. 84% globally) but report difficulties with getting high-speed internet access at home (45th). **Housing** (44th) is another weak spot, with 59% of expats considering accommodation unaffordable (vs. 42% globally) and 38% saying it is hard to find in the first place (vs. 31% globally).

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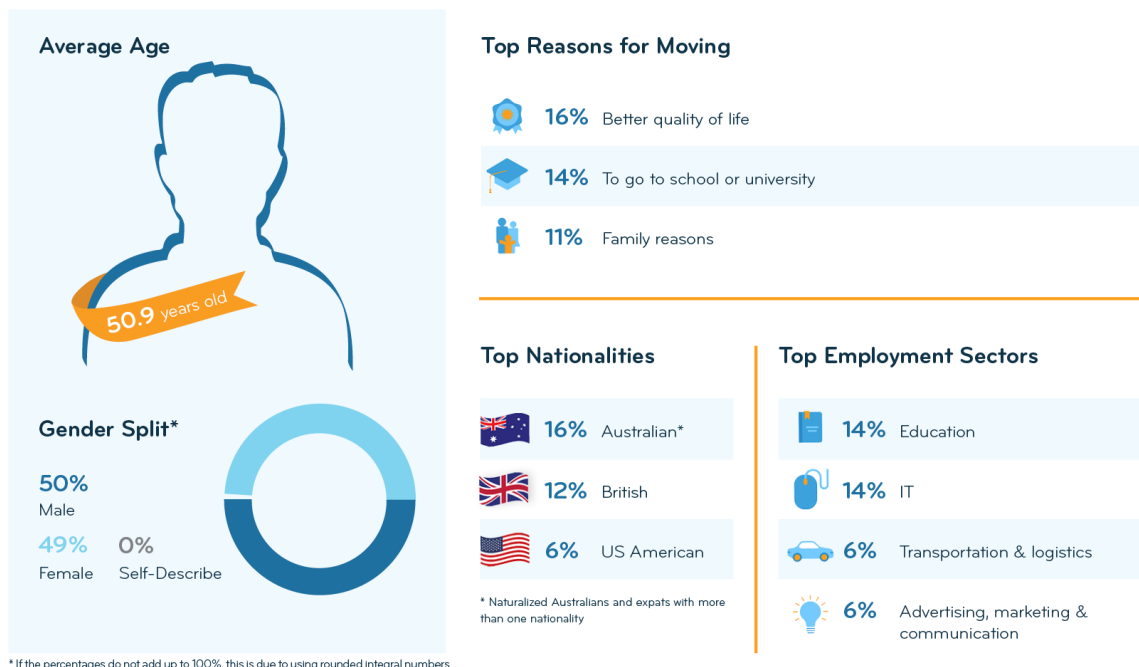
*"There is not enough affordable housing, especially for retired people,  
And the cost of rent is ridiculous." – British expat*

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## Financial Problems All Around

Pricy housing probably plays a role with regard to the country's bottom 10 ranking in the **Personal Finance Index** (44th). Nearly half the expats (48%) are unhappy with the general cost of living in Australia (vs. 35% globally). *"The cost of living is just getting more expensive,"* notes a US American expat. In fact, over one in three expats (35%) say that their disposable household income is not enough to lead a comfortable life (vs. 27% globally).

## | Typical Expats in Australia



## The Best & Worst Destinations for Living and Working Abroad in 2023

According to the *Expatriate Insider 2023* survey results, **Mexico (1st), Spain, Panama**, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Bahrain, and Portugal (10th) are the best destinations for expats in 2023. The top 5 destinations stand out with good to **great results in the Personal Finance Index**. All top 10 destinations perform better than the global average in the Ease of Settling In Index, but with the exception of Taiwan (9th), none of them manage to rank highly in the Working Abroad Index. The top performers also see very different results when it comes to the Quality of Life Index: Spain (1st) and Taiwan (2nd) excel here, while the Philippines (48th) ends up among the bottom 10.

The worst destinations for expats are **Kuwait (53rd), Norway, Türkiye**, South Korea, Germany, South Africa, Italy, Malta, New Zealand, and Japan (44th). All bottom 5 countries have average to **very poor rankings in the Ease of Settling In Index**. The Working Abroad Index, on the other hand, reveals a wide range of results among the bottom 5 destinations: Germany and Norway perform above average, while Türkiye, Kuwait, and South Korea show very poor results.

**You can find out more about the best and worst destinations for expats in 2023 in the respective press release (available under “Downloads” in the email).**

### **About the InterNations *Expat Insider* 2023 Survey**

InterNations has been conducting its annual [Expat Insider](#) survey since 2014. This 10th edition of one of the world’s largest expat surveys is based on data from 12,065 expats representing 171 nationalities and living in 172 countries or territories. They provided information on various areas of expat life, as well as their gender, age, and nationality.

Participants were asked to rate up to 56 different aspects of life abroad on a scale of one to seven. The process emphasized the respondents’ personal satisfaction with these factors, considering both emotional topics and more factual aspects with equal weight. The ratings of 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 indices were further averaged together with expats’ general happiness with their life abroad to rank 53 destinations around the world.

To be featured in the indices and overall ranking, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per destination was necessary.

### **About InterNations**

With more than 4.8 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 4,000 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](#), in our [magazine](#), or on our [LinkedIn page](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) for updates and data insights on expat life.

**Press Contact**  
Jane Masumy  
Media Spokesperson

InterNations GmbH  
Schwanthalerstrasse 39  
80336 Munich, Germany

Email: [press@internations.org](mailto:press@internations.org)  
Home page: <https://www.internations.org/press>