

## Austria Is a Beautiful Yet Lonely Place for Expats

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

- Austria ranks **42nd out of 53 countries**: it comes last for Local Friendliness (53rd) but makes it into the top 5 of the Quality of Life Index thanks to its scenery, travel options, and healthcare system.
- **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 destinations 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 Expats 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 *Expats Insider* survey. This year also marks the survey's 10th anniversary: With more than 12,000 respondents, *Expats 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 Austria



## Austria in the *Expat Insider 2023* Survey

**Austria comes 42nd out of 53 destinations** in the *Expat Insider 2023* survey, making it into both the top and bottom 10 worldwide. It is among the countries offering the best **Quality of Life (5th)** but is one of the worst for the **Ease of Settling In (52nd)** as an expat. While it ranks only slightly better in the **Expat Essentials Index (44th)**, it comes 24th for **Working Abroad** and 23rd for **Personal Finance**. Overall, **67% are happy with their life in Austria**, compared to 72% globally.

### Hard to Make Austrian Friends

Austria has ended up among the bottom 10 of the **Ease of Settling In Index** in nine out of the past ten years. In 2023, it comes in 52nd out of 53, only ahead of Kuwait — landing in the bottom 5 for all eight factors featured in this index. **Austrians are considered the unfriendliest locals worldwide**, both in general and towards foreign residents in particular (53rd for both). More than two in five expats (43%) find that the locals are particularly unfriendly towards foreign residents, compared to 18% globally.

This probably explains why 58% of expats find it hard to make local friends in Austria (vs. 36% globally), and 32% have no personal support network there (vs. 24% globally). It is then hardly surprising that 33% do not feel welcome in Austria, more than twice the global average (15%).

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*"I am finding it very hard to make friends and to create long-lasting friendships. I also find it very difficult to meet people." – Canadian expat*

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### Easy to Live a Green & Active Lifestyle

The **Quality of Life**, on the other hand, is an index where Austria has always ranked among the global top 10, and it places 5th in 2023. The country ranks particularly well in the **Travel & Transit (4th)**, **Environment & Climate (6th)**, and **Healthcare (8th) Subcategories**. For example, expats are happy with the affordability of public transportation (80% happy vs. 71% globally) and their travel opportunities (92% vs. 84% globally). Another 93% find it easy and safe to get around on foot and/or by bicycle (vs. 77% globally).

More than four in five enjoy the urban environment (84% happy vs. 67% globally) and are happy with the availability of green goods and services (83% vs. 65% globally). On top of that, 81% rate the opportunities for recreational sports positively, compared to 75% globally.

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*"I love the healthy lifestyle, the opportunities to explore the outdoors, and Austria's location in Central Europe, which makes it easier to visit other countries, e.g., Italy." – British expat*

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### Cashless Payment & Language Barrier Are Major Expat Headaches

Austria ranks below the global average for **Expat Essentials (41st)**, coming 47th in the **Language Subcategory**. German is a tough language to learn — 56% of expats find it difficult (vs. 38% globally) — but absolutely necessary in Austria. According to 45%, it is hard to live there without local language skills (vs. 32% globally).

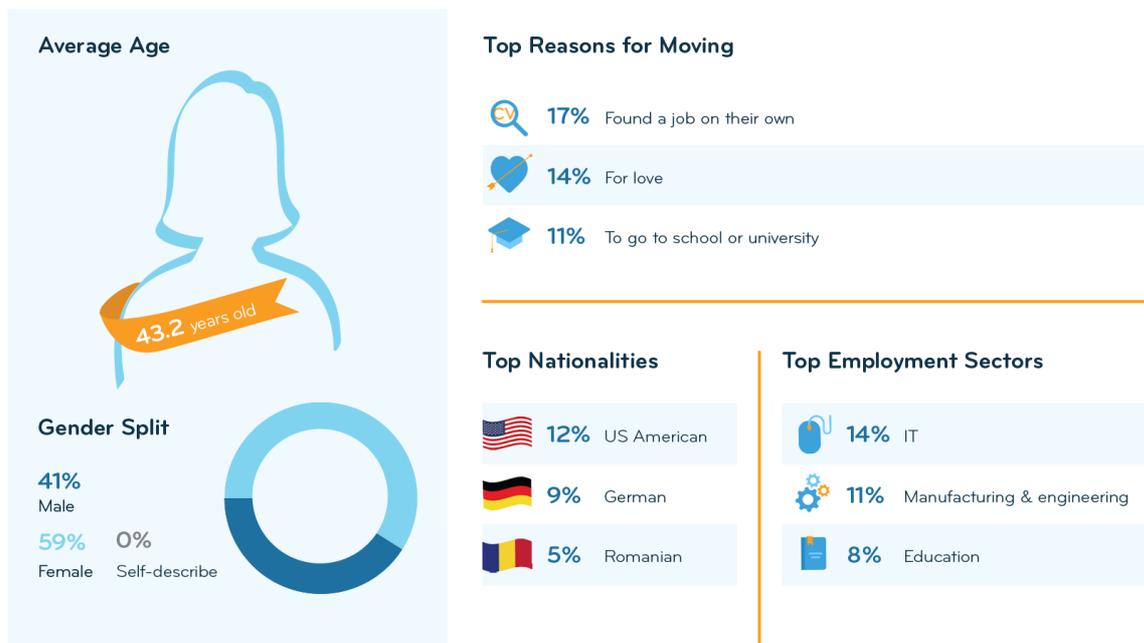
The country performs somewhat better for **Housing** (30th), **Admin Topics** (31st), and **Digital Life** (36th). Expats find it particularly hard to pay without cash, though (17% unhappy vs. 8% globally).

### An Excellent Economy but Low Job Satisfaction

Austria ranks 24th in the **Working Abroad Index**, even coming 10th in the **Salary & Job Security Subcategory**. Expats especially highlight the state of the economy (84% happy vs. 62% globally) and their own job security (64% vs. 59% globally).

Despite that, 29% are unhappy with their personal career opportunities (vs. 22% globally), with the country ranking 44th for this factor. Just 52% find that moving to Austria has improved their career prospects, somewhat less than the global average of 59%. Maybe this is why the overall job satisfaction is below average, too. Close to one in five expats in Austria (19%) are generally unhappy with their job (vs. 16% globally).

## Typical Expats in Austria



## The Best and 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 differ greatly 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. The tenth 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 aspects 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 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 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 in order to rank 53 expat destinations around the world.

To be featured in the indices and consequently in the 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.

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