

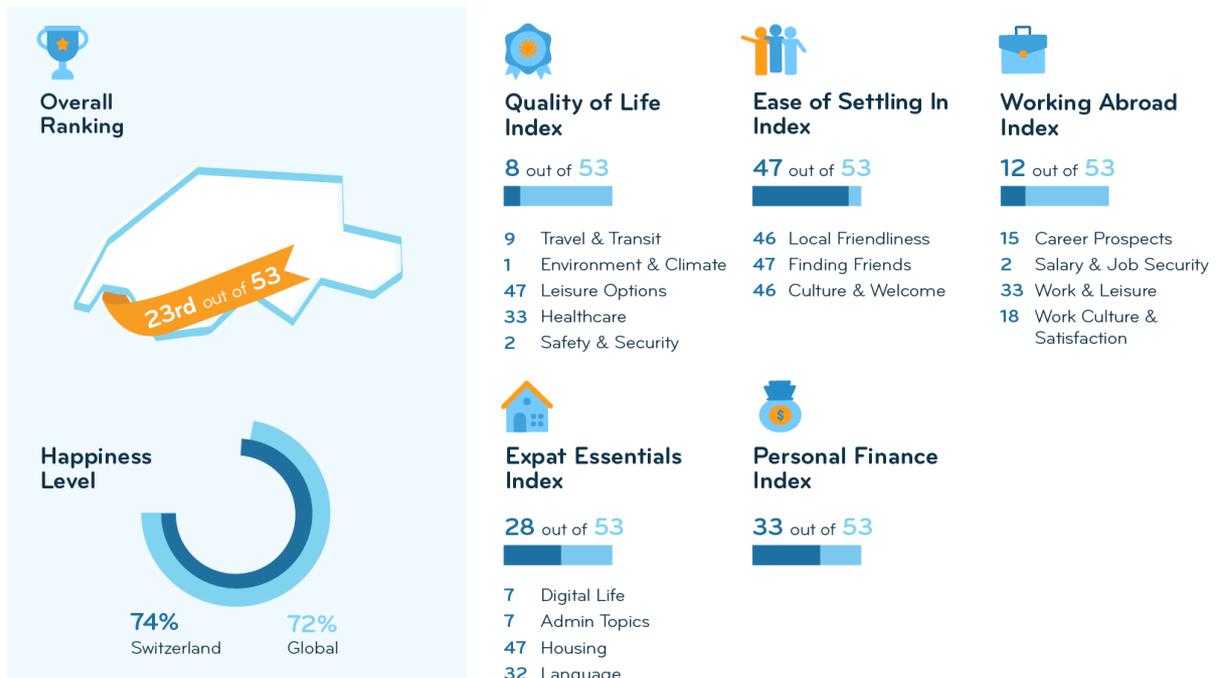
Expats Life in Switzerland Is Safe but Lonely & Expensive

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

- Switzerland ranks **23rd out of 53 destinations**: expats enjoy the high quality of life and are happy with their financial situation, despite the high costs. But at the end of the day, they are lonely.
- **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 Expats Insider survey**. In the past decade, it has become one of the most cited studies on expat 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 Expats Essentials Index**, which covers housing, administration, language, and digital life.

| How Expats Rate Life in Switzerland



Switzerland in the *Expats Insider 2023* Survey

Switzerland comes 23rd out of 53 destinations in the *Expats Insider 2023* survey. On the one hand, it lands among the global top 10 in the **Quality of Life Index** (8th), even ranking 1st in the **Environment & Climate Subcategory**. On the other hand, it is one of the world's worst-rated destinations in the **Ease of Settling In Index** (47th). Here, it ends up in the bottom 10 for every single subcategory and factor. While Switzerland ranks midfield in the **Personal Finance** (33rd) and **Expats Essentials** (28th) **Indices**, it claims 12th place in the **Working Abroad Index**. Overall, **74% of expats are happy with their life in Switzerland**, compared to 72% globally.

Clean, Safe & Stable

Switzerland has been a top destination in the **Quality of Life Index** for ten years in a row, and 2023 is no exception (8th). It even comes 1st in the **Environment & Climate Subcategory**. Expats value Switzerland's natural environment (97% happy vs. 84% globally), the air quality (91% vs. 66% globally), and the urban environment (84% vs. 67% globally). More than four in five expats (84%) agree that the Swiss government supports policies to protect the environment (vs. 62% globally).

Expats' satisfaction with politics in Switzerland goes beyond green policies. More than nine in ten (93%) also rate the country's political stability positively (vs. 63% globally) — 79% even *very much so*, more than twice the global average (34%). Since 95% also feel personally safe (vs. 83% globally), Switzerland claims 2nd place in the **Safety & Security Subcategory**.

"I love that Switzerland is a beautiful, safe, well-organized country with lots to see and do." – US American expat

A Little Boring If You're Not into Outdoor Activities

Switzerland is a great destination for outdoor lovers, and expats rate the opportunities for recreational sports (9th) very well. However, the country only comes 47th in the **Leisure Options Subcategory**. About a quarter of expats are unhappy with the culinary variety and dining options (23% unhappy vs. 12% globally) and the culture and nightlife (27% vs. 15% globally).

Easy to Travel within & outside the Country

Luckily, it is easy to take a trip abroad if you get bored: Switzerland ranks 1st worldwide for travel opportunities. Expats are also happy with the options to get around inside the country, with Switzerland coming 9th in the **Travel & Transit Subcategory**. More than nine in ten expats appreciate the availability of public transportation (93% happy vs. 73% globally) and the infrastructure for cars (91% vs. 75% globally). Another 94% find it easy and safe to get around on foot and/or by bicycle (vs. 77% globally).

Expensive, but Expats Can Afford It

The only downside of the Swiss transportation system is that it is hard to afford (37th). This is also the case when it comes to healthcare (50th), housing (45th), and the **general cost of living** (47th). Switzerland has always ranked among the bottom 10 destinations for this factor since the first edition of the *Expats Insider* survey in 2014. *"The cost of living is insane,"* an expat from Germany complains. Still, 65% of expats are satisfied with their financial situation (vs. 58% globally), and 82% feel that their disposable household income is enough or more than enough for a comfortable life (vs. 73% globally).

Fair Pay but Long Hours

With regard to the respondents' financial situation, it might help that 71% feel paid fairly for their work, compared to 62% globally. The country ranks 6th for this factor. Additionally, it comes 1st for the state of the economy — Switzerland has always made it into the top 5 worldwide here. Still, it does not rank among the top 10 in the **Working Abroad Index** (12th) in 2023. This is mainly due to its mediocre performance in the **Work & Leisure Subcategory** (33rd).

A Lonely Place for Expats

Lastly, Switzerland continues its tradition of ranking among the worst-rated destinations in the **Ease of Settling In Index** (47th): it has never managed to make it out of the bottom 10. Expats find the local population unfriendly in general (22% unhappy vs. 16% globally) and towards foreign residents in particular (27% vs. 18% globally). *"I am very lonely,"* shares a US American expat. In fact, more than half (54%) find it hard to make local friends (vs. 36% globally), and close to a quarter (24%) do not feel welcome in Switzerland (vs. 15% globally).

Typical Expats in Switzerland



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

According to the *Expat 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](https://www.internations.org) 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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