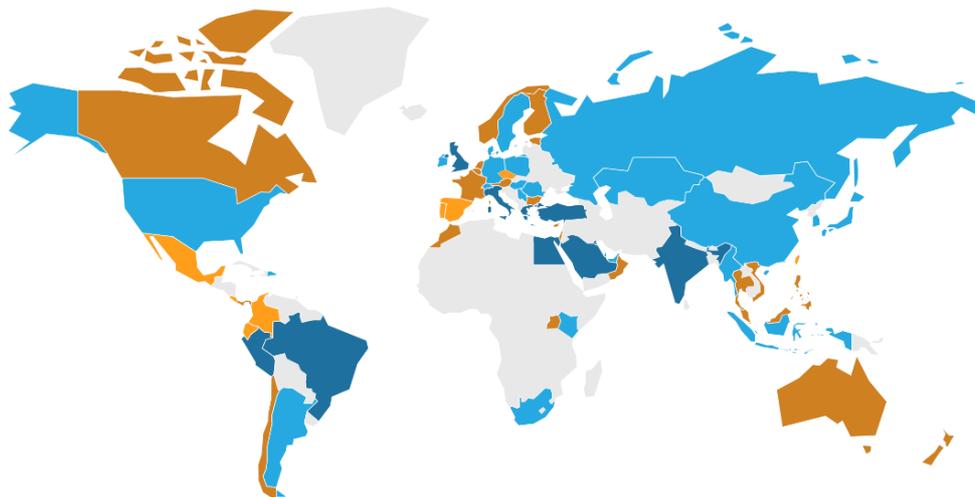


Expatriate Insider 2018 Survey Reveals: Expats Feel More Welcome Than Ever in France

While the French are getting friendlier towards foreign residents, expats struggle to find a job that pays the bills.

- France ranks 34th out of 68 countries in the Expatriate Insider 2018 survey. The top 10 destinations for expats are Bahrain, Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica, Spain, Colombia, and Czechia.
- Just 24 percent of expats in France are unhappy with the attitude of locals towards foreign residents, compared to 30 percent in 2017.
- More than half of the newly arrived expats in France (55%) find it hard to apply for a job, compared to just 36 percent globally.
- One-third of the French living abroad (33%) has an annual household income of at least 100,000 USD, compared to 24 percent of expats globally.

Munich, 6 September 2018 — After years of giving expats the cold shoulder, the French seem to be become friendlier towards foreign residents. However, expats in France continue to struggle with a lack of career prospects and the high costs of living, as the [Expatriate Insider 2018 survey](#) reveals. With more than 18,000 respondents living and working abroad, it is one of the most extensive expat studies, conducted annually by [InterNations](#), the largest expat community worldwide. Apart from offering an in-depth analysis of life abroad, the survey ranks 68 countries by a variety of factors such as quality of life, working abroad, and settling in. While France achieves only an average 34th place, this year's top 10 destinations for expats are Bahrain, Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica, Spain, Colombia, and Czechia.



The Best Destinations for Expats in 2018

1 Bahrain	9 Colombia	16 Netherlands	24 Austria	32 Morocco	39 Poland	47 USA	55 China	62 Peru
2 Taiwan	10 Czechia	17 Malaysia	25 Norway	33 Chile	40 UAE	48 Dominican Rep.	56 Hong Kong	63 Egypt
3 Ecuador	11 New Zealand	18 Thailand	26 Uganda	34 France	41 South Korea	49 Kazakhstan	57 Serbia	64 Turkey
4 Mexico	12 Australia	19 Canada	27 Estonia	35 Denmark	42 Japan	50 Indonesia	58 Argentina	65 Brazil
5 Singapore	13 Panama	20 Malta	28 Philippines	36 Germany	43 Ireland	51 Kenya	59 United Kingdom	66 India
6 Portugal	14 Vietnam	21 Bulgaria	29 Belgium	37 Romania	44 Switzerland	52 South Africa	60 Greece	67 Saudi Arabia
7 Costa Rica	15 Luxembourg	22 Israel	30 Cyprus	38 Qatar	45 Hungary	53 Myanmar	61 Italy	68 Kuwait
8 Spain		23 Finland	31 Oman		46 Sweden			

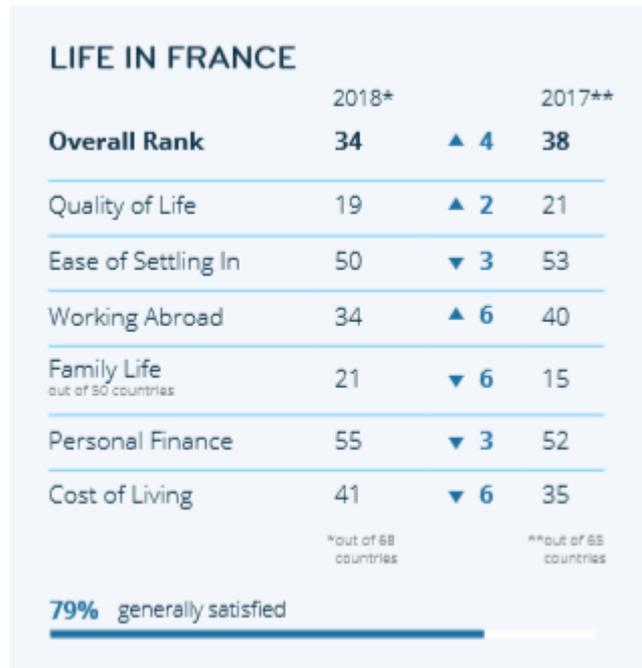
Best Destinations Worst Destinations

Click on the map for a video and more information about the *Expatriate Insider 2018* survey

French More Welcoming — Expats Happier Than Ever

Ranking 50th out of 68 countries for the ease of settling in, France is still among the less welcoming countries for expats; however, it shows some definite progress. While 30 percent of expats rated the attitude of local residents towards expats negatively in 2017, only 24 percent agree this year. *“The French can be somewhat distant, but they are much more friendly and open than when we moved here,”* shares a US American expat. In fact, 24 percent of expats in France state that their social circle consists mainly of locals (vs. 19% globally), and another 50 percent say that it is a fairly mixed group of locals and expats (vs. 47% globally). *“I have great French and English friends,”* says an expat from the USA.

Maybe it is the growing feeling of being welcome that makes expats in France happier than ever: ranking a low 47th in 2017, the country has moved up 21 ranks in terms of personal happiness (26th in 2018). In fact, 79 percent of expats in France are happy with their life in general, just above the global average of 76 percent — this is a slight, but meaningful improvement from 2017, when expats’ happiness in France was still a little below average (76% vs. 78% globally). But it is not only the local residents’ friendlier attitude that makes expats happier — it also seems like their personal life is thriving: close to nine in ten expats who are in a relationship (88%) are satisfied with this part of their life abroad (vs. 85% globally). What is more, among those expats who said that they are happy with their life in general, 56 percent believe that this is due to their partner and/or family being happy as well.



High Cost of Living — Hard to Get a Job

With France ranking 52nd out of 68 countries for career prospects, only 47 percent of expats are happy with this factor (vs. 55% globally). It seems to be generally hard to apply for jobs in France as one Romanian expat highlights that *“the process of getting your papers and finding a job is very complicated.”* In fact, just 44 percent of newly arrived expats in France find it easy to have their academic and/or professional qualifications recognized (vs. 52% globally). Moreover, more than half of them (55%) find it hard to apply for a job, which is 19 percentage points more than the global average (36%). *“The job market is awful,”* another expat says.

Moreover, many expats in France seem to struggle financially: just four in ten (40%) state that their disposable household income is actually more than enough to cover everything they need, compared to 51 percent of expats globally. France ranking 41st out of 68 countries for an affordable cost of living, these expenses seem to be a main issue, as a British expats reports: *“The cost of living restricts a lot of things I would like to do while in France.”* Even before moving to France, three in ten respondents (30%) saw the cost of living as a potential disadvantage, which is six percentage points more than the global average (24%).

French Abroad: Making Money instead of Friends

The most common reason for French nationals to move abroad is finding a job on their own (14% vs. 12% globally). Prior to moving, more than half the French expats (53%) considered the local economy

in their new country of residence a potential benefit, compared to 47 percent globally. Moving for their career seems to have worked for them, as 33 percent have a gross yearly household income of at least 100,000 USD, which is nine percentage points more than the global average (24%).

Over two-thirds of French expats (68%) have been living abroad for more than two years, but they often do not appear to have settled in yet: close to one in five (19%) believe that they will never feel at home in their new country of residence (vs. 15% globally). They find it hard to make local friends in their new country of residence (39% vs. 36% globally). In fact, 37 percent of the French respondents living abroad are mainly friends with other expats (vs. 34% globally), and just 16 percent are mainly friends with local residents (vs. 19% globally).

Interestingly, it is not the language barrier that makes it hard for the French to connect with local residents: close to three in five (58%) actually speak the local language fairly or even very well, compared to 46 percent globally. *"It is difficult to get used to the local culture and make local friends,"* says a French resident living in Hong Kong. Maybe this is the reason why just 27 percent can imagine staying in their current country of residence forever, which is five percentage points less than the global average (32%).

Top 3 Countries for Expats Are Great for Working Abroad and Easy to Settle In

2017's surprise winner **Bahrain** defends its first place, thanks to excellent results for working abroad and ease of settling in (1st for both). Seven in ten expats in Bahrain (70%) are happy with their career prospects (vs. 55% globally), and 81 percent find it easy to settle down in this country (vs. 59% globally). *"I do not feel like an expat in Bahrain,"* says an Indian respondent. *"I feel at home here"*. More than three-quarters of the expats living in runner-up **Taiwan** (76%) are satisfied with their job security (vs. 59% globally), with the destination ranking first in the world for this factor. Taiwan also offers the world's highest quality of life, and 77 percent of expats feel at home there (vs. 64% globally). Coming in third place, **Ecuador** is one the biggest winners of the *Expats Insider 2018* survey, moving up 22 ranks since 2017 (25th out of 65). While less than half the expats in Ecuador (46%) were satisfied with their career prospects in 2017, 69 percent are happy now. Moreover, 76 percent find it easy to settle down in this Latin American country (vs. 59% globally).

Bottom 3 Countries for Expats Rank Low for Quality of Life

India (66th), Saudi Arabia (67th), and Kuwait (68th) do not only rank at the bottom of the overall league table, but they are also among the worst destinations in terms quality of life. Expats in **India** are dealing with the world's lowest quality of the environment: more than four in five (82%) are unhappy with this factor (vs. 19% globally). Over two in five (41%) even give it the worst possible rating, which is more than ten times the global average (4%). *"I do not like the quality of the air, all the trash, and the pollution,"* an expat from the USA says. *"It is very dirty all over the country"*. Around half the expats in **Kuwait** (52%) and **Saudi Arabia** (47%) are also unhappy with this factor. Moreover, the two Gulf States rank last and second to last for the ease of settling in. About half the expats in Kuwait (47%) and Saudi Arabia (51%) find it hard to get used to the local culture, compared to 21 percent globally.

Read More about *Expat Insider* and the InterNations Community



The 7 Most Common Expat Types and Why They Move Abroad

Although every expat journey is unique, there are similarities when it comes to their motivation for moving and their lifestyle abroad. Based on the insights of more than 18,000 expats, InterNations presents the first comprehensive expat typology with the 7 most common expat types that roam the world.

Country-specific versions are available in different languages in the download section at the end of the press release.



InterNations Country and City Guides

In more than 200 destination guides InterNations offers valuable tips and information about expats' destinations, including helpful advice from other members.

If you would like to access the complete guides, please get in touch via press@internations.org.



InterNations Surpasses 3 Million Members

In April 2018 the world's largest expat community reached 3 million members, which equals a growth of 20 percent within the last twelve months. InterNations also expanded its international range to 420 cities around the world with 30 new communities.



Ten Moments That Made InterNations

Growing from a start-up to a global network has been an incredible journey. Here are the stand-out moments that got us to a decade of connecting global minds.

About the InterNations *Expat Insider* 2018 Survey

For its annual [Expat Insider survey](#), InterNations asked more than 18,000 expatriates representing 178 nationalities and living in 187 countries or territories to provide information on various aspects of expat life, as well as their gender, age, and nationality. Participants were asked to rate up to 48 different aspects of life abroad on a scale of one to seven. The rating process emphasized the respondents' personal satisfaction with these aspects and considered both emotional topics as well as more factual aspects with equal weight. The respondents' ratings of the individual factors were then bundled in various combinations for a total of 17 subcategories, and their mean values were used to draw up six topical indices: Quality of Life, Ease of Settling In, Working Abroad, Family Life, Personal Finance, and Cost of Living Index. Except for the latter, all indices were further averaged in order to rank 68 expatriate destinations around the world. In 2018, the top 10 are Bahrain, Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica, Spain, Colombia, and Czechia.

For a country to be featured in the indices and consequently in the overall ranking, a sample size of at least 75 survey participants per country was necessary. The only exception to this is the Family Life Index, where a sample size of at least 40 respondents raising children abroad was required. In 2018, 68 and 50 countries respectively met these requirements. However, in most countries the sample size exceeded 100 participants.

About InterNations

With 3.2 million members in 420 cities around the world, InterNations (www.internations.org) is the largest global community and information site for people who live and work abroad. InterNations



offers global and local networking both online and face-to-face. At around 6,000 official events and activities per month, expatriates have the opportunity to meet other global minds. Online services include country and city guides created by a team of professional writers, guest contributions about life abroad, and discussion forums to help members with topics such as the local job or housing search. InterNations membership is by approval only to ensure we remain a community of trust.

The InterNations app is available for Android and iOS and can be downloaded for free on [Google Play](#) and the [App Store](#).

Find more information about InterNations on our [press pages](#), [company website](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), or in our [Expatriate Magazine](#).

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