

Expats in Brussels Do Not Like the Quality of Urban Living but Are Happy with their Finances and Housing

The annual Expat City Ranking reveals how expats rate life in 82 cities around the world, including Brussels.

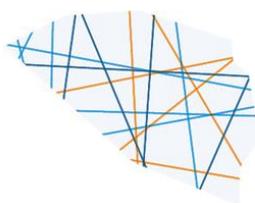
- Brussels ranks 30th out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019: the city performs best in the Finance & Housing Index (13th) and worst in the Quality of Urban Living Index (59th).
- Based on the ranking, Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Montréal, Lisbon, Barcelona, Zug, The Hague, and Basel are the best cities to move to in 2020.
- Kuwait City (82nd), Rome, Milan, Lagos (Nigeria), Paris, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Lima, New York City, and Yangon (73rd) are the world's worst cities.

Munich, 3 December 2019 — Brussels ranks 30th out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019 by [InterNations](#), the world's largest expat community with more than 3.5 million members. The Belgian capital has good to great results for finances, housing, and work life. However, expats are rather dissatisfied with the quality of the city's environment, for example its cleanliness and infrastructure.

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations, which is with more than 20,000 respondents in 2019 one of the most extensive surveys about living and working abroad. In 2019, 82 cities around the globe are analyzed in the survey, offering in-depth information about five areas of expat life: Quality of Urban Living, Getting Settled, Urban Work Life, Finance & Housing, and Local Cost of Living. Taken together, the first four areas make up the Expat City Ranking, which reveals the best and worst cities to move to in 2020.

Expat City Ranking 2019

Expat Life in Brussels



Quality of Urban Living Index
59th

77th Leisure & Climate
50th Transportation
62nd Safety & Politics
38th Health & Environment



Urban Work Life Index
30th

21st Job & Career
40th Job Security
41st Work-Life Balance



Getting Settled Index
43rd

46th Local Friendliness
50th Feeling Welcome
47th Friends & Socializing
31st Local Language

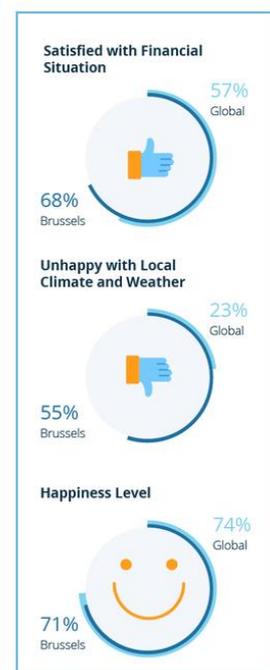


Finance & Housing Index
13th

14th Finance
19th Housing



Local Cost of Living Index
40th



What Expats Think about Life in Brussels

30. Brussels

Placing 30th out of 82 cities, Brussels performs averagely in most areas of the Expat City Ranking 2019. The city's strongest field is the Finance & Housing Index, where it comes 13th worldwide. Nearly three in five expats (59%) think their disposable income is more than enough to cover their expenses (vs. 49% globally), and almost seven in ten (68%) are satisfied with their financial situation (vs. 57% globally). With regard to housing, an above-average share of 43% considers housing prices to be affordable in Brussels (vs. 36% globally), and seven in ten (70%) believe it is easy to find a home (vs. 50% globally). The Belgian capital is also well-rated in terms of jobs and careers (21st). Nearly three-quarters of expats (73%) are satisfied with their job in general (vs. 64% globally), and over three in five (61%) are pleased with the available career opportunities (vs. 51% globally). Brussels also ranks among the best cities worldwide for job security (6th), with 74% of expats satisfied with this factor, compared to a global average of 59%.

Despite having a solid financial situation and a good working life, expats are rather displeased with their quality of life, the city ranking 59th in this index. Over half the respondents (55%) dislike the local weather, which is more than twice the global share (23%). Expats also rate the quality of Brussels' environment poorly (27% dissatisfied vs. 17% globally) and worry about their personal safety (18% vs. 9% globally). *"What bothers me most is the lack of maintenance regarding the general infrastructure in Belgium,"* an expat from Sweden comments, *"in particular, the poor maintenance and cleanliness of Brussels as the capital of Europe."* Getting settled (43rd) also does not seem to be easy in Brussels: nearly a quarter of expats (23%) find the local residents to be generally unfriendly (vs. 19% globally), and only 57% feel at home in this city (vs. 64% globally). *"The locals do not smile much!"* notes an Australian expat.

About the Expat City Ranking 2019

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual [Expat Insider survey](#) by InterNations. For the survey, more than 20,000 expatriates representing 178 nationalities and living in 187 countries or territories provided information on various aspects of expat life. 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 more than 25 different aspects of urban 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 13 subcategories, and their mean values were used to draw up four topical indices: Quality of Urban Living, Getting Settled, Urban Work Life, and Finance & Housing. These were further averaged in order to rank 82 cities worldwide. In 2019, the top 10 cities for expats are Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Montréal, Lisbon, Barcelona, Zug, The Hague, and Basel. The survey also includes a Local Cost of Living Index, which does, however, not factor into the overall ranking to avoid overrepresenting financial aspects.

For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2019, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per city was required.

About InterNations

With more than 3.5 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.

Find more information about InterNations on our [press page](#), in our [company blog](#), or in our [magazine](#).

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