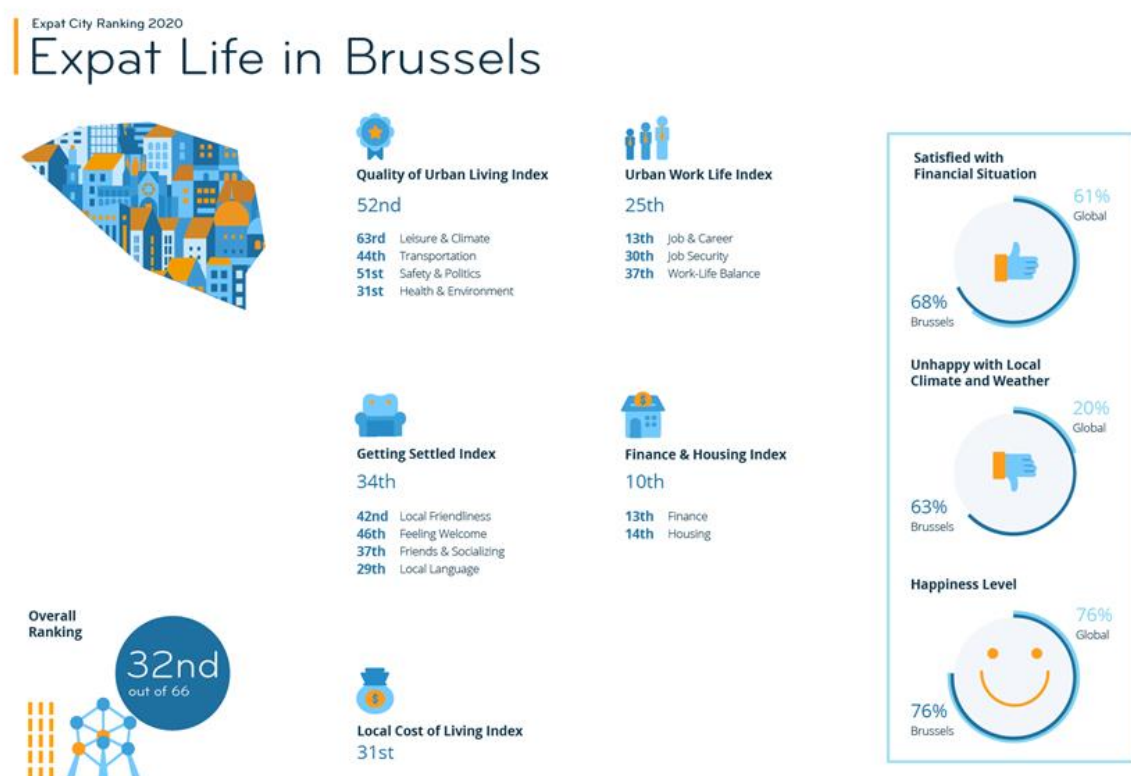


Job Satisfaction and Finances Are Great for Expats in Brussels

The Expat City Ranking 2020 reveals the best and worst cities for expats around the world, including Brussels.

- Out of 66 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2020, Brussels ranks 32nd. It ranks best in the Finance & Housing Index (10th) and worst in the Quality of Urban Living Index (52nd).
- Valencia (1st), Alicante, Lisbon, Panama City, Singapore, Málaga, Buenos Aires, Kuala Lumpur, Madrid, and Abu Dhabi (10th) are the top 10 cities for expats to live in 2020.
- On the other hand, expats consider Salmiya in Kuwait (66th), Rome, Seoul, Milan, Nairobi, Paris, Johannesburg, Santiago, Dublin, and Hong Kong (57th) the world's worst cities to live in.

Munich, 26 November 2020 — Brussels ranks 32nd in the Expat City Ranking 2020 by [InterNations](https://www.internations.org/), the world's largest expat community with around 4 million members. The city performs best in the Finance & Housing Index (10th), with 68% of expats rating their financial situation positively (vs. 61% globally). While it also ranks well in the Urban Work Life Index (25th), its performance in the Local Cost of Living (31st) and Getting Settled (34th) Indices is just about average. However, Brussels ranks worst in the Quality of Urban Living Index (52nd), which is mainly due expats' unhappiness with the local climate and weather, as well as safety and politics.



The [Expat City Ranking](https://www.internations.org/) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations, which is one of the most extensive surveys about living and working abroad, with more than 15,000 respondents in 2020. This year, 66 cities around the globe are analyzed in the survey, which offers 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. Together, the first four topics make up the Expat City Ranking, which reveals the best and worst cities for expats to live in. As the data was collected in March 2020, just before COVID-19 turned into a global pandemic, one question, however, remains: Will these cities still come out on top in a post-COVID world?

What Expats Think about Life in Brussels

32. Job Satisfaction and Finances Are Great for Expats in Brussels

Brussels ranks 32nd out of 66 in the Expat City Ranking 2020, performing especially well in the Finance & Housing Index (10th). Exactly three-fifths of expats (60%) say their disposable household income in Brussels is more than enough to cover their living expenses (vs. 51% globally). Additionally, over two-thirds (68%) rate their financial situation positively (vs. 61% globally), and almost half the expats (48%) find housing in Brussels affordable (vs. 41%). An expat from Romania summarizes: *"Life in Brussels is affordable."* What is more, expats are also very satisfied with their jobs in general, ranking the city 5th for this factor. They are very happy with their job security as well (75% vs. 59% globally).

However, Brussels does not perform well in the Quality of Urban Living Index (52nd). The Belgian capital ranks second from the bottom (65th) for climate and weather, only ahead of Salmiya in Kuwait (66th). Close to two in three expats (63%) rate the local climate and weather negatively, more than three times the global average (20%). *"After all these years, I still find the grey, rainy weather and cloudy skies depressing,"* shares a US American expat. Brussels also ranks low in the Safety & Politics subcategory (51st): just 50% of expats rate the political stability positively (vs. 61% globally) and just 65% feel personally safe (vs. 82% globally). A British expat complains: *"I dislike the government, or complete lack of central government."* And a Finnish respondent shares: *"For a small town like Brussels, it has all the problems of a big city, such as a high crime rate".*

About the Expat City Ranking 2020

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations. For the survey, more than 15,000 expatriates representing 173 nationalities and living in 181 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, 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 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 66 cities worldwide. In 2020, the top 10 cities for expats are Valencia, Alicante, Lisbon, Panama City, Singapore, Málaga, Buenos Aires, Kuala Lumpur, Madrid, and Abu Dhabi. 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 2020, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per city was required.

About InterNations

With around 4 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 6,000 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](#), or in our [magazine](#)

Press Contact
Caroline Harsch
Media Spokesperson

InterNations GmbH
Schwanthalerstrasse 39
80336 Munich, Germany

Email: press@internations.org
Homepage: <https://www.internations.org/press>