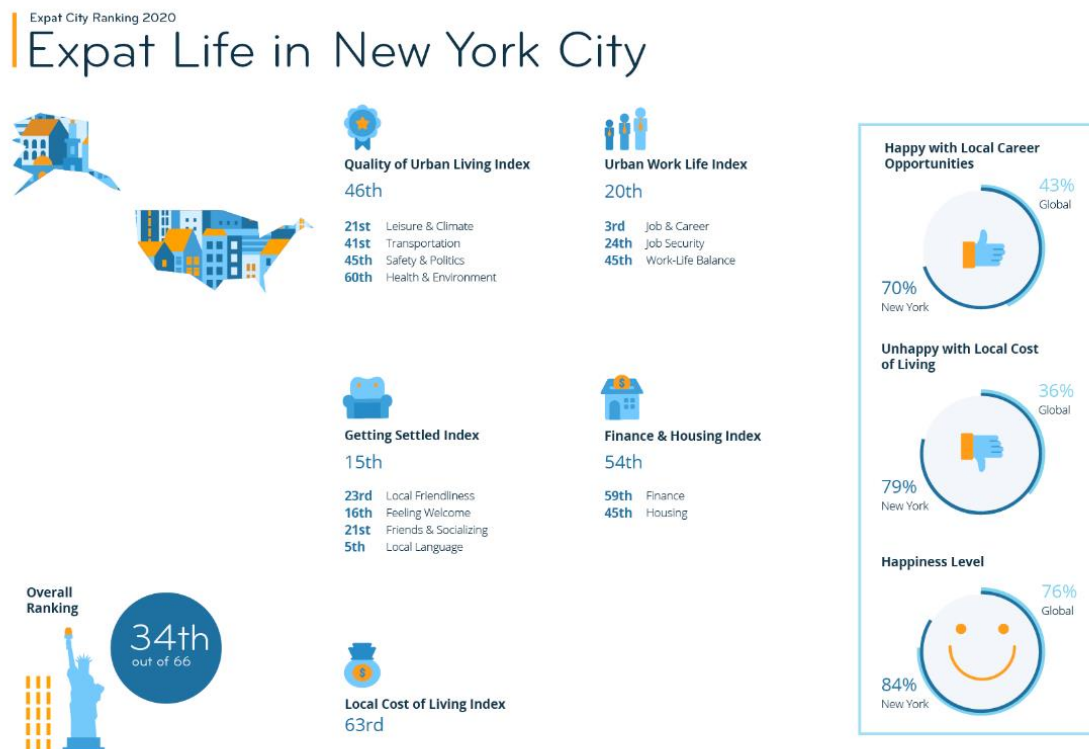


New York City Is Easy to Get Settled In but Hard to Afford for Expats

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

- Out of 66 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2020, New York City ranks 34th. It ranks best in the Getting Settled Index (15th) and worst in the Local Cost of Living Index (63rd).
- 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 — New York City ranks 34th in the Expat City Ranking 2020 by [InterNations](https://www.internations.org/), the world's largest expat community with around 4 million members. The metropolis ranks best in the Getting Settled Index (15th) since expats find it easy to get used to the local culture. It also performs well in the Urban Work Life Index (20th), which is mainly due to great local career opportunities. In the Quality of Urban Living (46th) and the Finance & Housing (54th) Indices, New York only receives below-average results. Lastly, it even lands among the bottom 5 worldwide in the Local Cost of Living Index (63rd).



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 New York City

43. New York City Is Easy to Get Settled In but Hard to Afford for Expats

In the Expat City Ranking 2020, NYC lands in a solid 34th place out of 66. Getting settled seems to be easy in New York City, with the city ranking 15th in this index. Expats find it relatively easy to get used to the local culture (76% vs. 61% globally) and to make new friends (57% vs. 47% worldwide). They also describe the population as friendly towards foreign residents (74% vs. 66% globally).

The city ranks well in the Urban Work Life Index (20th), too. Expats are optimistic about their career opportunities (70% vs. 43% globally) and the local economy (77% vs. 63% globally). However, they seem to work hard for their career options — their satisfaction with work-life balance is just about average (66% happy vs. 64% worldwide).

The city performs noticeably worse in the Quality of Urban Living Index (46th) and even ranks last worldwide for the affordability of medical care (66th). While 22% are also unhappy with its quality (vs. 16% globally), a staggering 69% describe healthcare as unaffordable (vs 21% worldwide). *“I do not understand how you can pay insurance for the privilege of going to a doctor — and then pay even more,”* a Canadian expat wonders. Even New York’s outstanding leisure options (7th) cannot make up for this.

Not only healthcare is expensive in NYC: 36% of expats struggle with their finances, compared to 21% worldwide, and four in five (80%) find housing unaffordable (vs. 41% globally).

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](#).

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