

Australia Is a Great Place for Expats to Work

The *Expat Insider 2022* survey by InterNations reveals the best and worst destinations for living and working abroad.

- Mexico, Indonesia, Taiwan, Portugal, Spain, the UAE, Vietnam, Thailand, Australia, and Singapore are the best destinations for expats in 2022.
- The worst destinations for expats are Kuwait (52nd), New Zealand, Hong Kong, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Japan, South Africa, Turkey, Italy, and Malta (43rd).
- Australia ranks 9th out of 52: expats love the environment, business culture, and employment prospects.

Munich, 12 July 2022 — For the ninth time, [InterNations](#), the world's largest expat community with more than 4 million members, has published the results of its *Expat Insider* survey. With nearly 12,000 respondents, it is one of the most extensive surveys about living and working abroad, providing insights into expat life in 52 destinations. The survey offers in-depth information on expats' satisfaction with the **Quality of Life**, **Ease of Settling In**, **Working Abroad**, and **Personal Finance** in their respective country of residence. For the first time, the ranking also includes the new **Expat Essentials Index**, which covers digital life, admin topics, housing, and language.

Destination Report

Australia



Australia comes 9th out of 52 destinations in the *Expats Insider 2022* survey. Expats are particularly happy with the Working Abroad Index (2nd), and the country also ranks well in the Quality of Life (14th), Expat Essentials (16th), and Ease of Settling In (17th) Indices. Only the Personal Finance Index (30th) seems to be less than satisfying. Overall, 75% of expats are happy with their life in Australia, compared to 71% globally.

Mexico (1st), **Indonesia** (2nd), and **Taiwan** (3rd) make up the top 3 destinations, and they all rank very well in the Ease of Settling In and Personal Finance Indices. On the other hand, the bottom 3 destinations, **Kuwait** (52nd), **New Zealand**, and **Hong Kong**, all perform poorly in terms of personal finances for expats. While Kuwait ranks among the worst destinations worldwide for all factors, expats in New Zealand struggle with their career and those in Hong Kong are unhappy with the local environment.

Australia in the *Expats Insider 2022* Survey

A Balanced Working Life

Australia ranks second worldwide in the Working Abroad Index, only beaten by Denmark (1st). Expats are especially happy with their Career Prospects (5th): 62% are satisfied with the local job market (vs. 47% globally), and 64% rate their personal career opportunities positively (vs. 58% globally).

When it comes to the Work & Leisure Subcategory, the country scores another fifth place. Expats in Australia work fewer hours per week than the global average (35.9 hours vs. 40.2 hours globally), which might explain why three in four (75%) are satisfied with their working hours (vs. 63% globally). Accordingly, 70% of expats are happy with their work-life balance, compared to 62% globally. *"There is an emphasis on family and not career and there is a good understanding of juggling both,"* says a Dutch expat.

A Rewarding Business Culture

Most expats (78%) feel that the business culture in Australia supports flexibility (vs. 60% globally), and according to 65%, it also encourages creativity and thinking outside the box (vs. 51% globally). What is more, the business culture also supports independent work and flat hierarchies (65% happy vs. 45% globally). Beyond that, 70% of expats feel paid fairly for their work, based on their industry, qualifications, and role (vs. 62% globally), and another 70% are happy with their job security (vs. 59% globally). Overall, 72% are satisfied with their job in general, compared to 64% globally.

A Great Environment for Expats

Another highlight for expats in Australia is the Environment & Climate Subcategory (6th). The vast majority of expats (94%) is happy with the natural environment, compared to 83% globally. Additionally, they also enjoy the urban environment (80% vs. 67% globally), as well as the climate and weather (79% vs. 62% globally). An expat from Russia says that the *"weather, wildlife, and lack of pollution"* are what she enjoys most about life in Australia. In fact, 85% rate the air quality positively, compared to 65% globally.

Expats also love the Leisure Options (9th) in Australia, and the country ranks first overall for the opportunities for recreational sports. Nearly nine in ten (88%) are happy with this factor (vs. 75% globally). *"There are plenty of team sports for the children to play,"* says an expat from South Africa.

An Easy Culture

When it comes to the Ease of Settling In Index (17th), Australia performs best in the Culture & Welcome Subcategory (15th). Expats find it easy to get used to the local culture (75% vs. 62% globally) and feel at home in Australia (65% vs. 62% globally). *"It is a calm and relaxed environment here,"* says an Iranian expat, while a British expat reports that *"there are no problems here, it is an easy lifestyle"*. It might help that 72% perceive the local residents as generally friendly (vs. 66% globally), and 65% of expats in Australia have a personal support network (vs. 59% globally).

Ups & Downs with Expat Essentials

Australia gets mixed results in the Expat Essentials Index (16th). It ranks ninth in the Admin Topics Subcategory. There, it performs best worldwide for the ease of opening a local bank account (1st) but ends up among the bottom 10 for the ease of getting a visa (46th). In fact, 41% of expats found it difficult to get a visa in order to move to Australia, compared to only 24% globally.

Digital Life (18th) is generally no problem in Australia. Expats are happy with the availability of administrative/government services online (74% vs. 61% globally), it is easy to pay without cash (92% vs. 84% globally), and they enjoy the unrestricted access to online services (89% vs. 82% globally). However, the subcategory also includes one lowlight: 16% of expats find it difficult to get high-speed internet access at home (vs. 11% globally).

Pricey Accommodation

The Housing Subcategory (41st) is Australia's weak spot in the Expat Essentials Index. Only half the respondents (50%) say it is easy for expats to find housing (vs. 54% globally), and over three in five (61%) are unhappy with the affordability of housing (vs. 43% globally). In the Personal Finance Index, Australia only ranks 30th, with 44% of expats unhappy with the general cost of living (vs. 35% globally). Still, 71% feel that their disposable household income is enough or more than enough to lead a comfortable life, about the same as the global average (72%).

The Best and Worst Destinations for Living and Working Abroad in 2022

According to the *Expat Insider 2022* survey results, Mexico (1st), Indonesia, Taiwan, Portugal, Spain, the UAE, Vietnam, Thailand, Australia, and Singapore (10th) are the best destinations for expats. The top 5 destinations stand out with regard to the Ease of Settling In and Personal Finance. They also tend to perform well in the Expat Essentials Index. While they all land just midfield in the Working Abroad Index, their results in the Quality of Life Index are somewhat mixed. Spain (1st), Taiwan, and Portugal make up the top 3 worldwide, but expats in Mexico (24th) and Indonesia (41st) are not satisfied with the local quality of life.

The worst destinations for expats are Kuwait (52nd), New Zealand, Hong Kong, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Japan, South Africa, Turkey, Italy, and Malta (43rd). Kuwait is among the world's worst destinations in each individual index as well as in the overall ranking. Moreover, all bottom 5 destinations have an average to poor performance in the Working Abroad and Personal Finance Indices. While Italy is an exception regarding Personal Finance (33rd), it only ranks 48th in the Expat Essentials Index.

You can find out more about the best and worst destinations for expats in 2022 in the respective press release (available under "Downloads" in the email).

About the InterNations *Expatriate Insider* 2022 Survey

For its annual [Expatriate Insider survey](#), InterNations asked 11,970 expats representing 177 nationalities and living in 181 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 56 different aspects of 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 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 Expatriate Essentials. These indices were further averaged together with expats' general happiness with their life abroad in order to rank 52 expat destinations around the world. In 2022, the top 10 are Mexico, Indonesia, Taiwan, Portugal, Spain, the UAE, Vietnam, Thailand, Australia, and Singapore.

To be featured in the indices and consequently in the overall ranking, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per destination was necessary.

About InterNations

With more than 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.

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