

## Mexico Is the World's Best Country for Expats

The *Expats 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).
- Mexico ranks 1st out of 52: expats find it extremely easy to get settled there and are happy with their personal finances.

Munich, 12 July 2022 — For the ninth time, [InterNations](https://www.internations.org), the world's largest expat community with more than 4 million members, has published the results of its *Expats 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 **Expats Essentials Index**, which covers digital life, admin topics, housing, and language.

Mexico comes 1st out of 52 destinations in the *Expats Insider 2022* survey. Expats are particularly happy with the Ease of Settling In (1st) and their Personal Finance (2nd). While the country misses out narrowly on a top 10 spot in the Expats Essentials Index (11th), it ranks 17th for Working Abroad and 24th for the Quality of Life. Overall, 91% of expats are happy with their life in Mexico, compared to 71% globally.



**Mexico** is joined by **Indonesia** (2nd) and **Taiwan** (3rd) in the top 3, which also 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.

## Mexico in the *Expat Insider 2022* Survey

### **An Incredibly Friendly Population**

Voting Mexico first in the *Expat Insider 2022* survey overall, expats are wowed by the friendliness of its residents: it comes first in the Local Friendliness, Finding Friends, and Culture & Welcome Subcategories. Exactly nine in ten expats (90%) describe the local residents as friendly (vs. 66% globally), and 75% find it easy to make friends among them (vs. 42% globally). In fact, 28% have mainly local friends, which is eleven percentage points more than the global average (17%).

The majority of expats in Mexico has a personal support network (80% vs. 59% globally) and feels at home there (86% vs. 62% globally). *"Mexicans are very friendly people and eager to help when you have a problem,"* states an expat from Armenia, and a respondent from the US notes that *"when you make friends with a Mexican, you have a friend for life"*.

### **Easy to Afford**

Mexico ranks second worldwide in the Personal Finance Index, just behind Vietnam, and more than three-quarters of expats (77%) are happy with their financial situation (vs. 60% globally). It might help that they are also satisfied with the general cost of living (2nd) and the affordability of housing (4th). While 70% find housing affordable (vs. 39% globally), 77% also say it is easy for expats to find (vs. 54% globally).

### **Digital and Bureaucratic Obstacles**

The Housing Subcategory (4th) is just one of the topics covered in the Expat Essentials Index, in which Mexico (11th) narrowly misses out on the top 10. While 64% found it easy to get a visa in order to move to Mexico (vs. 56% globally), they struggle with the local bureaucracy (53% unhappy vs. 39% globally) and with opening a bank account (33% unhappy vs. 21% globally). With 16% of expats saying that it is hard to pay without cash, which is twice the global average (8%), Mexico does not perform well in the Digital Life Subcategory (47th). *"It is hard to accomplish things online, and the postal system is unreliable,"* reports a US American expat. In fact, a third of respondents in Mexico (33%) are dissatisfied with the availability of administrative services online (vs. 21% globally).

### **Great Career Opportunities**

Mexico seems to be a good choice for career-driven expats: 60% rate the local job market positively (vs. 47% globally), and 68% are happy with their personal career opportunities (vs. 58% globally). Based on their industry, qualifications, and role, more than seven in ten (72%) also feel that they are paid fairly (vs. 62% globally). In fact, 30% are even extremely satisfied with this factor (vs. 23% globally). The most common sectors expats in Mexico work in are education (16%), IT (14%), and finance (13%).

### **An Open and Enjoyable Business Culture**

Expats in Mexico also enjoy the second-best work-life balance worldwide, right after Denmark (1st). Most expats are satisfied with this factor (77% happy vs. 62% globally). In fact, the average working hours of full-time and part-time workers combined are just 37.7 hours per week, compared to 40.2 hours globally. Close to seven in ten expats (69%) are happy with their working hours (vs. 63% globally). *"I enjoy that we do not work with so much pressure here,"* says an expat from Portugal. Mexico's work culture also sounds quite progressive: according to expats, the local business culture encourages creativity (59% vs. 51% globally), supports flexibility (61% vs. 60% globally), and promotes independent work (50% vs. 45% globally).

### **Outstanding Leisure Options but an Unprotected Environment**

Mexico ranks worst — but still above average — in the Quality of Life Index (24th). Expats find the Leisure Options (2nd) outstanding, including the culinary variety and dining options (92% happy vs. 77% globally), the culture and nightlife (84% happy vs. 67% globally), and the opportunities for recreational sports (81% happy vs. 75% globally).

While the climate and weather (91% happy vs. 62% globally), as well as the natural environment (90% happy vs. 83% globally), are great, expats in Mexico are unhappy with the urban environment (22% unhappy vs. 17% globally) and the local air quality (36% unhappy vs. 19% globally). In fact, 37% believe that the government does not support policies to protect the environment, compared to 18% globally. A US American expat dislikes *"the disrespect to the planet inherent in not caring for the immediate environment by controlling litter, trash, and urban waste"*.

### **Unsafe and Challenging to Get Around**

The Travel & Transit Subcategory (24th) is a mixed bag for Mexico. Expats find it neither easy and safe to get around on foot and/or by bicycle (22% unhappy vs. 13% globally), nor are they happy with the infrastructure for cars (26% unhappy vs. 13% globally). While the availability of public transportation is rated just about average (75% happy vs. 73% globally), 85% at least find it easy to afford (vs. 70% globally).

Lastly, Safety & Security (41st) is a major issue: close to three in ten expats (28%) rate the country's political stability negatively (vs. 15% globally). Additionally, one in five expats (20%) feels unsafe (vs. 9% globally), ranking Mexico 49th for personal safety. Only expats in Kenya (50th), Brazil (51st), and South Africa (52nd) feel even less safe.

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

According to the *Expats 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 *Expat Insider 2022* Survey**

For its annual [Expat 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 Expat 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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