

The United States Offers Expats a Great Working Life

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).
- The United States ranks 14th out of 52: expats love the career prospects and work culture but worry about the affordability of healthcare.

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 *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
USA



The United States comes 14th out of 52 destinations in the *Expat Insider 2022* survey. It performs particularly well in the Working Abroad (7th) and Expat Essentials (13th) Indices. While the country gets a solid result in the Ease of Settling In Index (19th), its performance in the Personal Finance Index (27th) is not as strong. Moreover, its mixed results in the Quality of Life Index lead to a below-average 36th place. Overall, 74% of expats are happy with their life in the United States, 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.

The United States in the *Expat Insider 2022* Survey

Career Opportunities Are Promising

The US ranks best in the Working Abroad Index (7th) and excels in the Career Prospects Subcategory (1st): 70% rate the local job market positively (vs. 47% globally), and 72% are satisfied with their career opportunities (vs. 58% globally). An Indian expat says that *"there is an opportunity to excel if you have the required skills and work hard"*, and an expat from France explains that *"it is very easy to find very interesting work opportunities"*. In fact, 74% believe that moving to the United States has improved their career prospects, which is 14 percentage points more than the global average (60%).

Expats Love the Business Culture

Perhaps related to the amazing career opportunities, expats are also very happy with their jobs. The country ranks 3rd overall in the Work Culture & Satisfaction Subcategory, placing in the top 10 for all factors in this subcategory. Expats feel that the work culture in the United States promotes creativity (3rd), independent work (7th), and flexibility (7th). More than four in five (82%) see a purpose in their work (vs. 78% globally), and 72% are satisfied with their job in general (vs. 64% globally).

Expats Earn Well

Expat workers in the United States are among the best-paid globally: 20% earn between 100,000 and 150,000 USD, nearly double the global average (11%). Another 7% have a gross yearly income of more than 250,000 USD, compared to only 3% globally. Despite that, just 62% feel paid fairly based on their industry, qualification, and role, which is the same as the global average. Most expats working in the United States have a full-time position (87% vs. 83% globally), and one in ten (10%) owns their own business (vs. 7% globally). The most common fields they work in are healthcare (12%), IT (11%), and finance (10%).

Dealing with Administrative & Digital Topics Is No Problem

The US ranks quite well in the Expat Essentials Index (13th), and the Digital Life Subcategory (10th) is a particular highlight. Nearly nine in ten expats (89%) say that it is easy to get high-speed internet at home (vs. 79% globally), and 93% are happy with the unrestricted access to online services (vs. 82% globally). A Norwegian expat notes that *"the accessibility of everything I need"* is one of the things that he enjoys most about life in the United States.

Close to seven in ten (68%) are also happy with the availability of administrative/government services online (vs. 61% globally). Beyond that, they find it easy to deal with local bureaucracy/authorities (53% vs. 40% globally) and open a local bank account (81% vs. 64% globally). While administrative issues are easy for those already in the US, 38% found it hard to get a visa in order to move there (vs. 24% globally). The country ranks 47th for this factor.

A Culture That Is Welcoming to Expats

Expats have mixed feelings when it comes to the Ease of Settling In Index (19th). They rank the country in mid-field for Finding Friends (27th) but are rather pleased with the Culture & Welcome (16th) they find in the United States. In fact, 71% say that it is easy to get used to the local culture (vs. 62% globally), and 71% say they feel welcome there (vs. 66% globally). *"There is a non-judgmental culture here,"* reports a Russian expat, while a Danish expat says that the *"open culture"* is a major highlight for him. Placing 11th, the country just misses out on a top 10 spot for this factor.

It Can Be Hard to Get Around

In the Quality of Life Index (36th), expats rate the Leisure Options (8th) very highly. They are especially pleased with the opportunities for recreational sports (83% happy vs. 75% globally). However, getting to these activities seems to be a bit of a problem: while 80% rate the infrastructure for cars positively (vs. 75% globally), the United States ranks in the bottom 10 for the affordability (47th) and availability (48th) of public transportation. Close to a quarter (24%) find public transportation unaffordable (vs. 15% globally), and 41% are unhappy with its availability (vs. 17% globally). A Polish expat says that the *"poor transportation infrastructure"* is what he dislikes most about life in the United States.

Healthcare & Safety Challenges

Healthcare is another major hurdle for expats in the United States. The country even falls in the bottom 3 in the Health & Well-Being Subcategory (50th), alongside Ireland (52nd) and Kuwait (51st). The affordability of healthcare (52nd) is a particular sore point for expats — 61% are dissatisfied with this factor, nearly triple the global average (21%). *"The healthcare system is super expensive,"* a Venezuelan expat explains, while another expat from South Africa says that *"the high cost of healthcare"* is what she struggles with most while living in the United States.

Expats in the United States also worry about their personal safety (47th). One in five expats there (20%) does not feel personally safe, compared to only 9% globally. An expat from Nigeria says that *"what bothers me most is safety — safety is not guaranteed, which is scary. You have to stay alert at all times"*.

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 *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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