

## Expats in Ireland Struggle with Their Finances & Healthcare

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).
- Ireland ranks 38th out of 52: expats enjoy their working life, but healthcare, housing, and their personal finances are major issues.

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.



Ireland comes 38th out of 52 destinations in the *Expat Insider 2022* survey. It ranks among the worst-rated countries in the Quality of Life (46th) and Personal Finance (49th) Indices. While it narrowly escapes the bottom 10 in the Expat Essentials Index (41st), it ranks midfield in the Ease of Settling In Index (18th). However, Ireland is one of the top destinations in the Working Abroad Index (3rd). Overall, 64% of expats are happy with their life in Ireland, 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 the 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.

## Ireland in the *Expat Insider 2022* Survey

### Amazing Career Opportunities

Ireland ranks third worldwide in the Working Abroad Index, with only Denmark (1st) and Australia (2nd) performing better in this regard. It even places first for job security: close to three in four expats (74%) are happy with this factor, compared to 59% globally.

In the Career Prospects Subcategory (2nd), Ireland shows another strong performance, only beaten by the United States (1st). Over two in three expats (68%) are happy with the job market, 21 percentage points more than the global average (47%). *"The job opportunities are many, thanks to a dynamic economy,"* notes a French expat. In addition, about three in four expats (74%) report that moving to Ireland has improved their career prospects (vs. 60% globally), and 72% are happy with their personal career opportunities (vs. 58% globally).

Coming in ninth place in the Work Culture & Satisfaction Subcategory, Ireland offers a business culture that encourages creativity (65% vs. 51% globally) and supports flexibility (79% vs. 60% globally), according to the respondents. Overall, 70% of expats are satisfied with their job (vs. 64% globally).

### A Welcoming Culture

In the Ease of Settling In Index (18th), Ireland ranks best in the Local Friendliness Subcategory (12th). More than four in five expats (82%) describe the local residents as generally friendly (vs. 66% globally), and 76% consider them friendly towards foreign residents in particular (vs. 65% globally). *"The people are friendly and welcoming. It is a safe place to live, learn, and work. It has become my first home, and I would like to continue living here,"* shares an expat from Botswana. In fact, 47% of expats find it easy to make local friends (vs. 42% globally), and 73% feel welcome in Ireland (vs. 66% globally).

### A Lack of Healthcare

Ireland lands in a low 46th place in the Quality of Life Index and even ranks last worldwide in the Health & Well-Being Subcategory (52nd). Close to half the expats find healthcare unaffordable (45%), compared to just 21% globally. Only expats in the United States (52nd) are less satisfied with this factor. What is more, they are unhappy with the availability of healthcare in Ireland (38% vs. 13% globally), as well as the quality of medical care (38% vs. 14% globally), and 44% find it difficult to access all the kinds of healthcare services that they need (vs. 17% globally). *"The scarcity of beds in public hospitals is appalling, in addition to the poor quality of health services and the long waiting list for both public and private hospitals,"* an Italian expat explains.

### Unsatisfying Transportation & Leisure Options

While the climate and weather (46th) is an ongoing reason for expats' unhappiness in Ireland, they also rate the country poorly in the Leisure Options Subcategory (44th). One in five (20%) is unhappy with the culinary variety and dining options (vs. 12% globally), and 19% rate the opportunities for recreational sports negatively (vs. 11% globally). Additionally, expats are quite unhappy with the affordability of public transportation (52nd), ranking the country last worldwide. Close to three in ten expats (29%) find it expensive, about double the global average (15%). Beyond that, they are unhappy with the availability of public transportation (36% vs. 17% globally) and the infrastructure for cars (29% vs. 13% globally), placing Ireland 43rd in the Travel & Transit Subcategory.

### High Living Costs

Ireland is also among the bottom 10 countries in the Personal Finance Index (49th). The general cost of living (49th) is a major issue, as nearly three in five expats (59%) are unhappy with this factor, compared to 35% globally. What is more, 38% feel that their disposable household income is not enough to lead a comfortable life (vs. 28% globally).

Aside from the general cost of living, housing is another major problem for expats in Ireland — the country ranks last worldwide in the Housing Subcategory (52nd). Over three in five expats (61%) report that it is difficult for expats to find housing (vs. 27% globally), and 73% say that housing in Ireland is unaffordable, compared to only 43% globally. An Italian expat explains that *"the cost of living is outrageous. It is impossible to find decent accommodation at affordable prices."*

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

According to the *Expatriate 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 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.

Find more information about InterNations on our [press page](#), [in our company blog](#), or in our [magazine](#).

#### **Press Contact**

Jane Masumy  
Media Spokesperson

InterNations GmbH  
Schwanthalerstrasse 39  
80336 Munich, Germany

Email: [press@internations.org](mailto:press@internations.org)  
Home page: <https://www.internations.org/press>