

## Expatriate City Index 2021: “The best cities for expats” from LoanLink24

### Methodology

This study examined the seventy most popular emigration destinations worldwide (selection based on gross domestic product and proportion of the population who were born abroad) in order to create a ranking of the currently best emigration destinations.

All cities were examined for 25 influencing factors in the fields of “economy”, “housing”, “environment and urbanization” and “family and society”. Only influencing factors were selected that allow a meaningful assessment of the question of whether a city is suitable for emigrants or not. Each factor was weighted according to its importance in relation to being a good expatriate destination. All fields of study contribute equally to the final result.

All data used come from carefully selected and reliable sources, which are set out below. A mathematical standardization equation from statistics was used to make a neutral comparison of all cities.

### Research fields, influencing factors and sources

#### Research Field 1: Economy

- **Net income:** The average net hourly earnings result from the gross annual income divided by the average working hours per year, less taxes, social security contributions and other deductions. Weighting: 20 percent. Source: [UBS Group](#)
- **Fortune 500 Companies:** Number of Fortune 500 companies operating in the country. Fortune 500 evaluates companies worldwide and regularly publishes rankings of the most successful companies worldwide. Weighting: 10 percent. Source: [Fortune 500 Datenbank](#)
- **Work-Life-Balance:** The nationwide average weekly working time in hours. The smaller the weekly working hours, the better the city was rated. Weighting: 10 percent. Sources: [BambooHR](#), [OECD Stats](#)
- **Remote Work:** The global coronavirus pandemic has led in many places to keep home office options even after the pandemic has ended. The percentage of employees who will use home office or remote work offers in 2020. Weighting: 20 percent. Sources: [VOX EU](#), [Eurostat](#), [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#), [Bahrain Ministry of Health](#), [McKinsey](#), [Observer Research Foundation](#), [International Labour Organization](#), [CTech](#), [OECD Digital Economy Papers](#), New Zealand Journal of Employment Relations, 45(2): 5-16, [ICIBE 2020: 2020 The 6th International Conference on Industrial and Business Engineering](#), [Singapore Business Review](#)

- **Startup-Friendliness:** Evaluation of the startup climate in the examined city based on factors such as local investors, financing and funding opportunities, on-site coworking spaces and other helpful infrastructures. Weighting: 10 percent. Source: [Startup Blink: Global Ecosystem Report](#)
- **Unemployment rate:** Unemployment rate: The percentage of the labor force without a job. Weighting: 10 percent. Sources: [OECD Stats](#), [International Money Fund](#)
- **Income tax:** The maximum tax rate applied to sources of income such as wages, salaries, pensions and others. Weighting: 20 percent Source: [The Global Economy](#)

## Research Field 2: Living

- **Housing costs-income ratio:** The mean ratio between housing costs and annual income in terms of the number of annual income per apartment. Weighting: 10 percent. Source: [Numbeo Property Price Index 2021](#)
- **Grocery Cost:** The average monthly grocery spend versus the average cost of grocery in New York City (\$ 485.58). Weighting: 10 percent. Source: [Numbeo Groceries Index 2021](#)
- **Rent:** The average monthly rental cost for a small apartment in the city center. Weighting: 20 percent. Source: [Teleport](#)
- **Hospitality:** Rating of hospitality towards expats. Weighting: 20 percent. Source: [InterNations: Most Welcoming Countries](#)
- **Health expenditure:** The current health expenditure as a percentage of the gross domestic product (country data). Weighting: 10 percent. Source: [World Health Organisation](#)
- **Security:** Assessment of the security situation on the basis of various criteria. Weighting: 20 percent. Source: [Numbeo Safety Index](#)
- **Sunshine:** The average annual sunshine duration in hours. Weighting: 10 percent. Source: [Current Results \(Weather and science facts\)](#)

## Research Field 3: Environment and urbanization

- **Internet Speed:** The average internet speed in Mbit / s. Weighting: 20 percent. Source: [Speedtest Global Index](#)

- **Environmental awareness:** Evaluation based on environmental policy goals. The more far-reaching, the better. Weighting: 20 percent. Source: [Environmental Performance Index](#)
- **Air pollution:** The average air pollution in the form of emissions (PM2.5 concentration in µg / m<sup>3</sup>). Weighting: 20 percent. Source: [IQAir](#)
- **Local transport:** The ticket price for a single ticket in local public transport for public transport such as bus, tram or metro. Weighting: 20 percent. Source: [Numbeo](#)
- **Traffic congestion:** assessment based on the average congestion density. The fewer and fewer traffic jams, the better. Weighting: 20 percent. Source: [Tom Tom Traffic Index 2021](#)

#### Research Field 4: Family and Society

- **Top universities:** rated based on the presence of universities in the top 1,000 universities in the world. Weighting: 10 percent. Source: [Academic Ranking of World Universities 2021](#)
- **Population Diversity:** The percentage of the total population that was foreign-born. Weighting: 10 percent. Source: [United Nations Population Division](#)
- **Quality of life:** Assessment of the general quality of life based on factors such as income, cost of living, environmental pollution, health care and others. Weighting: 20 percent. Source: [Numbeo Quality of Life Index 2021](#)
- **English proficiency:** Assessment based on the mean language level of the general population in English. Weighting: 20 percent. Source: [EF English Proficiency Index 2020](#)
- **Cost of Living:** The amount of monthly expenses a family needs to maintain a certain standard of living, consisting of housing, food, clothing, school fees, transportation. Weighting: 20 percent. Source: [Nomadlist \(Stand: 13.08.2021\)](#)
- **Vacation days:** Evaluation based on the number of vacation days paid in the year. The more vacation days, the better rated. Weighting: 20 percent. Source: [UBS Group](#)

#### Calculation of the ranking

In order to calculate a ranking list, all results of the influencing factors examined were standardized on a point scale from 0.00 to 10.00. The city that performed best in the

respective influencing factor received a score of 10.00. The city that performed worst in the respective influencing factor received a score of 0.00. All other cities ranked in between according to their results and also receive a score between 0.00 and 100.00.

Then all points from all influencing factors were merged according to the selected weightings. The total gave the examination field result. Finally, all four study field results were added and this final result was also standardized on a point scale between 0 and 100. The calculation was made using the following standardization formula:

$$x_{new} = \frac{x - x_{min}}{x_{max} - x_{min}}$$