

HSBC Expat

Expat Explorer Survey 2012



Expat Explorer Survey 2012

HSBC 

The Expat Explorer Survey

Expat Explorer is the world's largest global survey of expats. Commissioned by HSBC Expat, a trading name of HSBC Bank International Limited, and conducted by third party research company YouGov, 5,339 expats were questioned through an online survey.

Now in its fifth year, the survey continues to provide valuable insights into expat life around the globe.

Individuals from six continents described the opportunities and challenges they experience living away from home. The survey provides an insight into how expat life differs from country to country, continent to continent and from an expat's country of origin.

The report covers three key aspects of expat life:

Expat Economics

Expat Economics looks at a range of factors including expat earning levels, spending, saving and investing patterns, and the impact of the current global financial climate to paint an informed picture of expats' economic situation around the world

Expat Experience

Expat Experience looks at expat quality of life including emerging trends on expat relocation, how expats keep in touch with friends and family, and their plans for retirement

Raising Children Abroad

Raising Children Abroad looks at three main factors deemed important for expat parents: childcare, health and wellbeing, and education and integration

Contents

Executive Summary	4	Country Reports	
Expatriate Economics	6	– Australia	35
Expatriate Experience	20	– Bahrain	36
Raising Children Abroad	26	– Canada	37
Methodology and sampling	31	– China	38
		– France	39
		– Germany	40
		– Hong Kong	41
		– India	42
		– Malaysia	43
		– Mexico	44
		– Saudi Arabia	45
		– Singapore	46
		– South Africa	47
		– Spain	48
		– UAE	49
		– UK	50
		– USA	51
		– Vietnam	52

Executive Summary

Dean Blackburn, Head of HSBC Expat

As the Expat Explorer survey enters its fifth year we're pleased to see that over 5,000 expats from around the world have taken the time to share their insights and opinions with us. Over the past year we've witnessed many events that have affected the global expat population, and we're able to see both the impact of these different events and the subsequent reaction of expats across different regions of the world.

Asia is increasingly coming to the fore as a top destination for both financial opportunity and life experiences. While the region has historically been a popular choice for those looking for increased quality of life, the dominance of Asian countries at the top of this year's Expat Explorer Economics league table highlights that it is fast becoming an all-round top expat destination – especially Singapore, which ranks well as a place for career progression and financial gain as well as

quality of life factors, demonstrating that the country delivers across numerous elements of expat life.

The Middle East, meanwhile, has come to symbolise a region providing incentives and rewards to expats looking for financial gain. This year's report shows that this trend continues in 2012 as expats report a positive economic outlook, believing the area provides a strong draw to those looking for career opportunities. Alongside this, expats report that the region is continually improving as a place to live and work.

Despite the many positives, the region still remains most popular with short term expats. Many expats that move to the Middle East retain a stronger than usual affiliation to their home country, suggesting that many intended to move to the region for a set period of time, potentially to take advantage of the higher income available to expats in the region, before moving elsewhere or back to their home country.



**Dean Blackburn,
Head of HSBC Expat**

Executive Summary

In contrast, European-based expats are most likely to have lived in their current country for a considerable period of time. This is most pronounced in Spain where, despite the fact that they report being severely affected by the economic problems being faced by many European countries, expats show few signs of actively looking to leave the country as a result. For many expats, the choice to move to Europe may well be one they will stick to regardless of wider economic uncertainty.

This may be explained further by the high number of expat retirees in the region who have made long term ties and therefore will remain in the country. France and Spain in particular lead the way as countries favoured by those looking to retire away from their home country. Of the expats we spoke to, over a third living in these countries are retirees, compared to an average of only one in ten globally. With great weather and an increased quality of life among the key drivers for expats when choosing their retirement location, it seems these countries provide

the optimal benefits for those looking to retire away from home.

One area of the Eurozone with a different outlook is Germany. Far from a haven for those looking to retire, the country is most popular among young career-driven expats - many of those who moved to the country have done so to take advantage of a job opportunity or increased financial gain. The economic outlook among the German expat population is also more positive than expats across the rest of Europe. Expats living in Germany were more likely to report that they are satisfied with the local economy and that they believe the country is getting better as a place for expats to live and work than other European countries.

While the UK mirrors the uncertain economic outlook seen across the majority of European countries in this year's report, the country ranks much higher for Expat Experience than we have seen in previous years. It seems the cultural events taking place in the country over the past year have helped to

boost expats' views of the country as top destination for entertainment and culture.

For expat parents there is even more to take into consideration when choosing where to live and work and safety of children, and their ability to integrate into the new community are of paramount importance. Canada scores top in the Raising Children Abroad league tables. The country scores well alongside Australia as a place for active families, with expat parents here reporting their children are more active in sports and playing outdoors since relocation. Meanwhile, Hong Kong leads the way for safety, offering expat parent's peace of mind that their child is living in a safe and secure environment.

In terms of expat finances, the report shows that expats now hold a higher proportion of their wealth in longer term investments, compared to when they initially moved to their current country. This is most pronounced in Europe, where a higher than average number of expats have increased the proportion of their investments held in real estate since

relocating.

The move comes at the expense of cash investments, which now account for a smaller proportion of expats' overall investments than when they originally moved to the country. The change may be in response to the economic uncertainty being faced by expats, who are looking for longer term investments to act as a safety net for their wealth in light of the current economic uncertainty, but for expats in Europe, the move could also be explained by the higher numbers of expats setting up ties and deciding to stay long term in their current country by investing in local property.

I hope you enjoy reading this year's Expat Explorer report, and find it as interesting as I have. Thank you again to all those who took the time to fill out the survey.

Expat Economics League table

About Expat Economics

Expat Economics focuses on how the economic situation differs for expats from country to country.

Countries	Overall		Wealth Hotspot		Income		Disposable Income		Luxuries	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
Singapore	0.50	1	0.59	1	0.54	1	0.64	2	0.32	5
Bermuda	0.46	2	0.58	2	0.45	2	0.70	1	0.23	15
Thailand	0.45	3	0.46	4	0.33	6	0.59	4	0.42	1
Hong Kong	0.41	4	0.49	3	0.36	4	0.62	3	0.24	14
Cayman Islands	0.40	5	0.40	7	0.22	11	0.58	5	0.40	2
Mexico	0.38	6	0.42	6	0.39	3	0.45	9	0.29	6
China	0.35	7	0.43	5	0.35	5	0.51	7	0.19	23
Switzerland	0.33	8	0.39	8	0.23	10	0.56	6	0.19	24
Bahrain	0.31	9	0.30	12	0.16	14	0.44	10	0.33	4
Vietnam	0.30	10	0.35	9	0.23	9	0.46	8	0.21	19
India	0.30	11	0.33	10	0.33	6	0.32	14	0.24	12
Malaysia	0.30	12	0.30	11	0.19	12	0.41	11	0.28	7
South Africa	0.29	13	0.24	15	0.17	13	0.32	14	0.40	3
Qatar	0.26	14	0.26	14	0.14	16	0.37	12	0.27	8
Australia	0.23	15	0.23	16	0.12	17	0.35	13	0.23	18
Japan	0.23	16	0.29	13	0.27	8	0.30	17	0.12	28
Belgium	0.21	17	0.20	17	0.15	15	0.26	19	0.23	16
Saudi Arabia	0.21	18	0.20	18	0.08	18	0.31	16	0.24	11
Germany	0.19	19	0.17	19	0.07	20	0.27	18	0.23	17
United Arab Emirates	0.19	20	0.15	21	0.08	19	0.22	22	0.26	9
USA	0.16	21	0.14	22	0.06	23	0.22	21	0.20	21
Spain	0.15	22	0.10	24	0.05	25	0.14	25	0.24	13
Canada	0.14	23	0.11	23	0.03	28	0.19	23	0.21	20
Oman	0.14	24	0.08	27	0.03	29	0.13	26	0.25	10
New Zealand	0.13	25	0.15	20	0.06	22	0.23	20	0.10	30
Netherlands	0.11	26	0.09	25	0.02	30	0.16	24	0.16	26
France	0.10	27	0.07	28	0.05	27	0.08	28	0.18	25
Kuwait	0.10	28	0.05	30	0.06	24	0.05	29	0.19	22
United Kingdom	0.10	29	0.09	26	0.05	26	0.12	27	0.12	29
Italy	0.08	30	0.06	29	0.07	21	0.04	30	0.13	27

Expatriate Economics findings

The Middle East continues to draw financially minded expats

Over recent years the Middle East has come to symbolise a region for expats looking for greater financial rewards and new opportunities. The Expat Explorer 2012 report highlights that this trend continues, as the region retains a positive economic outlook and provides opportunities for younger, career-oriented expats.

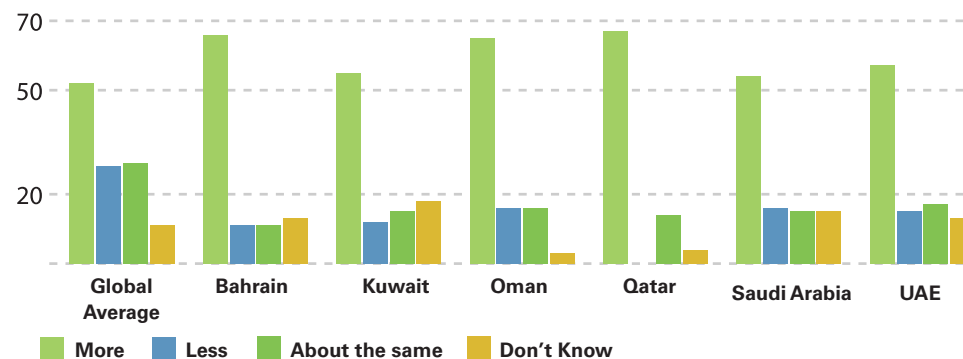
While the data from this year's report shows that expats across the globe are continuing to feel the economic strain, those in the Middle East remain relatively positive about the state of their local economy. Expats in Oman (90%), Qatar (89%) and Saudi Arabia (83%) report a much higher satisfaction level with the state of their current economy than expats across the world (59%).

This relative shelter from the economic storm offers wider opportunities and

benefits for careers and remuneration. Across the Middle Eastern nations, expats are drawn to the countries for job opportunities, with this being the key driver for expats heading to Qatar (77%), Saudi Arabia (76%), Bahrain (74%) and the UAE (65%). Within these countries expats also benefit financially. Alongside high salaries, the low tax rates on personal income in many Middle Eastern countries have helped expats to secure increased disposable income as a result of their move, in comparison to those living in other regions.

Perhaps as a result, the region is particularly popular with young expats. In Saudi Arabia in particular, nearly half (46%) of expats heading to the region are in the young working age demographic (18-34 years old), with less than one in ten (8%) aged over 55. The ages of expats heading to the region are in stark contrast to the make-up of expats worldwide, where 32% of expats are aged 18-34 and 22% are over 55.

Expatriate earning potential in the Middle East



Expatriate Economics findings

Despite the economic advantages of the region, the Middle East fails to draw expatriate lifers

Despite the strong performance of many of the Middle Eastern countries in the Expatriate Explorer Economics league tables this year, a high proportion of expats in the region are looking to leave their current country. Roughly one third of expats in Saudi Arabia (34%), Qatar (30%) and Oman (29%) are actively looking to leave their current country for either another posting or to return to their home country - a much higher proportion than the global average of one in ten (13%).

However, this high proportion of expats looking to leave is not a result of unfavourable conditions. Expats in these Middle Eastern countries are more likely than average to believe their country is getting better as a place for expats to live and work, and views of the current economic and political outlook remain positive in almost all Middle Eastern countries in comparison to global averages.

Instead, it seems Middle Eastern-based expats retain a much stronger affiliation with their home country than expats in general, which may suggest these expats have always intended to move to the Middle East for a set period of time, before returning to their home country or moving to another expat posting.



Expatriate Economics findings

This trend is most pronounced in Saudi Arabia, where three quarters (75%) of expats have retained a very strong connection to their home country, but is also replicated across other Middle Eastern nations such as Bahrain (71%), Kuwait (71%), Oman (65%) and Qatar (60%).

As a result, the key drivers behind expats looking to leave the region are in fact changing family needs or simply wanting a change. That said, rising living costs are increasingly important for expats in the region too.

		Global Average	Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	UAE
Middle Eastern expats	Actively looking to move to your home country or another country	13%	37%	25%	29%	30%	34%	17%
	Considering a move to your home country or other country	26%	29%	39%	23%	33%	32%	30%
	Intending to stay in your current country	62%	34%	36%	48%	37%	34%	53%
Reasons for moving away from the Middle East	There are too few opportunities relative to other places	22%	32%	22%	13%	25%	21%	27%
	Rising living costs	35%	24%	50%	31%	32%	33%	45%
	I want a change	42%	56%	41%	56%	61%	53%	41%
	I always planned to move at this point	22%	8%	26%	25%	18%	27%	17%
	Contract / Work is coming to an end	19%	16%	13%	25%	23%	11%	14%
	Family needs	34%	52%	48%	50%	30%	48%	37%
	Political instability	9%	60%	20%	-	5%	6%	6%
	Negative economic outlook	20%	32%	13%	-	2%	10%	18%
	Promotion / Seconded elsewhere	18%	16%	22%	31%	7%	23%	19%
	Other	17%	12%	13%	19%	16%	25%	13%
	None of the above	3%	-	2%	6%	-	1%	3%

Expatriate Economics findings

Bahrain bucks the Middle Eastern trend as political instability creates uncertainty

The economic outlook across most Middle Eastern countries is positive and the region is increasingly a place expats enjoy living. But this trend is not mirrored across every Middle Eastern nation.

Expats in Bahrain paint a different picture from those in the rest of the Middle East across a range of factors. Just over one in ten (13%) expats believe Bahrain is heading in the right direction while a quarter (26%) believes the country is off on the wrong track. In addition, while the economic outlook is well above average in every other Middle Eastern nation, satisfaction with the state of the economy in Bahrain is below the global

average (59%), with only two fifths (42%) satisfied. Yet this is not the area in which expats are reporting the highest level of dissatisfaction.

For many expats in Bahrain, political instability remains a bigger concern than the state of the economy. While the number of expats actively looking to leave Bahrain (37%) is slightly higher but broadly in line with other Middle Eastern nations, more than half (60%) of those looking to leave are doing so due to political instability. While this figure is much higher than the global average (9%) it is also much higher than other Middle Eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia (6%) and Qatar (5%). It seems the Arab Spring, which has had a pronounced impact on Bahrain since the beginning of 2011, is still having a notable impact on the views of expats living in the country.

Expatriate Sentiment in the Middle East

	Global Average	Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	UAE
Satisfied with the current state of the economy	59%	42%	68%	90%	89%	83%	77%
Associate country with strong political stability	35%	11%	27%	61%	46%	41%	51%
Host country is heading in the right direction	37%	13%	26%	45%	50%	43%	51%
Host country is off on the wrong track	19%	26%	22%	3%	10%	13%	10%
Host country getting better for expats	30%	21%	38%	61%	60%	49%	49%
Host country getting worse for expats	28%	50%	31%	29%	14%	27%	21%

Expat Economics findings

Strong contingent of expat lifers means European expats are willing to weather the Eurozone storm

The Expat Explorer survey this year highlights the impact of the Eurozone crisis on expats in the region. Expats in Spain are feeling the impact most acutely, being twice as likely (39%) to feel that their country is off on the wrong track than the global average (19%).

In turn, this has affected Spain-based expats. Some 58% of expats living in Spain said they thought the country is getting worse for expats. Although not quite as pronounced as Spain, expats in other European nations including the UK (44%), Netherlands (43%), Italy (37%) and France (33%) are also more likely than expats globally (28%) to believe their country is getting worse as a place to live and work.

Satisfaction with the economies of the Eurozone countries is similarly bleak. While those in Spain are most likely to report dissatisfaction with the current state of the economy (92%), expats in Italy

(70%), the UK (68%), Belgium (53%) and France (48%) are also more likely to be dissatisfied with the current state of the economy than satisfied. However, despite the pessimism towards the current economic environment, expats in Spain are proving extremely resilient to Eurozone woes. No expats (0%) in Spain are actively looking to leave Spain in favour of their home country or another expat posting, compared to a global average of 13%. In fact three-quarters (74%) are intending to stay. Similarly, expats in the UK and France are also, by and large, intending to stay in their country with 71% and 69% respectively intending to stay put (compared to a global average of 62%).

The countries that are showing marked resilience have a strong contingent of expat lifers (expats who have lived in their current country for at least three years). In the UK, 89% of expats have lived in the country for more than three years, alongside 68% in Spain and 61% in France. In addition, a high proportion of expats in France (41%) and Spain (32%) are retirees – much higher than the global average of one in ten (9%). It seems that while economic conditions might be difficult in the current country, expats in these nations have a long-term mindset and so are willing to weather economic fluctuations.

Percentage of expats actively looking to leave their current country

		Global Average	Belgium	France	Germany	Italy	Netherlands	Spain	Switzerland	United Kingdom
Are you....?	Actively looking to move to your home country or another country	13%	26%	14%	11%	7%	18%	0%	6%	7%
	Considering a move to your home country or other country	26%	32%	17%	26%	33%	37%	26%	29%	21%
	Intending to stay in your current country	62%	41%	69%	63%	60%	45%	74%	65%	71%

Expat Economics findings

Career-driven expats in Germany report a strong economic outlook, in contrast to the European trend

While expats within the Eurozone feel the impact of the economic climate most acutely of all countries in this year's report, expats in Germany are bucking the trend seen elsewhere in the region.

In contrast to most European expats, those living in Germany report a very positive outlook in the current state of the economy. More than nine in ten (91%) expats in Germany believe that the

economic situation in their country is either getting better or staying about the same, with a similar number reporting that they are satisfied with the current state of the economy (86%). In addition, the majority of expats in Germany (61%) think that things are generally heading in the right direction (compared to a global average of 37%) and associate the country with strong political stability (67%).

While Germany is in a stronger economic position than some of the European nations included in this year's survey, the country also attracts a different type of expat, which could help further explain the differing view of expats living in the country.

Expats in Germany are likely to be career-driven expats who have chosen to relocate to take advantage of job opportunities or financial gain as opposed to other European destinations that are popular with retirees or expat experiencers (those who move for a better quality of life).

For example, France and Spain remain popular with expat retirees (41% and 32% of expats in France and Spain respectively are retirees compared to only 7% in Germany) and expat experiencers. In contrast, more than half (55%) of those who moved to Germany expected to benefit from a better job, compared to just a third of those living in France (33%) and Spain (29%). In addition, half (49%) of expats in Germany moved

there expecting financial gain, compared to just 22% and 18% of expats in France and Spain respectively.

As a result, expats in Germany have a different demographic make-up to those in many other European countries. One in four (23%) expats in Germany earn between \$100,000-200,000, in stark contrast to those based in Spain where fewer than one in ten (8%) earn a salary in that range. They are also most likely to be working in the IT and internet sector (14%), manufacturing and construction (12%) and science and research (10%) and tend to be from English-speaking countries such as the USA (25%) and the UK (15%).

Expat Sentiment in Europe

	Global average	Belgium	France	Germany	Italy	Netherlands	Spain	Switzerland	United Kingdom
Host country is off on the wrong track	19%	21%	20%	7%	30%	19%	39%	3%	36%
Host country is heading in the right direction	37%	24%	27%	61%	13%	30%	5%	65%	20%
Host country is getting better for expats	30%	24%	13%	35%	10%	15%	11%	19%	12%
Host country is getting worse for expats	28%	21%	33%	9%	37%	43%	58%	3%	44%
Satisfied with the local economy in host country	59%	41%	44%	86%	17%	52%	5%	94%	28%
Dissatisfied with the local economy in host country	37%	53%	48%	13%	70%	43%	92%	6%	68%
Actively looking to move back to home country	13%	26%	14%	11%	7%	18%	0%	6%	7%
Intending to stay in host country	62%	41%	69%	63%	60%	45%	74%	65%	71%

Expat Economics findings

Expat wealth begins migration from Middle East to Asia

While the Middle East has, in previous years, reigned as the region for expats looking for increased wealth and financial gain, this year's Expat Explorer report shows that Asia is beginning to take the expat wealth crown, with Asian countries dominating the Expat Explorer Economics league tables.

This year five Asian countries feature in the Expat Economics league table top ten - Singapore (1st), Thailand (3rd), Hong Kong (4th), China (7th) and Vietnam (10th). Singapore leads the way, with the country holding the largest proportion of wealthy expats of any country; some 43% of expats in Singapore interviewed in this study earn more than \$250,000 per year, compared to a global average of only 7%.

Since relocation, most expats in Singapore have witnessed an improvement in the financial status of their household (74%) and an increase in their own disposable income (80%). Around half (44%) of expats in Singapore noticed an increase of 50% or more in their disposable income, compared to a global average of just under a fifth (19%).

With the high number of expats who have headed to Singapore expecting more money (72%) or expecting a better job (70%), it is unsurprising to see that three-quarters of expats in Singapore (74%) would consider moving to another expat posting after this one. One in ten of those surveyed (11%) said either Australia or Hong Kong would be their next expat location of choice.

The expat wealth trend emerging from this year's Expat Explorer survey is mirrored across other Asian countries, with expats in Hong Kong (70%), Malaysia (61%) and China (60%) likely to have reported moving to their current country to take advantage of a job opportunity and benefiting from an increase in disposable income since relocating (79%, 72% and 69% respectively).



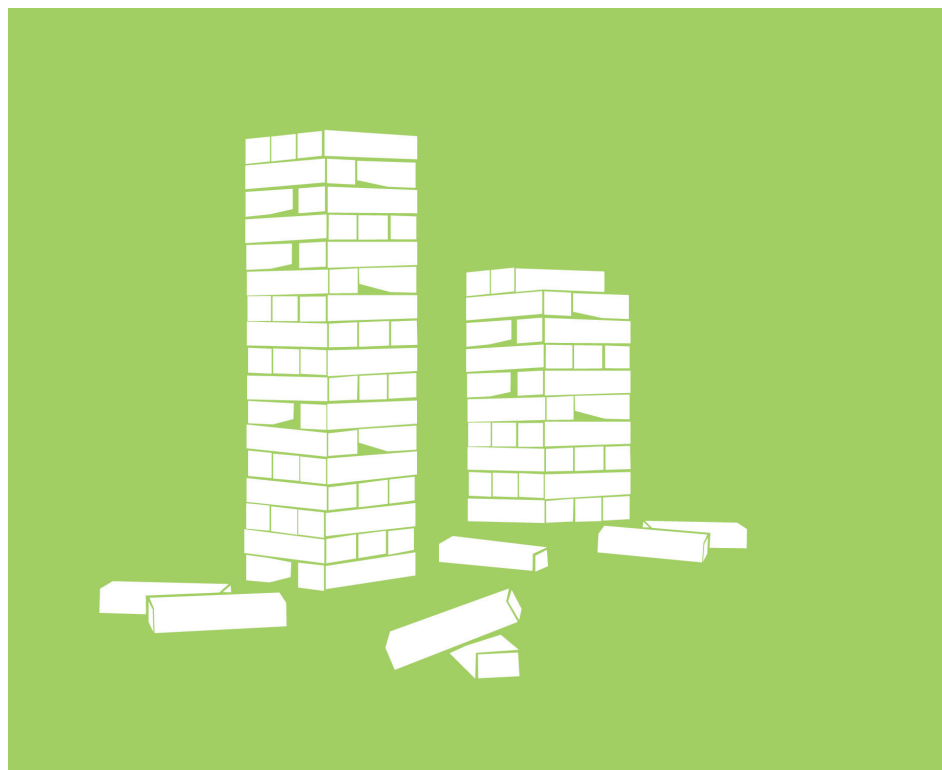
Expatriate Economics findings

Crouching tiger, hidden dragon - Expatriate preference for the growing Chinese economy is apparent

China's continued strength on the world economic stage has become even more prominent in this year's Expatriate Explorer survey with the country leaping up the Expatriate Explorer Economics league tables this year – currently ranking 7th from 19th in 2011.

Half (49%) of expats heading to China do so expecting to earn more money upon relocation, and few are disappointed. Two thirds (64%) of expats in China witnessed a marked improvement in the financial status of their household with a similar figure (69%) citing an increase in disposable income upon relocation. A third (29%) reported that their household income has increased by 50% or more since relocation.

However, it isn't only economic factors that bode well for expats in China. Almost half (44%) believe the country offers a high quality of life for expats. China, it seems, is fast becoming an all-round favourite for expats.



Expatriate Economics findings

Economic volatility motivates expats to opt for longer term investments

Expats have responded to global economic woes by altering their saving and investment patterns, according to the findings of this year's survey, with a heightened preference for longer term investments.

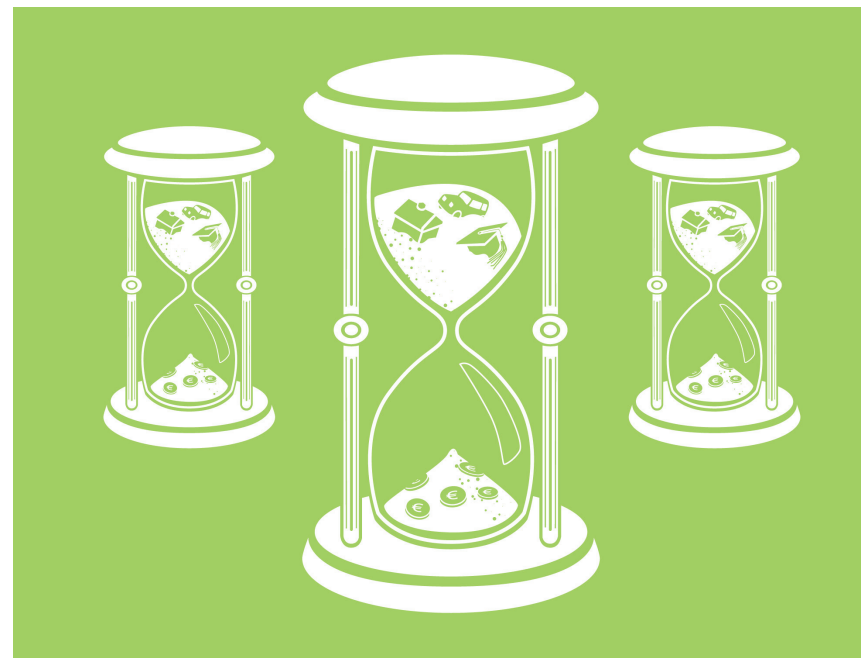
The trend is most pronounced in the shift from cash to property investments. Nearly a quarter (22%) of expats said the highest proportion of their investments are now held in real estate, compared to only 16% who held investments in this form when they first became expats.

The pattern is accentuated in countries most affected by the Eurozone crisis such as France (37% now compared to just 29% when they first relocated) and the UK (18% up from 10%). While less pronounced, the trend is also mirrored in Italy (28% up from 23%), Germany (18% up from 14%) and Spain (39% up from 35%).

But the shift to real estate investment comes at the expense of cash savings. For European countries such as Spain and the UK, the drop in proportion of cash savings

has been as much as 8% during the course of living in the country. (In Spain 25% of expats held the majority of their investments in cash compared to 17% now and in the UK the proportion of cash savings has dropped from 38% to 30%).

The most notable drop in proportion of cash investments comes from expats living in Australia, where 42% of expats held the highest proportion of their investments in cash when they first moved. That figure has since dropped to just under a third (29%). A similar story prevails in New Zealand (34% upon relocation compared to 18% now). Given the high proportion of retirees and expat lifers within these countries, this move could be as the result of expats setting up long term commitments in the country.



Expatriate Economics findings

Even high earning expats choose to split their investments

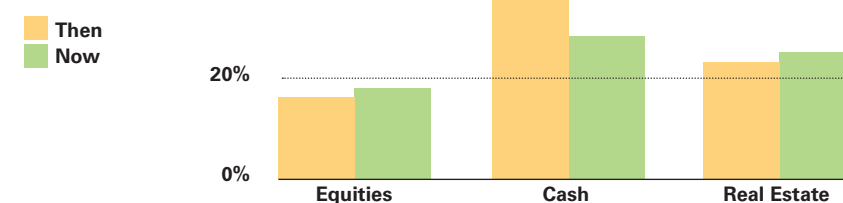
The 2012 Expat Explorer survey shows that even higher earning expats are using multiple vehicles when investing their money. Expats earning \$200,000-250,000 per annum have moved over time from a higher proportion of cash investments to a relatively even mix of cash, real estate and equities, producing a balanced portfolio of investments, perhaps because expats see a wider spread of investment opportunities as a safer option, given wider economic uncertainty.

The trend is accentuated in Asian countries where there is a high proportion of wealthy expats. When asked about the proportion of their investments when they first relocated, the majority held the highest amount in cash (Singapore: 37%, China: 35% and Hong Kong: 31%).

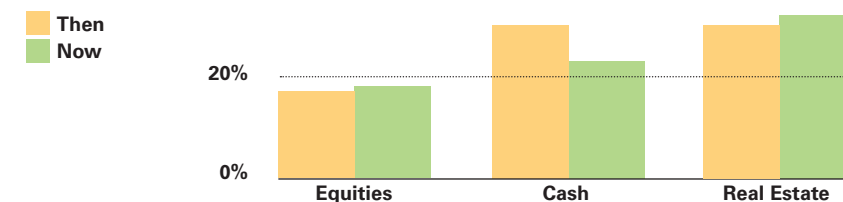
However, when asked about their current investments, cash investments appear to be less popular and equities and real estate are boosted. In Singapore there was a 9% drop in cash investments (37% held cash investments upon relocation compared to 28% now) but a 5% rise in equities (14% up to 19% now). In Hong Kong, investments in cash dropped 7% over time and equities and real estate were lifted 1% and 2% respectively. Similarly in China there was a 5% drop in cash investments and a 3% boost in equities. However, going against the trend, there was a slight drop in the number of expats choosing to place their money in real estate over time (20% down to 17% now).

Investment trends for expats earning \$200,000-250,000

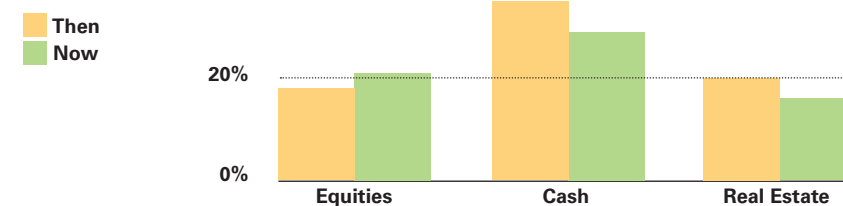
Singapore



Hong Kong



China



Expatriate Economics findings

Expatriate investment profiles

The Expatriate Explorer survey provides an insight into the investment patterns of expats across various age groups and this year reveals that the tendency to hold longer term investments increases with age.

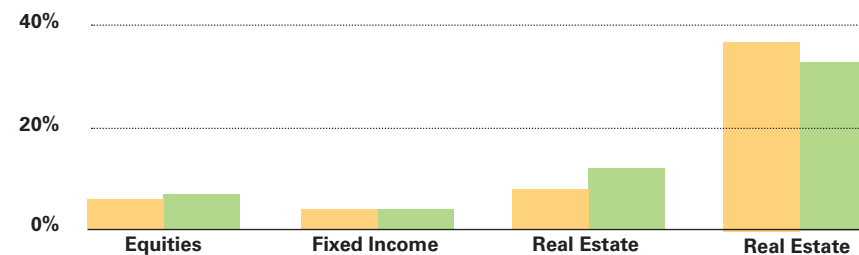
Expats over 55 years of age are much more inclined than their younger counterparts to hold the majority of their investments in equities and bonds (17%) and real estate (30%), but much less likely to invest in cash (22%) than expats on average, perhaps because much of their wealth is tied up in investment and pension plans to support their retirement.

In comparison, cash investments are much more popular with the younger generations, who are unlikely to have built up as much of an investment profile. A third (33%) of those aged 18-34 hold their investments in cash over other investment options such as equities (7%), real estate (12%) and fixed income (5%).

Expatriate Investment profiles

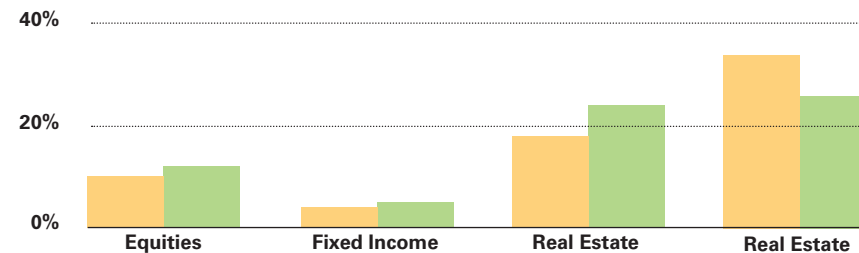
18 – 34

Then
Now



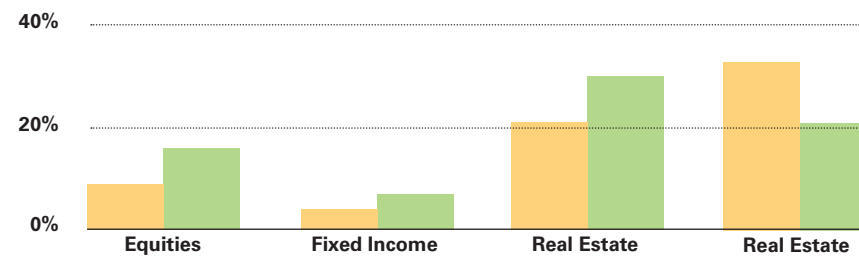
35 – 54

Then
Now



55+

Then
Now



Expatriate Economics findings

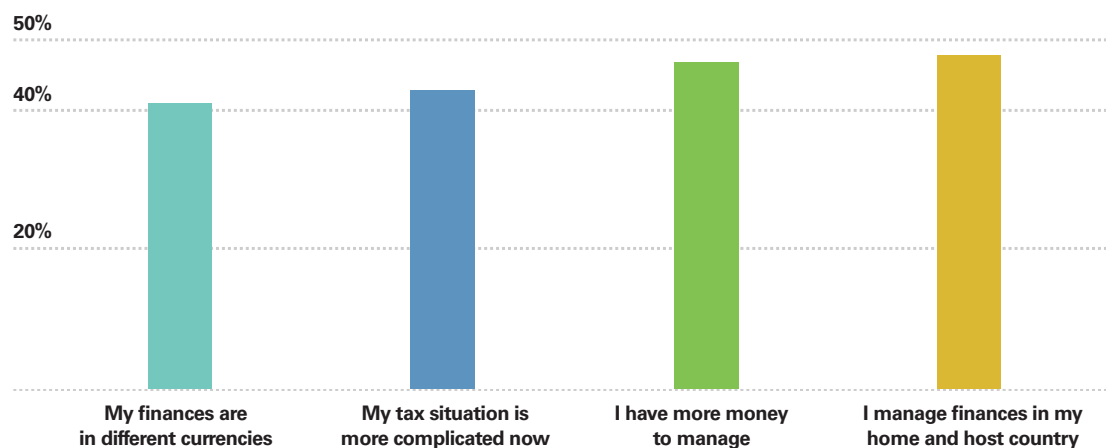
Complicated Finances

Multiple currencies and exchange rate fluctuations have a big impact on expat finances and add to the complexities of managing money in multiple jurisdictions that is commonplace for those living and working abroad. This year's survey reveals that more than half of expats (62%) have experienced their finances becoming more complicated since moving abroad.

Having more money to manage (47%), managing money in both home and host country (48%) and being exposed to a more complicated tax system (43%) were all top reasons amongst expats who felt that their finances were now more complex. The results also revealed that those now living in Mexico (81%), Belgium (76%) and Hong Kong (73%) were most likely to have noticed the increase in financial complexity.

While for some expats, the range of savings and investment products available helps them to manage and grow their wealth, not all expats felt the same. Two thirds (41%) reported that they had more investment options open to them since relocating; this in turn made their financial situation harder to manage, highlighting a need for more or better financial planning and advice.

Top four reasons for expat finances becoming more complex



Expatriate Economics findings

Online banking facilities are growing in importance for geographically dispersed expats, but face-to-face contact remains important in the Middle East

The internet provides a vital resource for expats across the globe both to stay in touch with family and friends and manage activities in their home and host countries.

Online banking is by far the preferred choice for all banking transactions and interactions among expats with bank accounts, with 80% of expats doing their banking online when making a payment. In comparison, only a fifth (20%) of expats make a payment face-to-face in a branch, while much smaller proportions use the telephone (7%) or mobile phone apps (5%).

Location plays a role in how expats would choose to liaise with their bank. In the Middle East, face-to-face banking is more appealing for making payments, with expats in Oman (38%), Kuwait (30%), Saudi Arabia (26%), the UAE (26%) and Bahrain (26%) being more likely to favour this method of communication with their bank for making payments, especially in comparison to levels seen in countries such as the USA (16%), New Zealand (12%) and Australia (10%).

For some banking interactions, this trend is even more pronounced. More than half (55%) of expats in Oman would prefer to research products and services in branch compared to a global average of only one in five (21%), highlighting that despite the increasing digital opportunities for services such as banking, face-to-face interaction remains more important across certain geographies.

How expats choose to bank globally

	Update Contact Details	Make a Payment	Purchase a new product or service	Order a New Debit Card
Telephone	14%	7%	13%	27%
Text/SMS	2%	1%	1%	1%
Face to face in a branch	21%	20%	36%	28%
Online banking facility	64%	80%	47%	40%
Email	11%	4%	7%	7%
Through social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter etc.	1%	0%	1%	0%
Not applicable	8%	4%	18%	14%
Mobile banking app	2%	5%	2%	1%

Expat Experience League Table

About Expat Experience

Expat Experience looks at an expat's lifestyle, especially the ease with which expats can set up in their new country, how well they integrate into the local community, and their overall quality of life.

Countries	Overall Experience		Overall Setting Up		Overall Integration		Overall Quality of Life	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
Cayman Islands	0.64	1	0.8	1	0.67	7	0.59	1
Thailand	0.58	2	0.62	11	0.66	10	0.56	2
Spain	0.58	3	0.64	8	0.79	1	0.52	3
Singapore	0.56	4	0.72	2	0.61	18	0.51	4
Malaysia	0.54	5	0.68	4	0.65	11	0.48	7
Mexico	0.53	6	0.52	19	0.77	2	0.48	5
Switzerland	0.52	7	0.56	17	0.64	15	0.48	6
Germany	0.52	8	0.58	15	0.7	6	0.45	10
South Africa	0.51	9	0.66	7	0.53	25	0.47	8
Australia	0.5	10	0.7	3	0.7	5	0.4	17
Bahrain	0.5	11	0.64	9	0.63	16	0.43	12
Hong Kong	0.5	12	0.62	10	0.58	21	0.45	11
France	0.49	13	0.56	16	0.71	4	0.42	14
Canada	0.48	14	0.66	5	0.66	9	0.4	19
Bermuda	0.48	15	0.58	14	0.47	29	0.46	9
New Zealand	0.47	16	0.66	6	0.56	22	0.4	18
Belgium	0.47	17	0.51	20	0.64	13	0.42	15
United Kingdom	0.47	18	0.61	12	0.71	3	0.37	25
Netherlands	0.46	19	0.47	26	0.59	20	0.43	13
USA	0.46	20	0.6	13	0.65	12	0.37	23
Italy	0.45	21	0.51	21	0.67	8	0.38	21
China	0.45	22	0.54	18	0.63	17	0.38	22
United Arab Emirates	0.45	23	0.5	22	0.52	26	0.41	16
Qatar	0.42	24	0.5	23	0.49	28	0.38	20
Oman	0.41	25	0.45	27	0.54	23	0.37	24
Japan	0.41	26	0.44	28	0.64	14	0.35	28
Vietnam	0.41	27	0.42	29	0.59	19	0.36	26
Kuwait	0.4	28	0.47	25	0.51	27	0.36	27
Saudi Arabia	0.4	29	0.49	24	0.53	24	0.34	29
India	0.34	30	0.3	30	0.43	30	0.33	30

Expat Experience findings

Retirement trends

A range of countries have this year been highlighted as the most popular retirement destinations, as voted by expats, with India (11%), UK (11%), Australia (8%), the USA (8%) and Canada (7%) topping the list.

The biggest drivers behind choosing an ideal retirement location for expats is quality of life (62%), having family in the country (57%) and the weather (50%). Retiring in a tax efficient location, while not a key factor behind destination choices, is more important to higher earners (19%) than the general expat population (14%).

While many expats (43%) will choose to return to their home country for retirement, a third (32%) are looking to retire in the country where they currently reside, but this increases dramatically for those who have lived in their destination for a longer period of time. On average, one in ten (13%) expats who have lived in their host country for less than three years want to retire there, but this figure shoots up to 38% for those that have resided in their host country for over three years.

Despite the UK and India being reported as the most popular ideal retirement destinations according to expats, France and Spain continue to dominate as the actual expat retiree hotspots. Two in five (41%) respondents living in France are retirees alongside a third in Spain (32%), compared to only 9% of expats overall.

Drivers behind an ideal retirement location

	Global Average	Australia	Canada	France	India	Spain	UK	USA	United Kingdom
Tax efficiency	14%	14%	14%	16%	15%	21%	10%	16%	36%
Cost of living	36%	32%	34%	45%	40%	56%	34%	34%	12%
My family is there	57%	51%	55%	41%	55%	41%	54%	55%	44%
Social life	49%	42%	43%	41%	70%	50%	41%	42%	28%
Quality of life	62%	72%	66%	74%	70%	85%	63%	63%	68%
Weather	50%	60%	45%	59%	45%	76%	48%	45%	7%
Other	8%	6%	10%	19%	0%	3%	9%	8%	71%



Expat Experience findings

Asian countries lead the way for experience as well as expat wealth

As well as dominating the Expat Economics league tables, Asian countries lead the way for Expat Experience, with four Asian countries featuring in the top 12 of the Expat Explorer Experience league tables: Thailand (2nd), Singapore (4th), Malaysia (5th) and Hong Kong (12th).

Expats living in these countries are more likely than average to report having seen an increase in their quality of life since relocating. This is especially marked for those living in Thailand (83%), which has historically performed very well in the Expat Explorer Experience league

tables (ranking 1st in 2011), but replicated across Singapore (76%) and Malaysia (72%). Among the aspects of expat life that contribute to these high scores on the Expat Experience league tables are accommodation, transport and social life, for which Asian countries have scored well on in this year's report.

Expats in Malaysia (69%), Thailand (60%) and, to a lesser extent, Singapore (48%) all report having a better standard of accommodation since relocating, compared to a global average of 39%. One notable exception is Hong Kong, where less than one fifth (19%) of expats reported having a higher standard of accommodation than in their home country. This can be explained by the fact that Hong Kong is one of the world's most

expensive places to buy a home due to a supply shortage, low borrowing costs, and an influx of Chinese buyers as well as the fact that limited space affects the size of available accommodation.

The advanced infrastructure of Singapore and Hong Kong has been noted by expats who highlight the quality of commute in these countries in the 2012 report. While on average only 45% of expats now have a better commute since relocating, seven in ten (72%) expats in Hong Kong and more than half (57%) of expats in Singapore have a better commute than in their home country. While expats in Thailand (36%) and Malaysia (44%) come in below the global average for this element of the survey, the results remain positive in light of other Western countries.

In the UK only 32% claimed to have a better commute upon relocation, as well as 35% in the USA. Italy scored one of the lowest in the survey as a whole, with only 30% claiming to have a better commute since relocation to the country.

Finally, an important factor for expats moving abroad is to secure a better quality of life and social scene, and Asian-based expats rate their respective countries well on both of these factors. While only a quarter (25%) of expats agree that their social life is more active since moving abroad, expats in Asian countries including Thailand (60%), Hong Kong (52%), Singapore (43%) and Malaysia (39%) generally double this level of agreement.

Expatriate Experience findings

Britons wait for retirement to join the expatriate life

While in many countries the lure of increased job opportunities means that becoming an expatriate is most appealing in young adult life, the opposite can be said of Britons looking to move abroad, with the majority of British expatriates living around the world actually falling into the over 55 year age bracket.

Of the British expatriate community, two thirds (38%) are aged 55 and over, compared to just 22% of expatriates falling into this age bracket worldwide. In comparison, relatively few British expatriates are from the 18-34 age bracket - only 15% of British expatriates are aged 18-34, compared to a global average of 32%. British-born expatriates are also more likely to be retired than most other nationalities. While one in ten (9%) expatriates who completed the Expatriate Explorer survey are retired, nearly one in five (17%) British expatriates describe themselves as the same.

One explanation could be that many expatriates originally from Britain are choosing

to build their career within the UK before moving abroad to capitalise on the better weather and quality of life factors that are more abundant in destinations such as France and Spain - both of which are popular destinations for British expatriates. Alternatively, those who move away from Britain may in fact be more inclined to stay in their new country than return to the UK.

Similarly, few British expatriates who are living and working abroad are currently planning to move back to the UK for their retirement. While 43% of expatriates worldwide want to move back to their home country for retirement purposes, this is only true of 23% of British expatriates.

In contrast, when looking at the type of expatriates that are attracted to the UK, it seems the country is most popular with middle-aged expatriates. Nearly half (46%) of UK in-pats (those moving to the UK to live and work) are aged between 35-54 years of age. As a global financial centre, it is no surprise that one in five (19%) expatriates heading to the UK work in the banking and financial services sector. It is likely that owing to Britain being recognised as one of the centres for higher education

and academic excellence, the second most likely profession is education (14% compared to an international average of 9%) followed by those coming to work in the healthcare sector (8%).

Nearly one in ten expatriates living in the UK are from either the USA or Ireland (9% each) with those from Australia, South Africa and India also building a large proportion of the UK's expatriate population

(6% each). In contrast, those living in the UK are not perturbed by a long journey to reach their expatriate destination. Australia is the top location for British expatriates looking to leave home, while the UAE remains the most popular Middle Eastern destination for those from the UK, accounting for more than one in ten of all UK expatriates who took part in the Expatriate Explorer survey.

UK in-pats and Expatriates

UK-based expatriates are most likely to come from	Expatriates from the UK are most likely to move to
1. USA (9%)	1. Australia (17%)
2. Ireland (9%)	2. UAE (11%)
3. Australia (6%)	3. USA (11%)
4. South Africa (6%)	4. Canada (8%)
5. India (6%)	5. Hong Kong (7%)

Expat Experience findings

The Expat view of the UK as a place to live and work

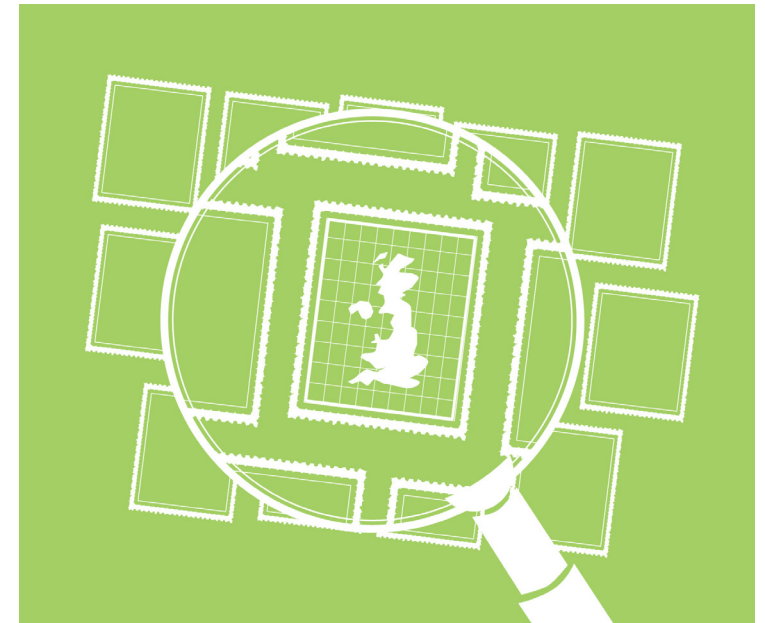
As is mirrored across much of the Eurozone economies, confidence and satisfaction in the UK economy remain low with the expat population. A third (36%) of expats in the UK believe that the economy is heading in the wrong direction, nearly double the global average (19%). Satisfaction with the UK economy is also low. Expats in the UK are almost twice as likely to feel dissatisfied with the current state of the economy (68%) than expats globally (37%) and of those that are looking to move away from the UK, half (48%) cite the rising cost of living as a reason for their departure and a further 44% blame the negative economic outlook for the UK – both of which are markedly higher than the global average.

Despite the seemingly negative outlook, expats in the UK are resilient. Seven in ten (71%) expats in the UK are looking to stay long term and only 7% are actively looking to leave the country, echoing much of the sentiment of expats across Europe.

In terms of lifestyle, expats in the UK hold a much more positive outlook. The country is currently ranked 18th out of 31 countries in this year's Expat Explorer Experience league table, compared to 29th in 2011. High scores for integration have helped boost this year's score. Half of expats (49%) in the UK agree that it was easy for them to make local friends and only a quarter (26%) report spending more time with expat friends than locals. As a result, seven in ten expats in the UK (71%) feel they are integrating well within the local community and most (65%) feel welcomed at work.

Integration scores could be bolstered further by the ease with which expats are able to find love in the UK, with 48% of expats in the UK having found a life partner, compared to only a global average of one third (33%).

The jump in the Expat Experience league tables this year could have a lot to do with the rich cultural events having taken place over the past year, which have focused the world's gaze on the UK. The Royal Wedding of 2011, alongside the Diamond Jubilee and summer of sport that took place throughout 2012 have emphasised the UK's rich cultural heritage. These events can help account for two thirds (65%) of expats in the UK who associate the country with being a culturally interesting place for them to live, and 58% enjoy the local entertainment.



Raising Children Abroad League Table

About Raising Children Abroad

Raising Children Abroad looks at the perceptions of expat parents of the cost of raising children, the quality of education and childcare services, changes in children's diet and activities after relocating, and the ease with which children are able to integrate into new cultures. A child in the survey refers to someone below the age of 18 in the care of their parents.

Raising Children Abroad League Table

Countries	Overall Offspring		Childcare		Health & Wellbeing		Integration	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
Canada	0.52	1	0.47	2	0.37	4	0.73	1
Netherlands	0.52	2	0.39	3	0.45	1	0.71	2
Hong Kong	0.5	3	0.51	1	0.4	3	0.61	3
Australia	0.43	4	0.29	8	0.42	2	0.57	5
United Arab Emirates	0.37	5	0.37	6	0.23	8	0.52	7
USA	0.37	6	0.29	9	0.26	7	0.57	4
Saudi Arabia	0.37	7	0.37	5	0.3	5	0.44	8
United Kingdom	0.36	8	0.31	7	0.22	9	0.55	6
Kuwait	0.36	9	0.39	4	0.27	6	0.43	9

Raising Children Abroad findings

Expat parents united on the most child friendly locations

For expat parents, the safety and wellbeing of their children is at the forefront of their mind when looking to relocate abroad, and this year's Expat Explorer survey highlights that parents appear to be united in their choice of the top locations in which to raise children abroad.

When asked where they would consider relocating to after their current posting, expat parents selected only those countries that made it into this year's Raising Children Abroad league table - demonstrating a clear knowledge of those countries ideal for bringing up a child.

Canada (1st) proved a popular choice among expat parents with one fifth (20%) of expat parents living in the country suggesting that of all of the expat locations, they would choose to relocate elsewhere within the country rather than choose a new location or move back to their home country. The country was also highly rated by expats in the USA (9%) and the UAE (12%).

Similarly, Australia (4th) scored consistently well as a future expat posting with expat parents in the Netherlands (10%), UK (10%) and Hong Kong (10%) all choosing it as a possible future home. As with Canada, a high proportion of expat parents in Australia (17%) would choose to stay within the country if they were to move, rather than choose to move elsewhere.



Raising Children Abroad findings

Hong Kong: The safest place to raise a child

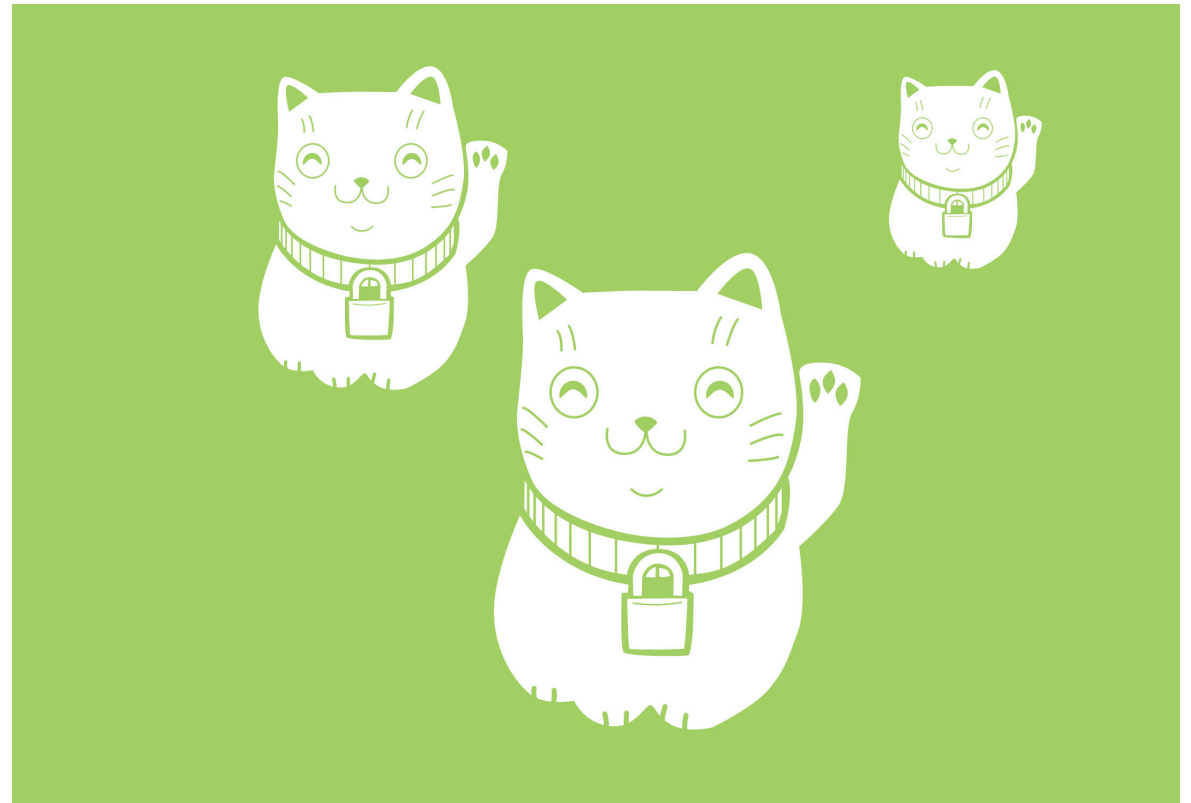
Safety is obviously a top concern for parents when deciding to relocate to a different country, but there are certain countries on this year's Expat Explorer Raising Children Abroad league table that are safer in the eyes of expat parents than others.

For those looking for a child-friendly safe haven, it seems Hong Kong provides the best peace of mind for expat parents, with 91% of expats in Hong Kong indicating that the safety of their children had improved since relocating. The results are the highest of any country and well above the average figure (60%), making the country the safest place to raise children in this year's Expat Explorer Survey.

Increased safety levels do not appear to have an effect on the amount of time children in Hong Kong are spending outdoors. Expat parents in Hong Kong

report that their children are able to spend more time outdoors (39%) since relocating and nearly half (48%) believe they are able to spend more time with their children since moving.

In contrast, the UK is the lowest ranked country in terms of safety with only a third (34%) of expat parents indicating that their children's safety had improved since moving to the UK and a quarter (26%) stating that their children's safety had actually got worse since moving.



Raising Children Abroad

The Great Outdoors: Australia and Canada are top for active expat families

For parents looking for a more active lifestyle for their children, Australia and Canada provide the best opportunities. Over half (55%) of expat parents in Australia and two fifths (40%) in Canada said their children were spending more time outdoors since moving to the country. Additionally, 40% of expat children in Australia are playing more sports; this number increases for Canada where 45% of expat parents report the same.

But it's not only opportunities for children to be more active that provide appeal to expat parents in these countries. One third (31%) of expats in Australia reported that they themselves were more active in sports since relocation, as were a quarter of those in Canada.



Raising Children Abroad findings

The Middle East provides a more challenging climate for expat families

Findings of the 2012 Expat Explorer survey reveal that the Middle East provides a more challenging environment in which to raise children, with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE ranking in the bottom half of this year's Raising Children Abroad league table.

Social integration is one of the areas where expat parents in the Middle East reported their children had most difficulty. Six out of ten expat parents in Saudi Arabia reported that the social integration of their children had become worse since relocating, as did those in Kuwait (40%) and the UAE (34%), all of which is well above average (26%).

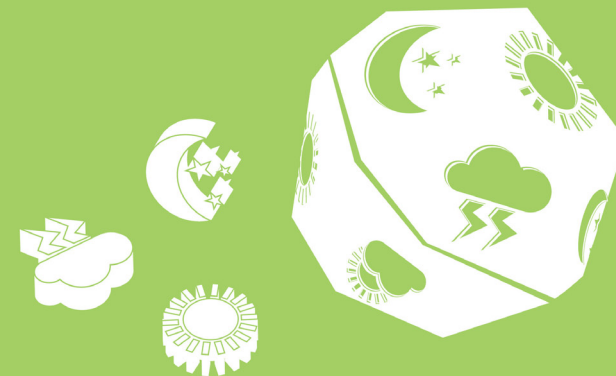
With poor social integration comes a higher propensity for expat children in the Middle East to spend more time playing video games and watching TV. In Saudi Arabia, nearly half (47%) of children spend

more time playing video games than they did in their home country, and the story is the same for the UAE (44%) and Kuwait (33%). The region also ranks among the highest for the amount of time spent watching TV, with Saudi Arabia taking the top spot (63%), closely followed by the UAE and Kuwait (48% respectively). This is compared to just 31% on average.

A possible explanation for this may be the severe temperatures that are common in the Middle East outside of the winter months where temperatures can often reach 40 degrees Celsius. The need to keep children indoors and away from the scorching heat could be a factor in the increasing likelihood of watching TV and playing video games. Perhaps as a consequence of the limited social integration and need to concentrate on indoor activities, expat children in the Middle East are likely to be missing home, especially in Kuwait (55%), Saudi Arabia (51%) and the UAE (38%).

When it comes to the cost of raising children abroad (childcare), expat parents

in the Middle East are most likely to report an increase since relocation, especially in the UAE (77%), Saudi Arabia (70%) and Kuwait (67%) which forms the top three nations across all expat locations for this measure. Expat parents in the UAE in particular see the cost of children's education (86%) and the overall cost of raising children (87%) being more expensive when compared to the expat parents' home country.



Methodology

The Expat Explorer survey is commissioned by HSBC Expat, a trading name of HSBC Bank International Limited, and conducted by third party research company YouGov. 5,339 expats were questioned through an online survey.

The survey ran from 11th May to the 3rd July 2012, with expats from 97 countries worldwide taking part.

For the purposes of this report, an expat is defined as someone who is over 18 years of age and currently living away from their home country.

Please note the survey does not claim to give a fully representative sample of expatriates and the sample referred to within the report references only the views and opinions of expatriates who completed the survey. In addition, each year a different group of expats are surveyed for the report. Therefore, comparisons of results year-on-year are not statistically valid and have been made for illustrative purposes only.

A sample size of 30 or more respondents from each country was required for inclusion in the league table, to be considered robust and indicative of the views and trends of the specific population. The league tables are based on a series of interrelated factors (rather than a single factor or question) to ensure a fair assessment of how individual countries rate across the full criteria. The responses of those who responded “not applicable” or “refuse to say” have been excluded. Each criterion is equally weighted to arrive at a score. The overall ranking is based on the average score for a country across the criteria.

Methodology

About Expat Economics

The Expat Economics league table ranks countries in terms of three main economic factors: Income, Disposable Income and a Measure of Luxury. All countries with a sample size of 30 and above are included in the economic league table. Scores from each factor are equally weighted to arrive at an overall Expat Economics score and overall rank.

Individual country rankings for the constituent elements (Income/Disposable Income/Luxuries) are also available. Scores for Income and Disposable Income are averaged to produce a Wealth Accumulation Hotspot score and rank for each country. Income score is derived from proportion of expats surveyed in each country who earn at least \$200k per annum. Disposable Income score is derived from proportion of expats surveyed in each country who have a disposable income of \$300k + per month compared to their country of origin. Luxury score is derived from ascertaining the proportion of respondents who have agreed with a number of following statements:

- High quality accommodation
- Domestic help / staff (e.g. cleaner/nanny)
- A private swimming pool
- Owning more than one property
- Owning a better car
- Owning a boat / yacht
- Luxurious holidays
- High quality healthcare

Respondents answered income-related questions in one of fifteen currencies that they use most often. For ease of analysis and comparison, all foreign currencies were converted into US dollars. Currency conversions were calculated based on conversion rates available as of 2nd July 2012.

Methodology

About Expat Experience

Expat Experience league table has been compiled using a comprehensive set of sub-criteria (29 in total) to reveal which locations expats voted as the places with the best life experience. One of the major criterion was quality of life, for which expats rated accommodation, food/diet, entertainment, healthcare, work life balance, social life, commute to work and opportunities for sports and travel. In addition, they also rated the relative ease in which they were able to do the following in their new country of residence:

- Organise schools for their children
- Set up finances; healthcare; utilities
- Find accommodation
- Learn the local language
- Adapt to local food; weather; work culture
- Make friends
- Travel around locally
- Adjust to the new culture/lifestyle (in general)

Lastly, they were asked how well they integrate into local society. This was judged on whether they agreed with the following for their new country of residence:

- I enjoy having local food rather than having food from my home country all the time
- I am happy to experience local culture
- I try to learn/use the local language
- It is easy for me to make local friends
- I am integrating well in the local community
- I feel welcome at work
- I like shopping for local produce in the local shops/markets

Scores from each factor were then weighted to arrive at an overall Expat Experience score and overall rank.

The weighting applied is as follows:

Setting up – 16.7%, Integration – 16.7% and Quality of life – 66.7%

Methodology

About Raising Children Abroad

The Raising Children Abroad league table ranks countries in terms of three main factors deemed important for expat parents. All countries with a sample size of at least 30 expats with children living in the country of residence are included in the league table. The three factors are:

- Childcare
- Health and Wellbeing
- Integration of children

To arrive at the Childcare score, relevant results (see below) are weighted. The responses of “not applicable” or “refuse to say” have been excluded:

- Safety of your children - weighting factor = 20%
- Standard of education available to your children - weighting factor = 20%
- Quality of childcare - weighting factor = 20%
- Overall cost of raising children - weighting factor = 40%

To arrive at the Raising Children Abroad Health and Wellbeing score, scores from a number of statements are averaged. These are:

- Spending time outdoors
- Spending time with you
- Playing sports
- Playing video games
- Watching TV
- Eating junk food

In order to arrive at Raising Children Abroad Integration score, scores from a number of statements at question are averaged. These are:

- My children have settled in quicker than I have
- My children are enjoying their lives here
- My children are learning new language(s)
- My children are missing home and their friends
- Social integration of my children

Scores from each factor are weighted to arrive at an overall Raising Children Abroad score and overall rank. The weighting applied is as follows: Childcare – 33.3%; Health & Wellbeing – 33.3%; and Integration – 33.3%.

Country Reports

Australia

Australia is praised for its friendly locals and as a great place to raise a child, as expats choose to stay there long term

Australia ranks very highly for expats with children, coming 4th overall in the Raising Children Abroad league tables, and second for 'Children's' health and wellbeing'. The great outdoors provide children with more chances to play outside, with over half (55%) of expat parents saying that their children spend more time outdoors, and just under half (40%) reporting that their children are playing more sport.

This is undoubtedly boosted by the great weather, which is also a strong motivator in choosing Australia with almost three quarters (69%) of expats moving to the country expecting an improvement, and over 83% of those surveyed associating the country with pleasant climate and scenery. Two in five (42%) expats in Australia report a better work-life balance than they enjoyed in their previous country, with just over a tenth (15%) saying that this balance has worsened. Equally, two thirds (66%) of expats have found that they have a more interesting life.

Australia provides great social opportunities and easy integration. Just under three quarters (72%)

found it easy to integrate, the same number found it easy to find a great social life. The friendliness of locals is integral to this feeling of general acceptance; almost two thirds (58%) associate the country with friendly locals. This helps to explain why expats in Australia tend to make friends with locals than other expats; just under half (45%) have more local friends, while only a quarter (27%) mainly spend time with other expats. This local friendliness extends to the workplace, with three quarters (73%) saying that they feel welcome at work.

From an economic perspective, Australia ranks mid-table in Expat Economics, placing 15th out of 30 countries. Half (53%) of those surveyed associate the country with higher salaries, compared to 45% worldwide, while almost three quarters (70%) of expats in Australia found improvements in their overall financial status of their household income. It is therefore hardly surprising that over two thirds (69%) are satisfied with the present state of the economy, and 48% associate the country with strong local economic growth compared to just 29% worldwide.

Given the range of soft and economic benefits, three quarters (72%) of expats want to stay in the country, while over half (57%) would choose Australia as their retirement destination. Those who do move often opt for Singapore where one in six (15%) expats are Australian nationals.

Expat view of life in Australia:

*"Get amongst it and meet people.
Aussies are very fun, sporty and outgoing"*

Expat Economics Ranking – 15th out of 30
Expat Experience Ranking – 10th out of 30
Raising Children Abroad Ranking – 4th out of 9

Sample size:	408
Country of origin:	44% UK 13% New Zealand
Occupation:	12% Banking, 11% Health, 10% IT
Age:	18-34 = 20% 35-54 = 48% 55+ = 32%
Gender:	Male = 54% Female = 46%

Country Reports

Bahrain

Bahrain is financially lucrative for expats although there are concerns about political instability

Bahrain ranked 9th out of 30 countries in this year's Expat Economics league table, scoring 12th on the Wealth league table and 4th on the Luxuries league table.

Expats in Bahrain follow the trend seen in many Middle Eastern countries, with more than half (66 %) of expats either actively or considering leaving the country, compared to a global average of 38%. However, political rather than economic turmoil seems to be the main driver behind this move, with 60% of those looking to leave wishing to do so because of political instability and only one in ten (11%) viewing the country as politically stable.

These findings are compounded when expats are asked about the current climate in Bahrain. Only 13% believe Bahrain is heading in the right direction and only one in five (21%) believe Bahrain is becoming a better place for expats to live and work.

In terms of economic satisfaction, only 42% of expats in Bahrain are satisfied with the current state of the economy which is considerably less than both the global average (59%) and satisfaction from expats in other Middle Eastern economies such as Oman (90%) and Qatar (89%).

Despite this, expats in Bahrain are actually in a more favourable financial position, with 66% of expats in Bahrain reporting to have benefitted financially from moving to the country and three quarters (74%) moving to the country to take advantage of a job opportunity. Finally, the most common expat sector in Bahrain is the construction industry (21%) showing that development is still taking place.

In terms of Expat Experience, expats are certainly made to feel welcome in Bahrain. Half (50%) of expats feel that they integrate into the local community and 87% feel they are made to feel welcome at work. Despite this, most expats (71%) still retain a very strong affiliation to their home country.

Expat view of life in Bahrain:

"Try and plan your vacations during the summer due to the extreme weather conditions"

Expat Economics Ranking — 9th out of 30
Expat Experience Ranking — 11th out of 30

Sample size:	38
Country of origin:	32% India 21% UK 8% Jordan
Occupation:	21% Construction 18% Banking 9% Retail 9% Education
Age:	18-34 = 29%, 35-54 = 61% 55+ = 10%
Gender:	82% Male 18% Female

Country Reports

Canada

Open spaces and more time spent outdoors means that Canada is the top place to raise a child

Canada is the top destination for raising children in this year's survey ranking 1st out of nine countries. 40% of expat parents said their children are now spending more time outdoors and 45% of parents stated their children are now spending more time playing sport. This also filters down to the parents themselves, with a quarter (25%) saying that they were more active in sport since moving. Accommodation on the whole is of a higher standard and easier to find and organise. Nearly half of Canada-based expats (48%) agree that their accommodation is of a higher standard than in their home country and less than one in ten (9%) said finding accommodation was difficult. Canada is also praised for its excellent healthcare, high personal security and generally healthier diet.

There is also a strong sense of community and friendship in Canada. 62% of expats

praised the friendliness of locals, which explains why expats tend to spend more time with locals than with other expats. Integration levels are very high in Canada with 70% of expats feeling that they have integrated.

From an economic perspective, despite falling into the bottom quartile of the Expat Economics league table, the benefits associated with better accommodation and environment to bring up children, expats are willing to take a smaller salary than they might earn elsewhere. Only two in five (43%) expats in Canada said that they are earning more compared to 56% worldwide. Despite this, expats are content with the economy and local economic growth. The majority of expats also felt that the country is heading in the right direction, and only 8% feel that it is off on the wrong track.

Canada also performs favourably as a retirement destination. A quarter of expats (25%) are retired while 52% of those said that they want to retire to Canada. It is not just retirees who are hanging around, 55% of all expats plan to stay in Canada, compared to global average of 38%.

Expat view of life in Canada:

"Embrace the local culture and be open to new experiences and ways of doing things"

Expat Economics Ranking – 23rd out of 30
Expat Experience Ranking – 14th out of 30
Raising Children Abroad Ranking — 1st out of 9

Sample size:	409
Country of origin:	28% USA 21% UK
Occupation:	14% Education 9% Construction
Age:	18-34 = 11% 35-54 = 42% 55+ = 47%
Gender:	49% Male 51% Female

Country Reports

China

While integration remains a challenge, China leads as an all round expat location

Expats are increasingly finding China a favourable destination to live and work. The country jumped from 19th overall in the 2011 Expat Economic league tables to 7th in the 2012 Expat Economics league table. In addition, two thirds (60%) of expats moved to China for job opportunities and 69% have benefitted from increased disposable income upon relocation.

More than half of expats in China work in the financial services sector (53%) mostly coming to China from other financial centres such as London and Hong Kong (31% each).

In terms of day-to-day living, two fifths (40%) of expats in China spend less on household goods than in their home country, compared to a world average of 18%, while nearly half (47%) spend less on clothing since relocating. More widely, almost half (44%) believe the country offers a high quality of life for expats. The strong Chinese economy is undoubtedly a key factor as more than nine in ten (93%) expats in China are satisfied with the Chinese economy against a global average of 59%.

One of the significant challenges for expats in China is the language barrier - 56% of expats find learning the language difficult against a global average of 28%. Setting up basic amenities is also noted as being difficult for expats in China, particularly healthcare which over half (51%) of expats expressed as being difficult to organise.

Expat view of life in China:

"Be aware that renting a car with a driver can be expensive, so think about buying a car as that way you can explore nearby areas."

Expat Economics Ranking — 7th out of 30
Expat Experience Ranking — 22nd out of 30

Sample size:	55
Country of origin:	31% Hong Kong 31% UK 11% USA
Occupation:	53% Banking 10% Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations 8% Education
Age:	18-34= 25% 35-54= 51% 55+ = 24%
Gender:	64% Male 36% Female

Country Reports

France

Expats head to France for retirement, improved quality of life

Within the Expat Experiences league tables, France ranked 13th, ahead of its European neighbours, Belgium (17th) and Italy (21st). Compared with those who move abroad for employment reasons (33%), France's appeal seems to be the quality of life it offers with more than two thirds (69%) moving there for this reason. Since relocating, more than half (52%) of expats in France experienced better weather and nearly half (48%) reported more time to do the things they like.

The high quality of life is partly explained by France's sunnier climate with four in five expats (80%) in France praising its pleasant weather. Over three quarters (78%) perceived the country as culturally rich, while nearly two thirds (58%) stated that they had received better healthcare. The country also performs well for integration, ranking 4th out of 30 countries. Half (50%) of expats in France found it

easy to make friends and over four fifths (84%) were willing to learn and speak the language as much as possible to immerse themselves into the French way of life.

France is also popular as a retirement destination. Almost half of all expats (48%) interviewed in France are aged over 55, as opposed to a 22% global average. In addition, 41% of expats in France class themselves as retirees. This is further compounded by 61% of expats having been there for three years or more, indicating that it is a place to settle rather than pass through quickly. Those living in France are much more likely to retire there – 56% of expats there say it would be their destination of choice, while only 4% of those interviewed worldwide would choose to retire in France.

Expat view of life in France:

"Do your best to speak the local language.

People will love you for it, and do their best to help you"

Expat Economics Ranking – 27th out of 30
Expat Experience Ranking – 13th out of 30

Sample size:	64
Country of origin:	47% United Kingdom 25% USA
Occupation:	35% Banking 18% IT
Age:	18-34 = 20% 35-54 = 32% 55+ = 48%
Gender:	53% Male 47% Female

Country Reports

Germany

Economic confidence prevails in Germany, despite wider Eurozone woes

Germany scores well for Expat Experience, ranking 8th in this year's league table. Despite the economic turbulence facing the Eurozone, the country also bodes well in the Expat Economics league table in comparison to other European countries (19th).

Germany's economy has stood out throughout the Eurozone turmoil as one of the most stable in Europe. This level of security is mirrored in its position as a favoured destination for expats. Confidence amongst expats is uniquely high for a Eurozone country. Nine in ten (91%) expats located in Germany believe the economic situation is getting better or staying the same, followed by 61% of expats believing things are heading in the right direction against a global average of 37%.

Compared to other European nations, expats are more likely to head to Germany for career reasons. More than half (55%) moved to Germany for job opportunities compared to just 33% moving to France and 26% moving to Spain for the same reason. This is also linked to pay with over half (55%) of expats in Germany seeing an increase in finances upon relocation, compared to those in France (27%) and Spain (24%).

Germany also stands out due to the high percentage of expats working in IT and Science. Against a worldwide trend among expats to work in financial services and construction, this compounds Germany's position as a leader in research and IT.

Germany ranks favourably as a place to bring up a family and half (52%) of expats in Germany strongly rate the standard of education on offer for their children against an average of 43%. Overall, Germany still has the quality of life and the wide range of opportunities to make it an appealing destination for expats.

Expat view of life in Germany:

"If you don't speak German, take a crash course on the basics when you arrive"

Expat Economics Ranking — 19th out of 30
Expat Experience Ranking — 8th out of 30

Sample size:	148
Country of origin:	25% USA 15% UK 7% Austria
Occupation:	12% Construction 14% IT 10% Science/Research
Age:	18-45 = 22% 35-54 = 54% 55+=24%
Gender:	59% Male 41% Female

Country Reports

Hong Kong

Hong Kong stands out for high wages, plentiful job opportunities and as a top expat destination to bring up children

Hong Kong ranks highly this year in both the Expat Economics and Raising Children Abroad league tables, scoring 4th and 3rd respectively.

Hong Kong continues to act as a magnet for career driven expats due to its position as a world financial hub. The country is undoubtedly one of the best locations for expats seeking career opportunities with 70% of expats having moved there for job opportunities and 73% indicating they have more money now after moving. Wages for expats in Hong Kong are well above world averages as 55% of expats earn more than \$150,000 against a world average of 17%. Respondents in Hong Kong also reported high levels of satisfaction with the state of the economy (90%).

Accommodation provides a slight drawback for expats living in the country, with 45% of expats paying much more than before for housing compared to a global average of 30%. Furthermore only 19% of expats agree

that their standard of accommodation is better than before, against a world average of 39%. Another area of concern among expats in Hong Kong is healthcare - while it is seen as being good quality, it is also expensive. Only 16% of expats were able to find their healthcare costs reduced upon relocation, compared to a global average of 25%. This trend is also replicated across childcare, with a quarter (24%) of expats spending much more on the service following their move to Hong Kong than before, compared to a global average of 14%.

In a similar vein to expats in China, those in Hong Kong seem to find it difficult to socialise outside of their expat circle and integrate into the local community. Only one in ten (11%) expats in Hong Kong strongly agree that they have integrated in to the local community and a similar number (9%) strongly agree that they have tried to learn the local language. 80% of expats in Hong Kong socialise almost entirely with other expats.

Hong Kong ranks as the safest place to bring up a child. Nine in ten (91%) expats indicated that the safety of their child had increased since moving there. Two fifths (39%) of children are able to spend more time outdoors and half (48%) of parents in Hong Kong report that their children are spending more time with them since relocating.

Expat view of life in Hong Kong:

"Be adventurous with food – there's a huge variety and it's cheap and delicious"

Expat Economics Ranking — 4th out of 30

Expat Experience Ranking — 12th out of 30

Raising Children Abroad Ranking — 3rd out of 9

Sample size:	143
Country of origin:	50% UK 10% India 9% Australia
Occupation:	75% Banking 3% Management Consulting 3% Transport/Logistics
Age:	18-34 = 27% 35-54 = 60% 55+=13%
Gender:	80% Male 20% Female

Country Reports

India

Expats moving to India sacrifice quality of life for a short-term career fix

Expats who move to India appear to relocate for shorter-term career fixes. Over three quarters (77%) moved to the India in the past three years which is much higher than the global average of 24%. The fast turnover of expats may be due to expats often using India as a short-term boost for economic or employment opportunities. Over half (57%) moved to take advantage of a job opportunity, while 37% were sent by their company or organisation. When moving, seven in ten (70%) expected a better job, while over half (57%) expected more money. As a result, over half (57%) earn more than they would in their home country, so it is unsurprising that 83% of expats find that their financial status has improved – and only 3% said that it has worsened. Consequently, two thirds (67%) are satisfied with India's economy.

In keeping with the fast turnover rate of expats, seven in ten (70%) would consider another expat posting. Of those leaving, half (47%) said it is because their work is coming to an end, while only 8% can't imagine moving away from their current country compared to half (44%) worldwide. Only one in ten (11%) – compared to one in three (32%)

worldwide – said that their current country is their ideal place for retirement, indicating that India's popularity as a retirement location is due to expats from other countries moving in – rather than those already living there staying on or returning.

India scores poorly for expat experience, coming last in this year's Expat Experience league tables. Only one in four (27%) felt they had achieved a better quality of life, compared to a global average of 61%. India-based expats also found it difficult to settle in and set up their new lives. Over a third (37%) found it difficult to organise healthcare, learn the language (40%), adjust to the local food (33%), and travel locally (40%), while half (53%) found it difficult to set up utilities and fit into the new culture or lifestyle (43%) – all significantly higher than the global averages.

Integration is also relatively low. Half (43%) found it difficult to make local friends, and only a third (37%) found that they are integrating well. This is partly explained by half (47%) of expats surveyed in India not attempting to learn or use the local language – and only a tenth (13%) make any effort to do so. Two thirds (60%) of expats socialise principally with other expats, while fewer than one in ten (7%) seek out the company of locals over other expats.

Expat view of life in India:

"Be prepared for cultural differences, but try to embrace the culture, and not fight it"

Expat Economics Ranking – 11th out of 30
Expat Experience Ranking – 30th out of 30

Sample size:	30
Country of origin:	47% UK 20% USA
Occupation:	52% Banking 9% Construction 9% Education 9% IT 9% Management
Age:	18-34 = 33% 35-54 = 63% 55+ = 4%
Gender:	80% Male 20% Female

Country Reports

Malaysia

Malaysia is a top destination for both career advancement and great quality of life, but expats move on quickly and struggle to integrate with locals

Malaysia ranks highly in the Expat Experience tables at 5th place, underlined by 72% of expats reporting a better quality of life. Three quarters (72%) also said they have a more interesting life since moving, and 39% of expats stated that they have a better social life. Other aspects that make Malaysia a top expat destination include the standard of accommodation. More than two thirds (69%) claimed they have better housing and 31% owned a private swimming pool when they didn't before.

Life in Malaysia is easier in a number of ways – expats particularly report the ease of organising schools (39%), finance (78%), accommodation (75%) and healthcare (69%), with almost all interviewed (92%) complimenting Malaysia for the ease of local travel. Moreover, 42% enjoy more domestic help than previously, 44% have more luxurious holidays, and over two thirds (67%) of expats

associate Malaysia with pleasant climate and scenery, and as a culturally interesting place to live (69%) with all the sights and sounds that make the country unique. Malaysia is a top destination for career-driven expats. 61% move there for job opportunities and are most likely to be working in banking, insurance or financial services (79%). The majority of expats in Malaysia (83%) found that the financial status of their household improved. However, the country is seen as a temporary base with three quarters (75%) considering another expat posting after Malaysia.

Despite these positives, Malaysia is still a difficult place in which to integrate ranking 11th out of 30 in for 'Integration'. Just over half (56%) of expats reported integrating into the local community, which consequently makes the expat community much stronger – with two thirds (67%) choosing to make friends with other expats instead. Part of the difficulty with integration seems to be the language, with half (50%) describing it as difficult and only a third (39%) attempting to learn it in the first place.

(60%) of expats socialise principally with other expats, while fewer than one in ten (7%) seek out the company of locals over other expats.

Expat view of life in Malaysia:

"Have an open mind and treat all people as you would wish to be treated"

Expat Economics Ranking – 12th out of 30
Expat Experience Ranking – 5th out of 30

Sample size:	36
Country of origin:	42% UK 33% India
Occupation:	79% Banking 7% IT
Age:	18-34 = 28% 35-54 = 44% 55+ = 28%
Gender:	Male 89% Female 11%

Country Reports

Mexico

Expats head to Mexico for a short time for job opportunities, but the country also provides a brilliant experience

Mexico is placed 6th for Expat Experiences and many associate the country with friendly local people (74%), rich cultural heritage (74%) and pleasant climate and scenery (71%). A third (32%) of expats also found that they are more active in sports.

Looking at reasons to move to Mexico, most relocate to the country for financial (45%) or career reasons (58%) with the main professions in banking, insurance or financial services (67%). The majority jumped at the chance for a stint in the country for a better job (58%) and 45% moved for more money. In terms of the working environment, it is not without its challenges. 39% of expats in Mexico experienced a more difficult work culture compared to their home country as opposed to a global average of 21%.

Despite employment opportunities driving expats to the country, expats tended not to associate it with political and economic benefits. Only 13% of expats, compared to 45% worldwide, associated the country with higher salaries. Only 26% associated the country with a lower tax system and an even fewer 3% connected Mexico with strong political stability.

Mexico seems to be a country where expats pass through rather than settle. Only 11% of those interviewed say that they are unable to imagine moving away from Mexico, while 13% would like to retire to their host country compared to a worldwide average of 32%.

Expat view of life in Mexico:

"Learn the language and try to enjoy the local food"

Expat Economics Ranking – 6th out of 30
Expat Experience Ranking – 6th out of 30

Sample size:	31
Country of origin:	42% UK 13% Brazil 10% USA
Occupation:	67% Banking 11% Education
Age:	18-34 = 23% 35-54 = 71% 55+ = 6%
Gender:	68% Female 32% Male

Country Reports

Saudi Arabia

The economy in Saudi Arabia draws in expats, but integration is difficult and raising a child is expensive

The pull of Saudi Arabia for expats is undoubtedly the strong economy, as shown by 68% of expats moving to the country to take advantage of job opportunities, and 76% expecting to earn more money. Expats tend to be young with just under half (46%) aged between 18 and 34, but three quarters (75%) still feel a strong connection with their home country.

The fact that 21% of expats work in construction, manufacturing and facilities points to Saudi Arabia as a rapidly expanding country, while economic opportunity is widespread. Over three quarters (77%) have found that they earn more than they did in their home country, and that consequently their financial status improved since moving (78%). Therefore, 58% associate the country with higher salaries, no doubt helped by the lower tax system with which 71% associate with the country. Overall, economic satisfaction is very high as eight in ten (83%) state that they are satisfied with the present state of the economy, a much higher percentage than the global average of 59%.

Saudi Arabia ranks near the bottom for Expat Experiences at 29th place. This gives indication that expats are generally happy to sacrifice overall quality of life for bursts of economic gain. Social lives have suffered, with 54% saying it has become less active and 18% saying their

social life has improved. Only 29% expected to benefit from a more interesting life, but the country tends to exceed expectations in this regard; 34% said that they actually ended up having an interesting life.

On the whole, social integration is low for expats based in Saudi Arabia. Nearly half (46%) of those surveyed said that they aren't integrating well, while only a quarter (24%) find the local people friendly. 46% of expats found it easy to fit into the new country and lifestyle, which goes some way to explain why over half (53%) tend to socialise with expats, and only one in five (19%) would prefer to seek out the company of locals.

Saudi Arabia also features near the bottom half of the table for raising children – ranking 7th out of nine countries. Two thirds (60%) of expat parents said that social integration for their children is poor against a global average of a quarter (26%). Half (47%) of parents said their children spent more time playing computer games, while more parents in Saudi Arabia than in any other country claimed that their children spent more time watching TV since moving (63%). On top of this, half (51%) of expat children are missing home a lot. Finally, the cost of raising children in Saudi Arabia is high with three quarters (70%) of parents noticing an increased cost.

Despite the strong economy and the pull of job opportunities, a third (34%) of expats are looking to leave the country, with three quarters (72%) saying that they would go home rather than head to another country.

Expat view of life in Saudi Arabia:

"I advise new arrivals to learn about the culture and learn Arabic before coming to Saudi Arabia"

Expat Economics Ranking – 18th out of 30
Expat Experience Ranking – 29th out of 30
Raising Children Abroad Ranking – 7th out of 9

Sample size:	156
Country of origin:	27% India 22% Pakistan 8% UK
Occupation:	21% Construction 10% Banking 9% Health 9% Retail
Age:	18-34 = 46% 35-54 = 46% 55+ = 8%
Gender:	85% Male 15% Female

Country Reports

Singapore

Singapore is increasingly becoming a top destination for career hunters and its popularity as an expat destination appears only to be growing

Singapore scores top on the Expat Economics league table, ahead of Bermuda and Thailand, ranked 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Singapore is one of the most popular expat destinations and has in recent year's undergone massive growth and development as expats have flocked there to work. Financial incentives and job opportunities are the main reasons for expats moving to Singapore with almost three quarters (70%) witnessing an improvement in the financial status of their household, and 80% noticing an increase in disposable income upon locating to Singapore.

Singapore attracts high flying, career opportunistic expats with 74% willing to consider another posting after their current one; many expats are internationally mobile with 72% having moved there for financial gain

and 70% for job opportunities. The proximity to the Asian financial markets and its location on most flight paths to international destinations could help provide an explanation for the desirable nature of the country.

In terms of expat finances, expats living in Singapore are among the most likely (72%) to report their finances have become more complex since relocation.

Singapore scores well as a place to live among expats, with 76% having found that their quality of life had improved upon relocation. On top of this, half (48%) report the level of their accommodation had improved and 57% report having a better commute. Singapore is also very diverse although the majority of expats arrive from other English speaking countries, particularly the UK (43%) and Australia (15%).

The pull of Singapore for expats is apparent. It ranks top of the survey as a wealth hotspot and 1st and 2nd for income and disposable income respectively. Finally Singapore continues to have an allure for other expats as 13% of those in Hong Kong named Singapore as their preferred future expat destination.

Expat view of life in Singapore:

"A foreign domestic helper, or maid, is often perceived as compulsory, but this isn't true. A part-time cleaner and a weekly babysitter will cost around the same or more than you would pay a full-time live-in helper, but it will allow you to retain your privacy if you desire."

Expat Economics Ranking — 1st of out 30
Expat Experience Ranking — 4th out of 30

Sample size:	54
Country of origin:	43% UK 15% Australia 7% France
Occupation:	46% Banking 7% IT 7% Media/Creative
Age:	18-34 = 22% 35-54 = 67% 55+= 11%
Gender:	67% Male 33% Female

Country Reports

South Africa

Expats benefit from improvements in lifestyle upon relocation

South Africa falls in the second quartile of the Expat Experience league tables, ranking 9th out of 30 countries. Often expats associate the country with rich scenery and pleasant climates for expatriate life. Nine in ten (90%) respondents associated the country with better weather and surroundings. Nearly two thirds (63%) expected to have more time doing things they like – compared to just 39% globally – and a third (67%) also expected a better quality of life. Upon relocation, expats found that all of these expectations were met upon relocation.

Those surveyed in the study also found that it was easy to get settled and organised once moving to the country. South Africa-based expats felt that it was easy to organise their finances (60%), accommodation (80%), healthcare (67%) and utilities (50%), while just under half (43%) found it easy to organise schooling – all a significant proportion higher than

other expats in other countries. Expats also had no trouble fitting in, with two thirds (57%) finding it easy to make friends and fit into a new culture, and the same proportion (67%) agreeing that they had integrated well.

With all of these benefits, it is hardly surprising that half (53%) found that they had an improved work-life balance. Expats also benefited from the soft benefits of expatriation with 67% enjoying more domestic help than they were accustomed to, more than half (57%) had better accommodation, a third (33%) were more active in sport than they had been before, and half (53%) enjoyed a healthier diet.

In terms of expat finances, South Africa ranked 13th out of 30 countries in the Expat Economics league tables. South Africa-based expats typically had a lower income than that of expats worldwide, while only a quarter (23%) associated the country with high salaries – compared to 45% worldwide.

Expat view of life in South Africa:

“Travel the entire region and enjoy all its benefits from landscapes to climate”

Expat Economics Ranking – 13th out of 30
Expat Experience Ranking – 9th out of 30

Sample size:	30
Country of origin:	UK 67%
Occupation:	21% Construction 14% Management
Age:	18-34 = 17% 35-54 = 37% 55+ = 47%
Gender:	77% Male 23% Female

Country Reports

Spain

Despite economic uncertainty the weather and easy going lifestyle mean expats are keen to stay

Spain ranks 3rd in the Expat Explorer Experience league table, while wider problems in the Eurozone account for the lower ranking in the Expat Explorer Economics league table (22nd).

Spain, along with the rest of the Eurozone, has faced economic uncertainty over the past year. However the easy lifestyle and good weather has made it a popular haunt for expats, particularly those looking to retire. A third (32%) of expats in Spain are retirees against a global average of only one in ten (9%). The sunny climate means that 79% of expats in Spain expect better weather against a world average of only 29%, which likely contributes to Spain ranking 3rd in the Expat Explorer Experience league tables.

In light of the wider economic troubles facing the Eurozone, 39% of expats in Spain believe the country is off on the wrong track while 58% believe it is getting worse as a place for expats to live and work. Only one in

ten (11%) expats moved to Spain to take advantage of a job opportunity against a 31% global average. Similarly only 11% of expats believe it is a good place to earn more money, compared to a world average of 30%.

Despite 92% of expats in Spain being dissatisfied with the economy, none are actively looking to leave. Increased opportunities for outdoor pursuits and leisure time perhaps play a part in helping this desire to stay in the country - 37% of expats are more active in sports compared to a global average of 27% and more than half (55%) believe they have a better work/life balance against a world average of 37%.

Improved diet is also a key factor. Nearly three quarters (71%) of expats report having a better diet since moving to Spain and 66% strongly agree that they prefer the food available. Expats also make a considerable effort to integrate, with 71% of expats strongly agreeing that they've tried to learn the local language.

Overall, despite the economic troubles, Spain is still a favoured place amongst expats. The easy going lifestyle, top weather and food appear to compensate expats for the difficult financial times.

Expat view of life in Spain:

"Make sure your property has air conditioning"

Expat Economics Ranking — 22nd out of 30
Expat Experience Ranking — 3rd out of 30

Sample size:	38
Country of origin:	68% UK 5% Ireland 5% Mexico
Occupation:	25% Media/Creative 13% IT 13% Construction
Age:	18-34 = 13% 35-54 = 42% 55+ = 45%
Gender:	53% Male 47% Female

Country Reports

United Arab Emirates

Expats continue to flock to the UAE for lucrative job opportunities but many look to leave after a short period, particularly those with children

The UAE falls into the fourth quartile in both the Expat Economics and Expat Experience league tables, ranking 20th and 23rd respectively.

The UAE competes with other global financial centres with its high number of career driven expats; 65% of those who relocate to the UAE do so for job opportunities. Expats still see the UAE as a growing expat destination. More than half (51%) see the country heading in the right direction and 49% think the country is getting better as a place for expats to live and work. On top of this, 77% of expats in the UAE are satisfied with the economy against a global average of 59%. However, as with many Middle Eastern countries a higher than average proportion of expats are looking to leave, with many citing rising living costs (45%) or family needs (37%) as a reason for leaving.

The UAE ranked in the bottom half of the Raising Children Abroad league tables, scoring poorly for health and wellbeing, and social integration. A third (34%) of expats said their children failed to integrate while in the UAE.

With the high temperatures the country experiences during peak summer months, it is perhaps unsurprising that the UAE ranks the highest in the survey for the amount of time children spend watching TV (48% of children spend more time watching TV) or playing computer games (44% of children spend more time playing computer games). These factors have had an impact on the Raising Children Abroad scores, with 38% of parents reporting their children were missing home. Most parents also report it is more expensive to raise a child in the UAE than in their home country (87%).

However, financial incentives prevail in this country, with 69% of expats earning more money since relocation. This factor helps to build the positive outlook noted by many, with 70% of expats having a better quality of life in the UAE than in their home country.

Expat view of life in United Arab Emirates:

"Be very flexible and be ready to adjust to, the laidback style of working in Dubai"

Expat Economics Ranking — 20th out of 30

Expat Experience Ranking — 23rd out of 30

Raising Children Abroad Ranking — 5th out of 9

Sample size:	1067
Country of origin:	48% India 12% Pakistan 11% UK
Occupation:	17% Banking 15% Construction 7% IT
Age:	18-34 = 50% 35-55 = 44% 55+ = 6%
Gender:	64% Male 36% Female

Country Reports

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is seen as a great place to live and work, with recent cultural events providing a boost for entertainment

As a global financial centre, the UK appeals as a destination for expats from all around the globe. While the most popular expat profession is financial services, many come to the UK for education (14%) or to work in the health service (8%).

Economic confidence in the UK is very low among the expat population. Over a third (36%) of expats believe the UK economy is heading in the wrong direction, while 68% of expats are dissatisfied with the UK economy. The most common reasons for wanting to leave the UK are increasing living costs (48%) and the negative economic outlook (44%).

Despite the negativities, only 7% of expats are actively looking to leave the UK, while 71% are looking to stay here long term. Expats that move to the UK have little problem adapting as 71% of expats feel

that they have integrated into the local community and 65% feel welcome at work.

Entertainment is undoubtedly one of the key benefits of the UK after 58% of expats agree that they enjoy the local entertainment. This is due to the array of cultural events which have taken place recently.

The UK has a trend for homeownership with most residents wanting to own their property, which is also reflected in the expat community. Since moving to the UK the average expat has doubled their personal investment in property (from 10% upon relocation to 18% now) which can be seen as a reflection of many expats buying rather than renting once moving to the UK. This also reflects the fact that many expats that live in the UK plan to stay for the long term.

The UK remains a firm favourite for expats and its reputation amongst the world expat community is still strong with 9% of global expats listing the UK as their preferred choice for a future posting.

Expat view of life in United Kingdom:

"Don't bring furniture when you move - you can buy it all when you arrive or rent a furnished property"

Expat Economics Ranking — 29th out of 30

Expat Experience Ranking — 18th out of 30

Raising Children Abroad Ranking — 8th out of 9

Sample size:	1172
Country of origin:	9% USA 9% Ireland 6% South Africa
Occupation:	19% Banking 14% Education 8% Health
Age:	18-34 = 30% 35-54 = 46% 55+ = 24%
Gender:	43% Male 57% Female

Country Reports

USA

The US is popular among retirees for its favourable climate and scenery, but finding friends can be difficult

The United States is popular for quality of life with nearly two thirds (63%) of expats saying that it has improved since relocation. While it ranks behind its neighbour Canada (14th) in the Expat Experience ranking, coming 20th out of 30 countries, the States still offers a number of benefits for expats residing in the country. The favourable weather conditions are a big draw for almost half (41%) of US-based expats, while 57% praised the country for its pleasant climate and beautiful scenery. These factors no doubt explain why the USA is such a popular retirement destination. Two in five (40%) US-based expats surveyed in this study plan on either staying or returning to the country to retire.

Further attractions to the country include the ease of mobility with almost three quarters (72%) finding local travel easy and more than half (51%) owning a better car.

Meanwhile the country is also a great place to raise a child as just under a quarter (23%) of expats commend the US for providing a higher quality of schooling compared to back home.

The States ranked 12th out of 30 for 'Integration'. This is not surprising as half (49%) of expats said that they found it easy to make friends compared with the global average of 42%, while one in four (25%) say it was difficult. Perhaps as a result of this, there is a very strong expat community - 32% of those interviewed tend to go out with expat friends rather than locals, compared to a global average of 41%. The USA also has a strong hold on expats as three quarters (74%) of those interviewed want to stay in the country, compared to only 62% worldwide.

Economically, expats were positive about their salaries with nearly half (48%) reporting that they had achieved a higher salary than before. However, despite these benefits the US does not rank highly in terms of security as only a quarter (25%) said that they felt more secure than before compared to an average of almost half (45%) .

Expat view of life in USA:

"Follow your heart and expect the unexpected"

Expat Economics Ranking – 21st out of 30
Expat Experience Ranking – 20th out of 30

Sample size:	536
Country of origin:	22% UK 13% Canada
Occupation:	16% Banking, 13% Education 12% Health
Age:	18-34 = 33% 35-54 = 38% 55+ = 29%
Gender:	38% Male 62% Female

Country Reports

Vietnam

Expats head to Vietnam for new challenges

Vietnam ranks 10th in the Expat Economics league tables behind Singapore (1st), Thailand (3rd), Hong Kong (4th) and China (5th). While half (47%) of expats agree that they earn more since moving to the country and two thirds (63%) think that the financial status of their household has improved, only a third (30%) associate the country with higher salaries compared with its Asian counterparts. A third (33%) found that they have better life opportunities than in their previous country which is a very small proportion when compared to two thirds (60%) worldwide. However, expats are generally in agreement that Vietnam is on the way up with over half (57%) thinking that country is getting better for expats.

In terms of expat experience, Vietnam falls into the fourth quartile of the Expat Experience league tables at 27th. Despite the lower rankings, those surveyed in this study are often surprised by what the country has to offer. A third (30%) expected a better quality of life but upon relocation, two in five (40%) actually found that to be the case. While the quality of life may not be as good

as in other countries, expats often head to the country to challenge themselves. Almost three quarters (73%) have found that they have developed and been stretched as individuals, and nearly the same proportion (70%) expected to lead a more interesting life and associate the country with being a culturally interesting place (63%). Those living there have generally found a good work balance; half (50%) said it is better than in their previous country. This may be in part due to the higher standard of accommodation. Over half 53% believe that they have better housing and living quarters than in their home country, while a quarter (27%) have a swimming pool when they didn't before. Two in five (40%) of expats also enjoy more domestic help than they did in their home country.

Despite the difficulty of the local language with three quarters (70%) described learning it as difficult– expats in Vietnam still make an effort to learn and use the language (70%). Nearly two thirds (63%) associate the country with friendly locals. In spite of this, there is still a strong expat community, with over half (53%) saying that they have more expat friends than locals and only one in five (20%) saying that they have more local friends.

Expat view of life in Vietnam:

"Just come with an open mind"

Expat Economics Ranking – 10th out of 30
Expat Experience Ranking – 27th out of 30

Sample size:	30
Country of origin:	33% UK, 13% Hong Kong 13% Australia
Occupation:	52% Banking 19% Education
Age:	18-34 = 37% 35-54 = 53% 55+ = 10%
Gender:	83% Male 17% Female

Further Information

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