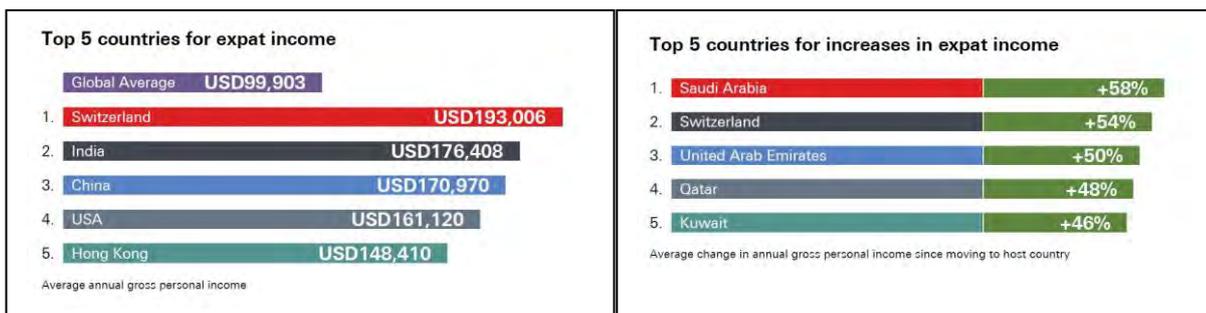


Expats life boosts financial wellbeing

HSBC's Expat Explorer survey finds that expats around the world benefit from a 25% uplift in income which helps them progress towards achieving their financial goals

- Expats earn on average USD99,903 with expats in Switzerland earning USD193,006, nearly double the global average[q18]
- 62% of expats own property with 37% owning in their host country and 32% in their home country [q33b]
- 54% of expats say their host country is a good place to progress their career [q26]

Now in its tenth year, the latest HSBC Expat Explorer survey, the world's largest and longest running study of expat life, reveals that expats benefit from a 25% increase in income as a result of the move, earning on average USD99,903. More than one in ten (14%) have seen their income at least doubled.



The research shows that a move to the Gulf States or Switzerland can lead to a significant boost in income. Expats in Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, UAE, Qatar and Kuwait report an increase of 58%, 54%, 50%, 48% and 46% respectively. With an average income of USD193,006, almost twice the global average, Switzerland-based expats earn the most.

Thanks to their move abroad, 57% of expats have more disposable income than they did before and 52% can save more. Expats are saving and investing primarily towards long-term financial goals including funding their retirement (45%), buying their first or next property (34%) and protecting themselves and their family, property and possessions (27%).

More than three-fifths of expats (62%) own property, with 37% owning in their host country, 32% in their home country and 9% in both countries, often exceeding their national counterparts - while the national home ownership ratio is 63.5%¹ in the UK, 61.6%² in Japan, 51.9%¹ in Germany and 51%³ in Hong Kong, the survey finds that the property ownership ratio is 75%, 67%, 53% and 63% respectively for expats from these countries.

Expats experience other material benefits by moving abroad. Two-fifths (42%) now take more holidays, 39% live in a better property and 25% drive a better car. Not only do they spend and save more, but they also give back more to the community. Four in ten expats (40%) take part in more charitable/voluntary activities in their host country, with 21% donating more to charity, 18% participating more in local community activities and 14% taking part more in voluntary work.

While only a quarter of expats (26%) moved to their host country to improve their job prospects, over half (54%) say it is a good place for expats who want to progress their career. Expats in the USA and China

¹ [Data Explorer - Distribution of population by tenure status, type of household and income group](#). Eurostat. 12 March 2015.

² [Statistics Bureau of Japan](#). Retrieved 14 April 2015.

³ [Table 005: Statistics on Domestic Households](#). Census and Statistics Department (Hong Kong). Retrieved 14 April 2015.

are most likely to agree, with 73% and 70% respectively saying they are good places to progress their careers.

Expatriate employment also comes with its perks. Three-fifths (60%) of expats receive benefits as part of their employment contract with 44% receiving health and medical allowances, 20% accommodation allowance and 19% an annual trip home or airfare allowance.

However, there may be clouds in the expat sky. Although 53% feel confident about the local economy, almost a third are concerned that global economic uncertainty (31%) and political uncertainty (29%) may affect their financial well-being.

Dean Blackburn, Head of HSBC Expatriate, comments: *“This year’s findings show that expatriate life can have a positive impact on career progression and financial well-being. With an increase in income and more disposable income on average, life abroad can help expats make faster progress towards achieving their financial goals, from home ownership to a comfortable retirement. However, an international life also comes with challenges. Exchange rate fluctuations, legal and regulatory changes, and local market conditions can all affect their finances. Expats need to plan ahead carefully to avoid the pitfalls and make the most of managing their wealth across countries.”*

Stelios Pirpinias, Head of Retail Banking and Wealth Management, HSBC Greece said: *“Once again this year the survey findings reveal that moving abroad offers expatriates not only better career prospects but also higher income and the ability to save more. However, managing their personal finances is more complicated for expatriates. At HSBC, thanks to our retail presence in 36 countries worldwide we can support our customers who are already expats and those who are planning to move geographically and help them meet their unique banking needs.”*

Expatriate Explorer league table

The Expatriate Explorer overall league table ranks each country or territory using a score that summarises expats’ views on economics, experience and family life aspects in their host country.

Overall best country for expats	Rank 2017 vs 2016
1. Singapore	=
2. Norway	+4
3. New Zealand	-1
4. Germany	+6
5. Netherlands	+10
6. Canada	-3
7. Australia	+4
8. Sweden	=
9. Austria	-2
10. United Arab Emirates	+2

Expatriate Explorer online:

Report and country comparisons: <https://expatexplorer.hsbc.com/survey/>

Tweet @: www.twitter.com/expatexplorer

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hsbcexpat

Expatriate experiences blog: www.expatexplorer.blogspot.com/



Expats' ratings of 46 host countries are available to explore online through the [Expat Explorer interactive tool](#).

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Notes to editors

About the Expat Explorer survey and country league table

The Expat Explorer survey was open to all adults over 18 years old currently living away from their country of origin/home country.

The survey was completed by 27,587 expats from 159 countries and territories through an online questionnaire in March and April 2017, conducted by YouGov and commissioned by HSBC Expat. A minimum sample of 100 expat respondents and at least 30 expat parents is required for a country to be included in the league tables, with 46 countries qualifying in 2017.

About HSBC Expat

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HSBC Holdings plc

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