

TWO-THIRDS OF EXPATS IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE INTEGRATING WELL WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Expat Explorer 'Balancing life abroad' findings in 140 tweetable characters...

- *Two-thirds of expats in the Philippines are integrating well with the local community #HSBCReport*
- *Moving to the Philippines brings expats closer together in their relationship #HSBCReport*
- *Singapore as top all-round destination for expats in HSBC's latest Expat Explorer report www.expateexplorer.hsbc.com/survey/#HSBCReport*
- *Hunt for a higher quality of life beats better jobs prospects as top reason for moving abroad www.expateexplorer.hsbc.com/survey/ #HSBCReport*

Expats rank South East Asia as the best place for career satisfaction, with four of the top five destinations (the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and China) located in the region. The Philippines ranks 28th in the overall Expat Explorer country league table.

Singapore takes the top spot in the eighth Expat Explorer country league table, with expatriates¹ praising the opportunities for career development, appealing salaries and an excellent quality of life.

All the rankings are available to compare online in the [Expat Explorer interactive tool](#).

Two-thirds of expats in the Philippines are integrating well with the local community

Expats looking for a satisfying, fulfilling place to work should head to South East Asia as four of the top five destinations rated by expats for work satisfaction are in the region. The majority of expats living in the Philippines (57%), Malaysia (55%), Indonesia (54%) and mainland China (53%) all say they have found their work to be more fulfilling since relocating, compared with less than 15% in these countries who say the opposite. One reason for this is how expats find it easy to fit in with their local colleagues, with around two thirds of expats in the Philippines (65%) and Indonesia (62%) saying they are integrating well with the local community.

¹ For the purposes of our survey, an expatriate is someone over 18 years old who is currently living away from their country of origin/home country.

Philippines is one of the good destinations for expats to instantly feel 'at home'

The length of time it takes to settle into a new life abroad is relatively short for expats, though the reasons why differ. For almost half (48%) of expats, it takes less than a year for their adopted country to feel like home. For 16% the change is instant. For expats looking to feel instantly at home, Bahrain, Spain and the Philippines are good destinations, as 28%, 24% and 24% of expats respectively say their new host country felt like home from their first day there. The importance of making new friends is a key part of feeling at home with over half (51%) of expats saying this is the most important milestone for them. As well as making friends, 38% of expats globally say understanding the local culture is essential to settling in.

Moving to the Philippines brings expats closer together in their relationship

A social circle is not the only focus for expat partners. Many who join their partners overseas look to build their own career or take on a new challenge. Almost two in five (39%) say the chance to acquire new skills is better than in their host country, compared to 26% who disagree. In addition, 22% say the move abroad was partly about a new personal challenge for them. Expat partners also see the benefits to their relationship of moving overseas. Of those who moved abroad to support their partner, over half (54%) say this change has brought them closer together in their relationship, compared to just 13% who say this is not the case. Expat partners moving to India, the Philippines and Mexico in particular enjoy a closer relationship, with 65%, 63% and 61% in these countries agreeing they feel closer to their partner since moving.

Gigi Pio de Roda, Head of HSBC Philippines' RBWM, comments:

“Expats migrate to other countries to further their career progression, expand their current knowledge and skill-set as well as boost network connections that could pave way for a booming future. This involves making complex decisions in managing finances, integrating into the local culture, building a family and saving for retirement. Philippines ranks 9th in the Family league table, where an expat's relationships, education, childcare, impact of raising and integrating children abroad, are reviewed. Indeed, an expat in the Philippines can feel much at 'home' where they integrate well with the locals whose warmth and hospitality come naturally. When expats go home or leave the Philippines for another assignment, they have already gained Filipino friends for life”

“It is vital that financial services are easily accessible for expats to access personal funds, insurance, and investments while living abroad. It is even more crucial that they are able to discuss their needs with financial advisers who are able to understand the unique requirements of an expat living overseas.”

The Expat Explorer survey is commissioned by HSBC Expat and conducted by YouGov. Now in its eighth year, it is the largest and one of the longest running surveys of expats, with 21,950 respondents sharing their views on different aspects of life abroad including careers, financial wellbeing, quality of life and ease of settling for partners and children. A total of 39 countries qualified for the league tables in this edition including the Philippines.

Expat Explorer overall country league table 2015
1. Singapore
2. New Zealand
3. Sweden
4. Bahrain
5. Germany
6. Canada
7. Australia
8. Taiwan
9. United Arab Emirates
10. Switzerland

Expat Explorer also reveals that:

Expats today look beyond just financial rewards

A better quality of life and the desire to take on a new challenge are the main reasons for making a move abroad. In both cases, 37% of expats say these are the reasons why they moved, compared to just over a quarter (26%) who say they did so to improve their job prospects. In fact, 61% of expats haven't benefited from an immediate salary increase since moving.

Expat entrepreneurs blossom in the world's financial hubs

The vast majority of expats living in the world's financial hubs of Singapore, Dubai, Hong Kong or London agree they are good places to start a new

business (87%, 86%, 85% and 85% respectively). This is much higher than the global average of 56%².

A high level of confidence in the local economy is another reason why these economic hubs suit the entrepreneurial spirit: 78% of expats in Singapore and 60% in Hong Kong feel confident about the local economy.

The top countries to live for expats focused on economics, experience and family are revealed as:

Economics	Experience	Family
1. Switzerland	1. New Zealand	1. Sweden
2. Singapore	2. Spain	2. New Zealand
3. Germany	3. Singapore	3. Singapore
4. United Arab Emirates	4. Australia	4. Spain
5. Qatar	5. Taiwan	5. Germany

#1 in the Economics league table - Switzerland attracts career-driven expats

Switzerland comes first in the rankings as the best expat destination for career success and financial wellbeing. Seventy-seven per cent of expats feel confident about the local economy, and 53% say it is a good place to progress careers. These compare to only 48% and 41% of expats globally. A majority (63%) also thinks their work is more fulfilling in Switzerland than it was at home. On average, expats in Switzerland are more likely to enjoy more disposable income (65%), earn higher salaries (63%) and be able to save more (60%) as a result of moving to the country.

#1 in the Experience league table - New Zealand is the hotspot for a fulfilling expat experience

New Zealand leads the way for a satisfying expat experience. Almost eight in 10 (77%) expats there find their quality of life is better than at home and well over half (63%) say making friends has been easy. Settling in is relatively quick, with 35% who felt at home instantly or within six months. The country's great outdoors is a particular draw and 57% of expats have become more physically active since moving there.

#1 in the Expat Family league table - Sweden is the most family friendly country

² Based on those who hold a positive or negative opinion on the viability of starting a business in these cities

A new country in the league tables, Sweden takes the top spot as the best destination for expat family life, whether that is with or without children. Expat parents in Sweden praise the childcare available - with 79% finding it better than in their home country – the ease of arranging children’s education (67%), and its affordability (77%). Overall, 79% of parents say their children’s quality of life is better since moving. Sweden also has a lot to offer to single expats looking to start a family: 39% say they have found a long term partner there.

Dean Blackburn, Head of HSBC Expat, comments:

“Living abroad allows people to realise a whole range of ambitions. Learning new skills, enjoying a different culture or growing closer to loved ones through a shared adventure: these are just some of the rewards expats tell us they have enjoyed through their time in another country.

“As global mobility continues to increase, expat life is more attainable than ever before. Expats need services that keep up with their changing needs, as managing money overseas remains a challenge. Indeed, 74% tell us their finances have become more complex in some way since moving, which highlights the value of seeking help with this aspect of life.”

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Notes to editors

About the Expat Explorer survey and league table

The Expat Explorer survey was completed by 21,950 expats from 198 countries through an online questionnaire in March, April and May 2015.

A minimum country sample of 100 expat respondents and at least 30 expat parents is required for that country to be included in the league tables in this report. In this edition of Expat Explorer, 39 countries qualified for those league tables.

Each league table scores countries on a scale of zero to one, with the highest score ranking first and the lowest ranking last. All scores have been rounded to two decimal points.

About HSBC Group

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of the HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide from around 6,100 offices in 72 countries and territories in Europe, Asia, North and Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa. With assets of US\$2,572bn at 30 June 2015, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.

About HSBC in the Philippines

HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organizations; the HSBC Group has been doing business in the Philippines for 140 years. The Bank currently has a 15-strong total branch network (including 8 branches of the locally incorporated HSBC Savings Bank) located in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao.

About HSBC Expat

HSBC Expat is a trading name of HSBC Bank International Limited. HSBC Expat is an award winning provider of offshore financial services, with its head office based in Jersey, Channel Islands. It also has representation in Dubai and Hong Kong. As part of HSBC Holdings plc, HSBC Expat has the experience to offer customers living and working abroad, tailored offshore financial solutions. For more information visit: www.expats.hsbc.com.

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