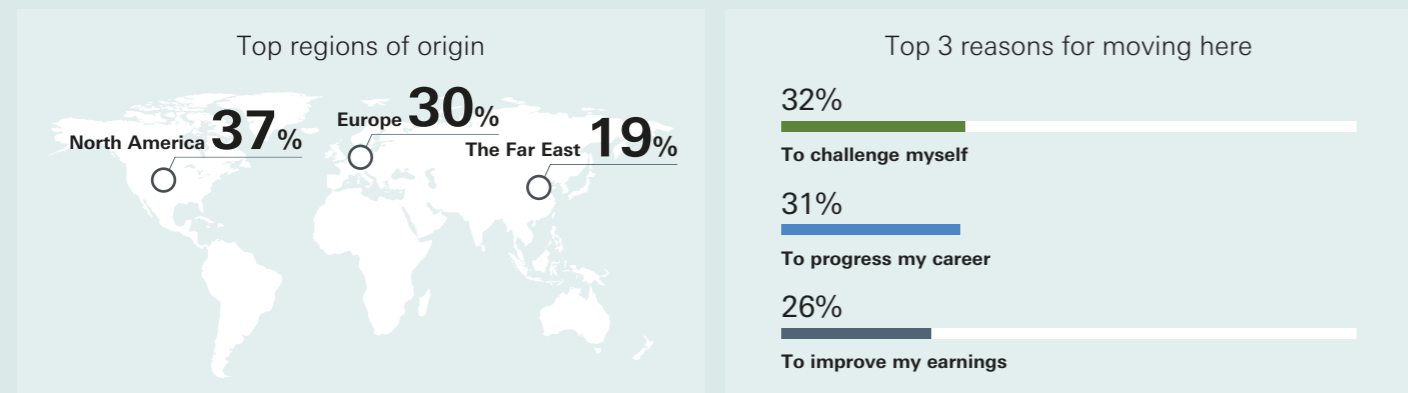
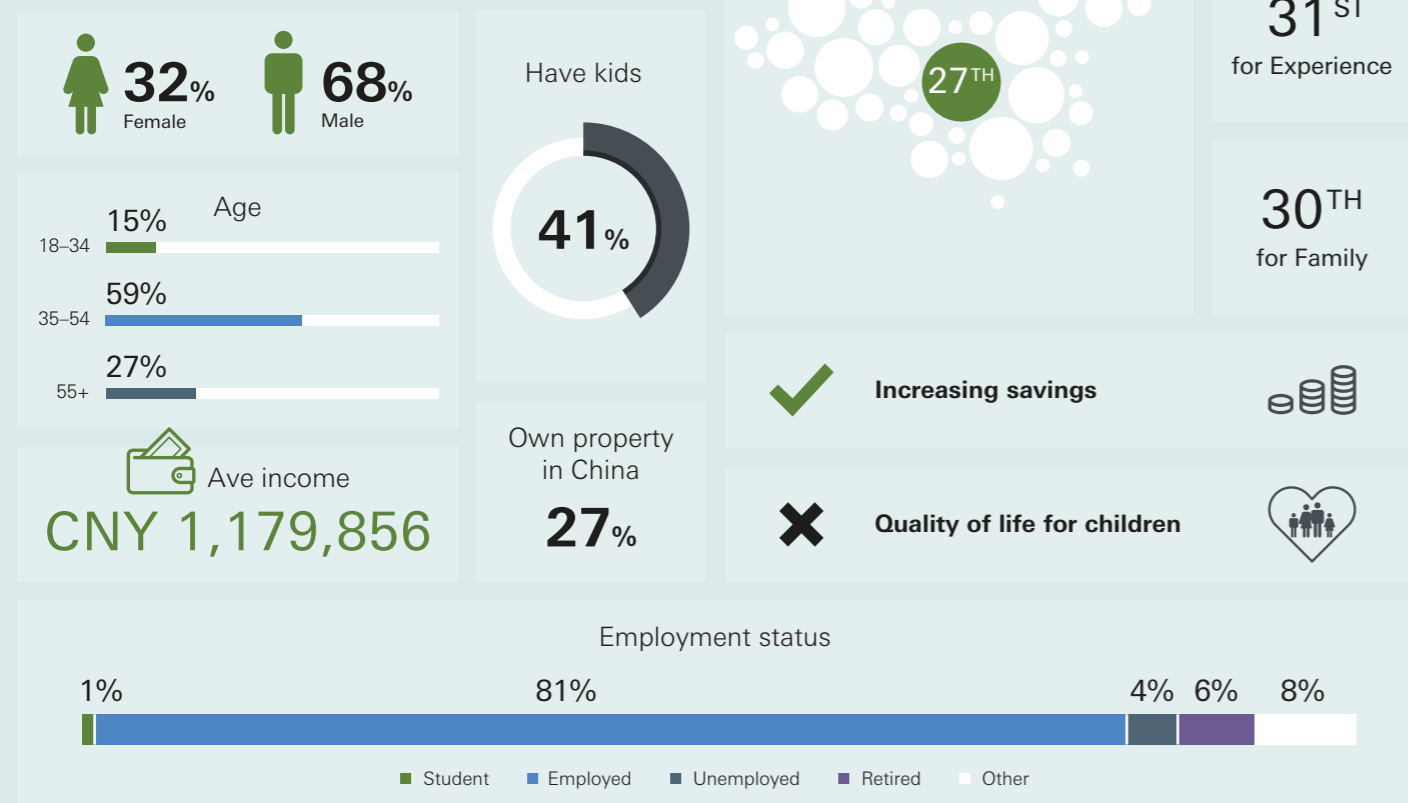


Expats in China

Based on 405 interviews



Expats from China

Based on 274 interviews



China

Expats in China

Expats who relocate to China are rewarded for their hard work, but a new life in the most populous nation on earth comes with a complex package of pros and cons that isn't for the faint hearted.

The employment level among expats here is high. With half coming to work in education or manufacturing, they earn USD 67,000 more than the average expat.

It's not all about the cash though. Their new working life in China has given half the expats here more confidence at work and has boosted their leadership skills.

Living in China brings all sorts of other benefits too, not least that expats here usually save more and have more disposable income than they did at home. Half (50%) invest most of their money in their home territory though, compared with only 35% of expats generally, often because they're more familiar with and confident in their native economy.

Aside from work, almost half say they're integrating well with the local people and half say they have found it easy to make new friends. Almost 40% have even found a long-term partner here and most found it easy to settle in the country. Sixty per cent say they feel safer and more secure here than at home.

There are some challenges too though, from higher pollution levels to problems setting up everyday financial, healthcare and childcare arrangements.

In fact, for families, a new life here is particularly demanding. China scores a low 30th out of 31 global expat destinations in this year's family league table and almost a quarter of expats here say their children's health and wellbeing (23%) or quality of life (22%) is worse than it was at home – almost twice the global average.

Chinese nationals abroad

Almost inevitably, Chinese families who have moved away find the opposite.

They may not be as experienced in world living or stay for as long as other expats but the move pays off.

Their new life gives almost two thirds a better working culture and work/life balance. The same proportion say their health and wellbeing is better than it was at home and 62% say their children's overall quality of life is better.

Far from putting more strain on their relationships, 60% say the move has made their family closer.