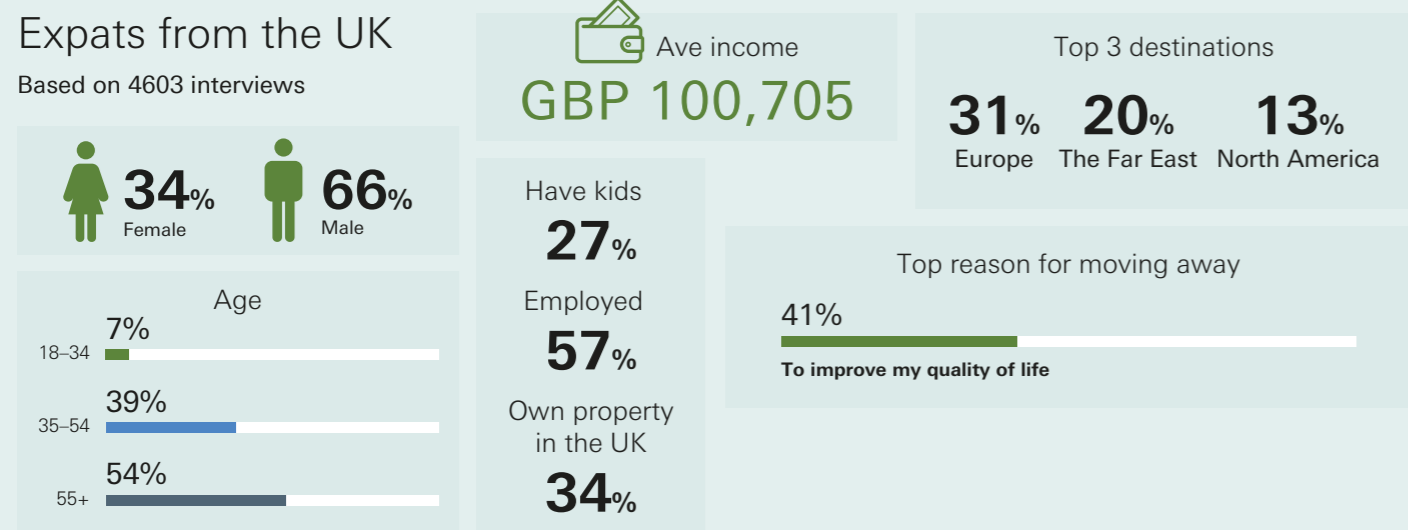
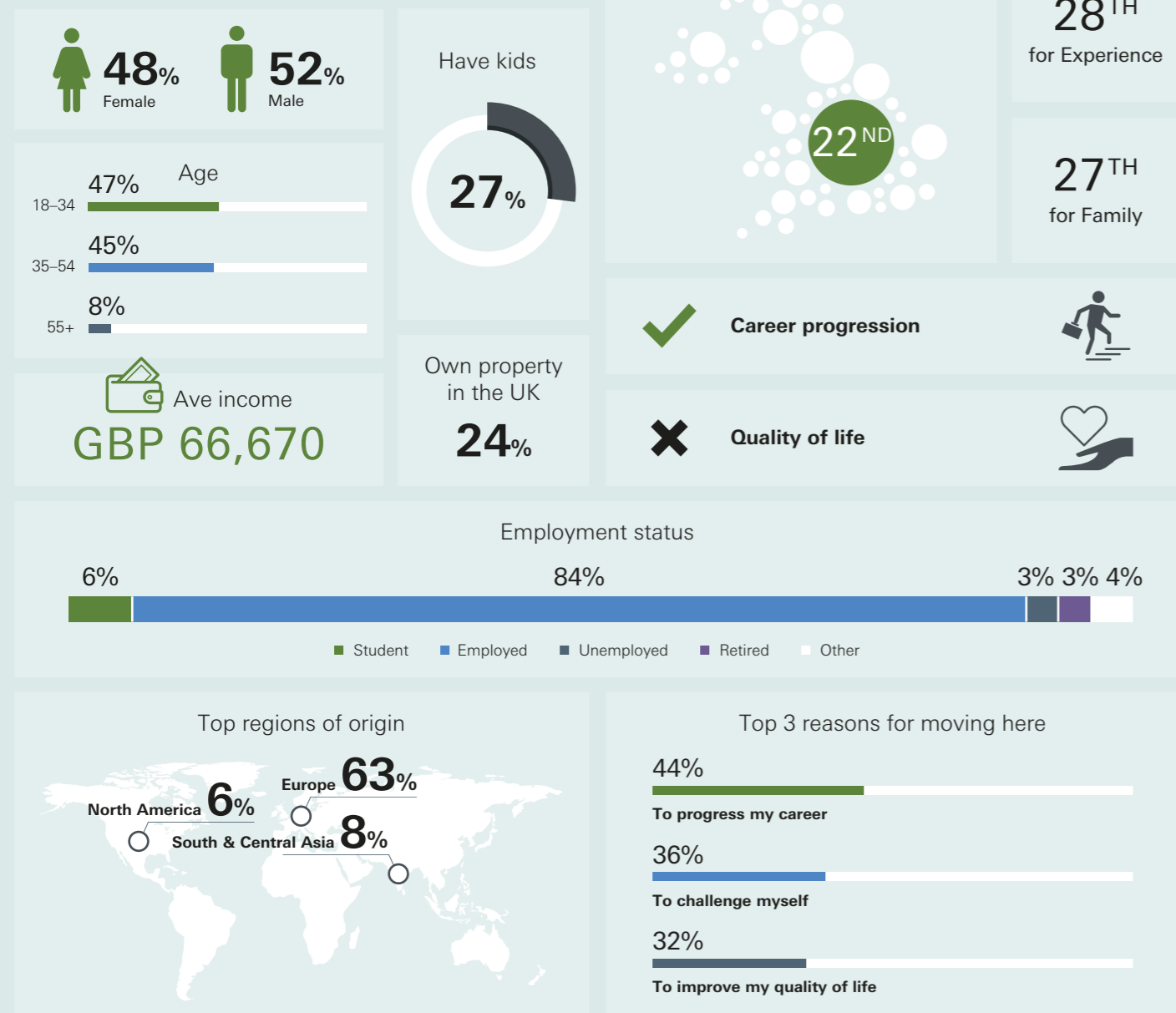


Expats in the UK

Based on 9514 interviews



United Kingdom

Expats in the UK

Expats in the UK are young, educated and ambitious, not easily put off by the territory's low experience and family rankings.

Half are under 35 and more than two fifths have a postgraduate degree. Almost half came to progress their careers and around three quarters are employed here full-time.

Half say the work/life balance is better here than it was at home, six in ten prefer the working culture here and two thirds say there are more opportunities to acquire new skills in the UK. These things are clearly important aspects of the expat life and 62% say being happy at work is an important part of feeling at home here.

Expats in the UK are rewarded for their ambitions with a 29% average increase in salary since the move.

Currently 16th in the world rankings for economics, the high cost of living hasn't stopped 48% of expats here saving more money since the move. Almost half have

also kept most of their wealth with them here, a higher proportion than the global average, often because the economy and financial system feels more robust.

The nation's strong financial profile has helped it gain five places in the last year to rank 22nd in the world overall. But the UK struggles to compete with the world's leading destinations in some of HSBC's key measures, dropping three places to 28th for experience and ranking only 27th for families in 2018.

Becoming part of the UK's unique way of life is important to new arrivals. Almost seven in ten (69%) expats here say they enjoy getting to know the nation's culture better and integrate well with the local people, and 80% are learning and using English.

However, the expats here don't experience the same boost to their health and wellbeing that others do, and only 44% say their overall quality of life is better compared with 52% of expats globally.

Fewer expats in the UK than elsewhere feel the move has made

their family closer and 14% even say their children's quality of life is worse here than it was at home.

They're also less likely to remain in the country long-term, unlike British people overseas.

UK nationals abroad

Almost all British expats overseas surveyed have lived abroad for more than five years. That kind of travel and commitment requires self-confidence and life skills. Just 7% of British expats are under 35, and most leave it until they are much older to move overseas.

In fact, the British expat story is as likely to be about retirement as forging a career, higher income or family opportunity overseas.

Regardless of their personal circumstances though, the move is usually good for their finances. More than 60% have more disposable income than they did at home and more than half can set more money aside for the future now.

British expats regularly describe their financial circumstances overseas as 'comfortable' and 40% believe they can grow their wealth abroad. Almost twice as many Britons as expats generally own property in their host country. Fully committed to their new life overseas, only a third repatriate their money back to the UK.