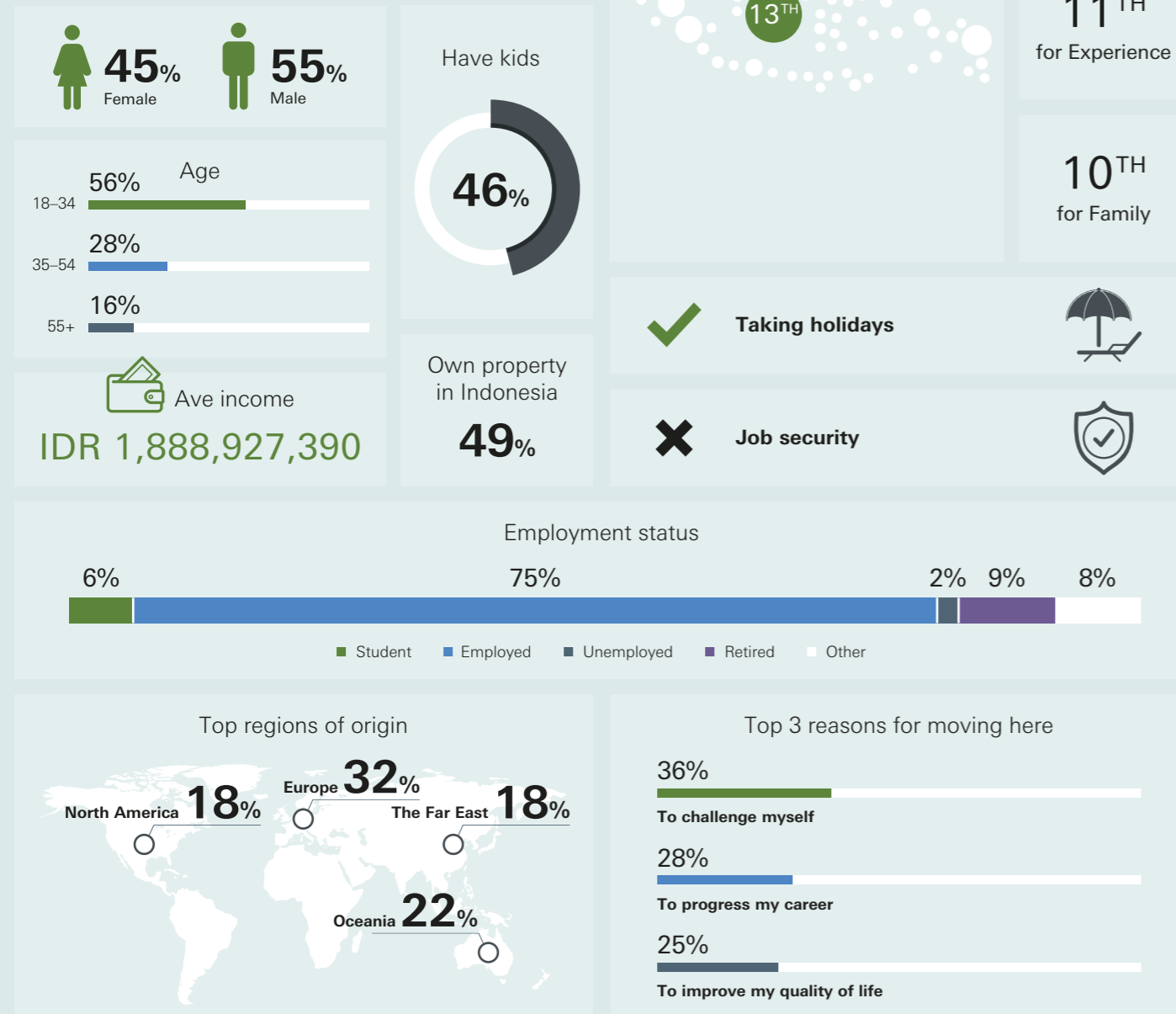


Expats in Indonesia

Based on 165 interviews



Indonesia

Expats in Indonesia

Indonesia is beginning to seriously compete as one of the best destinations for expats in the world.

These expats are young, highly educated adventurers, usually setting out from home shores for the first time. More than a third (36%) came here for the challenge, a quarter (25%) to improve their quality of life and a fifth (18%) to study. They regularly bring their families along for the ride.

While happiness at work is high – higher than at home for 40% of expats – other aspects like personal fulfilment and job security don't compare favourably with those they've left behind. When it comes to setting up, almost six in ten say it's a good place to start a business.

The move usually gives expats a salary boost and they have used it carefully - building savings, buying property and investing for their children's futures.

More than two in every five expats in Indonesia are optimistic about their financial futures. It doesn't happen on its own, though. With

more money available to invest but some uncertainty over the nation's political stability, expats in Indonesia find their money requires much closer attention than it has in the past.

Expats here are also more likely to send their wealth home rather than keep it in the territory - often because they are more comfortable with the economic climate or financial structures in their native nation.

But economics seems lower on the list of expat priorities here than experience. Almost 80% of those living here say they enjoy immersing themselves in the rich local culture. They throw themselves into learning and using the local language, and they are rewarded for their efforts.

Three quarters of expats here feel they're integrating well with the local people and culture, more than 60% say their social life is better and over half have even found a long-term partner here.

Expats in Indonesia believe these are the most important aspects of feeling at home in the country. In fact, they place far more emphasis on language and culture than expats in other countries.

Becoming so closely involved from the start pays off and half of all new residents in the country say they felt settled in less than six months. By the time they have, as many expats identify themselves as Indonesian citizens as still feel they are citizens of their native territory.