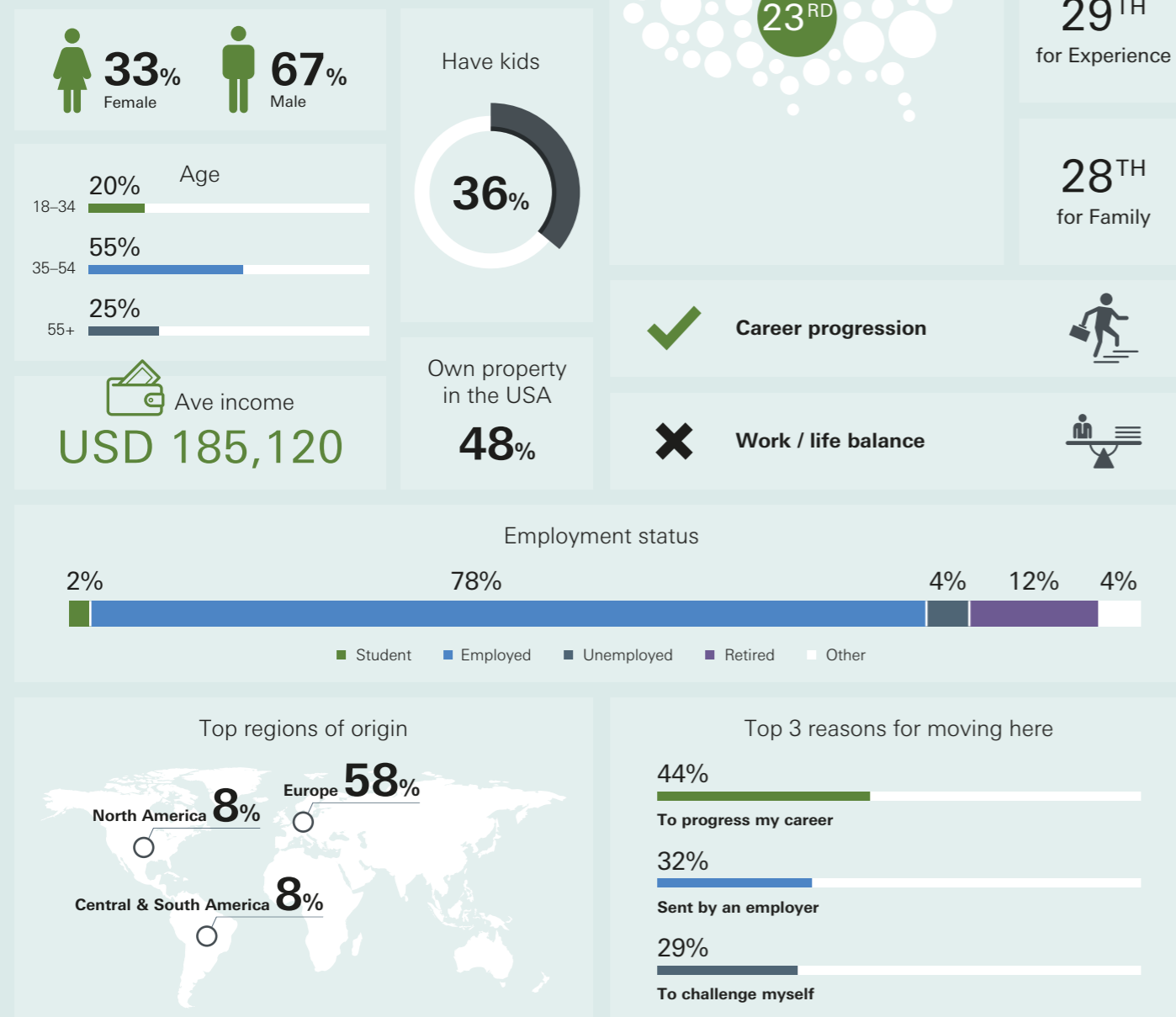


Expats in the USA

Based on 1368 interviews



Expats from the USA

Based on 1836 interviews



United States of America

Expats in the USA

Expats flock to the USA for the career opportunities. Half have lived here for more than five years, and despite some reservations about the work/life balance and stress levels, they have stayed above all because they want to continue that career development.

Almost two thirds say they've had the chance to gain new skills since the move. More than half also say they're now more confident at work and nearly two thirds are more adaptable.

Coming in 13th for economics this year, and offering an income worth almost USD 80,000 more than the average expat, 67% of those living in the USA agree that their earnings prospects are better than at home. In fact, the average income has increased by a third thanks to the move.

A third have used the extra income to invest in property and half have been able to invest more for their retirement. Unlike many other countries, most of the expats here keep the majority of their wealth, including property, savings and their pension in the USA.

Outside work, expats here have a range of different experiences in this vast nation. The USA has dropped 5 places to 29th for experience and comes in at only 23rd out of 31 countries for overall rankings this year.

Half of the expats here say their quality of life and that of their children is better here than it was at home, despite greater concerns over safety.

But a third (34%) work longer hours here than they did at home, perhaps leaving them less time to work on more personal goals like improving their social life, health and wellbeing, which can suffer.

More than half (57%) say their social circle is smaller in the USA and a quarter (26%) say it's been harder to form new friendships. That's not a problem Americans abroad seem to share.

USA nationals abroad

This year's study seems to suggest that one of the first things Americans do as they approach retirement is to ponder a move abroad. It means the quality of life in their new home, the ability to

make new friends and the chance to enjoy their free time is crucial.

Americans overseas have been away from home a long time – more than a quarter for 20 years or more. Originally leaving the USA to challenge themselves more than anything else, almost half say they are more adaptable since becoming an expat. More than a third are more open-minded and more than a quarter are happy as a direct result of their new life overseas.

The style of that life can vary dramatically. Americans abroad are spread far and wide across the globe, settled in countries ranging from neighbouring Mexico (20%) to the UK (10%), China (7%), Thailand (7%) and Hong Kong (4%) to name only a few.

These days, they are almost as likely to simply call themselves 'expats' as 'US citizens'.