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## SINGAPORE TOPS THE CHARTS AS BEST OVERALL DESTINATION FOR EXPATS

- *62% of expats in Singapore experience an increase in their earnings*
- *Switzerland, New Zealand and Sweden top the Economics, Experience and Family expat league tables*
- *Expat millennials are moving abroad to find purpose in their career*

For the second year in a row, Singapore takes the top spot in HSBC's Expat Explorer country league table. Expatriates in Singapore enjoy some of the world's best financial rewards and career opportunities, while benefiting from an excellent quality of life and a safe, family-friendly environment.

Expats' ratings of 45 host countries are available to explore online through the [Expat Explorer interactive tool](#).

More than three in five (62%) expats in Singapore say it is a good place to progress their career, with the same proportion seeing their earnings rise after moving to the country (compared with 43% and 42% respectively of expats globally). The average annual income for expats in Singapore is USD139,000 (compared with USD97,000 across the world), while nearly a quarter (23%) earn more than USD200,000 (more than twice the global expat average of 11%).

Overall, 66% of expats agree that Singapore offers a better quality of life than their home country (compared to 52% of expats globally), while three quarters (75%) say the quality of education in Singapore is better than at home, the highest proportion in the world (global average 43%).

<b>Expat Explorer 2016 overall league table The best countries for expats to live and work</b>
1. Singapore
2. New Zealand
3. Canada
4. Czech Republic
5. Switzerland
6. Norway
7. Austria
8. Sweden
9. Bahrain
10. Germany

Now in its ninth year, Expat Explorer is the largest and one of the longest running surveys of expats, with 26,871 respondents sharing their views on life abroad including careers, financial wellbeing, quality of life and ease of settling for children.

**The 2016 Expat Explorer report also reveals:**

**Millennials are drawn to expat life to find more purpose in their careers**

Nearly a quarter (22%) of expats aged 18-34 moved abroad to find more purpose in their career. This compares to 14% of those aged 34-54 and only 7% of those aged 55 and over. Millennials are also the most likely to embrace expat life in search of a new challenge: more than two in five (43%) say this, compared with 38% of those aged 34-54 and only 30% of those aged 55 and over. Millennials are finding the purpose they seek, with almost half (49%) reporting that they are more fulfilled at work than they were in their home country.

**Expat life accelerates progress towards financial goals**

Far from slowing progress towards their longer term financial goals, expats find many are fast tracked by life abroad. Around two in five expats say that moving abroad has accelerated their progress towards saving for retirement (40%) or towards buying a property (41%), compared to around one in five (20% and 19% respectively) whose move abroad has slowed their progress towards these financial goals. Almost a third (29%) of expats say living abroad has helped them to save towards their children’s education more quickly, compared to only 15% who say it has slowed them down.

**The top expat destinations for economics, experience and family are:**

<b>Economics</b>	<b>Experience</b>	<b>Family</b>
1. Switzerland	1. New Zealand	1. Sweden
2. Singapore	2. Spain	2. Czech Republic
3. Germany	3. Canada	3. Singapore
4. Norway	4. Singapore	4. New Zealand
5. UAE	5. Australia	5. Canada

***#1 for Economics - Switzerland***

Switzerland shines for the second year in a row, offering unrivalled financial wellbeing and a strong economy for expats. Nearly nine in ten (87%) expats living there in Switzerland feel confident about the political stability of the country and four in five (80%) feel confident about its economy. Three quarters (75%) of expats say the earning prospects are better in Switzerland than they are back in their home country, with an average annual income of USD188,000. Nearly three quarters (71%) of expats in Switzerland are able to save more of their income there, while 73% now have more

disposable income. This compares to global expat averages of 53% and 56% respectively.

### ***#1 for Experience - New Zealand***

New Zealand leads the way for an unrivalled expat experience. The vast majority (83%) of expats there praise the country's environment (air pollution, water quality) as better than in their home country, and nearly three quarters (73%) say their quality of life has improved, which compares to 52% of expats globally. Nearly three quarters (72%) of expats are integrating well with the local people and culture, and the majority (57%) agree that New Zealand welcomes people regardless of faith, races, gender and sexual orientation better than their home country.

### ***#1 for Family - Sweden***

Sweden offers an excellent environment for expat families. Nearly three quarters (75%) of expat parents in Sweden rate their children's quality of life as better than back home. Nearly half (46%) say the quality of education in Sweden is better and 72% say it is less expensive. A similar proportion (75%) believe the quality of childcare available in Sweden is better than it is at home.

### **Dean Blackburn, Head of HSBC Expat, comments:**

“Expats consistently tell us that moving abroad has helped them achieve their ambitions and long-term financial goals, from getting access to better education for their children to buying property or saving more for retirement. Most expats also find that their quality of life has improved since making the move - and that they are integrating well with the local people and culture.”

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**Notes to editors**

**About the Expat Explorer survey and country league table**

An expatriate is defined as anyone over 18 years old, currently living away from their country of origin/home country. The Expat Explorer survey was completed by 26,871 expats from 190 countries through an online questionnaire in March and April 2016. A minimum sample of 100 expat respondents and at least 30 expat parents is required for a country to be included in the league tables, with 45 countries qualifying in 2016.

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