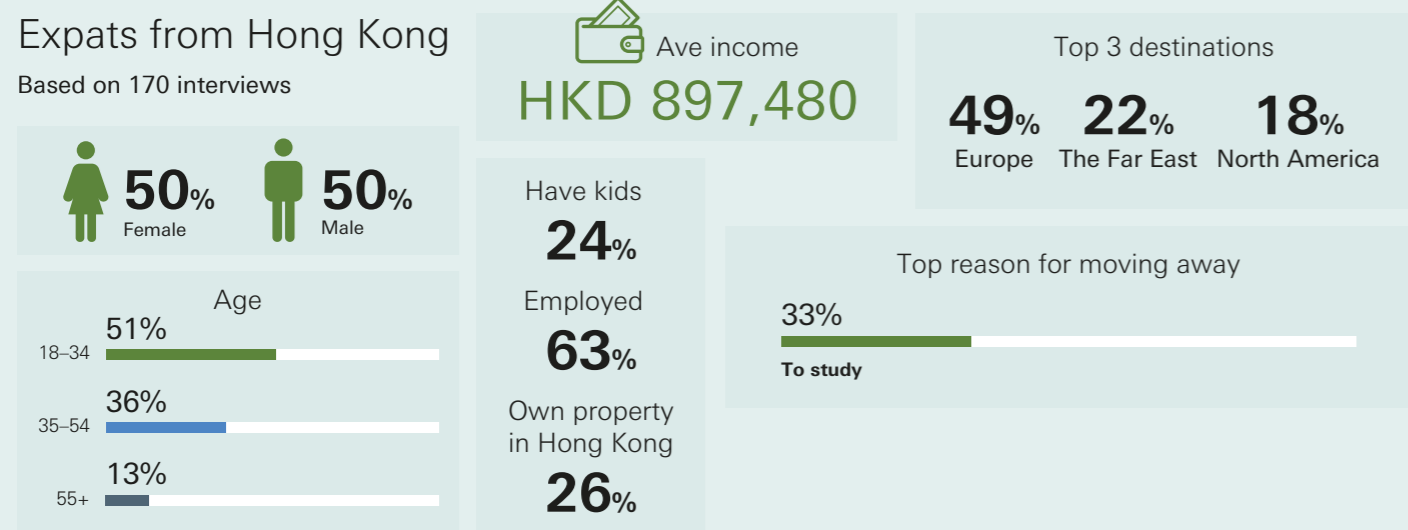
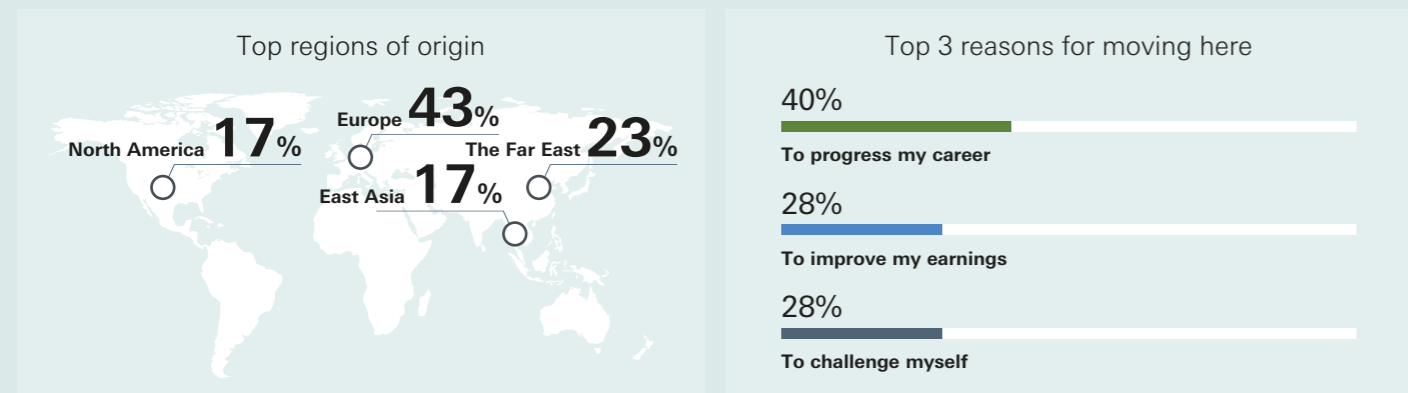
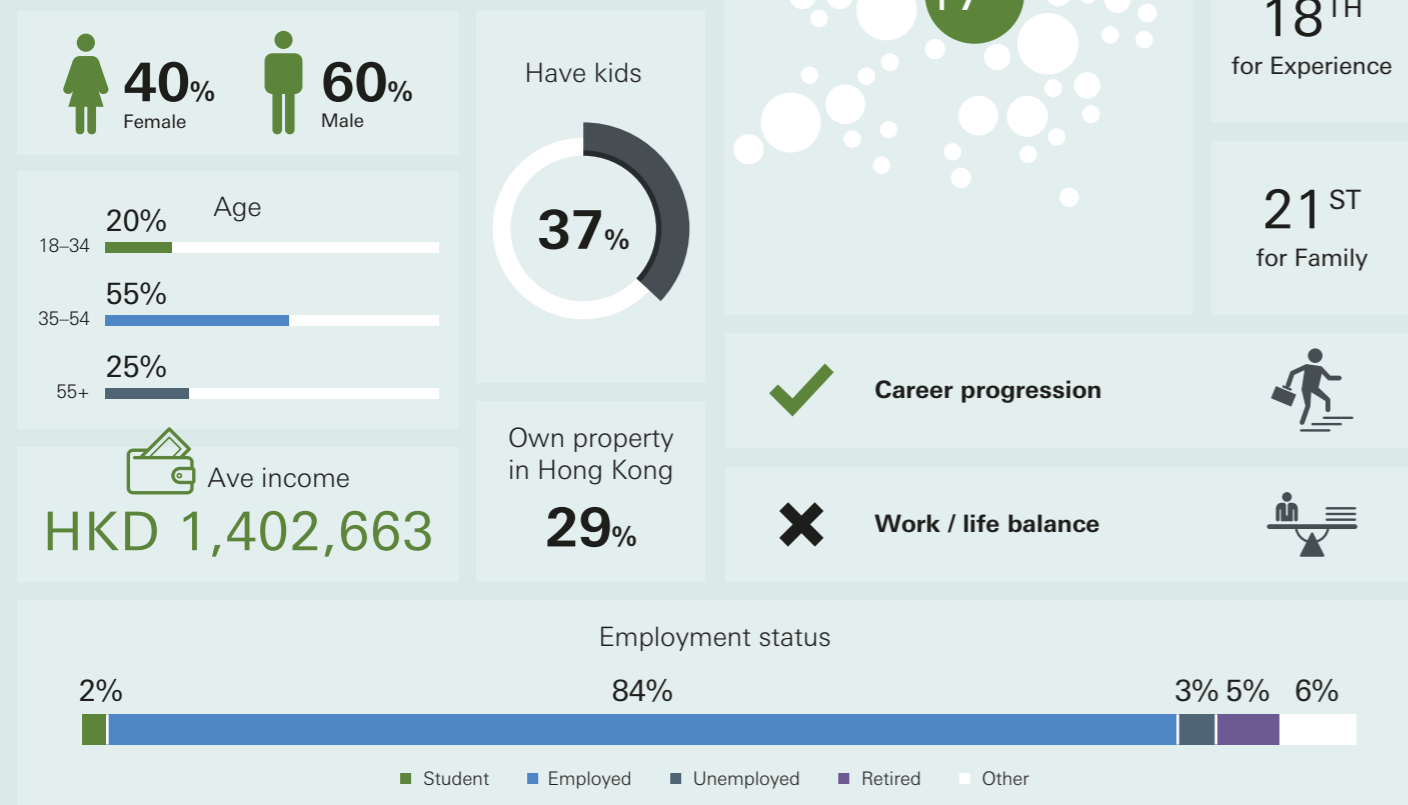


Expats in Hong Kong

Based on 658 interviews



Hong Kong

Expats in Hong Kong

This inimitable territory is a mecca for experienced professionals, but a new life in Hong Kong doesn't come cheap.

Living here at the height of their lives and careers, almost 70% of expats are in full-time employment. They're drawn to Hong Kong for the chance to progress their careers (40%) and improve their earnings (28%). Bringing in USD 72,000 more than the average expat, they've certainly ticked that box.

It's the reward for exceptionally hard work. Almost three quarters (72%) of the expats living in Hong Kong would recommend it for those hoping to progress their career compared with only half (56%) of expats in general.

But a working life here comes with added stress levels for more than half (57%). Over half (52%) of expats here say they work in evenings and at weekends more now than they did at home and 48% say their work/life balance is worse now.

The expats here aren't always lone individuals pursuing their careers

though. Almost 40% have children and there's little doubt that the whole family has gained from the move. Half of expat parents in Hong Kong say the quality of childcare is better here and it's the same story for children's education.

This is a diverse, vibrant territory with plenty to offer. A huge 80% of the expats who moved here settled easily and the draw of the expat lifestyle has helped keep more than 40% of them in the territory long-term.

But the cost of living can make that a tough decision. They may be earning far more than other expats or their peers at home, but the increase is eroded by the cost of everyday life.

Four in every five expat parents (82%) say it is more expensive to raise a family in Hong Kong than it was at home, for example. And when it comes to putting down roots, one of the most expensive property markets in the world mean half (51%) are unable to buy property in the territory compared with 31% of expats globally and 42% are concerned about how much their rent is.

Hong Kong nationals abroad

Hong Kong citizens overseas also have money worries, but for them it's because a drop in the average salary has left more than a third uncertain about their financial future.

They have other priorities though. With a third (33%) overseas to study, half say their physical health is better than it was in Hong Kong and three quarters say they live in a better environment. More than 70% say their children's quality of life has improved since living abroad.

Their overseas life has made almost half more open-minded and a third feel more adaptable. But there are barriers too. Though most found it easy to settle in their host country, half say they struggle with cultural differences in their social lives, for example.

That may help explain why two thirds still consider themselves a Hong Kong citizen, however long they've been away.