

News Release

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EXPAT EXPERIENCE IS GOOD FOR WEALTH, CAREER... AND LOVE

47% of Aussie expats have more disposable income overseas than at home

32% of Aussies overseas have found love with a long-term partner

Australia slips from 7th to 11th place as an expat destination

Australians living and working abroad say that life as an expat can boost their career prospects, finances and even love life, according to a new report from HSBC.

HSBC's global Expat Explorer report, titled *Achieving Ambitions Abroad*, surveyed nearly 27,000 expatriates in 190 countries. It found that Australians living overseas have more disposable income compared to living at home (47%) and have been able to save more (43%) living overseas. Additionally, Aussie expats believe that a stint overseas will improve their career prospects when they come home.

Perhaps even more importantly, a third (32%) of Aussies overseas have also found love with a long-term partner, and 36% of those who moved with a partner say the experience has brought them closer together.

"Seeking opportunities overseas can be a great way to get ahead financially and gain valuable life experience. Managing personal finances across different countries can be complex, but we know from our international customers that the benefits of expat life outweigh potential complexities," says Graham Heunis, Head of Retail Banking and Wealth Management.

The lure of a life abroad won over many Australians in the survey, with 56% having been an expat on more than one occasion. But many Aussie expats also think that Australia offers a better quality of life than their current host country (46%).

Australia's ranking as an expat destination falls

Australia's overall ranking as an expat destination fell across the report's three categories: experience, economics and family, although it still ranks highly as the fifth best place for quality of life (experience).

While Australia provides expats with a high quality of life, the research shows that the earning potential and costs of raising a family in Australia are less appealing than in countries like Switzerland and Sweden.

Perhaps indicating the strength of the country's superannuation system, 48% of expats living in Australia say living here has sped up their savings for retirement, higher than the global average of 40%. Conversely, only 30% of Aussies living overseas say they have sped up their savings for retirement while working abroad.

Singapore took the top spot in HSBC's Expat Explorer country league table for the second year in a row. The overall ranking of countries in this year's Expat Explorer report are: *(table overleaf)*

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580 George Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
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Economics	Experience	Family
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

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Media enquiries to:

**Eugenia Pratley on +61 2 9084 2902 /
+61 466 489 914 /
eugenia.pratley@hsbc.com.au**

**David Matthews on +61 2 9006 5682 /
+61 423 897 458/
david1.matthews@hsbc.com.au**

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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