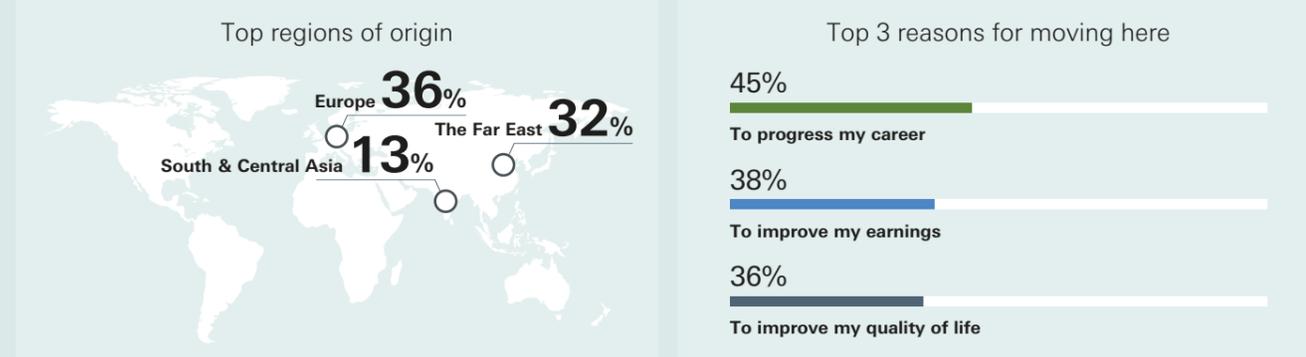
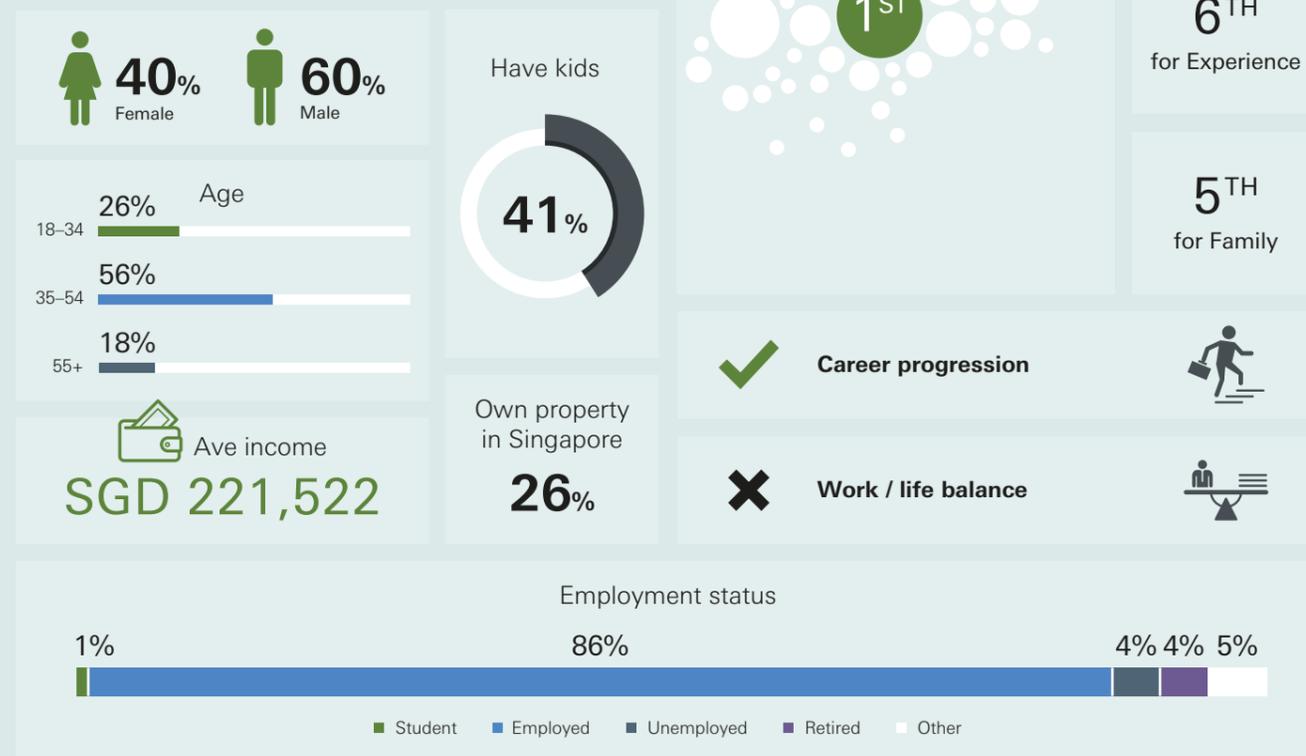


# Expats in Singapore

Based on 524 interviews



## Singapore

### Expats in Singapore

Attracting expats from one of the widest ranges of nations in our study, Singapore really does seem to offer the whole package. But it's an expensive one.

Considered the best place overall for expats again in 2018, this small territory packs a huge punch across a broad range of measures to claim 3rd place in the league tables for economics, 5th for family and 6th for experience.

Half of those drawn to the country are serial expats, often moving to progress their careers (45%) and improve their earnings (38%). Improving their income by 29%, two thirds say the territory delivers both of those things. Four out of every five expats here are confident in the political and economic stability of the territory and 78% would recommend it to anyone thinking of a move abroad.

The expats here work hard. Three quarters are employed full-time and more than half say their work/life balance is the same or worse than it was at home. Almost half (46%) say the levels of stress at work are higher than they

experienced in their home market.

Despite the huge number of perks on offer for those moving to Singapore, there's no escaping the high cost of living.

Two in four can't afford to buy a home here and most instead choose to buy in their home country. With many expats here aged 34-54 they're at an important point when it comes to pensions savings, and yet more than a third are concerned about being able to set aside enough for their retirement.

Two thirds (65%) of the expats here have more disposable income than they did at home thanks to a 29% increase in salary and they use the money carefully. For example, a quarter spend more on their children's education than they used to.

In fact, this territory is well known for its family benefits. The quality of childcare and education are considered better than at home for many expats and 60% say their children's health and wellbeing has improved. Almost three quarters of expats with families in Singapore say their children's overall quality of life is better.

Having left such a formidable nation behind, it's understandable that the Singaporean expat experience isn't always clear cut.

### Singaporean nationals abroad

With no real change in their income, and lower earnings than expats who have moved to Singapore, few have the same levels of spending money that they did at home. But that's not really why they moved away.

Singaporeans overseas are ambitious. More than two fifths moved abroad to progress their career and unlike some other nationalities for whom the quality of life becomes a greater focus after a move, these remain committed to climbing the ladder.

While few feel the economics of their host country match up to the one they've left behind, they often acknowledge a better work/life balance. Half even say they've found more personal fulfilment at work.

Such focus doesn't seem to come at the expense of the family though and half say the move has brought them closer to their partner. It has brought about other changes too.

Having left a well-organised, structured and carefully managed culture to plunge into the great global unknown, far more Singaporeans abroad (51%) feel the experience has made them more adaptable than the global average (39%).

