

Zurich and Geneva among world's top five cities for expat earnings

Zurich stands out for those looking to increase their disposable income

SWITZERLAND, 27 FEBRUARY 2018 – Zurich and Geneva are among the top five cities globally for high expat earnings, according to the latest HSBC Expat Explorer survey, the world's largest and longest running study of expat life.

Expats in Zurich have a personal gross income of USD206,875 per annum on average, while their Geneva-based counterparts receive USD184,942, found the study, which is now in its tenth year and features responses from more than 27,000 expats from 159 countries and territories.

The best destination for high expat earnings globally is Mumbai, followed by San Francisco, Zurich, Shanghai and Geneva:

Top cities for expat earnings		
Rank	City	Gross income per annum
1	Mumbai	USD217,165
2	San Francisco	USD207,227
3	Zurich	USD206,875
4	Shanghai	USD202,211
5	Geneva	USD184,942

Additionally, 77% of the Zurich-based expats who took part in the study report higher disposable income than in their home country, referring to income remaining after deduction of taxes and social security charges available to be spent or saved. This is second to no other city globally and on a par only with Doha, Qatar. Among Geneva-based expatriates, 65% report having higher disposable as a result of their relocation.

The extra income could explain why expats in Zurich and Geneva are some of the most positive in the world about their accommodation. Over half (55%) of expats in Zurich and 42% in Geneva are living in a better property than they did at home, despite the relatively expensive rental and property markets in these cities.

Asked what they appreciate the most in their host city, expats in Zurich first mention the clean and safe public spaces (68%), followed by great restaurants and the quality of food (36%). Geneva-based expats are most appreciative of the reliable and convenient public transport (72%) and the clean and safe public spaces (56%).

Seventy-three percent of expatriates in Zurich and 69% in Geneva feel safer and more secure in their host city than in their home country, outperforming the global average of less than one in two expatriates (49%) feeling safer as a result of their move.

Expatriate Explorer online:

Report and country comparisons: <https://expatexplorer.hsbc.com/survey/>

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Expatriates' ratings of 46 host countries are available to explore online through the [Expatriate Explorer interactive tool](#).

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Note to editors:**About the Expatriate Explorer survey**

The Expatriate Explorer survey was open to adults over 18 years old currently living away from their country of origin/home country. The survey was completed by 27,587 expatriates from 159 countries and territories through an online questionnaire in March and April 2017, conducted by YouGov and commissioned by HSBC Expatriate. With a minimum sample of 90 expatriate respondents required, 52 cities were included in the data analysis.

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