

8 March 2016

## **Global expat survey: New Zealand takes top spot, Canada ranks 7<sup>th</sup> when it comes to quality of life amongst women living abroad**

*\*\* International Women's Day: 8 March 2016 \*\**

*\*\* Calling all expats: [Share your experiences in a global survey here](#) \*\**

As the world celebrates International Women's Day on March 8, newly released data from the latest *HSBC Expat Explorer* survey reveals how nearly 10,000 expatriate<sup>1</sup> women across 25 countries ranked them across six different criteria: quality of life, career advancement, financial rewards and ability to save, the ease of settling in, and achieving an active social life.

### **Key global findings, and how Canada compares:**

- ***What women want:*** The majority of female expats globally say the experience and lifestyle of being an expat is their most important consideration (46% compared to 37% for men), while for their male peers, the financial side of a life abroad - income, savings and careers - is the most appealing (44%, compared to 35% for women).
- ***When it comes to quality of life, don't be afraid to be "sheepish":*** While New Zealand may be known for its 20-to-one ratio of sheep-to-people, survey data suggests that it's also the top locale when it comes to an overall improvement in the quality of life. In fact, 73% of expatriate women surveyed there say their overall quality of life is better than in their home country. In comparison, 62% of female respondents in Canada share this sentiment, ranking Canada 7<sup>th</sup> out of 25 (global average: 50%).
- ***Shattering the glass ceiling:*** Hong Kong may just be the best country for career-minded expats, with 63% of women saying that it's a good place for those who want to progress a career. In comparison, Canada ranked 9<sup>th</sup> out of 25, with 47% of female respondents in Canada reporting this to be true (global average: 38%).
- ***Show her the money!*** Qatar offers the best financial rewards, with 57% of female respondents reporting they earn more than in their home country. In comparison, just 26% of female respondents in Canada say they earned more – just below the global average of 31%, and placing Canada in 9<sup>th</sup> place.
- ***Finding your home-away-from-home:*** While 43% of female respondents in Mexico say their new country felt like "home" in six months or less, only 22% of respondents in Canada say this was the case (global average: 30%).
- ***Is Canada a no-fun-zone?*** Spain ranked as the top locale for those looking for a more active social life – with 52% of female survey respondents saying they have a more active social life than in their home country – while only 21% of female expats in Canada report a more socially active life (global average: 34%). In fact, ranking 24<sup>th</sup> out of a possible 25, the only place rated as less "social" than Canada is Switzerland.

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**Commenting on the opening of the 2016 survey, Dean Blackburn, Head of HSBC Expat said:** “Painting a picture of expat life across a broad range of criteria, the annual Expat Explorer survey is an insightful and comprehensive resource for all current and prospective expats. Not only can expats find out how the country they live in performs compared to other destinations, but they can also share the real life experiences of their peers.

“The survey findings help those who plan to move or already live abroad, and help us to better understand our expat customers and the unique challenges they face. We would like to hear from even greater numbers of expats this year; their input is critical to further support and inspire the global community of those who have made the choice of a life abroad.”

### **Participate in the 2016 Expat Explorer survey**

If you are living or working abroad and are 18 or over, we want to hear about your experience to help other expats navigate the opportunities and challenges of life abroad: [complete the survey online by April 17.](#)

The findings of the 2016 survey will be released in the fall of this year, and will be available online via HSBC’s interactive [Expat Explorer tool](#), where people can compare different countries using a broad set of criteria covering the main areas of expat life.

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### **Notes to editors:**

- 1) For the purposes of our survey, an expatriate is someone over 18 years old who is currently living away from their country of origin/home country.
- 2) Rankings are based on countries with a minimum sample of 100 female expat respondents.
- 3) **About HSBC Bank Canada**  
HSBC Bank Canada, a subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc, is the leading international bank in the country. HSBC helps companies and individuals across Canada to do business and manage their finances internationally through three global business lines: Commercial Banking, Global Banking and Markets, and Retail Banking and Wealth Management. Canada is a priority market for the HSBC Group – one of the world’s largest banking and financial services groups with assets of US\$2,410bn at 31 December 2015. Linked by advanced technology, HSBC serves customers worldwide through an international network of around 6,100 offices in 71 countries and territories in Europe, Asia, North and Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa.
- 4) **About the Expat Explorer survey and league table**  
The Expat Explorer survey was completed by 21,950 expats from 198 countries through an online questionnaire in March, April and May 2015. A minimum country sample of 100 expat respondents and at least 30 expat parents is required for that country to be included in the league tables in this report. In this edition of Expat Explorer, 39 countries qualified for those league tables. Each league table scores countries on a scale of zero to one, with the highest score ranking first and the lowest ranking last. All scores have been rounded to two decimal points.