Coined by academic and author Dr. Yvonne McNulty, ‘expat-preneur’ refers to those brave (or crazy) enough to up sticks and seek new opportunities abroad.

With international companies generating 58% of their revenue outside the country of their headquarters, it’s no wonder we’re seeing more and more of these ambitious individuals.

Who are they?

There’s no typical profile when it comes to an expat-preneur - diversity is the name of the game. But rather than taking the traditional route of corporate-relocation, or expanding existing business, these expat-preneurs are moving for a higher quality of life and to be close to new partners, and then spotting new market opportunities.

In an attempt to profile the ‘average’ expat, InterNations surveyed 14,388 expatriates representing 170 nationalities and 195 countries of residence or overseas territories.

47% MALE
53% FEMALE
38% SINGLE
62% RELATIONSHIP

Where they’re making it big

Successful expat-preneurs know there’s more to a destination than the financial opportunities - quality of life, ease of settling and cost all factor highly.

Top 10 countries:

1. Ecuador
   - Expats love the quality of life, cost of living and abundance of leisure activities available.
   - Top expat industries by employment:
     - Education, research, and translation 26%
     - Service industry and tourism 17%

2. Mexico
   - Ranks highly for its ease of welcoming expats into the local culture and low cost of living.
   - Top expat industries by employment:
     - Education, research, and translation 17%
     - Business services and consultants 13%

3. Malta
   - Job satisfaction, career prospects and a good work-life balance all make Malta an attractive prospect.
   - Top expat industries by employment:
     - IT and gaming 22%
     - Service industry and tourism 13%

42 average weekly working hours

Age groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;25</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-30</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-35</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-40</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;51</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

41 average age

Planned length of stay (years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of stay</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;5</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possibly forever</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why they’re taking the risk

A 2014 study found that:

**RISKY BUSINESS**

Some expat-preneurs simply want to move abroad and take risks not available at home.

13%

- Found own job abroad
- Relocated by employer

**A LIFE CHANGER**

Whether they’re pursuing a relationship or leaving one, it’s often about seeking new horizons.

10%

- Wanted to live in partner’s home country / moved for a loved one

**ADVENTURE**

Adventure is a strong factor at the core of the expat-preneur’s rise; looking for something new and exiting to make their own.

9%

- Moved for better quality of life
- Looking for an adventure / personal challenge
- Moved for partner’s job or education

How they’re making it happen

Successful expat-preneurs are taking a calculated risk; they leave nothing to chance and use all of the tools at their disposal.

**THE EASE OF TECH**

Improved communication and ease of working on the go have benefited those looking to set up abroad.

**AN OUTSIDER’S PERSPECTIVE**

Coming from outside the local business culture, expat-preneurs are able to critically assess market needs and new opportunities.

**COMBINING KNOWLEDGE**

The combination of an outsider’s viewpoint and insider knowledge is crucial in becoming a long-term success.

**UNSEEN POTENTIAL**

By bridging the divide, expat-preneurs are able to see and take advantage of untapped potential where opportunities are strongest.

While fruitful endeavors drive many expat-preneurs abroad, an increasing number of moves stem from a lifestyle choice - making the best of both worlds.

If you’re looking for a land of opportunity, there’s never been a better time to make the leap.

Sources


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