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INTRODUCTION: The Expat Review Vol. 2

The Expat Review is a study of the expatriate community in the United States, conducted by International AutoSource. In its second year, The Expat Review takes a closer look into the lives of Expats to uncover new findings, learn more about challenges, and provide a better understanding of what life is like as a foreigner in the United States.

The study was conducted from January 6, 2016, to March 5, 2016. During this time, 1,501 expatriates were surveyed who relocated to the United States between 2010 and 2016, approximately. The participants of the study were International AutoSource customers as well as members of British Expats and Expat Exchange.

The findings of this study were divided into five parts: Demographics, Planning, Transportation, Challenges, and What the Expats Wish They Knew.

To have a better understanding of the expatriate community in the United States, The Expat Review begins with an overview of the demographics of the survey participants. This section helps create a profile of the average Expat in the USA. How these expatriates prepared for their relocation can be influential as to what life is like for them after the move. Preparation details are included under Planning, revealing trends in relocation assistance and packages.

When surveyed, The Expat Review participants were asked to rank moving challenges on a scale of easy to hard. The results of this study prove that even everyday tasks, such as getting a cell phone or opening a bank account, can be hard when you’re living in a foreign country.

As a leader in the Expat transportation industry, International AutoSource felt it was important to include statistics on commuting, vehicles, and transportation challenges in the United States. The study reveals that the commuting trends among Expats mimic those of the country as a whole, likely due to the infrastructure of the country which favors driving.

The survey concluded with one question: “What is the one thing that you wish you knew before you relocated?” Perhaps the most impactful question asked within the study, the range of answers truly open your eyes to the world of an Expat living in the United States.
DEMOGRAPHICS: Expats at a glance

TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

- **18.7%** United Kingdom
- **12.6%** Philippines
- **7.3%** Brazil
- **5.6%** Mexico
- **5.4%** India
- **3.8%** China
- **3.1%** Germany
- **2.7%** Australia
- **2.6%** France
- **2.3%** Singapore

FAMILY AND GENDER STATISTICS

- 53.4% Relocated with spouse and family
- 24.3% Relocated alone
- 20.7% Relocated with spouse
- 1.70% Relocated with children only
- 70.8% Male
- 28.5% Female
- 18.8% did not answer

FOREIGN WORKERS IN THE U.S.: TOP 6 INDUSTRIES

- **25.7%** Healthcare
- **14.7%** Information Technology
- **13.7%** Manufacturing
- **11.5%** Engineering
- **9.1%** Finance/Banking
- **7.3%** Energy

LENGTH OF STAY

- 48.6% Permanently
- 28.1% 3 to 5 years
- 14.7% 2 to 3 years
- 6.1% 1 to 2 years
- 2.4% 0 to 1 year

WHAT THE EXPATS WISH THEY KNEW

The adjustment process takes time and does not happen overnight. - Richey T., Philippines
PLANNING: How the Expats prepared

**Types of Relocation Assistance Provided**
- 62.9% Company assisted/relocation/3rd party
- 13.3% Lump sum
- 12% Self-managed
- 10.7% Lump sum in part/reimbursement
- 1.1% Other

**Benefits included in a Relocation Package**
1. Shipment of personal goods 59.1%
2. Housing allowance 41.7%
3. Settling-in services 39.1%
4. Cost of living adjustment 32.8%
5. Repatriation support 28.6%
6. Car allowance 24.8%
7. Partner or spousal support 19.9%

**Yearly Plans for a Home Visit**
- 71.5% One
- 18.3% Two
- 5.1% Three
- 5.1% Four or more

**What the Expats Wish They Knew**
How culturally different the UK & US was...seems so similar from films/TV but its not. - Suzanne W., United Kingdom
TRANSPORTATION: Getting around the United States

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, 87.9% of people commute to work by driving due to the lack of public transportation in the United States. These findings are in line with the Expat responses.

TYPE OF VEHICLE PURCHASED

- 76.1% Purchased new
- 12.1% Purchased used
- 10.9% Did not obtain a vehicle
- 1.80% Other

OBTAINING A VEHICLE WAS:

- 27.1% Easy
- 37.9% Somewhat Easy
- 20.9% Somewhat Hard
- 9.1% Hard
- 4.9% Not Applicable

WHAT THE EXPATS WISH THEY KNEW

I wish I was informed ahead that there’s no public transportation in the place where I will be relocated with my family. – Prodelyn Z., Philippines
In the Expat Review Volume 1 released in 2015, the survey participants were asked to name their relocation challenges. The top three challenges cited were: obtaining documentation, finding a home, and lack of credit.

To investigate these common expat challenges further, participants of the 2016 Expat Review survey were asked to rank 11 challenges associated with relocating to the United States on a scale of Easy, Somewhat Easy, Somewhat Hard, Hard, or Not Applicable.

### Getting a Cell Phone

- **Easy**: 48.2%
- **Somewhat Easy**: 28.4%
- **Somewhat Hard**: 12.1%
- **Hard**: 6.9%
- **Not Applicable**: 4.4%

### Finding a Home

- **Easy**: 40.2%
- **Somewhat Easy**: 29.4%
- **Somewhat Hard**: 12.1%
- **Hard**: 1.9%
- **Not Applicable**: 1.9%

### Getting Insurance

- **Easy**: 30.8%
- **Somewhat Easy**: 38.4%
- **Somewhat Hard**: 20.9%
- **Hard**: 7.2%
- **Not Applicable**: 2.8%

*The challenges associated with transportation are shown on page 6*
**CHALLENGES: Settling into life in the United States**

### Adapting to the Culture

- Easy: 33.1%
- Somewhat Easy: 40%
- Somewhat Hard: 18.9%
- Hard: 6.7%
- N/A: 1.5%

### Finding a School

- Easy: 18.3%
- Somewhat Easy: 23.1%
- Somewhat Hard: 11%
- Hard: 3%
- N/A: 44.7%

### Getting a Social Security Number

- Easy: 45.7%
- Somewhat Easy: 33.7%
- Somewhat Hard: 10.1%
- Hard: 4.2%
- Not Applicable: 6.3%

### Obtaining Healthcare

- Easy: 39.7%
- Somewhat Easy: 33.2%
- Somewhat Hard: 14.7%
- Hard: 6.7%
- Not Applicable: 5.7%

### Opening a Bank Account

- Easy: 50.8%
- Somewhat Easy: 34.4%
- Somewhat Hard: 8.8%
- Hard: 3.7%
- N/A: 2.2%

### Making Friends

- Easy: 26.7%
- Somewhat Easy: 37.7%
- Somewhat Hard: 24.1%
- Hard: 6.7%
- N/A: 1.5%

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**What the Expats Wish They Knew**

*How having a Social Security number was essentially key to services like banking, utilities, insurance and cable.*  
- Jessica T., United Kingdom
The best way to learn is to do! No matter how well prepared you are for your relocation, there are always lessons to be learned along the way. In the Expat Review the participants were asked what they wish they had known before they moved. Their answers shed light on the shared struggles faced by foreigners moving to the United States, regardless of age, gender, or nationality.

Over 1,500 Expats were asked, “What is the one thing that you wish you knew before you relocated?” Below are some of their answers.

I wish I knew...

How complicated, slow, and outrageously expensive health care was in the USA, and for no better quality than in Europe, or even Colombia for that matter.
– Jean Marc T., Columbia

More about health insurance options and taxes.
– Nallisha Jagdeo S., Trinidad and Tobago

The state of the rental market in a “smaller” US location - such as Delaware. It is very different to the rental market in larger cities, and the quality of housing stock is poor.
– Jennifer G., Hong Kong

Importance of Credit History which you have to build up from zero
– Marc B., Japan

The type of vehicle to buy for the weather conditions such as 4WD for snow area
– Yvonne R., Jamaica

How the US healthcare system worked before I arrived, so that I could budget time and money accordingly.
– Eric S., Canada

How difficult it was to get a cheap car insurance without a driving history
– Fabio M., Spain

Apartments are leased without furniture
– Evgeny A., Russia

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What did the Expats wish they knew before relocating?

- The higher cost of things because of not having any history e.g. car insurance. Had I known this I would have negotiated differently with my relocation package.
  - Chet T., United Kingdom

- Projected expenses/ month for the entire family with comparison from different states.
  - Ronald O., Qatar

- How expensive the first few months would be.
  - Matthew C., United Kingdom

- That I couldn’t buy a car at a regular dealership due to lack of credit history.
  - Elizabeth D., Mexico

- Tax implications on my assets outside of the USA.
  - Beryn A., Singapore

- We all talk English but not the same English it may have helped to have a better understanding of that.
  - Jason M., United Kingdom

- How to open bank accounts
  - Fernando D., Mexico
**Who we are:**

For over 20 years, International AutoSource (IAS) has been providing value-added services and benefits specifically designed for expatriates and the global community for short and long-term assignments. Our programs offer full-service personal transportation solutions for financing, purchasing, leasing and rental without a local credit or driving history. Through outstanding service, value and support IAS strives to make assignments into a foreign country as seamless as possible while saving customers valuable time, money and resources. For more information, please contact us at +1 516.496.1816, email at intlauto@intlauto.com or visit their website www.intlauto.com.

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1 Responses for other included no assistance provided and confidential. 2 Response percentages add up to more than 100% as some expats purchased more than one vehicle.