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Over 1.6 million Brits move abroad in the past decade

- Australia, Spain, USA, France and New Zealand the five most popular destinations
 - Three out of four (74%) move for a definite job
- Lloyds Private Banking offers top tips for people moving abroad

Since 2006 emigration¹ from Britain is estimated to have reached 1.65 million², according to latest research from Lloyds Private Banking. However, the number of Britons moving abroad has slowed down over the past decade.

Between 2006 and 2011, the number of Britons leaving the country averaged 162,667 per year. Since 2012, this average has dropped by nearly a fifth (17.5%) to 134,400 per year.

The annual level of emigration has fallen by over a third (35%) from 207,000 in 2006 to 134,000 in 2016 – the second lowest annual total in the past decade. [See Table 1]

The most recent estimates suggest there are 4.92 million³ British citizens living abroad - equivalent to 7.5% of the current national population.

Australia, Spain, USA, France and New Zealand are the top five most popular destinations attracting a combined 900,000 since 2005.

Australia has consistently been the most popular destination for the British with 385,000 heading Down Under for a new life. The next most popular are Spain (144,000), the USA (132,000), France (129,000) and New Zealand (94,000).

New Country of Residence	British Citizens Moving 2005 to 2015
Australia	385,000
Spain	144,000
USA	132,000
France	129,000
New Zealand	94,000
Canada	70,000
United Arab Emirates	61,000
Germany	49,000
Republic of Ireland	20,000
Switzerland	19,000

Source: International Passenger Survey (IPS) - ONS

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Employment key factor for expats – with three out of four moving for a definite job

Over half of British citizens who emigrated from the UK in the past decade have done so mainly for work related reasons. Three-quarters (74%) of these had a definite job offer whilst a quarter (26%) were still looking for a job.

In 2015, the USA, Australia, France, Italy, India and Spain were the leading destinations for British citizens emigrating for a "definite job", accounting for 43% of total jobs.

Majority moving for long term

Around two-thirds (65%) of British citizens emigrating since 2006 have indicated⁵ they intend to live abroad for more than four years. One in five (20%) intend to be away for up to two years and eight per cent for between two and four years. The remaining seven per cent were unsure about their intended length of stay.

Interest in moving abroad peaks in the summer

Perhaps unsurprisingly interest in moving abroad is greatest in the summer. Research carried out by Lloyds Private Banking⁶ shows that internet searches and posts about moving abroad peak in the summer months (June – July) followed by the New Year (January). The majority of searches and posts relate to the cultural change of moving abroad – what's it like to live and work there – followed by questions about finances.

Peter Reid, Expatriate Banking Director at Lloyds Private Banking, said:

"Moving abroad can be a daunting prospect, but more than 1.6 million British citizens have moved overseas in the past decade.

"A new life abroad is likely to be one of the most exciting and life changing decisions you'll ever make, but there's also a lot to think about. Ensuring your finances are in order is one of the most important. There are a lot of considerations, including an international bank account, tax liabilities and transferring money overseas and it's important to seek professional advice if you're thinking of making the move."

Top tips for moving abroad

There's a lot to think about when moving abroad. Settling into a new way of life, the cost of living, moving children to a new school, managing your finances – it can be a daunting prospect. Here Lloyds Private Banking offers its top tips on what to consider when moving overseas.

1. Take the time to research your banking options. While you may wish to maintain a British bank account to receive your income, think about how you plan to use it overseas. An international account is designed for people living and working abroad and may provide more flexibility and the opportunity to reduce costs.
2. If you need to transfer money overseas, look into the options available to you. Most

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international banks provide easy methods for transferring funds, as well as foreign exchange solutions designed for you to make the most of your money.

3. Check that your bank provides international telephone and/or internet banking services so you can manage your banking easily from your new country of residence.
4. Research the local laws, such as tax regulations, housing requirements and impact to pension, and understand how these may impact you.
5. Research the cost of living and understand how your lifestyle may be impacted by any fluctuation to your income caused by foreign exchange fluctuations.
6. Investigate whether you will require private health insurance. Many countries only provide basic provision to expatriates and use of medical services could incur significant costs.
7. If planning to work overseas, take the time to investigate any employment laws that may apply to you. Many countries provide a guide to working overseas and you should take the time to familiarise yourself with local rules.
8. If planning on returning back to the UK in the future, look to see what the implications being overseas may have on your return. This may include a break in pension contributions. Many banks will be able to put you in touch with a tax advisor who will be able to provide relevant guidance
9. If relocating with children of a school age, consider the options available for their education. With a range of public and private schooling available the options can be daunting. Some banks will include information on schooling in their guides to moving abroad.
10. If taking your car with you, think about how you will keep it on the road. Requirements may include the need to license your car in your new country of residence as well as ensuring it remains roadworthy.

Lloyds Private Banking has created a [series of videos](http://international.lloydsbank.com/how-we-can-help/moving-abroad/) to help people understand more about working and living abroad: <http://international.lloydsbank.com/how-we-can-help/moving-abroad/>

Table 1 Long Term International Migration: British citizen moving abroad 2006-2016

Year ending December	Numbers Of British Citizens Moving
2006	207,000
2007	171,000
2008	173,000
2009	140,000
2010	136,000
2011	149,000
2012	143,000
2013	134,000
2014	137,000

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2015	124,000
2016	134,000

Source: International Passenger Survey (IPS) - ONS

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Notes to Editors:

¹ ONS uses the UN recommendation for defining an international long-term migrant. That is, a migrant is someone who changes his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least a year, so that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence. This definition does not necessarily coincide with those used by other organisations.

² This relates to British citizens emigrating abroad and does not include non-British nationals.

³ United Nation International Migration Stock 2015 (by Origin and Destination). Figure includes citizens of Northern Ireland as well as those of Great Britain.

⁴ The International Passenger Survey (IPS) asks for an individual's 'main reason' for migrating and the data reflects just one reason for each respondent even though many may be migrating for more than one reason.

⁵ Response to survey question from the IPS.

⁶ Expats Social Listening Analysis 2016 – Lloyds Private Banking

The following sources of data are used to compile the National Statistics estimates of long-term international migration into and out of the UK:

- The International Passenger Survey (IPS), which is the prime source of long-term international migration data providing estimates of both inflows and outflows, but does not cover all migration types. The IPS is a continuous voluntary survey conducted at all principal air and sea routes, and the channel tunnel. It is a sample survey and the resultant figures are grossed up by weighting factors dependant on route and time of year. The figures produced are therefore estimates not exact counts.
- The Labour Force Survey (LFS), which provides a geographical distribution of long-term immigrants for the calibration of IPS inflow data.
- Home Office, which provides data on asylum seekers and their dependants
Irish Central Statistics Office, which provides estimates of migration of all citizenships between the UK and Irish Republic from 1991-2007
- Long-term international migration data from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) for estimating long-term international migration to and from Northern Ireland for 2008 onwards.

This information is intended for the sole use of journalists and media professionals.

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