The cost of health insurance in top expat destinations
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Overview

Pacific Prime has set out to determine the premiums charged by top health insurance providers offering individual health insurance plans with zero deductible excess to expats worldwide. We have decided to break up the figures into a number of shorter articles, that when combined make up a full report.

The cost of health insurance for expats in 94 countries

This article looks at the average price of all plans and provides a ranking of the 20 most expensive and 5 cheapest countries.

The cost of health insurance in top expat destinations

Expands the numbers and looks at the price of health insurance in six of the most popular countries for expats.

The cost of health insurance in different regions

The third article looks at the rest of the countries included, grouped by region.

Pacific Prime will be releasing the articles sequentially on a regular basis throughout the year.
The cost of health insurance in top expat destinations

Part 1 of Article 2 ranks the average cost of purchasing an individual international health insurance plan in the top expat destinations as selected by Pacific Prime. Because this is a more in-depth look at the top expat destination countries, we have expanded the number of insurers from six to 11, which provides a more accurate view of the price of health insurance in each location.

As with Article 1, figures have been combined and ranked for four common demographics (Single, Couple, Family, and Retiree) and are based on the average costs for three levels of plans from eleven different insurers operating in the six locations. For more information regarding demographics, plans, providers, and the countries included in this report, please see the Appendix, Assumptions and Methodology section for Article 2.

Pacific Prime has determined that Hong Kong has the highest average health insurance premiums of the countries included in Article 2 with an average cost of USD 10,391. This is to be expected, largely because of the extremely high cost of living, the increasingly costly health care, and the high volume of plans purchased in the city. Interestingly enough, Singapore which seems to be perpetually chasing Hong Kong in figures is actually ranked third in average costs with an average cost of USD 9,050 - 13% lower than prices in Hong Kong. This is behind China; the second most expensive at USD 9,568, with plans averaging only 2% lower than in Hong Kong.

As expected, Thailand, has the lowest average costs for health insurance (USD 7,167, or 26% lower when compared with Hong Kong) among the countries involved. This is largely due to the lower cost of living and generally cheaper cost of healthcare. The UK and the UAE come in 4th and 5th lowest, with average costs of USD 7,419 and USD 7,773 respectively. These two regions are generally closely priced, representing a 3% difference in costs between the two when compared with Hong Kong.

While these numbers all seem high they do reflect a wide variety of premiums and plans which run from as cheap as USD 1,884 in Thailand to over USD 24,000 in Hong Kong. In fact, when all plans and all countries are compared, the average standard deviation is 4,135. This indicates a wide variation in the costs of premiums which is to be expected when looking at the range of premiums charged.

### Ranking of average price of all plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Average Cost - USD</th>
<th>% of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>10,391</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>10,194</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>9,050</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>8,332</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>7,973</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>7,680</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When the US is included, the ranking changes slightly with each country moving down one rank, on account of the US being the most expensive country overall. In fact, premiums in Hong Kong are 47.5% of the cost of premiums in the US. Thailand has premiums at 35.1% of the cost of those in the US. This highlights the fact that while premiums may seem high in the top expat destinations, they are still far lower than those in the US. For more information on the US and how the rest of the plans stack up against it, see Article 1.
Ranking of the average prices based on demographics

The tables below look at the average costs for individual international health insurance in countries based on the different demographics (Single person, Couple, Family, and Retiree) included in this report. For more information on these demographics, please see Section 9 - Appendix and Assumptions of the report.

### Single plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Average Cost - USD</th>
<th>% of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>5,044</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>4,928</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>4,222</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>3,966</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>3,810</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>3,647</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the countries included in this Article, Hong Kong comes in as the most expensive, on average, place to purchase a single International Health Insurance. With an average price of USD 5,044, it is 28% more expensive than plans in Thailand. China is a close second, coming in at an average of USD 4,928, which is within two percentage points - or USD 116 - of plans in Hong Kong.

There is roughly a 15% gap between prices in Singapore and those in both China and Hong Kong, with an even bigger gap between the UK and the UAE which differ by 21% and 24% respectively.

If you include the average price for single insurance plans in the US, the countries again move down one rank, with the US being in top spot. Hong Kong, the next most expensive, has plans 50.2% of the cost of those in the US, while Thailand has costs 36.3% of those in the US. When compared to the ranking for single plans in Article 1, Singapore moves down a spot in this Article. This is strictly due to the fact that some of the insurance providers included in this Article offer lower premiums which moves Singapore down below China.

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### Couple plans

Looking at the ranking for the average price couples can expect to pay, Hong Kong is again ranked as the most costly with an average price of USD 10,268 for all three main types of plans from all providers. China is again in a very close second with an average of USD 9,855, a percentage difference of 4% when compared to Hong Kong.

Singapore’s rank remains unchanged when compared to the total average rank, with an average price of USD 8,763, a percentage difference of 15% when compared to Hong Kong. The UK is again below Singapore in the ranking with an average cost 21% lower than Hong Kong. The UAE and Thailand sit in the lower two ranks, being the cheaper locations with an average price of USD 5,659 and USD 5,396, a difference of 23% and 27% respectively.

When the US is included, the ranking changes slightly with each country moving down one rank, on account of the US being the most expensive country. In fact, premiums in Hong Kong are 47.4% of the cost of premiums in the US. Thailand, with the cheapest average premiums, has premiums that cost 34.4% of those in the US. This highlights the fact that while premiums may seem high in the top expat destinations, they are still far lower than those in the US. For more information on the US and how the rest of the plans stack up against it, see Article 1.

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The cost of health insurance in top expat destinations

### Family plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Average Cost - USD</th>
<th>% of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>14,671</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>14,623</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>12,686</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>11,650</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>11,176</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>10,704</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As one would expect, the average price for family plans will cost more than all other plans, mainly because of the increased number of members covered. When looking at how the countries compare, Hong Kong is the most costly for family health insurance plans with an average of USD 14,671. China, as with the other demographics, is quite close to Hong Kong with an average of USD 14,623, a percentage difference of 3% - the largest of any of the demographics.

Singapore comes in third with average premiums of USD 12,686 and a difference of 14% from Hong Kong. The UK is about USD 1,000 cheaper at an average price of USD 11,650 which makes it slightly more than 20% lower than Hong Kong. As with all the other demographics, the UAE and Thailand are the cheaper countries in the Article with an average of USD 11,176 and USD 10,704 which make them 24% and 27% respectively, cheaper when compared with prices in Hong Kong.

When the US is included, the ranking changes slightly with each country moving down one rank, on account of the US being the most expensive country. In fact, premiums for families in Hong Kong are 46.6% of the cost of premiums in the US. Thailand, with the cheapest average premiums, has premiums that cost 34.0% of those in the US. This highlights the fact that while premiums may seem high in the top expat destinations, they are still far lower than those in the US. For more information on the US and how the rest of the plans stack up against it, see Article 1.

### Retiree plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Average Cost - USD</th>
<th>% of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>11,583</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>11,372</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>10,529</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>9,587</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>9,031</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>8,918</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For retirees, Hong Kong is the most expensive location in which to purchase international health insurance with an average cost of USD 11,583. China is close to Hong Kong however, with an average price of USD 11,372; 2% cheaper than Hong Kong.

Singapore, which is 9% cheaper than Hong Kong is ranked third, while the UK is in a distant fourth with an average price of USD 9,587; a difference of 17%. Rounding out the ranking, in the same spots as the overall ranking, are the two locations: The UAE and Thailand which offer average costs of USD 9,031; and USD 8918 - a difference of 22% and 23% respectively.

When the US is included, the ranking changes slightly with each country moving down one rank, on account of the US being the most expensive country. In fact, premiums for retirees in Hong Kong are 49.9% of the cost of premiums in the US. Thailand has premiums that cost 38.4% of those in the US. This highlights the fact that while premiums may seem high in the top expat destinations, they are still far lower than those in the US. For more information on the US and how the rest of the plans stack up against it, see Article 1.

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Overview of Hong Kong

As of the writing of this report, there are 11 private hospitals in Hong Kong. Offering a high level of care along with usually shorter wait times than the public system, and staff who speak a variety of languages, these hospitals have become facilities that expats, and High New Worth individuals, tend to select. Due to factors such as high demand, higher operating costs and lack of pricing transparency, many hospitals charge what they feel people will pay. This has resulted in private hospitals in Hong Kong, and consequently individual international health insurance premiums, being the most expensive in the world.

Below is an overview of the cost of individual international health insurance in Hong Kong. The number of insurance providers has been expanded from six in the overall ranking to eleven, and prices have been broken down by demographic and plan level. For more information regarding demographics, plans, providers, and the countries included in this report, please see the Appendix, Assumptions and Methodology section for Article 2.
Individual international health insurance premiums in Hong Kong, across all single coverage plans, cover a range of USD 1,865 (inpatient only) to USD 12,242 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage) at the most expensive. The average price one can expect to pay for health insurance in Hong Kong - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 2,569
- Plan 2: USD 4,947
- Plan 3: USD 7,790

Together, the premiums in Hong Kong represent a total variance of 85%, which means prices are about as spread out as they can be. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

For single plans in Hong Kong, Plan 2 premiums are more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 2,696 and the most expensive being USD 9,252. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 71%, which indicates a fairly wide spread of prices. As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 34% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums.

While this outlier may seem odd - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 4,000 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis in Part 8 of why this outlier exists. Ignoring this outlier, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 3,380 which results in a lower percentage variance of 56%. While lower than the actual variance, this still indicates a fairly wide difference in single premiums charged for this level of plan in Hong Kong.

The premiums offered to singles considering Plan 3 are the most varied when compared to the other plans in Hong Kong. With the most expensive being USD 12,242 and the least expensive being USD 3,710 with a percentage variance of 70%. Because there are no really drastic outliers, these figures represent a true wide variance when it comes to pricing.

For people considering purchasing a single plan from those included in Plan 1 in Hong Kong, the lowest cost premium offered by the companies included in the series comes in at USD 1,856, while the most expensive is USD 4,571. This represents a percentage difference just shy of 60%. There are two main premium clusters here, with three plans being around USD 2,000 and five plans around USD 2,500.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 838, with an average percentage variance of 31%. This indicates a fairly equal market for similar plans.
Across all health insurance plans for couples in Hong Kong, there is a range from USD 3,731 (inpatient only) to USD 24,484 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for health insurance in Hong Kong - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 5,137
- Plan 2: USD 9,895
- Plan 3: USD 16,081

Together, the premiums in Hong Kong represent a total variance of 85%, which means prices are spread out over a large range. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

For a couple considering Plan 1 in Hong Kong, the least expensive premium of the companies included in Part 2 comes in at USD 3,731, while the most expensive is USD 9,143. This represents a percentage difference just shy of 59%. There are two main premium clusters here, with three plans being around USD 4,000 and four plans around USD 5,000.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers, which represents quite a large outlier, and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 1,657, with an average percentage variance of 31%. This indicates a fairly clustered market for similar plans.

Plan 2 premiums for couples are more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 5,393 and the most expensive being USD 18,504. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 71%, which indicates a fairly wide spread of prices. As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 34% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums.

While this outlier may seem odd - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 6,352 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis in Part 9.

Ignoring this outlier, the price difference between the plans for couples drops to USD 6,759 which results in a lower percentage variance of 56%. While lower, this still indicates a fairly wide variance in the premiums charged for this level of plan in Hong Kong.

The premiums offered to couples considering plans included in Plan 3 are the most varied when compared to the other plans in Hong Kong. With the most expensive being USD 24,484 and the least expensive being USD 7,419 at a percentage variance of 70%. Because there are no really drastic outliers, these figures represent a true wide variance when it comes to pricing. There is however a cluster of three prices just over USD 15,000 indicating mid-range premiums.
Health insurance premiums in Hong Kong, across all coverage plans for families, cover a range of USD 4,725 (inpatient only) to USD 31,793 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price an expat can expect to pay for health insurance in Hong Kong - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 7,617
- Plan 2: USD 14,729
- Plan 3: USD 22,168

Together, the premiums in Hong Kong represent a total variance of 85%, which means prices are spread out over a large range. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

For Plan 1 in Hong Kong, the least expensive premium families can expect to pay is USD 4,725, while the most expensive is USD 13,207. This represents a percentage difference just shy of 65%. While the three cheapest plans are evenly spread out, there is a cluster of five plans between USD 7,500 and USD 8,000 and an outlier that is 39% higher than the second most costly plan. Please see Pacific Prime’s analysis in Part 9 for a further explanation as to why this outlier is so disparate from the other premiums.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 3,333, with an average percentage variance of 41%. This indicates that the majority of the premiums are somewhat spread out.

Plan 2 premiums to families are more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 9,661 and the most expensive being USD 26,734. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 64%, which indicates a fairly wide spread of prices. As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 33% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums.

While this outlier may seem odd - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 8,906 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis in Part 9 of why this outlier exists.

Ignoring this outlier, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 8,167 which results in a lower percentage variance of 46%. While lower, this still indicates a fairly wide variance in the premiums charged for this level of plan in Hong Kong.

The premiums offered to families considering plans included in Plan 3 are the most varied when compared to the other plans in Hong Kong. With the most expensive being USD 31,793 and the least expensive being USD 9,625 with a percentage variance of 70%. There are three clusters of two or three prices at around USD 18,500, USD 24,000, and USD 26,000 this shows that while spread out, some premiums will be similar.

Unlike the premiums in other demographics and locations, most of whom show an outlier with premiums above the majority, there is an outlier here with a premium USD 8,065 lower than the second cheapest; a percentage difference of 46%. For an explanation as to why this is, please see our analysis in Part 9.

For a more detailed analysis of health insurance premiums in Hong Kong, please refer to Part 9.
Health insurance premiums in Hong Kong, across all coverage plans for retirees, cover a range of USD 4,839 (inpatient only) to USD 22,433 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for health insurance in Hong Kong - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 6,390
- Plan 2: USD 12,575
- Plan 3: USD 16,196

Together, the premiums in Hong Kong represent a total variance of 78%, which means prices are spread out over a large range. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

For retirees considering premiums included in Plan 1 in Hong Kong, the least expensive premium of the companies included in the report comes in at USD 4,839, while the most expensive is USD 22,433. This represents a percentage difference of 78%. While the many of the plans are below USD 7,000, there is an outlier that is 29% higher than the second most costly plan. Please see Pacific Prime’s analysis in Part 9 for further explanation as to why this outlier is so disparate from the other premiums.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 2,498, with an average percentage variance of 34%.

Plan 2 premiums for retirees are more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 7,060 and the most expensive being USD 20,909. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 66%, which indicates a fairly wide spread of prices. As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 27% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums.

While this outlier may seem odd - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 5,567 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis in Part 8.

Ignoring this outlier, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 8,282 which results in a lower percentage variance of 54%. While lower, this still indicates a fairly wide variance in the premiums charged for this level of plan in Hong Kong.

The premiums offered for retirees considering plans included in Plan 3 are the most varied when compared to the other plans in Hong Kong.

With the most expensive being USD 22,433 and the least expensive being USD 10,334, a percentage variance of 54%. Unlike the premiums for Plans 1 and 2 in Hong Kong, the premiums in Plan 3 are almost evenly spread out, which indicates a wide variance in the premiums found at this level.
Part 3

A closer look at China

Overview of China

Article 2 - Part 3 takes a closer look at the second most costly location of the countries included in Article 2 (and fourth overall) - China. With almost 23% of the world’s population living in China, a booming economy, bustling cities, a low cost of living, it is quickly becoming popular with expats. In particular, those arriving with experience in IT, manufacturing, accounting, international marketing, and teaching English are finding their feet in the country.

While not the biggest draw for expats, especially when compared to other locations like Singapore or Hong Kong, there is still a large expat population in the country - around 240,000 in 2012 - with many found in the three large cities of Shanghai, Beijing, and Guangzhou.

While there is a generally acceptable public health care system in place in the larger cities in China, many expats struggle to navigate it largely due to the fact that English and other languages beyond Mandarin or Cantonese are not spoken by staff and doctors. This language barrier and sometimes lack of specific care being available forces almost all expats to turn to private and international hospitals, which can be very costly.

Beyond that, the overall demand for health care in private systems is quite high, with limited availability. This has led to hospitals charging high rates, which in turn means higher health insurance premiums for expats.

Below is an overview of the cost of individual international health insurance in China. The number of insurance providers has been expanded from six in the overall ranking to eleven, and prices have been broken down by demographic and plan level. For more information regarding demographics, plans, providers, and the countries included in this report, please see the Appendix, Assumptions and Methodology section for Article 2.
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The premiums for all single coverage health insurance plans in China cover a range of USD 1,930 (inpatient only) to USD 10,076 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for health insurance in China - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 2,324
- Plan 2: USD 5,247
- Plan 3: USD 7,467

Together, the premiums in China represent a total variance of 81%, which means prices are spread out over a broad spectrum. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

For Plan 1 in China, the cheapest premium of the companies included in the report comes in at USD 1,930, while the most expensive is USD 3,552; a percentage difference of 46%. The majority of the plans are clustered quite closely together between USD 2,400 and USD 2,000, with one high cost outlier. Please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article to learn more about this outlier and why it exists.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 878, with an average percentage variance of 18%. This indicates fairly similar pricing between plans at this level.

Plan 2 premiums are only slightly more spread out than the majority of the premiums in Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 4,145 and the most expensive being USD 7,199. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 46%, which indicates a relatively wide spread of prices. While there is an outlier for Plan 2 like the other countries in the report, China is unique in that there are actually two plans with premiums around USD 7,200.

While these two plans may seem a fair distance from the average - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 2190 from the second most costly plan - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis at the end of this article.

Ignoring the outliers, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 866 which results in a lower percentage variance of 17%. This indicates a slight variance in the majority of the plans available in the Plan 2 category in China.

The premiums that comprise Plan 3 are the most spread out when compared to the other plans in China. With the most expensive being USD 10,076 and the least expensive being USD 4,699; a percentage variance of 53%. Unlike the other two plan categories in China, Plan 3 premiums are much more spread out, with one cluster of three plans just short of USD 7,000.

Interestingly, China’s Plan 3 is the only segment that has an outlier lower than the rest of the plans. This plan is USD 1,902 lower than the second lowest premium, which can be explained due to the fact that the company owning the plan has a lower business base, and that actuarial processes have lead to losses going unnoticed. Thus, a generally weaker portfolio.
The premiums for couples in China cover a range of USD 3,861 (inpatient only) to USD 20,153 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage), with the average price a couple can expect to pay for health insurance in China - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 4,673
- Plan 2: USD 10,493
- Plan 3: USD 14,934

Together, the premiums in China represent a total variance of 81%, which means prices are spread out over a broad spectrum. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

### Plan 1

For Plan 1 in China, the cheapest premium for couples comes in at USD 3,861, while the most expensive is USD 7,105; a percentage difference of 46%. There is one significant outlier in the premiums, which puts it USD 2,425 higher than the second most costly plan; a percentage difference of 34%. To learn more about why this outlier is so far above the other premiums, please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 819, with an average percentage variance of 17%. This indicates fairly similar pricing between plans at this level.

### Plan 2

Plan 2 premiums for couples are only slightly more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the cheapest being USD 8,291 and the most expensive being USD 14,398. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 42%, which indicates a fairly wide spread of prices. While there is an outlier for Plan 2 like the other countries in the report, China is unique in that there are actually two plans with premiums around USD 14,300.

While these two plans may seem a fair distance from the average - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 4,376 from the second most costly plan - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis at the end of this article.

Ignoring the outliers, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 1,731 which results in a lower percentage variance of 17%. While lower, this still indicates a slight variance in the premiums charged for this level of plan in China.

### Plan 3

The premiums offered in Plan 3 are the most spread out when compared to the other plans in China. With the most expensive being USD 20,153 and the cheapest being USD 9,398 with a percentage variance of 53%. Unlike the other two plan categories in China, Plan 3 premiums are much more spread out, with one cluster of three plans just short of USD 14,000.

Interestingly, China’s Plan 3 has an outlier lower than the rest of the plans. This plan is USD 3,804 lower than the second lowest premium, which can be explained due to both the company owning the plan having a lower business base, and the fact that actuarial processes have lead to losses not being seen and therefore a generally weaker portfolio.
The cost of health insurance in top expat destinations

The health insurance premiums for all families in China cover a range of USD 5,513 (inpatient only) to USD 28,313 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price a family can expect to pay for health insurance in China - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 7,056
- Plan 2: USD 15,884
- Plan 3: USD 21,626

Together, the premiums in China represent a total variance of 81%, which means prices are spread out over a broad spectrum. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

For families considering a plan included in Plan 1 in China, the least expensive premium comes in at USD 5,513, while the most expensive is USD 28,313; a percentage difference of 46%. There is one significant outlier in the premiums, which puts it USD 2,895 higher than the second most costly plan; a percentage difference of 28%. Please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article to learn more about why this outlier exists.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 1,856, with an average percentage variance of 25%. This indicates fairly similar pricing between plans at this level.

The least expensive premiums for family plans in Plan 2 in China are USD 11,472 and the most expensive being USD 21,358; a percentage variance of 46%, which while the same percentage difference as Plan 1, indicates a somewhat wide spread of prices. While there is an outlier for Plan 2 like the other countries in the report, China is unique in that there are actually two plans with premiums around USD 21,000.

While these two plans may seem a fair distance from the average - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 5,353 from the third most costly plan - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis at the end of this article.

Ignoring the outliers, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 4,533 which results in a lower percentage variance of 28%. While lower, this still indicates a slight variance in the premiums charged for this level of plan in China.

The premiums for family plans included in Plan 3 are the most spread out when compared to the other plans in China. With the most expensive being USD 28,313 and the least expensive being USD 14,034; a percentage variance of 50%. While the premiums in Plan 3 are more spread out than others in China, there are a few clusters of premiums, especially around USD 20,000, which brings the overall variance down slightly.

Interestingly, China’s Plan 3 has a significant outlier lower than the rest of the plans. This plan is USD 5,492 lower than the second lowest premium, which can be explained due to the fact that the company with the plan has a lower business base combined with the fact that actuarial processes have lead to losses not being seen and therefore a generally weaker portfolio.
The premiums for retirees considering health insurance plans in China cover a range of USD 3,938 (inpatient only) to USD 21,048 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price a retiree can expect to pay for health insurance in China - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 5,772
- Plan 2: USD 12,697
- Plan 3: USD 15,990

Together, the premiums in China represent a total variance of 81%, which means prices are spread out over a broad spectrum. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

For retirees looking at premiums included in Plan 1 in China, the lowest premium is USD 3,938, while the most expensive is USD 8,026; a percentage difference of 51%. There are three premiums of note here, each almost USD 1,000 different from the nearest plan: The first is the lowest premium which is USD 1,100 lower than the second most costly plan, the second is the most expensive plan which is USD 1,100 more than the second most plan. Finally, the third premium is just over USD 1,000 more than the third most expensive. Together, these plans create the second largest variance of any of the Plan 1 premiums in this section.

Exclude the top variances and the difference in Plan 1 premiums shrinks to under USD 1,000, or a 13% difference.

The cheapest premiums for retirees looking at plans included in Plan 2 in China are USD 9,242 and the most expensive being USD 16,245; a percentage variance of 43%, which while the same percentage difference as Plan 1, indicates a variance of prices. Interestingly enough, Plan 2's premiums in China have the lowest variance of the other plans. For an explanation on this, please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.

The premiums offered to retirees considering a plan included in Plan 3 are the most spread out when compared to the other plans in China. With the most expensive being USD 21,048 and the least expensive being USD 9,242; a percentage variance of 56%. While the premiums in Plan 3 are more spread out than others in China, the majority of premiums (four) are clustered around USD 15,500.

Interestingly, China’s Plan 3 has a significant outlier lower than the rest of the plans. This plan is 39% lower than the second lowest premium, Which can be explained due to the fact that the company owning the plan has a lower business base combined with the fact that actuarial processes have lead to losses not being seen and therefore a generally weaker portfolio.
Part 4

Overview of Singapore

Article 2 - Part 4 takes a closer look at the third most costly location of the countries included in Article 2 (and fifth overall) - Singapore. Popular with expats from Britain and other Commonwealth countries, Singapore has proven to be one of the most important cities in the world when it comes to finance, shipping, and trade. With nearly 40% of the population in Singapore being foreigners, there is a large population of professional expats (as much as 300,000 or more). This large population has resulted in strong demand for individual international health insurance.

With a strong medical fund available to all Singapore citizens, seven public hospitals, over 2,000 clinics, and English being the main language spoken in facilities, Singapore is one of the most advanced cities in the region when it comes to health care. While citizens do have access to a Medisave account which can be used to cover medical costs, expats do not have access to this which means health care can be more expensive.

Expats certainly do use the public system in Singapore, but will also turn to the 13 private hospitals and specialists for health care. As with most other countries, medical care will be more expensive in private facilities, so health insurance for expats is essential. Due to higher quality health care, near 100% exclusion from the public health fund, and easy access to health care, health insurance premiums in Singapore are among the top 5 in the world.

Below is an overview of the cost of individual international health insurance in Singapore. The number of insurance providers has been expanded from six in the overall ranking to eleven, and prices have been broken down by demographic and plan level. For more information regarding demographics, plans, providers, and the countries included in this report, please see the Appendix, Assumptions and Methodology section for Article 2.
The premiums for all single coverage health insurance plans in Singapore cover a range from USD 1,786 (inpatient only) to USD 8,076 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for a single health plan in Singapore - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 2,245
- Plan 2: USD 4,567
- Plan 3: USD 6,040

Together, the premiums in Singapore represent a total variance of 78%, which means prices are generally quite spread out. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

For those considering a single plan from the Plan 1 category in Singapore, the least expensive premium of the companies included in the report comes in at USD 1,786, while the most expensive is USD 3,552; a percentage difference of 50%. While the majority of the premiums are below USD 2,500 there is a cluster of four plans around USD 1,900 - USD 2,000. This indicates fairly even pricing among many of the plan providers. That being said, there is one plan that carries a premium quite a bit higher than the others. Please see Pacific Prime’s analysis as to why this outlier exists at the end of this article.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 743, with an average percentage variance of 29%. This indicates a fairly similar market amongst the majority of the plans at this level.

The premiums offered to Plan 3 are the most varied when compared to the other Single plans in Singapore.

With the most expensive being USD 8,076 and the cheapest being USD 3,710, with a percentage variance of 54%. Unlike the other two plan categories in Singapore, Plan 3 premiums are generally more evenly spread out, with two or three plans clustered together, i.e. three plans are clustered around USD 6,500, while two are around USD 5,000.

The Single health insurance premiums that make up Plan 2 are more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the cheapest being USD 2,696 and the most expensive being USD 7,191. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 63%, which indicates a generally wide spread of prices. There is also a cluster of four plans with premiums around USD 5,100, which indicates some similarities amongst the upper-middle end of prices.

As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing of Single premiums which is 27% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums. While this outlier may seem odd - especially with a price difference of just over USD 1,900 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis at the end of this article.

Putting this outlier to the side, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 2,584 which results in a lower percentage variance of 49%. While lower, this still indicates a fairly wide variance in the premiums charged for this level of plan in Singapore.
The cost of health insurance in top expat destinations

Singapore

Health insurance premiums in Singapore, across all coverage plans for expat couples, cover a range of USD 3,572 (inpatient only) to USD 16,152 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for health insurance in Singapore - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 4,489
- Plan 2: USD 9,134
- Plan 3: USD 12,940

Together, the premiums in Singapore represent a total variance of 78%, which means prices cover a wide range. Because of this variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

Plan 1 costs - Couples - Singapore

Plan 2 costs - Couples - Singapore

Plan 3 costs - Couples - Singapore

For a couple considering Plan 1 in Singapore, the cheapest premium of the companies included in this article comes in at USD 3,572, while the most expensive is USD 7,105. This represents a percentage difference just shy of 50%. There is a cluster of three plans around USD 3,800, while most of the plans come in at under USD 4,500. That being said, there is an outlier that is almost USD 2,000 higher than the next most expensive plan.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers, which represents quite a large outlier, and the difference between the premiums for couples shrinks to USD 1,794, with an average percentage variance of 29%. This indicates a fairly clustered market for similar plans.

Plan 2 premiums for couples are, for the most part, more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 5,393 and the most expensive being USD 14,382. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 63%, which indicates a wide spread of prices. As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 27% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums.

While this outlier may seem odd - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 3,822 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.

Ignoring this outlier, the price difference between the plans for couples drops to USD 5,167 which results in a lower percentage variance of 49%. Even with the outlier, premiums are fairly spread out for this level of plan in Singapore.

The premiums offered to couples considering a health insurance plan in Plan 3 are the most varied when compared to the other plans in Singapore.

The most expensive plan has a premium of USD 16,152, while the least expensive costs USD 7,419, with a percentage variance of 54%. Unlike the other two plan categories in Singapore, Plan 3 premiums are more evenly spread out with small groups of two or three premiums clustered together, i.e. there are three plans around USD 11,000-11,500.
Health insurance premiums in Singapore, across all coverage plans for families, cover a range of USD 4,616 (inpatient only) to USD 24,747 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for health insurance in Singapore - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 6,655
- Plan 2: USD 13,610
- Plan 3: USD 18,249

Together, the premiums for families in Singapore represent a total variance of 81%, which means prices cover a wide range. Because of this variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

For a family considering Plan 1 in Singapore, the cheapest premium of the companies included in the report comes in at USD 4,616, while the most expensive is USD 10,264. This represents a percentage difference of 55%. One interesting thing about the premiums for Plan 1 plans is that they are relatively spread out when compared to the other locations. There is a cluster of a couple of premiums around USD 6,000, but the rest of the plans (aside from the outlier) are almost evenly spread out.

As with most other Plan 1 and Plan 2 options, there is an outlier well above the rest of the prices. In Singapore, this outlier is 22% higher than the next most expensive plan. To learn more about why this is the case, please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.

Plan 2 premiums for families are more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the cheapest being USD 9,360 and the most expensive being USD 20,788. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 55%, which indicates a wide spread of prices. As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 20% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums.

While this outlier may seem odd - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 4,130 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation, please see our analysis at the end of this article.

Ignoring this outlier, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 7,300, which results in a lower percentage variance of 44%. Even without the outlier, premiums are generally spread out for this level of plan in Singapore.

Plan 3 premiums for families are the most varied when compared to the other plans in Singapore. With the most expensive being USD 24,747 and the least expensive being USD 9,625, with a percentage variance of 61%.

Unlike the other two plan categories in Singapore, Plan 3 premiums are, for the most part, more evenly spread out. There is one outlier, however, that unlike the other plans, is 36% lower than the second cheapest premium. For an explanation as to why this is, please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.
Health insurance premiums in Singapore, across all coverage plans for retirees, cover a range of USD 4,270 (inpatient only) to USD 22,433 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for health insurance in Singapore - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 5,640
- Plan 2: USD 11,615
- Plan 3: USD 14,364

Together, the premiums in Singapore represent a total variance of 81%, which means prices cover a wide range. Because of this variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

For a retiree considering Plan 1 in Singapore, the least expensive premium of the companies included in the Article comes in at USD 4,839, while the most expensive is USD 10,329. This represents a percentage difference of 47%.

Unlike most other Plan 1 and Plan 2 options, there is not just one, but two outliers well above the rest of the prices. In Singapore, the outliers are 28% and 21% higher than the next most expensive plan. To learn more about why this is the case, please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.

Plan 2 premiums for retirees are more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 8,859 and the most expensive being USD 16,245. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 45%, which indicates a fairly wide spread of prices. As with Plan 1, there are two outliers in the pricing which are 27% and 23% more expensive than the plan with the third highest premiums.

While these outliers may seem odd - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 4,500 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis at the end of this article.

Ignoring the two outliers, the price difference between the plans for retirees drops to USD 2,937 which results in a lower percentage variance of 25%. Even without the outlier, premiums are slightly spread out, with a cluster of three plans around USD 11,500.

The premiums offered to retirees considering a plan in Plan 3 are the most varied when compared to the other plans in Singapore. With the most expensive being USD 22,433 and the least expensive being USD 10,006 with a percentage variance of 55%. While the premiums for Plan 3 are spread out, there are a number of clusters, or similar prices which means plans offer different levels of coverage and options. This in turn leads to some plans with similar premiums, and also differences.

Unlike the other plan levels in Singapore, there is only one outlier among the Plan 3 premiums sitting at 20% more than the second most expensive plan. Please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article as to why this outlier is so significant.
Overview of the UAE

Article 2 - Part 5 presents a closer look at the fifth most costly location of the countries included in Article 2 (and 14th overall) - the UAE. As one of the most liberal countries in the Middle East region, and the center for finance, industry, and trade, the UAE is popular with expats, especially those looking for a higher quality of life. In fact, the country is rare in that expats and foreigners make up the majority of the population. For example, almost 8.5% of the population is made up of western expats, and 17% of the population are Asian nationals. Due to a large migrant population, and a high percentage of High Net Worth individuals, the demand for private health insurance is quite high.

The government in the UAE has been investing in improving and building new hospitals, including a number of state of the art facilities. This has resulted in a high standard of health care, the highest in the region. There is also the new Dubai Healthcare City - an area in Dubai designed to attract expats and wealthy UAE nationals with high quality health care and private facilities. Combined, these options are starting to turn the country into a healthcare destination which will result in higher costs in the future.

While it is among the lower ranked countries in Article 2, and 14th overall, expats looking for health care in the larger cities in the UAE, especially Dubai, will come across some costly facilities. Combine this with a generally high cost of living and operating in the region, despite the low tax rates, and you will see higher insurance premiums for expats.

Below is an overview of the cost of individual international health insurance in the UAE. The number of insurance providers has been expanded from six in the overall ranking to eleven, and prices have been broken down by demographic and plan level. For more information regarding demographics, plans, providers, and the countries included in this report, please see the Appendix, Assumptions and Methodology section for Article 2.
The cost of health insurance in top expat destinations

The premiums for all single health insurance plans in the UAE cover a range of USD 1,632 (inpatient only) to USD 7,066 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for health insurance in the UAE - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 2,043
- Plan 2: USD 4,125
- Plan 3: USD 5,491

Together, the premiums in the UAE represent a total variance of 77%, which means prices are spread out. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

### Plan 1

For a plan that is part of the Plan 1 category in the UAE, the least expensive premium of the companies included comes in at USD 1,632, while the most expensive is USD 3,247; a percentage difference of 50%. The majority of the premiums are below USD 2,300 with a cluster of three plans around USD 1,700. As with the other countries in the report, there is one plan that carries a premium quite a bit higher than the others. For an explanation as to why this outlier exists, see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 505, with an average percentage variance of 24%. This indicates fairly similar pricing between plans at this level.

### Plan 2

The Single plans that are included in Plan 2 are more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 2,364 and the most expensive being USD 6,575. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 64%, which indicates a fairly wide spread of prices. As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 34% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums.

While this outlier may seem far out from the average - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 1,938 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis at the end of this article.

Ignoring this outlier, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 2,273 which results in a lower percentage variance of 49%. While lower, this still indicates a fairly wide variance in the premiums charged for this level of plan in the UAE.

### Plan 3

The premiums that are included in Plan 3 are the most evenly spread out when compared to the other plans in the UAE. With the most expensive being USD 7,066 and the least expensive being USD 4,066 with a percentage variance of 42%. The main reason for this is the outlier from Plan 2, which is the same plan offered in Plan 3, is actually not the most expensive in Plan 3. This makes the calculated variance slightly lower.
Health insurance premiums for couples in the UAE cover a range of USD 3,264 (inpatient only) to USD 14,132 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for health insurance in the UAE - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 4,086
- Plan 2: USD 8,250
- Plan 3: USD 11,640

Together, the premiums in the UAE represent a total variance of 77%, which means prices are spread out. Due to this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

For couples considering premiums in Plan 1 in the UAE, the least expensive premium is USD 3,264, and the most expensive is USD 6,494; a percentage difference of 50%. While the majority of the premiums are below USD 4,000 there is a cluster of three plans around USD 3,300. As with the other countries in the report, there is one plan that carries a premium much higher than the others. For an explanation on this outlier, please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 1,010, with an average percentage variance of 24%. This indicates fairly similar pricing between plans at this level.

Plan 2 premiums for couples are more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 4,729 and the most expensive being USD 13,150. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 64%, which indicates a fairly wide spread of prices. As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 29% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums.

While this outlier may seem overly far out from the average - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 3,876 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis at the end of this article.

Ignoring this outlier, the price difference between the plans for couples drops to USD 4,545 which results in a lower percentage variance of 49%. While lower, this still indicates a fairly wide variance in the premiums charged for this level of plan in the UAE.

The premiums offered for health insurance plans for couples considering Plan 3 are the most evenly spread out when compared to the other plans in the UAE. With the most expensive being USD 14,132 and the least expensive being USD 8,133; a percentage variance of 42%. There are two plans clustered at the top of the graph - among the most expensive. To learn more about why these premiums exist, please see our explanation at the end of this article.
Health insurance premiums for families in the UAE cover a range of USD 4,389 (inpatient only) to USD 19,354 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for health insurance in the UAE - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 5,966
- Plan 2: USD 12,157
- Plan 3: USD 16,067

Together, the premiums in the UAE represent a total variance of 77%, which means prices are spread out. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

For family health insurance plans included in Plan 1 in the UAE, the least expensive premium is USD 4,389, while the most expensive is USD 9,381; a percentage difference of 53%. As with the other countries in the report, there is one plan that carries a premium much higher than the others - sitting 30% higher than the next most expensive plan. To learn more about this outlier, see Pacific Prime's analysis at the end of this article.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 2,161, with an average percentage variance of 33%. This indicates fairly consistent pricing between plans at this level.

The premiums for family health insurance plans included in Plan 3 are the most evenly spread out when compared to the other plans in the UAE. With the most expensive being USD 19,354 and the least expensive being USD 10,550; a percentage variance of 45%. With Plan 3, the majority of the premiums are spread out, with a slight cluster at the top of the chart.

There is a low-cost outlier 20% cheaper than the second cheapest plan. For an explanation as to why this is, please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.

Family health insurance premiums included in Plan 2 are more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 8,472 and the most expensive being USD 18,992. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 55%, which indicates a fairly wide spread of prices. As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 27% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums.

While this outlier may seem far from the average - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 5,164 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis at the end of this article.

Ignoring this outlier, the price difference between the plans for families drops to USD 5,356 which results in a lower percentage variance of 39%. While lower, this still indicates a fairly wide variance in the premiums charged for this level of plan in the UAE.
Retirees

The health insurance premiums for retirees in the UAE cover a range of USD 3,659 (inpatient only) to USD 15,753 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for health insurance in the UAE - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 4,863
- Plan 2: USD 10,131
- Plan 3: USD 12,285

Together, the premiums in the UAE represent a total variance of 77%, which means prices are spread out. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

For retiree premiums included in Plan 1 in the UAE, the cheapest premium is USD 3,659, while the most costly is USD 7,335; a percentage difference of 47%. There are two clusters, comprised of two premiums, around USD 3,700 and USD 5,000. While clustered, they are spread apart, which indicates some variance in premiums.

As with the other demographics in the report, there is one premium 31% higher than the next most expensive plan. Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 1,368, with an average percentage variance of 27%. This indicates fairly consistent pricing between plans at this level.

Plan 2 premiums for retirees are more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 7,366 and the most expensive being USD 10,695. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 45%, which, while lower in percentage difference then the premiums in Plan 1, still indicates a fairly even spread of prices.

As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 28% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums. While this outlier may seem far removed from the average - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 4,151 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.

Putting this outlier to the side, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 3,329 which results in a lower percentage variance of 31%. While lower, this still indicates a fairly even variance in the premiums charged for this level of plan in the UAE.

Plan 3 premiums for retirees are the most spread out when compared to the other plans in the UAE. The most expensive being USD 15,753 and the least expensive being USD 8,690 with a percentage variance of 55%.

Unlike the other plan levels in the UAE, Plan 3 in the UAE has a price gap between the majority of the plans with two plans just over USD 2,500 and USD 3,400 difference. The reason for the outliers is explained in Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.

There is also an outlier approximately 23% cheaper than the second cheapest plan. This is because the premium was designed using a smaller data segment and is simply underpriced, largely because of a lack of understanding of the market. Pacific Prime has seen this before, and predicts that the premium will shoot up to mid-market in the near future when underwriters figure out pricing and loss ratios.
Overview of Thailand

Article 2 - Part 6 takes a closer look at the sixth most costly location of the countries included in Article 2 (and 32nd overall) - Thailand. Long a top destination for travel, the country is starting to become increasingly popular for businesses, with a near steady year-on-year growth of foreign companies setting up operations and an already flourishing manufacturing industry; the expat population is growing. While hard to accurately pin down, the number of foreigners in Thailand is estimated to be anywhere from 200,000 to over 400,000 with a large percentage of them being High Net Worth expats. Because of a growing expat base, Pacific Prime has seen demand for insurance there increase.

With over 1,000 hospitals, 9,700 health facilities, and 316 private hospitals/facilities, the health care system in Thailand is well developed. In fact, the private facilities are commonly seen to be among the most popular in the world for medical tourism. While all Thai residents and tax paying expats have access to a publically funded health system which enables virtually no-cost health care from any public hospital, the government rarely approves expat claims under this system, leaving them to turn to the private system or private health insurance to cover costs.

The private hospitals are more costly than the public system, but are preferred by expats and foreigners because of the low wait times, better facilities, and staff who speak multiple languages. Luckily, the lower cost of living in Thailand has kept prices at all facilities lower, though some, especially those in Bangkok, are starting to see marked increases in prices, especially for larger surgeries.

Because of this, expats living in, or considering Thailand, would be advised to secure health insurance. This is especially true if they are going to be living outside of Bangkok as health facilities likely only have Thai doctors, so evacuation to Bangkok will likely be necessary.

Below is an overview of the cost of individual international health insurance in Thailand. The number of insurance providers has been expanded from six in the overall ranking to eleven, and prices have been broken down by demographic and plan level. For more information regarding demographics, plans, providers, and the countries included in this report, please see the Appendix, Assumptions and Methodology section for Article 2.
The premiums for all single coverage health insurance plans in Thailand cover a range of USD 1,532 (inpatient only) to USD 7,462 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for a single health insurance plan in Thailand - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 1,884
- Plan 2: USD 3,835
- Plan 3: USD 5,380

Together, the premiums in Thailand represent a total variance of 79%, which means prices are fairly spread out. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

The plans included in Plan 1 in Thailand, cost from USD 1,532 to USD 3,071; a percentage difference of 50%. While the majority of the premiums are below USD 2,200 there are two clusters of plans around USD 1,800 and USD 1,500. There is however, an outlier which is 34% higher than the second most costly plan. Please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article as to why this outlier exists.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 503, with an average percentage variance of 24%. This indicates fairly similar pricing between plans at this level.

The premiums in Plan 2 are only slightly more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 2,618 and the most expensive being USD 6,216. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 50%, which indicates a fairly wide, total spread of prices. As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 32% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums.

While this outlier may seem a fair distance from the average - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 1,794 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis at the end of this article.

Ignoring this outlier, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 1,804 which results in a lower percentage variance of 41%. While lower, this still indicates a variance in the premiums charged for this level of plan in Thailand.

The single premiums offered for Plan 3 are the most spread out when compared to the other plans in Thailand.

With the most expensive being USD 7,462 and the least expensive being USD 4,408 with a percentage variance of 41% - a slightly lower variance than Plan 2. The main reason for this is the outlier from Plan 2, which is the same plan offered in Plan 3, is actually not the most expensive in Plan 3. This makes the calculated variance slightly lower.
The cost of health insurance in top expat destinations

The health insurance premiums for couples in Thailand cover a range of USD 3,064 (inpatient only) to USD 14,924 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price a couple can expect to pay for health insurance in Thailand - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 3,768
- Plan 2: USD 7,671
- Plan 3: USD 11,182

Together, the premiums in Thailand represent a total variance of 79%, which means prices are fairly spread out. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

For couples considering premiums included in Plan 1 in Thailand, the lowest cost is USD 3,064, while the highest is USD 6,142; a percentage difference of 50%. While the majority of the premiums are below USD 4,000 there are two clusters of plans around USD 3,600 and USD 3,000. There is however, an outlier which is 34% higher than the second most costly plan. Please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of the article as to why this outlier exists.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 1,006, with an average percentage variance of 25%. This indicates fairly similar pricing between plans at this level.

Plan 2 premiums for couples are only slightly more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 5,236 and the most expensive being USD 12,432. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 58%, which indicates a wide, spread of prices. As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 32% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums.

While this outlier may seem a fair distance from the average - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 3,588 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis at the end of this article.

Ignoring this outlier, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 3,608 which results in a lower percentage variance of 41%. While lower, this still indicates a variance in the premiums charged for this level of plan in Thailand.

The premiums for couples included in Plan 3 are the most spread out when compared to the other plans in Thailand.

With the most expensive being USD 14,924 and the least expensive being USD 7,204; a percentage variance of 52%. Unlike the other plan levels in Thailand however, premiums in Plan 3 aren’t really clustered together. There is one close cluster of two premiums around USD 11,000, but the rest of the plans are more spread out. For an explanation on this, see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.
The health insurance premiums for families in Thailand cover a range of USD 4,109 (inpatient only) to USD 18,812 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for health insurance in Thailand - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 5,580
- Plan 2: USD 11,442
- Plan 3: USD 15,554

Together, the premiums in Thailand represent a total variance of 64%, which means prices are fairly spread out. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

Plan 2 premiums for families are only slightly more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 8,747 and the most expensive being USD 17,963. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 51%, which indicates a somewhat wide total spread in premiums. As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 26% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums.

While this outlier may seem a fair distance from the average - especially with a price difference of nearly USD 4,757 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis at the end of this article.

Ignoring this outlier, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 4,459 which results in a lower percentage variance of 34%. While lower, this still indicates a variance, just a slightly lower one, in the premiums charged for this level of plan in Thailand.

Unlike the premiums in the majority of the other plans the premiums for family plans in Plan level 3 are actually not the most spread out. With the least expensive premium being USD 9,345 and the most expensive being USD 18,812, there is a percentage variance of 50%. While this is still a fairly large range, the majority of the plans in Thailand are clustered between USD 17,000 and USD 18,000.

Like the Plan 3 premiums for families in other demographics, there is a low outlier - 29% cheaper in this case. For an explanation as to why this is, please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.

For family premiums included in Plan 1 in Thailand, the least expensive premium is USD 4,109, while the most expensive is USD 8,878; a percentage difference of 54%. While the majority of the premiums are below USD 6,400 there are two clusters of plans around USD 4,500 and USD 5,500. There is however, an outlier which is 30% higher than the second most costly plan. Please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of the article discussing why this outlier exists.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 2,218, with an average percentage variance of 36%. This indicates fairly similar pricing between plans at this level.

The cost of health insurance in top expat destinations

Plan 1

Plan 2

Plan 3

Plan 2 costs - Families - Thailand

Plan 3 costs - Families - Thailand

Plan 1 costs - Families - Thailand

Health insurance premiums for Families in Thailand

Thailand
Health insurance premiums for retirees in Thailand cover a range of USD 3,606 (inpatient only) to USD 17,661 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for health insurance in Thailand - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 4,805
- Plan 2: USD 9,928
- Plan 3: USD 12,100

Together, the premiums in Thailand represent a total variance of 80%, which means prices are fairly spread out. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

For retiree premiums included in Plan 1 in Thailand, the lowest is USD 3,606, while the highest is USD 6,934; a percentage difference of 48%. There is an outlier which is 17% higher than the second most costly plan. Please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of the article as to why this outlier exists.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 2,165, with an average percentage variance of 38%. This indicates fairly similar pricing between plans at this level.

Plan 2 premiums for retirees are actually slightly less spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the cheapest being USD 7,706 and the most expensive being USD 14,035. This has resulted in a percentage variance of 45%, which indicates a somewhat wide total spread in premiums. As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 14% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums.

While this outlier may seem a fair distance from the average, there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis at the end of this article.

Ignoring this outlier, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 4,372 which results in a lower percentage variance of 37%. While lower, this still indicates a variance, just a slightly lower one, in the premiums charged for this level of plan in Thailand.

The premiums for retiree plans in Plan 3 are actually not the most spread out. With the lowest premium being USD 8,690, the most expensive being USD 17,661, there is a percentage variance of 51%. While this is still a fairly large range, the majority of the plans in Thailand are clustered between USD 10,000 and USD 12,000.

There is an outlier that is 20% more expensive than the second most expensive plan. While this difference of 3,573 USD is large, there is a reason for it. Please check Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article as to why this outlier exists.
The cost of health insurance in top expat destinations

Overview of the UK

Part 7 - Part 7 takes a closer look at the fourth most costly location of the countries included in Article 2 (and 9th overall) - the UK. Because a large number of expats in the popular destinations included in Article 2 are from the UK (as many as 5 million UK citizens are thought to be living overseas according to the Economist), and a good amount of expat health policies are sold in the UK, the country is uniquely positioned as a solid benchmark for the other countries included in Article 2.

The UK has implemented the National Health System (NHS), which offers all citizens living in the country access to free healthcare when they need it. While this system is used by a large percentage of the population, there is a relatively small private sector that is used by people with company sponsored insurance plans, as well as expats or foreigners.

As with the other countries in Article 2, and indeed in the report, the private health sector has higher prices than the public sector, which many expats and High Net Worth individuals in the UK offset through health insurance.

These similarities - a strong public supported health system, and a tendency for expats to turn to the private system - make the UK an interesting benchmark, especially because the figures are not the highest in the market - those belong to premiums in the US which can be found in Article 1.

Below is an overview of the cost of individual international health insurance in the UK. The number of insurance providers has been expanded from six in the overall ranking to eleven, and prices have been broken down by demographic and plan level. For more information regarding demographics, plans, providers, and the countries included in this report, please see the Appendix, Assumptions and methodology section for Article 2.
The premiums for all single coverage health insurance plans in the UK cover a range of USD 1,462 (inpatient only) to USD 8,984 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for a single health insurance plan in the UK - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 2,026
- Plan 2: USD 4,155
- Plan 3: USD 6,011

Together, the premiums in the UK represent a total variance of 84%, which means prices are fairly spread out. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

### Plan 1

The single plans included in Plan 1 in the UK, cost from USD 1,462 to USD 3,552; a percentage difference of 58.84%. There is however, an outlier which is 37% higher than the second most costly plan. Please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of the article as to why this outlier exists.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 776, a percentage difference of 35%. This indicates fairly similar pricing between plans at this level.

### Plan 2

The single premiums in Plan 2 are only slightly more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 2,618 and the most expensive being USD 7,191. This has resulted in a percentage difference of 64%, which indicates a wide, spread of prices. As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 25% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums.

While this outlier may seem a fair distance from the average - especially with a price difference of just over USD 1,800 - there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis at the end of this article.

Ignoring this outlier, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 2,769 which results in a lower percentage difference of 51%. While lower, this still indicates a large variance in the premiums charged for this level of plan in the UK.

### Plan 3

The single premiums offered for Plan 3 are the most spread out when compared to the other plans in the UK.

The most expensive plans have a premium of USD 8,984 while the least expensive premium is USD 3,602; a percentage difference of 60% (a slightly lower variance than Plan 2.) The main reason for this is that the outlier from Plan 2, which is the same plan offered in Plan 3, is actually not the most expensive in Plan 3. This makes the calculated variance slightly lower.
The premiums for health insurance plans for couples in the UK cover a range of USD 2,924 (inpatient only) to USD 17,968 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for a health insurance plan for a couple in the UK - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 4,051
- Plan 2: USD 8,310
- Plan 3: USD 12,387

Together, the premiums in the UK represent a total variance of 84%, which means prices are fairly spread out. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

The plans for couples included in Plan 1 in the UK cost from USD 2,924 to USD 7,105; a percentage difference of 59%. There is however, an outlier which is 37% higher than the second most costly plan. Please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of the article as to why this outlier exists.

Exclude the top rate from the numbers and the difference between the premiums shrinks to USD 1,552, with a percentage difference of 35%. This indicates fairly similar pricing between plans at this level.

The premiums in Plan 2 are more spread out than those found in the majority of Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 5,236 and the most expensive being USD 14,382. This has resulted in a percentage difference of 64%, which indicates a wide, spread of prices. As with Plan 1, there is an outlier in the pricing which is 25% more expensive than the plan with the second highest premiums.

While this outlier may seem a fair distance from the average, there are a number of reasons for this. For a more in-depth explanation on this, please see our analysis at the end of this article.

Ignoring this outlier, the price difference between the plans drops to USD 5,538 - a percentage difference of 51%. While lower, this still indicates a significant variance in the premiums charged for this level of plan in the UK.

The premiums offered for couples considering a plan in Plan 3 are the most spread out when compared to the other plans in the UK.

With the most expensive being USD 17,968 and the least expensive being USD 7,203; a percentage difference of 60%, which is a slightly lower variance than Plan 2. The main reason for this is that the outlier from Plan 2, which is the same plan offered in Plan 3, is actually not the most expensive in Plan 3. This makes the calculated variance slightly lower.
The cost of health insurance in top expat destinations

The premiums for health insurance plans for families in the UK cover a range of USD 3,709 (inpatient only) to USD 23,575 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for a health insurance plan for a family in the UK - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 6,015
- Plan 2: USD 12,415
- Plan 3: USD 17,223

Together, the premiums in the UK represent a total variance of 84%, which means prices are fairly spread out. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

### Plan 1

Premiums for family health insurance plans cover a spread of USD 3,709 at the least expensive, to USD 10,264 at the most expensive. This range represents a percentage difference of 64%, which indicates a wide variance among the prices. There is an outlier that is 33% higher than the second highest premium. To learn more about why this outlier is present, please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.

If you exclude the outlier, the difference between the plans shrinks to 46%. While lower, this indicates a somewhat marginal spread between Plan 1 premiums for families.

### Plan 2

The health insurance premiums for families that make up Plan 2 in the UK are slightly more spread out - price wise - than those in Plan 1, with the most expensive being USD 20,788 and the least expensive being USD 8,513. This results in a percentage difference between the plans of 59%, which indicates a relatively wide variance.

As with Plan 1 for this demographic, there is a high cost outlier 23% higher than the second most costly plan. To learn more about why this outlier is present, please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of the article.

Put the outlier aside and the difference between the plans shrinks to 47%. While lower, this still indicates a slight variance between premiums for families in the UK.

### Plan 3

The family premiums included in Plan 3 are more spread out, especially when compared to the other premiums available in the UK. Together, the premiums show a range of USD 9,345 at the least expensive to USD 23,573 at the most expensive; a percentage difference of 60%.

Unlike the other plan levels however, Plan 3 has a low cost outlier which is 33% below the second cheapest plan. To learn more about why this outlier is present, please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.
The premiums for health insurance plans for retirees in the UK cover a range of USD 3,793 (inpatient only) to USD 18,927 (inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage). The average price one can expect to pay for a health insurance plan for a retiree in the UK - based on the level of plan - is:

- Plan 1: USD 5,162
- Plan 2: USD 10,691
- Plan 3: USD 13,172

Together, the premiums in the UK represent a total variance of 80%, which means prices are fairly spread out. Because of this wide variance, Pacific Prime has broken each of the plans down below.

Retiree health insurance premiums for Plan 2 are more spread out price-wise than those in Plan 1, with the least expensive being USD 8,138 and the most expensive being USD 16,245; a percentage difference of 50%.

As with Plan 1, there is a high cost outlier that is 27% higher than the second most expensive plan. Please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article explaining why this outlier is present.

If you were to not include the outlier, the percentage difference between plans is 32%. Unlike the other plan levels in other demographics, the variance is actually lower in Plan 1 than in Plan 2. This is counter to the general trend, which is quite interesting. To learn more about why this is observed, please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.

For retiree expats looking at premiums in Plan 3, you will notice that the prices are more spread out than other plan levels, with the most expensive being USD 18,927 and the least expensive being USD 10,006. This is a percentage difference of 47%, which is lower than the other plans in this demographic. For an explanation as to why this is, please see Pacific Prime’s analysis at the end of this article.
Pacific Prime’s analysis of the average ranking

With the overall average ranking, and the ranking for each demographic, Pacific Prime has found that the rankings do not change. Hong Kong has the highest average premiums, Thailand the lowest, and the other countries falling in between the two. Interestingly enough, China is always within a few percentage points (from 4% to 2% difference) from Hong Kong, while Thailand and the UAE are also quite close percentage wise (from 1% to 4% different, when compared with Hong Kong).

Why do Hong Kong and China consistently have the highest average premiums of the 6 countries?

While there are numerous reasons one can quote as to why the premiums in these two regions are consistently high for International Health Insurance, the biggest reason hinges on the way premiums are calculated - Roughly 50-80% of the cost of premiums is due to the number of claims and the cost of health care.

With these plans, many of the holders will go to private or international hospitals when they need treatment. Both Hong Kong and China have a serious imbalance of health care - there are not enough private hospitals to meet the overall demand for health care. From a purely economic stance: supply falls far short of demand. This means that the hospitals have near 100% freedom to set prices. Higher costs for treatment means the insurance companies need to charge higher premiums in order to be able to continue to offer workable coverage.

Beyond this, the general operating costs do tend to be higher in the region. This higher overhead, while a small influence on the overall price of premiums, will also influence prices.

A closer look at Singapore

Singapore is an interesting city in this study. While consistently ranked as one of the best places for expats to live, it is a city that is ‘coming from behind’. What we mean by this is that for a relatively long period of time, the cost of healthcare and general operating costs have been less than when compared to say Hong Kong or China. While certainly becoming more expensive, prices still have a long way to go to catch up with those found in similar hospitals in Hong Kong and China.

Combine this with the fact that there are more hospitals capable of serving expats (all the public hospitals in Singapore operate in English, while in Hong Kong the public hospitals tend to cater towards Chinese speakers) and the general location to hospitals in other countries (Perth is a 3 hour flight, Hospitals in Malaysia are even closer), and it becomes clear that some expats may not use International Health Insurance plans, which will keep prices somewhat lower.

Looking at premiums in the UAE

As a recent article published by Pacific Prime on the cost of having a baby, the average cost of healthcare in the UAE is generally lower when compared to costs in Hong Kong and China. Combine this with the wealth of options for treatment available not only in the country but nearby (e.g., Italy is only 4 hours by plane), and premiums will generally be lower.

That being said, the best hospitals in the UAE can still be quite expensive when compared to other hospitals in the region, this could lead to higher premiums in the future. Costs, while high, are still generally lower than in Hong Kong however.

Why are premiums in Thailand the lowest?

Despite the fact that Thailand is one of the most popular destinations, the country ranks as the cheapest country in the report for healthcare - 26% lower than Hong Kong. Because the cost of healthcare is cheaper in Thailand, the overall demand for international health insurance is lower. Combine this with a wealth of options for treatment and it is clear to see that less demand for coverage means insurers will charge lower premiums.

That being said, Thailand is seen as the #1 destination for medical tourism, an opportunity the country is starting to draw an advantage from. Prices for treatment are rising with some hospitals in Bangkok charging increasingly higher rates. If the economy in Thailand remains strong, this trend of increasing health care will continue, which could see the gap between Thailand and Hong Kong narrow over the coming years.
Pacific Prime’s analysis of plan pricing

- Explaining the variance in plans for Singles, Couples, and Families

As you can see from the main charts for each country, along with the sub-charts focusing on each plan, there is a general trend among the single, couple, and family demographics where Plan 1 premiums are fairly clustered, Plan 2 are somewhat spread out, and Plan 3 premiums are highly variable. While there are many factors as to why this is, Pacific Prime believes there are three that really stand out:

**Plan 1  Inpatient only coverage**

For many of the common inpatient procedures there is a wealth of data available which makes it easier for insurance companies to predict the chances of something happening. This allows them to more effectively mitigate risk when developing premiums. Subsequently, other providers are using the same data which will usually result in premiums that are fairly clustered.

**Plan 2  Inpatient + Outpatient**

When outpatient coverage is added to plans, insurance providers need to take into account additional coverage elements like GP visits, medicine, physio, specialists, etc. all of which have different, variable costs. Combine this with the fact that all plans will have different claim limits (caps) and you will see an increase in the variance of plan premiums.

**Plan 3  Inpatient + Outpatient + Maternity**

Plan 3 has by far the biggest spread, this can be attributed to basically two factors. The first is because coverage elements are usually expanded e.g., dental may be added, and caps/limits are expanded to reflect more comprehensive coverage. The second is because of the cost of giving birth to a child. While high, this is variable and insurance companies will usually need to introduce specific coverage elements including pre and postnatal care, specialist coverage, along with limits/caps. Because this is different for every insurance provider, premiums will cover a wide spread.

- Explaining the variance in plans for Retirees

Unlike the other demographics in this article which usually show increasing variance in premiums at each plan level, the plans in this section of the report usually show a decrease in variance between Plans 1 and 2, with an increase in variance in Plan 3.

As with the other demographics in the report, Plan 1 focuses primarily on health costs that are homogeneous and therefore predictable. This allows actuaries and underwriters to develop plans that are fairly similar - largely because they will be working from more or less the same data.

Plan 2 for the other demographic segments in the report are more varied due to coverage options and severity of claims. In this demographic, the larger chances of bigger diseases such as cancer, stroke, and cardiovascular become significantly easier to predict due to the wealth of data available. Easier prediction of large events leads to more stable premium pricing and an overall lower variance in premiums found in Plan 2.

Plan 3 is interesting for this demographic segment. You will see more variance in the premiums included in Plan 3 because the insurance providers introduce different coverage elements and limits. Some will have higher caps for some procedures, others will introduce extras like comprehensive dental, etc. This directly results in an increased range between plans.

Because it includes maternity coverage, many retirees simply do not need it so the overall demand for plans with maternity coverage is lower. Demand is not non-existent however, as the increased benefits and extra coverage options some plans offer is still enticing to some in this demographic. Because of this varied demand and the types of claims submit...
Looking at the outliers

The plans in this Article show two common outlier trends: An outlier that is more costly than the other premiums, and an outlier that is significantly less costly.

- **Explaining the primary high cost outlier**

  Plans 1 and 2 for all of the demographics and countries have one significant outlier, often as much as 40% more costly than the next cheapest plan. The reason for this is because the plans offered are from a largely 'dead' portfolio. What Pacific Prime means by this is that the plans themselves are poor performing and stagnated.

  Essentially, policyholders without pre-existing conditions will leave a plan when premiums are increased beyond their price tolerance because they can find cheaper coverage with another company. This leaves only a pool of existing holders - many of whom have pre-existing conditions - who still require and use coverage. In turn, the insurance company increases premiums, which creates a cycle - good clients leave because premiums are too high, costly clients stay because they cannot join another plan due to pre-existing conditions, premiums go up again. Over time, this results in a premium that is considerably higher than other similar plans.

- **Explaining the secondary high cost outlier**

  Plan 3 for retirees, in Singapore, China, the UAE, Thailand, and the UK; along with Plan 2 for families in China, all have a secondary high cost outlier that is either just below the main outlier explained above, or slightly higher. The reason this is present is because the company with the plan is not currently focusing on these retirees in this region. As such, they have priced these specific plans at a point where most people will not buy into the plan.

- **Explaining the low cost outlier**

  For a number of countries and demographics, especially with Plan 2 and 3, there is a low premium outlier. The reason this is present is because the company is a fairly new entrant to the market, and likely used actuaries and underwriters who were unfamiliar with the region and how health insurance and health care works. By using say an actuary from the EU or America, who is used to developing plans and using data for their home country, to develop a plan sold in Hong Kong, you often see a disconnect in pricing, which almost always tends to be lower than the norm.

  Pacific Prime has seen this many times before and predicts that in the near future, the company who launched this plan will figure out the pricing and this particular plan’s premiums should jump to the mid-market.

Appendix, Assumptions, and Methodology

**Basic assumptions for this article**

There are a number of assumptions made by Pacific Prime during the creation of this article including:

- All plans are priced with zero deductible excess.
- All plans are priced in US dollars (USD).
- All plan holders were assumed to be High Net Worth expats.
- Premiums are set at one year.
- All prices are from January 1, 2015. They do not include adjustments for any premium increases, or new plans introduced after this date.
- All premiums are listed without any local tax or additional fees.
- Plan 3 premiums have been included in Plan 2 when no equivalent was found to be available.

**Methodology**

**Selecting the top 6 expat destination countries**

In order to select the top six expat destination countries, Pacific Prime selected the countries where the highest number of plans had been purchased in 2014. We also took into account the findings from Series 1 of the report - 3 of the top 5 countries in the report are included in this series - and the HSBC 2014 Expat Explorer report’s top 15 countries.

Combining these factors, Pacific Prime was able to develop a list of the most popular expat countries:

- Hong Kong
- Singapore
- China
- UAE
- Thailand

Because the majority of expats in these countries come from the UK, we have included it in the ranking to function as a benchmark.

**Demographics**

Due to the sheer amount of data included in this report, and to make it easier to compare plans and premiums, Article 2 has been broken down by four select demographics which are the same for every location and plan. The demographics are as follows:

- Single - Based on one male, aged 37.
- Couple - Based on one male and one female, both aged 37.
- Family - Based on one male, one female, and two male children aged 37, 37, 10, and 5 respectively.
- Retiree - Based on one retiree - male - aged 60.

For each location in the report, the data was pulled as if the demographic representative was in that location and working as an expat.
Locations
There are six locations included in Article 2:

- Hong Kong
- Singapore
- the UAE
- Thailand
- China
- the UK

Plan types
Because each provider included in Article 2 offers a wide number of plans, Pacific Prime has opted to pick plans that meet the following requirements:

1. Inpatient
   - Plan includes world-wide inpatient coverage and zero deductible excess.

2. Inpatient + outpatient
   - Plan includes world-wide inpatient + outpatient coverage and zero deductible excess.

3. Inpatient + outpatient + maternity
   - Plan includes world-wide inpatient + outpatient + maternity coverage and zero deductible excess.

Insurance providers included in the report
The report includes premiums from 11 international insurance providers currently operating in Asia:

- Cigna
- Integra
- InterGlobal (Aetna)
- BUPA Intl WHO
- AXA PPP
- ICBC-AXA
- Aetna Global
- William Russell
- Now Health Intl.
- Allianz
- ALC