Contents

About Security Reports......................................................................................................................................................1

Internal factors.....................................................................................................................................................................2
  Political and security tensions.................................................................................................................................2
  Crime.......................................................................................................................................................................2
  London....................................................................................................................................................................2
  Outside London.......................................................................................................................................................3

External factors...................................................................................................................................................................4
  Political risks..........................................................................................................................................................4

Notes.....................................................................................................................................................................................5
  Control Risks Group................................................................................................................................................5
  Updates...................................................................................................................................................................5

About ECA International.....................................................................................................................................................6
  Terms of use...........................................................................................................................................................6
  Data and services available from ECA....................................................................................................................6
  Calculations and reports available to buy individually......................................................................................6
  Online data, tools and information available by subscription...........................................................................6
  Training and conferences....................................................................................................................................7
  Surveys............................................................................................................................................................7
  Further services available from ECA.......................................................................................................................7
  Contact us...............................................................................................................................................................7
About Security Reports

Country Security reports are available as part of subscription and contain information on internal and external political and security risks as well as crime in the country.

- Provide context regarding the local political situation and security environment.
- Prepared for ECA by global security consultancy Control Risks.
Internal factors

Political and security tensions

A referendum in June 2016 on continued membership of the EU, which resulted in a narrow vote in favour of leaving the body, is the most serious challenge to the UK's fundamental political stability since the Second World War. The Conservative Party will remain in government, led by former home secretary (interior minister) Theresa May, after David Cameron's resignation in the wake of the result. The envisaged two-year exit process is unlikely to begin before mid-2017. The UK's future relationships with the EU and its other key partners will remain uncertain until this process is complete – which may take longer than two years. In the meantime, there is renewed pressure for Scottish independence, and moves towards a similar movement in Wales, while the underpinning of EU membership was a vital contributory factor to the success of the peace process in Northern Ireland, and the future of the process and relations with the Republic of Ireland are thus significantly complicated.

Most demonstrations are non-violent, though clashes occur occasionally and can cause travel disruption, particularly during major rallies in city centres. With the exception of successive days of widespread rioting in London and other major cities in the summer of 2011, significant unrest is an unusual occurrence. Where it does occur, as in London and some other English cities, expatriates are not a direct target; participants mainly focus on opportunistic looting of commercial premises and high street shops, or venting frustrations on police officers.

Sectarian tensions between the Unionist and Nationalist populations of Northern Ireland persist, and lead to sporadic low-level disorder, such as fist-fights and bottle- and stone-throwing between rival groups. Disturbances between rival groups may occur during the annual ‘marching season’ commemorating various historical events, which runs from April until September.

Crime

In general, crime levels have fallen since the early 2000s; violent crime has been on a downward trend since 2006–07, with the homicide rate now almost half that of the early 2000s. An expected shift from violent to acquisitive crime, seen during previous recessions, has not materialised, according to official statistics; however, specific crimes such as metal theft have shown some increase. Official figures show that, after peaking around the mid–1990s, crime rates declined substantially for the next decade, then maintained a slower decreased until 2009–10, falling slightly more quickly thereafter.

Crime rates are highest in economically deprived areas, particularly in inner cities. The cities worst affected include Glasgow, Belfast, Newcastle, Middlesbrough, Liverpool, Leeds, Manchester, Bristol, Nottingham and London. The incidence of serious crimes such as murder, rape and robbery remains significantly lower than in the US. However, Nottingham and London are perceived to have a disproportionate problem with gun and knife crime.

Organised crime is unlikely to impinge on business, though it is a growing problem. Gangs from Russia and elsewhere are known to launder money through the UK (notably through the City of London business district); Chinese triad gangs are also active in London. West African criminals, generally from Nigeria, have targeted firms based in the UK for fraud. The UK is a major entry point for drugs from Latin America and Asia, and gangs based in the major cities have contacts – and, inevitably, disputes – with major drug gangs and mafia structures worldwide. Other associated problems include smuggling, prostitution and human trafficking. A National Crime Agency was established in 2013 to focus on the problem, absorbing the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

The prolonged ceasefires in Northern Ireland have given loyalists and IRA members the opportunity to step up organised criminal activity. This includes drug-smuggling and drug-dealing, extortion, illegal gambling, and occasional bank and security depot robberies. They also maintain businesses such as bars and clubs to launder illicit proceeds. This criminal activity keeps members occupied and unified, and serves to build up a financial base should full-scale hostilities resume.

London

Expatriates in London risk falling victim to petty crime – such as pickpocketing – in crowded central areas, though most incidents are concentrated in peripheral low-income districts. The East End, a little further out from the City of London business district, can be hazardous after dark, as can some housing estates to the north and south of the city centre.

London continues to be a significant potential target for Islamist extremist groups and lone individuals inspired by radical Islamist ideology. Attacks could focus on major public transport facilities, government buildings and prominent tourist and commercial centres. The most significant Islamist extremist terrorist attack occurred on 7 July 2005, when a series of bombings targeting the public transport network killed 52 people and injured more than 700 others; an attempt to carry out a similar attack two weeks later failed. Since 2005, a number of attempted terrorist attacks have been foiled.
Outside London

The main threat to personnel around the country is from pickpockets or bag-snatchers in crowded places such as busy shopping areas, public transport hubs and tourist attractions. Mitigating the risks requires only common-sense security precautions and a degree of vigilance. Serious crime is very rarely random, generally confined to major cities and most frequently linked to personal or domestic issues. Gang-related crimes occur in the lower-income boroughs of major cities, though violence is usually targeted against rival elements and highly unlikely to affect expatriates.

While London remains the most likely target for an Islamist extremist terrorist attack, attacks have taken place elsewhere, including in Glasgow (Scotland) in June 2007, and other urban centres are potential targets.

A number of Irish republican terrorist groups remain active and have steadily increased their activity since mid-2008 in Northern Ireland, particularly against officers of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). The risk from these groups is largely confined to traditional republican strongholds such as western areas of Belfast and Londonderry, as well as Antrim (Co Antrim), Craigavon (Co Armagh) and border regions of the counties of Tyrone and Armagh. Telephoned warnings are generally given for bombings in urban areas, indicating that the primary purpose of such attacks is to cause damage and disruption rather than casualties. Dissident republican groups lack sufficient resources and public support to conduct a major and sustained armed campaign similar to that waged by the Provisional IRA between 1969 and 1997. The risk is further mitigated by the effectiveness of the PSNI.
External factors

Political risks

The UK’s close association with the US in matters of foreign policy will continue to result in varying degrees of unpopularity around the world. This applies to many of its EU neighbours, which have often expressed frustration at a perceived lack of commitment to the EU, and will now need to manage the UK’s exit from the EU. The country’s past as a colonial power occasionally complicates relations with its former colonies. The most notable example in recent years has been the highly strained nature of relations with Zimbabwe. Relations with Spain, historically made difficult by Britain’s presence on Gibraltar, improved in the 1990s and 2000s. However, Gibraltarians have rejected a number of initiatives to establish a form of joint sovereignty, and a dispute between the territory and Spain in August 2013 led to some increased nationalist rhetoric on all sides, before a resolution was eventually agreed.

The disputed status of the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) in the South Atlantic Ocean has become increasingly salient since late 2011. Relations between the UK and Argentina markedly deteriorated in advance of the 30th anniversary of the Falklands War in April 2012. Argentina has renewed its territorial claim to the islands, while Britain remains adamant about guaranteeing the Falkland population's right of self-determination. Besides the memories of the 1982–83 war, oil and gas exploration in the islands' territorial waters will be a focal point for antagonism. In addition, tensions re-emerged at the end of 2012 over disputed territorial claims in the Antarctic, when the UK named a tract of land in the queen's honour.
Notes

Control Risks Group

Security information prepared for ECA by Control Risks.

Updates

This report was last updated on 1 February 2017.
About ECA International

In an age of increasing global mobility, ECA’s products and services inform, guide and support managers handling compensation and benefits for international workers moving around the world on a short−term, long−term or permanent basis.

Recognised since 1971 as a world authority in its field, ECA remains a leader in the provision of knowledge, information and technology, offering organisations of all sizes an unrivalled portfolio of data, calculation aids, salary management software, reports, guides and surveys to help them structure and manage their international reward programmes.

Our products and services are delivered and supported by subject matter experts, analysts, programmers, account managers and consultants. We can combine all our specialisms into one service, giving you a comprehensive, one−stop solution to your mobility challenges.

Terms of use

Please see the terms and conditions at www.eca−international.com, and the section “Proprietary Rights” therein, for the terms upon which you are granted the right to use the intellectual property rights which relate to this document. ECA has not independently verified such content, and makes no representation and gives no warranty as to its accuracy.

Data and services available from ECA

Registered users of ECA’s website can access a number of reports and services online. Our four offices worldwide provide support, knowledge and expertise to support this information and to advise companies on policy and all aspects of global mobility management.

Calculations and reports available to buy individually

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual reports</th>
<th>Calculations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Accommodation Reports</td>
<td>• Location Allowances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Country Profiles</td>
<td>• Gross−to−Net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Daily Rates</td>
<td>• Net−to−Gross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Expatriate Salary Management Survey</td>
<td>• Build−up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Managing Mobility Survey</td>
<td>• Cost Estimates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Salary Trends Surveys</td>
<td>• Net−to−Net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tax Reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Online data, tools and information available by subscription

See the full range of available online data, tools and information according to your subscription (or trial data if you haven’t subscribed) in the MyECA section of the website, including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reports</th>
<th>Calculators &amp; tools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Accommodation Reports</td>
<td>• Accommodation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Benefits Reports</td>
<td>• Build−up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cost of Living Reports</td>
<td>• Cost of Living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Country Profiles</td>
<td>• Location Allowances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Country Security Reports</td>
<td>• Remote Allowances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Daily Rates</td>
<td>• National Salary Comparison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Expatriate Market Pay Reports</td>
<td>• Net−to−Net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Labour Law Reports</td>
<td>• Short−term Allowances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Location Ratings</td>
<td>• Tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Social Security Reports</td>
<td>• Exchange Rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tax Reports</td>
<td>• Inflation Rates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To modify or upgrade your MyECA subscriptions, please contact us.

**Training and conferences**

Browse and book online for ECA’s training courses, discussion groups and conferences.

**Surveys**

Take part in selected ECA surveys and get the results free. See Surveys in the Services section of www.eca−international.com.

**Further services available from ECA**

ECA's world-class data and years of experience in the global mobility arena mean that it is perfectly placed to provide a broad range of solutions designed to your particular needs, including:

- policy design and review
- assignment costings
- individual salary calculations and assignment letters
- benchmarking surveys
- customised data
- system design and implementation
- standard and custom software, programs and applications.

For more information, please see www.eca−international.com or contact us.

**Contact us**

For help, queries or to find out more about ECA's services, please visit www.eca−international.com, email eca@eca−international.com or call us:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>+44 (0)20 7351 5000</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>+852 2121 2388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>+1 212 582 2333</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>+61 (0)2 8923 5400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>