



Dec 16, 2015 06:00 GMT

Christmas gifting overseas: 20.7 million have a relative living abroad

- Post Office analysis of money transfers reveals 16th December¹ is expected to be the busiest day of the year for international payments
- Rise of the 'Multi-Country family' (MCF) is driving international Christmas money transfers, as 41 per cent of UK adults currently have at least one relative living abroad
- The number of people with more than five relatives abroad has doubled in the past five years

New analysis from Post Office International Payments reveals the 16th December is expected to be the busiest day of the year for international payment transactions as people rush to send last minute gifts abroad. We live in a world of multi-country families (MCFs) and new research reveals 41 per cent of UK adults², or 20.7 million people, currently have at least one relative living abroad.

The study highlights the internationalisation of British families where parents, siblings and even partners live in different countries. On average people living in the UK have four relatives residing overseas. There are now more than three million people with more than five relatives living out of the country, which has doubled in the last five years.

Those with relatives living abroad spent on average £2,231 last year sending gifts and financial support to family members. Gifting money (57%) tops the list of reasons for sending money to loved ones abroad. Other reasons for sending money abroad to relatives include supporting living and housing costs.

TABLE 1 – Top five reasons for sending money to family abroad

	Reason for sending money	Percentage
1	Presents	57%
2	Day to day living costs	33%
3	Housing	26%
4	Education	15%
5	So they can purchase from overseas to send back to the UK	10%

Source: Post Office International Payments, 2015 Considerable sums are being transferred internationally, as people support extended families. Three quarters of a million people (754,000) sent more than £10,000 to relatives in the last 12 months.

Commenting on the findings, Rob Scott Head of International Payments at Post Office Money said: “People often leave it to the last minute to send gifts to family members abroad at Christmas, which causes a spike in demand for international payments. The rise of the multi-country family sees loved ones spread across the globe, so international money transfers are a convenient

way to send a present this festive season.”

Analysis of transaction trends³ reveals Australia is the number one destination for international money transfers overseas. As a mecca for travellers and gap year students, along with a large ex-patriot community, it is unsurprising families and friends are sending large sums of money to Australia. Multiple continents rank in the top ten destinations for international money transfers reinforcing Britons’ global links.

TABLE 2 – Top ten destinations for sending international gift payments

	Country
1	Australia
2	United States of America
3	Spain
4	Canada
5	South Africa
6	France
7	New Zealand
8	Ireland
9	Poland
10	Germany

Source: Post Office International Payments, December 2015 **TABLE 3 – Top five relatives abroad**

	Relative	Percentage
1	Cousin	30%
2	Brother	27%
3	Uncle	26%
4	Aunt	26%
5	Sister	17%

Source: Post Office International Payments, 2015

The study reveals people visit family members living abroad on average seven times a year, however a quarter (25 per cent) of people visit relations abroad at least once a month. People believe there are significant cultural benefits to having a family member living abroad, with more than one in three (35 per cent) highlighting that it exposes them to different cultures and over a quarter (25 per cent) saying it has allowed them to experience new cuisines.

Post Office International Payments is an easy and secure way to transfer money from UK to overseas bank accounts. People can cost effectively transfer any amount from £50 upwards, with fee free transfers over £250. For more information please visit: <http://www.postoffice.co.uk/international-payments>

Ends

About the Post Office

The Post Office (Post Office Limited) has an unrivalled national network of over 11,500 branches across the UK, more than all the high street banks combined, and sits at the heart of communities in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England. The Post Office has made a commitment to maintaining its network of branches at its current size and reach. It provides around 170 different products and services spanning financial services including savings, insurance, loans, mortgages and credit cards; Government services; telephony; foreign currency; travel insurance and mail services.

The Post Office serves over 17 million customers a week and a third of small businesses. Some 99.7% of the total population live within three miles of a post office and over 97% live with one mile of a post office. For many rural communities, the post office is the only retail outlet. Post Offices branches remain highly valued and trusted, and are the focal point of many communities. For more information, visit <http://www.postoffice.co.uk/>.

Please note the Press Office team can only deal with enquiries from the media. Unfortunately they do not have access to customer information so can not help with customer enquiries.

If you have an enquiry regarding any Post Office product or service please visit [postoffice.co.uk](https://www.postoffice.co.uk) or call 0845 611 2970 Local call rates apply. Call costs may vary depending on your service provider. Calls may be monitored or recorded for training and compliance purposes.

Contacts



Post Office Press Office

Press Contact

Please note this line is strictly for the Post Office Media enquiries, not Royal Mail enquiries.

pressoffice@postoffice.co.uk

0207 012 3456



Karim Aziz

Press Contact

Head of Media Relations

karim.aziz@postoffice.co.uk

0207 012 3456



Lily Cunningham

Press Contact

Senior PR & Campaigns Manager

Lily.Cunningham@postoffice.co.uk

020 7012 3456



Sheila Tapster

Press Contact

Press Officer

sheila.tapster@postoffice.co.uk

020 7012 3456