
**International Physician Compensation Report
2019: Do US Physicians Have It Best?**

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Schwartz | September 16, 2019 | Contributor
Information

Medscape

INTERNATIONAL COMPENSATION REPORT 2019

Do US Physicians
Have It Best?



Do US doctors have it tougher than physicians in other countries?
Several of Medscape's international sites (United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain, Brazil, and Mexico) surveyed their physician members to learn about their salary and job satisfaction. The information presented in this slideshow comes from Medscape's [US Physician Compensation Report](#) and from compensation reports on [Medscape UK](#), [Germany](#), [France](#), [Spain](#), [Brazil](#), and [Mexico*](#), all published this year.

*(Report will be published in October 2019)

How Much Do Physicians Earn?

Overall

United States (\$)	\$313K
United Kingdom (\$)	\$138K
Germany (\$)	\$163K
France (\$)	\$108K
Spain (\$)	\$63K
Brazil (\$)	\$58K
Mexico (\$)	\$22K

All amounts are shown in US dollars. Conversions have been made from pounds sterling (United Kingdom), euros (Germany, France, Spain), pesos (Mexico), and reais (Brazil), based on the exchange rate on August 1, 2019.

US physicians earn far more than doctors in other countries. In the European countries shown here, medical school is either free (with minor administrative fees) or far less expensive than in the United States. Differences in cost of living also play a large role in salary. For example, average rent in Mexico is about 75% less than in the United States.

For all countries, compensation for employed doctors included salary, bonus, and profit sharing; and for self-employed physicians, earnings after taxes and business expenses but before income taxes.

Average Annual Cost of Medical School Education

● Private Medical School ● Public Medical School

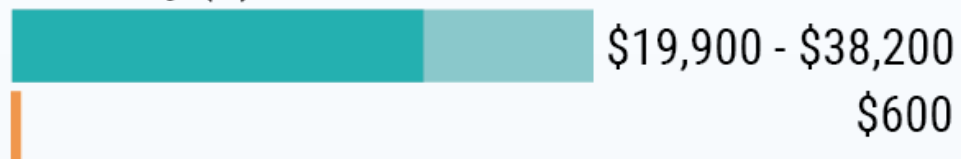
United States (\$)



United Kingdom (\$)



Germany (\$)



France (\$)



Spain (\$)



Brazil (\$)



Mexico (\$)



*In-state students

**Small registration fees

***Graduates must work in government service hospital or clinic for a set time

The costs shown cover an annual average range for tuition and administrative fees but do not include room and board. Costs vary within each country; for example, in the United States, medical students pay much more for state school tuition if they're from out of state. Within the United Kingdom, medical education costs more in England than it does in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. In Germany, medical education is basically free (there are administrative fees), but recently a few private universities have started to offer a medical school education. In Spain, as in the other countries, public medical schools are very inexpensive but private institutions cost much more.

Years of Medical School Education

United States

8 years education
and 3 to 7+ years
intern/resident/
specialty



United Kingdom

5 - 6 years, and up to
12 years, depending
on specialty



Germany

6 years education and
up to 13 years
depending on specialty



France

8 years, up to 11
years, depending
on specialty



Spain

6 years, plus 2 - 5 years,
depending on specialty



Brazil

6 years plus residency



Mexico

4 - 5 years plus 2 years
internship and practical
training



The United States has the most expensive medical schools, and completion of medical education takes longer here than in most other countries surveyed.

Mexico requires graduates to work in a government service hospital or clinic for a set time after completing their public medical school education.

In most European countries noted here, medical school is a 6-year program that can start immediately after school.

Primary Care Salary by Gender

● Men ● Women

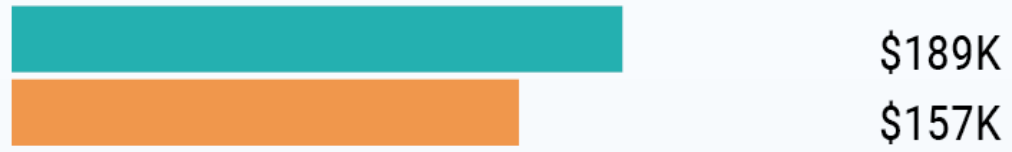
United States (\$)



United Kingdom (\$)



Germany (\$)



France (\$)



Spain (\$)



Brazil (\$)



Mexico (\$)



Physician salaries differ by gender in all of the countries surveyed. Of note, the gender pay gaps are within a similar range: United States: 25%; United Kingdom: 26%; Germany: 20%; France: 21%; Brazil: 29%; Mexico: 23%. It has been suggested that the gender pay gap stems from leftover attitudes in a historically male-dominated profession, which fails to make allowances for maternity leave and family care responsibilities. Matt Hancock, secretary of state for Health & Social Care, UK, said that [this inequality can no longer be tolerated](#): "Gender equality is the only way we can hope to build a National Health Service (NHS) team fit for the future."

Specialists Salary by Gender

● Men ● Women

United States (\$)



United Kingdom (\$)



Germany (\$)



France (\$)



Spain (\$)



Brazil (\$)



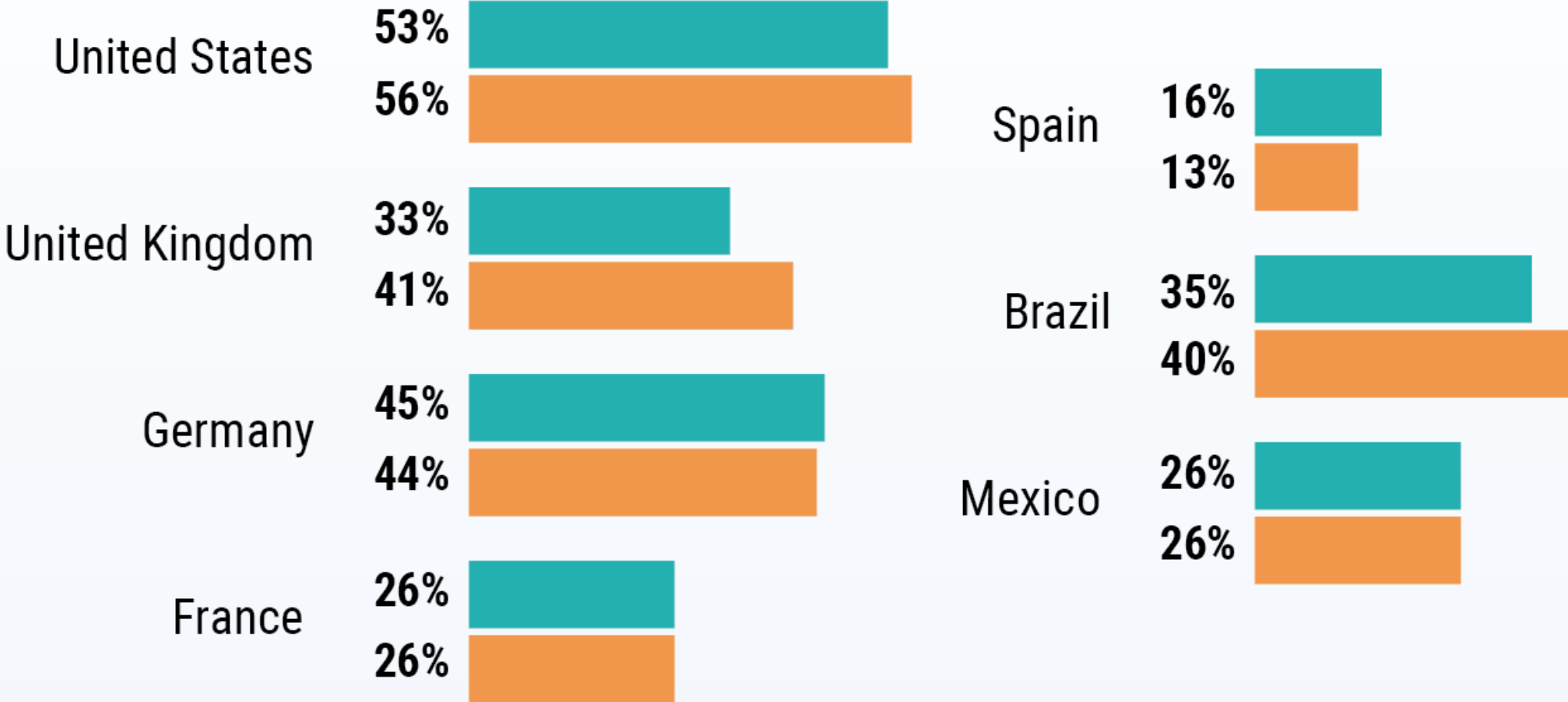
Mexico (\$)



As in the United States, the male-female pay gap is larger among specialties than in primary care. The percentage differences: United States: 33%; United Kingdom: 38%; Germany: 47%; France: 43%; Spain: 19%; Brazil: 32%; Mexico: 24%. According to an article in British newspaper the *Independent*, male doctors dominate the best-paid specialists. In the United States, obstetrics/gynecology and pediatrics have the highest concentration of women physicians (61% and 60%, respectively).

Physicians Who Feel They Are Fairly Compensated

● Primary Care ● Specialists

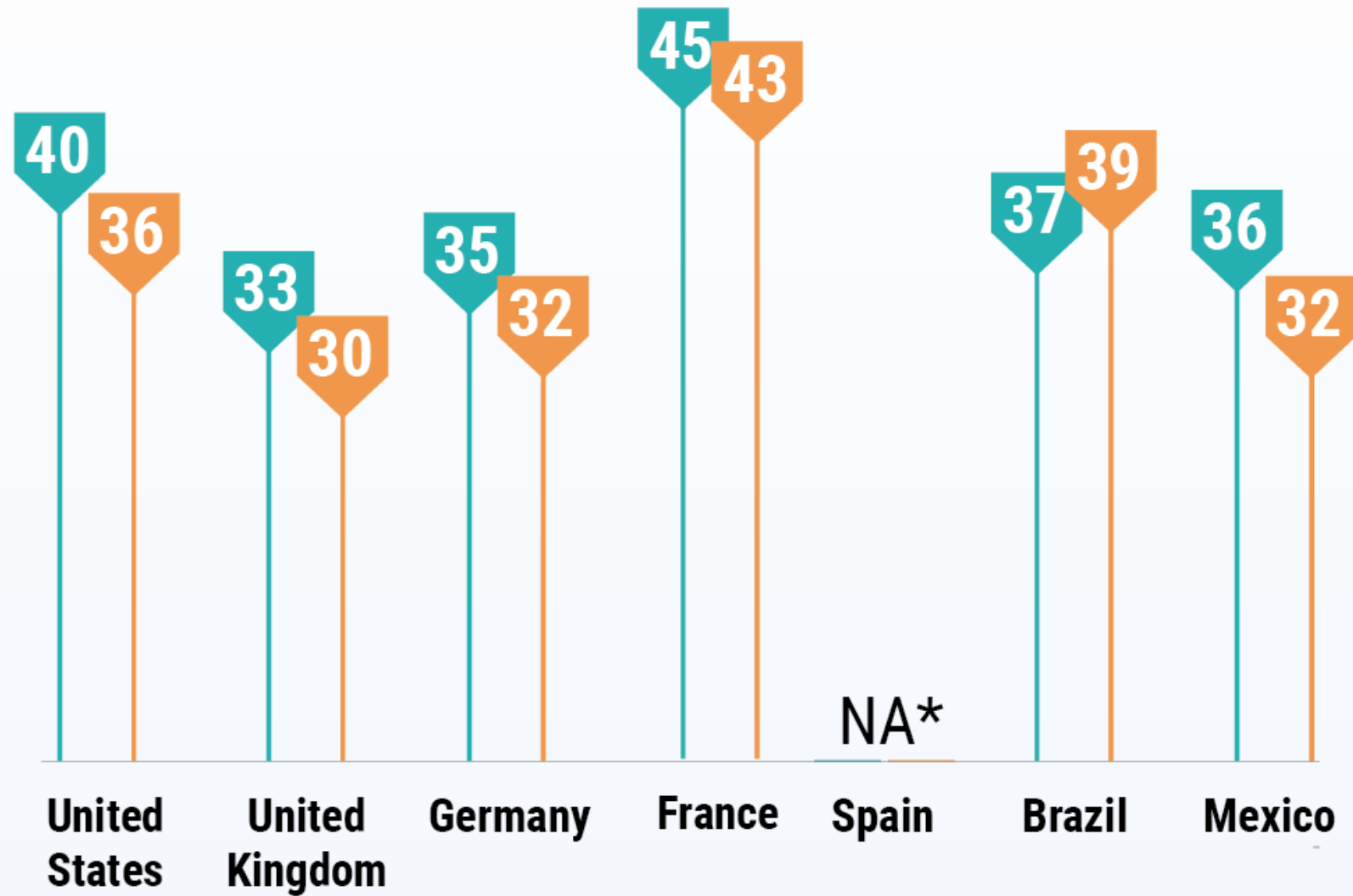


It's no surprise that physicians with the highest earnings are most satisfied with their income. US doctors earn the most, followed by physicians in Germany, and these two groups are the most satisfied with their income. Although physicians in Spain do not earn the least among the countries, they are least likely to feel fairly compensated.

"In the UK, increasing patient workloads and an increasing number of hours spent at work to accommodate this, but without a corresponding increase in earnings, is probably the main reason why physicians don't feel fairly compensated," Dr Rob Hicks, GP and media personality in the UK, told Medscape. "The amount of administrative tasks has increased in past years, this work often having to be done outside of work hours, which means it's being done during personal 'unpaid' time."

Hours Per Week Primary Care (GPs) Spent Seeing Patients

● Male ● Female



*Insufficient base size

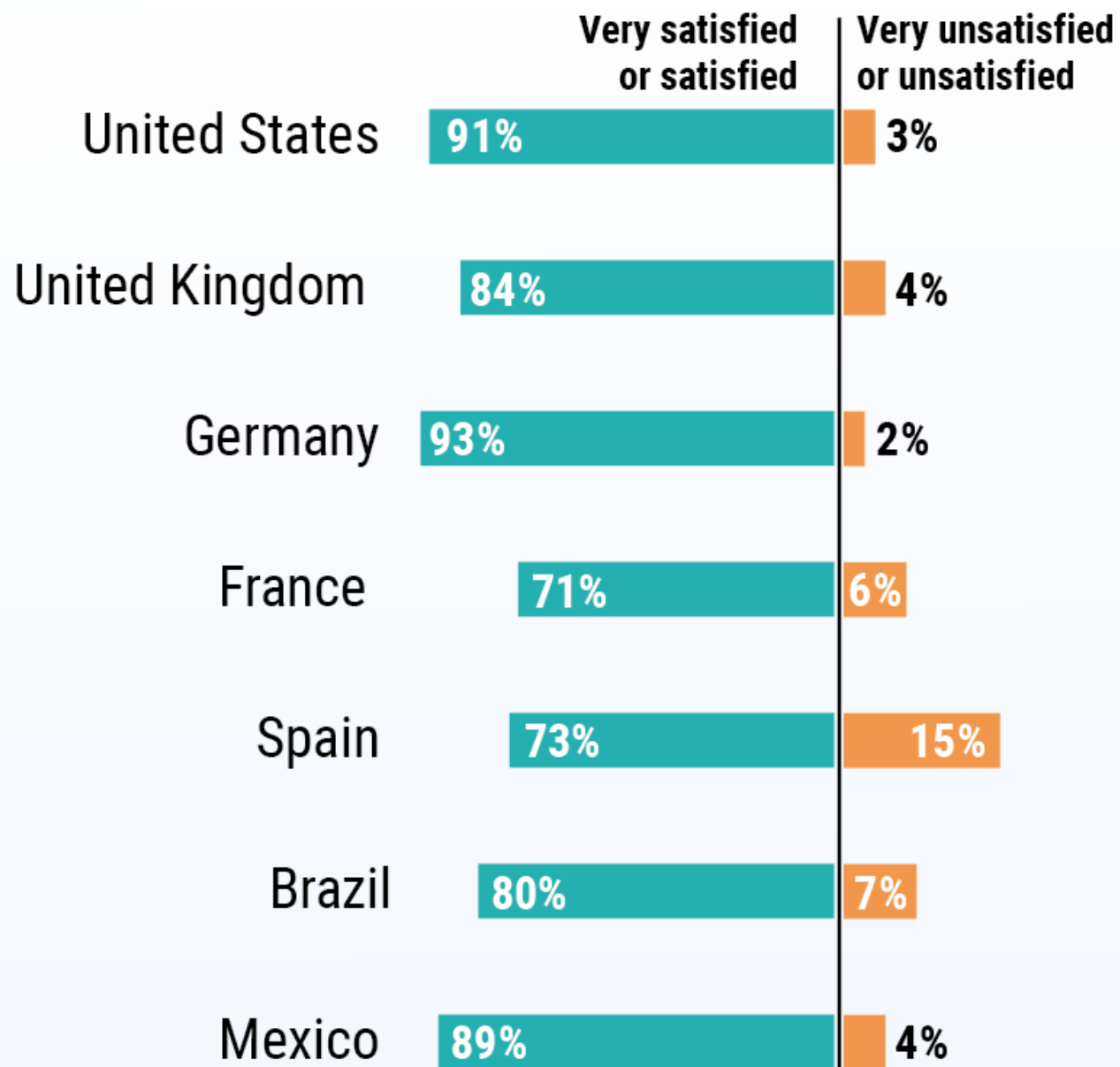
Physicians in France spend among the greatest number of hours seeing patients. One contributing factor may be staff reductions that have led to **unacceptable workloads**. This past spring, emergency room doctors and nurses at dozens of hospitals in France held protests and strikes, complaining about cuts in funding, reductions in the number of hospital beds, and a reduction in medical staff. They asserted that these budget cuts are endangering patients' lives.

Hours Per Week Spent on Paperwork and Administration

	1 - 9 hours	10 - 24 hours	25+ hours
United States	26%	56%	18%
United Kingdom	26%	57%	17%
Germany	18%	59%	24%
France	37%	52%	11%
Spain	36%	50%	15%
Brazil	33%	44%	23%
Mexico	33%	42%	25%

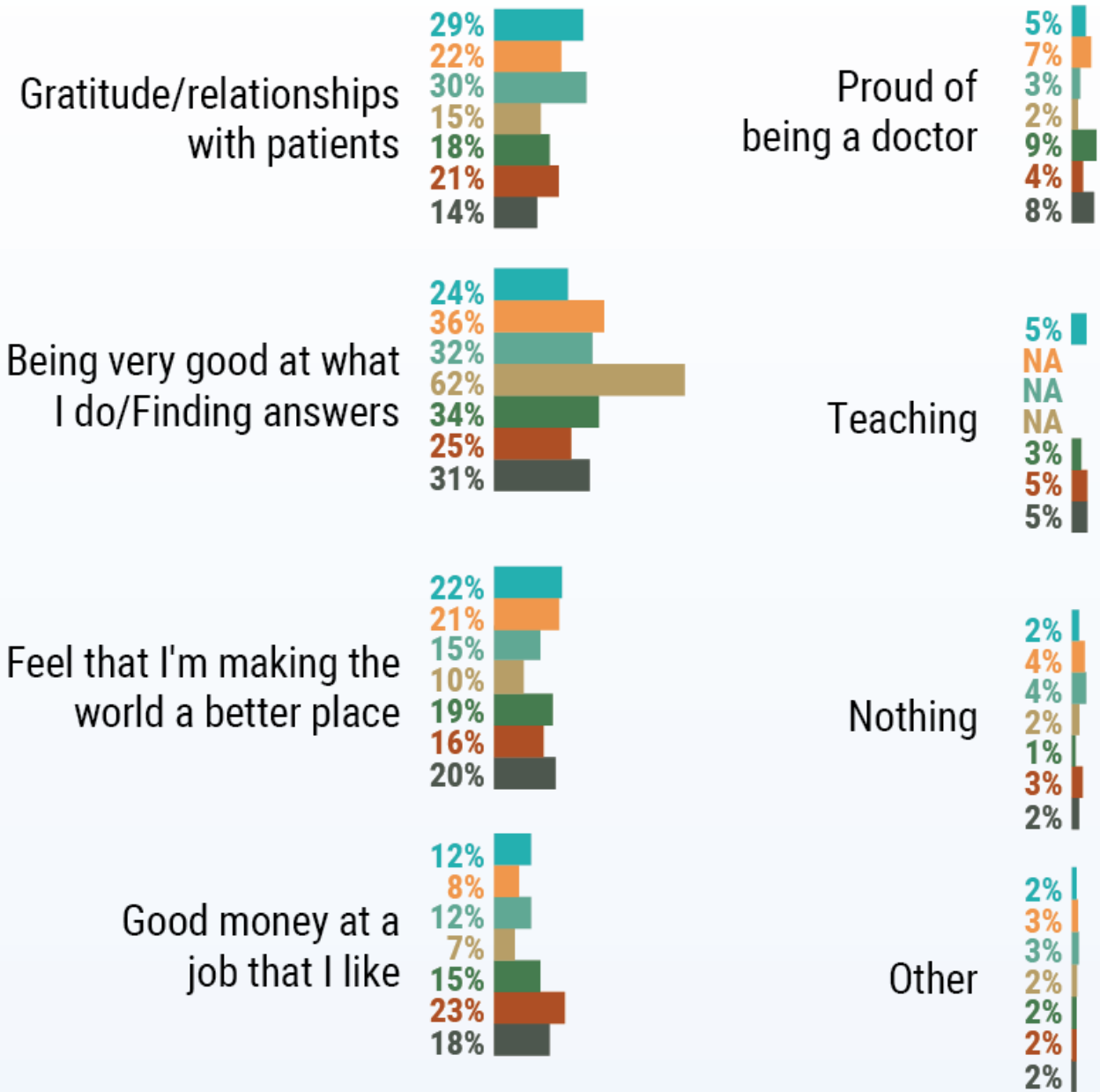
At least half of physicians in many countries spent between 10 and 24 hours per week on paperwork, on top of the hours spent seeing patients. Germany topped the charts in terms of administrative tasks and paperwork. For US physicians, much of the burden is related to EHRs and reporting requirements of several government programs.

How Satisfied Are You With Your Job Performance?



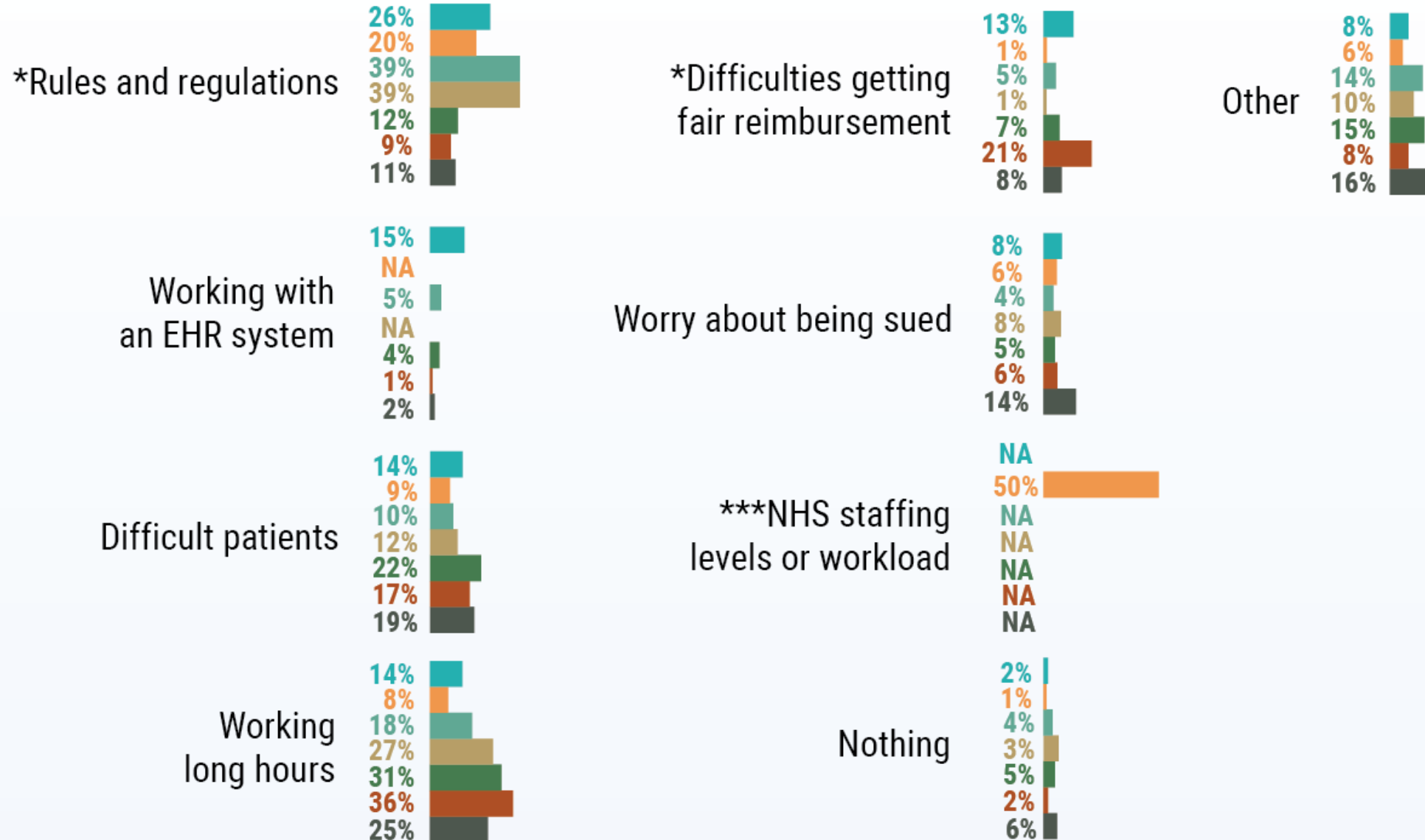
Overall, most physicians feel that they are performing their job well. Still, budgetary and bureaucratic factors in health systems can prevent doctors from giving the kind of care that they want to provide and doing their job the way they think is best for patients. Insurance denials in both the United States and other countries have been cited as contributing to pressure and frustration for physicians.

What Is the Most Rewarding Part of Your Job?



Both in the United States and abroad, gratitude for and relationships with patients, as well as being good at what they do and solving problems, were very rewarding to physicians. German physicians, however, were most likely to cite being good at their jobs/solving problems, while Brazilian physicians were most likely to select making good money at a job they like.

What Are Your Biggest Challenges?



*In UK: Difficulties getting fair reimbursement from private health insurers

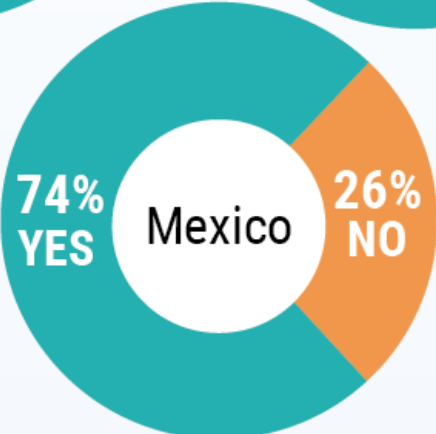
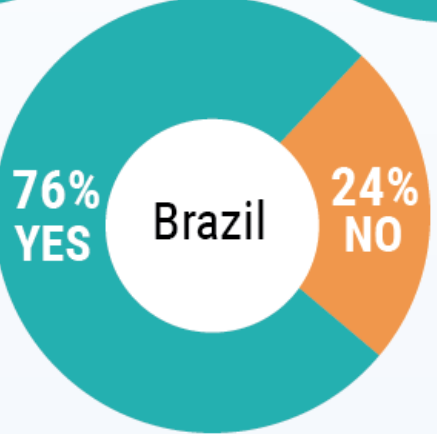
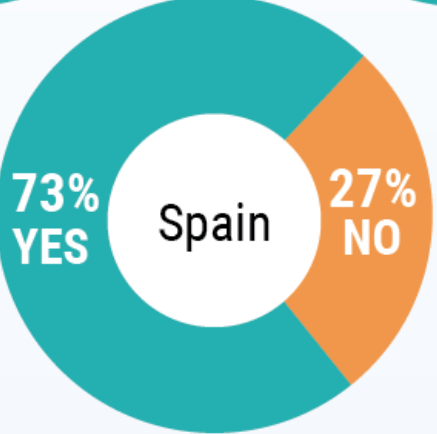
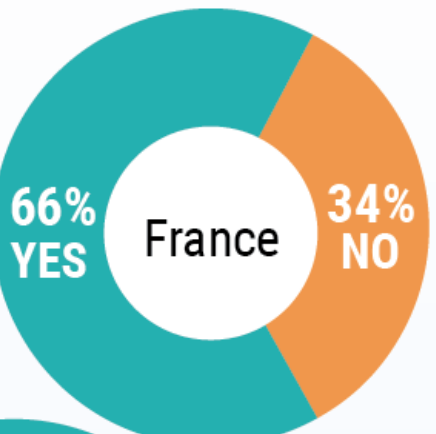
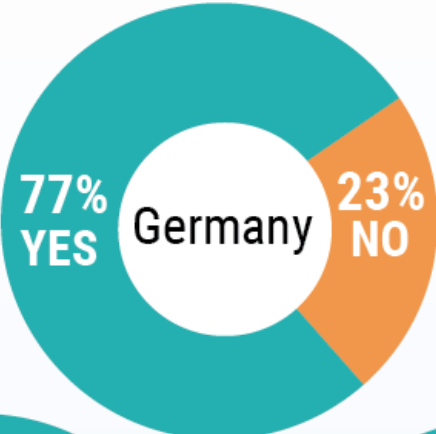
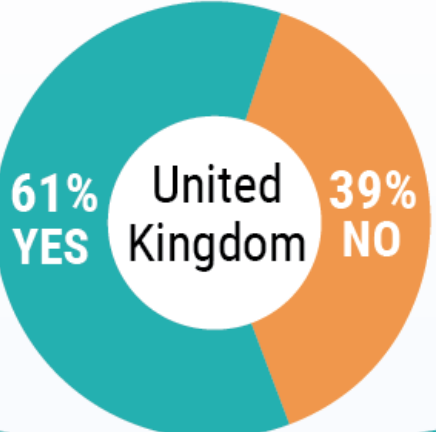
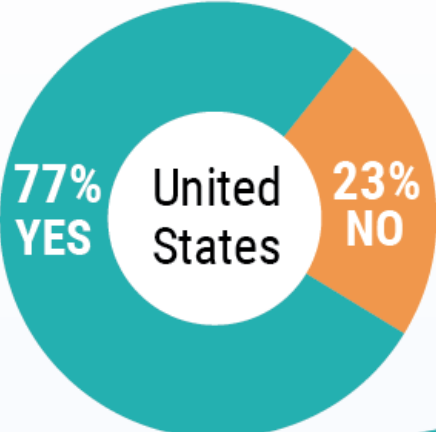
**In UK: Having so many NHS rules and regulations

***UK only

French and German physicians were most likely to name rules and regulations as the biggest burdens of practicing medicine. US and UK doctors also made known their frustrations in this area. Doctors in England specifically named dealing with NHS staffing levels and workload as their greatest challenge (50%). Other challenges cited in the UK: getting fair reimbursement from private insurers and having so many NHS rules and regulations.

More physicians in France, Spain, Brazil, and Mexico said that working long hours was a major challenge.

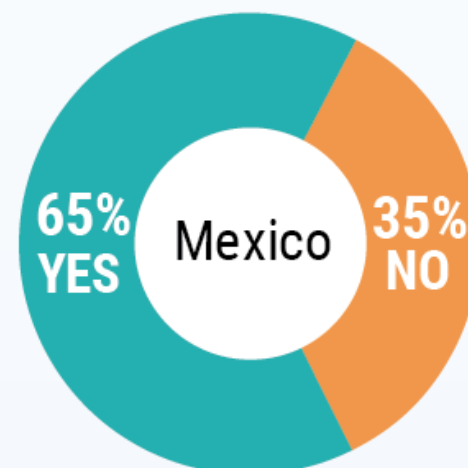
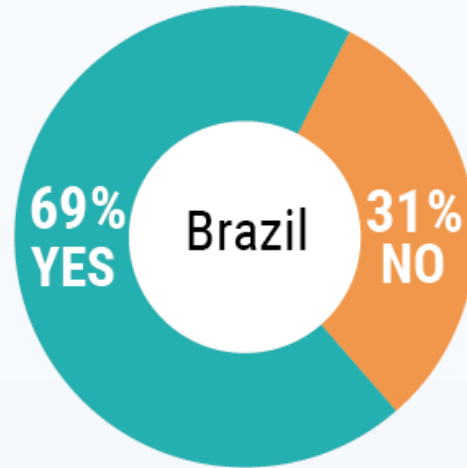
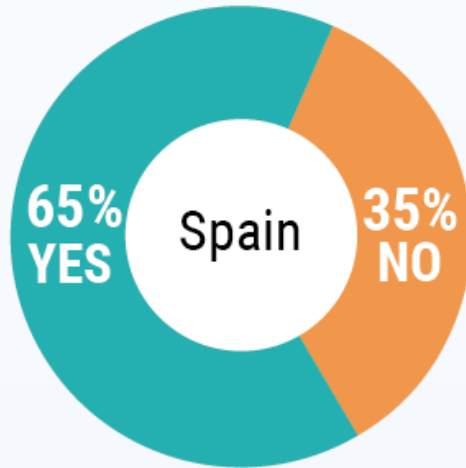
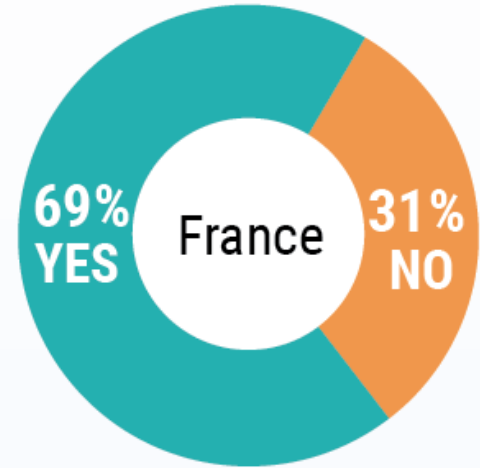
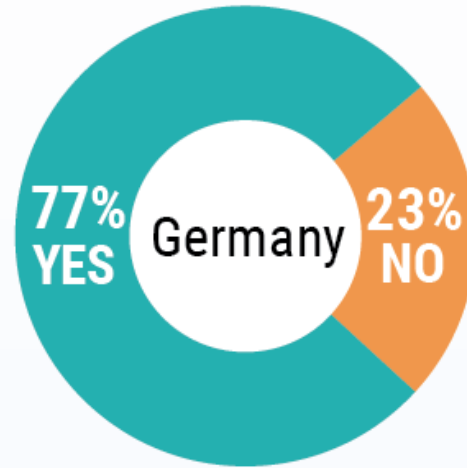
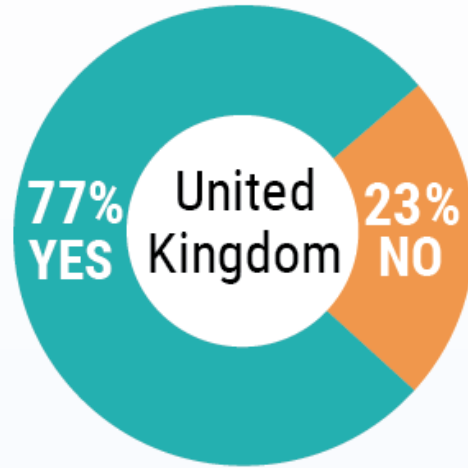
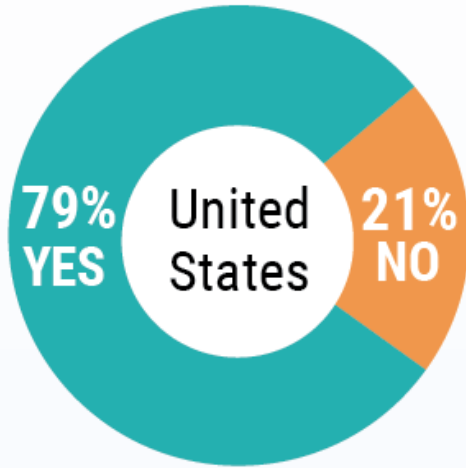
Would You Choose Medicine Again?



Despite their problems, overall, physicians would stick with their chosen field if they had to do it over.

The United States and Germany had the highest percentage of physicians who would choose medicine again as a career, while the United Kingdom had the lowest. "Repeated changes to NHS policy, ever-increasing workloads and administration responsibilities, and time pressures have sapped the energy and enthusiasm of many doctors, leaving them feeling taken advantage of, undervalued, unsupported, and burned out," said Rob Hicks.

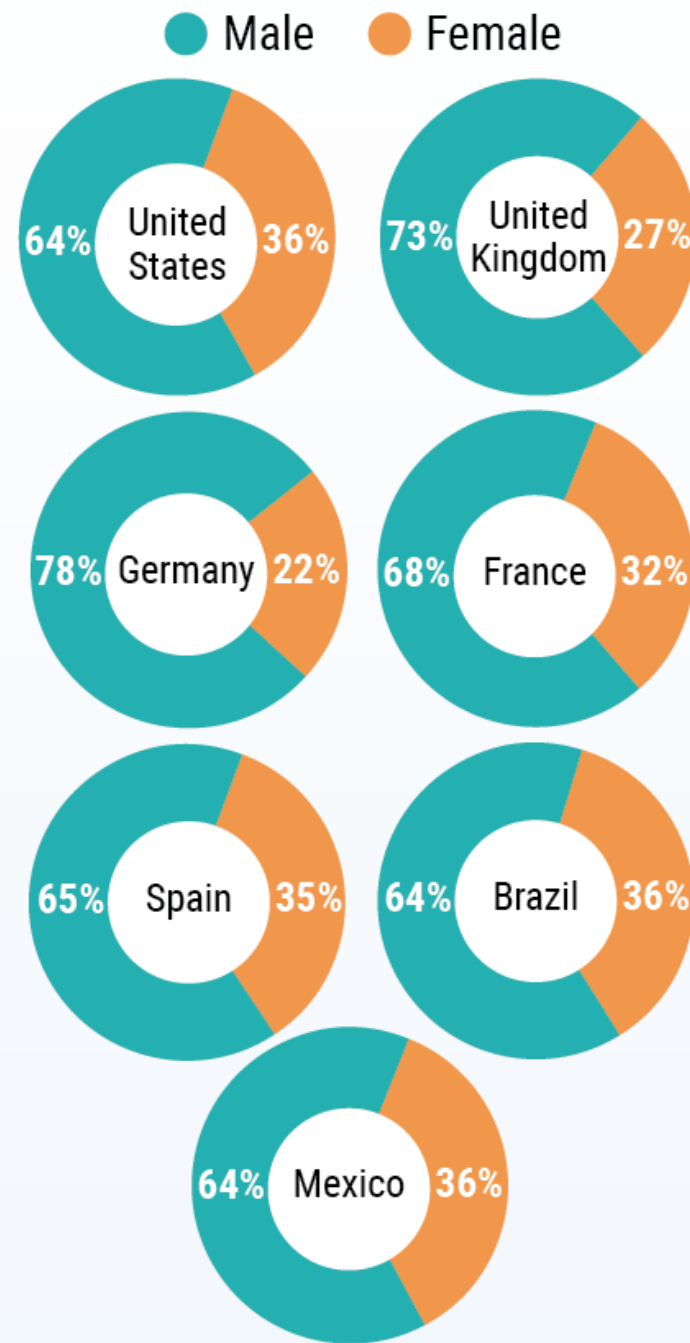
Would You Choose the Same Specialty?



US physicians had among the highest levels of satisfaction with their chosen specialty. Those most satisfied were ophthalmologists (96%), orthopedists (93%), and gastroenterologists (93%). In the UK, specialists (79%) were more likely to be satisfied with their specialty than were GPs (63%). Least likely to choose their specialty again were those in internal medicine (62%), family medicine (68%), and nephrology (70%).

Demographics: Physician Respondents

United States	19,328
United Kingdom	1,022
France	863
Spain	963
Germany	534
Brazil	1,599
Mexico	1,390



Each country's survey had a different proportion of male and female respondents as well as different percentages of physicians by specialty. For more information on the demographics of each country's compensation survey respondents, please see individual country survey reports.

Methodology

Survey Method

US, European (United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain) Brazilian, and Mexican Medscape physician members were invited to participate in an online survey.

Screening Requirements

Respondents were required to be full-time practicing physicians.

Sample Size and Dates

United States: 19,328 physicians between October 18, 2018 and February 14, 2019
France: 863 physicians between January 28 and April 10, 2019
Germany: 534 physicians between February 13 and April 10, 2019

Spain: 963 physicians between February 21 and April 8, 2019
United Kingdom: 1022 physicians between January 8 and February 13, 2019

Mexico: 1390 physicians between February 21 and April 19, 2019

Brazil: 1599 physicians between February 28 and April 10, 2019

Sample Error

United Kingdom: $\pm 3.07\%$

France: $\pm 3.34\%$

Germany: $\pm 4.24\%$

Spain: $\pm 3.16\%$

Brazil: $\pm 2.45\%$

Mexico: $\pm 2.63\%$

Conversion Factors As of August 1, 2019

Dollar

1.00

Euro

0.90

Pound

0.82

Euro

1

Dollar

1.106156

Dollar

1

Real

3.835589

Peso

19.17365

Real

1

Dollar

0.260716

Peso

1

Dollar

0.052155

