

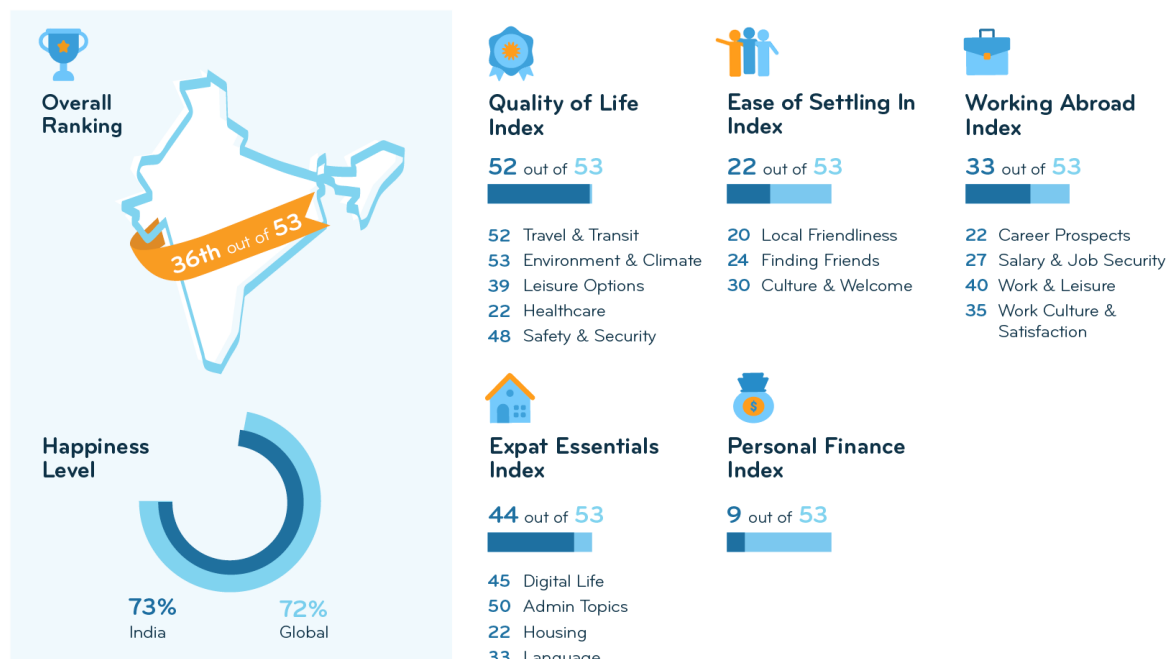
Expats View Life in India as Unsafe & Chaotic but Financially Comfortable

The *Expat Insider 2023* survey by InterNations reveals the best and worst destinations for living and working abroad.

- India ranks **36th out of 53 destinations**: expats see a purpose in their work and are happy with their financial situation, but the low quality of life and difficulties dealing with the bureaucracy take their toll.
- **Mexico (1st), Spain, Panama, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Bahrain, and Portugal (10th)** are the best destinations for expats in 2023.
- The worst countries for expats are **Kuwait (53rd), Norway, Türkiye, South Korea, Germany, South Africa, Italy, Malta, New Zealand, and Japan (44th)**.
- This year also marks the **10th anniversary of the Expat Insider survey**. In the past decade, it has become one of the most cited studies on expat life abroad.

Munich, 11 July 2023 — [InterNations](https://www.internations.org), the **world's largest expat community** with more than 4.8 million members, has published the latest results of its annual *Expat Insider* survey. This year also marks the survey's 10th anniversary. With more than 12,000 respondents, *Expat Insider* is one of the **most extensive surveys about living and working abroad**. It provides insights into expat life in 53 destinations, offering in-depth information on the respondents' satisfaction with their respective countries in these five indices: **Quality of Life, Ease of Settling In, Working Abroad, Personal Finance, and the Expat Essentials Index**, which covers housing, administration, language, and digital life.

| How Expats Rate Life in India



India in the *Expat Insider 2023* Survey

India comes 36th out of 53 destinations in the *Expat Insider 2023* survey. For the tenth year in a row, it is one of the worst-rated destinations in the **Quality of Life Index** (52nd). It also lands among the bottom 10 in the **Expat Essentials Index** (44th), which is mainly due to expats' low satisfaction with **Digital Life** (45th) and **Admin Topics** (50th). While the country only does somewhat better in the **Working Abroad Index** (33rd), it lands in a solid 22nd place in the **Ease of Settling In Index**. In the **Personal Finance Index**, India even ranks 9th. Overall, **73% of expats are happy with their life in India**, about the same as the global average (72%).

Little Interest in the Environment

For the tenth time in a row, India lands in the bottom 10 of the **Quality of Life Index** (52nd), only ahead of Kuwait (53rd). The country even comes last in the **Environment & Climate Subcategory** (53rd). Expats are unhappy with the air quality (73% unhappy vs. 17% globally) and the urban environment, such as green spaces or noise levels (67% unhappy vs. 16% globally). Additionally, 55% agree that the government does not support policies to protect the environment, more than three times the global average (17%).

"The pollution is unpleasant; I often use a face mask when outside. Also, the sensory overload of the city being very loud and very smelly gets to me occasionally."
– Finnish expat

Unsafe & Chaotic

It does not look much better for India in the **Travel & Transit Subcategory** (52nd). One out of two respondents (50%) rates the infrastructure for cars negatively (vs. 13% globally), and 49% find it hard and unsafe to get around on foot and/or bicycle (vs. 13% globally). Close to one in five (19%) even find it *extremely unsafe*, compared to 4% globally.

Safety is not only an issue in terms of traffic: just 73% of expats feel generally safe in India, compared to 83% globally. And while 49% of expats worldwide consider their personal safety in their respective host countries *very good*, only 31% of expats in India feel this way. Additionally, 37% state that they cannot openly express themselves and their opinions (vs. 15% globally). Overall, India ranks 48th in the **Safety & Security Subcategory**.

A Purposeful Career

Ranking 33rd in the **Working Abroad Index**, India makes it into the top 10 for two factors: personal career opportunities (10th) and expats seeing a purpose in their work (8th). In fact, not a single expat (0%) does *not* see a purpose in what they do (vs. 8% globally). Maybe this has something to do with their fields of work: an above-average number of expats in India work in education (19% vs. 11% globally), as well as coaching & consulting (9% vs. 3% globally) — but also in transportation & logistics (9% vs. 4% globally). It might also help that 72% feel paid fairly for their work (vs. 62% globally).

More than Enough to Lead a Comfortable Life

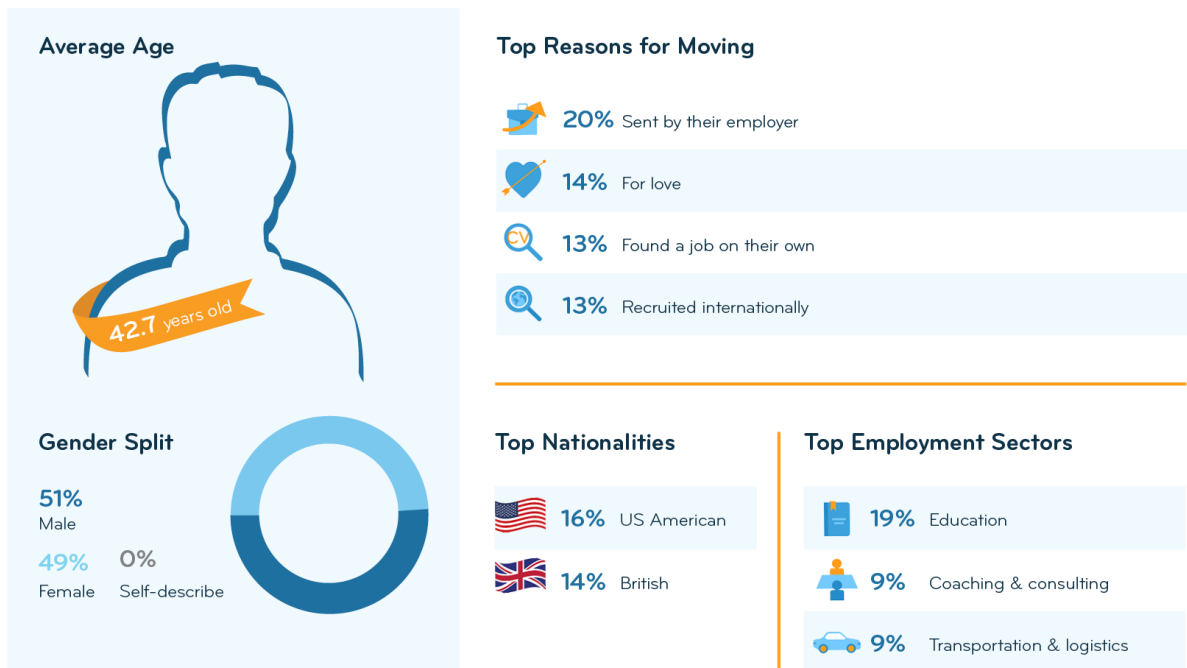
In general, money is no problem for expats in India: 72% are happy with their financial situation (vs. 58% globally), 34% even *completely so* (vs. 21% globally). *"I earn more than I would back home. I can afford things that back home would be luxuries,"* shares an expat from Finland. In fact, 61% of expats

feel that their disposable household income is *more than enough* to lead a comfortable life, compared to 44% globally. Overall, India ranks 9th in the **Personal Finance Index**.

Tough to Deal with the Bureaucracy

The affordability of housing is one of the rare highlights in the **Expat Essentials Index** (44th): 50% of expats find housing affordable, compared to 38% globally. However, India lands in the bottom 10 for both the **Digital Life** (45th) and the **Admin Topics** (50th) **Subcategories**. Close to two in five (36%) rate the availability of government services online negatively (vs. 21% globally), and 69% find it hard to deal with the local bureaucracy (vs. 38% globally). India ranks 51st for the latter factor, only ahead of Italy (52nd) and South Africa (53rd).

| Typical Expats in India



The Best & Worst Destinations for Living and Working Abroad in 2023

According to the *Expat Insider 2023* survey results, **Mexico (1st), Spain, Panama**, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Bahrain, and Portugal (10th) are the best destinations for expats in 2023. The top 5 destinations stand out with good to **great results in the Personal Finance Index**. All top 10 destinations perform better than the global average in the Ease of Settling In Index, but with the exception of Taiwan (9th), none of them manage to rank highly in the Working Abroad Index. The top performers also see very different results when it comes to the Quality of Life Index: Spain (1st) and Taiwan (2nd) excel here, while the Philippines (48th) ends up among the bottom 10.

The worst destinations for expats are **Kuwait (53rd), Norway, Türkiye**, South Korea, Germany, South Africa, Italy, Malta, New Zealand, and Japan (44th). All bottom 5 countries have average to **very poor rankings in the Ease of Settling In Index**. The Working Abroad Index, on the other hand, reveals a wide range of results among the bottom 5 destinations: Germany and Norway perform above average, while Türkiye, Kuwait, and South Korea show very poor results.

You can find out more about the best and worst destinations for expats in 2023 in the respective press release (available under “Downloads” in the email).

About the InterNations *Expat Insider* 2023 Survey

InterNations has been conducting its annual [Expat Insider](#) survey since 2014. This 10th edition of one of the world’s largest expat surveys is based on data from 12,065 expats representing 171 nationalities and living in 172 countries or territories. They provided information on various areas of expat life, as well as their gender, age, and nationality.

Participants were asked to rate up to 56 different aspects of life abroad on a scale of one to seven. The process emphasized the respondents’ personal satisfaction with these factors, considering both emotional topics and more factual aspects with equal weight. The ratings of the individual factors were then bundled in various combinations for a total of 16 subcategories, and their mean values were used to draw up five topical indices: Quality of Life, Ease of Settling In, Working Abroad, Personal Finance, and Expat Essentials. These indices were further averaged together with expats’ general happiness with their life abroad to rank 53 destinations around the world.

To be featured in the indices and overall ranking, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per destination was necessary.

About InterNations

With more than 4.8 million members in 420 cities around the world, [InterNations](#) is the largest global community and a source of information for people who live and work abroad. InterNations offers global and local networking and socializing, both online and face-to-face. At around 4,000 events and activities per month, expatriates have the opportunity to meet other global minds. Online services include discussion forums and helpful articles with personal expat experiences, tips, and information about life abroad. Membership is by approval only to ensure we remain a community of trust. InterNations is part of the NEW WORK SE, a group of brands that offer products and services for a better working life.

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