

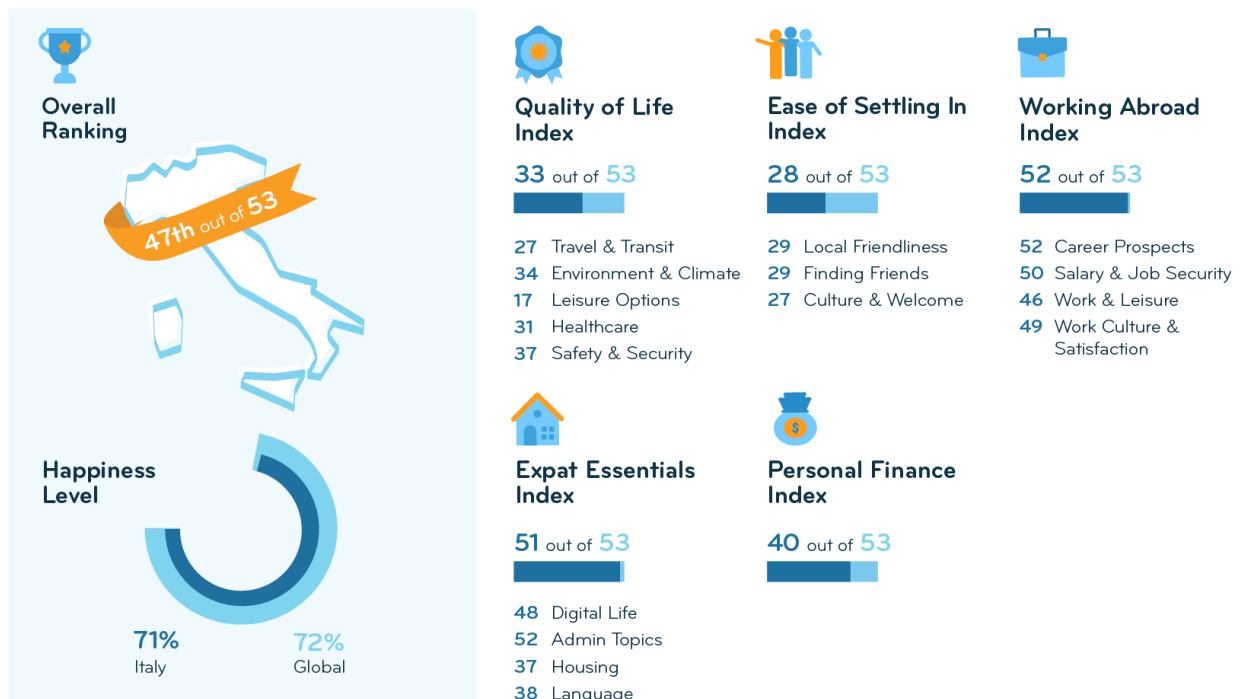
Working Life Is a Nightmare for Expats in Italy

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

- Italy ranks **47th out of 53 countries**: complicated bureaucratic issues and dissatisfying working conditions make life frustrating for expats.
- **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 Italy



Italy in the *Expatriate Insider 2023* Survey

Italy comes 47th out of 53 destinations in the *Expatriate Insider 2023* survey. Expats struggle with their working life, especially their career prospects and the business culture. Frustrating bureaucracy, a lack of digitalization, and a below-average financial situation lead to Italy's rank among the bottom 10. Overall, **71% of expats are happy with their life in Italy**, compared to 72% globally.

Dismal Career Prospects

The biggest pain point for expats in Italy is the **Working Abroad Index** (52nd out of 53). The country even ranks second to last in the **Career Prospects Subcategory** (52nd). Nearly half the expats are unhappy with the local job market (47% vs. 26% globally), and one in three (33%) says that moving to Italy has *not* improved their career prospects (vs. 18% globally).

So, it is hardly surprising that Italy comes **last for personal career opportunities** (53rd). It does not do much better with regard to **Salary & Job Security** (50th). On top of their dissatisfaction with their job security (26% unhappy vs. 19% globally), expats also do not feel they are paid fairly (49th). And they rate the state of the local economy very poorly (47th).

Unhappy Workers

Work & Leisure (46th) is another low point for Italy. The country ends up in the bottom 10 for both working hours (46th) and work-life balance (44th). Expats also vote Italy among the worst in the **Work Culture & Satisfaction Subcategory** (49th). They report that the local business culture does *not* support creativity (39% vs. 26% globally), flexibility (33% vs. 18% globally), or independent work (43% vs. 26% globally). The country ranks **last worldwide for overall job satisfaction** (53rd).

Dissatisfied with Their Finances

Expats encounter yet more problems when it comes to **Personal Finance** (40th). Though Italy ranks slightly above average for its general cost of living (25th), one in three expats (33%) is **unhappy with their financial situation** (vs. 22% globally). About the same share (34%) describe their disposable household income as *not* enough to lead a comfortable life (vs. 27% globally).

Lots of Ups & Downs for Quality of Life

Italy's best, but still mediocre, performance is in the **Ease of Settling In Index** (28th). It ranks midfield for **Local Friendliness** (29th), **Finding Friends** (29th), and **Culture & Welcome** (27th). In the **Quality of Life Index**, the country also lands in an average 33rd place, but a closer look reveals some ups and downs. While 76% of expats enjoy Italy's climate and weather (vs. 62% globally), 30% are unhappy with the air quality (vs. 17% globally).

On the positive side, Italy comes 17th in the **Leisure Options Subcategory**. The majority of expats (80%) is happy with the culinary variety and dining options (vs. 77% globally), and 72% rate the culture and nightlife favorably (vs. 68% globally). But while nearly three in four expats (72%) agree that they can openly express themselves and their opinions (vs. 65% globally), nearly one in three (31%) are **unhappy with the country's political stability** (vs. 13% globally).

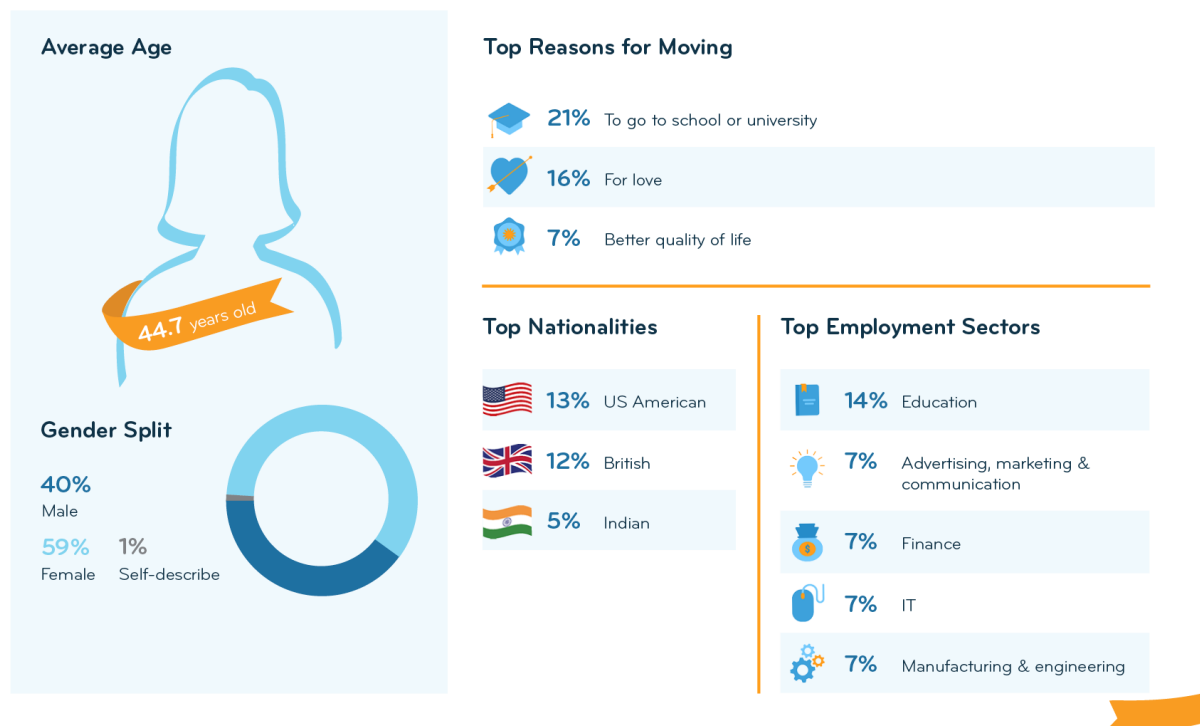
Frustrated by Bureaucracy

In Italy, getting set up with the **Expats Essentials** (51st) seems to be a difficult task. The country ranks second to last in the **Admin Topics Subcategory** (52nd): 72% of expats find it **hard to deal with the bureaucracy**, nearly double the global average (38%). A Panamanian expat adds that *“the bureaucracy is even tougher when you’re a non-EU citizen”*. Expats also report that it is difficult to open a local bank account (33% unhappy vs. 22% globally) and to get a visa for moving to Italy (39% unhappy vs. 24% globally).

“The bureaucracy is the worst; people are stuck in the past. It is impossible to get anything done.” – Dutch expat

The **Digital Life Subcategory** (48th) is another lowlight. Over two in five expats (42%) are unhappy with the availability of government services online, twice the global average (21%). They also rate the cashless payment options (44th) and high-speed internet access at home (47th) negatively. While 57% report that it is difficult to live there without speaking Italian (vs. 32% globally), over half (52%) at least find **the language easy to learn** (vs. 40% globally).

| Typical Expats in Italy



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](https://www.internations.org) 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.

Find more information about InterNations on our [press page](#), [in our company blog](#), in our [magazine](#), or on our [LinkedIn page](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) for updates and data insights on expat life.

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