

THE INDIAN COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Annual Report on the Presence of Migrants
Executive Summary



For nearly a decade, the *Direzione Generale dell'immigrazione e delle politiche di integrazione* (general immigration and integration policies directorate) has aimed to provide a detailed and balanced account of the complex phenomenon of the presence of foreigners in Italy and to do so by setting forth the various distinct aspects of the question while analysing the characteristics noted and also anticipating today's trends. The directorate does so by means of its *Rapporto nazionale sui migranti nel Mercato del lavoro italiano* (national reports on migrants in the Italian labour market) (ninth edition), the *Rapporti nazionali sulla presenza in Italia delle principali Comunità straniere* (national reports on the main foreign communities in Italy) (eighth edition) and the *Rapporti sulla presenza dei migranti non comunitari nelle 14 città metropolitane italiane* (reports on the presence of non-EU migrants in the 14 metropolitan cities of Italy) (fourth edition).

The series of national reports on the presence of the main foreign communities aims to investigate and study in depth the presence on Italian soil of the more numerically significant non-EU nationals: Moroccans, Albanians, the Chinese, Ukrainians, Indians, Filipinos, Bangladeshis, Egyptians, Pakistanis, Moldovans, Nigerians, the Senegalese, Sri Lankans, Tunisians, Peruvians and Ecuadorians.

For each grouping, the main features from the socio-demographic and employment angles are considered, alongside presence of minors and their education, occupational integration, welfare policies and processes of integration. Each report starts with comparison among the various communities.

Again, this year we duly acknowledge the contributions of institutions and bodies that have provided information in their possession. These entities include the Italian National Institute of Statistics; the general statistical and actuarial coordination body of INPS (National Social Security Institute); the Ministry of Education, University and Research; the Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture; the international political studies organisation, CeSPI; the trade unions CGIL, CISL, UIL and UGL; and the *Divisione Studi e Ricerca* (study and research division) of ANPAL Servizi. We are also most grateful to dottor Daniele Frigeri, the Director of the *Osservatorio Nazionale sull'Inclusione Finanziaria dei Migranti* (national observatory on financial inclusion of migrants) who drew up the focus reports on remittances and access to credit.

The full series of *Rapporti Comunità* (community reports), editions 2012 - 2019, can be accessed – in Italian and in the main foreign languages – in the areas *Paesi di origine e comunità* (countries of origin and communities) and *Rapporti di ricerca sull'immigrazione* (immigration research reports) on the institutional portal, www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it. This portal also provides access to a statistical annex providing information that supplements the reports or that, within a comparative framework among the main national communities considered, enables in-depth study of the data analysed.

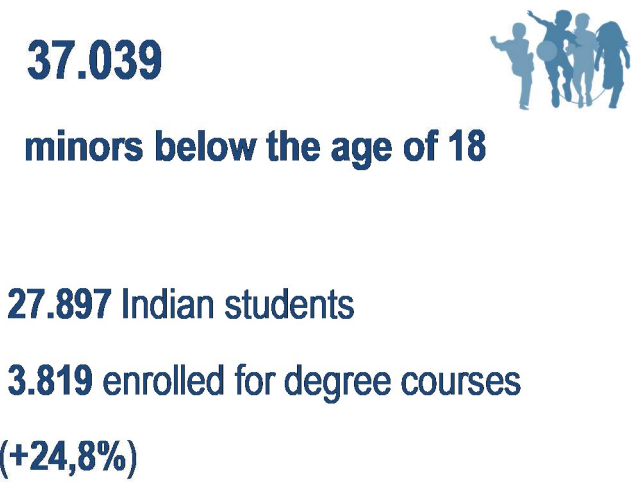
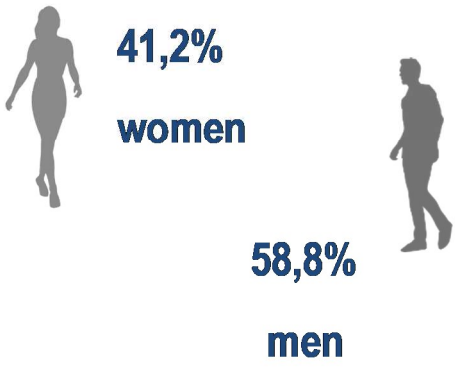
Within the ambit of the project, *Supporto nelle politiche per l'immigrazione e di cooperazione bilaterale con i Paesi di origine* (support for immigration and bilateral cooperation with countries of origin) ANPAL Servizi has drawn up and translated the 2019 edition of its *Rapporti nazionali sulle principali Comunità straniere* (national reports on the main foreign communities) – analytic reports provided in summary form.

Executive Summary



162.893
legally residing Indian citizens
Ranking fifth for number of presences

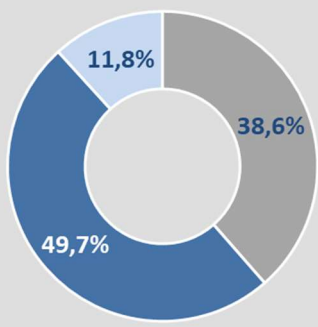
103.478 “nuovi italiani” (new Italians) in 2018
(5.2% are Indian)



54,6% below the age of 35

Present in:

- 31,4%** Lombardia
- 20,3%** Lazio
- 10,8%** Emilia-Romagna



40,7% short-term permits

- Work permits
- Family
- Other reasons

60,3%
long-term residents

Demographic characteristics

162,893 Indian citizens are holders of a residence permit valid as on **1 January 2019**, accounting for 4.4% of the non-EU citizens in Italy. After a number of years ranking in the same place among the main foreign communities, in 2018, the Indian community rose from sixth to fifth place in the ranking, following the Moroccan, Albanian, Chinese and Ukrainian communities.

On analysis of the main demographic characteristics of the Indian citizens residing in Italy as on 1 January 2019, we may note:

- a fairly marked **gender imbalance** with men predominating at 58.8% of the community and women standing at 41.2% (the lowest value among the legally residing non-EU communities, which value for resident women stands at 48.3%);
- a **mean age** that is lower than for non-EU citizens as a whole (**32**), vs an age of 34 for this latter group, given the presence of more than 37,000 minors (who make up the prevalent age group in this community).

As to geographic distribution, this community favours Northern Italy, where more than ½ of Indian citizens reside. Accordingly, two of the regions with most Indians are northern: **Lombardia** is the major region of settlement for this community, with 1/3 of the total number of Indian citizens. **Emilia-Romagna** (ranking third for number of Indian citizens) presents an incidence of 10.8%. The region ranking second is **Lazio** with a particularly marked presence in the area of Rome, with its more than 33,000 citizens of Indian origin (20.3% of the total, vs 11.2% for citizens of non-EU origin). Notably, the Campania region hosts 4.7% of this community as residents.

The **process of stabilization** of the Indian community is ongoing, and the quotient of holders of long-term residence permits is constantly on the rise, reaching 60.3% as on 1 January 2019. While significant for the Indian community, the quotient is 2% lower than that for the non-EU population as a whole. 39.7% are holders of a permit subject to renewal. For issuance of term **residence permits, family reasons** prevail (nearly ½ of the permits subject to renewal issued to migrants from this community: 49.7%). Work permits totalled 24,922 (38.6%). Study-related permits entitle 4.5% of Indian citizens to reside in Italy.

Current trends

Compared to 1 January 2018, the number of non-EU citizens in Italy is basically stable (+2,472 units). This apparent stability is in any case the result of the algebraic sum of opposing variations in the diverse communities. Indeed, the geography of origins of migrants sees significant changes taking place. For the first time, changes are noted also in the top 5 in the ranking for number of presences. The key increases are noted in the communities from the Indian subcontinent: namely, the Pakistani community (+4.9%), the Bangladeshi community (+4.5%) and the Indian community (+3.5%). The rise of the Nigerian community is also significant (+2.7%), ranking eleventh in terms of number's presences, having risen from fourteenth the year before.

The most significant downturns regard the Tunisian, Moroccan and Moldavan communities (-4.6%, -2% and -1.8%, respectively).

Two factors are of greater significance with respect to trends displayed by number of presences. These factors consist in, on the one hand, the new permits issued attesting to an inflow impacting the stock of legally residing foreigners, and, on the other, in the granting of citizenship (which latter practice of course removes those who become Italian citizens from the stock of foreign citizens).

Turning to admissions, in 2018, 242,009 new residence permits were issued (approx. 21,000 less than during 2017). Despite the downturn, the growth trend remains, as noted over the last few years, regarding family reunification (+8.2% vs 2017), which is the reason for issuance of most of the new residence permits (50.7%). There is a downturn in the number of applications for, or entitlements to, a form of protection (-35.9% vs 217). Only 6% of the new residence permits were issued on the basis of work-related considerations.

With its 13,621 new residence permits due prevalently to family reunification needs (58.3%), the Indian community ranks fourth for number of admissions, with a marked rise on the year before (+57%).

Among the 103,478 citizenships granted to non-EU migrants in 2018, 5,425 (5.2% of the total) regard citizens of Indian origin. The main reason for **acquisition of citizenship** for Indians is transmission from parents who have newly become Italian ("neo italiani") (41.9%).

Minors and educational paths

One of the indicators of geographical stabilization of a community is the high presence of families and minors within it, as is seen in the many minors of this community. As on 1 January 2019, there were **37,039 Indian minors**, i.e. 22.7% of the total for non-EU minors. Indian children born in Italy came to 2,732 in 2017 (5.3% of non-EU children born in 2017). In all, between 2010 and 2017, more than 21,000 Indian children were born in Italy.

Admission of Indian minors into the Italian schooling circuit remains high. The high percentage has India ranking fourth as country of origin of non-EU students. Indeed, 27,897 students of Indian origin enrolled for academic year 2018/2019 (4.2% of the non-EU school population as a whole). Compared to the previous year, the students of this community increased by 5.4%. The growth rate was decidedly higher than that displayed by non-EU students as a whole (+2.6%). The number of enrolled students increased in all schools and grades: the main areas of growth were junior secondary schools (11%) and preschool institutions (8.2%), Primary and senior secondary schools came to +2.8% and +2.1%, respectively. The incidence of students from this community vs non-EU students as a whole is higher in preschool institutions (5% of the enrolled are Indian citizens) and lower in senior secondary schools (3.2%). There is also a 25% rise in the number of university students, reaching approx. 4,000 in academic year 2018/2019.

Among the main non-EU communities, this community ranks highly also as regards the number of **NEETs** (i.e. persons aged between 15 and 29 not in employment, education or training). Young NEETs of Indian citizenship amount to approx. 15,000 (i.e. ½ of the Indian youngsters in this age bracket).

Work and employment

The Indian community is markedly characterised by its engagement in the Primary Sector – which is the prevalent sector for employment, accounting for more than 1/3 of the Indians employed in Italy (36.5%, vs 6% of non-EU workers as a whole) – and in Services (accounting for 24.3% of the workforce). The low incidence of female Indian employees determines an overall employment index that is lower than that for the non-EU population as a whole. This also has an adverse effect in terms of rate of inactivity within this community. The **employment rate** stands at **56.6%** vs 60.1% for the non-EU population as a whole; the **inactivity rate** for Indian citizens (**36.8%**) is 7% higher than the mean value; and the **unemployment rate** stands at **10.4%** (vs 14.3% in the non-EU population as a whole). Gender bias in Indian workers sees men predominate. It is much more marked here than in non-EU migrants as a whole. Females make up a mere 11.7% of the Indian employed workforce, vs 39.5% in the non-EU employed workforce as a whole.

Turning to **wage subsidies** made over to workers in Italy by INPS (the National Social Security Institute) in the event of interruptions or reduction of production, only 2% of the non-EU beneficiaries are Indian. This incidence is low if one considers the fact that this community accounts for 5% of the non-EU workforce. Under-representation of this community among those in receipt of wage subsidies is to be explained by the fact that Indians markedly focus on the farming sector, which benefits little from policies governing wage subsidies, this sector coming mainly within the purview of agricultural unemployment measures. 6.2% of non-EU workers in receipt of unemployment benefits were Indian: 27,821 beneficiaries mainly in receipt of agricultural unemployment benefits (17,391, or 20.3% of the total number of non-EU beneficiaries), followed by *Naspi* (*Nuova Prestazione di assicurazione sociale per l'impiego*, a social employment insurance scheme) (10,325).

During 2018, **82,346 new employment relationships** were activated for citizens of Indian origin (approx. 8% more than the previous year). Indicating that women from this community are not drawn to the labour market to any considerable extent, the data provided by the *Comunicazioni Obbligatorie* (mandatory notices) reveal that only 12.6% of Indian citizens recruited are women (vs 46% for non-EU citizens as a whole). Most of the new subordinate and para-subordinate jobs that began during 2018 for Indian workers were in the Agricultural sector (a level approaching 60.8%). However, gender analysis indicates that only slightly more than 1/3 of work contracts activated for women regarded this sector. The incidence for male Indians approaches 64%; conversely, in the second sector of employment (Services) the female workforce exceeds the males of this community (52% vs 26%).

We note the prevalence among Indian employees of unskilled workers engaging in farming, gardening activities etc., accounting for more than ½ of the hirings. This quotient and those of farmers and skilled agricultural labourers account for approx. 60% of the hirings in the agricultural sector. The qualifications that are of greater significance in this community as to jobs for non-EU citizens regard the segment of animal husbandry: 1,971 contracts for breeders and skilled animal husbandry labourers, accounting for more than ½ of the placements of workers with these skills among non-EU citizens. In regard to unskilled workers in the ambits of forestry, care of animals, fishing and hunting, the incidence of this community stands at 43.3%, attesting to prevalence of employment in the Primary sector.

Involvement of the community in question in **the world of entrepreneurship** is not highly significant. While this community ranks fifth in terms of number of residents, it ranks tenth among countries of origin for incidence sole proprietorships. Hence, there is a low level Italy-wide of entrepreneurial initiative. There are 7,345 sole proprietors of Indian origin (1.9% of non-EU entrepreneurs in Italy). However, compared to the previous year, the number of enterprises rose by 4%. The main sector of investment is Commerce and Transport, accounting for 43% of sole proprietorships owned by Indians, followed by the Business Services sector, with an incidence in percentage terms that is double that noted for businesses as a whole owned by non-EU citizens (16.7% vs 6.2%), attesting to a degree of specialization of this community within this sector, which accounts for more than 5% of non-EU enterprises,

Economic conditions

On analysis of remuneration of non-EU employees, it is noted that workers of Indian origin earn slightly more on average than do the members of the control groups. The marked commitment to the ambit of agriculture and industry and an impressive skills base have led to benefits on the earnings front. If we compare mean levels of **remuneration** according to type of work, among Indian workers, monthly earnings are on average higher than among non-EU workers as a whole: 1,340 euros vs 1,166 euros. Turning to agricultural labourers, the difference (again, positive) comes to 218 euros, even when the mean monthly earnings come to 810 euros. Conversely, within the ambit of home help, Indian workers earn on average 75 euros less than non-EU workers as a whole.

We note, however, that Indian women are at a disadvantage in regard to earnings. Indeed, the gender pay gap is fairly high among employees, with mean monthly salaries for males standing at more than 467 euros more than for females. In the ambit of agricultural work, females receive a mean salary that is nearly ½ of that of males. The gap is less marked in the ambit of home help, in which women's salaries are higher than men's (607 vs 510 euros, respectively). Among employed Indian citizens in Italy, a medium-low level of education prevails. More than 2/3 of Indian workers hold at most a junior secondary school leaving certificate (73%) standing at 11.5% more than for the non-EU population as a whole. Approx. 20% received, at least, a senior secondary school leaving certificate. 10% are holders of a higher education certificate. Educationally, within this community, women are less highly qualified than men. However, as to higher education it is noted for 22.4% of employed females (vs 6.5% among men); this value is higher than that recorded for the non-EU female population as a whole (16.1%).

The quotient of **IVS (disability, old-age and survivors') pensions** that are made over to non-EU citizens has always been rather small. In 2018, this quotient stood at 0.4% of the total (out of almost 14 million pensions, 56,071 regard non-EU citizens). Non-EU citizens receive old-age pensions (in 42% of such cases), followed by survivors' pensions (36.3%); 21.6% are linked to disability. In the Indian community, among IVS pensions, those for survivors prevail (40.7%) followed by disability pensions (35.7%), and the remaining 23.7% are old-age pensions. Overall, with its 1,207 IVS pensions, the Indian community accounts for 2% of the total for non-EU citizens who are in receipt of such benefits. The number grew by 9.7% vs the year before (+11.5% old-age; 11.6% disability; 13.3% survivors).

The level of **social assistance measures** provided by INPS to Indian citizens (solely welfare services for the most vulnerable, due to age conditions reached or civil disability) is low: 1,851 (a mere 2% of those for migrant recipients of non-EU origin). 43.4% consist in constant attendance supplements. Slightly more than 1/3 are civil disability pensions. The remaining 21.7% are social benefits.

With reference to **monetary transfers** to families (maternity benefits, parental leave and family allowances provided by INPS), in 2018 a total of 321,157 women received maternity benefits, 8.8% of whom were non-EU citizens (28,414) (7.6% less than the year before). During the same period, the beneficiaries of maternity allowances with Indian citizenship totalled 649, or 2.3% of non-EU female beneficiaries (maternity allowances fell in number by 6.6% vs 2017). As to parental leave, in 2018 there were a total of 344,529 such beneficiaries, denoting a 6.2% increase vs 2017, 6.8% of whom were of non-EU origin (23,445). A total of 697 Indian citizens benefited from this measure (3%

of non-EU beneficiaries). During 2018, as many as 2,836,868 beneficiaries were in receipt of family allowances (a value that was basically stable vs the year before). 12.4% of the beneficiaries were non-EU citizens (approx. 353,000) denoting a 3.7% increase on 2017. 18,409 members of this community were in receipt of family allowances in 2018 (5.2% of non-EU citizens as a whole; +6.5% on 2017).

As to transfers made by the Indians in Italy to their country of origin, India ranks fifth as nation of destination of **remittances** sent from Italy in 2018 (322.683 million euros), accounting for 5.5% of the total outgoing remittances (+10% million vs 2017).

