



THE INDIAN COMMUNITY

Annual Report on the Presence of Migrants in Italy
Excutive Summary



2016

The 2016 edition of the National Reports on the Main Foreign Communities Present in Italy renews the commitment of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies – General Directorate for Immigration and Integration Policies in a publishing project by now mature and original in the vast panorama of analyses and researches on immigration in Italy. A project furthermore peculiar owing to its complementary relationship with the Sixth National Report on Migrants in the Italian Labour Market.

This fifth edition of the National Reports on the Main Foreign Communities took into consideration the nationalities that have always been the most numerous on the Italian territory: Moroccan, Albanian, Chinese, Ukrainian, Indian, Filipino, Egyptian, Bangladeshi, Moldovan, Pakistani, Tunisian, Sri Lankan, Senegalese, Peruvian and Ecuadorian. Through the information provided by institutional and administrative sources, said communities were analysed with reference to their specificities, analogies and significant differences, all of which put in comparison with the related data on the total foreign population in Italy.

The five-year experience acquired with the International Labour Mobility Programme of Italia Lavoro (now Anpal Servizi) can be appreciated in this year's greater ability to synthesise information compared to the previous editions, notwithstanding the realisation of a broad mapping of the foreign communities' data. In particular, the reports provide information on the migratory phenomenon in its whole, as well as on the socio-demographic characteristics of each nationality, the presence of minors and related educational and training paths, employment, welfare policies and integration processes. Lastly, a specific chapter was devoted to the analysis of the general migratory picture in Italy comparing the various communities among each other, with reference to their main socio-demographic and employment characteristics.

Special thanks are owed to all Institutions and Agencies that provided their fundamental, well-established and effective collaboration: the Ministry of Interior – Central Directorate for Immigration and Asylum Civil Services and the Central Directorate for Civil Rights, Citizenship and Minorities; the Ministry of Education, University and Research – General Directorate for Students; the Ministry of Health – General Directorate for Healthcare Planning; INPS – Actuarial Statistics General Coordination; ISTAT - National Statistics Institute; INAIL – National Insurance Institute for Industrial Accidents; Unioncamere – Italian Union of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Handicrafts and Agriculture; CESPI and trade unions CGIL, CISL and UIL.

The complete series 2012-2016 National Reports on the Main Foreign Communities Present in Italy is available, in Italian and in the main foreign languages, under the sections "Paesi di origine e comunità" and "Rapporti di ricerca sull'immigrazione" on the institutional portal www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it.

The unabridged volumes of the 2016 Community Reports, as well as the statistical tables, are available upon request by writing to the following address: infomobilita@anpalservizi.it

Executive Summary

THE COMMUNITY IN FIGURES

REGULARLY RESIDING: 169,394

MEN: 60.9% - WOMEN: 39.1%

MINORS: 41,911 (24.7%)

EMPLOYMENT RATE: 52.5%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: 11.2%

MAIN SECTORS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY: INDUSTRY EXCLUDING CONSTRUCTION (35.3%), AGRICULTURE HUNTING AND FISHING (29.4%)

SETTLEMENT AREAS: LOMBARDIA (33.5%), LAZIO (17.9%), EMILIA ROMAGNA (11.3%)

MAIN EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION: LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE (50%)

CITIZENSHIPS GRANTED IN 2015: 6.176

The statistical analysis conducted for this report has uncovered aspects that characterise the **Indian** community in Italy:

a prevalence of men: 103,101 men, 60.9% of the total; 66,293 women, making up the remaining 39.1%. This situation is different from that of the group of all non-EU citizens regularly residing in Italy, in which women make up 48.7% of the total;

an average age below the average age for all non-EU citizens present in the country. The average age for citizens of Indian origin in 2016 was 30 years, compared with 32 for the entire non-EU population;

a high percentage of residence permits granted for work reasons, about 8 percentage points higher than that recorded for non-EU citizens taken as a whole;

a high percentage of arrivals to Italy for seasonal work: India is the first nation as regards the entry of immigrants for this reason;

a geographic distribution of citizens of Indian origin similar to that of all non-EU citizens present in Italy: the majority of Indian citizens reside in Northern Italy. This area is the main destination of the Indian community, chosen by 62.8% of its citizens. Lombardia in particular hosts more than one third of Indian citizens, being the top region in terms of the number of citizens present (33.5% of the total). 25.6% of citizens of Indian origin reside in Central Italy, in particular the region of Lazio, where 17.9% of the total reside;

a work specialisation in agriculture, hunting and fishing, one of the main employment sectors for this community. The distribution of Indian workers by economic sector differs considerably from that of other comparison groups: Industry is, numerically, the most prevalent sector, with 36% of Indian labour employed there. Yet the Agriculture, hunting and fishing sector, in which 29% of Indian workers are employed, shows the most significant difference compared with other communities.

Demographic characteristics

The Indian community is the fifth largest in terms of the number of non-EU citizens present in Italy.

At 1 January 2016, immigrants of Indian origin regularly residing in Italy numbered 169,394, 4.3% of all non-EU citizens, 1.7% up on the previous year's figure. Within the community men numbered 103,101, 60.9% of the total, women 66,293 (39.1%).

Going against the grain of many other foreign communities in Italy, the Indian community has grown in recent years: compared with 1 January 2015 the number of Indian citizens regularly residing in Italy grew by 2,880, a percentage rise of 1.7%. The incidence of the community under review out of the total of regularly residing non-EU citizens has gradually risen too, going from 3.3% in 2008 to 4.3% in 2016.

Looking at the time series from 2010-2016, growth has been more marked for this community than for the entire population of non-EU citizens residing in Italy. The Indian community went from 129,516 in 2010 to 169,394 in 2016, an increase (30.8%) two times higher than the average for non-EU citizens in general (15.7%). This general rise has been constant, and has not been adversely affected by the effects of the economic crisis. As the number of Indian citizens living in Italy has grown, the **stabilisation process** for the same community has been positive in the period 2012-2016, despite a slight drop recorded in 2014. A percentage of 54.8%, of Indian citizens regularly residing in the country in 2016 held a EU long-term residence permit (+8% vis-à-vis the previous year). Indian citizens were in possession of a renewable residence permits were 45.2% of the total. There is a clear drop in applications for expiring permits (-4.9%), and a parallel increase (8%) in EU long-term residence permits. Compared with the previous year, the number of renewable residence permits for the community under review fell from 80,564 to 76,604 (-3,960), probably the result of a decrease in the number of new arrivals and in part the progressive stabilisation of the Indian community in Italy.

With regard to the reasons for the presence of Indian citizens holding a renewable residence permit, at 1 January 2016, **work** was the main reason for residing in Italy for about half of this group (49.9%). Permits issued for **family reasons** totalled 31,095, 40.6% of the total. In comparison with the previous year, it is possible to notice that there was a decrease of 19.4% in residence permits issued for work reasons. On the other hand, permits issued for family reasons rose by 18.1%, bearing out a trend shared by many communities, with a rise in permits granted for family reasons and a drop in those relating to work.

Finally, a characteristic of this community is the **number of citizens entering the country for seasonal work reasons**. With close to 26% of the total, India was the top country in 2015 in terms of supplying immigrants for seasonal work in Italy. During the course of 2015, however arrivals for this type of employment fell in number. This was true both for the Indian community, with a 20% drop in permits granted for seasonal work, and for non-EU citizens taken as a whole (-29%).

Current trends

In recent years, there has been a reverse in trend after years of constant growth. The number of regularly residing citizens of many communities is dropping, due in all likelihood to two parallel phenomena: the drop in new arrivals and the rise in the number of persons successfully applying for Italian citizenship. The number of "new" Italian citizens has risen constantly and significantly over the past few years. In the period between 2012 and 2015, the number of citizenships granted to non-EU citizens grew by over 165%, going from 60,059 to 158,891. In detail, a fall in the number of citizenship acquisitions for marriage reasons (-18%) was accompanied by a significant and similar rise in the number of acquisitions of Italian citizenship by virtue of naturalisation, parental transmission or election at the age of 18 (+240% circa).

In this respect, the Indian community goes against the grain, confirming a trend recorded by other Asian communities: compared with 1 January 2015 the number of Indian citizens regularly residing in Italy grew by 2,880 units, a percentage rise of 1.7%. The share of the community under review out of all regularly residing non-EU citizens has gradually risen too, going from 3.3% in 2008 to 4.3% in 2016.

In tandem with rising numbers, there has also been a significant rise in the number of **successful applications for Italian citizenship**: 2,366 applications were granted in 2012, compared with 6,176 in 2015. This growth included all types of acquisitions: in particular, those for marriage, with an increase of 364%, followed by acquisition by virtue of transmission/election, a growth of 201%, and then naturalisation (+115.7%). Over the past year the number of “new” Italian citizens coming from the Indian community rose by approximately 23.2%, boosted mainly by the marriage channel, which rose by 66%, followed by parental transmission or election of Italian citizenship at the age of 18 (+21.7%) and finally for time spent residing in Italy (+19%).

Minors and educational paths

There are **41,911 minors of Indian origin**, making up **4.4%** of all non-EU minors. The number of Indian minors grew in number, in line with the general trend for this community, with a rise of 1,677, 4.2% up on the previous year. **Minors make up 24.7% of the Indian community**, slightly above the non-EU average of 24.2%. The 55.2% of minors of Indian origin are male (44.8% female), reflecting in terms of gender distribution the situation of all non-EU minors. In the community under review, the gender distribution is more balanced among minors than in the adult population, in which women make up only 28.4% of the total.

In terms of **school attendance**, the presence of foreign pupils in Italian schools is now a structural phenomenon, in every type of Italian school. Non-EU pupils currently make up 7.8% of the school population (from infant schools to upper secondary schools). Minors of Indian origin attending Italian schools were 25,436 in the 2015/2016 school year, 4.1% of the entire non-EU school population. Compared with the previous year, pupils from this community grew in number by 3.7%, a rate higher than that recorded for all non-EU pupils. The share of students belonging to this community out of all non-EU students is higher in lower-level schools: 4.6% of non-EU minors enrolled in primary schools are of Indian origin, in infant schools this percentage is 4.4%.

With regard to **university education**, students of Indian nationality enrolled were 1,615 in the 2015/16 academic year, attending two or three-year degree courses in Italy. The Indian academic population in Italy thus rose by 167.8%. In recent years the number of graduates has also risen significantly (+55.4%), in line with the increase in enrolled students from the community and with the more general growth in the total number of non-EU university students (+19%).

The analysis of this community closes with an observation on the **NEET** (*Not in Employment, Education and Training*) phenomenon, namely the percentage of youngsters who do not work, study or train. This phenomenon is not alien to foreign national youngsters present in Italy: Indian youngsters aged between 15 and 29 who neither work nor study are 16,707, 6.5% of NEETs of non-EU origin. Compared with the previous year, their number rose by 1,386 units, a rise of 9%, due to the growth in the number of male NEETs of Indian origin (+17.8%), and in the number of female NEETs (+4.6%). For the community under review women NEETs make up 63.4% of the total. Youngsters aged between 15 and 29 belonging to the Indian community who do not study, train or work make up 37.1% of the total Indian population of that age class. The percentage rises to 59.7% for women NEETs.

Work and employment conditions

As regards participation in the labour market, 52.5% of the 15-64 year old population of the Indian community present in Italy are employed. This figure is below that recorded for comparison groups. The gap between the employment rate for this community and that for all non-EU citizens is close to 5 percentage points. Compared with all Asian immigrants it is even higher, over 11 percentage points. The difference compared with the average for citizens from other countries of central-southern Asia is a little over 3 percentage points. In the Indian community, there are significant differences between employment rates for men and women (69.7% for men, 21.4% for women). Due to the low percentage of employed women in this community, the general index drops below the average for non-EU workers.

The **inactivity rate** among Indian citizens is 40.8%, a value that exceeds that of all comparison groups. At the same time, the **unemployment rate** for the community under review is 11.2%, down on the previous year by 4 percentage points. Examining this figure against that of immigrants in comparison groups, it is possible to notice that the figure is over 5 percentage points below the average for non-EU workers. It is also over 3 percentage points below that for citizens from the same general geographic area, for which the unemployment rate is 14.6%. On the other hand, it is slightly higher – by less than two percentage points – than the figure for immigrants of Asian origin. In the community under review 42% of workers offer skilled manual work, the prevalent area of employment for these workers, compared with an average of 28% for all non-EU workers. Unskilled manual workers make up 40% of all Indian workers. This percentage is below the figure recorded for all workers from the rest of central-southern Asia (50%) and for all Asian workers taken as a whole (48%). It is on a par with that recorded for all non-EU workers.

During 2015, **71,368 new employment contracts were established for citizens of Indian origin**, 6.2% more than in the previous year. Most new jobs, both “subordinate” (also known as economically dependent employed work) and “parasubordinate” (economically dependent self-employed work), commenced in 2015 by Indian workers were in the *Agriculture* sector, reaching a share of 56.5%. This was very different from non-EU workers taken as a whole, the percentage being 21.2%. Indian workers thus continue to specialise in the livestock sector.

It is not surprising that with reference to the social security system that supports workers if they do not receive pay for any reason, workers from the Indian community receive 6.2% of unemployment benefits granted to non-EU workers. The number of unemployed workers in the agricultural sector is very high: 14,078 units. The *Services sector* – the foremost sector in terms of the number of all non-EU workers (60.4%) is the second largest sector for the Indian community in terms of the number of workers taken on in 2015, making up 33.7% of new recruitments. Fewer new jobs were created in other sectors.

Concluding our look at the labour market, in terms of **entrepreneurship** the Indian community lies twelfth in the ranking of non-EU owners of individual firms, even though it is fifth in terms of the number of non-EU citizens present in Italy. At 31 December 2015, there were **5,789 Indian-born owners of individual enterprises**, 1.6% of non-EU entrepreneurs operating in Italy. Compared with the previous year, the number of individual enterprises with Indian owners rose by 22.4% (+1,059), the biggest increase of all the communities under review. The region with the highest number of Indian business owners is Lazio, where 1,034 enterprises headed by Indian citizens are based (22.5% of the total), followed by Lombardia. There is a significant number of Indian entrepreneurs in Campania (12.4%).

The top province in terms of the number of enterprises owned by citizens born in India is Rome, with 17.4% of the total, followed by Naples (8.9%) and Brescia (6.5%). Interestingly, in the provinces of both Reggio Calabria and Lecce 5.9% of enterprises are headed by Indian citizens. These figures show up a high territorial concentration of Indian enterprises in the country, as well as the attractiveness of three cities in the south – Lecce, Naples and Reggio Calabria – for the community under review.

Socio-economic conditions

Indian citizens employed in Italy have a **low to medium level of education**. Like the entire set of non-EU citizens, half of the workers belonging to the Indian community have a lower secondary school certificate (50%). This percentage is similar to that recorded for workers from the rest of central-southern Asia, and 3 percentage points higher than the percentage for all workers from Asia.

Figures regarding Indian origin employees' **income** indicate that 31% of workers from this community receive a monthly wage in excess of 1,200 euro. This is a higher percentage than that recorded for comparison groups, 16 points higher than that for the group of workers from other countries in central-southern Asia, 15 percentage points more than that for all Asian workers, and about 11 percentage points above that for non-EU workers taken as a whole. The top two income brackets, just as for all comparison groups, are up to 800 euro and 800-1,200 euro, in both of which 34% of employees from the community fall.

The **Indian community**, ranking fifth in terms of the number of non-EU citizens residing in Italy, was **third in the ranking of granted Italian citizenships**. In 2015, out of 158,891 citizenships granted to third country nationals, procedures in favour of immigrants of Indian origin numbered 6,176, 3.9% of the total. The first reason for applying for Italian citizenship for the community under review – just as for all non-EU citizens – is naturalisation. This regards 2,858 Indian citizens, or 46.3% of granted applications. A little lower in percentage terms is the number of citizenships granted by transmission from “new” Italian parents or being born in Italy (45.4%), while in the remaining 8.3% of cases, citizenships were granted by marriage to an Italian citizen.

Finally, with reference to **financial flows** exiting Italy towards the country of origin, in 2015 248.4 million euro was sent to India, 6% of all **remittances** exiting Italy (+22.7 million vis-à-vis 2014). Examining financial flows from Italy to India between 2010 and 2015, it may be noticed that remittances rose by 86.4%, from 133.2 million euro in 2010 to 248.4 million euro in 2015. It should be noted however that remittances to India in the reference period have fluctuated, falling significantly between 2011 and 2012 and between 2013 and 2014. Rome is the top province in terms of the amount of remittances sent to India during 2015 (32 million euro, 12.9% of the total) due to the number of residents and of enterprises owned by Indian citizens. In second place is Latina, the origin of 11% of money flows going to India. These are followed by three provinces in the Lombardia region: Brescia, Bergamo and Mantova, with shares of between 4% and 7.6%.

Although there is a greater vulnerability as regards foreign citizens' access to financial instruments, compared with national figures for the Italian adult population (87%), the number of foreign adults holding a current account has risen significantly, from 61.2% in 2010 to 73.1% in 2015 (+0.2).

The Indian community has a **bank account rate** in line with the national average for non-EU citizens: the percentage of Indian adults holding a current account is 72.7% (+7.8% vis-à-vis previous year). The 34% of these current accounts have been held with banks for more than 5 years (banking stability index), five percentage points below the national non-EU average (39%). The number of current accounts held by Indian women is lower than the national average: 22%, vis-à-vis 45% for all non-EU women in possession of a current account.

