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**NAME:** Katsu

**AGE:** 40

**OCCUPATION:** Manager

**SALARY:** \$60,000/year

## Japanese businessman

Katsu has been working for Sony for five years. He makes \$60,000 a year. He has a wife and a 10-year-old daughter. Katsu's parents are healthy and still working, but in about five years they'll retire and Katsu will be the sole breadwinner for the family. After work, he likes to grab a drink or two with his colleagues.





Wikimedia Commons / Robert Scoble / CC BY 2.0

**NAME:** Meilin

**AGE:** 22

**OCCUPATION:** Electronics tester

**SALARY:** \$1,500/year

## Chinese factory worker

Meilin works long hours in a Chinese electronics factory, where she makes \$1,500 a year. She moved to the city from the countryside about five years ago. She lives in a large dorm with 20 other women. She works at least 70 hours a week, waking up at 4am and getting home at 8pm. About half of her salary goes toward food and housing. Meilin is single with no children, but she hopes to get married and stop working in the factory.



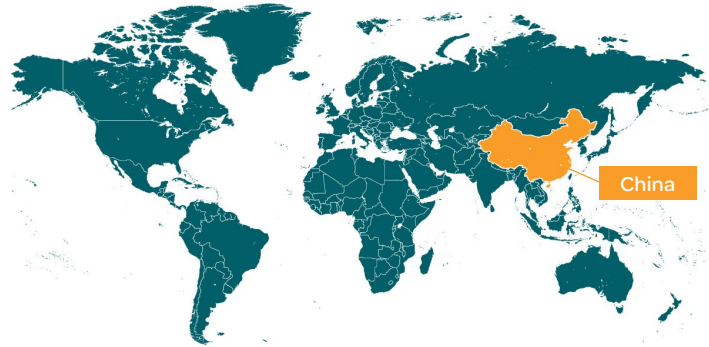


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**NAME:** Lijing  
**AGE:** 6 months  
**OCCUPATION:** None  
**SALARY:** None

## Chinese infant

Lijing is a 6-month-old baby girl. Her parents are poor, but they have high hopes for her. If she scores well on the national exam, she could go to university and work for the government. But Lijing has a long road ahead of her. Recently, her baby formula was discovered to contain toxic chemicals. And when she gets older, it's unlikely her parents will be able to afford a good tutor.







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**NAME:** Jian

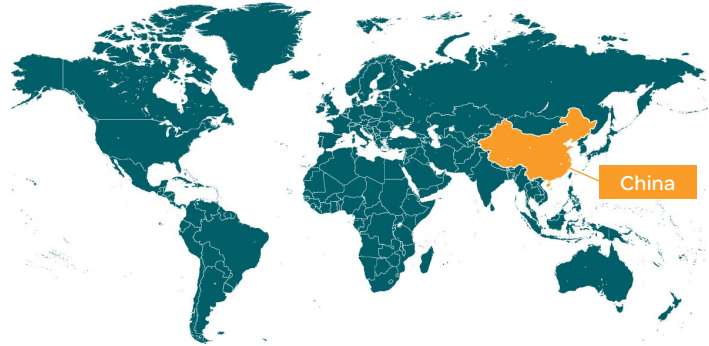
**AGE:** 32

**OCCUPATION:** Government official

**SALARY:** \$8,000/year

## Chinese government official

Jian has been a loyal member of the party. His salary is \$8,000 a year, and he expects his position to only improve. He lives in a small village, but one day he might move to Beijing. He is married and has a son. Jian has expensive tastes and likes people to notice his success.





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**NAME:** Alyosha

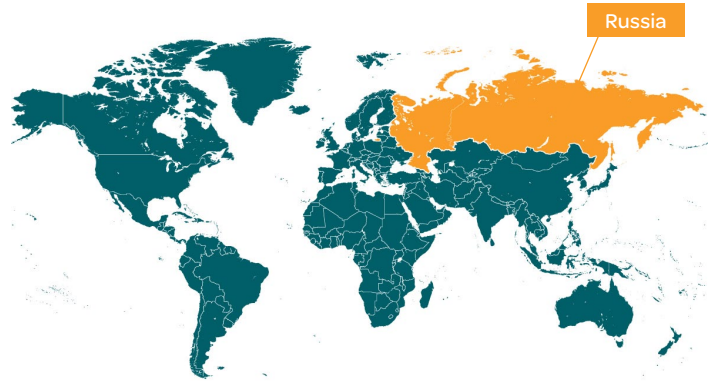
**AGE:** 61

**OCCUPATION:** Particle physicist

**SALARY:** Unemployed

## Russian unemployed physicist

Despite his impressive work in particle physics, the Russian government shut down Alyosha's lab. Now he's forced to tutor physics to bring in a little money. He has applied to several positions in foreign labs, but hasn't gotten a response. He's heard rumors that rogue states are offering employment to scientists with his expertise.





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**NAME:** Anita

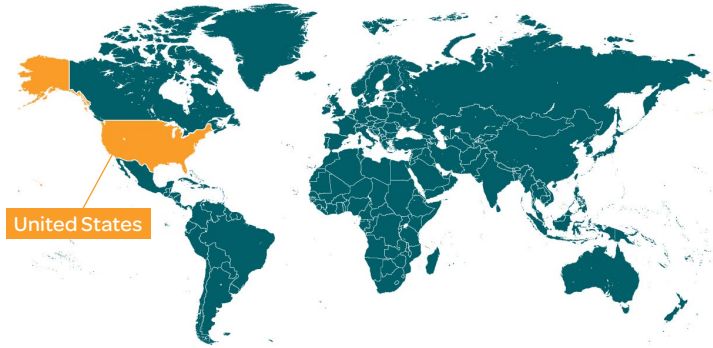
**AGE:** 49

**OCCUPATION:** Professor

**SALARY:** \$73,000/year

## US college professor

Anita teaches in an urban university located in a Midwestern city of about half a million people. Her salary is \$73,000 a year, with 24% of that going to taxes. She takes public transportation or bikes to campus. Anita travels extensively abroad, and relies on a cell phone and laptop computer for her work. She enjoys good food, wine, and spending time with her husband and daughter.







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**NAME:** Sven

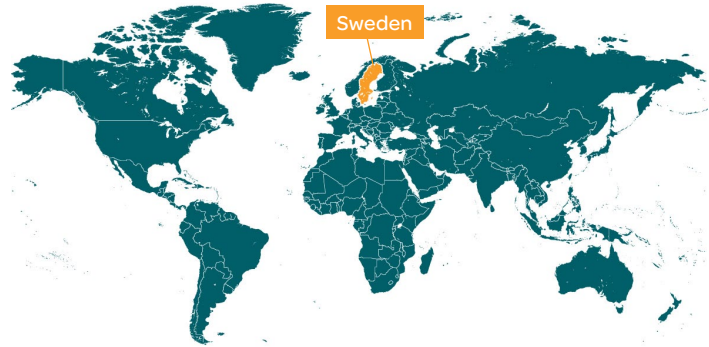
**AGE:** 31

**OCCUPATION:** Cab driver

**SALARY:** \$22,800/year

## Swedish cab driver

Sven works 36 hours a week as a taxi driver in a small city in Sweden. He often takes customers between the train station and local hotels. He earns \$1,900 per month, of which 30% is deducted for taxes. Sven and his wife live in a cozy apartment in a renovated older building. They enjoy cross-country skiing in the winter and boating in the summer.





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**NAME:** Zuzana

**AGE:** 27

**OCCUPATION:** Baker

**SALARY:** \$6,400/year

## Slovakian Eurovision contestant

Zuzana lives in a small town about 50 kilometers from Bratislava. The water in this area is badly polluted from the heavy industry that was built in the Socialist era. Zuzana rides a motorcycle to her job in a bakery. Her salary is \$533 per month, before taxes of about 22% are deducted. On weekends, she sings karaoke in a bar at the center of town with her friends.







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**NAME:** Raj

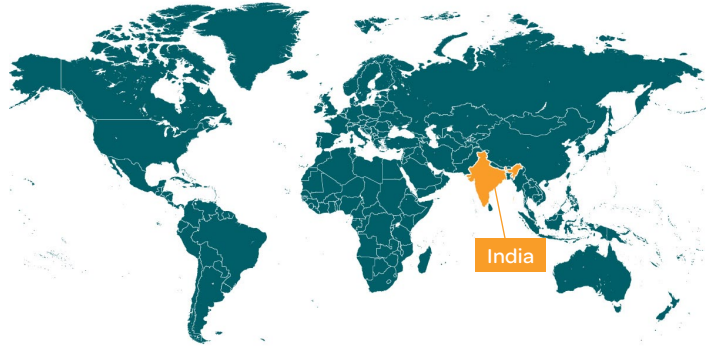
**AGE:** 30

**OCCUPATION:** Cotton farmer

**SALARY:** \$800/year

## Indian cotton farmer

Raj is a 30-year-old cotton farmer in India. Last year he earned \$800. He is struggling with bollworm, and has tried genetically modified cotton to deal with the pest. Unfortunately, the high price of the technology has negated much of the money he earned with a higher crop yield. Many of his neighbors have found themselves deeply in debt, and a few have committed suicide.





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**NAME:** Aparna

**AGE:** 29

**OCCUPATION:** Call center worker

**SALARY:** \$2,400/year

## Indian call center worker

Aparna grew up in a small farming community, but managed to stay in school and learn English. She took a job at a call center in Bangalore, where she works from 10pm to 10am every day, earning about \$2,400 a year. Her husband also works at the call center. Together they hope to save enough money to send their children to a good high school.





Getty Images

**NAME:** Tasa

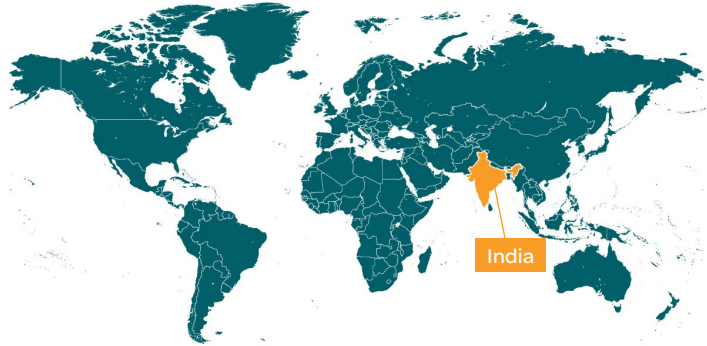
**AGE:** 30

**OCCUPATION:** Cricket player

**SALARY:** \$3,000,000/year

## Indian cricket star

Tasa grew up in an upper-class area of Mumbai, where he excelled at every sport he tried. He is now a well-known cricketer in a country that's passionate about the game. He makes \$3 million a year from salary and endorsements. He has no wife or family to support, but he sends money home to his parents occasionally. He flies over 100,000 miles a year.







flickr / jankie / CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

**NAME:** Rabeya

**AGE:** 24

**OCCUPATION:** Garment worker

**SALARY:** \$480/year

## Bangladeshi garment worker

Rabeya sews hundreds of shirts a day that are sold in department stores in the US and Europe. She makes \$40 a month, which is not enough to live on. Fortunately, her husband also has a job in Dhaka, so she doesn't suffer from malnutrition the way that many of her fellow female workers do. Rabeya is somewhat better off than previous generations as she went to school until she was 16 and can read and write.





flickr / CharlesFred / CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

**NAME:** Umay

**AGE:** 12

**OCCUPATION:** Sheep herder

**SALARY:** \$800/year

## Kurdish sheep herder

Umay is part of a multigenerational shepherding family. She lives in a small, remote dwelling with her parents and three brothers. They carry water to their house from a small village ten kilometers away. Every few years, disease spreads through the family's herd, threatening their livelihood. Last year the family made \$800.







flickr / jseles / CC BY 2.0

**NAME:** Jassim

**AGE:** 22

**OCCUPATION:** Soldier

**SALARY:** \$5,500/year

## Iraqi soldier

Jassim has been working as a soldier in the Iraqi military ever since his village was burned to the ground. He received two months' training from the US military and is currently patrolling the area around his old village. Food and drinkable water are in short supply, but generally local people help him find what he needs. Much of his equipment was originally made for American soldiers and imported to Iraq.







iStockphoto

**NAME:** Mamat

**AGE:** 49

**OCCUPATION:** Tea farmer

**SALARY:** \$100,000/year

## Malaysian tea plantation owner

Mamat owns a tea plantation in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia. He has many employees and is a key figure in the local economy. He sells most of his tea to multinational companies. He is considering organic certification to add value to his crop.





Wikimedia Commons / Pablo Rodriguez / CC BY-SA 2.0

**NAME:** Juanita

**AGE:** 50

**OCCUPATION:** Fish farmer

**SALARY:** \$6,000/year

## Chilean salmon fishery worker

Juanita works at a large salmon farm in Chile. She prepares food for the salmon by mixing antibiotics with ground wild fish. She also uses pesticide to combat sea lice. Juanita makes about \$500 a month, twice the minimum wage. The salmon fishery is suffering from international competition, and several of her coworkers have been laid off.





iStockphoto

**NAME:** Belita

**AGE:** 33

**OCCUPATION:** Farmer/craftswoman

**SALARY:** \$2,000/year

## Mother in Mozambique

Belita has a family of five and is pregnant. She lives in a rural village that has no electricity. She has no transportation to the regional clinic where she could receive healthcare. There is a 1% chance she won't survive her pregnancy, and a 10% chance that the child she's carrying will die before its first birthday. She makes about \$2,000/year farming and selling crafts to an online merchant. She is the main breadwinner for her family.







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**NAME:** Rafael

**AGE:** 33

**OCCUPATION:** Field worker

**SALARY:** \$4,000/year

## Brazilian field worker

Rafael was recently hired by a sugar cane farm. Rising oil costs have led to an increased demand for sugar cane to make ethanol. Still, Rafael doesn't expect more than about a month's job security. He cuts 8-12 tons of burnt stalks every day and works about 70 hours a week. The labor is backbreaking and he spends much of his day off recovering from it.





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**NAME:** Anna

**AGE:** 48

**OCCUPATION:** Entrepreneur

**SALARY:** \$500,000/year

## South African businesswoman

Anna comes from a wealthy family and makes over half a million dollars a year through a variety of enterprises. She is concerned about her ecological footprint and is looking for ways to reduce her impact. In particular, she would like to reduce the amount of coal-based electricity used in her factories and the amount of petroleum-based fertilizers used in her farms. She would also like to spare her employees manual labor where possible.





iStockphoto

**NAME:** Tamer

**AGE:** 22

**OCCUPATION:** Unemployed

**SALARY:** None

## Unemployed Egyptian

Tamer is the eldest child in a family of six. He lives in his parents' home in Cairo. He has a university degree in a technical field, but is unemployed because of difficult economic conditions and political upheaval. He needs a job where he can utilize his skills and earn a living wage.

