

Italy

Permanent immigration to Italy remains at high levels. According to data from the population register, as of 1 January 2011 the stock of foreign residents had increased by 8% on an annual basis, to reach 4.57 million persons. Foreign residents accounted for 7.5% of the entire Italian population. The increase in the stock of foreign population in 2010 was mainly due to the 424 000 arrivals from abroad, up 4% compared with 2009.

Romanian citizens accounted for almost a quarter of all new enrolments of foreign residents in 2010. Their number rose 9% compared with 2009 to reach 969 000 persons, comprising the main group of foreign residents. As EU citizens, Romanians and Bulgarians are not subject to residence permits and had largely unrestricted labour market access; the remaining restrictions were lifted in 2012. At the end of 2010, the other leading groups of foreigners resident in Italy were Albanians (483 000) and Moroccans (452 000).

The number of residence permits granted to non-EU citizens rose by 16.4% in 2010 compared with the previous year, to 599 000, 62% of which were issued for more than 12 months. Most of the permits were granted for the purpose of employment – both subordinate and seasonal – (359 000) and family reunification (179 000). In 2011, 331 000 first permits were issued, with 141 000 for family reunification and 119 000 for employment.

Entry of non-EU citizens for employment is governed by annual quotas. In 2009, the non-seasonal quota was limited to 10 000 places for training and apprenticeships. However, that year a regularisation was held for home and care workers. 295 000 applications were filed, most (233 000) of which had been accepted by October 2011, accounting for about half of the employment permits issued in 2010-11. By 2010, there were 710 000 foreigners legally employed in home care and domestic services. In December 2010 a non-seasonal quota was set to 98 000 entries, of which 52 080 reserved for immigrants from countries with which Italy has signed migration agreements, 30 000 for the domestic and care sector, 4 000 for those who completed training courses in their country of origin, and 11 500 for status changes. About 430 000 applications were filed. Of those applications, only 58 000 had been processed as of 10 October 2011. The seasonal quota for 2010 was set at 80 000, with 21 400 permits issued. A new seasonal quota was set in 2011 to 60 000, and in 2012 at 35 000.

In 2011, landings of illegal migrants on the coasts of Italy increased dramatically due to political change in Tunisia and Libya. By August 2011, almost 60 300 illegal migrants were intercepted along the Italian

coasts, mainly of Sicily, compared with 4 400 in all of 2010. Many applied for asylum. In the first half of 2011, 23 800 asylum requests were filed, exceeding the 2010 total (10 050). Almost 25% were filed by Tunisians. Of the 11 300 asylum applications reviewed in 2010, 14% resulted in refugee status and 24% in a permit for humanitarian reasons or subsidiary status.

Tunisians illegally entering Italy in early 2011 were granted humanitarian protection status. On 5 April 2011 a bilateral agreement on co-operation against illegal migration was signed with the new Tunisian government, which led to 3 500 Tunisians readmitted by October 2011. A memorandum signed with Libya's NTC (National Transitional Council) on 17 June 2011 confirmed the co-operation in migration management. In 2011 Italy also started to sign "new generation" bilateral agreements in the field of labour migration aimed at better matching supply and demand through the creation of lists of emigration candidates and the strengthening of vocational training systems in partner countries. The first agreements were concluded with Egypt, Moldova, Albania and Sri Lanka with negotiations ongoing with ten other countries.

As of 10 March 2012 all foreigners applying for a first residence permit for more than one year must sign an Integration Contract and commit to acquire a basic knowledge of the Italian language and civic principles. The required number of points should be achieved in two years, although the contract may be extended for one year. Points may also be lost for violations of certain terms; if the points drop to zero or below, the residence permit may not be renewed and an expulsion order issued. As of 2011, long-term residence is granted only to immigrants who pass an Italian language test. By 10 October 2011, 69 000 tests had been taken, with a 70% pass rate.

The new government formed in November 2011 set the reform of citizenship law – pending in Parliament since December 2009 – amongst its priorities, especially with regards to regulations concerning Italian-born foreigners.

For further information:

www.interno.it/

www.istat.it/

www.lavoro.gov.it/lavoro/

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

ITALY

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)			
					2001-05	2006-10	2010			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	3.4	4.9	6.8	7.1	5.0	7.1	424.5			
Outflows	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.4	32.8			
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners					
<i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	2009	2010	2009	2010						
Work	130.0	134.2	35.2	40.5						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	115.1	94.8	31.2	28.6						
Humanitarian	9.6	4.3	2.6	1.3						
Free movements	109.6	93.5	29.7	28.2						
Others	4.7	4.9	1.3	1.5						
Total	369.0	331.7	100.0	100.0						
Temporary migration	2005	2009	2010	Average						
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	31.7	34.5	36.8	35.3						
Trainees	..	..	..	..		
Working holiday makers	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4						
Seasonal workers	84.2	34.7	27.7	53.3						
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..		
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..		
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average	Level				
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>					2001-05	2006-10	2010			
	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	10 052			
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	0.7	4.9	4.9	4.7	6.2	6.3	286			
Natural increase	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	-26			
Net migration	0.9	5.2	5.2	5.2	6.5	6.5	312			
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	..	..	8.0	..	..	..	..
Foreign population	2.4	4.6	7.1	7.6	3.5	6.4	4 570			
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.0	40 223			
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average					
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	67.4	69.2	67.7	66.7	69.0	68.6				
Foreign-born men	82.4	79.9	77.3	76.1	82.8	79.7				
Native-born women	39.3	45.1	45.9	45.7	43.1	46.1				
Foreign-born women	40.5	47.6	50.2	49.5	46.8	50.4				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	8.4	6.2	6.6	7.4	6.9	6.0				
Foreign-born men	6.5	6.8	9.4	10.0	5.7	7.3				
Native-born women	14.9	9.7	8.8	9.2	11.5	8.5				
Foreign-born women	21.2	14.5	13.0	13.3	15.5	12.4				
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	3.7	0.9	-5.5	1.8	1.0	-0.2				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.6	0.2	-6.1	1.3	0.4	-0.8	31 895			
Employment (level in thousands)	1.9	0.7	-1.5	-0.7	1.2	0.3	22 884			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	10.1	7.7	7.8	8.4	8.4	7.2				

Notes and sources are at the end of the part.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932616296>