

Italy



Permanent immigration to Italy continues to be significant, although in 2008 it was mostly accounted for by family reunification and free movement inflows. Between 2007 and 2008, the number of

visas issued for family reunification rose 39% from 89 000 to 123 000, while entries for employment fell sharply. An annual quota for labour immigration applies to employer requests; no occupational restrictions are placed and entries are largely for less skilled work. After several years of quotas at 170 000, the 2008 quota was limited to 150 000 home care workers (from those who applied under the 2007 quota), and no quota was opened for 2009. Lower quotas led to a reduction in inflows for employment in 2008, from 220 000 to 135 000, although these are visa issuance figures and include seasonal workers. The number of entries for employment fell further in 2009.

Only non-EU citizens are required to hold residence permits; the exclusion of EU citizens led to a fall in the number of permit holders from 2.4 to less than 2.1 million in 2008, of which about 1.24 million held work permits and 680 000 held family permits. The total registered foreign population increased by more than 12% in 2008, to reach 3.9 million. This was largely due to an 27% increase in the resident population of Romanian citizens, to 800 000. The registered population increased a further 10% in 2009, to reach 4.28 million; again, the increase was largely (39%) due to an increase in the number of Romanians.

The number of non-Italian students in the school system rose by 10% in 2008/2009, reaching 7% of the total student population. In January 2010 the Ministry of Education set a 30% ceiling on the enrolment of foreign-born non-Italian students in a single classroom.

Illegal migration by sea rose in 2008 to about 37 000 unauthorised migrants intercepted along the southern Italian coast. Italy sought closer cooperation from the authorities in Libya, from which many boats depart, and changed its policy on interceptions in international waters, leading to a 90% reduction in landings in 2009.

The number of asylum seekers more than doubled to 31 000 in 2008, largely due to the increase in arrivals along the coast. About 22 000 cases were reviewed: of

these, 7.7% received refugee status and 41.8% received a stay permit for humanitarian reasons or subsidiary status. The refugee reception system provided services to about 8 400 people. The number of asylum applications fell sharply in 2009 along with the number of sea landings.

A regularisation for domestic and care workers was conducted in September 2009, for anyone employed since April 2009. Employers had to demonstrate adequate income or justify their disability to do so, as well as pay a EUR 500 fine. The government received about 295 000 applications, fewer than originally predicted. 180 000 were for domestic workers (maids and nannies) and the remainder for care workers. By mid-March 2010 about 85 000 permits had been issued; the rejection rate was about 6.3%.

A number of legislative changes were made in 2008-2009. In 2008, stiffer penalties were applied for illegal migration, and family reunification requirements were also made stricter. In July 2009, a "Security Law" included reform of immigration law, further raising penalties for illegal immigration, placing restrictions on access to public services for those with permits, and increasing the maximum detention period for undocumented foreigners from 60 to 180 days. Fees were raised, renewal of residence permits is to be conditional on integration, and a language test will be required to obtain the long-term residence permit. On the other hand, foreigners graduating from an Italian university now have 12 months to find a job and stay, and employers of high-skilled foreign workers can receive pre-exemption from the labour market test.

Applications for naturalisation, which had started to rise in 2007, rose a further 19% in 2008 to reach 57 000. A proposed reform of the citizenship law was introduced in Parliament in December 2009. The law would impose additional requirements beyond the current 10-year residence limit, including a long-term residence permit, completion of a mandatory civic education course, and proof of income and tax payments.

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)	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level ('000)			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>National definition</i>										
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	1.2	4.7	4.3	..	..	..	..
Outflows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities					
<i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	2007	2008	2007	2008	as a % of total inflows of foreigners					
Work	150.1	91.6	26.3	21.6						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	96.5	131.8	16.9	31.2						
Humanitarian	11.8	10.8	2.1	2.6						
Free movements	308.7	185.6	54.0	43.7						
Others	4.4	4.2	0.8	1.0						
Total	571.5	424.7	100.0	100.0						
Temporary migration	2000	2007	2008	Average						
								2003-2008		
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	..	34.9	37.2	33.3						
Trainees	..	..	..	..		
Working holiday makers	..	0.4	0.4	0.3						
Seasonal workers	..	65.6	40.1	71.0						
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..		
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..		
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	30 324			
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level ('000)			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	1.1	2.8	..	..	-0.4	..	..	
Natural increase	-0.5	-0.3	..	..	-0.4	..	..	
Net migration	1.6	3.1	..	..	2.8	..	..	
Stocks of immigrants	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level ('000)			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign population	1.3	2.4	5.8	6.6	2.3	4.9	3 891			
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>	1.0	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.9	39 484			
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average					
					1997-2002	2003-2008				
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	66.4	67.4	69.7	69.3	67.3	69.5				
Foreign-born men	80.5	82.4	82.4	80.9	82.9	82.4				
Native-born women	35.5	39.3	46.2	46.8	38.9	45.3				
Foreign-born women	40.1	40.5	51.0	51.1	43.7	50.0				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	9.2	8.4	4.9	5.6	8.5	6.0				
Foreign-born men	7.0	6.5	5.3	5.9	6.2	5.5				
Native-born women	16.1	14.9	7.6	8.2	15.0	9.4				
Foreign-born women	24.5	21.2	11.4	11.8	17.7	12.7				
Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	2.8	3.7	1.6	-1.0	1.8	0.8				
GDP/capita (level in US dollars)	2.8	3.6	0.8	-1.9	1.7	0.0	26 085			
Employment (level in thousands)	-0.6	1.9	1.0	0.8	1.3	1.2	23 160			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	11.3	10.2	6.2	6.8	10.4	7.4				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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