

Italy

Permanent immigration to Italy remains at high levels, making it the leading immigration destination among European OECD countries in 2009. Data from population registers show a 9% increase in the stock of foreign residents, to 4.24 million, including 407 000 new enrolments of foreigners from abroad. Preliminary data for 2010 show a further increase of 376 000.

Most of the increase was due to a 9% rise in the number of non-EU residents, to 3 million. While precise permit data is not available for 2009, entrance visa data indicate that most came for employment or family reunification. The number of entrance visas for employment was 136 300 in 2009, close to the 2008 level, although this includes some seasonal permits. The number of visas for family reunification, which had risen from 89 000 in 2007 to 123 000 in 2008, fell back to 107 000 in 2009. At the end of 2009, the largest groups of non-EU foreigners resident in Italy were Albanians (467 000) and Moroccans (432 000).

The total registered population of EU citizens, who are not subject to residence permits, increased by almost 10% in 2009, to reach 1.24 million. The number of Romanian residents rose 12%, to 888 000 (and a further 12% in 2010). Citizens of Romania and Bulgaria have unrestricted access to certain occupations, and this transitional arrangement has been extended through 2011. In practice, almost all occupations are unrestricted, and those which require authorisation are almost always approved.

Entry of non-EU citizens for employment is governed by annual quotas. Seasonal quotas have been kept at 80 000 for the past few years. Non-seasonal quotas dropped from 170 000 to 150 000 in 2008 (largely limited to domestic workers). In 2009, the quota was restricted to 10 000 places for training and apprenticeships. A quota was set in December 2010 to 98 000 entries, with sub-quotas by nationality and occupation. About 392 000 applications were filed, of which 65% were for domestic work and 9% for long-term care. The distribution of quotas at the provincial level implies that the total may not be used despite overall high demand (20% of the 2008 quota was reallocated in May 2009).

In January 2010, the Ministry of Education set a 30% ceiling on the enrolment of foreign-born non-Italian students in a single classroom. 3% of Italian public elementary schools, and 2% of

secondary schools, had at least 30% foreign students in 2009/2010.

A bilateral agreement with Libya in May 2009 substantially reduced illegal migration across the Straits of Sicily. While 37 000 migrants were intercepted along the Italian coast in 2008, the number fell to 9 600 in 2009 and to less than 3 000 in 2010. The number of asylum seekers consequently fell from 31 000 in 2008 to 17 600 in 2009. In the first half of 2010, asylum requests fell a further 35%. In 2009, asylum seekers were principally from Nigeria (23%), Somalia (9%), and Pakistan and Bangladesh (8% each). Of the 24 000 cases reviewed in 2009, 10% received refugee status and 30% received a stay permit for humanitarian reasons or subsidiary status.

By July 2010, more than 176 000 permits had been approved for applicants for the 2009 regularisation for home and care workers, with one in eight applications rejected and 100 000 applications still awaiting processing.

In July 2009, a "Security Law" raised penalties for illegal immigration, restricted access to public services for undocumented immigrants, and tripled the maximum detention period for undocumented foreigners to 180 days. Fees were also raised. The law facilitated stay for graduating foreign students at Italian universities and the recruitment of high-skilled foreign workers. An Integration Contract was made compulsory for most new permits; while the contents of the Contract were announced in June 2010, it has not yet been applied. As of 2011, the long-term residence permit is granted only to immigrants with adequate Italian language skills, as proven by a test organised by the provincial representative of the Ministry of the Interior or through other documentation.

Applications for naturalisation rose 8% in 2009 to reach 61 300. A proposed reform of the citizenship law, which would have imposed additional requirements on applicants for naturalisation and facilitated acquisition of citizenship for descendants of Italians abroad, was introduced in Parliament in December 2009 and discussed in 2010, but has not been approved.

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	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	4.7	3.6	4.8	..	..	..	..
Outflows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners					
Permit based statistics (standardised)	2008	2009	2008	2009						
Work	145.1	130.0	29.7	35.2						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	132.4	116.3	27.1	31.2						
Humanitarian	10.0	9.6	2.0	2.6						
Free movements	197.3	109.6	40.3	29.7						
Others	4.2	4.7	0.9	1.3						
Total	489.1	369.0	100.0	100.0						
Temporary migration	2005	2008	2009	Average 2005-09						
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	31.7	37.2	34.5	34.3						
Trainees	..	..	..	..		
Working holiday makers	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4						
Seasonal workers	42.0	41.5	34.7	39.4						
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..		
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..		
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	17 603			
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	2.8	4.9	..	..	2.7	..	..	
Natural increase	-0.3	-0.2	..	..	-0.3	..	..	
Net migration	3.1	5.2	..	..	6.3	..	..	
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign population	2.4	4.6	6.6	7.1	3.1	5.8	4 235			
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.0	40 084			
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average					
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	67.4	69.2	69.3	67.7	68.6	69.1				
Foreign-born men	82.4	79.9	80.9	77.3	83.3	80.5				
Native-born women	39.3	45.1	46.8	45.9	42.0	46.0				
Foreign-born women	40.5	47.6	51.1	50.2	45.4	50.0				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	8.4	6.2	5.6	6.6	7.3	5.8				
Foreign-born men	6.5	6.8	5.9	9.4	5.7	6.6				
Native-born women	14.9	9.7	8.2	8.8	12.5	8.6				
Foreign-born women	21.2	14.5	11.8	13.0	16.9	12.6				
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	3.7	0.7	-1.3	-5.2	1.5	-0.5				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.6	-0.1	-2.1	-5.8	1.1	-1.1	24 507			
Employment (level in thousands)	1.8	0.7	0.8	-1.5	1.5	0.6	23 053			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	10.1	7.7	6.7	7.8	8.9	7.0				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932441401>