

Transfers of residence

2008

Istat has made available data on municipal population registrations and deregistrations for transfer of residence recorded between Italian Municipalities and with overseas countries for 2008. The survey is based on the administrative form for transfer of residence completed by the Municipal Registrar upon completion of the procedure.

It has also made available estimates for 2009 of the total number of transfers of residence within domestic borders (taken from the brief summary survey on the demographic balances and resident population of the Municipalities).

At the address <http://demo.istat.it>, in the “Other data” section, historical series data starting from 1995 are published, as well as a brief methodological note on the characteristics of the survey.

Main results

Confirming the positive trend that began in 1999, and especially since 2003, in 2008 the total number of domestic transfers of residence was 1,389,000, an increase of 0.7% compared with the previous year. Provisional data for 2009 indicate a lower figure (1,370,000, corresponding to a reduction of 1.4%).

Mobility towards foreign countries also grew overall during the period from 1999 to 2009, mainly because of regularisations of the status of illegal immigrants, a number of Eastern European countries joining the EU and the introduction of legislation that extends the free movement of EU citizens. Flows from abroad are directed mainly towards regions in the Centre-North and, in the most recent three-year period, 2007-2009, came mainly from Romania, while flows abroad consisted above all of Italian citizens, concerning mostly Germany and the United Kingdom and including a significant share of graduates.

Internal transfers

In 2008 transfers of residence were mainly *intraregional*. In fact, 1,048,000 transfers were recorded between Municipalities belonging to the same region, making 75.4% of the total number of domestic transfers recorded in 2008.

The increase in this type of transfer compared with 2007 was modest (1,877 more transfers, an increase of 0.2%), yet was only the latest in a series of significant increases which occurred during the years from 1999 to 2008 (with an *average annual increase* of around 1.7%), rising from 72.5% of the total number of internal transfers to 75.4% of the total. On the other hand, the substantial rise in the number of transfers between regions (7,399 more transfers, or 2.2%) occurred at the end of a decade which recorded a much smaller average change (+0.2% over the course of the decade) and is therefore not sufficient to conjecture a return to growth in *long-distance* transfers.

Internal mobility of foreigners

In the last decade the number of foreigners transferring within domestic borders as a percentage of the total has more than doubled, from 6.1 in 1999 to 15.3% in 2008, while in absolute terms the number of transfers by foreigners rose from around 74,000 to nearly 213,000 over the same period, an increase of nearly three times, due to the increased presence of foreigners in Italy.

Romanians, Moroccans, Albanians, Chinese and Ukrainians are the national groups that registered the greatest number (in absolute terms) of transfers: 54.6% of foreign citizens who transferred within Italy belong in fact to one of these nationalities. The *migration rate* per thousand residents highlights the different propensities to transfer: Chinese *citizenship* exhibits the highest value (83.5 per thousand), followed by India (76.6 per thousand), Ukraine (75.7 per thousand), Moldova (73.4 per thousand) and Pakistan (72.4 per thousand).

Foreign transfers

During the decade from 1999 to 2009 migrations from abroad have developed fairly unevenly, above all because of the sharp increase in immigration of foreign citizens during 2003-2004 and 2007-2009. Since 2002, in fact, as a result of the “Bossi-Fini” law, approximately 650,000 foreign citizens have had the opportunity to “regularise” their job (Laws 189/02 and 222/02).

The second half of the decade saw another peak in registrations from abroad, with a sharp increase in 2007 and remaining at high levels also during the two following years; 2007, in fact, was affected in part by the “flow decree” introduced in 2006 (in which the planned quota for that year was in fact considerably higher than the quota envisaged by the law) and by the coming into force of laws guaranteeing the free movement of EU citizens, obtained a few months after the admission of Bulgaria and Romania into the European Union.

International migrations and geographical area

During 2008 migratory flows from abroad mainly concerned regions in the Centre-North (81% of all municipal registrations from abroad), while they were much lower (18.3%) to the South.

Flows abroad, which as it has already been said are much smaller, show comparable proportions in relation to geographical area: approximately 74% of municipal deregistrations concerned regions in North and Central Italy and only the remaining 26% concerned the South and the Islands. Therefore, net migration rates with overseas countries were positive for all of Italy’s regions.

Citizenship

During 2008 the largest number of registrations from overseas was recorded by Romanian citizens (162,000, or 32.8% of the total number of immigrants from abroad), Moroccans (35,000, or 7.2%), Albanians (33,000, or 6.7%), Ukrainians (22,000, or 4.5%) and Moldovans (20,000, or 4%). Of the Asian countries, the most significant flows are from China and India, at around 12,000 for each of the two countries.

More generally, it can be observed that the number of citizens entering from new EU member countries¹ increased from 126,000 in 2006 to over 377,000 in 2007 and remained at high levels also in 2008, albeit with a slight contraction (approximately 294,000). Flows of citizens from European countries which are not EU members also rose during 2008, with an increase of 47% compared with the previous year. Transfers of Moldovans stand out in particular, increasing from

¹ Romania and Bulgaria, which joined the EU on 01 January 2007

12,000 to 19,000 units (+59%), as do those of Ukrainians, from 15,000 to 22,000 units (+50.6%). Of the non-European countries, the most significant increases regarded flows from Bangladesh (+92%), the Philippines (+87%) and Morocco (+79%).

Countries of origin and Countries of destination

In absolute terms the largest migratory flows, classified on the basis of country of origin, are of comparable levels to those already observed by analysing registrations from abroad by citizenship, but only if countries with recent immigration are taken into consideration.

In contrast, significant differences are observed with countries such as Brazil: the number of registrations from Brazil is slightly less than 14,000, of which only 12,000 are accounted for by Brazilian citizens, as there is a significant percentage (15.3%) of Italian citizens. This phenomenon can be attributed to “returning immigration” which is particularly evident in flows entering from Germany, approximately 70% of which are comprised of Italian citizens².

With regard to citizens entering Italy, a predominance of flows from Central Eastern European countries is seen, as already noted in the analysis by citizenship. Conversely, the main countries of destination are Germany (7,000 deregistrations from Italy), Romania (just over 6,000), the UK (6,000) and Switzerland (almost 5,000), followed by France (almost 4,000), Spain (around 3,500), the USA (around 3,000) and Brazil (just over 2,000).

Foreign migrations by age and sex

Approximately four years separate the average age of newly registered citizens from that of citizens deregistering to go overseas: about thirty for those registering on arriving from abroad and almost thirty-four for those leaving Italy. Specifically, foreign immigrants to Italy are aged around thirty, while those who deregister in order to live in a foreign country are slightly older (32.6 years). Italians leave Italy for other destinations at around 34 years old and return to Italy from abroad aged 36.

Transfers of residence of Italian graduates

Internal migrations

In 2008 over 34,000 Italian citizens who possessed a degree moved to another geographical area. They came mainly from the South (approximately 19,000, or 54.6%) and moved primarily to regions in the North-West (35%) or the Centre (almost 34%). The net migration rate for regions in the Centre-North in relation to the South is positive at over 12,000 units.

International migrations

The approximately 6,500 Italian graduates who emigrated abroad favoured European countries, followed by traditional transatlantic countries of *emigration* (the USA, Brazil, Argentina, Canada and Venezuela). Of the European countries, Germany was the most popular destination, with over 15% of Italian emigrants, followed by the UK (14%), Switzerland (around 11%), and France (almost 8%).

² The concept of “citizenship” is different from that of “country of origin” or “of destination”. While for some communities the difference between one and the other is extremely relative (for example citizens from Romania are predominantly Romanian), for others it is substantial. A case in point is returning immigration on the part of Italian citizens who come from traditional countries of emigration such as Germany, Switzerland, Argentina and Brazil.

The percentage of graduate emigrants varied according to the country of destination. Specifically, 20% of emigrants to the UK held a degree, while this percentage fell to 11% for emigrants to Germany. Of the destination countries, Luxembourg is in first place in terms of percentage of graduates, with over 30% of all Italians deregistering in order to move to Luxembourg holding a degree, followed by the United Arab Emirates with 26% and China with 22%.

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