

01 January 2011

ITALY'S RESIDENT FOREIGN POPULATION

- Resident foreigners in Italy totalled 4,570,317 as at 01 January 2011, 335,000 more than the previous year (+7.9%). The increase was slightly lower than the one recorded in 2009 (343,000 units).
- During 2010 the number of resident foreigners rose primarily as a result of immigration from abroad (425,000 individuals) but also partly as a result of births of foreign children (78,000).
- In 2010, around 78,000 foreign babies were born, 13.9% of the total number of those born to residents in Italy. Compared with the previous year, the number was up by a mere 1.3%. The increase in 2009 had been significantly higher (+6.4%).
- The percentage of foreign citizens in the total resident population (Italians and foreigners) continues to rise: at 01 January 2011 it was 7.5% (from 7% the previous year).
- The distribution of resident foreigners in Italy continues to be uneven. 86.5% of foreigners live in the North and Centre of the Country, with the remaining 13.5% in the South. However, also in 2010 the largest increases were seen in the South (+11.5%) and the Islands (+11.9%).
- As at 01 January 2011 Romanian citizens, with nearly one million citizens (9.1% more compared with the previous year) make up the largest foreign community in Italy (21.2% of the total number of foreigners).
- During 2010 the number of citizens (both EU and non-EU) from Central and Eastern Europe rose: in addition to the aforementioned Romania, most of them came from Moldova (+24.0%), the Russian Federation (+18.3%), Ukraine (+15.3%) and Bulgaria (+11.1%). Citizens from South-East Asia also recorded significant increases: Pakistan (+16.7%), India (+14.3%), Bangladesh (+11.5%), the Philippines (+8.6%) and Sri Lanka (+7.6%). The rapid growth experienced by these communities is connected – among other things – to the effects of the latest legalisation of the immigration status of domestic workers and caregivers that occurred towards the end of 2009, the effects of which in terms of greater numbers entered in the population registers were felt during 2010.