

Non-EU Citizens: presence, new inflows and acquisition of citizenship Years 2015-2016

The non-EU foreigners holding a residence permit in Italy on 1st January 2016 were 3,931,133. The most relevant citizenships were: Morocco (510,450), Albania (482,959), China (333,986), Ukraine (240,141) and India (169,394).

The share of long-term permits was continuing to grow. In 2015 they were 2,248,747 and in 2016 they were 2,338,435, representing the largest part of the regular presence (59.5%).

The new inflows of non-EU foreigners are continuing to decline: in 2015 almost 248,000 new permits were issued, nearly 4% fewer than the previous year. The decrease in the new permits has affected more women (-4.8%) than men (-3%). In the period the new permits issued for work decreased strongly both in absolute terms (-35,312) and relative terms (-62%), in 2014 they represented 23%, while in 2015 represent only 9% of the new permits issued. Instead the permits for asylum and other humanitarian reasons continued to grow both in absolute terms (+19,398) and relative terms: in 2015 represented 28.2% of new inflows, while in the 2014 they were 19.3% and in 2013 were 7.5%.

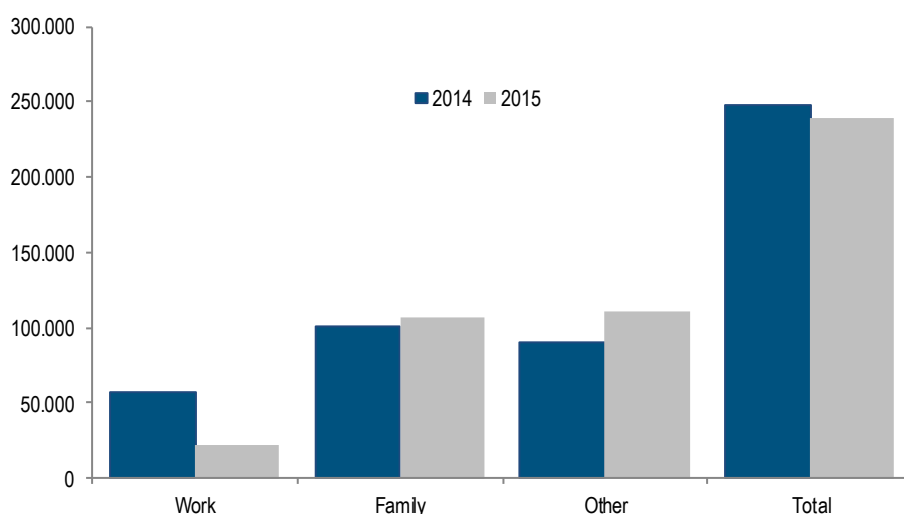
In 2015 Nigeria, Pakistan and Gambia were the Countries of origin of most of the people with permits issued for asylum and other humanitarian reasons: they represented 43.8% of all permits issued for this reason.

From 2011 to 2015 the acquisitions of citizenship of non-EU citizens increased rapidly: in 2011 they were 50 thousand, in 2015 they were almost 159 thousand. 42% of acquisitions of citizenship in 2015 involved people who had previously the nationality of Morocco (32,448) and Albania (35,134).

From 2014 to 2015 the acquisitions of citizenship for marriage reasons were decreasing: in 2014 they were 14% of total acquisitions of citizenship while in 2015 they represented 9%. This decrease has affected mostly women (from 25% to 16%).

People under 20 years represented 42% of the 2015's new Italian citizens. The number of acquisitions of citizenship granted to children by transmission and of persons born in Italy to foreign parents who chose Italian citizenship at eighteen years of age increased from about 10 thousand in 2011 to more than 66 thousand in 2015.

FIGURE 1. INFLOWS OF NON-EU CITIZENS DURING 2014 AND 2015 FOR REASONS OF THE PERMIT, ABSOLUTE VALUES.



Source: Istat on data of Ministry of Interior

Glossary

Non-EU citizens holding a residence permit: all foreign citizens holding a regular residence permit and the children registered on the permit of an adult are included.

Non-EU citizens holding a long-term residence permit: This permit is permanent and can only be claimed by those who have a residence permit for at least 5 years. The applicant must give proof of sufficient income and, in case the applicant is requiring the residence permit also for his/her family members, depending on the number of applicants, the annual income varies and doesn't have to be lower to the parameters established by law.

Inflows of Non-EU citizens: all the new permits issued during the year are registered, regardless of whether the permit is still valid or expired at the end of the year. Documents are accounted for and not persons. A person who has obtained two new permits in the same year is counted twice.

Methodological note

Since the early '90s until 2007, Istat has disseminated data on residence permits on the basis of the data supplied by the Ministry of Interior. Since 2008, Istat has been disseminating a new series on non-EU citizens in which are no longer included the EU citizens, and among them the "new" EU citizens (Romanian, Bulgarian), for which, from 27 March 2007, is no longer expected to issue the residence permit.

Since the entry into force of Regulation (EC) 862/2007 concerning Community statistics on migration and international protection, Istat is also collaborating with the Ministry of Interior to improve the quality of data collected and disseminated on the basis of residence permits. This led, in recent years, to a review of criteria for data processing, based on the guidelines provided by Eurostat.

For more details please refer to the Italian version

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