

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

Years 2017-2018

On the 1st of January 2018, non-EU foreigners holding a residence permit in Italy were 3,714,934. Citizens from Morocco (443,147), Albania (430,340), China (309,110), Ukraine (235,245) and Philippines (161,609) accounted for a significant share.

In 2017, new inflows of non-EU foreigners were 262,770 (+16% new permits over the previous year). Permits issued for family purposes were 43.2%, while new permits issued for work only accounted for 4.6%.

Inflows for asylum and other humanitarian reasons (101 thousand people) grew by nearly 30%. The large majority of new permits issued in 2017, involved people from Nigeria, Albania, Morocco, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

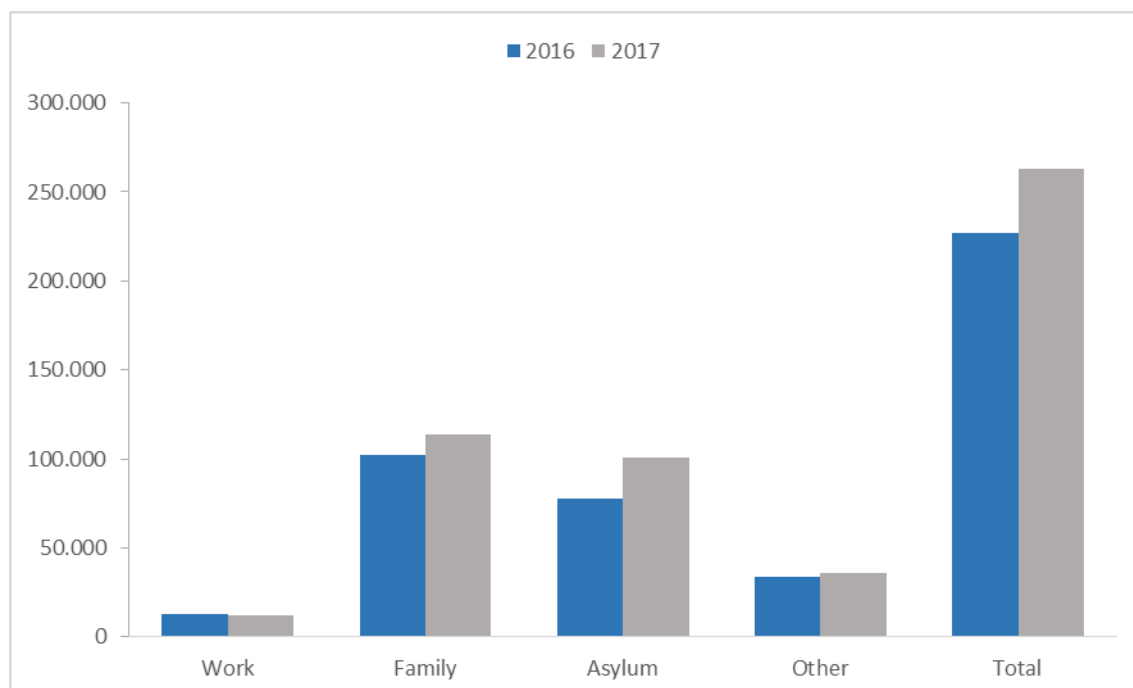
In 2017, after more than ten years of growth, acquisitions of Italian citizenship (135,814) decreased by 26.4%. Almost 37% of acquisitions of citizenship concerned Albanians (27.112) and Moroccans (22.645).

People that acquired the Italian citizenship between 2013 and 2017 were likely to remain in Italy. In fact, 87.8% of the “new Italians” were still resident in our country on the 1st of January 2018.

With regards to households, families with at least one non-EU-citizens were 1.3 million, while 321 thousand families were composed by at least one Italian citizen and one non-EU person.

Unipersonal households accounted for 33.8% of families with non-EU-citizens, families with two persons accounted for 15.9%, families with three persons for 16.3%, families with four components for 17.5% and families with more than four persons for 16.5%.

FIGURE 1. INFLOWS OF NON-EU CITIZENS FOR REASONS OF THE PERMIT. ABSOLUTE VALUES, 2016 AND 2017.



Source: Istat, 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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