

Italy



Permanent immigration to Italy continues to be significant and largely employment based. Labour immigration is subject to annual numerical limits ("quotas") applied to employer

requests for foreign workers. These quotas have been raised over the past few years to meet forecasted demand. In both 2006 and 2007 the quotas were set at 170 000, twice the 2005 figure. About 520 000 applications for permits were made in 2006, when employers filed requests through the post office. The government later decided to accept all applications, but administrative delays meant that most applications were not considered until the end of 2006, when Romanian and Bulgarian citizens became exempt from the procedure. Excluding Romanian and Bulgarian citizens, as well as incomplete and duplicate applications, the actual number of applications approved was about 253 000. The 2007 quotas contained a larger number of reserved set-asides than the previous year. 65 000 permits were reserved for home care workers (up from 45 000 in 2006). Construction (14 200), transport workers (500) and fishermen (200) also received a set-aside; as did citizens from countries with which Italy has bilateral agreements and cooperation. 1 000 entries were reserved for the highly skilled, a category which has never been fully utilised – immigration to Italy remains largely oriented towards low-skilled occupations. Another change was the 2007 requirement that employers apply on-line. 684 000 applications were filed, of which half were for the home care worker quota.

Due to processing delays, only 94 000 visas for employment were issued to non-EU citizens in 2006, which was still an increase of 6% from 2005. Family reunification visas declined 12% to 79 000. The number of permit holders rose to more than 2.4 million, of which almost 1.5 million held work permits and 764 000 held family permits. The total stock in the registered foreign population – which includes all minors – increased by more than 10% in 2006 to reach almost 3 million.

Italy completely opened its labour market to citizens of the EU countries which joined in 2004. For Romanian and Bulgarian citizens, no real obstacles are imposed. Workers can be directly hired in key sectors (seasonal work, farming, tourism-hotel

activities, domestic work and personal care, construction, metalworking, fishing and maritime activities, entertainment). Management, high skilled work and self-employment are also unrestricted. Other occupations are also open, following approval of wage and contract conditions by the local foreigner's office. During 2007 the legally resident Romanian population was estimated to have risen by about 50% to more than 500 000, replacing Albania as the most important origin country. Following several publicised crimes, a decree was issued in late 2007 facilitating deportation of EU citizens who break laws.

A significant immigration reform was proposed in Parliament in 2007. The main elements of the proposal were changes to the quota system (three-year forecasts, greater involvement of social partners); candidate lists at foreign consulates; sponsored job-search visas; transfer of competence for permits from the Ministry of Interior to municipalities; longer permit durations and easier renewal. Naturalisation requirements would be halved to five years, although a language and culture test would be imposed. The change of government in early 2008 made this reform unlikely.

The number of asylum seekers rose slightly to 10 348 in 2006. The decentralised asylum application system in place since April 2005, significantly reduced processing times and no-show rates. 14 500 cases were reviewed in 2006; only 7.2% received refugee status but 36.7 % received a humanitarian stay permit. The refugee reception system expanded to provide services to more than 5 300 people.

Illegal migration remained steady in 2006 with more than 22 000 unauthorised migrants intercepted along the southern Italian coast, more than 90% around Lampedusa Island, halfway to Tunisia. However, most unauthorised migrants used other methods to enter, either with a visa (60%) or false documents (25%).

For further information...

www.interno.it/

www.istat.it/

www.lavoro.gov.it/lavoro/

www.solidarietasociale.gov.it/SolidarietaSociale/

www.caritasitaliana.it/


Flow data on foreigners

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)																																	
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006																																	
Per 1 000 inhabitants																																								
Inflows	..	4.7	3.6	3.1	3.8	4.6	181.5																																	
Outflows																																	
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised)	Thousands		% distribution		<div>Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners</div> <table><thead><tr><th>Nationality</th><th>1998-2005 annual average</th><th>2006</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Romania</td><td>11.1</td><td>15.3</td></tr><tr><td>Albania</td><td>10.0</td><td>11.1</td></tr><tr><td>Morocco</td><td>8.9</td><td>8.9</td></tr><tr><td>Poland</td><td>7.3</td><td>7.3</td></tr><tr><td>China</td><td>5.7</td><td>5.7</td></tr><tr><td>Brazil</td><td>4.9</td><td>4.9</td></tr><tr><td>Moldova</td><td>4.1</td><td>4.1</td></tr><tr><td>Ukraine</td><td>3.8</td><td>3.8</td></tr><tr><td>United States</td><td>3.1</td><td>3.1</td></tr><tr><td>India</td><td>2.0</td><td>2.0</td></tr></tbody></table>			Nationality	1998-2005 annual average	2006	Romania	11.1	15.3	Albania	10.0	11.1	Morocco	8.9	8.9	Poland	7.3	7.3	China	5.7	5.7	Brazil	4.9	4.9	Moldova	4.1	4.1	Ukraine	3.8	3.8	United States	3.1	3.1	India	2.0	2.0
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Work	57.1	62.9	28.7	30.8																																				
Family (incl. accompanying family)	96.4	85.1	48.4	41.7																																				
Humanitarian	5.3	6.4	2.7	3.1																																				
Free movements	36.6	45.8	18.4	22.4																																				
Others	3.8	4.1	1.9	2.0																																				
Total	199.2	204.3																																						
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average																																				
				2000-2006																																				
Thousands																																								
International students	..	31.7	32.9	30.9																																				
Trainees																																				
Working holiday makers	..	0.4	0.4	0.2																																				
Seasonal workers	..	84.2	98.0	70.0																																				
Intra-company transfers																																				
Other temporary workers																																				
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)																																	
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006																																	
Per 1 000 inhabitants																																								
	–	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10.3																																	

Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)	2.8	3.6	0.1	1.9	1.9	0.7	
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars	2.8	3.5	–0.6	1.4	1.9	0.1	26 077
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	–0.6	1.9	0.7	2.2	1.0	1.4	22 798
Unemployment (% of labour force)	11.3	10.2	7.8	6.8	11.1	8.2	
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
Per 1 000 inhabitants							
Total	1.1	2.8	4.9	6.4	1.7	6.5	
Natural increase	–0.5	–0.3	–0.2	–	–0.5	–0.2	
Net migration	1.6	3.1	5.2	6.4	2.2	6.7	
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
(Annual growth %)							
Native-born	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign-born	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
National	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.1	–0.1	–0.1	55 496
Foreign	7.6	2.9	11.2	10.1	13.6	15.2	2 939
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
As a percentage of foreign population	1.1	0.7	0.8	1.3	1.0	0.9	35 766
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
Employment/population ratio							
Native-born men	66.4	67.4	69.4	69.6	66.6	69.1	
Foreign-born men	80.5	82.4	81.6	81.9	82.1	82.3	
Native-born women	35.5	39.3	45.3	46.0	37.1	43.6	
Foreign-born women	40.1	40.5	46.7	49.9	42.2	48.2	
Unemployment rate							
Native-born men	9.2	8.4	6.2	5.5	9.2	6.7	
Foreign-born men	7.0	6.5	6.0	5.7	6.4	5.7	
Native-born women	16.1	14.9	9.2	8.5	16.1	10.9	
Foreign-born women	24.5	21.2	14.6	12.4	18.9	14.0	

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/434227630812>