



THE MOROCCAN COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Annual Report on the Presence of Migrants
Executive Summary



20
19

For nearly a decade, the *Direzione Generale dell'immigrazione e delle politiche di integrazione* (general immigration and integration policies directorate) has aimed to provide a detailed and balanced account of the complex phenomenon of the presence of foreigners in Italy and to do so by setting forth the various distinct aspects of the question while analysing the characteristics noted and also anticipating today's trends. The directorate does so by means of its *Rapporto nazionale sui migranti nel Mercato del lavoro italiano* (national reports on migrants in the Italian labour market) (ninth edition), the *Rapporti nazionali sulla presenza in Italia delle principali Comunità straniere* (national reports on the main foreign communities in Italy) (eighth edition) and the *Rapporti sulla presenza dei migranti non comunitari nelle 14 città metropolitane italiane* (reports on the presence of non-EU migrants in the 14 metropolitan cities of Italy) (fourth edition).

The series of national reports on the presence of the main foreign communities aims to investigate and study in depth the presence on Italian soil of the more numerically significant non-EU nationals: Moroccans, Albanians, the Chinese, Ukrainians, Indians, Filipinos, Bangladeshis, Egyptians, Pakistanis, Moldovans, Nigerians, the Senegalese, Sri Lankans, Tunisians, Peruvians and Ecuadorians.

For each grouping, the main features from the socio-demographic and employment angles are considered, alongside presence of minors and their education, occupational integration, welfare policies and processes of integration. Each report starts with comparison among the various communities.

Again, this year we duly acknowledge the contributions of institutions and bodies that have provided information in their possession. These entities include the Italian National Institute of Statistics; the general statistical and actuarial coordination body of INPS (National Social Security Institute); the Ministry of Education, University and Research; the Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture; the international political studies organisation, CeSPI; the trade unions CGIL, CISL, UIL and UGL; and the *Divisione Studi e Ricerca* (study and research division) of ANPAL Servizi. We are also most grateful to dottor Daniele Frigeri, the Director of the *Osservatorio Nazionale sull'Inclusione Finanziaria dei Migranti* (national observatory on financial inclusion of migrants) who drew up the focus reports on remittances and access to credit.

The full series of *Rapporti Comunità* (community reports), editions 2012 - 2019, can be accessed – in Italian and in the main foreign languages – in the areas *Paesi di origine e comunità* (countries of origin and communities) and *Rapporti di ricerca sull'immigrazione* (immigration research reports) on the institutional portal, www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it. This portal also provides access to a statistical annex providing information that supplements the reports or that, within a comparative framework among the main national communities considered, enables in-depth study of the data analysed.

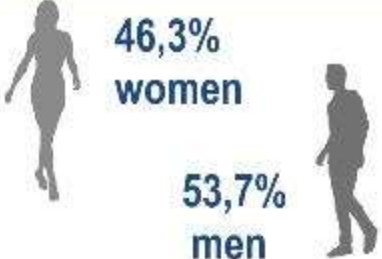
Within the ambit of the project, *Supporto nelle politiche per l'immigrazione e di cooperazione bilaterale con i Paesi di origine* (support for immigration and bilateral cooperation with countries of origin) ANPAL Servizi has drawn up and translated the 2019 edition of its *Rapporti nazionali sulle principali Comunità straniere* (national reports on the main foreign communities) – analytic reports provided in summary form.

Executive Summary



434.169
legally residing Moroccan citizens
ranking first for number of presences

103.478 “nuovi italiani” (new Italians) in 2018
(15% are Moroccan)



46,3%
women

53,7%
men

41,8% below the age of 30




122.170
minors below the age of 18

105.057 Moroccan students (+1,8%)
2.701 enrolled for degree courses

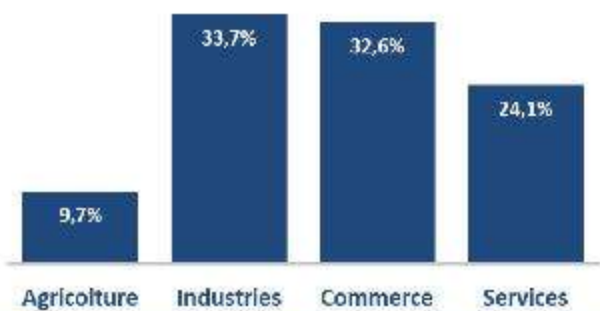
Present in:
22,8% Lombardia
14,9% Emilia-Romagna
12% Veneto

70,8%
long-term residents




29,2% short-term permits

- Work
- Family
- Other reasons



45,2% employment rate
63,6% male 23,1% female

23,9% employed
in industry in the strict sense



45% unskilled manual workers

Ranking first for number of sole proprietorships

67.047 sole proprietors (-1,8%)
12,9% Moroccan female sole proprietors (-1,2%)



44% sole proprietorships in the **Commerce** sector

Demographic characteristics

434,169 Moroccan citizens are holders of a residence permit valid as on **1 January 2019**, accounting for 11.5% of the non-EU citizens in Italy.

The Moroccan community, which has for some years now ranked first for number of legally residing members, is one of the longstanding communities of migrants to Italy.

Various indicators underscore the degree of stability of presence of Moroccans. Socio-demographically speaking, two aspects point to stable settling or entrenchment on the part of this community:

- a basic **gender balance** (women make up 46.3% of this community and men 53.7%);
- a high **quotient of minors** (indicating the presence of families). The number of minors stands at more than 122,000. The incidence reaches more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total number of legally residing Moroccan citizens. Furthermore, this community presents a lower mean age than that of non-EU citizens as a whole. Almost $\frac{1}{2}$ of the citizens of Moroccan origin are younger than 30 (41.8% of the total).

As to geographic distribution, this community favours Northern Italy, where nearly 7 out of 10 Moroccan citizens reside. Accordingly, two of the regions with most Moroccans are northern: Lombardia is the major Region of settlement for this community, with 22.8% of the total number of Moroccan citizens. Emilia-Romagna (ranking second for number of Moroccan citizens) presents with an incidence of 15%. Furthermore, there is a particularly marked presence in Piemonte and Veneto, regions in each of which approx. 11% of the Moroccan citizens received or renewed their residence permits. 17.1% of this community have settled in Southern Italy (a value 3% higher than that for non-EU citizens legally residing in Italy). Notably, the Campania region hosts 5% of this community.

Analysis of **residence permits** indicates this community's marked progress in the direction of stabilisation. For Moroccan citizens the quotient of long-term residents (holders of residence permits not subject to renewal) stands at **70.8%**, as on 1 January 2019 (vs 62.3% of non-EU citizens as a whole). Regarding short-term permits, those issued for **family** reunification reasons prevail, i.e. approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ of permits subject to renewal among migrant members of this community (66.8%, vs 43.7% of non-EU citizens as a whole). Work permits, on the other hand, account for less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total.

Current trends

Compared to 1 January 2018, the number of non-EU citizens in Italy is basically stable (+2,472 units). This apparent stability is in any case the result of the algebraic sum of opposing variations in the diverse communities. Indeed, the geography of origins of migrants sees significant changes taking place. For the first time, changes are noted also in the top 5 in the ranking for number of presences. The key increases are noted in the communities from the Indian subcontinent: namely, the Pakistani community (+4.9%), the Bangladeshi community (+4.5%) and the Indian community (+3.5%). The rise of the Nigerian community is also significant (+3%), ranking eleventh in terms of number of presences, having risen from fourteenth the year before.

The most significant downturns regard the Tunisian, Moroccan and Moldavan communities (-4.6%, -2% and -1.8%, respectively).

Two factors are of greater significance with respect to trends displayed by number of presences. These factors consist in, on the one hand, the new permits issued attesting to an inflow impacting the stock of legally residing foreigners, and, on the other, in the granting of citizenship (which latter practice of course removes those who become Italian citizens from the stock of foreign citizens).

Turning to admissions, in 2018, 242,009 new residence permits were issued (approx. 21,000 less than during 2017). Despite the downturn, the growth trend remains, as noted over the last few years, regarding family reunification (+8.2% vs 2017), which is the reason for issuance of most of the new residence permits (50.7%).

There is a downturn in the number of applications for, or entitlements to, a form of protection (-35.9% vs 2017). Only 6% of the new residence permits were issued on the basis of work-related considerations.

With its 20,396 new residence permits – the vast majority of which linked to family reunification (82.6%) – the Moroccan community ranks second for numbers of admissions after the Albanians. We note, however, a significant

downturn in the number of Moroccans present vs the previous year (-2%), due also to acquisition of citizenship. Of the 103,478 citizenships granted to non-EU citizens in 2018, 15,496 went to citizens of Moroccan origin (a quotient as high as 15% of the total), also to be ascribed to the stability of this community in Italy. Naturalization is the main reason for granting Italian citizenship to Moroccan nationals (50.7%).

The degree of settlement or entrenchment of the Moroccan community in Italy is also evident in the numbers of **marriages with Italian citizens**. In 2017, 1,425 mixed marriages took place, involving Moroccan citizens (8.7% of mixed marriages as a whole: in 46.2% of the cases, the spouses were both foreign; approx. 39% with an Italian husband and Moroccan wife; the remaining 15% with an Italian wife and a Moroccan husband).

Minors and educational paths

As noted above, one of the indicators of geographic stabilization of a community is the high presence of families and minors within it. As on 1 January 2019, there were **122,170 Moroccan minors**, i.e. 15.1% of the total for non-EU minors. Many are also Moroccan children born in Italy: 9,171 in 2017 (17.8% of non-EU children born in 2017). In all, between 2010 and 2017, more than 80,000 Moroccan children were born in Italy.

A moderately significant issue for this community is the presence of **unaccompanied foreign minors (UFMs)**. As on 31 August 2019, **189** minors of **Moroccan** origin were accommodated in *ad hoc* facilities (2.8% of UFMs accommodated in Italy). There has been a fall in numbers since 2018 (+13.3%).

Admission of Moroccan minors into the Italian schooling circuit remains high. Morocco is one of the major countries of origin of non-EU students. Indeed, 105,057 students of Moroccan origin enrolled for academic year 2018/2019 (15.7% of the non-EU school population as a whole). Compared to the previous year, the students of this community increased by 1.8%. The growth rate was slightly lower than that displayed by non-EU students as a whole (+2.6%). The number of enrolled students increased especially in secondary schools: +5.6% and +2.1% in junior and senior secondary schools, respectively. The incidence of students from this community vs non-EU students as a whole is higher in preschool institutions, where 17.6% of the enrolled non-EU infants are Moroccan citizens. At senior secondary schools, the quotient drops to 12%.

Among the main non-EU communities, Moroccans rank high also as regards the number of **NEETs** (i.e. persons aged between 15 and 29 not in employment, education or training). Young NEETs of Moroccan citizenship amount to approx. 37,000 (i.e. approx. ½ of Moroccan youngsters in this age bracket) (48.6%).

Work and employment

Thanks also to its migratory seniority, the Moroccan community's workers joined important sectors of the Italian economy, such as industry. Particularly noteworthy is this community's role in the industrial sector, prevalent and employing 34% of Moroccan workers in Italy (vs 26% of non-EU workers as a whole). Above all, the sector of industry in the strict sense recruited Moroccan workers (23.9% of the workforce). These sectors were hit very hard during the most acute phase of the economic crisis, with repercussions on the employment levels of workers from this community. Analysis has revealed that work and employment conditions for the Moroccan community in Italy are less encouraging than for the non-EU population as a whole. According to the key labour market indicators, this community presents with a lower quotient of persons employed and higher levels of inactivity and unemployment. The **employment rate** stands at 45.2% vs 60.1% among non-EU citizens as a whole; the **inactivity rate** is higher (by approx. 12%) than the mean value. Among Moroccan citizens, it stands at 41.7%; and the unemployment rate stands at 22.3% (vs 14.3% for the non-EU population as a whole). It must be noted that, within this community, significant differences subsist between the male employment rate (35.7%) and the female one (58.8%), which latter rate is significantly higher than the mean for non-EU women (45.5%).

Unsurprisingly, Moroccan workers are among the main beneficiaries of the **wage subsidies** made over by INPS (the National Social Security Institute) in the event of interruptions or reduction of production. In 2018, approx. 14% of the beneficiaries of CIGO (ordinary redundancy fund) or CIGS (extraordinary redundancy fund) arrangements, with non-European citizenship, were Moroccan (7,325). The quotient is also high for Moroccan citizen recipients of unemployment benefits, vs the total for non-EU beneficiaries: 14% (62,662). The Moroccan citizens mainly benefit from Naspi (*Nuova Prestazione di assicurazione sociale per l'impiego*, a social employment insurance scheme)

(approx. 71.1%); ¼ are in receipt of agricultural unemployment benefits, while the remaining portion are in receipt of various other forms of compensation.

During 2018, **153,128 new employment relationships** were activated for citizens of Moroccan origin (approx. 8.5% more than the previous year). Indicating that women from this community are drawn to the labour market to a decidedly lesser extent than men, the data provided by the *Comunicazioni Obbligatorie* (mandatory notices) reveals that only 23.2% of Moroccan citizens recruited are women (vs 46% for non-EU citizens as a whole). Most of the new subordinate and para-subordinate jobs that began during 2018 for Moroccan workers were in the Services sector (a level approaching 45.7%). However, gender analysis indicates that more than 1/3 of work contracts activated with Moroccan men regard Services while for women levels approach 77%.

Among Moroccan workers, we note the prevalence of unskilled workers engaging in farming, gardening activities etc. accounting for more than 1/3 of the placements for 1/3 of Moroccan workers (vs 23.1% for non-EU citizens as a whole). Numerically speaking, we then note managers and workers in the catering sector (8.4%). This latter value is lower than for non-EU workers as a whole (12.9%).

Involvement of the community in question in **the world of entrepreneurship** is most significant. Indeed, with its 67,047 sole proprietorships, this community ranks first in terms of number of enterprises. The commerce and transport sector is the sector within which most investment takes place, for Moroccan sole proprietors. Indeed, 70.4% of sole proprietorships under Moroccan ownership operate in this sector, these undertakings representing 28% of non-EU companies within this same ambit.

Economic conditions

Although employment in the industrial sector and acquisition of skills exposed the workers belonging to this community to the negative repercussions of the economic crisis, they also brought benefits in terms of incomes. The data indicate that Moroccan workers earn **monthly salaries** that are on average higher than those of non-EU workers as a whole (1,223 vs 1,166 euros: 57 euros higher mean monthly remuneration). In the case of agricultural labourers, the mean gap (instead, a negative value) stands at 28 euros. A further negative gap may be noted within the ambit of home help (92 euros). In any case, female Moroccan workers lost out when it came to pay conditions: the gender pay gap, within this community is fairly large; on average, the monthly salary of male employees exceeds that of female employees by approx. 500 euros. The gap is less marked for agricultural work (90 euros). On the other hand, female home helpers earn 100 euros more on average than their male colleagues from this community.

Among employed Moroccan citizens in Italy, a low level of education prevails. 80% of the workers belonging to this community received, at best, a junior secondary school leaving certificate. Educationally, within this community, women are more highly qualified than men, with 21.2% of female employees as holders of a higher education certificate vs 18.3% among the men. In any case, the value is higher than that for non-EU women as a whole (16.1%).

The quotient of **IVS (disability, old-age and survivors' pensions)** that are made over to non-EU citizens has always been rather small. In 2018, this quotient stood at 0.4% of the total (out of almost 14 million pensions, 56,071 regard non-EU citizens). Non-EU citizens receive old-age pensions (in 42% of such cases), followed by survivors' pensions (36.3%); 21.6% are in receipt of IVS pensions, provided for migrants with non-EU citizenship during 2018, and linked to disability. In the Moroccan community, disability pensions prevail, with an incidence of 35.9%, followed by survivors' pensions (35.1%). Approx. 29% are old-age pensions. Overall, with its 5,541 IVS pensions, the Moroccan community accounts for 11.4% of the total for non-EU citizens who are in receipt of such benefits. Between 2017 and 2018, the number of IVS pensions made over to migrants from Morocco rose slightly less than was noted for non-EU citizens as a whole: +13.8% vs +13%. In this community, the numbers of old-age pensioners increased by 29% (vs 18% for non-EU citizens as a whole).

The level of **social assistance measures** provided by INPS to Moroccan citizens (solely welfare services for the most vulnerable, due to age conditions reached or civil disability) is high: 16,886 (18.1% of migrant recipients of non-EU origin). Social benefits account for 38.2% of such cases. Slightly more than 1/4 are civil disability pensions, and approx. 1/3 consist in constant attendance supplements.

With reference to **monetary transfers** to families (maternity benefits, parental leave and family allowances provided by INPS), in 2018 a total of 321,157 women received maternity benefits, 8.8% of whom were non-EU citizens (28,414) (7.6% less than the year before). During the same period, the beneficiaries of maternity allowances with Moroccan

citizenship totalled 3,733, or 13.1% of non-EU female beneficiaries. Among the Moroccans, the beneficiaries of maternity allowances fell in number by 7.1% vs 2017. As to parental leave, in 2018 there were a total of 344,529 such beneficiaries, denoting a 6.2% increase vs 2017, 6.8% of whom were of non-EU origin (23,445). A total of 4,539 Moroccan citizens benefited from this measure in 2018 (19.4% of non-EU beneficiaries). During 2018, as many as 2,836,868 beneficiaries were in receipt of family allowances (a value that was basically stable vs the year before). 12.4% of the beneficiaries were non-EU citizens (approx. 353,000) denoting a 3.7% increase on 2017. 66,711 members of this community were in receipt of family allowances in 2018 (19% of non-EU citizens as a whole; +3.3% on 2017). This community includes 60,891 beneficiaries who received family allowances during 2018 (a 17.3% incidence vs non-EU citizens as a whole; +3.1% vs 2017).

As to transfers made by the Moroccans in Italy to their country of origin, Morocco ranks sixth as nation of destination of **remittances** sent from Italy in 2018 (more than 318 million euros), accounting for 6.5% of the total outgoing remittances (+41.3 million vs 2017).

