



MINISTERO del LAVORO
e delle POLITICHE SOCIALI

THE EGYPTIAN 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.

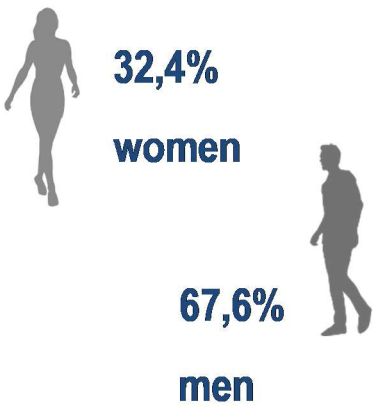
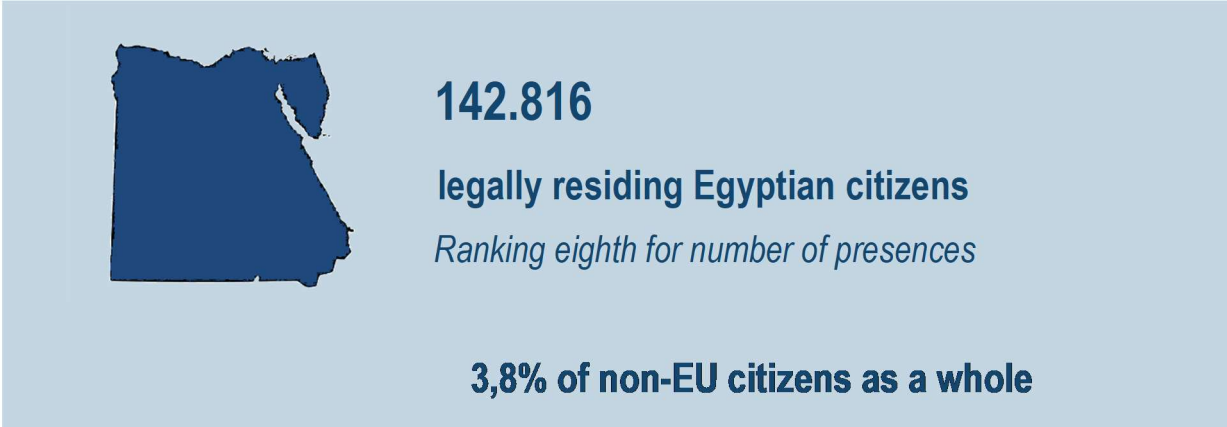
For each grouping, the main features from the socio-demographic and employment angles are considered, alongside presence of minors and their education, occupational integration, welfare policies and processes of integration. Each report starts with comparison among the various communities.

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.

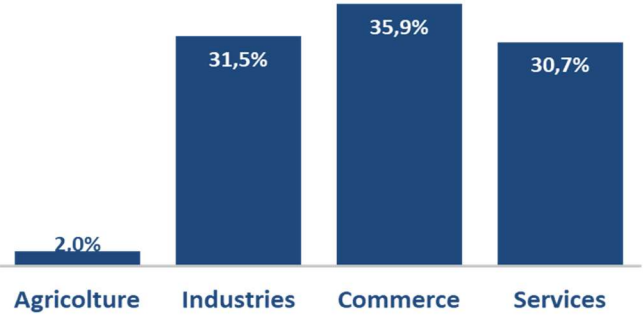
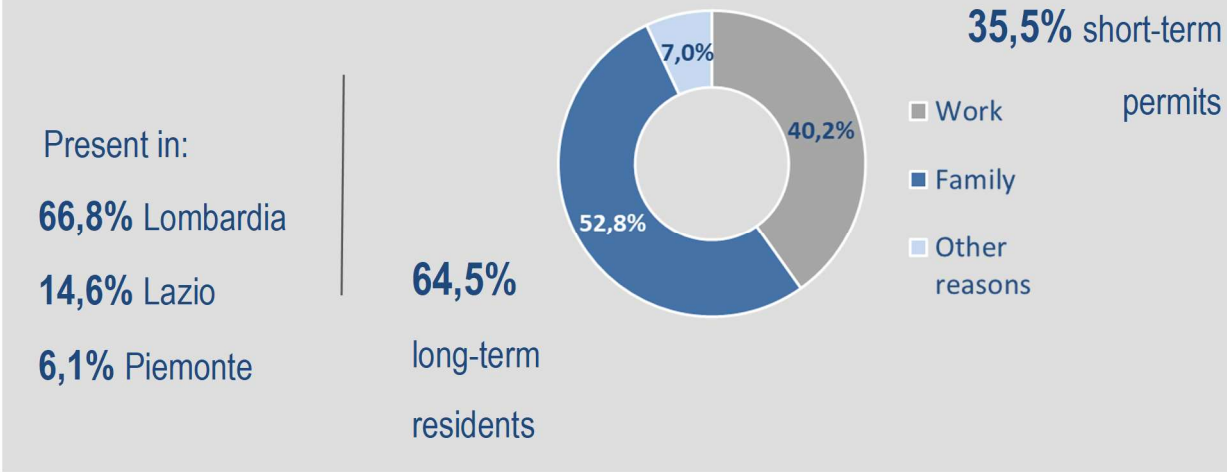
The full series of *Rapporti Comunità* (community reports), editions 2012 - 2019, can be accessed – in Italian and in the main foreign languages – in the areas *Paesi di origine e comunità* (countries of origin and communities) and *Rapporti di ricerca sull'immigrazione* (immigration research reports) 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



26.139 Egyptian students (+14,2%)
1.634 enrolled for degree courses



60% employment rate
75,8% male 10,9% female



Demographic characteristics

142,816 Egyptian citizens are holders of a residence permit valid as on **1 January 2019**, accounting for 3.8% of the non-EU citizens in Italy.

The Egyptian community ranks eighth for numbers of legally residing members.

On analysis of the main demographic characteristics of the Egyptian citizens legally residing in Italy as on 1 January 2019, the following are noted:

- marked **gender imbalance**, with women accounting for only 32.4% of this community, which value is 16% lower than for non-EU women as a whole (48.3%);
- a high **quotient of minors** (indicating the presence of families). These minors – more than 47,000 units – account for 1/3 of the Egyptian citizens legally residing in Italy. The mean age for this community is lower than for non-EU citizens as a whole. Nearly ½ of the citizens of Egyptian origin are below the age of 30 (48.7% of the total number).

As to geographic distribution, this community favours Northern Italy, where more than 80% of the Egyptian citizens reside. Accordingly, two of the regions with most Egyptians are northern: **Lombardia**, hosting 2/3 of the Egyptian residents (vs ¼ of non-EU residents as a whole), and Piemonte (ranking third for number of Egyptian citizens) presents an incidence of 6.1% (this value parallels that of non-EU citizens: 6.3%), There is a marked presence in the Region of Lazio, where 14.6% of Egyptian citizens received or renewed their residence permit.

On analysis of **residence permits**, as on 1 January 2019, a high quotient is noted of long-term permit holders (holders of residence permits that are not subject to renewal) among Egyptian citizens, totalling **64.5%** (vs 62,3% for non-EU citizens as a whole), and among short-term permits issued, **family** reunification permits prevail, accounting for more than ½ of the permits subject to renewal issued to Egyptian migrants (52.8%, vs 43,7% for non-EU citizens as a whole), Permits issued for work reasons, on the other hand, account for approx. 40.2% of the total.

Current trends

The number of non-EU legal residents in Italy was basically stable compared to 1 January 2018 (+2,472 units). In any case, this apparent stability is the result of opposing variations in the various communities. Indeed, the geography of places of origin has significantly altered. For the first time in years, these changes have altered the top 5 of the numbers ranking. The key increases regard the communities from the Indian subcontinent: Pakistanis (+4.9%), Bangladeshis (+4.5%) and Indians (+3.5%). Significant growth of the Nigerian community (+2.7%) is noted, ranking eleventh for number of residents vs fourteenth the year before.

The most significant downturns regard the Tunisians (-4.6%), Moroccans (-2%) and Moldavans (-1.8%).

Two main factors are noted in regard to trends relative to residence: new permits issued constituting an inflow into the stock of legal residents; and the granting of citizenship, conversely, determining a replacement effect, since the recipients clearly no longer count among the foreign citizens.

Regarding admissions, in 2018, 242,009 new residence permits were issued (approx. 21,000 less than in 2017). Despite the downturn, the growth trend of recent years was ongoing in regard to admissions for family reunification (+8.2% vs 2017), this being the main reason for issuance of residence permits (50.7%), while the new permits that were issued following an application for, or entitlement to, a form of protection saw a downturn (-35.9% vs the previous year). Only in 6% of cases were new residence permits issued for work reasons.

The Egyptian community – with its 8,807 new residence permits issued above all for family reasons (81.9%) – ranks eighth for number of admissions, accompanied by a significant increase vs the previous year (+13.1%).

Minors and educational paths

As on 1 January 2019, the **Egyptian minors** in Italy totalled **47,395** (5.8% of non-EU minors as a whole). Furthermore, many of these minors were born in Italy, i.e. 2,618 in 2017 (+13% vs the previous year). Between 2010 and 2017, more than 18,000 Egyptian children in all were born in Italy.

In this community, there are very many **Unaccompanied Foreign Minors (UFMs)**. Indeed, Egypt ranks as second country of origin. As on 31 August 2019, there were **578** minors of Egyptian origin hosted in *ad hoc* facilities. In any case, compared with the previous year, the incidence has fallen by 50%.

Admission of minors of Egypt origin into the Italian schooling circuit is on the rise. 26,139 students of Egyptian origin enrolled for academic year 2018/2019 (3.9% of the non-EU student population as a whole). Compared with the previous year, the students from this community increased in number by 14.2%, presenting with a decidedly higher growth rate than that noted for non-EU students as a whole (+2.6%). The number of enrolling students rose above all in secondary schools – junior secondary schools (+17.3%) and senior secondary schools (14.7%). The incidence of students from this community with respect to non-EU students as a whole is higher in preschool institutions (4.6% of the enrolled are Egyptian citizens) and is lower in senior secondary schools (falling to 2.8%). A fairly significant number of university students is noted (with its 1,634 students, Egypt ranks thirteenth as country of origin of the non-EU academic population).

The quotient of young people aged between 15 and 29 belonging to this community who are out of the education and training circuits and who are also unemployed (**NEETs**) is significantly lower than the mean for the non-EU population as a whole. They total 3,463 (24% of young Egyptians in this age bracket).

Work and employment

The Egyptian community is active in key sectors of Italy's economic life, such as industry, commerce and catering. In particular, as a factor, the marked influence of networks of personal relations led to a significant degree of specialization, channelling Egyptian workers towards the construction sector, in which the quotient employed stands at 19.5% (vs 8.1% of non-EU citizens) and *industry, in the strict sense*, absorbing 12% of the Egyptian workforce. However, the most frequently noted sectors are hospitality and catering, which, as a whole, absorb 35.9% of this workforce.

On examination of the main labour market indicators, it is noted that the levels of employment, inactivity and unemployment for this community are on a par with the values for non-EU workers as a whole. Indeed, the **employment rate** stands at **60%** (vs 60.1% for non-EU citizens as a whole). The **inactivity rate** is slightly higher than the mean value (30.7% among Egyptian citizens) and the unemployment rate is slightly lower (13.4% vs 14.3% for non-EU citizens as a whole). In gender terms, as to indicators, significant differences in the male and female employment rates are noted (75.8% and 10.9%, respectively). Accordingly, the inactivity rate for the male component stands at 13.9% while the inactivity rate for females stands at 82.9%. The unemployment rate for the male component stands at 12% and for females at 36%.

Turning to **wage subsidies** made over by INPS (the National Social Security Institute) – in the event of interruptions or reduction of production – in 2018, the beneficiaries of CIGO (ordinary redundancy fund) or CIGS (extraordinary redundancy fund) arrangements, of Egyptian citizenship, came to 4.3% of the total for non-EU beneficiaries (2,424). The quotient for Egyptian citizen recipients of unemployment benefits stands at 2.3% of the total for non-EU beneficiaries (10,207). The Egyptian citizens prevalently benefit from Naspi (*Nuova Prestazione di assicurazione sociale per l'impiego*, a social employment insurance scheme) (9,676); 4.5% are in receipt of agricultural unemployment benefits, while the remaining portion are in receipt of various other forms of compensation.

During 2018, **53,315 new employment relationships** were activated for citizens of Egyptian origin (12.7% 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) reveal that only 3.4% of Egyptian 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 Egyptian workers were in the *Services* sector (a quotient approaching 59%).

For the Egyptian community, we note the prevalence of *skilled manual workers* (33% of the Egyptian workers vs 28% for non-EU citizens as a whole). Numerically speaking, we then note those *engaged in sales and personal services* (30%). This latter value is on a par with the level for non-EU citizens as a whole. 29% of employed Egyptians are *unskilled manual workers*, while the incidence for *managers and professionals in the intellectual and technical fields* stands at 8% (2% higher than the value for non-EU workers as a whole).

Involvement of the community in question in **the world of entrepreneurship** appears to be most significant. Indeed, with its 19,161 sole proprietorships, this community ranks fifth in terms of number of sole proprietorships. The construction sector is the sector within which most investment takes place, for Egyptian sole proprietors (accounting for approx. 10% of non-EU enterprises active within this ambit).

Economic conditions

The data on remuneration indicate that workers from this community earn **monthly salaries** that are on average lower than those of non-EU workers as a whole (971 vs 1,166 euros: 195 euros lower than the mean monthly remuneration). In the case of agricultural labourers, although few from this community are employed as such, the gap is a positive value, and stands at +268 euros.

Female Egyptian workers lose 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 more than 270 euros (for agricultural work the gap stands at approx. 290 euros).

Among employed Egyptian citizens in Italy, a medium-high level of education prevails. 43.5% of the workers belonging to this community received, at best, a junior secondary school leaving certificate. This value is lower than that for non-EU workers as a whole by 8%. 33% hold a secondary school leaving certificate and 24% are also holders of a higher education certificate (vs a lower quotient among non-EU employees as a whole: 11%).

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 with an incidence of 42%, 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 Egyptian community, the distribution of the various typologies of social security provisions is significantly different, with a prevalence of disability pensions (36.8%), followed by old-age pensions (34.3%), and survivor's pensions (28.92%). Overall, with its 1.227 IVS pensions, the Egyptian community accounts for 2.2% of the total for non-EU citizens who are in receipt of such benefits. Between 2017 and 2018, the numbers of IVS pensions provided to Egyptians rose less markedly than was noted among non-EU citizens as a whole: +12.4% vs +13%. The Egyptians in receipt of old-age pensions rose by 28% (vs an 18% rise noted in the non-EU population as a whole).

The level of social assistance measures provided by INPS (National Social Security Institute) to Egyptian citizens (solely welfare services for the most vulnerable, due to age conditions reached or civil disability) is fairly low: 2,287 (2.4% of migrant recipients of non-EU origin); disability pensions (43.3%); constant attendance supplements (37.8%); and social benefits (18.9%).

With reference to monetary transfers to families (maternity benefits, parental leave and family allowances provided by INPS), in 2018 a total of 344,529 beneficiaries were in receipt of parental leave, a figure on the rise (+6.2% vs 2017), 6.8% of whom were of non-EU origin (23,445). During 2018, the beneficiaries of parental leave with Egyptian citizenship totalled 572, or 2.4% of non-EU beneficiaries. The benefit that is most frequently received consists in family allowances. In 2018, there were as many as 2,836,868 beneficiaries (on a par basically with the previous year); 12.4% of the beneficiaries were non-EU citizens (approx. 353,000; +3.7% vs 2017). This community includes 14,752 members in receipt of family allowances in 2018 (4% of non-EU beneficiaries: +11.4% vs 2017).

As to transfers made by the Egyptians in Italy to their country of origin, in 2018 these totalled approx. **40 million euros** (0.7% of the total outgoing remittances). The volume of remittances vs 2017 **rose by 21%**.

