



THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Migrant population annual report
Executive summary



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Curated by the General Directorate for Immigration and Integration Policies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, the Annual Reports on the main foreign communities in Italy — investigate and analyse the presence in Italy of the largest populations of non-EU migrants: Moroccan, Albanian, Chinese, Ukrainian, Indian, Filipino, Bangladeshi, Egyptian, Pakistani, Moldovan, Sri Lankan, Senegalese, Tunisian, Nigerian, Peruvian and Ecuadorian.

A key factor also in the 2022 edition is the contribution of the Institutions and Bodies that provided the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies with the necessary information, subsequently processed by the ANPAL Servizi Integration Services Area. Sincere thanks for consolidated and practical collaboration are due to ISTAT - National Institute of Statistics, INPS – General Statistical Actuarial Coordination, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of University and Research, the Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture; CeSPI, the CGIL, CISL, UIL, UGL trade union confederations and the Data Science Applications Operating Unit – ANPAL Servizi Studies and Research Division. The financial inclusion section was curated by Daniele Frigeri, Director of the National Observatory on Financial Inclusion of Migrants.

The unabridged volumes of the 2012 – 2022 editions of the Reports on the Main Foreign Communities in Italy are available, in Italian and in the main foreign languages, in the “Documents and Research – Reports by the Immigration and Integration Policies DG” area of the portal www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it and in the 'Studies and Statistics' area of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies website – www.lavoro.gov.it. A statistical annex is also available at the same addresses, containing additional information with respect to the reports, or with insights on the existing analysis, with a comparison between the main nationalities.

The 2022 edition of the National Reports on the Main Foreign Communities, the translation of the overviews into the main vehicular languages and the Monitoring Report were produced by the “Services for Integration Policies” Area of ANPAL Servizi, in the framework of the project “START-Support to Integrated Multiannual Programming on Employment, Integration and Inclusion”.

The Filipino community in Italy

The Filipino community is one of the first foreign settlements in Italy that has been forming since the early 1970s, due to endurance of the serious economic and financial crisis that swamped the country after World War II and especially following the 1973 energy crisis. The first Filipino immigrants to Italy were incentivised by specific international agreements between the two countries aimed at regulating the entry quota of domestic workers and family helpers. As early as the late 1980s, a process of progressive stabilisation of immigration was under way, with a substantial change in the living conditions of Filipino nationals in Italy, who were acquiring greater independence by moving out of their employers' homes and creating cohabitation solutions among co-nationals, friends and the relatives who continued to arrive¹. The gender imbalance of the initial arrivals gradually diminished, thanks to an increase in family reunifications and new entries, as Italy became a preferential destination for those seeking long-term immigration.

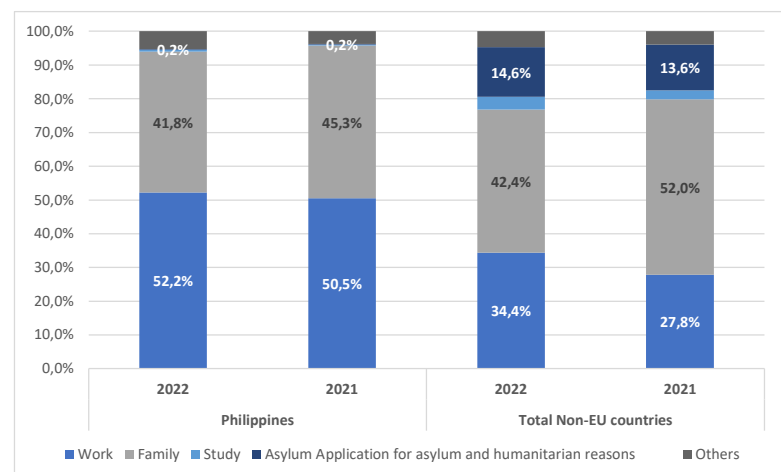
The Filipino community ranks sixth among non-EU settlements, with **156,317 legal residents** as of 1 January 2022¹ (4.4% of the non-EU population in Italy). The community grew by around 4% with respect to 1 January 2021, versus +5.2% for non-EU nationals overall.

With regard to the composition by **age** group, there is a high concentration in the older age groups: more than half of the citizens of the Asian community are over 40 (57% compared to 42% of all non-EU nationals). The different incidence of the most extreme classes is significant: 29.5% of the community is under 30 years of age (compared to 37.3% for the total of non-EU nationals), while almost 16% are 60 or over (for the wider non-EU community the figure is 10.2%). As a result, the Filipino community has a higher **average** age (41) than the total non-EU community and has a slight **gender imbalance** favouring women (57.4% of the community).

The community displays a high level of stabilisation, also due to the long period of migration to Italy, **with residence permit data** pointing to a high proportion of **long-term residents**: 70.5%, which is almost 5 percentage points higher than the figure for non-EU nationals overall). Among **short-term residence permits**, work-related reasons prevail in 52.2% of total short-term permits for Filipino nationals, reflecting a highly characteristic situation among the community (in the majority of non-EU communities family reasons are the main motive for permit issues).

In 2021, after the sudden drop recorded in 2020 due to the movement restrictions introduced globally to counter the spread of the SARS-COV 2 virus, there was a general increase in the issue of **new permits**, also due to the illegal labour emergence provision (legislative decree 34 of 2020) that allowed for the regularisation of non-EU citizens already present in the country: the 2,930 residence permits issued to Filipino citizens in 2021 are 1.2% of total permits issued, an increase of over 95% compared to 2020. New arrivals for family reunification – the primary motivation with 70% of the total – increased by around 62% compared to 2020, while work permits accounted for 21.2% of the total, with an exponential increase

Short-term residence permits by type and citizenship (v%). Data as at 1 January 2022 and 1 January 2021



Source: SpINT Area analysis of Anpal Servizi on ISTAT-Ministry of the Interior data

¹ Data on legal residents were obtained from ISTAT.

(+853.8%, for the reasons seen above). Finally, immigration for study reasons account for 2.5% of new arrivals of Filipino nationals in Italy.

The **geographical distribution** of the Filipino community sees a high concentration in northern Italy, particularly in Lombardy, which hosts more than a third of all Filipino nationals versus just over a quarter of non-EU citizens overall, followed by Emilia-Romagna (the third region for the number of Filipino nationals), which is home to 8.6% of the community. Also the community's concentration in the Lazio region is significant – in second place in numerical terms, and place where 27.4% of Filipino immigrants in Italy have received or renewed their residence permit. Only 9.1% of Filipino immigrants live in the south of the country, with a higher concentration in Sicily, which hosts 2.8% of the total population. The marked presence in Lombardy and Lazio, where the community is especially concentrated in the two regional capitals of Milan and Rome, reflects a stabilisation process that is clearly related to opportunities in terms of income and employment in the areas in question, in view also of the community's specialisation in the fields of domestic service and family assistance, more in demand in large cities

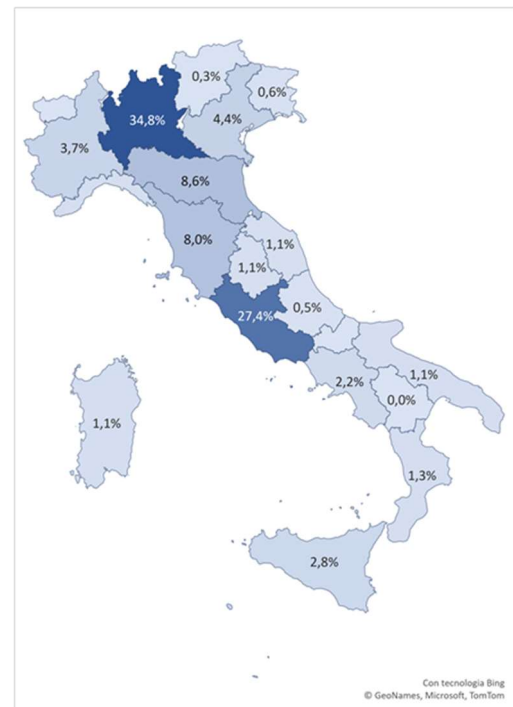
Characterisation of Filipino migration into Italy is greatly assisted by analysis of **labour market data**² which highlight the community's high level involvement in the *public, social and personal services*, which employ 62.8% of the community's workers and in *transport and other business services* (11.5% of Filipino workforce in Italy). Another significant sector is that of hospitality, employing 9.5% of the community's working population.

An analysis of the main labour market indicators reveals better employment performance than that recorded for the non-EU population as a whole, apparently due to the level of sectoral specialisation: the **employment rate** is **74.6%** (compared to 58.4% recorded for the non-EU population as a whole), the **inactivity rate** is **18.8%** (for the non-EU population as a whole, the indicator is around 33%), while the **unemployment rate** stands at 7.8%, compared to 13% for the non-EU population overall. Gender analysis reveals a high level of prominence of the female component of the community: among Filipino immigrants the gap between male and female employment levels is small, with rates above the non-Community average for both men and women. The employment rate is around 73% for men (very slightly lower than the 73.5% recorded for non-EU men overall), while for women it is 76.2% (43% for non-EU women), and the inactivity and unemployment rates are significantly lower than their respective averages.

The community is distinguished by a high **level of education** among job-holders: the proportion of university graduates is around 9.4% (versus 10.5%), while high school graduates account for 41% (32.8% is the incidence among non-EU citizens overall), while almost half of the Filipinos in work have a middle school diploma at most.

In terms of **occupational types**, *unskilled manual labour* is the predominant type of work in the community, involving just under 65% of the Filipino workforce, while *skilled manual labour* concerns only 8.4%. On the other hand, 23.4% of job-holders in the community are employed in *clerical, sales and personal service roles*, while 3.4% are *executives and professionals in intellectual and technical fields*.

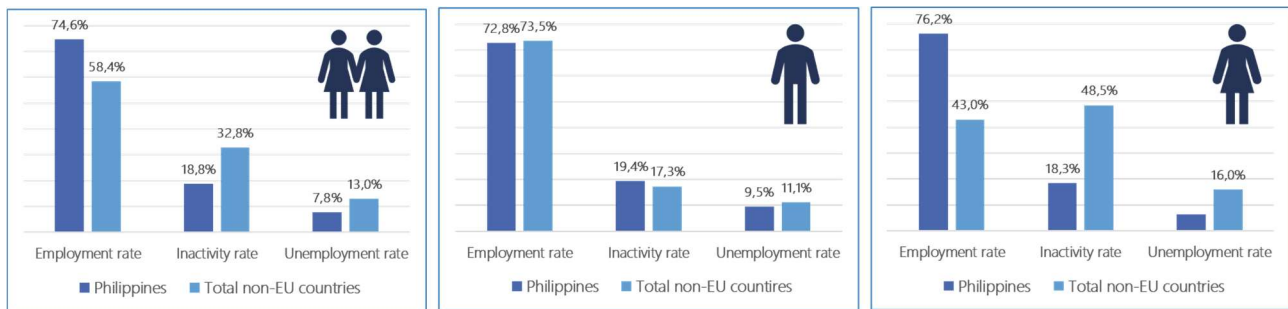
Distribution of the Filipino population legally residing in Italy. Data as at 1 January 2022



Source: Anpal Servizi SpINT Area analysis of ISTAT data

² Labour market data were provided by ISTAT RCFL at H1 2022.

Main labour market indicators by gender and citizenship (v.%) H1 2022



Source: SpINT Area analysis of Anpal Servizi on RCFL - ISTAT microdata

The community's prominence in the **business sphere** is not very prominent, ranked last – among non-EU countries – in terms of the number of sole proprietors: in fact, there were 1,108³ sole proprietors of Filipino origin as at 31 December 2021, or 0.3% of non-EU business owners in Italy, a number that is slightly down on 2020 (-0.6%). The main investment sector for Filipino businesses is *Commerce and Transport*, in which more than a quarter of Filipino sole proprietorships operate.

The high proportion of job holders in the Filipino community is also reflected in the levels of use of certain **welfare measures**⁴ although conditioned by the high level of involvement in the domestic work sector and the *services* sector, which are not eligible for use of the ordinary redundancy fund (CIGO). The community's incidence is low overall among wage subsidy recipients, 4% of non-EU recipients of these measures are Filipino, but the percentage rises to 7% for *ordinary Solidarity Fund allowances*. This latter instrument is the form of income support addressed to the suspension or cessation of work in companies belonging to sectors not covered by application of the ordinary and extraordinary redundancy fund. On the contrary, the community's incidence among IVS pension recipients is higher due to its migratory and chronological seniority, to the point that 10.4% of all non-EU *old age pension* recipients are Filipino nationals; the share of recipients of family-based welfare measures (parental leave, family allowances, etc.) is also high: it should be noted that 1,174 Filipino women are recipients of maternity benefits, representing around 5% of total non-EU recipients of this provision. In relation to Basic income and Basic pensions, these benefits are collected by 6,980 Filipino families (around 3% of non-EU recipients). The number of Filipino families in receipt of Basic income (Reddito di cittadinanza) or a Basic pension (Pensione di cittadinanza) increased compared to 2020 (up by around 2,000), likely due to the worsening economic and working conditions of the community.

The Philippines is the third largest destination country for remittances from Italy, accounting for almost 8% of the funds leaving Italy towards the rest of the world. The volume of remittances to the Philippines from Italy was more than 600 million euro in 2022, with constant and significant growth in the past 6 years, an indication of the capacity and willingness to support the country of origin that is still widespread in the community, thanks to policies and strategies of the Philippine government and financial intermediaries designed to attract remittances.

³ Source: Unioncamere as at 31 December 2021.

⁴ Source INPS (National Social Security Institute) - General Statistical Actuarial Coordination at 2021.

