



THE PAKISTANI COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Annual report on the presence of migrants
Executive summary



20

22

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 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 Pakistani community in Italy

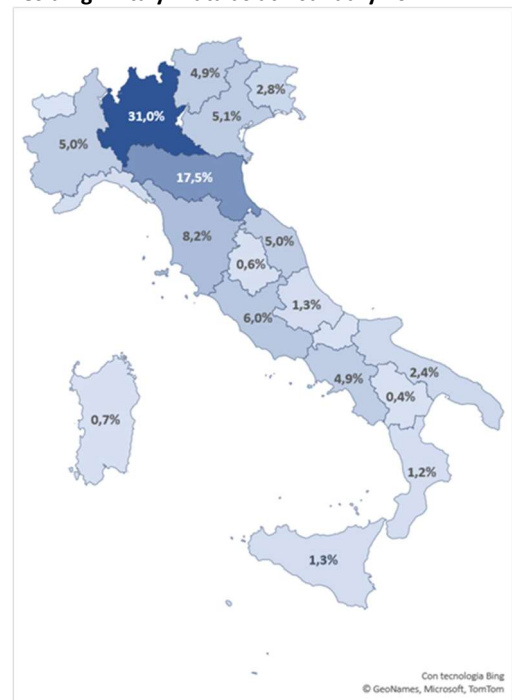
The Pakistani community in Italy has experienced exponential growth in the past decade, leaping from 90,000 in 2012 to 122,000 in 2021. It was a mixture of political and economic instability that drove millions of Pakistanis to leave their country of origin producing the first outflows of migrants – mainly to Persian Gulf countries suffering from chronic labour shortages – with the subsequent influx of cash remittances into Pakistan, leading to domestic growth: suffice to note that this wealth arriving from other countries now constitutes around 10% of Pakistan's GDP. The available data show that the Pakistani community includes a large number of asylum seekers. Tragedies such as the recent Cutro shipwreck in which more than 20 Pakistani nationals lost their lives, have brought the dangers of the Mediterranean route back into the news, even though data from past years suggest that the Balkan route is preferred by Pakistani migrants. The shipwreck off the coast of Calabria has also shown how it is now not only Pakistani men who emigrate, but also many women in search of a better future for themselves and their families.

There were **133,145 Pakistanis legally residing** in Italy as of 1 January 2022, a figure that places the community in ninth position in terms of numbers among the main non-EU citizens. Pakistani citizens account for 3.7% of the total non-EU population, considered in relation to population growth of 8.8% with respect to the prior year.

The age pyramid of the Pakistani community in Italy shows more balanced distribution than that of the Italian population with a decidedly younger average. The Pakistani population in Italy has a high proportion of youths: 44.5% of the community are under 30 (compared to 37.3% for non-EU citizens overall). The presence of minors is in line with the average for the non-EU population, who represent the predominant age group in the community: 21%, compared to 20.9% for the non-EU population. Particularly noteworthy is the incidence of minors among female members of the community, despite the overall scarcity of women: around 36% of Pakistani women legally residing in Italy are under 17 years of age. More generally, more than half the women in the community (54.2%) are under the age of 30. It follows that the community has a **low average** age (31), with an extremely marked **gender imbalance** (women are just 27.4% of the community overall).

Regarding the **geographical distribution** of community members, 67.7% of Pakistani nationals in Italy reside in the north of the country, particularly in Lombardy, the first region for Pakistani nationals, with 31% of total immigrants (versus about 26% of the non-EU population overall); the second region of residence is Emilia-Romagna with 17.5% of Pakistani immigrants but hosting only 11.3% of non-EU immigrants overall. Approximately 20% of the community resides in central Italy, with a concentration in Tuscany (8.2%), the third region of residence of Pakistanis; also noteworthy are Lazio (6% of the community) and Marche (5%). Although only 12.6% of the community resides in the south of Italy, the figure for Campania stands out, with just under 5% of Pakistani nationals legally residing in Italy.

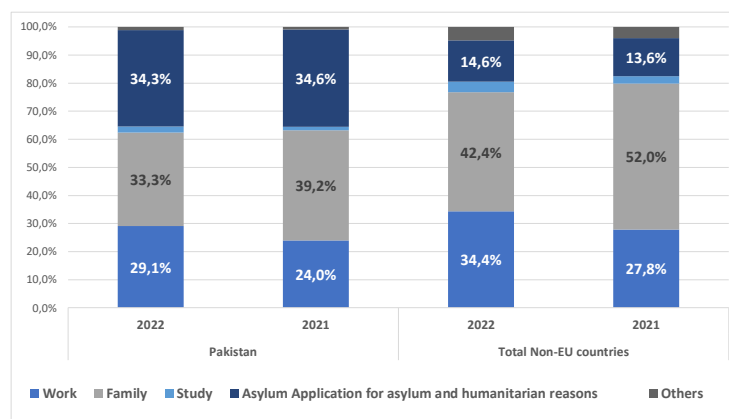
Distribution of the Pakistani population legally residing in Italy. Data as at 1 January 2022



Source: Anpal Servizi SpINT Area analysis of ISTAT data

Analysis of **residence permit** types reveals a relatively underdeveloped level of stabilisation of the community: the share of long-term residents of Italy on 1 January 2022 was 49.7%, a figure that is 16 percentage points lower than the parameter for non-EU citizens overall. In line with figures recorded for the total non-EU population, in which long-term residents increased by 7.8% compared to 2020, the proportion grew also in the Pakistani community, albeit slightly more modestly (+7.3%). Among **short short-term residence permits**, permits issued for asylum, asylum-seeking and humanitarian reasons are the main reason for residence (34.3%): Pakistani nationals are the second largest community - after Nigerian - in terms of short-term residence permits issued for these reasons. There is also a low incidence of permits issued for family reasons (around 33%, compared to 42.4% for non-EU nationals overall).

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

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), which allowed non-EU citizens already residing in Italy to formalise their position. In around 41% of cases, the almost 15,000 Pakistani citizens who entered Italy in 2021 did so for asylum, asylum-seeking and humanitarian reasons, an increase of +65% versus the previous year: almost one in five new permits for asylum, asylum-seeking and humanitarian reasons (19.7%) were issued to Pakistani nationals.

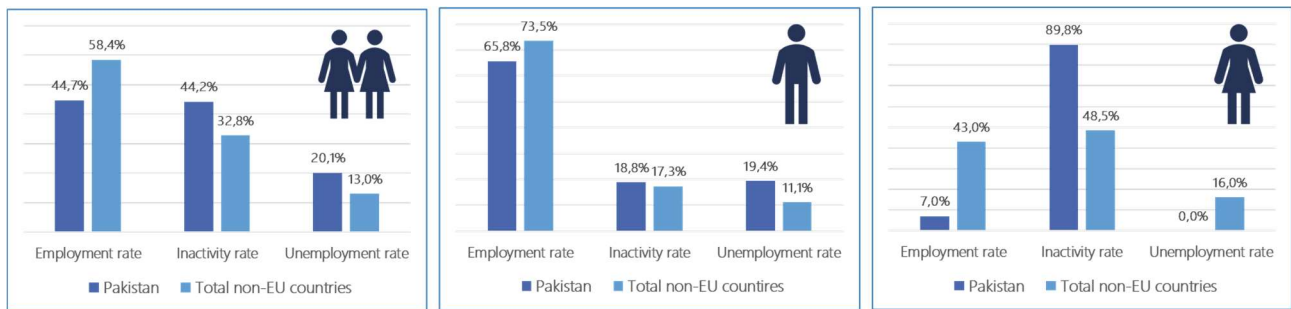
With regard to the most vulnerable groups, it should also be noted that the presence of **unaccompanied minors** is a particularly distinctive element of the community under review, also considering the growth of the phenomenon compared to the previous year (+38%). On 31 December 2022, with 1,081 minors Pakistan was the fifth largest country of origin of unaccompanied foreign minors in Italy. In most cases, these are young people close to the age of majority (71% of Pakistani UFM are 17 years old).

The **data on the labour market**¹ show that the community is characterised by a somewhat balanced distribution among the various fields; the industrial sector prevails, with more than one in five Pakistanis job holders in Italy (21.6%). This is closely followed by the commercial sector, where 20.5% of Pakistani nationals are employed. There is also a high level of employment in *hotels and restaurants*, the third ranked sector of employment, accounting for 20.1% of the Pakistani workforce. There is also a significant share of the Pakistani workforce operating in the area of *Business Services* (19.5%). This is followed by the agricultural sector with 10.3% and *public, social and personal services* (4.2%). The final ranking can be found in the construction sector (2.2%) and *public administration, education and health* (1.4%).

An analysis of the main labour market indicators reveals far lower **employment performance** among the Pakistani than that of the non-EU population overall: in H1 2022 44.7% of the Pakistani population in Italy aged between 15 and 64 was employed, a much lower rate than that of the non-EU population overall (58.4%); the inactivity rate stands at 44.2%, while unemployment is around 20%. A comparison with the prior year reveals an extremely negative situation for the community, with rates worse than the non-EU average and no signs of improvement. The main cause of this performance is to be found in the situation of female members of the community: the employment rate for Pakistani women stands at 7% (compared to around 66% for men), the inactivity rate is around 90% (18.8% for men), revealing a huge gap with respect to the male component.

¹ Labour market data were provided by ISTAT RCFL at H1 2022.

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



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

Despite a relatively low **level of education** (the share of Pakistanis with at most a secondary school leaving certificate is 81.6%, compared to 56.7% of the non-EU citizens overall), the Pakistani community has managed to carve out a specific place on the Italian labour market through the execution of manual labour, where employers are notoriously unable to find sufficient resources from the Italian national workforce to meet demands. With regard to **occupational types**, in the first half of 2022 manual work - skilled or unskilled - is the predominant type of work for the community, involving more than 62% of employed Pakistanis: *skilled manual work* concerns about 19% of the community's workforce, while *unskilled manual work* concerns 43%. Conversely, 32.6% of Pakistanis work in the *clerical, sales and personal service jobs*, confirming the importance of the commercial sector, while 5.3% are *executives and professionals in the intellectual and technical fields*.

The Pakistani community, which is in ninth place in terms of total non-EU nationals in Italy, is fifth in terms of the number of owners of **sole proprietorships**, confirming a strong presence in the entrepreneurial sphere. In fact, there were 20,062 sole proprietorships of Pakistani origin as of 31 December 2021, i.e. about 5% of non-EU entrepreneurs in Italy, a number that is growing compared to 2020 (+5.1%). With reference to sectors of economic activity, the importance of the business sector for the community is confirmed, with a share of around 52%. The second most important sector of investment for Pakistani companies is Construction (around 13%), although with a lower percent incidence than that of the total number of companies owned by non-EU nationals overall (22.4%), although the construction sector is nonetheless in second place; finally, *Business Services* lie in third place, with a share of 9.4%.

With around 700 million euro, Pakistan was the second largest destination country of **remittances** from Italy in 2022. This outflow of financial resources almost tripled between 2016 and 2022.

According to data collected by the World Bank, remittances constitute a significant source of wealth for Pakistan. In fact, financial flows arriving from Pakistani emigrants around the world accounted for 7.7% of Pakistani GDP in 2022.

