



THE PERUVIAN COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Migrant population annual report
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, Peruvian, Bangladeshi, Egyptian, Pakistani, Moldovan, Sri Lankan, Senegalese, Tunisian, Nigerian, Filipino 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 Peruvian community in Italy

The first migratory flows of Peruvian nationals to European countries (Spain, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands) were recorded starting in the 1960s. Peruvian emigration, initially predominantly male, has followed the opposite trend since the second half of the 1980s, with women as the main protagonists in the migration phenomenon. The situation that initially drove Peruvian nationals to emigrate were prolonged periods of economic stagnation and recession that mainly affected the middle and lower-middle strata of society, being the area of provenance of the majority of Peruvian migrants. The economic problems were compounded by 20 years of social and political conflicts in the country from the 1980s onwards, persuading many Peruvians to abandon rural areas and settle in urban centres or emigrate. In the first decade of the 2000s, migration flows from the South American country continued to grow rapidly, only to come to a standstill from 2011 onwards, when the achievement of a certain macroeconomic stability and productive growth led many Peruvian emigrants to return to their country of origin.

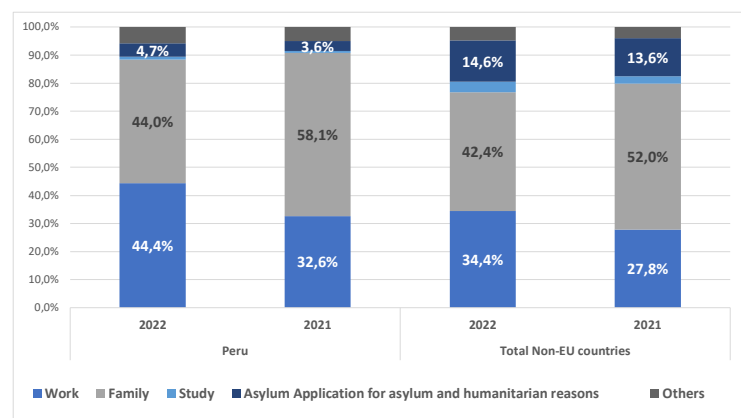
In socio-demographic terms, the Peruvian community ranks 15th among non-EU nationals, with **90,264 legal residents** as of 1 January 2022¹ (2.5% of the non-EU population in Italy). The community displayed growth of 6.2% with respect to 1 January 2021, against a growth rate of +5.6% for non-EU nationals overall.

With reference to the breakdown by **age** group, there is a strong concentration in the older age brackets: more than half the members of the Latin American community (51.8%) are over 40, compared to around 42% among non-EU nationals overall. The 45-49 and over-60 age groups are particularly significant, with respectively 11.4% and 12% of Peruvian nationals in Italy, a figure that can be interpreted as a sign of stabilisation of the immigrant community, since the situation is unrelated to recent migrations (generally young people), but rather people who arrived with the first migratory waves, or who have arrived to be reunited with their families. The presence of minors is high, although lower than the non-EU average, and minors continue to constitute the predominant age group in the community: 18.2%, compared to around 21% for the non-EU population overall. The community ranks fourth from last among the main non-EU communities, in terms of the proportion of minors.

As a result, the Peruvian community has a higher **average age** (38.5) than the total non-EU community and **gender imbalance** in favour of the female side (58.4% of the community are women).

The community displays an advanced level of stabilisation, also due to the duration of migration to our country; **data on residence permits** in fact show a high proportion of **long-term residents (70.1%)**, this being a higher value than the non-EU citizens average (65.8%). Among **short-term residence permits** there is a slight prevalence of work reasons with 44.4% of total fixed term permits for Peruvian nationals, a characteristic feature of the community (for most non-EU communities it is family reasons that prevail). Family reasons continue to be among the main motivations for residing in Italy (44%), with an incidence almost 2 percentage points higher than that recorded for non-EU nationals as a whole, although it is about 20% lower than in 2021. Residents for family reasons are minors in 50.2% of cases. 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

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

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¹ The source for data on legal residents is ISTAT.

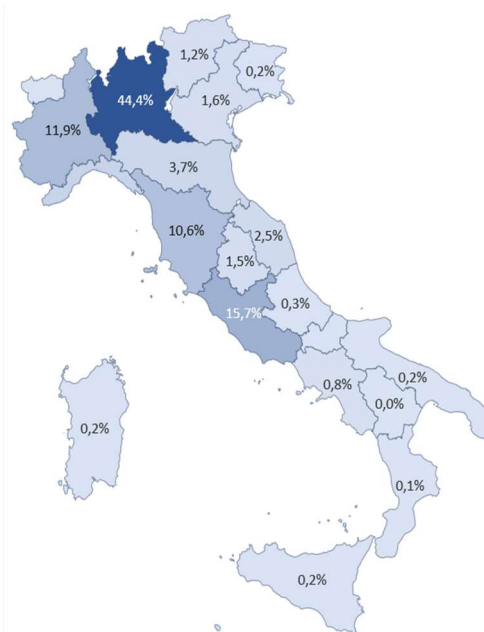
general increase in the issue of **new permits**, also due to the illegal labour emergence provision (legislative decree 34 of 2020), which allowed non-EU citizens already residing in Italy to formalise their position. The 5,980 residence permits issued to Peruvian nationals in 2021 account for 2.5% of the total, an increase of more than 120% compared to 2020. About two-fifths of Peruvian nationals who entered the country in 2021 did so for work reasons, constituting an exponential increase over the previous year (+1,950%). The increase in the number of work permits was widespread and was largely linked to the aforementioned regularisation measure. The second reason for entry is family reunification (36.8%): of these 5,980 community arrivals, 1,321 concerned minors, 60% of new permits issued for family reasons issued.

The **geographical distribution** of the Peruvian community shows a high concentration in northern Italy (68%), particularly in Lombardy, which hosts more than two-fifths (44.4%) of Peruvian nationals present in Italy, compared to more than a quarter of non-EU nationals overall, and in Piedmont (12%)². The second region in terms of Peruvian immigrants is Lazio (15.7%); the community also has a substantial presence in Tuscany, where 10.6% of the community has received or renewed a residence permit, compared to 8.4% of all residents of non-EU origin.

The characterisation of Peruvian migration to our country is made particularly evident by an analysis of **labour market data**³, which show the community's significant presence in *public services, social services and personal services*, occupying more than 45% of Peruvian nationals working in Italy; the main contribution to the high incidence comes from the female component of the community's workforce, about 69% of whom are employed in the sector. In percentage terms, the services sector is followed by *Transport and other business services*, which provide jobs for 19.4% of the community workforce, and the hospitality sector, in which just over 11% of Peruvian immigrants are employed; *Industry in the strict sense* accounts for around 10%.

An analysis of the main labour market indicators reveals better employment performance than that recorded for the non-EU population overall: the **employment rate** is **75.1%** (compared to 58.4% recorded for the non-EU population overall), the **inactivity rate** is **16.7%** (for the wider non-EU population the indicator is around 33%), while the **unemployment rate** stands at 9.7%, compared to 13% for the wider non-EU population. Peruvian women in the community play an important role: the gap between male and female employment levels is quite small, with employment rates above the non-EU average for both men and women. The employment rate is 76.5% for men (higher than the 73.5% rate recorded for non-EU men), while for women the rate is 74.1% (43% for non-EU women), and the inactivity and unemployment rates are significantly lower than the respective averages.

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

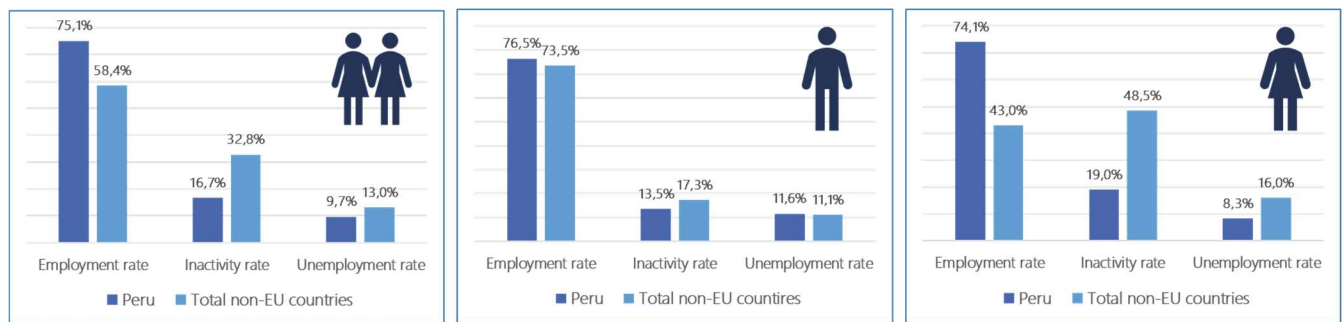


Source: Anpal Servizi SpINT Area analysis of ISTAT data

² For information on the distribution and concentration of the foreign population in major metropolitan areas, refer to Reports on the presence of migrants in the Metropolitan Cities, available in the "Documents and Research - Reports by DG Immigration and Integration Policies" area of the institutional portal www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it and in the "Studies and Statistics" area of the institutional website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies - www.lavoro.gov.it

³ 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

The community has an average **level of education** among job holders: the share of university graduates is 7.8%, compared to 10.5% among the non-EU total), while the share of school diploma holders is higher than the non-EU average (around 43%, compared to 32.8%). Regarding **occupational types**, *unskilled manual work* is the predominant type of employment in the community, involving almost 41% of the Peruvian workforce. Conversely, 37.6% of the community workforce are employed in *clerical, sales and personal service* roles, while the incidence of *managers and professionals in the intellectual and technical fields* is 5%. Finally, *skilled manual labour* accounts for 16.5% of the community workforce.

The community's prominence in the **entrepreneurial sphere** is marginal, with Peru ranking 13th – among non-EU countries – in terms of the number of sole proprietorships: there were 3,750⁴ Peruvian owned sole proprietorships as of 31 December 2021, (1% of non-EU entrepreneurs in Italy, -0.4% compared to 2020), and they invest mainly in *Construction* (23.2%), followed by *Rentals, travel agencies, and business support services* with a share of 17.7% (compared to 6.3% for non-EU nationals overall).

The high proportion of job holders in the Peruvian community is also reflected in the levels of use of certain **welfare measures**⁵ although conditioned by the strong involvement in the domestic work sector and the *Services* sector, which are not subject to the ordinary redundancy fund (CIGO). 2.6% of non-EU wage subsidy recipients are Peruvian, a figure that rises to 4% in the case of the *Ordinary Allowance of the Solidarity Funds*⁶. Unlike the values for the wider non-EU population, the community is more represented among IVS pension recipients (around 2%), in particular of old-age pensions, where Peruvian nationals represent 3.1% of non-EU recipients. Related more closely to the age composition of the community in Italy are the more than 4,000 welfare pensions, equivalent to around 3% of welfare pensions received by non-EU nationals. A further sign of the community's level of integration into the Italian economic and social fabric is given by the incidence of *parental leave* and *maternity allowances*⁷, these being indicators of the presence of family units: 4.4% and 4.7% of non-EU recipients, respectively, are Peruvian. High percentages are also recorded for the number of Peruvian COVID parental leave beneficiaries under legislative decree 18/2020 and legislative decree 34/2020, more than 6% of all non-EU recipients of this provision. Finally, there were 9,161 recipients of family allowances within the community in 2021, with an incidence of 2.6% on the total of non-EU recipients and 3,774 households receiving a Basic income (Reddito di cittadinanza) or Basic pension (Pensione di cittadinanza) (1.7% of non-EU recipients); these values can be likely linked to the continuation, in 2021, of the economic difficulties due to the pandemic crisis.

⁴ Source: Unioncamere as at 31 December 2021.

⁵ Source: INPS (National Social Security Institute) - General Statistical Actuarial Coordination as at 2021.

⁶ These funds provide income support tools for workers in sectors not covered by wage supplementation legislation and, therefore, outside the scope of the ordinary and extraordinary redundancy funds. In this context, it is important to bear in mind that the community is oriented towards the service sector.

⁷ Otherwise known as 'compulsory abstention allowance', this is a form of income support in lieu of salary and is paid to female workers who are forced to take maternity leave for pregnancy and childbirth, for a total of five months.

