

THE ECUADORIAN COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Annual Report on the Presence of Migrants
Executive Summary



For nearly a decade, the *Direzione Generale dell'immigrazione e delle politiche di integrazione* (General Directorate of Immigration and Integration Policies) 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) (tenth edition), the *Rapporti nazionali sulla presenza in Italia delle principali Comunità straniere* (National reports on the main foreign communities in Italy) (ninth 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) (fifth 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, 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 dimensions are considered, alongside presence of minors and their education, occupational integration and welfare policies. Each report starts with comparison among the various communities. The data used for the analysis relate to periods prior to the spread of the SARS-COV-2 virus. Therefore, this edition of the reports does not provide for an overview of the effects of the pandemic crisis on the social and labour integration of migrants.

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.

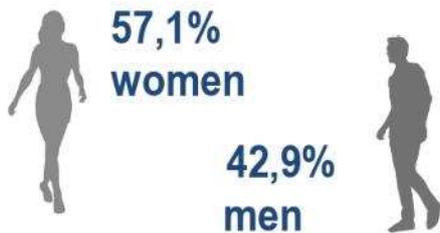
The full series of *Rapporti Comunità* (community reports), editions 2012 - 2020, can be accessed – in Italian and in the main foreign languages – in the section “Studi e statistiche” (Studies and Statistics) on the institutional website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy – www.lavoro.gov.it and on the institutional portal www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it. These addresses also provide 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 projects, *Assistenza tecnica per il Supporto alla governance integrata delle politiche migratorie tra lavoro e integrazione sociale* (PR.Au.D. - Protezione, Autonomia, Dignità dal lavoro) and *Supporto nelle politiche per l'immigrazione e di cooperazione bilaterale con i Paesi di origine*, ANPAL Servizi has drawn up and translated the 2020 edition of its *Rapporti nazionali sulle principali Comunità straniere* (National reports on the main foreign communities) – analytic reports provided in summary form.

Executive Summary



71.477
Legally residing Ecuadorian citizens
16th position for number of presences
113.979 “new Italians” in 2019 (2,7% are Ecuadorians)



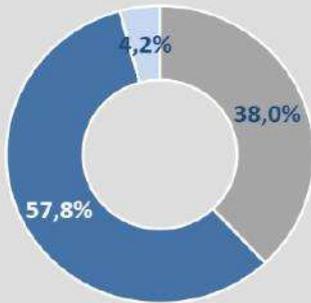
44% above the age of 40

15.632
minors under the age of 18



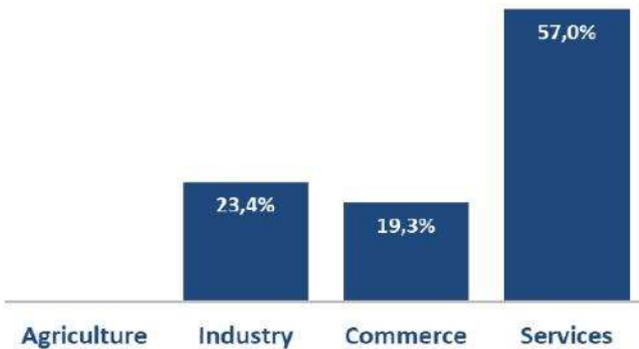
Present in:
45,8% Lombardia
23,5% Liguria
11,3% Lazio

76,9%
 Long-term residents



23,1% Short-term permits

- Work
- Family
- Other reasons



65% employment rate
72,8 % male 57,8% female

31,3% female inactivity rate

33,7% employed in personal services 



Ranking 10th for volume of remittances
2.8% of the total

147 million in remittances (+3,4%)

Demographic characteristics

71,477 Ecuadorian citizens are holders of a residence permit valid as on **1 January 2020**, accounting for 2% of the non-EU citizens in Italy.

The Ecuadorian community, which ranks sixteenth for number of legally residing members, has a long track record of migration to Italy, involving especially women which are mainly employed in the sectors of home help and care services.

Socio-demographically speaking, two aspects characterise this community:

- ✓ **gender polarization oriented toward the female component**; women make up **57.1%** of this community, vs a quotient of 48.3% for non-EU citizens as a whole. As a result, this community ranks fifth among the main communities in Italy for incidence of female members. This polarization is owing to the migratory model characterising this community, which persists despite a long history of migration in Italy.
- ✓ A mean age that is slightly lower (32) than the norm (vs 34 for non-EU migrants as a whole), accompanied by a prevalence of adult age brackets: 36.3% of the community are aged between 40-59 (vs 30.3% for non-EU migrants as a whole). Particularly noteworthy is the high quotient of women of this community aged over 60 (10.1% vs 4.7% for men).

As to geographic distribution, 81.3% this community favour Northern Italy (a quotient that is much higher than that noted for non-EU citizens residing in Italy as a whole: 61.5%). A marked concentration is to be found in Lombardia, hosting approx. 46% of the Ecuadorians in Italy (vs nearly 20% higher than non-EU citizens as a whole). Characterising this community is its marked presence in Liguria, which ranks second for number of Ecuadorian residents (23.5% vs 3.2% of non-EU citizens residing in Italy as a whole). We note the particularly high concentration in the metropolitan city of Genoa, hosting 1/5 of this community. Lazio ranks third as region in terms of numbers of Ecuadorians hosted (11.3% of the Ecuadorians in Italy reside here).

The analysis of **residence permits** indicates this community's marked progress in the direction of stabilisation. The quotient of **long-term residents** stands at **76.9%** (vs the decidedly lower quotient of 63.1% of non-EU citizens as a whole). Among the main non-EU communities, the Ecuadorians rank second (after the Moldavans) in terms of quotient of long-term residents. Furthermore, regarding short-term permits, those issued for **family reunification** reasons prevail, accounting for **more than half** of permits subject to renewal among migrant members of this community (57.8%, vs 46.7% for non-EU citizens as a whole). The incidence of **work permits** is higher than the mean (totalling **38%** vs 29.4% for non-EU citizens as a whole).

Current trends

For the first time, after years of stability in the presences, we note a significant decline in the number of legally resident members compared to the previous year: -2.7%; the number of non-EU citizens in Italy decreased by 101,580 units between 1 January 2019 and 1 January 2020. The reduction is noted in all the main foreign communities while the Indian and Bangladeshi communities increase by 1.7% and 1.8% respectively. The most significant reductions concern the Nigerian community (-8.2%), which from ranking eleventh now ranks fourteenth, the Ecuadorian community (-6.2%) and the Chinese community (-5.3%).

Two opposite factors are of greater significance in terms of 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 removes those who become Italian citizens from the stock of foreign citizens).

Turning to admissions, in 2019, 177,000 new residence permits were issued (approx. 26% less than in 2018, a negative record). This represents the most significant reduction recorded since 2012 and the negative trend seems to consolidate over the first six months of 2020, with a further decrease of 57.7% compared to the same period of 2019¹. The reduction concerns all the reasons for admission, and especially for permits linked to the request or possession of a form of protection: -57.5%. This figure is to be ascribed to the sharp reduction in so-called "unexpected flows", with a remarkable decrease

¹ Istat, *Cittadini non comunitari in Italia*, Statistica Report (Non-EU citizens in Italy, Statistics Report), October 2020.

in the number of migrants landed on Italian coasts: 11,471 in 2019, i.e., approx. 51% less than 2018 and 90.4% less than 2017².

The trend is still on the rise in terms of quotient of new permits issued for family reunification (56.9% of admissions in 2019 vs approx. 51% in 2018), while the value relating to the request or possession of a form of protection decreases (15.6% of new permits³ vs 28.8% in 2018). The percentage relating to study reasons (11.5% vs 9.1% in 2018) and work reasons (6.4% vs 6% in 2018) slightly increases. On the other hand, the failure to plan entry flows for job purposes, with the exception of seasonal work, has led to a sharp decrease in the number of new permits issued for this reason.

We note a significant reduction in the number of residents compared to the previous year (-6.2%), being second only to the Nigerian community in terms of decrease in the number of legally residing members. This reduction is probably ascribable both to migrations from Italy and to the **acquisition of citizenship**, which trigger a replacement effect in the statistics: out of a total of 113,979 permits for citizens from non-EU countries, in 2019, the procedures in favour of migrants of Ecuadorian origin were **3,041**, i.e., 2.7% of the total. This community recorded a sharp increase in the acquisition of citizenship over the last year: +32% vs +10.1% recorded for the non-EU citizens as a whole.

As a proof of the strong level of stabilization of the community in Italy, the majority of the cases of acquisition of citizenship by citizens of Ecuadorian origin in 2019 took place via a process of naturalization (59.5%); the reason following in importance for acquisition of citizenship is transmission/elective acquisition (approx. 30%). Approx. 9% of acquisitions took place following marriage with an Italian citizen.

This community shows a fair propensity to **mixed marriages**: out of 469 marriages celebrated in 2018⁴ in which at least one spouse is of Ecuadorian nationality, 71.2% is with Italian citizens (approx. 56% involves an Italian husband and an Ecuadorian wife, 15.4% involves to an Ecuadorian citizen who marries an Italian woman). The quotient of marriages involving both foreign spouses stands at 28.8%.

Minors and educational paths

On analysis of the Ecuadorian community in Italy, we note that the incidence of minors parallels the mean value for non-EU citizens as a whole: 21.9%. These **15,631 Ecuadorian minors** account for 2% of the non-EU minors in Italy as on 1 January 2020.

14,926 Ecuadorian students enrolled for academic year 2019/2020 (2.2% of the non-EU school population as a whole). The number of students from this community fell off compared with the year before (-2.7%). Conversely and in equal proportion, there was a rise in number of non-EU students as a whole (+2.6%). The number of enrolled students fell off in preschool institutions (-10.2%) and in junior and senior secondary schools (approx. 2%), while an increase of 1.7% is noted in senior primary schools. On analysis of this community, it was noted that the incidence of females was higher than the non-EU mean, this determining a **quasi-perfect gender balance (49.6%)**. The students who were Ecuadorian nationals and who enrolled for academic year 2019/20 in order to attend two-year or three-year degree courses in Italy totalled 1,669, i.e., 1.9% more than the year before (2.2% on non-EU university students).

Within this community, the number of youngsters neither working nor engaged in education or training is decidedly lower than the non-EU mean. Approx. **20** out of 100 young Ecuadorian nationals aged between 15 and 29 are **NEETs** (Not engaged in Education, Employment or Training), while the mean incidence is 33.1%.

Work and employment

Ecuadorian migration pattern is described by an analysis of the employment, indicating that a marked orientation of Ecuadorian citizens toward the sector of **Public, Social and Personal Services** (including both employment in the *public administration, education and health care and other public, social and personal services*) persists, in which 2/3 of Ecuadorian workers are active (33.7% active in *other public, social and personal services*). Specialization for this workforce has, to a certain extent, shielded the community from the rigours of a grave economic crisis. Services to households/families was, in fact, one of the sectors affected least.

² http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_31-12-2019.pdf

³ In all likelihood, the reduction in the number of permits linked to the possession of a form of protection is affected by the entry into force of the decree-law no. 113/2018 from 5 October 2018, converted with amendments by Law no. 132/2018, which abolished the residence permit for humanitarian reasons, replacing it, only under certain specific conditions, with some residence permits for "special circumstances".

⁴ Latest reference year.

Industry provides jobs for 23% of Ecuadorian workers (vs 28% for non-EU workers as a whole). Following *Industry*, we note *Commerce and Catering* (19%) and *Transport and Business Services* (17%). On comparison with the non-EU population as a whole, it is noted that many provide business services (17% vs 13%). We must also note that this community is practically inactive in the primary sector. Those working in the sector of *Agriculture, Hunting and Fishing* account for a mere 0.1% of the total number of Ecuadorian employees.

On analysis of the main labour market indicators, we note that the employment conditions for the Ecuadorians in Italy are better than for the non-EU population as a whole: a **higher quotient of employees** and lower levels of inactivity and unemployment. Indeed, **65%** of the Ecuadorian population in the 15-64 age bracket in Italy are employed (a value more than 5% higher than for the non-EU community as a whole).

Turning to the **unemployment rate**, the quotient of jobseekers in this community stood at **12.7%** of the workforce, which value is slightly lower than for non-EU workers as a whole (13.8%). The **inactivity rate** for Ecuadorian citizens is **25.8%** (vs 30.2% for non-EU citizens as a whole).

The high-performance ratings of this community vs the non-EU population as a whole are also ascribable to the fact that the **female component of the Ecuadorian community is very active in the field of employment** (57.8% vs 46.5%). This value is however lower than that recorded for the male component of the community. The data on inactivity and unemployment of the female component are positive too (31.3% and 16.2% respectively vs 43.9% and 16.7% for women from non-EU Countries as a whole).

The Ecuadorian community presents with only 717 persons benefiting from **wage subsidies** (approx.93% of whom are men). These are, above all, persons benefiting from CIGO (ordinary redundancy fund) payments, while no beneficiaries of CIGS (extraordinary redundancy fund) are recorded. Ecuadorian citizens make up **2.2% of persons benefiting from non-EU unemployment benefits** and 10,197 persons benefit prevalently from NASPI (*Nuova Prestazione di assicurazione sociale per l'impiego*, a social employment insurance scheme). As opposed to the findings regarding wage subsidies, women prevail as beneficiaries of Ecuadorian benefits (67.8%).

27,977 Ecuadorian citizens were **recruited** in 2019 (1.8% of new employment relationships with non-EU citizens). Indicating greater presence of women in the labour market than is noted for men, the data obtained by means of *Comunicazioni Obbligatorie* (mandatory notices) reveal that **56.6%** of the hirings of Ecuadorian citizens **regard the female component** of this community (vs 31.3% for non-EU citizens as a whole). Most of the new jobs for Ecuadorian workers were in the *Services* sector (approx. 89%) while for women of this community the level approaches approx. 97.5%. As a proof of the channelling of the Ecuadorian community towards home help and care services, the first recruitment qualification is *Jobs not included in personal and similar services* which concerns about 1/5 of employment relationships.

In regard to job typology, the data indicate that among employees of this community **unskilled manual jobs** prevail, undertaken by over 2/5 of the Ecuadorian workforce (vs 36% of non-EU employees as a whole), followed by office workers and those engaged in sales or personal services, accounting for 1/3 of the employees from this community. Skilled manual workers account for 26% of employed Ecuadorians (vs 28% of non-EU workers as a whole). Lastly, the incidence among Ecuadorians for managers and professionals in the intellectual and technical fields stands at 4%

Socio-economic conditions

According to the data produced by INPS (National Social Security Institute), the **mean monthly salaries** earned by the Ecuadorian community are in line with those of non-EU workers as a whole. The data clearly indicate that, in **gender pay gap** terms, female employees are at a disadvantage, this gap standing at more than 480 euros in this community. However, as to domestic work, the situation is reversed.

Among the Ecuadorian citizens employed in Italy, a **medium-high level of education** prevails. More than half of the workers belonging to this community obtained at least a senior secondary school leaving certificate (51%), this value being approx. 11% higher than for the non-EU population as a whole). However, the number of holders of a higher education certificate is lower than the mean (6.3% vs 11.4%).

The quotient of **IVS (disability, old-age and survivors') pensions** granted to non-EU citizens has always been rather small. In 2019, this quotient stood at 0.5% of the total (out of almost 14 million pensions, 65,926 regard non-EU citizens). Non-EU citizens receive old-age pensions (in 43% of such cases), followed by survivors' pensions (37.4%); 19.8% benefit from IVS pensions. In the Ecuadorian community, the distribution of the various typologies of social security provisions is significantly different, with a prevalence of survivor's pensions (53.6%), followed by old-age pensions (approx. 27.6%), and disability pensions (18.8%). Overall, with its 955 IVS pensions, the Ecuadorian community accounts for 1.5% of the

total for non-EU citizens who are granted such benefits, peaking (2.2%) with survivor's pensions, the quotient being particularly high within this community. Between 2018 and 2019, the number of IVS pensions provided to Ecuadorians increased less than was noted among non-EU citizens as a whole: +8.9% vs +12.3%. The Ecuadorians benefiting from old-age and survivors pensions rose by approx. 11.5% (vs the 17.1% and +10.1% rise noted in the non-EU population as a whole).

1,712 **social assistance pensions** were provided to members of the Ecuadorian community in 2019 (1.7% of those provided to migrants of non-EU origin). In 37% of the cases, the benefits took the form of constant attendance supplements; 35.6%, attendance allowances; and 27.1% pensions and social benefits. Also, among Ecuadorian citizens, the number of those benefiting from social assistance pensions is rising (+8.4% vs the previous year): +10.2% for pensions and social benefits, 7.4% for constant attendance supplements and approx. +8% for civilian invalidity.

With reference to **monetary transfers to families**, in 2019 a total of 304,465 women received maternity benefits, 9.1% of whom were non-EU citizens (27,714) (7.6% less than the year before). During the same period, the beneficiaries of **maternity** allowances with Ecuadorian citizenship **totalled 924**, i.e., 3.3% of non-EU beneficiaries (-2.8% vs 2018). As to parental leave, in 2019 there were a total of 299,028 such beneficiaries, denoting a 10.3% decrease vs 2018, 7.2% of whom were of non-EU origin (21,564). Among non-EU citizens, the decrease in beneficiaries of parental leave was less significant vs the previous year (-4.9%). A total of 643 Ecuadorian citizens benefitted from this measure (3% of non-EU beneficiaries). For this community, there was a decrease (-3.7%) vs the previous year.

Family allowances are the family assistance measure granted to a greater number of people: 2,446,795 beneficiaries in 2019, (-13.8% vs the year before). 12.5% of beneficiaries are non-EU citizens (305,000), i.e., -13.5% vs 2018.

Within the community in question, 7,041 people benefitted from family allowances in 2019, with an incidence on non-EU citizens as a whole close to 2.3%. This value is significantly decreasing vs 2018 (-14.9%).

As to transfers made by the Ecuadorians in Italy to their country of origin, these totalled approx. **147 million euros** (2.8% of the total outgoing **remittances**). The volume of remittances vs 2018 **rose by 3.4%**.

