



THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Annual Report on the Presence of Migrants
Executive Summary



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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.

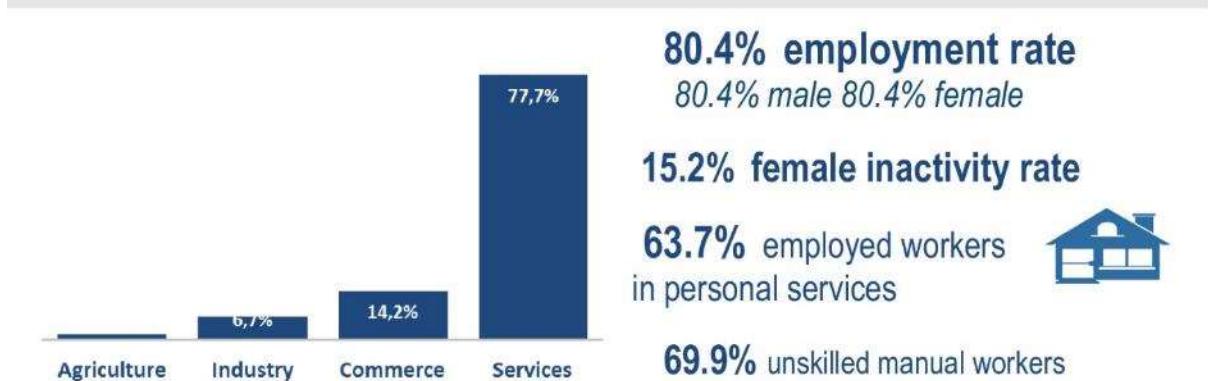
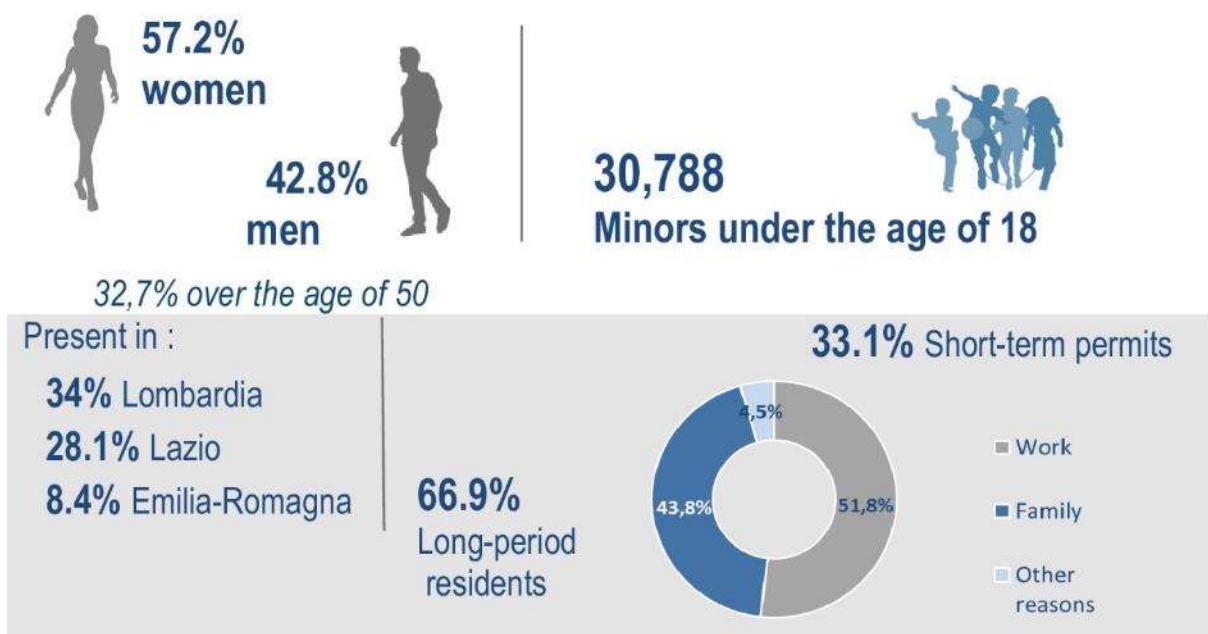
Again, this year we duly acknowledge the contributions of institutions and bodies that have provided information in their possession. These entities include the Italian National Institute of Statistics; the General statistical and actuarial coordination body of INPS (National Social Security Institute); the Ministry of Education, University and Research; the Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture; the Cespi (Centre for Politics and International Studies); 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.

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Demographic characteristics

The Filipino community, one of the first to reach Italy, has a longstanding migration history, mainly thanks to the bridges created between Italy and the Philippines, through the factor of religion. As on 1 January 2020, Filipinos made up the sixth largest community by number of legal residents: **157,664** Filipino citizens held a valid residence permit (**4.4%** of legally residing non-EU citizens in Italy as a whole).

The migratory model of the Filipino community has seen women as the trailblazers, who, having arrived in Italy, met the growing demand for labour in the sphere of home and family help services. This dynamic meant that the community would be characterized by a prevalence of females. Although gradual stabilization here has led, over the years, to a gradual rebalancing of the genders, there is still a more marked gender bias among Filipino citizens legally residing in Italy than is noted among non-EU citizens as a whole. Filipino women stand at 57.2% of citizens legally residing in Italy, as opposed to non-EU residents as a whole (among whom we note a basic equilibrium between these components, with men at 51% and women at 49%).

The Filipino community's members are older than non-EU citizens as a whole, present in Italy. The mean age of Filipino citizens is 39, vs 34 for the non-EU population as a whole. Distribution by age group shows a prevalence within the Filipino community of the more adult age brackets (approx. 1/3 of Filipino citizens are aged over 50 vs approx. 1/5 for non-EU citizens as a whole). Particularly striking is the strong presence over 60 among women in this community: 15.1% vs 12% for the non-EU population as a whole. Despite the fact that the prevalent age group within this community is that of minors, their incidence remains significantly lower than that noted for non-EU citizens as a whole (19.5% vs 22%). This datum is probably largely owing to the fact that many of the workers from this community prioritise home help and family services, which are jobs not generating satisfactory family life.

Geographic distribution of Filipino citizens sees them converge especially upon the two metropolitan cities of Rome and Milan, which alone host approx. 50% of the migrants from the Philippines. This development is related to the marked sectorization of Filipino employment, with the focus on home-helpers, for whom there is a greater demand in large urban centres. Lombardia is the main region in which the community has settled (more than 1/3 of legally residing Filipino citizens), followed by Lazio (28.1%) and Emilia Romagna (8.4%).

Analysis of residence permits also points to the gradual process of stabilisation of the Filipino community in Italy. The quotient of long-term residents in this community was 66.9% as on 1 January 2020, approx. 4% higher vs that of non-EU citizens as a whole and with an overall increase of more than 2.2% vs the previous year.

Work prevails as reason for issuance among Filipino citizens holding a permit subject to renewal, as seen in more than 1/2 of the permits subject to renewal of migrants belonging to this community (51.8%, vs 29.4% of non-EU citizens as a whole). The permits issued for family reasons, on the other hand, amount to approx. 22,815 (43.8%).

Current trends

For the first time, after years of stability in the presences, we note a significant reduction in the number of legally residing members compared to the previous year: -2.7%. The presence of non-EU citizens in Italy decreased by 101,580 units between 1 January 2019 and 1 January 2020. The reduction concerns all the main foreign communities with the exception of Indian and Bangladeshi, which record increases of 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 main opposite factors affect the trends of presences: on the one hand, the new permits issued attesting to an inflow impacting the stock of legally residing members, and, on the other, the granting of citizenship (which latter practice entail a replacement effect in the statistics as those who become Italian citizens are removed from the stock of foreign citizens).

Turning to admissions, 2019 marks a negative record with approx. 177 thousand new residence permits, 26% less vs 2018; this is the most significant reduction recorded since 2012 and the first six months of 2020 seem to

consolidate the negative trend, with a further decrease of 57.7% vs the same period of 2019¹. The reduction concerns all reasons for admissions, and it is particularly relevant for permits ascribable to the request or possession of a form of protection: -57.5%. This is a value ascribable to the sharp reduction of the so-called "unexpected flows", with a sharp decline in the number of migrants landed on the Italian coasts: 11,471 in 2019, i.e., 51% less than 2018 and 90.4% less than 2017².

The growth trend in the quotient of new permits issued for family reunification consolidates, thus reaching 56.9% of admissions in 2019 (vs approx. 51% in 2018), while the percentage 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) is slightly on the rise. On the other hand, the failure to plan entry flows for job purposes, with the exception of seasonal work, has now led to a sharp decrease in new permits issued for this reason.

Compared to 1 January 2019, we note a decrease in presences of Filipino citizens (-2.6%), mainly due to the acquisitions of citizenship, which in 2019 amounted to 2,338. In the overwhelming majority of cases, Filipino citizens became Italian following transmission from their parents, or election of citizenship (57.8%), in 36.4% of cases citizenship was acquired via a process of naturalisation, while only 5.8% of new Filipino citizens acquired citizenship following marriage with an Italian citizen. Indeed, this community is poorly involved in mixed marriages: in 2018⁴, only 182 marriages were celebrated between Filipino and Italian citizens (1.1% of mixed unions as a whole); specifically, 148 marriages between an Italian husband and a Filipino wife and 34 between an Italian wife and a Filipino husband were celebrated.

Minors and educational paths

As noted, the Filipino community is characterised by a low presence of minors: as of 1 January 2020, 30,788 Filipino minors account for 3.9% of non-EU minors in Italy. 1,488 Filipino children were born in Italy in 2018 (-7.5% vs the year before). Overall, between 2010 and 2018, over 513 thousand children with non-EU citizenship were born in Italy, of which about 15,000 (3%) having Filipino citizenship.

26,002 Filipino minors enrolled for academic year 2019/2020 in Italy (3.8% of the non-EU school population as a whole). Compared to the previous year, the students of this community decreased by 2.9%, compared to the 2.6% increase recorded on the total of non-EU students. The number of enrolments fell by about 5% in all school levels, with the exception of senior secondary school, which, as opposed to the general trend, recorded an increase in Filipino students (+1.6%). The incidence of students belonging to this community on the total of non-EU students is higher in senior secondary schools, where 5.5% of students are Filipino citizens, while it is lower in pre-school institutions (2.8%).

This community ranks third, among the main non-EU ones, for the lowest quotient of NEETs (persons aged between 15 and 29 not in employment, education or training). There are over 4,000 young NEETs of Filipino citizenship and they represent approx. 1/5 of Filipino children in this age bracket (for non-EU citizens as a whole, the quotient of NEETs stands at 33.1%).

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

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.

Work and employment

As noted above, historically speaking, Filipino migration to Italy was characterised by its female component, meeting the demand for labour in the sector of home help and care. Analysis of the sphere of employment indicates that this community still greatly converges on this area. The sector of *Other public, social and personal services* absorbs 63.7% of Filipino workers (vs 26.4% of non-EU workers as a whole). Overall, the *Tertiary sector* absorbs approx. 92% of Filipino labour. The acquisition of skills shielded these workers to a certain extent from the rigours of the recent economic crisis in Italy. On analysis of the main labour market indicators, it is noted that this community's employment conditions are decidedly more encouraging than for the non-EU population as a whole, with a higher employment rate and lower levels of inactivity and unemployment. Indeed, 80.4% of the Filipino population residing in Italy, in the 15-64 age range, are employed (vs 60.1% of the non-EU population as a whole), the unemployment rate stands at 4.9% (vs 13.9%) and the inactivity rate at 15.3% (vs 30.2% for the non-EU population as a whole).

Among the main non-EU communities, the Filipinos are second only to the Chinese for their high employment rate and low unemployment rate.

A further element contributes to such high employment indices, i.e., the high level of participation in the labour market of the community's female component. Among the main non-EU communities, the Filipinos present with the highest levels of female inclusion in the labour market and employment (80.4% vs 46.5% among non-EU communities as a whole), and the lowest rates of unemployment after the Chinese community (5% vs 16.7%) and the lowest level of inactivity (15.2% vs 43.9%).

During 2019, the employment relationships activated for Filipino citizens totalled 49,816 (+3% vs the previous year). Unlike the situation for non-EU citizens as a whole, in regard to employment relationships activated for Filipino citizens, open-ended contracts prevail (48.2% of new employment relationships activated in 2019). Approx. 46% of hirings of Filipino workers were governed by fixed term contracts. Practically all the new subordinate and para-subordinate jobs that began during 2019 for Filipino workers were in the *Services* sector (a quotient approaching 95%). This sector ranks first for non-EU citizens as a whole. However, the incidence is lower in this community (58.6%). On analysis of qualifications on the basis of which the hirings took place, the Filipinos' commitment to family care and assistance service was clearly noted. The first qualification is *unskilled home-helpers* (accounting for more than 1/3 of hirings). The hirings of Filipino citizens within this ambit account for 1/5 of the new contracts for non-EU residents.

With reference to the types of jobs, Filipinos are employed prevalently as *unskilled manual workers*, with an incidence of 70% of workers within this community compared to 36% among non-EU citizens as a whole. In descending order, Filipino workers are employed in the *Office workers, sales staff and in personal services ambit* (22%). A mere 1% of this community are *managers and professionals in intellectual and technical fields*.

Socio-economic conditions

While home help and care provision jobs shielded these workers from the consequences of the economic crisis, earnings suffered a setback. The data concerning home helpers – prevalent among employees in this community – indicated **monthly salaries** that were lower than those of employees (both within this community and vs non-EU workers as a whole, monthly wages for home helpers on average amounted to nearly half of those earned by employees). However, in regard to Filipino home helpers, it is noted that their pay as higher than that of non-EU workers as a whole: 670 euros vs 641. Conversely, within the ambit of jobs for employees, Filipino workers earned 54 euros less than non-EU workers as a whole. 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 339 euros. However, female Filipino home-helpers earn 45 euros more than their male Filipino colleagues.

Among employed Filipino citizens in Italy, a medium-high level of education prevails. More than half of the workers belonging to this community received at least a diploma (50.8%, a value higher than that for non-EU citizens as a whole). The quotient of diploma holders is notable (39.2% vs 27.8% among non-EU citizens as a whole, i.e., 40.4%). The number of degree-holders is closer to the non-EU mean: 14.5% vs 11.4% of non-EU population as a whole. Educationally, within this community women are more highly qualified than men, with 15.9% of female employees as holders of a higher education certificate vs 12.8% among the men.

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% are granted disability pensions. In the Filipino community, old-age pensions prevail, with an incidence of 65.8%. This value is probably to be related to a high incidence of older age groups. Indeed, Filipinos account for approx. 12% of the old-age pensions granted to non-EU individuals. The incidence of survivors 'pensions follows (22.2%); and disability pensions stand at approx. 12%. Overall, with its 5,118 IVS pensions, the Filipino community accounts for 7.8% of non-EU citizens granted such benefits.

3,765 **social assistance pensions** were granted in 2019 to Filipinos (3.7% of those granted to non-EU migrants). 46.2% were social benefits; 29% were attendance allowances; and approx. 1/4 constant attendance supplements.

With reference to **monetary transfers to families** (maternity benefits, parental leave and family allowances provided by INPS), a total of 304,465 women received maternity benefits, 9.1% of whom were non-EU citizens (27,714) (3.1% less than the year before). During the same period, the beneficiaries of maternity allowances with Filipino citizenship totalled 1,525, i.e., 5.5% of non-EU female beneficiaries. Among the Filipinos, the beneficiaries of maternity allowances fell in number by 9% 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). 601 Filipino citizens benefited from this measure in 2019 (2.6% of non-EU beneficiaries). For this community a 7.4% decrease is noted vs the previous year (vs -4.9% of non-EU countries as a whole). The benefit that is most frequently received consists in family allowances. During 2019, as many as 2,446,795 beneficiaries were granted family allowances (a value down by 13.8% vs the year before). 12.5% of the beneficiaries were non-EU citizens (approx. 305,000) denoting a 13.5% decrease vs 2018. Within this community, there were 9,537 members granted family allowances in 2019 (3.1% of non-EU beneficiaries), with a 16.1% decrease in numbers vs 2018.

As to transfers made by the Filipinos in Italy to their country of origin, the Philippines rank **second as nation of destination of remittances** sent from Italy in 2019 (approx. 413 million euros), accounting for 8% of the total outgoing remittances (-25.8 million vs 2018).



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