



THE NIGERIAN 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 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.

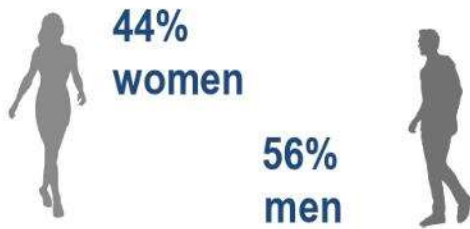
The full series of *Rapporti Comunità* (community reports), editions 2012 - 2020, can be accessed – in Italian and in the main foreign languages – in the section “Studi e statistiche” (Studies and Statistics) on the institutional website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy – www.lavoro.gov.it 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



97,939
Legally residing Nigerian citizens
Ranking fourteenth for number of presences
-8.3% of Nigerian presences compared to 2019



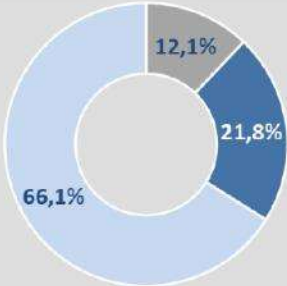
Il 53.1% under the age of 30



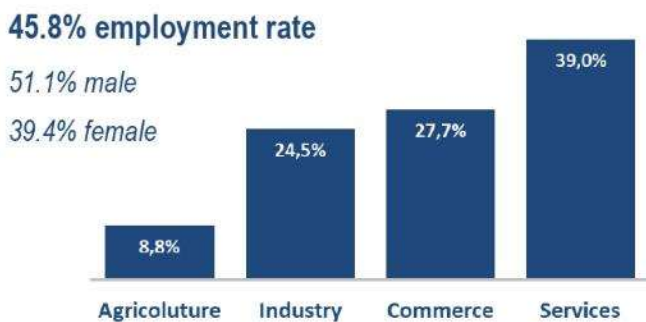
24,083
Minors under the age of 18
24.6% of total no. of Nigerians in Italy

present in:
 Veneto **14.9%**
 Lombardia **14%**
 Emilia-Romagna **13.3%**


62% permits subject to renewal for asylum
38.5% long-term permits



- Work 12,1%
- Family 21,8%
- Other reasons 66,1%



4,676 training for Nigerians
Ranking first for no. of training
13.7% of total non-UE training



Ranking ninth for number of sole proprietorships (4.2%)
16,097 sole proprietors (+12.2%)
39.6% Nigerian female sole proprietors

70.4% sole proprietors in the Commerce and Transport sector

Demographic characteristics

97,939 Nigerian citizens are holders of a residence permit valid as on **1 January 2020**, accounting for 2.7% of the non-EU citizens in Italy. Two years later, the Nigerian community ranks fourteenth for number of legally residing members, following a significant drop in presences vs the year before (-8.3%, the most relevant decrease among the 16 communities being analysed).

Various indicators underscore a low level of stabilisation of Nigerians in Italy. Socio-demographically speaking, we note:

- a **gender imbalance, with men predominating** (men make up 56% of this community). The figure for women (44%) is lower than that for non-EU migrants as a whole (49%);
- a **mean age of 28**, the lowest among the 16 communities considered, 6 years less than the non-community average (34 years).

As regards territorial distribution, the Nigerian community in Italy favours the South (19.4% vs 14.4% for non-EU citizens), especially Campania and Puglia. The presence in the North is 4.5% lower than the total of non-EU citizens in Italy (57% vs 61.5%). However, the first three regions in terms of number of Nigerian presences are Northern: **Veneto**, hosting approx. 15% of Nigerians in Italy - vs 10% of non-EU citizens as a whole - **Lombardia**, with a slightly lower percentage (14 %), and then **Emilia-Romagna**, with 13.3% of the presences. As regards Central Italy, where 23.6% of Nigerians and 24% of non-EU citizens considered as a whole reside, we note a slightly lower presence in **Lazio** (10.8% vs 11.3%) and a higher presence in **Marche** (3.8% vs 2.8%).

The uncertain process of stabilisation of this community in Italy is proven by analysis of residence permits: the quotient of long-term residents (holders of residence permits not subject to renewal) stands at 38.5% of Nigerian citizens, as on 1 January 2020 (vs 63.1% of non-EU citizens as a whole). Regarding short-term permits, those issued due to **asylum/subsidiary protection, asylum application and humanitarian reasons** prevail and involve even 62% of the permits subject to renewal of migrants belonging to this community (vs 16.2% of non-EU citizens as a whole, i.e., over 45% more). On the other hand, permits for family reasons account for 22% of the total, while permits for work reasons are just over 12%.

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.

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

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

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 permits 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.

The Nigerian community, with **5,211 new residence permits**, largely motivated by a form of international protection, asylum application and humanitarian reasons (just under 50%), accounts for 2.9% of the total number of new admissions of non-EU citizens. In line with the trend regarding presences analysed before, we note a significant decrease in new admissions of Nigerian citizens vs the year before (-66.4%).

The Nigerian diaspora in Italy is affected by mixed marriages: in 2018³, 266 marriages between Nigerian and Italian citizens were celebrated (32.2% of the 825 marriages where at least one spouse was of Nigerian nationality): 150 concerned an Italian husband and a Nigerian wife, 116 a Nigerian husband and an Italian wife.

Minors and educational paths

As on 1 January 2020, there are **24,083 Nigerian minors**, i.e., 3% of the total number of non-EU minors. 2,599 Nigerian children were born in Italy in 2018 (approx. 5% of non-EU children born in the same year). Overall, between 2010 and 2018, over 18,000 Nigerian children were born in Italy.

Turning to the admission of Nigerian minors to the Italian schooling circuit, 17,222 Nigerian students enrolled in the 2019/2020 academic year (2.5% of the non-EU school population in Italy). Compared to the previous year, the students belonging to this community increased slightly more than the overall non-EU school population as a whole (+5.5% vs +2.6%), an increase mainly recorded in secondary schools: +13.7% in the junior secondary school and +6.8% in senior secondary schools. The incidence of Nigerian students on the total of non-EU students is highest in preschool institutions, where 3.7% of students are Nigerian citizens. In the context of university, we note 602 Nigerian students (approx. 2% more than the year before), i.e., a mere 0.8% of non-EU students as a whole.

Within this community, the quotient of persons aged between 15 and 29 not in employment, education or training (**NEETs**) is higher than the non-EU mean: young people of Nigerian citizenship who are in this condition are 8,340 (approx. 47.3% of young Nigerians in this age bracket). This quotient rises to 54.7% for the female component of the population.

Work and employment

Members of the Nigerian community in Italy are mainly employed in the sector of *Transport and Business Services, Industry and Commerce*, where they mostly carry out unskilled manual labour. The community is highly involved in the *Transport and business services sector* (24%), which is a marginal employment sector for non-EU workers as a whole (13%). On the other hand, *Commerce and Catering* are the main sector of employment for the workers of this community, with 28% of Nigerian employees vs 24% of non-EU employees as a whole. Then we have *Industry*, with 24% of Nigerian employees vs 13% for non-EU citizens as a whole. 15% of Nigerian workers are employed in the *Public, social and personal services* (vs 30% of non-EU workers), while 9% in the agricultural sector.

On analysis of the available labour market data, the employment conditions of the Nigerian community in Italy are worse than those of non-EU workers as a whole: the employment rate stands at 45.8% vs 60.1% recorded for non-EU citizens as a whole, while the inactivity rate among Nigerian citizens stands at 33.1% (vs 30.2% for non-EU workers as a whole). The unemployment rate stands at 31.6%, almost 18% higher vs the non-EU population as a whole (13.8%). The high number of Nigerian unemployed men and women, together with the low incidence of employed within the male population of the community (51.1% vs 74% of non-EU workers as a whole), contribute to an overall index that is lower than the average recorded for non-EU citizens.

In the Nigerian community, we note only 419 beneficiaries of **wage subsidies**, predominantly men (87.1%). They mainly benefit from CIGO (ordinary redundancy fund) payments (352), while 67 benefit from CIGS (extraordinary

³ Latest reference year.

redundancy fund). Beneficiaries of wage subsidies of Nigerian citizenship account for 0.8% of non-EU beneficiaries as a whole. 1.5% of non-EU unemployment benefit beneficiaries are Nigerian: 7,150 benefit from NASPI (*Nuova Prestazione di assicurazione sociale per l'impiego*, a social employment insurance scheme) payments and 980 from agricultural unemployment benefits. Men are the prevailing gender among the beneficiaries of any type of benefit, although the gender gap is narrowing for Naspi.

54,228 Nigerian citizens were engaged in **new employment relationships** in 2019 (3.4% of the new employment relationships of non-EU citizens as a whole). Indicating a lower involvement of women of this in the labour market, the data of the *Comunicazioni Obbligatorie* (mandatory notices) reveal that 1/4 of new employment relationships activated with Nigerian citizens concern the female component of the community, a quotient lower than that recorded for non-EU citizens as a whole (31.3%). About ½ of the new subordinate and para-subordinate jobs started during 2019 involving Nigerian workers were in the Services sector, followed by agriculture with just under 40%. However, gender analysis shows that the incidence of contracts activated in 2019 in this sector stands at approx. 77% for Nigerian women. As regards the male component of the community, we note that men are mainly employed in the *Agriculture* (45.7%).

Unskilled manual labour prevails among Nigerian employees (42% of Nigerian workers vs 36% of non-EU workers as a whole). Skilled manual labour employs 28% of Nigerian workers, a value in line with that of non-EU workers. 1/4 of Nigerian employees are engaged in *sales and personal services*, while the incidence of *managers and professionals in the intellectual and technical fields* stands at 4%.

In terms of presences, it is relevant to note the leading role of this community in the world of entrepreneurship. With **16,097 sole proprietors**, it ranks eighth for the number of enterprises. Confirming the high specialisation of the community, the sector of greatest investment for Nigerian sole proprietors is *Commerce and Transport*, in which 70.4% of Nigerian-owned sole proprietors operate.

Socio-economic conditions

The lack of specialised skills of Nigerian workers clearly affects their income: data show that Nigerian employees receive **monthly salaries** on average 350 euros lower than non-EU workers (840 euros vs 1,191 euros). In the case of agricultural workers, the mean salary of Nigerians is almost half of that paid to non-EU agricultural workers as a whole.

Among the Nigerian citizens employed in Italy, a medium-low **level of education** prevails: about 70% of Nigerian workers hold, best case scenario, primary school leaving certificate (approx. +10% vs non-EU population as a whole); approx. 20.3% hold a secondary school leaving certificate, while 10.4% hold a higher education certificate (vs 11.4% of non-EU citizens as a whole). Nigerian women show higher levels of education than men: 13.5% of employed women hold a degree, a value higher than that recorded for non-EU female population as a whole (8.2%).

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. As to the Nigerian community, the number of migrants benefiting from IVS pensions is so low that the total has been recorded in aggregated form in the INPS archives.

Social assistance measures provided by INPS to citizens belonging to the Nigerian community in 2019 totalled 1,524 (1.5% of those intended for non-EU migrants). In 53.7% of cases these are constant attendance or similar supplements, approx. 47% are attendance allowances, while the remaining 2.8% relate to pensions and social benefits.

However, the beneficiaries of social benefits have grown since 2018 (+13.5%), as well as constant attendance allowances (+6.1%) and attendance allowances (+4.6%). Overall, Nigerian beneficiaries of old-age pensions grew by 5.6%.

As to **monetary transfers to families** (maternity benefits, parental leave and family allowances provided by INPS), in 2019 there were 304,465 beneficiaries of maternity benefits, 9.1% of which of non-EU citizenship: 27,714, i.e., 3.1% less vs the year before. The Nigerian beneficiaries of maternity benefits in the same period were 677 (2.4% of the non-EU beneficiaries). In the case of the Nigerian community, the number of beneficiaries of maternity benefits

decreased by 3.7% vs 2018. The number of beneficiaries of parental leave also decreased: in 2019 they were a total of 299,028 (-10.3% vs 2018), 7.2% of which of non-EU origin (21,564). 580 Nigerian citizens benefited from this measure in 2019 (2.7% of non-EU citizens as a whole). In this community we note a similar decrease vs the previous year (-4.1%). A greater number of people benefit from family allowances: in 2019 there were 2,446,795 beneficiaries, -13.8% vs the year before. 12.5% of beneficiaries are non-EU citizens (305,000, i.e., -13.5% vs 2018). Within the Nigerian community, 5,437 persons benefited from family allowances in 2019, with a reduced incidence on the total of non-EU citizens (1.8%). Even for the Nigerian community their number has decreased, to a similar extent vs 2018 (-13.8%).

As to transfers made by the Nigerians in Italy to their country of origin, Nigeria ranks fifteenth as nation of destination of **remittances** sent from Italy in 2019 (approx. 105 million euros), accounting for 2% of the total outgoing remittances (+42.4% vs 2018).

