



# THE PAKISTANI 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 immigration and integration policies directorate) 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](http://www.lavoro.gov.it) and on the institutional portal [www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it](http://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it). This 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



**131,173**  
**Legally residing Pakistani citizens**  
*Ranking ninth for number of presences*

**2,722 cases of acquisition of citizenship in 2019 (2.4%)**



**29.3%**  
**women**

**70.7%**  
**men**

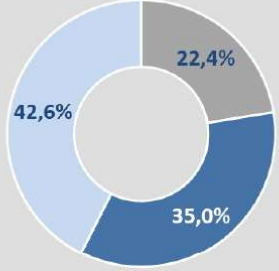
*47.1% under the age of 30*



**30,641**  
**under the age of 18**  
*455 unaccompanied minors*

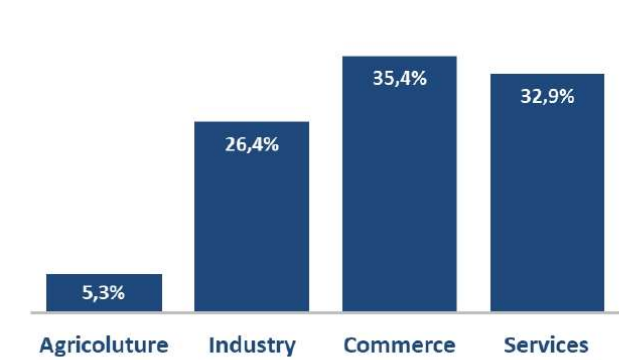
present in:  
**32.8%** Lombardia  
**17%** Emilia-Romagna  
**7.4%** Toscana

**50.1%**  
**Long-term resident**



**49.9%** short-term permits


- Work (22.4%)
- Family (35.0%)
- Other reasons (42.6%)



**52.5% employment rate**  
*74.5% male 7.3% female*


**89.4% female inactivity rate**

**25.1%** employed  
 In manufactory sector



**50.4%** unskilled manual workers

**Ranking seventh for number of sole proprietorships (4.8%)**



**18,264 sole proprietors (+5.9%)**

**55.6%** sole proprietorships in the **Commerce and Transport** sector

## Demographic characteristics

**131,173 Pakistani citizens** reside in Italy as on **1 January 2020**, accounting for 3.6% of the legally residing non-EU citizens. The Pakistanis now rank ninth, in terms of number of legally residing citizens in Italy.

On analysis of the main demographic characteristics of the Pakistani community in Italy as at 1 January 2020, we note:

- a marked **gender imbalance**, with men predominating, accounting for 70.7% of the members of this community (the female component standing at 29.3%);
- **a mean age** value that is lower than that noted for non-EU citizens as a whole (**29.8**, vs 34.2 for the non-EU population as a whole).

As to territorial distribution, 68% of Pakistani citizens reside in Northern Italy (+6.5% vs non-EU citizens in Italy as a whole). Two of the first three regions for regularly residing Pakistani citizens are Northern: **Lombardia**, hosting just under 1/3 of Pakistani residents (vs approx. 26% of non-EU citizens as a whole), followed by **Emilia Romagna**, where 17% of the community resides (for the total of citizens from non-EU countries the incidence drops to 11.2%). **Toscana** ranks third for number of resident Pakistanis, hosting approx. 7.4% of the community (vs. 8.4% of non-EU presences in Italy as a whole). Although 13.4% of this community resides in the South (a value slightly lower than the total of non-EU citizens legally residing in Italy), a relevant quotient of Pakistanis reside in **Campania** (approx. 5% of the community).

The analysis of residence permits shows that the stabilisation process of the community still appears weak due to its younger migration history: as of 1 January 2020, the quotient of long-term residents (holders of residence permits not subject to renewal) among Pakistani citizens amounts to 50.1% vs 63.1% of non-EU citizens as a whole. Among short-term permits, **asylum/subsidiary protection, asylum applications and humanitarian reasons** prevail, involving 40.4% of the permits subject to renewal of migrants belonging to this community (vs 16.2% of non-EU citizens). On the other hand, permits granted for family reasons account for 35% of the total, while permits for work reasons account for 22.4%.

## Current trends

For the first time, after years of stable number of presences, a sharp decrease (-2,7%) can be noted in the number of legal residents compared to the previous year. Indeed, the presence of non-EU citizens in Italy decreased by 101,580 units between 1 January 2019 and 1 January 2020. Such decrease concerns all the main foreign communities except for Indian and Bangladeshi communities which increased by 1.7% and 1.8% respectively. The most significant reductions can be noted in the Nigerian community (-8.2%), which went from ranking eleventh to ranking 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 2019<sup>1</sup>. 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 2017<sup>2</sup>.

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

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

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.libertacivilimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto\\_statistico\\_giornaliero\\_31-12-2019.pdf](http://www.libertacivilimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_31-12-2019.pdf)

protection decreases: 15.6% of new permits<sup>3</sup> 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.

With 11,204 new residence permits, largely motivated by international protection, asylum applications and humanitarian reasons (52.3%), the Pakistani community accounts for 6.3% of the total new admissions of non-EU citizens. Like most communities, the presence of Pakistani community is also slightly down compared to 1 January 2019. This reduction is also ascribable to citizenship acquisitions, which entail a replacement effect in the statistics (those who become Italian citizens are removed from the stock of foreign citizens). The Pakistani community ranks seventh for the number of citizenship permits granted: out of a total of 113,979 permits granted to non-EU migrants in 2019, 2,722 permits were granted to migrants born in Pakistan (2% of the total). In the vast majority of cases (approx. 54.3%) the acquisitions of citizenship by Pakistani citizens are linked to transmission from parents or elective acquisition at the age of 18.

### Minors and educational paths

As on 1 January 2020, **there are 30,641 Pakistani minors** (3.6% of non-EU minors as a whole). Among these, 2,169 were born in Italy in 2018 (4.3% of non-EU children born in the same year). Overall, between 2010 and 2018, almost 20,000 Pakistani children were born in Italy.

22,075 Pakistani students enrolled for academic year 2019/2020 (3.2% of the non-EU school population in Italy as a whole). Compared to the previous year, Pakistani students increased slightly more than the overall non-EU school population (+3.5% vs +2.6%), an increase mainly concentrated in preschool institutions (approx. +7%) and in junior secondary schools (+ 6.6%). The incidence of Pakistani students on the total of non-EU students is higher in primary schools, where 3.6% of students are Pakistani. There are 1,523 Pakistani university students, +17.7% vs the previous year (2% of non-EU students as a whole).

The quotient of Pakistani **NEETs** (i.e., persons aged between 15 and 29 not in education, employment or training) is higher than the non-EU mean value: young Pakistani NEETs are 8,139 (approx. 41.6% of young Pakistanis in this age bracket), a quotient which rises to 61.2% for the female component of the population (vs 28% for males).

### Work and employment

The Pakistani community in Italy is characterised by a strong **presence of the male component**, mainly employed in the commercial and *industrial* sectors. The gender polarisation of this community is also described in the analysis of the job market, which clearly identifies a strong channelling of Pakistani workers (especially men) towards *Commerce and Catering*. Pakistani citizens are more employed in this field vs non-EU citizens as a whole (35% vs 24%). More than 1/4 of Pakistani workers are employed in the industrial sector (vs 27% of non-EU workers).

The low incidence of employed within the Pakistani female population contributes to an overall employment index lower than that recorded for all non-EU citizens. It also negatively affects the unemployment and inactivity rate of the community. Employment rate stands at 52.5% vs 60.1% for non-EU citizens as a whole, the inactivity rate is higher than the mean value (by more than 8%) and stands at 38.2% among Pakistani citizens. Finally, the unemployment rate stands at 14.5% (vs 13.8% for the non-EU population as a whole). The very low incidence of women employed in the female population (a mere 7.3%, i.e., almost -40% vs non-EU women as a whole) contributes, together with the high inactivity rate (89.4%), to an overall index lower than the mean value recorded for non-EU citizens as a whole.

Among Pakistani citizens, there are only 994 beneficiaries of **wage subsidies**, predominantly men (99.7%). They are mainly (873) granted CIGO (ordinary redundancy fund) payments; the remaining 121 benefit from CIGS (extraordinary redundancy fund) payments. Pakistani citizens granted wage subsidies account for 1.8% of non-EU beneficiaries as a whole. 2.6% of non-EU **unemployment benefit** beneficiaries are Pakistani: 12,358 beneficiaries

<sup>3</sup> 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".

who mainly receive NASPI (*Nuova Prestazione di assicurazione sociale per l'impiego*, a social employment insurance scheme) and agricultural unemployment benefits (1,908 beneficiaries). Men prevail as a gender among the beneficiaries of any type of benefit.

In 2019, **76,771 new employment relationships** were activated for citizens of Pakistani origin, +12.8% vs the previous year. Indicating that women from this community are drawn to the labour market to a decidedly lesser extent than men, the data provided by the *Comunicazioni Obbligatorie* (mandatory notices) reveal that only 2.1% of Pakistani citizens recruited are women (vs 31.3% for non-EU citizens as a whole). ½ of the new subordinate and para-subordinate jobs that began during 2018 for Pakistani workers were in the Services sector. However, an analysis by gender shows that the incidence of contracts activated in 2019 in this sector stands at approx. 80% for Pakistani women.

We note a strong prevalence of *unskilled manual workers* among Pakistani employees, which involves half of the workers of this community vs 36% of non-EU workers considered as a whole. Numerically speaking, we then find the quotient of members of the community engaged in skilled manual labour (27%), a value slightly lower than that found among non-EU workers as a whole (28%). About 1/5 of Pakistani employees are engaged in *offices, sale and personal services*, while the incidence of *managers and professionals in the intellectual and technical fields* stands at 4%.

This community plays a leading role in the world of entrepreneurship. With **18,264 sole proprietors**, this community ranks seventh for the number of enterprises. Confirming the high specialisation of the Pakistani community, most investments regard the sector of *Commerce and Transport*, where 55.6% of Pakistani-owned **sole proprietorships** operate.

## Socio-economic conditions

Analysis of salary levels of non-EU employees reveals that Pakistani workers generally earn less than the members of the other groups analysed. The lack of specialisation is likely to negatively affect their income: the data show that the employees of the community receive **monthly salaries** lower than those granted to non-EU workers of more than 150 euros: 1,037 vs 1,191. In the case of agricultural workers, the negative gap exceeds 200 euros.

Among employed Pakistani citizens in Italy, a medium-low **level of education** prevails: approx. 70% of workers belonging to this community hold, best case scenario, a primary school leaving certificate, a value more than 10% higher than that recorded for non-EU population as a whole; about 22% hold a secondary school leaving certificate, while only 8.2% hold a higher education certificate (vs 11.4% recorded for non-EU citizens as a whole). Level of education among women belonging to this community is generally lower than men in primary and secondary education, but it is higher in university education: 25% of employed women hold a degree vs 7.4% of 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 linked to disability. As to the Pakistani community, the number of migrants benefiting from IVS pensions is so low that the total has not been recorded in disaggregated form in the INPS archives and therefore a specific analysis cannot be provided.

1,737 **social assistance measures** were provided by INPS to citizens belonging to the Pakistani community in 2019 (approx. 1.7% of those intended for non-EU migrants). In 48% of the cases these were constant attendance and similar supplements, about 40% were attendance allowances, while 13% were pensions and social benefits.

Among Pakistani citizens, the beneficiaries of social assistance pensions increased (+ 5.8% vs the previous year), +7.6% in the case of pensions and social benefits, +7% for attendance allowances and 4.4% in the case of constant attendance and similar supplements.

As to **monetary transfers to families** (maternity benefits, parental leave and family allowances provided by INPS), in 2019 a total of 304,465 women received maternity benefits, 9.1% of whom were non-EU citizens (27,714) (-3.1% vs the year before). During the same period, the beneficiaries of maternity allowances with Pakistani citizenship were so few that the total has been recorded in disaggregated form in the INPS archives. Parental leave figures decreased as well. 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). A total of 786 Pakistani citizens benefited from this measure (3.4% of non-EU beneficiaries), denoting a 9.6% rise vs the previous year. The benefit that is most frequently received consists in family allowances. During 2019, as many as 2,446,795 beneficiaries were granted family allowances (-13% 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 10,103 members benefiting from family allowances in 2019 (3.3% of non-EU beneficiaries), with a decrease in numbers vs 2018 of 11.8%.

As to transfers made by the Pakistanis in Italy to their country of origin, over 408 million euros were sent to Pakistan in 2019 (approx. 8% of the total remittances sent to non-EU countries). Pakistan ranks third in terms of remittances sent from Italy, after Bangladesh and the Philippines. Compared to 2018, there was a 15.2% increase in remittances sent to Pakistan.



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