

# THE PERUVIAN 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](http://www.lavoro.gov.it) and on the institutional portal [www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it](http://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.

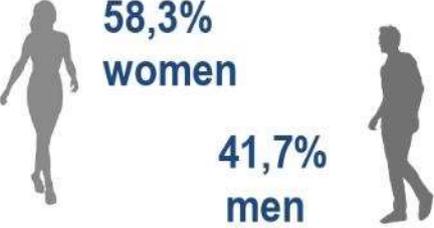
Within the ambit of the projects, *Assistenza tecnica per il Supporto alla governance integrata delle politiche migratorie tra lavoro e integrazione sociale* (PR.Au.D. - *Protezione, Autonomia, Dignità dal lavoro*) and *Supporto nelle politiche per l'immigrazione e di cooperazione bilaterale con i Paesi 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



**90.570**  
legally residing Peruvian citizens  
*Ranking fifteenth for number of presences*

**113.979** “new Italians” in 2019 (2.4% are Peruvian)



**58,3%**  
women

**41,7%**  
men

*49.5% are aged over 40*

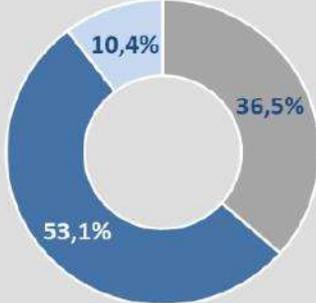


**17.346**  
minors under the age of 18

Present in:

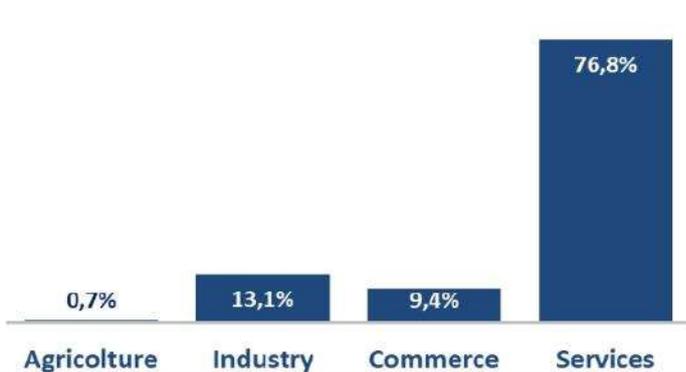
- 43,8%** Lombardia
- 16,3%** Lazio
- 12,2%** Piemonte

**68,8%**  
long-term residents



**31,2%** short-term permits

- Work
- Family
- Other reasons



**70,7% employment rate**  
*76,6 % male 66,3% female*

**23,8% female inactivity rate**

**46,6% employed in personal services** 



**Ranking eighth for volume of remittances**  
*4,2% of the total*

**219 million euros (+3,3%)**

## Demographic characteristics

**90,570 Peruvian** holders of a valid residence permit reside in Italy as on **1 January 2020**, accounting for 2.5% of the non-EU citizens in Italy.

The Peruvian community, ranking fifteenth for numbers of legally residing members, is one of the most settled foreign communities in Italy, thanks also to its long history of migration to Italy.

On analysing the main demographic characteristics of Peruvian migrants legally residing in Italy as at 1 January 2020, we note:

- a **gender imbalance, with women predominating** (the quotient is almost 10% higher than that noted among non-EU citizens as a whole: 58.3% vs 48.5%); this gap sets this community apart from the main communities in Italy, placing it third in the ranking as regards incidence of females. This attests to a migratory model –typical of this community – of a woman seeking to attain an adequately stable economic and social situation before applying for family reunification permits;
- a **very high mean age (37)** vs non-EU migrants as a whole (34) and a prevalence of older adult age groups. Indeed, Peruvian citizens who are over 30 make up 66.6% of the community, i.e., a level more than 6% higher than that for non-EU citizens as a whole (60.3%).

In regard to geographical distribution, 67% of Peruvian citizens reside in Northern Italy, where we find two of the first three regions for number of Peruvian citizens: **Lombardia** (hosting approx. 44% of the Peruvians in Italy, this quotient being almost 20% higher than for the non-EU communities as a whole) and **Piemonte** (ranking third for number of Peruvian citizens) where 12.2% of the community resides (for the total of non-EU citizens the incidence drops to 7%) The region ranking second is **Lazio** (16.3% vs 11.2% of non-EU citizens as a whole). This community is characterised by a marked presence in **Toscana** region, where 10.5% of the Peruvian citizens received or renewed their residence permits vs 8.4% of non-EU migrants as a whole. Another characteristic of this community is its poor presence in Southern Italy, hosting barely 1.8% of the members of this community (vs 14.4% of non-EU citizens as a whole).

Analysis of residence permits attests to marked progress in the process of settlement of this community: the quotient of long-term residents (holders of residence permits not subject to renewal) among Peruvian citizens stood at 68.8% as on 1 January 2020 (vs 63.1% of non-EU citizens as a whole). Among short-term permits, the prevailing reason for issuance is **family reunification** (for more than ½ of the term permits issued to migrants from this community: 53.1%, vs 46.7% of non-EU citizens as a whole). Work permits account for 36.5% of the total.

## 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

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

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 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.

The Peruvian community with 3,977 new residence permits, largely motivated by family reunification (55.6%), ranks eleventh for number of admissions. However, there was an increase in Peruvian presences compared to the previous year (+4.6%).

As regards acquisition of citizenship, out of a total of 113,979 citizenships granted to non-EU citizens in 2019, those granted to Peruvian migrants were 2,685 (2.4% of the total). The main reason for acquisition of citizenship is naturalisation (in 54.1% of the cases).

The degree of settlement of the Peruvian community in Italy is also evident in the numbers of marriages with Italian citizens. In 2018<sup>4</sup>, 504 mixed marriages were celebrated between Peruvian and Italian citizens (61.5% of the 819 marriages in which at least one spouse was of Peruvian nationality: 394 involve an Italian husband and a Peruvian wife, 315 a Peruvian citizen and a foreign citizen and 110 an Italian wife and a Peruvian husband).

## Minors and educational paths

**17,346 Peruvian minors** reside in Italy (2.2% of non-EU minors as a whole) as on 1 January 2020. 950 Peruvian children were born in Italy in 2018 (approx. 2% of non-EU children born in the same year). Overall, between 2010 and 2018, almost 11,000 Peruvian children were born in Italy.

20,546 Peruvian students enrolled for academic year 2019/2020 (3% of the non-EU schooling population as a whole). The students from this community increased in number by 5.8% compared to previous year, with a growth rate that is way higher than that noted for non-EU students as a whole (+2.6%). The number of enrolling Peruvians increase above all in preschool institutions (+8.8%) and junior secondary schools (+6.4%). The incidence of students belonging to this community vs non-EU students as a whole is highest in senior secondary schools, in which 4% of the enrolling students are Peruvian. Peruvian nationals enrolling to attend university courses in Italy totalled 2,422 (+6% vs the previous year, i.e., 3.2% of non-EU university students).

Among the main non-EU communities, the Peruvian community shows a good performance in terms of absolute number of **NEETs** (young people between 15 and 29 not engaged in education, employment or Training). There are 3,433 young people of Peruvian citizenship in this condition (approx. 16% of Peruvian young people in this age bracket), a rate that drops to 8.4% for the male component of the population (vs 23% for females).

## Work and employment

The Peruvian community in Italy is characterised by its high **quotient of females** (above all, women who arrived in Italy in order to cover structural deficiency in numbers of workers in the sector of **services to families** and households). The gender imbalance characterising this community is therefore also attested to by analysis of employment as a whole, which clearly indicates that Peruvian workers (men and women) are oriented toward the sector of *Public, Social and Personal Services* (including both employment in the *public administration, education and health care and in Other public, social and personal services*), which employs 60% of the workers from this

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

<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".

<sup>4</sup> Latest reference year.

community. For Peruvian citizens, the incidence of employment in *Other public, social and personal services* stands at 46.6% vs 30% of non-EU citizens as a whole.

Analysis of the available labour market data indicates that conditions of employment of the Peruvian community in Italy are more encouraging than those for the non-EU population as a whole. The **employment rate** stands at **70.7%** vs 60.1% of non-EU citizens as a whole. The **inactivity** rate is lower than the average (by more than 10%) and stands at 20.6%. Finally, the **unemployment rate** stands at 11% (vs 13.8% for non-EU population as a whole). The high incidence of female employees, 66.3% (approx. +20% vs non-EU women), contributes to an overall index higher than the mean value recorded for non-EU women.

Only 657 members of the Peruvian community benefit from **wage supplements** (approx. 92% are men). The beneficiaries are mainly granted CIGO (ordinary redundancy fund) payments (579), while 78 benefit from CIGS (extraordinary redundancy fund) payments. Peruvian beneficiaries of wage supplements represent 1.2% of the total of beneficiaries of non-European citizenship. Peruvians make up 2.7% of non-EU citizens receiving **unemployment benefits**, 12,479 beneficiaries prevalently granted NASPI (*Nuova Prestazione di assicurazione sociale per l'impiego* – a social employment insurance scheme) payments. In terms of gender, women prevail among Peruvian beneficiaries of unemployment benefits, although men prevail among the beneficiaries wage supplements.

**37,485 Peruvian citizens were hired** in 2019 (+11.2% vs the year before). Indicating that women from this community are drawn to the labour market to a greater extent than men, the data provided by the *Comunicazioni Obbligatorie* (mandatory notices) reveal that 56% of placements of Peruvian citizens regarded the female component of this community (more than +20% vs non-EU citizen as a whole, standing at 31.3%). Most of the new subordinate and para-subordinate jobs that began during 2019 for Peruvian workers were decidedly in the *Services* sector (93.7%). However, a gender analysis shows that the incidence of contracts activated in 2019 in this sector reaches 98.1% for Peruvian women, vs approx. 88% for men in the community.

In regard to typologies of work, 41% of Peruvian workers are *unskilled manual workers* (vs 41% of non-EU citizens as a whole) and 36% are workers in the sector of *office workers, sales staff or personal services*: these typologies of work both present with incidences that are higher than those noted among workers from non-EU countries as a whole (30%). 15% of the Peruvian employed are skilled manual workers, while a remaining quotient of 7% of employed Peruvians are *managers or professionals in intellectual and technical fields*.

## Socio-economic conditions

Thanks to its migratory seniority, and the prevalence of employees in the *Services* sector, this community has in part been shielded from the repercussions of the economic crisis of recent years, also in regard to remuneration. According to the pertaining data provided by INPS (the National Social Security Institute), the Peruvian community's **mean monthly earnings** are 83 euros higher than those of non-EU workers as a whole (1,274 euros vs 1,191 euros). In the context of home help, the positive difference is +62 euros. Gender pay gap data indicate clearly that women are at a distinct disadvantage compared to men in regard to remuneration, as employees (the gap being in excess of 290 euros per month). Within the ambit of home help, the gap narrows and almost disappears (men earn only 3 euros more than women).

Among the Peruvian citizens employed in Italy, a medium-high level of education prevails. More than 39.3% of the workers belonging to this community obtained, best case scenario, a junior secondary school leaving certificate (+10% vs non-EU citizens as a whole). 14.2% are holder of a higher education certificate, vs 11.4% of non-EU citizens as a whole. Among Peruvians residing in Italy, men have slightly higher levels of education than women. Approx. 50% of the women in the community obtained a junior school leaving certificate, vs 42.4% of Peruvian men. Moreover, men of this community are on average more educated than non-EU men as a whole (65.6%).

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 Peruvian community, the distribution among the different types of social security measures is in line with that recorded for the total of non-EU migrants: old-age pensions prevail, reaching an incidence of about 49%, followed by survivors' pensions (approx. 34%), while a quotient of 17.2% concerns disability pensions. Overall, with its 1,891 IVS pensions, the Peruvian community accounts for approx. 3% of the total

of non-EU citizens who are granted such benefits. Between 2018 and 2019, the number of IVS pensions provided to Peruvian rose more markedly than was noted among non-EU citizens as a whole: +14.6% vs +12.3%. Peruvians benefiting from old-age pensions rose by approx. 17.6% (vs 17.1% noted in the non-EU population as a whole).

**Social assistance measures** provided by INPS granted to citizens belonging to the Peruvian community in 2019 totalled 3,131 (3.1% of those intended for migrants of non-EU origin). In 40.7% of cases, these were social benefits, more than 1/4 were attendance allowances, while about 1/3 were constant attendance supplements. Even among Peruvian citizens, the number of beneficiaries of social assistance pensions increased (+ 6.1% vs the year before), with an increase of 8.6% in the case of attendance allowances, of 6.8% for constant attendance supplements and 4.1% in the case of pensions and social benefits.

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). Peruvian beneficiaries of maternity benefits in the same period were 1,376 (5% of the non-EU beneficiaries). In the case of the Peruvian community, the number of beneficiaries of maternity benefits decreased by 3.8% vs 2018. The number of beneficiaries of parental leave also decreased: in 2019 they totalled 299,028 (-10.3% vs 2018), 7.2% of which of non-EU origin (21,564). 1,189 Peruvian citizens benefited from this measure in 2019 (5.5% of non-EU citizens). The Peruvian community also experienced a decrease compared to the previous year: -3.3%. A greater number of people benefit from family allowances: in 2019 there were 2,446,795 beneficiaries (-13.8% vs the previous year). 12.5% of beneficiaries are non-EU citizens (305,000), -13.5% vs 2018. Within the community in question, there are 7,792 beneficiaries of family allowances in 2019, with an incidence on the total of non-EU citizens of 2.6%. Even for the Peruvian community their number decreased compared to 2018: -16.8%.

As to transfers made by the Peruvians in Italy to their country of origin, Peru ranks eighth as nation of destination of **remittances** sent from Italy in 2019 (approx. 219 million euros), accounting for 4.2% of the total outgoing remittances (+3.2% vs 2018).

