

THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Annual report on the presence of migrants

Executive summary



20
23

Curated by the General Directorate for Immigration and Integration Policies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, the Annual Reports on the main foreign communities in Italy investigate and analyse the presence in Italy of the largest populations of non-EU migrants: Moroccan, Albanian, Ukrainian, Chinese, Indian, Bangladeshi, Egyptian, Filipino, Pakistani, Moldavian, Sri Lankan, Senegalese, Nigerian, Tunisian, Peruvian and Ecuadorian.

A key factor also in the 2023 edition is the contribution of the Institutions and Bodies that provided the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies with the necessary information, subsequently processed by the Integration Services Area of Sviluppo Lavoro Italia. Sincere thanks are due to ISTAT – National Institute of Statistics, INPS – General Statistical Actuarial Coordination, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of University and Research, the Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture; CeSPI, the CGIL, CISL, UIL, UGL trade union confederations and the Data Science Applications B.U. - Studies and Research Division of Sviluppo Lavoro Italia. The financial inclusion section was curated by Daniele Frigeri, Director of the National Observatory on Financial Inclusion of Migrants.

The unabridged volumes of the 2012 – 2023 editions of the Reports on the Main Foreign Communities in Italy are available, in Italian and in the main foreign languages, in the “Documents and Research – Reports by the Immigration and Integration Policies DG” area of the website www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it and in the “Studies and Statistics” area of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies website - www.lavoro.gov.it. A statistical annex is also available at the same addresses, containing additional information with respect to the reports, or with insights on the existing analysis and a comparison between the main nationalities.

The 2023 edition of the National Reports on the Main Foreign Communities, the translation of the overviews into the main vehicular languages and the Monitoring Report were produced by the “Services for Integration Policies” Area of Sviluppo Lavoro Italia, in the framework of the project “START-Support to Integrated Multiannual Programming on Employment, Integration and Inclusion”.

The Filipino community in Italy

As at 1 January 2023, there were 155,533 Filipinos legally residing¹ in Italy, accounting for 4.2% of all third-country nationals. This figure places the community in **eighth** position among the main non-EU citizens in numerical terms. In contrast to the general upward trend of non-EU settlements (+4.7%), the Filipino community recorded a decrease of 0.5% over the previous year.

Just over half of the Filipino citizens in Italy are concentrated in the north of the country. Lombardy, which is the region with the largest number of Filipinos, hosts 34.5% of the community, compared to 26% of all non-EU foreigners. Lazio is the second region of settlement for the community, with 27.6% of Filipino legal residents, while Emilia-Romagna hosts 8.7% of the Asian community. Tuscany also has a significant presence of Filipinos: 8% of the Filipino community has applied for or renewed a residence permit in this region.

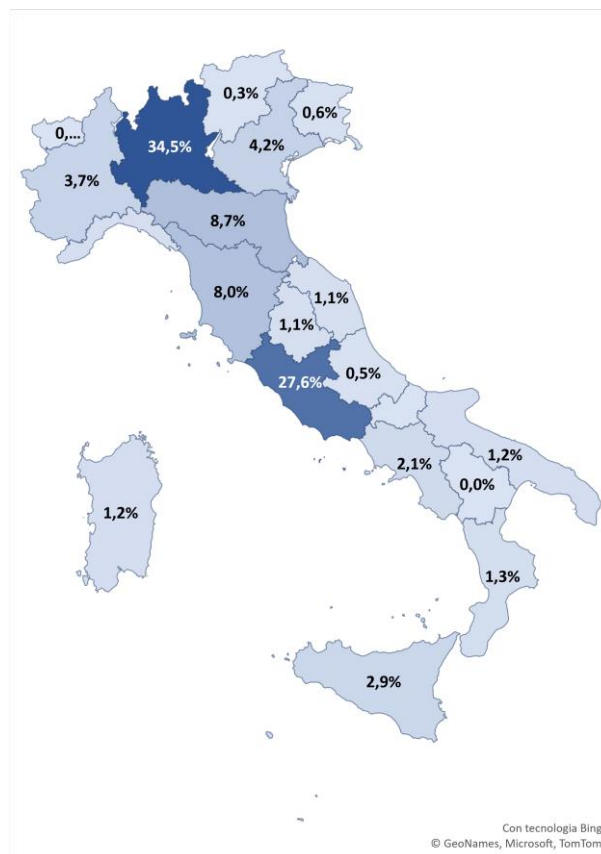
In particular, the figures by province show a strong concentration in Milan (29.5%) and Rome (26.4%), probably due to the high availability of family assistance jobs in large urban centres, a sector that - as we will see - absorbs a large part of the Filipino workforce.

Compared to the non-EU population in Italy, the Filipino community is less balanced by gender: women make up 57.5% and men the remaining 42.5%. This can be traced back to the history of Filipino migration to Italy, which first involved women who came to Italy in response to the high demand for labour in the field of family care.

The Filipino population is decidedly older than the non-EU population as a whole: with an average age of 41.5, compared to 35.8 for the non-EU population, the Filipino community has the highest average age among the main non-EU communities. 48.7% of Filipino citizens in Italy are over 45 (compared to 32.2% of non-EU citizens as a whole). Particularly noteworthy is the over-60 age group - which is prevalent - in which 17% of the community falls, compared to 10.8% of the non-EU population. The Filipino community ranks third for the lowest incidence of minors among the main non-EU communities, with minors accounting for 16.8% (vs. 20.6% for the non-EU population as a whole).

The community is also characterised by a strong presence of families; these are mainly 4-5 person households or large families (5-7 members) with a higher percentage than that found among the non-EU population as a whole. In particular, 49.4% of households belong to the first category, while 23.1% fall into the second. The incidence of couples is slightly higher than for the non-EU population as a whole (14.5% vs. 12.6%). In contrast, the shares of single-person households (12% vs. 16.2%) and households with more than eight persons (0.9% vs. 1%) are lower than in the third-country population².

Distribution of the Peruvian population legally residing in Italy.
Data as at 1 January 2023



Source: Processing by SpINT, Sviluppo Lavoro Italia, based on ISTAT data

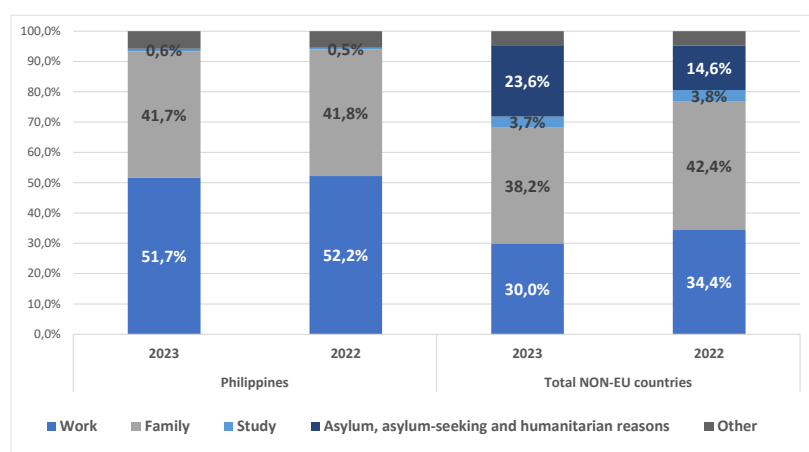
¹ Statistics on legally residing non-EU citizens include all foreigners from non-EU countries who are in possession of a valid residence document (national residence permit or long-term EU residence permit). Not all legally resident foreign citizens are included in the total count of residents in Italy: the statistical source employed therefore also includes foreign nationals who for whatever reason have yet to qualify for official residence in Italy.

² Source: RCFL ISTAT - Year 2022.

In 2022, **3,439 Filipino citizens entered Italy**, up 17.4% over the previous year³. The 2022 analysis of data on the entry of Filipino citizens into Italy shows that family reasons constitute the main motivation for entry, accounting for 57.1% of the new residence permits issued, albeit with a 4.1% decrease over the previous year. This places the Filipino community fifth among non-European communities in terms of the percentage of family reunification entries. Residence permits issued for work-related reasons represent the second reason for entry among Filipinos: 32.4% of the total (up over the previous year: +80%).

An analysis of the types of residence permit shows a high level of stabilisation: **the share of long-term residents⁴ within the community on 1 January 2023 is 70.2%**, 10 percentage points higher than that recorded for non-EU nationals as a whole. This figure places the Filipino community in third position among the main non-EU citizens in terms of the number of long-term residents.

Short-term residence permits by type and citizenship (v%) Data as at 1 January 2023 and 1 January 2022



Source: Processing by SpINT, Sviluppo Lavoro Italia, based on ISTAT-Ministry of the Interior data

and with the community registering a good percentage of family reunifications.

The **predominant** - though not exclusive - **profile** among Filipino employed people is that of **unskilled manual worker** employed in **Public, social and personal services**.

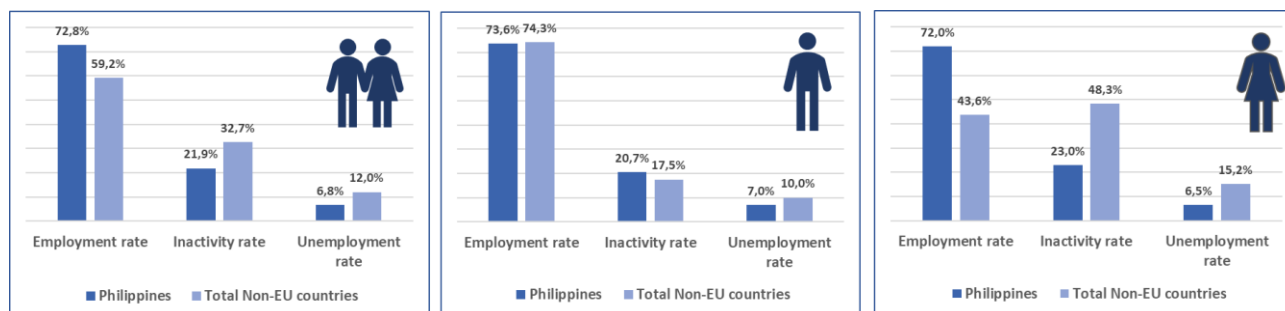
The Filipino population in Italy is well integrated in the labour market, performing better in employment terms than third-country nationals as a whole, thanks also to the strong involvement of the community's women in the world of work. The **employment** rate in 2022 was 72.8% (vs. 59.2% for the non-EU population as a whole), the **unemployment** rate was 6.8% (vs. 12%), while the share of **inactive** people aged 15-64 was 21.9% (vs. 32.7%).

In line with the non-EU population as a whole, the Asian community under review also recorded an increase in employment (+1%) and a decrease in unemployment (-2.7%), albeit net of an increase in inactivity of 1.6%. Moreover, the community shows a decidedly higher employment rate for women than non-EU women as a whole (72% vs. 43.6%), confirming the high presence of Filipino females on the Italian labour market. A comparison with the other communities analysed, with regard to the indicators relating to the female component, shows that the Filipino community ranks second for the highest employment rate and the lowest inactivity rate, and first for the lowest unemployment rate.

³ The increase recorded for the non-EU population as a whole was 85.9%, a figure that can be linked both to the war in Ukraine, which led to the entry of about 148,000 citizens fleeing the Eastern European country (mainly with special protection permits), and to the regularisation of citizens already present in the territory based on Italian Leg. Decree 34 of 2020, whose applications were largely examined in 2022.

⁴ A long-term EU residence permit may be issued to foreign nationals who have held a valid residence permit for at least five years, provided they can prove that they have a minimum income of no less than the social allowance calculated annually.

Population (15 years and over) and main labour market indicators by gender and citizenship (v.%) Year 2022



Source: Processing by SpINT, Sviluppo Lavoro Italia, based on RCFL - ISTAT microdata

The distribution of employed people of Filipino origin across different **economic sectors** is concentrated significantly in *Other public, social and personal services*: a resounding 61% of the community's employees work in this sector, compared to 23.3% of non-EU citizens as a whole; this represents 16.2% of non-EU workers in this sector. The next employment sectors are *Transport and business services*, with an incidence of 12%, and *Hotels and restaurants*, with an incidence of 10.2% (vs. 11.4% among non-EU nationals as a whole).

As at 31 December 2022, the number of **sole proprietors** of Filipino origin was **1,123**, or 0.3% of the non-EU entrepreneurs in Italy. Compared to the previous year, the number of Filipino sole proprietorships grew by 1.4%, while the number of non-EU entrepreneurs as a whole fell (-0.8%). Furthermore, the Filipino community shows a gender balance among sole proprietors: 50.4% are men and 49.6% are women. Filipino-led enterprises specialise in the *Business services* sector, which, with a 28.7% share, accounts for 1.3% of non-EU enterprises in the sector. In addition, 26.1% operate in the *Trade and transport* sector.

The Asian community, in contrast to the non-EU population as a whole, is more represented among IVS (invalidity, old age, survivors) pension recipients due to its migratory and age seniority, to the extent that 10.5% of the total non-EU recipients of *Old age pensions* are Filipino citizens. There is also a high percentage of *Survivors' pension* recipients: 4.7% of the non-EU population. The community is also well represented among recipients of welfare pensions: 3.6% of non-EU recipients are Filipino citizens. This percentage reaches 4.4% in the case of *Social security retirement benefits and allowances* and 3.4% for *Disability allowance*.

Signs of the community's good level of integration can also be seen in the data on family assistance and, more specifically, on *maternity allowance*⁵, an indication of the presence of numerous households and of the (aforementioned) Filipino women's integration on the Italian labour market: in this case, 4.8% of the non-EU female recipients are Filipino.

⁵ Otherwise known as "compulsory abstention allowance", this is a form of income support in lieu of salary and is paid to female workers for maternity leave and childbirth for a total of 5 months.

