



# THE PERUVIAN COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Annual report on the presence of migrants

*Executive summary*



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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, Moldovan, 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](http://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it) and in the “Studies and Statistics” area of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies website - [www.lavoro.gov.it](http://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 Peruvian community in Italy

As of 1 January 2023, there were **96,488** Peruvians legally residing<sup>1</sup> in Italy, accounting for 2.6% of all third-country nationals. This figure places the community in **fifteenth** position<sup>2</sup> among the main non-EU citizens in numerical terms. In line with the general trend of non-EU settlements (+4.7%), the Peruvian community recorded a 6.9% increase over the previous year.

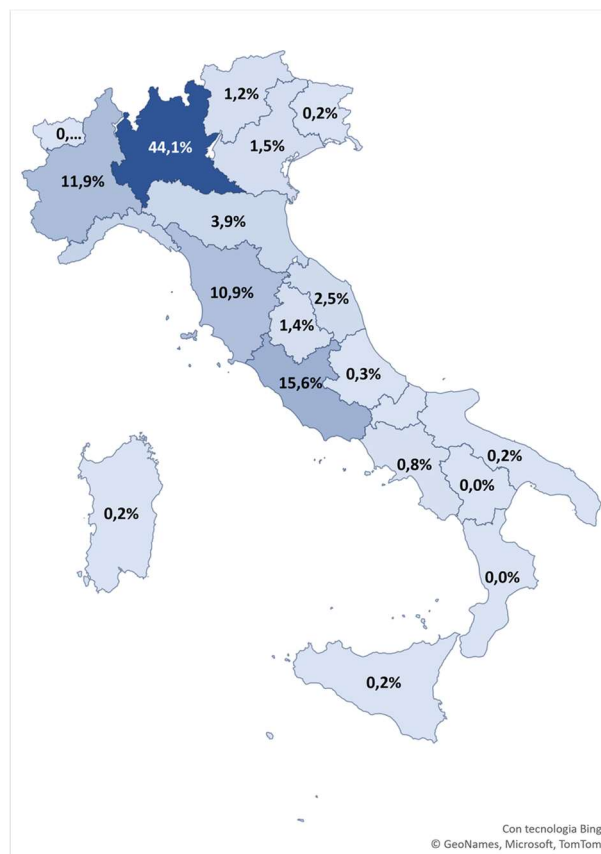
The Peruvian population is heavily concentrated in the north of the country, where around 68% of the community is located. Lombardy, which is the region with the largest number of Peruvians, hosts 44.1% of the community, compared to 26% of all non-EU foreigners. Lazio is the second region of settlement, accounting for 15.6% of legal Peruvian residents, while Piedmont hosts 12% of the Latin American community. Tuscany has an above-average presence of Peruvians: almost 11% of the Peruvian community has applied for or renewed their residence permit in this region, compared to 8.3% of all non-EU citizens.

Compared to the non-EU population in Italy, the Peruvian community is less balanced by gender: women make up 58.6% and men the remaining 41.1%. This can be traced back to the history of Peruvian migration to Italy, which primarily involved women who came to Italy in response to the high demand for labour in the field of family care.

The Peruvian community is older than the non-EU population as a whole, with an average age of 38.7 (vs. 35.8) and a share of over-60s of 12.3% (vs. 10.8%). Indeed, the community is characterised by a high presence of over 40s: more than half of Peruvians (52%) are over 40, compared to about 42% among non-EU citizens as a whole. Despite the fact that the Peruvian community has one of the lowest proportions of minors among the main non-EU communities, minors still represent the largest age group, with a share of 17.6%, compared to 20.6% for non-EU citizens.

The community is also characterised by a higher presence of medium-sized households (3-4 members) and couples than among the non-EU population as a whole: 51.7% and 16% respectively, compared to 47.5% and 12.6%. The incidence of single-person households is also slightly higher: 17.7% vs. 16.2%. Conversely, the shares of large families made up of 5 to 7 people (14.6% vs. 22.7%) and of more than 8 people (0% vs. 1%)<sup>3</sup> are lower than those recorded for the non-EU population as a whole.

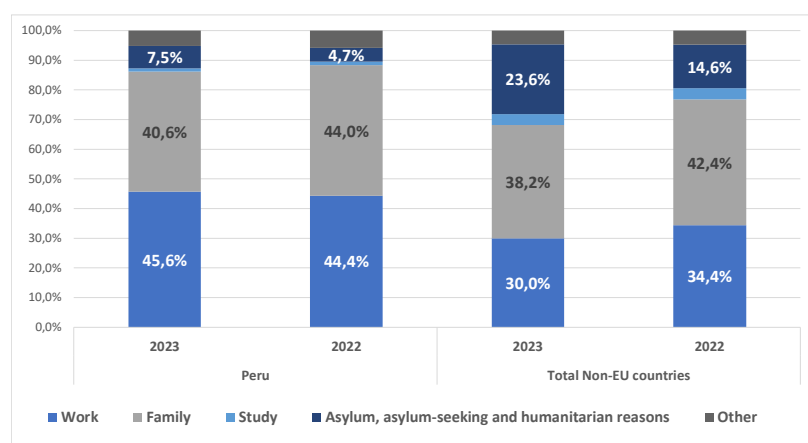
**Distribution of the Peruvian population legally residing in Italy. Data as at 1 January 2023**



In 2022, **10,611 Peruvian citizens entered Italy**, up 77.4% over the previous year<sup>4</sup>. Work was the main reason for entry (38.8%), accounting for 38.8% of the new residence permits issued (up 73.3% over the previous year). This figure places the Peruvian community in first position among non-EU communities in terms of the percentage of entries for work-related reasons. Residence permits issued for family reasons represent the second reason for entry among Peruvians: 33.4% of the total (also up over the previous year: +61%).

The analysis of the types of residence permit shows a high level of stabilisation: **the share of long-term residents<sup>5</sup> within the community on 1 January 2023 is 63.5%**, around 3 percentage point higher than that recorded for non-EU nationals as a whole. This figure places the Peruvian community in ninth 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

Among the reasons for permit renewals, work-related reasons prevail, with an incidence of 45.6% compared to 30% for the non-EU population as a whole. These are followed by residence permits issued for family reasons, which account for 40.6% of the permits issued to Peruvian nationals. This percentage too is higher than that found for the non-EU population as a whole (38.2%). An analysis of demographic data and residence permits reveals a good level of stabilisation, with the clear majority of Peruvian citizens holding long-term residence permits and with a good percentage of family reunifications, despite the difficulties

that women in family services often face in this regard.

The **predominant** - though not exclusive - **profile** among Peruvians involves **employment in clerical, sales and personal service roles** in the *Personal services* sector.

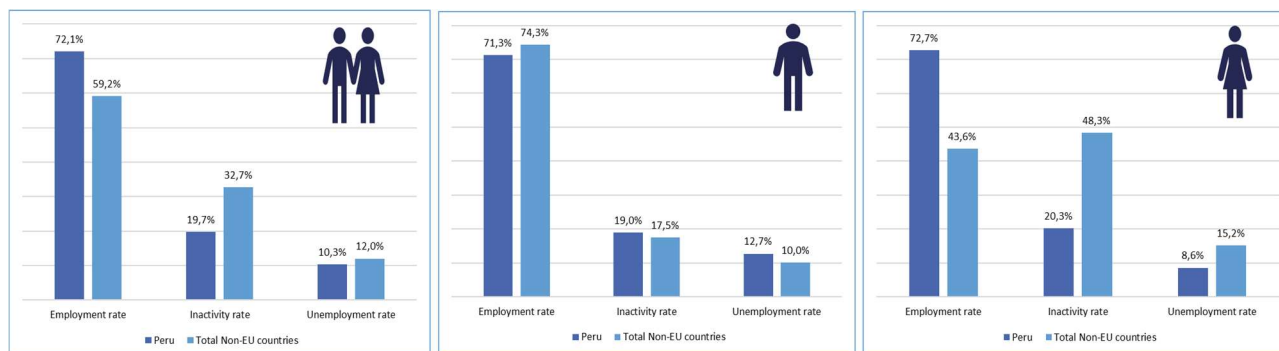
The Peruvian population in Italy is well integrated in the labour market, performing better in employment terms than third-country nationals as a whole, thanks also to the strong involvement of the community's women in the world of work. The **employment rate is 72.1%** (vs. 59.2% for the non-EU population as a whole), the **inactivity rate is 19.7%** (vs. 32.7%), while the **unemployment rate** stands at 10.3% (vs. 12%).

In line with the non-EU population as a whole, the Latin American community also shows an increase in employment (+3.9%) and a drop in inactivity (-5%), while the unemployment rate shows an increase of 1%, compared to -2.7% for the non-EU population as a whole. Moreover, the community shows a decidedly higher employment rate for women than non-EU women as a whole (72.7% vs. 43.6%), confirming the high presence of Pakistani females on the Italian labour market.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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 Peruvian origin across different **economic sectors** is concentrated significantly in *Other public, social and personal services*: more than two fifths (40.4%) of the community's employees work in this sector, compared to 23.3% of non-EU citizens as a whole; this represents 6.4% of non-EU workers in the sector. The next leading employment sectors are *Transport and other business services*, with an incidence of 14.9%, and *Industry in the strict sense*, with an incidence of 12.3%.

As at 31 December 2022, the number of sole **proprietors** of Peruvian origin was **3,914**, or 1% of the non-EU entrepreneurs in Italy. Compared to the previous year, the number of Peruvian sole proprietorships grew by 4.4%, while the number of non-EU entrepreneurs as a whole fell (-0.8%). Although the community is characterised by a predominance of women, there is a clear majority of men (69.1%) among sole proprietors. Peruvian-led companies focus especially in the *Trade and transport* sector (24.4%). The Latin American community is also strongly represented in the *transport and warehousing* sector, with 5.6% of non-EU sole proprietors in the sector being Peruvian.

In contrast to the non-EU population as a whole, the Latin American community is well represented among *IVS (invalidity, old age, survivors) pension* recipients: 3% of non-EU recipients are Peruvian. The most significant figure relates to old-age pensions, where Peruvian nationals account for 3.2% of non-EU recipients. More significantly related to the community's age composition are *welfare pensions*, which amount to more than 4,000 for the South American community, or 3.2% of the welfare pensions received by non-EU nationals. The high number of recipients of family assistance measures stems from the high presence of households. Respectively, 4.6% and 4.7% of non-EU recipients of *parental leave* and *maternity allowances*<sup>6</sup> are Peruvian. Within the community, there were also 7,581 recipients of family allowances in 2021, accounting for 2.7% of the total number of non-EU nationals.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

