

Foreigners in Albania

Year 2019

Tirana, on 21 August 2020: At the end of 2019, the number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania resulted 13,507 inhabitants, by decreasing with 4.6 % compared to 2018.

The number of resident foreigners, in 2019 is dominated by males with 63.0 % versus females with 37.0 %.

The number of applications for residence permits in Albania, in 2019 was 8,241 applications, by decreasing with 9.3 % compared with 2018.

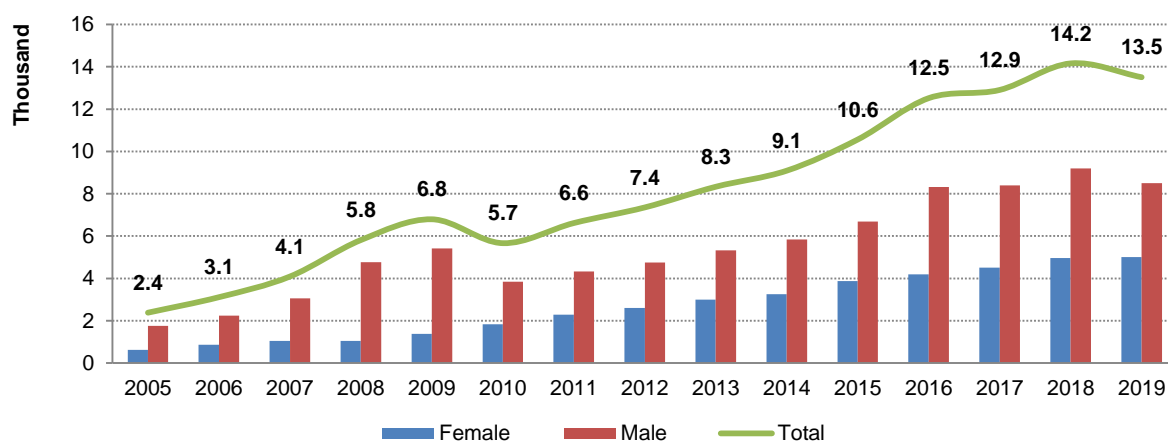
Resident foreigners originating from Italy, Turkey and Kosovo constitute the largest number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania in 2019, respectively with 2,753, 1,730 and 1,703 inhabitants.

Foreigners originating from Europe, in 2019 result in 8,971 inhabitants and constitute 66.4 % of the total number of foreigners compared to 58.0 % that constituted in 2018.

The reason for employment is the main reason for the residence permits of foreigners in Albania in 2019, with 55.0 %.

In 2019 there were identified 11,890 irregular foreigners, in the territory of the country, where most of them, of 57.4 % are foreigners originating from Iraq and Syria.

Fig. 1: Foreigners with residence permits by sex, 2019



Source: Department for Border and Migration

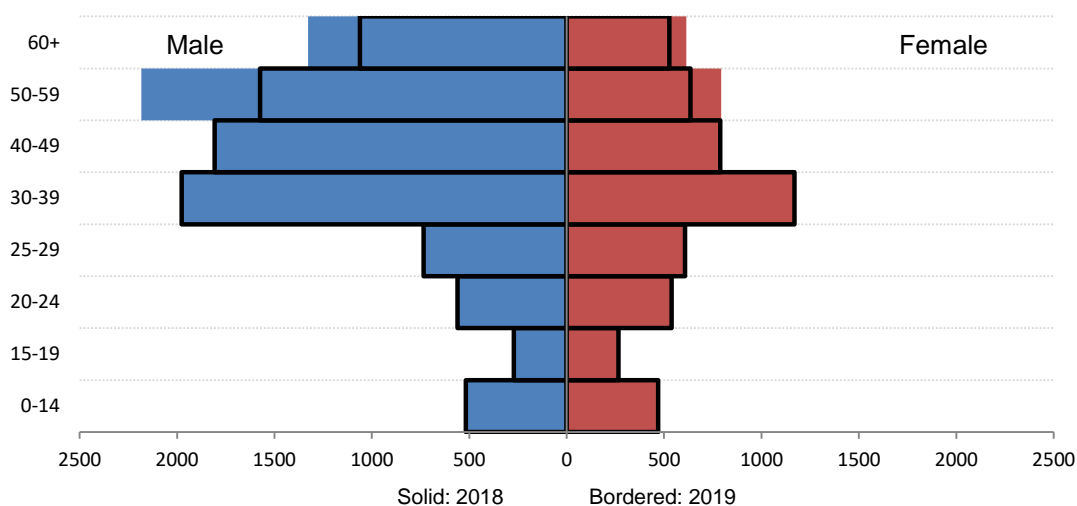
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Foreigners in Albania

During 2019 the number of resident foreigners consists of 8,506 males and 5,001 females. Men account for 63.0 % of the number of foreigners with a residence permit in Albania.

Fig. 2: Population pyramid of resident permit foreigners in Albania



Source: Department for Border and Migration

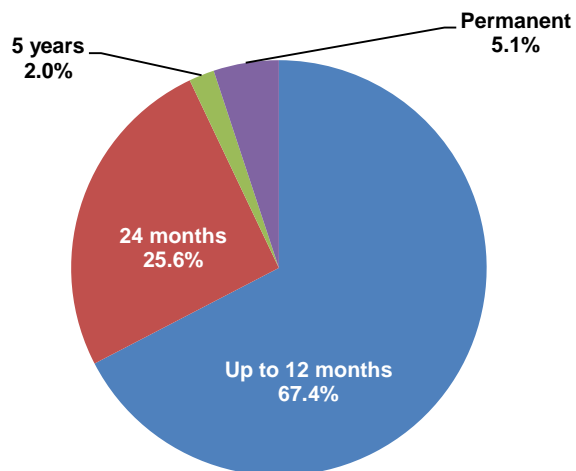
The number of applications for residence permit in Albania, in 2019 is 8,241, by marking a decrease by 9.3 % compared to 2018. The applications by country of origin from Italy and Kosovo occupy 33.7 % of total applications, in 2019.

Tab. 1 Applications for Residence Permit in Albania by country of origin

Country of origin	2019
Italy	1,971
Kosovo	1,104
Turkey	817
Iran	556
Greece	205
USA	373
China	241
Syria	310
North Macedonia	148
United Kingdom	180
Other	2,467
Total	8,241

Source: Department for Border and Migration

Fig. 3 Applications for Residence Permit in Albania according to the time of stay, 2019

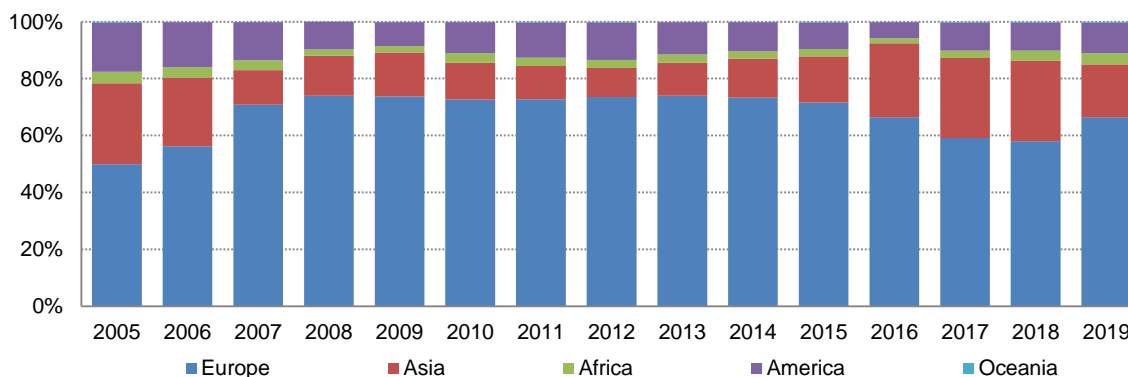


Source: Department for Border and Migration

Foreigners in Albania by continents

Foreigners with residence permits in Albania, according to the country of origin, in 2019 are headed by European countries, accounting for 66.4 % of total resident foreigners. Foreigners originating from Europe are 8,971, by increasing with 9.2 % compared to 2018. Foreigners originating from Asia are 2,509, by increasing with 37.6 % compared to 2018. Foreigners originating from America, Africa and Oceania are 2,027, by increasing with 5.1% compared to 2018.

Fig. 4 Foreigners with residence permits by continents, 2019

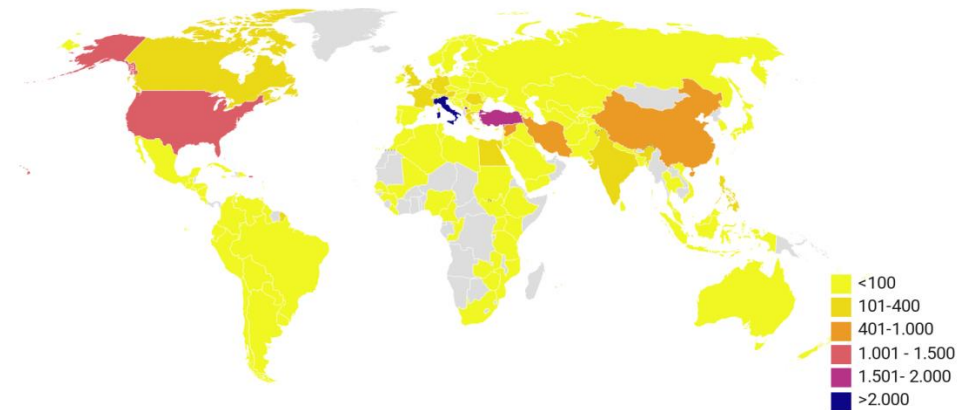


Source: Department for Border and Migration

Foreigners in Albania by country of origin

In 2019, resident foreigners in Albania originating from Italy are 2,753 inhabitants, by increasing with 7.0 % compared to 2018. Foreigners originating from Turkey are 1,730 inhabitants, by increasing with 5.3 % compared to 2018. Foreigners originating from Kosovo are 1,703 inhabitants, by increasing with 20.1 % compared to 2018.

Fig. 5 Foreigners in Albania by countries of origin, 2019

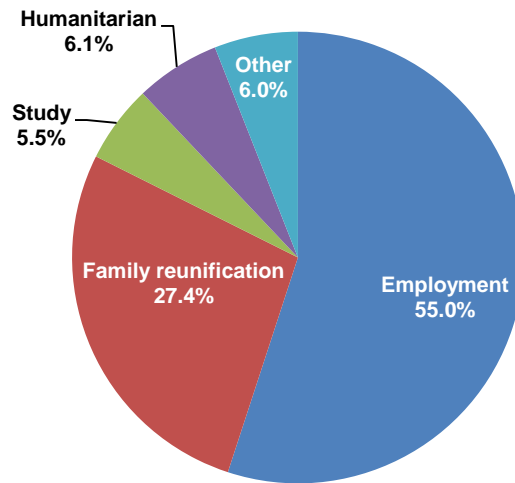


Source: Department for Border and Migration

Foreigners in Albania according to reason

In 2019, resident foreigners for employment reasons accounted for 55.0 % of the total number of foreigners, followed by reasons for family reunification with 27.4 %, reasons for humanitarian purposes with 6.1 %, reasons for studies with 5.5 % and other reasons by 6.0 %.

Fig. 6 Foreigners with residence permits according to reason, 2019



Source: Department for Border and Migration

Among foreigners resident in Albania originating from Italy, in addition to the reason for employment (61.9 %) there is a predominance of study reasons (20.5 %).

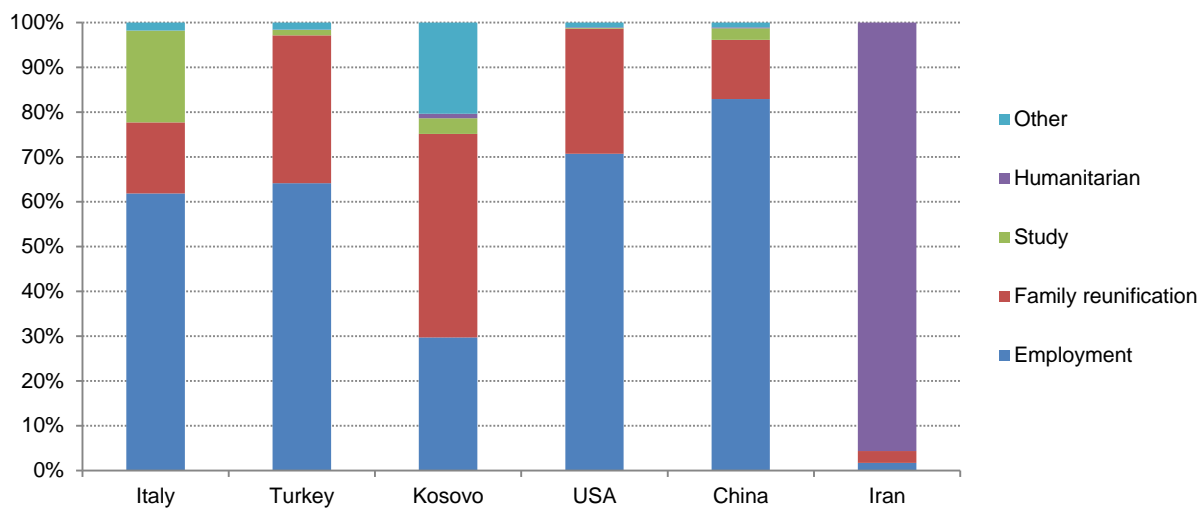
Foreigners originating from Turkey are dominated by reasons for employment (64.2 %) and reasons for family reunification (33.0 %).

Foreigners originating from Kosovo are dominated by reasons for family reunification (45.4 %).

Foreigners originating from the US and China are mainly dominated by employment reasons (70.7 % and 82.9 %, respectively).

Foreigners of Iranian origin are mainly dominated by humanitarian reasons to obtain a residence permit in Albania (95.7 %).

Fig. 7 Foreigners with residence permits according the country of origin and reason of staying, 2019



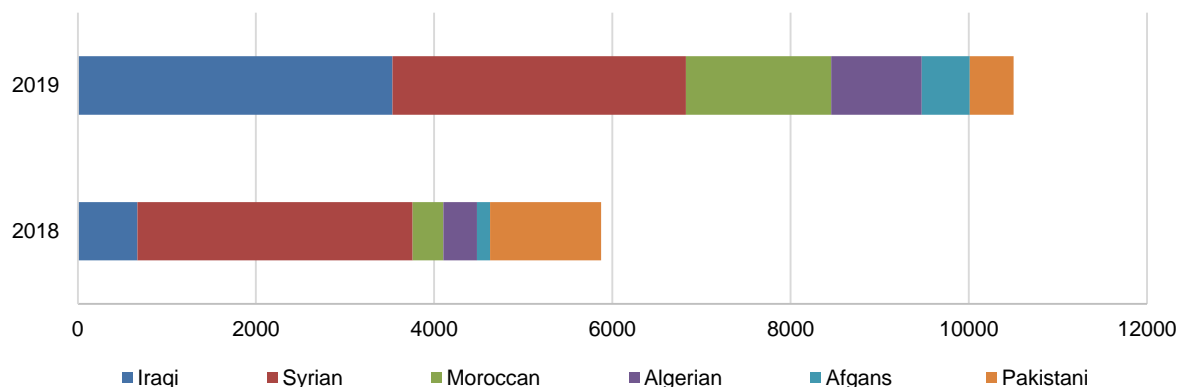
Source: Department for Border and Migration

Irregular foreigners

Irregular foreigners evidenced in the territory of Albania or in the border, without the necessary documentation, result 11,890 persons in 2019, compared with 6,893 persons in 2018.

Irregular foreigners, by country of origin in 2019 are headed by countries like Iraq with 3,531 people, Syria with 3,294 people, Morocco with 1,631 people, Algeria 1,016 people, Afghanistan 541 people, Pakistan 491 people, Palestine 453 people and 933 people from countries others.

Fig. 8 Irregular foreigners by country of origin, 2018 - 2019



Source: Department for Border and Migration

Methodology

The purpose of the annual publication of foreigners in Albania is to present the results and indicators on foreigners with residence permits in Albania, by age group and sex, reason for application, countries of origin and the annual number of applications for residence permits. The publication also features irregular foreigners.

Data on foreigners with residence permits in Albania as well as irregular foreigners are provided by the Department of Border and Migration.

Definitions

Foreigner is any person, with or without citizenship, who, according to the Albanian legislation, is not an Albanian citizen.

Residence Permit is a document issued by the competent authorities which authorizes and permits a foreigner to stay in the Republic of Albania for more than 90 days within 180 days.

Stateless person is the person who does not have the nationality of any state.

Work permit is the authorization issued by the responsible state authority to a foreigner, for business purposes, to be employed, self-employed or for professional training.

Family reunification is the entry and stay in the Republic of Albania of family members of an Albanian citizen, who do not have Albanian citizenship or a foreigner or a refugee resident in the Republic of Albania, with the purpose of maintaining the family, regardless of whether the family relationship is established before or after the entry of a foreigner into the Republic of Albania, in cases of family reunification of the foreigner's family.

Family members of a foreigner, asylum seeker, refugee or person under subsidiary protection are their spouse, cohabitant, whose cohabitation has a stable and proven character; minors, unmarried children, part of the family composition including those deprived of custody and who are in custody of him or her or adopted by a court decision or a decision that is enforced directly, according to the international obligations of the Republic of Albania or to be recognized, in accordance with international obligations, as well as unmarried adult children when they cannot objectively meet their needs due to their health status; first-line ancestors in the right line, when they are in charge of him or his / her spouse, according to the legislation of origin and do not enjoy the proper family support in the country of origin.

Volunteer's service is a program of solidarity activities, based on activities recognized in the Republic of Albania, in pursuit of objectives of general interest.

Researchers and specialists are foreigners with specialized knowledge, essential, for service, research equipment and a high level of qualification for the activity exercised by the enterprise or research institution.

Irregular stay is the presence in the territory of the Republic of Albania of a foreigner who does not meet or no longer meets the conditions for entry, stay or residence in the territory of the Republic of Albania.

State or place of origin is the state whose citizenship is held by asylum seekers or refugees and, in the case of stateless persons, the country in which the refugee or asylum seeker has his habitual residence.