

Appendix: Immigration Statistics

James Walston

The American University of Rome

This appendix summarises the official statistics and estimates of immigration in Italy today and makes an attempt to quantify how large the 'second generation' actually is. It should be read in conjunction with pp. 48-50 of Chiara Marchetti's contribution to this issue. The two main sources of statistics on immigration in Italy are the national statistics institute (ISTAT) which publishes regular bulletins on immigration and foreign residents and the Italian branch of the Catholic charity Caritas which publishes an annual survey of immigration. Most of the Caritas data are based on ISTAT figures although they also make their own estimates.¹

Table 1: Foreigners resident in Italy

Year	N	%
2003	1,549,373	
2004	1,990,159	3.4
2005	2,402,157	4.1
2006	2,670,514	4.5
2007	2,938,922	5.0
2008	3,432,651	5.8
2009	3,891,295	6.5
2010	4,330,000	7.2

Sources: figures for 2003–2009: ISTAT (2009: 2); figure for 2010: Eurispes (2010: 58). Figures refer to 1 January each year.

The big increase in recent years is mainly due to influxes of Romanians (796,477 or 20.5% of the total legal resident population of foreigners in 2008) and other new EU citizens taking advantage of their accession. The other big national groups are Albanians (441,396 or 11.3%), Moroccans (403,592 or 10.4%), Chinese (170,265 or 4.4%) and Ukrainians (153,998 or 4.0%) (Caritas/Migrantes, 2009: 86; ISTAT, 2009: 5). There are slightly more females than males (in contrast to more traditional migratory patterns) but with striking differences between the national groups. On 1 January 2009, the overall ratio was 96.8 men per 100 women while for Ukrainians the ratio was 25.2 men per 100 women and for Poles 42.8 men per 100 women,

reflecting the high number of domestic workers and carers. In contrast, North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa have far more men than women: Egypt had 230 per 100 women and Senegal 369.3 (ISTAT, 2009: 5).

The overall numbers of resident foreigners for 2009 (3,891,295) are comparable to those for Great Britain (4,132,976) and France (3,706,407)² but the significance is different as it is much easier to obtain citizenship in those countries than in Italy. Thus, many who are British and French citizens would not, were they instead in Italy, be considered Italian. The proportions of the population who are resident foreigners are much lower in Italy and France (5.8%) and in the UK (6.6%) than they are in Spain (11.7% on 1 January 2008) where irregular immigrants are also able to register at local council offices (Padrón Municipal), unlike in Italy (Eurostat, 2009).

Obviously data on irregular immigrants are more difficult to come by and less reliable. ISTAT makes no estimates but others do. In 2009 there were between 500,000 and 750,000 according to the OECD and a million according to Caritas (*Corriere della Sera*, 2009). Both were working on the hard figures which came from the September 2009 amnesty for domestic and care workers. Some 295,000 applications for regularisation were received, little more than half the 500,000 which some had expected (OECD, 2009). The Eurispes report for 2010 estimates that the number of irregular immigrants has doubled over the last year from 350,000 to 600,000 (Eurispes, 2010: 58).

Table 2: 2G or new Italians

	ISTAT
2006	398,205
2007	457,345
2008	518,700

Source: ISTAT (2009: 2)

Resident foreigners born in Italy

More than half a million 'foreigners' (13.3% of foreigners resident in Italy) are in fact native Italians. They are a good part of the 'second generation' whose position the articles in this volume analyse. The average age of immigrants is much lower than the average for Italians (31 years compared to 43 years) (Caritas/Migrantes, 2009: 2) and, not surprisingly, the relative birth rate of immigrants is increasing.

Some of the foreigners born in Italy move to their parents' countries but the numbers are relatively low. In 2008, for example, just over 27,000 left Italy compared to the 496,549 who arrived.

Naturalisation

ISTAT (2009: 4) calculates that from 1996 to 2008 inclusive, approximately 281,000 people took Italian citizenship.

Table 3 Foreigners born in Italy

	N	% total births
2003	33,691	
2004	48,925	
2005	51,971	
2006	57,765	
2007	64,049	
2008	72,472	12.6

Source: ISTAT (2009: 2)

The rate of naturalisation in Italy is much lower than in other European countries: in 2006, France granted citizenship to 148,000, Germany 124,000, Great Britain 154,000 and Spain 62,000 according to *la Repubblica* (2010).

Table 4: Foreigners acquiring Italian citizenship

Year	Citizenship by marriage	Citizenship by residence	Total
2003			
2004	9,997	1,948	11,945
2005	11,854	7,412	19,266
2006	30,151	5,615	35,766
2007	31,609	6,857	38,466
2008	24,950	14,534	39,484
2009	17,122	22,962	40,084

Source: *la Repubblica* (22 April 2010)

In the early part of the decade, most naturalisations were by marriage; predominantly foreign women marrying Italian men (ISTAT, 2009: 4). In 2007 81.2% of naturalisations (31,609 out of 38,466) were through marriage (Caritas/Migrantes, 2009: 35). In 2008 the percentage went down: out of a total of 39,484, 14,534 (36.8%) were naturalised for residence criteria, 24,950 (63.2%) for marriage. By 2009 the proportions were reversed with a total of 40,084 naturalisations of which only 17,122 (42.7%) were for marriage and 22,962 (57.3%) for residence (Caritas/Migrantes, 2009: 112). Obviously over time, the number of people who qualify for naturalisation through residence increases.

In 2009, ISTAT reckoned that approximately 726,000 non-EU citizens had the right to apply for citizenship, using estimates based on the number of residence permits issued (ISTAT, 2009: 4).

Other possible '2Gs'

Apart from those who appear in the statistics as 'immigrants' there are others who are completely invisible. These are the children who have one foreign parent. Between 1995 and 2007 there were 222,521 mixed marriages (between Italians and foreigners), and these have presumably resulted in a few hundred thousand offspring who are 'mixed' in some sense (Caritas/Migrantes, 2009: 119). There were another 70,000 marriages between foreigners, some of the foreigners involved being from two different countries. In 1995, 2% of marriages in Italy were mixed; it peaked in 2006 at 9.8% and in 2007 it was 9.4%.

Some of these children may be marked as different either by their appearance or by their surname; others will look, sound, feel and be considered by their peers as completely 'Italian'. All are officially Italian and not distinguished from any other Italian citizen and consequently do not appear in the statistics.

Another category which is even more difficult to trace are the marriages in which one partner has dual Italian/foreign nationality. These are not even registered as 'mixed' marriages.

Finally, there are also the children of naturalised parents. In the statistics, they figure as 'Italian' like the above two categories though like them, some will be seen as somehow 'foreign' and might consider themselves as such while others will be wholly 'Italian'.

All in all, a very rough calculation would give a figure somewhere just under a million but in a sense, the real numbers are irrelevant to the issues of the so-called second generation. What is important is whether they themselves feel different and whether they are considered as different.

Perceptions

In terms of perceptions, it is significant that in one survey at least, there was a massive miscalculation by Italians who in 2009 thought that approximately 23% of residents were foreign (*La Stampa*, 2009). It is a figure which is probably in part due to the language used by the media and politicians when they talk about an 'invasion' by immigrants. If this survey is indeed correct and if the perception persists, there will be serious dangers of tension between Italians and immigrants or between 'old' and 'new' Italians. Another annual survey, carried out by Eurispes, talks of immigration being perceived in negative terms: "monitoring the first six months of 2008, it was noted that the media presented immigration in

terms of: emergency, problem, security risk. They almost completely ignored other aspects of the phenomenon” (Eurispes, 2010: 61).

Projections

Caritas reckons that in 2020, 6,894,448 or 11.0% of the population will be resident foreigners (Caritas/Migrantes, 2009: 95). They make no guesses as to the number of 2Gs.

Notes

1. Apart from the sources quoted in this appendix, for other updates on the numbers of immigrants and the ‘second generation’, see: www.cestim.it/35secondegenerazioni.htm#numeriedatisullesecondegenerazioni which gives a series of continuously updated figures.

2. <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/graph.do?tab=graph&plugin=0&langua=ge=en&pcode=tps00157&toolbox=type>

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