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Session 2– Supporting paper

**THE MEASUREMENT OF IMMIGRANTS STOCK: IMMIGRANTS, FOREIGNERS
AND NATURALIZED CITIZENS ACCORDING TO ITALY'S 2001 POPULATION
CENSUS**

Submitted by Italian National Statistical Institute *

I. Introduction

1. Immigration towards Italy has acquired a growing importance during the last two decades. At the beginning of the 1980s, Italy experienced in particular transit migration from the South of the Mediterranean Basin to Northern and Central Europe. Since the end of the 1980s to the present days, Italy is experiencing the inflow of various typologies of immigrants (i.e. foreign workers, persons coming for family reunifications, asylum seekers, etc.) and has become one of the most important destination countries in Southern Europe.

2. The newly acquired status of immigration country has increased the government, policy makers and scholars' need for statistical information about Italy's "*population with migration*

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The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the organization (Istat) views.

background” (defined as the ensemble of *foreign citizens, immigrants and naturalized Italian citizens*).

3. Administrative information provided by population registers (on usually resident foreign population) and the Ministry of the Interior (permits of stay of foreigners) allow to monitor year by year changes in the foreign population size. Yet, these data sources are influenced by the regularisation procedures, that cause sudden increases in the stock of permits of stay of foreigners (and indirectly also in the number of usually resident foreigners, since the possession of the permit of stay is a prerequisite for registration in the Population Register).

4. While administrative sources, by nature, can refer only to legal foreign population, the Italian Population Census includes in the reference population both usually resident foreigners and foreign citizens who are temporarily present in Italy at the time of the Census. Therefore, the census theoretically provides data on both legal and irregular foreigners (immigrants without a valid permit of stay).

5. The Population Census is the only available source of qualitative information on Italy’s foreign population, providing data, especially on usually resident foreigners, that allow drawing a highly detailed picture of their demographic and socio-economic characteristics, family life, and housing conditions.

6. The enumeration of foreigners in the 2001 Population Census has been planned on the basis of the changes occurred in Italy’s complex migration reality during the last decade. Differently from 1991, when particular attention was paid to the enumeration of non-usually resident foreigners, the 2001 much more stable world of immigration has called for a different strategy. To this aim, census forms for both usually resident and non-usually resident foreigners were translated into several foreign languages and new questions on citizenship (i.e., “Italian citizenship by birth or naturalization” and, for naturalized Italian citizens, “previous country of citizenship”) were added to the questionnaire.

7. By showing the main results of 2001 Italian Population Census, the aim of this paper is to provide a general overview of definitions and classification used to quantify the stock and analyze the characteristics of Italy’s foreign and immigrant population.

II. The 2001 Census enumeration of Italy’s population with migration background

8. The enumeration structure of the 2001 Population Census provides the theoretical “space” for enumerating both usually resident and non-usually resident foreigners by means of the standard Household Form. Each form contains two sections, one to be completed by persons who usually reside in the dwelling and the other to be filled in by persons who do not usually reside in the dwelling. Non-usually resident foreigners are enumerated as individuals who do not usually reside in the dwelling.

9. As for the content, for foreigners enumerated as usually resident, besides all the information collected for the whole population, data were gathered also on the *duration* of their stay in Italy and on the *reason* for moving their usual residence to Italy. As for foreigners usually resident abroad but temporarily present in Italy, information was collected on sex, age, marital status, citizenship, duration and reason of their stay in Italy and (for those who had been staying in the dwelling where they were enumerated for more than 90 days and for reasons other than vacation) on activity status.

10. Further on, the collection of additional information on the usually resident population in order to provide data on the *population with migration background* has to be underlined. The significant number of adult foreigners who have acquired Italian citizenship (according to the Ministry of the Interior about 84,000 persons have acquired the Italian citizenship from 1991 to 2001) points out the importance of the naturalization process in Italy. The consistent amount of naturalized Italians has called for the introduction of a question on citizenship acquisition and on the country of previous citizenship for those who declare not being Italians by birth.

11. By adopting the definition of *immigrant population* developed by INSEE (November 2000) and on the basis of the answers to the questions on *place of birth* and *citizenship*, it is possible to estimate both Italy's *foreign* and *immigrant* stocks of population.

12. Therefore, the immigrant population is obtained as the sum of *a) foreign-born people without Italian citizenship* and *b) foreign-born people with Italian citizenship by acquisition*. According to this definition of immigrant, the so-called *denizens* or *immigrants of second generation*, defined as foreign nationals born in Italy from foreign parents, would not be included in the immigrant population, even though they would be counted as foreign citizens.

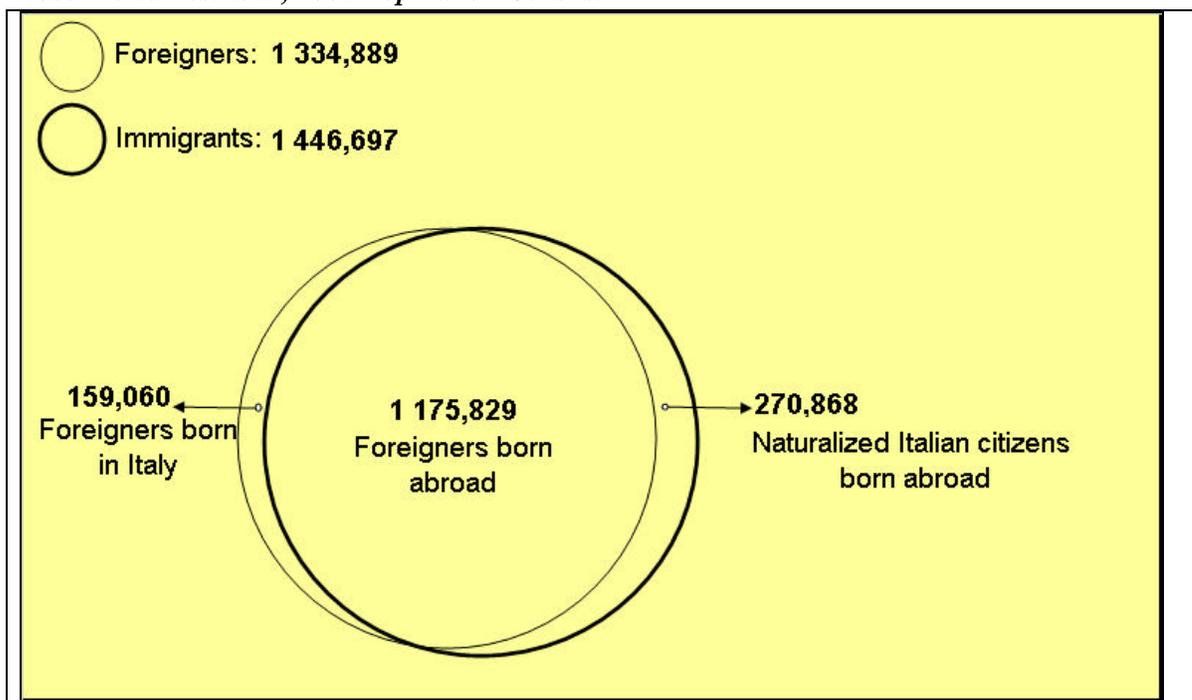
III. A quick look at some data on *population with migration background*

13. At the 2001 Census, 1,334,889 foreign citizens usually resident in Italy were enumerated, almost one million more than in 1991 (356,159). The ratio on usually resident population is of 2.3 foreign citizens for every 100 persons (in 1991 it was of 0.6).

14. The breakdown by place of birth shows that foreigners living in Italy were mainly born abroad (1,175,829) while those born in Italy amount to 159,060 (see figure 1). The naturalized Italian citizens, i.e. persons having acquired Italian citizenship by marriage, ordinary naturalization or adoption, were 285,782; the majority of them were born abroad (270,868, accounting for the 94.8%).

15. If foreigners born abroad and naturalized Italian citizens born abroad are considered together, the stock of foreign immigrants usually resident in Italy at the time of the Population Census can be estimated in 1,446,697 persons (about 2.5% of the total usually resident population enumerated).

Figure 1 - Foreigners and immigrants usually resident in Italy.
Absolute values. Istat, 2001 Population Census.



Box 1 - Definitions: the difference between foreigners and immigrants

The Population Census was taken in October 2001, and concerned all persons usually resident and/or present in Italy on the census day. Italian citizens and foreign citizens can be distinguished within the usually resident population on the basis of the citizenship declared in the Census Form. The **foreign population** is composed of persons who declare not having Italian citizenship.

By law, a foreign citizen under certain conditions can obtain the Italian citizenship, thus becoming **Italian by naturalization**, and “quitting” the foreign population. Among persons with Italian citizenship, citizens by naturalization are statistically distinguished from citizens by birth (i.e. with Italian citizenship since birth).

The **immigrant population** should not be identified with the foreign population. The concept of foreign population is based on the sole legal criterion of citizenship. Every person usually resident in Italy who declares a citizenship other than Italian is considered to be foreigner whereas by using the term immigrant we mean a person without Italian citizenship born abroad.

The concept of immigrant population is therefore based on the place of birth. A foreign person born outside of Italy continues to belong to the immigrant population, even after acquiring the Italian citizenship. In other words, immigrant population includes persons born abroad who are either naturalized Italians or foreigners.

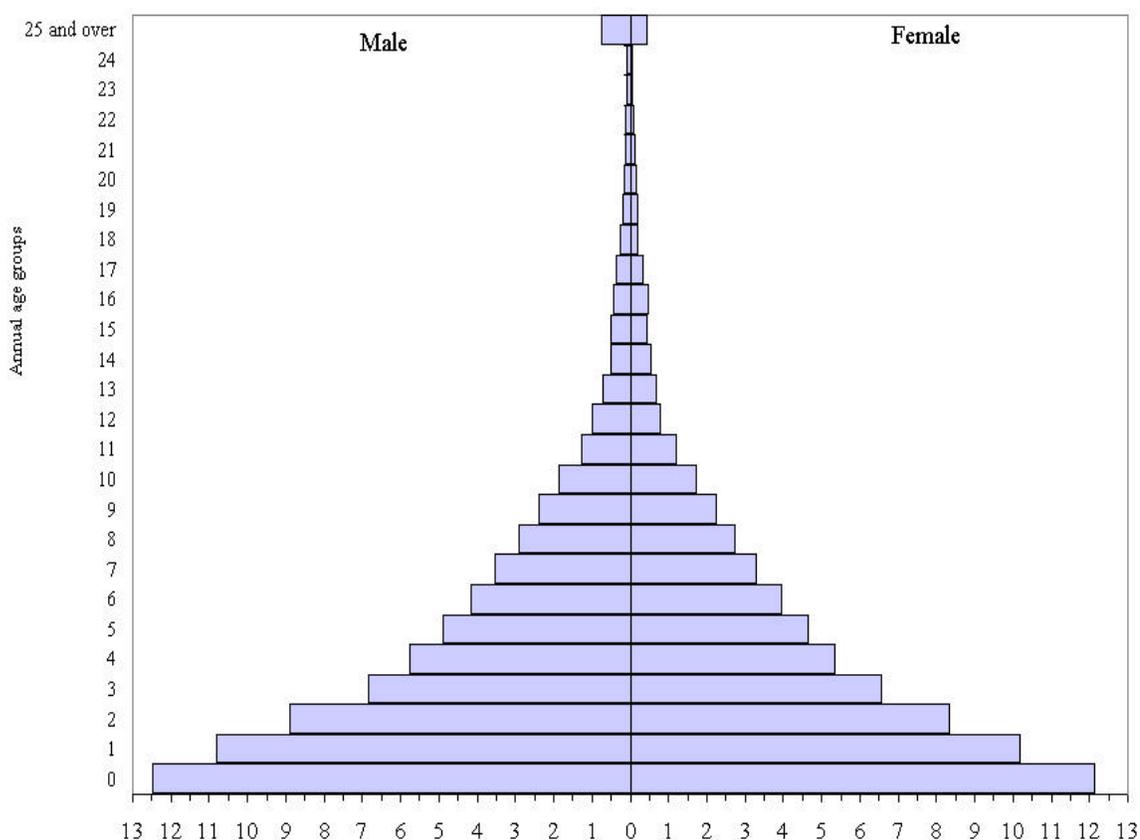
The two populations correspond only partially (not every immigrant is a foreigner and vice versa not every foreigner is an immigrant: some immigrants are not foreigners in that they are naturalized Italians, and some foreigners are immigrants of second generation since they were born in Italy) and precisely for what concerns foreign persons born abroad.

16. As already said, the **second generation immigrants** may be identified with *children born in Italy* from non-Italian parents (foreigners according to Italian law on citizenship).

17. At the 2001 Population Census, there were about 138,000 foreign children born in Italy from non-Italian parents¹, accounting for more than 10 per cent of the whole foreign usually resident population (see figure 2).

18. Due to the increase in international migration flows to Italy over the past decades and to the recent raise of family reunion flows, high figures for foreign children born in Italy are not surprising, representing in fact the most visible consequence of changes in size and structure of the foreign population and a growing potential reservoir for citizenship acquisitions. In fact, about 135,000 persons (children born in Italy from non-Italian parents aged between 0 and 19) will be entitled to Italian citizenship in the next years (according to the Italian law on citizenship, second generation immigrants can apply for Italian citizenship between the age of eighteen and nineteen).

Figure 2 – Age pyramid of second generation immigrants (foreign children born in Italy). Absolute values (in thousands). Istat, 2001 Population Census.

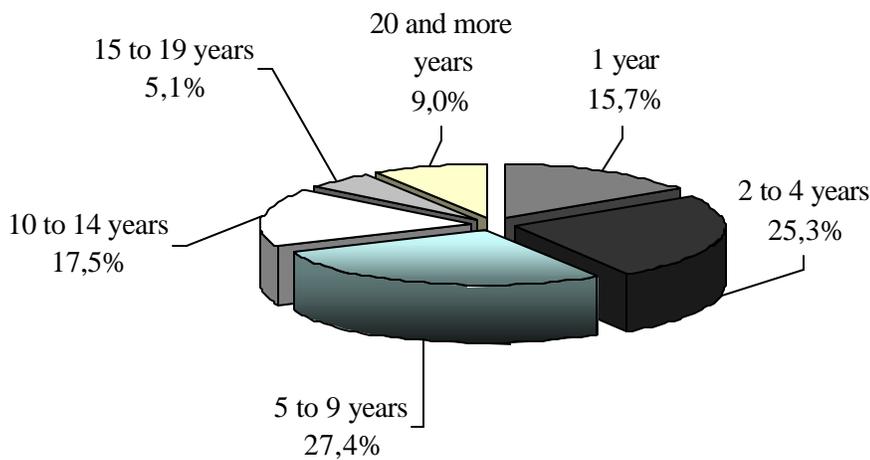


| Gender | Age groups | | | | | | Total |
|--------|------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------------|---------|
| | 0-4 | 5-9 | 10-14 | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25 and over | |
| Male | 44,761 | 17,839 | 53,380 | 1,740 | 552 | 738 | 70,968 |
| Female | 42,566 | 16,856 | 4,935 | 1,563 | 484 | 419 | 66,823 |
| Total | 87,327 | 34,695 | 10,273 | 3,303 | 1,036 | 1,157 | 137,791 |

¹ For foreign children born in Italy we intend foreign nationals of all ages living as children (classified according to their family status) with parents who are both foreigners (or whose single parent is foreigner, for lone parent families).

19. Foreign persons born abroad enumerated in the 2001 Population Census had been living in Italy for an average of 8.4 years. Almost 30% of foreigners born abroad had already been living in Italy for 10 or more years, 14% for 15 or more years (9% for 20 and more years), but more than 40% of them had been living in Italy for less than 5 years (see figure 3). Among the latter we identify the women's recent migrations for family reunion. In spite of Italy's brief history as an immigration country, it is possible to say that to a large extent the foreign presence is quite stable and is not characterized any more by the so-called "non-rooted" foreigners (differently from 1991).

Figure 3 – Foreign population born-abroad by duration of stay in Italy.
Percentages values. Istat, 2001 Population Census.



20. With reference to the main reasons for immigration, almost half of the foreigners born abroad (46,6 %) came to Italy to work (see figure 4). However, family reasons also represent a significant proportion (more than 36 %). The high percentage of foreigners migrated for family reason, in fact, followed the trend of other European countries with a tradition of immigration, where the more substantial migratory flows concern family reunions characterised by balanced sex ratio, a progressive increase in the number of families and therefore the foreigners' progressive stabilization.

21. Migration reasons related to refugees, asylum seekers and religion are not counted separately since, according to the law on protection of personal data, these categories are considered to be "sensitive" and are merged into the category "others" (about 14 %).

Figure 4– Foreign population born-abroad by main reason of migration to Italy.
Percentages values. Istat, 2001 Population Census.

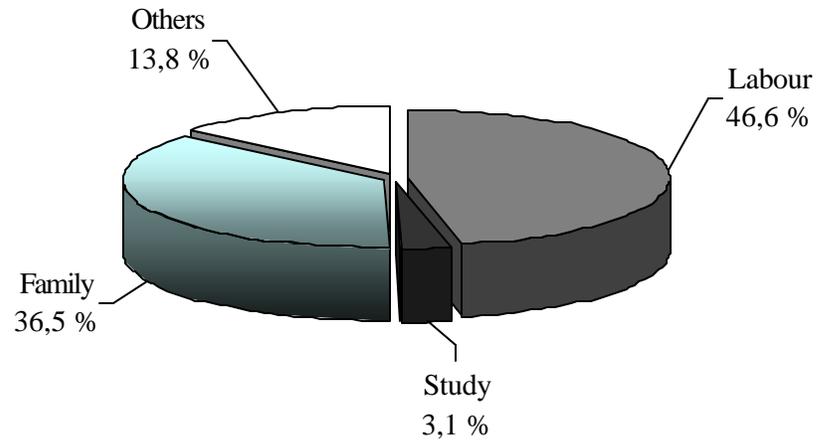
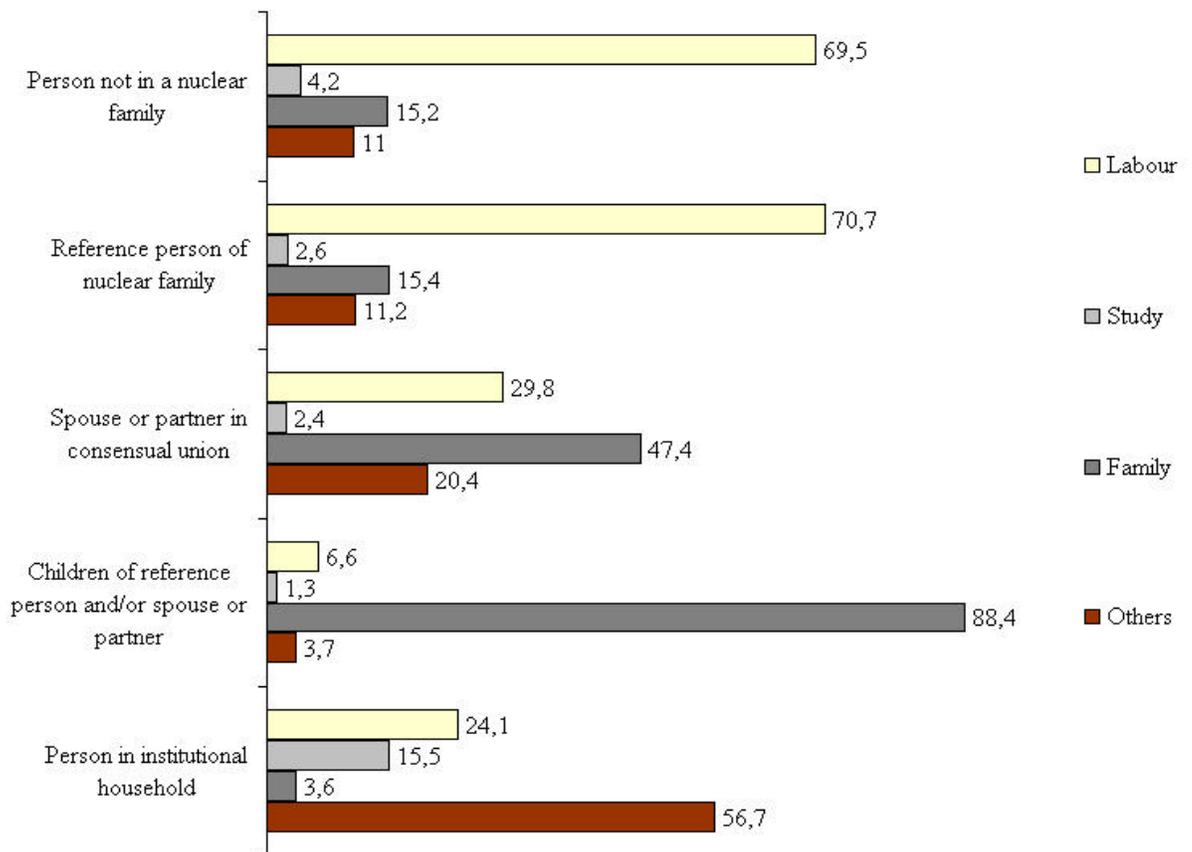


Figure 5 – Foreign residents born-abroad by main reason for migration to Italy and household/family status. *Percentage values, Istat 2001 Population Census.*



22. The data on reasons for migration by household/family status show that for persons not living in a family nucleus and for reference persons the most frequent reason for migration is to work (about 70% for both categories) [see figure 5]. On the contrary, family reunions represent the primary reason for migration for the other household members (about 47 % for spouse or partner and 88 % for children).

Therefore, the question on relationship to the reference person of the household, in addition to the country of citizenship and the place of birth, plays an important role in order to identify second generation immigrants and to better understand migration strategies, especially given the fact that the completion of an official questionnaire (as the census form might be perceived) is likely to be done according to the “documented” reason for migration, which may differ from the actual one or from individual aspirations (i.e. to look for better life conditions).

III.1 Foreigners

23. A further factor to be considered is the wide range of countries of origin that emerges through the analysis of the Census data by citizenship. In fact, ethnic diversity has always been a fundamental aspect of the foreign presence in Italy, since the 1970's when, after the closing of the borders by the traditional European immigration countries, Italy first became an immigration country. At 2001 Population Census, foreigners were enumerated from 192 countries.

24. The groups with more than 1,000 persons are 82 whereas those with more than 10,000 persons are 30. The foreign presence in Italy is hence characterised by a great number of national communities which appear to be clearly differentiated one from another in terms of structural characters, motivations and migratory strategies. Besides, this is true not only with regard to the distinction between immigrants from “high migratory pressure” countries and immigrants from other countries, but also within the former group.

25. In table 1, data by sex ratio and average age are displayed for the 20 most represented countries of citizenship of usually resident foreigners, which account for 72.3% of the total foreign presence.

26. Differently from 1991, data on usually resident foreigners show a substantial balance between males and females, with a sex ratio of 98 men per 100 women for the foreign population being considered on the whole. The slow *feminization* of the foreign population (in 1991 it was 112.3) accounts for a greater stability of the foreign presence in Italy. In fact, the recent increase in family reunion flows, due to improved working and housing conditions of a growing share of immigrants, has allowed a rebalancing of the structure by sex of Italy's foreign population, characterised until recently by a predominance of males, even if to a lesser extent than the traditional European immigration countries. Yet, the sex ratio still represents a major differentiation factor among the various immigrants national communities, with flows strongly or even almost exclusively composed of men (if we look at the sex ratios of Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Senegal) and flows composed in majority of women (this is the case of Brazil, Poland, Philippines, Romania, for example).

27. The age structure also reveals differences between the Italian and the foreign population and, within the latter, among the various national communities.

On the whole, the foreign population is quite young, with an average age slightly higher than 30 years (30.4 for men and 31.4 for women) whereas the average age of the Italian population is 41.7 for men and 43.1 for women.

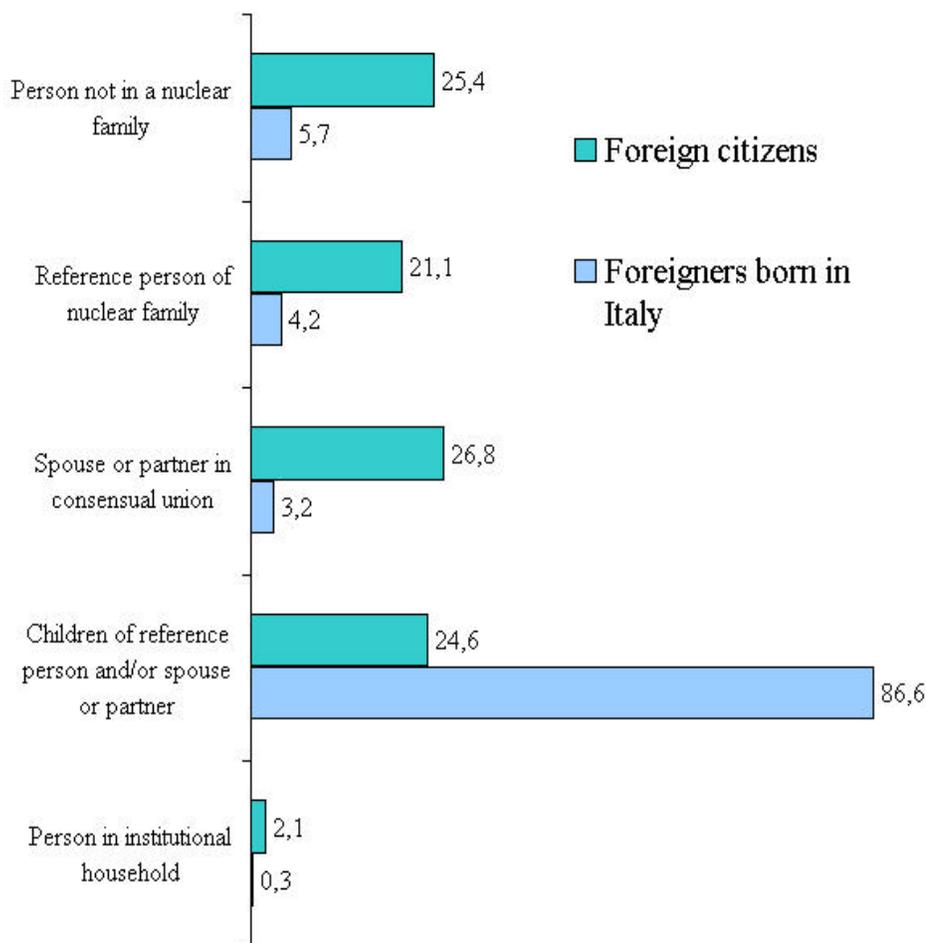
28. The percentage of minors has significantly increased, raising from the 14.2% in 1991 to 21.3% in 2001, thanks both to family reunions and births. Foreigners mainly belong to the central age classes, with 45.1% of persons between 30 and 49 years of age, and a slight predominance of men (52.5%) in this category.

29. A breakdown by household/family status shows that the large majority of foreign residents lives in a nuclear family, with similar proportions as reference persons, spouses/partners and children (with, respectively, 21.1%, 26.8% and 24.6% of the total) [see figure 6]. The same analysis on the sub-population of foreigners born in Italy shows the significant though obvious evidence of a great majority of them (86.6%) being children, thus recording the emergence of a *second generation of immigrants*.

Table 1 – Foreign citizens by countries of citizenship (20 most represented countries), sex ratio and average age. Absolute and Percentage values. Istat, 2001 Population Census

| Country of citizenship | Absolute values | Sex ratio | Average age | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | Total | Male | Female |
| Morocco | 108,103 | 151.6 | 27.0 | 28.7 | 24.5 |
| Albania | 173,064 | 128.7 | 27.2 | 27.6 | 26.7 |
| Romania | 74,885 | 86.8 | 29.3 | 28.8 | 29.7 |
| Philippines | 53,994 | 63.7 | 32.6 | 30.2 | 34.1 |
| Serbia and Montenegro | 49,324 | 113.7 | 27.5 | 27.2 | 27.8 |
| Tunisia | 47,656 | 185.1 | 27.8 | 29.8 | 24.2 |
| China | 46,887 | 106.1 | 26.3 | 26.6 | 26.1 |
| Germany | 35,091 | 54.6 | 44.4 | 43.9 | 44.6 |
| Senegal | 31,174 | 546.0 | 33.8 | 35.6 | 24.2 |
| Peru | 29,452 | 59.4 | 30.6 | 28.0 | 32.2 |
| France | 29,313 | 49.5 | 42.7 | 41.0 | 43.6 |
| Republic of Macedonia | 28,073 | 154.4 | 24.7 | 25.7 | 23.1 |
| Egypt | 27,331 | 198.7 | 28.4 | 30.5 | 24.2 |
| Poland | 27,220 | 37.4 | 31.7 | 29.5 | 32.5 |
| India | 27,188 | 134.2 | 27.7 | 27.9 | 27.3 |
| Sri Lanka | 26,474 | 119.9 | 29.8 | 30.6 | 28.8 |
| Ghana | 21,676 | 137.6 | 27.4 | 29.1 | 25.0 |
| United Kingdom | 19,957 | 64.2 | 42.8 | 43.0 | 42.7 |
| Croatia | 18,362 | 87.1 | 35.3 | 34.0 | 36.5 |
| Brazil | 18,216 | 33.5 | 33.7 | 29.8 | 35.0 |
| Total (20 most frequent countries) | 893,44 | 111.3 | 29.7 | 29.9 | 29.8 |
| Other countries | 441,449 | 70.0 | 33.8 | 32.6 | 34.6 |
| TOTAL | 1 334,889 | 98.0 | 30.4 | 31.5 | 30.9 |

Figure 6– Foreign citizens and foreigners born in Italy by household/family status.
Percentage values. Istat, 2001 Population Census.



30. Looking at some basic data on the housing situation of foreign residents, quite a big difference can be noted compared to the standard living conditions in the country. In fact, even if the large majority (see figure 7) of foreign residents lives in conventional dwellings (a slight percentage of homeless and persons living in non conventional dwellings, while the percentage of persons living in collective of living quarters is of almost 6%), private households whose members are all foreign citizens, clearly show a disadvantage for what concerns housing tenure and overcrowding rates (see figure 8). Not even a fifth of the foreign households owns the house (against more than 70% for all households enumerated) while the overcrowding rate² for the same aggregate, which is generally very low (2%), raises to 9%.

² Were considered overcrowded dwellings those of less than 50 square metres with for 4 or more occupants; those of less than 60 square metres with 5 or more occupants; those of less than 80 square metres with 6 or more occupants.

Figure 7 – Housing situation of usually resident foreigners.
Percentage values. Istat, 2001 Population Census.

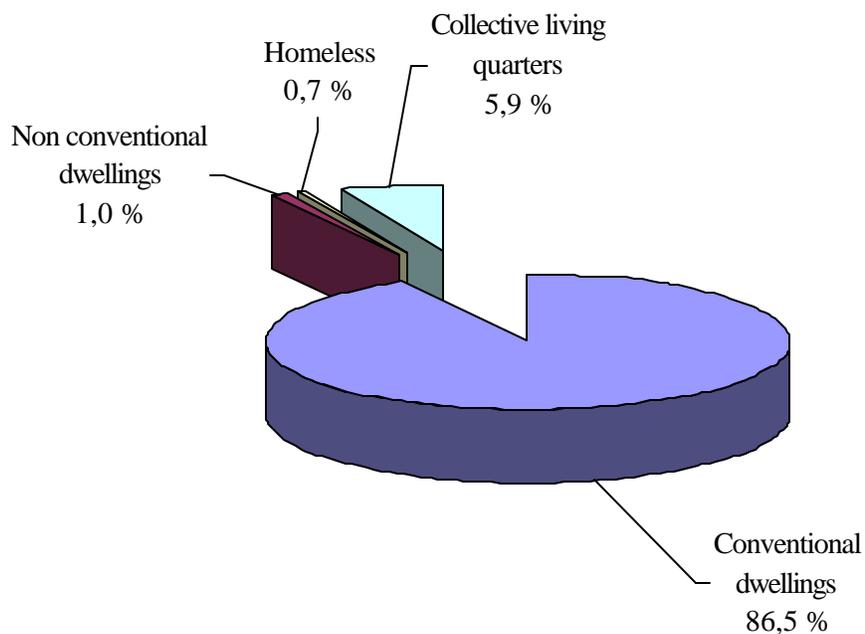
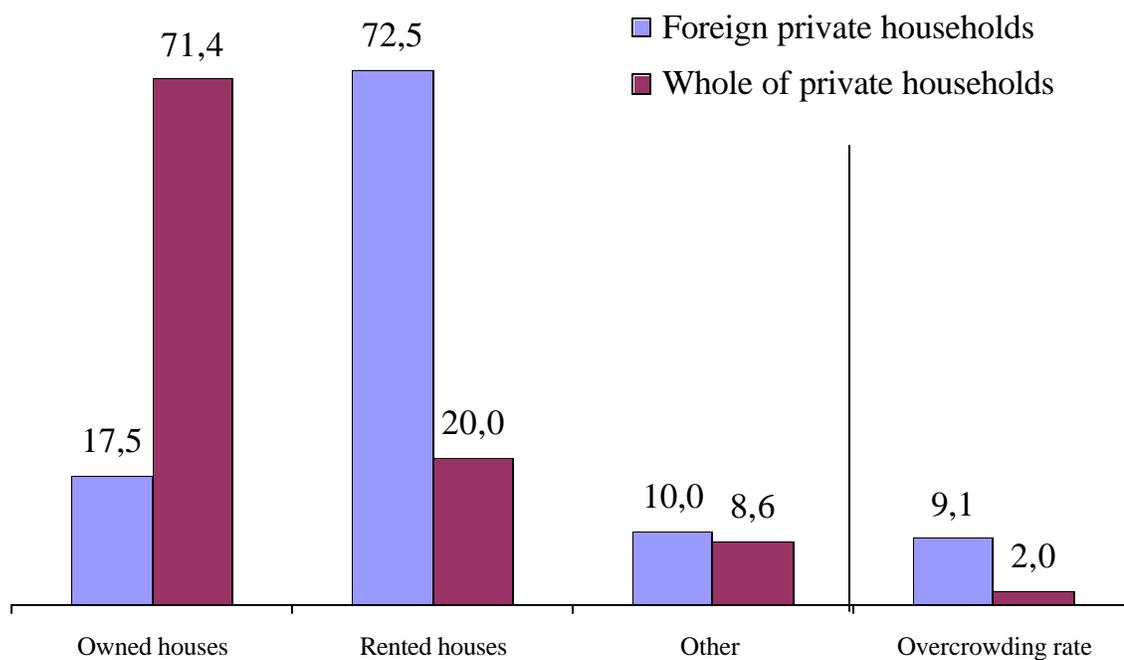


Figure 8 – Foreign private households by housing tenure.
Percentage values. Istat, 2001 Population Census.



III.2 Italian naturalized citizens

31. For the first time in the history of Italian Censuses, the 2001 Population Census provides data on citizenship acquisition. Even though the various naturalization typologies have not been distinguished (i.e., acquisition by marriage, ordinary naturalization and adoption have all been grouped under the same definition of "Italian by naturalization"), the population Census data represent a very important source to analyse both quantitative and qualitative characteristics of Italian naturalized citizens.

32. According to the 2001 Population Census, there are 285,782 naturalized citizens usually resident in Italy. The majority of them are married persons (about 54.0 per cent) while the percentage of married females raises to 96.0 per cent.

33. Actually, citizenship acquisition by marriage to an Italian spouse plays a very important role in Italy, with a clear asymmetry in comparison with ordinary naturalization (only 10% per year on the whole acquisitions provided from Ministry of the Interior).

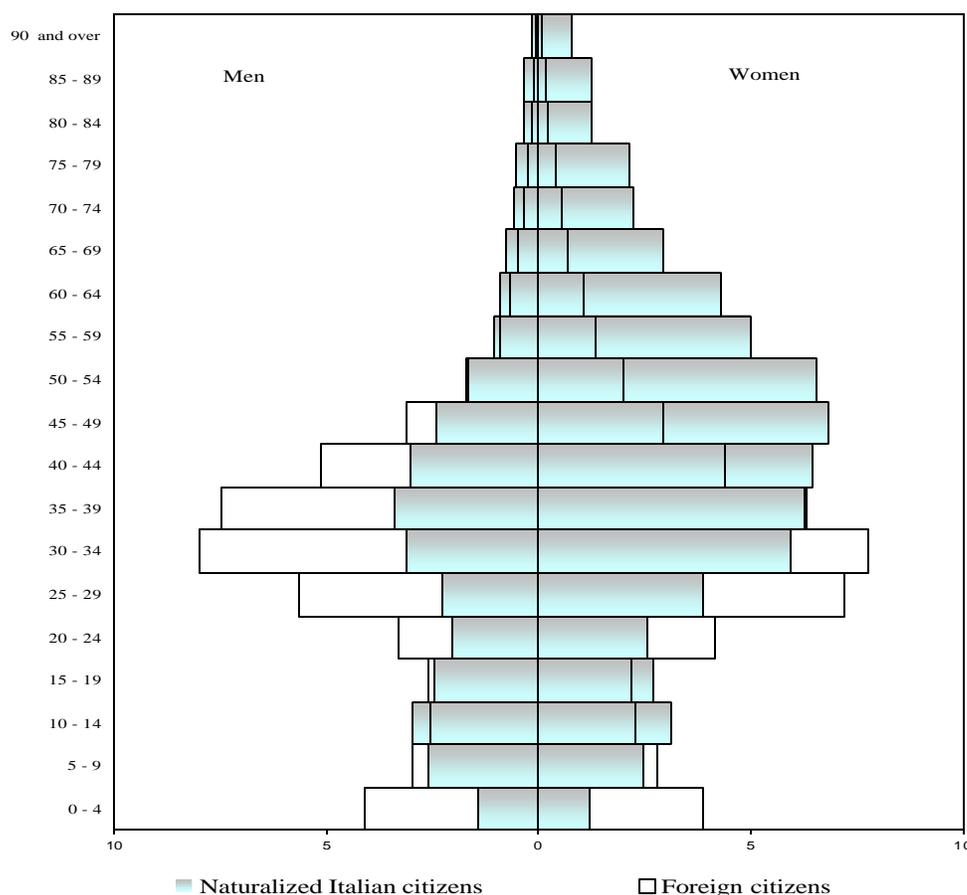
Table 2 – Naturalized Italian citizens by country of previous citizenship (20 most represented countries), sex ratio and average age. Istat, 2001 Population Census.

| Previous country of citizenship | Absolute values | Sex ratio | Average age | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | Total | Male | Female |
| France | 25,055 | 34,8 | 52,3 | 47,8 | 53,9 |
| Germany | 20,830 | 33,1 | 43,5 | 29,5 | 48,1 |
| Argentina | 16,890 | 74,5 | 42,3 | 38,4 | 45,2 |
| Switzerland | 15,045 | 42,2 | 43,7 | 34,7 | 47,4 |
| Brazil | 13,752 | 71,1 | 26,4 | 20,2 | 30,8 |
| Romania | 11,973 | 34,9 | 27,6 | 17,8 | 31,1 |
| United States | 11,211 | 52,2 | 46,4 | 39,3 | 50,0 |
| United Kingdom | 9,384 | 28,2 | 45,1 | 35,3 | 47,9 |
| Venezuela | 8,553 | 64,9 | 36,6 | 33,8 | 38,5 |
| Serbia and Montenegro | 8,030 | 37,0 | 54,5 | 49,4 | 56,4 |
| Russian Federation | 7,241 | 54,9 | 20,9 | 10,1 | 26,8 |
| Poland | 6,693 | 22,6 | 38,7 | 29,6 | 40,8 |
| Croatia | 6,604 | 36,4 | 51,6 | 47,7 | 53,0 |
| Austria | 6,484 | 25,6 | 64,2 | 62,6 | 64,6 |
| Canada | 5,532 | 70,0 | 35,1 | 33,0 | 36,6 |
| Colombia | 5,352 | 62,8 | 22,3 | 15,3 | 26,8 |
| Spain | 5,241 | 11,9 | 53,4 | 37,9 | 55,3 |
| Belgium | 4,597 | 41,1 | 45,1 | 39,3 | 47,5 |
| India | 4,532 | 49,6 | 18,3 | 19,8 | 17,6 |
| Australia | 4,247 | 63,7 | 38,6 | 36,4 | 40,0 |
| Total (20 most frequent countries) | 197,246 | 43,6 | 41,5 | 33,6 | 45,0 |
| Other countries | 88,536 | 55,8 | 38,5 | 33,8 | 41,1 |
| TOTAL | 285,782 | 47,2 | 40,6 | 33,7 | 43,9 |

34. The age distribution shows that males are younger than females (the average age is about 34 years for males and about 44 years for females).

35. Differences between foreigners and naturalized citizens become clearly visible when examining the age pyramids at the 2001 population Census (see figure 9). The naturalized citizens are considerably more aged than the foreigners and show a strong unbalance by sex. At the young ages (up to 24 years), the number of males and females in the various age groups is similar for both age pyramids, while the high number of adult women can be seen clearly in the age pyramid of naturalized women.

Figure 9 – Age pyramid of foreign nationals and naturalized Italians.
Absolute values (in thousands). Istat, 2001 Population Census.



36. Just a quick look at countries of previous citizenship of naturalized Italian citizens is enough to point out the relation with Italian emigration abroad during the last century with large numbers of persons previously citizens of France, Germany, Argentina and Switzerland. Figures show 25,000 persons with previous French citizenship, almost 21,000 with previous German one and about 17,000 and 15,000 with respectively previous Argentine and Swiss citizenship (see table 2).

37. With regard to naturalized Italian citizens whose country of previous citizenship is a country of immigration towards Italy, the largest groups are those of former Romanian citizens

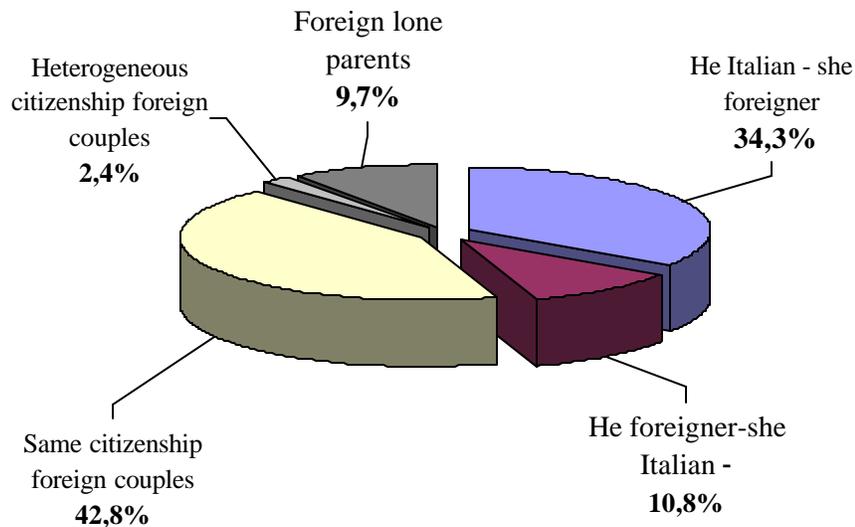
(almost 12,000 persons), former citizens of Serbia and Montenegro (about 8,000) and former citizens of Russian Federation and Poland (about 7,000 persons per each country).

III.3 Multi-citizenship couples

38. Family nuclei with at least a foreign member are mostly composed of multi-citizenship couples with one Italian partner (45.1% of total) and by foreign couples in which partners have the same citizenship (42.8%). Foreign lone parents account for 9.7% of the total and, finally, foreign couples where both partners are not Italian and have different citizenship add up to the remaining 2.4%. In more than three fourths of cases, Italian-foreigner couples are composed of Italian men and foreign women (see figure 10).

39. The territorial breakdown of family nuclei with at least a foreign member obviously follows that of private households with at least a foreign member: more than one third of this type of family nuclei lives in North-Western Italy, more than one fourth in the North-Eastern (25.5%) and in the Central parts (25.2%), the 9.7% in the South and the remaining 5.0% in the Islands (see figure 11). Southern regions and Islands show the highest percentages (59.4% and 57.2% respectively) of Italian-foreigner couples, mostly because of the presence of foreign citizens coming from the countries which were the traditional destinations of the emigration from Italy. As a matter of fact, Germany, France, United States, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Venezuela and Canada are recorded among the most frequent countries of citizenship of foreign partner in both cases (“he Italian-she foreigner”, “he foreigner-she Italian”).

Figure 10 - Family nuclei with at least a foreign member by type of nucleus



40. On the whole, Germany, France, Romania, Poland and Brazil are the most frequent countries of citizenship of foreign partner in “he Italian-she foreigner” couples; as for “he foreigner-she Italian” couples, the most frequent countries are (again) Germany and France, followed by Morocco, Tunisia and United Kingdom.

41. Tables 3 and 4 display some demographic indicators for multi-citizenship Italian-foreigner couples of the 10 most frequent countries of citizenship of the foreign partner.

Table 3 – Multi-citizenship couples “he Italian-she foreigner” by demographic characteristics of the 10 most frequent countries of citizenship of the foreign partner. Istat, 2001 Population Census.

| He Italian-she foreigner | Absolute values | Married couples ^(*) | Couples with children ^(*) | Mean number of children | Average age of male partner | Average age of female partner |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Germany | 10,795 | 81,4 | 63,7 | 1,1 | 47,0 | 42,9 |
| France | 10,617 | 81,9 | 65,9 | 1,1 | 47,0 | 43,2 |
| Romania | 9,585 | 79,3 | 43,8 | 0,6 | 44,3 | 33,5 |
| Poland | 8,418 | 77,6 | 58,6 | 0,8 | 41,8 | 33,9 |
| Brazil | 7,462 | 82,2 | 59,6 | 0,9 | 42,7 | 36,1 |
| United Kingdom | 6,200 | 83,1 | 69,2 | 1,2 | 45,7 | 42,3 |
| Spain | 5,839 | 83,6 | 64,7 | 1,0 | 42,4 | 39,5 |
| Albania | 5,005 | 78,5 | 55,8 | 0,8 | 43,5 | 33,2 |
| Cuba | 4,657 | 90,2 | 43,1 | 0,5 | 39,6 | 28,2 |
| Switzerland | 4,391 | 87,7 | 65,4 | 1,1 | 47,1 | 43,3 |

^(*) Percentage on the total amount of same foreign partner citizenship couples.

Table 4 – Multi-citizenship couples “he foreigner-she Italian” by demographic characteristics of the 10 most frequent countries of citizenship of the foreign partner. Istat, 2001 Population Census

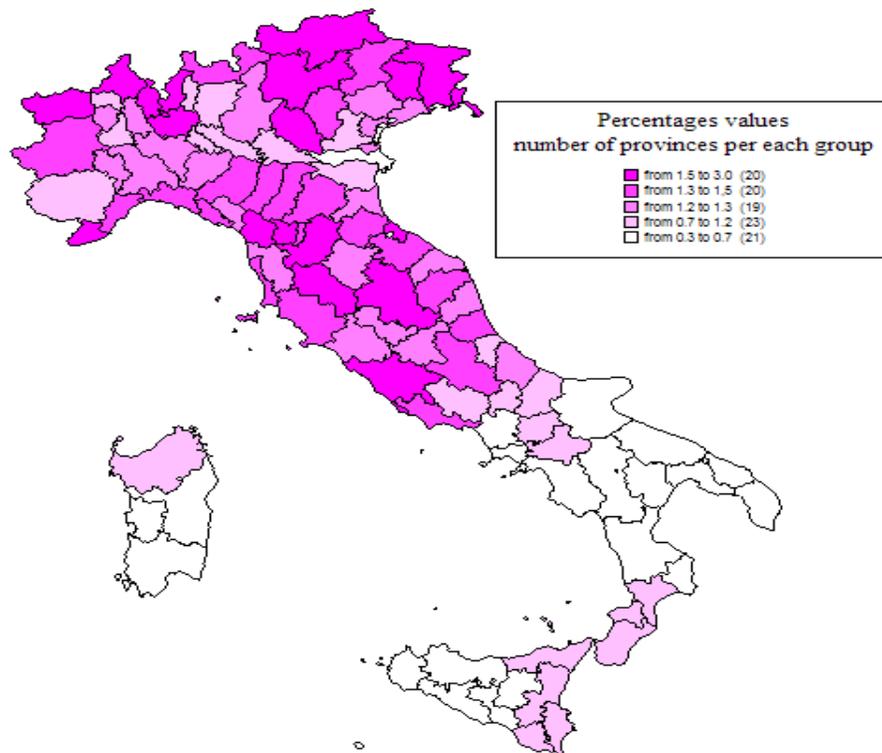
| He foreigner-she Italian | Absolute values | Married couples ^(*) | Couples with children ^(*) | Mean number of children | Average age of male partner | Average age of female partner |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Germany | 3,750 | 85,3 | 62,2 | 1,0 | 45,8 | 43,2 |
| France | 3,593 | 85,2 | 63,8 | 1,0 | 46,6 | 44,3 |
| Morocco | 3,108 | 74,7 | 65,1 | 1,1 | 36,4 | 35,5 |
| Tunisia | 3,000 | 79,3 | 70,6 | 1,2 | 39,0 | 37,6 |
| United Kingdom | 2,995 | 83,9 | 59,5 | 1,0 | 46,4 | 44,0 |
| United States | 2,557 | 93,5 | 56,8 | 0,9 | 49,9 | 46,9 |
| Albania | 2,081 | 72,2 | 56,2 | 0,8 | 33,4 | 32,9 |
| Switzerland | 1,971 | 90,2 | 58,1 | 0,9 | 47,4 | 44,7 |
| Argentina | 1,805 | 85,9 | 72,3 | 1,3 | 44,0 | 41,3 |
| Egypt | 1,748 | 84,1 | 68,9 | 1,2 | 43,3 | 41,5 |

^(*) Percentage on the total amount of same foreign partner citizenship couples.

42. In both cases (“he Italian-she foreigner”, “he foreigner-she Italian”), at least three fourths of the couples are married, with the highest percentages recorded respectively by Cuban-Italian couples and American (USA)-Italian couples and the lowest ones shown, for “he Italian-she foreigner couples”, by Poland, and for “he foreigner-she Italian” couples by Albania.

43. The lowest percentage of couples with children is recorded by “he Italian-she Cuban” couples (43.1%), who also show the lowest mean number of children (0.5), one of the lowest average age of male partner (39.6) and the lowest average age of female partner (28.2). The highest percentage of couples with children is recorded by “he Argentinean-she Italian” couples (72.3%) while the highest mean number of children is that of “he Italian-she British” and “he Argentinean-she Italian” couples. The lowest average age of the male partner is that of Albanian partners of Italian women (33.4) while the highest average age of both male and female partners is that of “he American (USA)-she Italian” couples, with respectively 49.9 e 46.9.

Figure 11 - Multi-citizenship couples by province of usual residence.
Percentages values. Istat, 2001 Population Census.



IV. Final remarks

44. From the analysis of the 2001 Census data, the combined use of questions on country of birth and country of citizenship appears to be relevant to identify and count foreigners stock and even, to a certain extent, the broader category of 'population having foreign background'. This latter would provide a more comprehensive count since it includes foreign citizens, foreign-born persons (with the exception of nationals born abroad but Italian citizens by birth) and most of second generation immigrants³.

45. In order to better estimate both the foreign citizens and the naturalized stocks, an additional question on dual citizenship might be useful. By means of the pilot surveys, the new question on dual citizenship should be tested in order to evaluate the burden on respondents and non-response rates.

46. With reference to the stock of second generation immigrants, given that the goal is to count children born in Italy from non-Italian parents, this group can be identified on the basis of the information on family status (via the question on the relationship with reference person of the household), citizenship and place of birth.

47. Moreover, the relationship to the reference person of the household plays an important role also for what concerns the reason for migration. Considering that the question on the reason for migration could be influenced by the official motivation or even by individual aspirations, its use in connection with the information on the family status could instead allow drawing a more precise picture of the reason for migration.

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³ See Ferruzza A., Gallo G., Zindato D., 2005.

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