

Geneva, 22/09/2023

Meeting of the Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses

The use of signs of life and administrative data sources to
identify the stock of Italian citizens residing abroad

Outline

- International and National context
- Census of Italian Citizens Abroad: data sources and opportunity for a new statistical process
- Coherence with the Italian Permanent Population Census at micro level
- The role of the surveys
- Conclusions

Reliable data on migration

- Data on migration are needed for estimating populations and understanding demographic change. **Migration has become an increasingly important component of both demographic and social change** (Migration statistics: report of the Secretary-General, UN 2020)
- The increase in the level and the characteristics of international migration have also amplified the need for quality data
- The objective 1 of the Global Compact on Migration as well as the objective 17.18 of the SDGs calls for a better collection and use of disaggregated migration data

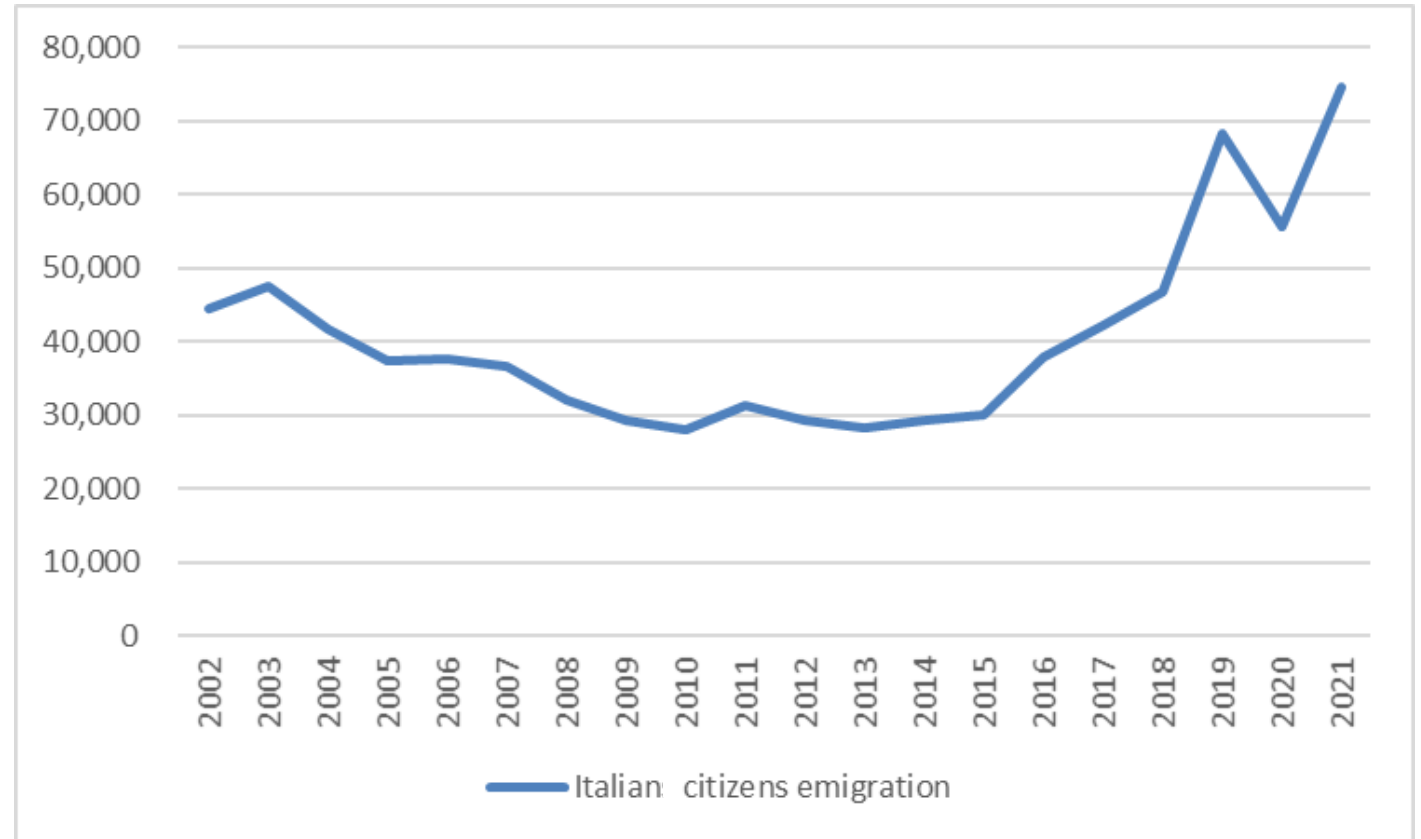


Statistics on emigration and citizens living abroad

- Lack of accurate and timely data to be informed about the phenomenon in its entirety and complexity on both stock and flows.
- A global consultation on national practices related to international migration statistics has revealed data gaps and needs, as countries indicated that there were some areas of policy interest for which no statistics were being produced. This was the case for citizens living abroad for which 37 countries (out of 79) indicated that **no data were being collected**.

Italian emigration is increasing

- ❖ In recent years, the registered Italian emigration abroad has grown in intensity and become more complex in its composition.
- ❖ This trend of an upturn in Italian citizens moving abroad has led to a growing interest in Italians abroad to understand the nature of these movements and their impact on the demographic, economic and social situation of our country.
- ❖ The last census of Italians abroad was conducted in 2003.



Italian Permanent Population Census and Housing (PPCH)

The strategy of the Italian Permanent Population Census and Housing is based on the use of administrative data and registers currently in use at Istat.

The PPCH was envisioned shortly after the 2011 census when Istat began transitioning from a traditional "door-to-door" enumeration to a permanent census.

POPOLAZIONE E ABITAZIONI

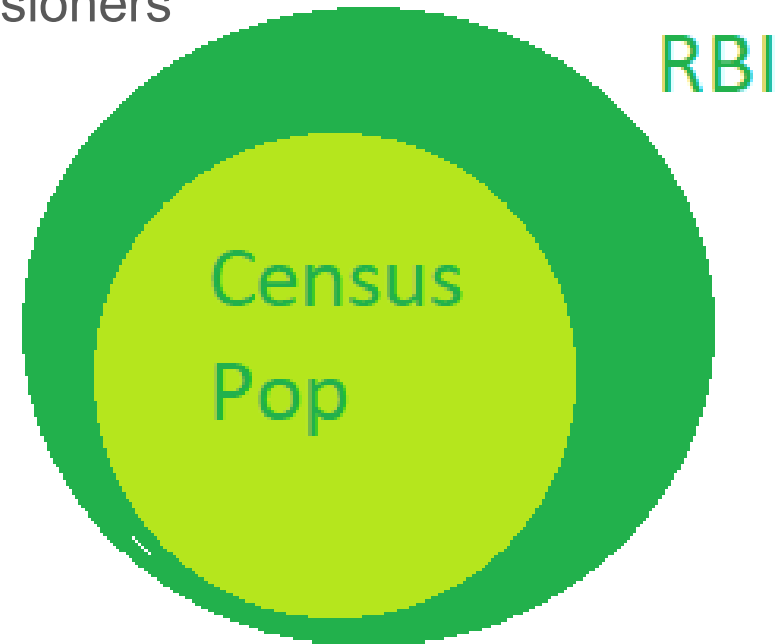


CENSIMENTI PERMANENTI

Base Register of Individuals

The Base Register of Individuals, Families, and Households (RBI) is the backbone of the PPCH.

RBI has allowed to integrate the individual data of population register with information from other archives, such as those provided by Social Security System, Ministry of Education, Universities and Research, Real Estate Cadastre, Pensioners' Registry, etc.



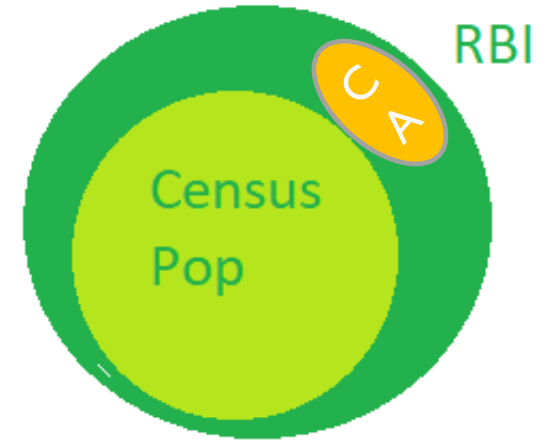
Census on Italian Citizens Abroad (CA)

ISTAT has access to administrative archives that provide information on the population of interest:

1. the Consular Archive and
2. The Municipal Register of Italians Resident Abroad
3. Other data sources (e.g., tax return archive; archive of Retired People)

Integration to identify the list of Italians living abroad for political elections.

Data validation goes beyond the electoral election. Other administrative records can help to increase the accuracy of the statistics produced.



Different migration histories

Italians citizens abroad by country of birth, 1.1.2022

Country of birth	Italian citizens	Country of birth	Italian citizens
Italy	1.812	UK	126
Argentina	1.043	Australia	103
Brasil	722	Chile	73
Germany	449	Canada	68
Switzerland	400	Spain	58
France	217	Peru	45
Belgium	181	Marocco	39
Venezuela	155	South Africa	35
Uruguay	139	Colombia	29
Usa	126	Other Countries	432

Source: Consular Archive

Integration between the two processes at individual level

Within the frame of the RBI, results of the signs of life in Italy statistical process are

- ❑ PPCH=1 usual residents in Italy;
- ❑ PPCH=0 non usual residents in Italy

This results will be checked against the results of the Italians abroad statistical process

- ❑ CA = 1 usual residents abroad;
- ❑ CA=0 non usual residents abroad

For Italian citizens should be PPCH=1 AND CA=0 and viceversa. However...



EVER PRESENT (PPCH=1 AND CA=1)

Reason behind this inconsistency:

1. People move faster than Italian administrative procedures. Signs of life can anticipate a return migration (PPCH is correct)
2. People abroad have also signs of life in Italy (CA is correct)



ALWAYS ABSENT (PPCH=0 AND CA=0)

Reason behind this inconsistency:

1. Italians abroad in some cases are reluctant to communicate they left the country (PPCH is correct)
2. Signs of life fail to capture the individual's presence in the available administrative data sources (CA is correct)



How to address these issues

An additional source of information are the sample surveys designed for the Permanent Population Census.

❖ The outcomes of these surveys could be used as an external statistical source for estimating on-the-ground rates of individuals with or without signs of presence and their profile with the aim of applying a probabilistic approach.

❖ Another way to use survey data to solve these cases might be to try to identify deterministic rules and then test with statistical models the accuracy of the choices made

Survey on Italians abroad

Qualitative information that can be collected only by means of a specific survey are also needed for policy migration governance.

ISTAT intends also to implement a survey with the aim of collecting information on the Italian population living abroad and analyzing some aspects of emigrants with reference to the factors that contributed to the migratory choice, living conditions, and plans.

In addition, the survey will focus on the second generations of Italians born in another country with reference to belonging, identity and plans (e.g., stay abroad or return to Italy).

Conclusion

The availability of administrative data is increasing, as well as the need for demographic information. A new approach to the census could bridge these gaps.

Italy is attempting to design a statistical process that identifies a population of Italian citizens residing abroad that is consistent with census data.

The idea is to create a parallel process that integrates with the census 'downstream.' The ideal scenario would be the realization of a single integrated process that identifies both populations.

Important to collect experiences, feedback, comments on the process described.

Further improvements of the quality can be achieved through possible collaboration with other countries (mirror statistics at the micro/macro level).

Thank you

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