

# Migration in Europe

**MigrEU** Jean Monnet Module

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## Country report: Italy

Italy is a member of the European Union since its foundation. Because of its strategic geographical position, faced on the Mediterranean Sea, this country is one of the main destinations of migratory flows.

The phenomenon of immigration in Italy started in 1970. At first, immigrants came from Eastern European countries; in the last few years, many are from North Africa. Nowadays, this is a problem for both the political and public opinion, even though they have a lot of reasons to migrate: they are looking for a better life with their family because of hard situations in their home country, like poverty, wars, or persecutions.

This report will offer a description of migration in Italy focusing in different areas, to better understand the migration process in Italy.

### 1. Stock of population

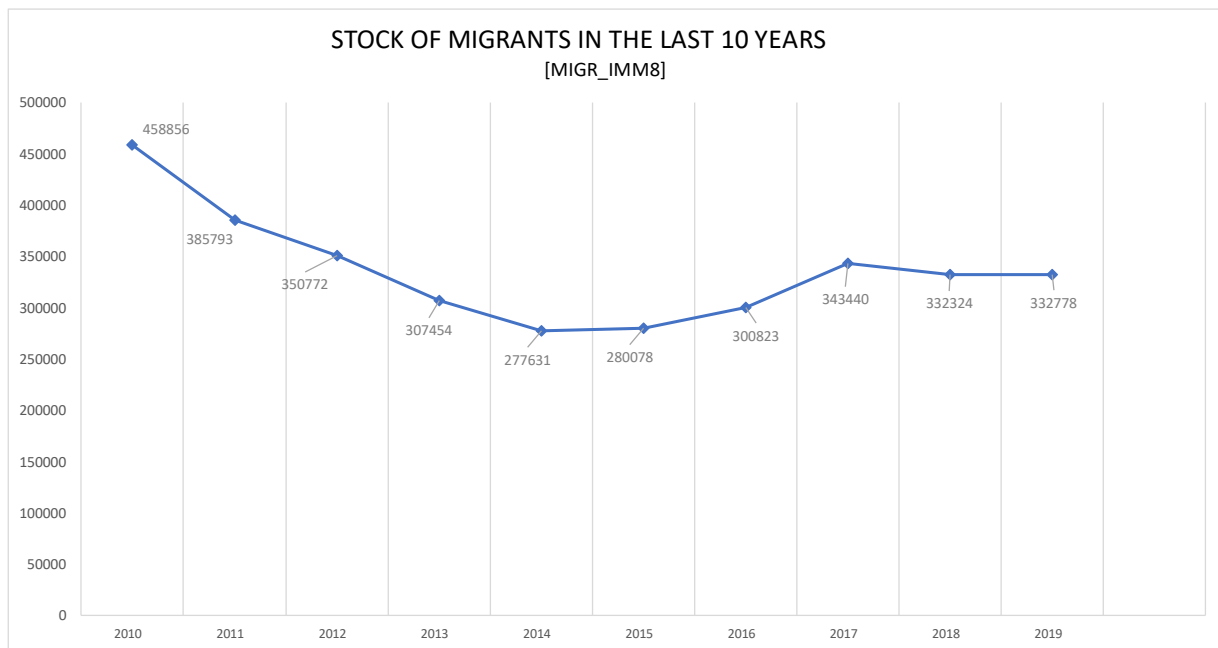


The graph above shows the stock of population in the last decade (2010-2020). During the period we considered, the number of people in Italy on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of each year averaged around 60 million people. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2010 in Italy, there were 59.190.143 people and from that year there has

been a slight increase of the population and the peak of that was on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of 2015 with 60.795.612 people. From 2015 to 2020, the stock of population decreased: on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of 2020 there were 59.641.488.

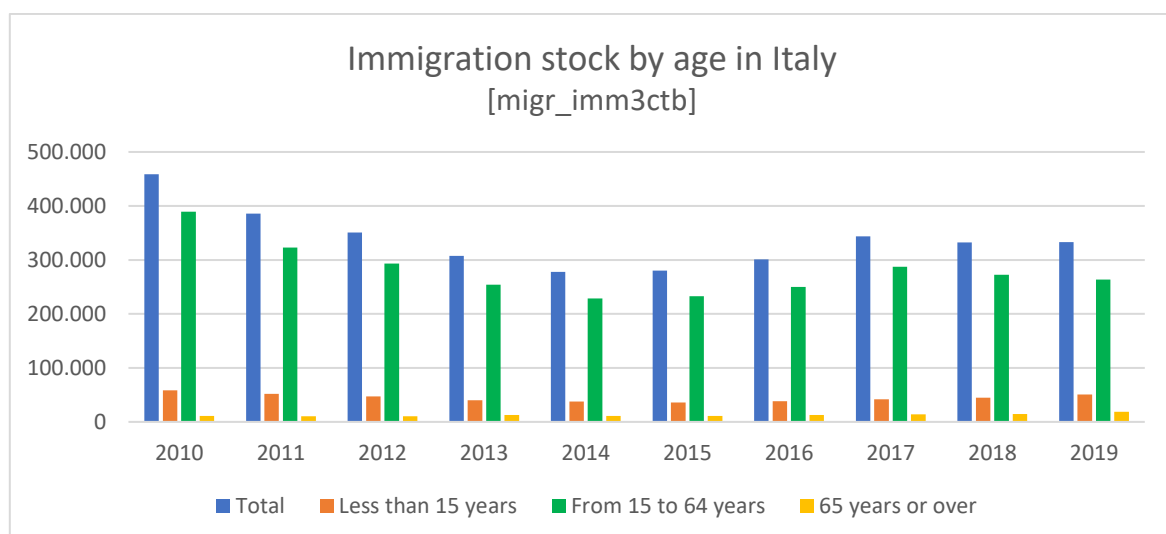
The graph is divided by sex and we can see that, even if there is not a huge difference between males and females, in Italy there are more females than males. The biggest gap between the two sexes was in 2012 with 30.667.608 females and 28.726.599 males which means a difference of 1.941.009; while the lowest gap was in 2020, with 30.591.392 females and 29.050.096 males, which means a difference of 1.541.296.

## 2. Stock of migrants in the last 10 years

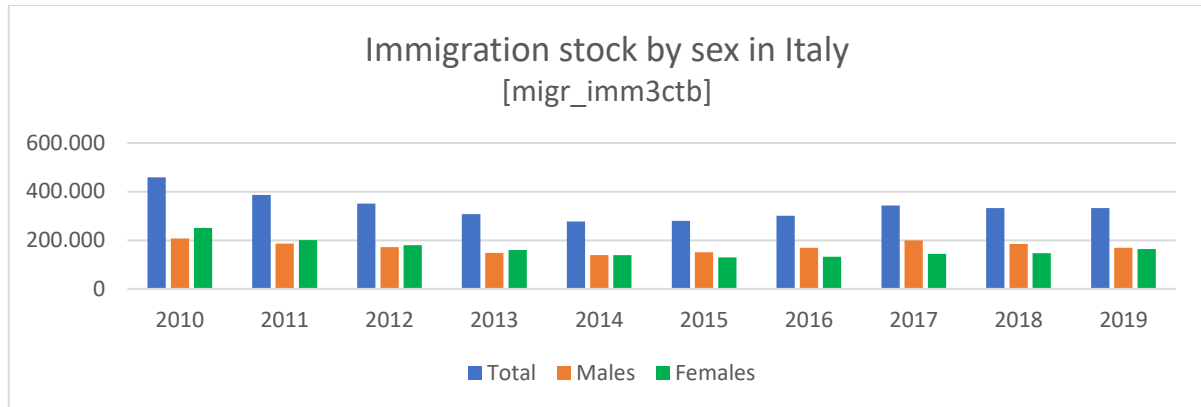


The figure above shows how the stock of migrants changed from 2010 to 2019. The peak year was 2010 with 458.856 migrants. The year with less migrants was 2014 with 277.631 migrants.

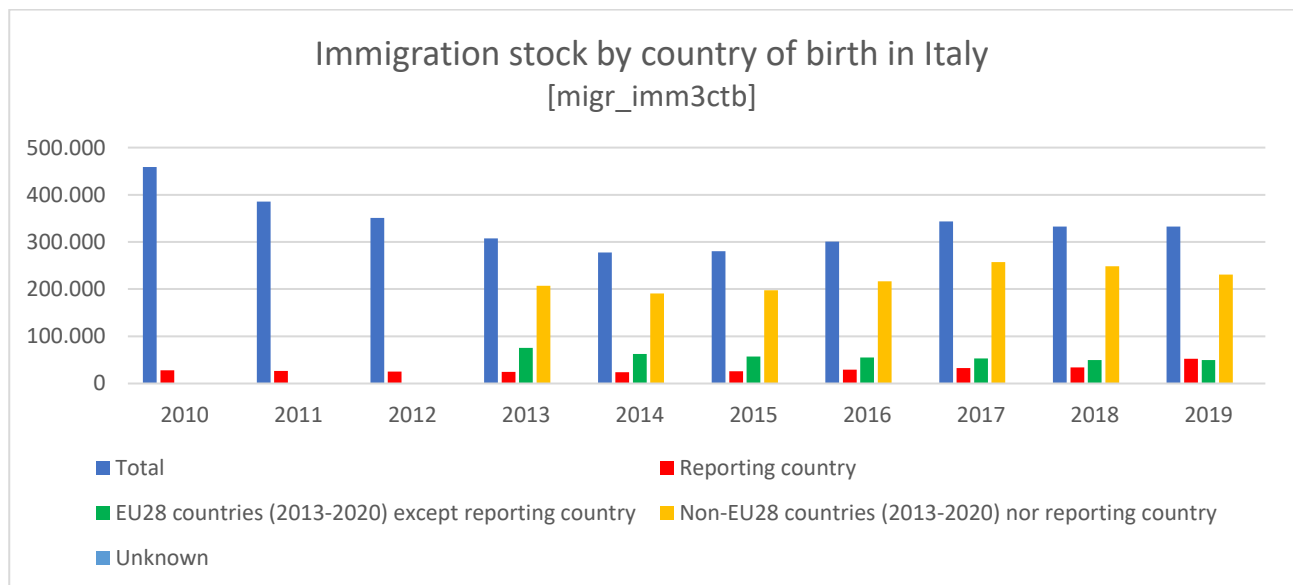
## 3. Immigration stock by category (sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration)



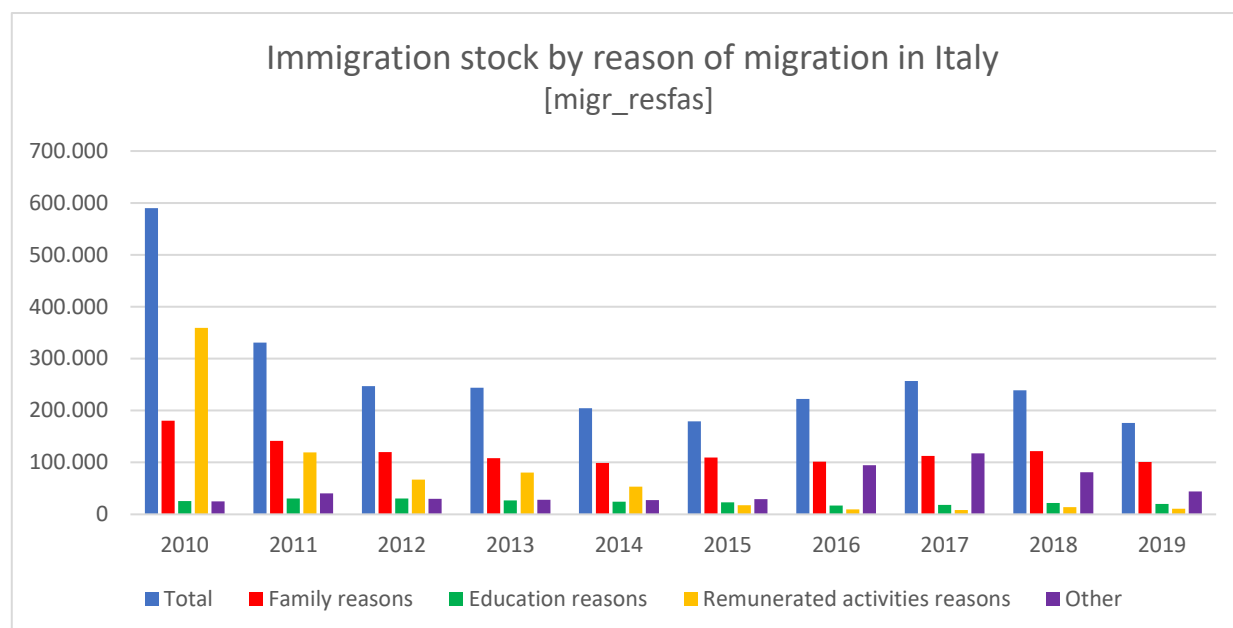
This graphic shows the immigration stock by age in the last ten years (2010-2019). Most immigrants (around 83%) are aged from 15 to 64 years; however, we can also see that the numbers of immigrants who have less than 15 years is rather significant, being around 13% each year. On the other hand, the number of immigrants who have more than 65 years is quite small: it is around 3,4% per year from 2010 to 2015 but it increased from 2016, reaching 18.585 immigrants (6%) in 2019.



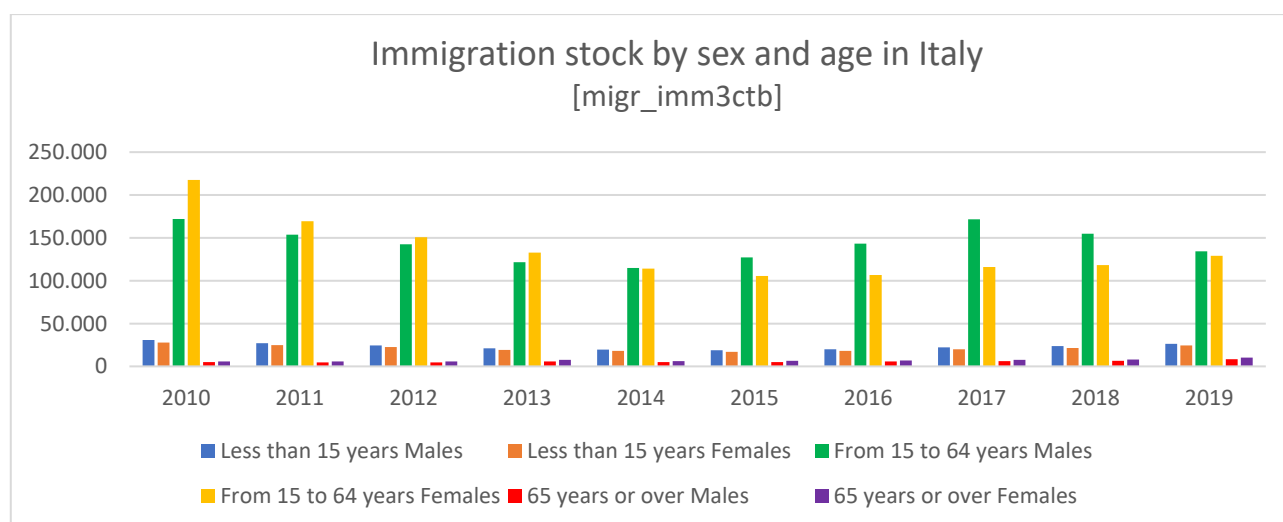
This graphic shows the immigration stock by sex in the last ten years (2010-2019). We can see that the number of male immigrants (47.6%) was slightly lower than the number of females (52.4%) from 2010 to 2013, however, from 2014 to 2019, the trend has been reversed: the number of male immigrants (54.1%) is higher than the number of female immigrants (45.9%).



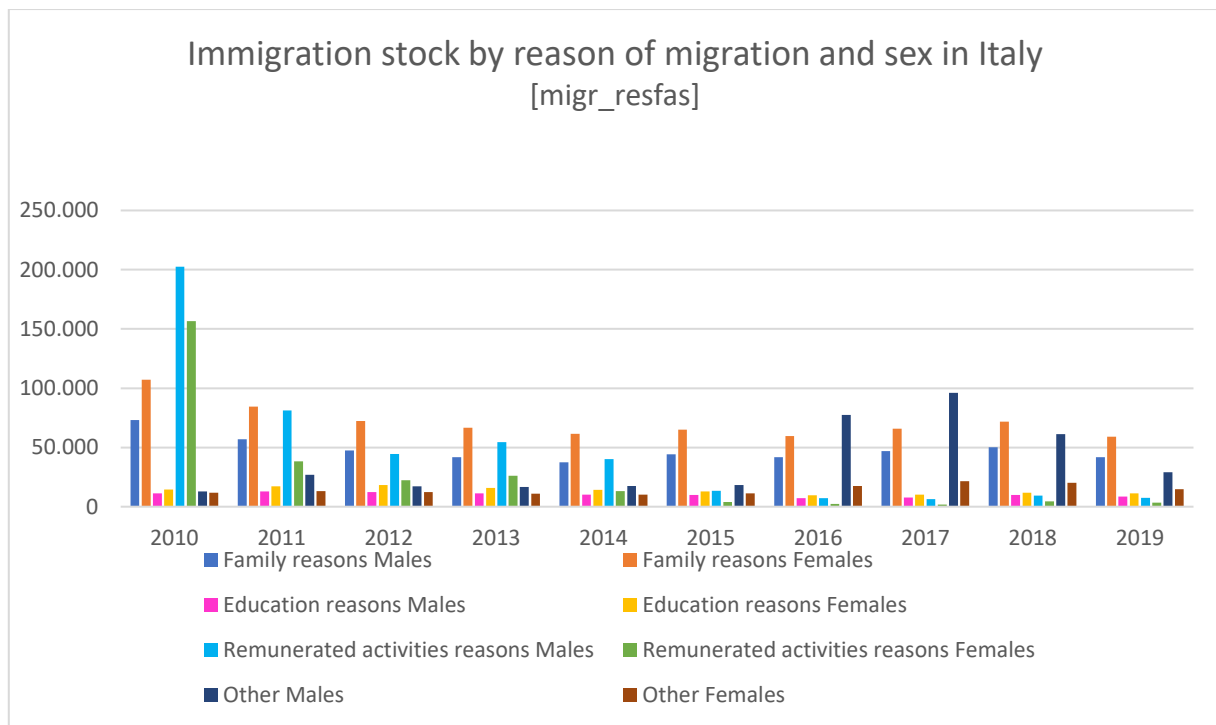
This graphic shows the immigration stock by country of birth of the immigrants, both males and females, in the last ten years (2010-2019). The data from 2010 to 2012 is not complete; however, from 2013 we can see that most immigrants (71.1%) are born in non-European nor reporting countries, reaching more than 250.000 people (75%) in 2017. On the other hand, the number of immigrants born in reporting and European countries is rather lower, with an average of 10.1% and 18.7%.



This graphic shows the immigration stock by reason of migration in the last ten years (2010-2019). It is divided in four categories: family reasons, education reasons, remunerated activities reasons and other reasons. In 2010, the number of economic immigrants was rather high (60.9%); however, the number drops significantly from 2011, descending to 6.3% in 2019. From 2011 to 2019, most immigrants moved for family reasons, with an average of 47.4%, while the immigrants who moved for education reasons is rather low each year (9.7%).

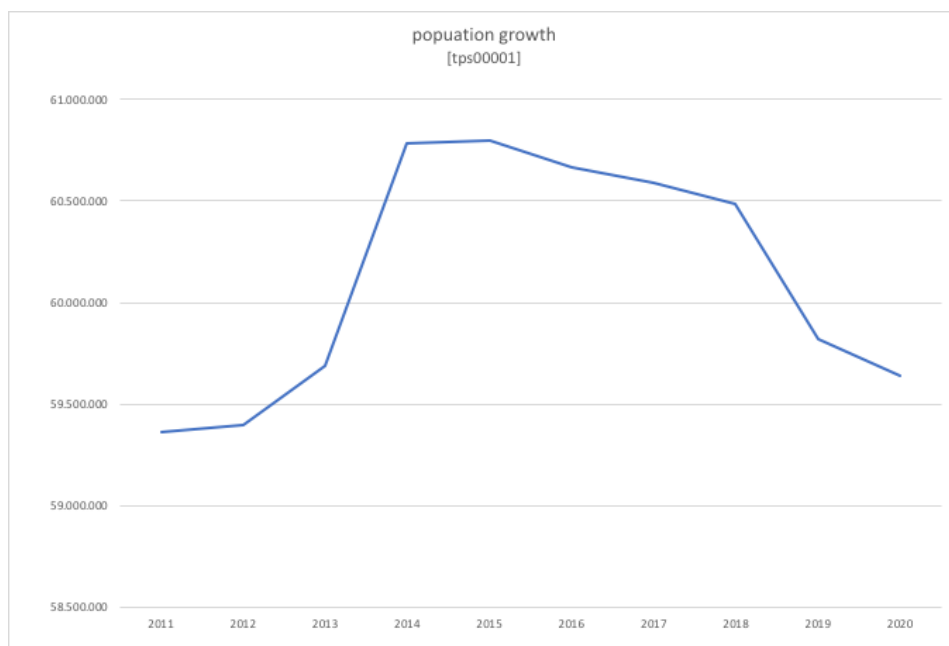


This graphic shows the immigration stock, compared by sex and age, in the last ten years (2010-2019). We can see that the number of both male and female immigrants who have more than 65 years is rather low; on the other hand, the number of both male and female immigrants who have less the 15 years is rather significant, with more male immigrants (7%) than females (6.3%). However, most immigrants are aged from 15 to 64 years. From 2010 to 2013 the number of female immigrants was higher (44.4%), while from 2014 to 2019 the trend has been reversed: there is indeed a higher number of male immigrants (45.2%).



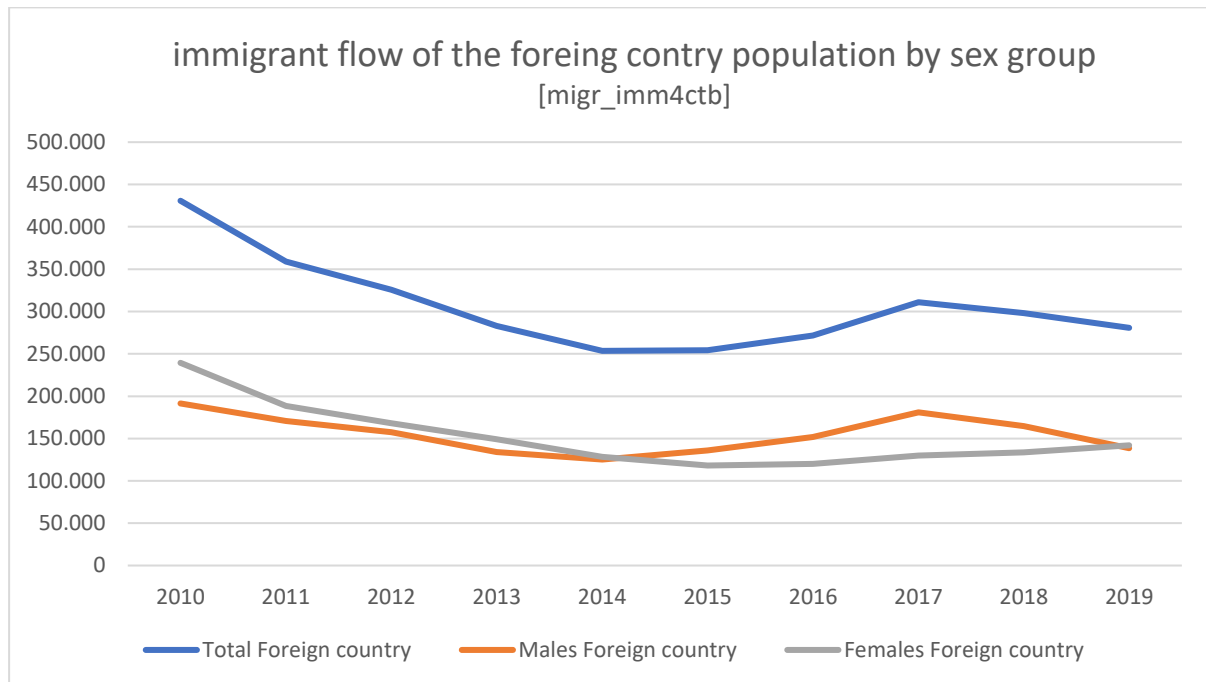
This graphic shows the immigration stock, compared by reason of migration and sex, in the last ten years (2010-2019). We can see that the number of male economic immigrants is significantly higher than the number of females, especially from 2010 to 2014. On the other hand, the number of female immigrants (28%) who moved for family reasons is constantly higher than the number of male immigrants (19%). The number of female immigrants who moved for education reasons is also higher than the number of males. Moreover, the number of male immigrants who moved for non-specified reasons from 2016 to 2019 is rather significant (16%): those numbers probably represent the refugees.

#### 4. Population growth

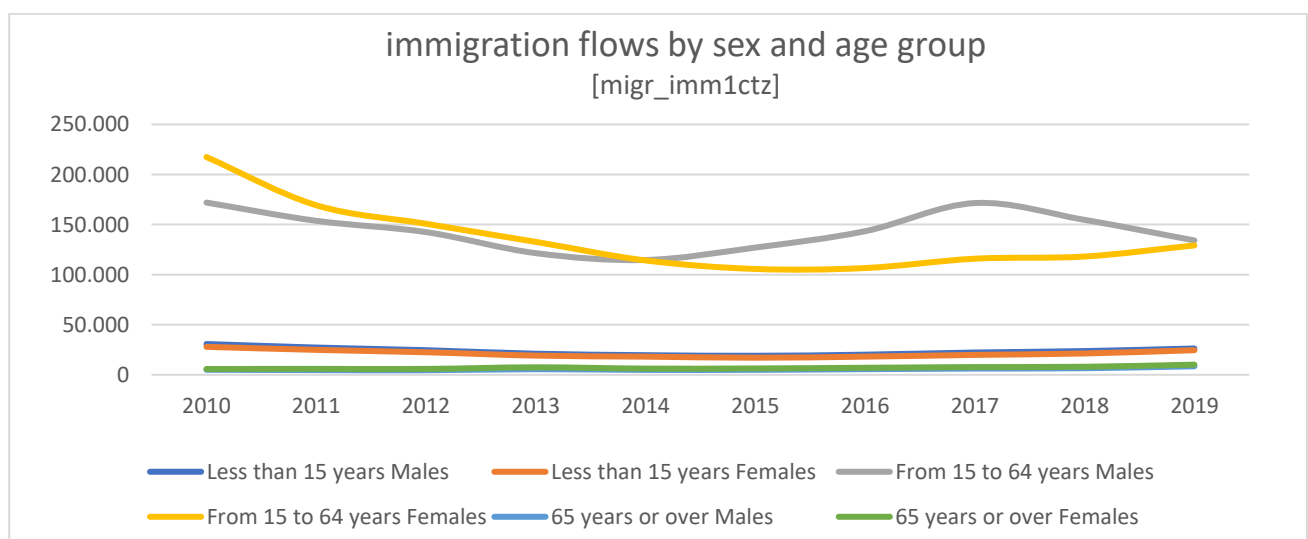


The figure above shows how population growth changes from 2011 to 2020. The population on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of 2011 was 59.000.586; on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of 2020 it was 59.641.488. The peak year was 2015 with 60.795.612 people on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January.

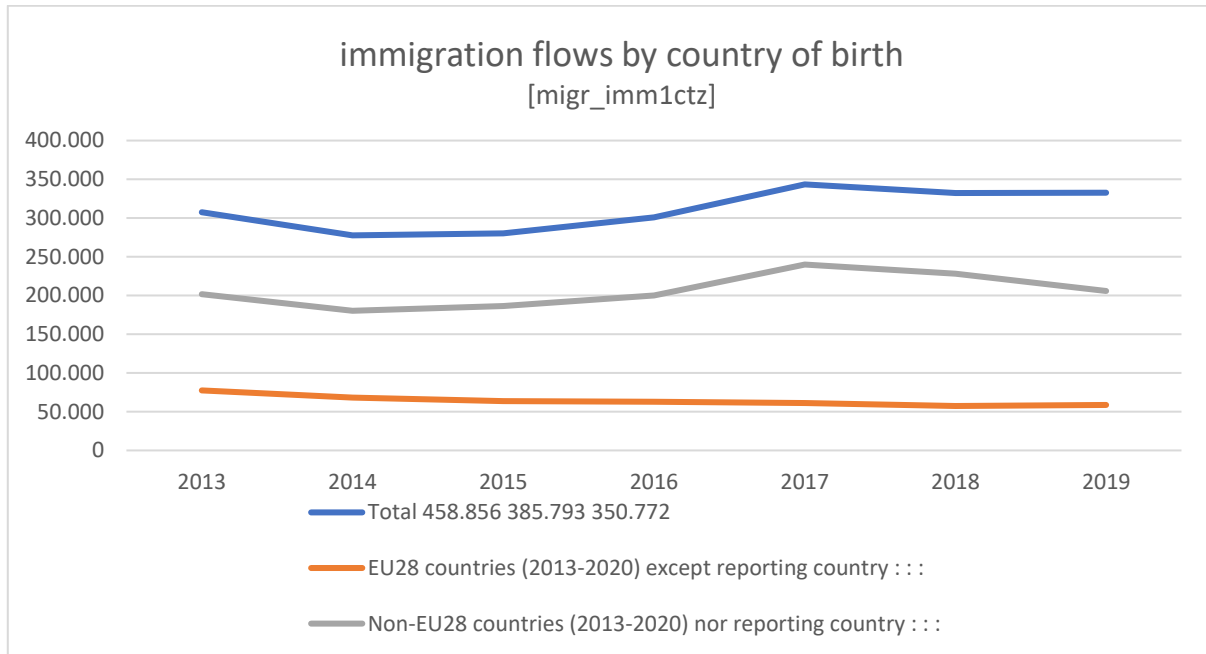
## 5. Flows of migrants in the last 10 years by sex, age group, country of birth and reason of migration



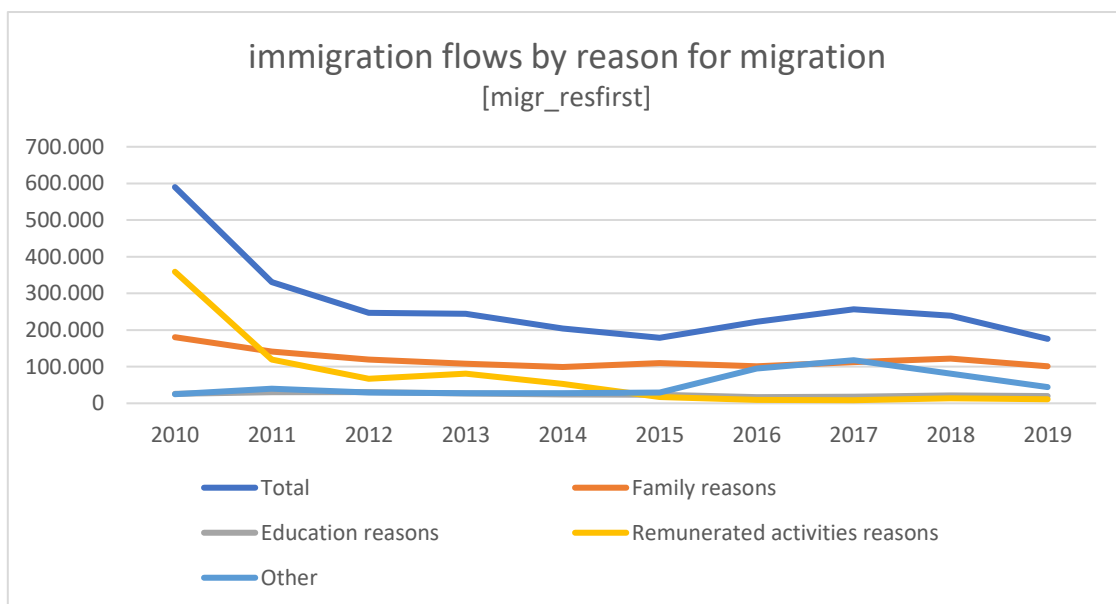
The graphic shows the immigration flow of the foreign country by sex age. It can be noticed a change of trend during 2015 when there is an increase of males' immigrant flow. In 2017, it shows a decrease of males' immigration flow and an increase of the female flow until 2019, when the males and females immigration flows are the same.



The graphic shows the immigration flows by sex and age group. It shows that most of the migration population is aged between 16-64 years old.

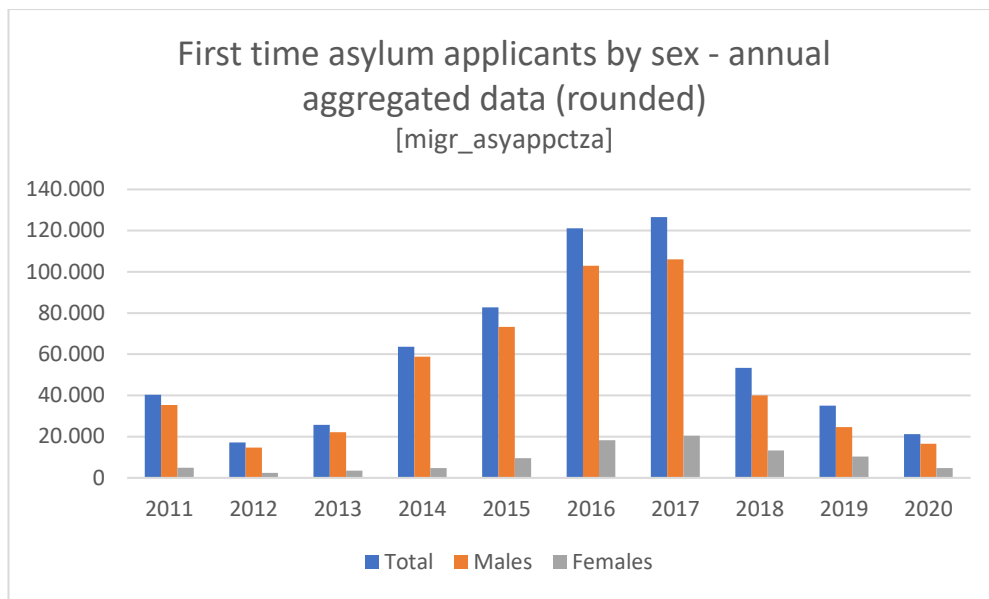


The graphic shows the immigration flows by country of birth. It evidences that the major part of the population that arrived in Italy is not part of the 28 European countries.



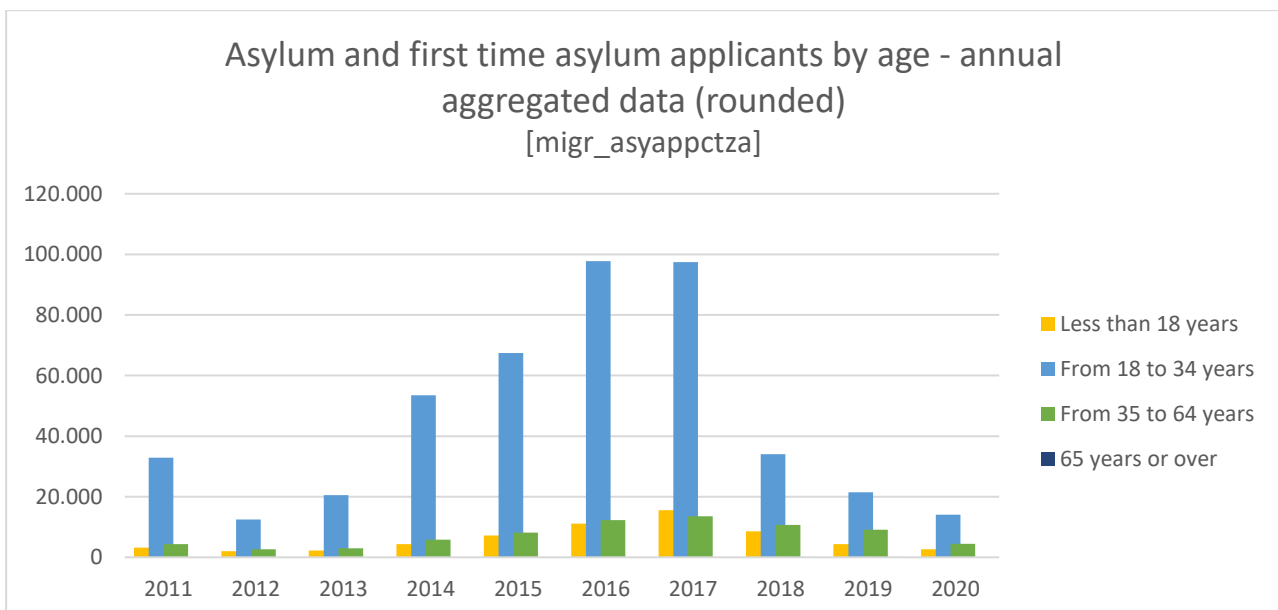
The graphic shows the immigration flows by reason for migration. It evidences that the main reason for migration is family reunification.

## 6. Total number of refugees



If we look at the number of asylum applicants in Italy in the last decade, we can see that the number of applications has been discontinuous. Analyzing this graph, we can see a decrease in asylum seekers after 2011, and a growth between 2014 and 2017, when the highest number of asylum seekers in Italy was registered. Following this period, the number of asylum seekers decreased, reaching the lowest levels of 2011 in the two-year period 2019-2020.

It is possible to notice a clear difference in the sex composition of asylum seekers. The number of men has always been larger than the number of women, although the difference has narrowed since 2018.

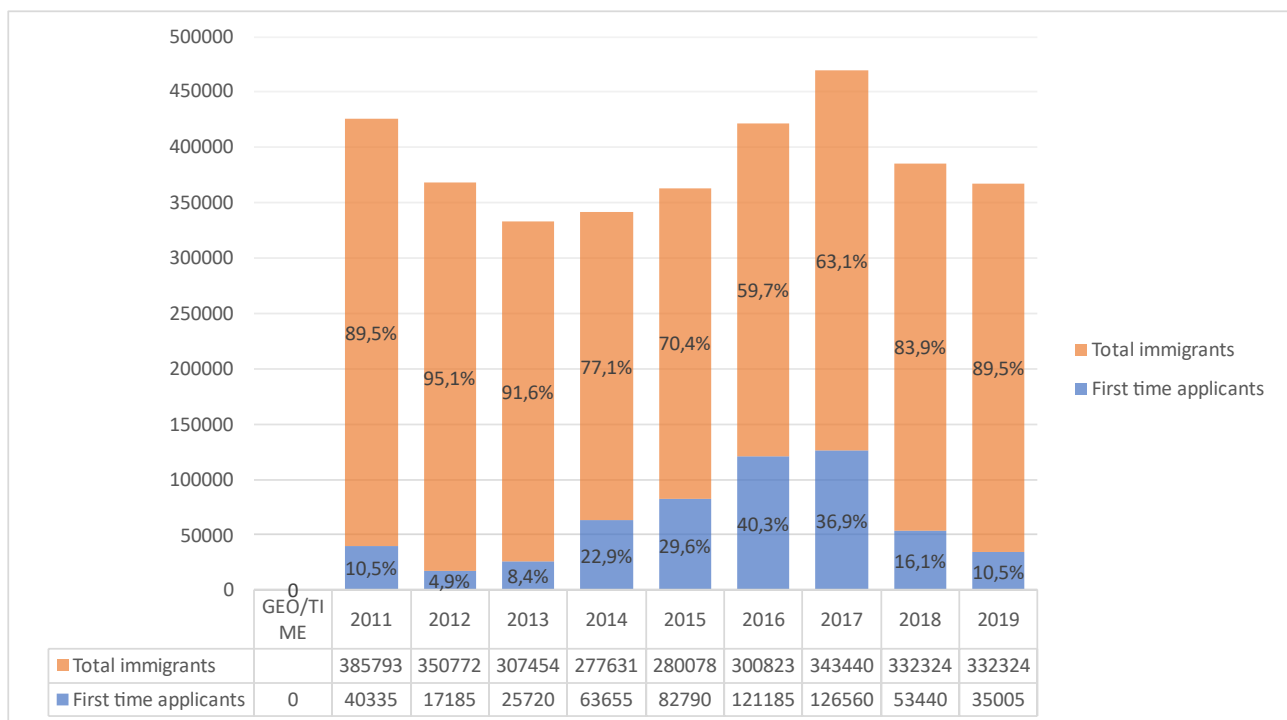




This graphic shows the composition of migrants in Italy by age groups. It is clear that the largest group includes people aged between 18 and 34, while the second group involves people aged between 35 to 64. Both these groups are made up of people active in the labor market and for this reason they are generally more accepted in the country of destination because of their contribution to the country's economy.

It is important to notice that during the so called “refugees’ crisis” between 2015 and 2017 people aged under 18 have been increased. These numbers show the people who have applied for asylum to obtain refugee status; however, it is important to consider that not all of them will be able to obtain this status.

## 7. Share of refugees on total migration



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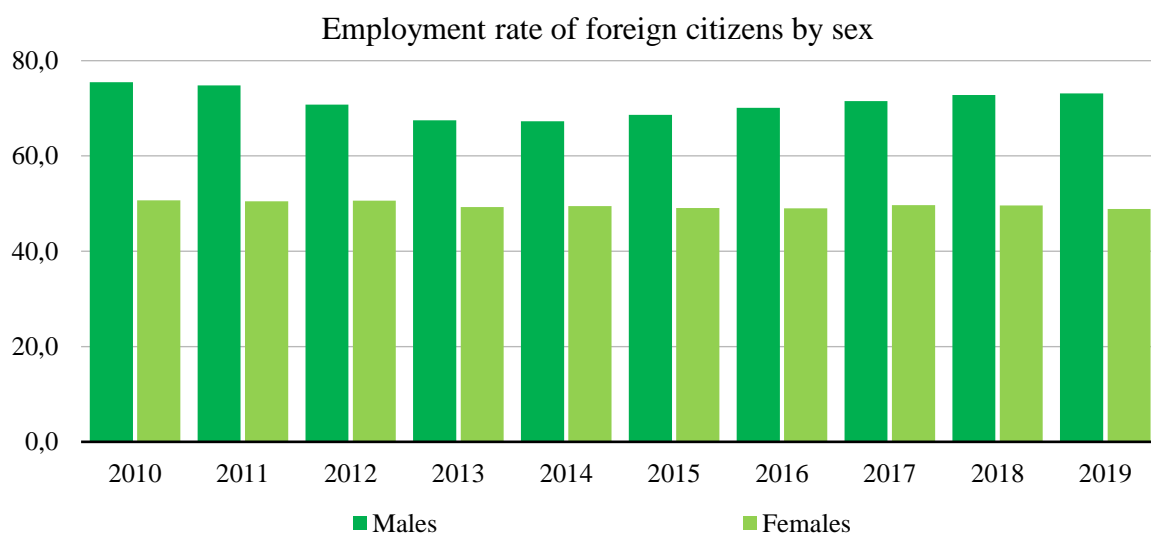
We can now combine two different graphs that we have seen above: the total number of immigrants and the amount of the first-time asylum applicants. In fact, we can consider how much the number of the first-time applicants impacts on total migration in Italy. We can see that the trend in the number of immigrants does not always coincide with the phases of growth and decrease in the number of asylum applicants. The peak year of the number of immigrants is the 2017 with 343440 people, instead the peak year of the number of first-time applicants is the 2016, in which the share of first-time applicants is the 40,3% of the total immigrants. The year with the lowest percentage of asylum applicants is 2012, while the year with the lowest number of immigrants is 2013.

As we have said before, not all the asylum applicants obtain the refugees status, so it could be important to consider denial rates. We have found the data that show how many are the first permits issued for the reason of refugee status and subsidiary protection, and this is the table with these numbers, that are in fact lower than the number of first-time applicants. However, in this case there is not the division of the two different reasons that are put together.

## First permits issued for other reasons: refugee status and subsidiary protection

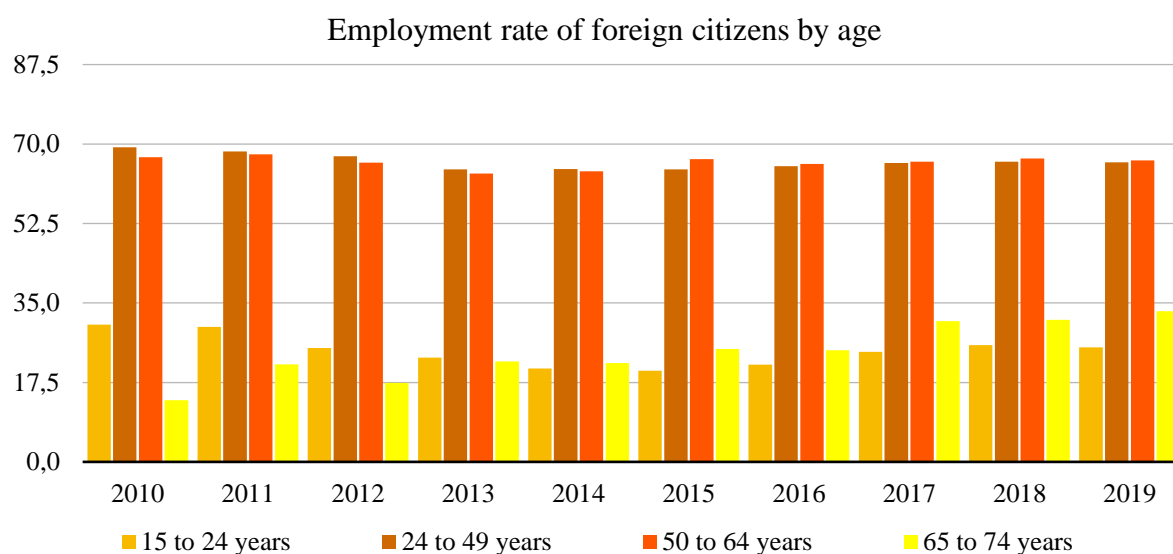
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Italy</b>	3373	3671	3772	4967	5205	2889	2841	3909	3597	530

## 8. Migrant indicators of employment and unemployment



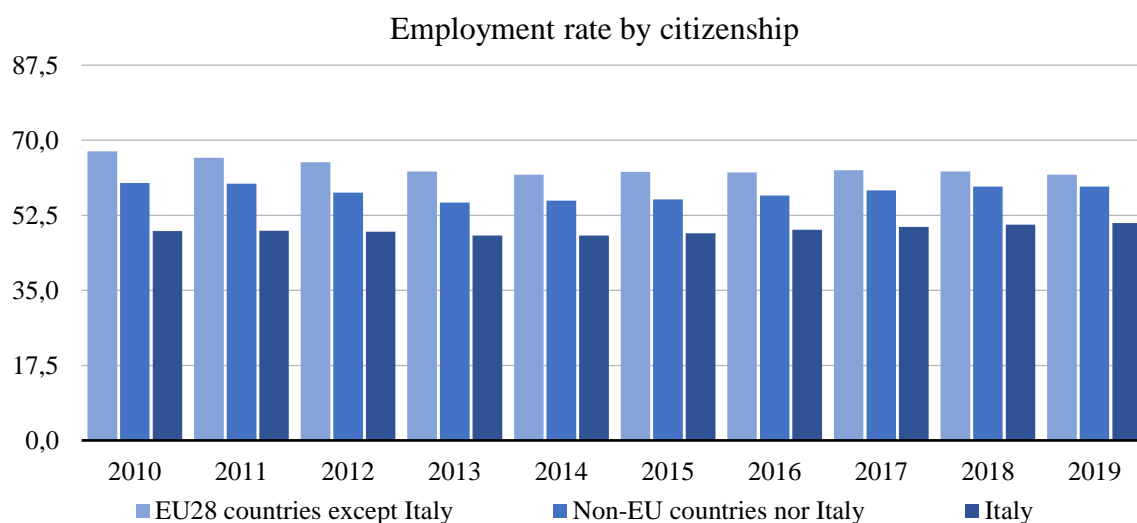
Eurostat [lfsa\_ergan]

There is a good level of integration in Italy. Men are more employed than women. The cause might rely on the fact that women are less involved in the labor market due to cultural stereotypes: women should stay at home and take care of the family. Foreign males rate increases from 2014 and foreign women rate also increases but then the latter tends to slowly decrease again from 2017.



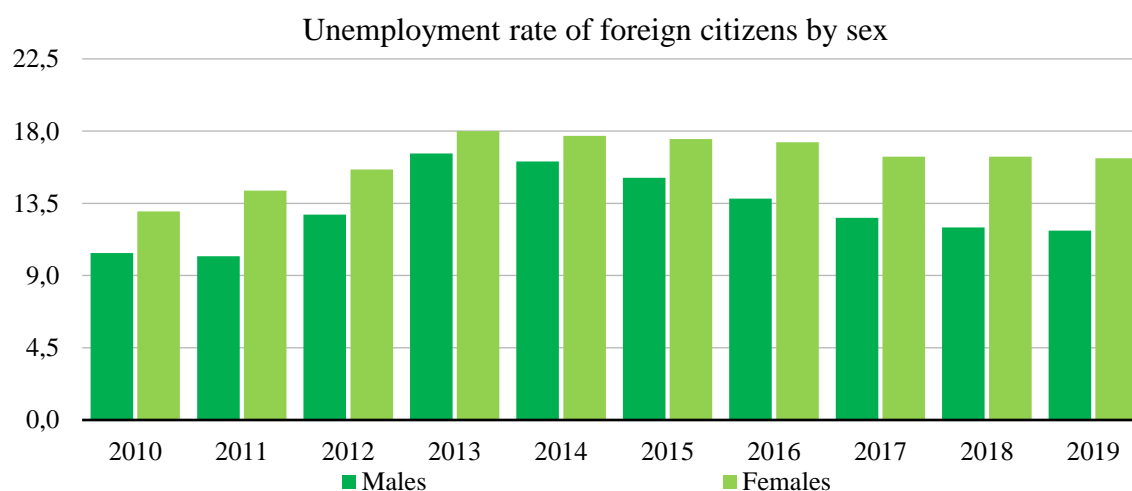
Eurostat [lfsa\_ergan]

The employment rate of foreign citizens of the four groups of age follows the same path of increasing (until 2014) and decreasing (from 2015). Foreign younger people 15 to 24 years of age are the less employed probably due to the fact that they are in majority students.



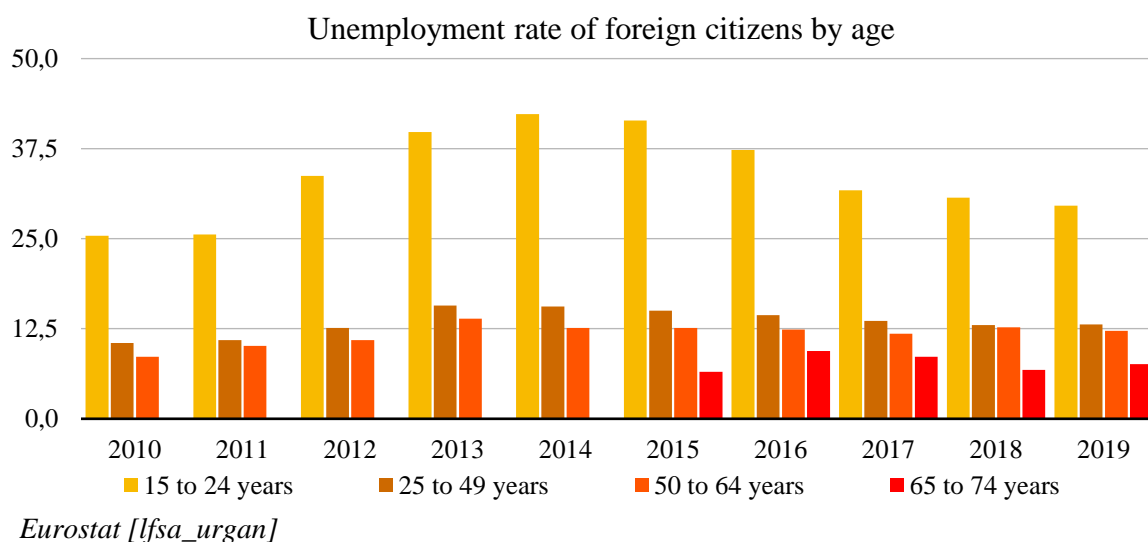
*Eurostat [lfsa\_ergan]*

The employment rate of EU citizens (15 to 74 years of age) has decreased until 2014; subsequently, it has slowly increased until 2017 but then it has decreased again (decreasing of 5,4 percentage points in ten years). If compared, the employment rate of Non-EU citizens has also decreased but it has started again to increase one year before than EU citizens. Overall, EU citizens are more employed than Non-EU and Italian ones.

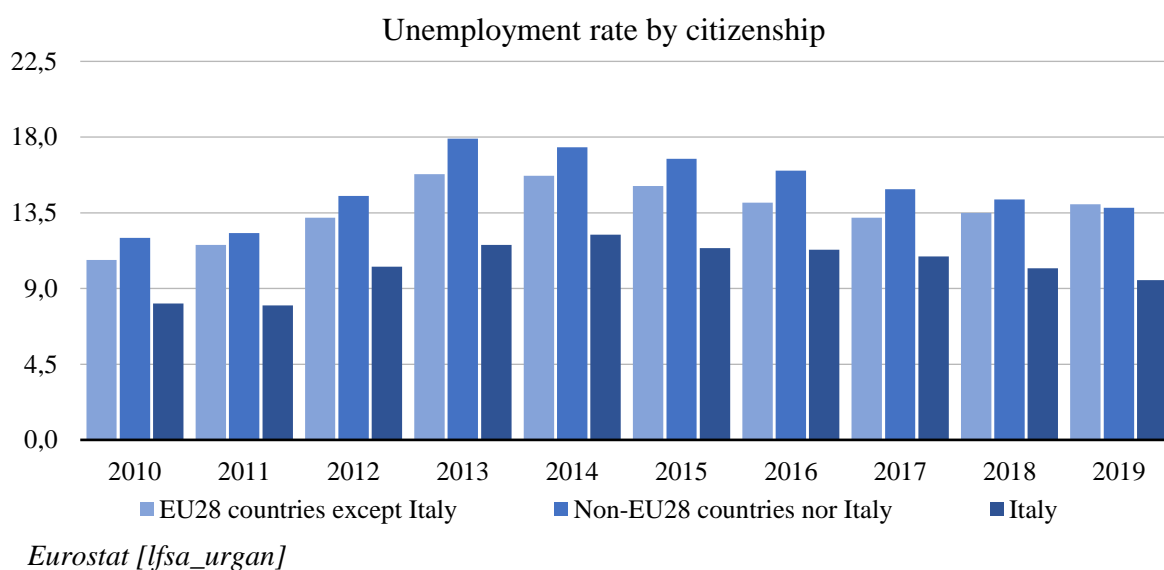


*Eurostat [lfsa\_ergan]*

Foreign women are more unemployed than men: 16,3% vs 11,8% in 2019. When the rate starts to decrease the gap of unemployment among men and women increases substantially.



All patterns of age follow the same flow of increasing and decreasing from 2010 to 2019. Overall, the graph shows that foreign citizens from 15 to 24 years of age are more unemployed than the others. The group of '25 to 49 years' and the '50 to 64 years' have low percentage points of difference and from 2018 they both reach quite the same percentage of unemployment.



Since 2010 the unemployment rate of foreigners, both EU28 and Non-EU28, has started to increase reaching the highest percentage in 2013, one year before if compared to Italian citizens. Overall, the unemployment rate of total foreign citizens follows quite the same path as the Italian one: increasing until 2013/2014 and then decreasing. Non-EU citizens are more unemployed than EU ones: in 2019 they both reach quite the same percentage of unemployment (EU citizens 14% and Non-EU citizens 13,8%). Italian citizens are the less unemployed among all.