

Foreigners in Albania, 2023

Tirana, on 23 August 2024: At the end of 2023, the number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania resulted 21,460 inhabitants, by increasing with 18.2 % compared to 2022.

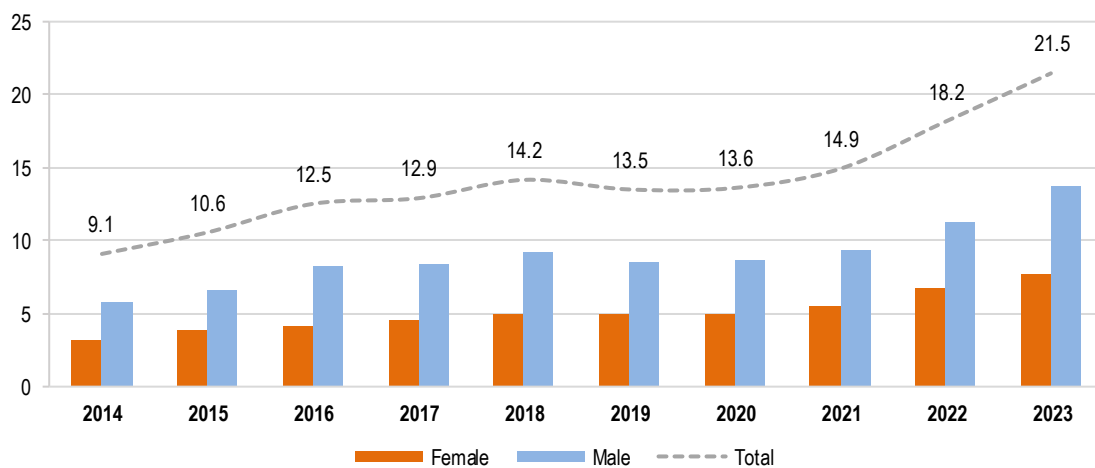
The number of resident foreigners in 2023 is dominated by males with 63.8 % versus females with 36.2%. The number of applications for residence permits in Albania, in 2023 was 12,430 applications, by increasing with 22.7 % compared with 2022.

Resident foreigners originating from Kosovo, Italy, and Turkey constitute the largest number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania in 2023, respectively with 3,712, 3,375 and 1,693 inhabitants.

Foreigners originating from Europe, in 2023 result in 15,223 inhabitants and constitute 70.9 % of the total number of foreigners compared to 73.3 % that constituted in 2022. The main reason for the residence permits of foreigners in Albania in 2023, is for employment with 48.3 %.

In 2023 there were identified 6,630 irregular foreigners, in the territory of the country, where most of them, about 44.0 % are foreigners originating from Afghanistan and Syria.

Fig. 1: Foreigners with residence permits by sex, 2014-2023 (thousand)



Source: Department for Border and Migration, General Directorate of State Police, INSTAT calculations.

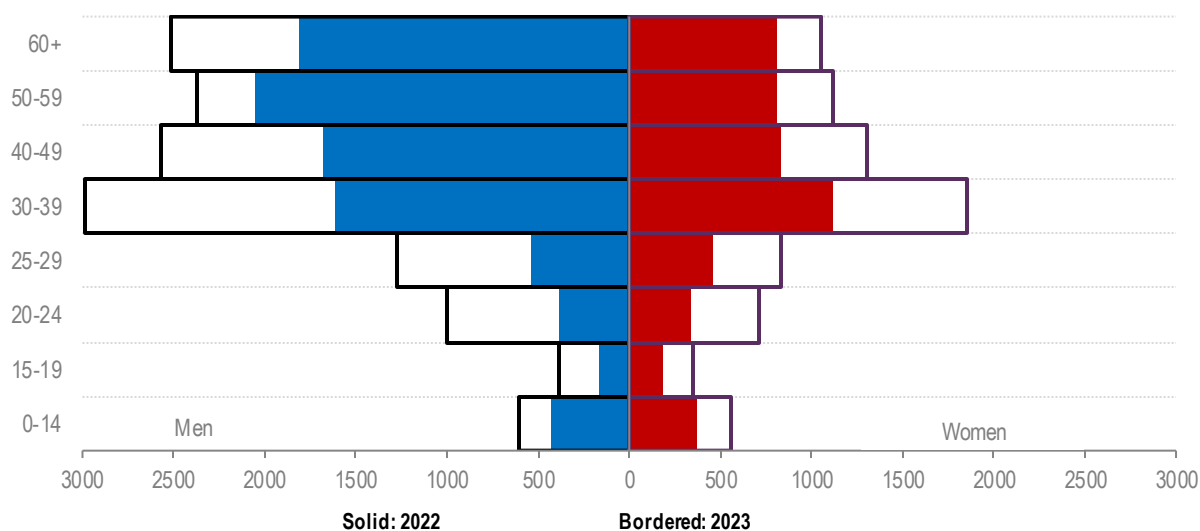
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Foreigners in Albania

During 2023 the number of foreigners with residence permit consists of 13,691 males and 7,769 females. The dominant age group of foreigners with residence permits is the age group 30-39 years old, which occupies 22.5% of total foreigners with residence permits.

Fig.2: Population pyramid of residence permit foreigners in Albania, by main age groups



Source: Department for Border and Migration, General Directorate of State Police, INSTAT calculations.

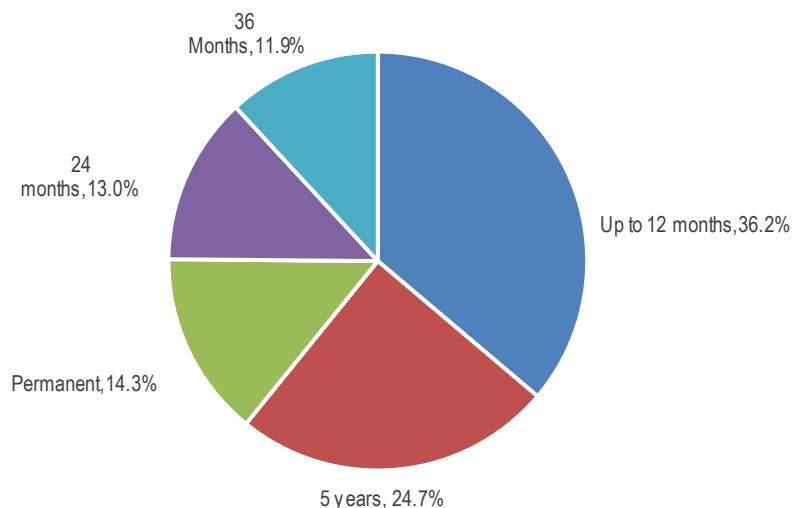
The number of applications for residence permit in Albania, in 2023 was 12,430, by marking an increase by 22.7 % compared to 2022. The applications by country of origin from Kosovo and Italy occupy 28.5 % of total applications, in 2023.

Tab. 1: Applications for residence permit in Albania by country of origin 2022-2023

Country of origin	2022	2023
Italy	2,064	2,201
Kosovo	2,073	1,343
Turkey	782	1,142
USA	252	298
Egypt	276	480
Philippine	272	472
North Macedonia	171	212
Bangladesh	203	726
Syria	181	214
Other	3,792	5,342
Total	10,127	12,430

Source: Department for Border and Migration, General Directorate of State Police, INSTAT calculations.

Fig.3: Foreigners with residence permit in Albania by length of validity, 2023

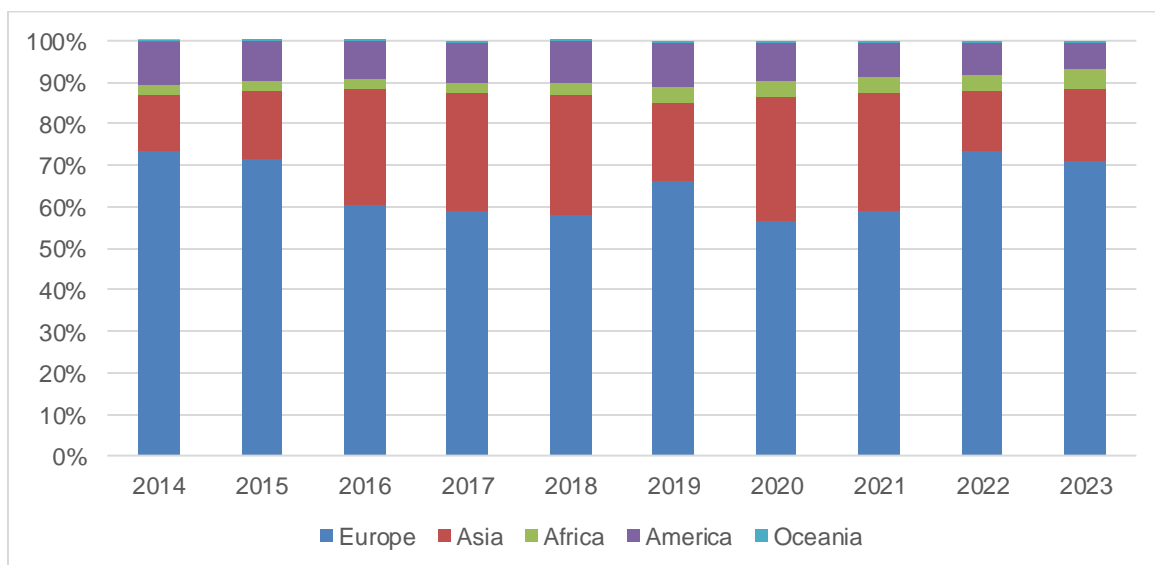


Source: Department for Border and Migration, General Directorate of State Police, INSTAT calculations.

Foreigners in Albania by continents

Foreigners with residence permits in Albania, according to the country of origin, in 2023 are headed by European countries, accounting for 70.9 % of total resident foreigners. Foreigners originating from Europe are 15,223 by increasing with 14.5 % compared to 2022. Foreigners originating from Asia are 3,784, by increasing with 43.3 % compared to 2022. Foreigners originating from America, Africa and Oceania are 2,453 by increasing with 10.8 % compared to 2022.

Fig.4: Foreigners with residence permits by continents, 2014-2023

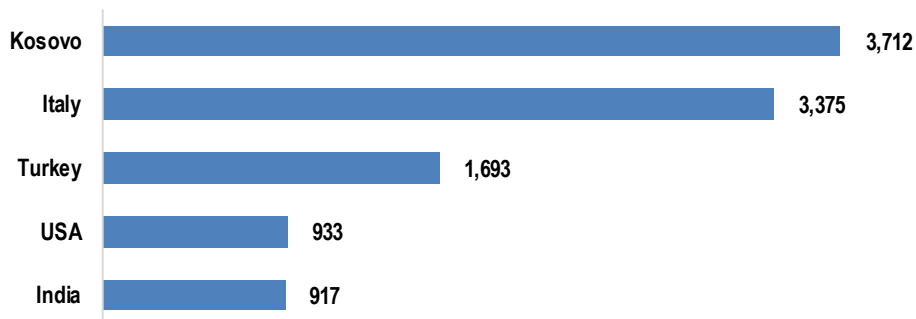


Source: Department for Border and Migration, General Directorate of State Police, INSTAT calculations.

Foreigners in Albania by country of origin

In 2023, residence foreigners in Albania originating from Kosovo are 3,712 inhabitants, by increasing with 31.2 % compared to 2022, while foreigners originating from Italy are 3,375 inhabitants, with an increase by 14.5 % compared to 2022.

Fig.5 Foreigners in Albania by countries of origin, 2023



Source: Department for Border and Migration, General Directorate of State Police, INSTAT calculations.

Foreigners in Albania according to reason

In 2023, resident foreigners for employment reasons accounted 48.3 % of the total number of foreigners, followed by reasons for family reunification with 22.2 %, other reasons by 13.3 %, reasons for humanitarian purposes with 12.4 % and reasons for studies with 3.7 %.

Fig.6: Foreigners with residence permits according to reason, 2023



Source: Department for Border and Migration, General Directorate of State Police, INSTAT calculations.

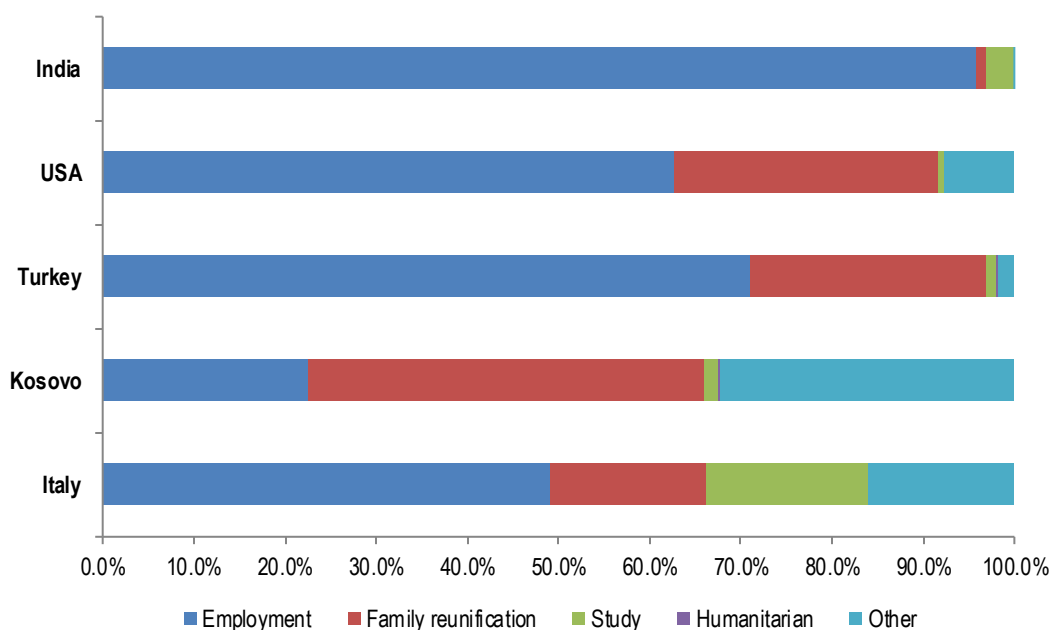
Foreigners resident in Albania originating from Italy, in addition to the reason for employment (49.0 %) there is a predominance of the reasons for study (17.7 %).

Foreigners originating from Kosovo are dominated by reasons for family reunification (43.5 %) and other reasons (32.4 %).

Foreigners originating from Turkey are dominated by reasons for employment (71.1 %) and reasons for family reunification (25.8 %).

Foreigners originating from the US and India are mainly dominated by reasons for employment (62.6 % and 95.7 %, respectively).

Fig. 7: Foreigners with residence permits according the country of origin and reason of staying, 2023

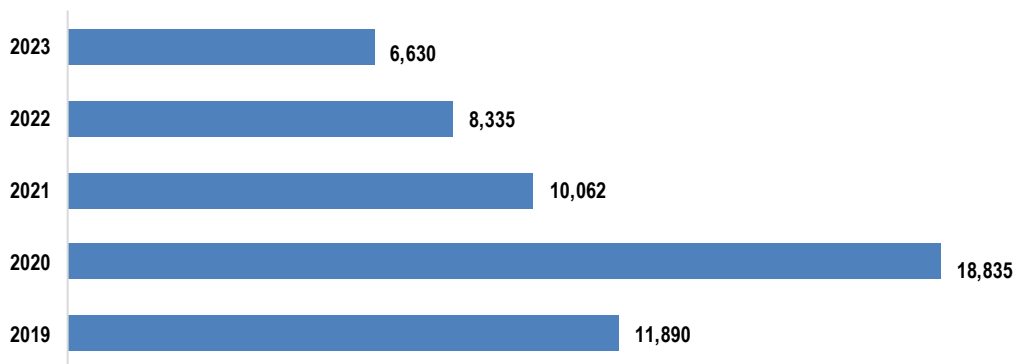


Source: Department for Border and Migration, General Directorate of State Police, INSTAT calculations.

Irregular foreigners

Irregular foreigners evidenced in the territory of Albania or in the border, without the necessary documentation, result 6,630 persons in 2023, compared with 8,335 persons in 2022.

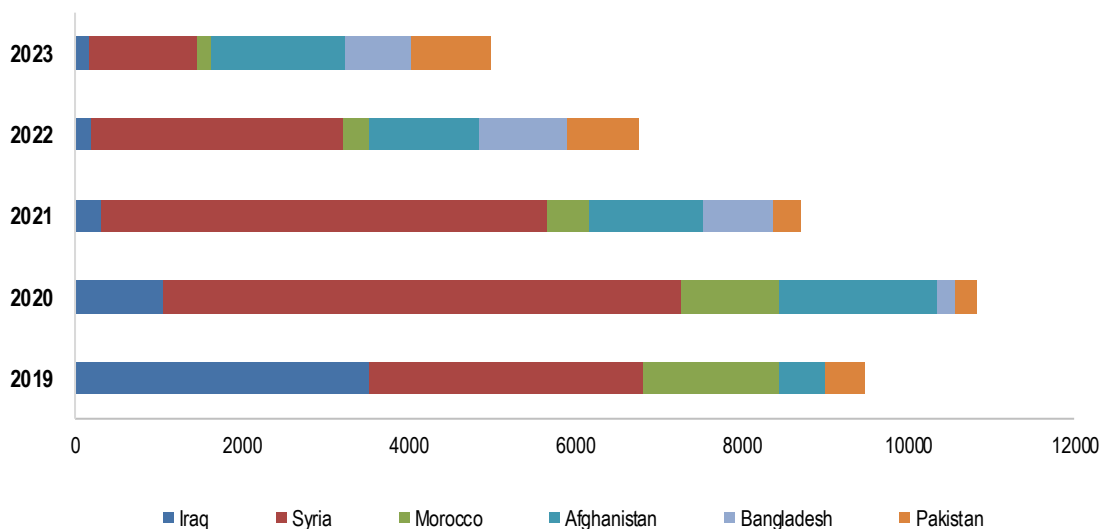
Fig.8: Irregular foreigners,2019 -2023



Source: Department for Border and Migration, General Directorate of State Police, INSTAT calculations.

Irregular foreigners, by country of origin in 2023 are headed by countries like Afghanistan with 1,610 people, Syria with 1,305 people, Pakistan with 969 people, Bangladesh with 792 people, Somalia with 475 people and Morocco with 156 people.

Fig.9: Irregular foreigners by country of origin,2019-2023



Source: Department for Border and Migration, General Directorate of State Police, INSTAT calculations.

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.