

Foreigners and Asylum Seekers in Albania

Year 2018

Tirana, on 22 August 2019: The number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania, in 2018 is 14,162 by increasing with 9.7 % compared to 2017.

The number of resident foreigners in 2018 is 9,203 males, by increasing with 9.9 % compared to 2017 and 4,959 females, by increasing with 9.6 % compared to 2017.

Foreigners from European origin countries in 2018 are 8,212 and occupy 58.0 % of total foreigners, compared with 59.2 % in 2017.

In 2018, the main reasons for residence permits are employment and family reunification reasons, which together account 72.4 % of the total resident foreign.

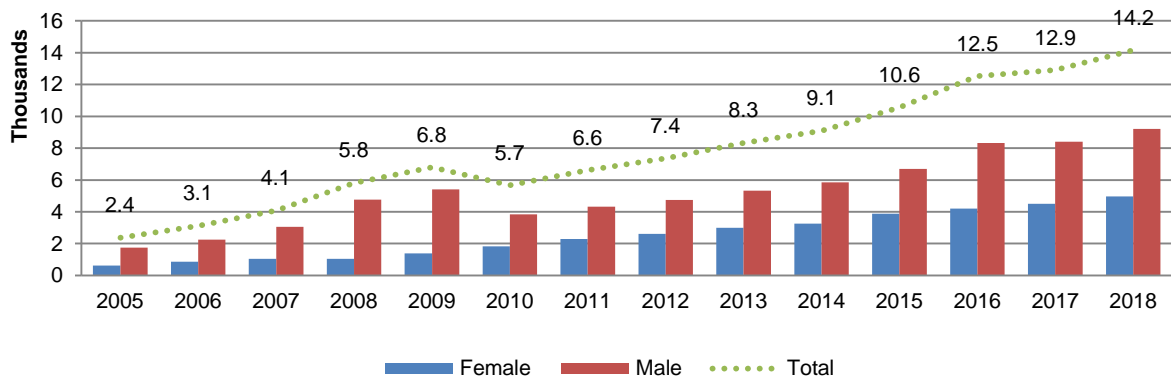
There were identified 6,893 irregular foreigners, with the majority of them originating from Syria, by occupying 44.8 %.

In 2018, result 4,386 asylum seekers in Albania, with the majority of them originating from Syria, by occupying 49.0 %.

In 2018, result 345 people who have acquired Albanian citizenship, by increasing with 9.2 % compared to 2017.

In 2018, result 640 people who have lost Albanian citizenship, by decreasing with 1.7 % compared to 2017.

Fig. 1 Foreigners with residence permits by sex

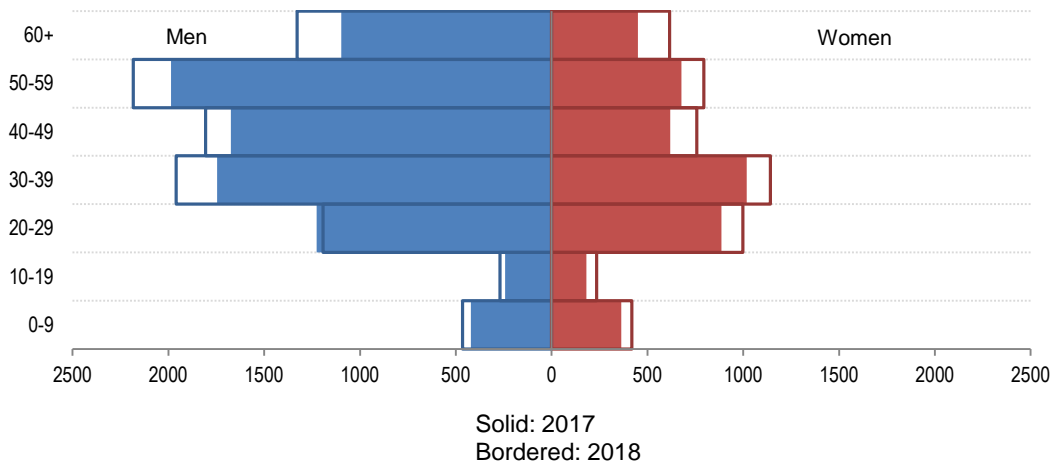


Foreigners in Albania

The number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania in 2018 is 0.5% of the resident population. During 2018, the number of resident permits is 9,203 males and 4,959 females. Men occupy 65.0 % of the total number of foreigners with a residence permit in Albania.

The pyramid of resident permits in Albania clearly reflects a gender imbalance, where women are relatively younger than men.

Fig. 2 Population pyramid of resident permit foreigners



Source: Department for Border and Migration

The number of applications for residence permit in Albania, in 2018 is 9,090, by marking an increase of 0.7 % compared to 2017. The applications by country of origin from Iran, Italy and Kosovo occupy 63.8 % of the total applications in 2018.

Tab. 1 Applications for Residence Permit in Albania by country of origin

Country of origin	2017	2018
Iran	1,963	2,223
Italy	1,779	1,709
Kosovo	978	996
Turkey	863	875
Greece	295	207
USA	280	350
China	259	213
Syria	229	260
North Macedonia	167	154
United Kingdom	152	132
Other	2,062	1,971
TOTAL	9,027	9,090

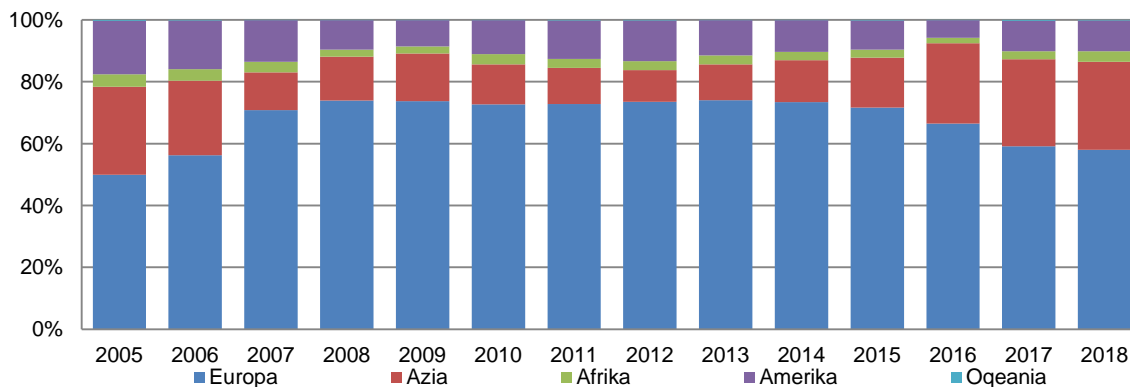
Source: Department for Border and Migration

Foreigners in Albania by continents

In 2018, foreigners with residence permit are mainly by European countries, which occupy 58.0 % of total foreigners.

Foreigners with origin from European countries are 8,212, by increasing with 7.5 % compared to 2017. Foreigners with origin from Asian countries are 4,022, by increasing with 11.2 % compared to 2017. Foreigners from America, Africa, and Oceania are 1,928, by increasing with 16.8 % compared to 2017.

Fig. 3 Foreigners with residence permits by continents

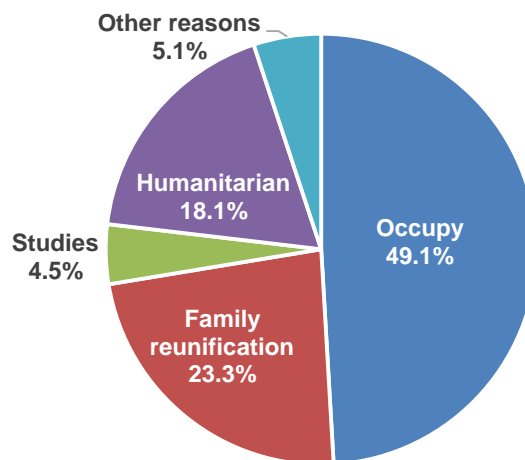


Source: Department for Border and Migration

Foreigners in Albania according to reason

In 2018, foreigners applying for a residence permit according employment reasons occupy 49.1 % of total foreigners, followed by foreigner applications for family reunification reasons with 23.3 %, applications for humanitarian purposes by 18.1 %, applications for studies with 4.5 % and applications for other reasons by 5.1 %.

Fig. 4 Foreigners with residence permits according to reason, 2018



Irregular foreigners

Irregular foreigners evidenced in the territory of Albania or in the border, without the necessary documentation, result 6,893 persons in 2018, compared with 1,049 persons in 2017.

In 2018 irregular foreigners, by country of origin are headed by countries such as: Syria with 3,089 persons, Pakistan with 1,246 persons, Iraq with 671 persons, Palestine 395 persons, Algeria 378 persons, Morocco 344 persons and 770 persons from other countries.

Asylum seekers in Albania

Asylum seekers in Albania, referring to the Asylum and Citizenship Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, result 4,386 people in 2018, against 309 asylum seekers, in 2017

Analyzing the country of origin of asylum seekers, in 2018 in Albania, we understand that most of the cases are those of Syria, with 2,150 asylum seekers, from Pakistan, with 645 asylum seekers, from Iraq with 447 asylum seekers, from Palestine 292 asylum seekers, from Algeria 227 asylum seekers, and from Morocco 227 asylum seekers.

During 2018, result 16 positive asylum decisions, by giving the refugee and complementary protection status for asylum seekers, which mostly are from Palestine.

During 2018, the number of suspension and termination decisions for the asylum seeker is 78, which mostly are from Syria.

Acquisition and termination of Albanian citizenship

In 2018, the number of acquisition of Albanian citizenship is 345, by increasing with 9.2 % compared to 2017.

In 2018, the number of loss of Albanian citizenship is 640, by decreasing with 1.7 % compared to 2017.

Methodology

The publication of foreigners and asylum seekers in Albania has an annual periodicity. Its purpose is to present the results and indicators on foreigners with residence permits in Albania by age and gender, reason of application, countries of origin as well as the annual number of applications for residence permits. The publication also presents results and indicators on irregular foreigners, asylum seekers and the acquisition or loss of Albanian citizenship.

Data on foreigners with a residence permit in Albania as well as irregular foreigners are provided by the Border and Migration Department.

Data on Asylum Seekers and the acquisition or loss of citizenship in Albania are provided by the Directorate of Asylum and Citizenship at the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

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 can not 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.

Volunteers 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.

Albanian Citizenship - is acquired, recovered, lost or disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the law, which respects the recognized norms and principles of international law in the field of citizenship accepted by the Republic of Albania.

Acquisition of citizenship – is a foreigner who has applied for Albanian citizenship, acquires it if he meets the conditions set forth in the law.

Loss of citizenship - means that the acquisition of Albanian citizenship ends upon the request of the person when he meets the conditions laid down in the law.

Asylum - is the form of international protection that the Republic of Albania provides refugees.

Request for asylum - is any statement by a foreigner or stateless person, expressed in any way and at any time before the competent authorities at the border crossing points or within the territory of the Republic of Albania, which requires international protection under international conventions and Albanian legislation.

Asylum application - is the official request of a foreigner or stateless person to the responsible authority for asylum and refugees, which is considered as a request for international protection under the UN Geneva Convention on Refugee Status. Any application for international protection is considered as an application for asylum, unless the foreigner clearly requires another type of protection, which applies separately.

Asylum seeker - is any foreigner or stateless person that expresses in any way that he or she does not wish to return to his or her country, as well as any foreigner or stateless person who has applied for asylum in the Republic of Albania for whom no final decision has been made yet.

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.

Refugee status is the recognition of the foreigner or of the stateless person as a refugee by the authority responsible for asylum and refugees in the Republic of Albania.

Complementary protection status is the recognition of the foreigner or of the stateless person by the authority responsible for asylum and refugees in the Republic of Albania as a person eligible for complementary protection.