

Foreigners in Albania

Year 2020

Tirana, on 22 December 2021: At the end of 2020, the number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania resulted 13,609 inhabitants, by increasing with 0.8 % compared to 2019.

The number of resident foreigners, in 2020 is dominated by males with 64.0 % versus females with 36.0 %.

The number of applications for residence permits in Albania, in 2020 was 7,661 applications, by decreasing with 7.0 % compared with 2019.

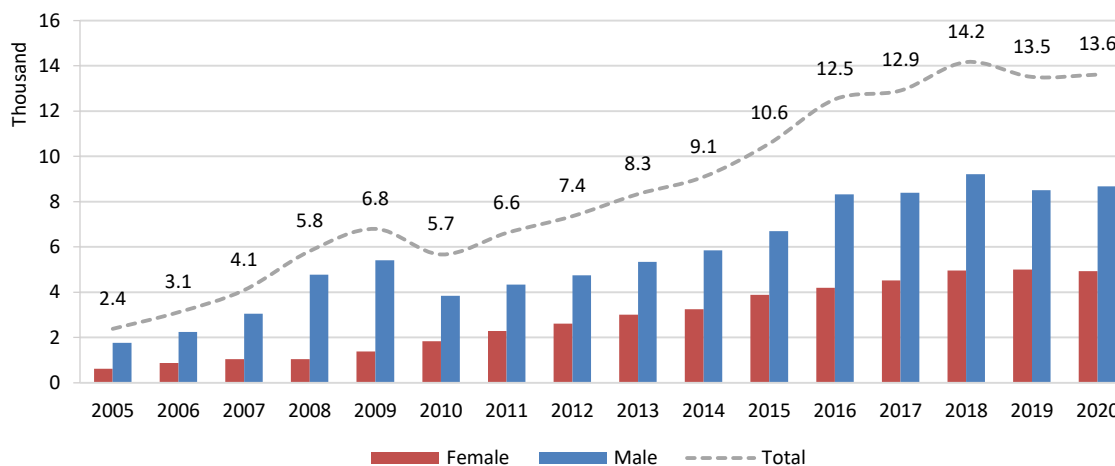
Resident foreigners originating from Iran, Italy and Turkey constitute the largest number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania in 2020, respectively with 2,610, 2,067 and 1,597 inhabitants.

Foreigners originating from Europe, in 2020 result in 7,724 inhabitants and constitute 56.8 % of the total number of foreigners compared to 66.4 % that constituted in 2019.

The reason for employment is the main reason for the residence permits of foreigners in Albania in 2020, with 47.5 %.

In 2020 there were identified 18,835 irregular foreigners, in the territory of the country, where most of them, of 55.9 % are foreigners originating from Iraq and Syria.

Fig. 1: Foreigners with residence permits by sex, 2005-2020



Source: Department for Border and Migration

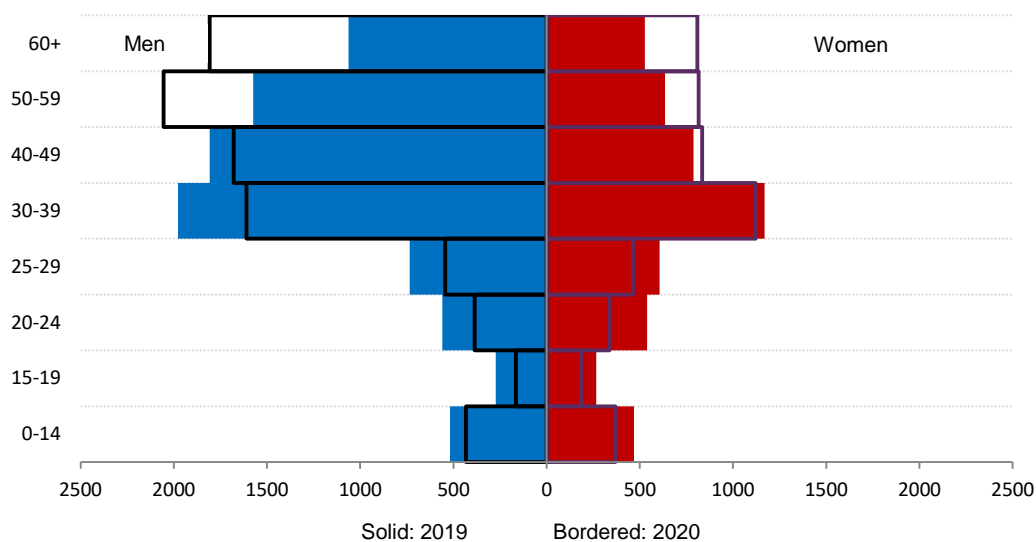
For publication on 22 December 2021

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During 2020 the number of resident foreigners consists of 8,676 males and 4,933 females. Men account for 63.8 % of the number of foreigners with a residence permit in Albania.

Fig. 2: Population pyramid of resident permit foreigners in Albania



Source: Department for Border and Migration

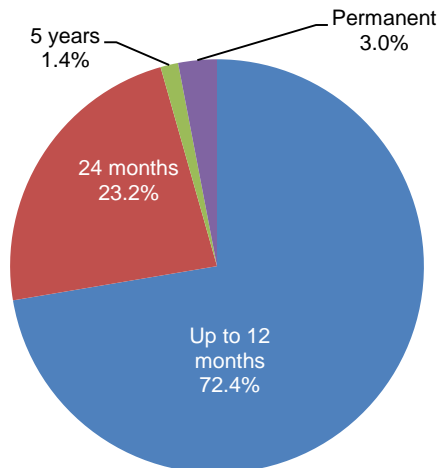
The number of applications for residence permit in Albania, in 2020 is 7,661, by marking a decrease by 7.0 % compared to 2019. The applications by country of origin from Iran and Italy occupy 44.9 % of total applications, in 2020.

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

Country of origin	2019	2020
Iran	556	2,324
Italian	1,971	1,119
Kosovo	1,104	916
Turkey	817	742
Greece	205	139
USA	373	193
China	241	80
Syria	310	177
North Macedonia	148	120
United Kingdom	180	163
Other	2,467	1,688
Total	8,241	7,661

Source: Department for Border and Migration

Fig. 3: Applications for Residence Permit in Albania by length of validity, 2020

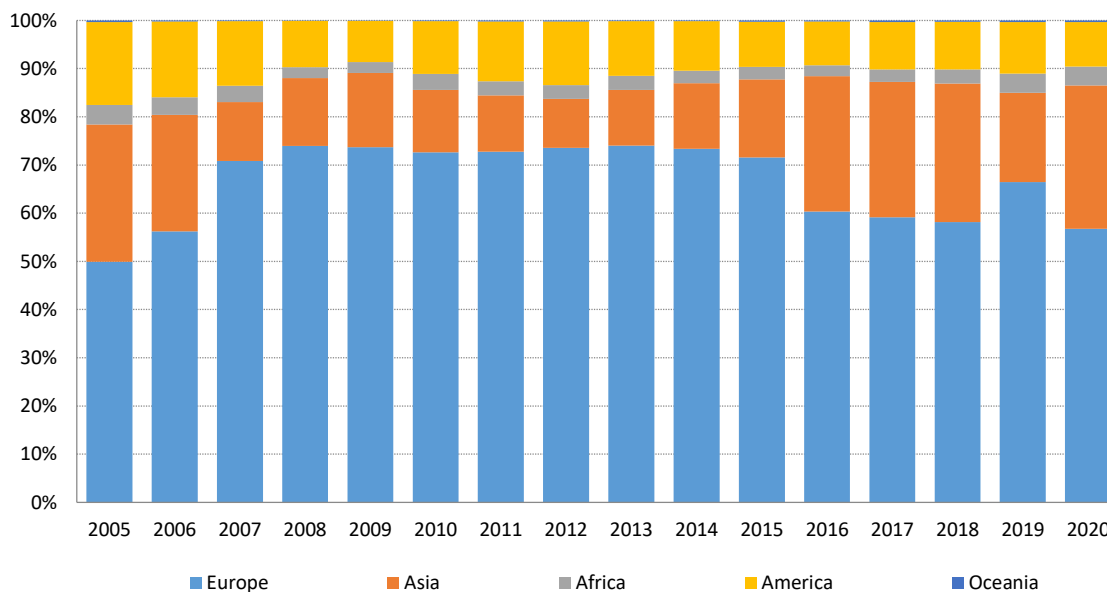


Source: Department for Border and Migration

Foreigners in Albania by continents

Foreigners with residence permits in Albania, according to the country of origin, in 2020 are headed by European countries, accounting for 56.8 % of total resident foreigners. Foreigners originating from Europe are 7,724, by decreasing with 13.9 % compared to 2019. Foreigners originating from Asia are 4,048, by increasing with 61.3 % compared to 2019. Foreigners originating from America, Africa and Oceania are 1,837, by decreasing with 9.4% compared to 2019.

Fig. 4: Foreigners with residence permits by continents, 2005-2020

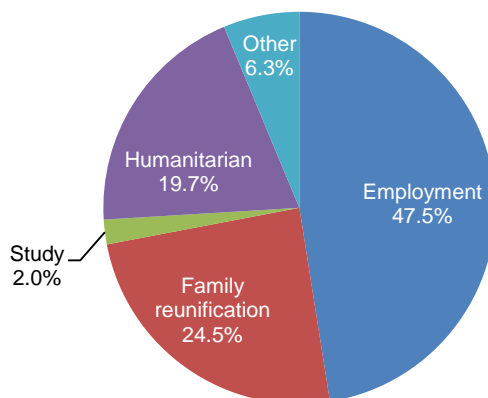


Source: Department for Border and Migration

Foreigners in Albania according to reason

In 2020, resident foreigners for employment reasons accounted for 47.5 % of the total number of foreigners, followed by reasons for family reunification with 24.5 %, reasons for humanitarian purposes with 19.7 %, reasons for studies with 2.0 % and other reasons by 6.3 %.

Fig. 5: Foreigners with residence permits according to reason, 2020



Source: Department for Border and Migration

Among foreigners resident in Albania originating from Italy, in addition to the reason for employment (68.9 %) there is a predominance of family reunification (18.3 %).

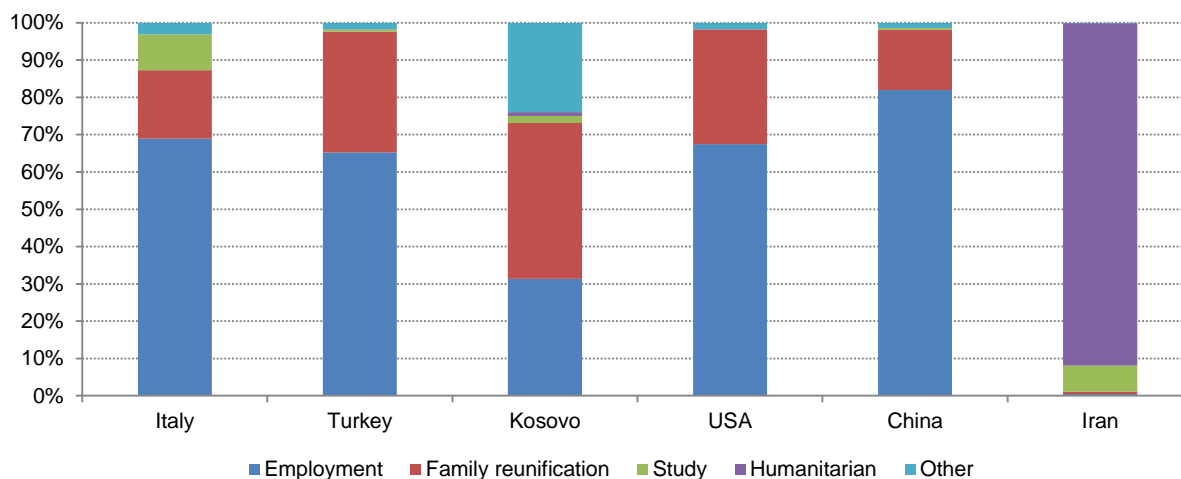
Foreigners originating from Turkey are dominated by reasons for employment (65.2 %) and reasons for family reunification (32.3 %).

Foreigners originating from Kosovo are dominated by reasons for family reunification (41.7 %).

Foreigners originating from the US and China are mainly dominated by employment reasons (67.5 % and 81.9 %, respectively).

Foreigners of Iranian origin are mainly dominated by humanitarian reasons to obtain a residence permit in Albania (98.8 %).

Fig. 6: Foreigners with residence permits according the country of origin and reason of staying, 2020

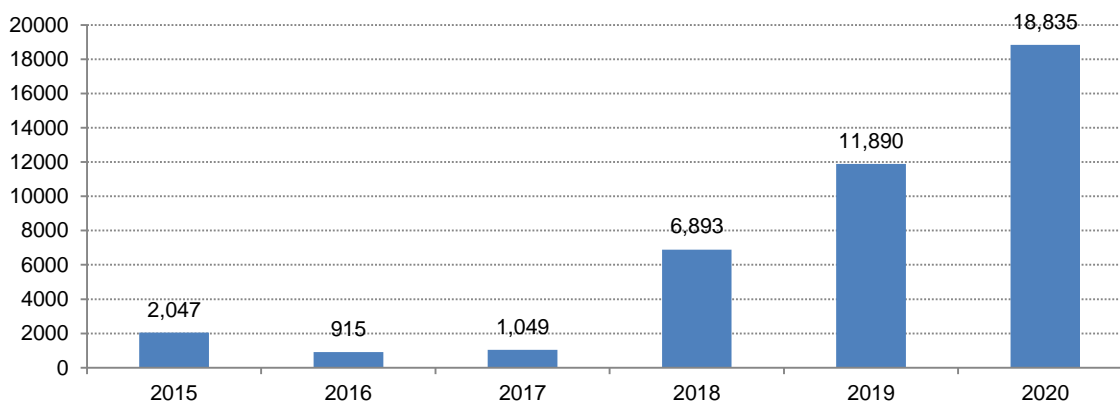


Source: Department for Border and Migration

Irregular foreigners

Irregular foreigners evidenced in the territory of Albania or in the border, without the necessary documentation, result 18,835 persons in 2020, compared with 11,890 persons in 2019

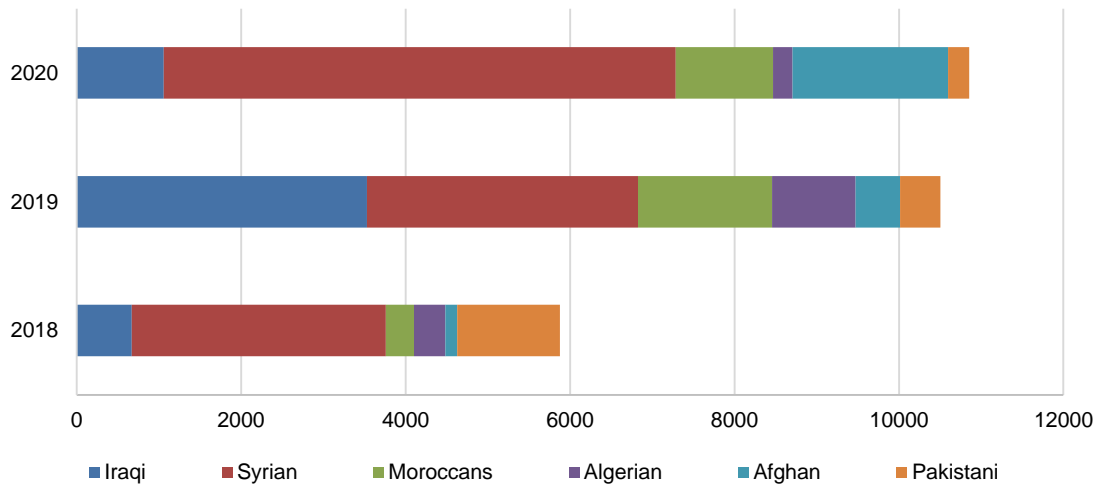
Fig. 7: Irregular foreigners, 2015 – 2020



Source: Department for Border and Migration

Irregular foreigners for first time, by country of origin in 2020 are headed by countries like Syria with 6,224 people, Afghanistan with 1,893 people, Morocco with 1,182 people, Iraq 1,061 people, 2,682 people from other countries and 5,793 people are repeated irregular foreigners.

Fig. 8: Irregular foreigners by country of origin, 2018 - 2020



Source: Department for Border and Migration

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. Referring to the data on applications for residence permits and residence permits in the territory, the information is provided through the Electronic Register for Foreigners (FER).

Regarding the number of applications for residence permits during a calendar year, we inform you that the number of Iranian citizens (MEK group) in Albania does not change. This group renews the residence permits according to the expiration dates of the existing permit. This data based on FER varies from year to year, depending on the terms of the permits to be renewed, the length of the evaluation procedure, etc., although their number in the territory may be the same.

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.