

Foreigners in Albania

Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS)

Reference Metadata

1. Contact	2
2. Metadata update	2
3. Statistical presentation	2
4. Unit of measure	4
5. Reference period	4
6. Institutional mandate	5
7. Confidentiality	5
8. Release policy	6
9. Frequency of dissemination	6
10. Accessibility and clarity	6
11. Quality management	7
12. Relevance	7
13. Accuracy and reliability	8
14. Timeliness and punctuality	8
15. Coherence and comparability	9
16. Cost and burden	9
17. Data revision	10
18. Statistical processing	10
19. Comment	11
Annex	11

1. Contact	
1.1. Contact organisation	Institute of Statistics, INSTAT
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2. Metadata update	
2.1. Metadata last certified	24/08/2026
2.2. Metadata last posted	24/08/2026
2.3. Metadata last update	24/08/2026
3. Statistical presentation	
3.1. Data description	Statistics on foreigners in Albania consider any person, with or without citizenship, who, according to the Albanian legislation, is not an Albanian citizen. 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, countries of origin and the annual number of applications for residence permits. The publication also features irregular foreigners.

	The data series on foreigners contain statistical information on: • Foreigners with residence permits in Albania by country of origin; • Foreigners with residence permits in Albania by sex; • Foreigners with residence permits in Albania by age group; • Foreigners with residence permits in Albania according to the reason of staying; • Irregular foreigners by country of origin; • Foreigners with residence permits by continents; • Applications for Residence Permit in Albania by country of origin.
3.2. Classification system	The citizenship classification is based on the list of ISO-3166 codes (using alpha-2) with minor changes. These changes consist of small changes that have occurred over time to reflect the creation of new countries or citizenships. In some cases, these categories of citizenship are not universally recognized, but are used and recognized by Albania.
3.3. Sector coverage	Statistical information covers data on foreigners with residence permits by country of origin, continents, sex, age group as well as by applications for residence permit in the Republic of Albania.
3.4. Statistical concepts and 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.
3.5. Statistical unit	The statistical unit is individuals.
3.6. Statistical population	Foreigners statistics refer to foreign individuals with residence permits in Albania as well as irregular foreigners.
3.7. Reference area	Territory of Republic of Albania.
3.8. Time coverage	Time series of Foreigners in Albania are annually published, starting from 2017 onwards. Aggregated data cover the entire territory of the country. Data are available from 2005 onwards.
3.9. Base period	Not applicable.
4. Unit of measure	
4.1 Unit of measure	Number of individuals.
5. Reference period	
5.1 Reference period	This report refers to 2025.

6. Institutional mandate	
6.1. Legal acts and other agreements	The legal basis for the production of indicators of Foreigners in Albania is part of the legal basis of INSTAT: • Official Statistics Law No.17/2018; • Official Statistics National Program 2022-2026. The definitions are based on: • Law No.79/2021 "On Foreigners".
6.2. Data sharing	Currently there is no data sharing in European level.
7. Confidentiality	
7.1. Confidentiality - policy	Data are considered strictly confidential and are used exclusively for statistical purposes and scientific research, in accordance with Law No. 17/2018 “On Official Statistics” and Law No. 124/2024 on Personal Data Protection. Article 31 of the Law on Official Statistics clearly states that all statistical information collected by INSTAT is confidential and may be used or published only in summary tables that do not identify the source unit of information. Direct identification is called when a statistical unit is directly identified by the name, address or any officially recognized identification number. When data processing is carried out in such a way as to enable the data subject to be identified, the data must be coded immediately so that the entities are no longer identifiable.
7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment	Albanian Institute of Statistics protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units. Albania Institute of Statistics takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by Albania Institute of Statistics if and only if: - these data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation, in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or - the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data. The confidential data that are transmitted to Albania Institute of Statistics are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task. Issues

	referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the staff working in Albania Institute of Statistics. The responsibilities of this staff are to recommend on: which detailed level the statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible; the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users; the access granting to researchers on confidential data for scientific purposes.
8. Release policy	
8.1. Release calendar	Notifications about the dissemination of statistics are published in the release calendar, which is available on the website. The announcements and delays are pre-announced in this calendar. In the case of delays, the date of the next publication and the explanation of the reasons for the delays are specified.
8.2. Release calendar access	The Calendar of publications is available on the INSTAT website.
8.3. User access	In accordance with article 34 of Law No. 17/2018 "On Official Statistics", official statistics are disseminated so that all users have an immediate and equal right and all possible forms of media are used. INSTAT and statistical agencies, having in the program the responsibilities of dissemination, seek to meet every requirement of any organization or individual for unpublished data or specific analysis. The following dissemination channels are used to release the results: • Website – online release; • Written requests (by mail or email); • Data Request, section available for external users.
9. Frequency of dissemination	
9.1 Frequency of dissemination	The dissemination of the Foreigners in Albania is done on annual basis.
10. Accessibility and clarity	
10.1. News release	According to the calendar of publications, the data of the Foreigners in Albania, are published annually with a separate publication, on specific dates. The publication is available on the official website of INSTAT, in the statistical database Px-Web, also distributed electronically to users. Public announcements and delays in the publication calendar. In case of delays, other publication data and explanation of the reasons for the delays are specified.
10.2. Publications	Users can find the publications on the INSTAT website organized under the topic: Foreigners in Albania .

10.3. On-line database	Data on Foreigners in Albania are published in the official website of INSTAT, under the section Statistical Database .
10.4. Micro-data access	Access in Micro-data is not applicable.
10.5. Other	Users can submit specific requests for data through the INSTAT website in a dedicated section for Contact .
10.6. Documentation on methodology	The data are provided from administrative sources. A brief explanation of the definitions and methodology for asylum seeker statistics can be found in the relevant publication as well as in the quality reports.
10.7. Quality documentation	Population Statistics Sector takes care about all documentation of the whole process of work and procedures of Foreigners in Albania for internal purposes.
11. Quality management	
11.1. Quality assurance	INSTAT is committed to ensure the highest quality with respect to the compilation of statistical information. In accordance with Official Statistics Law No.17/2018 ; INSTAT use statistical methods and processes in compliance with internationally recognized scientific principles and standards conduct ongoing analyses of the statistics with a view to quality improvements and ensure that statistics are as up to date as possible. In performing its tasks, it follows the general principles of quality management from the European Statistics Code of Practice . INSTAT declares that it takes into account the following principles: impartiality, quality of processes and products, user orientation, employee orientation, effectiveness of statistical processes, reducing the workload for respondents.
11.2. Quality assessments	Data quality assessment controls are actions performed throughout the process. The data source for Foreigners in Albania Statistics is administrative. The data are compared with data from previous years to determine if there is data coherence or there have been major changes.
12. Relevance	
12.1. User needs	The publication of data on foreigners is widely used by users mainly for evidence-based policy planning, because foreigners figures are used to analyze a range of indicators both social and economic, by different users among which the most important are:

	• Central government; • Local government; • Academic field; • Ordinary users. Information on users' needs for, and their perceptions of foreigners is measured in several ways: • Page Views (Hits) on the relevant product on the INSTAT website; • Meetings with different users allowing them to discuss their requirements and needs; • Contacts with users who individually contact the Population Statistics sector on their specific requests, or send to INSTAT their requests regarding statistics on foreigners.
12.2. User satisfaction	INSTAT annually conducts the Survey for Measuring User Satisfaction, the results of which are published on the web at the link: User Satisfaction Survey .
12.3. Completeness	Completeness of data for "Foreigners in Albania" statistics for the year 2025, referring to the indicators provided in the official Statistics Program (2022-2026) covered by INSTAT is 100%.
13. Accuracy and reliability	
13.1. Overall accuracy	In general, the data have been checked with previous years to identify any significant changes in the performance of the data. In cases where changes are encountered, INSTAT notifies the relevant data sources to inform about the findings found in order to correct this data if deemed necessary or to be officially confirmed.
13.2. Sampling error	Not applicable.
13.3. Non - sampling error	The non-sampling errors are mainly errors of the administrative data sources reported data. Data review occurs only if the relevant institutions review the data sent to INSTAT for the purpose of updating or any potential human error. If the relevant institutions review the data sent to INSTAT, these changes will be reflected in the nearest publication and brief explanatory information will be provided to users.
14. Timeliness and punctuality	
14.1. Timeliness	Results according "Foreigners in Albania" are published 236 days after the reference period (T + 236 days). The reference period of these results is December 31, 2025.

	Reference period	12/31/2025	
	Date of publication	8/24/2026	
	Timeliness	236	
14.2. Punctuality	The data on “Foreigners in Albania” are disseminated according to the publication calendar. The publication of “Foreigners in Albania” has been punctual in time to 100% of publications carried out over the years.		
	Reference period	12/31/2025	
	Date of announcement	8/24/2026	
	Date of publication	8/24/2026	
	Time lag	0	
15. Coherence and comparability			
15.1. Comparability - geographical	Statistics on Foreigners in Albania are presented at the national level. These statistics are comparable as the institutions that provide us with the data coordinate the data collection process.		
15.2. Comparability - over time	Statistics for Foreigners in Albania date back to 2005 referring to the statistical database, providing a long-time comparison of 21 years (CC2 = Jlast-Jfirst + 1 = 21). The data are constantly checked to ensure their comparability over time.		
15.3. Coherence - cross domain	Not applicable.		
15.4. Coherence - internal	The internal consistency of the data is checked before finalizing. The evaluation of time series and their trend are also checked.		
16. Cost and burden			
16.1 Cost and burden	The staff involved in the procedures of data collection from administrative sources, data control, updating, processing and maintenance of statistics, work full-time and are as follows: • Head of sector 1 employee; • Specialist 3 employees. From Population Statistics and Census Sector is part of the Directorate of Population and Social Statistics. The data from administrative sources are free of charge as they are provided through a cooperation agreement between INSTAT and Ministry of Internal Affairs create the ability to transmit data at no cost.		

17. Data revision	
17.1. Data revision - policy	Revision policy of Foreigners in Albania Statistics is done in accordance with general revision policy and errors treatment policy introduced by INSTAT in the links below: • Revision policy; • The errors treatment policy.
17.2. Data revision - practice	If the authorities that send information on the statistics of foreigners in Albania to INSTAT will report changes in the information provided through tables, this data will be updated and published in the forthcoming publication accompanied by an explanatory note to the user. No revisions of the data on Foreigners for 2025 have been conducted, subject to this report.
18. Statistical processing	
18.1. Source data	For foreigners statistics the data source is only administrative data. Data on foreigners with residence permits in Albania as well as irregular foreigners are provided by the Department of Border and Migration, near the General Directorate of State's Police. 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).
18.2. Frequency of data collection	Frequency of data collection is done in annual frequency.
18.3. Data collection	Data on Foreigners in Albania are data from an administrative source. The Institute of Statistics organizes the work for the calculation of indicators and statistics on Foreigners in Albania for 2025, oriented by the Official Statistics Program and the Law on Statistics. Department of Border and Migration is the main source of data for all indicators published under this program.
18.4. Data validation	The raw data were subjected to logical and mathematical consistency checks within each table or between different tables reporting the same data. These controls are performed throughout the data processing process, for all indicators that INSTAT publishes. Among the methods of verifying administrative data can be mentioned: checking for data completeness, consistency over time, necessary corrections (should not be too high), summary checks, checking time series if there are large deviations, etc.
18.5. Data compilation	Not applicable.

18.6. Adjustment	Not applicable.
19. Comment	
Annex	