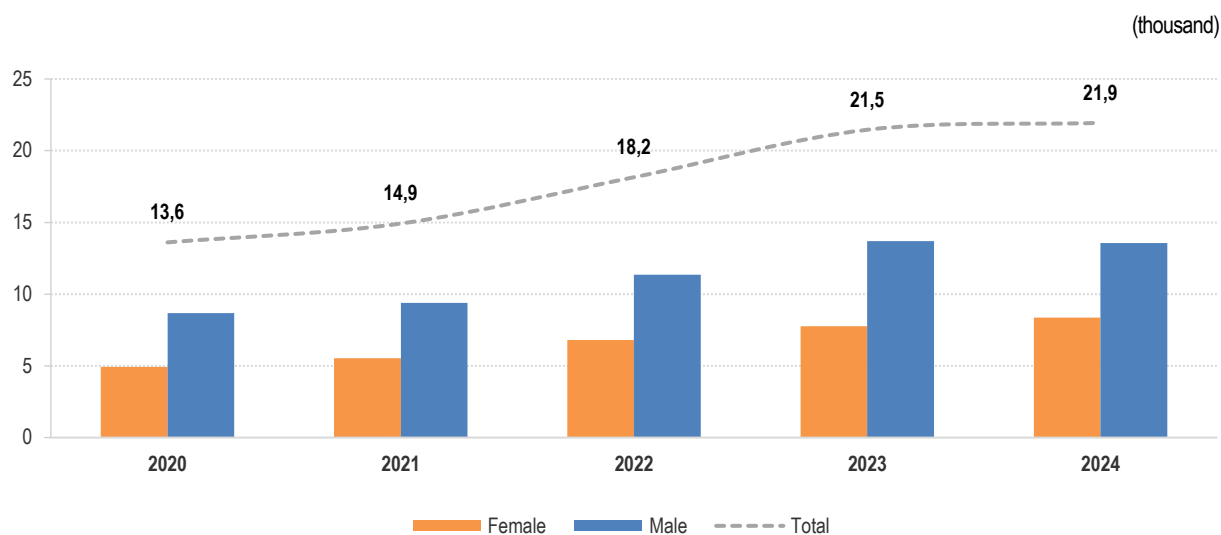


Foreigners in Albania, 2024

Tirana, on 25 August 2025: At the end of 2024, the number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania resulted 21,940 inhabitants, by increasing with 2.2 %, compared to 2023.

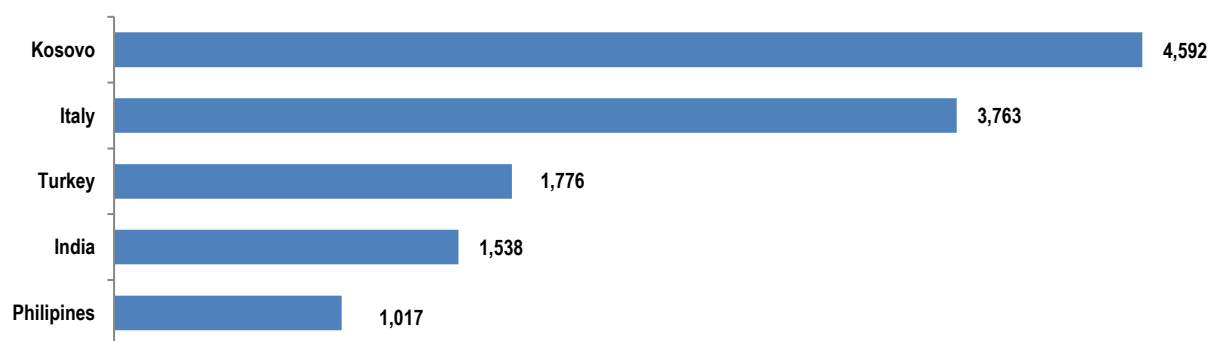
- 61.9 % of foreigners with residence permits are dominated by males, compared to females with 38.1 %;
- The most dominated age group is 30–39 years old, with 24.6 % of total foreigners;
- The number of applications for residence permits in Albania in 2024 marked an increase of 6.0 %, compared to 2023;
- Citizens from Italy and India occupy 28.8 % of applications;
- Europe represented the largest share, accounting for 65.5 % (14,367 persons with residence permits), registering a decrease of 5.6 %, compared to 2023;
- Asia has marked a significant increase of 20.1 % (4,545 persons);
- America, Africa and Oceania increased by 23.4 % (3,028 persons);
- Resident foreigners originating from Kosovo, Italy and Turkey constitute the largest number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania;
- The main reason for the residence permits of foreigners in Albania, is employment with 54.3 %, followed by:
 - family reunification: 24.5 %;
 - other reasons :16.3 %;
 - study :4.0 %;
 - humanitarian purposes: 0.9 %.
- In 2024 there were identified 1,540 irregular foreigners, in the territory of Albania, marking a significant decrease, compared to 6,630 in 2023.

Fig. 1 Foreigners with residence permits by sex, 2020-2024

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

Foreigners in Albania by country of origin

In 2024, resident foreigners in Albania originating from Kosovo are 4,592 inhabitants, by increasing with 23.7 %, compared to 2023, while foreigners originating from Italy are 3,763 inhabitants, with an increase by 11.5 %, compared to 2023.

Fig. 2 Number of foreigners in Albania by 5 main countries of origin, 2024

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.