

Foreigners and Asylum Seekers in Albania

Tirana, on August 22, 2018: The number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania in 2017 resulted 12,609, by increasing with 3.1 % compared to 2016.

During 2017, the number of resident foreigners is 8,395 males by increasing with 0.9 % compared to 2016 and 4,511 females by increasing with 7.5 % compared to the previous year.

In 2017, foreigners with origin from European countries are 7,637 and occupie 59.2 % of total foreigners compared with 66.5% in the previous year.

Foreigners for employment reasons, in 2017, are 6,334 and occupie 49.1 % of total foreigners compared with 50.0 % in 2016.

Irregular foreigners, identified in 2017, resulted in 1,049 people, by increasing with 14.6 % compared to 2016.

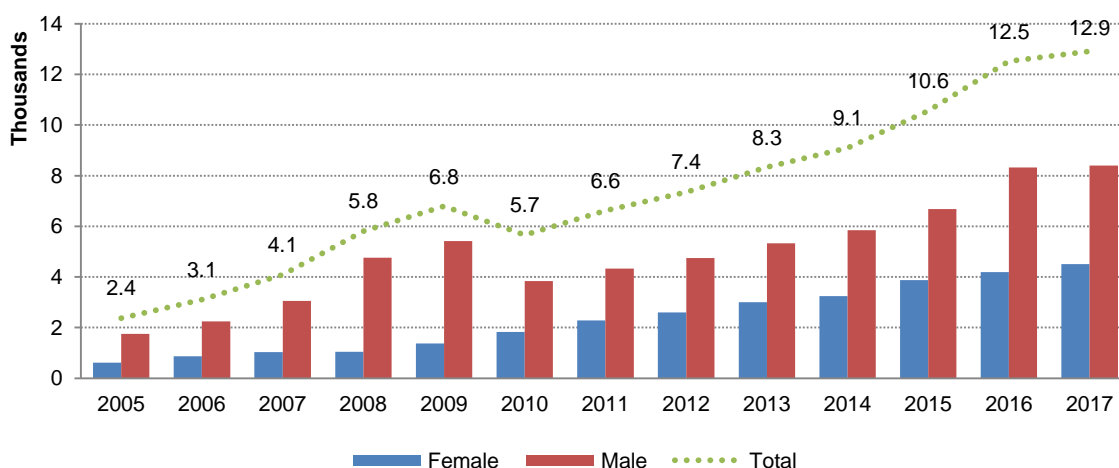
Irregular foreigners, identified in 2017, resulted mostly from countries as Siria, Algeria and Libia.

Asylum seekers in Albania, in 2017, resulted 309 people, by increasing with 12.5 % compared to 2016.

In 2017, result 316 people who have acquired Albanian citizenship, by increasing with 12.5 % compared to 2016.

In 2017, result 651 people who have terminated Albanian citizenship, by increasing with 32.9 % compared to 2016.

Fig. 1 Foreigners with residence permits by sex

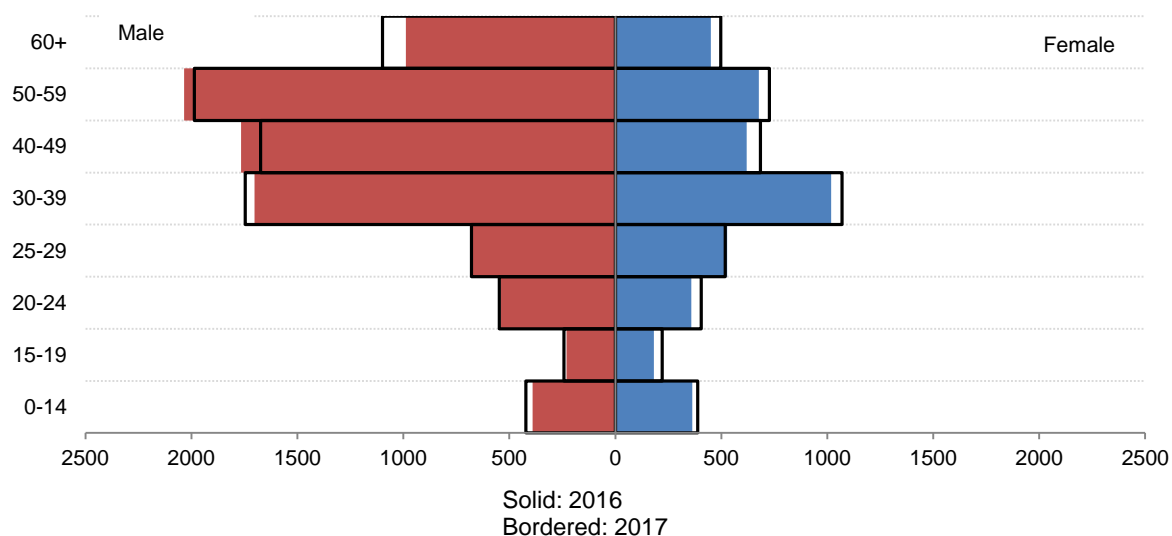


Foreigners in Albania

The number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania in 2017 is about 0.4% of the resident population. During 2017, the number of resident permits is 8,395 males and 4,511 females. Men occupy 65.0 % of the number of foreigners with a residence permit in Albania.

By analyzing the age structure of foreigners in Albania through the pyramid, we note that foreign males have a relatively higher age than women.

Fig. 2 Population pyramid of resident permit foreigners



The number of applications for residence permit in Albania in 2017 is 9,027, marking an increase of 3.9 % compared to 2016. Mostly of applications by country of origin are from Iran, Italy, Kosovo and Turkey which together constitute 61.8% of total applications in 2017.

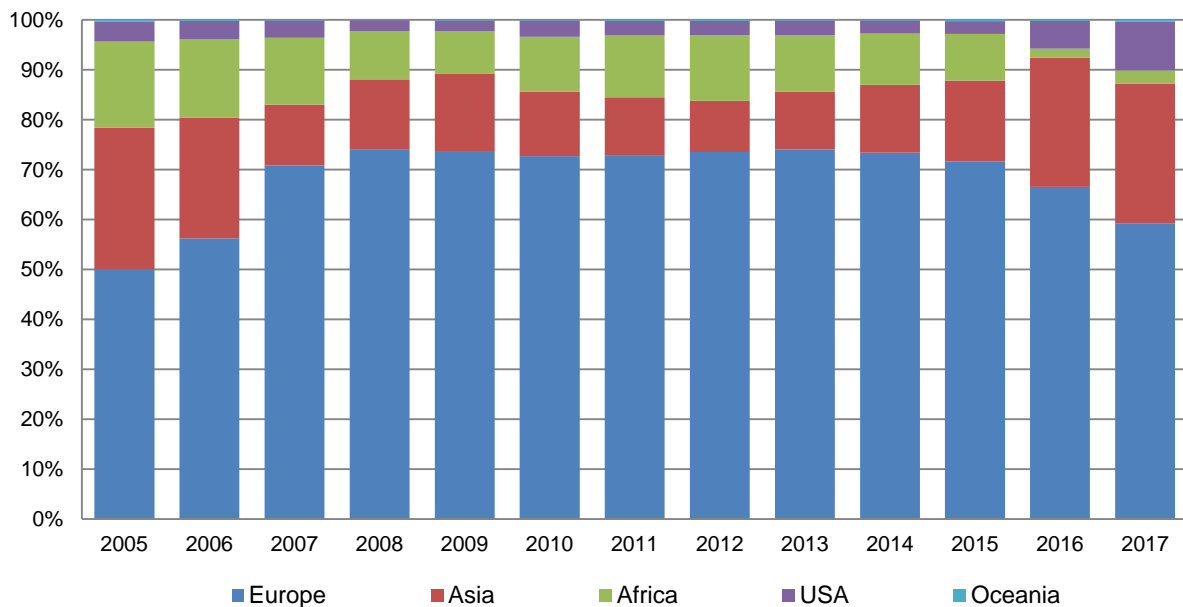
Tab. 1 Applications for Residence Permit in Albania

Country of origin	2016	2017
Iran	2,195	1,963
Italy	1,694	1,779
Kosovo	730	978
Turkey	1,032	863
Greece	229	295
USA	221	280
China	215	259
Syria	167	229
Republic of Macedonia	177	167
United Kingdom	118	152
Other	1,914	2,062
Total	8,692	9,027

Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration

Foreigners in Albania by continents

Foreigners by country of origin in 2017, are headed by European countries, which occupy 59.2 % of total foreigners. Foreigners with origin from European countries are 7,637, by decreasing with 8.3 % compared to 2016. Foreigners with origin from Asian countries are 3,618, by increasing with 11.5 % compared to 2016. Foreigners from Africa, USA and Oceania are 1.651, by increasing with 73.6 % compared to 2016.

Fig. 3 Foreigners with residence permits by country of origin

Foreigners in Albania by reason

In 2017, according to the reason, foreigners applying for a residence permit for employment occupy 49.1 % of total foreigners, followed by applications for family reunification with 23.1 %, applications for humanitarian purposes by 18.4 %, applications for studies with 5.1 % and applications for other reasons by 4.3 %.

Tab. 2 Foreigners with residence permit according to the reason for the application

Reason of application	Employment	Family Reunification	Study	Humanitarian	Other
2009	5963	622	90	35	83
2010	4148	977	183	42	313
2011	4450	1497	265	44	359
2012	4565	1867	515	47	359
2013	5302	1765	775	229	259
2014	5353	2266	752	441	279
2015	5862	2573	842	863	423
2016	6263	2783	652	2395	426
2017	6334	2982	656	2381	553

Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration

Irregular foreigners

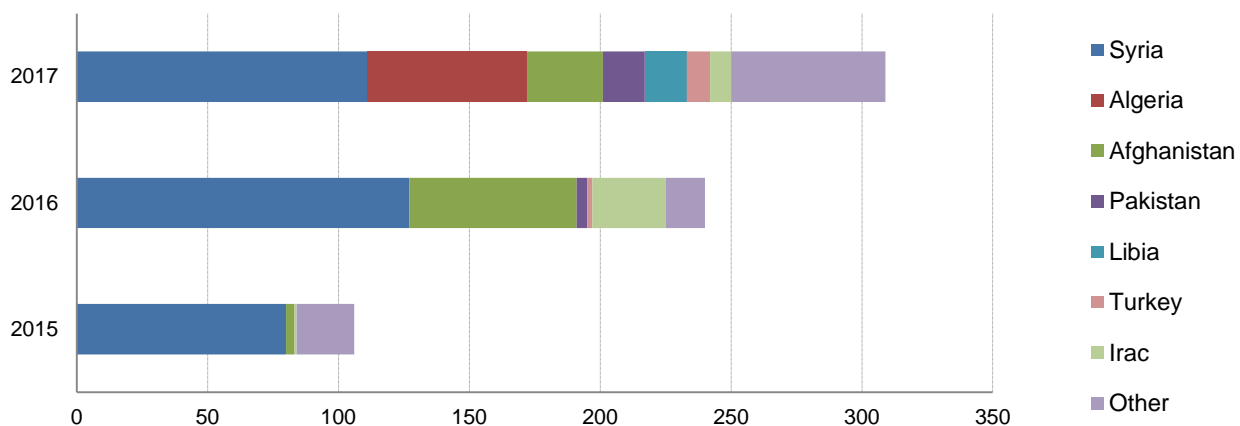
Irregular foreigners who are seized in Albanian territory without or in the border, without the necessary documentation result 1,049 people in 2017, by increasing with 14.6 % compared to 2016.

Asylum seekers in Albania

Asylum seekers in Albania, referring to the Asylum Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, resulted 309 people in 2017, by increasing with 28.8 % compared to 2016.

Analyzing the country of origin of asylum seekers, in Albania we understand that most of the cases are those of Syria with 110 asylum seekers, Algeria 61 asylum seekers, and those originating from Afghanistan 29 asylum seekers in 2017.

Fig. 4 Asylum seekers by country of origin



Asylum seekers by sex

The number of male asylum seekers in 2017 is 275, by increasing with 89.7 % compared to 2016. The number of female asylum seekers in 2017 is 34, by decreasing with 64.2 % compared to 2016.

It is noticed a dominance of men in the number of asylum seekers in Albania, where men occupie 89.0 % of the total number of asylum seekers in 2017.

Acquisition of Albanian citizenship

In 2017, result 316 people who have acquired Albanian citizenship, by increasing with 12.5 % compared to 2016.

In 2017, result 651 people who have terminated Albanian citizenship, by increasing with 32.9 % compared to 2016.

Methodology

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.

Volunteer 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.

Acquiring citizenship - a foreigner who has applied for Albanian citizenship, acquires it if he meets the conditions set forth in the law.

Termination of Albanian 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.

Data source

Data on foreigners with residence permit in Albania are provided by the General Directorate for Border and Migration;

Data on Asylum Seekers in Albania are provided by the Directorate on Asylum in the Ministry of Internal Affairs;

Data on obtaining and leaving citizenship are provided by the Legal Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.