Foreign resident population in Italy: a "local labour market areas" approach

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DRAFT VERSION

Introduction

Italy radically changed its role in the European migratory system. Becoming very quickly a post-industrial society, it went from being an emigration country to an immigration country with all the related changes in prospects and problems. The number of foreigners considerably increased in the last decade and the range of countries of origin noticeably widened. In fact, one of the most amazing characteristics of immigration in Italy is its multi-ethnicity as consequence also of its weak colonial ties. Foreign nationality configuration on the Italian territory seems to be deeply determined also by the presence and the working of a variety of networks at different levels of aggregation.
On 1 January 2007, the total number of resident foreigners reached almost 3 million people (5% of the total resident population). Geographically speaking, they are concentrated in the North and Centre of Italy, which offer high possibilities to find a regular job. The ageing of the Italian population is a socio-demographic aspect that involves re-organising the welfare system, which is still in progress. Because there is no proper sustain for family care assistance, it is necessary to recruit people willing to do this kind of job. Due to the high degree of segmentation that characterises the Italian labour market, migrant workers are hired to do the 3D (dirty, dangerous and difficult) jobs that most local workers are unwilling to do. Repeated regularization programmes represent an attractive factor too.
This study intends analysing the main characteristics of the foreign population living in Italy and its development over the last few years. The strong relationship between labour market and foreign people distribution suggested us to use "local labour market areas" (LLMAs) to draw the geography of this population across Italy.
This study deals with a stable foreign population that is living an advanced step of the integration process. In this case, their relationship with the territory and with the native population seems to be particularly strong. Nevertheless, labour market opportunities are an essential element that can orient the choices of foreigners and their families to settle down in some areas instead of others.

The "local labour market areas" approach

The 686 "Local labour market areas" were created on the basis of daily work transfers deducted from the last census data. This is the third time that Istat has identified such areas, in occasion of the last three censuses. The number of local labour market areas has dropped by 28.2% between 1981 (when they amounted to 955) and 2001.
They correspond to aggregations of local administrative units ("comuni") contiguous one to the other and constitute areas geographically and statistically comparable. The "local labour market areas" are defined as areas of self-containment, considering the entrance flows and exit flows.
Their borders cross provinces and regions while only municipal borders are respected since they represent the basic unit for surveying the data on daily work transfers. A good 24.3% of the Local Labour Market Areas are made up of municipalities that belong to more than one province and 7.1% of these are made up of municipalities that belong to two regions.

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The LLMAs can be classified by main productive activity or demographic size. They are often used to develop regional socio-economic and geographic analysis and also for policy planning and implementation (Table 1 and Figure 1).

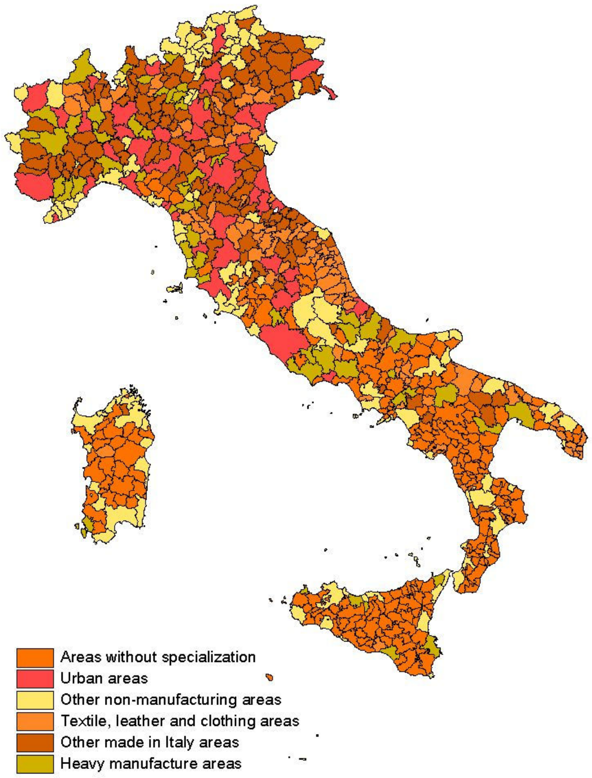
Table 1 – Local Labour Market Areas (LLMAs) and resident population per main productive specialisation groups (absolute and percentage values)

Specialisation classes, sub-classes and groups	Number of Local Labour Market Areas		Resident population at 1st January 2007	
	Absolute values	**Percentage values**	**Absolute values** *(in thousands)*	**Percentage values**
AREAS WITHOUT SPECIALIZATION	220	32.1	8.219,2	13.9
NON-MANUFACTURING AREAS	178	25.9	27.259,5	46.1
Urban areas	72	10.5	24.421,2	41.3
Highly specialisation urban areas	*4*	*0.6*	*7.095,8*	*12.0*
Low specialisation urban areas	*29*	*4.2*	*4.080,1*	*6.9*
Urban areas without specialisation	*13*	*1.9*	*4.316,6*	*7.3*
Mainly port urban areas	*26*	*3.8*	*8.869,7*	*15.0*
Other non-manufacturing areas	106	15.5	2.897,4	4.9
Tourism areas	82	12.0	1.655,7	2.8
Agricultural areas	24	3.5	1.241,8	2.1
MADE IN ITALY AREAS	232	33.8	17.325,5	29.3
Textile, leather and clothing areas	100	14.6	6.681,8	11.3
Leather and hide integrated areas	*11*	*1.6*	*591,3*	*1.0*
Footwear areas	*22*	*3.2*	*1.596,5*	*2.7*
Textile industry areas	*18*	*2.6*	*2.010,5*	*3.4*
Clothing areas	*49*	*7.1*	*2.483,5*	*4.2*
Other made in Italy areas	132	19.2	10.702,8	18.1
Wood and furniture areas	*28*	*4.1*	*3.134,0*	*5.3*
Eye glasses areas	*8*	*1.2*	*295,7*	*0.5*
Machine manufacture areas	*35*	*5.1*	*4.730,5*	*8.0*
Food areas	*61*	*8.9*	*2.483,5*	*4.2*
HEAVY MANUFACTURE AREAS	56	8.2	6.267,9	10.6
Metal processing and production areas	*14*	*2.0*	*1.064,4*	*1.8*
Transport means areas	*16*	*2.3*	*2.956,6*	*5.0*
Construction material areas	*7*	*1.0*	*295,7*	*0.5*
Chemical and petrol areas	*19*	*2.8*	*1.951,3*	*3.3*
Total	**686**	**100.0**	**59.131,3**	**100.0**

Source: Elaboration on Istat data

As regards the classification per main productive specialisation, the *Areas without specialisation* includes all local *areas without specific specialisations*, which are generally very small and mainly located in the south of the country.
The second class (*Non-manufacturing areas*) includes LLMAs mainly specialised in tertiary activities located in Central-northern Italy. Its demographic dimension is more consistent due to the large cities as Milan and Rome included in the *high specialisation urban areas* group.
The third class (*Made in Italy areas*), which counts the highest number of LLMAs, includes *manufacturing areas*, in particular the made in Italy productions. Its *textile, leather and clothing areas* are mainly located in the centre and south while the other *made in Italy areas* in the North.
The fourth and last class (*Heavy manufacture areas*) is made up of 56 LLMAs, characterised by large productive units.

Figure 1 – Local Labour Market Areas (LLMAs) per main productive specialisation groups



The resident population

To map the different aspects of immigration in Italy, we decided to use the data from the Istat survey on foreign resident population, which provides annual data on resident foreign population disaggregated at a sufficient territorial level. They are collected from the administrative population registers ("anagrafi comunali"), one of the most important official sources on this topic. This survey provides stock data, such as number of resident foreign population at the beginning and end of the year, resident foreigners aged less than 18, and resident foreign people born in Italy. Moreover, it supplies flows data on live births, deaths, immigration and emigration flows, and acquisitions of citizenship. Another advantage in using this kind of data is the availability of information on citizenship of resident foreign people classified by sex.

Considering the productive specialisation[1], foreigners are mainly concentrated in the *non-manufacturing areas* (1,416,088 persons, or 48.2% of the total) and in the *made in Italy areas* (1,101,850 persons, or 37.5% of the total), which enclose in total about 86% of the whole foreign population residing in Italy (Table 2). In particular, they are mainly present in the *high specialisation urban areas* and in the *machine manufacture areas*.

The weight of the foreign component equals 5% of the overall resident population. As for the productive specialisation, the incidence of the resident foreign population is higher than average in the *high specialisation urban areas* (7.9%), in *urban areas without specialisation* (7.6%), in *machine manufacture areas* (7.8%) and in the *leather and hide integrated areas* (7%) (Table 2).

[1] When analysing the resident foreign population classified per LLMA's productive specialisation, it is important to consider that the presence of foreign population in the LLMAs with different productive specialisations does not automatically imply that the same labour force was used inside the specific sector of production.

Table 2 – Resident foreign population in the Local Labour Market Areas per main productive specialisation groups at 1st January 2007 *(Absolute, percentage and per 100 residents values)*

Specialisation classes, sub-classes and groups	**Resident foreign population** Absolute values *(in thousands)*	Percentage values	Per 100 residents
AREAS WITHOUT SPECIALIZATION	133,8	4.6	1.6
NON-MANUFACTURING AREAS	1.416,1	48.2	5.2
Urban areas	1.320,0	44.9	5.4
Highly specialisation urban areas	*560,5*	*19.1*	*7.9*
Low specialisation urban areas	*224,2*	*7.6*	*5.5*
Urban areas without specialisation	*327,1*	*11.1*	*7.6*
Mainly port urban areas	*208,2*	*7.1*	*2.3*
Other non-manufacturing areas	96,1	3.3	3.3
Tourism areas	*69,1*	*2.4*	*4.2*
Agricultural areas	*27,0*	*0.9*	*2.2*
MADE IN ITALY AREAS	1.101,9	37.5	6.4
Textile, leather and clothing areas	362,9	12.3	5.4
Leather and hide integrated areas	*41,2*	*1.4*	*7.0*
Footwear areas	*71,6*	*2.4*	*4.6*
Textile industry areas	*122,6*	*4.2*	*6.1*
Clothing areas	*127,5*	*4.3*	*5.1*
Other made in Italy areas	739,0	25.1	*6.9*
Wood and furniture areas	*208,5*	*7.1*	*6.6*
Eye glasses areas	*19,0*	*0.6*	*6.0*
Machine manufacture areas	*370,6*	*12.6*	*7.8*
Food areas	*140,8*	*4.8*	*5.7*
HEAVY MANUFACTURE AREAS	287,1	9.8	*4.6*
Metal processing and production areas	*38,5*	*1.3*	*3.7*
Transport means areas	*148,7*	*5.1*	*5.0*
Construction material areas	*20,2*	*0.7*	*6.3*
Chemical and petrol areas	*79,7*	*2.7*	*4.1*
Total	2.938,9	100.0	***5.0***

Source: Elaboration on Istat data

Geographically speaking, figure 2a shows a concentration of resident foreign population in the coast LLMAs and in large urban areas in the north and centre of Italy. Furthermore, figure 2b reveals a higher incidence of the foreign population in the LLMAs of north and central Italy than in the south and in the islands.

Sex ratio at 1st January 2007 appears rather balanced: 100.5 males per 100 females, a value obtained comparing the 1,473,073 males and 1,465,849 females residing in Italy at that date. This average value, which is substantially balanced on a national level, is, however, variable within the local labour market areas according to the distribution of the different nationalities in Italy.

Figure 3 presents this high variability, and, more generally, a ratio that is more favourable to men, especially in the LLMAs of North and Central Italy[2].

[2] To correctly read the results, it is necessary to bear in mind that in some cases, the indicators were calculated based on numerically much lower items. This could lead to obtaining biased values for the indicators, in particular as regards the composition ratios such as in the case of the relation between genders.

Figure 2 – Resident foreign population in the local labour market areas at 1st January 2007 *(absolute and per 100 residents values)*

Figure 2a – Absolute values

Figure 2b –Per 100 residents

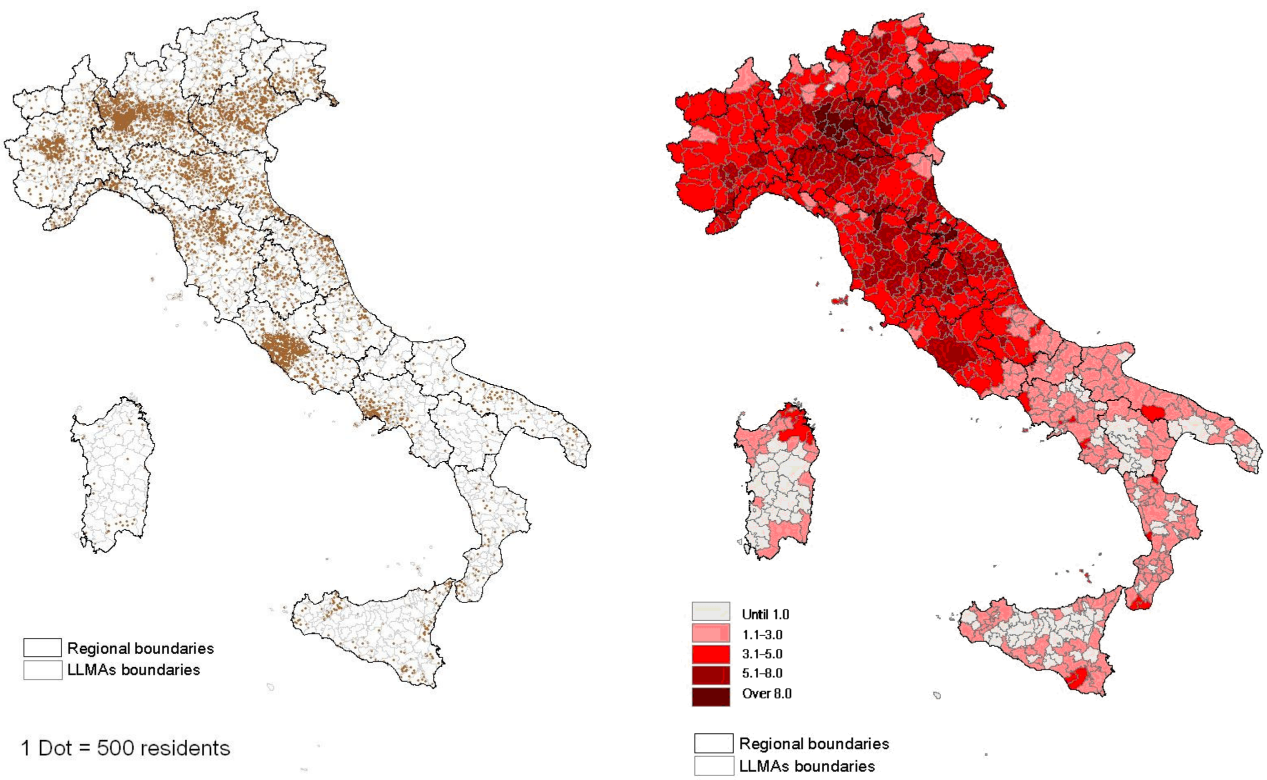


Figure 4 indicates the annual average growth rate values of the resident foreign population, calculated between 1 January 2002 and 1 January 2007. Almost all LLMAs have registered an increase in their resident foreign population, except for some LLMAs located on Italy's Northern border, which instead registered a decrease.

In figure 5, the values of the annual average natural growth rate between 2002 and 2006 reflect the birth rate values, also due to the low number in deaths of resident foreign citizens. However, some negative values were surveyed mainly in the areas with minimum flows or flows characterised by very low resident foreign population stocks (LLMAs located in the south).

The values of the annual average net internal migration rate for the period 2002-2006 (Table 3) greatly differ based on the demographic size. It goes from -15.8 per thousand in the small LLMAs (up to 10 thousand inhabitants) to 11.1 per thousand in the medium LLMAs. Hence, foreigners seem to move to medium and medium large areas (Figure 6). The Southern LLMAs generally tend to lose their foreign population (negative rate values) except for some cases mainly in the LLMAs of Sardegna, while the Central-northern LLMAs seem to gain foreign population (positive rate values).

Figure 3 – Sex ratio of resident foreign population in the local labour market areas at 1st January 2007 *(Males/Females*100)*

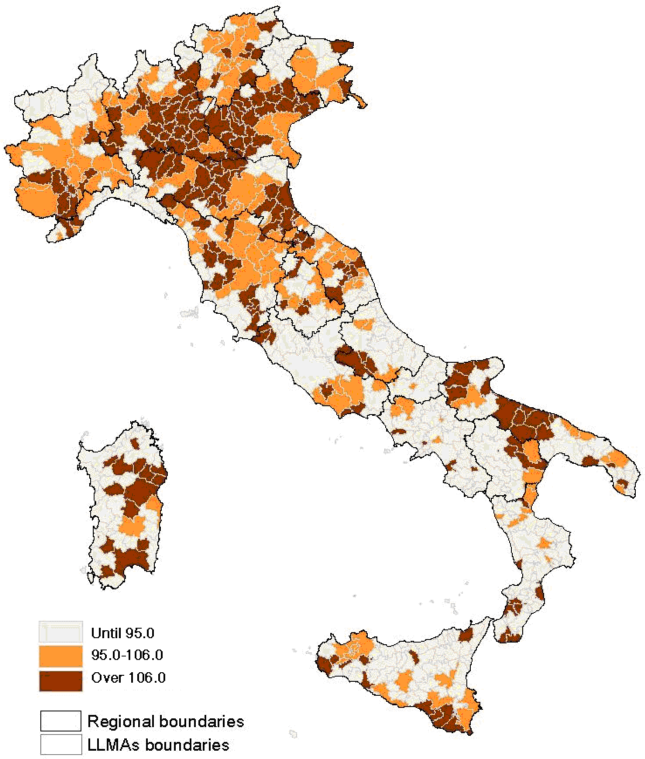


Figure 4 – Annual average growth rate of resident foreign population in the local labour market areas at 1st January. Years 2002-2007*(per 1000 residents)*

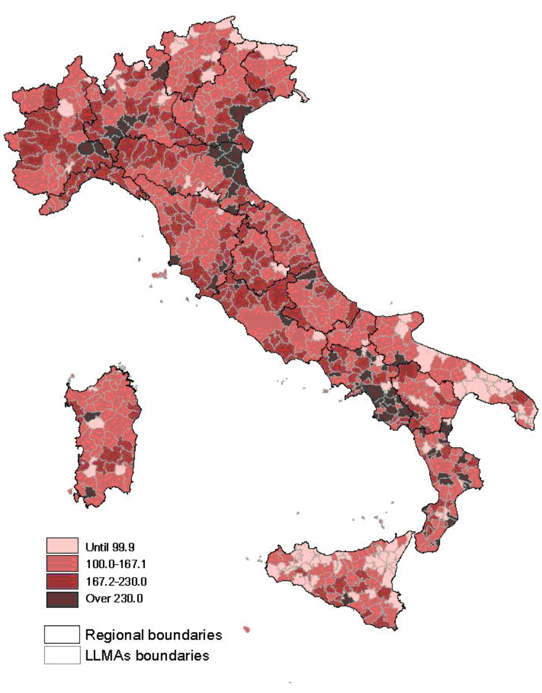


Figure 5 – Annual average rate of natural growth of resident foreign population in the local labour market areas at 1st January. Years 2002-2007 *(per 1000 residents)*

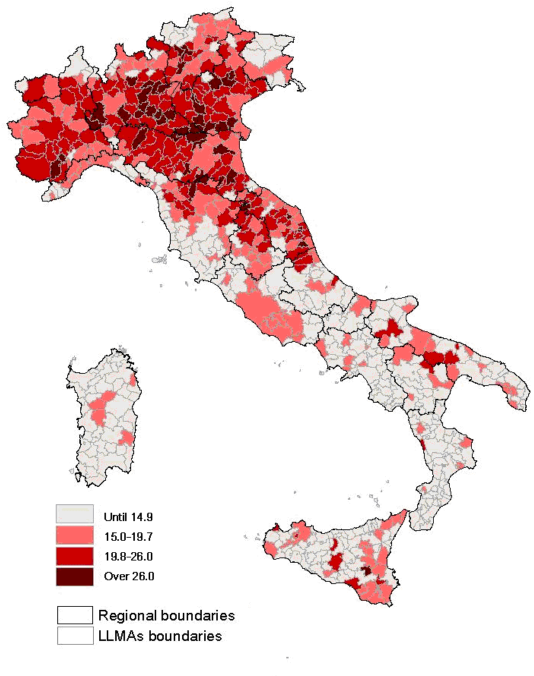
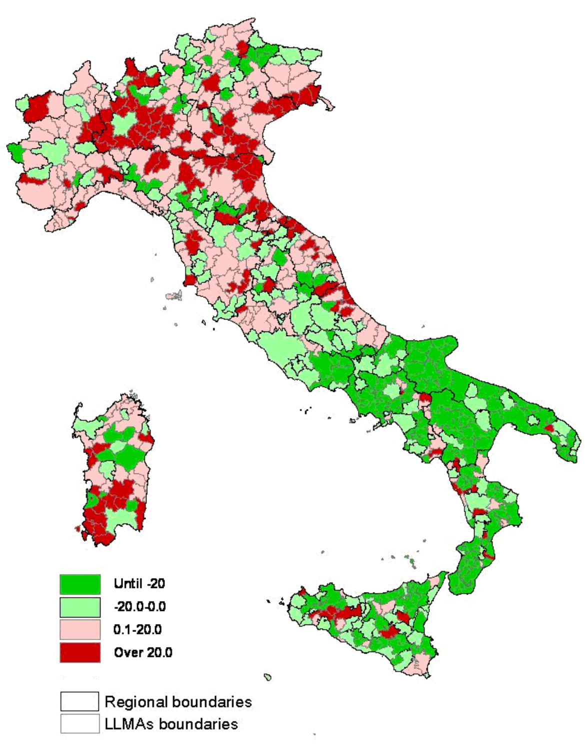
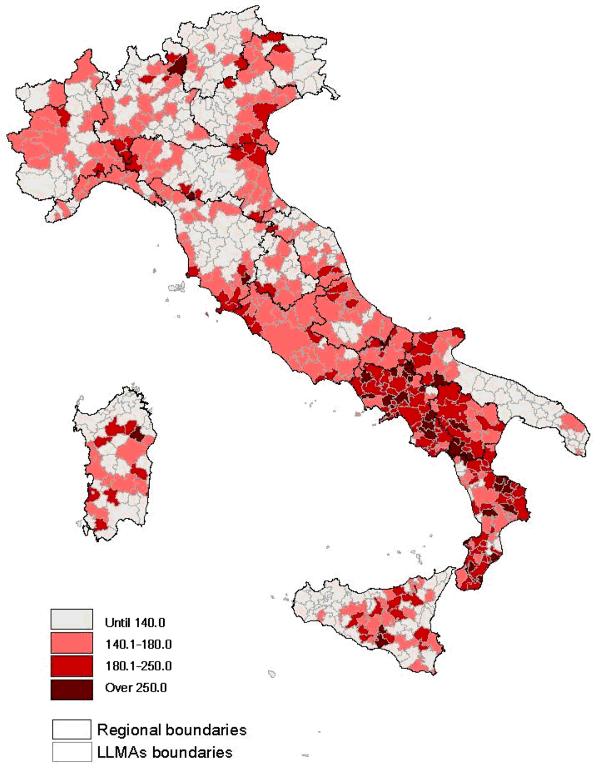


Figure 6 – Annual average net internal migration rate of resident foreign population in the local labour market areas at 1st January. Years 2002-2007 *(per 1000 residents)*



Besides the traditional dichotomy that the Centre-North attracts people and the South lets them go, sustained migratory increases due to internal movements were registered in the LLMAs located on the border of the large urban areas (such as Rome and Milan for example), most likely because of the more favourable conditions of the housing market than in the cities.
Even if the outflows are probably underestimated figure 7 shows that rate values are greater in the Southern LLMAs. It is interesting to notice that many foreign citizens are supposed to arrive in the south of the country and then decide to reach the North and the Centre of Italy where it is easier to find a regular job.

Figure 7 – Annual average net migration rate with abroad of resident foreign population in the local labour market areas at 1st January. Years 2002-2007 *(per 1000 residents)*



As for the productive specialisation, annual average net internal migration rate of resident foreign population goes from -23.1 per thousand in the *areas without specialisation* (that is, losing foreign population) to 15.8 per thousand in the *made in Italy areas*. In particular, negative values were registered in the *agricultural areas* (-11.6), *port areas and shipyards* (-10.2), and *high specialisation urban areas* (-8.5). On the other hand, positive values instead were surveyed in *construction material areas* (19.9), the *textile industry areas* (17.3), and the *wood and furniture areas* (16.7 per thousand).
The values of the migration rate with abroad are all positive. As for the productive specialisation, the highest rate values were registered in the *areas without specialisation* (172.7) and in the *heavy manufacture areas*. The lowest values instead concerned the *other made in Italy areas* (132.5) and the *leather and clothing textile areas* (137.7).
High rate values were noticeably registered in the *transport means areas* (158.1) and *low specialisation urban areas* (154.8). These differences, however, are probably linked with the geographical location of the different types of productive areas.

Table 3 – Annual average rate of natural growth and net migration rates of the resident foreign population in the LLMAs per main productive specialisation groups. Years 2002-2007

Specialisation classes, sub-classes and groups	**Annual average rate of natural increase** *(per 1000 residents)*	**Annual average net internal migration rate** *(per 1000 residents)*	**Annual average net migration rate with abroad** *(per 1000 residents)*
AREAS WITHOUT SPECIALIZATION	12.9	-23.1	172.7
NON-MANUFACTURING AREAS	17.6	-1.5	139.5
Urban areas	18.0	-1.5	139.8
Highly specialisation urban areas	*17.7*	*-8.5*	*135.7*
Low specialisation urban areas	*17.9*	*11.6*	*154.8*
Urban areas without specialisation	*21.0*	*7.4*	*135.4*
Mainly port urban areas	*14.2*	*-10.2*	*142.6*
Other non-manufacturing areas	*13.5*	*-2.3*	*135.4*
Tourism areas	*13.1*	*1.4*	*134.6*
Agricultural areas	*14.5*	*-11.6*	*137.3*
MADE IN ITALY AREAS	23.0	15.8	134.2
Textile, leather and clothing areas	22.6	11.0	137.7
Leather and hide integrated areas	*23.2*	*5.0*	*126.0*
Footwear areas	*20.2*	*1.5*	*146.8*
Textile industry areas	*24.8*	*17.3*	*130.7*
Clothing areas	*21.6*	*12.6*	*143.2*
Other made in Italy areas	23.2	18.1	132.5
Wood and furniture areas	*22.3*	*16.7*	*130.7*
Eye glasses areas	*24.7*	*11.6*	*143.4*
Machine manufacture areas	*24.8*	*21.7*	*131.1*
Food areas	*20.4*	*11.8*	*137.5*
HEAVY MANUFACTURE AREAS	21.0	5.2	151.1
Metal processing and production areas	*22.3*	*4.1*	*132.5*
Transport means areas	*20.8*	*1.5*	*158.1*
Construction material areas	*22.8*	*19.9*	*123.7*
Chemical and petrol areas	*20.4*	*8.8*	*155.2*
Total	**19.8**	**4.6**	**140.1**

Source: Elaboration on Istat data

Analysis of the main nationalities

Out of the 2,938,922 foreigners living in Italy on 1 January 2007, 375,947 (12.8%) were Albanese, 343,228 (11.7%) Moroccans, 342,200 (11.6%) Romanians, 144,885 (4.9%) Chinese, 120,070 (4.1%) Ukrainians and 101,337 (3.4%) were from the Philippines.

The productive specialisation revealed more marked differences. Albanians registered high incidence values (1%) in the *made in Italy areas*, especially in the *wood and furniture areas* (1.2%). The same situation was observed for the Moroccans, who, however, represented also an important share of the total population (1.7%) in the *construction material areas*. Romanians are strongly present in the *heavy manufacture areas* (1%) and in the *urban areas* (0.9%). More in detail, they registered high incidence values in the *transport means areas* (1.4%), in the *construction material areas* (1.1%), and in the *high specialisation urban areas* (1.1%). Chinese are mainly present in the *textile, leather and clothing areas* (0.5%), especially in the *textile areas* (0.8%) and in the *urban areas* (0.4%). Ukrainians appear rather equally distributed in relation to the productive specialisations of the local labour market areas, with incidence values close to 0.2%. Finally, Philippine citizens are strongly concentrated in the *urban areas* (0.5%) and in the *high specialisation urban areas* (0.8%).

As for the main productive specialization, it is interesting to highlight some peculiarities. Resident foreign population as just mentioned seems to generally prefer *urban areas* in particular for the Philippine community (81.8). Among the specialization groups of *non-manufacturing areas* some peculiarities come out such as 56.8 per cent of Philippines and 22.2 per cent of Romanians in the *highly specialisation urban areas*, 11.0 per cent of Albanians and 10.4 per cent of Ukrainians in the *low specialization urban areas*, 15.3 per cent of Ukrainians in the *mainly port urban areas*. For the Moroccans, the Albanians and the Chinese citizens the *made in Italy areas* (respectively 48.9, 48.0 and

43.4 per cent) seem to represent an important alternative to the *urban areas*. In particular, the *machine manufacture areas* show high percentages of Moroccans (17.4 per cent) and Albanians (14.0 per cent) whereas the *textile industry areas* show 11 percent of Chinese residents. The *heavy manufacture areas* play a significant role especially for Romanians (18.6 per cent) and Moroccans (14.4 per cent) (Table 4).

Table 4 – Resident foreign population in the local labour market areas at 1st January 2007 per citizenship and main productive specialisation groups at 1st January *(percentage values)*

Specialisation classes, sub-classes and groups	Albanians	Moroccans	Romanians	Chinese	Ukrainians	Philippines
AREAS WITHOUT SPECIALIZATION	4.2	6.3	3.6	4.8	12.5	1.3
NON-MANUFACTURING AREAS	38.4	30.5	46.1	45.6	51.6	84.1
Urban areas	35.1	27.4	43.6	44.3	47.2	81.8
Highly specialisation urban areas	*7.2*	*6.0*	*22.2*	*18.3*	*12.9*	*56.8*
Low specialisation urban areas	*11.0*	*6.4*	*7.0*	*6.2*	*10.4*	*3.2*
Urban areas without specialisation	*10.7*	*10.4*	*11.4*	*13.2*	*8.6*	*13.5*
Mainly port urban areas	*6.3*	*4.6*	*3.0*	*6.5*	*15.3*	*8.4*
Other non-manufacturing areas	3.3	3.1	2.5	1.4	4.4	2.3
Tourism areas	*2.5*	*2.0*	*1.8*	*0.7*	*3.0*	*0.6*
Agricultural areas	*0.8*	*1.1*	*0.7*	*0.7*	*1.3*	*1.7*
MADE IN ITALY AREAS	48.0	48.9	31.7	43.4	29.0	10.8
Textile, leather and clothing areas	16.9	15.0	10.3	24.2	9.5	4.9
Leather and hide integrated areas	*1.7*	*1.6*	*0.6*	*2.3*	*1.0*	*0.3*
Footwear areas	*4.4*	*2.9*	*2.3*	*2.7*	*3.0*	*0.9*
Textile industry areas	*4.7*	*5.3*	*2.1*	*11.0*	*2.6*	*2.4*
Clothing areas	*6.0*	*5.2*	*5.3*	*8.2*	*2.9*	*1.3*
Other made in Italy areas	31.1	33.9	21.4	19.1	19.4	5.9
Wood and furniture areas	*9.8*	*8.2*	*7.2*	*4.7*	*4.7*	*1.9*
Eye glasses areas	*0.5*	*1.3*	*0.3*	*2.0*	*0.8*	*0.1*
Machine manufacture areas	*14.0*	*17.4*	*8.9*	*9.8*	*9.5*	*3.2*
Food areas	*6.8*	*7.0*	*5.0*	*2.7*	*4.4*	*0.7*
HEAVY MANUFACTURE AREAS	9.4	14.4	18.6	6.2	7.0	3.8
Metal processing and production areas	*1.6*	*2.4*	*1.1*	*0.6*	*1.0*	*0.2*
Transport means areas	*3.7*	*7.6*	*12.5*	*4.2*	*2.6*	*2.7*
Construction material areas	*0.6*	*1.6*	*1.0*	*0.1*	*0.4*	*0.2*
Chemical and petrol areas	*3.5*	*2.8*	*3.9*	*1.3*	*3.0*	*0.7*
Total *(absolute values in thousands)*	**375,9**	**343,2**	**342,2**	**144,9**	**120,1**	**101,3**

Source: Elaboration on Istat data

Regarding the demographic size of the LLMAs, these first six nationalities (which amount to 48.6% of the total foreigners residing in Italy) are differently distributed. The incidence of Albanians on the total population is higher in the medium and medium large LLMAs (8 foreigners per every thousand inhabitants). The highest percentage incidence values were registered for the Moroccans in the medium LLMAs (0.8), for the Romanians in the medium large LLMAs (0.8), and for the Chinese, though with much lower values, in medium large and large LLMAs (0.3). Ukrainians appear evenly distributed in terms of percentage incidence while the incidence value of Philippine citizens is rather significant (0.4) in the large LLMAs.
Figures of group 8 show the distribution of these six nationalities (most present in Italy numerically speaking) in the local labour market areas.
Albanians are more concentrated in the northern and central areas, mainly around Milan (16,129 persons, 5 every thousand inhabitants), Turin (6,962 persons, 4 every thousand inhabitants), Genova (4,092 persons, 6 every thousand inhabitants), Pordenone (4,730 persons, 20 every thousand inhabitants), Florence (8,712 persons, 12 every thousand inhabitants), as well as in some coast areas of Liguria and the Adriatic, in Puglia, and in some areas of Campania and Sicilia (figure 9a). Their presence is not really significant in the remaining areas of the south and on the islands.

Moroccans result more concentrated in the northern areas of Milan (15,148 persons, 5 every thousand inhabitants), Turin (18,827 persons, 11 every thousand inhabitants), Bergamo (11,528 persons, 15 every thousand inhabitants) and, to a lesser extent, in central Italy. They are less present in the southern areas and on the islands, though some groups were surveyed in some areas on the coasts of Campania, Calabria and Sicilia. However, the level of their presence here is irrelevant compared to rest of the country (figure 9b).
Romanians are mainly concentrated in the LLMAs of Piemonte (Turin: 37,513 persons, 21 every thousand inhabitants), Lombardia (Milan: 16,729 persons, 5 every thousand inhabitants) and Veneto (Padova: 10,557 persons, 17 every thousand inhabitants; Verona: 8,155 persons, 14 every thousand inhabitants). A very numerous community of Romanians also settled in the LLMA of Rome, which counts 57,047 resident Romanians, with an incidence equal to 16 every thousand inhabitants. The south and the islands do not present particularly significant values (figure 9c).
The distribution of the Chinese is very different (figure 9d) as it seems to follow more a "spots of a leopard" kind of distribution. They indeed register significant incidence values in some LLMAs of the north and centre such as Milan (17,669 persons, 6 every thousand inhabitants), Parma (2,674 persons, 8 every thousand inhabitants), Reggio nell'Emilia (2,674 persons, 8 every thousand inhabitants), Prato (10,967 persons, 40 every thousand inhabitants) and Florence (7,493 persons, 11 every thousand inhabitants). There are, however, no significant Chinese communities in the south and on the islands, except around Naples.

Figure 8 – Resident foreign population in the local labour market areas at 1st January 2007 per citizenship *(absolute values)*

Figure 8a – Albanian citizens

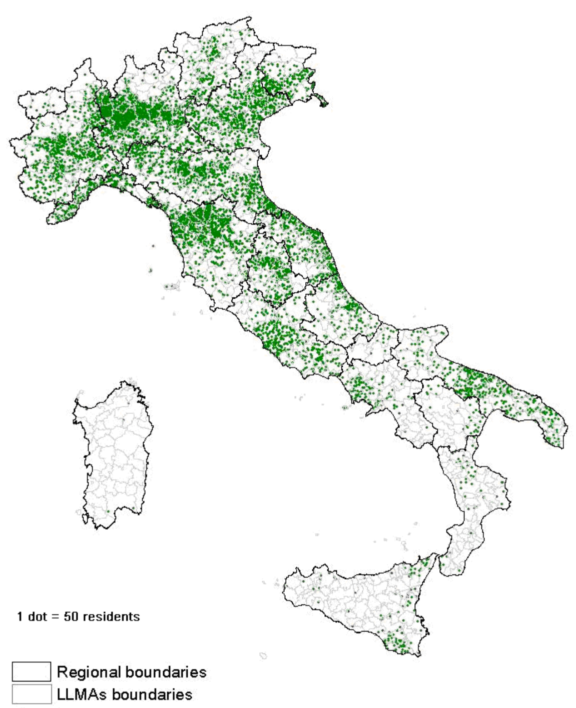


Figure 8b – Moroccan citizens

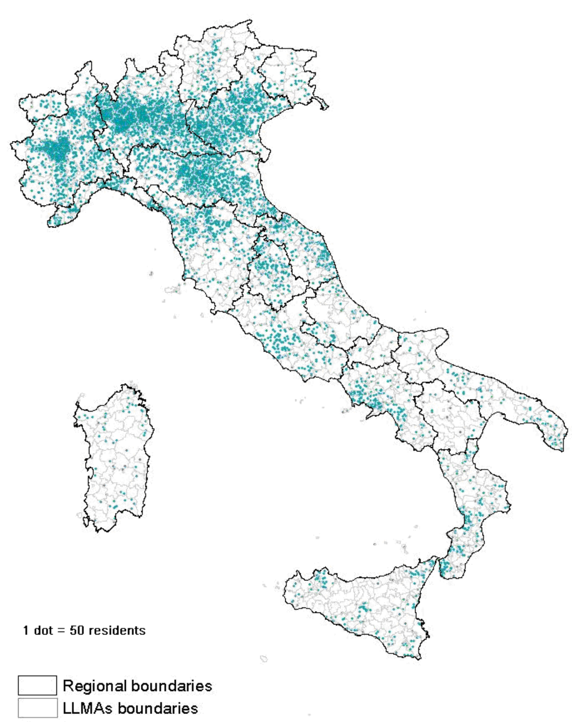


Figure 8c – Romanian citizens

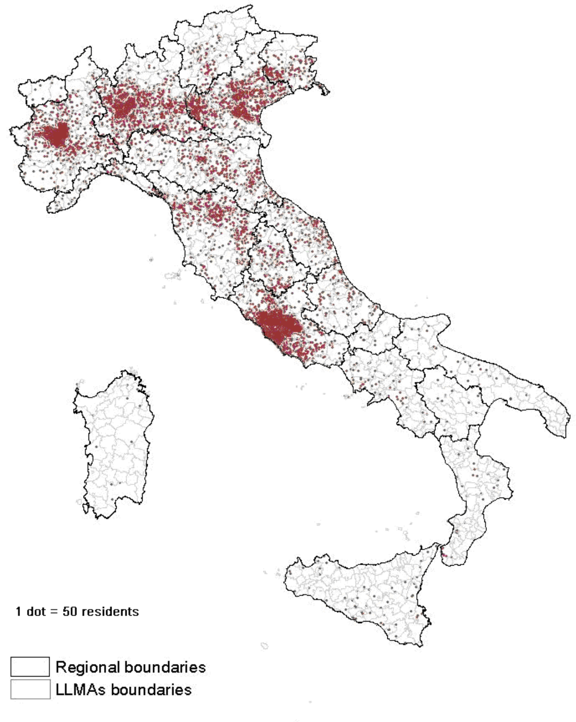


Figure 8d – Chinese citizens

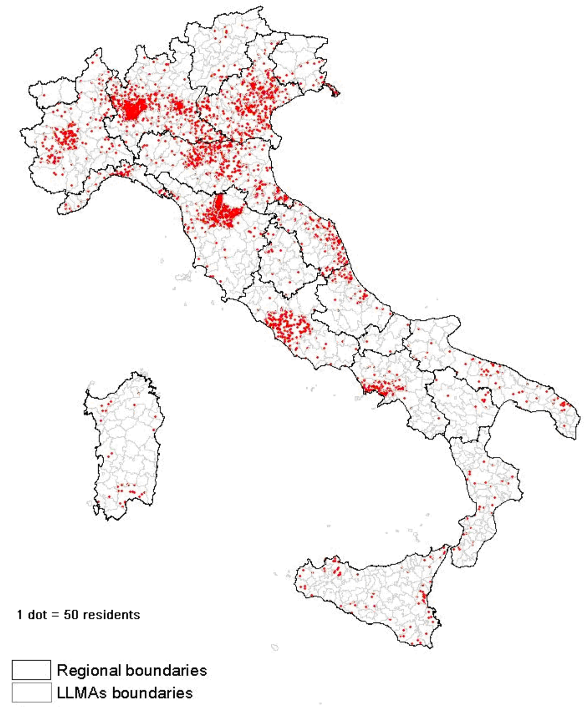


Figure 8e – Ukrainian citizens

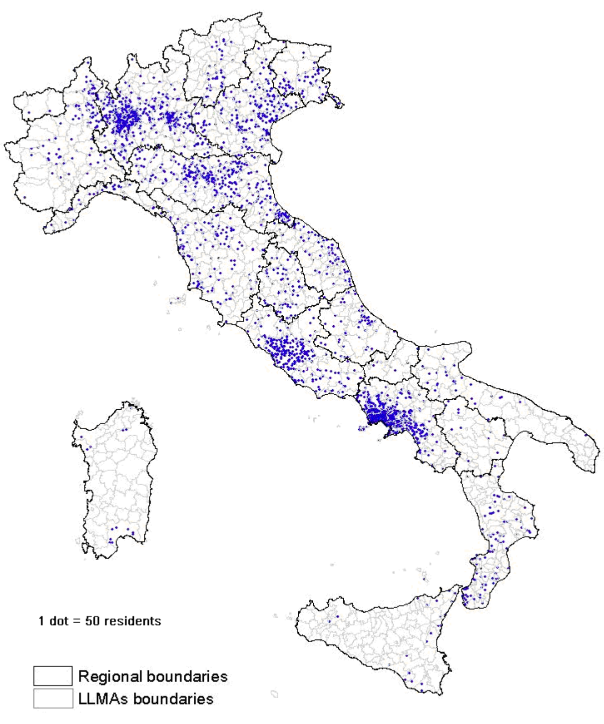
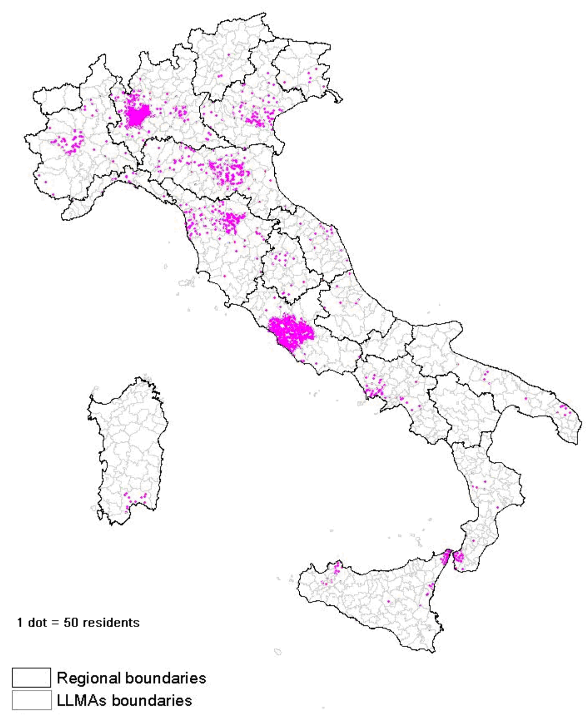


Figure 8f – Philippine citizens



Ukrainians appear more evenly distributed on the territory. While most of them are concentrated in the LLMA of Naples (8,076 persons, 4 every thousand inhabitants), they also live in the LLMAs of Milan and Rome (figure 9e).
Finally, the Philippine citizens too seem concentrated in few LLMAs, mainly in the LLMA of Rome (25,091 persons, 7 every thousand inhabitants), Milan (32.364 persons, 10 every thousand inhabitants), Bologna (4.060 persons, 5 every thousand inhabitants) and Florence (3.952 persons, 6 every thousand inhabitants). In the South, they can be found in Messina (1.806 persons, 7 every thousand inhabitants) and Reggio di Calabria (1.259 persons, 5 every thousand inhabitants) (Figure 9f).

The fertility of foreigners

The reproductive choices are a crucial step in the immigrants' integration process and in their decision between definitive and temporary migration. The growing importance of immigrants' second generation in Italy tempted us to highlight this phenomenon. Istat's annual survey on newborns collects information on live births of the resident population in Italy from every local administrative unit. Such source enables to monitor the contribution of the foreign population to the overall number of births and to calculate the main fertility indicators. Data by nationalities of the newborns and the parents are available. Considering the shape of the "local labour market areas", we will describe the geographical plot of births according to the different parent nationality combination (births with both parents foreigner, with Italian mother-foreign father and vice versa).
Out of the 55,765 children born foreigner (that is, whose parents are both foreigners) in 2006, 74.5% were listed in the birth registers of the municipalities of the medium large and large LLMAs (with a foreign population above 100 thousand inhabitants). The birth rate in 2006 was higher than average (20.6 children born per thousand resident foreigners) in the medium large (between 100 and 500 thousand inhabitants: 26 per thousand) and medium LLMAs (between 50 and 100 thousand inhabitants: 25.6 per thousand) (Figure 9). Furthermore, this rate shows high values in some LLMAs of southern Italy, despite of the generally low number of foreigners. The birth rate distribution indeed appears less "unbalanced" towards the centre and the north of the country. The natural increase rate of the foreign resident population in the afore-mentioned areas for the period 2002-2006 confirms these high values.
As regards the productive specialisation, the highest birth rate values were surveyed in the *made in Italy areas* (23.7 per thousand against 20.6 per thousand of the national average value). In particular, high values were registered in the *textile industry areas* (25.4 per thousand) and in the *machine manufacture areas* (25.3 per thousand). However, important values were also surveyed in the *metal processing and production areas* (24.2 per thousand) and *construction material areas* (24 per thousand).
Figure 10a and 10b plot respectively the distribution of foreign births (10.3 per cent of total births) and the one of births with Italian mother-foreign father and vice versa (3.9 per cent of total births). While foreign births distribution reflects the one of resident foreign population in the case of births from mixed couples (Italian-foreigner) you can observe a large number of these births in the main big cities.
Figure 11a indicates the important weight of the births of the resident foreign population on the total births, showing a concentration of foreign births in the central and northern LLMAs, especially in the large centres, on the Adriatic ridge and in the high industrialisation areas of the northeast and northwest of Italy. The territorial distribution of the birth incidence reflects that of the resident foreign population.
Finally, the geography of births with at least a foreign parent partially diverges from the one of births with both foreign parents (Figure 11b). In this case we can better observe the influence of mixed couples' births on the total amount of births.

Figure 9 – Birth rate of resident foreign population in the local labour market areas. Year 2006 *(per 1000 residents)*

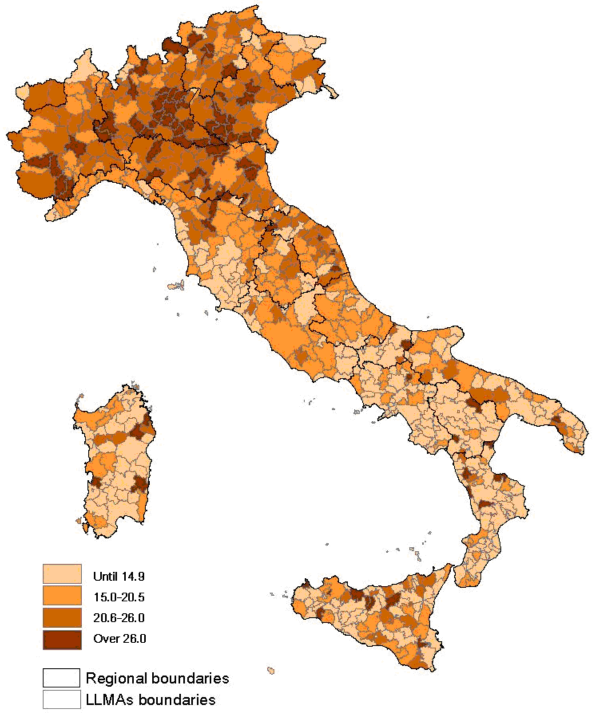


Figure 10 – Foreign births and births with Italian mother-foreign father and vice versa in the local labour market areas. Year 2006 *(Absolute values)*

Figure 10a - Foreign births

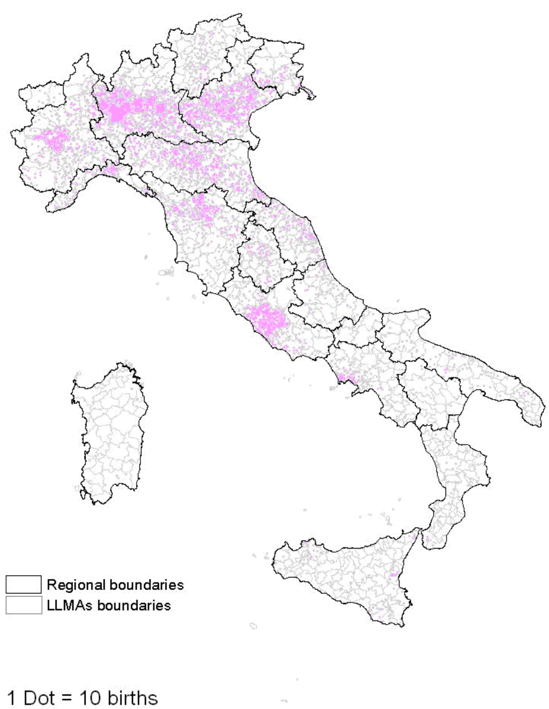


Figure 10b - Births with Italian mother-foreign father and vice versa

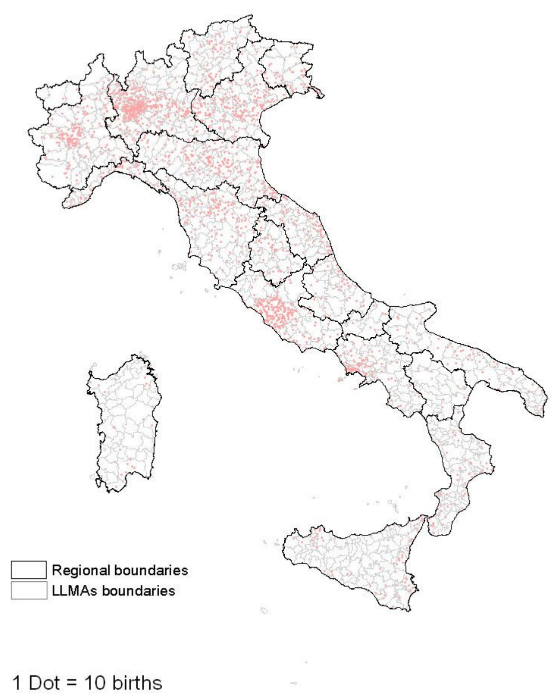


Figure 11 – Foreign births and births with at least a foreign parent in the local labour market areas. Year 2006 *(Per 100 births)*

Figure 11a - Foreign births

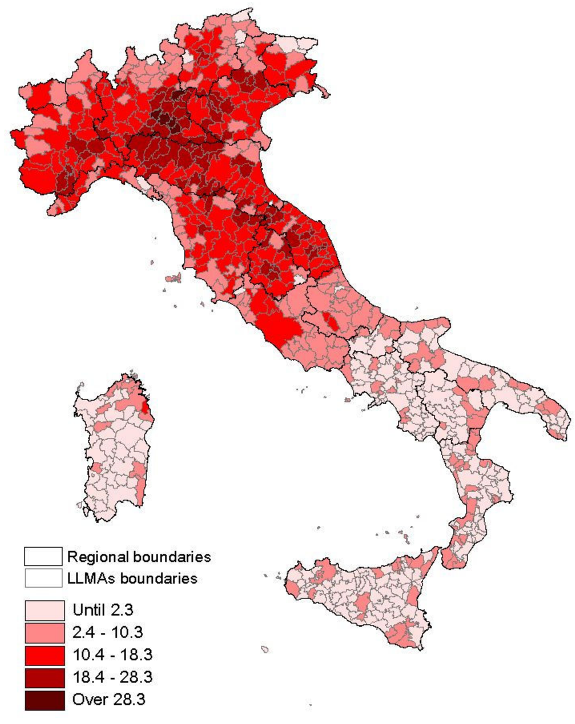
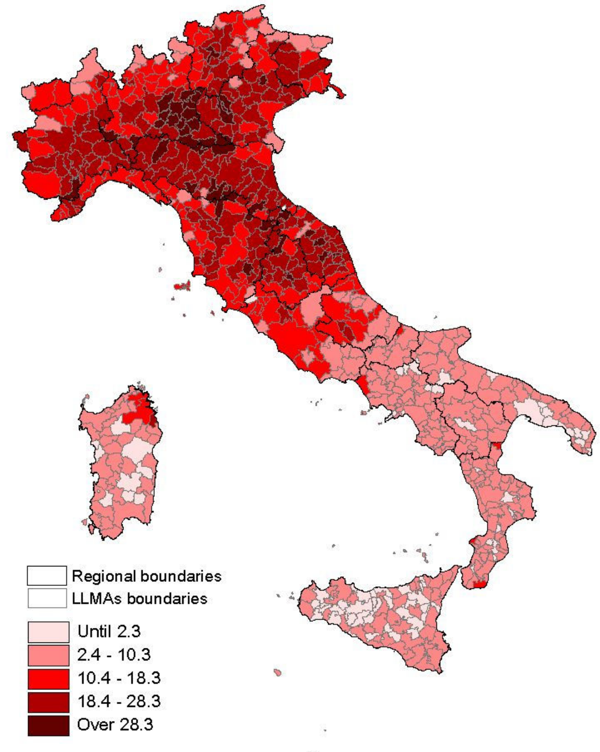


Figure 11b - Births with at least a foreign parent



Conclusions

"Local labour market areas" represent a privileged framework to show the migrants' behaviours.

The plot of foreign population on the Italian territory shows some important aspects such us the larger presence of foreign population in the north-central part of Italy, the important role of the big cities, the internal flows from south to north and from great urban centres towards the smaller towns around the cities. Referring to the inflows from abroad it is interesting to notice that many foreign citizens are supposed to arrive in the south of the country and then decide to reach the North and the Centre of Italy where it is easier to find a regular job. All these aspects contribute to highlight the dichotomy between the Nort-central part and the southern part of the country. In these framework the "local labour market areas" approach helps to analyze differentiated behaviours in particular concerning the main productive specializations.

Considering the productive specialisation, foreigners are mainly concentrated in the non-*manufacturing areas* (48.2% of the total) and in the *made in Italy areas* (37.5% of the total), which enclose in total about 86% of the whole foreign population residing in Italy.

Furthermore, the *made in Italy areas* and the *heavy manufacture areas* seem to be particularly dynamic because of their high values both of natural growth and of net migration rate. The *areas without specialization* – located especially in the South – are characterised by the highest annual average net migration rate with abroad (+172.7) but the annual average net internal migration rate is negative.

If we take into consideration the nationality approach, the growth and size of each community seem to define different models. In fact, whereas some communities show a scattered distribution, others are concentrated in particular areas. As for the main productive specialization, it is important to remind that the presence of foreign population in the LLMAs with different productive specialisations does not automatically imply that the same labour force was used inside the specific sector of production. Nevertheless it seems to come out a remarkably different distribution per nationality according to the classification of LLMAs main productive specialisation groups. Resident foreign population seems to generally prefer *urban areas* and the *made in Italy areas*. *Areas without specialization* attract especially Ukrainian community whereas the *heavy manufacture areas* play a significant role for Romanians and Moroccans.

Finally, the dynamism of some nationalities is highlighted by the increasing importance of the second generation, considering also that, with regard to births with at least one resident foreign parent, the highest quota is due to births with both foreign parents (generally of the same nationality).

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