

The numbers of Chinese immigration in Italy and in Veneto

Immigration in Italy is a relatively new phenomenon. Flows of people coming from abroad start to be relevant only ten years ago. Nowadays, in the European context, Italy is one of the main destination countries. At the end of 2010 legal resident immigrants in Italy were almost 4.5 million (the 7.5% of the total population), mainly concentrated in the northern part of the country.

Veneto region is one of the main immigration destination areas. With about 500,000 foreign people staying in its territory, Veneto is the third Italian region for the number of immigrants and the fourth one if you consider the immigration rate on the overall population (10.2%).

Chinese immigration has grown sharply during last years both in Italy and in Veneto region. Immigrants coming from China is nowadays one of the main foreign community in Italy: Chinese resident are about 210,000 (5% of the total numbers of immigrants in Italy). Chinese people living in Veneto are around 30,000 (6% of total immigration).

Statistic evidences and results of repeated regularization programs give the idea of large presence of irregular Chinese immigration.

Looking at the gender distribution, no significant gap can be observed between male and female presence. Chinese people living in Italy and in Veneto are 52% male and 48% women.

By age, Chinese immigrants are largely concentrated in central age classes (working age class), but there is also a growing number of very young people (mainly born in Italy). As we can see from statistics referred to the presence of foreign students in the national educational system, Chinese immigration is becoming important especially in the lower education.

In the national contest we can find some geographical concentrations. Chinese community is relevant (in terms of high rate of presence) in Florence-Prato area, in the south-west part of Sardinia and in the area between Marche and Abruzzo regions.

Also in Veneto we can find areas with a high presence of Chinese immigrants. The province of Treviso collect the large number of Chinese people (more than 8,000 at the end of 2010, the 27% of the total regional amount). The province of Rovigo has the largest Chinese immigration rate: in this area Chinese represent about the 20% of the resident immigrants.

Looking at the Veneto's labour market data (referred to dependent work), Chinese employed at the end of September 2011 were about 19,600. They are mainly concentrated in the textile industry. A high number of Chinese employees can be found in services such as trade (both retail and wholesale) and tourist services. A new phenomenon in data (even if not proved by empirical evidences) is the presence of Chinese workers in health and care services.

Due to the restrictions imposed by Italian immigration law in force, especially for people coming from extra-European countries, a lot of immigrants try to get a regular permits through the available pathways. In the last years a great number of visa were only for health and care sector workers. The regularization program set up in 2009 involved only people irregularly employed as colf or care-giver in (Italian and immigrant) families, too. On the other hand, we have huge restriction to regular entry possibilities for dependent workers. Chinese hiring flows in the regional labor market (more than 10,000 per year in the last period) are mainly characterized by permanent contracts (in a relevant number of cases with part-time arrangements). Just less than one half of recent Chinese hiring in the labour market is connected with textile industry. Almost 20% in trade and tourist services.

In most cases, industry (especially textile industry) or generally working place are Chinese managed. It means that Chinese immigrants work mainly as employees in Chinese factories set up in the regional territory.

Evidences on yearly occupation balance (difference between hiring and firing/quitting) show good performances for Chinese working dynamics. Despite economic crisis and a wide set of difficulties in the labour market, Chinese involvement tend to be stable.

Large sense of community (together with immigration obligations) tends to support people in life choices, in the labour market but also in business. Indeed, Chinese communities are mainly self-referred with a low rate of interaction within Italian communities.

Venice, December 2nd 2011



The numbers of Chinese immigration in Italy and in Veneto

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About Veneto Lavoro



VENETO LAVORO is the technical agency for the employment of the Veneto Region

It supports the institutions and other organizations, featuring qualified services in terms of planning, management and evaluation of the labour policies.

Specific research and analysis competences are carried out from:

THE OBSERVATORY AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Observatory of the
Labour Market
www.venetolavoro.it
Section: Osservatorio&Ricerca

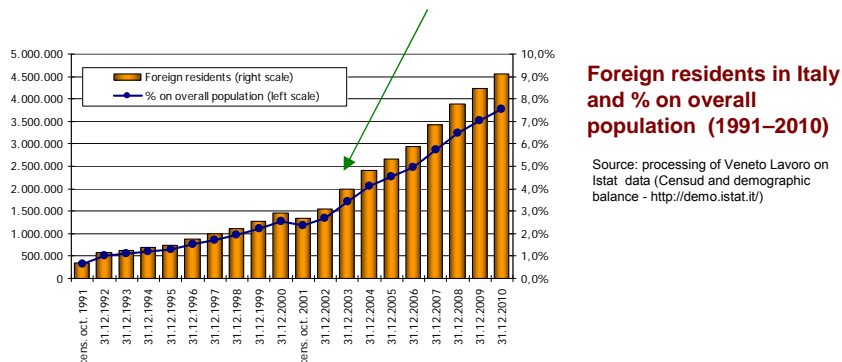
Regional Observatory of
Immigration
www.venetoimmigrazione.it
Section: Osservatorio Regionale
Immigrazione

Referring to immigration items, the Observatory provides and process data especially on:

- dynamic and feature of immigration flows in the region;
- involvement in the labour market of immigrants.

Data come mainly from national statistics sources (such as demographic balance, number of residence permits allowed, etc.) and the regional labour market administrative archives (made up of compulsory reports made by firms on opening and closing work relationships).

Immigration in Italy → a relatively new phenomenon
Flows of people coming from abroad started to be relevant only ten years ago



Foreign residents in Italy and % on overall population (1991–2010)

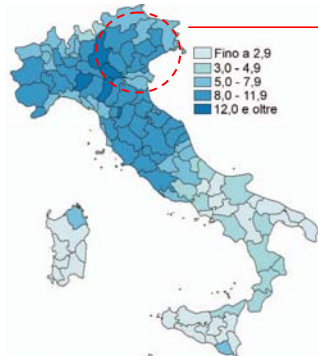
Source: processing of Veneto Lavoro on Istat data (Censud and demographic balance - <http://demo.istat.it/>)

At the end of 2010 legal resident immigrants in Italy were almost **4.5 million**
The 7.5% of the total population.

Veneto region in the national context

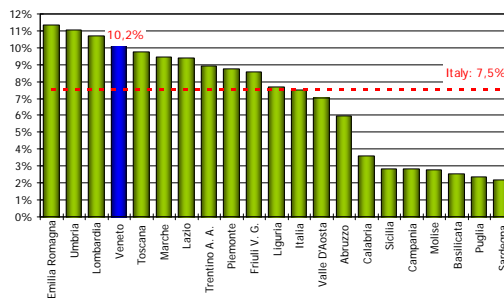


Immigration in Italy → mainly concentrated in the northern part of the country



Veneto region is one of the main migration destination areas.

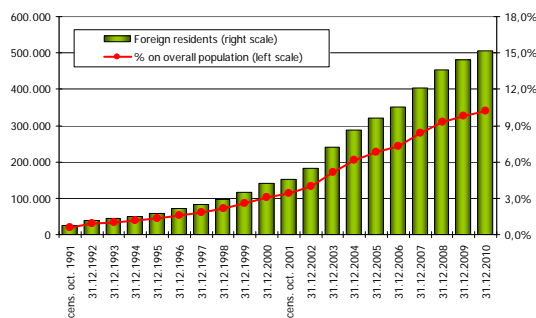
Veneto is the third Italian region for number of immigrants and the fourth one if you consider the immigration rate on the overall population.



Foreign residents in Italy on overall population by province and regions (2010)

Source: processing of Veneto Lavoro on Istat data

Immigration dynamic in Veneto

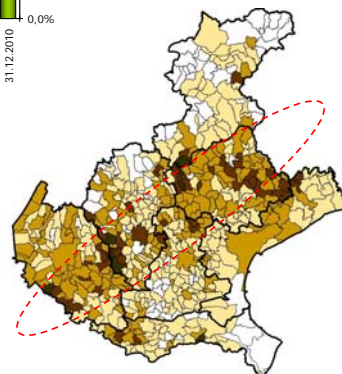


Foreign residents in Veneto region and % on overall population (1991-2010)

Source: processing of Veneto Lavoro on Istat data

In Veneto the number of immigrants have been on the rise since 2003.
At the end of 2010 about 500,000 foreign citizens in Veneto. The immigration rate on the overall population reached 10.2%.

... but with many differences on the territory.



Chinese immigration



Chinese immigration has grown sharply during last years both in Italy and in Veneto.

- Chinese immigrants today are one of the main foreign community in Italy (the 4th): there are about 210,000 Chinese residents (5% of the total numbers of immigrants in Italy).
- Chinese living in Veneto are around 30,000 (6% of total immigration). Chinese immigrants are the 5th foreign community in Veneto

ITALY			VENETO		
	Foreign residents	% on total foreign residents		Foreign residents	% on total foreign residents
Rumania	968.576	21%	Rumania	101.972	20%
Albania	482.627	11%	Morocco	57.707	11%
Morocco	452.424	10%	Albania	42.435	8%
China	209.934	5%	Moldova	35.966	7%
Ukraine	200.730	4%	China	29.647	6%
Philippines	134.154	3%	Macedonia	19.870	4%
Moldova	130.948	3%	Serbia	19.075	4%
India	121.036	3%	Bangladesh	17.958	4%
Poland	109.018	2%	Ukraine	15.179	3%
Tunisia	106.291	2%	India	14.746	3%
...			...		

Foreign residents in Italy and in Veneto. First 10 nationalities (2010)

Source: processing of Veneto Lavoro on Istat data

Demographic features



BY GENDER

No significant gap can be observed between male and female presence.

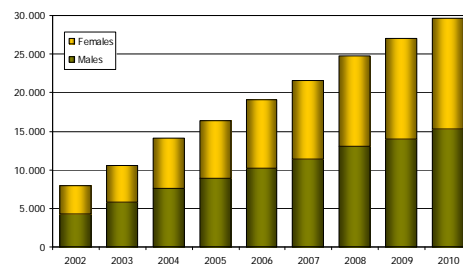
Chinese living in Italy and in Veneto are 52% male and 48% women.

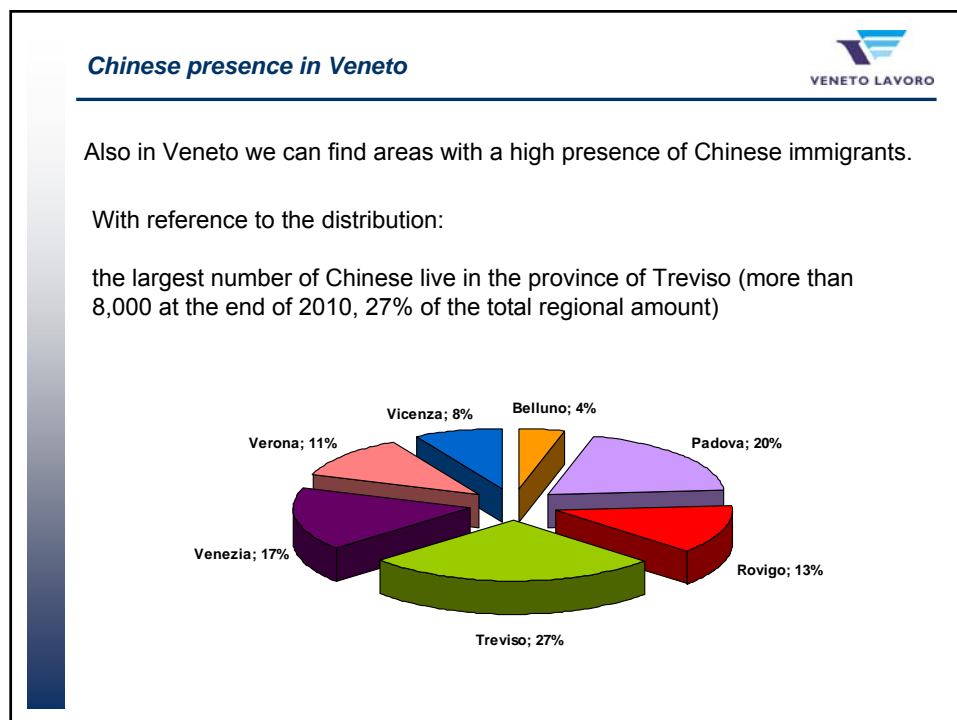
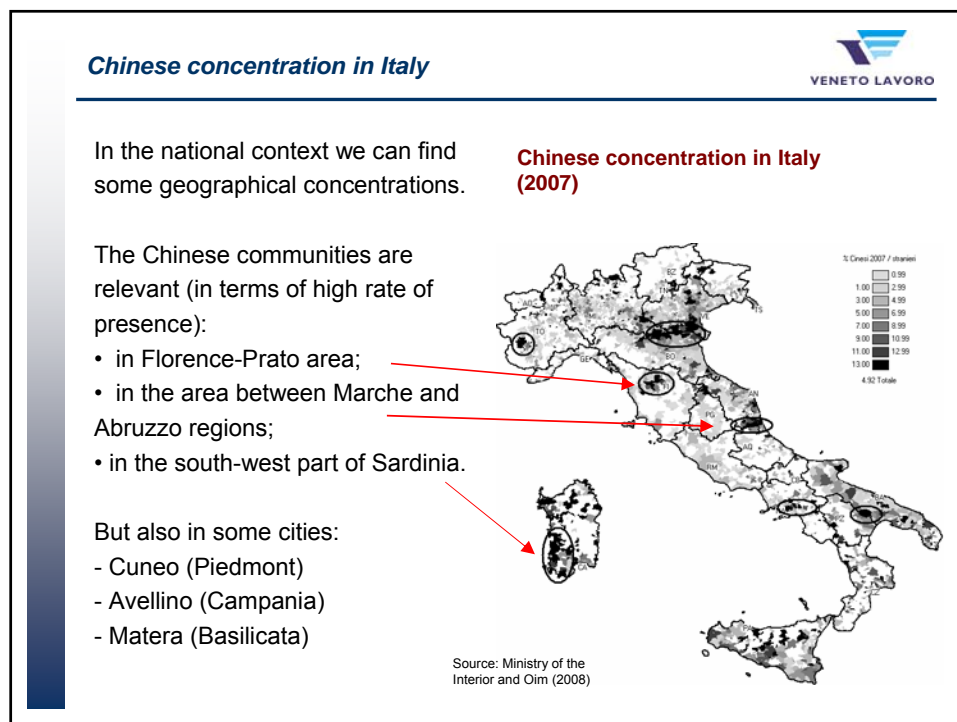
BY AGE

Chinese are largely concentrated in central age classes (working age class), but there is also a growing number of very young people (mainly born in Italy).

As we can see from statistics referred to the presence of foreign students in the national educational system, Chinese immigration is becoming important especially in the lower education.

Chinese citizens in Veneto by gender (2002-2010)



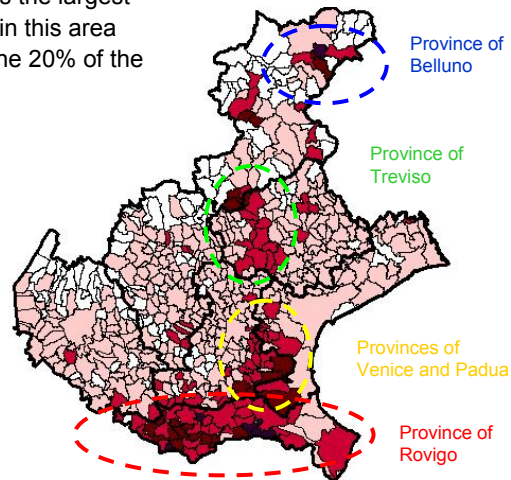


Chinese concentration in Veneto



Chinese immigration rate on total immigration by municipality

- 1) The province of Rovigo has the largest Chinese immigration rate: in this area Chinese represent about the 20% of the resident immigrants.
- 2) Some other relevant concentrations:
 - the area across the southern part of Padua province and the southern part of Venice province;
 - the western part of Treviso province;
 - some mountain areas of Belluno province.



High level of irregular immigration



BUT... statistical evidence and results of repeated regularization programs give the idea of a large presence of illegal/irregular Chinese immigrants.

Irregular/Illegal RESIDENTS

Illegal immigrants → illegally entered in the country

Irregular Immigrants → without residence permit (mostly overstayers)

... also in the labour market

Irregular WORKERS

→ irregular/illegal residents without a contract

→ regular residents without a contract

Chinese citizens in the labour market



Looking at the Veneto's labour market data (referred to employees), about 19,600 Chinese were employed at the end of September 2011.

Agriculture	336	2%
Industry	11.233	57%
Services	8.055	41%
Total	19.624	100%

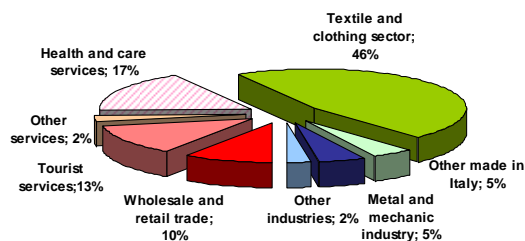
Stock of Chinese people employed in Veneto by sector (end of September 2011)

Source: processing of Veneto Lavoro on Siliv data

They are mainly concentrated in the textile industry. A high number of Chinese employees can be found in services such as trade (both retail and wholesale) and tourist services.

Stock of Chinese people employed in Veneto by detailed sector (end of September 2011)

Source: processing of Veneto Lavoro on Siliv data



Chinese and the domestic sector



A new phenomenon in data (even if it is not yet proved by empirical evidence) is the presence of Chinese workers in health and care services.

⇒ **At the end of september 2011, more than 3,200 Chinese citizens were employed in the health and care sector, mainly (78%) in domestic work.**

Due to the restrictions imposed by the Italian immigration law in force, especially for people coming from extra-European countries and for work purposes, many migrants try to get regular permits through the available pathways.

- ✓ In the last years a great number of visa – within the national Entry Quotas System – were issued only for domestic workers (employed as domestic helpers and caretakers of the elderly, the ill and children);
- ✓ The (last) regularization program set up in 2009 involved only people irregularly employed as domestic workers or care-givers in (Italian and foreign) families;
- ✓ On the other hand, we have huge restrictions to regular entry possibilities for dependent workers.

Entry quotas planning in 2010 for employees (not seasonal) were followed two different systems: one for workers coming from a selected number of countries and with no restriction on employment sectors; one for all the other countries and only in domestic work.

⇒ **About 6,900 applications submitted involved Chinese citizens (about 71% of the total amount): 6,700 concerned applications for domestic work; 205 domestic services as care givers. 50% of the employers involved were Chinese families**

Looking at the regularization program of 2009 which involved people irregularly employed in the domestic services sector, a number of applications involved Chinese citizens.

⇒ **In Veneto, the numbers of workers regularly employed by families after regularization were almost 14,000. Workers coming from China were 1,200, about 9% of the total.**

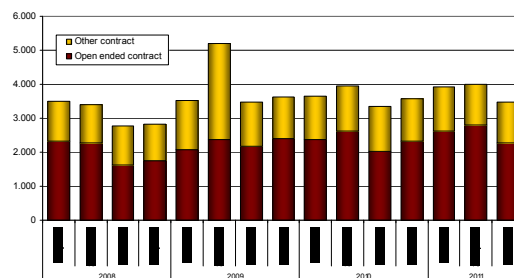
Strategies to obtain a regular resident permit can be observed from different statistical evidence!

Recent flows in the labour market

Chinese employment flows in the regional labour market (more than 10,000 per year in the last period) are mainly characterized by permanent contracts (in a relevant number of cases with part-time arrangements).

Hiring flows of Chinese citizens in Veneto by contract (quarterly data 2008-2011)

Source: processing of Veneto Lavoro on Silv data



Just less than half of the recently-employed Chinese is connected with textile industry. Almost 20% in trade and tourist services.

In most cases, industry (especially textile industry) or generally working place are run by Chinese. It means that Chinese immigrants mainly work as employees in Chinese factories set up in the Veneto area.

Economic crisis and the community role



Evidence on yearly occupation balance (difference between workers into and out of employed status) show good performances for Chinese workers. In spite of the economic crisis and a wide set of difficulties in the labour market, Chinese employment tends to be stable.

	2008	2009	2010
Italians	7.271	-37.451	-11.153
Immigrants	3.339	-6.867	2.347
of wich:			
- China	859	560	1.024
- Morocco	-38	-1.353	48
- Rumania	492	-2.293	931

Veneto. Occupatin balance by citizenship (2008-2010)

Source: processing of Veneto Lavoro on Silv data

A great sense of community (together with immigration obligations) tends to support people in life choices, in the labour market but also in business. Chinese communities are mainly self-referred with a low rate of interaction within Italian communities.



Thank you!

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