ITALY Sea arrivals dashboard

Overview

In the first five months of the year, 19,481 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea, compared to 14,692 in the same period last year. In May 2022, 8,720 persons were registered at landing points in southern Italy. This is the highest number of monthly arrivals year to date, doubling the previous peak of 3,929 arrivals recorded in April this year.

The vast majority of sea arrivals in May disembarked in Sicily (6,239 persons), followed by Calabria (2,124), Sardinia (272) and Apulia (85).

Yearly sea arrivals

Year to date, the most common country of origin recorded among refugees and migrants reaching Italian shores is Bangladesh (19%), followed by Egypt (18%), Tunisia (12%), Afghanistan (11%), Syrian Arab Republic (7%), Côte d’Ivoire (5%), and Islamic Republic of Iran, Guinea and Eritrea (3% respectively). Approximately 60% of sea arrivals in May 2022 originated from just four countries, namely Bangladesh (1,588 persons) Afghanistan (1,239 persons), Egypt (1,188 persons) and Tunisia (1,024 persons). Consistent with the significant increase in arrivals in May, the numbers of Bangladeshi nationals disembarking in Italy this month (1,588) was more than double the arrivals from this nationality in the previous month (765). Almost all Bangladeshi nationals arriving in May embarked in Libya. Notably, Afghan nationals arriving by sea in May (1,239) were more than threefold those recorded at landing points in April (355): all Afghans disembarking in May departed from Türkiye. There was a 25% decrease in the numbers of Syrians reaching shore in May (446), compared to April (592): 77% of Syrians arriving in May departed from Libya, while the remaining 23% embarked in Türkiye.
Country of embarkation

In the first five months of 2022, 56% of sea arrivals departed from Libya (10,932 persons; 137 disembarkations), followed by 22% from Türkiye (4,240 persons; 54 disembarkations), 19% from Tunisia (3,708 persons; 198 disembarkations), 1% from Lebanon (406 persons; 2 disembarkations) and 1% from Algeria (195 persons; 16 disembarkations). In May, 59% of sea arrivals embarked in Libya, 23% in Türkiye, 16% in Tunisia and 2% in Algeria. Bangladeshi and Egyptian nationals cumulatively accounted for 54% of sea arrivals embarking in Libya this month. Over half of persons departing from Türkiye in May were Afghans, followed, to a much lesser extent, by Iranians. Persons departing from Tunisia mainly originate from Tunisia but also from Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon and Mali.

Demographics of arrivals

In the first five months of 2022, most sea arrivals were adult men (75%), followed by unaccompanied and separated children (UASC, 12%), adult women (7%) and accompanied children (6%).

In May 2022, 554 adult women reached Italian shores, the vast majority of whom originated from Afghanistan (147) Côte d'Ivoire (83) followed by Tunisia and Guinea (58 respectively), and Islamic Republic of Iran (47).

In the same period, 1,026 UASC arrived in Italy by sea: the most common nationalities recorded were Afghanistan (292), Egypt (204 persons), Tunisia (102), Eritrea (57), Guinea (48) and the Gambia (48).