



# DETERMINANTS OF INTERNAL MIGRATION IN ITALY. A DYNAMIC APPROACH COMPARING NATIVES AND BORN ABROAD

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## Background

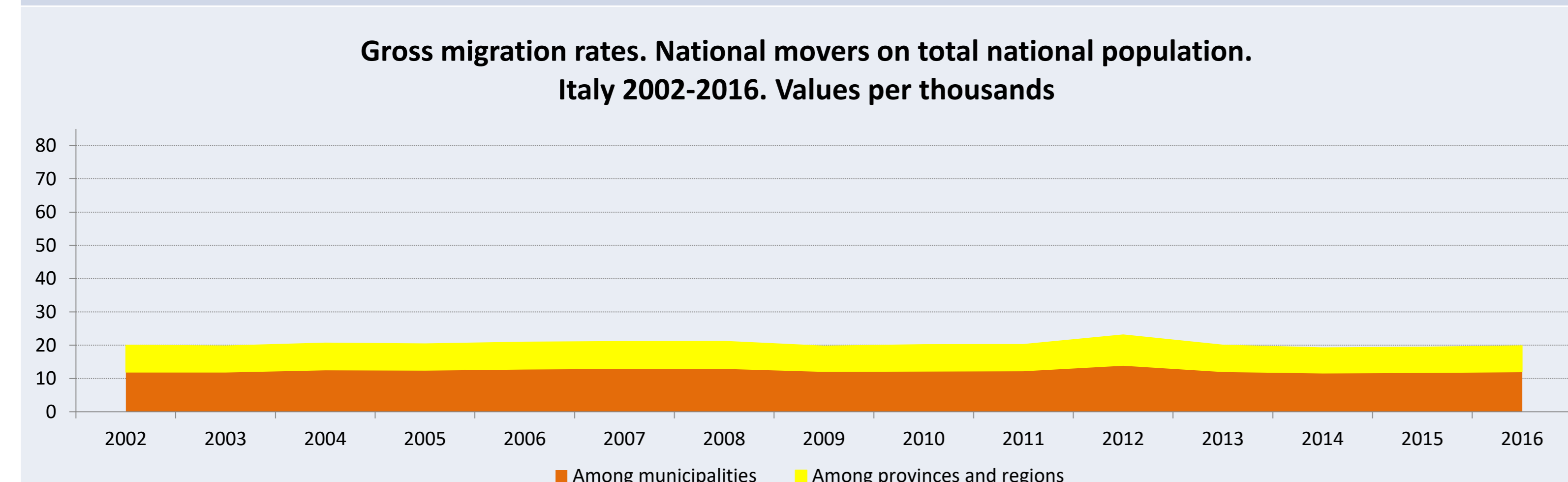
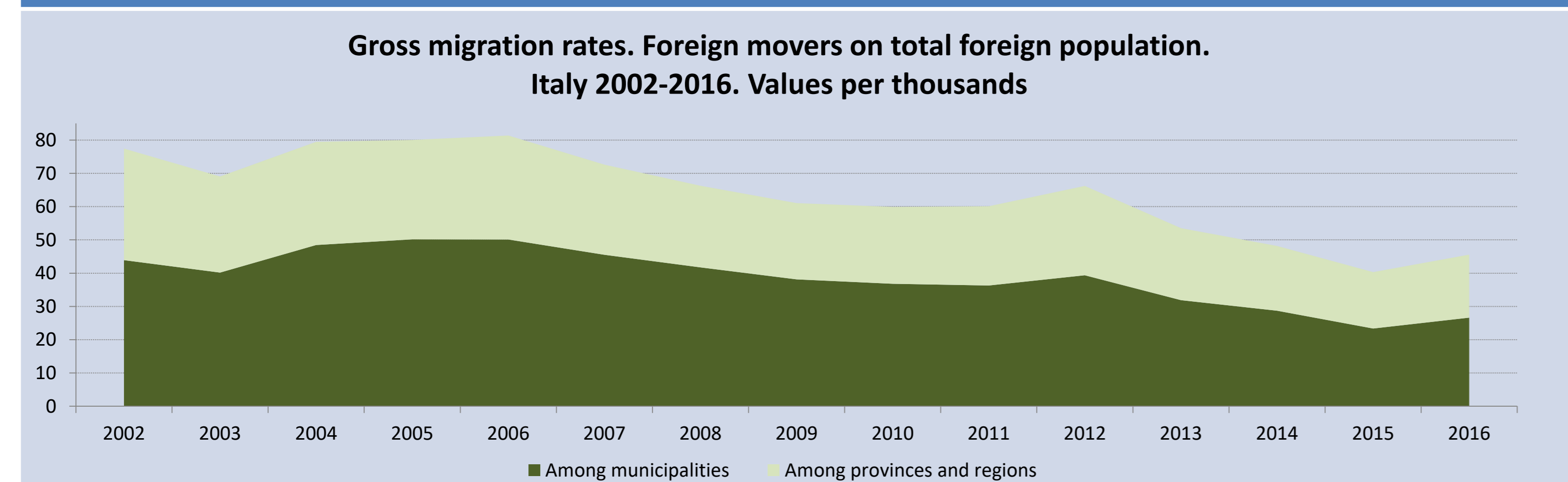
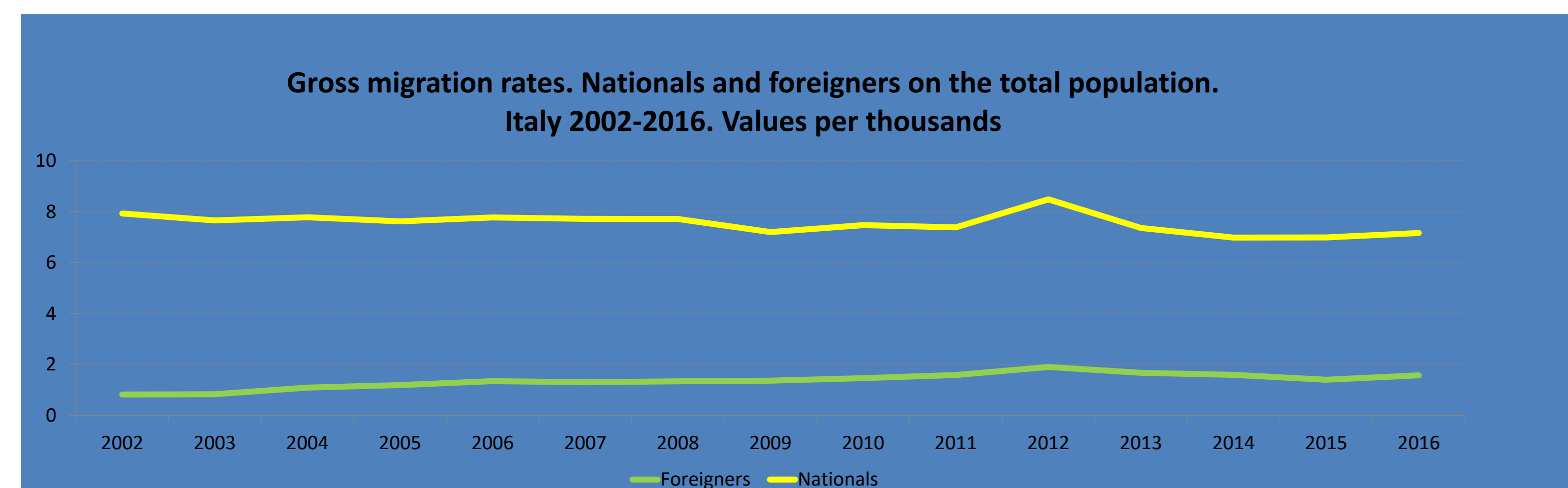
In recent years, foreigners have played a key role in internal migration in Italy. In the last two decades, the number of foreigners living in Italy has increased rapidly from 350,000 residents surveyed in 1991 to over 5 million in 2017. A large part of the growing number of residence transfers is due to the internal migration of foreign citizens (Casacchia et al. 2010).

## Objectives

To contribute to the current knowledge on internal mobility in Italy and to analyse the main characteristics of medium and long distance flows.

## Methods

We use all the waves of ILFS (Italian Labour Force Survey) conducted quarterly by the Istat in the period 2009-2017, in order to increase the sample size and to improve the significance of the proposed estimates. ILFS data provide information about the residence one/two years before the interview in addition to the current one. Thus, it considers short-period changes of residence only (a length of two-years). We defined "migrants" as those who changed their place of residence during this period and "non-migrants" as their counterparts (Reher & Silvestre 2011). Using a comparison approach, we describe their main demographic characteristics, their household characteristics, couple relationship, and their socio-economic conditions. We account separately people born abroad and Italian natives. The multivariate analysis includes a set of logistic models in order to control for compositional effects and to analyse the main determinants of mobility.



Source: our elaboration on ILFS data

## References

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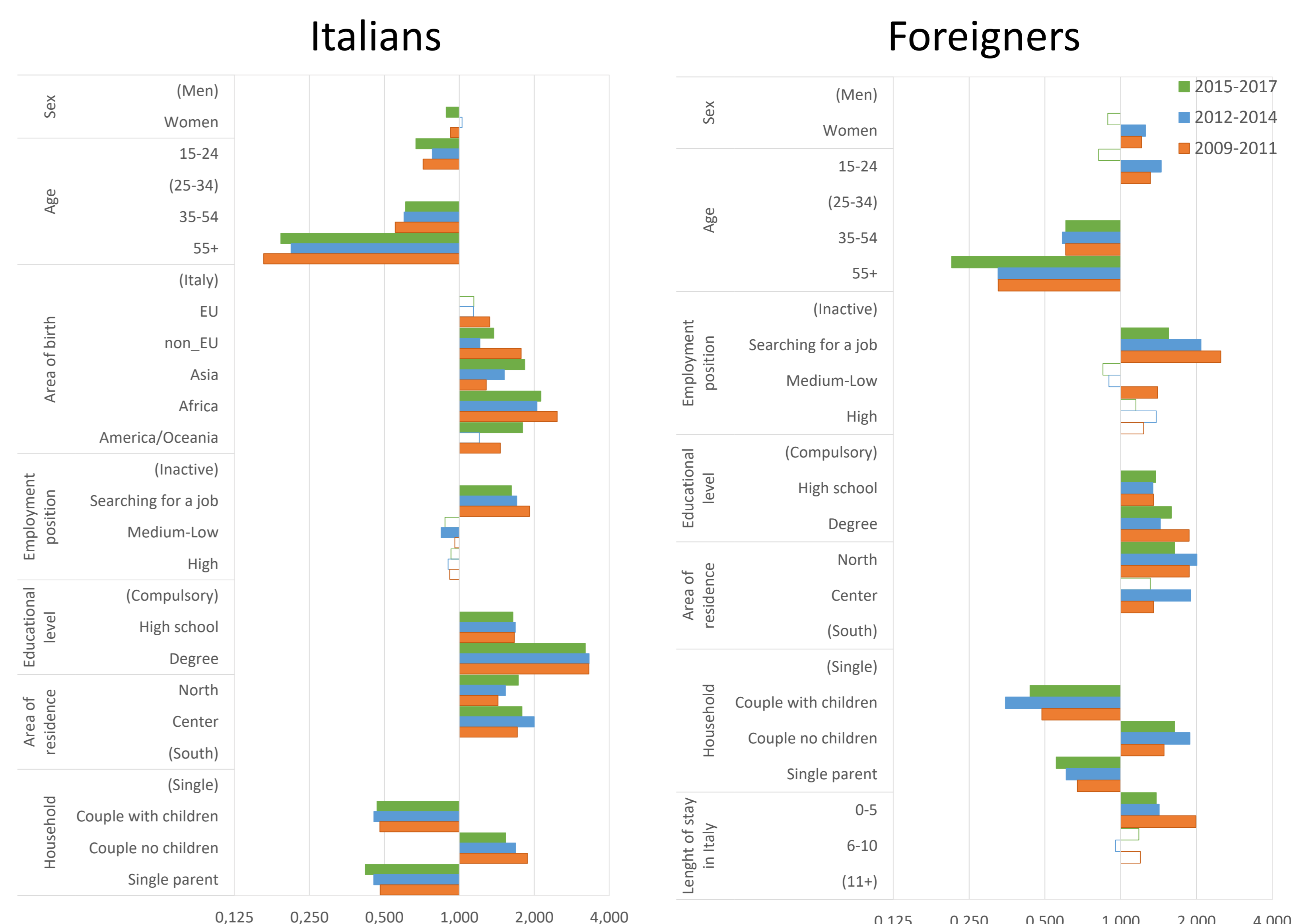
## Results

The variable about age shows a statistically significant  $\cap$ -shape trend and a peak at 25–34 years old (the referent group). The area of residence shows how the Central and Northern regions have become the main destinations for such mobility based projects. With respect to the interviewees who had never been in a couple, parenthood affects negatively the propensity to move, whatever the actual couple relationship is (formal, informal, or previous). In contrast, cohabitation with no children carries the highest risk of mobility. Also, married (with no children), mono-nuclear and never married people showed no statistical difference in their propensity to move.

The propensity to move among immigrants is positively related to the youngest ages and to the secondary school level. Interestingly, parenthood has a very negative impact on the propensity to move, regardless of what the actual union situation is.

## Logistic model

move/not move (Od.R.)



## Conclusions

People that are foreign born, are mostly searching for a job, and have secondary level education, have a higher propensity to move than natives. Such results show how the international migration presence in Italy is still characterized to a large extent by adults that arrive and move within Italy for work related reasons. Thus, the increased presence of immigrants in the Italian redistribution phenomenon is mainly due not to their increasing propensity to move, but rather to the increasing amount of foreign residents. However, the increase in family reunifications is changing this picture (Mulder and Wagner, 1993); looking at the internal migration trends within the foreign-born population, in the most recent years, we observe similar incident rates to natives (Bonifazi et al. 2012).