

Summary of Italians and migration

- Between 1876 and 1976 25.9 million Italians migrated.
- 19.5 million were men and 6.4 million were women.
- For the vast majority of Italians, migration meant an often long and uncomfortable sea voyage on an old or ill-equipped vessel.
- The peak period of migration from Italy was between 1901 and 1915: an estimated 8.8 million Italians departed.
- In 1913 alone 870,000 Italians left their homeland.
- Italians generally settled in north or south America (particularly at the turn of the century), or Europe (for example France or Germany).

Pre-Second World War

- With the exception of Fascist leader Mussolini, Italians were always encouraged to migrate, as a way to solve problems of overcrowding and unemployment throughout Italy.
- Following his coming to power in 1922, Mussolini strongly discouraged Italians to migrate because he believed that Italians should stay and work in Italy and help make the country powerful and prosperous.
- Prior to the post-Second World War period, the greatest percentage of the Italian migration flow out of Italy was from northern regions, particularly the Veneto.

Post Second-World War

- Following the end of the Second World War the pattern of migration changed considerably. In the 1950s, 60s and 70s over half of the Italians to leave Italy came from the South.
- In the post war period a significant number of Italians left Italy for far-away Australia.

Italians in Australia

- Italians have always had some presence in Australia.
- 1840s - Italian clergy arrived as part of missions to Stradbroke Island and the Salvado mission.
- 1850s- Swiss Italians arrived attracted by the discovery of gold in Victoria.
- 1881- 2000 northern Italians, survivors from Marquis de Ray's ill-fated attempt at founding a colony.
- 1880s – Italians from Lombardia and Piemonte replaced the kanakas on the Queensland cane plantations.
- 1893 – some Italians arrived on the Western Australian gold fields (Kalgoorlie).
- Pre-war Italians settled predominantly in areas just inside or outside metropolitan boundaries.
- Employment usually consisted of market gardening, pig farming, horticulture and viticulture.
- In South Australia areas with large concentrations of pre-war Italians included Payneham, Hectorville and Paradise (East) and Lockleys, Seaton and Croydon (West).
- Between 1945-1951 more than 35,000 Italians migrated to Australia.
- In 1951 a bilateral migration agreement was signed between Italy and Australia.
- In the period 1951 to 1972 an estimated 338,624 Italians migrated to Australia.
- In the post-war period Italians were the largest group of non-English speaking people to arrive in Australia.
- The vast majority of Italians arrived from southern regions of Italy, such as Calabria and Campania.
- In South Australia, the largest numbers of Italians arrived from these two regions.

Italians arrived generally through chain migration. That is when one member of the family settles in Australia then sponsors out his family and friends.