



Migration Facts Tunisia



On the web: www.migrationpolicycentre.eu

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Introduction Tunisian emigration was traditionally destined to Western European countries - especially France, Germany and Belgium - and to a lesser extent to Libya. After the limitations put in place by European countries in the 1970s and the mass expulsion of Tunisian nationals from Libya in 1985, Tunisia experienced a process of family settlement in Europe. Today, new European destinations (i.e. Italy and Spain) are acquiring more relevance in attracting Tunisian migrants, especially their irregular component. As to inward migration, Tunisia does not host large numbers of regular migrants. However, since 1990s Tunisia has evolved into an important transit country receiving flows - mainly from Sub-Saharan countries - attempting to reach Southern Italy from Tunisian coasts. Following the 2011 Libyan crisis, Tunisia experienced outward and inward movements of Tunisians. Outwardly, nearly 25,000 Tunisian migrants reached Europe. Inwardly, over 100,000 Tunisian migrant workers returned to Tunisia during the crisis; however, many have since returned to Libya.

Demographic-Economic

Outward Migration

Inward Migration

STOCK

Tunisian emigration stocks - year 2011 (a)

Immigration stocks in Tunisia - year 2004 (b)

Total emigrants: 482,952
(according to 2009 Tunisian consular statistics: 1,098,200)

Total immigrants: 35,192 (0.4% of the total resident pop.)

Five top countries of residence:

Five top countries of nationality (c):

Destination countries' statistics	Tunisian consular statistics (2009)
France: 236,480	France: 598,500
Italy: 108,265	Italy: 152,700
Israel: 31,634	Libya: 87,200
Germany: 24,346	Germany: 85,500
Belgium: 12,060	Belgium: 20,800

Algeria: 9,612
Morocco: 6,363
France: 4,612
Libya: 1,738
Italy: 1,560

(b) Irregular migrants are not included

Sex:
Males: 59.9%
Females: 40.1%

Age group:
Less than 15: 3.0%
15-64: 72.2%
65+: 24.8%

Sex:
Males: 47.9%
Females: 52.1%

Age group:
Less than 15: 13.8%
15-64: 77.7%
65+: 8.5%

Level of education (year 2006): primary or below (50.5%); secondary (29.6%); tertiary (19.9%)

Level of education: primary or below (30.8%); secondary (34.0%); tertiary (35.2%)

Occupation (year 2006): craft and related workers (17.5%); professionals (15.2%); service workers and shop and market sales workers (12.7%)

Occupation: senior business administration (23.4%); intellectual and scientific professions (20.1%); workers and unskilled workers (16.3%)

Notes: (a) Tunisian emigrants are defined according to the country of birth (best option) or country of nationality criterion according to countries of residence. **Source:** destination countries' sources (population census/population register/household survey). Data on the distribution of Tunisian migrants by level of education and occupation had been taken from the DIOC-OECD Database.

Notes: (b) Immigrants are defined according to the country of nationality criterion.

Source: Tunisian population census (2004).

FLOWS

Outflows of Tunisian nationals to selected countries of destination - year 2011

Migration movements during the Libyan crisis - period: 20th Feb - 3rd Nov 2011 (d)

Total outflows: 122,785

Five top countries of destination:
Italy: 19,036 United Kingdom: 622
France: 11,843 Sweden: 296
Germany: 770

Total inflows from Libya: 345,238

Country of nationality:
Tunisia: 136,749
Other countries: 208,489

Source: flow data are provided by first residence permits (EU MS + Norway) and visas (US + Australia) issued annually to Tunisian nationals.

Total number of repatriations of foreign nationals from Tunisia: 115,516

Arrivals at sea of Tunisian nationals in Italy - 2001-2012

Five top countries of nationality (repatriations):

2001-2005	2006-2010	2011	2012 (1/1 - 20/09)
4,284	13,534	28,047	2,025

Egypt: 29,466 Chad: 12,354
Bangladesh: 23,747 Mali: 9,018
Sudan: 18,232

Source: Italian Ministry of Interior

Notes: (d) According to official declarations of Tunisian authorities made at seminar "Oui au retour à la patrie" (Tunis, 7-9/8/2012), around 500,000 Libyan nationals still are in Tunisia in May 2012.

Source: IOM- <http://www.migration-crisis.com/libya/reports?page=1>

Legal and political framework governing migration and mobility

General legal references

- Draft Constitution of 14 December 2012
- Law 68-07 of 8 March 1968 on foreign nationals
- Decree 1968-198 of 22 June 1968 regulating the entry and stay of foreign nationals in Tunisia
- Law 1975-40 of 14 May 1975 regarding passports and travel documents, modified by law 2004-6 of 3 February 2004

Irregular migration – inward and outward

In-line with Euro-Mediterranean policies aimed at increasing control over circulation and sanctions against irregularity, Tunisia has implemented policies to fight against irregular migration. Irregular entry or stay is punished with a fine and prison sentence, and also with deportation and possible prohibition from return. Irregular exit from the territory is punished with the same sentences. National citizens' irregular exit is punished with a prison sentence and/or fine (1975 Law). Prison sentences and fines are also imposed on those who contribute to irregular migration or host a 'clandestine'.

Outward Migration and Mobility	Inward Migration and Mobility
Visa	Visa
Tunisians are exempted from visa requirements for entrance to Maghreb countries.	A passport and visa is required for entry. European and Maghreb nationals are exempted from visa requirements, so are nationals from Niger, Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana and Liberia, among others.
Rights	Labour
All citizens shall have the right to choose a place of residence and move freely within the nation, as well as the right to leave the country. Such freedoms may not be restricted unless under extreme circumstances (Article 18, December 2012 Draft Constitution). Tunisia shall not extradite, expatriate and/or deny repatriation of any Tunisian citizens (Article 19, December 2012 Draft Constitution). Expatriates have voting and eligibility rights. They can vote in presidential elections and referendums.	Access to employment is granted if previous delivery of a contract approved by the Labour Minister, and a stay permit with authorisation to work (double ministerial visa). National preference for access to employment in Tunisia. Workers are granted a one-year contract, renewable once. Civil service reserved for nationals, as well as most of liberal professions except special authorisation on the basis of bilateral agreements and the principle of reciprocity.
Labour	Rights
Government strategy is to establish bilateral and multilateral agreements which favour legal Tunisian emigration abroad. Tunisian bilateral labour agreements, among others: convention related to the right of ownership, work, the following of an occupation or trade, the establishment of a domicile, and movement with Libya (1973); conventions on labour force with Libya (2003) and Syria (2004); with Italy on stay and work (1995), on seasonal workers (2000); and with France on stay and labour (1988), young professionals' exchanges (2004) and employee residence cards (2008).	One-year temporary stay permit, renewable once, except for nationals from countries linked to Tunisia by bilateral conventions (France, Algeria, Morocco, etc.). Renewable two-year ordinary stay permit for people who have regularly resided in the country for 5 years, or who are born and have constantly lived in Tunisia, or with Tunisian children, and for foreign women married to Tunisian men. Access to public services.
Readmission Agreements	International Protection
The Tunisian Government has committed itself at international and bilateral levels concerning circulation, readmission and border control as an attempt to foster Tunisian mobility and obtain favourable economic incentives. Agreement with Italy on entry and readmission of Tunisian nationals and third-country nationals (1998). Tunisian-French readmission agreement of Tunisian nationals only (2008). EU negotiating with Tunisia for Mobility Partnership with aspects of readmission.	The Tunisian Government has no national refugee status determination procedure, no legal reference to a stay permit, and no agreement with UNHCR. The 1951 Convention and 1969 Convention have been ratified. The Protocol for the Treatment of Palestinians in Arab States was not accepted.
Diaspora	Citizenship
The Tunisian Government has an Office of Tunisians Abroad that: develops national policies to support the Tunisian Diaspora; promulgates legislation encouraging remittances and investments; and carries out a census of Tunisian professionals abroad (repertory of Tunisian professionals abroad), amongst other priorities. Government working to favour integration of Tunisians abroad and/or to facilitate their return (especially with IOM).	<i>Jus sanguinis</i> by descent of father or mother. Children born abroad to a Tunisian mother and a foreign father are Tunisian if they opt to be when coming of age or if their parents request nationality during their minority. <i>Jus soli</i> : triple –under certain conditions. A foreign woman can obtain nationality after two years of marriage with a Tunisian man and two years of residence in the country. Easier access to naturalization for a foreign man married to a Tunisian woman. Article 19 of 14 December 2012 Draft Constitution States that Tunisia shall not revoke the nationality of any Tunisian citizen.
Multiple Citizenship	
Dual citizenship is allowed.	