

Births and fertility among the resident population

Year 2015

In 2015, 485,780 births were registered in the Resident Population Register, that is almost 17,000 fewer births than in 2014. The figures confirm the downward trend that began in recent years: the number of births decreased substantially since 2008 (-91,000 births).

The recent decline in births resulted mainly from the reduction in the number of children born to Italian parents that fell for the first time below 400,000 in 2014. The figure shows that in 2015 there were 385,014 births to Italian partners, 95 thousand fewer in seven years. The decrease can be attributed both to the fall in the number of women in childbearing years and to their low level of fertility. The reduction in the number of marriages (-52 thousand from 2008 to 2015) resulted in a negative impact on births. In 2015 births to married parents had fallen further to 346,169, approximately 120 thousand fewer in seven years.

Conversely, births outside marriage increased slightly and reached 140 thousand births in 2015. As a result the relative weight of births to unmarried couples increased and reached 28.7% of all births. In particular, in the Centre-North area more than 31% of babies were born to unmarried couples.

Compared to the previous year, the number of births to at least one foreign parent showed a slight decrease. In 2015 they were 101 thousand, accounting for 20.7% of all births at national level. Births to at least one foreign parent were 29% in the North area compared to 8% only in the South and Islands areas.

A further decrease was observed both in the number of births to foreign parents (which totalled 72,096, 3 thousand fewer than in 2014) and in their proportion on all births (14.8% in 2015).

19,123 births to foreign mothers were from Romania, followed by Morocco (11,888), Albania (9,257) and China (4,070). Their sum represented 47.0% of all births to foreign mothers.

In 2015, nearly 8.3% of all live births were to mothers aged 40 and over, while 10.3% of births had mothers aged under 25. Childbearing postponement was more pronounced among Italian mothers: the proportion of births to Italian women aged 40 and over exceeded the one of those aged under 25 (9.3 vs. 8.2%).

Fertility decline, which started in 2010, was still underway. In 2015 the average number of children per woman fell to 1.35, compared with 1.46 in 2010. Total fertility rate was 1.27 children for Italian women and 1.94 for foreign one. The latter figure represented a significant decrease compared to seven year before, when the average number of children for foreign women was 2.65.

TABLE 1. BIRTHS AND FERTILITY IN ITALY: MAIN CHARACTERISTICS AND INDICATORS. Years 2008-2015

	2008	2010	2012	2014	2015
Live births	576,659	561,944	534,186	502,596	485,780
Births to at least one foreign parent	96,442	104,773	107,339	104,056	100,766
Births to foreign couples	72,472	78,082	79,894	75,067	72,096
Births to Italian couples	480,217	457,171	426,847	398,540	385,014
Births within marriage	463,810	427,546	401,852	363,916	346,169
Births outside marriage	112,849	134,398	132,334	138,680	139,611
Births outside marriage (percentage values)	19.6	23.6	24.8	27.6	28.7
Births to mothers aged 40 and over (percentage values)	5.6	6.4	7.3	7.9	8.3
Births to Italian mothers aged 40 and over (percentage)	6.2	7.1	8.2	8.9	9.3
Births to foreign mothers aged 40 and over (percentage)	2.8	3.2	3.5	3.9	4.2
Total fertility rate	1.45	1.46	1.42	1.37	1.35
Mean age of women at childbirth	31.1	31.3	31.4	31.5	31.7
Total fertility rate of Italian women	1.34	1.34	1.29	1.29	1.27
Mean age at childbearing for Italian women	31.7	31.9	32.0	32.1	32.3
Total Fertility rate of foreign women	2.65	2.43	2.37	1.97	1.94
Mean age at childbearing for foreign women	27.5	28.1	28.4	28.6	28.7

FIGURE 1. ITALIAN AND FOREIGN BIRTHS IN ITALY. Years 1995-2015, absolute values

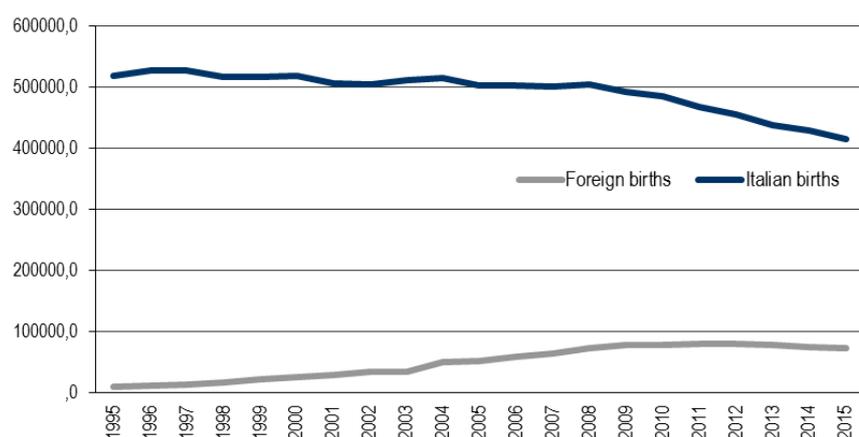


TABLE 2. BIRTHS TO AT LEAST ONE FOREIGN PARENT, BY REGION. Years 1999 and 2015, percentages

REGIONS	1999		2015	
	To at least one foreign parent	of which: both foreign parents	To at least one foreign parent	of which: both foreign parents
Piemonte	8.3	5.5	26.8	18.9
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	8.1	4.9	22.3	14.0
Lombardia	9.8	6.9	29.7	22.2
Bolzano-Bozen	6.7	2.9	23.0	13.9
Trento	8.2	5.4	26.3	17.9
Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol	7.5	4.1	24.6	15.8
Veneto	8.3	6	28.2	20.9
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	6.8	3.5	24.4	16.7
Liguria	6.9	3.5	27.4	19.7
Emilia-Romagna	10.1	7	33.0	24.6
Toscana	9.1	5.8	26.4	19.6
Umbria	9.4	6.2	25.6	18.4
Marche	8.5	5.6	23.6	16.1
Lazio	7.2	5.1	21.8	15.6
Abruzzo	4.9	2.4	16.6	10.9
Molise	2.2	0.6	9.3	5.4
Campania	1.6	0.7	7.2	4.6
Puglia	1.6	0.9	7.5	4.9
Basilicata	1.4	0.7	9.2	5.8
Calabria	2.0	0.8	10.2	6.1
Sicilia	2.4	1.7	7.9	5.1
Sardegna	2.2	0.8	7.6	3.7
North-West	9.1	6.2	28.7	21.1
North-East	8.7	5.9	29.3	21.4
Centre	8	5.5	23.7	17.0
South	1.9	0.9	8.7	5.5
Islands	2.3	1.5	7.8	4.9
ITALY	6.0	4.0	20.7	14.8

TABLE 3. BIRTHS BY MOTHER'S AGE GROUP AND REGION. Year 2015. Absolute values and percentages

REGIONS	Mother's age group								Tot.	All mothers				Italian mothers	
	< 18	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 e +		< 25	> =40	< 25	> =40		
	Absolute values									Percentage					
Piemonte	62	318	2,709	7,284	11,213	8,538	2,558	226	32,908	9.39	8.46	6.39	9.77		
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	0	4	92	235	341	234	75	6	987	9.73	8.21	7.92	8.81		
Lombardia	167	726	6,639	17,908	28,916	22,373	6,859	561	84,149	8.95	8.82	5.41	10.41		
Bolzano/Bozen	10	51	477	1,314	1,859	1,259	348	19	5,337	10.08	6.88	7.86	7.56		
Trento	10	36	399	1,200	1,605	1,210	347	29	4,836	9.20	7.78	6.21	9.13		
Trentino-Alto Adige	20	87	876	2,514	3,464	2,469	695	48	10,173	9.66	7.30	7.09	8.29		
Veneto	62	260	2,981	8,542	13,299	10,508	3,097	212	38,961	8.48	8.49	5.09	10.35		
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	10	70	663	1,936	2,866	2,225	758	47	8,575	8.66	9.39	5.59	11.09		
Liguria	26	104	881	2,169	3,230	2,756	915	74	10,155	9.96	9.74	5.89	11.59		
Emilia-Romagna	65	310	2,917	8,006	11,972	9,416	2,915	212	35,813	9.19	8.73	5.32	10.98		
Toscana	56	257	2,239	5,589	9,005	7,657	2,464	227	27,494	9.28	9.79	5.40	11.70		
Umbria	11	62	575	1,465	2,203	1,698	490	38	6,542	9.91	8.07	6.32	9.39		
Marche	22	107	951	2,552	4,032	3,259	920	61	11,904	9.07	8.24	6.10	9.55		
Lazio	119	351	3,673	9,708	15,831	13,576	4,500	473	48,231	8.59	10.31	6.60	11.73		
Abruzzo	23	90	841	2,186	3,468	2,781	791	58	10,238	9.32	8.29	7.08	9.19		
Molise	5	19	142	485	792	558	168	12	2,181	7.61	8.25	6.32	8.58		
Campania	361	823	5,513	13,180	17,410	10,638	2,818	262	51,005	13.13	6.04	12.69	6.17		
Puglia	197	477	3,075	7,131	10,664	7,717	2,145	171	31,577	11.87	7.33	10.94	7.65		
Basilicata	10	48	322	901	1,395	1,127	299	20	4,122	9.22	7.74	7.47	8.19		
Calabria	71	188	1,658	4,249	5,586	3,566	965	93	16,376	11.71	6.46	10.50	6.75		
Sicilia	417	960	5,256	10,683	13,959	9,368	2,431	233	43,307	15.32	6.15	14.67	6.34		
Sardegna	35	134	836	2,049	3,471	3,225	1,210	122	11,082	9.07	12.02	8.48	12.49		
North-West	255	1,152	10,321	27,596	43,700	33,901	10,407	867	128,199	9.15	8.79	5.73	10.33		
North-East	157	727	7,437	20,998	31,601	24,618	7,465	519	93,522	8.90	8.54	5.46	10.41		
Centre	208	777	7,438	19,314	31,071	26,190	8,374	799	94,171	8.94	9.74	6.18	11.29		
South	667	1,645	11,551	28,132	39,315	26,387	7,186	616	115,499	12.00	6.76	11.14	7.02		
Islands	452	1,094	6,092	12,732	17,430	12,593	3,641	355	54,389	14.04	7.35	13.41	7.60		
ITALY	1,739	5,395	42,839	108,772	163,117	123,689	37,073	3,156	485,780	10.29	8.28	8.22	9.27		

TABLE 4. BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED PARENTS BY REGION. Years 1995 and 2015, percentages

REGIONS	1995	2015	
	Total population	Total population	<i>of which: both Italian parents</i>
Piemonte	10.1	34.9	38.6
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	13.6	38.3	43.3
Lombardia	8.8	29.4	33.6
<i>Bolzano/Bozen</i>	<i>18.5</i>	<i>48.1</i>	<i>53.8</i>
<i>Trento</i>	<i>7.2</i>	<i>34.8</i>	<i>39.6</i>
Trentino-Alto Adige	13.2	41.8	46.9
Veneto	6.8	29.3	34.4
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	11.3	30.7	36.4
Liguria	11.9	34.5	38.4
Emilia-Romagna	12.7	35.4	41.1
Toscana	9.8	35.7	39.5
Umbria	6.3	28.6	32.1
Marche	5.3	30.3	33.0
Lazio	10	34.3	36.6
Abruzzo	4.1	27.2	27.7
Molise	2.9	21.6	20.7
Campania	5	18.0	16.9
Puglia	6.9	23.7	23.0
Basilicata	2.7	16.3	14.4
Calabria	3.9	17.7	15.5
Sicilia	8.7	21.0	20.3
Sardegna	8.9	37.1	36.8
North-West	9.5	31.3	35.4
North-East	10	33.1	38.6
Centre	9.1	33.8	36.6
South	5.2	20.3	19.2
Islands	8.7	24.2	23.8
ITALY	8.1	28.7	30.2

TABLE 5. BIRTHS TO MARRIED AND UNMARRIED PARENTS BY TYPE OF COUPLE. Year 2015. Percentages

TYPE OF COUPLE	Births to married parents	Births to unmarried parents	Total
Italian couple	69.8	30.2	100.0
Foreign father and Italian mother	61.3	38.7	100.0
Italian father and foreign mother	67.7	32.3	100.0
Foreign couple	83.2	16.8	100.0
Total	71.3	28.7	100.0

TABLE 6. TOTAL FERTILITY RATE (TFR) AND MEAN AGE OF PARENTS AT CHILDBIRTH BY MOTHER'S CITIZENSHIP AND REGION. Years 1995 and 2015

REGIONS	Total fertility rate				Mean age of mothers			Mean age of fathers	
	2015		1995		2015			1995	2015
	Italian	Foreign	Total	Total	Italian	Foreign	Total	Total	
Piemonte	1.25	1.90	1.36	1.04	32.5	28.9	31.7	30.2	35.2
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	1.33	1.98	1.40	1.10	32.1	29.1	31.6	30.0	35.2
Lombardia	1.29	2.14	1.44	1.07	32.8	28.9	31.8	30.8	35.6
<i>Bolzano/Bozen</i>	1.62	2.42	1.70	1.39	32.1	28.9	31.6	30.0	35.1
<i>Trento</i>	1.44	2.25	1.56	1.27	32.4	28.9	31.7	30.4	35.4
Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol	1.53	2.33	1.63	1.34	32.3	28.9	31.7	30.2	35.2
Veneto	1.25	2.01	1.38	1.07	32.8	28.8	31.9	30.6	35.5
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	1.21	1.90	1.32	0.95	32.6	28.8	31.8	30.6	35.3
Liguria	1.17	1.96	1.30	0.94	32.8	28.6	31.8	30.8	35.5
Emilia-Romagna	1.24	2.08	1.42	0.97	32.6	28.9	31.6	30.3	35.3
Toscana	1.19	1.81	1.30	0.99	32.9	28.4	31.9	30.4	35.5
Umbria	1.18	1.67	1.27	1.08	32.5	28.4	31.6	30.1	35.4
Marche	1.25	1.82	1.33	1.11	32.7	28.6	31.9	30.3	35.6
Lazio	1.28	1.66	1.32	1.11	32.8	28.7	32.1	30.4	35.6
Abruzzo	1.22	1.81	1.28	1.19	32.6	28.2	32.0	30.0	35.5
Molise	1.15	1.62	1.17	1.22	32.7	28.1	32.3	29.4	35.9
Campania	1.33	1.73	1.34	1.52	31.3	28.1	31.2	28.9	34.6
Puglia	1.22	1.90	1.24	1.38	31.8	27.6	31.6	29.1	35.0
Basilicata	1.14	1.95	1.17	1.31	32.6	27.2	32.2	29.6	36.0
Calabria	1.27	1.72	1.29	1.40	31.7	28.1	31.4	28.9	35.4
Sicilia	1.33	2.01	1.35	1.49	31.1	27.8	30.9	28.6	34.6
Sardegna	1.07	1.70	1.09	1.06	32.6	28.5	32.4	30.5	36.0
North-West	1.27	2.06	1.41	1.05	32.7	28.9	31.8	30.7	35.4
North-East	1.27	2.06	1.41	1.05	32.7	28.9	31.7	30.5	35.4
Centre	1.24	1.73	1.31	1.07	32.8	28.5	32.0	30.4	35.5
South	1.27	1.79	1.29	1.42	31.7	28.0	31.4	29	34.9
Islands	1.27	1.95	1.30	1.40	31.4	27.9	31.2	29.1	34.9
ITALY	1.27	1.94	1.35	1.19	32.3	28.7	31.7	29.8	35.3

FIGURE 2. AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES. Years 1995, 2010 and 2015, values per 1,000 women

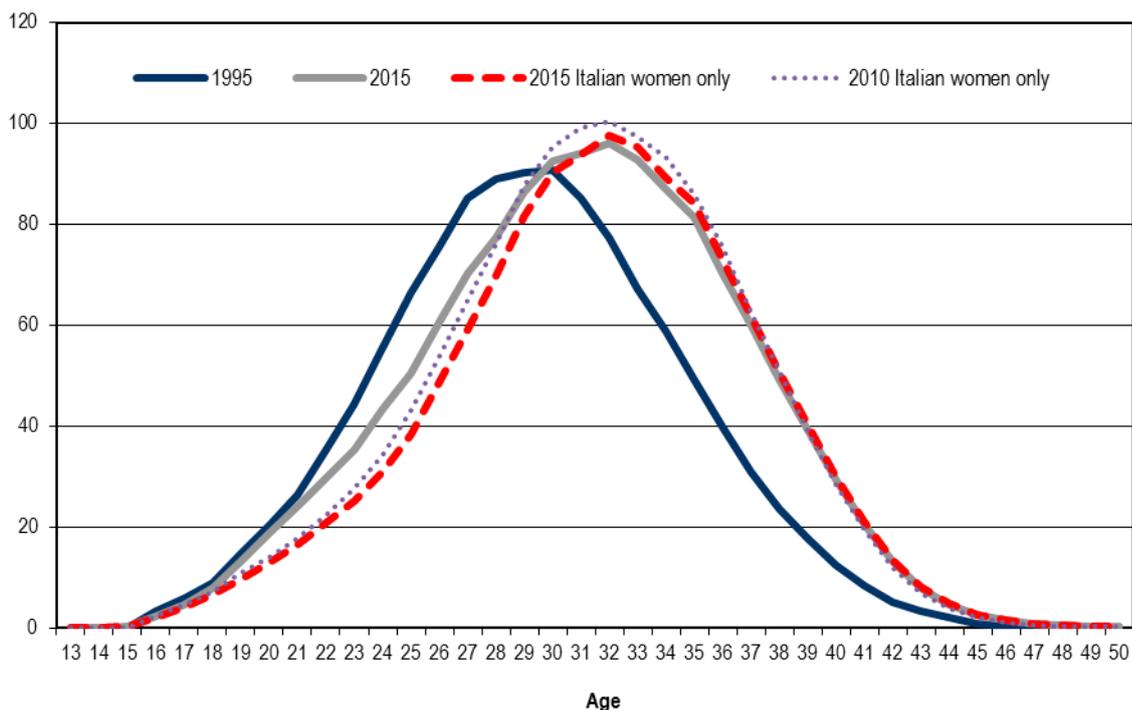


TABLE 7. TOP FIFTEEN NAMES FOR BABY BOYS AND GIRLS

Year 2015, absolute values, percentages and cumulative percentages

	Boys' baby names	absolute values	%	cumulative %		Girls' baby names	absolute values	%	cumulative %
1	FRANCESCO	8.763	3.55	3.55		SOFIA	7,191	3.08	3.08
2	ALESSANDRO	6.708	2.71	6.26		AURORA	6,687	2.87	5.95
3	MATTIA	6.402	2.59	8.85		GIULIA	6,222	2.67	8.62
4	LORENZO	6.389	2.59	11.44		GIORGIA	4,099	1.76	10.38
5	LEONARDO	6.144	2.49	13.92		ALICE	3,845	1.65	12.03
6	ANDREA	6.047	2.45	16.37		MARTINA	3,743	1.61	13.63
7	GABRIELE	5.469	2.21	18.58		EMMA	3,690	1.58	15.22
8	MATTEO	4.941	2.00	20.58		GRETA	3,676	1.58	16.79
9	TOMMASO	4.386	1.77	22.36		CHIARA	3,516	1.51	18.30
10	RICCARDO	4.351	1.76	24.12		ANNA	3,322	1.42	19.72
11	DAVIDE	3.528	1.43	25.55		SARA	3,205	1.37	21.10
12	GIUSEPPE	3.511	1.42	26.97		GINEVRA	2,940	1.26	22.36
13	EDOARDO	3.406	1.38	28.34		GAIA	2,889	1.24	23.60
14	ANTONIO	3.232	1.31	29.65		BEATRICE	2,674	1.15	24.75
15	FEDERICO	3.210	1.30	30.95		NOEMI	2,669	1.14	25.89

TABLE 8. MOST POPULAR BABY NAME BY SEX AND REGION. Year 2015, absolute values and percentages

REGIONS	Most common boys' baby name	absolute values	%	Most common girls' baby name	absolute values	%
Piemonte	Lorenzo	543	3,17	Sofia	523	3.35
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	Leonardo	13	2,57	Sofia	16	3.35
Lombardia	Leonardo	1,360	3,19	Sofia	1,204	3.01
<i>Bolzano/Bozen</i>	<i>Lukas</i>	54	2,01	<i>Anna</i>	82	3.10
<i>Trento</i>	<i>Davide</i>	66	2,63	<i>Sofia</i>	63	2.71
Veneto	Leonardo	613	3,10	Sofia	560	2.96
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	Leonardo	124	2,85	Sofia	135	3.20
Liguria	Leonardo	174	3,40	Sofia	140	2.86
Emilia-Romagna	Alessandro	579	3,15	Sofia	536	3.10
Toscana	Lorenzo	546	3,85	Sofia	387	2.95
Umbria	Francesco	126	3,74	Sofia	121	3.84
Marche	Alessandro	229	3,79	Sofia	180	3.08
Lazio	Francesco	1,003	4,15	Sofia	832	3.61
Abruzzo	Francesco	234	4,63	Sofia	155	3.22
Molise	Francesco	50	4,62	Francesca	40	4.04
Campania	Francesco	1,379	5,27	Aurora	1,004	4.06
Puglia	Francesco	897	5,74	Aurora	498	3.35
Basilicata	Francesco	111	5,28	Francesca	63	3.17
Calabria	Francesco	577	6,87	Aurora	288	3.63
Sicilia	Giuseppe	980	4,42	Aurora	790	3.76
Sardegna	Francesco	266	4,69	Sofia	189	3.62
ITALIA	Francesco	8,763	3,55	Sofia	7,191	3.08

TABLE 9. TOP FIFTEEN NAMES FOR FOREIGN BABY BOYS AND GIRLS.

Year 2015, absolute values, percentages and cumulative percentages

	Boys' baby names	absolute values	%	cumulative %		Girls' baby names	absolute values	%	cumulative %
1	ADAM	492	1.3	1.3		SARA	545	1.6	1.6
2	YOUSSEF	317	0.9	2.2		SOFIA	490	1.4	3.0
3	RAYAN	309	0.8	3.0		AURORA	271	0.8	3.8
4	DAVID	287	0.8	3.8		MALAK	231	0.7	4.4
5	MATTEO	262	0.7	4.5		NOEMI	191	0.5	5.0
6	MOHAMED	247	0.7	5.2		MELISSA	182	0.5	5.5
7	GABRIEL	233	0.6	5.8		AMIRA	172	0.5	6.0
8	KEVIN	209	0.6	6.4		GIULIA	170	0.5	6.5
9	DANIEL	193	0.5	6.9		ALESSIA	165	0.5	6.9
10	ALESSANDRO	187	0.5	7.4		NOUR	160	0.5	7.4
11	AMIR	173	0.5	7.9		EMILY	153	0.4	7.8
12	OMAR	169	0.5	8.3		YASMINE	151	0.4	8.3
13	DAVIDE	168	0.5	8.8		EMMA	150	0.4	8.7
14	MATTIA	164	0.4	9.2		MARIA	138	0.4	9.1
15	LUCA	155	0.4	9.7		AYA	135	0.4	9.5

TABLE 10. TOP FIVE NAMES FOR FOREIGN BABY BOYS AND GIRLS BY CITIZENSHIP

Year 2015, absolute values and percentages

CITIZENSHIP	Boys' baby names	absolute values	%	CITIZENSHIP	Girls' baby names	absolute values	%
ROMANIAN	DAVID	183	2.3	ROMANIAN	SOFIA	132	1.8
	MATTEO	94	1.2		SOFIA MARIA	107	1.4
	DAVID ANDREI	92	1.1		MARIA	80	1.1
	ALEXANDRU	91	1.1		GIULIA	70	0.9
	LUCA	88	1.1		ALESSIA MARIA	68	0.9
MOROCCAN	ADAM	381	7.5	MOROCCAN	SARA	244	4.9
	YOUSSEF	246	4.8		MALAK	211	4.3
	RAYAN	215	4.2		AMIRA	145	2.9
	MOHAMED	136	2.7		NOUR	134	2.7
	AMIR	130	2.6		AYA	125	2.5
ALBANIAN	KEVIN	100	2.3	ALBANIAN	AURORA	175	4.4
	NOEL	81	1.9		NOEMI	146	3.6
	ANDREA	77	1.8		AMELIA	80	2.0
	GABRIEL	76	1.8		EMILY	74	1.8
	MATTIA	76	1.8		MELISSA	73	1.8
CHINESE	KEVIN	46	2.1	CHINESE	EMILY	35	1.9
	KIMI	22	1.0		SOFIA	28	1.5
	MATTEO	21	1.0		ANGELA	25	1.4
	WILLIAM	17	0.8		ELENA	18	1.0
	FEDERICO	16	0.7		ELISA	18	1.0
TOTAL		2,188				1,988	

Glossary

Population register: the continuous system for recording resident population. It is continuously updated by recording births to parents who are resident in the municipality, deletions due to death of residents and registrations/deletions due to change of residence to/from another municipality or to/from a foreign country.

Citizenship: the status of being a citizen of a State, required and documented in order to enjoy rights and be subject to specific duties.

Resident foreign citizen: a person with foreign citizenship or stateless person recorded in the population register.

Mean age at birth: the age at the time of birth, expressed in years and tenths of years.

Births outside marriage: an estimate obtained by considering the total number of births for which the marital status of both parents is known and subtracting from this amount the total number of births to parents who are both married.

Births to mixed couples: entries in the population register for births of Italian citizenship with one Italian parent and the other of foreign citizenship.

Foreign births: entries in the population register for births with both parents with foreign citizenship.

Births to at least one foreign parent: total of foreign births plus births to mixed couples.

Average number of children per woman (or total fertility rate – TFR): is the average number of live children that a cohort of women would bear if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the calendar year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan.

Resident population: people with usual place of resident in a municipality, even if on the date in question they are absent because they are temporarily in another municipality or abroad.

Marital status: the civil status of each individual in relation to the marriage laws of the country. Single: a male or female citizen who has never entered into marriage. Married: a citizen who has not obtained the dissolution or termination of the civil effects of the marriage. Divorced: a married citizen who has obtained the dissolution or termination of the civil effects of the marriage. Widow/Widower: a citizen whose marriage has ended due to the death of her/his partner.

Absolute change: the difference between the values in a specified time reference period to values at the beginning of the period.

Percentage change: ratio between absolute change and initial amount. It is then multiplied by 100.

Average annual percentage change (or average annual rate of change): when changes over a period of more than one calendar year are studied, the average annual rate of change may be computed by dividing the percentage change by the number of years in the interval.

Methodological note

The individual survey of entries in the population register for births (Istat P.4 form) was implemented by Istat from 1 January 1999 and makes it possible to obtain information at the local municipal level (and by census area) on live births among the resident population, classifying them according to the following variables: sex of the new-born, date of birth (of the child), place of birth, citizenship (of the child), mother's (individual years of) age and cohort, father's (individual years of age) and cohort, mother's marital status, father's marital status, mother's citizenship and father's citizenship. These data thus allow birth-rate and fertility trends to be monitored and analysed in relation to the main demographic characteristics of parents.

The level of coverage of the individual survey, which is evaluated in relation to the information recorded by Istat through the annual municipal summary forms indicating the movement and calculation of the overall resident population and the foreign population (respectively Istat P.2 and Istat P.3), is approximately 97% in both cases.

More detailed data are available online by consulting the I.Stat datawarehouse at <http://dati.istat.it/> and, Demo, the topic-based system, at <http://demo.istat.it/altridati/IscrittiNascita/index.html>

For more details please refer to the Italian version

Contact persons:

Sabrina Prati (prati@istat.it).

Istat – National Institute of Statistics
Viale Liegi, 14 – Rome 00198 Italy
phone +39 06 4673.7337

Cinzia Castagnaro (cicastaq@istat.it).

Istat – National Institute of Statistics
Viale Liegi, 14 – Rome 00198 Italy
phone +39 06 4673.7322