



stampa

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Data publication office
tel. +39 06 4673.3105



Press office
tel. +39 06 4673.2243-44
ufficiostampa@istat.it

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NOI ITALIA.

100 STATISTICS TO UNDERSTAND THE COUNTRY WE LIVE IN

Noi Italia. 100 statistics to understand the country we live in” has reached its fourth edition. This digital product, available on the web (<http://noi-italia2012en.istat.it/>), is issued for the first time also with an English version, so as to provide foreign users with a general framework for understanding the different economic, social, demographic and environmental aspects of Italy, its role within Europe and the territorial differences which characterise it.

Updated and accurate indicators, ranging from economy to culture, to the labour market, to household economic conditions, infrastructures, public finance, environment, technology and innovation are classified in 119 factsheets and cover 19 areas of interest.

Indicators can be looked up in an interactive way, both by area of interest and by single factsheet; they are downloadable on spreadsheets and can be studied in details through links available on each page.

Territorial statistics

With an average population density of 200 residents per km², Italy is one of the most densely populated countries in the Eu (Eu27 has an average population density of 114 residents per km²). Mountain areas cover 54.3 percent of the territory, have a low population density and have seen considerable depopulation in the past. On 01st January 2010, there were 266 Mountain communities, accounting for only 18.2 percent of the population.

The protected areas included in the “Rete Natura 2000” project cover more than 20 percent of the national territory, with a relatively high concentration in the South (where they account for nearly a quarter of the total surface area – 2011), placing Italy above the European average (17.5 percent.)

In Italy, building permits have been granted for the construction of 5.7 new dwellings per 1,000 households, approximately 430 m² of useful floor area in new residential buildings. The ratio of the number of new dwellings to resident households is falling fast (in 2005 it was 11.8 new dwellings). This trend can be seen in all Eu Member States, where the number of new dwellings authorised was halved between 2006 and 2009.

Environment

Regional authorities spend over 85 euros per capita (2009) on average on environmental protection, a 5 percent increase in comparison with the previous year.

533.5 kg of municipal waste were collected per capita (2009), more than 9 kg less than the previous year. Although the amount fell, Italy is still well above Eu average for municipal waste disposed in landfills, with 262 kg per capita - 49.1 percent of the total amount of municipal waste collected over the entire national territory. 33.6 percent of municipal waste was separated for recycling before collection, a rise of 3 percent in comparison with 2008, with the North-east holding the top position at 51.4 percent.

In 2009, greenhouse gas emissions in Italy fell in comparison with the previous year. This value brought Italy closer to achieving the maximum emissions target established by the Kyoto Protocol.

36.8 percent of Italian households declared problems with air pollution in the area where they live, and 19.0 percent complained of unpleasant odours (2011).

Over the whole range of provincial capitals, the population had access to 106.4 m² per capita of green areas or areas of particular natural interest (2010), up by 3.0 percent on 2000 figures.

Population

With 12 percent of the over 500 million residents in the European Union, Italy is the fourth largest country by demographic size. After years of stagnation, the Italian population returned to growth in 2001 at a rate of just below 1 percent per year, due to the increase in the birth rate and, above all, migration.

On 1 January 2011, there were 144.5 elderly people for every 100 young people; within Europe, only Germany had a higher ageing index. The oldest region was Liguria, while Campania was the youngest.

The ratio between the young, the elderly and the active populations (dependency index) is over 52 percent (2010), placing Italy at the top of the Eu ranking.

Within the European context, Italy recorded natural growth values similar to those found in the most recent Members of the Union. The migration growth, on the other hand, was one of the highest in Europe.

Average life expectancy for Italians is over 84 years for women and just over 79 years for men, putting Italy at the top of Eu ranking.

Italy is one of the countries with low fertility rates, with 1.41 children per woman according to 2010 estimates. The mean age at child bearing continued to rise, reaching 31.3 years.

3.8 marriages are celebrated per 1,000 inhabitants, with a higher rate in the South and Islands area than in the North. All the regions where more than half of all marriages are celebrated in a civil ceremony office are located in the Centre and North area.

Italy and Ireland were the countries with the lowest divorce rate in the Eu (approximately 0.9 and 0.7 per 1,000 inhabitants respectively). Between 2000 and 2009, the number of separations in Italy rose by 19.4 percent, and divorces rose by 44.9 percent.

Foreign population

In 2011, approximately 4.6 million foreign citizens were enrolled on municipal population registers in Italy, the equivalent of 7.5 percent of the total number of residents. This figure has more than tripled since 2001, rising by 7.9 percent in 2010, although at a lower rate than in previous years.

The profile by citizenships of foreigners resident in Italy is considerably varied. However, the five largest communities on 01st January 2011 (Romanians, Albanians, Moroccans, Chinese, and Ukrainians) between them represent more than 50 percent of the total. Among the largest communities, those originating in Eastern Europe and the Indian sub-continent have grown the most in 2010.

On 01st January 2010, there were 3 million 400,000 non-Eu citizens legally residing in Italy, an increase in comparison to the previous year. It is increasingly common for foreign citizens to come to Italy for family reasons: in 1992, these arrivals accounted for 13 percent of total legal residents; in 2010, the percentage had risen to 34 percent.

Despite its younger age structure, foreign population (aged 15-64) shows similar level of education to nationals. Nearly half non-nationals hold only lower secondary school leaving certificate, 49.7 percent against 46.3 percent of Italians, while 40.3 percent hold upper and post secondary school graduates and 10.0 percent a university degree.

Non-national labour force represent 9.4 percent of the total labour force. The employment rate for non-nationals is higher than for Italians (67.0 percent in comparison with 60.6 percent), as is the unemployment rate (11.6 percent and 8.1 percent, respectively). The inactivity rate among the non-national population, however, was 10 percent lower than by Italian population (28.6 percent against 38.6 percent).

Education

In Italy the incidence of expenditure on education and training is 4.8 percent of Gdp (2009), a value that is lower than the Eu27 average (5.6 percent).

Approximately 45 percent of the population aged between 25 and 64 possess a lower-secondary-school certificate as their highest qualification. This value is a long way from the Eu27 average (27.3 percent in 2010). The share of youth (aged 18-24) who left education early without obtaining an upper-secondary-school qualification is 18.8 percent (the Eu average is 14.1 percent).

The most recent data on proficiency levels (the Oecd Pisa survey) show that 15-year-old Italian students have narrowed the gap compared with the past in all areas of literacy considered.

The participation rate of young people in training programmes on completion of compulsory education is 81.8 percent among those aged 15-19 and 21.3 percent among those aged 20-29. The European values (Eu19) are higher, at 86.2 and 26.6 percent, respectively (2009).

19.8 percent of the population aged between 30 and 34 possess a tertiary qualification (or equivalent). Despite the increase observed during the period 2004-2010 (+4.2 percentage points) the percentage is still very low compared with the target of 40 percent set by "Europe 2020".

The number of young people who are neither in employment nor in education or training is over two million, 22.1 percent of those aged between 15 and 29 (2010), one of the highest rates in Europe.

6.2 percent of adults are involved in training activities (2010), still well below the target set by the Lisbon Strategy (12.5 percent).

Health

Public expenditure on health is approximately 115 billion euros, equal to 7.4 percent of Gdp, and over 1,900 euros per capita per year (2010), up both in absolute values and as a percentage of Gdp compared with the previous year. Italian public expenditure on health is much lower than in other major European countries.

Households contribute a share of just over 21 percent of overall health expenditure using their own resources. Household health expenditure represents 1.8 percent of Gdp and amounts to 955 euros per household in the South and Islands area and 1,265 euros in the Centre and North area .

In almost all regions, between 2002 and 2008, a convergence towards the national average was observed in the number of hospital bed-places per thousand inhabitants, which fell from 4.3 to 3.6. Overall, the regions dealt with around 610,000 hospital admissions of non-resident patients and over 543,000 admissions of patients from a region other than their region of residence (2009).

Neoplasms and diseases of the circulatory system are the main causes of hospital admissions both in Italy and in the rest of Europe.

In Italy, the infant mortality rate is 3.3 deaths per thousand live births. In the last ten years, the value of this indicator has continued to decrease throughout the entire country, reaching values that are among the lowest in Europe.

The diseases of the circulatory system constitute the main cause of death in almost all Eu countries. In Italy, the standardised mortality rate for these causes is 32.1 deaths per ten thousand inhabitants, while for neoplasms it is 26.2 deaths per ten thousand inhabitants, with higher values for men (36.1) than for women (19.4). Neoplasms are the second leading cause of death in Italy and in Europe (2008).

Smokers and drinkers make up 22.8 and 16.4 percent of the population aged 14 and over, while obese individuals make up 10.3 percent of the population aged 18 and over (2010).

Culture and leisure time

Italian households on average allocate 7.0 percent of their total final expenditure to cultural consumption (spending on recreation and culture) (2010).

Approximately 372,000 labour units (1.5 percent of the total) are employed in activities involving the production of goods and services for recreation and culture, excluding the publishing sector (2010).

In Italy every year 3.5 copies of books are printed on average per capita. However, over the course of a year just over 45 percent of Italians read at least one book in their leisure time (2011).

Just over one out of two Italians (54.0 percent) reads a daily newspaper at least once a week, while 39.0 percent read one at least five days out of seven.

Readers of online newspapers, news and magazines are increasing (just over one Italian out of four).

Cinema is in first place among cultural activities pursued by Italians outside the home (53.7 percent of the population aged 6 and over). Cultural activities that involve at least a quarter of the population include visits to museums and exhibitions (29.7 percent) and attendance of sporting events (28.4 percent).

The number of individuals aged 3 and over who practise sport is 18,800,000 (approximately one in three Italians): 21.9 percent on regular basis, and 10.2 percent on an occasional basis. 16.2 million people engage in physical activity despite not doing sport, while the number of sedentary individuals is around 23 million (2011).

Tourism

In 2010 there were over 34,000 hotels and similar establishments in Italy; other accommodation establishments, on the other hand, amounted to approximately 116,000 units, with an increase for both categories in comparison to the previous year, especially for the latter (+4.2 percent).

Out of the entire range of tourist accommodation establishments operating in Italy, nearly 99 million arrivals and 375 million nights spent were recorded (2010). The average length of stay in accommodation establishments was 3.8 nights, a slight fall in comparison to the previous year, although substantially stable both for residents and non-residents.

Trips with at least one overnight stay made by Italian residents in Italy and abroad for business or holiday purposes, reached approximately 100 million, corresponding to a total of approximately 627 million nights spent (2010). The length of stay in Italy was 6.5 nights and 2.6 nights for holiday and business trips, respectively.

Crime and safety

Italy, with approximately 1.0 homicide per 100,000 inhabitants in 2009, came under the Eu average (1.2 homicides). The phenomenon has been falling since 1991.

Nearly 36,000 robberies were reported to the authorities, equal to 59.5 per 100,000 inhabitants, a sharp fall in comparison to the previous year. On a European level, Italy came under the average of the 27 Eu Member States for the first time in 2009. Campania was the region with the highest number of robberies (176.6 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2009), while Basilicata had the lowest number (7.8 robberies per 100,000 inhabitants).

Just over 1,300,000 thefts were reported, 2,189.8 per 100,000 inhabitants, down from 2008 and 2009 figures following constant growth between 2003 and 2007. For the whole range of thefts, the South and Islands area had consistently lower values than the national average.

In 2009, criminal proceedings were initiated for 998.4 people per 100,000 inhabitants. Between 2006 and 2009, the most frequent serious crimes among those reported for whom criminal proceedings were initiated were thefts (82.1 per 100,000 inhabitants) and culpable injuries (69.2).

The number of prisoners sentenced in 2009 was of 257,282, the equivalent of 426.4 people per 100,000 inhabitants, a slight fall in comparison with the previous year (-1.5 percent). The most frequent offences sentenced were theft (48.9 prisoners sentenced per 100,000 inhabitants – a sharp fall against 2008 figures), violation of the drugs legislation (47.6), money-laundering and receiving (33.1) and violation of immigration legislation (30.4).

In 2011, 26.6 percent of families reported the presence of crime risk in the areas where they live. In comparison with 2010 figures, this level showed a fall in the perception of this risk.

At the end of 2010 there were nearly 68,000 prisoners in Italy, approximately 112 per 100,000 inhabitants, an increase on the previous year.

Business statistics

In Italy, there are approximately 64 enterprises per 1,000 inhabitants, one of the highest levels in Europe. Between 2008 and 2009, the indicator fell slightly due to the net contraction in economic activities caused by the financial crisis.

In Italy the entrepreneurship rate – calculated as the difference between the number of self-employed and the total number of employees – was just under 32 percent in 2009. The propensity to entrepreneurship was high in all geographical areas, with values well over the European average.

In terms of the average size of enterprises, Italy, with approximately four employees per enterprise, comes second-to-last in the Eu27 ranking, together with Portugal. Within Italy, enterprises in the South and Islands area are smaller than the national average.

Enterprise gross turnover rate, which provides a measure of the dynamism of an economic system, is equal to 14.9 percent in Italy. Values vary widely between regions, with greater instability in the South and Islands area and the lowest enterprise birth and death rate in the North-east area.

In 2009, the level of wage adjusted labour productivity among Italian enterprises decreased and was equal to 112.5 euros of added value per 100 euros of labour cost. The fall was greater in the North-east area, while it was more limited in enterprises in the Centre. On a European level, Italy showed clear signs of difficulty, obtaining the last positions in the Eu ranking.

The productive structure of the Italian economy appears to vary widely among regional areas. The South and Islands area tends to have more micro-enterprises, both in the service and industrial sectors; large industry is most common in the North-west; small and medium enterprises in the North-east, and large service enterprises in the Centre.

Agriculture

There are over 1.6 million agricultural holdings, with a total surface area of 17.3 million hectares (2010). Since 2000 a 32.2 percent decrease in the number of holdings (-775,000 units) has been recorded, combined with a significant increase in their average size (2.4 hectares larger). This increase mainly regarded larger holdings, while for small and medium-sized ones a decrease was observed.

In 2009 value added per worker in the sector for every 100 euros of unit labour cost was approximately 93 euros, the lowest value since 2002. The best performance was observed in the North-west thanks to larger-sized agricultural holdings; performances above the national average were also seen in the southern regions.

In recent years interest in the quality of agro-food products has grown among European consumers. In this sector, Italy holds a prominent position and has the largest number of certifications in Europe. As of 31st December 2010 Italian agro-food specialities with quality labels totalled 219.

In Italy, in 2010 approximately one quintal of straight fertilisers for every hectare of utilised agricultural area (Uaa) was distributed in agriculture, with a higher intensity in the northern regions. Since 2005, the use of fertilisers has fallen in all geographical areas; the process has intensified since 2007 as a result of increases in prices of the products which reduced their use. Italy ranked sixth in the Eu27 for fertiliser consumption, behind the area's major economies.

In 2010, in Italy 143.9 thousand tons of plant protection products and 71.6 thousand tons of active substances were distributed.

In 2010 there were around 20,000 agritourism farms, over a third of them managed by women. In recent years there has been a significant increase in this type of tourism products and services, with a growth of over 40 percent both in number of farms and beds.

Energy

In Italy electricity consumption per capita shows values below the European average and lower than those shown by other, larger countries. In 2010 electricity consumption was around 5,055 kWh per capita. Compared with 2009 an increase in electricity consumption was recorded in all main sectors, with the exception of agriculture.

In 2010 gross electricity generation recorded a value of 49.9 GWh per ten thousand inhabitants, showing an increase in comparison with 2009. In the last ten years a reduction was recorded in the North-east area and above all in the Centre, while electricity generation grew in the South and Islands and in the North-west areas.

The share of gross domestic electricity consumption covered by renewable energy sources continues to increase, reaching 22.2 percent, an increase of 1.7 percentage points on 2009. The distribution of renewable energy sources in electricity generation over the country highlights the prevalence of hydroelectricity in mountainous regions and wind power in the South and Islands area, while electricity generation from biomass is notable for being essentially uniform throughout Italy.

Infrastructures and transport

The length of motorways in Italy is 6,661 kilometres and accounts for around 10 percent of the European network. In terms of average density, the indicator for Italy is 22.1 kilometres per thousand square kilometres of land area, which is above the European average.

In Italy, in 2009, road freight transport with domestic origin generated approximately 156 billion tonne-kilometres of traffic (-5.5 percent compared with the previous year). The ratio between road freight transport and population was 27.8 million Tkm per ten thousand inhabitants, lower than that of its main partners in the euro area.

The Italian railway network extends 5.5 kilometres per hundred square kilometres of Italy's area. Regionally disaggregate data, updated as of June 2011, show Sardegna, the autonomous province of Trento and Valle d'Aosta as the regions that are least provided with railway infrastructure.

Compared with 2009, the car ownership rate in 2010 rose to 606 passenger cars per thousand inhabitants. In the European comparison Italy ranks second behind Luxembourg; Germany, France, Spain and the United Kingdom have significantly lower ownership rates than Italy.

In Italy the number of road accident deaths is falling: in 2010, around 68 persons per million inhabitants died as a result of road accidents, around 4 percent less than in 2009. The figure, which had dropped by 4 percent compared to 2009, is improving. Over the last ten years the number of deaths has decreased by almost 43 percent.

In 2009 Italy became the first European country in terms of passengers movements by sea (with over 92 million passengers) and remained in sixth place by volume of containers handled (7.2 million Teus).

Italy ranks fifth in Europe in terms of air passenger traffic, with a share of around 10 percent of the total. 2010 was a year of broad recovery in terms of passenger numbers with the significant exception of Ireland.

87.7 percent of employed and 73.6 percent of students use some means of transport, primarily a car, to get to their place of work or study. A higher use of means of transport is widespread in the Centre, while in the South there is a greater propensity to make the journey on foot.

Science, technology and innovation

With a value of 1.26 percent of Gdp in 2009, Italy is still a long way off the most advanced European countries in terms of spending on research and development, but not far from the national 2020 target of 1.53 percent.

In 2007, Italy presented the Epo (European patent office) with more than 4,800 patent applications. The patent intensity indicator remained one of the lowest in the Eu15, despite rising since 2000.

A high percentage of enterprises use fixed network broadband connections, reaching 83 percent in Italy among enterprises with at least 10 employees (2010), in line with the Eu27 average.

R&D personnel in Italy (in full-time equivalent units) amounts to 3.8 per thousand inhabitants. This value is under the European average (5.1) and shows considerable territorial variation.

In the 2006-2008 period, the number of innovative enterprises rose by more than 3 percent in comparison to the previous three-year period (from 27.1 percent to 30.7 percent). On a European level, Italy was slightly above the European average. Both in terms of number of innovations introduced and amounts spent, innovation was markedly focused in large industrial enterprises.

The number of S&T graduates is still relatively low (12.2 per thousand inhabitants aged 20-29 years), and lower than the European average (14.3 in 2009). Nonetheless, gaps between genders are less accentuated in Italy than in many other European countries.

In Italy, 51.5 percent of individuals aged 6 and over access the Internet, but only 28.3 percent on a daily basis (2011). On an international level, the number of Internet users in Italy is considerably lower than the European average.

In Italy, 45.8 percent of households access the network from home using a broadband connection, with wide territorial differences (2011).

Macroeconomics

In 2010 in Italy per capita Gdp at market prices increased by 1.1 percent in real terms. While in Europe different countries indicators tended to converge, at the national level the divergences have not diminished and remain wide.

Italy is one of the European countries whose internal demand – consumption and investments – is higher than the resources produced annually: in 2010 consumptions as a share of Gdp reached 82.3 percent, while the incidence of investments is just under 20 percent. The situation of a shortfall in production is particularly evident in the South and Islands area, where in some cases consumption is higher than Gdp; the major regions of the Centre and North area have internal demand that is lower than Gdp.

In the last ten years, labour market productivity trends have not been favourable. Between 2007 and 2010 the trend in the indicator was negative (-0.2 percent on a year-average basis), despite the simultaneous sharp contraction in the total number of hours worked. Since the beginning of 2000, Italy's relative position in Europe has not improved.

In 2010 inflation registered a sharp rise (+1.6 percent), double the 2009 rate, a dynamics wholly in line with the Euro area. At the territorial level, the upturn affected nearly all Italy's regions.

In the South and Islands area, the gradual erosion of households' income provoked a larger use of banking credit in order to finance consumption. The share of consumer credit in this geographical area is just below 21 percent, more than double the value in the Centre and North area and over one and a half times higher than the national average.

In the last ten years Italian exports' market share of world trade has fallen (from 4.2 percent in 1999 to 3.0 percent in 2010), a common experience to several highly developed economies. Among the Eu27 countries, Italy exhibits greater openness to trade with extra-Eu countries: in 2010 it accounted for 10.7 percent of Eu countries' exports to the rest of the world and 7.6 percent of intra-Eu flows.

Labour market

In Italy the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 is equal to 61.1 percent and sums up an extremely large gender imbalance (72.8 percent for men and 49.5 percent for women). Moreover, in 2010 the employment rate among 20-64 year-olds continued to decrease, with a fall of six tenths of a percentage point compared with one year previously, confirming the reversal in the trend over the previous period.

The employment rate for the population aged 55-64 was 36.6 percent and, counter to the trend for employment as a whole, up on 2009.

12.8 percent of employees have a temporary employment contract, a value that is slightly below the European average. The share of individuals in part-time employment is 15.0 percent. Both kinds of contract are more widespread among women.

The inactivity rate among the population aged 15-64 is 37.8 percent, one of the highest in Europe. Female inactivity is particularly high (48.9 percent).

In 2010 the unemployment rate reached 8.4 percent, increasing for the third consecutive year, but remaining below the Eu27 level (9.6 percent). The unemployment rate of the population aged 15-24 years is 27.8 percent, higher than the European Union average (21.1 percent).

Long-term unemployment (i.e. lasting longer than 12 months) regards 48.5 percent of the national unemployment figure.

The share of irregular full time equivalent units was 12.3 percent in 2010. In the South and Islands area almost one worker out of five can be considered irregular, while in agriculture the figure is around one out of four.

Household economic conditions

In Italy, in 2010, households living in conditions of poverty totalled 11.0 percent of resident households, thus making 8.3 million poor individuals, or 13.8 percent of the resident population. Absolute poverty involves 4.6 percent of households, or a total of 3.1 million individuals.

In 2009, around 58 percent of resident households in Italy earned a net income lower than the average annual amount (29,766 euros, approximately 2,480 euros a month). Sicilia records the highest income distribution inequality and the lowest average annual income (over 25 percent lower than the national average); in addition, in this region, on the basis of the median income, 50 percent of households fall below 18,302 euros per year (approximately 1,525 euros per month).

In 2010, 15.7 percent of resident households in Italy experienced at least three of the difficulties considered in calculating the deprivation synthetic index. The regional situation highlights how southern Italy and the Islands are at a sharp disadvantage with values over double the national average.

During the first months of 2011, the percentage of people aged 14 and over who said they were very or fairly satisfied with their economic situation was approximately half (48.5 percent). The level of satisfaction of persons with their economic situation decreases as one moves from the North to the South of the Country, and is marked by large regional variability.

Social protection

In 2010, social protection expenditure on in Italy took up nearly 30 percent of Gdp, with a per capita amount of approximately 7,700 euros. Within the Eu27 Member States, Italy spent more than the average both in terms of per capita spending and in terms of Gdp.

Over the last five years, expenditure for social security services managed by municipalities has risen slightly in relation to Gdp. In absolute terms, expenditure amounted to 6.7 billion euros in 2008, with an average per capita value of 114.4 euros.

In 2009, expenditure on social services reached nearly 19 percent of Gdp, the equivalent of a per capita amount of 4,737 euros. On a national level, wide differences remain between the regions, with higher expenditure per capita on services in central and northern areas of the country.

23.8 million pensions were paid out in 2009, for an overall amount of about 254 billion euros – the equivalent of 16.7 percent of Gdp. The lowest levels were recorded in the North-east (15.0 percent).

The number of Italian municipalities providing at least one childcare service, such as day care centres, micro-day care or other supplementary and innovative services continues to rise, reaching 56.2 percent in 2009. Despite significant improvements over the last five years, a wide gap remains between the public childcare services offered by municipalities in the Centre and North and the South and Islands areas.

In 2009, 13.6 percent of children between aged 0-2 attended public childcare services, a rise of more than 2 percent in comparison with 2004. The distribution of the public services offered in Italy

remained very varied across the regions, with wide gaps in the indicator between the Centre and North (18.1 percent) and the South and Islands areas (5.1 percent).

Public finance

In 2010, amid a generalised deterioration in budgets and trends in public finances due to the economic crisis becoming full-blown, Italy ranked first among Emu countries in terms of its primary surplus, while with regard to the incidence of net lending/borrowing it laid in seventh place.

Italy continues to be among the Eu countries that are characterised by a high debt/Gdp ratio. In 2010 this ratio stood at 118.4 percent, second only to Greece's. The increase on 2009 was almost three percentage points, smaller than the one experienced by European countries on average.

In Italy, the overall tax burden, after rising at the end of the 90s, recorded a fall until 2005, in line with the average in other European countries. It subsequently began to rise again, reaching 42.8 percent in 2009, its highest value since 1997; in 2010 it fell by half a percentage point, to 42.3 percent.

In 2010, General Government spending in Italy was slightly less than 13,000 euros per capita, placing it twelfth in the Eu27 rankings. Italian spending is just over the European average, but lower than that of the Eu's major economies, with the exception of Spain. Regionalised state spending in the Centre and North area continues to be systematically higher than in the South and Islands area, but with a diminishing trend in recent years.