

Births and fertility among the resident population

Year 2014

In 2014, 502,596 births were registered in the Resident Population Register. There were 12,000 fewer births than in 2013. The figures confirm the downward trend that began in recent years: the number of births decreased substantially since 2008 (-74,000 births).

The recent decline in births mainly resulted from the reduction in the number of children born to Italian parents that fell for the first time below 400,000. The figure shows that in 2014 there were 398,540 births to Italian partners, 82 thousand fewer in six years. These 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 (-57,000 from 2008 to 2014) had a negative impact on births. In 2014 births to married parents fell further, reaching 363,916, approximately 100,000 fewer in six years.

Conversely, births outside marriage increased slightly and reached 138,000 births in 2014. As a result the relative weight of births to unmarried couples increased and reached 27.6% of all births. In particular, in the Centre-North area more than 30% of babies were born to unmarried couples.

Compared to the previous year, the number of births to at least one foreign parent remained relatively stable. In 2014 they were 104,000, 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 slight decrease was observed both in the number of births to foreign parents (which totalled 75,067, that is 5,000 fewer than in 2013) and in their proportion on all births (14.9% in 2014).

19,730 births to foreign mothers were from Romania, followed by Morocco (12,217), Albania (9,606) and China (5,039). Their sum represented 47.2% of all births to foreign mothers.

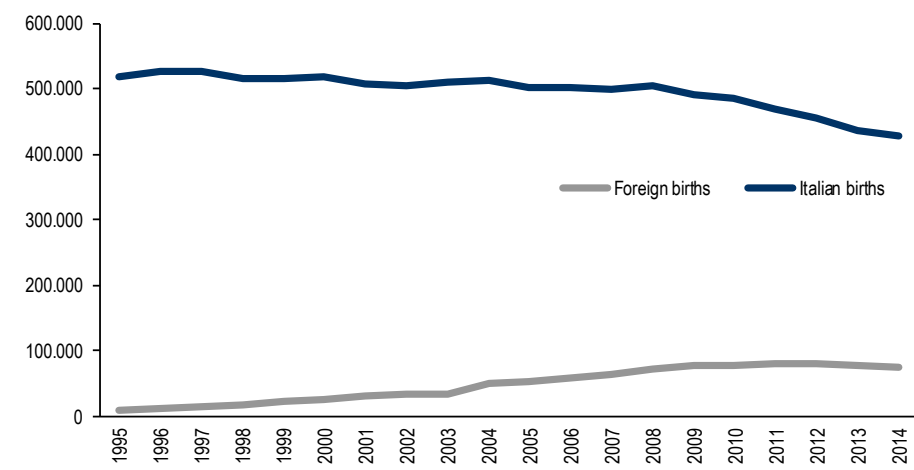
In 2014, nearly 8% of all live births were to mothers aged 40 and over, while 10.7% of births had mothers aged under 25. Childbearing postponement is more pronounced among Italian mothers: the proportion of births to Italian women aged 40 and over exceeded the one of those aged under 25 (8.9 vs. 8.5%).

Fertility decline, which started in 2010, is still underway. In 2014 the average number of children per woman fell to 1.37, compared with 1.46 in 2010. Total fertility rate was 1.29 children for Italian women and 1.97 for foreign ones. The latter figure represents a significant decrease compared to six years before, a period in which the average number of children for foreign women was 2.65.

BIRTHS AND FERTILITY IN ITALY: MAIN CHARACTERISTICS AND INDICATORS. 2008-2014

	2008	2010	2012	2013	2014
Live births	576,659	561,944	534,186	514,308	502,596
Births to at least one foreign parent	96,442	104,773	107,339	104,100	104,056
Births to foreign couples	72,472	78,082	79,894	77,705	75,067
Births to Italian couples	480,217	457,171	426,847	410,208	398,540
Births within marriage	463,810	427,546	401,852	380,863	363,916
Births outside marriage	112,849	134,398	132,334	133,445	138,680
Births outside marriage (percentage values)	19.6	23.6	24.8	25.9	27.6
Births to mothers aged 40 and over (percentage values)	5.6	6.4	7.3	7.7	7.9
Births to Italian mothers aged 40 and over (percentage values)	6.2	7.1	8.2	8.7	8.9
Births to foreign mothers aged 40 and over (percentage values)	2.8	3.2	3.5	3.8	3.9
Total fertility rate	1.45	1.46	1.42	1.39	1.37
Mean age of women at childbirth	31.1	31.3	31.4	31.5	31.5
Total fertility rate of Italian women	1.34	1.34	1.29	1.29	1.29
Mean age at childbearing for Italian women	31.7	31.9	32.0	32.1	32.1
Total Fertility rate of foreign women	2.65	2.43	2.37	2.10	1.97
Mean age at childbearing for foreign women	27.5	28.1	28.4	28.5	28.6

FIGURE 1. ITALIAN AND FOREIGN BIRTHS IN ITALY. 1995-2014, absolute values



SUMMARY TABLE 1. BIRTHS TO AT LEAST ONE FOREIGN PARENT, BY REGION
1999 and 2014, percentages

REGIONS	1999		2014	
	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	27.3	19.7
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	8.1	4.9	21.5	13.4
Lombardia	9.8	6.9	29.6	22.5
Bolzano-Bozen	6.7	2.9	23.8	14.3
Trento	8.2	5.4	25.1	17.1
Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol	7.5	4.1	24.4	15.6
Veneto	8.3	6	28.7	21.7
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	6.8	3.5	25.3	17.9
Liguria	6.9	3.5	26.3	18.8
Emilia-Romagna	10.1	7	31.9	24.0
Toscana	9.1	5.8	26.9	20.0
Umbria	9.4	6.2	25.1	18.1
Marche	8.5	5.6	23.6	16.7
Lazio	7.2	5.1	21.7	15.3
Abruzzo	4.9	2.4	16.5	10.9
Molise	2.2	0.6	10.2	5.6
Campania	1.6	0.7	7.3	4.5
Puglia	1.6	0.9	6.9	4.4
Basilicata	1.4	0.7	8.9	5.2
Calabria	2.0	0.8	10.4	6.3
Sicilia	2.4	1.7	7.7	4.9
Sardegna	2.2	0.8	7.3	3.7
North-West	9.1	6.2	28.6	21.4
North-East	8.7	5.9	29.1	21.6
Centre	8	5.5	23.7	17.1
South	1.9	0.9	8.6	5.3
Islands	2.3	1.5	7.6	4.6
Italy	6.0	4.0	20.7	14.9

SUMMARY TABLE 2. BIRTHS BY MOTHER'S AGE GROUP AND REGION. 2014. Absolute values and percentages

REGIONS	Mother's age group									All mothers		Italian mothers	
	< 18	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 e +	Tot.	< 25	> =40	< 25	> =40
	Absolute values									Percentage			
Piemonte	73	314	3,040	7,784	11,842	8,795	2,590	199	34,637	9.89	8.05	6.52	9.50
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	3	6	88	279	334	307	93	9	1,119	8.67	9.12	7.10	9.77
Lombardia	173	768	6,984	18,651	29,361	23,032	6,745	525	86,239	9.19	8.43	5.56	10.10
Bolzano/Bozen	11	46	520	1,315	1,966	1,293	340	26	5,517	10.46	6.63	8.49	7.04
Trento	7	39	409	1,148	1,653	1,230	356	20	4,862	9.36	7.73	6.02	8.84
Trentino-Alto Adige	18	85	929	2,463	3,619	2,523	696	46	10,379	9.94	7.15	7.34	7.87
Veneto	69	329	3,260	8,958	13,889	10,896	3,017	211	40,629	9.00	7.95	5.10	9.72
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	15	80	807	2,058	2,990	2,456	720	51	9,177	9.83	8.40	6.45	9.96
Liguria	33	126	950	2,173	3,499	2,823	1,050	95	10,749	10.32	10.65	5.90	12.66
Emilia-Romagna	84	343	3,184	8,166	12,029	9,779	2,873	210	36,668	9.85	8.41	5.69	10.51
Toscana	63	257	2,460	6,133	9,350	8,184	2,465	206	29,118	9.55	9.17	5.36	11.12
Umbria	13	58	651	1,546	2,340	1,875	494	38	7,015	10.29	7.58	6.82	8.80
Marche	25	97	1,018	2,676	4,211	3,400	879	57	12,363	9.22	7.57	5.75	8.80
Lazio	160	436	3,920	10,033	16,494	14,159	4,627	531	50,360	8.97	10.24	6.72	11.63
Abruzzo	21	120	930	2,188	3,637	2,771	809	58	10,534	10.17	8.23	7.74	9.03
Molise	4	17	182	478	790	596	134	12	2,213	9.17	6.60	8.17	6.68
Campania	394	874	5,743	13,330	17,239	10,802	2,572	289	51,243	13.68	5.58	13.31	5.68
Puglia	250	569	3,332	7,432	11,318	8,119	2,000	171	33,191	12.51	6.54	11.57	6.82
Basilicata	9	38	313	852	1,527	1,058	290	36	4,123	8.73	7.91	7.06	8.41
Calabria	61	211	1,715	4,246	5,493	3,709	976	79	16,490	12.05	6.40	10.80	6.61
Sicilia	484	1,015	5,651	11,267	14,298	9,542	2,407	212	44,876	15.93	5.84	15.55	5.98
Sardegna	29	95	872	2,105	3,546	3,532	1,217	77	11,473	8.68	11.28	8.19	11.73
North-West	282	1,214	11,062	28,887	45,036	34,957	10,478	828	132,744	9.46	8.52	5.86	10.15
North-East	186	837	8,180	21,645	32,527	25,654	7,306	518	96,853	9.50	8.08	5.71	9.82
Centre	261	848	8,049	20,388	32,395	27,618	8,465	832	98,856	9.26	9.40	6.22	10.93
South	739	1,829	12,215	28,526	40,004	27,055	6,781	645	117,794	12.55	6.30	11.70	6.52
Islands	513	1,110	6,523	13,372	17,844	13,074	3,624	289	56,349	14.46	6.94	14.04	7.15
Italy	1,981	5,838	46,029	112,818	167,806	128,358	36,654	3,112	502,596	10.71	7.91	8.52	8.88

SUMMARY TABLE 3. BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED PARENTS BY REGION.

1995 and 2014, percentages

REGIONS	1995	2014	
	Total population	Total population	of which: both Italian parents
Piemonte	10.1	33.7	37.3
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	13.6	37.7	41.5
Lombardia	8.8	28.1	31.9
Bolzano/Bozen	18.5	44.2	49.4
Trento	7.2	33.0	37.5
Trentino-Alto Adige	13.2	38.9	43.6
Veneto	6.8	28.3	33.0
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	11.3	28.8	34.3
Liguria	11.9	34.4	37.5
Emilia-Romagna	12.7	34.3	39.2
Toscana	9.8	34.3	37.7
Umbria	6.3	27.7	30.9
Marche	5.3	30.1	32.4
Lazio	10	33.4	34.8
Abruzzo	4.1	26.1	25.8
Molise	2.9	18.8	17.9
Campania	5	17.6	16.4
Puglia	6.9	22.1	21.5
Basilicata	2.7	14.5	12.6
Calabria	3.9	16.2	13.6
Sicilia	8.7	19.6	18.8
Sardegna	8.9	33.3	32.8
North-West	9.5	30.1	33.9
North-East	10	31.8	36.7
Centre	9.1	32.8	35.0
South	5.2	19.4	18.1
Islands	8.7	22.4	21.7
Italy	8.1	27.6	28.7

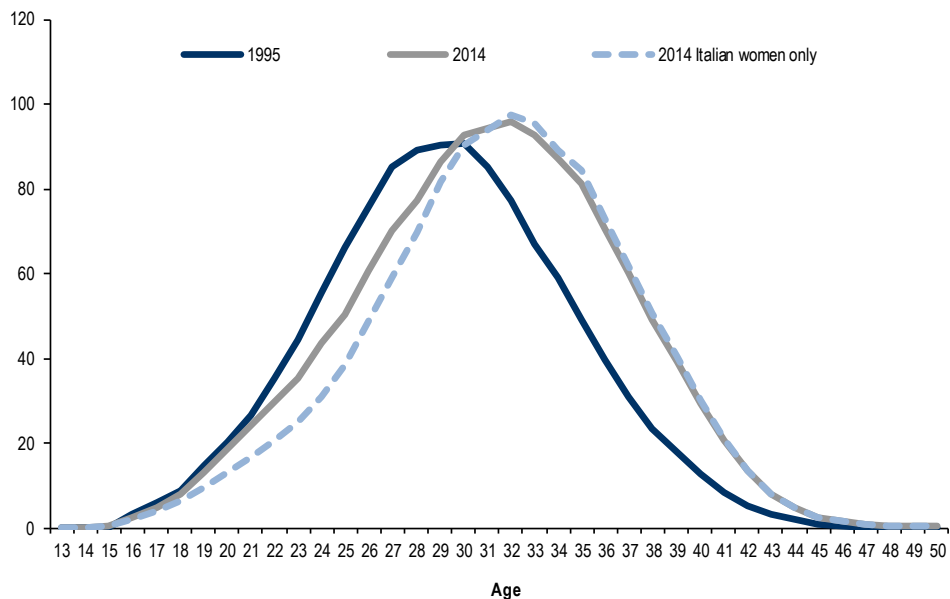
SUMMARY TABLE 4. BIRTHS TO MARRIED AND UNMARRIED PARENTS BY TYPE OF COUPLE. 2014. Percentages

TYPE OF COUPLE	Births to married parents	Births to unmarried parents	Total
Italian couple	71.3	28.7	100.0
Foreign father and Italian mother	62.0	38.0	100.0
Italian father and foreign mother	66.4	33.6	100.0
Foreign couple	83.0	17.0	100.0
Total	72.4	27.6	100.0

SUMMARY TABLE 5. TOTAL FERTILITY RATE (TFR) AND MEAN AGE OF PARENTS AT CHILDBIRTH BY MOTHER'S CITIZENSHIP AND REGION. 1995 and 2014

REGIONS	Total fertility rate				Mean age of mothers				Mean age of fathers
	2014		1995		2014		1995	2014	
	Italian	Foreign	Total	Total	Italian	Foreign	Total	Total	
Piemonte	1.28	1.97	1.40	1.04	32.3	28.7	31.5	30.2	35.1
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	1.46	2.07	1.54	1.10	32.2	29.5	31.7	30.0	35.0
Lombardia	1.29	2.17	1.46	1.07	32.7	28.8	31.7	30.8	35.4
<i>Bozano/Bozen</i>	1.64	2.51	1.74	1.39	32.0	29.4	31.6	30.0	35.2
<i>Trento</i>	1.44	2.11	1.54	1.27	32.4	28.9	31.7	30.4	35.4
Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol	1.54	2.30	1.64	1.34	32.2	29.2	31.6	30.2	35.3
Veneto	1.26	2.08	1.41	1.07	32.7	28.7	31.7	30.6	35.4
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	1.25	2.04	1.38	0.95	32.4	28.6	31.6	30.6	35.1
Liguria	1.21	1.93	1.33	0.94	32.8	28.5	31.8	30.8	35.4
Emilia-Romagna	1.24	2.05	1.42	0.97	32.5	28.7	31.4	30.3	35.2
Toscana	1.23	1.90	1.35	0.99	32.8	28.2	31.7	30.4	35.3
Umbria	1.26	1.62	1.32	1.08	32.4	28.5	31.6	30.1	35.4
Marche	1.26	1.84	1.35	1.11	32.6	28.5	31.8	30.3	35.5
Lazio	1.31	1.69	1.35	1.11	32.8	28.5	32.0	30.4	35.6
Abruzzo	1.23	1.82	1.29	1.19	32.5	28.3	31.9	30.0	35.5
Molise	1.13	1.71	1.16	1.22	32.4	28.9	32.1	29.4	35.9
Campania	1.31	1.77	1.32	1.52	31.2	28.3	31.0	28.9	34.5
Puglia	1.26	1.87	1.28	1.38	31.6	27.6	31.4	29.1	34.8
Basilicata	1.12	1.80	1.15	1.31	32.7	27.6	32.3	29.6	36.2
Calabria	1.25	1.77	1.27	1.40	31.7	28.2	31.4	28.9	35.4
Sicilia	1.36	2.00	1.38	1.49	30.9	28.2	30.8	28.6	34.5
Sardegna	1.07	1.67	1.10	1.06	32.7	29.0	32.5	30.5	36.2
North-West	1.29	2.10	1.43	1.05	32.6	28.8	31.6	30.7	35.3
North-East	1.28	2.08	1.43	1.05	32.6	28.7	31.6	30.5	35.3
Centre	1.27	1.77	1.35	1.07	32.7	28.4	31.9	30.4	35.5
South	1.27	1.81	1.29	1.42	31.5	28.1	31.3	29	34.9
Islands	1.30	1.93	1.32	1.40	31.3	28.3	31.1	29.1	34.8
Italy	1.29	1.97	1.37	1.19	32.1	28.6	31.5	29.8	35.2

FIGURE 2. AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES. 1995 and 2014, values per 1,000 women



SUMMARY TABLE 6. TOP FIFTEEN NAMES FOR BABY BOYS AND GIRLS. 2014, absolute values, percentages and cumulative percentages

	Boys' baby names	absolute values	%	cumulative %	Girls' baby names	absolute values	%	cumulative %
1	FRANCESCO	10,316	4.05	4.05	SOFIA	7,353	3.06	3.06
2	ALESSANDRO	6,940	2.73	6.78	GIULIA	6,729	2.80	5.86
3	LORENZO	6,665	2.62	9.40	AURORA	5,709	2.38	8.24
4	ANDREA	6,270	2.46	11.87	GIORGIA	4,502	1.88	10.12
5	LEONARDO	6,079	2.39	14.25	MARTINA	4,268	1.78	11.90
6	MATTIA	6,073	2.39	16.64	EMMA	3,971	1.65	13.55
7	MATTEO	5,754	2.26	18.90	GRETA	3,926	1.64	15.18
8	GABRIELE	5,557	2.18	21.09	CHIARA	3,902	1.63	16.81
9	RICCARDO	4,533	1.78	22.87	SARA	3,766	1.57	18.38
10	TOMMASO	4,488	1.76	24.63	ALICE	3,589	1.49	19.87
11	DAVIDE	3,817	1.50	26.13	GAIA	3,391	1.41	21.28
12	GIUSEPPE	3,610	1.42	27.55	ANNA	3,267	1.36	22.65
13	ANTONIO	3,370	1.32	28.88	FRANCESCA	3,119	1.30	23.94
14	FEDERICO	3,294	1.29	30.17	GINEVRA	2,930	1.22	25.16
15	EDOARDO	3,290	1.29	31.46	NOEMI	2,848	1.19	26.35

SUMMARY TABLE 7. MOST POPULAR BABY NAME BY SEX AND REGION. 2014, absolute values and percentages

REGIONS	Most common boys' baby name	absolute values	%	Most common girls' baby name	absolute values	%
Piemonte	Francesco	545	3.12	Sofia	502	3.02
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	Leonardo	14	2.51	Sofia	18	3.48
Lombardia	Alessandro	1,321	3.05	Sofia	1,253	3.03
<i>Bolzano/Bozen</i>	<i>Alex</i>	63	2.23	<i>Anna</i>	74	2.74
<i>Trento</i>	Francesco	74	2.94	<i>Sofia</i>	73	3.11
Veneto	Francesco	653	3.15	Sofia	591	2.98
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	Francesco	149	3.13	Sofia	122	2.79
Liguria	Francesco	180	3.24	Sofia	168	3.27
Emilia-Romagna	Francesco	627	3.34	Sofia	604	3.41
Toscana	Lorenzo	569	3.83	Sofia	399	2.83
Umbria	Francesco	167	4.75	Sofia	134	3.87
Marche	Alessandro	222	3.61	Sofia	205	3.52
Lazio	Francesco	1,191	4.70	Giulia	871	3.67
Abruzzo	Francesco	259	5.06	Sofia	164	3.41
Molise	Francesco	54	4.94	Francesca	28	2.96
Campania	Francesco	1,515	5.74	Francesca	725	2.94
Puglia	Francesco	991	5.99	Giulia	440	2.86
Basilicata	Francesco	133	6.46	Francesca	68	3.34
Calabria	Francesco	592	6.94	Sofia	255	3.22
Sicilia	Francesco	1,000	4.43	Aurora	698	3.27
Sardegna	Francesco	317	5.48	Sofia	191	3.55
Italy	Francesco	10,316	4.05	Sofia	7,353	3.06

SUMMARY TABLE 8. TOP FIFTEEN NAMES FOR FOREIGN BABY BOYS AND GIRLS

2014, absolute values, percentages and cumulative percentages

	Boys' baby names	absolute values	%	cumulative %		Girls' baby names	absolute values	%	cumulative %
1	ADAM	597	1.6	1.6		SARA	499	1.4	1.4
2	RAYAN	359	0.9	2.5		SOFIA	456	1.3	2.7
3	YOUSSEF	286	0.8	3.3		AURORA	266	0.7	3.4
4	MOHAMED	285	0.8	4.1		MALAK	209	0.6	4.0
5	GABRIEL	280	0.7	4.8		NOEMI	209	0.6	4.6
6	MATTEO	265	0.7	5.5		MELISSA	203	0.6	5.2
7	DAVID	237	0.6	6.1		GIULIA	198	0.6	5.7
8	AMIR	221	0.6	6.7		YASMINE	195	0.5	6.3
9	KEVIN	199	0.5	7.2		EMMA	183	0.5	6.8
10	LEONARDO	192	0.5	7.7		EMILY	168	0.5	7.3
11	OMAR	181	0.5	8.2		AYA	168	0.5	7.7
12	DAVIDE	173	0.5	8.7		MARWA	164	0.5	8.2
13	DANIEL	172	0.5	9.1		ALESSIA	155	0.4	8.6
14	ALESSANDRO	166	0.4	9.6		MARIA	140	0.4	9.0
15	SAMUEL	149	0.4	10.0		ELENA	128	0.4	9.4

SUMMARY TABLE 9. TOP FIVE NAMES FOR FOREIGN BABY BOYS AND GIRLS BY CITIZENSHIP

2014, absolute values and percentages

CITIZENSHIP	Boys' baby names	absolute values	%	CITIZENSHIP	Girls' baby names	absolute values	%
ROMANIAN	DAVID	150	1.9	ROMANIAN	SOFIA	139	1.9
	GABRIEL	101	1.3		ALESSIA MARIA	97	1.3
	ALEXANDRU	101	1.3		GIULIA	90	1.2
	LUCA	97	1.2		SOFIA MARIA	89	1.2
	MATTEO	92	1.2		MARIA	65	0.9
MOROCCAN	ADAM	478	8.8	MOROCCAN	SARA	217	4.3
	RAYAN	297	5.4		MALAK	195	3.9
	YOUSSEF	197	3.6		MARWA	152	3.0
	AMIR	166	3.0		AYA	148	3.0
	MOHAMED	148	2.7		YASMINE	146	2.9
ALBANIAN	GABRIEL	98	2.2	ALBANIAN	NOEMI	160	3.8
	KEVIN	96	2.2		AURORA	149	3.6
	ANDREA	81	1.8		MELISSA	97	2.3
	MATTEO	72	1.6		EMMA	81	1.9
	NOEL	68	1.5		EMILY	80	1.9
CHINESE	KEVIN	34	1.4	CHINESE	EMILY	34	1.4
	KIMI	32	1.3		SOFIA	29	1.2
	MATTEO	31	1.2		ANGELA	23	1.0
	ANDREA	24	1.0		SERENA	20	0.8
	WILLIAM	23	0.9		GIOIA	19	0.8
Total		2,386				2,030	

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): 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 residence 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

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