

Final balance sheets of municipal governments

Year 2008

The analysis of municipal-level final balance certificates and local financing in particular falls within the context of Istat's statistical framework on general governments.

The estimations presented in the following statistical summary are based on information from Ministry of the Interior data banks.

Revenue accounts by economic category

The total revenue assessed by municipal governments during fiscal year 2008 was estimated at 83,375 million euros (Table 1). This general total does not include the *revenue of third-party contractors*. The total assessed revenue breaks down into 67.6 percent current returns, 22.2 percent capital revenue and the remaining 10.2 percent for revenue derived from the opening of lines of credit.

Relative to the data for 2007, tax assessments grew by 0.7 percent while total tax collection fell by 6.6 percent. Collections in accrual accounts dropped from 54,956 million euros in 2007 to 52,544 million euros in 2008 (-4.4 percent), while residual accounts dropped from 26,666 million euros to 23,705 million euros (-11.1 percent). Tax collection capacity in 2008, as measured by the ratio between taxes collected in accrual accounts and tax assessments, was equal to 63.0 percent (down from the previous year).

Analyzing the weights of each single entry relative to total tax assessments reveals an increase – with reference to the previous year - in both current revenues and opening of lines of credit (+4.0 and +2.7 percent, respectively), while capital revenue fell by 6.7 percentage points.

In 2008, the total for current revenue assessments was 56,381 million euros, reflecting a growth of 7.1 percent relative to the previous fiscal year. This result reflects the convergence of different dynamic behaviors by different components: tributary revenues fell by 10.5 percent, while non-tributary revenues and contributions and transfers grew by 20.9 and 20.4 percent, respectively.

The collection of current revenues remained stable (-0.1 percent). Within this category, only the revenues from contributions and transfers reflected an increase (+18.0 percent). In contrast both tributary (-12.4 percent) and non-tributary revenues (-4.4 percent) experienced decreases.

A total of 18,515 million euros of capital revenues were assessed, down by 22.6 percent relative to 2007. This figure breaks down into a decline of 50.7 percent in credit collection, 14.9 percent in asset transfers and 5.3 percent in transfers.

¹ The contraction in tributary revenue is mainly attributable to the adoption of decree no. 93 of 27 May 2008, which ruled that starting in the year 2008, real estate properties that are designated as primary dwellings shall be exempt from municipal property taxes. Each municipal government was then compensated for the drop in revenue out of a dedicated fund established by the Ministry of the Interior during the forecasting phase.

Collections of capital revenues reached 17,175 million euros, reflecting a 21.1 percent decline relative to 2007. This can mostly be attributed to the reductions recorded in credit collection (-47.2 percent), asset transfers (-8.0 percent) and by transfer-derived revenues (-5.5 percent).

In 2008 the average per capita value of current revenues assessed at the national level (Table 2) was 938.97 euros per inhabitant, which was up 55.87 euros over the previous year's value. Municipal governments in the northern and central regions, with the exception of those located in Emilia-Romagna, Piemonte, Umbria, Lombardia, Marche and Veneto, registered per capita levels that were above the national average. The values registered in the South and the Islands fell below this threshold with 709.69 euros per inhabitant in the municipalities of Puglia representing the lowest value. The municipal governments of Sicilia, Molise and Sardegna, however, represent exceptions with per capita values above the national average of 953.22, 980.53 and 1,130.71 euros, respectively.

Expenditure account by economic category

In 2008 the overall total for expenditure commitments was estimated to be 80,955 million euros (Table 3). Total payments amounted to 75,569 million euros, of which 48,808 was accrual accounts with a consequent spending capacity of 62.1 percent. Relative to 2007, commitments fell by 2.6 percent and payments by 5.7 percent, with spending capacity dropping by 2.5 percentage points. Current expenditure commitments totaled to 50,455 million euros, with 36,241 million euros of payments on accrual accounts. Spending capacity, therefore, was equal to 71.8 percent, reflecting a slight increase over the previous year. In comparison to 2007, current commitments grew by 2.1 percent and current payments by 3.2 percent.

Commitments in capital accounts amounted to 23,762 million euros, with corresponding accrual payments of 6,432 million euros. This resulted in a spending capacity of 27.1 percent, which is 15.6 percentage points lower than the value reported the previous year. Relative to 2007, commitments and payments on capital accounts presented decreases of 14.4 percent and 23.6 percent, respectively.

In 2008, current per capita expenditures were 840.28 euros at the national level (Table 4), reflecting an increase of 11.66 euros relative to the previous fiscal year. The values recorded for municipal governments in the North and Centre were higher than the national average, with the exception of those in Veneto (723.78 euros), Marche (813.01 euros), Lombardia (831.94 euros) and Lazio (788.18 euros).

In the northern regions, the highest levels of per capita expenditures were found in the municipal governments of the autonomous regions with special statutes and the autonomous Provinces – Valle d'Aosta-Vallée d'Aoste (1,558.94 euros) and Trentino-Alto Adige (1,218.80 euros). From among the regions with ordinary statutes there was Liguria (1,904.94 euros). The per capita values for all southern regions (except for regions with special statutes), on the other hand, all fell below the national average except for the municipal governments of Molise, which registered an average value of 861.15 euros (which is above the national average). The lowest value (671.97 euros per inhabitant) was recorded in the municipalities of Puglia.

Expenditure accounts by functional category

Data regarding the final expenditures (including both current and capital account expenditures) of municipal governments were also analyzed in terms of the functional category employed in the final balance sheets (Table 5).

As witnessed in previous fiscal years, 2008 expenditures for the general administration function accounted for the largest proportion of final commitments (31.5 percent), which nevertheless reflects a 4.0 percentage

point decline relative to 2007. When combined with expenditures for territorial and environmental management (19.2 percent), this grouping represents more than half of the final municipal government expenditures. As in previous years, significant proportions of expenditures were also designated for the road condition and transport (14.5 percent) function, the social sector (12.4 percent) and public education (9.1 percent). The residual 13.3 percent was divided among the other functions that were taken into consideration. As a whole, the final expenditures committed by municipalities exhibited a 3.8 percent decrease relative to 2007.

Economic-structural indicators

To facilitate the analysis of results related to the economic-financial management of municipal governments, different economic-structural indicators were disaggregated by region and demographic size class (Table 6).

This involves composition ratios that use economic aggregates that refer to assessments of revenue and expenditure commitments.

For municipal governments in Italy as a whole, the average **degree of taxation autonomy** was 36.3 percent (-7.2 percentage points relative to the previous year).

The **degree of financial autonomy**, equal to 61.4 percent at the national level, also showed a decrease relative to 2007 (65.6 percent for the 2007 fiscal year).

As for the **degree of tax dependence**, 2008 exhibited growth relative to previous fiscal years. On average, 26.7 percent of the current revenues of Italian municipal governments came from state contributions and transfers (+4.0 percentage points relative to 2007).

The **degree of structural rigidity** of municipal expenditures was equal to 40.9 percent on average, which represents a decrease relative to 2007 (41.8 percent).

Lastly, **the incidence of personal expenditures** on current municipal revenue, equal to 28.9 percent at the Italian level, showed a decline relative to the previous fiscal year.

Table 1 - Assessments, collections (in millions of euros) and collection capacity (percentage) for municipal Governments by item - Years 2007 and 2008 (provisional data; absolute values in millions of euros)

ITEMS		ASSESSI	MENTS		COLLECTIONS (a)				COLLECTION CAPACITY (b)	
	2007	2008	var %	comp %	2007	2008	var %	comp %	2007	2008
Current revenue	52,650	56,381	7.1	67.6	51,652	51,576	-0.1	67.6	70.1	69.7
Tributary revenue	22,886	20,489	-10.5	24.6	22,795	19,973	-12.4	26.2	66.5	67.8
Revenue from contributions and transfers	18,094	21,786	20.4	26.1	17,912	21,137	18.0	27.7	79.9	82.7
Non-tributary revenue	11,670	14,106	20.9	16.9	10,945	10,467	-4.4	13,7	62,1	52,3
Capital accounts revenue	23,927	18,515	-22.6	22.2	21,771	17.175	-21.1	22.5	61.8	48.9
Asset transfers	2,503	2,129	-14.9	2.6	2,251	2.071	-8.0	2.7	63.5	62.3
Transfers	12,818	12,141	-5.3	14.6	11,491	10.865	-5.5	14.2	46.3	41.3
Credit collections	8,606	4,244	-50.7	5.1	8,029	4.239	-47.2	5.6	84.4	64.0
Opening of lines of credit	6,184	8,479	37.1	10.2	8,199	7.497	-8.6	9.9	52.5	49.5
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE	82,761	83,375	0.7	100.0	81,622	76.249	-6.6	100.0	66.4	63.0

⁽a) Includes collections in accrual and residual accounts.

⁽b) The collection capacity is the percentage ratio between the collections in accrual accounts and assessments.

Table 2 - Current revenue of municipal Governments by category and region. Year 2008 - Assessments (provisional data; absolute values in millions of euros; per capita values in euros)

550,010	TRIBUTARY R	TRIBUTARY REVENUE		ONS AND ERS	NON-TRIE REVE		TOTAL		
REGIONS	Absolute	Per capita	Absolute	Per capita	Absolute	Per capita	Absolute	Per capita	
	values	values	values	values	values	values	values	values	
Piemonte	1,627	367.08	1,334	300.89	923	208.17	3,884	876.15	
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	54	427.04	131	1,031.70	41	324.48	227	1,783.23	
Lombardia	3,404	349.40	2,553	262.08	2,468	253.28	8,425	864.76	
Liguria	798	494.31	671	415.69	399	247.20	1,869	1,157.21	
Trentino-Alto Adige	223	218.66	792	777.33	470	460.96	1.,484	1,456.95	
Bolzano/Bozen	112	224.76	388	778.49	245	490.76	745	1,494.01	
Trento	111	212.81	403	776.21	225	432.36	739	1,421.39	
Veneto	1,636	334.77	1,256	257.01	881	180.33	3.772	772.12	
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	384	312.19	785	637.53	322	261.41	1.491	1,211.13	
Emilia-Romagna	1,670	384.93	1,153	265.78	1,148	264.54	3.970	915.25	
Toscana	1,348	363.44	1,111	299.69	1,035	279.01	3.493	942.13	
Umbria	296	331.50	321	358.46	162	181.23	779	871.19	
Marche	561	357.54	450	286.92	332	211.81	1.344	856.27	
Lazio	1,988	353.37	2,357	418.85	3,341	593.69	7.686	1,365.91	
Abruzzo	494	370.36	346	259.12	197	147.65	1.037	777.14	
Molise	100	311.65	149	463.14	66	205.74	315	980.53	
Campania	1,918	330.04	2,219	381,80	831	142.98	4.969	854.81	
Puglia	1,399	342.82	1,169	286.64	327	80.23	2.895	709.69	
Basilicata	160	270.36	240	405,58	72	121.87	471	797.81	
Calabria	551	274.42	724	360.26	303	151.02	1,578	785.70	
Sicilia	1,330	263.99	2,929	581.36	543	107.88	4,802	953.22	
Sardegna	547	327.46	1,097	656,45	245	146.80	1,889	1,130.71	
ITALY	20,489	341.23	21,786	362.82	14,106	234.92	56,381	938.97	

Table 3 – Commitments, payments (in millions of euros) and spending capacity (percentage) of municipal Governments by category. Years 2007 and 2008 (provisional data; absolute values in millions of euros)

ITEMS		соммітм	ENTS			PAYMENTS	SPENDING CAPACITY (b)			
	2007	2008	var %	comp %	2007	2008	var %	comp %	2007	2008
Current expenditures	49,403	50,455	2.1	62.3	46,376	47,851	3.2	63.3	71.6	71.8
Personnel	16,092	16,300	1.3	20.1	15,463	16,327	5.6	21.6	88.7	90.3
Purchase of goods and services	22,953	23,750	3.5	29.3	21,252	21,641	1.8	28.6	60.8	60.3
Transfers Passive interest and various	5,420	5,597	3.3	6.9	4,923	5,180	5.2	6.9	56.4	56.8
financial burdens	2,775	2,671	-3.7	3.3	2,861	2,654	-7.2	3.5	97.6	97.6
Other current expenses (c)	2,163	2,137	-1.2	2.6	1,877	2,050	9.2	2.7	64.1	66.2
Capital accounts expenses	27,755	23,762	-14.4	29.4	27,534	21,038	-23.6	27.8	42.7	27.1
Investments in public works	15,451	16,244	5.1	20.1	15,124	14,186	-6.2	18.8	13.4	10.8
Furniture, equipment, etc.	908	966	6.4	1.2	1,007	806	-19.9	1.1	30.9	21.7
Capital transfers	2,067	1,423	-31.2	1.8	2,140	1,293	-39.6	1.7	51.7	27.1
Investments and Conferments	389	522	34.3	0.6	432	505	16.9	0.7	34.7	48.6
Other capital accounts expenditures Loan repayment TOTAL GENERAL EXPENDITURES	8,940 5,942	4,606 6,739	-48.5 13.4	5.7 8.3	8,831 6,223	4,248 6,680	-51.9 7.3	5.6 8.9	92.7 91.8	83.1 91.0
(d)	83,100	80,955	-2.6	100.0	80,133	75,569	-5.7	100.0	64.6	62.1

⁽a) This item includes fee payments on accrual and residual accounts.
(b) Spending capacity is calculated as the percentage ratio between payments on accrual accounts and commitments.
(c) Includes depreciation as well.
(d) As a net of clearing accounts.

Table 4 - Current expenditures of municipal Governments by category and region. Commitments - Year 2008 (provisional data; absolute values in millions of euros; per capita values in euros)

REGION —	PERSO EXPENDI	NNEL	EXPENDITU PURCHASE (IRES FOR OF GOODS	OTHER CI EXPENDI	JRRENT	TOTAL		
NEO!O!	Absolute Per capita		Absolute	Per capita	Absolute	Per capita	Absolute	Per capita	
	values	values	values	values	values	values	values	values	
Piemonte	1,222	275.77	1.684	379.83	831	187.59	3,738	843.19	
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	60	476.11	96	756.53	41	326.30	198	1,558.94	
Lombardia	2,366	242.85	4.090	419.82	1,649	169.27	8,105	831.94	
Liguria	572	353.95	703	435.58	493	305.42	1,768	1,094.94	
Trentino-Alto Adige	403	395.64	480	470.93	359	352.23	1,242	1,218.80	
Bolzano/Bozen	184	368.67	191	382.60	229	458.66	604	1,209.93	
Trento	219	421.52	289	555.70	130	250.09	638	1,227.30	
Veneto	1,074	219.92	1.623	332.28	838	171.58	3,536	723.78	
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	413	335.84	610	495.26	310	251.94	1,333	1,083.03	
Emilia-Romagna	1,260	290.42	1.713	394.94	868	200.15	3,841	885.51	
Toscana	1,109	298.97	1.495	403.15	712	191.98	3,315	894.11	
Umbria	246	274.67	363	405.66	146	163.67	755	844.00	
Marche	406	258.55	628	400.04	242	154.43	1,276	813.01	
Lazio	1,403	249.40	2.316	411.66	715	127.12	4,435	788.18	
Abruzzo	310	232.22	474	355.44	190	142.23	974	729.90	
Molise	89	278.93	128	398.80	59	183.41	276	861.15	
Campania	1,596	274.62	2.314	398.07	885	152.27	4,795	824.95	
Puglia	779	191.06	1.452	355.86	510	125.05	2,741	671.97	
Basilicata	150	253.29	207	350.44	90	152.88	447	756.61	
Calabria	493	245.30	705	350.87	292	145.19	1,489	741.36	
Sicilia	1,896	376.40	1.775	352.36	798	158.41	4,469	887.17	
Sardegna	451	270.02	894	535.23	374	223.89	1,720	1,029.14	
ITALY	16,300	271.46	23.750	395.54	10,405	173.28	50,455	840.28	

Table 5 - Municipal Government expenditures by geographical area and function. Years 2007 and 2008 -Commitments (provisional data, percentage composition).

FUNCTIONS -	NORTH-WEST		NORTH-EAST		CENTER		SOUTH		ITALY	
TONOTIONS	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Administration, management and control (a)	47.5	37.6	30.8	30.7	28.6	26.4	30.1	29.5	35.5	31.5
Justice	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.5
Local police	3.2	3.8	3.2	3.4	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.5	3.9	4.1
Public education	7.9	9.5	11.0	11.3	9.2	10.2	6.7	6.8	8.4	9.1
Culture and cultural goods	2.7	3.3	4.6	4.6	3.7	3.8	2.6	2.2	3.2	3.3
Sports and recreation	1.9	2.1	3.7	3.6	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.2
Tourism	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.8
Movement and transport Territorial and environmental	10.4	12.2	14.0	13.4	20.7	19.7	13.8	13.9	14.2	14.5
management	12.6	15.4	13.5	13.4	16.9	18.6	26.9	26.8	17.8	19.2
Social sector	10.8	12.8	15.0	15.6	11.6	12.1	9.7	10.1	11.4	12.4
Economic development	0.8	8.0	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.2
Manufacturing services	1.1	1.3	1.8	1.7	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.3
TOTAL (b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

⁽a) The local authorities of Valle d'Aosta-Vallée d'Aoste did not supply a functional disaggregation of final expenditures. For analytical purposes, all expenditures were attributed to the general administration and control functions.

(b) This is different than the total reported in table 3 because it is the net of loan repayment expenditures.

Table 6 - Structural-economic indicators for municipal Governments by region. Years 2007 and 2008 (provisional data; percentage values)

REGIONS	of ta	Degree of tax autonomy		Degree of financial autonomy		Degree of tax dependence		Degree of structural rigidity		Incidence of personnel expenses	
-	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	
Piemonte	49.3	41.9	72.1	65.7	21.3	27.7	43.0	52.9	31.2	31.5	
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	26.7	23.9	44.8	42.1	0.9	2.4	29.4	31.0	25.3	26.7	
Lombardia	46.6	40.4	75.2	69.7	19.9	25.2	35.4	35.4	27.9	28.1	
Liguria	51.3	42.7	72.4	64.1	18.4	24.9	37.9	39.6	31.2	30.6	
Trentino-Alto Adige	17.2	15.0	48.4	46.6	0.1	0.6	40.5	37.7	29.5	27.2	
Bolzano/Bozen	17.1	15.0	47.2	47.9	0.0	0.1	41.2	37.2	28.5	24.7	
Trento	17.3	15.0	49.5	45.4	0.1	1.2	39.8	38.2	30.5	29.7	
Veneto	50.5	43.4	73.5	66.7	19.6	25.9	36.6	39.4	27.9	28.5	
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	31.7	25.8	53.2	47.4	1.4	1.7	37.4	36.8	28.6	27.7	
Emilia-Romagna	51.0	42.1	78.4	71.0	16.4	23.3	42.9	40.3	32.3	31.7	
Toscana	46.9	38.6	75.7	68.2	18.2	25.5	46.1	44.4	31.6	31.7	
Umbria	45.6	38.1	65.5	58.9	23.2	29.5	44.4	54.3	31.3	31.5	
Marche	46.5	41.8	70.8	66.5	20.1	24.3	43.1	42.6	30.3	30.2	
Lazio	42.9	25.9	67.8	69.3	26.3	26.0	39.1	23.2	30.1	18.3	
Abruzzo	50.9	47.7	70.2	66.7	24.2	27.6	41.8	42.4	30.0	29.9	
Molise	34.8	31.8	57.4	52.8	26.6	26.6	34.8	37.5	28.7	28.4	
Campania	41.1	38.6	59.3	55.3	33.3	37.1	41.7	45.4	31.4	32.1	
Puglia	52.6	48.3	62.3	59.6	28.6	32.4	35.8	39.0	26.9	26.9	
Basilicata	36.1	33.9	52.2	49.2	35.5	37.3	51.3	56.9	31.5	31.7	
Calabria	36.7	34.9	56.1	54.1	35.3	36.7	47.8	53.3	31.1	31.2	
Sicilia	29.9	27.7	41.5	39.0	32.5	35.4	66.5	64.9	40.1	39.5	
Sardegna	32.9	29.0	46.1	41.9	19.5	21.3	27.3	26.8	24.1	23.9	
ITALY	43.5	36.3	65.6	61.4	22.7	26.7	41.8	40.9	30.6	28.9	

^{1 -} Degree of tax autonomy = tributary revenue / current revenue. 2 - Degree of financial autonomy = (tributary revenue + non-tributary revenue) / current revenue. 3 - Degree of tax dependence = contributions and current state transfers / current revenues. 4 - Degree of structural rigidity = (personnel expenses + loan repayments) / current revenue. 5 - Incidence of personnel expenses = personnel expenses / current revenue.

Information note

The data source for this statistical summary is the certified balance sheet that all municipal governments are required to publish on an annual basis to certify their primary accounting data for the previous fiscal year. The certification of municipal balance sheets, the structure of which is defined in *Presidential Decree no.194 of 31 January 1996*, details the financial flows of salaries and cash flow for the main economic categories and revenue and expenditure items.

For fiscal year 2008, data for these provisional estimations were available for 7,470 municipal governments. Value estimations for the universe of municipalities were based on resident populations as of 31.12.2008, using coefficients of expansion for each resident population class of each region (Table 7).

Table 7 – Municipal governments and the degree of data collection coverage for final municipal balance sheets. Year 2008

	Total no. of municipalities	No. of municipal respondents	Degree of municipal coverage	Total Population (D)	Population of municipal respondents (E)	Degree of population coverage
REGION	(A)	(B)	C=(B/A*100)		reopendente (2)	F=(E/D*100)
Piemonte	1,206	1,128	93.53	4,432,571	4,015,727	90.60
Valle d'Aosta-Vallée d'Aoste	74	74	100.00	127,065	127,065	100.00
Lombardia	1,546	1,444	93.40	9,742,676	9,190,192	94.33
Liguria	235	231	98.30	1,615,064	1,598,323	98.96
Trentino-Alto Adige	339	320	94.40	1,018,657	978,657	96.07
Veneto	581	581	100.00	4,885,548	4,885,548	100.00
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	219	215	98.17	1,230,936	1,223,414	99.39
Emilia-Romagna	341	340	99.71	4,337,979	4,329,364	99.80
Toscana	287	287	100.00	3,707,818	3,707,818	100.00
Umbria	92	92	100.00	894,222	894,222	100.00
Marche	246	243	98.78	1,569,578	1,548,662	98.67
Lazio	378	298	78.84	5,626,710	5,183,129	92.12
Abruzzo	305	239	78.36	1,334,675	1,127,244	84.46
Molise	136	92	67.65	320,795	249,286	77.71
Campania	551	466	84.57	5,812,962	5,144,940	88.51
Puglia	258	228	88.37	4,079,702	3,221,114	78.95
Basilicata	131	124	94.66	590,601	560,470	94.90
Calabria	409	380	92.91	2,008,709	1,916,003	95.38
Sicilia	390	351	90.00	5,037,799	4,683,135	92.96
Sardegna	377	337	89.39	1,671,001	1,488,796	89.10
ITALY	8,101	7,470	92.21	60,045,068	56,073,109	93.39

Contact persons:

ISTAT – Italian National Institute of Statistics Statistics on public and private institutions Via Tuscolana, 1788 – 00173 Rome Roberta Di Stefano

ph. + 39 06 4673.6402