

Labour force survey

Average 2009

Istat makes available the results of the 2009 average labor force survey. This summary report examines regional data (Nuts II) on three key indicators for the analysis of participation in the labour market: employment, unemployment and inactivity rates. Tables provide a wide range of information down to provincial level (Nuts III). The provincial estimates from labour force survey should be used with caution, and in this regard a spreadsheet is provided to calculate the sampling error and confidence intervals (in Italian only). For example, in relation to the growth in employment recorded in several provinces between 2008 and 2009, it should be noted that the confidence intervals overlap, hence the changes are not statistically significant.

Employment rate

In 2009, the national employment rate in the 15-64 age group (the ratio between employed persons and the population aged 15-64) was 57.5% (-1.2 percentage points on a yearly basis). This value was more than 7 percentage points lower than the EU average (64.6%).

At regional level (Table 1), the highest employment rates were recorded in Emilia-Romagna and Trentino-Alto Adige (68.5% in both cases) and Valle d'Aosta (67.0), while the lowest were in Campania (40.8%), Calabria (43.1%) and Sicilia (43.5%).

Table 1 – Employment rate (15-64 years) by sex and region – Year 2009 (*percentages*)

REGIONS	Total	Males	Females
Piemonte	64.0	72.3	55.7
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	67.0	74.5	59.2
Lombardia	65.8	75.2	56.1
Trentino-Alto Adige	68.5	76.8	60.0
Veneto	64.6	75.1	53.9
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	63.4	72.6	54.1
Liguria	63.5	72.2	54.9
Emilia-Romagna	68.5	75.5	61.5
Toscana	64.8	74.3	55.4
Umbria	63.0	72.7	53.4
Marche	63.8	72.0	55.4
Lazio	59.4	70.7	48.6
Abruzzo	55.7	68.3	43.2
Molise	52.3	63.8	40.6
Campania	40.8	55.7	26.3
Puglia	44.9	61.0	29.2
Basilicata	48.5	61.3	35.6
Calabria	43.1	56.2	30.2
Sicilia	43.5	58.5	29.1
Sardegna	50.8	61.4	40.2
ITALY	57.5	68.6	46.4

In 2009 the estimated employment rates for women were highest in Emilia-Romagna, Trentino-Alto Adige and Valle d'Aosta, and the first two regions also recorded the highest rates for men. In all southern regions female employment rates were relatively low, and in all cases below the national average. In Campania, Sicilia, Puglia and Calabria, estimates indicate that the proportion of employed women aged 15-64 was less than half that in Emilia-Romagna. In Trentino-Alto Adige and Emilia-Romagna, over seven men out of ten aged 15 to 64 were employed, compared to slightly over 5 in Campania and Calabria.

Provincial employment rates were also higher in the North. The highest rates were those in the provinces of Bolzano, Bologna and Reggio Emilia, where about seven persons out of ten aged 15-64 were employed. Conversely, the lowest employment rates were recorded in the southern provinces only. In particular, in Crotona, Caserta and Napoli less than four people in ten aged 15-64 were employed. The female employment rate in most southern provinces was well below the corresponding national average: in Crotona only about two women in ten were employed.

In terms of sector of economic activity (Table 2), the regions with the highest rate of employed persons in agriculture were Calabria (9.5% of the region's total employed labour force), Puglia (8.7%), Basilicata (7.6%), Sicilia (7.2%) and Molise (6.9%).

Table 2 – Share of employed persons by economic activity sector and region – Year 2009 (percentage incidence)

REGIONS	Agriculture	Industry	Services
Piemonte	3.9	32.8	63.4
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	4.0	23.5	72.4
Lombardia	1.7	35.6	62.7
Trentino-Alto Adige	5.2	25.5	69.2
Veneto	2.8	38.3	58.9
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	2.2	34.1	63.7
Liguria	2.1	19.8	78.1
Emilia-Romagna	4.1	33.9	62.0
Toscana	3.4	29.3	67.3
Umbria	4.3	30.5	65.2
Marche	2.6	40.3	57.1
Lazio	1.9	19.0	79.1
Abruzzo	3.6	30.3	66.1
Molise	6.9	28.2	64.9
Campania	4.1	23.5	72.4
Puglia	8.7	24.5	66.8
Basilicata	7.6	26.4	66.0
Calabria	9.5	18.7	71.8
Sicilia	7.2	18.0	74.7
Sardegna	5.8	20.7	73.5
ITALY	3.8	29.2	67.0

The regions with the highest proportions of employed persons in industry were Marche (40.3%), Veneto (38.3%) and Lombardia (35.6%). Abruzzo was the only region in the South with a percentage of employed (30.3%) working in industry near the national average. Lastly, Lazio (79.1%), Liguria (78.1%), Sicilia (74.7%) and Sardegna (73.5%) emerged as having the highest proportion of employed persons in the service sector compared to a national average of 67.0%.

Unemployment rate

Between 2008 and 2009, the unemployment rate in Italy rose from 6.7% to 7.8% compared to 8.9% in the EU-27. In comparison with the EU, the lower unemployment rate in Italy is associated with a higher inactivity rate: 37.6% as opposed to an EU average of 28.9%.

The regions with the highest unemployment rates were Sicilia (13.9%), Sardegna (13.3%) and Campania (12.9%); those with the lowest were Trentino-Alto Adige (3.2%) and Valle d'Aosta (4.4% - Table 3). Compared to 2008, Calabria was the only region in the South not to record an increase in unemployment. Data broken down by gender indicate that Sicilia recorded the highest unemployment rate both for males and females, whereas the rate for both sexes was lowest in Trentino-Alto Adige.

At provincial level, the highest total unemployment rates emerged in the South and the Island area: Sassari, Palermo and Agrigento exceeded 17%. Provinces in the North indicated significantly lower unemployment rates.

Table 3 – Unemployment rate by sex and region – Year 2009 (percentages)

REGIONS	Total	Males	Females
Piemonte	6.8	6.1	7.8
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	4.4	3.5	5.6
Lombardia	5.4	4.6	6.4
Trentino-Alto Adige	3.2	2.6	4.0
Veneto	4.8	3.6	6.4
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	5.3	4.5	6.4
Liguria	5.7	4.6	7.1
Emilia-Romagna	4.8	4.2	5.5
Toscana	5.8	4.2	7.8
Umbria	6.7	4.7	9.3
Marche	6.6	6.2	7.2
Lazio	8.5	6.8	10.8
Abruzzo	8.1	6.5	10.5
Molise	9.1	7.8	11.0
Campania	12.9	11.4	16.0
Puglia	12.6	10.8	16.2
Basilicata	11.2	9.6	13.9
Calabria	11.3	9.9	13.9
Sicilia	13.9	12.4	16.6
Sardegna	13.3	11.5	16.0
ITALY	7.8	6.8	9.3

Analysis indicates that the unemployment rate for young persons rose from 21.3% in 2008 to 25.4% in 2009. In terms of geographical distribution, the southern regions recorded the highest rates, particularly Sardegna, Sicilia and Basilicata (with figures of 44.7%, 38.5% and 38.3% respectively - Table 4). Lazio was the only region of the Centre-North area to present an unemployment rate above the national average.

The male unemployment rate was highest in Sardegna, standing at five times that in Trentino-Alto Adige. In three southern regions (Basilicata, Sardegna, Sicilia) the unemployment rate for young females was well over 40%, reaching almost 50% in Basilicata.

Table 4 – Unemployment rate (15-24 years) by sex and region – Year 2009 (percentages)

REGIONS	Total	Males	Females
Piemonte	24.1	20.8	29.2
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	17.5	14.6	21.3
Lombardia	18.5	17.7	19.7
Trentino-Alto Adige	10.1	8.6	12.3
Veneto	14.4	11.7	17.9
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	18.9	13.7	27.4
Liguria	18.8	18.4	19.2
Emilia-Romagna	18.3	16.5	20.8
Toscana	17.8	16.4	19.7
Umbria	19.6	14.2	28.8
Marche	22.6	22.6	22.6
Lazio	30.6	26.3	36.4
Abruzzo	24.0	19.2	32.6
Molise	27.1	25.7	29.3
Campania	38.1	35.9	41.7
Puglia	32.6	30.0	36.6
Basilicata	38.3	31.9	49.6
Calabria	31.8	27.1	39.8
Sicilia	38.5	35.4	44.2
Sardegna	44.7	43.3	46.6
ITALY	25.4	23.3	28.7

Inactivity rate

In 2009, the inactivity rate among persons aged 15-64 – the ratio between the non-labour force and the overall population in the same age group – stood at 37.6%, six tenths of a point more than in 2008. This value was reconfirmed as very high in all southern regions; by contrast, the regions with the lowest values were Emilia-Romagna, Trentino-Alto Adige and Valle d'Aosta with less than three inactive persons in ten aged 15-64 (Table 5).

In Calabria and Campania almost four males out of ten of working age were classified among the non-labour force, while the corresponding figure for Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy and Trentino-Alto Adige was slightly over 21%. The inactivity rate emerged as particularly high among females, especially in the South where it was consistently over 50%. The value for Campania (68.7%) was almost double that in Emilia-Romagna (34.9%).

At provincial level, the highest inactivity rates could be observed in the provinces with the lower employment rates. In Crotona and Caserta over four males of working age in ten were inactive. Further, in Crotona three females of working age in four did not participate in the labour market – a value more than double that recorded in Bologna. The provinces with the lowest inactivity rates were again those with the highest employment rates. In Reggio Emilia, Bologna, Bolzano and Ferrara slightly over a quarter of the population aged 15-64 was inactive. In Bologna, Ferrara and Ravenna about one third of females of working age did not participate in the labour market.

Table 5 – Inactivity rate (15-64 years) by sex and region – Year 2009 (percentages)

REGIONS	Total	Males	Females
Piemonte	31.2	22.9	39.5
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	29.9	22.7	37.3
Lombardia	30.4	21.1	40.0
Trentino-Alto Adige	29.2	21.1	37.5
Veneto	32.1	22.1	42.4
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	33.0	23.9	42.2
Liguria	32.6	24.2	40.9
Emilia-Romagna	28.0	21.1	34.9
Toscana	31.1	22.4	39.8
Umbria	32.4	23.7	41.0
Marche	31.6	23.1	40.2
Lazio	35.0	24.1	45.5
Abruzzo	39.3	26.9	51.7
Molise	42.4	30.6	54.3
Campania	53.1	37.1	68.7
Puglia	48.5	31.5	65.1
Basilicata	45.4	32.1	58.6
Calabria	51.3	37.5	64.9
Sicilia	49.4	33.1	65.1
Sardegna	41.3	30.5	52.1
ITALY	37.6	26.3	48.9

Glossary

Labour force: persons in employment and unemployed persons.

Employed persons: persons aged 15 and over who when asked about their occupational condition declare:

- they are in employment although in the week of reference they did not perform any working activity (declared employed persons);
- they are in a condition other than employment but in the week of reference they worked at least one hour (other persons engaged in working activity).

Unemployed persons: persons aged 15 and over who declare:

- they are in a condition other than employment;
- they did not work any hours in the reference week;
- they are seeking work;
- they conducted at least one job search action in the four weeks preceding the interview;
- they are willing to start a job immediately if offered to them.

Employment rate: ratio between employed persons aged 15 and over and the corresponding reference population.

Unemployment rate: ratio between unemployed persons aged 15 and over and the corresponding labour force.

Inactivity rate: ratio between persons aged 15 and over who are not in labour force and the corresponding reference population. The sum of the inactivity rate and the activity rate is equal to 100 percent.

Information notes

The sample survey on the labour force primarily aims to estimate the main aggregates in the labour supply. The survey is designed to provide quarterly estimates at regional level and year average estimates at provincial level.

The characteristics of the survey are described in detail in the book “*Labour force survey: contents, methodologies, organisation*” which can be accessed online at the address http://www.istat.it/dati/catalogo/20060830_00/

Note that due to the increase in the school leaving age (Law 296/2006) introduced in late 2007, as of 2008 data on persons aged 15 do not include the employed or unemployed. Unemployment rates continue to refer to the population of working age in the 15-64 bracket pursuant to EU regulations and the goals set for 2010 at the Lisbon Summit within the framework of the European Employment Strategy. Traditionally, the number of 15-year-olds in or seeking employment is entirely negligible. As such, the change in regulations does not lead to any interruption in the time series data on indicators for the population aged 15-64.

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