

Demographic indicators

Year 2009

Istat releases nowcasts of the main demographic indicators for the year 2009 with national, regional and provincial details. It is worth noting that the indicators published here are provisional in nature due to the errors of estimation associated with them, and that the margin of error is even greater for territory-based analyses.

During the course of 2009, continued population growth was mostly due to the migration balance, which once again was extremely positive while the natural population balance was negative. More deaths were recorded than in the past, and there were fewer births compared to 2008.

For the third consecutive year, the natural dynamic (difference between births and deaths) registered a negative balance of -17,700 units. The estimated number of births was 570,000 units, resulting in a birth rate of 9.5 per thousand residents. There were about 6,700 fewer births than in 2008. In 2009, the average number of children per woman (TFR - total fertility rate) was 1.41, which is just under the 1.42 of 2008.

The number of deaths touches on 588,000 units for a death rate of 9.8 per thousand. The population revealed additional progress in terms of average life span. More specifically, the 2009 life expectancy at birth was 78.9 years for men and 84.2 years for women. Relative to the 2007 values an increase of 0.2 years was found for both men and women. In 1979 the gender discrepancy was 6.9 years, representing the highest female advantage ever recorded, but this difference has now decreased to 5.3 years.

The migration dynamic accounted for the greatest contribution to demographic growth in our country. In 2009, the migration balance was around 360,000 units. This gives a total migration rate of 6 per thousand that reflects a decrease compared to 2008, for which the migration balance was +434,000 units with a rate of 7.3 per thousand.

The total population balance was positive for the year 2009 as well, thanks in large part to the migration dynamic. After the historic threshold of 60 million residents was passed at the end of 2008, the year 2009 showed a further increase of 342,000 units for a rate of 5.7 per thousand inhabitants (as compared to 7.1 in 2008), summing to a total of 60,387,000 residents as of the end of 2009.

Foreign residents in Italy accounted for approximately 4,279,000 units as of 1 January 2010, registering an increase of 388,000 units compared to 1 January 2009. The foreign resident population, therefore, makes up 7.1% of the total population (6.5% in 2008).

The population of Italian citizens showed a decrease for the third consecutive year. As a whole, resident Italians added up to 56,108,000 units as of 1 January 2010, showing a contraction of 0.8 per thousand, or about 46,000 units less than the previous year.

Italy has an increasingly elderly population. On 1 January 2010, individuals aged 65 years and over represented 20.2% of the population (as compared to 18.1% in 2000), while minors represented only 16.9% (17.5% in 2000). Youths aged 14 and under represented 14% (14.3% in 2000), and the population in the 15-64 year age range accounted for 65.8% (67.6% in 2000).

The immigrant presence restored some equilibrium to the age-based structure of the population, in the sense that it bridged some of the generation gaps left by native Italians. The mean age of foreign residents in Italy, in fact, is only 31.5 years. This age structure is much younger than that represented by resident Italian citizens (44.2 years). Out of the approximately 4.3 million residents as of 1 January 2010, 22% are aged 17 or younger and 70% are aged 39 or younger. The analogous percentages for resident Italians are 17% and 43%, respectively. The incidence of the foreign presence varies with age and concentrates primarily on minors and the working-age population. Foreign minors account for 9.2% of the total with an average incidence rate of 7.1%, while those between the ages of 18 and 39 account for 12.1%.

Main demographic indicators. Year 2009 - Italy

Birth rate (per 1,000)	9.5
Death rate (per 1,000)	9.8
Natural balance (per 1,000)	-0.3
Rate of internal migration and other reasons (per 1,000)	-0.4
Net migration rate from abroad (per 1,000)	6.4
Total migration rate (per 1,000)	6.0
Population growth rate (per 1,000)	5.7
Total fertility rate	1.41
Mean age at childbearing (years and tenths of years)	31.2
Life expectancy at birth - men (years and tenths of years)	78.9
Life expectancy at birth - women (years and tenths of years)	84.2
Life expectancy at age 65 - men (years and tenths of years)	18.2
Life expectancy at age 65 - women (years and tenths of years)	21.7
Population, age 0-14 years (%) as of 1 January 2010	14.0
Population, age 15-64 years (%) as of 1 January 2010	65.8
Population, age 65 and over (%) as of 1 January 2010	20.2
Mean age of the population (years and tenths of years) as of 1 January 2010	43.3
Ageing index (%) as of 1 January 2010	144
Dependency ratio (%) as of 1 January 2010	52
Old-age dependency ratio (%) as of 1 January 2010	31

For more detailed information please refer to the Italian version

Time series are available at http://demo.istat.it/index_e.html

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Contact person:

Marco Marsili

Unit for statistics on demographic structure and dynamics

ISTAT – Italian National Institute of Statistics

Viale Liegi 13 – 00198 Rome, Italy

ph. +39 06 4673.7353

email marsili@istat.it