

## Birth and fertility rates among the resident population: recent characteristics and trends Year 2008

Istat has published the results of a survey based on Population Register for 2008, consultable at [demo.istat.it](http://demo.istat.it), that monitors births in relation to the main demographic characteristics of parents and indicates the factors underlying changes in the birth and fertility rates among the resident population. The data, available at municipality level, also make it possible to calculate the main indicators of reproductive behaviour: Total Fertility Rate and Mean Age at childbearing. These indicators can be calculated in relation to the overall number of resident women or broken down by nationality or marital status.

In 2008, 576,659 births were registered in municipal population registers, roughly 13,000 more than the previous year (563,933 in 2007). These figures confirm the recovery that began in the second half of the 90s (after 30 years of decline): 1995 was the year of minimum in the number of births (526,064) and in the Total Fertility Rate (1.19 children per woman).

Particular attention should therefore be paid to the various structural changes that characterise the phenomenon.

Among these is the continuous increase in age of mothers at childbearing: 5.7% of newborn babies have a mother aged at least 40 (an increase from 12,383 births in 1995 to 32,578 in 2008), while there is an on-going reduction in the number of births to mothers below the age of 25 (slightly more than 64,000 in 2008 or 11.1% of total).

The percentage of births to unmarried parents has more than doubled: from 8.1% in 1995 to 19.6% in 2008 (over 102,000 births). In central and northern Italy in particular, births to unmarried parents are now almost 1 in 4.

Births to foreign couples continue to rise, reaching more than 72,000 in 2008 and equivalent to 12.6% of total births. This proportion increases to 16.7% when taking into account births to mixed-nationality couples. In overall terms, then, births to at least one foreign parent are now close to “*quota 100,000*”.

In 2008, foreign female citizens had on average 2.31 children per woman – a decline compared to recent years but still one child more than Italian women (1.32). The greater propensity to have children among foreign female citizens significantly contributes to the recovery of the overall fertility rate of the resident population: from 1.19 in 1995 to 1.42 children per woman in 2008.

**Table 1. Births by age of mother, region and geographical distribution. Year 2008**

REGIONS	Age of mother								Total
	Under 18	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 and over	
Piemonte	96	377	3,478	8,651	14,510	10,156	2,172	111	39,551
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	2	7	110	319	471	312	71	4	1,296
Lombardia	264	1,089	8,345	20,902	36,745	25,602	5,478	247	98,672
<i>Bolzano/Bozen</i>	20	58	526	1,337	1,865	1,364	275	17	5,462
<i>Trento</i>	9	72	475	1,251	1,961	1,327	317	11	5,423
Trentino-Alto Adige	29	130	1001	2,588	3,826	2,691	592	28	10,885
Veneto	86	500	4,207	10,597	18,074	12,275	2,737	139	48,615
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	18	101	893	2,276	3,821	2,698	664	30	10,501
Liguria	44	152	991	2,304	4,515	3,552	848	44	12,450
Emilia-Romagna	98	463	3,864	9,161	15,005	10,799	2,406	119	41,915
Toscana	70	302	2,861	6,840	12,188	9,128	2,111	110	33,610
Umbria	22	86	831	1,842	3,063	1,989	418	20	8,271
Marche	37	149	1,361	3,266	5,480	3,551	759	34	14,637
Lazio	134	473	3,802	11,301	20,776	16,204	3,831	234	56,755
Abruzzo	27	115	986	2,589	4,370	2,976	651	29	11,743
Molise	5	27	192	592	937	610	138	6	2,507
Campania	500	1,156	7,137	17,409	20,624	11,384	2,402	130	60,742
Puglia	299	755	3,837	9,790	13,986	7,889	1,649	79	38,284
Basilicata	10	43	396	1,175	1,901	1,143	242	13	4,923
Calabria	84	241	2,078	5,141	6,073	3,520	816	42	17,995
Sicilia	623	1,348	6,544	13,272	16,397	9,608	1,941	104	49,837
Sardegna	66	166	1,025	2,489	4,582	4,013	1,060	69	13,470
<b>North-west</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>1,625</b>	<b>12,924</b>	<b>32,176</b>	<b>56,241</b>	<b>39,622</b>	<b>8,569</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>151,969</b>
<b>Nord-east</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>9,965</b>	<b>24,622</b>	<b>40,726</b>	<b>28,463</b>	<b>6,399</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>111,916</b>
<b>Centre</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>8,855</b>	<b>23,249</b>	<b>41,507</b>	<b>30,872</b>	<b>7,119</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>113,273</b>
<b>South</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>2,337</b>	<b>14,626</b>	<b>36,696</b>	<b>47,891</b>	<b>27,522</b>	<b>5,898</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>136,194</b>
<b>Islands</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>7,569</b>	<b>15,761</b>	<b>20,979</b>	<b>13,621</b>	<b>3,001</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>63,307</b>
<b>ITALY</b>	<b>2,514</b>	<b>7,680</b>	<b>53,939</b>	<b>132,504</b>	<b>207,344</b>	<b>140,100</b>	<b>30,986</b>	<b>1,592</b>	<b>576,659</b>

**Table 2. Births to unmarried parents by region. Years 1995, 2008 (per 100 births)**

REGIONS	1995	2008	
	All residents	All residents	<i>of which: to Italian parents</i>
Piemonte	10.1	24.9	26.1
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	13.6	32.0	34.9
Lombardia	8.8	22.8	23.4
<i>Bolzano/Bozen</i>	<i>18.5</i>	<i>38.4</i>	<i>41.7</i>
<i>Trento</i>	<i>7.2</i>	<i>22.3</i>	<i>24.4</i>
Trentino-Alto Adige	13.2	29.9	32.6
Veneto	6.8	20.8	21.7
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	11.3	21.2	23.8
Liguria	11.9	25.0	25.0
Emilia-Romagna	12.7	28.2	30.9
Toscana	9.8	25.8	26.2
Umbria	6.3	16.4	16.6
Marche	5.3	20.6	20.6
Lazio	10.0	23.3	23.1
Abruzzo	4.1	15.3	13.3
Molise	2.9	9.9	8.1
Campania	5.0	9.6	8.5
Puglia	6.9	12.8	12.3
Basilicata	2.7	7.1	5.9
Calabria	3.9	9.2	7.4
Sicilia	8.7	12.6	11.8
Sardegna	8.9	21.5	20.8
<b>North-west</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>24.3</b>
<b>North-east</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>26.4</b>
<b>Centre</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>23.2</b>
<b>South</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>9.7</b>
<b>Islands</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>13.7</b>
<b>ITALY</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>19.2</b>

Sources: Year 1995, survey of individual births according to civil status; Year 2008, survey of individual registry office entries by birth.

Despite the different reference population (births among the resident population for 1995 and births among the resident population for 2008), and a slight difference in the classification of births (by filiation in 1995 and by civil status of the parents in 2008), the comparison between the two figures provides useful indications on the recent evolution of out-of-marriage births.

**Table 3. Births to at least one foreign parent by region. Years 1999, 2008 (per 100 births among residents)**

REGIONS	1999		2008	
	At least one foreign parent	of which: both foreign	At least one foreign parent	of which: both foreign
Piemonte	8.3	5.5	22.6	17.3
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	8.1	4.9	14.3	11.3
Lombardia	9.8	6.9	24.4	19.4
<i>Bolzano-Bozen</i>	6.7	2.9	18.9	12.2
<i>Trento</i>	8.2	5.4	21.3	15.7
Trentino-Alto Adige	7.5	4.1	20.6	13.9
Veneto	8.3	6.0	25.4	20.7
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	6.8	3.5	21.7	16.6
Liguria	6.9	3.5	19.1	13.7
Emilia-Romagna	10.1	7.0	26.1	20.7
Toscana	9.1	5.8	21.5	16.3
Umbria	9.4	6.2	23.4	17.6
Marche	8.5	5.6	22.8	17.4
Lazio	7.2	5.1	16.6	11.6
Abruzzo	4.9	2.4	13.0	8.5
Molise	2.2	0.6	7.9	3.6
Campania	1.6	0.7	4.7	2.5
Puglia	1.6	0.9	4.2	2.5
Basilicata	1.4	0.7	5.4	2.8
Calabria	2.0	0.8	7.6	4.2
Sicilia	2.4	1.7	5.3	3.6
Sardegna	2.2	0.8	5.5	2.6
<b>North-west</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>18.3</b>
<b>North-east</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>19.6</b>
<b>Centre</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>14.2</b>
<b>South</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Islands</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>ITALY</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>12.6</b>

**Table 4. Births by main characteristics of the parents. Year 2008**

CITIZENSHIP OF PARENTS	Births		
	to married parents	to unmarried parents	Total
ABSOLUTE VALUES			
Father and mother both Italian	388.204	92.013	480.217
Foreign father and Italian mother	2.983	1.678	4.661
Italian father and foreign mother	12.330	6.979	19.309
Father e mother both foreign	60.528	11.944	72.472
<b>Total couples</b>	<b>463.810</b>	<b>112.849</b>	<b>576.659</b>
PERCENTAGE VALUES			
Father and mother both Italian	80.8	19.2	<b>100</b>
Foreign father and Italian mother	64.0	36.0	<b>100</b>
Italian father and foreign mother	63.9	36.1	<b>100</b>
Father e mother both foreign	83.5	16.5	<b>100</b>
<b>Total couples</b>	<b>80.4</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 5. Births to couples formed by at least one foreign parent in relation to the leading 20 countries of citizenship. Year 2008**  
(absolute values and per 100 births to foreign citizens)

COUNTRIES OF CITIZENSHIP	Italian father foreign mother		COUNTRIES OF CITIZENSHIP	foreign father Italian mother		COUNTRIES OF CITIZENSHIP (a)	Both parents foreign	
	Absolute values	per 100 births to foreign citizens		Absolute values	per 100 births to foreign citizens		Absolute values	per 100 births to foreign citizens
Romania	3,544	18.4	Albania	546	11.7	Romania	12.042	17.0
Poland	1,758	9.1	Morocco	517	11.1	Morocco	11.912	16.8
Brazil	1,113	5.8	Tunisia	342	7.3	Albania	8.739	12.3
Ukraine	1,103	5.7	Romania	293	6.3	China	4.867	6.9
Albania	888	4.6	United Kingdom	184	3.9	India	2.650	3.7
Morocco	827	4.3	Senegal	177	3.8	Tunisia	2.436	3.4
Russia	620	3.2	Brazil	174	3.7	Fyrom (c)	2.114	3.0
Cuba	532	2.8	France	167	3.6	Egypt	2.018	2.8
Moldova	514	2.7	Germany	165	3.5	Bangladesh	1.829	2.6
Germany	485	2.5	Egypt	134	2.9	Nigeria	1.822	2.6
Spain	437	2.3	Cuba	112	2.4	Philippines	1.565	2.2
France	436	2.3	United States of America	112	2.4	Sri Lanka	1.434	2.0
Peru	431	2.2	Spain	85	1.8	Ecuador	1.363	1.9
Ecuador	377	2.0	Argentina	83	1.8	Moldova	1.288	1.8
Nigeria	321	1.7	Peru	77	1.7	Pakistan	1.240	1.7
United Kingdom	299	1.5	Dominican Republic	76	1.6	Senegal	1.221	1.7
Slovakia	258	1.3	Serbia	71	1.5	Peru	1.194	1.7
Dominican Republic	238	1.2	Netherlands	63	1.4	Ghana	1.087	1.5
Colombia	226	1.2	Ecuador	53	1.1	Serbia	900	1.3
Bulgaria	218	1.1	India	49	1.1	Poland	891	1.3

(a) Indicated citizenship is that of the mother.

(b) As of 03 June 2006 Montenegro is an autonomous State; available information, however, does not make it possible to provide distinct data for the two States.

(c) Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

**Table 6. Births by sex and the 30 most common names. Year 2008** (absolute values, per 100 births to residents and per 100 cumulative births to residents)

	<b>Male names</b>	a.v.	%	cumulative %	<b>Female names</b>	a.v.	%	cumulative %
1	FRANCESCO	10,156	3.47	3.47	GIULIA	9,624	3.47	3.47
2	ALESSANDRO	9,247	3.16	6.63	SOFIA	8,972	3.23	6.70
3	ANDREA	8,596	2.94	9.57	MARTINA	7,327	2.64	9.34
4	MATTEO	8,460	2.89	12.46	SARA	7,119	2.57	11.91
5	LORENZO	7,703	2.63	15.09	CHIARA	6,457	2.33	14.24
6	GABRIELE	7,090	2.42	17.51	GIORGIA	5,770	2.08	16.31
7	MATTIA	6,521	2.23	19.74	AURORA	5,086	1.83	18.15
8	RICCARDO	5,926	2.02	21.76	ALESSIA	4,996	1.80	19.95
9	DAVIDE	5,583	1.91	23.67	FRANCESCA	4,379	1.58	21.53
10	LUCA	5,334	1.82	25.49	ALICE	4,324	1.56	23.09
11	MARCO	4,785	1.63	27.13	ANNA	3,850	1.39	24.47
12	SIMONE	4,514	1.54	28.67	ELISA	3,617	1.30	25.78
13	LEONARDO	4,478	1.53	30.20	GIADA	3,484	1.26	27.03
14	GIUSEPPE	4,437	1.52	31.71	EMMA	3,166	1.14	28.17
15	FEDERICO	4,382	1.50	33.21	MATILDE	3,052	1.10	29.27
16	TOMMASO	4,337	1.48	34.69	GAIA	3,042	1.10	30.37
17	ANTONIO	4,103	1.40	36.09	ELENA	2,944	1.06	31.43
18	GIOVANNI	3,799	1.30	37.39	BEATRICE	2,784	1.00	32.43
19	CHRISTIAN	3,749	1.28	38.67	NOEMI	2,581	0.93	33.36
20	ALESSIO	3,586	1.23	39.90	REBECCA	2,366	0.85	34.22
21	FILIPPO	3,498	1.20	41.09	FEDERICA	2,339	0.84	35.06
22	CRISTIAN	3,242	1.11	42.20	ARIANNA	2,326	0.84	35.90
23	SAMUELE	3,228	1.10	43.30	ASIA	2,251	0.81	36.71
24	DANIELE	3,085	1.05	44.36	GRETA	2,229	0.80	37.51
25	PIETRO	3,047	1.04	45.40	ILARIA	2,186	0.79	38.30
26	EMANUELE	2,987	1.02	46.42	VITTORIA	2,082	0.75	39.05
27	MICHELE	2,846	0.97	47.39	LUDOVICA	2,080	0.75	39.80
28	EDOARDO	2,799	0.96	48.35	VALENTINA	2,030	0.73	40.53
29	NICOLO'	2,584	0.88	49.23	MARTA	2,023	0.73	41.26
30	GIACOMO	2,328	0.80	50.03	NICOLE	2,001	0.72	41.98

**Table 7. Births by sex, region and most common name. Year 2008** (*absolute values per 100 births to residents*)

REGION	Most common male name	a.v.	%	Most common female name	a.v.	%
Piemonte	ALESSANDRO	768	3.77	SOFIA	807	4.21
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	MATTEO	25	3.74	GIULIA	24	3.86
Lombardia	ALESSANDRO	1,936	3.92	SOFIA	1.723	3.66
Bolzano/Bozen	SIMON	76	2.68	ANNA	93	3.54
Trento	MATTIA	81	2.91	SOFIA	85	3.23
Veneto	RICCARDO	848	3.39	GIULIA	835	3.52
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	MATTEO	193	3.59	GIULIA	170	3.39
Liguria	MATTEO	241	3.83	GIULIA	228	3.72
Emilia-Romagna	ALESSANDRO	823	3.83	SOFIA	740	3.68
Toscana	LORENZO	772	4.46	GIULIA	658	4.10
Umbria	ALESSANDRO	175	4.15	SOFIA	173	4.27
Marche	ALESSANDRO	342	4.58	GIULIA	263	3.72
Lazio	FRANCESCO	1,215	4.31	GIULIA	1.261	4.64
Abruzzo	ALESSANDRO	236	4.05	GIULIA	209	3.79
Molise	FRANCESCO	53	4.06	CHIARA	39	3.36
Campania	ANTONIO	1,693	5.46	MARTINA	909	3.07
Puglia	FRANCESCO	1,067	5.44	MARTINA	628	3.42
Basilicata	FRANCESCO	131	5.27	FRANCESCA	77	3.37
Calabria	FRANCESCO	539	6.02	FRANCESCA	266	3.03
Sicilia	GIUSEPPE	1,170	4.64	SOFIA	876	3.66
Sardegna	FRANCESCO	277	4.07	GIULIA	237	3.68
ITALY	FRANCESCO	10,156	3.47	GIULIA	9.624	3.47

For more detailed information please refer to the Italian version

Data are available at [http://demo.istat.it/index\\_e.html](http://demo.istat.it/index_e.html)

---

Contact person:

**Statistics on demographic structure and dynamics**

ISTAT – Italian National Institute of Statistics

Viale Liegi 13 – 00198 Rome, Italy

**Sabrina Prati**

prati@istat.it

**Giancarlo Gualtieri**

gualtier@istat.it

ph. +39 06 4673.7356-7337