

Labour Market Areas

Year 2011

Labour market areas (LMAs, “local labour systems - SLL” in Italy) are sub-regional geographical areas where the bulk of the labour force lives and works, and where establishments can find the largest amount of the labour force necessary to occupy the offered jobs. They respond to the need for meaningfully comparable sub-regional labour market areas for the reporting and analysis of statistics. LMAs are defined on a functional basis, the key criterion being the proportion of commuters who cross the LMA boundary on their way to work.

LMAs are developed through an allocation process based on the analysis of commuting patterns. 2011 LMAs are based on commuting data stemming from the 15th Population Census using a new allocation process, an evolution of the previous algorithm: they are 611 distinct areas. The implementation of the same allocation process on 2001 commuting data gives rise to 683 zones; once again a reduction in the number of areas is observed, and it is due to the increase of the trend in more and longer distance commuting.

LMAs are not designed to respect administrative boundary constraints: 56 of them (9.2%) cut across regional boundaries and 185 (30.3%) span across different provinces (NUTS3). Voghera and Melfi market areas are the only ones cutting across three regions (NUTS2). Milano is the biggest LMA in Italy: it encompasses 3.7 million inhabitants, 174 municipalities belonging to 7 out of the 12 provinces in Lombardy (NUTS2).

Sicilia is the region with the highest number of LMAs in Italy (71) followed by Lombardia (51) and Toscana (48). On the contrary, Molise and Valle d’Aosta, both showing 5 LMAs, are those with the smallest number of areas. Roma, with 3,892 square kilometres, is the widest LMA in Italy, the smallest being Capri (10.5 square kilometres).

Nearly half of the LMAs (279, equal to 45.7% of the total) stands in the size class from 10 up to 50 thousand inhabitants, whereas the highest proportion of the population (35.0%) lives in LMAs with a dimension between 100,000 and 500,000 inhabitants.

Large size LMAs, those encompassing more than 500,000 inhabitants at 2011 population census or whose main centre is a large municipality, contain more than 20 million inhabitants and represent more than one third of the total population of the country (33.8%) and of the labour force (35.0%). Torino, Milano, Roma and Napoli LMAs alone represent nearly one fifth of the whole resident population. All large dimension LMAs, except those of Genova, Verona and Palermo, expand with respect to the corresponding LMAs stemming from the previous reporting period.

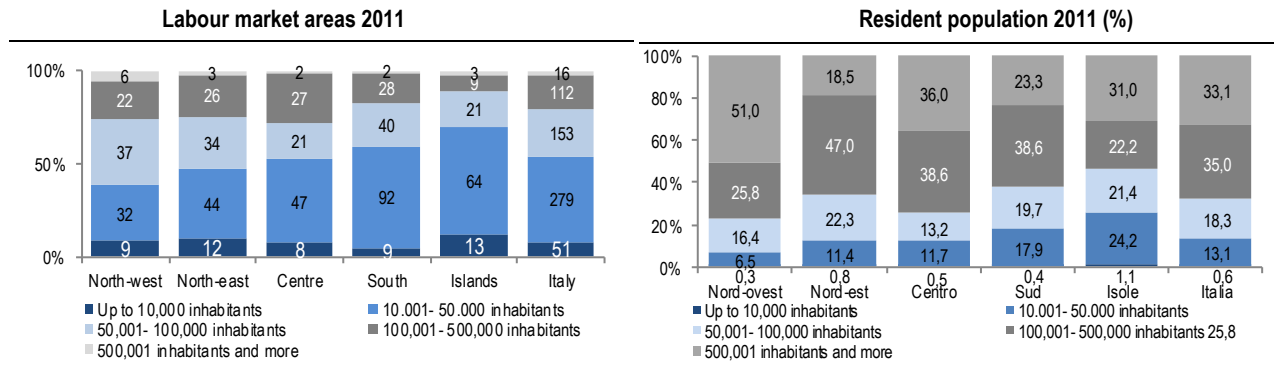
In 332 LMAs (over 70% of the national population) more than three quarter of the labour force lives and works in the same LMA (self-containment is more than 0.75).

2011 LMAs show a high level of consistency with the previous 2001 LMAs: 556 current LMA exist also in the previous LMAs (91.0%), they represent 96.6% of the Italian population. Among them, 201 (36.7%) show the same number of constituent municipalities.

The dimensions of 2011 LMAs are higher with respect to the 2001 counterpart both in terms of number of constituent municipalities (13.2 vs 11.9) and in terms of resident population (97,000 vs 83,000).

Altogether 221 current LMAs show a drop in the level of the resident population between 2001 and 2011 (36.2%) and they are mainly localized in the South and Islands area of Italy.

FIGURE 1. LABOUR MARKET AREAS 2011 AND RESIDENT POPULATION 2011 BY RESIDENT POPULATION GROUPS AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS. Year 2011, percentage values



Labour market areas are attributed to the region where the municipality that gives the name to the LMA is located.

FIGURE 2. TERRITORIAL LOCATION OF LABOUR MARKET AREAS 2011



For more details please refer to the Italian version

Contact persons:

Sandro Cruciani (sacrucia@istat.it)
phone +39 06 4673.3275

Luisa Franconi (franconi@istat.it)
phone +39 06 4673.3355

Development of information systems and corporate products,
information management and quality assessment directorate
Istat – National Institute of Statistics