

## Industrial districts Year 2011

Istat identified 141 industrial districts in 2011 on the basis of Local market areas (LMAs, 'labour market areas – SLL' in Italy) and the analysis of their economic specialization by using the data on economic units surveyed in the 9<sup>th</sup> Industry and Services Census. In comparison with 2001, the number of business clusters decreased by 40 units.

Industrial districts represent about one-fourth of the Italian economic system, both in term of LMAs (23.1% of the total), workers (24.5% of the total) and local units (24.4% of the total). Manufacturing employment of industrial districts is over one-third of the Italian employment as a whole, in line with the trend registered 10 years ago. 22% of Italian residents live within industrial districts.

The size of industrial districts and their demographic dimension has increased. Each industrial district, on average, consists of 15 municipalities (they were 13 in 2001), has 94,513 residents (67,828 in 2001) and is the location of 8,173 local units (6,103 in 2001) which employed 34,663 workers (26,531 in 2001).

Despite the decrease of national share of manufacturing employment absorbed by industrial districts (from 70.9% in 2001 to 65.8% in 2011), the Italian manufacturing sector is still characterized by industrial districts. They represent 64.1% of mainly manufacturing LMAs which employ 65.8% of workers in the manufacturing sector.

The majority of industrial districts (45) is located in the North-east area, the traditional area of the industrial districts model in Italy. In the North-east over two-thirds of LMAs are industrial districts. In the North-west 37 clusters are located (58.7% of their LMAs) and 38 in the Centre (71.7%). In Southern Italy, 17 industrial districts are located, particularly in Puglia (7), Campania (6) and Abruzzo (4), while industrial districts in the Islands are located solely in Sardegna, where all manufacturing local systems have districts characteristics (4).

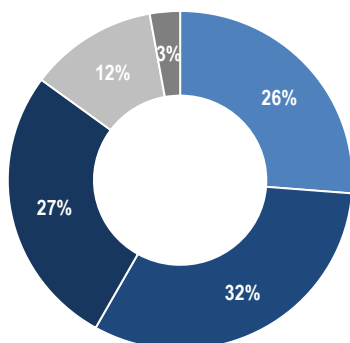
*Made in Italy* industrial districts are 130, that is 92.2% of total industrial districts in Italy; they are mainly focused on mechanical sectors (27.0%), textiles and clothing (22.7%), personal goods (17.0%) and leather and foot-wear (12.1%).

Lombardia and Veneto gather together 60.4% of manufacturing employment of industrial districts (respectively 33.7% and 26.7%), followed by Toscana (9.9%), Emilia-Romagna (9.4%) and Marche (8.7%). Such five Regions represent 88.3% of manufacturing industrial districts' employment in Italy. Similar shares are registered by considering the overall employment.

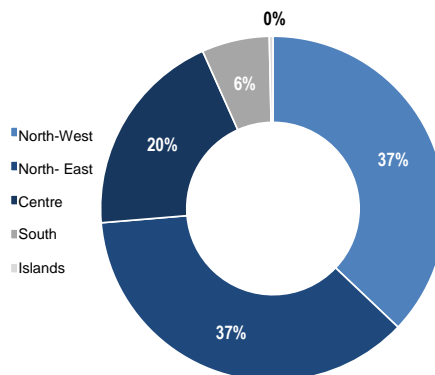
FIGURE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA. 2011, percentage shares

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Industrial districts by geographical area



Employees in industrial districts by geographical area



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**For more details please refer to the Italian version**

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Contact persons:

**Sandro Cruciani** ([sacruz@istat.it](mailto:sacruz@istat.it)).

Development of information systems and corporate products  
information management and quality assessment directorate  
Istat – National Institute of Statistics  
Via Depretis, 77 – Rome 00184 Italy  
phone +39 06 4673.3275

**Franco Lorenzini** ([lorenz@istat.it](mailto:lorenz@istat.it)).

Department for Census and Administrative and Statistical Archives  
Istat – National Institute of Statistics  
Viale Oceano Pacifico, 171 – Rome 00144 Italy  
phone +39 06 4673.4653