

World Water Day 2016

Istat water statistics

Upon the occasion of the 2016 World Water Day, established by the United Nations and celebrated on March 22nd, Istat provides a summary of the main statistics on water resources.

The meteorological stations located in the regional capital municipalities registered, in the period 2001-2014, an average annual precipitation of 740.8 mm, 1.1% less than the long-term average for the 30-year period 1971-2000 (Climatic Normal).

The rainiest year was 2010 (996.4 mm), while the driest one was 2007 (553 mm).

The annual count of days with more than 20 mm/day of precipitation was 9 on average, aligned to the Climatic Normal. The highest number was registered in Genova (17) and the lowest in Cagliari (3).

Consecutive days without precipitation were 25 on average, aligned with the Climatic Normal. The longest period was recorded in Palermo (31 consecutive days, on average).

In the period 2001-2014 the average annual temperature was equal to 15.1°C, scoring +0.9°C compared with the Climatic Normal. The year 2014 was the warmest since 1971.

The annual average of tropical nights was 36 in the period 2001-2014, with an 11 days increase compared to the Climatic Normal. The year 2013 recorded the highest number of tropical nights (54).

The average annual number of frosty days (when daily minimum temperature < 0°C) was 27: that is 2 days fewer than the Climatic Normal value. Meteorological stations located in the Alps area registered a strong reduction of frosty days: Bolzano (-19), Trento (-12) and Aosta (-10).

Water supplied by the public water supply system amounted to 5.2 billion of cubic meters in 2012, with a decrease of 5.4% compared to 2008. Therefore, the daily supply of water for drinking purposes was equal to 14.3 million of cubic meters, equivalent to 241 liters per inhabitant.

In 2015 water supply was indicated as irregular by 9.2% of the Italian households. This percentage was slightly increased in comparison with 2014 (8.7%).

Also in 2015 the lack of confidence in drinking the tap water remained a particularly widespread phenomenon in Italy, actually 30% of Italian households were worried about this.

In the crop year 2012-2013 the irrigation was practised by 720,335 farms over an area of 2,917,649 hectares, scoring a 16.2% increase compared to 1982.

28.5% of the irrigated areas were cultivated with grain maize and 14.4% with grasslands and in alternance with other forages. To follow, horticultural crops and ornamental plants grown in open air were 11.0% and fruit and citrus trees 10.8% of the national irrigated area.

At the national level, in the crop year 2009-2010 the total volume of irrigation water amounted to about 11.6 billion of cubic meters.

In 2012 the total volume of water used as input by Italian manufacturing industry amounted to 5.5 billion of cubic meters. The sector of chemistry and chemical products used the largest volume of water (681 million of cubic meters), closely followed by the rubber & plastics sector (645 million of cubic meters).

On average, 8.8 liters of water were used for each euro of the total manufacturing production sold.

In 2012 the volume of water used for thermoelectric power plants cooling amounted to 18.4 billion of cubic meters, of which 88.5% came from sea water and the remaining 11.5% from inland water.

In the thermoelectric power plants in 2012, 119.7 million of cubic meters of water were used for the electricity generation process, of which 75.4 million were inland water.

For more details please refer to the Italian version

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