

# Update of Bes indicators

11 July 2018

With the data released today, ISTAT proposes for the first time a biannual update of well-being indicators. The objective is to respond to the need of timeliness associated mainly with the inclusion of 12 Bes indicators in the Economic and Financial Document.

On this occasion, 63 indicators were updated; in some cases the series were revised.

The time series are organized by domain and by region, and updates touch all 12 domains of well-being.

**Table 1. Number of updated indicators by domain**

<b>DOMAIN OF WELL-BEING</b>	<b>UPDATED INDICATORS</b>	<b>TOTAL INDICATORS</b>	<b>% UPDATED</b>
HEALTH	7	14	50%
EDUCATION AND TRAINING	6	11	55%
WORK AND LIFE BALANCE	9	14	64%
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	3	10	30%
SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS	5	9	56%
POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS	10	12	83%
SAFETY	3	11	27%
SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING	4	4	100%
LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	2	11	18%
ENVIRONMENT	6	16	38%
INNOVATION, RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY	4	7	57%
QUALITY OF SERVICES	4	10	40%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>49%</b>

## Main results

Overall, the updated indicators confirm a different situation in the different well-being domains, as already noted in the 2017 Report.

In 2017, the advantage of women in education continues to increase: in the 30-34 age group, 34.1% of women have a tertiary educational qualification against 19.8% of men. In the same year cultural participation decreased: the percentage of people aged 6 and more who practiced 3 or more cultural activities in the previous 12 months fell from 28.8% to 27.1%.

Signs of improvement in the labor market, both for quantitative and qualitative aspects. The employment rate for people aged 20-64 increases for the fourth consecutive year, albeit with a slightly lower intensity compared to the previous year (+0.7 percentage points). The reduction, which began in 2015, of the non-participation in labour market rate continued, falling to 20.5% (-1.1 percentage points compared to 2016). The percentage of workers employed in temporary jobs for at least 5 years reduced by almost one point, reaching the lowest level recorded in the last 13 years. The perception of insecurity of their work decreases with respect to 2016 (-0.8 points).

As far as safety is concerned, the indicators relating to predatory crimes (pick-pocketing, robberies and burglary) show an improvement in 2016; in particular home burglaries declined from 18.6 to 16.9 per thousand households and the decrease was more pronounced in the Center-North, where they were more widespread. In addition, the average effective duration of the proceedings defined in ordinary courts is reduced in 2017 (445 days against 460 of the previous year).

On the other hand, negative signals are observed in citizen's satisfaction of mobility services: only 16.4% of the regular users of public transport expressed a vote equal to or greater than 8.

Among the environmental and landscape indicators, in 2016 domestic material consumption, which summarizes a wide set of environmental pressure factors, increased for the second consecutive year to 515.4 million tonnes (+ 2% on the previous year). The consumption of material resources of the Italian economy remains however significantly lower than the pre-economic levels (832 million tons in 2007).

Among the subjective indicators, the proportion of individuals satisfied for their life decreases, the percentage of people aged 14 and over who expressed a vote between 8 and 10 for their life goes from 41% in 2016 to 39.6% in 2017. Even the satisfaction for one's own leisure time shows a slight decline: 65.6% of people aged 14 and over are very satisfied or quite satisfied for leisure time (they were 66.6% in 2016). Nevertheless, the percentage of those looking to the future with optimism does not diminish (27.2% of people aged 14 and over).

The indicators referring to the social climate show no signs of improvement: in 2017 the percentage of people who declare to have relatives, friends or neighbors they can count on declines from 81.7% in 2016 to 80.4%. The proportion of people expressing generalized trust in others remains very low (19.8% in 2017).

The conditions of the weaker groups of population are worsening. In 2017, it is estimated that 5 million and 58 thousand individuals (8.4% of the entire population) are in absolute poverty, the highest value since 2005. The incidence of absolute poverty increases above all in the South (from 7.9% in 2016 to 8.4% in 2017), it remains high among minors (12.1%) and it continues to grow among adults aged between 35 and 64 (from 7.3% to 8.1%, it was 2.7% in 2005), while the situation of the elderly is not exacerbated.

Some aspects of inequality are improving, for example the gender gap in cancer mortality between 20 and 64 years is reduced. The standardized rate falls, in fact, among men (from 10.3 deaths per 10,000 residents in 2014 to 9.9 in 2015), while it is stable for women (around 8 deaths). The gap between males and females is also reduced in the non-participation rate (7.2 percentage points in 2017, it was 11.7 in 2004). However, the decline in the ratio between the employment rate of women aged 25-49 with at least one child aged 0-5 and the rate of those without children is confirmed (75.5 in 2017). Important positive signs emerge on the front of the female presence in the political representation, constantly increasing. The 2018 elections brought the share of women in the Italian Parliament to 35.5% (it was 30.7%). The average age of the elected men and women continues to decrease, equal to 47.6 years (49.9 years at the beginning of the previous parliamentary term).

On the territorial front, the Mezzogiorno, despite some signs of improvement, does not reduce the disadvantage compared to the Center-North. In 2017, the rate of non-participation in work, for example, falls from 37 to 35.6%, but the gap remains unchanged by about 24 percentage points compared to the North. Regarding lifestyles, in 2017 the improvement for a sedentary lifestyle is confirmed in all the territorial divisions (-1.5 percentage points compared to 2016), but in the Mezzogiorno still more than half of people aged 14 and over are not doing physical activity (51.1%, against 28.9% in the North).

On December 14th 2018 the Bes 2018 Report will be published containing both the analyzes and the further update of indicators.