

HOUSEHOLDS AND LABOUR MARKET | YEAR 2018

In 2018, 15,374 million households resident in Italy with at least one employed person

 In 2018, households with two or more people and only one employed person amounted to 5,697 million.

The large majority (74.6%) of people aged 15-64 living alone were employed (12.6% unemployed).

Among **couples with children** (mother aged 25-64), the most common types observed were the following: only full-time employed father (32.4%); both parents working full-time (27.5%); full-time employed father and part-time employed mother (16.0%).

81.7%

Households (with at least one person aged 15-64) with one or more employed people

Pre-crisis level almost recovered thanks to a positive trend in the North

1,151,000

Households with two or more people (with at least one person aged 15-64) without employed and retired people

44.4%

Couples (with woman aged 25-64) with both partner employed

55.4% in the North, 50.6% in the Centre, 26.4% in the South and in the Islands

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At least one employed person in over 15 million households

In 2018, 18,823 million households had at least one member aged 15-64 (72.6% of 25,926 million households residing in Italy). Among these, 15,374 million had at least one employed person.

Participation in the labor market within the households was affected by the economic crisis which, especially between 2008 and 2013, halted the positive trend of previous years and conditioned the recovery in the subsequent ones. In 2018, the share of households with at least one employed person (81.7%) returned close to 2008 level (82.3%).

The recovery of pre-crisis levels occurred in all northern regions, while it has not yet been achieved in the South and Islands. Among the southern regions the lowest shares were estimated in Calabria (67.6%) and in Sicily (67.9%), where the most marked distances were recorded compared with 2008 (-5.2 and -4.7 points percentages).

Inactive people aged 15-64 decreased

In 2018, 3,198 million employed people aged 15-64 lived alone (74.6% of 4,286 million people living alone in working age).

The incidence was higher among the male component (77.6%), among those under 35 (77.0%), among residents in the North (80.6%) and among those with foreign citizenship (80.1%). There were about 542 thousand unemployed people or potential additional labour force, 12.6% (23.7% in the South and Islands and 14.8% among foreigners).

In the last decades, the number of households increased and the number of components decreased. Between 2004 and 2018 there was a significant increase in one-person households. In the same period the share of employed people living alone also increased, from 68.1% in 2004 to 74.6% in 2018. The increase referred exclusively to the most adult component (over 35 years) and involved both men and women. Similarly, the share of unemployed people or potential additional labour force increased (from 7.1% to 12.6%). Differently, inactive people living alone aged 15-64 significantly decreased: from 24.8% in 2004 (about half of these were retired persons) to 12.7% in 2018 (less than a third were retired persons).

INDICATORS ON HOUSEHOLD EMPLOYMENT STATUSES

Years 2004, 2008, 2013, 2017 and 2018, percentage incidences on households of the same type

	2004	2008	2013	2017	2018
Total households with at least one member aged 15-64 (values in thousands)	17,359	18,068	18,873	18,822	18,823
At least one employed person	82.0	82.3	79.1	81.1	81.7
Jobless with at least one retired person	10.7	9.9	9.6	7.6	7.3
Jobless without retired persons	7.2	7.8	11.2	11.2	11.0
<i>of which: At least one unemployed person/additional potential labour force</i>	3.9	4.6	8.0	8.0	7.7
- One-person aged 15-64 (values in thousands)	2,753	3,291	4,071	4,245	4,286
Employed	68.1	71.1	70.2	73.5	74.6
Unemployed/additional potential labour force	7.1	8.6	13.7	13.2	12.6
Inactive (a) retired	12.0	9.5	6.8	4.5	3.9
Inactive (a) not retired	12.8	10.7	9.2	8.9	8.8
- With two or more persons with at least one member aged 15-64 (values in thousands)	14,606	14,777	14,802	14,577	14,537
At least one employed person	84.7	84.8	81.6	83.4	83.8
Jobless with at least one retired person	10.5	10.0	10.4	8.6	8.3
Jobless without retired persons	4.8	5.2	8.0	8.0	7.9
<i>of which: At least one unemployed person/additional potential labour force</i>	3.3	3.7	6.4	6.5	6.3

(a) Except the additional potential labour force

In the Centre-North more households with two or more employed persons

In 2018, 12,176 million households with two or more persons had at least one employed person (almost 84.0% of households with at least one person aged 15-64 and two or more persons). The incidence reached just under 90.0% in the North and in the Centre (75.0% in the South and the Islands).

Among these, households with two or more employed persons were 6,479 million (44.6% of the total of households with two or more persons).

Between 2004 and 2018, households with two or more employed persons slightly reduced: their incidence fell from 45.6% to 44.6%. At the territorial level, geographical disparities have widened compared to the pre-crisis period. Families with two or more employed persons were more widespread in the North (54.3% of households with two or more persons) and in the Centre (48.9%), compared to the southern regions (29.3%).

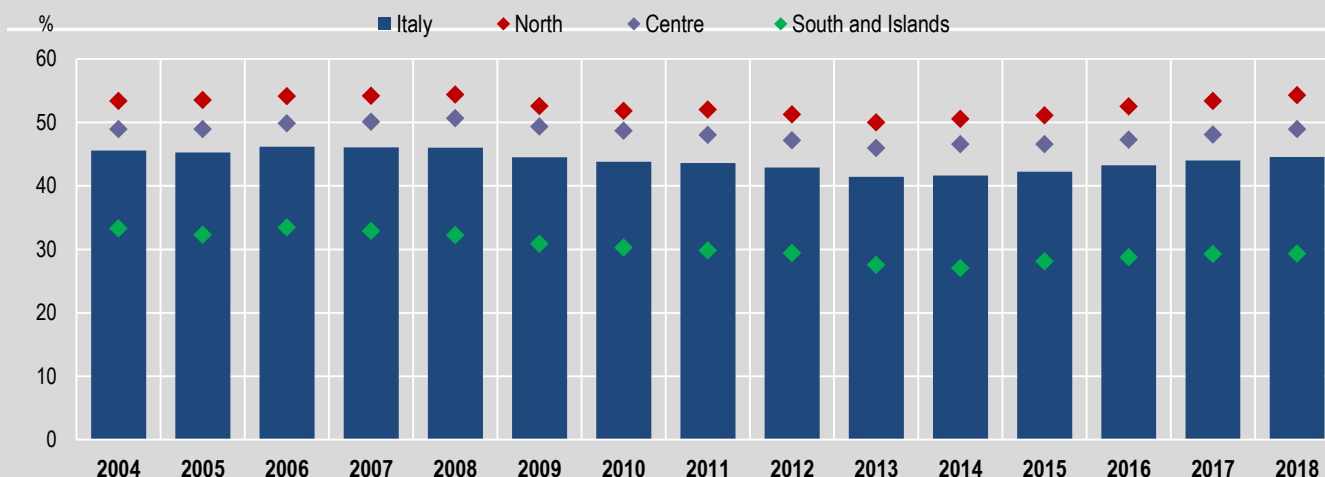
The overall slight decrease implied a significant decline in all geographical areas during the crisis period. However, while since 2013 in the North and in the Centre the incidence of households with two or more employed persons was progressively once again growing, back to the levels of the pre-crisis period, in the South and the Islands the recovery has been slower and the disadvantage increased, compared to the other Italian areas. In 2004, in fact, the share of households with two or more employed persons residing in the southern regions was 33.3% (53.4% in the North and 48.9% in the Centre) and fell to 27.5% in 2013, without a fully recover in the years following.

In the South and the Islands, couples with children were the most widespread type of household (52.5% of resident households with at least one person aged 15-64), but among them couples with two or more employed persons were just over one third (35.6%). In the North and in the Centre, instead, couples with children represented about 42.0%, but those with two or more employed persons were the majority (65.3% and 59.9% respectively).

The incidence of households with two or more employed persons on the total number of households with two or more persons was higher among households with all national members (45.0%) compared to those with all non-national members (42.2%).

HOUSEHOLDS WITH TWO OR MORE EMPLOYED PERSONS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

Years 2004-2018, percentage incidences on the total of households with two or more persons



Households with only one employed person especially in the South and the Islands

In 2018, households with two or more people and only one employed person were 5,697 million.

Just over one-fifth households (1,236 million) accounted at least a retired person. Households with retired persons among households with two or more persons (with at least a person aged 15-64) gradually decreased, from 10.5% in 2004 to 8.5% in 2018.

In the remaining 4,461 million households there was only one employed person (30.7% of households with two or more persons): in 3,248 million households the only employed person was a man, in 1,213 million households the only employed person was a woman.

Households without retired people and with only one employed person were more widespread in the South and the Islands: 38.1% of households with two or more persons (29.6% in the Centre and 25.5% in the North).

In 2018, households without retired people and with only one employed person were slightly grown compared to ten years before. The increase has not been gradual over the years but it occurred above all in the most critical years of the economic crisis (between 2008 and 2013), when the number of employed persons suffered a considerable contraction and the number of households with more employed persons decreased consequently.

During the economic crisis, in the Centre-North there was a redistribution between households with two or more employed persons and those with only one employed person, while in the South and the Islands the jobless households grew.

Among the households with two or more employed persons, those without retired people and with only one temporary employed person (employee or freelancer) or part-time permanent employed person (employee or self-employed person) increased. The incidence of households with only one temporary employee/freelancer reached 3.9% in 2018 (2.4% in 2004) and the incidence of households with only one part-time permanent employee/self-employed person rose to 3.4% (1.6% in 2004). Vice versa, the share of households supported by a full-time permanent employed person (employee/self-employed person) fell from 24.5% to 23.4% (-185 thousand households).

HOUSEHOLDS WITH TWO OR MORE MEMBERS BY NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS

Years 2004-2018, absolute changes year on previous year



Over 1 million households without employed and retired persons

The contraction of employment during the economic crisis produced a contextual growth of jobless households with two or more persons. The gradual recovery in the following years did not recover pre-crisis levels. In the fifteen years examined, the incidence of these families increased from 15.3% in 2004 to 16.2% in 2018, with a peak of 18.4% in 2013, due to the negative effect of the economic crisis that canceled the positive reduction of the first four years.

In 2018, households with two or more persons without employed persons were 2,361 million. Among them, those without employed and retired persons (without any income/pension) were 1,151 million, with an incidence equal to 7.9%. Since 2013 the incidence was substantially stable, following the growth occurred in the years of the economic crisis (4.8% in 2004). The remaining cases concerned households without employed persons, but supported at least by a retired person (8.3% the incidence on the total of households with two or more persons; 10.5% in 2004).

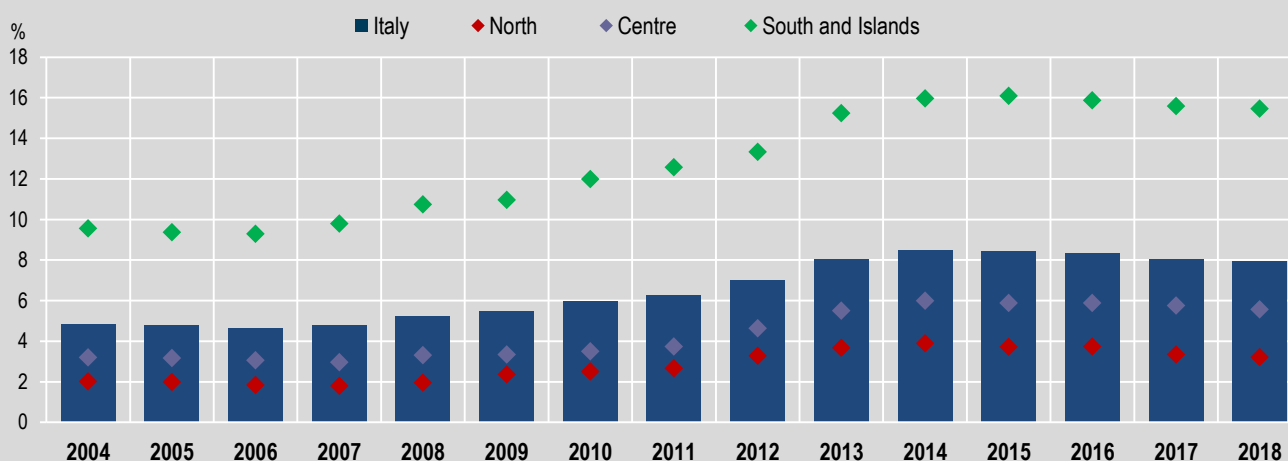
Households without any income/pension were above all those in which there was a single parent with children without other cohabiting family members. In 2018, among single-parent households one family out of five (about 400 thousand households) was without employed persons (about one in seven in 2004). In comparison with 2004, the percentage of households without incomes increased among couples with children (from 3.1% to 5.4%) and without children (from 4.2% to 6.0%).

Households without employed and retired persons were much more widespread in the South and the Islands. In the most acute years of the crisis, this type of household grew in the central and northern regions, but in the South and the Islands the increase was more intense: already in 2004 the share touched 10.0% and reached 15.5% in 2018.

The most critical issues involved households with unemployed persons or additional potential labour force. Among households without employed and retired persons, 79.4% had at least one person in search of work or inactive and available to work (additional potential labour force) and increased compared to 2004 (67.3%). Among 914 thousand households that registered this condition in 2018, about seven out of ten resided in the South and the Islands.

HOUSEHOLDS WITH TWO OR MORE MEMBERS WITHOUT EMPLOYED AND RETIRED PERSONS.

Years 2004-2018, percentage incidences on the total of households with two or more persons



Couples with both employed were more in the North and in the Centre

In 2018, there were over 17 million of couples or single parents in almost 26 million resident families.

The distribution of work among partners has significantly changed over the last fifteen years, thanks both to the increasing female participation in the labor market and to the effects of the economic recession that led to a significant decrease in male employment and in the relative rate.

In 2018, despite the contraction occurred during the crisis period, couples with both employed partners (5 million 22 thousand) were the most widespread, representing 44.4% of the couples (+276 thousand and +5.8% compared to 2004, when they represented 40.0% of the couples). The overall increase was mainly due to the growth of couples with at least one partner in part-time (almost always the woman).

In the North 55.4% of couples had both partners employed, 50.6% in the Center, just 26.4% in the South and the Islands, with no signals of growth compared to 2004.

Couples with only employed man were more widespread in the South and the Islands

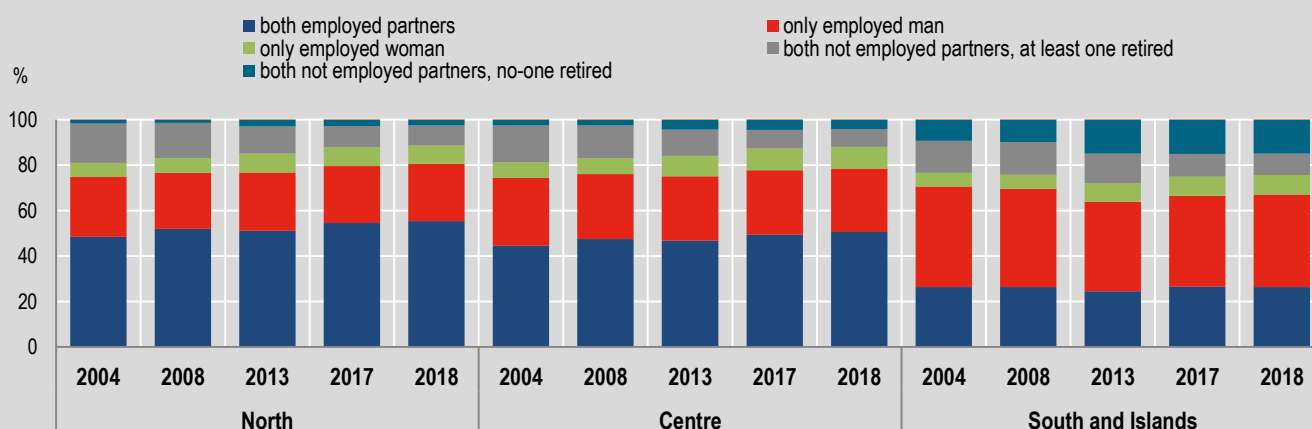
In 2018 couples with only one partner employed decreased to 4 million 465 thousand (-226 thousand units; -4.8% compared to 2004), despite their stability in terms of share on overall couples compared to fifteen years before (39.5%).

Overall, stability was a synthesis of diminished couples with full-time workers (-2.9 percentage points), increased couples with part-time men (+0.7 points), and above all more couples with employed women (+2.2 points). In fact, the economic crisis produced a greater loss of jobs in the economic sectors where employed persons were mostly men (manufacturing industry and construction).

In the Southern regions, couples with the man as the only employed were still predominant (40.6%; 1 million 584 thousand), whereas their share was more contained in the Centre and in the North (27.8% and 25.2% respectively). In the South the incidence was even higher in couples with a low-qualified woman (43.5%) and in couples with two or more children (46.6%).

DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT AMONG COUPLE'S PARTNERS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

Years 2004, 2005, 2013, 2017 and 2018, percentage compositions on the total of couples



Couples without employed and retired persons increased

In 2018, 1,812 million couples had both not employed partners (woman aged 25-64). Couples without a retired person were 817 thousand (7.2% of the total) and grew by 279 thousand compared to 2004 (4.5% of the total).

At the territorial level, couples without employed and retired persons were more widespread in the South and the Islands (15.0%; 4.3% in the Centre and 2.6% in the North), especially in Sicily, Calabria and Campania (18.0% of the total). These three regions covered over half of the couples in this condition (437 thousand).

In the South and the Islands these couples increased significantly during the economic crisis: between 2008 and 2013 their share rose from 10.0% to 15.0% (in the Centre from 2.6 to 4.4%, in the North from 1.5 to 3.0%).

Only the man full-time employed in over one couple with children out of three

In 2018 couples with children with the only man employed were 2,901 million and still represented over one third of couples with children (34.4%).

In particular, in couples with children the prevailing model remained the one with only the father full-time employed (32.4%), followed by couples with both parents full-time employed (27.5%) and full-time employed father/part-time employed mother (16.0%). This last typology was the only one showing a progressive and constant growth throughout the examined period (11.9% in 2004).

Among couples without children, both partners full-time employed was the prevailing model (28.1%).

COUPLES (WOMAN AGED 25-49) WITH AND WITHOUT CHILDREN: PARTNER'S EMPLOYMENT

Year 2018, percentage compositions on the total of couples with children and without children



In 2018, among 6,533 million of youngest couples (woman aged 25-49), the differences between couples with and without children were more marked in terms of distribution of work among the partners.

The share of youngest couples with children with both full-time employed partners (28.6%; 17.1% in the South and the Islands) was lower compared to youngest couples without children (45.9%). Moreover, the more the number of children grew, the more the share reduced, regardless of the mother's educational attainment (32.4% couples with one child; 26.2% couples with two children or more).

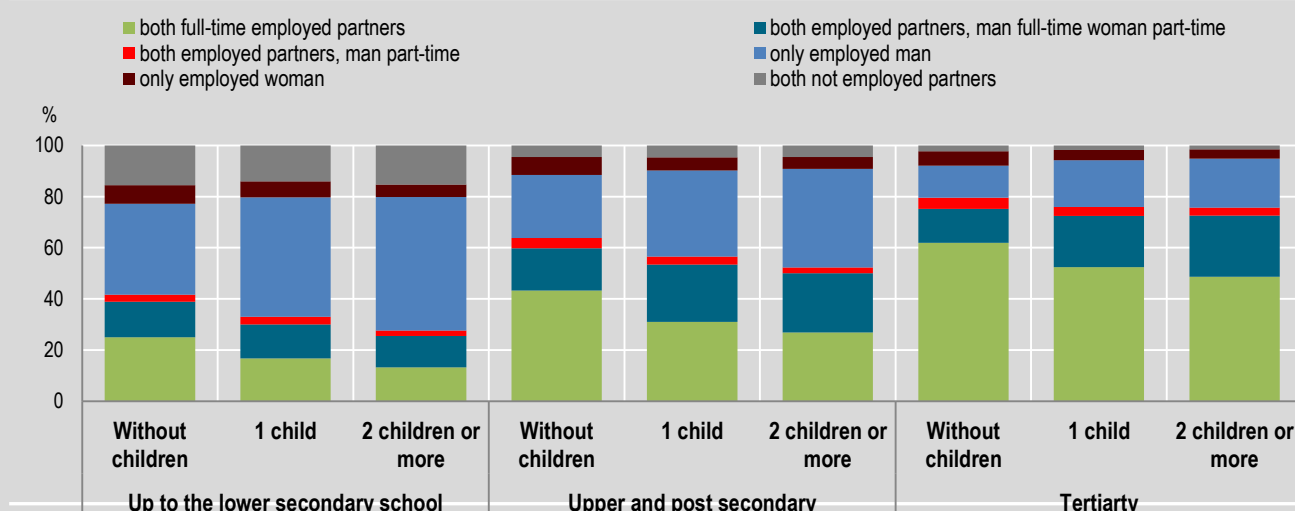
The combination of full-time employed man and part-time employed woman was more common among youngest couples with children (19.2%; 14.8% in couples without children). This type was more widespread in the Centre-North (24.6%) than in the South and the Islands (9.7%), where couples with only full-time employed father prevailed (45.3%).

The share of couples with both full-time employed partners increased when mothers attained a high level of education, despite demanding family burdens (50.4% if graduated; 14.5% with lower secondary school certificate at the most; 28.6 with upper and post-secondary).

Where only one child, 20.0% of couples had full-time employed father and part-time employed mother (23.9% where two children or more).

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COUPLE (WOMAN AGED 25-49) BY WOMAN'S LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Year 2018, percentage compositions on the total of couples



Glossary

Labour force: comprises employed and unemployed persons.

Employed persons: comprise persons aged 15 and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for at least one hour for pay or profit;
- worked for at least one hour as contributing family workers, even if unpaid;
- were temporarily absent from work (for instance due to holidays or sick leave). Employees are classified as employed if the total duration of the absence period is 3 months or less, or if they receive at least 50% of the wage. Self-employed (excluding contributing unpaid family workers) are classified as employed if they maintain their business. Contributing unpaid family workers are classified as employed if the total duration of the absence period is 3 months or less.

Unemployed persons: comprise persons aged 15-74 who:

- were actively seeking work, i.e. had carried out activities in the four week period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment and were available to start working before the end of the two weeks following the reference week;
- oppure, inizieranno un lavoro entro tre mesi dalla settimana di riferimento e sarebbero disponibili a lavorare (o ad avviare un'attività autonoma) entro le due settimane successive, qualora fosse possibile anticipare l'inizio del lavoro.

Inactive persons (persons outside the labour force): comprise persons that are not classified in the labour force, that is persons not classified neither employed nor unemployed.

Potential additional labour force: inactive persons aged 15-74 who belong to these two subgroups:

- persons who are available to work but don't seek work;
- persons who seek work but are not immediately available to start working.

Household: a group of co-habiting people with residence in the same municipality, linked by bonds of marriage, family relation, kinship, adoption, supervision or affective relationships. Also a single person is a household.

Methodological note

Introduction

The Labour force survey is a sample inquiry conducted through interviews on households, and its main goal is to estimate the main aggregates of the labour supply, employed and unemployed.

The main characteristics of the survey, from methodological aspects to the definition of the variables and indicators, are harmonised at the European level, and consistent with the international standards defined by the ILO, and are defined by specific regulations of the Council and of the European Commission. The regulation implementing a harmonised sample survey on the labour force of the European Union countries is Regulation No 577/98 of the European Council; Regulation No 1897/2000 of the European Commission provides the definition of unemployment and the principles for the formulation of the questions needed to identify the employed or unemployed persons; following EU regulations define in detail the survey variables.

The survey is inserted in the National Statistical Program (edition in force: NSP 2017-2019) approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of 31 January 2018, published in the Official Journal - general series - no. 66 of 20 March 2018 – Ordinary Annex no. 12).

Reference population

The reference population is composed by all the individuals, belonging to de facto households whose head resides in the selected municipality. Therefore, members who permanently live together, including hospices, children's homes, religious institutes, barracks, etc. are excluded from the reference population.

Survey and analysis unit

The survey unit of analysis is de facto households, defined as a group of co-habiting people with residence in the same municipality, linked by bonds of marriage, family relation, kinship, adoption, supervision or affective relationships. Also a single person is a household.

The unit of analysis could be both individuals and households.

Sample design

The sample design is a two stages one, respectively of municipalities and households, with a stratification of first stage units. All municipalities with populations above a pre-defined level for each province, known as selfrepresentative, are present in the sample with a probability equal to one. Municipalities whose populations are below the aforementioned thresholds, known as non-self-representative, are grouped into strata. They enter in the sample through a random selection mechanism that provides the extraction of one non-self-representative municipality from each stratum. For each sample municipality, a simple random sample of households is selected from the civil registry list.

From the third quarter of 2012, a new sampling design was introduced, that provided the update of the stratification information, and the introduction of a random rotation of sample municipalities. Since January 2004, the survey is continuous, that is, the information is collected with reference to all the weeks of each quarter. The quarterly sample is uniformly divided between the three months, taking into account the number of weeks that compose each month (respectively 4 or 5). The reference month is composed of weeks, from Monday to Sunday, that occur for at least four days in the calendar month.

Each household is interviewed for two consecutive quarters, temporarily leaves the sample for the two successive quarters, then is interviewed again for other two quarters. That means that approximately 50% of the households are interviewed again after 3 months, and 50% after 12 months, except for non-response. In total, each household remains in the sample for a period of 15 months. Considering that the transition probabilities from inactivity to labour force of individuals above 74 years of age are negligible, to reduce statistical burden on this target population, from 1 January 2011, households composed by only inactive persons older than 74 years of age are not interviewed again.

Accuracy of the estimates

For the purpose of evaluating the accuracy of the estimates produced by a sample survey, it is necessary to take into account the sampling error that arises from observing the variable of interest only on a part (sample) of the population. This error may be expressed in terms of absolute error (standard error) or relative error (the absolute error divided by the estimate, which is called the variation coefficient, VC). In this paragraph, the punctual estimate and its relative error are reported for each of the main variables of interest.

Table A shows the relative errors (VC) of the estimates of the main indicators.

TABLE A – RELATIVE ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF THE MAIN INDICATORS. ANNO 2018

	Punctual estimat	Relative Errors (CV)
Households (with at least one member aged 15-64) with two or more people and at least one employed person (values in thousands)	12.176	0,00309
Households (with at least one member aged 15-64) with two or more people without employed and retired people (values in thousands)	1.151	0,01107
Couples (with woman aged 25-49) with both unemployed partners (values in thousands)	1.812	0,00866
Employed Single person (aged 15-64) (percentage)	74,6	0.00332
Couples (with woman aged 25-49) with children with only full-time employed father (percentage)	32,4	0.00583

From these it is possible to build a confidence interval that, with a certain level of confidence, contains the true, but unknown value of the parameter subject to estimation. The confidence interval is calculated by adding and subtracting the absolute sampling error to its punctual estimate, multiplied by a coefficient that depends on the confidence level; considering the traditional confidence level of 95%, the corresponding coefficient is 1.96.

Table B illustrates the calculations for the construction of the confidence intervals of an estimate in thousand and a percentage estimate.

TABLE B - CALCOLO ESEMPLIFICATIVO DELL'INTERVALLO DI CONFIDENZA. ANNO 2018

	Household (with at least one member aged 15-64) with two or more people and one employed person (values in thousands)	Couples (with woman aged 25-64) with both employed partners (%)
Punctual estimate:	5.697	44,4
Relative error (VC)	0,00466	0,00382
Interval estimate		
Half breadth of the interval:	$(5.697 \times 0,00466) \times 1,96 = 52,03$	$(44,4 \times 0,00382) \times 1,96 = 0,3$
Confidence interval lower bound:	$5.697 - 52,03 = 5.645$	$44,4 - 0,3 = 44,1$
Confidence interval upper bound:	$5.697 + 52,03 = 5.749$	$44,4 + 0,3 = 44,7$