

2020 SDG

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR 2030 AGENDA IN ITALY

The 2030 Agenda, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, represents the Global Action Plan for the achievement of a sustainable transformation of society, economy and environment.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the relative 169 specific targets in which they are declined, balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, extending the 2030 Agenda from the social pillar provided for by the Millennium Goals, to the other two pillars, economic and environmental, to which is added the institutional dimension. They are universal, interconnected and indivisible, they must take into account specific territorial realities and are potentially applicable everywhere, on a global, national and local (regional and / or urban) level. There are numerous references to the well-being of people and to an equitable distribution of the benefits of development, intra generational and intergenerational. “No one left behind” is one of the key principles.

The United Nations Inter Agency Expert Group on SDGs (UN-IAEG-SDGs) has proposed a list, revised in 2020, of 232 indicators necessary for their monitoring, which constitute the statistical reference framework worldwide.

The dissemination of the third edition of the Report on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) takes place in the presence of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has accelerated the need for a unified vision capable of developing and implementing an appropriate strategy for economic, social and environmental development, paying attention to the interdependencies of the various aspects and oriented towards sustainability.

Although the Report mainly contains information updated to 2019, efforts have been made to account for the impact of COVID-19 in two ways. On the one hand, based on a counterfactual approach, the Report presents an estimation of the reduction in emissions generated by the behavior of families and businesses along the lockdown. On the other hand, in chapter 2, the interlinkages between COVID-19 and the different Goals are presented using the scheme of interconnections and networks.

In addition, the Report strengthens the system of indicators prepared for monitoring the SDGs. There are 325 statistical measures available (of which 296 different) for 130 UN-IAEG indicators. Compared to the December 2019 release, 125 statistical measures have been updated.

The Report proposes a descriptive approach to assess on the evolution of sustainability comparing the performance of all indicators with the previous year and 10 years earlier. The Report introduces, on an experimental way, three composite indices aiming to measure SDGs performance on social, environmental and economic dimension.

Chapter 2 of this edition contains, jointly, both the updates on the international and national processes that underlie the evolutionary framework of the SDGs, and the presentation of the interconnections and networks. Unlike the previous edition, the section dedicated to regional indicators is entirely available online on the institutional website www.istat.it.

Progress towards sustainable development

Italian sustainability is improving both compared to previous year and 10 years before (Figure 1). Compared to the previous year 48.1% of indicators improved, while 29.7% is stable and 22.2% decrease (Figure 1). Comparison appear better with 10 years before, when 61.1% of indicators picks up, 17.8% remain at the same level and 21.1% deteriorate.

Figure 1. Performance of SDG indicators compared with 10 years before and the previous year.



Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal 13 (Climate Action) account for the highest percentage of indicators showing an improvement compared to the previous year (respectively 71,3% and 66,7%), while Goals 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and 15 (Life on Land) show the highest levels of deteriorating indicators (54.5% and 41.7% respectively).

Compared to the previous 10 years, the picture for Goals shows a widespread number of positive signals,

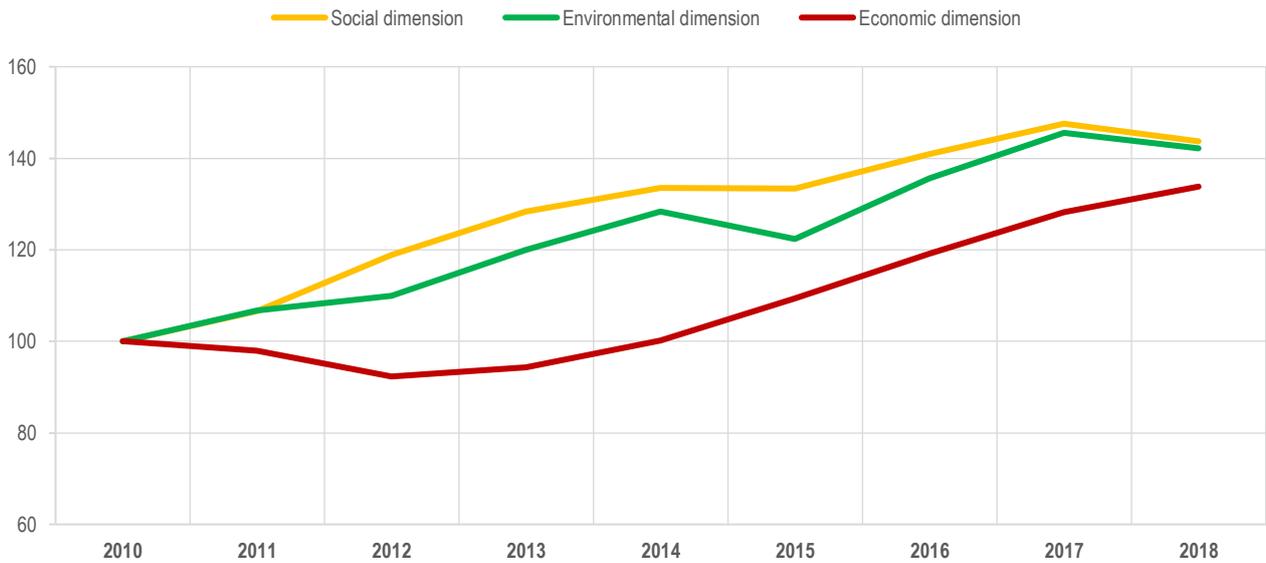
The performance at regional level is observed by means of the quintile distribution of each indicator across regions. The autonomous provinces of Bolzano and Trento present about 48% of the indicators in the fifth quintile, the most virtuous one. Valle d'Aosta also shows a particularly favourable distribution (41.7%). Liguria and Piemonte present the worst performance of the indicators in the regions in the North.

In the central regions, the distribution of indicators in the quintiles is concentrated in the third quintile, with a better picture in Toscana and Umbria, while Lazio performs worst, with a high shares of indicators in the second quintile

In the southern regions the values assumed by the indicators are the lowest. Sicilia, Calabria and Campania exhibit a high share of indicators in the first quintile (58.3%, 52.2% and 48.5% respectively) while in Abruzzo, Molise and Sardegna the distribution appears less unfavourable.

In the period 2010-2018 the composite indices elaborated for economic, social and environmental dimension show a generalised improvement but for environmental and social dimension more. The economic dimension showed a worsening until 2013, in line with the evolution of the Italian business cycle (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Composite indices for the social, economic and environmental dimensions. Years 2010-2018.



Progress in clean energy and responsible consumption has driven the performance of the environmental composite index, while indicators on health and education account for the positive path of the social dimension. However, in the last years the speed of improvements decreases for both dimensions. The evidences presented by the composite indices appears in line with the picture provided by the comparison of all indicators (see Figure 1).

The COVID-19 pandemic has implied containment measures (lockdown) that has affected both firm and households. This scenario has had a strong impact on the economic performance but, at the same time, it had provided positive effects on climate-changing and polluting emissions. According to our counterfactual simulation, the lockdown accounts for a reduction of greenhouse gas and tropospheric ozone precursor emissions, 2.6% and 4%, respectively.

Main results for Goal



Goal 1

In Italy, in 2018, the population **at risk of poverty or social exclusion** was 27.3% (about 16 million 400 thousand individuals), down from the previous year (28.9%). The Italian ratio is still higher than the European average (21.7% in 2018 from 22.4% in 2017). The evolution of the three indicators that compose the risk of poverty or social exclusion, exhibits a similar behaviour but the risk of poverty, which affects 20.3% of the population is stable. Severe material deprivation decreases (8.5% in 2018, from 10.1% in 2017) as well as the share of those living in households with a very low work intensity (11.3% from 11.8%).

In 2019 Italy confirms progress toward reduction on poverty: the **incidence of absolute poverty** refers to 6.5% of households and 7.8% of individuals (7.0% and 8.4% in 2018).



Goal 2

In 2018, 1.5% of Italian households reported **food insecurity** (as they state to have not had enough money to buy food in some periods of the past year, and cannot afford a protein meal at least twice a week). The percentage has been steadily decreasing since 2013, when it was 4.6%.

More than 30% of children aged 3 to 5 years are **overweight**, a condition that is an important risk factor for health. Percentage dropped down with age, to halve between 14 and 17 years (year 2017/18). Despite improvements in recent years, the situation appears as critical.

In 2018, the area under **organic farming** accounted for 15.5% of the utilised agricultural area in Italy, more than double the EU average (7.5%). Organic crops increased by 2.6% compared to the previous year, and by more than 75% compared to 2010.

In agriculture, the distributed quantity of **plant protection products** have continued to decrease (12.8 kg per hectare in 2018, -21.5% from 2010), while the quantity of **fertilizers** remains stable (about 500 kg per hectare). In 2018, also **ammonia emissions** from the agricultural sector, mainly related to livestock farms, decreased by 3.1%, compared to the previous year.

The agriculture orientation index for government expenditure has decreased (from 0.35 to 0.19 points between 2010 and 2018), in contrast with the aim suggested by the Agenda 2030.

Italy's financial commitment to cooperation for development in the agricultural sector has increased from € 20.2 million in 2013 to € 62.5 million in 2018.



Goal 3

In 2019, in Italy, the number of specialist and general physicians was about 4 per 1,000 inhabitants while the number of nurses and midwives is 5.9 per 1,000 inhabitants. Pharmacists, on the other hand, were 1.1 per 1,000 inhabitants.

In 2018, the indicator on healthy life expectancy at birth, which provides indications of the quality of survival, was 58.5 years compared to 83 years of life expectancy at birth.

In 2019, the standardised proportion of people aged 15 years and older with risk behaviours in alcohol consumption or smoking was further reduced compared to the previous year.

The trend of influenza vaccination in over65s increased again in the 2018-2019 winter season (53.1%) while paediatric vaccinations reach high coverage and, in the case of measles, exceed 95% for those born in 2015 (target threshold recommended by the World Health Organization).



Goal 4

In 2018, in Italy the percentage of students who do not reach the minimum level of scientific competence (**low performer**) reaches 25.9%, a result significantly worse than the Oecd average (22%). Compared to reading and mathematics skills, the shares of low performers are close to the Oecd average.

The percentage of young people between 18 and 24 years old who have not completed their education is 13.5% in 2019, a decrease compared to 2017-2018. Also in 2019, only 27.6% of young people aged 30-34 have a **tertiary degree** (33.8% of women and 21.6% of men), stable compared to 2018. The level remains significantly below the European average (41.3%).

The participation of Italian adults in **training activities**, both formal and non-formal, remains constant between 2018 and 2019: 8.1% of those aged between 25 and 64 have carried out at least one training activity in the last 4 weeks. The inhabitants of Northern European countries are much more involved in learning opportunities.



Goal 5

In 2018, 133 **murders of women** were committed in Italy (10 more than in 2017). In about 80% of cases the perpetrator is a person known to the victim: partner, former partner and family members. In 2019, among women aged 25-49 with pre-school children (0-5 years), more than one in two was employed (55.2%) while three out of four women without children were employed (74.3%).

In the current legislature, there are seven Regions in which the regional representation in the Italian Parliament expresses a **female share** of more than 40% of the total elected; it exceeds 20% in almost all the others.

In 2019 Italy, together with France and Sweden, was among the EU28 countries where the proportion of women on the boards of directors is higher (36.1%). The female incidence in decision-making bodies was less high (18.6%, an increase of 1.8 percentage points compared to 2019).



Goal 6

Italy has the highest level of freshwater abstraction for **public water supply** among the EU28 countries, with values among the highest also per capita. In 2018, the total volume of water abstracted for public water supply amounted to 9.2 billion cubic meters, equal to 419 litres per inhabitant per day. The amount decreased compared to the previous survey, for the first time since 1999.

In 2018, the public water supply network of the 109 provincial or metropolitan capitals supplied 237 litres per inhabitant per day, decreasing of about three litres compared to 2016. The efficiency of the networks showed a slight improvement: 62.7% of the total volume input in the network reached the end users, about two percentage points more than 2016. In 2018 water rationing measures were adopted in 12 provincial capitals.

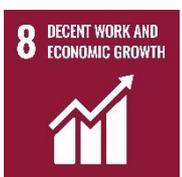


Goal 7

Over the last ten years, the **renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption** has increased by 5 percentage points, slightly decreasing and reaching 17,8% in 2018 (-0,5 percentage points). Italy is among the small subset of EU countries that have already reached the 2020 national target. The contribution from renewables considerably varies at a sectoral level, with a more relevant share for electricity sector than for heating and transport sectors. In 2018 electricity from renewable sources in the gross electricity consumption showed a marked increase, reaching 34.3%.

The positive trend of Italian **energy intensity** continues: the ratio between gross available energy and GDP decreased by 11% in the last ten years and by 2.1% in the last year, reaching 93 tonnes of oil equivalent per million euros.

The share of **population not able to keep their home adequately warm** keeps on decreasing: in 2018 it was equal to 14.1%.



Goal 8

After the recovery in the 2015-2017 period, the last two years has shown a slowdown in the **annual growth rate of GDP** per capita, more pronounced in 2019 (+ 0.4%). The value added per employed person decreased by 0.4% in the last year, highlighting a more sustained dynamic of the **labour factor** than production. The evolution of the macroeconomic scenario is still characterized by significant levels of **non-regular occupation**.

In recent years, the positive phase of the economic cycle has led to a generalized improvement in **employment** and to a reduction in **unemployment** both in EU countries and, to a lesser extent, in Italy. The other context indicators are also improved but the existing gap with the EU countries average does not reduce. In particular, in 2019, Italy showed the highest percentage of **NEETs** (22.2%) among the EU28 countries, even if decreasing compared to 2018 (-1.2 percentage points).

In 2018, the **government spending in employment programmes** and social protection from unemployment amounted to 1.19% of GDP and 2.45% of the national budgets. The increase recorded in the last year does not compensate for the contraction of the previous year and both indicators remain below the values recorded from 2013.



Goal 9

The average **R&D intensity** of the European Union on GDP grew from 1.93 in 2009 to 2.12 in 2018, far below to the EU 2020 target. In the same period, researchers increased from 31 to 40.7 per 10,000 inhabitants.

In Italy, **R&D intensity** on GDP is significantly lower compared to the major EU countries. However, there are some clear improvements: the **R&D intensity** on GDP increased from 1.22% in 2009 to 1.39% in 2018. In the same years, researchers grew from 17.3 to 23.1 units per 10,000 inhabitants.

In 2017 the proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added remained substantially stable at 32.4%.

Railway network indicators show a polarization in favour of Northern and Central regions compared to the Southern regions.

The decreasing trend in **CO₂ emission intensity** on the value added recorded in the last decade is confirmed in 2018, with a contraction of 2.4%.



Goal 10

In Italy, in the period 2004-2017, the **income growth** of the relatively low-income population has deteriorated significantly. In particular, in 2017 the incomes of the entire population increased more than the incomes of the poorest people (+1.6% and +0.2% respectively).

In Italy, the disposable income share for 40% of the poorest population (19.3%) is lower than the European average (20.9%, 2016 data).

In 2018, 242,009 **new residence permits** were issued, 7.9% less than previous year. The decrease is largely due to the decrease in permits issued for asylum applications. Presence of refugees remains low (less than 1% of residence permits valid on 1 January 2019). Citizenship acquisitions continue to decrease: in 2018 they were 103,485, 23.8% less than in 2017.



Goal 11

Unsatisfactory **housing conditions** involve more than a quarter of the Italian population. In 2018, the share of households living in overcrowded dwellings increased again (27.8%), exceeding the level of 2016.

In 2019, about one third of households complained difficulties of links with public transport means. The share of persons who usually travel to their work place by private means of transport, remains high (74.2%), while the share of students who usually travel to their study place only by public transports is still low (28.5%). The incidence of urban green areas, compared to the urbanized areas, is stable: 8.9 m² per 100 m² on average in the 109 provincial capitals.



Goal 12

In 2018 in Italy further progress has been reached in the field of **waste management**, even in the context of an increase in the production of municipal waste per capita. National recycling rate increased to 51%, exceeding, for the first year, the 2020 target. The percentage of municipal waste object of **separate collection** on total municipal waste (58%) also increased, even if it still remains below regulatory targets.

Domestic material consumption, both per capita and with respect to GDP, increased again in 2018, after ten years decreasing.

In 2018, the ratio between the amount of **fossil fuel subsidies** and GDP, equal to 1%, recorded a new increase.



Goal 13

Total **green house gas emissions** in Europe continue to decrease, with an index of 78.3 in 2017 compared to the base year 1990.

The value of greenhouse gases emissions per capita, on the other hand, went back to 8.8 tons of CO₂ equivalent in the same year. Three quarters of emissions are generated by production activities and a quarter by household consumption. The primary element of greenhouse gases is carbon dioxide (82%), while methane is present at 10%.

In Italy, hazardous events are intensifying also due to climate change, with multi-risk cascade events.

In 2018, in Italy, favourable weather conditions compared to the previous year led to a reduction of forest fires, decreasing 41.0% compared to the previous year.



Goal 14

In 2019 the surface of the **marine protected areas** included in the Natura 2000 network, which is the main European instrument for the conservation of biodiversity, increased by 5,163 km² compared to the previous year.

In accordance with the regulations in force, in 2018 the percentage of authorized coastal bathing waters on the total of the coastal line, was 66.5%. In the Western Mediterranean, fish stocks are in over exploitation, 90.7% of which is not biologically sustainable.



Goal 15

More than 30% of the national territory is covered by **forests**, whose extension is constantly increasing (+0.6% per year from 2000 to 2015), as well as their biomass density (from 95 to 111 tonnes per hectare). In Italy, the **forest management certification**, attesting the sustainability of the production processes in forestry, is still uncommon (less than 10% of forest areas, compared to 47.1% of the EU average).

The system of **protected natural areas** covers about 80% of the Key Biodiversity Areas (also in mountain areas), but most EU countries are closer than Italy to the goal of total coverage.

Soil sealing has continued to increase (about 48 sq.km of new artificially sealed surfaces realized during 2018, 7.6% of the national territory). Land coverage by impervious surfaces prevents the underlying soil from performing its natural functions. Besides, almost 40% of territory is highly fragmented – also resulting in a serious limitation of ecosystems' functionality.

The risk for biodiversity is high: about 30% of terrestrial species of vertebrates and 20% of insect species extant over Italian territory are considered at risk of extinction, while invasive alien species has continued to spread (more than 10 new plant and animal species introduced every year, from 2000 to 2017).



Goal 16

In 2018, 345 **intentional homicides** were committed in Italy, corresponding to 0.6 per 100 thousand inhabitants. The rate decreased over the years in the case of men, while it remained stable in the case of women.

At 31 December 2019 there were 9,746 prisoners awaiting first trial, equal to 16.0% of the prison population. The number of inmates in prisons is higher than the number of available places (119.9% available places). In 2019 the **effective duration of civil proceedings** in ordinary courts remained high (an average of 421 days), although down by 20 days compared to the previous year.



Goal 17

In 2018, the share of gross national income allocated by Italy to **Official Development Assistance** lost 0.05 percentage points, reaching 0.25%. Italy is far from the 2030 targets, recording a share lower than the average contribution also of the countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

In 2019 there was a contraction in the **foreign workers' remittances** equal to 2% of the total amount.

The expansion of the **use of ICT** in the population and enterprises continues, although at a slower pace. In 2019, the percentage of households who access the Internet via broadband connection was 75% (and reaches 95% in enterprises with at least 10 persons employed), while the percentage of individuals using the Internet was 68%.