

Urban environment quality

Year 2014

Air quality continued to improve in 2014, as fewer provincial capitals (35, against 44 in 2013) exceeded the limit value set for PM₁₀ (daily average) for over 35 days. The number drops significantly in the North area (from 32 to 24), where most of the cities involved are located, and to a lesser extent in the Centre (from 6 to 3), but increases slightly in the South and Islands (from 6 to 8).

Considering both the exceedances of PM₁₀ daily averages and the highest values of PM₁₀ and PM_{2,5} yearly average concentrations, the most critical situations appear, in order, those of Frosinone, Torino, Alessandria, Vicenza, Benevento, Cremona, Lodi, Milano, Cagliari and Palermo.

The limits value set for the average yearly concentration of nitrogen dioxide were exceeded in fewer cities than in 2013 (23 against 35). Values over 150% of the threshold were detected in at least one monitoring station in Brescia, Genova, Firenze, Roma and Palermo.

The cities that failed to meet the long-term goal for ozone for more than 25 days are half those of 2013. The alert threshold was exceeded for 3 hours in Lecco, Monza and Bergamo, and for 4 hours in Catanzaro.

Torino, Terni and Avellino failed to meet the target value set for the average yearly concentration of benzo(a)pyrene in 2014.

In 2014, citizens of the provincial capitals submitted about 2,000 complaints to local authorities regarding noise pollution (11.2 every 100,000 inhabitants). The ratio is far lower among the 18 larger cities than in the other municipalities (8.5 against 15).

Compared to 2013, fewer checks were performed to verify compliance to noise pollution limits (7.9 every 100,000 inhabitants, against 9.6), but the ratio of those detecting at least one violation grows up, reaching 52.4%.

Motorization rate is still high in provincial capitals (613 motor cars every 1,000 inhabitants), even if it decreases for the third year in a row (it was 635 in 2011). However, the number of circulating motor vehicles remains substantially unchanged (about 14.8 million, equal to 715 vehicles per km²).

The share of new cars (registered in same year) returns to grow in 2014 (from 4.9 to 5.2%), but the share of cars aged 8 years or more - less safe and less energy-efficient - keeps growing (from 46.4 to 57.7% in 5 years).

The share of gasoline-fueled cars shrinks further (from 55.5 to 54.1%), to the advantage of diesel and LPG/natural gas-fueled cars (37.9 and 7.7%, respectively). The number of electric cars (mostly gasoline-fueled hybrids) increases considerably, but their share remains marginal (3 every 1,000).

Demand for local public transportation (Lpt) shows clear signs of recovery, as the ratio of Lpt passengers per inhabitant returns to grow up (from 188 to 190), although remaining well below the average level of 2008-2011 (218). Recovery concentrates in larger cities (+3.3%), and especially in Napoli, Torino, Venezia, Bologna and Palermo.

About 10 million tons of municipal waste were collected in the provincial capitals (same quantity of 2013, equaling one third of the whole national waste collection). *Per capita* values are much higher in the Centre (604 kg per inhabitant) than in the North (540) and in the South and Islands areas (508).

Separate waste collection makes up 38.6% of the whole municipal waste collected in 2014: despite a growth of 3 percentage points, the share is far below the target of 65%, which was expected to be achieved in 2012. The share of separate waste collection reaches almost 80% in Pordenone and goes over 70% in Verbania, Mantova, Belluno, Treviso, Trento and Tortoli; while in Sicilia it remains below 10% in 6 provincial capitals out of 9.

Consumption of electric power for household use continues to decline (-7.3% in one year): in the provincial capitals it equals 1.056 kWh per inhabitant in 2014 (less than in 2000). Consumption of natural gas for household use drops down even more (-14.3%).

Use of renewable sources is on the rise in provincial capitals. In particular, solar power plants owned by the Municipalities are 7.2% more than in 2013, accounting for 4.1% of the overall installed power.

Consumption of potable water for household use keeps on decreasing: the amounts billed in 2014 equal 161 liters per inhabitant (4.0% less than the previous year).

Leakages in municipal water supply networks remain huge (36.9%) and 11 provincial capitals had to adopt rationing measures in the distribution of water for household use during 2014.

In 2014, sewerage networks serve, on average, 93.3% of the provincial capitals' population. In nearly two cities out of three, the first destination of all waste water is a treatment plant in operation. In Lodi, Firenze, Potenza and Iglesias about one third of waste water directly pours into a surface stream (73% in Benevento).

For more details please refer to the Italian version

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