

## Birth and fertility among the resident population

Year 2016

In 2016, 473,438 births were registered in the Resident Population Register, that is almost 12,000 fewer births than in 2015. The figures confirmed the downward trend that began in recent years: the number of births decreased substantially since 2008 by more than 100 thousand births.

The recent decline in births resulted mainly from the reduction in the number of children born to Italian parents. The figure shows that in 2016 there were 373,075 births to Italian partners, 107 thousand fewer in eight years. The decrease can be due both to the fall in the number of women in childbearing years and to their low level of fertility.

The decrease of the birth rate is characterized by a stronger reduction of births of the first order, from 283,922 in 2008 to 227,412 in 2016 (-20% compared with -16% of higher order births).

The decline in births since 2008 is due to the decline in the number of births in the marriage: in 2016 they were only 331,681 (over 132,000 fewer in only 8 years). This major decline is partly due to the recent sharp drop in weddings, which hit the minimum in 2014, when only 189,765 weddings were celebrated (57,000 less than in 2008).

Since 2015, marriages have kept increasing again (+4,612 compared to the previous year) and the trend reached an increase in 2016 (+9,000), the year in which the threshold of 200,000 celebrations was passed.

The link between nuptiality and births in our country continues to be strong - (in 2016, 70% of births occurred in the marriage) – therefore a downsizing of the decline in births due to the growth of marriages can be expected in the short term; according to the provisional figures for the period January-June 2017, the birth rate is only 1,500 lower than the same period of 2016. This is the most significant decrease since 2008.

The number of births with at least one foreign parent decreased slightly from 2012 (-7 thousand units) to just over 100,000 in 2016 (21.2% of the total). Among these, the more relevant decrease was registered for babies born from both foreign parents, who in 2016 fell for the first time under 70 thousand.

Among the foreign births, Romanian children (15,417 in 2016) confirmed first in the ranking, followed by Moroccans (9,373), Albanians (7,798) and Chinese (4,602). These four communities accounted for 53.6% of total foreign births in Italy.

Fertility decline, which started in 2010, was still underway. In 2016 the average number of children per woman fell to 1.34, compared with 1.46 in 2010. Total fertility rate was 1.26 children for Italian women and 1.97 for the foreign ones. The latter figure represented a significant decrease compared to seven years before, when the average number of children for foreign women was 2.65.

The change in women's age structure is responsible for almost three-quarters of the observed birth difference between 2008 and 2016. The remaining share depends on the decrease of the propensity to have children.

The reduction in the average number of first children per woman between 2010 and 2016 is responsible for 57% of the overall drop in fertility of Italian women and 70% of that of foreign women.

Looking at generations, the average number of children per woman in Italy continues to decrease, from 2.5 children of women born in early 1920s (immediately after the Great War), to 2 children per woman of the post-war generations (1945-49), to reach the estimated level of 1.44 children for women of the 1976.

At the same time, there is a relevant increase in the proportion of women without children: for the 1950 generation this proportion was 11.1%, while for the 1960 generation was 13% and for 1976 generation it is estimated that it will reach 21,8% (at the end of the cycle of reproductive life).

**TABLE 1. MAIN CHARACTERISTICS AND INDICATORS OF FERTILITY AND NUPTIALITY.**

Years 2008, 2010, 2014-2016

	2008	2010	2014	2015	2016
Live births	576,659	561,944	502,596	485,780	<b>473,438</b>
Births of first order	283,922	274,750	244,646	230,778	<b>227,412</b>
Births to at least one foreign parent	96,442	104,773	104,056	100,766	<b>100,363</b>
Births to foreign couples	72,472	78,082	75,067	72,096	<b>69,379</b>
Births to Italian couples	480,217	457,171	398,540	385,014	<b>373,075</b>
Births outside marriage	112,849	123,420	138,680	139,611	<b>141,757</b>
Births outside marriage (percentage values)	19.6	22	27.6	28.7	<b>29.9</b>
Total fertility rate	1.45	1.46	1.37	1.35	<b>1.34</b>
Mean age of women at childbirth	31.1	31.3	31.5	31.7	<b>31.8</b>
Total fertility rate of Italian women	1.34	1.34	1.29	1.27	<b>1.26</b>
Mean age at childbearing for Italian women	31.7	31.9	32.1	32.3	<b>32.4</b>
Total Fertility rate of foreign women	2.65	2.43	1.97	1.94	<b>1.97</b>
Mean age at childbearing for foreign women	27.5	28.1	28.6	28.7	<b>28.7</b>
Marriages	246,613	217,700	189,765	194,377	<b>203,258</b>
Marriages of both Italian spouses	209,695	192,618	165,535	170,359	<b>177,647</b>
First marriages	212,476	186,045	159,127	160,798	<b>165,316</b>
First marriage rate - Males	536.2	482.9	421.1	429.5	<b>449.6</b>
First marriage rate - Females	594.3	532.9	463.4	474.6	<b>496.9</b>
Mean age at first marriage - Males	32.9	33.4	34.3	34.7	<b>34.9</b>
Mean age at first marriage - Females	29.8	30.3	31.3	31.7	<b>31.9</b>

FIGURE 1. BIRTHS AND FIRST MARRIAGES IN ITALY (N.I. 1995=100)

Years 1995-2016

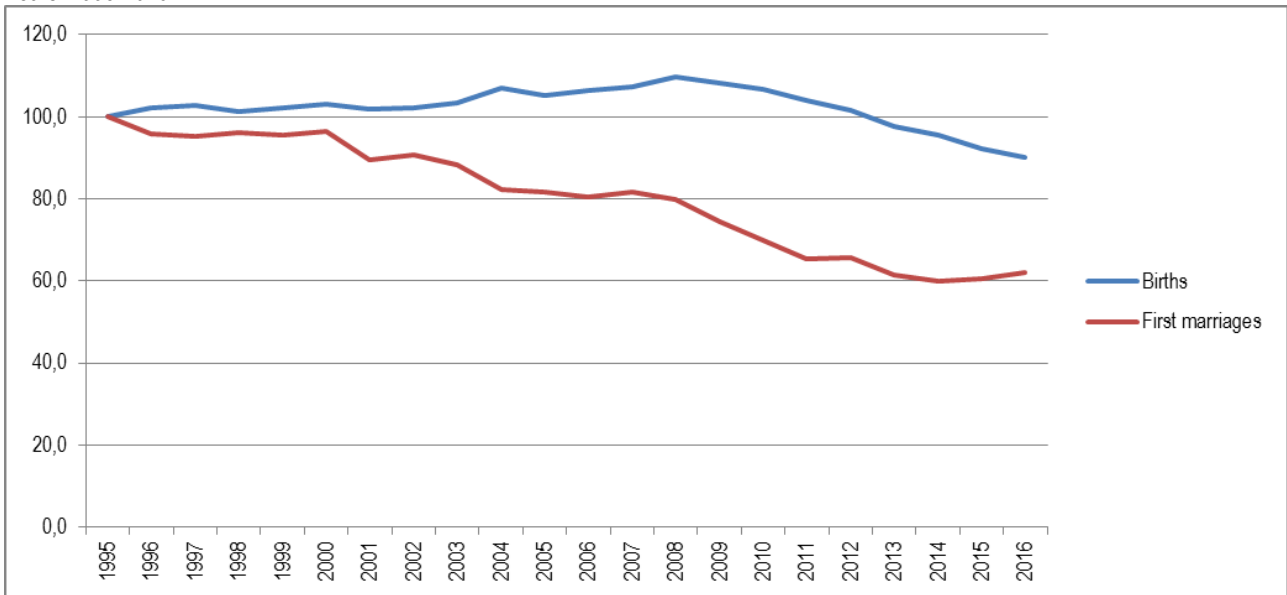


FIGURE 2. BIRTHS OF FIRST ORDER AND IN FIRST MARRIAGES.

Years 2008-2013 and 2014-2016. Average annual percentage changes

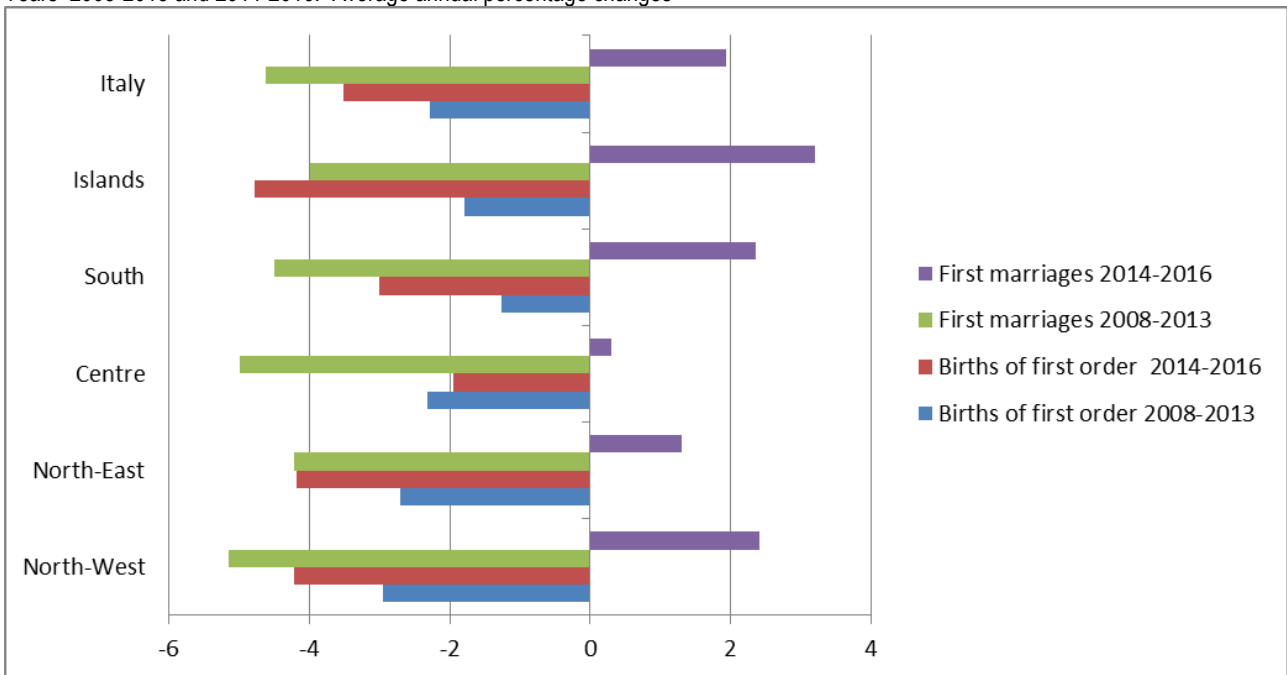


FIGURE 3. FIRST MARRIAGE RATE BY AGE - females (per 1.000 females)

Years 2008, 2014 e 2016

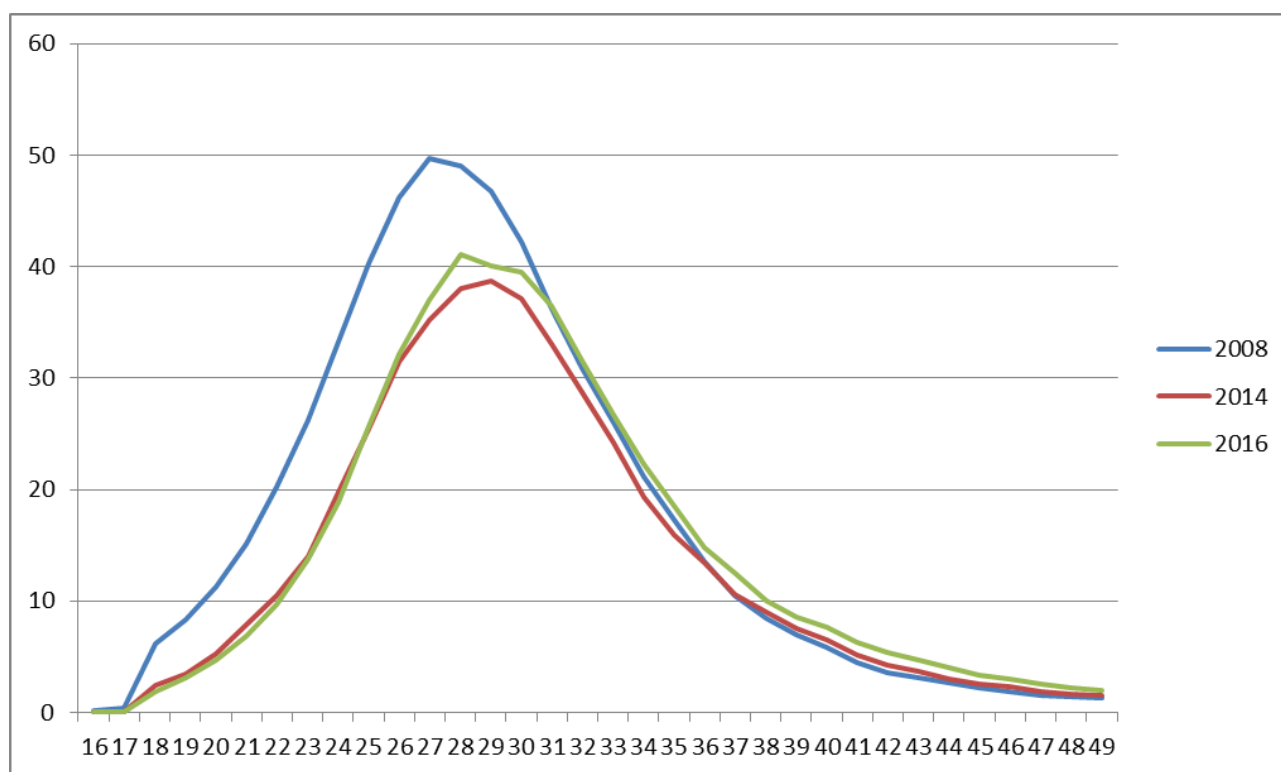


TABLE 2. BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED PARENTS BY REGION. Years 1995 and 2016, percentages

REGIONS	1995	2016	
	Total population	Total population	of which: both Italian parents
North-West	9,5	32,5	37,1
North-East	10	33,7	39,5
Centre	9,1	35,6	38,8
South	5,2	21,8	20,5
Islands	8,7	25,2	24,8
<b>ITALY</b>	<b>8,1</b>	<b>29,9</b>	<b>31,6</b>

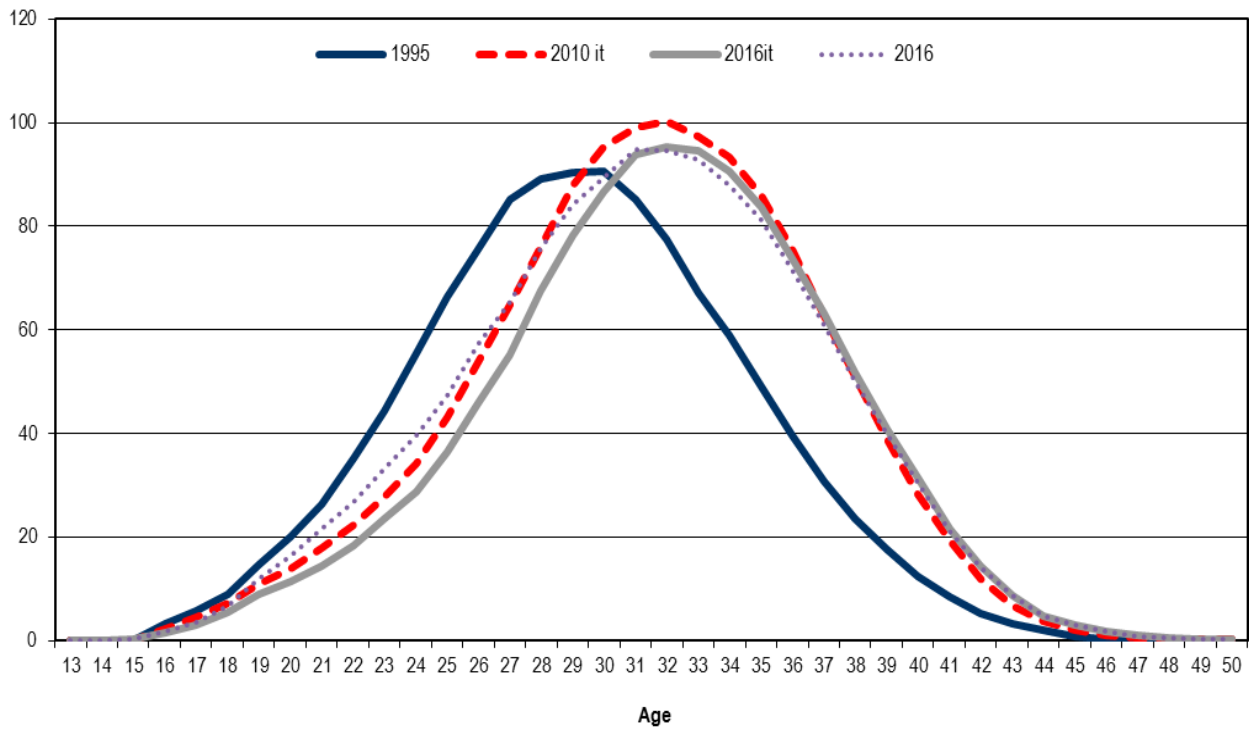
TABLE 3. BIRTHS TO MARRIED AND UNMARRIED PARTNERS BY TYPE OF COUPLE. Year 2016

TYPE OF COUPLE	Births to married parents	Births to unmarried parents	Total
Italian couple	68,4	31,6	100,0
Foreign father and Italian mother	63,8	36,2	100,0
Italian father and foreign mother	69,2	30,8	100,0
Foreign couple	82,3	17,7	100,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,1</b>	<b>29,9</b>	<b>100,0</b>

**TABLE 4. TOTAL FERTILITY RATE (TFR) AND MEAN AGE OF PARENTS AT CHILDBIRTH BY CITIZENSHIP OF MOTHER AND REGION. 1995 and 2016**

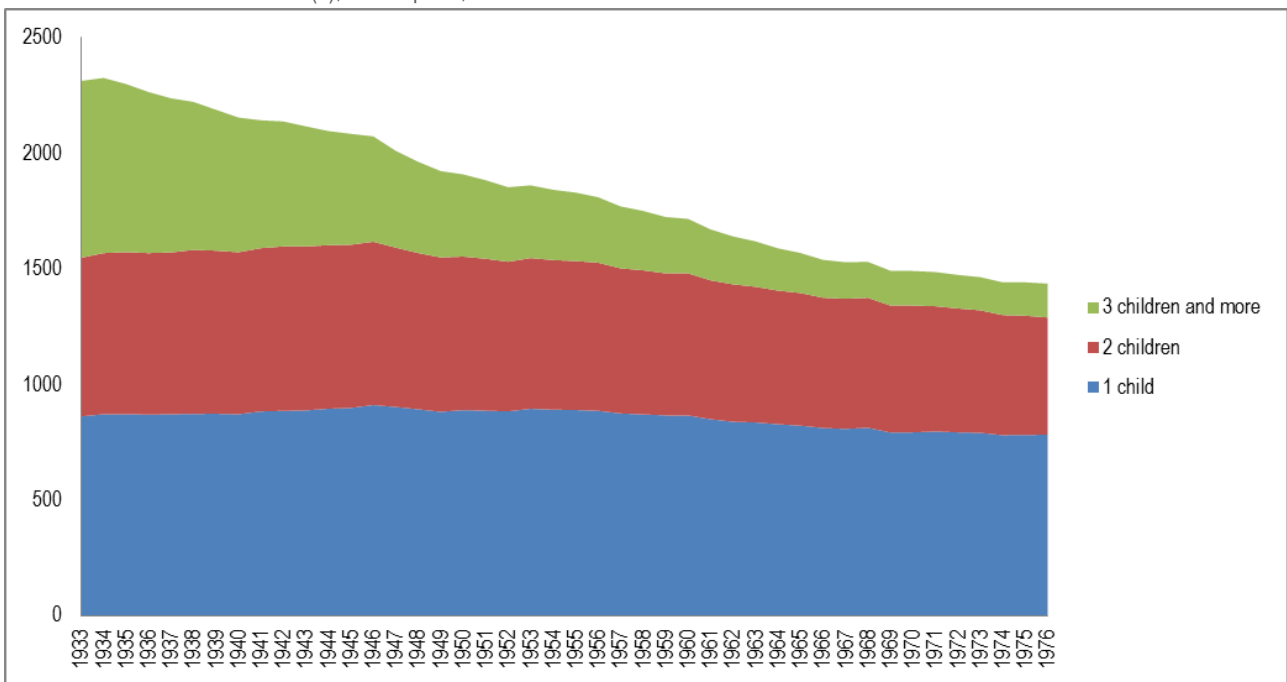
REGIONS	Total fertility rate				Mean age of mothers				Mean age of fathers
	2016		1995		2016		1995		2016
	Italian	Foreign	Total	Total	Italian	Foreign	Total	Total	Total
Piemonte	1,23	1,96	1,35	1,04	32,5	29,0	31,7	30,2	35,3
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	1,33	2,13	1,41	1,1	32,4	28,4	31,7	30	34,8
Lombardia	1,28	2,13	1,42	1,07	32,8	29,0	31,9	30,8	35,5
Bolzano/Bozen	1,67	2,50	1,76	1,39	32,0	29,4	31,6	30	35,1
Trento	1,39	2,32	1,52	1,27	32,6	29,0	31,9	30,4	35,6
Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol	1,53	2,41	1,64	1,34	32,2	29,2	31,7	30,2	35,3
Veneto	1,25	2,03	1,38	1,07	32,9	28,9	32,0	30,6	35,6
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	1,21	2,03	1,33	0,95	32,8	28,9	32,0	30,6	35,4
Liguria	1,17	1,99	1,30	0,94	32,8	28,8	31,9	30,8	35,5
Emilia-Romagna	1,21	2,13	1,40	0,97	32,7	28,8	31,6	30,3	35,4
Toscana	1,18	1,90	1,30	0,99	33,0	28,4	31,9	30,4	35,5
Umbria	1,19	1,63	1,26	1,08	32,7	28,6	31,8	30,1	35,5
Marche	1,23	1,88	1,32	1,11	32,8	28,7	32,0	30,3	35,7
Lazio	1,29	1,66	1,33	1,11	33,0	29,0	32,3	30,4	35,8
Abruzzo	1,23	1,81	1,28	1,19	32,8	28,1	32,2	30	35,6
Molise	1,11	1,79	1,15	1,22	32,6	28,6	32,3	29,4	36,0
Campania	1,33	1,76	1,34	1,52	31,5	28,2	31,3	28,9	34,7
Puglia	1,23	1,97	1,25	1,38	32,0	27,5	31,7	29,1	35,1
Basilicata	1,14	1,77	1,17	1,31	32,8	28,1	32,5	29,6	36,3
Calabria	1,26	1,72	1,28	1,4	31,9	28,2	31,6	28,9	35,6
Sicilia	1,30	2,01	1,33	1,49	31,2	28,0	31,0	28,6	34,6
Sardegna	1,04	1,74	1,07	1,06	32,8	28,4	32,5	30,5	36,1
<b>North-West</b>	<b>1,26</b>	<b>2,08</b>	<b>1,39</b>	<b>1,05</b>	<b>32,7</b>	<b>29,0</b>	<b>31,9</b>	<b>30,7</b>	<b>35,5</b>
<b>North-East</b>	<b>1,26</b>	<b>2,10</b>	<b>1,40</b>	<b>1,05</b>	<b>32,7</b>	<b>28,9</b>	<b>31,8</b>	<b>30,5</b>	<b>35,5</b>
<b>Centre</b>	<b>1,24</b>	<b>1,76</b>	<b>1,31</b>	<b>1,07</b>	<b>32,9</b>	<b>28,7</b>	<b>32,1</b>	<b>30,4</b>	<b>35,7</b>
<b>South</b>	<b>1,27</b>	<b>1,81</b>	<b>1,29</b>	<b>1,42</b>	<b>31,8</b>	<b>28,0</b>	<b>31,6</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>35,1</b>
<b>Islands</b>	<b>1,24</b>	<b>1,95</b>	<b>1,27</b>	<b>1,4</b>	<b>31,4</b>	<b>28,1</b>	<b>31,3</b>	<b>29,1</b>	<b>34,9</b>
<b>ITALY</b>	<b>1,26</b>	<b>1,97</b>	<b>1,34</b>	<b>1,19</b>	<b>32,4</b>	<b>28,7</b>	<b>31,8</b>	<b>29,8</b>	<b>35,3</b>

**FIGURE 4. AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES.** Years 1995, 2010 and 2016, values per 1,000 women



**FIGURE 5. TOTAL FERTILITY RATE BY BIRTH ORDER AND GENERATION.**

Women born from 1933 to 1976 (a), values per 1,000 women



(a) Estimates.

**TABLE 5. TOP FIFTEEN NAMES FOR BABY BOYS AND GIRLS**

Year 2016, absolute values, percentages and cumulative percentages

Boys' baby names	absolute values	%	cumulative %	Girls' baby names	absolute values	%	cumulative %
1 FRANCESCO	7.850	3,26	3,26	SOFIA	7.616	3,34	3,34
2 ALESSANDRO	6.664	2,77	6,04	AURORA	6.466	2,84	6,18
3 LEONARDO	6.505	2,71	8,74	GIULIA	6.093	2,67	8,85
4 LORENZO	6.331	2,63	11,37	EMMA	3.814	1,67	10,53
5 MATTIA	5.917	2,46	13,83	GIORGIA	3.651	1,60	12,13
6 ANDREA	5.577	2,32	16,15	MARTINA	3.533	1,55	13,68
7 GABRIELE	5.254	2,18	18,34	ALICE	3.506	1,54	15,22
8 MATTEO	4.526	1,88	20,22	GRETA	3.461	1,52	16,74
9 TOMMASO	4.179	1,74	21,96	GINEVRA	3.256	1,43	18,17
10 RICCARDO	4.087	1,70	23,66	CHIARA	3.188	1,40	19,56
11 EDOARDO	3.555	1,48	25,14	ANNA	3.122	1,37	20,93
12 GIUSEPPE	3.323	1,38	26,52	SARA	2.976	1,31	22,24
13 DAVIDE	3.242	1,35	27,87	BEATRICE	2.820	1,24	23,48
14 ANTONIO	3.156	1,31	29,18	NICOLE	2.815	1,24	24,71
15 FEDERICO	3.021	1,26	30,44	GAIA	2.605	1,14	25,86

**TABLE 6. TOP FIFTEEN NAMES FOR FOREIGN BABY BOYS AND GIRLS.**

Year 2016, absolute values, percentages and cumulative percentages

Boys' baby names	v.a.	%	cumulative %	Girls' baby names	v.a.	%	cumulative %
1 ADAM	494	1,4	1,4	SOFIA	562	1,7	1,7
2 RAYAN	311	0,9	2,2	SARA	424	1,3	2,9
3 YOUSSEF	270	0,8	3,0	AURORA	237	0,7	3,7
4 DAVID	253	0,7	3,7	MALAK	226	0,7	4,3
5 MATTEO	247	0,7	4,4	EMMA	215	0,6	5,0
6 MOHAMED	222	0,6	5,0	EMILY	204	0,6	5,6
7 GABRIEL	208	0,6	5,6	AMELIA	198	0,6	6,2
8 LEONARDO	206	0,6	6,2	MARIA	165	0,5	6,7
9 KEVIN	195	0,5	6,7	ALESSIA	163	0,5	7,2
10 OMAR	189	0,5	7,2	GIULIA	159	0,5	7,6
11 DANIEL	182	0,5	7,7	MELISSA	147	0,4	8,1
12 AMIR	173	0,5	8,2	SOFIA MARIA	143	0,4	8,5
13 LUCA	164	0,5	8,7	JANNAT	139	0,4	8,9
14 ALESSIO	164	0,5	9,1	AMIRA	137	0,4	9,3
15 MATTIA	160	0,4	9,6	NOEMI	134	0,4	9,7

**TABLE 7. TOP FIVE NAMES FOR FOREIGN BABY BOYS AND GIRLS BY CITIZENSHIP**

Year 2016, absolute values and percentages

CITIZENSHIP	Boys' baby names	absolute values	%	CITIZENSHIP	Girls' baby names	absolute values	%
ROMANIAN	DAVID	159	1,98	RUMENA	SOFIA	153	2,08
	LUCA	105	1,30		SOFIA MARIA	139	1,89
	MATTEO	102	1,27		MARIA	91	1,24
	GABRIEL	101	1,26		ALESSIA MARIA	79	1,08
	ALEXANDRU	86	1,07		GIULIA	69	0,94
MOROCCAN	ADAM	374	7,76	MARCCHINA	MALAK	210	4,60
	RAYAN	217	4,50		SARA	190	4,16
	YOUSSEF	209	4,34		AYA	122	2,67
	AMIR	135	2,80		AMIRA	115	2,52
	MOHAMED	123	2,55		JANNAT	111	2,43
ALBANIAN	ENEA	79	1,97	ALBANESE	AMELIA	139	3,68
	KEVIN	75	1,87		AURORA	132	3,50
	NOEL	75	1,87		EMILY	102	2,70
	ANDREA	72	1,80		EMMA	101	2,68
	ALESSIO	71	1,77		NOEMI	92	2,44
CHINESE	KEVIN	47	1,94	CINESE	SOFIA	37	1,70
	MATTEO	29	1,20		EMILY	32	1,47
	KIMI	22	0,91		GIOIA	21	0,96
	WILLIAM	21	0,87		ANGELA	19	0,87
	ALESSIO	20	0,82		JESSICA	17	0,78



## Glossary

**Absolute change:** the difference between the values in a specified time reference period to values at the beginning of the period.

**Average annual percentage change (or average annual rate of change):** when changes over a period of more than one calendar year are studied, the average annual rate of change may be computed by dividing the percentage change by the number of years in the interval.

**Average number of children per woman (or total fertility rate – TFR):** is the average number of live children that a cohort of women would bear if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the calendar year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan.

**Births outside marriage:** an estimate obtained by considering the total number of births for which the marital status of both parents is known and subtracting from this amount the total number of births to parents who are both married.

**Births to at least one foreign parent:** total of foreign births plus births to mixed couples.

**Births to mixed couples:** entries in the population register for births of Italian citizenship with one Italian parent and the other of foreign citizenship.

**Citizenship:** the status of being a citizen of a State, required and documented in order to enjoy rights and be subject to specific duties.

**First marriage.** Marriage in which the marital status of the bride/groom at the moment of the wedding is single.

**First-marriage index (or rate).** Sum of specific marriage-rate ratios calculated from the ratio, for each age class, of the number of first marriages to the average total annual population.

**Foreign births:** entries in the population register for births with both parents with foreign citizenship.

**Marital status:** the civil status of each individual in relation to the marriage laws of the country. Single: a male or female citizen who has never entered into marriage. Married: a citizen who has not obtained the dissolution or termination of the civil effects of the marriage. Divorced: a married citizen who has obtained the dissolution or termination of the civil effects of the marriage. Widow/Widower: a citizen whose marriage has ended due to the death of her/his partner.

**Mean age at birth:** the age at the time of birth, expressed in years and tenths of years.

**Mean age at first marriage.** It is the mean age of men or women at first marriage if subject throughout their lives to the age-specific marriage rates of first marriages only in a given year.

**Percentage change:** ratio between absolute change and initial amount. It is then multiplied by 100.

**Population register:** the continuous system for recording resident population. It is continuously updated by recording births to parents who are resident in the municipality, deletions due to death of residents and registrations/deletions due to change of residence to/from another municipality or to/from a foreign country.

**Resident foreign citizen:** a person with foreign citizenship or stateless person recorded in the population register.

**Resident population:** people with usual place of resident in a municipality, even if on the date in question they are absent because they are temporarily in another municipality or abroad.

## Methodological note

The individual survey of entries in the population register for births (Istat P.4 form) was implemented by Istat from 1 January 1999 and makes it possible to obtain information at the local municipal level (and by census area) on live births among the resident population, classifying them according to the following variables: sex of the new-born, date of birth (of the child), place of birth, citizenship (of the child), mother's (individual years of) age and cohort, father's (individual years of age) and cohort, mother's marital status, father's marital status, mother's citizenship and father's citizenship. These data thus allow birth-rate and fertility trends to be monitored and analysed in relation to the main demographic characteristics of parents.

The level of coverage of the individual survey, which is evaluated in relation to the information recorded by Istat through the annual municipal summary forms indicating the movement and calculation of the overall resident population and the foreign population (respectively Istat P.2 and Istat P.3), is approximately 97% in both cases.

More detailed data are available online by consulting the I.Stat datawarehouse at <http://dati.istat.it/> and, Demo, the topic-based system, at <http://demo.istat.it/>

## For more details please refer to the Italian version

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