

The economic performance of agriculture in Italy

Year 2017

In 2017 the gross value added of agriculture, forestry and fishing recorded a 3.9% growth at current prices, but a sharp decline (-4.4%) in volume, largely determined by the collapse of wine production (-14.0%) and fruit (-6.1%), in a context of significant increase of sales prices.

The prices of agricultural products have significantly increased (+6.2%) while the prices of purchased products showed a much less significantly increase (+1,6%); this determined a decisive recovery of margins compared to 2016.

The gross value added of the agro-food sector, which in addition to the agricultural sector includes the food industry, increased by 1.2% in current values, but decreased by 1.5% in volume.

Due to the negative performance of the output, negatively affected by the adverse climatic conditions, the work units decreased by 1.2%. The increase of employees (+1.5%) was not sufficient to compensate the decrease of independent working units (-2.5%). Positive results for the food industry, where the working units increased by 3.0%.

For the second year, investments in the agricultural sector had a recovery (+3.3% in current values and +1.7% in volume) after the pronounced contraction of the years before 2016.

In 2017 almost all the components of agricultural production had a significant decrease in volume. The decline was stronger in wood crops (-5.4%), fodder (-5.4%) and crops from arable land (-5.1%). Only secondary activities recorded a positive trend (+3.5%) while support activities were substantially stable.

At the regional level, production showed a modest increase in volume (+0.6%) only in the South, while it decreased in all the other geographical areas: -3.4% in the North-East, -2.7% in the Islands, -1.9% in the North-West. The most marked decline was recorded in the Centre (-5.7%).

With more 31.5 billion euro in 2017, Italy is confirmed as the first Ue28 country for gross value added in agriculture.

Overall, in Eu28 countries the indicator A of agricultural income increased in 2017 (+8.6%): in particular an increase was recorded in Denmark (+62.3%), Germany (+27.5%), the Netherlands (+21.9%), the United Kingdom (+8.8%), France (+10.4%), Romania (+7.5%), Italy (+3.9%) and Greece (+3.1%). Conversely, there was a decline in Spain (-5.6%) and Poland (-1.8%).

In 2017, for the first time in many years, in the Eu there was a significant inversion of trend of the relationship between output prices and input prices: the output prices increased by 4.6% while the input prices increased only by 0.7%.

For more details please refer to the Italian version

Contact person:

Domenico Ciaccia (ciaccia@istat.it)

ph. +39 06 4673.3138

Roberto Moro

ph. +39 06 4673.3214 (romoro@istat.it)

Istat – Italian National Institute of Statistics

Vial Depretis, 74/B, 14 – 00184 ROME