

Poverty in Italy

Year 2009

Istat disseminates the relative and absolute poverty estimations for the households residing in Italy, based on 2009 Households Budget Survey data. Being sample estimations, they are affected by sampling error: small differences can be not statistically significant.

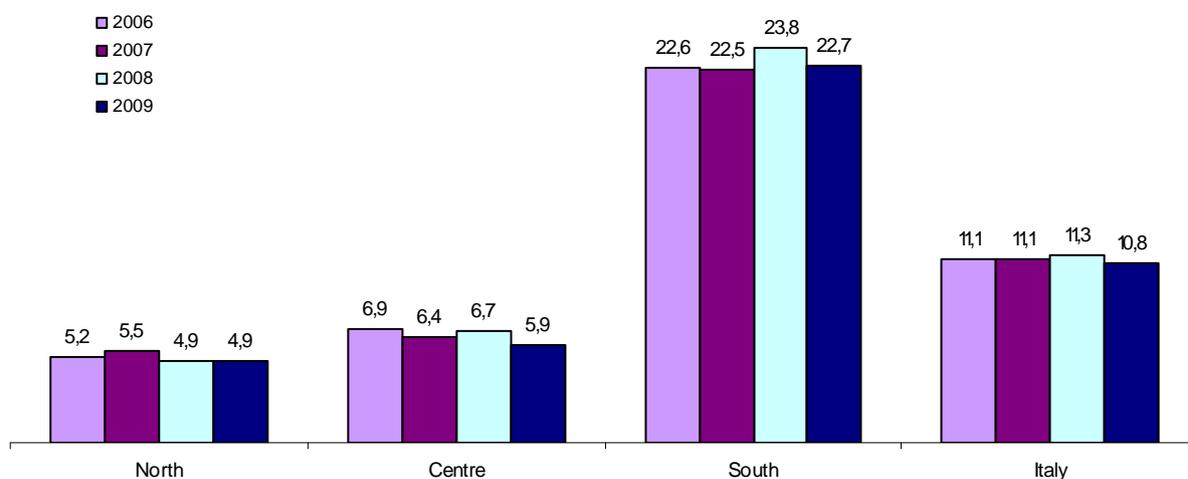
In 2009 the relative poverty incidence was equal to 10.8%, whereas the absolute poverty to 4.7%. Taking into account the sampling error, the phenomenon was stable in comparison with 2008. The South and the Islands confirmed the incidence levels reached in 2008 (22.7% for relative poverty, 7.7% for absolute poverty) and it showed an increase for the absolute poverty intensity (from 17.3% to 18.8%): the number of absolutely poor households stays almost the same, but their average conditions worsened.

The poverty incidence increased, from 2008 to 2009, among the households with a worker as reference person, both in relative (in the Centre from 7.9% to 11.3%) and in absolute terms (at the national level from 5.9% to 6.9%).

In Italy, the incidence decreased among the households headed by a self-employed, from 11.2% to 8.7% for relative poverty, and from 4.5% to 3.0% for absolute poverty, households more concentrated in the North in comparison with 2008.

In 2009, the relative poverty line was equal to 983.01 Euros, almost 17 Euros lower than the 2008 line. In 2009, in fact, the consumption expenditure showed a decrease in real terms, more marked for households with medium-high expenditure levels (see “Households consumption. Year 2009 http://en.istat.it/salastampa/comunicati/in_calendario/consfam/20100705_00/). The condition of the households with the lowest expenditure levels didn't get worse in comparison with the other households (see “Economic cycle and poverty line” paragraph).

Graph 1. Relative poverty by geographical area. Years 2006-2009 (*percentage values*)



The poverty stability observed for the crisis year is the consequence of the job market and deprivation conditions in 2009 (see “Annual report. The state of the Nation in 2009” http://en.istat.it/dati/catalogo/20100625_00/); in this year, in fact, 80% of the employment decrease involved young people, mainly living with their parents, whereas two fundamental social shock-absorbers softened the crisis effects on the household: the household itself, which protected the young people having lost the job, and the short-allowance payment (CIG), which protected the parents (they represent the majority among people receiving short-allowance payment).

Table 1. Relative poverty indicators by geographical area. Years 2008-2009 (in thousands and percentage values)

	North		Centre		South and the Islands		Italy	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Absolute values in the thousands								
Poor households	572	587	317	288	1,847	1,783	2,737	2,657
Resident households	11,716	11,894	4,771	4,860	7,771	7,856	24,258	24,609
Poor individuals	1,592	1,582	945	886	5,541	5,342	8,078	7,810
Resident individuals	26,919	27,182	11,601	11,724	20,740	20,769	59,261	59,674
Percentage composition								
Poor households	20.9	22.1	11.6	10.8	67.5	67.1	100.0	100.0
Resident households	48.3	48.3	19.7	19.8	32.0	31.9	100.0	100.0
Poor individuals	19.7	20.3	11.7	11.3	68.6	68.4	100.0	100.0
Resident individuals	45.4	45.6	19.6	19.7	35.0	34.8	100.0	100.0
Poverty incidence (%)								
Households	4.9	4.9	6.7	5.9	23.8	22.7	11.3	10.8
Individuals	5.9	5.8	8.1	7.6	26.7	25.7	13.6	13.1
Poverty intensity* (%)								
Households	18.0	17.5	19.6	17.4	23.0	22.5	21.5	20.8

* see the Glossary

ECONOMIC CYCLE AND POVERTY LINE

The relative poverty line depends year by year on variations both of consumer prices and of the mean of consumption expenditure.

On analysing the relative poverty variation it is necessary taking into account both the aspects. In 2009, the relative poverty line is 983.01

Euros (almost 17 Euros lower than 2008 line).

The 2008 poverty line re-evaluated in accordance with the national inflation rate (+0.8%) is 1,007.67 Euros and the poverty incidence, with this line, is 11.7% (2,880 thousand poor households).

The two estimates difference represents the number of households, almost 223 thousand, with a

consumption expenditure level higher than the 2009 poverty line, but lower than the re-evaluated 2008 poverty line. In other words, they represent the households with expenditure levels slightly lower, at constant prices, than the 2008 level, but that are non poor if the decrease of the average life condition of the population is taken into account.

Table 2. Relative poverty indicators by the 2008 poverty line, the re-evaluated 2008 poverty line and the 2009 poverty line (in the thousands and percentage values)

	2008 poverty line		Re-evaluated 2008 poverty line		2009 poverty line	
	999.67 Euros		1,007.67 Euros		983.01 Euros	
	Households	Incidence (%)	Households	Incidence (%)	Households	Incidence (%)
North	572	4.9	661	5.6	587	4.9
Centre	317	6.7	313	6.4	288	5.9
South and the Islands	1,847	23.8	1,907	24.3	1,783	22.7
Italy	2,737	11.3	2,880	11.7	2,657	10.8

Table 3. Relative poverty incidence, sampling error and confidence interval by region and geographical area. Years 2008-2009 (percentage values)

	2008				2009			
	Incidence (%)	Error (%)	Confidence interval		Incidence (%)	Error (%)	Confidence interval	
			Inf. lim.	Sup. Lim..			Inf. lim.	lim.sup.
Italy	11.3	2.39	10.8	11.8	10.8	2.62	10.2	11.4
Piemonte	6.1	11.26	4.8	7.4	5.9	9.69	4.8	7.1
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	7.6	25.39	3.8	11.4	6.1	17.58	4.0	8.3
Lombardia	4.4	11.69	3.4	5.4	4.4	11.62	3.4	5.4
Trentino Alto Adige	5.7	10.77	4.5	6.9	8.5	13.26	6.3	10.7
<i>Bolzano-Bozen</i>	<i>5.7</i>	<i>15.44</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>7.4</i>	<i>7.1</i>	<i>18.37</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>9.7</i>
<i>Trento</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>15.01</i>	<i>4.1</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>18.38</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>13.2</i>
Veneto	4.5	13.26	3.3	5.7	4.4	13.72	3.2	5.6
Friuli Venezia Giulia	6.4	18.45	4.1	8.7	7.8	13.13	5.8	9.7
Liguria	6.4	12.33	4.9	7.9	4.8	15.40	3.3	6.2
Emilia Romagna	3.9	15.44	2.7	5.1	4.1	13.83	3.0	5.2
North	4.9	5.54	4.4	5.4	4.9	5.26	4.4	5.4
Toscana	5.3	13.79	3.9	6.7	5.5	15.53	3.8	7.2
Umbria	6.2	13.34	4.6	7.8	5.3	12.51	4.0	6.6
Marche	5.4	17.04	3.6	7.2	7.0	11.23	5.5	8.6
Lazio	8.0	12.52	6.0	10.0	6.0	16.81	4.0	8.0
Centre	6.7	8.21	5.6	7.8	5.9	9.40	4.8	7.0
Abruzzo	15.4	12.28	11.7	19.1	*	*	*	*
Molise	24.4	6.64	21.2	27.6	17.8	10.99	14.0	21.6
Campania	25.3	5.12	22.8	27.8	25.1	7.29	21.5	28.6
Puglia	18.5	7.55	15.8	21.2	21.0	6.31	18.4	23.6
Basilicata	28.8	7.50	24.6	33.0	25.1	7.13	21.6	28.6
Calabria	25.0	7.47	21.3	28.7	27.4	8.29	23.0	31.9
Sicilia	28.8	5.76	25.5	32.1	24.2	5.55	21.6	26.9
Sardegna	19.4	9.01	16.0	22.8	21.4	11.76	16.5	26.4
South and the Islands	23.8	2.76	22.5	25.1	22.7	3.16	21.3	24.1

* The value is statistically unreliable given the small sample size

Table 4. Relative poverty incidence by household size, household typology, number of minor children and elderly in the household by geographical area. Years 2008-2009 (percentage values)

	North		Centre		South and Islands		Italy	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Household size								
1 member	3.0	3.3	3.3	2.9	17.2	15.1	7.1	6.5
2 members	4.8	4.9	7.1	4.5	21.7	21.5	9.9	9.5
3 members	4.8	4.5	5.7	7.7	23.0	23.3	10.5	11.0
4 members	7.4	7.8	9.2	8.5	28.6	27.3	16.7	15.8
5 or more members	12.8	11.2	18.1	16.1	38.1	37.1	25.9	24.9
Household typology								
Single member under 65	1.5	1.8	*	*	9.0	6.7	3.4	2.8
Single member 65 and over	4.6	4.9	5.3	4.7	24.3	21.4	10.7	10.2
Couple with r.p. (a) under 65	1.7	3.1	*	*	13.0	15.3	4.6	5.8
Couple with r.p. (a) 65 and over	6.5	6.3	8.5	6.2	25.8	26.3	12.6	12.1
Couple with one child	4.6	4.1	5.2	6.8	21.1	22.4	9.7	10.2
Couple with 2 children	6.9	7.4	8.2	7.3	28.0	26.4	16.2	15.2
Couple with 3 or more children	11.2	10.1	*	*	36.6	36.0	25.2	24.9
Single parent	6.4	5.8	11.1	7.2	26.6	23.5	13.9	11.8
Other typology	10.9	9.7	13.4	12.8	37.3	33.3	19.6	18.2
Household with minor children								
With 1 minor child	6.4	4.9	6.4	6.9	24.3	25.0	12.6	12.1
With 2 minor children	8.7	8.7	10.0	9.4	31.1	30.1	17.8	17.2
With 3 or more minor children	15.5	14.2	*	*	38.8	36.7	27.2	26.1
With at least 1 minor child	7.8	6.9	8.4	8.9	28.3	28.1	15.6	15.0
Households with elderly								
With 1 elderly	5.0	5.3	6.8	5.8	24.1	23.1	11.4	11.1
With 2 or more elderly	7.8	7.7	8.8	10.5	30.1	29.9	14.7	15.1
With at least 1 elderly	5.9	6.1	7.5	7.2	26.0	25.2	12.5	12.4

(a) Reference person; * The value is statistically unreliable given the small sample size

Table 5. Relative poverty incidence by reference person age class and geographical area. Years 2008-2009 (percentage values)

	North		Centre		South and Islands		Italy	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Age class								
Up to 34 years	5.0	4.8	*	7.6	22.8	18.9	10.4	9.9
From 35 to 44 years	6.0	5.6	7.2	7.8	24.9	26.9	12.1	12.5
From 45 to 54 years	3.5	3.7	6.6	4.1	22.6	22.0	10.7	9.6
From 55 to 64 anni	2.9	3.5	4.7	4.1	19.9	16.9	8.8	7.9
Over 64	6.0	6.1	7.5	6.8	26.3	25.1	12.7	12.4

* The value is statistically unreliable given the small sample size

Table 6. Relative poverty incidence by reference person educational level and geographical area. Years 2008-2009 (percentage values)

	North		Centre		South and Islands		Italy	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Educational level								
Illiterate-primary school	8.3	8.6	10.9	9.9	33.2	31.9	17.9	17.6
Middle school	5.4	5.1	7.3	8.2	27.3	26.5	13.2	13.0
High school and upper	2.5	2.8	3.6	2.4	11.9	10.7	5.3	4.8

Table 7. Relative poverty incidence by reference person occupation and professional position and geographical area. Years 2008-2009 (percentage values)

Occupation and professional position	North		Centre		South and Islands		Italy	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Employees	4.3	4.0	4.9	5.3	19.7	19.3	9.2	8.9
-Dependent	4.4	4.4	4.9	6.2	20.7	21.0	9.6	9.8
Manager and employee	1.7	1.5	*	2.5	12.1	13.6	4.9	5.2
Worker	7.4	7.6	7.9	11.3	28.8	28.2	14.5	14.9
-Self employed	3.7	2.8	4.8	*	16.6	14.3	7.9	6.2
Entrepreneur and freelance	*	*	*	*	6.8	6.8	3.3	2.7
Self employed	5.0	4.0	6.9	*	22.4	18.8	11.2	8.7
Not employees	5.6	6.0	8.6	6.7	28.0	26.1	13.6	12.9
Retired	5.3	5.3	7.0	6.0	25.1	23.7	11.3	10.8
Seeking employment	12.4	13.5	*	*	47.0	38.7	33.9	26.7
Other	6.4	8.2	12.3	9.5	28.1	26.7	17.6	17.3

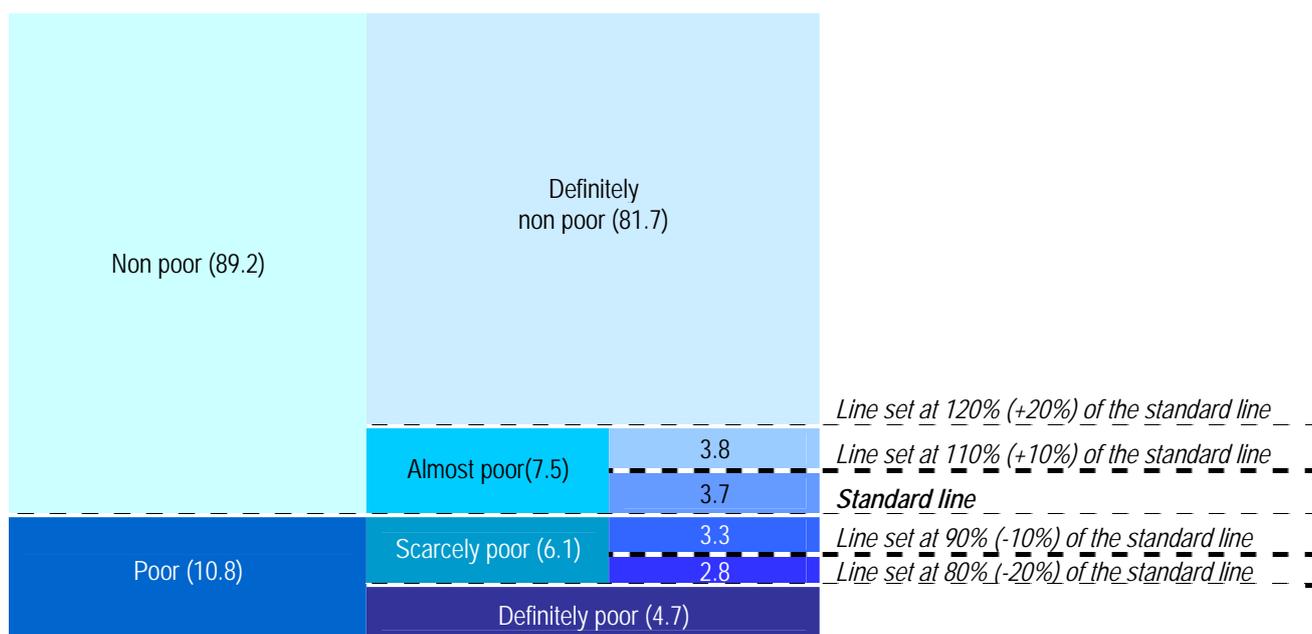
* The value is statistically unreliable given the small sample size.

Table 8. Relative poverty incidence by members occupation. Years 2008-2009 (percentage values)

	2008	2009
Households without employees or retired	49.6	42.0
Households with employees and without retired	9.7	9.0
- all components are employees	4.0	3.6
- no component seeking employment and at least one component in other condition (a)	14.7	14.1
- at least one component seeking employment	31.2	28.8
Households without employees and with retired	11.5	10.8
- all components are retired	10.2	9.2
- no component seeking employment and at least one component in other condition (a)	14.3	13.7
- at least one component seeking employment	30.9	33.8
Households with employees and retired	9.0	9.3
- without other components	5.9	6.5
- at least one component seeking employment or in other condition (a)	13.5	13.4

(a) other condition: housewife, students, disabled and likewise.

Graph 3. Poor and non poor households by different poverty lines. Year 2009 (percentage composition)



Graph 4. Absolute poverty by geographical area. Year 2006-2009 (percentage values)

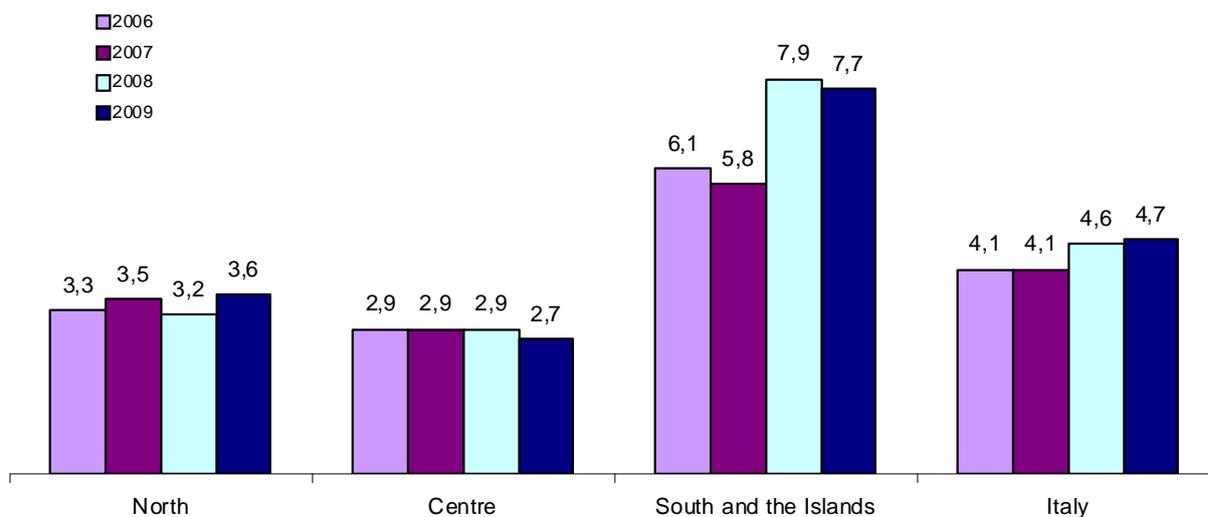


Table 9. Absolute poverty indicators by geographical area. Years 2008-2009 (in thousands and percentage values)

	North		Centre		South and Islands		Italy	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Absolute values in the thousands								
Poor households	378	425	139	129	610	608	1,126	1,162
Resident households	11,716	11,894	4,771	4,860	7,771	7,856	24,258	24,609
Poor individuals	848	999	359	313	1,686	1,762	2,893	3,074
Resident individuals	26,919	27,182	11,601	11,724	20,740	20,769	59,261	59,674
Poverty incidence (%)								
Households	3.2	3.6	2.9	2.7	7.9	7.7	4.6	4.7
Individuals	3.2	3.7	3.1	2.7	8.1	8.5	4.9	5.2
Poverty intensity* (%)								
Households	16.4	15.1	17.8	18.3	17.3	18.8	17.0	17.3

* see Glossary

Table 10. Absolute poverty incidence by household size, household typology, number of minor children and elderly in the household. Years 2008-2009 (percentage values)

	2008	2009
Household size		
1 member	5.2	4.5
2 members	4.0	3.8
3 members	3.0	4.2
4 members	5.2	5.8
5 or more members	9.4	9.2
Household typology		
Single member under 65	3.4	2.7
Single member 65 and over	6.9	6.4
Couple with r.p. (a) under 65	2.2	3.0
Couple with r.p. (a) 65 and over	4.7	3.8
Couple with one child	2.7	3.6
Couple with 2 children	4.9	5.6
Couple with 3 or more children	8.7	9.4
Single parent	5.0	6.1
Other typology	7.9	6.6
Household with minor children		
With 1 minor child	4.0	4.7
With 2 minor children	5.7	6.5
with 3 or more minor children	11.0	9.1
With at least 1 minor child	5.1	5.7
Households with elderly		
With 1 elderly	5.7	5.5
With 2 or more elderly	5.5	5.0
With at least 1 elderly	5.6	5.4

(a) Reference person; * The value is statistically unreliable given the small sample size

Table 11. Absolute poverty incidence by reference person age class. Years 2008-2009 (percentage values)

Age class	2008	2009
Up to 34 years	4.6	4.8
from 35 to 44 years	5.0	5.6
from 45 to 54 years	4.0	3.9
from 55 to 64 anni	2.9	3.4
Over 64	5.7	5.5

Table 12. Absolute poverty incidence by reference person educational level. Years 2008-2009 (percentage values)

Educational level	2008	2009
Illiterate-primary school	8.2	8.7
Middle school	5.2	5.3
High school and upper	1.8	1.7

Table 13. Absolute poverty incidence by reference person occupation and professional position. Years 2008-2009
(percentage values)

Occupation and professional position	2008	2009
Employees	3.4	3.6
-Dependent	3.6	4.1
Manager and employee	1.4	1.5
Worker	5.9	6.9
-Self employed	2.9	2.0
Entrepreneur and freelance	*	*
Self employed	4.5	3.0
Not employees	6.0	6.0
Retired	4.7	4.6
Seeking employment	14.5	14.5
Other	9.5	9.1

* The value is statistically unreliable given the small sample size.

Table 14. Absolute poverty incidence by members occupation. Years 2008-2009 (percentage values)

	2008	2009
Households without employees or retired	19.9	21.7
Households with employees and without retired	3.7	3.7
- all components are employees	2.1	2.0
- no component seeking employment and at least one component in other condition (a)	4.9	5.3
- at least one component seeking employment	11.6	10.3
Households without employees and with retired	5.3	4.7
- all components are retired	5.5	4.8
- no component seeking employment and at least one component in other condition (a)	4.9	3.7
- at least one component seeking employment	*	*
Households with employees and retired	2.0	3.4
- without other components	1.4	2.8
- at least one component seeking employment or in other condition (a)	3.0	4.2

(a) other condition: housewife, students, disabled and likewise. * The value is statistically unreliable given the small sample size.

Table 15. Monthly absolute poverty threshold for selected households typologies, geographical area and municipality type. Year 2009 (euros)

Household typology	North			Centre			South and the Islands		
	Metropolitan area	Big municipality	Small municipality	Metropolitan area	Big municipality	Small municipality	Metropolitan area	Big municipality	Small municipality
1 comp. 18-59	760.71	724.29	682.23	734.26	696.09	652.00	565.89	546.45	512.62
1 comp. 60-74	731.53	695.11	653.05	709.54	671.37	627.28	541.61	522.17	488.34
1 comp. 75+	693.58	657.16	615.10	675.52	637.35	593.26	508.26	488.82	454.99
2 comp. 18-59	1,050.52	1,006.57	956.73	1,000.72	954.65	902.42	804.64	781.92	742.81
2 comp. 60-74	992.50	948.55	898.71	951.22	905.15	852.92	756.15	733.43	694.32
2 comp. 75+	925.38	881.43	831.59	890.99	844.92	792.69	697.11	674.39	635.28
1 comp. 60-74 and 1 comp. 75+	958.67	914.72	864.88	920.87	874.80	822.57	726.40	703.68	664.57
1 comp. 18-59 and 1 comp. 75+	986.17	942.22	892.38	944.28	898.21	845.98	749.33	726.61	687.50
1 comp. 18-59 and 1 comp. 60-74	1,020.88	976.93	927.09	975.43	929.36	877.13	779.85	757.13	718.02
1 comp. 11-17 and 1 comp. 18-59	1,064.21	1,020.26	970.42	1,012.88	966.81	914.58	817.03	794.31	755.20
1 comp. 4-10 and 1 comp. 18-59	1,011.83	967.88	918.04	967.70	921.63	869.40	772.49	749.77	710.66
1 comp. 18-59 and 2 comp. 75+	1,182.38	1,131.65	1,074.94	1,127.16	1,074.00	1,014.56	908.89	883.34	839.77
1 comp. 18-59 and 1 comp. 60-74 and 1 comp. 75+	1,214.88	1,164.15	1,107.44	1,156.35	1,103.19	1,043.75	937.48	911.93	868.36
1 comp. 18-59 and 2 comp. 60-74	1,247.94	1,197.21	1,140.50	1,186.01	1,132.85	1,073.41	966.54	940.99	897.42
2 comp. 18-59 and 1 comp. 75+	1,244.29	1,193.56	1,136.85	1,181.54	1,128.38	1,068.94	962.14	936.59	893.02
2 comp. 18-59 and 1 comp. 60-74	1,278.26	1,227.53	1,170.82	1,212.03	1,158.87	1,099.43	992.00	966.45	922.88
3 comp. 18-59	1,309.99	1,259.26	1,202.55	1,239.27	1,186.11	1,126.67	1,018.63	993.08	949.51
1 comp. 11-17 and 2 comp. 18-59	1,322.46	1,271.73	1,215.02	1,250.33	1,197.17	1,137.73	1,029.90	1,004.35	960.78
1 comp. 4-10 and 2 comp. 18-59	1,276.02	1,225.29	1,168.58	1,210.29	1,157.13	1,097.69	990.41	964.86	921.29
1 comp. 0-3 and 2 comp. 18-59	1,183.40	1,132.67	1,075.96	1,126.26	1,073.10	1,013.66	907.56	882.01	838.44
2 comp. 18-59 and 2 comp. 60-74	1,510.59	1,447.89	1,379.26	1,430.71	1,364.99	1,293.06	1,171.62	1,141.33	1,090.44
3 comp. 18-59 and 1 comp. 60-74	1,543.39	1,480.69	1,412.06	1,459.00	1,393.28	1,321.35	1,199.25	1,168.96	1,118.07
4 comp. 18-59	1,577.72	1,515.02	1,446.39	1,488.63	1,422.91	1,350.98	1,228.20	1,197.91	1,147.02
1 comp. 11-17 and 3 comp. 18-59	1,589.49	1,526.79	1,458.16	1,499.05	1,433.33	1,361.40	1,238.80	1,208.51	1,157.62
2 comp. 11-17 and 2 comp. 18-59	1,601.28	1,538.58	1,469.95	1,509.48	1,443.76	1,371.83	1,249.43	1,219.14	1,168.25
1 comp. 4-10 and 1 comp. 11-17 and 2 comp. 18-59	1,558.93	1,496.23	1,427.60	1,473.01	1,407.29	1,335.36	1,213.44	1,183.15	1,132.26
2 comp. 4-10 and 2 comp. 18-59	1,516.16	1,453.46	1,384.83	1,436.18	1,370.46	1,298.53	1,177.10	1,146.81	1,095.92
1 comp. 0-3 and 1 comp. 4-10 and 2 comp. 18-59	1,425.38	1,362.68	1,294.05	1,353.81	1,288.09	1,216.16	1,095.91	1,065.62	1,014.73
1 comp. 4-10 and 3 comp. 18-59	1,547.10	1,484.40	1,415.77	1,462.53	1,396.81	1,324.88	1,202.77	1,172.48	1,121.59
2 comp. 0-3 and 2 comp. 18-59	1,336.92	1,274.22	1,205.59	1,273.55	1,207.83	1,135.90	1,016.79	986.50	935.61
3 comp. 18-59 and 1 comp. 75+	1,509.28	1,446.58	1,377.95	1,428.41	1,362.69	1,290.76	1,169.28	1,138.99	1,088.10
1 comp. 0-3 and 1 comp. 11-17 and 2 comp. 18-59	1,468.05	1,405.35	1,336.72	1,390.58	1,324.86	1,252.93	1,132.19	1,101.90	1,051.01
5 comp. 18-59	1,819.89	1,747.68	1,669.78	1,712.61	1,636.92	1,555.28	1,420.53	1,386.70	1,330.45
1 comp. 11-17 and 4 comp. 18-59	1,831.20	1,758.99	1,681.09	1,722.61	1,646.92	1,565.28	1,430.72	1,396.89	1,340.64
1 comp. 4-10 and 2 comp. 11-17 and 2 comp. 18-59	1,814.66	1,742.45	1,664.55	1,708.95	1,633.26	1,551.62	1,417.82	1,383.99	1,327.74
2 comp. 11-17 and 3 comp. 18-59	1,842.52	1,770.31	1,692.41	1,732.64	1,656.95	1,575.31	1,440.89	1,407.06	1,350.81
1 comp. 4-10 and 1 comp. 11-17 and 3 comp. 18-59	1,803.28	1,731.07	1,653.17	1,698.87	1,623.18	1,541.54	1,407.56	1,373.73	1,317.48
2 comp. 4-10 and 1 comp. 11-17 and 2 comp. 18-59	1,775.08	1,702.87	1,624.97	1,674.89	1,599.20	1,517.56	1,384.20	1,350.37	1,294.12

For more detailed information please refer to the Italian version

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