

DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS | YEAR 2024

Further decrease in fertility



With **1.18 children per woman**, the previous minimum of **1.19** has been **exceeded** since 1995, a year in which 526 thousand children were born compared to 370 thousand in 2024.

Significant increase in life expectancy: life expectancy at birth for the overall resident population is 83.4 years, almost 5 months more than in 2023.

Boom in emigration to foreign countries: 191 thousand (+20.5% over 2023), of which as many as 156 thousand are Italian citizens who are expatriating (+36.5%).

The number of new Italian citizens on the rise: 217 thousand acquisitions of Italian citizenship have been granted to foreign citizens residing in Italy, exceeding the previous maximum of 214 thousand reached in 2023.

Households are becoming increasingly smaller: in the last 20 years the average size has dropped from 2.6 members to the current 2.2.

58,934mil

Residents on January 1st, 2025

Down by 0.6 per thousand

435thousand

Immigration from foreign countries, of which only 53 thousand are repatriations of Italian citizens

5,4mil

Resident foreign citizens

Growing by 3.2%

www.istat.it

UFFICIO STAMPA
tel. +39 06 4673.2243/44
ufficiostampa@istat.it

CONTACT CENTRE
contact@istat.it



Progressive but not remarkable demographic decline, in line with the last two years

The year 2024 highlights a demographic dynamic in Italy that in many ways is in continuity with that of the recent post-pandemic years, although with some new developments.

In addition to a slight decrease in the resident population, which is ageing further, and the confirmation of a strongly negative natural dynamic whose effects are mitigated by positive migratory dynamic, as well as the progressive reduction in the average size of households, 2024 adds elements whose importance should be underlined. Among these, the lowest level of fertility ever recorded, the life expectancy at birth exceeding the pre-pandemic levels, the increase in the expatriations of Italian citizens, the new maximum in the number of people acquiring the Italian citizenship and, despite this last process, the relevant increase in the foreign resident population.

As of December 31, 2024, the resident population counts 58 million and 934 thousand individuals (provisional data), down by 37 thousand units compared to the same date of the previous years. The decline in the population has continued uninterrupted since 2014 and the decrease in 2024 (-0.6 per thousand) is in line with the trend of the previous years (-0.4 in 2023 and -0.6 per thousand in 2022).

Population decline does not affect all areas of the Country equally. In the North the population increases by 1.6 per thousand, while the Centre and Mezzogiorno record negative population variations equal to -0.6 per thousand and -3.8 per thousand, respectively.

In the Inner areas of the Country (see the Glossary) the population decrease is more intense than in the Centres (see the Glossary) (-2.4 per thousand, versus -0.1 per thousand). The greatest reduction particularly affects the Inner areas in the Mezzogiorno (-4.7 per thousand).

At the regional level, the population increases especially in Trentino-Alto Adige (+3.1 per thousand), in Emilia-Romagna (+3.1 per thousand), and in Lombardia (+2.3 per thousand). The regions where the population decrease is more intense are Basilicata (-6.3 per thousand) and Sardegna (-5.8 per thousand).

In 2024, births are 370 thousand, with a 2.6% decrease over 2023. Deaths are also decreasing (651 thousand), 3.1% less over 2023, a figure more in line with the pre-pandemic levels than with the 2020-22 years. The natural balance, i.e. the difference between births and deaths, is therefore still strongly negative (-281 thousand units).

Immigrations from foreign countries, 435 thousand, although about 5 thousand less than in 2023, are sustained. The emigrations to foreign countries are 191 thousand, a significant increase on 2023 (+33 thousand). The net international migration is then equal to +244 thousand, largely compensating for the deficit due to natural dynamics.

Finally, there was a 1.4% drop in changes of residence between Municipalities, which globally involved 1 million and 413 thousand citizens.

RESIDENT POPULATION CHANGE BY MAIN GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS. Year 2024 (a). Absolute values in thousands.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS	Population January 1 st	Live births	Deaths	Immigrants from abroad	Emigrants to abroad	Immigrants from other Municipalities	Emigrants to other Municipalities	Population December 31 st
North	27,477	171	303	230	101	815	768	27,522
North-west	15,896	98	177	140	58	494	468	15,924
North-east	11,581	73	125	90	44	322	300	11,598
Centre	11,711	68	133	87	33	249	244	11,704
Mezzogiorno	19,783	131	215	118	56	349	401	19,708
South	13,415	90	144	81	37	236	275	13,368
Island	6,368	41	71	37	20	113	127	6,341
ITALY	58,971	370	651	435	191	1,413	1,413	58,934

Source: Istat, Bilanci demografici dei Comuni e movimento naturale della popolazione presente (2024, provisional data).
(a) Registration and de-registration for other reasons (mainly due to reappearance or unavailability of the citizen) are excluded from the calculation of the provisional demographic balance, the statistical validation of which will be defined in a framework of consistency with the Permanent Population Census - Year 2024, which will be released in December.

The number of people acquiring Italian citizenship is increasing.

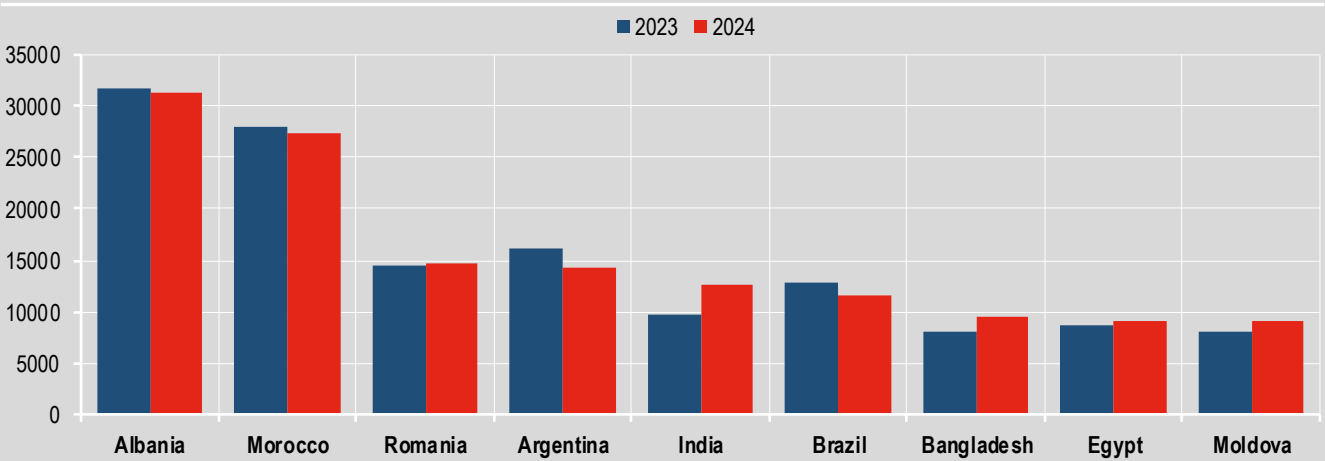
As of January 1, 2025, the foreign resident population is 5 million and 422 thousand units, up by 169 thousand individuals (+3.2%) from the previous year, with a percentage over the total population equal to 9.2%. 58.3% of foreign citizens, 3 million and 159 thousand individuals, live in the Norths, with a share on the total population living in the North equal to 11.5%. The Centre is equally attractive for foreign citizens: one million and 322 thousand individuals (24.4% of the total) live here, with a percentage of 11.3%. The presence of resident foreign citizens is more limited in the Mezzogiorno, 941 thousand units (17.3%), where they represent just 4.8% of the total resident population.

The Italian population continues to decline (53 million and 512 thousand units), 206 thousand less than on January 1, 2024 (-3.8 per thousand). The negative variation, which can be observed in all regions, reaches its maximum in the Mezzogiorno, with 131 thousand fewer Italian residents (-6.9 per thousand).

In 2024, as many as 217 thousand foreign citizens acquired Italian citizenship, an increase compared to the previous year (just under 214 thousand). The three nationalities of origin that appear to have the greatest prevalence are Albanian (31 thousand acquisitions), Moroccan (27 thousand acquisitions), and Romanian (about 15 thousand acquisitions), which, compared to 2023, has replaced Argentinian in third position. Nine communities account for 64% of the acquisitions of Italian citizenship (Figure 1). Compared to 2023, the number of citizenships issued to Argentinian and Brazilian citizens has decreased (respectively -11% and -10%), while those granted to citizens of the Indian subcontinent have increased (India+30% and Bangladesh +19%). Finally, the number of Italian citizenships obtained by Albanian, Moroccan, Romanian and Egyptian citizens has remained stable.



FIGURE 1. ACQUISITIONS OF ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP FOR THE FIRST NINE CITIZENSHIPS OF ORIGIN. Years 2023 and 2024. Absolute values



Source: Istat, Sistema di misurazione delle acquisizioni della cittadinanza italiana (2023), Stime anticipatorie degli indicatori demografici e sociali (2024).

Higher life expectancy than in the pre-pandemic period

In 2024 there were 651 thousand deaths (provisional data), 20 thousand less than in 2023 (Figure 2). In relation to the number of residents, 11 individuals per thousand inhabitants died, compared to 11.4 of the previous year. Such a low number of deaths hasn't been recorded since 2019. The drop in mortality is also confirmed by a comparison with the theoretical 678 thousand deaths that would have occurred in 2024 with the same risks of death of 2019.

In the context of an ageing population, the number of deaths tends to increase structurally because more individuals are exposed to the risk of death, even if these risks remain constant from one year to the next. When this phenomenon does not occur, as has been the case over the last year, it may be due to the changing trend in climatic and environmental conditions, the alternating virulence of flu epidemics from one season to the next, or a significant excess of mortality due to previous exceptional circumstances as occurred during the pandemic and post-pandemic periods. In the last 15 years, several significant peaks have been observed (in 2012, 2015, 2017, and especially in 2020-2022). These have always been followed by a mortality decline in the years immediately afterwards.

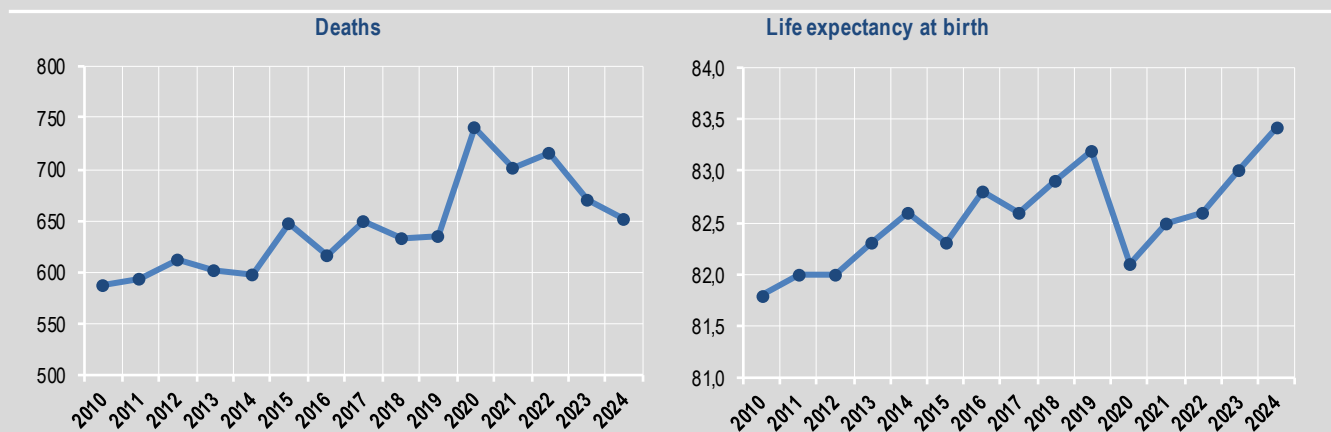
The decrease in deaths translates into a gain in life expectancy of about five months for both men and women over 2023. The life expectancy at birth in 2024 is estimated equal to 81.4 years for men and 85.5 years for women (+0.4 tenths of a year), exceeding even the levels reached in 2019. The difficult period linked to the pandemic now seems to be over, as evidenced by a survivorship that is once again increasing. The pandemic has certainly left a significant mark: this is demonstrated by the fact that it has taken four years to return to historical normality and that, if the pandemic had not taken place, today we would most likely be talking about much more evident survival conditions than those that can be recorded.

In the North, the life expectancy at birth is 82.1 years for men and 86.0 for women; men recover five months compared to the previous year, while women recover almost four months. Trentino-Alto Adige is confirmed as the region with the highest life expectancy both for men (82.7) and women (86.7).

In the Centre, the life expectancy at birth is 81.8 years for men and 85.7 years for women, with an increase of almost four months for both sexes compared to 2023. In this geographical area, Marche is the region where people live the longest, with a value of the life expectancy at birth equal to 82.2 years for men and 86.2 for women.

The Mezzogiorno has the lowest life expectancy at birth, 80.3 years for men and 84.6 years for women. Abruzzo is the region that shows the greatest survival gains among men, more than 8 months over 2023. Still in the Mezzogiorno, significant increases are recorded for women in Sicilia, Basilicata, and Calabria, 6 months more. Despite a remarkable recovery, Campania remains the region with the lowest life expectancy both for men (79.7) and women (83.8).

FIGURE 2. DEATHS (in thousand) AND LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (in years and tenths of a year) OF THE TOTAL RESIDENT POPULATION. Years 2010-2024.



Source: Istat, Bilanci demografici dei Comuni e movimento naturale della popolazione presente (2024, provisional data), Tavole di mortalità della popolazione residente (2010-2023), Stime anticipatorie degli indicatori demografici e sociali (2024).

With 1.18 children per woman, fertility at an all-time low

According to provisional data, in 2024, the number of births in the resident population is 370 thousand, decreasing by around 10 thousand units (-2.6%) compared to the previous year. The birth rate is 6.3 per thousand, versus 6.4 per thousand of 2023 (Figure 3). Births with foreign citizenship, 13.5% of the total births, are almost 50 thousand, around 1,500 less than the previous years.

Fertility in 2024 is estimated at 1.18 children on average per woman, under the value observed in 2023 (1.20) and lower than the previous historical minimum of 1.19 children per woman recorded in 1995. The decline in fertility particularly affects the North and the Mezzogiorno. While in the Centre the average number of children per woman is stable (equal to 1.12), it declines to 1.19 (from 1.21 of 2023) in the North and to 1.20 (from 1.24) in the Mezzogiorno. This geographical area has a relatively higher fertility but experiences a major decrease.

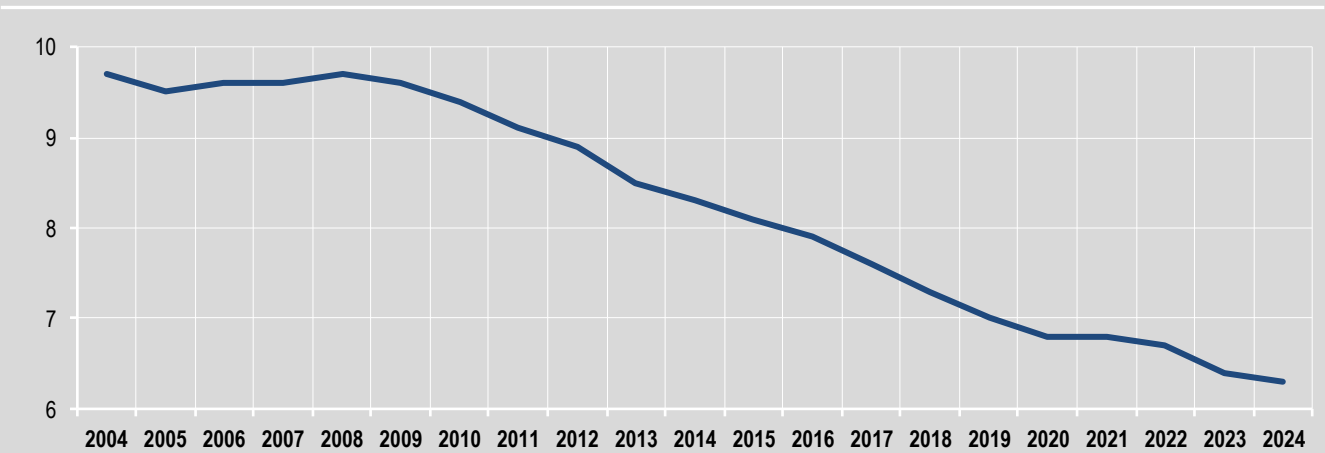
The decline in births, in addition to being determined by a significant decrease in fertility, is also caused by the reduction in the number of potential parents, which in turn is the result of the decline in the average number of children per woman recorded in the years in which they were born. The importance of the structural aspect is quite evident, considering that the female population in the conventionally reproductive age class (15-49 years) has decreased from 14.3 million units on January 1, 1995, to 11.4 million on January 1, 2025. The number of men in the same age group, equal to 14.5 million thirty years ago, is now around 11.9 million. In these conditions, in 1995, with a fertility level only slightly higher than today's 1.18 children per woman, couples gave birth to 526 thousand children, 156 thousand more than those born in 2024.

Alongside the reduction in fertility, in 2024, the mean age at childbearing continues to increase, reaching 32.6 years (+0.1 tenths of a year over 2023). The phenomenon of birth postponement has a significant impact on the general reduction in fertility, since the longer the decision to have children is delayed, the shorter the time frame available to potential mothers to realize their family plans. The increase in the mean age at childbearing is recorded throughout the whole Country, with the North and the Centre continuing to show the highest levels: respectively 32.7 and 33.0 years, versus 32.3 years in the Mezzogiorno.

The number of marriages, which for some time now are no longer a preliminary step to having children, is also decreasing. According to provisional data, in 2024 marriages are 173 thousand, 11 thousand less than 2023. The marked reduction in the number of marriages celebrated with a religious rite continues (-9 thousand), and at the same time there is a decline in those celebrated with a civil rite (-2 thousand). Overall, the marriage rate continues to fall slightly in 2024, reaching 2.9 per thousand from 3.1 per thousand in 2023. The Mezzogiorno continues to be the region with the highest rate, 3.2 per thousand versus 2.8 per thousand in the North and Center, but it is also the area where the contraction is greatest compared to 2023.



FIGURE 3. BIRTH RATE. Years 2004-2024. Values per 1.000 inhabitants.



Source: Istat, Rilevazione delle nascite (2004-2023), Stime anticipatorie degli indicatori demografici e sociali (2024).

Trentino-Alto Adige has the highest fertility

Trentino-Alto Adige continues to have the record of the highest fertility rate in the Country, with an average number of children per woman equal to 1.39 in 2024, decreasing compared to 2023 (1.43). As last year, Sicilia and Campania follow. For Sicilia, the average number of children per woman declines to 1.27 (against 1.32 of 2023), while in Campania fertility drops from 1.29 to 1.26. In these regions, mothers are on average younger: the mean age at childbearing is equal to 31.7 years in Sicily and 32.3 in Trentino-Alto Adige and Campania (Figure 4).

Sardegna is confirmed as the region with the lowest fertility: in 2024 the average number per woman is equal to 0.91, stable compared to 2023. Among the regions with the lowest fertility rates are Molise (1.04), Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste (which experiences the major decline, from 1.17 to 1.05), and Basilicata (1.09, stable over 2023). Basilicata, Sardegna and Molise are also the regions with the most delayed reproductive calendar, after Lazio (33.3 years): in the first two regions, the mean age at childbearing is equal to 33.2 years, in Molise it is equal to 33.1 years.

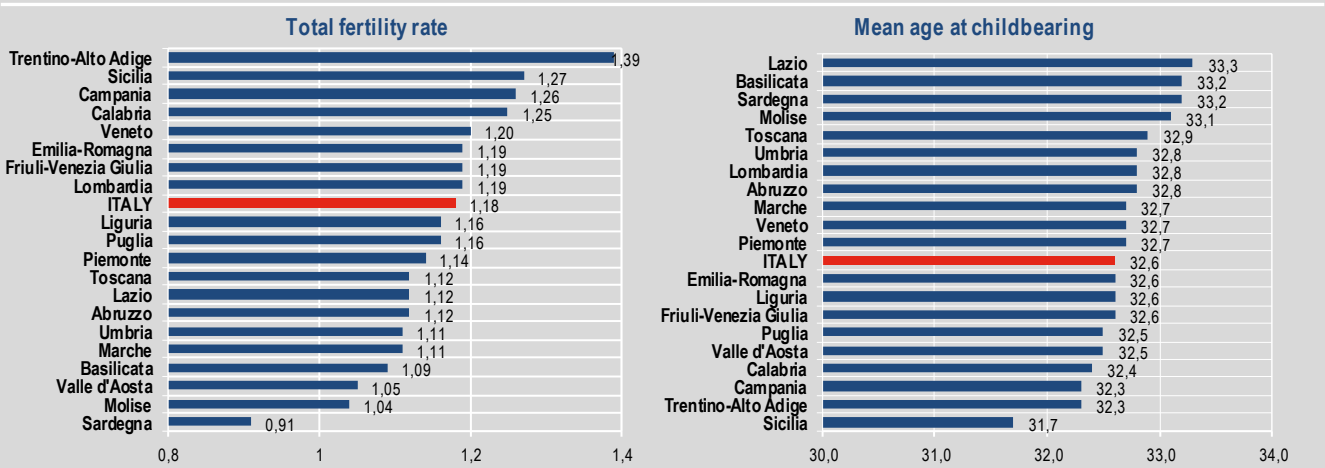
In the context of low and delayed fertility, widespread throughout the country, with differences between geographical areas becoming increasingly slight, heterogeneous conditions are still evident. Only the regions of the Mezzogiorno, with the exception of Calabria, reach their all-time low in fertility levels. In the regions of Center-north, lower fertility levels than the current ones had already been recorded between the end of the Eighties and the first half of the Nineties. In particular, in those years, fertility levels had dropped below one child per woman in Liguria, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Emilia-Romagna, and Toscana.

Slight differences between territories also persist even within the same geographical area. In Mezzogiorno, for example, there are regions with the highest fertility rates in the country (Sicilia, Campania, and Calabria) and regions with the lowest levels (Sardegna, Molise, and Basilicata).

Analyzing the provincial level, the highest average number of children per woman is recorded in the Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano/Bozen (1.51 against 1.57 of 2023). This is followed by the Calabrian provinces of Crotone (1.36) and Reggio Calabria (1.34), and the Sicilian provinces of Ragusa, Agrigento (both 1.34) and Catania (1.33). The Sardinian provinces are those with the lowest fertility, all below one child per woman, from Cagliari, with a value of 0.84, to Nuoro, with a rate of 0.98. These are followed by the provinces of Viterbo (1.00) and Prato (1.01), in central Italy, and by two provinces located respectively in the Mezzogiorno and in northern Italy: Isernia and Biella, both with a fertility rate of 1.04.



FIGURE 4. AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER WOMAN AND MEAN AGE AT CHILDBEARING (in years and tenths of a year) **BY REGION.** Year 2024.



Source: Istat, Stime anticipate degli indicatori demografici e sociali (2024).

North and Center are the most attractive areas for changes of residence between Municipalities

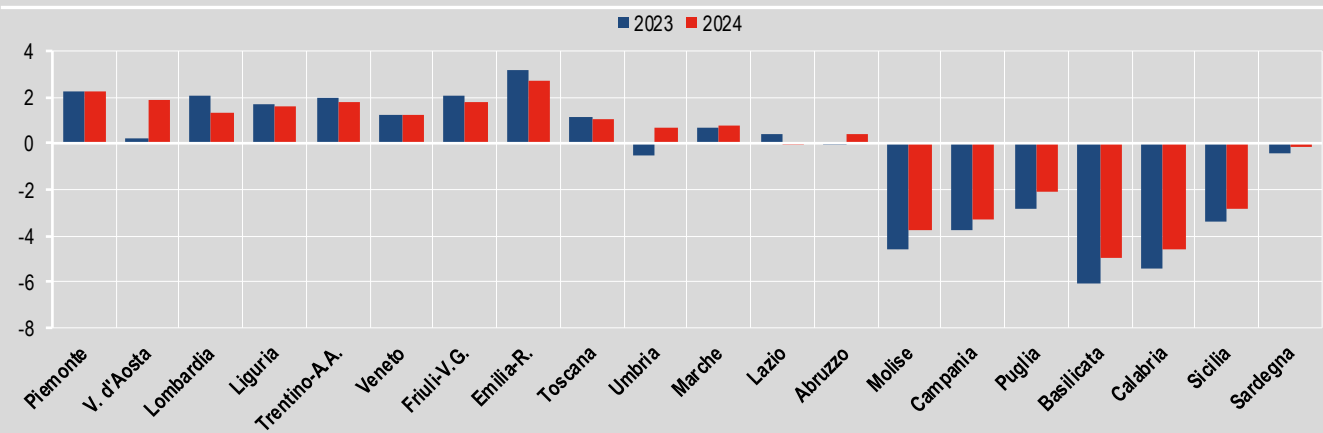
Changes of residences between Italian municipalities are 1 million and 413 thousand, marking a decrease of 1.4% compared to 2023 (-20 thousand movements). The contraction is due to the reduction in the internal mobility of Italian citizens, which has fallen by 3.4%. On the contrary, internal movements of foreign citizens show an increase of 7.8%. Also in 2024, the Mezzogiorno continues to have a negative net internal migration (-52 thousand, -2.6 per thousand inhabitants). There are more than 401 thousand departures from a Municipality located in the Mezzogiorno to another Italian municipality (both toward municipalities in the Mezzogiorno and in other areas of the Country), while inflows into the municipalities in the Mezzogiorno are around 349 thousand.

The loss of population due to people moving between Municipalities affects all the regions of the Mezzogiorno area, with higher intensity in Basilicata and Calabria where the strongest negative migration rates are observed: respectively -5.0 per thousand and -4.6 per thousand. Molise (-3.8 per thousand) and Campania (-3.3 per thousand) also show a relevant negative migration rate, albeit less pronounced (Figure 5).

The regions in the North are confirmed as the most attractive: in 2024 movements toward Municipalities in the North (possibly also from another municipality of the same North) are 815 thousand, versus 768 thousand outflows, resulting in a positive net migration equal to 47 thousand inhabitants, +1.7 per thousand. Emilia-Romagna is the region with the highest net internal migration rate (+2.7 per thousand), followed by Piemonte (+2.2 per thousand) and Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste (+1.9 per thousand). The Centre also shows a positive net migration, although more moderate, with a rate equal to +0.4 per thousand.



FIGURE 5. NET INTERNAL MIGRATION RATE BY REGION. Years 2023 and 2024.



Source: Istat, Rilevazione dei trasferimenti di residenza (2023), Bilanci demografici dei Comuni e movimento naturale della popolazione presente (2024, provisional data).

Increase in foreign immigration and the number of Italian citizens leaving the country

In 2024, immigrations from foreign countries in Italy were 435 thousand, slightly down (-1.2%) compared to 2023, but higher than the values observed in the decade 2012-2021, during which the threshold of 400 thousand annual inflows was never exceeded. The decline recorded in 2024 is due to the significant reduction in repatriations of Italian citizens, which fell by 14.3%. On the contrary, immigration of foreign citizens showed a slight increase (+1.0%), contributing to maintaining overall flows at high levels.

From the first provisional data, Bangladesh is the main country of origin of foreign immigration flows (7.8% of the total), followed by Albania (7.1%). The flow of foreign citizens from Ukraine (6.5%) is still significant, clearly related to entries for humanitarian reasons due to the ongoing conflict. The repatriations of Italian citizens, on the other hand, come mainly from Germany (15.4%) and United Kingdom (11.5%).

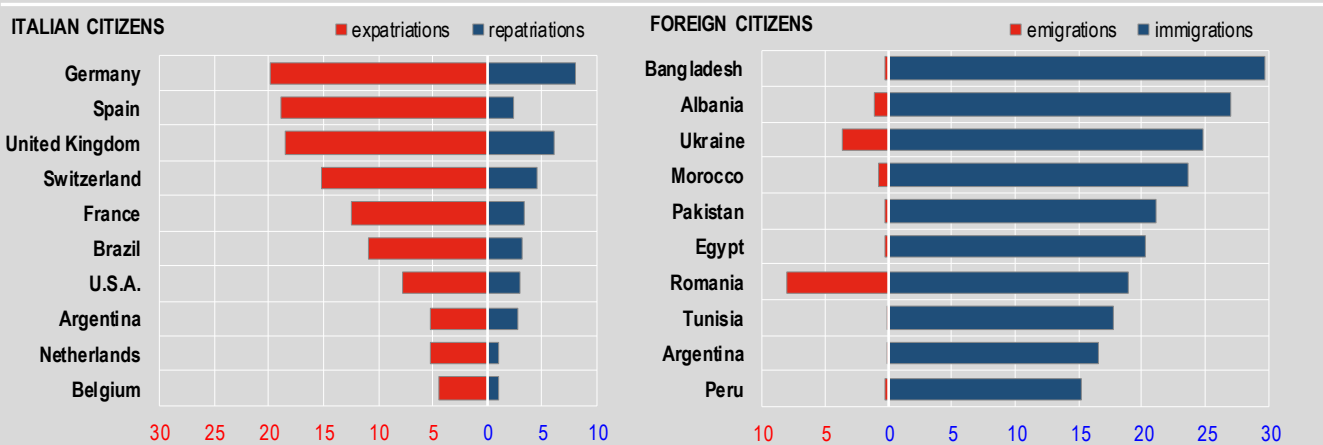
In 2024, emigrations toward foreign countries increase by over 20%, from 158 thousand in 2023 to just under 191 thousand, thus recording the highest value observed so far in the 2000s. The increase is due exclusively to the sharp rise in the number of Italian citizens emigrating (156 thousand, +36.5% over 2023) mainly directed to Germany (12.8%), Spain (12.1%) and United Kingdom (11.9%), while about 23% of emigrations of foreign citizens can be attributed to the return of Romanian citizens to their country (Figure 6).

The overall net international migration, equal to +244 thousand units, is due to two opposite dynamics: on the one hand, foreign immigration, largely positive (382 thousand), counterbalanced by a low number of departures (35 thousand); on the other hand, the international migration dynamic of Italian citizens characterized by a number of expatriations (156 thousand) not counterbalanced by an equal number of repatriations (53 thousand). The result is an increase in the population of foreign citizens (+347 thousand) and a decrease in Italian citizens (-103 thousand).

In relative terms, the net international migration rate is equal to 4.1 per thousand inhabitants, higher in the North and Centre, respectively equal to 4.7 and 4.5 per thousand, lower in the Mezzogiorno where it stands at 3.1 per thousand. Unlike what is observed for internal migration, which sees the Mezzogiorno as a disadvantaged area, in the case of emigration to foreign countries it is the North that shows a higher propensity: the emigration rate is equal to 3.7 per thousand inhabitants, exceeding the national average (3.2 per thousand), while the rate in the Mezzogiorno stands at 2.9 per thousand.



FIGURE 6. NET MIGRATION WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES BY CITIZENSHIP (italian/foreign) AND MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN/DESTINATION. Year 2024. Absolute values in thousands.



Source: Istat, Rilevazione dei trasferimenti di residenza (2024, dati provvisori).

Growing imbalance between the working-age and non-working-age population

As of January 1, 2025, the estimated mean age of the resident population is 46.8 years, two decimal points (about three months) more than on January 1st of the previous year.

The population up to 14 years old is equal to 7 million and 19 thousand individuals (7 million and 186 thousand in 2024) and represents 11.9% of the total population. The population of working-age (15-64 years old), is now equal to 37 million and 342 thousand, 63.4% of the total, and shows a reduction of one decimal point over the previous years. The population aged 65 and over is equal to 14 million and 573 thousand units and accounts for 24.7% of the total, up by four decimal points compared to 2024.

In the context of the ageing population, the number of people over 85 years old, the so-called oldest-old people, is rising, reaching 2 million and 422 thousand individuals (+103 thousand in one year) and representing 4.1% of the total population, of which 65% are women. The estimated number of people over 100 years of age is also increasing, reaching over 23 thousand and 500 units at the beginning of 2025, over 2,000 more than the previous year (again with a prevalence of women, equal to 83%).

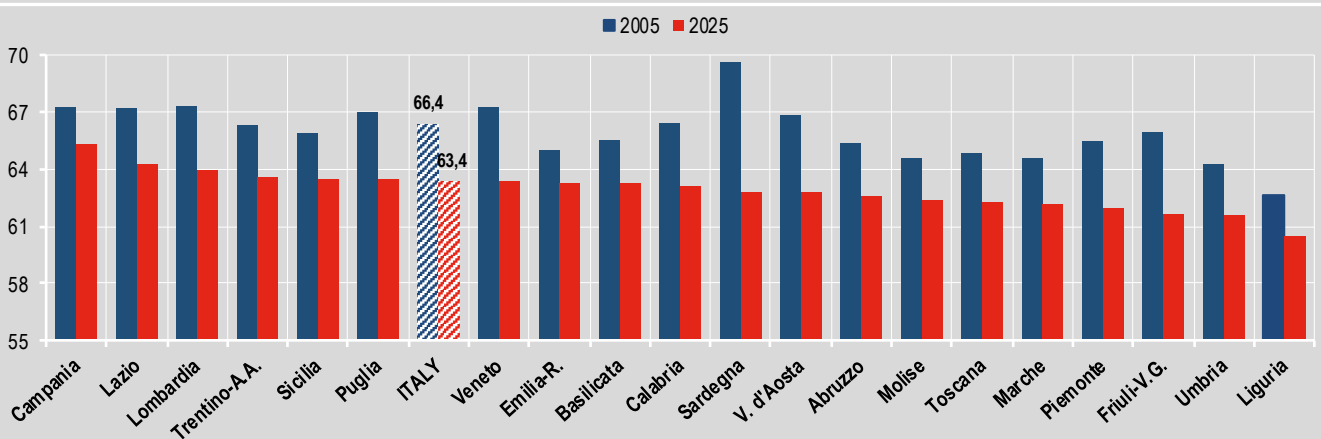
Among young people up to 14 years old, the lowest percentage is observed in the Centre (11.5%), in the North the same population accounts for 11.8%, while the highest incidence is recorded in the Mezzogiorno (12.3%). As for the population over 65 years old, the highest proportion is found in the Center (25.3%), followed by the North (25.1%). The Mezzogiorno is confirmed as the least aged area, with a share of people over 65 years equal to 23.9%. The percentage of the working age population (15-64 years old) is almost unchanged from the previous year in the North and Centre, with shares equal to 63.1% and 63.2% respectively, while in the South there is a percentage of 63.8%, slightly down from 2024 (64.1%). The region with the highest share of the working-age population is Campania (65.3%), followed by Lazio (64.2%) and Lombardia (63.9%). Liguria is the region with the lowest percentage, equal to 60.5% (Figure 7).

The relative annual variations in the population by age group, however, are modest, as in the last year, not accounting for the ongoing demographic transformations over a longer period. For example, a 20-year time span gives a different picture, in which, apart from the appreciable growth of the old population and the constant reduction of the young population, the evolution of the loss of the working age population is striking. The latter, compared to January 1st, 2005, has decreased by 1 million and 179 thousand individuals, going from 66.4% to 63.4%. The decrease affects only the Mezzogiorno area, while Centre-north shows a slight increase of about 13 thousand individuals, thanks to a major contribution of migration flows.

Another key aspect concerns the internal composition of the working age population. Twenty years ago this population was equally distributed between 15-39 year olds and 40-64 year olds. As of January 1, 2025, the working age population is more aged, with a share of people over 40 years old risen to 58.5%. This population ageing process is more pronounced in the Mezzogiorno, where today the 40-64 age group has gained 10 percentage points over the 15-39 age group compared to twenty years ago.



FIGURE 7. RESIDENT POPULATION 15-64 YEARS OLD BY REGION. Data as of January 1, 2005 and 2025. Percentage values.



Source: Istat, Ricostruzione intercensuaria della popolazione residente (2002-2019); Stime anticipatorie degli indicatori demografici e sociali (2024).

More than one in three households is composed by a lone person

In the two-year period 2023-2024, the number of households in Italy is just over 26 million and 300 thousand, over 4 million more than at the beginning of the 2000s. The growth in the number of households depends above all on the progressive simplification of household structures, both in size and composition. The main cause of this process is the increase in single-person households, currently the most common household form.

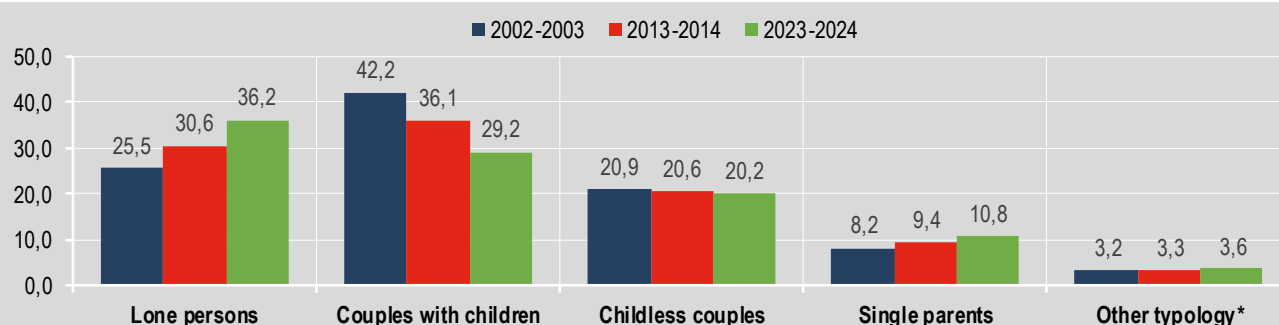
Today more than a third of households are formed by a single-person (36.2%), while 20 years ago this typology represented just a quarter of households (25.5%). Households consisting of at least one family nucleus, i.e. in which there is at least one couple or parent-child relationship, account for 61.3%. These households are mainly couples with children (29.2%), which for many years have not only been the prevalent household typology, but also the one affected by the most consistent decrease. By contrast, childless couples, stable over time, account for a fifth of the total (just over 20%). One household out of 10, slightly increasing over the years, is a single-parent household. These are mainly single mothers (8.7%) and in 2.1% of cases fathers with children (2.1%). Households consisting of two or more family nuclei and those without a nucleus (excluding single people, for example two siblings living together) have been confirmed as a residual typology over the years (3.6%) (Figure 8).

The effect of these transformations is a constant decrease in the average household size from 2.6 members 20 years ago to the current 2.2.

Demographic and social changes and the evolution of family structures are reflected in the distribution of family roles in the population. People living alone represent 16.3% of the population in 2023-24 and are on the rise in all age groups, especially the middle ones. Parents in a couple account for 26.3% and are the ones who have experienced the greatest contraction, particularly between the ages of 35 and 44. There has been a slight increase over the years in the number of single parents with children (today 4.9% of the population) and people living with a partner without children (18.6%). The proportion of children living with both parents is decreasing and is now 21.4%; on the other hand, the percentage of children in single-parent households is rising (6.8%).

Although these trends have affected the entire country, some differences remain at a regional level. One-person households have increased throughout the country and today represent the prevalent model everywhere (38.5% in the Centre, 37.4% in the North and 33.1% in the South). In the North there is also a higher concentration of childless couples (21.7% compared to 19.1% in the Centre and 18.8% in the South), while in the Mezzogiorno there is still the highest share of couples with children (32.2% versus 27.9% and 27.6% in the North and Centre, respectively). The average size of households has decreased everywhere: in the southern regions, where households have historically been larger, it has decreased from 2.8 to 2.3 members, while in Central and Northern Italy it has decreased from 2.5 and 2.4 to 2.2 members respectively.

FIGURE 8. HOUSEHOLDS BY PRINCIPAL TYPOLOGIES. Average years 2002-2003, 2013-2014, 2023-2024 (a). Percentage values.



Source: Istat, "Aspetti della vita quotidiana".

(a) In 2004 the survey "Aspects of Daily Life" was not carried out. From 2023, a new procedure was introduced for reporting the total number of households to the universe. In order to make the survey results consistent with the evidence that emerges annually from the permanent Population Census, the calibration constraints for the construction of the carryover coefficients are defined within the system of "Provisional Estimates of the Main Demographic Indicators".

**Other typology* includes families without a nuclear family unit other than single people, and families with two or more nuclear family units.

Glossary

Acquisition of citizenship: Italian citizenship is acquired in direct line per iure sanguinis, that is, if one is born or adopted by Italian citizens. Under Law No. 91/1992, a foreigner can acquire Italian citizenship by continuous residence (art.9) after 10 years if he/she is a non-EU citizen, after five years if he/she is a refugee or stateless person, after four if he/she is an EU citizen. There is also acquisition by marriage (art.5) with an Italian citizen and residence in Italy for at least two years after the wedding celebration. As for the foreign minor, acquisition can be obtained by transmission from parents living with him, with the possibility of renunciation once he becomes an adult (art.14). Finally, for a foreigner born in Italy who has resided there continuously until reaching the age of majority, there is the option of being able to elect Italian citizenship within one year from the aforementioned date (art.4, c.2).

Average number of children per woman (or total fertility rate - TFR): the number of children a woman would give birth to if, over her reproductive lifetime (and in the absence of mortality during that lifetime), she were subjected to the fertility calendar (in the form of age-specific fertility rates) for the year of observation.

Birth (rate): ratio of the number of live births for the year to the average population, multiplied by 1,000.

Centers: according to the classification of the National Strategy for Inner Areas (SNAI), Municipalities offering essential services (health, schools, transportation) or located within a distance of about 20 minutes from essential services constitute Centers and are subdivided into Poles, Inter-municipal poles, and Belt municipalities.

Citizenship: legal bond between an individual and a State, required and documented for the exercise of rights and subjection to particular duties

Death: the cessation of any sign of life at any time after the vital birth.

Emigration: the act by which a person who has previously had the residence in the territory of a State ceases to have that residence for a period exceeding 12 months by moving to another place.

Emigration (rate): ratio of the number of emigrants in the year to the average population.

Expatriation: emigration to foreign country of an Italian citizen.

Family nucleus: a group of people in a couple or parent-child relationship. This means a married or cohabiting couple, without or with children who have never been married, or even a single parent with one or more unmarried children. The concept of a family nucleus is normally more restrictive than that of household; in fact, within a household there may be one or more family nuclei. There may be none, as is the case, for example, with one-person households. A household can be made up of several nuclei, but it can also consist of a nucleus and one or more isolated members (other cohabiting persons).

Household: a group of people who habitually live in the same dwelling, linked by marriage, civil partnership, kinship, affinity, adoption, custody or emotional ties and who share the households' income and daily expenses. In addition, members who are temporarily absent but have their habitual residence in the dwelling are also part of the family. A household can also consist of only one person.

Immigration (rate): ratio of the number of immigrants in the year to the average population.

Immigration: the act by which a person establishes the residence in the territory of a State for a period exceeding 12 months after previously having the residence elsewhere.

Inner areas: according to the classification of the National Strategy for Inner Areas (SNAI), Municipalities that have travel times longer than 20 minutes from Municipalities that offer essential services (health, schools, transportation) constitute Inner areas and are subdivided into Intermediate, Peripheral and Ultra-peripheral Municipalities.

Life expectancy at birth: the average number of years that a person can count to live from birth in the hypothesis that, in the course of the existence, he/she was subjected to mortality risks by age of the year of observation

Life expectancy at age "x": the average number of years that a person of completed age "x" can count to survive in the hypothesis that, in the course of the subsequent life, he/she was subjected to the risks of mortality by age (from age "x" up) of the year of observation.

Live birth: the product of conception that, once expelled or completely extracted from the maternal body, regardless of the duration of gestation, breathes or manifests other signs of life.

Mean age: mean age of the population at a certain date expressed in years and tenths of a year.

Mean age at childbearing: the mean age at birth of mothers expressed in years and tenths of a year, calculated considering only live births.

Migration rate: ratio of the net migration for the year to the average population.

Mortality (rate): ratio of the number of deaths in the year to the average population, multiplied by 1,000.

Natural population change (o natural dynamic): difference between the number of live births and deaths during a given period.

Net international migration: the difference between immigration from foreign countries and the emigration to foreign countries.

Net internal migration: difference between the number of registered people due to change of residence from another municipality and the number of those canceled due to change of residence to another municipality.

Nuptiality (tasso di): ratio of the number of marriages celebrated in the year to the average population (per 1,000).

Percentage variation: ratio between the absolute variation and the initial amount of a certain phenomenon, multiplied by 100.

Repatriation: immigration from foreign country of an Italian citizen.

Resident population: constituted in each Municipality (and similarly for other territorial divisions) of people with habitual residence in the Municipality itself. Persons temporarily residing in another Municipality or abroad, for the exercise of seasonal occupations or for reasons of limited duration, do not cease to belong to the resident population.

Methodological note

Knowledge objectives

The demographic balance of the resident population and the provisional estimates of the main demographic indicators provide, in a short period, information on the latest developments in demographic dynamics through the statistical documentation of the most recent trends, with particular attention to the territorial articulation of the phenomena studied. The results produced concern on the one hand the estimates of the aggregates of the demographic balance components and on the other those relating to the main demographic indicators.

Reference framework

The growing demand for statistical information and the need to reduce dissemination times led to the creation, in 2002, by the National Statistical Institute, of a territorial system of provisional estimates. This project has as its purpose the production of “quick” estimates of the main demographic behaviours and structural trends in progress of the Italian population. Together with the information coming from the provisional demographic balance of the resident population, it is possible to provide a complete and exhaustive framework of the principal demographic trends of the Country.

Data sources

Currently the data about registration and de-registration in the Population Register are electronically detected through the administrative system National Register of the Resident Population (ANPR, <https://www.anpr.interno.it/>), fed by the events notifications transmitted by Italian Municipalities.

Process and methodologies

The demographic balance of the resident population is produced by elaborating micro data of the demographic dynamics obtained through the notifications sent by Municipalities to the ANPR system.

Provisional estimates of the main demographic indicator are produced starting from the analysis of the provisional demographic balance of the resident population (births, deaths, changes of residence). Using a specific micro-simulation model with constrained totals, basically based on the general principle of the cohort-component-model, this set of aggregate information is further broken down into the variables of interest (sex, age, citizenship, territory, origin/destination) when not already recorded (as in the case of migratory movements for example, but not of deaths that are already partially known at a disaggregated level). This procedure is necessary in order to calculate the resident population at the end of the year. Once these results have been obtained, it is possible to calculate the various demographic indicators.

Contents

The demographic balance of the resident population provides, with municipal detail, aggregate data about the movements of the resident population.

The provincial estimates of the main demographic indicators provide, with provincial detail, an updated picture of the demographic situation of the country on: movement of the resident population (live birth, mortality and migration rates), main demographic trends (fertility, life expectancy) and population structure (sex, age, citizenship).

Time lag and territorial detail

Data are diffused approximately three months after the end of the reference period. For the 2024 events, the consolidation of the flows coming from the database was made at the beginning of March 2025. The 2024 events not recorded in the Population Register within this date are not counted in the present demographic balance and in the calculation of the indicators.

The data about the 2024 demographic balance of the resident population are disseminated as provisional, at municipal level. The definitive data will be released at the end of the year with the results of the 2024 Permanent Population Census.

It should be remembered that the indicators published as estimates are of a provisional nature due to the error associated with them and that the margin of error is all the more significant the more the analysis is articulated on a territorial basis.

Dissemination

Data about demographic balance of the resident population and provisional estimates of the main demographic indicators are available on the datawarehouse <https://esploradati.istat.it/databrowser/> as well as on the thematic site <https://demo.istat.it/>.

For technical and methodological information

Marco Battaglini

Tel. 06 4673 7341

battagli@istat.it

Maura Simone

Tel. 06 4673 7588

simone@istat.it