

ITALIAN
STATISTICAL
YEARBOOK

2025

Executive Summary

Chapter 1 - Territory

As of 31 December 2024, Italy had 7,896 municipalities. Of these, 69.9 per cent had populations of fewer than 5,000 inhabitants. There were 2,362 medium-sized municipalities, with populations between 5,000 and 250,000, accounting for 29.9 per cent of all Italian municipalities; 68.8 per cent of the country's population resides within them. Only 11 municipalities had more than 250,000 inhabitants, accounting for 14.7 per cent of the population. Most of the country's surface area was hilly. (41.6 per cent) and mountainous (35.2 per cent). In 2024, nearly half of the population lived in plains, while 38.6 per cent resided in hilly areas; a much smaller proportion (12.1 per cent) lived in mountainous areas. Coastal municipalities accounted for 8.2 per cent of the country's municipalities, and over half of Italy's coastal population resided in the South and Islands. Regarding the Ecoregions, the section with the largest population was the Po Valley (19,341,897 inhabitants), followed by the Central-Northern Tyrrhenian (6,966,470) and the Southern Tyrrhenian (6,586,878). Only in some Italian regional capitals and in the Autonomous Provinces was a homogeneous trend of demographic growth or decline observed, affecting both the city centre and the municipalities of the first and second urban belts. In Italy, there were 515 local labour systems, 91 of which were located in the North-West, where the largest ones were found, due to the presence of significant urban areas such as Torino, Milano, and Genova. The South and Islands, on the other hand, continued to be characterised by smaller local labour systems. 22.7 per cent of the Italian population resided in Inner Areas. The Islands and the South represented the geographical divisions with the largest shares of surface occupied by Inner Areas (72.7 and 68.1 per cent of the total territory, respectively).

Chapter 2 - Environment, Climate and Energy

Greenhouse gas emissions stabilised in 2022, but the trend reversed in 2023 (-5.3 per cent compared to 2022). In 2023, gross domestic energy consumption decreased (-4.3 per cent). Renewable sources increased in the electricity sector (from 35.4 to 44 per cent of total gross production). Energy consumption by resident units decreased (-4.8 per cent in 2023 and -2.1 per cent in 2024). In 2024, 79 per cent of households have an autonomous heating system (72.2 per cent in 2021). The presence of air conditioning systems in households doubled (from 29.4 per cent in 2013 to 56 per cent in 2024).

In regional capitals, 2023 was among the warmest years since 1971, with an average annual temperature of 16.6°C (+1.7°C relative to CLINO 1981-2010) and a total precipitation of 736 millimetres (-7 millimetres relative to CLINO 1981-2010). In 2023, 19 regional capitals exceeded the daily PM₁₀ limit. WHO limits for average annual concentrations of atmospheric particulate matter were exceeded in 70 regional capitals for PM₁₀, and in 81 for PM_{2.5}. In 2023, protected terrestrial areas covered 21.7 per cent of the territory, and marine areas 11.6 per cent. In 2022, 199.0 million tonnes of non-energy mineral resources were extracted from 3,995 quarry and mine extraction sites (-0.4 per cent compared to 2021). 18.9 million cubic metres of mineral water were extracted (-0.8 per cent compared to 2021). In 2024, the area affected by fire was 52,981 hectares (-40.3 per cent compared to 2023). There were 15 earthquakes of magnitude greater than or equal to 4.0 (10 in 2023). In 2022, 88.8 per cent of residents were served by the public sewerage network. There are 18,118 urban wastewater treatment plants in operation. In 261 municipalities, the purification service is absent (1.2 million inhabitants). In 2023, 29.3 million tonnes of urban waste were produced (496.2 kg per inhabitant, +0.7 per cent compared to 2022). Separate waste collection was at 66.6 per cent (+1.5 percentage points compared to 2022), exceeding the EU target of 65 per cent. In 2023, stranded marine waste averaged 250 items per 100 metres of beach (303 in 2022). In 2024, climate change is the most pressing environmental concern (58.1 per cent). Satisfaction of households with electric power generation, transmission and distribution remained stable (77.1 per cent).

Chapter 3 - Population and Households

As of 1 January 2025, Italy's resident population was 58,934,177 (provisional data), approximately 37,000 fewer than on the same date in 2024. The resident foreign population, according to initial estimates, was 5,422,426 and represented 9.2 per cent of the total population. A negative natural balance characterised the demographic trend in 2024 (-280,665, provisional data), slightly lower than that of 2023 (-291,175). The positive migratory balance (+243,612, compared with +281,220 in 2023) nearly offsets the negative natural balance. The decline in births: in 2024, there were 369,922 births (provisional data), a decrease of about 10,000 births. The average number of children per woman in 2024 was 1.18 (estimated), down from 2023 (1.20). Deaths totalled 650,587 (provisional data), approximately 20,000 fewer than in 2023 and returning to 2019 levels. In 2024, life expectancy at birth was estimated at 81.4 years for men and 85.5 years for women.

According to provisional data, immigration from abroad was 434,579 individuals (-5,000 compared with 2023); emigration was 190,967 (+33,000). Movements of people between Italian municipalities totalled 1,413,493 in 2024, a slight decrease from 2023 (-1.4 per cent). New residence permits issued in Italy to non-EU citizens in 2024 were 290,119, a 12.3 per cent decrease from 2023.

Population ageing continues among residents. As of 1 January 2025, the average age of the population, estimated at 46.8 years, was about 3 months higher than on the same date in 2024. The population aged 65 and over accounted for 24.7 per cent of the total resident population. In 2024, marriages numbered 172,880 (provisional data), a 6.1 per cent decline from 2023 (184,207). Legal separations reached 82,392 in 2023 (-8.4 per cent compared to 2022). Divorces, at 79,875 in 2023, decreased compared to 2022 (-3.3 per cent), continuing the steady downward trend.

In 2023, households in Italy numbered around 26.6 million, an increase from 2022. During the 2023-2024 period, more than half of these households included individuals living alone or childless couples.

Chapter 4 - Healthcare and Health

In the three years 2021-2023, the number of general practitioners and paediatricians decreased by 5.6 and 4.5 per cent, respectively. Disparities persist in hospital capacity: in 2023, the number of inpatient beds per thousand inhabitants remained higher in the Centre-North than in the South and the Islands. Compared to the previous three years, this indicator shows a slight decrease, from 3.1 beds per thousand inhabitants in 2020 to 3.0 in 2023. In 2023, acute hospital discharges amounted to nearly 7.3 million (+4.0 per cent compared to 2022), but were approximately 650 thousand lower (-8.1 per cent) than the average for the 2017-2019 period, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2023, the rate of recourse to voluntary termination of pregnancy is equal to 5.8 cases per thousand women aged between 15 and 49, a stable value compared to the previous year.

In 2022, registered deaths reached 721,974, an increase compared to 2021. This rise affected all Italian geographical divisions except the South. The year was characterised by an increase in mortality rates among women and those aged 80 and over. In 2022, individuals aged 30-69 with lower levels of education experienced mortality rates more than double those of graduates, with disparities persisting even at older ages, albeit reduced. Inequalities are more pronounced in men and are particularly evident for lifestyle- and individual behaviour-related causes of death, such as endocrine, respiratory, and mental health issues.

Infant mortality remained steady in 2022, with a rate of 2.7 deaths of children under 1 per thousand live births.

In 2022, 3,906 people died by suicide, with men accounting for more than three-quarters of the cases; in the last two years, there has been a reversal of the long-term decreasing trend: there has actually been an increase in the suicide rate from 6.2 to 6.6 per 100,000 inhabitants.

In 2024, the proportion of smokers aged 14 and over was 19.8 per cent, a slight increase from 2023 (19.3 per cent). In the same year, 67.1 per cent of the resident population rated their health status positively.

Chapter 5 - Social Protection

Total social security benefit expenditure in 2023 amounted to EUR 411,396 million, and its incidence on GDP was 19.2 per cent, a decrease of approximately 3 percentage points compared to 2020. Expenditure on the Single and Universal Allowance for families with dependent children amounted to EUR 18.8 billion in 2023 (4.6 per cent of total social benefits expenditure), approximately EUR 12.4 billion more than the amount allocated for this support in 2021.

The recovery of the national economy is also evidenced by the percentage of social security benefits covered by contributions, which in 2023 was 71.3 and is approaching the pre-pandemic level. The gap between contributions and benefits affects the per capita social security deficit: the highest values are recorded in the South and Islands. Total expenditure on pensions amounts to 16.2 per cent of GDP. The number of pensions per 100 inhabitants is approximately 38.9, a significant increase compared with the period 2013-2020. In 2022, total expenditure on local welfare supported by municipalities was approximately EUR 8.9 billion, of which 15 per cent was allocated to nurseries. The main recipients of services offered by municipalities are people with disabilities (27.5 per cent), families and minors (37.3 per cent), and those over 65 (14.8 per cent).

In 2022, municipal nurseries, or those affiliated with municipalities, enrolled 195,836 children, the highest number in the previous 10 years. In 2022, the number of residential care facilities (providing social and health care services) was 12,363 (-1.7 per cent compared with 2021), and the number of guests was 362,850 (+1.8 per cent): facilities and beds decreased, whereas the number of people hosted increased. Trentino-Alto Adige/*Südtirol*, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, and Piemonte recorded the highest number of beds (in residential care facilities) per resident.

Chapter 6 - Justice, Crime and Security

In 2024, the number of pending first-instance civil proceedings increased, particularly at the Justice of the Peace Offices (+22.5 per cent), to a lesser extent at the Tribunals (+1.8 per cent), and at the Courts of Appeal (+1.3 per cent). Conversely, the decline in pending second-instance proceedings continued (-11.5 per cent at the Tribunals, -7.5 per cent at the Courts of Appeal), as well as in the Court of Cassation (-7.8 per cent).

Pending first-instance cases also decreased in administrative justice and accounting (by 12.5 and 8.2 per cent, respectively). Incoming and pending criminal proceedings decreased (+3.6 and +14.2 per cent) at the Juvenile Courts. In 2024, the Military Justice investigated 1,929 military personnel (90 of whom were women) across all ranks and branches.

Notarial agreements stipulated in 2024 amounted to 3,577,364 (+0.6 per cent compared to 2023).

There were just over 2,341,000 crimes reported by the police forces to the judicial authority in 2023 (+3.8 per cent compared to 2022). There was an increase in voluntary homicides committed (+3.0 per cent) and attempted homicides (+1.5 per cent), intentional injuries (+1.6 per cent) and crimes violating legislation on narcotics (+4.4 per cent), while reports for exploitation and aiding of prostitution (-22.7 per cent) and those for sexual violence (-1.0 per cent) are decreasing. Among crimes against property, computer fraud and scams (+10.3 per cent), robberies (+9.5 per cent), thefts (+6.0 per cent), and receiving stolen goods (+1.1 per cent) are increasing, whereas extortion (-5.1 per cent) is decreasing.

The number of inmates in adult penitentiary facilities at the end of 2024 was 61,861 (+2.8 per cent compared to 2023), for a rate of 121.0 inmates per 100 regulatory places.

In 2024, the social service offices for minors in the justice system followed approximately 22 thousand and 200 juvenile offenders, 23.1 per cent of whom were foreign and 9.2 per cent were girls.

In 2024, 26.6 per cent of households reported the risk of crime as a problem in their residential area (23.3 per cent in 2023). In 2023, 363 anti-violence centres and 375 shelters were active in supporting women and participated in the Istat surveys (349 and 374, respectively, in 2022).

Chapter 7 - Education and Training

The decline in enrolments continued in the 2023/2024 school year: the school population stood at 7,996,318, 117,025 fewer than the previous year. Nursery, primary, and lower secondary schools lost 38,170, 54,174, and 25,589 units, respectively, while enrolments in upper secondary schools remained substantially stable. Across all school levels, the foreign presence was 11.6 per cent.

In the 2023/2024 school year, 494,049 students obtained a diploma, a 2.1 per cent decrease from the previous school year. In contrast, the number of lyceum graduates (258,208) remained almost unchanged, while graduates from technical institutes (158,828) decreased by 2.0 per cent, and graduates from vocational institutes (77,013) decreased by 6.2 per cent. Even in the choice of upper secondary school, women are underrepresented in the scientific and technological sector. The increase in the number of students enrolled at ITS Academies (+19.0 per cent) continued; however, this remains a marginal share of tertiary education in our country, with 33,255 enrolled students and 8,588 graduates.

The 2023/2024 academic year also confirmed a higher proportion of female first-year university students. However, significant differences persisted in the choice of study courses, with a lower proportion of female students enrolled in STEM disciplines. In 2023, the number of students who obtained a university degree was 392,767 units (+7.3 per cent compared to 2022). The increase is particularly significant among graduates from online universities (+24.7 per cent).

In 2024, the employment rate of young people in transition from school to work continued to improve: it reached 60.6 per cent among high school graduates (+0.9 percentage points compared to 2023) and 77.3 per cent among university graduates (+1.9 percentage points). The employment rate of university graduates exceeded the pre-2008 economic crisis level by 6.8 percentage points; that of high school graduates remained 3.0 percentage points below the 2006 high.

Chapter 8 - Labour Market

In 2024, the number of employed persons and the employment rate (15-64 years) continued to rise, reaching 62.2 per cent, with an annual increase of 0.7 percentage points, higher than the EU average. Employment growth was concentrated among the 45-54 and 55-64 age classes. The number of unemployed persons decreased, and the unemployment rate reached 6.5 per cent (-1.1 percentage points from 2023).

The inactivity rate for 15-64s stood at 33.4 per cent (+0.1 percentage points compared with 2023).

In 2023, nearly three out of four workers were employees, with women accounting for the largest share. A smaller proportion was found among self-employed individuals, who were also the oldest and most educated, and who characterised small enterprises in particular. A higher proportion of foreigners was observed among temporary workers, who were more prevalent in large enterprises and were less educated.

2024 marked the first time since the post-pandemic recovery that the vacancy rate showed negative signals, decreasing by 0.2 percentage points to +2.1 per cent. This highlights a lower propensity among enterprises to initiate new personnel recruitment processes. The number of hours worked increased by 3.0 per cent, driven by a larger increase in services (+4.2 per cent). Signs of fragility came from industry in the strict sense, where growth in total hours was barely positive (+0.1), and the use of the Wage Guarantee Fund (*Cassa Integrazione Guadagni* – CIG) increased by over 40 per cent.

In 2024, labour costs for all enterprises recorded a 3.5 per cent increase in the total economy, mainly due to improvements in contractual renewals; the sharpest increase was in industry, which was most affected by renewals (+4.2 per cent) compared with services (+2.9 per cent).

On average, across the total economy, contractual hourly wages grew by 3.1 per cent in 2024, up from 2023 (+2.9 per cent). Consumer prices rose by 1.1 per cent, marking the first partial recovery from the loss of purchasing power observed during the two years 2022-2023.

In 2024, across large enterprises in the industry and services sectors, gross wages per employee increased by 3.5 per cent compared to 2023, while labour costs increased by 2.4 per cent.

Chapter 9 - Economic Conditions, Daily Life, and Household Consumption

In 2024, overall satisfaction among the population aged 14 and over remained stable compared with the previous year; on average, on a 0-10 scale, people reported a score of 7.2. Satisfaction with individual aspects of daily life decreased, particularly those related to social relationships, health, and leisure time. On the socio-economic side, job satisfaction and satisfaction with personal economic situation decreased.

A positive signal was the reduction in the proportion of households reporting that their economic situation had worsened. With the pandemic phase now over, there is an increase in the number of users of services provided by municipal population registry offices, post offices, and local health authorities.

In 2023, the estimated average monthly household consumption expenditure in Italy was EUR 2,738 at current prices, up from EUR 2,625 in 2022 (+4.3 per cent). However, this increase did not reflect a real rise in consumption. Indeed, given the effect of inflation (+5.9 per cent annual change in the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices for European Union countries, HICP), expenditure growth in real terms decreased by 1.5 per cent. Territorial disparities are slightly reducing: the relative difference between the maximum expenditure of the North-West and the minimum of the South decreased from 36.9 per cent in 2022 to 35.2 per cent in 2023.

In 2023, households living in absolute poverty were just over 2.2 million (8.4 per cent of the total, up from 8.3 per cent in 2022), with more than 5.7 million individuals affected (9.7 per cent, unchanged from the previous year). The incidence of absolute poverty among minors was 13.8 per cent (just under 1.3 million people); it was 11.8 per cent among young people aged 18-34. The most critical situations were observed among households with more children, especially when minors were present, as well as among households with aggregated members and those with at least one foreigner. In 2023, the annual average household net income, including imputed rents, was EUR 42,715, equal to EUR 3,560 per month, with a 4.2 per cent increase in nominal terms compared to the previous year. The ratio of total income received by the 20 per cent of the population with the highest income to that received by the 20 per cent with the lowest (S80/S20) was 4.8 at the national level and falls to 3.7 in the North-East.

Chapter 10 - Culture and Leisure

In 2023, live performances, such as cinema, theatre, concerts, ballet, sport, etc., in Italy amounted to 59.4 per thousand inhabitants. In 2024, 64.4 per cent of the population aged 6 or older participated in some form of entertainment or attended an out-of-home event. There was a recovery in cultural participation of about 3 percentage points, marking a return to pre-pandemic levels of enjoyment.

The increase in participation levels affected all cultural activities. In particular, the viewing of cinema performances (4.6 percentage points higher than in 2023), participation in other types of concerts (+3 percentage points compared to 2023), and the enjoyment of theatre performances (+2 percentage points approximately) were higher than in 2023.

In 2023, 40.1 per cent of people read at least one book, a slight recovery from 2022. The share of newspaper readers is decreasing. Internet usage reached 82.7 per cent of people, an increase of approximately 2.4 percentage points from 2023 to 2024.

In 2024, 37.5 per cent of the population aged 3 and over reported practising one or more sports in their leisure time; 28.6 per cent practised regularly, while 8.9 per cent practised occasionally. These figures remained substantially stable compared with 2023.

In 2023, libraries - public and private, state and non-state - recorded by the Registry of Libraries of the Central Institute for the Union Catalogue of Italian Libraries (*Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico delle biblioteche italiane* - ICCU) were 13,203, of which approximately 82 per cent were public.

The number of visitors to state-owned museums, monuments, and archaeological sites, as well as the value of net revenues recorded in 2023, exceeded those in 2019, the year before the pandemic crisis.

Chapter 11 – Elections and Political and Social Activity

In 2024, the European elections were held in Italy. This electoral round had an average turnout of 48.3 per cent. At the same time, the regional consultations, which called voters to the polls in Piemonte, Liguria, Emilia-Romagna, Umbria, Abruzzo, Basilicata, and Sardegna, recorded an average participation of 50.7 per cent.

In the same year, municipal elections were held, involving voters in 3,742 Italian municipalities. The round recorded a turnout of 62.3 per cent, with invalid votes accounting for 2.5 per cent.

The percentage of women appointed as Mayor remained stable at 15.5 per cent compared with the previous year and was still modest relative to men. The average age of administrators of territorial bodies (Municipalities, Provinces, Metropolitan Cities, and Regions) was relatively stable throughout the data. The highest percentages were observed in the 50-60 age group.

Direct participation in political life concerned a minority share of the population aged 14 and over: in 2024, 3.3 per cent participated in demonstrations and 2.5 per cent in rallies. However, a larger proportion participated in the country's political life indirectly: 68.8 per cent by informing themselves about politics and 61.0 per cent by discussing it.

Participation in associative activities was predominantly through undertaking free activities for volunteer associations (8.4 per cent) or attending meetings in cultural associations (7.5 per cent), both of which are characteristic of the country's social life.

Compared to 2023, 2024 registered a slight decrease in indirect political participation, i.e., of those who inform themselves or discuss politics, while social participation remains stable.

Chapter 12 - National Accounts

In 2024, the Italian economy recorded a 0.7 per cent rise in GDP in volume, remaining stable relative to 2023. Final consumption expenditure increased by 0.6 per cent; notably, resident household final consumption expenditure grew by 0.4 per cent.

The investment dynamic was positive (+0.5 per cent). Exports of goods and services increased by 0.4 per cent, while imports decreased by 0.7 per cent. On the supply side, value added increased in volume by 0.5 per cent; growth was 2 per cent in agriculture, forestry, and fishing, 1.2 per cent in construction, and 0.6 per cent in services, while industry in the strict sense recorded a decrease of 0.1 per cent. Gross wages per hour worked rose by 1.9 per cent. For non-financial corporations, the profit share was 43.3 per cent, down from 46.1 per cent in 2023, while the investment rate was 22 per cent.

The more contained price growth resulted in a 1.3 per cent increase in the purchasing power of consumer households. Furthermore, the less sustained dynamic of household final consumption expenditure (+1.7 per cent) compared to disposable income (+2.7 per cent) in 2024 led to a 9 per cent rise in the share of income allocated to savings. Public administration net borrowing (-3.4 per cent of GDP) improved compared to 2023, driven by an increase in revenue (+3.7 per cent) and a decrease in expenditure (-3.6 per cent).

In 2024, the social protection system recorded just under EUR 673 billion in revenue (+5.6 per cent, up from 5.4 per cent in 2023), while expenditure on social protection by all institutions amounted to EUR 643.3 billion, an increase of 4.4 per cent compared to the previous year. Social security expenditure has the largest impact on current public expenditure (40.4 per cent), followed by healthcare expenditure (13.1 per cent). For the third consecutive year, welfare expenditure decreased (-6 per cent), and its impact on current public expenditure fell to 5.8 per cent.

Chapter 13 - Agriculture

In 2023, over 1 million production units operated in the agricultural sector. The utilised agricultural area (UAA) covered approximately 12.3 million hectares, with an average size of 10.9 hectares. Most farms were concentrated in the Southern and Island regions, with Puglia, Sicily, Calabria, and Campania accounting for about 44 per cent of the national total. However, the average size in these regions was smaller than that in the rest of the country. The relative share of farms that diversified their activities by engaging in other remunerative activities related to agriculture, in addition to their strictly primary practice, increased by 6.0 per cent. The 2023-2024 agricultural year showed a decrease in cereal production (-8.5 per cent) and horticultural crops (-2.0 per cent), while marking an increase in industrial crops (+5.1 per cent), grain legumes (+8.8 per cent), and tuber crops (+11.6 per cent). In woody crops, there was a decrease in olive production (-4.1 per cent) and citrus fruits (-2.6 per cent), while an increase was observed in grape production (+14.6 per cent) and fruit trees (+10.8 per cent). In 2024, livestock production showed a slight increase in collected milk (+1.7 per cent) and in the production of cheese and butter (+1.1 per cent and +0.6 per cent, respectively); egg production was in line with the previous year. In the same year, there was a significant decrease in the slaughter of sheep and goats (-23.8 per cent), while that of cattle, buffalo, and pigs remained substantially stable. Fish production in 2023 decreased compared to the previous year (-7.5 per cent).

Regarding the means of production, in 2023, the distribution of fertilisers increased (+29.9 per cent), while that of plant protection products decreased (-9.8 per cent).

In 2023, agritourism establishments exceeded 26 thousand units, with a positive balance of 220 structures, reflecting the difference between new businesses authorised for agritourism activity and those that ceased activity during the same period. For further details on the results for the agricultural sector, please refer to the data tables in the dedicated area of Istat's website.

Chapter 14 - Enterprises

In 2023, there were 4,617,000 active enterprises, employing 18,644,000 people. This represented an increase of 37 thousand enterprises, corresponding to a growth of over 400 thousand workers. The balance between newly-born and ceased enterprises remained positive, as did the trend in business demography, with an enterprise birth rate of 7.3 per cent and a death rate of 6.4 per cent, both stable relative to 2022. Enterprises with employees also experienced a positive demographic trend. After three years of growth, the survival rate of newly-born enterprises declined: among those established in 2022, 82.2 per cent were still active at the end of 2023 (3 percentage points lower than in 2022).

The manufacturing and service sectors in Italy are characterised by the presence of micro enterprises with up to nine workers, which in 2022 numbered 4.2 million (94.5 per cent of the total) and accounted for 27.2 per cent of value added. Large enterprises with over 250 workers reached just 0.1 per cent; however, they accounted for 34.5 per cent of value added and 44.9 per cent of investment. 42.3 per cent of employed individuals worked in micro enterprises, 23.9 per cent in large ones, and 33.8 per cent in enterprises with 10-249 workers.

Chapter 15 - Foreign Trade and Internationalisation of Enterprises

In 2024, international trade in goods, measured in dollars at current prices, increased by 2.3 per cent year-on-year, driven by volume growth (+3.1 per cent) and a decline in average unit values (-1.0 per cent).

Italian exports of goods, amounting to EUR 623.5 billion, decreased slightly (-0.4 per cent) due to declines in exports of energy, capital goods, and intermediate goods, partially offset by growth in consumer goods sales.

Imports (EUR 568.7 billion) decreased by 3.9 per cent, mainly due to lower energy purchases. The trade balance improved significantly, exceeding EUR 54.8 billion (up from +EUR 34.0 billion in 2023). In 2024, Italy's share of global exports declined slightly (2.76 per cent, down from 2.83 per cent in 2023). The geographical areas that contributed most to the overall balance were non-EU European countries (+EUR 45,670 million) and North America (+EUR 41,986 million). Germany remained Italy's leading export market, followed by the United States and France. 68.8 per cent of Italian exports originated from the Northern regions, followed by the Centre (18.4 per cent) and the South (10.4 per cent). In 2024, export operators numbered 133,437 (compared to 137,911 in 2023).

In 2022, Italian-controlled enterprises resident abroad numbered 25,491, employed 9.8 per cent of the total workers residing in Italy and, excluding financial services, generated 10.7 per cent of national turnover. Foreign-controlled enterprises resident in Italy numbered 18,434, employed 9.7 per cent of the national workforce in industry and services, and accounted for 21.0 per cent of turnover and 17.4 per cent of value added.

Chapter 16 - Prices

In 2024, the prices of products sold by farmers continued the slowdown that began in 2023, decreasing by an average of 1.0 per cent year-on-year, while the prices of purchased products confirmed their countertrend, decreasing by 0.8 per cent. The negative phase of the price trend persisted, with industrial producer prices declining by 4.2 per cent, exceeding the EMU and EU averages. This was mainly due to further declines, larger in the domestic market, in the prices of energy products and intermediate goods, whose dynamics largely explain the fall in import prices.

In 2024, the growth of producer prices for services accelerated (+3.6 per cent), mainly driven by the price dynamics of Transport and storage services (+4.5 per cent, from +2.3 per cent in 2023), and Information and communication services (+3.6 per cent, from +0.9 per cent in 2023). For Constructions, producer prices for Residential and non-residential buildings broke the positive trend of the previous three years, decreasing by 1.1 per cent; those for Roads and railways continued to decline (-1.6 per cent). Reductions in material costs contributed to the stationarity of direct construction costs for Residential buildings and to the decrease in direct construction costs for Roads and railways.

Consumer prices grew by 1.0 per cent in 2024, a sharp slowdown from 5.7 per cent in 2023. The deceleration in the inflation rate was mainly driven by significant decreases in energy prices (-10.1 per cent, from +1.2 per cent in 2023) and food prices (+2.2 per cent, from +9.8 per cent in 2023). Overall, the average change in the Italian Consumer Price Index for the Whole Nation (NIC) in 2024 was largely due to inflation (+0.9 per cent), with only a minimal contribution from 2023 (+0.1 per cent). In 2024, house prices rose by an average of 3.2 per cent year-on-year (up from +1.3 per cent in 2023), mainly driven by new dwellings. This growth affected all Italian geographical divisions.

Chapter 17 - Industry

In 2024, industrial production contracted by 3.0 per cent relative to 2023, following a deterioration over the previous two years (-2.4 per cent in 2023 and -0.4 per cent in 2022). This decline was even more pronounced when using calendar-adjusted data, with -4.0 per cent in 2024 compared to -2.0 per cent in 2023. The monthly trend showed a downward tendency in the indicator for 26 consecutive months, from February 2023 to March 2025.

In 2024, the 27 EU Member States experienced an average 2.4 per cent decline in the calendar-adjusted index; Italy's (-4.0 per cent) was among the largest drops among the major economies. Manufacturing confidence, which declined in 2024, stabilised in the first four months of 2025 at levels below the previous year's average.

The unadjusted industrial turnover index declined by 3.4 per cent in 2024 compared with 2023, with a more pronounced reduction in the domestic market than in the foreign market (-3.8 per cent and -2.5 per cent, respectively). The sectors that recorded the most significant declines were transportation (-9.5 per cent) and textiles and clothing (-9.1 per cent). Net of calendar effects, in 2024, the contraction in Italian industrial turnover was greater than that in the European Union (-4.3 per cent at the national level versus -2.2 per cent at the European level).

Chapter 18 - Construction

In 2024, the index of production in construction increased by an average annual rate of 5.3 per cent relative to 2023. Calendar-adjusted data showed a 3.9 per cent increase over the previous year, with positive trends in all months except August and December.

Compared with 2023, building permit indicators for the residential sector recorded decreases in the number of authorised dwellings (-0.1 per cent) and in the useful floor area (-1.2 per cent). Non-residential building, on the other hand, experienced an increase (+1.3 per cent).

In 2024, the characteristics of new residential buildings showed an increase in average size, both in volume and surface area, alongside a rising average number of dwellings per building. In 2024, new buildings and extensions primarily intended for non-residential use registered an overall increase in total surface area (+1.3 per cent); however, the volume decreased (-1.6 per cent), following a 2.4 per cent decrease in 2023.

Chapter 19 - Tourism

In 2024, Istat reported 32,493 hotels and 232,376 similar accommodation establishments. Regarding tourist flows, a new historical record was observed, with figures exceeding the previous one of 2023. There were 466.2 million overnight stays in 2024, an increase of 4.2 per cent compared with 2023 and 6.7 per cent higher than in 2019, with an average length of stay of 3.34 nights.

In 2024, non-residents accounted for 54.5 per cent of total overnight stays recorded in Italy. The preferred destination remained the North-East, with demand concentrated during the summer months: from June to September, 59.3 per cent of resident- and 54.9 per cent of non-resident overnight stays.

In 2024, accommodation establishments in the fifty most touristic Italian municipalities recorded 197.4 million overnight stays, accounting for 42.3 per cent of the total. Roma remained the leading destination, with approximately 42.7 million overnight stays, about 12 million more than in 2019 (+37.8 per cent). In second place was Milano, with 14.1 million overnight stays, followed by Venice with 13.3 million. Firenze was the fourth-most-visited municipality in Italy, with 9.2 million overnight stays. Despite a 3.0 per cent increase compared with 2023, it had not yet returned to 2019 levels (-16.1 per cent in 2024 versus 2019, equivalent to -1.8 million overnight stays).

In 2024, residents in Italy made 49 million 290 thousand trips with overnight stays, a stable figure compared with the previous year and still below pre-pandemic levels (-30.8 per cent compared with 2019). The average trip duration also remained substantially unchanged at 6.3 nights, with a total of approximately 311 million 300 thousand overnight stays (-24 per cent compared to 2019). Short holidays (1-3 nights), estimated at approximately 18 million in 2024, were stable compared with 2023 and remained 36 per cent lower than those recorded in 2019. Long holidays (4 nights or more) amounted to almost 28 million (-21 per cent compared to 2019).

Chapter 20 - Transport and Telecommunication

In 2024, the vehicle fleet comprised 47,072,816 four-wheeled motor vehicles, of which approximately 87.8 per cent were passenger cars, 11.5 per cent were trucks, 0.5 per cent were motor units, and 0.2 per cent were buses.

In 2023, railway undertakings transported nearly 815 million passengers, an increase of 17.4 per cent compared with 2022. Conversely, the freight sector recorded a contraction, with 96 million tonnes handled (-8.3 per cent compared with 2022).

Road freight transport indicators for 2023 remained largely stable relative to the previous year, with a slight shift towards own-account transport rather than third-party transport. The total tonnes transported were 1,041.7 million, compared to 1,047.3 million in 2022 (-0.5 per cent).

In 2023, 488.9 million tonnes of goods were handled through Italian ports, a 4 per cent decrease from the previous year. Aircraft movements increased by 9.3 per cent compared with 2022, and total passengers (on scheduled and charter flights) by 19.7 per cent; conversely, the tonnes of goods and mail fell by 1.7 per cent.

In 2024, road accidents involving personal injury, fatalities, and injured persons in Italy totalled 173,364, an increase of 4.1 per cent from 2023. They resulted in 3,030 victims (deaths within 30 days of the event, -0.3 per cent compared to the previous year) and 233,853 injured persons (+4.1 per cent).

In 2023, 71.7 per cent of students and 88.0 per cent of employed persons used at least one means of transport to reach their place of study or work. The car remained the most commonly used mode among students as passengers (34.7 per cent) and among employed persons as drivers (70.3 per cent).

In 2022, there were 3,610 active enterprises in the postal and courier services, employing about 140.3 thousand workers, of whom approximately 98.0 per cent were employees (136.9 thousand).

Chapter 21 - Research, Innovation, and Information Technology

In 2023, total domestic expenditure on R&D activities in Italy, undertaken by enterprises, public institutions, private non-profit institutions, and universities, amounted to EUR 29.4 billion, a 7.7 per cent increase compared with the previous year.

Expenditure on R&D improved across all performing sectors, with larger increases in public institutions (+14.5 per cent) and universities (+9.9 per cent), and smaller increases in enterprises (+5.4 per cent) and private non-profit institutions (+2.3 per cent). Personnel engaged in R&D activities (measured in full-time equivalent units) increased by 2.9 per cent relative to 2022. Researchers accounted for 48.9 per cent of total R&D employed persons, a 4.9 per cent growth.

During the three years 2020-2022, an estimated 58.6 per cent of enterprises in the industry and service sectors with 10 or more workers were engaged in innovative activities. The propensity for innovation increased with enterprise size (from 55.8 per cent among those with 10-49 workers to 74.3 per cent among those with 50-249 workers, and 84.7 per cent among those with 250 or more employees). With 65.1 per cent of enterprises engaged in R&D, the industry in the strict sense had the highest propensity for innovation, followed by services (56.1 per cent) and construction (46.7 per cent).

In 2024, in Italy, 12.4 per cent of enterprises with at least 10 workers employed ICT specialists. In 2023, 16.9 per cent of enterprises with at least 10 employees sold their own products and/or services online, through their own websites or apps, or via an intermediary's website or app.

In 2024, 8.2 per cent of enterprises with at least 10 workers used artificial intelligence (AI) software or systems. The most widespread technologies among enterprises that use AI were the extraction of knowledge and information from text documents (54.6 per cent), the generation of written or spoken language (45.4 per cent), and the conversion of spoken language into formats readable by computer devices through voice recognition technologies (39.9 per cent).

Chapter 22 - Domestic Trade and Other Services

In Italy in 2023, the domestic trade sector encompassed 1,010,844 enterprises, employing 3,429,035 people. In particular, retail trade, with 525,153 enterprises and 1,830,699 employed persons, was mainly characterised by small enterprises, each with an average of 3.5 workers. Specifically, 426,658 operated in fixed retail stores, and 98,495, for the most part, engaged in e-commerce and non-store retailing.

In 2024, retail sales increased by 0.8 per cent compared with 2023.

Wholesale trade in 2023 comprised 367,336 enterprises employing 1,200,765 people. In 2024, this sector recorded decreases in turnover value and volume compared to 2023, amounting to 1.7 per cent and 0.7 per cent, respectively.

By the end of 2023, the trade, maintenance, and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles sector comprised 118,355 enterprises, employing a total of 397,571 people. In 2024, the sector's turnover increased by 3.5 per cent in value and by 2.1 per cent in volume, compared with the same period in 2023.

Finally, the other business services sector, in 2023, registered 1,885,551 enterprises and employed 6,562,968 people; in 2024, compared with the previous year, it recorded increases in turnover of 3.5 per cent in value and 0.4 per cent in volume.

Chapter 23 - Public and Non-Profit Institutions

In Italy, the number of public institutions active as of 31 December 2022, according to the fourth edition of the Permanent Census of Public Institutions, was 12,776. They were situated in 103,779 local units across the country and abroad. They employed 3,656,268 workers, including personnel from the Armed Forces and the Police, as well as those working in embassies, consulates, cultural institutes, or other Italian representative offices abroad. The majority of the personnel were based in the Central Administration (53.7 per cent), which included, among others, staff of state schools, and the Armed Forces and the Police; 20.1 per cent were employed in the National Health Service companies or bodies, and 10.0 per cent in the municipalities, which accounted for 61.9 per cent of the active institutions.

In 2022, non-profit institutions active in Italy numbered 360,061 and employed 919,431 people. In 2021, 8.0 per cent of them realised a project or social innovation intervention; among these initiatives, half of the active non-profit institutions established new relationships and collaborations (51.7 per cent), and developed a new service or product (49.5 per cent). In 2021, 79.5 per cent of these institutions used at least one digital technology, representing over 286 thousand units. The most common tool was a mobile Internet connection, reported by 71.5 per cent of digitalised institutions.

Over a quarter of non-digitalised institutions (29.8 per cent), however, believed that the use of digital technologies was not relevant to their activities.

Chapter 24 - Public Finance

In 2024, the State's total assessed revenues reached EUR 1,888,887 million, and collected revenues were EUR 1,130,097 million. Committed government expenditure amounted to EUR 1,177,222 million, while paid expenditure was EUR 1,160,513 million.

State tax assessments increased by 36.0 per cent over five years, while those collected rose by 36.4 per cent. State capital debt grew by 4.8 per cent, while floating debt contracted by 1.1 per cent. In 2023, the assessed revenues of the Regions and Autonomous Provinces amounted to EUR 228,686 million, while those collected totalled EUR 222,613 million. Compared with 2022, both the total incoming and outgoing regional transfers increased. Committed regional expenditure amounted to EUR 221,366 million, while paid expenditure was EUR 215,231 million. In 2023, the assessed revenues of Provinces and Metropolitan Cities were EUR 11,562 million (of which EUR 3,872 million for Metropolitan Cities), and those collected were EUR 11,055 million (of which EUR 3,818 million for Metropolitan Cities). The total amount of incoming provincial transfers increased compared with 2022. Committed expenditure of Provinces and Metropolitan Cities amounted to EUR 10,814 million (of which EUR 3,567 million for Metropolitan Cities), while paid expenditure amounted to EUR 10,674 million (of which EUR 3,690 million for Metropolitan Cities).

In 2023, Municipalities' assessed revenues reached EUR 97,805 million, while collected revenues amounted to EUR 85,340 million. The total amount of incoming municipal transfers increased relative to the previous year. Committed municipal expenditure was EUR 89,302 million, and paid expenditure was EUR 84,672 million. In 2023, the primary current expenditure mission of the Regions, Provinces, and Municipalities, excluding health protection for the former, was the general mission of administration, management, and control.

In 2024, the total short- and long-term debts of local administrations amounted to EUR 29,435 million.