statistiche focus

Years 2023-2025

Water statistics

On the occasion of World Water Day, established by the United Nations in 1992 and celebrated annually on 22 March, Istat is releasing a focus presenting the most recent findings from the Institute's surveys and analyses on this topic. The aim is to provide users with an integrated overview of water-related statistics, with particular attention to the territory, the population, and economic activities. This edition further enriches the information framework with new data from the first edition of the Multi-purpose Agricultural Survey (reference year 2024), carried out as part of the Permanent Census of Agriculture.

Summary of the main findings

- In 2024, 8.87 billion cubic metres of water were withdrawn in Italy for public water supply, the lowest level recorded in the past 25 years and 3.0% lower than in 2022.
- For more than twenty years, Italy has been the EU country that has withdrawn the most freshwater for public water supply, well ahead of France and Germany. This record is associated with an extensive use of groundwater sources. On a per-capita basis, Italy also ranks among the highest in Europe, with 150 cubic metres per inhabitant per year, second only to Ireland.
- In 2024, more than one million residents in provincial and metropolitan capital municipalities were affected by water-rationing measures (5.8% of the population), an increase compared with the 760,000 people affected in the previous year (4.3% in 2023). The number of municipalities involved also rose from 14 to 17. The most critical situations were concentrated in Southern Italy and, in particular, in Sicilia.
- In 2025, 2.7 million households reported having experienced irregularities in the home water supply service: this represents 10.2% of all households, an increase of 1.5 percentage points compared with 2024. In 2025, three out of 10 households did not trust drinking tap water, but the share rose to more than half in Sicilia (57.6%) and Sardegna (52.1%).
- In 2023, natural mineral waters withdrawals for production purposes amounted to about 19 million cubic metres (+0.2% compared to 2022), with more than half located in the North (53.7%) and 22.9% in the South.
- In 2023, output at basic prices of goods and services for wastewater and water management amounted to 15 billion euro at current prices (+0.5% compared with 2022) and value added to 6.2 billion euro (-1.3% compared with 2022), representing 0.3% of Italian GDP. Wastewater management accounts for 95% of output and the remaining 5% stems from water management, the highest quota being devoted to maintenance and repair of water networks.
- In 2023, the national expenditure for wastewater management services was 13.5 billion euro at current prices (1% more than in 2022); corporations accounted for 71% of total expenditure, households for 19% and General Government together with non-profit institutions for the remaining 10%.
- In 2023, 71.4% of wastewater management expenditure was for the purchase of wastewater services by households, corporations and General Government, 21.3% for investments (mainly by companies operating in the integrated water service); 7.3% by General Government for collective services (such as administrative services).
- In the 2022/2023 agricultural year, of the 3,575 thousand hectares of irrigable agricultural land, 66.2% was located in the North. The main source of water supply at the national level is the aqueduct, irrigation consortium, or other irrigation body, which supplied water to 61.3% of the total irrigated area. In Central and Southern Italy, self-supply methods prevail, covering 69.2% and 49.8% of irrigated land respectively.
- In 2024, over 91% of agricultural holdings reported irrigation-related difficulties. In Southern Italy, the phenomenon affected 97.5% of holdings in the South and 98.8% in the Islands, with peaks of 99.2% in Sicilia. In the Centre-north, the shares were lower (68% in the North-East and 81% in the Centre), highlighting a marked territorial disparity. At the national level, irrigation problems were reported by 58.9% of small holdings (up to 10 hectares), rising to 72.2% in the South, whereas among large holdings (over 50 hectares) the share decreases to 5.9%.

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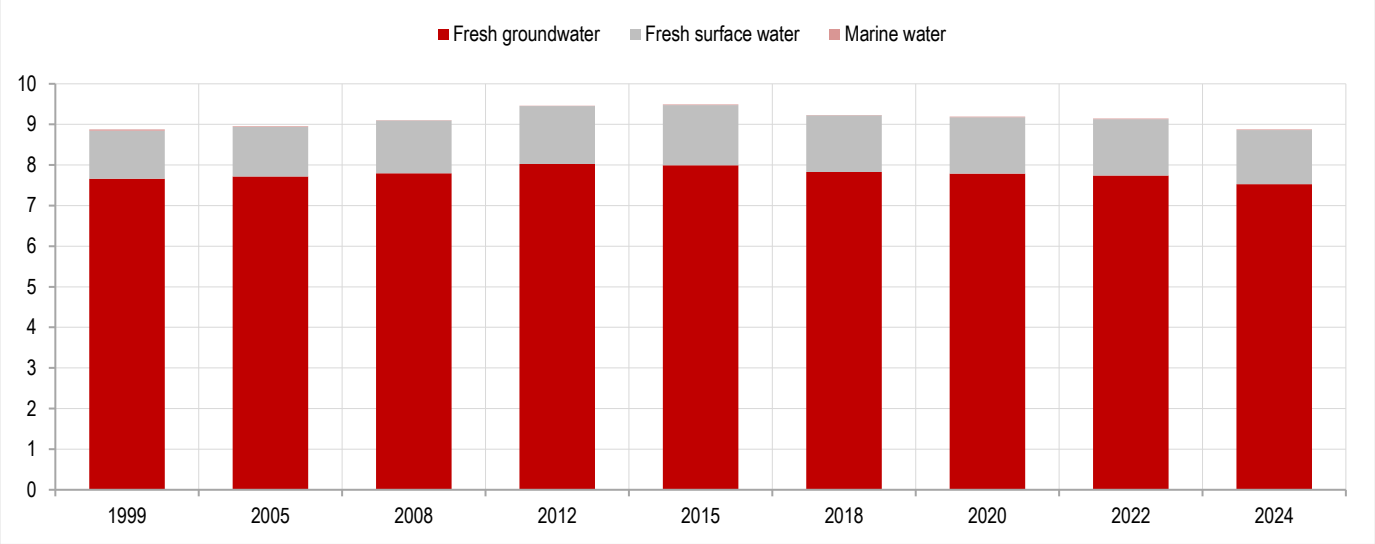
Ongoing reduction in water withdrawal for public water supply

In 2024, the volume of water withdrawn for public water supply in Italy amounted to 8.87 billion cubic metres. This water is used to meet the daily needs of the population as well as those of small businesses, hotels, services, commercial, productive, agricultural and industrial activities connected to the urban network, in addition to public uses (schools, offices, hospitals, public fountains, etc.).

In 2024, the gradual decline in the volume of water withdrawn for drinking purposes continued, following a trend that began in 2018. Compared with the previous edition of the survey (referring to 2022), the volume decreased by 3.0%, reaching the lowest level recorded in the past 25 years (Figure 1). The reduction in water withdrawal reflects the challenges associated with the decreased availability of certain water sources, particularly due to infrastructure issues and rationing measures implemented in various areas of the country, which have reduced the volumes handled. The decline is also influenced by some encouraging signals at the local level, attributable to improved network efficiency, reduced losses, and more accurate monitoring. Demographic dynamics - such as population decline and rising average age - also contribute to reshaping consumption patterns.

FIGURE 1. WATER WITHDRAWAL FOR PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY BY SOURCE (a). Years 1999-2024, volumes in millions of cubic metres



Source: Istat, Urban water census

a) Groundwater includes springs and wells, while surface water includes artificial reservoirs, watercourses, and natural lakes.

The daily abstraction amounted to approximately 24.2 million cubic metres (411 litres per inhabitant per day), made possible by a supply network comprising about 37,400 active sources for drinking water use across the country, with an average of 12 abstraction points per 100 km²[1].

In the Po River Basin District, the highest volume of water withdrawal for public water supply

In 2024, the highest volume of water withdrawn for public water supply was recorded in the Po River Basin District (Figure 2), with 2.73 billion cubic metres (30.8% of the national total). This is followed by the Southern Apennines district, with 2.18 billion cubic metres (24.6% of the national total). Conversely, the Sardinia district recorded the lowest volume, at 0.3 billion cubic metres (3.4%).

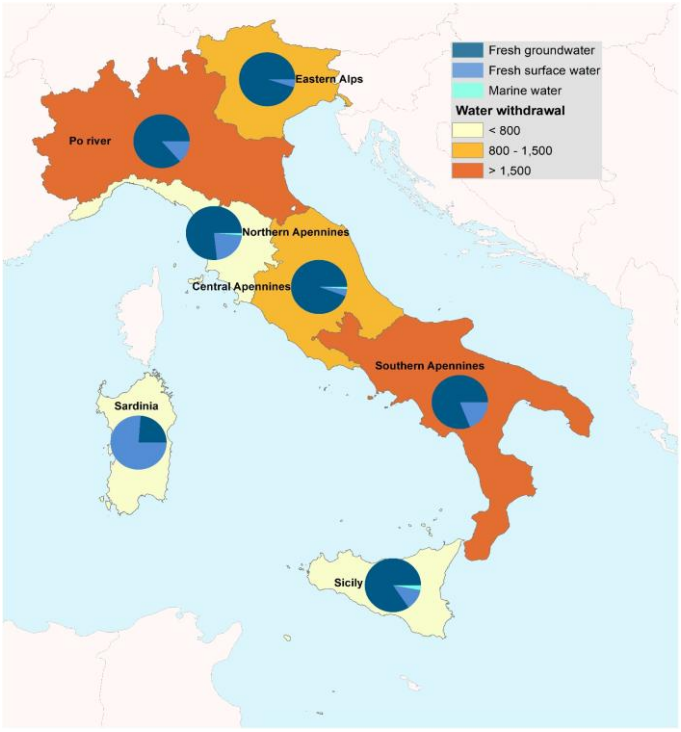
At the regional level, Lombardia registered the highest volume of water abstracted for public water supply (1.42 billion cubic metres, 16.0% of the national total). Significant quantities were also abstracted in Lazio (1.12 billion cubic metres, 12.6%) and Campania (0.83 billion cubic metres, 9.4%).

Per capita withdrawal volumes exhibit wide regional variation, ranging from approximately 100 litres per inhabitant per day in Puglia to more than 1,700 litres in Molise.

[1] A very marginal share of the total volume (approximately 0.1%) was withdrawn from sources located within Italy but allocated to the supply of areas outside national borders (France and the Republic of San Marino). Likewise, an equally residual portion of the national supply originated from sources located beyond the border (France, Switzerland, and Slovenia) and therefore excluded from the quantification of national withdrawal.

Interregional water transfers continue to play a particularly important role in Southern Italy: a significant share of the volumes abstracted in Basilicata and Molise - net of conveyance losses and any wholesale uses for industrial and agricultural purposes - is channeled towards neighbouring regions, contributing to ensuring the supply of areas characterised by insufficient water availability.

FIGURE 2. WATER WITHDRAWAL FOR PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY BY RIVER BASIN DISTRICT AND SOURCE. Year 2024, volumes in millions of cubic metres and percentage composition



Source: Istat, Urban water census

The reduction in abstraction affected all river basin districts (with the exception of the Eastern Alps district, where volumes remained stable) and most regions, with a few exceptions. The largest percentage decreases compared with 2022 were recorded in Molise, Puglia, Abruzzo, and Campania, largely due to the decline in renewable water resources, with Molise showing the most pronounced drop (-21%)[2].

Groundwater: a strategic and valuable resource for the drinking water supply of cities

In 2024, 84.8% of the abstracted volume originated from groundwater sources (springs and wells), while 15.1% came from surface waters (rivers, natural lakes and artificial reservoirs). To supplement freshwater sources and address water shortages, a small share of the abstraction - amounting to 9.2 million cubic metres (0.1% of the total) - was derived from marine waters, mainly in Sicilia to supply the smaller islands, and to a lesser extent in Toscana and Lazio.

Groundwater sources are the predominant mode of supply in Italy, accounting for more than 75% of abstraction in all river basin districts except Sardegna, where the use of springs and wells represented only about 24% of total abstraction. Groundwater use was particularly predominant in the Central Apennines and Eastern Alps districts, where it exceeded 95% of total volumes abstracted.

Surface water abstraction reached its highest absolute volume in the Southern Apennines district (over 416 million cubic metres, approximately 31% of the corresponding national volume), due to the presence of large multipurpose reservoirs (for civil and irrigation use).

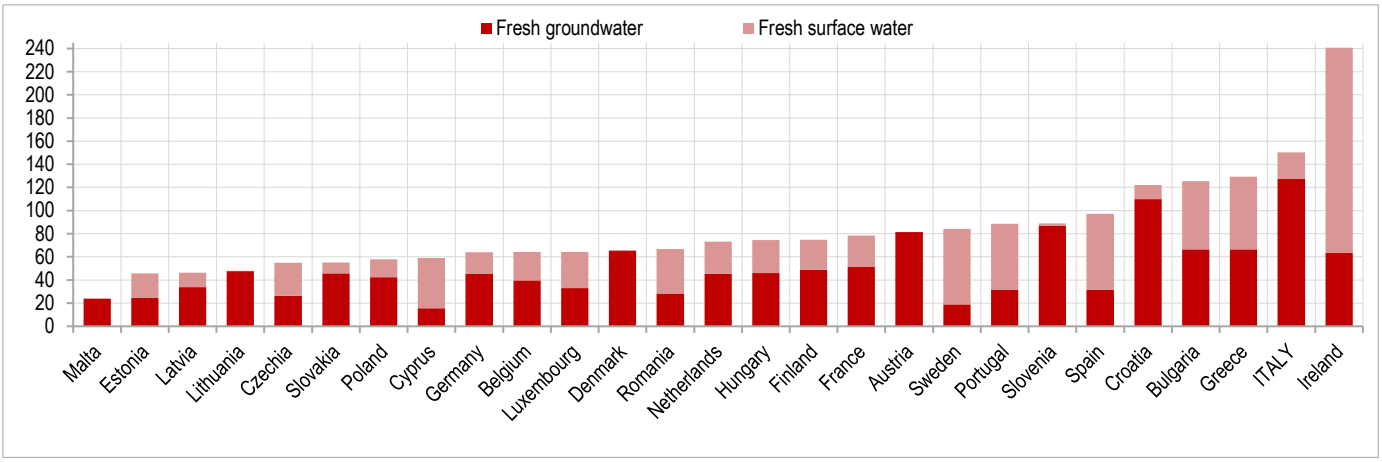
[2] It should be noted that, in some areas, the past two years have seen a transition from direct municipal management to integrated water service management. This may have led the new operating entities to produce different quantitative estimates, especially for unmetered volumes, resulting in variations in the historical series which- although limited - are not directly linked to actual changes in resource use. This situation is mostly observed in Molise, Calabria, Valle d'Aosta/*Vallée d'Aoste,* and parts of Sicilia.

Water withdrawal for public water supply remains elevated compared with EU levels

Italy has remained for more than twenty years the leading EU country in terms of the volume of freshwater withdrawn for public water supply from surface and groundwater bodies, in absolute terms and excluding abstraction from marine waters (8.86 billion cubic metres in 2024). France and Germany followed at a considerable distance, both at around 5.3 billion cubic metres, despite having larger populations than Italy. Among Mediterranean EU countries, Italy was also among those that rely most heavily on groundwater for drinking water supply.

The per-capita gap across the EU27 is substantial: with an annual drinking water abstraction of 150 cubic metres per inhabitant, Italy ranked second after Ireland (240), followed by Greece (129), Bulgaria (125) and Croatia (122). Most countries (20 out of 27) abstracted between 45 and 90 cubic metres per inhabitant per year. At the lower end of the ranking, Eastern European countries were predominant, with Malta closing the list at 24 cubic metres per inhabitant per year (Figure 3).

FIGURE 3. FRESHWATER WITHDRAWAL FOR PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY IN EU27 COUNTRIES, BY SOURCE. Year 2024 or last available year, cubic metres per inhabitant (a)



Source: Istat, Elaborations on Urban water census and Eurostat data.

(a) Marine waters withdrawn for public water supply are not included.

Water rationing affected over one million residents in provincial capitals, especially in Sicilia.

In 2024, water rationing measures in the public supply network affected over one million residents in provincial capitals and metropolitan cities, accounting for 5.8% of their population. The phenomenon was almost entirely concentrated in Southern Italy and, in particular, in Sicilia (726,230 residents, nearly half of the regional population). In the Centre, restrictions were applied only in the provincial capital of Fermo (4,110 residents, 11.5% of the municipality's population). Compared with the previous year, the situation worsened both in terms of the share of the population affected (+1.5 percentage points, when rationing involved 760,000 residents) and in the number of provincial capitals subject to restrictions, which rose from 14 to 17, marking the second-highest figure recorded since 2010.

Multiple factors contribute to the limited or insufficient availability of water resources in these areas. Among the most significant are the pronounced obsolescence of water supply infrastructure and the persistence, also in 2024, of substantial precipitation deficits - particularly in the South and the Islands (-18% compared with the 1991-2020 climatological norm). In Sicilia, the severity of the situation led the regional government to declare a state of emergency in 2024. The situation was further exacerbated by record-breaking temperatures at the national level, with minimum and average values reaching all-time highs, making 2024 the warmest year ever recorded in Italy[3]. The combination of these factors has, in many cases, led to a reduction in water availability in reservoirs, including in areas already affected by rationing measures. In Sicilia, for example, overall storage levels fell by 30%.

In 2024, water rationing measures were implemented in all provincial and metropolitan capital municipalities of Sicilia except Siracusa, in all those of Calabria except Crotone, as well as in Fermo, Pescara, Chieti, Campobasso, and

[3] See Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Report to Parliament regarding the Steering Committee's activities for the water crisis – 2024, March 2025.

Potenza. The affected municipalities also included the metropolitan city capitals of Reggio Calabria, Messina, Palermo, and Catania. The overall number of days subject to emergency measures nearly doubled.

In four provincial capitals, restrictions on the distribution of drinking water affected the entire municipal territory. The most critical situation was recorded in Agrigento, where water supply to residents was suspended or reduced throughout the entire year, with weekly rotation schedules differentiated by area and distribution reservoir. In Vibo Valentia, water supply was also suspended year-round during nighttime hours to allow the restoration of storage reservoir levels and to ensure water availability during periods of higher demand. In Enna, the impact was similarly severe, although rationing measures were applied for approximately three quarters of the year. In Trapani, by contrast, water supply was reduced for slightly less than half of the year, also in order to restore storage levels. In the three Sicilian provincial capitals mentioned above, the combination of prolonged drought conditions and limited water resources made it necessary to rely on substitute services using municipal water tanker trucks to ensure the provision of drinking water to residents, whereas in all other Italian provincial capitals affected by water rationing, the service disruption concerned only part of the municipal territory.

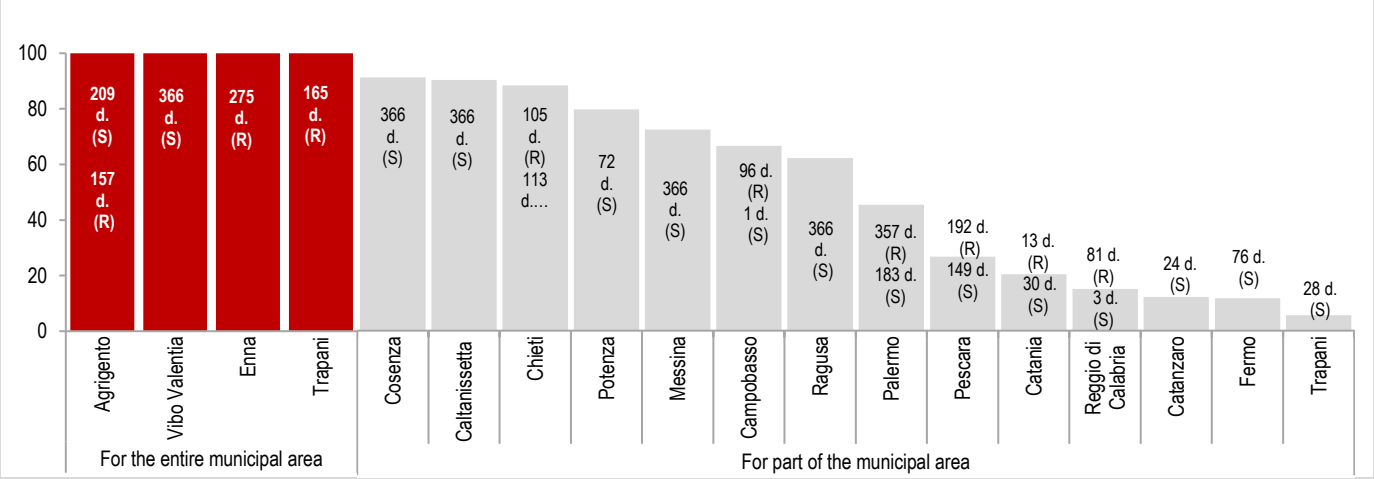
In detail, the situations of highest criticality affected the entire population in Agrigento, where water distribution was suspended for 209 days and reduced for 157 days; in Vibo Valentia, where suspensions occurred throughout the year during nighttime hours; and in Enna, where restrictions were in place for 275 days. In Trapani, water supply was suspended for 165 days and reduced for 28 days.

Severe critical conditions, while affecting only part of the municipal territory, involved a significant share of the population in Chieti, Cosenza, and Caltanissetta, where more than 80% of residents were subjected to suspensions and/or reductions in water supply. In Cosenza, suspensions were scheduled daily, from late afternoon to early morning, in order to allow the replenishment of distribution reservoirs. In Caltanissetta, between April and December, water supply was delivered according to a weekly rotation scheme (one supply every seven days), supported by substitute services using tanker trucks and by the installation of fixed storage tanks in various areas of the city. In Chieti, the service was suspended for 113 days and reduced for 105 days, resulting in the application of emergency management measures to ensure minimum essential supply levels, including the use of substitute tanker truck services for the most affected users.

Moderately critical situations were identified in Potenza (78.2% of the population, corresponding to approximately 50,000 residents affected), Messina (71.1%, 154,614 residents), Campobasso (65.3%, about 31 thousand residents), Ragusa (61%, about 45 thousand residents), and Palermo (44.5%, about 280 thousand residents).

More limited impacts were recorded in Pescara, Catania, and Reggio di Calabria, where reductions in water supply affected 26.2%, 19.9%, and 14.8% of the population, respectively. Marginal service disruptions were occasionally observed in Catanzaro (11.9%), Fermo (11.5%), and Trapani (5.4%), with the latter provincial capital experiencing reductions across the entire municipal territory (Figure 4).

FIGURE 4. RESIDENT POPULATION INVOLVED IN THE REDUCTION (R) OR SUSPENSION (S) IN PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY FOR PART AND/OR THE ENTIRE MUNICIPAL AREA IN PROVINCIAL/METROPOLITAN CAPITAL CITIES. Year 2024, percentage of inhabitants involved and duration in days of the service disruption



Source: Istat, Urban environmental data

In Southern Italy, the highest number of complaints about irregularities in water supply

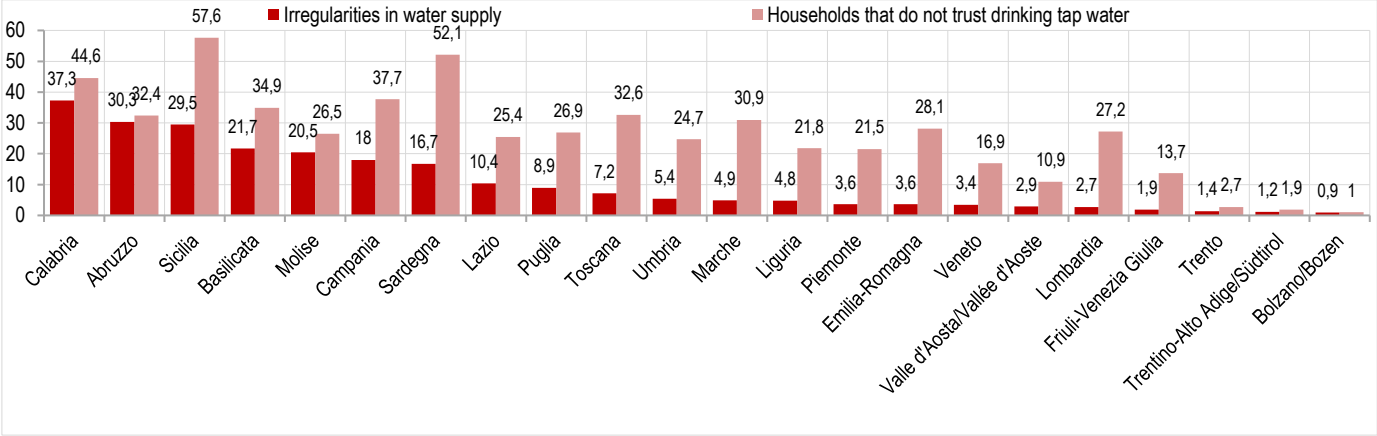
Households' opinions regarding water services and the presence of irregularities in water supply - collected through the "Aspects of daily life" survey - complement the picture emerging from direct observations in the "Environmental Data in Cities" survey. Water scarcity and difficulties in accessing water are particularly critical issues for households living in the South of Italy.

In 2025, 10.2% of households reported having experienced irregularities in their home water supply, an increase of 1.5 percentage points compared with 2024. This service disruption affected 2.7 million households, unevenly distributed across the territory. Of these, more than two-thirds live in the South (1.8 million households). Calabria remains the region most exposed to water supply problems in homes (37.3% of households, up 7.4 percentage points from 2024), followed by Abruzzo and Sicilia (with 30.3% and 29.5% of households, respectively).

The situation is significantly less critical in the North (Figure 5), where only around 3% of households reported irregular water supply, while in the Centre 8.4% of households experienced the issue (an increase of 2.3 percentage points).

At the national level, 38% of households reporting this issue said the disruption occurred continuously throughout the year, 31.7% experienced it only during the summer months, and 28.8% described it as an occasional event.

FIGURE 5. HOUSEHOLDS REPORTING ABOUT IRREGULARITIES IN WATER SUPPLY AND THAT DO NOT TRUST DRINKING TAP WATER, BY REGION. Year 2025, percentage values



Source: Istat, Survey Aspects of daily life

Four out of ten households consider water supply costs to be high

In 2025, the share of households that considered the costs of water supply to be adequate remained unchanged compared with the previous year (52.8%), as did the share that considered them high (39.6%). Dissatisfaction with the amount spent was highest in the Islands (54.4%), in the Centre (46.6%), and in the South (44.0%); it was lower in the North-West (31.6%) and the North-East (31.7%).

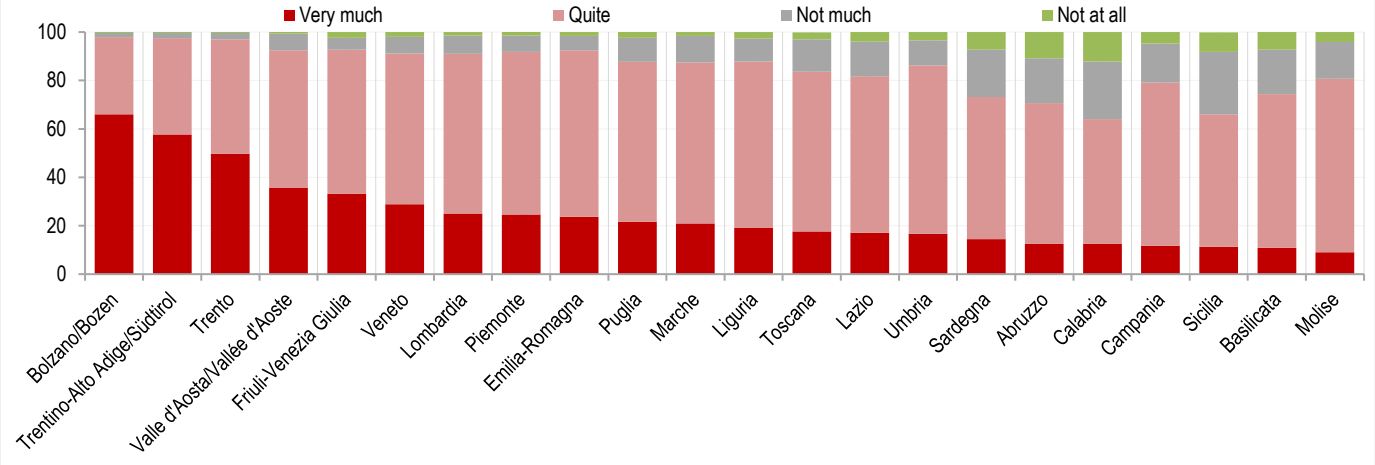
In 2025, 74.4% of households rate the quality of water - based on "smell, taste, and clarity" - as very or fairly satisfactory (76.2% in 2024 and 86.4% in 2023). Unsatisfied households accounted for 25.7%, but the share was significantly higher in Sicilia (44.2%), Sardegna (39.7%), and Calabria (38.6%).

Greater dissatisfaction with water services in the Islands

In 2025, 84.6% of households connected to the municipal water supply network reported being very or fairly satisfied with the water service (down from 86.4% in 2024), but with marked territorial differences: more than nine out of ten households living in the North were very or fairly satisfied, compared with 83.4% in the Centre and 78.3% in the South, while in the Islands the percentage falls to 68% (Figure 6).

At the regional level, the lowest shares of households declaring themselves very or fairly satisfied with the water service were recorded in Calabria (64.1%), Sicilia (66.0%), Abruzzo (70.7%), and Sardegna (73.2%).

FIGURE 6. HOUSEHOLDS CONNECTED TO THE MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY NETWORK BY LEVEL OF SATISFACTION, BY REGION.
Year 2025, percentage values



Source: Istat, Survey Aspects of daily life

Households declaring that they are very or fairly satisfied with the clarity of water bills accounted for 64.6%.

The share of satisfied households was higher in the outskirts of metropolitan cities and in municipalities with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants (about 68%). The level of dissatisfaction (little or not at all satisfied) reached the highest values in Sicilia (47%), Calabria (44.9%), Abruzzo, and Lazio (44.6%).

Meter reading frequency was considered very or fairly satisfactory by 76.5% of households. Among households that were little or not at all satisfied, a marked territorial divide emerges, with particularly high percentages of low satisfaction among households living in the Islands (37.3%).

Regarding billing frequency, the percentage of households that are very or fairly satisfied remained high, at 80.3% of the total. In Sicilia, the share of households that are little or not at all satisfied reached 39.9%, in Calabria 37.5%, and in Abruzzo and Campania 29.8%.

Still limited trust in tap water

In 2025, three out of ten households (29.9%) declared that they did not trust drinking tap water. The figure increased slightly compared with 2024 (+1.2 percentage points), although it was within a context of a long-term decline in concerns compared to 20 years ago (40.1% in 2002).

Significant territorial differences persist, with values ranging from 19.6% in the North-East to 56.2% in the Islands. At the regional level, the highest percentages were recorded in Sicilia (57.6%), Sardegna (52.1%), and Calabria (44.6%).

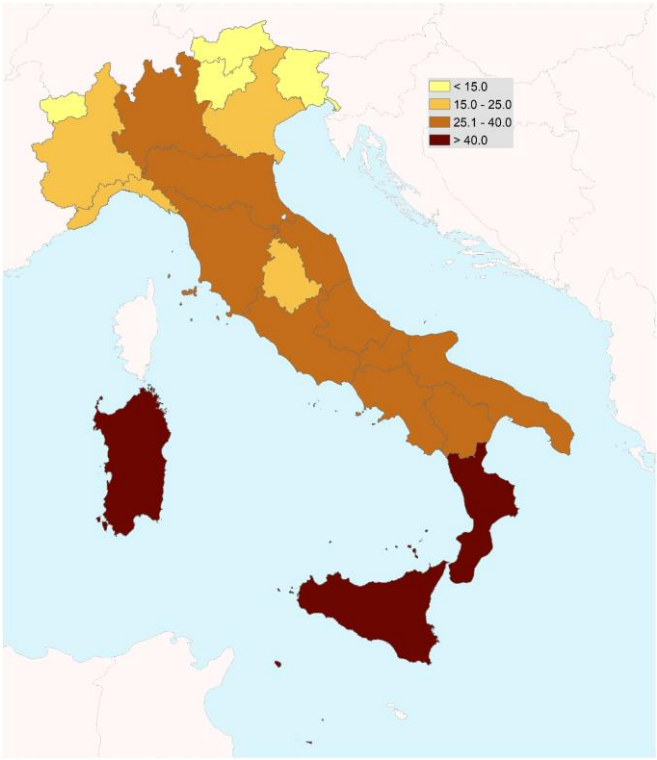
Households living in central municipalities of metropolitan areas or in municipalities with fewer than 2,000 inhabitants showed lower levels of distrust in drinking tap water (24.4% and 21.2%, respectively).

Umbria always in the lead for mineral water consumption

In 2025, 83.3% of the population aged 11 and over living in Italy consumed at least half a litre of mineral water per day. Consumption has remained broadly stable in recent years and is higher in the North-West and in the Islands (86.5% in both areas), and lower in the North-East (82.9%), the Centre (82.8%), and the South (78.6%).

At the regional level, Umbria maintained the highest mineral water consumption rate (92.1%), while the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/*Bozen* recorded the lowest value (53.9%) (Figure 7).

FIGURE 7. PEOPLE AGED 11 AND OVER THAT USE TO DRINK AT LEAST HALF A LITRE OF MINERAL WATER PER DAY, BY REGION.
Year 2025, percentage values



Source: Istat, Survey Aspects of daily life

National natural mineral waters withdrawals stable in 2023 compared to 2022

In 2023, in Italy natural mineral waters withdrawals for production purposes amounted to about 19 million cubic metres, value fairly in line with the previous year (+0.2%). The growth of national withdrawals observed between 2015 and 2020 (with an average annual rate of around 4%) came to a halt in 2021, when a decline of 3.4% compared with 2020 was recorded. A modest downward trend characterized the following years.

Natural mineral waters withdrawals were mostly concentrated in the North of Italy (53.7% of national volumes), with 10.2 cubic metres (7.5 in North-West). South (22.9%) and Centre (16.3%) followed, with abstractions amounting to 4.3 and 3.0 million cubic metres respectively. At regional level, Lombardia remained the leading region, with 3.8 million cubic metres abstracted, and followed by Piemonte (3.3 million cubic metres). These two regions together accounted for 37.5% of total withdrawals nationwide. Veneto (with almost 2.0 million cubic metres), Campania (1.9 million cubic metres) and Umbria (1.2 million cubic metres) followed (Figure 8).

Compared with 2022, natural mineral waters withdrawals increased in the South (+7.7%, corresponding to about 311 thousand cubic metres more extracted) and in the North-West (+2.1%, equivalent to +154 thousand cubic metres), while decreased in the North-East (-7.3%) and in the Centre (-6.8%). At territorial level, 11 Regions recorded an increase in extracted volumes with respect to 2022, with Abruzzo recording the highest increase (around +196 thousand cubic metres, +21.7%), followed by Piemonte (+157 thousand cubic metres, +5.0%) and Basilicata (+143 thousand cubic metres, +29.3%). Conversely, the remaining 10 regions recorded decreasing withdrawal levels, most notably Toscana (-25.7%) and Veneto (-8.0%), where 238 thousand and 171 thousand cubic metres less extracted respectively compared with 2022. They were followed by Campania, with a decrease of 112 thousand cubic metres withdrawn (-5.5%).

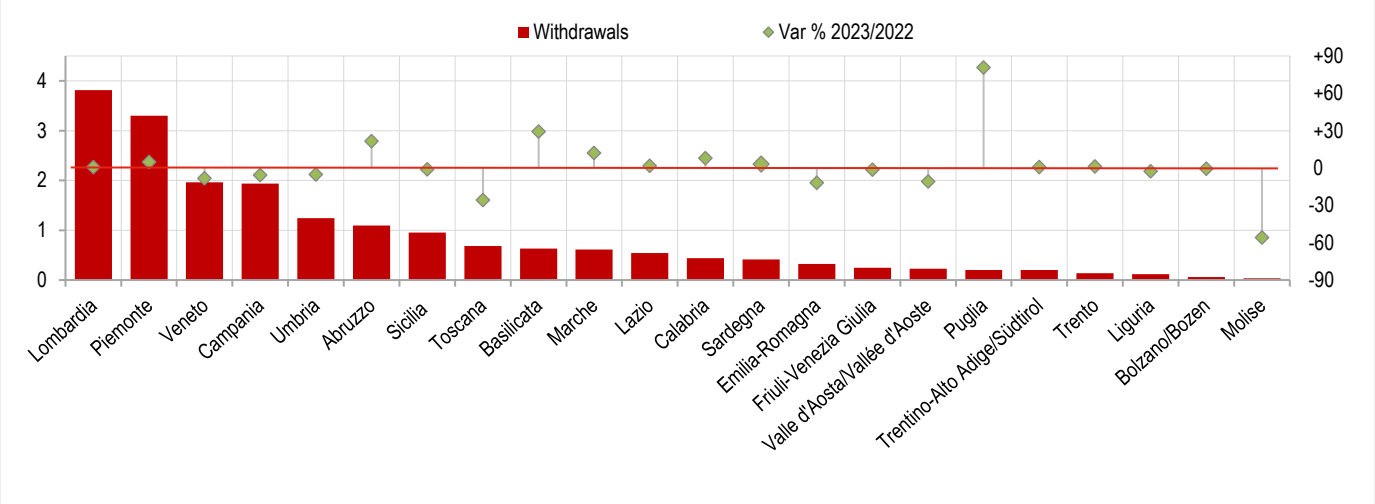
In 2023, the environmental pressure indicator “Extraction Intensity” (IE) - calculated as the ratio between volumes of natural resources extracted and territorial areas considered - accounted for about 63 cubic metres of natural mineral waters per square kilometer at the national level, remaining in line with 2022. Such value exceeded the 2016-2020 average period equal to 59 m^3/km^2. The North-West recorded 129 m^3/km^2, a value that is almost twice the national average, driven by high extraction intensity, especially in Lombardia (160) and Piemonte (130).

With reference to river basin districts, natural mineral waters withdrawals were mostly concentrated in the Po River district (about 7.7 million cubic metres) and in the Southern Apennines district (just over 4 million cubic meters),

accounting for 40.8% and 21.2% of the national total, respectively. In the Eastern Alps and Central Apennines districts, a total of around 5 million cubic metres were extracted (representing 12.5% and 14.3% of national withdrawals, respectively). Sicilia and Northern Apennines districts followed - providing a total of just over 1.7 million cubic metres – and including also Sardinia (415 thousand cubic metres extracted), such river basin districts accounted for approximately 11% of total national withdrawals.

IE indicator reached the highest value in the Po River district (94 m^3/km^2), followed by Eastern Alps (68) and Central Apennines (65) districts.

FIGURE 8. NATURAL MINERAL WATERS WITHDRAWALS FOR PRODUCTION PURPOSES BY REGION. Year 2023, millions of cubic metres (left axis) and percentage variations (right axis).



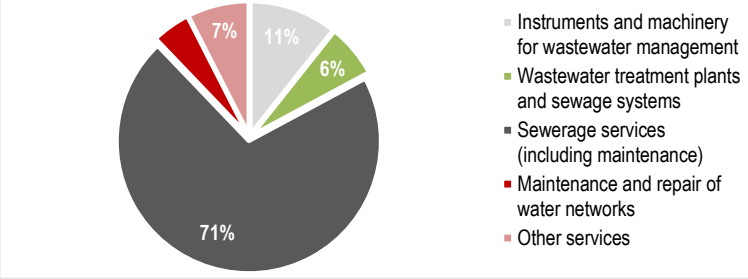
Source: Istat, Anthropic pressure and natural risks

Value added of wastewater and water management decreases

In 2023, output at basic prices of goods and services for wastewater and water management amounted to 15 billion euro (at current prices) and value added to 6.2 billion euro, representing 0.3% of Italian GDP[4]. Compared with the previous year output increased by +0.5% and value added decreased by -1.3%. This sector covers 7% of output and 7.8% of value added of total goods and services for environmental protection and resource management supplied in Italy[5].

Wastewater management accounted for 95% of output valued at 14.2 billion euro (corresponding to 5.9 billion euro of value added), wastewater treatment and sewerage services being the most relevant activities carried out (valued at 10.6 billion euros of output). The remaining 5% of output (valued at 746 million euros) stems from management of waters and the highest quota was devoted to maintenance and repair of water networks.

FIGURE 9. OUTPUT OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT. Year 2023, percentage values



Source: Istat, Environmental Accounts- Environmental goods and services sector

[4] Source: Istat, Good and services sector account

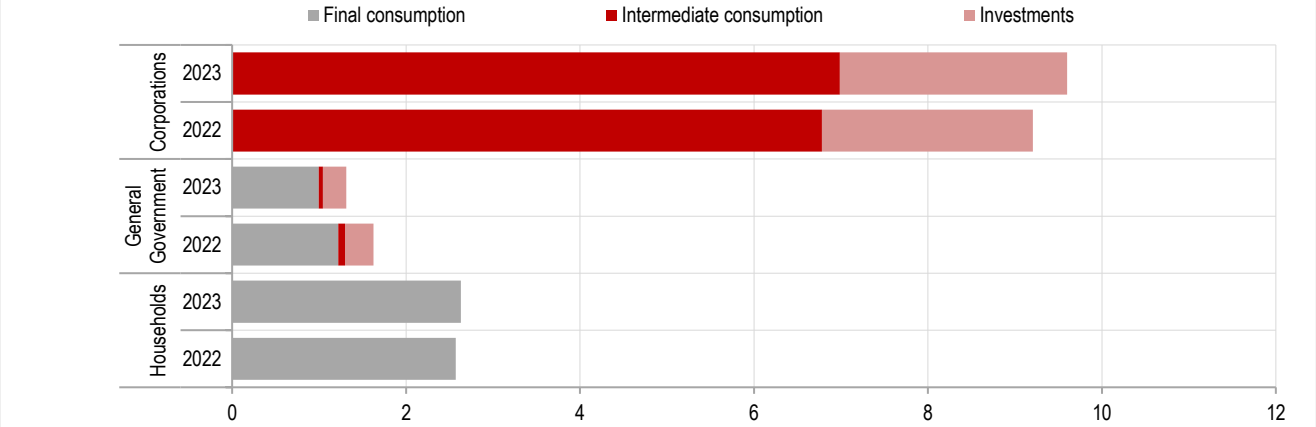
[5] These data cover output produced by *market* and *non-market* operators including own-account production carried out by industries for wastewater treatment and maintenance and repair of related equipment.

Growth in corporations and households expenditure for wastewater management

In 2023, the national expenditure for wastewater management services was 13.5 billion euro (current prices), 1% more than in 2022, less than the increase of total expenditure for environmental protection (+2.8%). Resources spent for wastewater services amounted to more than one quarter of total Italian national expenditure for the prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution and environmental degradation.

71% of the expenditure for wastewater management (9.6 billion euros, +4.3% more than in 2022) was spent by enterprises; 6.9 billion euros were spent for the purchase of wastewater services (as intermediate consumption) and 2.6 billion euros for investments, both higher than the previous year. Households' expenditure, 2.6 billion euros in 2023, increased by 2.3% compared to the previous year.
General Government expenditure (including the non profit sector) amounted to 1.3 billion euros (it was 1.6 billion euros in 2022) and is mostly for collective consumption such as administration, regulation, education, training, information and communication services for wastewater management.

FIGURE 10. NATIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT BY INSTITUTIONAL SECTOR AND COMPONENT. Years 2022-2023, billion euros



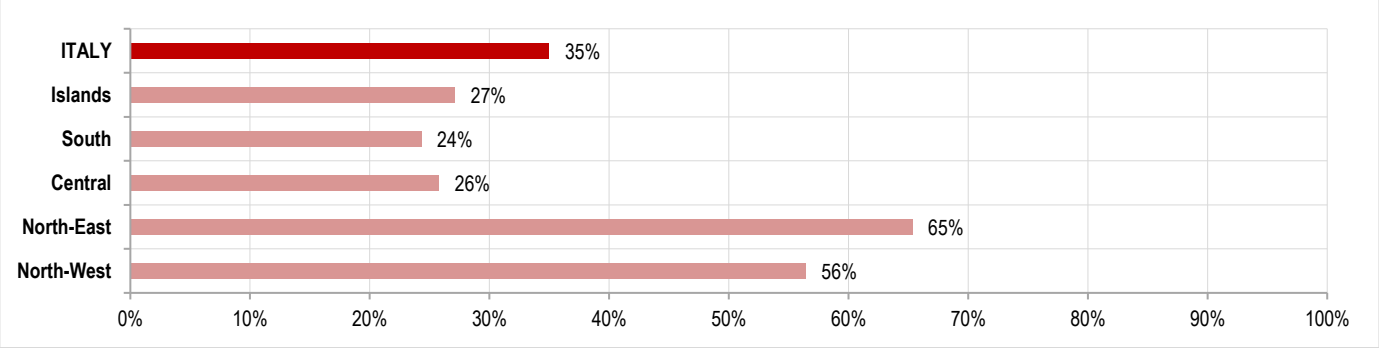
Source: Istat, Environmental Accounts - Environmental protection expenditure accounts

Greater prevalence of irrigation systems on agricultural holdings in the North

In the 2022/2023 agricultural year, over 397 thousand agricultural holdings were equipped with irrigation systems, i.e. with irrigable land. The northern regions, particularly those in the North-East, were significantly better equipped than others, with the proportion of agricultural holdings equipped with irrigation systems being about double that observed in the rest of the country.

Valle d'Aosta/*Vallée d'Aoste* and the Autonomous Province of Trento recorded the highest figures, with rates exceeding 80%. Conversely, the least well-equipped regions were Molise and Marche, where only around 10% of agricultural holdings have irrigation systems (Figure 11).

FIGURE 11. SHARE OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS WITH IRRIGABLE LAND. 2022/2023 agricultural year, percentage values



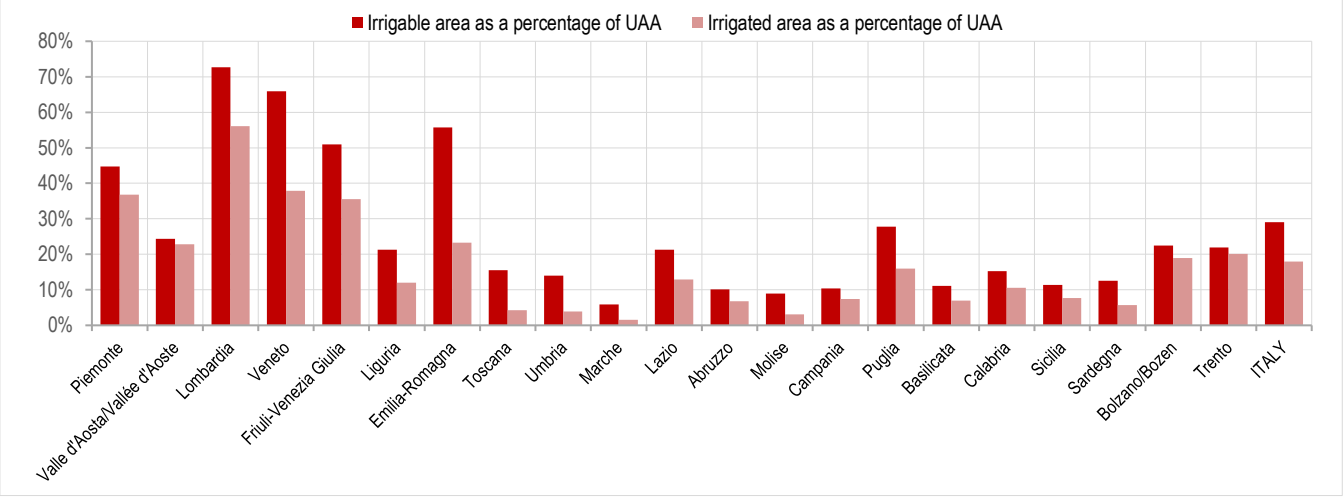
Source: Istat, Survey on the structure of agricultural holdings

Of the agricultural holdings equipped with irrigation systems, 71.5% (284 thousand of holdings) actually used this equipment during the agricultural year to ensure the irrigation of their fields, with the figure reaching almost 86% in the North-East.

With regard to irrigated areas, in 2023 approximately 2,193 thousands of hectares were irrigated, equivalent to 18% of the utilised agricultural area (UAA), compared with 3,575 thousands of hectares that are potentially irrigable (Figure 12).

The regions with the highest proportions of irrigable and irrigated land relative to total UAA were those in the North-West, particularly Lombardia (72.6% and 56.0%) and Veneto (65.9% and 37.9%). The significant difference between the proportions of irrigable and irrigated land observed in Emilia-Romagna is likely to have been influenced by the extreme weather events that affected this region in 2023.

FIGURE 12. IRRIGABLE AND IRRIGATED LAND AS A PROPORTION OF THE UTILISED AGRICULTURAL AREA (UAA) BY REGION. 2022/2023 agricultural year, percentage values



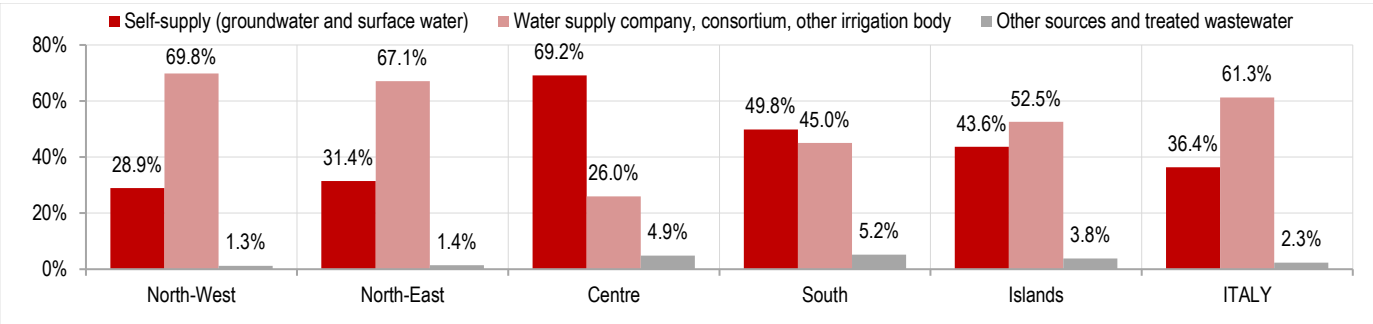
Source: Istat, Survey on the structure of agricultural holdings

Self-supply of water for more than one third of irrigated land

In the 2022/2023 agricultural year, the main source of water supply at the national level remains the *water supply network, irrigation consortium or other irrigation bodies*, which were used to irrigate over half of the irrigated land (61.3%). *Groundwater within or near the agricultural holding* was used to irrigate 26.4% of the land, whilst *surface water within the agricultural holding (natural and artificial reservoirs) or outside the agricultural holding (lakes, rivers or watercourses)* was used for 10.0% of the land. The use of *treated wastewater* was very limited (0.4%), as is that of *other sources* (2.0%).

The use of water sources varies significantly across regions: in Central and Southern Italy, self-supply methods predominate and, taken together (groundwater and surface water), accounted for 69.2% and 49.8% of irrigated land respectively (Figure 13). Reliance on self-supply was particularly high in Tuscany, covering the 83.3% of irrigated land.

FIGURE 13. IRRIGATED LAND BY SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY. 2022/2023 agricultural year, percentage values



Source: Istat, Survey on the structure of agricultural holdings

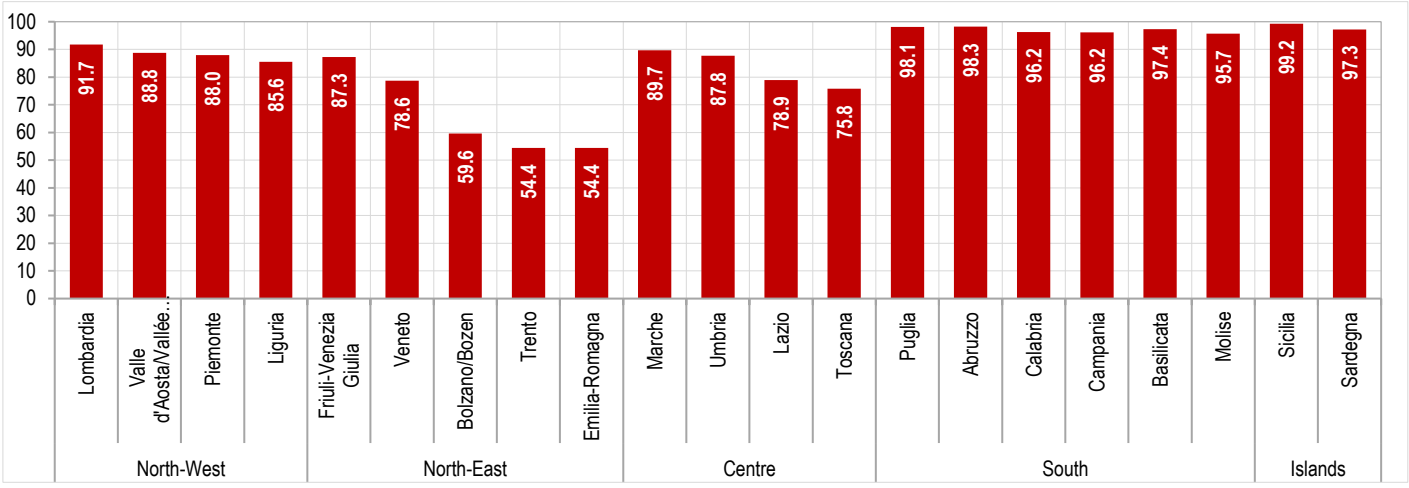
In the 2022/2023 agricultural year, irrigation advisory services were used by only 8.3% of agricultural holdings that used irrigation, with significant regional variation: the highest figures were recorded in the autonomous provinces of Bolzano/*Bozen* and Trento (45.4% and 30.7% respectively) and in Emilia-Romagna (20.0%); the lowest figures were recorded in Abruzzo and Molise, with rates did not reach 2.0% (1.8% and 1.9%, respectively).

Water scarcity by geographical area and farm size

The effects of climate change and increasing pressure on ecosystems are among the main drivers affecting the availability of water resources and, consequently, the vulnerability of the agricultural sector, in relation to the country's diverse morphological and climatic features.

In 2024, irrigation-related difficulties were reported by over 91% of farmers. This share rises to 98.8% in the Islands and 97.5% in the South. Although still substantial, the percentages fall to 89.3% among operators in the North-West, 81.1% in the Centre, and 68.1% in the North-East (Figure 14).

FIGURE 14. SHARE OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES IN WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, BY REGION. Year 2024, percentage values



Source: Istat, Multi-purpose Agricultural Survey

More than 70% of national agricultural holdings experiencing irrigation-related problems were located in Southern Italy. Of these, 41.7% operated in the South - particularly in Puglia (18.9%) - while 28.5% were in the Islands, with Sicilia accounting for 22%. Sicilia alone accounted for 44% of the utilised agricultural area (UAA) of Southern Italy and 20% of the national total. The share of holdings reporting this type of issue was much lower in the other parts of the country, reaching 8% in the Centre and around 11% in both the North-West and the North-East.

The areas where farmers showed the greatest exposure to irrigation vulnerability were in South of Italy. In particular, Puglia accounted for over 45% of holdings in the South facing this type of criticality, compared with a regional agricultural weight[6] of just under 38%, highlighting an imbalance between water availability and the importance of the regional agricultural sector. Still within Southern Italy, a similar - albeit less pronounced - imbalance is also observed in Abruzzo, with 16.6% of holdings affected and 12.2% of UAA. By contrast, the relationship between agricultural weight and irrigation-related problems is reversed in Campania, Basilicata, Calabria and Molise, where the agricultural weight exceeded the proportion of holdings reporting irrigation problems.

The comparison between the Islands is noteworthy: more than 77% of agricultural holdings experiencing irrigation vulnerability in this macro-area were in Sicilia, accounting for 52.1% of the agricultural weight of the area. Sardegna, despite having a similar agricultural area, showed significantly lower shares of farms facing irrigation difficulties.

Southern Italy displayed a strong concentration of water vulnerability. In some regions - most notably Puglia and Sicilia - the incidence of irrigation problems exceeds their agricultural weight, pointing to a structural imbalance between

[6] Ratio between the utilised agricultural area (UAA) of each region and the total UAA of the respective macro-area.

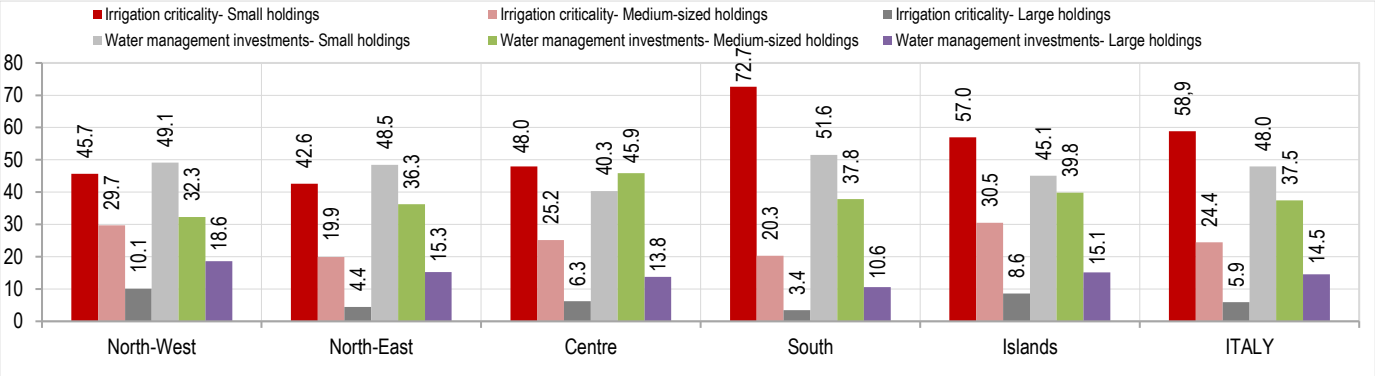
water availability and the importance of the agricultural sector. This imbalance is far less evident in the Centre and North of the country.

Farm size plays a significant role in shaping the ability to respond to irrigation-related challenges. At the national level, 58.9% of holdings reporting irrigation problems were small holdings (with UAA of up to 10 hectares); this share rose to 72.2% in the South (Figure 15). The incidence of medium-sized holdings (UAA between 10.01 and 50 hectares) is considerably lower, amounting to just under 25% overall and ranging from 19.9% in the North-East to 30.5% in the Islands. The incidence of large holdings (over 50 hectares) is even more limited, standing at 5.9% at the national level, with values ranging from 3.4% in the South to 10.1% in the North-West.

Overall, the picture that emerges shows that smaller agricultural holdings are markedly more vulnerable, with this fragility being particularly pronounced in Southern Italy.

With regard to the strategies adopted to address these difficulties, among innovating holdings, 48% of small holdings allocated their resources to improving water management efficiency, with shares ranging from 45.1% in the Islands to 51.6% in the South. By contrast, the shares were lower among medium and large-sized holdings, at 37.5% and 14.5%, respectively. For small holdings - especially in Southern Italy - investment in water sustainability may represent a necessary choice, driven by the need to address contingent constraints. Medium-sized holdings and, even more so, large ones, showed lower levels of both irrigation-related problems and investment, which may reflect greater structural solidity or a lower direct dependence on irrigation.

FIGURE 15. IRRIGATION CRITICALITIES AND WATER-RELATED INVESTMENTS OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS BY SIZE CLASS AND MACRO-AREA. Year 2024, percentage values



Source: Istat, Multi-purpose Agricultural Survey

Overall, exposure to irrigation-related criticalities is positively correlated with the propensity to invest in water management. Based on the investment strategies identified in the Multi-purpose Agricultural Survey, this relationship appears predominantly reactive, particularly for holdings in Southern Italy, as it is driven by the need to address already manifest problems rather than by preventive strategies. The data suggest two distinct orientations among Italian farmers.

In the Centre and the North, investment strategies are more frequently proactive, aimed at increasing production efficiency and competitiveness through the expansion of multifunctionality (74.4%), the strengthening of marketing activities (79.2%), and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (74.4%).

In Southern Italy, by contrast, investments are predominantly reactive, focusing on increasing production yields (77.8%), improving water resource management (53%), and reducing soil erosion processes (56.8%). Farmers in this area are therefore more oriented towards addressing environmental and structural constraints, whereas those in the Centre and the North are more focused on market-oriented adaptation strategies and competitiveness enhancement.

Glossary

Basic price: the amount the producer receives from the purchaser per unit of goods or service produced, less the taxes on the products because of its production and sale (i.e. product taxes), and plus any subsidies on the products to be received on that unit as a consequence of its production or sale (i.e. subsidies on products). The basic price excludes transport costs invoiced separately, transport margins charged by the manufacturer on the same invoice are included, even if indicated as a separate item.

CEP classification (Classification of Environmental Purposes): classification of environmental purposes covering all activities, products and expenditure whose objective is environmental protection (i.e. prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution and any other environmental degradation) or resource management (i.e. conservation, maintenance and enhancement of the stock of natural resources and thus protection against depletion). The main environmental purposes covered by environmental accounts correspond to groups (4-digit level) or groupings of groups within CEP: Air and climate (including reduction and control of greenhouse gases and of other air pollutants), Renewable energy, Energy management and saving, Wastewater management, Water saving and management of natural water resources, Waste management, Materials recovery and saving, Protection of soil, surface water and groundwater, Biodiversity and landscape protection, Forest resource management, Noise and radiation (including protection against noise and vibrations and against radiation), R&D for environmental protection, R&D for resource management, and Cross-cutting and other environmental protection activities (including environmental education and training, general environmental administration, management, regulation, communication and advisory services, and other environmental protection activities). The CEP, adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2024, replaces the previous CEPA (Classification of Environmental Protection Activities and Expenditure) and CReMA (Classification of Resource Management Activities).

Economic activity: activity of producing goods or services that takes place when resources such as capital goods, labour and raw materials are combined to produce specific goods or services. Economic activity's distinctive features are the factors of production, a production process and an output of one or more products (goods or services). For statistical analysis purposes, the economic activities are classified according to the Ateco 2007 classification (consistent with the European nomenclature Nace Rev. 2).

Environmental economic accounts/environmental accounting: system of satellite accounts representing the interaction between economic and environmental information in line with national economic accounts and with the principles outlined by the international statistical standards "Integrated environmental and economic accounting system" (Seea Central Framework 2012 and Seea Ecosystem Accounting 2021, chapters 1-7). Pursuant to EU Regulation No. 691/2011 on environmental economic accounts (amended by EU Regulation No. 538/2014 of 16 April 2014, by EU Delegated Regulation 2022/125 of the Commission of 19 November 2021 and by EU Regulation N. 3024/2024 of 27 November 2024), it is mandatory for the Statistical Institutes of the EU the production of nine environmental accounts, two of which (Epea and Egss) provide data analysed in this report.

Environmental goods and services sector (EGSS) accounts: report and present data on activities that generate environmental products. Environmental products include goods and services made for environmental protection and resource management. Environmental protection includes all activities and actions whose primary purpose is to prevent, reduce and eliminate pollution and any other environmental degradation. Resource management includes the conservation, maintenance, and improvement of the stock of natural resources and, therefore, the protection of these resources from depletion phenomena (see CEP Classification).

Environmental protection expenditure accounts (EPEA): record and present data on the economic resources allocated to environmental protection by resident units broken down according to the following CEP categories: Air and climate; Wastewater management; Waste management; Protection of soil, surface water and groundwater; Biodiversity and landscape protection; Noise and radiation; R&D for air emission reduction and control, wastewater management, waste management, protection of soil, surface water, groundwater and biodiversity, and noise and radiation; Cross-cutting and other environmental protection activities (environmental protection component) (see CEPA Classification).

Final consumption expenditure of Households: value of Households' expenditure for the set of goods and services purchased to satisfy their individual needs. In the case of the Households sector, it includes the consumption expenditure of non-profit institutions serving Households.

Gross domestic product at market prices (GDP): the final result of the productive activity of the resident units of production. It is equal to the total production of goods and services of the economy decreased by intermediate consumption and increased by the VAT levied and indirect taxes on imports. It is also equal to the sum of the value added at basic prices of the various branches of economic activity, increased by taxes on products (including VAT and taxes on imports), net of subsidies on products.

Institutional sector: institutional units are grouped together to form mutually exclusive institutional sectors, onthe basis of their principal functions, behaviour and objectives. They include: Non-financial corporations, financial corporations, General government, Households, Non-profit institutions serving households and Rest of the world. In Italy, households are broken down by households as producers and households as consumers.

Irrigable area: area equipped for irrigation.

Irrigated area: area that has been irrigated at least once during the reference agricultural year.

Irrigation techniques: the techniques considered are surface runoff and lateral infiltration, flooding, sprinkler irrigation, micro-irrigation and other systems.

Management of water: according to the CEP classification, management of water comprises activities aimed at the minimisation of inland waters intake through in-process modifications, the reduction of water losses and leaks or reduction of the intake by substituting the resource with alternative resources, water reuse and savings. Restoration activities (recharge of groundwater bodies) are included as well as the measurement, control, laboratories and the like and education, training and information and general administration activities linked to the management of inland waters and water saving.

Mining licenses: administrative measure issued by a local public institution for the exploration and/or cultivation of an extraction site (mine), in which the following items are defined: the mineral resource whose extraction is authorized, the authorized companies into production and the duration of the cultivation. It also indicates a specification on the exercise of mining and environmental restoration activities.

National expenditure for environmental protection: measures the economic resources devoted to prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution and any other degradation of the environment by resident units (net of funding received from the Rest of the world). The aggregate is the result of the sum of four main types of expenditure by economic subjects: spending on environmental protection services (such as waste management or waste water purification) by Corporations, General Government and Households; investments for environmental protection by operators that produce environmental protection services sold to third parties; expenses for the purchase of equipment and machinery, goods and services and for the payment of personnel assigned to environmental protection activities by companies that carry them out on their own and expenses destined abroad, for example in the context of international agreements for environmental protection.

Natural mineral waters: waters that originate from an underground aquifer or deposit and come from one or more natural or drilled springs, which have hygienic characteristics and properties favorable to health (Legislative Decree No. 176 of 8 October 2011, implementing Directive 2009/54/EC). Mineral waters are included among mining mineral resources, according to current legislation N.1443 - 29 July 1927.

Production: it is an activity resulting in a product. It is used with reference to the whole range of economic activities carried out in the country by the resident units in a given period of time. There are several notions of production. The standardized national accounting distinguishes between market production of goods and services intended for sale, and object of exchange which gives rise to the formation of a market price; non-market production which is not an object of exchange (production for own final use, the collective services provided by the General Government and by non-profit institutions serving Households).

Resident population: where not otherwise specified, it is the average population of the reference year, obtained by the semi-sum between the number of residents registered on 1 January and 31 December.

River Basin District: pursuant to Article 2 (par. 15) of Directive 2000/60/EC, an area of land and sea made up of one or more neighbouring river basins together with their associated groundwater and coastal waters. Under Article 64 of Legislative Decree No. 152/2006, the entire national territory has been divided into seven River Basin Districts: Po River; Eastern Alps; Northern Apennines; Central Apennines; Southern Apennines; Sicily; Sardinia.

Utilised agricultural area – UAA: the total area of land used for arable crops, kitchen gardens, permanent grassland and pastures, agricultural woody crops and chestnut orchards. It comprises the area under cultivation and actually used for strictly agricultural purposes. It excludes areas used for mushroom cultivation in caves, underground facilities or buildings.

Value added at basic prices: difference between the value of the output of goods and services and the value of the intermediate costs incurred for this production. Output is valued at basic prices, i.e. net of product taxes and gross of product subsidies and intermediate costs at purchase prices. It corresponds to the sum of the wages of the production factors and depreciation.

Wastewater management: according to the Classification of environmental purposes (Cep), the following activities are included: prevention of water pollution; collection and purification of wastewater; wastewater monitoring and control, regulation and administration, information, and communication.

Water rationing: periods marked by reduced or suspended drinking water supply for household use.

Water withdrawn for public water supply: water removed from fresh groundwater (source and well), fresh surface water (river, natural lake and artificial basin) or marine and brackish waters and destined to public water supply.

Methodological notes

Water withdrawal for public water supply

The analysis of water withdrawal for public water supply is based on data from the “Urban water census”, a survey conducted by Istat every two years and included in the National Statistical Programme (IST-02192). The report releases data for the year 2024, drawn from the edition of the survey carried out between May and November 2025.

The Urban water census provides information on the entire public-use water supply chain - from the abstraction of drinking water to the treatment of urban wastewater - as well as on the main characteristics of water services in Italy. The units of analysis are the water operators and the facilities managed by each entity to carry out services such as: the withdrawal and adduction of water for public water supply, water supply, sewerage, and urban wastewater treatment.

The data collected undergo control, correction, and validation procedures to identify missing or partial responses, outliers, and inconsistencies. Some of the indicators produced through this survey, with reference to the water withdrawal for public water supply, the efficiency of the distribution network, and the characteristics of the sewerage and treatment system, contribute to Goal 6 of the SDGs.

The main results of the survey are made available on the Istat website through "Statistical Reports" and "Data Tables”. The IstatData database is also periodically updated. The collected data are analyzed and published in general publications (SDGs Report, Report on Equitable and Sustainable Wellbeing, Annual Report, Italian Statistical Yearbook, Noi Italia).

Data tables and maps are included in the Statistical Focus, referring to the main indicators discussed in the text, to facilitate the understanding and interpretation of the content.

For further insights:

- Urban water census - Survey information and methodologies;
- IstatData – Environment and energy/Water;
- Istat Water statistics - Years 2020-2024.

Water rationing measures in provincial/metropolitan capital cities

The survey "Urban environmental data" is carried out annually by Istat to collect environmental information relating to all Italian provincial and metropolitan capital cities. Included in the National Statistical Programme (IST-00907), it aims to provide useful indicators to compose an information framework in support of the monitoring of the state of the urban environment and of the activities carried out by the administrations to ensure the good quality of the environment in the cities. The survey is divided into seven survey questionnaires: Air, Eco-management (including water rationing for civil use, previously in the Water module), Energy, Mobility, Waste, Noise and Urban Green.

Data tables and maps are included in the Statistical Focus, referring to the main indicators discussed in the text, to facilitate the understanding and interpretation of the content.

For further insights:

- Urban environmental data - Survey information and methodologies;
- IstatData – Environment and energy/Urban environment.

Natural mineral waters

The survey “Anthropic Pressure and Natural Risks”, included in the National Statistical Programme (IST-02559), has been carried out annually since 2016 aiming to collect data and information on extractive activities of non-energy mineral resources by lithotype (including natural mineral waters) from all authorized sites of quarries and mines, in the Italian territory.

Linked to mineral resources extractions - activity with high environmental impacts - Istat also produces and disseminates some environmental pressure indicators, based on internationally shared methodologies (UN, OECD, EEA, Eurostat) such as: Extraction intensity, Density of mining sites in the territory, Extractions in municipalities with the presence of areas subject to environmental protection, Extractions in coastal and inland areas, Extractions in areas with hydrogeological and seismic risk.

Data tables and maps are included in the Statistical Focus, referring to the main indicators discussed in the text, to facilitate the understanding and interpretation of the content.

For further insights:

- Anthropic Pressure and Natural Risks - Survey information and methodologies;
- IstatData - Environment and energy/Mining and quarrying/Tables of data (years 2013-2023).

Evaluations and opinions of citizens towards water services

Data on public opinions on water services, as well as on environmental behaviors, come from the sample survey "Aspects of daily life". The survey, included in the National Statistical Programme (IST-00204), is part of an integrated system of social surveys - the Multipurpose Surveys on Households - and collects collects fundamental information on individual and households daily life.

The main results of the survey are made available on the Istat website through "Statistical Reports" on several topics. Every year, the collected data is analyzed and also published in general publications (SDGs Report, Report on Equitable and Sustainable Wellbeing, Annual Report, Italian Statistical Yearbook, Noi Italia), and occasionally in Istat's in-depth or analytical series. Territorial detail is available at the regional level and by type of municipality (municipality centre of the metropolitan area; suburban areas of the metropolitan area; municipalities with 50,001 inhabitants or more; municipalities with 10,001 to 50,000 inhabitants; municipalities with 2,001 to 10,000 inhabitants; and municipalities with up to 2,000 inhabitants).

Data tables and maps are included in the Statistical Focus, referring to the main indicators discussed in the text, to facilitate the understanding and interpretation of the content.

For further insights:

- Aspects of daily life - Survey information and methodologies.

Output and value added of goods and services for wastewater and water management

The environmental goods and services sector account (EGSS) records data on the production of goods and services aiming at the protection of the environment and the management of natural resources.

EGSS is also known as eco-industries’ account but, despite this name, the account does not cover only producers specialized in environmental products; by contrast, it covers the production of all goods and services regardless of the economic activity producing them.

The environmental goods and services sector account records the supply of environmental goods and services in terms of output, value added, exports generated by resident production units and employment engaged to produce these products.

Detailed data are released once per year on IstatData database by February. Time series starts from the year 2016 up to 2023 for the national territory as a whole. The time series are updated annually to incorporate updated inputs and revised during methodological reviews, including general reviews of national accounts.

For further insights:

- IstatData – National Accounts/Environmental accounts/Environmental goods and services accounts;
- Environment and Economy: Main Indicators - Years 2023-2024.

Expenditure for wastewater management

Environmental protection expenditure accounts present - in a way that is compatible with the concepts and principles of the European System of Accounts (ESA) - data on the economic resources devoted by resident units to environmental protection.

Environmental protection includes all activities and actions which have as their main purpose the prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution and of any other degradation of the environment. Excluded are activities related to the prevention of natural disasters and risks (landslides, floods, etc.) and activities related to natural resources management, like energy saving or savings in the use of natural resources as raw materials.

Environmental protection (EP) expenditure accounts allow to calculate “national expenditure for environmental protection” (NEEP) which quantifies, for the economy as a whole and/or for its various units, the national resources (i.e. not including financing by the rest of the world) devoted to environmental protection by resident units, regardless of the origin of the financing; each unit can use its own funds or benefit from transfers received by other units.

Detailed data are released once per year on IstatData database by February. Time series starts from the year 2016 up to 2023 for the national territory as a whole. The time series are updated annually to incorporate updated inputs and revised during methodological reviews, including general reviews of national accounts.

For further insights:

- IstatData – National Accounts/Environmental accounts/Environmental protection expenditure;
- Environment and Economy: Main Indicators - Years 2023-2024.

Agricultural Holdings and irrigation

Data on irrigation practices are drawn from the Survey on the Structure of Agricultural Holdings. This is a sample survey conducted every three years, aimed to monitoring changes in the structural aspects of agricultural holdings. The main structural variables examined include: land use, livestock numbers, labour, and irrigation. The European regulations on which the Survey is based are Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2286 of 16 December 2021. The survey unit is the agricultural and/or livestock holding, as defined in Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 (Article 2(a)), which carried out agricultural activities during the reference agricultural year, even if only for own consumption.
The sample comprises approximately 109,000 units. The analysis presented refers to the 2023 edition of the survey, conducted between 13 December 2023 and 29 March 2024.

For further insights:

- Survey on the structure of agricultural holdings.

Water scarcity by geographical area and agricultural holdings size

The data presented derive from the Multi-purpose Agricultural Survey (PSN code IST-02845), an integral part of the Permanent Census of Agriculture, whose General Census Programme (PGC) was approved by Istat on 6 November 2024. The survey aims to collect non-quantitative information on aspects of farm life that are only marginally covered by official statistics, focusing on the following topics: identification and management of business risks; related activities; innovation; sustainability; and water resources.

Data collection took place between 7 January and 15 May 2025. The information refers either to the 2023-2024 agricultural year, i.e. the period from 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024, or to the 2024-2025 agricultural year, which was ongoing at the time of data collection.

The reference population of the Multi-purpose Survey comprises all agricultural holdings active as of September 2024. The list from which the sample of holdings was drawn included 628,208 units, corresponding to the subset of holdings active in September 2024 that, at the reference date, had an active AGEA farm file managed by one of the Agricultural Assistance Centres (CAA) participating in the agreement with Istat. The theoretical sample comprised 55,008 holdings.

For further insights:

- Multi-purpose Agricultural Survey - Survey information and methodologies;
- Innovation and sustainable practices in agriculture - Year 2024.

For more details, please refer to the Italian version

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In 2026 Istat celebrates 100 years since its foundation. To mark this occasion, Istat is launching a public consultation to collect contributions, observations, and proposals on the responsiveness of official statistics to knowledge needs and user requirements.
The focus is not on communicating and disseminating data, but on statistical production.
The initiative aims to enhance the quality, relevance and usability of statistical production, whilst promoting transparency and participation.
The consultation is open to institutional stakeholders, the scientific community, researchers, journalists, enterprises, associations, interested citizens.

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