

17 – INDUSTRY

This chapter gathers together statistical information about the industry sector in Sicily. A first group of tables examines data regarding the electrical energy sector and the sales of petrol, diesel oil and kerosene; a second group provides data about active manufacturing enterprises registered with the Chambers of Commerce.

In Sicily in 2010, 22,009 million kWh (gross production) of electrical energy was consumed, accounting for 8% of the total amount produced in Italy and 19.7% of the amount consumed in the whole south of Italy. Production was mainly generated from thermo-electrical sources (97.2%), and fell by 1.1% when compared with 2009.

On the other hand, 19,087 million kWh of electrical energy were consumed in Sicily in 2010; most of the energy was absorbed by industry (37.5% of total consumption), followed by the family sector for domestic consumption (30.6%) and by the service industries (29.7%), whilst the lowest consumption was recorded in the primary sector (2.1%). Over the last five-year period, energy consumption registered a decreasing trend starting in 2006 and lasting until 2009 (-2.4%), and then in 2010 it experienced a reversal of trend, with the quantity of electrical energy consumed returning to the levels of 2006. At the sectorial level the Sicilian service industry showed an increase in consumption in all the years under examination, whereas industry, on the other hand registered continual falls from 2006 onward, until 2009, the year in which a 7.3% drop (over the previous year) in electricity consumption was registered. In 2010 there was an upturn in consumption which increased by 6.4% when compared to 2009. Regional analysis reveals that the overall consumption of electrical energy in 2010 was concentrated mainly in the Provinces of Catania, Siracusa, Palermo and Messina. Within the industrial sector the highest consumer was Siracusa with over 2,600 million kWh, justified by the energy requirements of the petrochemical plant at Priolo. The industrial zones of Gela and Milazzo vie to keep the Provinces of Caltanissetta (924 million kWh) and Messina (969 million kWh) near the top of the Sicilian Provincial table, where they are also joined by Catania (1,022 million kWh). Further indicators correlated to this sector are those relating to the sale of petrol and motor diesel oil, which closely mirror the vehicular movement of goods and persons. In 2010 the total amount of petrol sold was a little over 805,000 tonnes, 8.1% of the national total. Compared to 2009 there was a 6.1% reduction in sales, thus emphasizing the negative trend which had been apparent since 2006. Over the period 2006-2010 the average annual variation in petrol sales was -5.7%. The greatest quantity of petrol in the whole Region was sold in the Province of Catania (212,000 tonnes). The sales of motor diesel-oil in 2010 totalled a little

over 1.6 million tonnes, showing a slight rise (+2.6%) when compared to the previous year, which was an inversion of trend when compared to figures reported in 2009. Catania also held the record for diesel-oil with a total of 491,000 tonnes. As regards fuel-oil, the main fuel for supplying thermo-electric power-stations, the quantity sold amounted to 314,000 tonnes in all, which represented a sharp fall of 66.8% when compared to sales in 2009. The Province of Messina alone accounted for the most significant quantities sold (92.1% of the Regional total).

From the point of view of the structure of Sicily's industrial configuration in 2010, there were 30,667 business enterprises operating in the manufacturing sector (5.6% of the national total); these were operating mainly in the timber sector (7,503 businesses, 24.5% of the total), along with the food sector (23.2% of the total) and metallurgic sector (18.8%). The number of business between 2007 and 2008 fell by 98,000, representing a drop of 0.3%, with a further drop of 6,693 units in 2009, corresponding to a negative variation of 17.8%. In 2010 there was a further 0.7% reduction in the Regional industrial sector. On analyzing individual sectors over the period 2006-2010 there are clear downtrends everywhere although certain sectors do show, in some years, feeble signs of upturn that are not then confirmed over the longer term. The food sector (-37.6%) and engineering sector (-64.4%) seem to be suffering particularly. Over 60% of active Sicilian businesses operate in the Provinces of Catania (7,110 enterprises), Palermo (6,833) and Messina (4,127); this predominance also exists at the level of single sectors. However, apart from the three above-mentioned areas, it is worth mentioning that Trapani still has a substantial number of business enterprises in the sectors of transportation means (13.2%), non-metalliferous products (12.8%) and the food industry (10.7%); Siracusa (10.7%) and Caltanissetta (8.1%) make their presence felt in the metallurgical industry, whilst the latter also has a healthy number of enterprises in the textile sector (7%).

Glossary

Business enterprise: a juridical/economic entity producing goods and services intended for sale; it has the authority to distribute the profits to the owners of the enterprise, be they private or public.

Dense combustible oil with a low sulphur content (BTZ): residual of inferior quality much used in industry for heating, for powering ships and as a combustible in thermoelectric plants.

Electricity supply (consumption): amount of electricity sold by public enterprises, by wholesalers and by producers to their customers, and the amount of electricity consumed by self-producers themselves.

Fuel-oil: heavy or residual distillates from refinery distillation or other operations, used for the production of heat for industry (furnaces and boilers) and for domestic heating or the production of energy (motors)

Gross electricity production: total amount of electricity produced in a given period and recorded at the terminals of generators in power stations.

Hydro-electric plants: the totality of plumbing, machinery, equipment, buildings and services intended for the transformation of hydraulic energy into electrical energy.

Motor diesel-oil: intermediate distillate from refinery processing, used as fuel in diesel motors.

Net electricity production: total amount of electricity produced and recorded on emission from the production plants

Thermo-electric power-stations: the totality of traditional thermo-electric, nuclear thermo-electric and geo-thermo-electric plants.

Further reading

Publications

Italian Statistical Yearbook 2011 – ISTAT

Internet

<http://www.istat.it/>

8° Census of industry and services

Italian Statistical Yearbook 2011 – Chapter 14: “Industry”

<http://www.terna.it/>

Electrical system “statistics”

<http://www.infocamere.it/movimprese.htm>

Data regarding registry changes in business enterprises

<http://dgerm.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/dgerm/>

Statistical data regarding energy resources