

3 – WORK

The economic crisis that began at the end of 2007 continued to have a negative effect on the labour market in Sicily in 2010. In this period, when compared to the previous year, there was a 1.7% fall in the number of employed persons (down by 24,000 jobs) and a 5.1% rise in the number of persons seeking employment (over 248,000 units). By sector, there were appreciable losses in construction (almost 13,000 units, equal to a fall of 9.5% in the sector), in industry in the strict sense (-6.6%) and in the service industry (-0.4%), whereas in agriculture there was an increase in employment of 1.6% (+1,729 units).

Distribution by branch of economic activity in 2009, confirmed the sizable gap between the number of people employed in industry in the strict sense in Sicily (8.4%) and the corresponding number in Italy as a whole (20.0%); confirmation of the absence of industrialization and an abiding agricultural vocation was provided by figures in the primary sector of 7.5% in Sicily, as against the 3.9% in the country as a whole. Furthermore, the data highlights, both in Sicily and Italy, the solid concentration of employed persons in the private and public services, accounting for 75.6% and 67.6% of the totals respectively.

In the same period, over 201,000 workers (14% of the total for Sicily) had part-time contracts, principally women (68 out of 100 employed part-time), almost all of whom were employed in the service industries.

Of the over 196,000 term contracts stipulated in 2010 in Sicily, over 130,000 regarded the service sector (63.9%) and about 50,000 agriculture (24.3%), whereas the corresponding figures for construction (7.1%) and industry in the strict sense (4.6%) were decidedly lower.

A further demonstration of the difficulties encountered in Sicily in entering the job market was provided in 2010 by the number of persons seeking employment (248,094), corresponding to 11.8% of the national figure and 25.9% when applied to the South/islands division. The unemployment-rate also rose (from 13.9% to 14.7% in the last year) and the number of unemployed aged between 15 and 64 totalled over 1,665,000 (representing 11.1% of the national total). The rise in the number of persons seeking work affected both young people (who delayed joining the labour market in order to complete their studies) and adults (especially women) who were not actively seeking work, but would be available to work if the opportunity presented itself.

Mid-period analysis highlights a reversal of trend, from rise to fall, beginning in 2006, the year in which the highest level of employment was registered (1,502,718). With regard to women the last year showed a 1.1% fall in the level of employment when compared to 2008, less marked than the figure recorded for 2006 (-1.7%). As for men, on the other hand, a fall of 1.8%

was registered in the last period and a fall of 5.4% when compared with the initial period. For the former the employment figures went from 29.6% in 2006 to 28.7% by the end of the period. At the same time there was a significant rise in the number of persons seeking work. In five years numbers rose by over 13,541 units, with a direct effect on the unemployment-rate, which rose by 1.2% (standing at 13.5% in 2006). On the other hand the participation-rate fell from 52.1% in the first year to 50.1% in 2010.

In relation to population size, the Provinces of Palermo (345,205 workers), Catania (303,114) and Messina (196,465) alone accounted for 58.7% of the total number of employed persons in Sicily. The highest participation-rate was to be found in Ragusa (54.7%), Enna (53.0%) and Messina (51.7%), whereas Caltanissetta and Catania were again the least “active” Provinces, with indicator figures of around 47%, followed by Trapani with a figure of 49.1%. At the Provincial level, analysis of employment-rates highlights gender-related imbalances. The figures for females are decidedly lower than the high figures registered for males. For example, in the Provinces of Agrigento (69.9%), Enna (68.3%) and Ragusa (73%), where the indicator’s highest levels are recorded, the percentages for women are 31.6%, 38.3% and 36.4% respectively. The lowest figures for men were registered in Catania (61.5%), Messina (64.9%) and Trapani (65.3%). The greatest difficulty in finding work seems to be encountered above all in the Province of Palermo, where the unemployment-rate stands at 18.7%, Agrigento (19.2%) and Caltanissetta (16.5%), whereas residents of Catania (12%), Trapani (13%) and Messina (13.5%) seem to have greater opportunity, and especially Ragusa (9.1%) where figures stand at levels close to those in the north and centre (8.5%)..

Glossary

Dependent employee (permanent and full-time): employed persons tied to a business enterprise by a direct contract, on the basis of which they receive a salary.

Employed, The: all persons aged over 15, who, in the week of reference,:

- have carried out an hour of work in any activity providing remuneration in cash or in kind;
- have carried out at least an hour of unpaid work in the business of an acquaintance, where they have often helped out;
- are off work (e.g. holiday, illness). Those off work are considered employed if the absence does not exceed 3 months, or if, during their absence, they continue to receive at least 50% of their pay. Non-permanent workers who are

off work, except for family-collaborators, are considered employed if, during their period of absence, they still keep their jobs. Family-collaborators are considered employed if their absence does not exceed 3 months.

Employment-rate: percentage ratio of the employed (aged 15 to 64) to the corresponding contextual population .

Job-seekers: include unemployed persons (aged between 15 and 74) who:
– have tried to look for employment in the thirty days prior to the interview and are available for work (or to launch an autonomous activity) within the two weeks following the interview;
-or will start a job within three months of the date of the interview and are available for work (or to launch an autonomous activity) within the two weeks following the interview, whenever it is possible to bring forward the starting date for the job.

Labour force: the total number of employed persons and persons seeking employment.

Non-work force: persons who declare themselves to be of a non-professional status and not to have carried out any working activity, nor to have sought work in the period in question. Included in this group are those doing their military, or substitutive civil service, invalids and persons under the age of 14 years.

Participation-rate: ratio of people in the work-force aged 15 to 64 years to the entire corresponding population.

Unemployment-rate: is the percentage ratio between those seeking employment and the total work-force.

Further reading

Publications

Italian statistical Yearbook 2011 – ISTAT
SVIMEZ 2010 report on the economy in the South – SVIMEZ
Immigration Statistics Dossier 2010 – CARITAS
Pensions – 2006 – ISTAT
Work and pay – 2005-2006 – ISTAT
The Labour-force – 2010 Averages – ISTAT

Internet

<http://www.istat.it>

Factor Productivity Measures – 1980-2006

Added value and internal employees per local work system - 2003-2004

Employment and added value in the Provinces – 1995-2003

System of territorial indicators – Labour market area

Statistics for development policies – Key context indicators – Axis III Human resources

Italian statistical Yearbook 2011 – Chapter 9: “Work”

<http://www.inps.it>

Statistics data-banks

Observatory on businesses, permanent employees in non-agricultural private sector and average annual pay for workers and employees

Observatory on dependent employees

Observatory on employment and labour policies

Observatory on self-employed workers

Observatory on domestic workers

Observatory on the agricultural world

www.lavoro.gov.it

Sector studies and statistics

www.isfol.it

Annual report

www.inail.it

Statistics data-banks

Data-banks of disabled

Employment observatory

Historical statistics

www.lavoro.minori.it

National investigation into juvenile labour: “Children and work” – 2000

Children and injuries at work: reports and indemnity – 2002

Inspections of companies employing minors – 2003-2004

www.alef-fvg.it

Data regarding immigration and emigration

www.isfol.it

Towards work, organization and functioning of public services for citizens and

business enterprises in the labour-market – Monitoring 2003
Labour quality in Italy

www.cnel.it
Labour-market data-base