

## 5 – SOCIAL WELFARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Data regarding social welfare, social security and voluntary work, especially in times of economic crisis, interests a wide range of subjects (individuals, families, the worlds of education and vocational training, the labour market, pension schemes); a detailed analysis thus consents an adequate and pertinent assessment of economic and social policies and the quality of social welfare in Italy.

The data for 2010 with regard to the hours authorised by the Redundancy Fund (Cassa Integrazione Guadagni) for salary integration in the industry sector in Sicily, confirms a rising trend similar to that for 2009. In fact in 2010 the hours authorised by the Redundancy Fund amounted to 12,939,756 (+22.9%), representing the highest figures recorded in the last five years. From 2006 up to the end of 2007 the total number of hours authorised by the Redundancy Fund had been falling, the trend being interrupted in 2008. The final balance for the last year shows an increase in extraordinary interventions (+101.4%), whereas ordinary interventions show a fall of 7.2%, being linked to problems of a short-term nature. Because of a greater industrial presence, 32% of the hours authorised and recorded in 2010 regarded the Province of Palermo, followed by Catania and Messina, with figures of 19.7% and 16% respectively. During the five-year period 2006-2010 the number of hours granted in the sector in question rose overall by 100.2%, and more specifically, by 98.2% for manual workers and by 213.7% for white-collar workers.

In the year 2010, there were all together 34,285 accidents reported, very much in line with the figure for 2009. As a corollary of population size and the respective economic sectors, data showed Ragusa (701) with the highest number of accidents in the agricultural sector, whilst in Palermo and Catania there was the highest incidence of reported accidents in both industry (6,383 and 6,325 cases respectively) and in the State sector (643 and 577 respectively). Between 2006 and 2010 the number of reported accidents in industry fell by 0.3%, and rose by 2.93% in the State sector, whereas there was a slight fall in the agricultural sector (-1.2%).

The number of pensions paid out in Sicily in 2009 amounted to a little under 1,714,000 units, very much in line with the previous year, whilst overall expenditure amounted to over 16,000 million Euros (+4.4% over 2008). There were a little over 1,173,000 IVS pensions, a lower figure than for 2008 in terms of numbers (-9,360 units, -0.8%); however the total sum paid out increased by 556 million Euros, equal to about + 4.2%. The number of social welfare pensions, and civil and social disability pensions, also increased (+2.6%), whereas there was a slight drop in the number (-3.2% over 2008) of so-called indemnity allowances (resulting, above all, from accidents at work,

occupational illnesses and war pensions etc.), but a 1.6% increase as regards expenditure in monetary terms. Between 2005 and 2009 the number of pensions paid out in Sicily rose by 2.8%, whilst there was a much greater rise of 19.8% in spending.

Examination of the data by type for the four-year period reveals a marked increase in social welfare pensions (both in number and total outlay), a more moderate advance for IVS pensions and a decline in indemnity allowances. With reference to the resident population in 2009, 58% of pensions paid out in Sicily regarded the Provinces of Palermo (23.7%), Catania (18.7%) and Messina (15.6%), whereas the average unitary amount ranged from over 10,000 Euros in Palermo to 8,000 Euros in Agrigento.

At the end of 2006 (last available data), in Sicily there were 457 residential-care homes (-6.3% over 2005) with a total of 13,910 beds; these were occupied by 10,578 persons, more than 57% of whom were elderly. The residential structures in the Region represent almost 5.1% of the total in the country as a whole, which, with 330,898 beds, provided accommodation in 2006 for 294,961 persons.

## ***Glossary***

**IVS pension** – pension for invalids, old-age and war-veterans

**Pension:** a periodic and continuous benefit paid out individually by public and private companies after: reaching a specific age, annuity maturing following payment of contributions for a set period of time, failed or reduced working capacity due to congenital and subsequent infirmities, death of a protected person and special merit for services to the nation.

**Provincial administrations:** local bodies whose functions consist in looking after the interests and promoting development over a large inter-Communal area or the whole Province.

**Redundancy fund:** an instrument through which the Government can intervene in support of businesses, which, finding themselves in difficult straits, have been forced to cut down or temporarily suspend their operations. This intervention consists in INPS allocating benefits (as substitute for salary) to workers suspended from work, or subject to a reduced work-load in terms of hours. The Redundancy Fund interventions are of two kinds:

1) Ordinary management

- ordinary interventions, i.e. those linked to a company's temporary difficulties

- extra-ordinary interventions, i.e. those arising from the temporary suspension of business activity owing to re-structuring, re-organisation or re-conversion of the company or when there is a state of crisis, which might be of social relevance for the employment situation;

2) Special management

- special management for the building sector, pertaining to construction and Stone-working enterprises (including craftsmen). Extra-ordinary interventions include the number of hours authorised to those working in commercial outlets of industrial companies in a state of difficulty.

**Social assistance:** sector in which social benefits are linked to inadequacy of economic resources or to situations of hardship (disability, neglect) and are financed through general taxation.

**Social benefits** (European system of accounts, SEC 95): current transfers, in money or in kind, allocated to households to provide benefits covering costs of unexpected, specific events (illness, old-age, death, invalidity, unemployment).

### *Further reading*

#### Publications

Italian Statistical Yearbook 2011- ISTAT

Social security and social assistance statistics– Pension payments – 2009 – ISTAT

Final balances of Social Security companies– 1999-2007 - ISTAT

Organisation of voluntary work in Italy– year 2003 – ISTAT

#### Internet

[www.istat.it](http://www.istat.it)

Residential welfare and social security in Italy - 2006

Italian Statistical Yearbook 2011 – Chapter 4 “Social security and social assistance”

Second census and survey on social operations and services in town councils – 2004

Work, social security and social welfare causes – 2000-2004

[www.inps.it](http://www.inps.it)

Statistics data-banks– Pensions: general statistics [www.fivol.it](http://www.fivol.it)

Data-banks about voluntary organisations in Sicily

[www.lavoro.gov.it](http://www.lavoro.gov.it)

Longitudinal sample of activities and pensioners (CLAP): updating of data-base and future developments

[www.disabilitaincifre.it](http://www.disabilitaincifre.it)

Statistical informational system regarding disabilities