

10 – TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The data contained in this chapter is mainly from ISTAT sources and, wherever indicated, from statistics from the Ministry for the Infrastructure and Transport (MIT). The information pertains to road traffic accidents, airport traffic of cargo and passengers, and maritime traffic of passengers to the smaller islands. There is also data regarding local public transport (TPL), the infra-structure in ports and pleasure boating.

In the course of the year 2011 there were 13,283 road accidents reported in Sicily, 247 (1.9%) of which involved fatalities, with 271 deaths and 20,129 injured persons. This represented a -6.8% drop in the total number of road accidents when compared to the previous year (2010). A total of 79.5% of all road accidents took place within the urban context and only 6.9% on motorways. 76% of accidents involved moving vehicles, whilst 7.7% involved pedestrians being hit by moving vehicles.

The local public transport sector (TPL) in Sicily in 2010 numbered 127 companies, with 30 of these running urban services, 73 out-of-town services.

As regards maritime transport in 2011, figures show that 1,284,080 passengers sailed with Tirrenia S.p.A. to Sicily's smaller islands, which represented a slight increase of 0.2% over the previous year. The highest number of passengers (620,108) travelled on the Milazzo-Aeolian island route (accounting for 48.3% of the Regional total), the percentage evidently resulting mainly from the intensive tourist activity in the Aeolian islands. Similar conclusions can be made for the Trapani-Egadi Island route, with 400,684 passengers in transit (31.2% of the Regional total).

With regard to civil aviation, the leader is still the airport of Fontanarossa, Catania, which, in 2011, handled a total of 60,001 aircraft operations (a rise of 4.8% over the previous year, 2010), for a total of 6,774,782 passengers (+7.5% when compared to 2010) and 18,363 transits. The airport of Palermo remains the second-ranking Sicilian airport with 48,122 aircraft operations (+3.3%) and 4,969,013 passengers (+14.4%). Overall, Sicilian airports handled 8.9% of flight operations in the country as a whole; the 13,533,336 passengers landing in Sicily in 2011 represented 9.1% of the total number of passengers arriving in Italian airports. Because of the by now firmly-established low-cost airlines and the continual introduction of new itineraries, Birgi airport (Trapani) handles a considerable quantity of freight and passenger transportation, but it should be mentioned that, in spite of this, over the last year, figures for Birgi airport (Trapani) were lower than those for 2010. In fact there was a -12.6% fall in the number of passengers and a -9.6% drop in operations. It is worth pointing out that a total of 93.5% of flights to and from Birgi (TP) were handled by low-cost air-lines, against a more balanced division between traditional and low-cost air-lines in the airports of Palermo (51.4% v

48.6%) and Catania (59% v 41%). In 2011, 2,684,769 passengers (3.2% of the national total) flew into Sicily from international airports. The airport of Catania handled 1,323,715 of these passengers (49.3% of the total for Sicily), most of whom (about 32.8%) arrived from German airports (434,002 passengers). On the other hand Palermo airport dealt mainly with flights from France (195,014 passengers, 24.1% of total international flights).

Figures up to Dec 31st, 2011, show that in Sicily there were 53 ports (13.9% of those in Italy as a whole) with a total of 136 docking berths. The overall length of these docking berths was about 29 km, with an average of one berth approximately every 216 metres. The port with most berths (7) for petroleum products was Siracusa (Augusta has 6 berths for oil), which also had the greatest number of berths for pleasure boating. In 2010 (last available data), there were 11,343 mooring bays along the Sicilian coast, with the port of Catania heading the list with 2,123 bays; however the port of Milazzo had most mooring bays of a length exceeding 24 metres (106 as against the 33 in Catania), again as a result of tourism and the vicinity of the Aeolian islands.

In Sicily, in the year 2010, there were 173 pleasure boats newly registered with the Maritime authorities (50 sailing boats and 123 motor boats), whilst there were 62 deletions. These results bring the number of pleasure-boats in Sicily up to a total of 5,112 (on Dec 31, 2010), a figure which represents 6.2% of the overall number registered in Italy. Most of the pleasure-boats are moored in Palermo (1,679 in 2010, 32.8% of the Regional total).

Glossary

Boating units: every construction of any type and under any type of propulsion, : meant for pleasure boating.

Commercial linear metres. Overall length of means of transport.

Goods: movables (i.e. all concrete and tangible products as the object of trade). Although it is not a movable, electricity is considered as such for statistical purposes. All goods representing objects of international exchange are taken into consideration in statistics regarding foreign trade, except for those that are excluded from the survey because of their specific nature, or following international agreements.

Local public transport: transport-sector meant for the transfer of persons via the road network in a given geographical area.

Maritime transport: transport sector which is responsible for the volume of maritime traffic (goods and passengers) present in ports in a given geographical area.

Movement of passengers, mail and goods (air transport): number of passengers boarding and alighting, and cargo (mail and goods) loaded and unloaded. In airport traffic surveys both take-off and landing are considered, and, therefore, the landing and take-off of the same aircraft count as two operations.

No. return trips: number of return trips carried out by Tirrenia S.p.A ships along the routes in question. **Pleasure boating:** boating as an activity for sporting and recreational purposes, with no profit motive.

Public Register of Automobiles (P.R.A.): registers all legal transactions of vehicles (change of owner, mortgage, loan obligation), as well as relevant technical details determining ownership.

Road accident: accident taking place in street or square open to traffic, in which stationary or moving vehicles are involved, and which has resulted in injuries to persons.

Road network: all the roadways in a given geographical area destined solely for pedestrians, animals and land vehicles.

Transit at a specific airport: passengers departing from/to an airport with the same flight number with which they have arrived.

Vehicular traffic: sum total of means of transport present in a geographical area, catalogued according to type.

Further reading

[Publications](#)

ISTAT

Road accidents 2009
Italian Statistical Yearbook – 2012

MINISTRY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT
National Accounts for Infrastructure and Transport (Years 2008-2009-2010-
2011)
Pleasure-boating in Italy – 2010

ENAC Data regarding traffic at Italian airports 2011

ACI Statistical Yearbook 2012 (Italian Automobile Association)
– self-portrait – vehicles and mobility

Internet

www.istat.it/impres/turtrasp
Road accident statistics – various years
Transportation of goods by road – 2000-2011

<http://dati.istat.it/>
Datawarehouse I.Stat

www.mit.gov.it
National Accounts for Infrastructure and Transport (various years)
Pleasure-boating in Italy (various years)

www.enac.gov.it
ENAC Data regarding air-traffic in Italian airports (various years)

www.starnet.infocamere.it
Thematic areas– Transport – Analysis and data