

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 2011 with regard to the hours authorized by the Redundancy Fund (Cassa Integrazione Guadagni) for salary integration in the industry sector in Sicily, confirms a rising trend similar to that for 2010. In fact in 2011 the hours authorized by the Redundancy Fund amounted to 13,938,472 (+7.7%), representing the highest figures recorded in the last five years. From 2007 the total number of hours authorized by the Redundancy Fund had been continually increasing, above all between 2008 and 2009. The final balance for the last year shows an increase in extraordinary interventions (+17.9%), whereas ordinary interventions show a fall of -0.9%, being linked to problems of a short-term nature. Because of a greater industrial presence, 38.7% of the hours authorized and recorded in 2011 regarded the Province of Palermo, followed by Catania and Messina, with figures of 17.3% and 15.6% respectively. During the five-year period 2007-2011 the number of hours granted in the industrial sector rose overall by 314.9%, and more specifically, by 369.5% for manual workers and by 272% for white-collar workers.

In the year 2011, there were all together 32,052 accidents reported, a fall of -6.6% over the figures for 2010. As a corollary of population size and the respective economic sectors, data showed Ragusa (679) 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 (5,896 and 6,085 cases respectively) and in the State sector (596 and 511 respectively). Between 2007 and 2011 the number of reported accidents in industry fell by 11.1%, by 11.3% in the primary sector and by 7.6% in the State sector.

The number of pensions paid out in Sicily totaled a little over 1,176,000 units, representing a slight increase over 2009 in both quantity (2,745 units; +0.2%) and value (+427 million euros; +3.1%). The number of social welfare pensions, and civil and social disability pensions, also increased (+1.5%), whereas there was a slight drop in both the number (-2.8% over 2009) of so-called indemnity allowances (resulting, above all, from accidents at work, occupational illnesses and war pensions etc.), and in terms of monetary expenditure (-1.9%). Between 2006 and 2010 the number of pensions paid out in Sicily rose by 2.4%, whilst there was a much greater rise of 18.9% in expenditure.

Examination of the data by type for the five-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 2010, 58.3% of pensions paid out in Sicily regarded the Provinces of Palermo (24.1%), Catania (18.6%) 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 2010 (last available data), in Sicily there were 914 residential-care homes, with a total of 26,150 beds and 22,737 residents (more than 55.4% of whom were elderly). The residential structures in the Region represent almost 7.1% of the total in the country as a whole, which, with 424,705 beds, provided accommodation in 2010 for 394,374 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 2012- ISTAT

Social security and social assistance statistics – Pension payments – 2010 – ISTAT

Final balances of Social Security companies– 1999-2009 - ISTAT

Organization of voluntary work in Italy– year 2003 – ISTAT

Internet

www.istat.it

Residential welfare and social security in Italy - 2006

Italian Statistical Yearbook 2012 – 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

Statistics data-banks– Pensions: general statistics

www.fivol.it

Data-banks about voluntary organizations in Sicily

www.lavoro.gov.it

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