

10. Transport and Communications

The data contained in this chapter is mainly from ISTAT sources and, wherever indicated, is based on 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 2012 there were 11,726 road accidents reported in Sicily, 201 (1.7%) of which involved fatalities, with 218 deaths and 17,633 injured persons. This represented a -11.7% drop in the total number of road accidents when compared to the previous year (2011). A total of 80% of all road accidents took place within the urban context and only 6.4% on motorways. 75.6% of accidents involved moving vehicles, whilst 8.5% involved pedestrians being hit by moving vehicles.

The local public transport sector (TPL) in Sicily in 2011 numbered 126 companies, with 29 of these running urban services, 72 out-of-town services.

As regards maritime transport in 2012, figures show that there were 645,432 passengers sailing with Tirrenia S.p.A. to Sicily's smaller islands, which represented a considerable fall of 49.7% over the previous year. The highest number of passengers (286,360) travelled on the Milazzo-Aeolian island route (accounting for 44.6% of the Regional total), the high percentage evidently resulting mainly from intensive tourist activity in the Aeolian islands. Similar conclusions can be drawn for the Trapani-Egadi Island route, with 205,984 passengers in transit (31.9% of the Regional total).

With regard to civil aviation, the leader is the airport of Fontanarossa, Catania, which, in 2012, handled a total of 54,370 aircraft operations (a fall of 9.4% over the previous year, 2011), for a total of 6,147,119 passengers (-9.3% when compared to 2011) and 36,006 transits. The airport of Palermo remains the second-ranking Sicilian airport with 42,925 aircraft operations (+3.3%) and 4,585,199 passengers (-7.7%). Overall, Sicilian airports handled 8.4% of flight operations in the country as a whole; the 12,605,417 passengers landing in Sicily in 2012 represented 8.6% of the total number of passengers arriving in Italian airports. It should be pointed out that Birgi airport (Trapani), in the last year 2012, handled a greater number of freight and passenger transportation operations when compared to 2011, partly due to firmly-established low-cost airlines and the continual introduction of new itineraries. Consequently, figures for Birgi airport (Trapani) were higher with regard to the number of passengers (+7.4%) and traffic (+1%). It is also worth pointing out that a total of 94.4% 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 (51.9% v 48.1%) and Catania (62.5% v 37.5%). In 2012, 2,702,807 passengers (4.6% of the national total) flew into Sicily from international airports. The airport of Catania handled 1,360,597 of these passengers (50.4% of the total for Sicily), most of whom (about 32.7% and 444,854 passengers) arrived from German airports. On the other hand Palermo airport dealt mainly with flights from France (214,348 passengers, 24.5% of total international flights).

Figures up to Dec 31st, 2012, show that in Sicily there were 54 harbours (18.6% of the total in Italy as a whole) with 115 docking berths. The overall length of these docking berths was a little over 27 km. The harbour with most berths (9) for petroleum products was Siracusa (Augusta has 6 berths for oil), which also had the greatest number of berths for pleasure boating. In 2011 (last available data), there were 13,521 mooring bays along the Sicilian coast, with the port of Palermo heading the list with 3,352 bays; however the port of Milazzo had most mooring bays of a length exceeding 24 metres (156 as against the 6 in Palermo), again as a result of tourism and the vicinity of the Aeolian islands.

In Sicily, in the year 2011, there were 55 pleasure boats newly registered with the Maritime authorities (25 sailing boats and 30 motor boats), whilst there were 81 deletions. These results bring the number of pleasure-boats in Sicily up to a total of 5,037 (on Dec 31, 2011), a figure which represents 6.1% of the overall number registered in Italy. Most of the pleasure-boats are moored in Palermo (1,634 in 2011, 32.4% 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) 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 2012

Italian Statistical Yearbook – 2013

MINISTRY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT
National Accounts for Infrastructure and Transport (Years 2008-2012)
Pleasure-boating in Italy – 2010

ENAC Data regarding traffic at Italian airports 2012

ACI Statistical Yearbook 2013 (Italian Automobile Association)
– self-portrait – vehicles and mobility

Internet

<http://www.istat.it/it/archivio/102885>
Road accidents in Italy (2012)

<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