

## 2. Population and Family

Since the 2011 Census calculation of the resident population has been reworked by adding the newly registered at the General Registry Office (from October 29 – December 31, 2011, and subsequently those for the year 2012) to the legal population on 09.10.2011. Therefore the present chapter shows data relative to the “National Demographic Balance” published by ISTAT for the year 2012.

At the end of 2012, the resident population in Sicily numbered 4,999,932 inhabitants, accounting for 8.4% of the national total, and representing an increase of 78 when compared to the previous year’s total. Over the last year the number of deceased (51,243) was higher than the number of births (46,314); the migratory balance shows a slight decrease over 2011 (-2,555 units), but still remains positive at 5,007, the result of 130,011 officially, newly-registered persons in Sicily against 125,004 deletions.

In 2011, the last year available, there were 20,768 weddings in Sicily (corresponding to 4.1 legal unions per 1,000 residents), 24.7% of these (5,136) being celebrated with a civil marriage. There was a slight, overall fall of 6.8% in legal marriages compared to the previous year in Sicily, with a considerable decrease of 8.1% in weddings celebrated with a religious rite, and a lesser decrease of 2.5% as regards civil marriages.

In Italy as a whole, over the last year, the trend was also towards fewer weddings (-5.9% of total weddings) as a result of a fall in the religious component (-10% when compared with 2010); on the other hand, the number of civil weddings rose by 1.1%.

More specifically, up to December 31st, 2012, the population of Sicily had risen by 2.2% over the previous year, 2011. There was a 20.6% fall in the number of births (-11,980), and a 16.4% fall in the number of deaths (-10,112 units). The natural component showed a negative balance of 4,929 units, showing a further fall when compared to 2011 (-3,061). The birth-rate stood at 9.3 units per 1,000 inhabitants, not too far from the national average of 9.0. The mortality-rate was 10.2 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants, again in line with data for the country as a whole, but a little lower than the Centre-north (10.6), and higher than the overall figure for the South and the islands (9.7).

In 2012 there were 139,410 foreign residents in Sicily, representing 2.8% of the overall population on the island, and a 10% increase compared to the previous year, of 12,633 units registered at General Registry Offices in Sicily. The old-age index in Sicily reveals that there were 125.0 elderly persons (over the age of 64 years) for every 100 young persons (under the age of 15 years), a figure that is considerably lower than the corresponding figure (145.0) for the

nation as a whole.

Statistical analysis reveals a slow, but constant decrease in the population of Sicily, a fall of 0.8% residents over the year 2008, and a steady increase in the number of foreign citizens resident in Sicily, from 114,632 in 2008 to 139,410 in 2012 (+21.6%).

The ageing process of the population of Sicily can be observed in the number of elderly people (over the age of 74 years) as a percentage of the resident population (a figure which went from 8.8% in 2007 to 9.5% in 2011), whereas the percentage of the resident population aged under 6 years in the same period, was more or less stable (going from 6% to 5.7%). In 2012, 24.9% of the island's population resided in the Province of Palermo (1,243,638), 21.5% in Catania (1,077,113) and 13% in Messina (648,062), whereas considerably lower figures were registered in the Provinces of Caltanissetta (5.4%, 272,458) and Enna (3.4%). With regard to birth-rate, data shows figures of over 9 births per 1,000 inhabitants in five out of nine Sicilian Provinces (Palermo, Catania, Caltanissetta, Ragusa and Siracusa). Agrigento, Trapani and Messina find themselves at the bottom with figures of around 8 per 1,000. Figures for Enna show a mere 7.7 per 1,000. On the other hand, analysis of the mortality-rate reveals a higher incidence in Messina (11.3 per 1,000 inhabitants), Enna (10.9), Caltanissetta (10.3), Trapani (10.8) and Agrigento (10.6), whereas Catania had the lowest rate (9.7 per 1,000).

The migratory balance showed positive values in most Provinces except for Enna (-2.4 per 1,000 inhabitants), Caltanissetta (-1.1 per 1,000 residents) and Catania (-0.8). With regard to the resident population the highest proportion of foreigners was to be found in the Province of Ragusa (6.1%), with a further increase over the year 2011, and in Messina (4%), whereas Caltanissetta (2.2%, the same figure as Catania) and Enna (1.5%) showed the lowest figures. The other Provinces had percentage figures in line with the averages for Sicily (2.8%). Due to their greater population density the Provinces with the highest number of weddings were naturally Palermo, Catania and Messina (12,494 weddings in all, accounting for 60.2% of the total). The highest number of civil weddings were recorded in the Provinces of Catania (26.8%) and Palermo (27.6%); the other Provinces had markedly lower percentages.

The old-age indices recorded in the Provinces of Sicily are all above 100 and particularly high in the Provinces of Messina (156.8), Trapani (144.3) and Enna (140.9).

## **Glossary**

**Birth-rate:** ratio between the number of live births in one year and the total average resident population (multiplied by 1000).

**Deletion-rate:** ratio between the number of those struck off at the registry office in a given year, and the average total resident population, multiplied by 1000.

**Deletions:** can be divided into:

- Deletions abroad (i.e. the number of persons struck off following transfer of residence abroad)
- Deletions domestically (i.e. the number of persons struck off following transfer of residence to another Italian Municipality)

**Family:** a body of people living together and related or linked by matrimonial ties, affinity, adoption, guardianship or emotionally.

**General Registry Office:** a continuous system of registration of the population, constantly up-dated by the Municipal administration via registration of births by resident parents, deletions because of death and changes of residence.

**Index of child-dependence:** percentage ratio between persons aged 0-14 years and persons aged 15-64 years.

**Index of dependence of the elderly:** percentage ratio between those aged over 64 years and those aged 15-64 years.

**Index of old-age:** percentage ratio between population aged 65 years and over and population aged between 0-14 years.

**Index of dependence of young people:** percentage ratio between those aged 0-14 years and those aged 15-64 years.

**Migratory balance:** surplus or deficit of registrations of immigrants from abroad (or another Municipality) compared to the deletions of registrations for emigrants abroad (or to another Municipality).

**Mortality-rate:** ratio between the number of deaths in one year and the average total resident population, multiplied by 1000.

**Natural balance:** surplus or deficit of births compared to deaths.

**Registered persons:** can be divided into:

- Registered from abroad (i.e. the number of persons registered following transfer of residence from abroad)
- Registered domestically (i.e. the number of persons registered following transfer of residence from another Italian Municipality)

**Registration-rate:** ratio of number of registered persons in one year to the average total resident population, multiplied by 1000.

**Total dependence index:** percentage ratio between persons who are not autonomous for demographic reasons (aged 0-14 and over 64) and persons who are presumed to be working and supporting them (aged 15-64)

### *Further reading*

## **Publications**

Italian Statistical Yearbook – 2013 – ISTAT  
Causes of mortality in the Regions– Years 2000-2003 – ISTAT  
Deaths – demographic and social characteristics – 2002 - ISTAT  
Weddings, separations and divorces – 2008 – ISTAT  
Having children in Italy – 2002 - ISTAT  
Immigration Statistics Dossier 2012 – CARITAS  
Compendium of official statistics for domestic administration

## **Internet**

[www.censimenti.istat.it/](http://www.censimenti.istat.it/)  
14° General Census of the Population and Habitations – data consultation

<http://www.istat.it>  
Weddings in Italy  
Daily life in 2011 - Multiscopo survey of the family "Aspects of daily life"  
The foreign population living in Italy – demographic and social characteristics – 2008  
Foreigners in surveys of the labour-force

[www.cnel.it](http://www.cnel.it)  
Data-bank of territorial statistics – demography and foreign component of population  
Data-bank immigration  
Italian Statistical Yearbook 2013 – Chapter 2: “Population”  
Income and living conditions – 2008 and subsequent  
Preliminary estimates of death by cause in the Italian Regions –2004

[demo.istat.it](http://demo.istat.it)  
Population and demography: data-warehouse  
Tables regarding mortality in the resident population – year 2004

[www.minori.it](http://www.minori.it)  
Thematic site of documentation and analysis of childhood and adolescence

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

ITALY - Resident foreigners  
New statistical data about Italians in the world

[www.alef-fvg.it](http://www.alef-fvg.it)  
Data about immigration

[www.starnet.unioncamere.it](http://www.starnet.unioncamere.it)  
Thematic area – population – analysis and data