

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. The information pertains to road traffic and haulage, airport traffic of cargo and passengers, and maritime traffic of passengers to the smaller islands. There is also data regarding road-accidents, the infra-structure in ports and the quantity of pleasure boating.

In the course of the year 2008 there were 14,347 road accidents in Sicily, 329 (2.3%) of which involved fatalities. There were 364 deaths and 21,868 injured persons. This meant that there was a rise in the total number of road accidents (+1.2%) when compared to the previous year (2007). 80.4% of all road accidents took place within the urban environment and only 6.2% on motorways. 46.9% of all accidents within the Region occurred in the provinces of Palermo (3,544) and Catania (3,186). 78.9% of accidents happened between moving vehicles, whilst 6.6% involved pedestrians being hit by moving vehicles.

The local public transport sector in Sicily in 2007 counted 125 companies, 30 of which run urban services, 72 out-of-town services and 21 a mixed service. The distribution of data per province shows that Palermo had the greatest volume of passenger traffic taking into account only out-of-town services (20,750,392), 51.4% of the total for Sicily. However, with 46.3% of the Regional total, Catania is the city with the highest number of passengers using urban services (28,915,526).

As regards maritime transport in 2008, figures show that in Sicily, 1,758,978 passengers were transported by Tirrenia S.p.A. shipping linking the smaller islands; most of these passengers (1,005,630) were concentrated in the Milazzo – Aeolian island route (57.2% of the Regional total), which is basically due to the intensive tourist activity in the Aeolian islands.

As for civil aviation, the leader is still the airport of Fontanarossa in Catania, which, in 2008, handled a total of 56,704 aircraft operations (a fall of 4.4% over the previous year), for a total of 6,020,696 passengers (-0.4% when compared to 2007) and 32,926 transits. The airport of Palermo remains the second Sicilian airport with 47,120 aircraft operations (-4%) and 4,424,867 passengers (-1.4%). Over all, Sicilian airports handled 8% of flight operations in the country as a whole. The 11,313,864 passengers landing in Sicily in 2008, represented 8.5% of the total number of passengers landing in Italian airports. Of particular note in the last year is the slowing-down in the growth of the minor Sicilian airports in terms of both operations and the number of passengers; the exception was the airport of Birgi (Trapani), where there was a 5% increase in the number of passengers, which was, however, much lower than the figure for 2007 (+61.2%) This small airport has undergone rapid expansion in recent years, due in no small measure to the presence of low-cost airlines, but is undergoing a period of stasis, probably because saturation point has been reached with regard to market demand.

In 2008, there were 1,721,776 passengers (2.5% of the national total) on flights arriving in Sicily from international airports. The airport of Catania handled 930,110 of

these passengers (54% of the total for Sicily), 43.9% of whom were carried by Italian air-lines.

In Sicily, by Dec 31st, 2007, there were 64 ports (24.3% of those in Italy as a whole) for a total of 304 docking berths. The overall length of these docking berths is almost 61 km, with an average of one berth approximately every 200 metres. The port with most berths is Augusta (with 56). However figures show that the majority of berths for petroleum products (14) are located in the 4 ports of Siracusa, whilst the greatest number of berths (27) for pleasure boating are spread among the 13 ports of Trapani. Furthermore, Trapani and Milazzo, with 18 berths each and with their port infrastructure, outstrip the others with regard to berths for passenger transportation. This is basically due to activities connected with tourism in the Egadi and Aeolian islands. Still in 2007, there were 14,263 mooring bays along the Sicilian coast. The port of Palermo headed the list with 4,472 bays, although the port of Milazzo had most mooring bays (42) of a length exceeding 24 metres, again as a result of tourism and the vicinity of the Aeolian islands. At the same time, the harbour-office in Trapani had the most registered tourist bays (2,118).

In Sicily, in the year 2007, there were 165 pleasure boats (63 sailing boats and 102 motor boats) newly registered with the Maritime authorities, whilst there were 98 deletions. These results bring the number of pleasure-boats in Sicily up to a total of 4,708 (on Dec 31, 2007), a figure which represents 6% of the overall number registered in Italy. Most of the pleasure-boats are moored in Palermo (1,359 in 2007, 28.9% 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 Motor Vehicles (P.R.A.): registers all legal transactions of vehicles (change of owner, mortgage, loan obligation), as well as relevant technical details to determine 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 2008

Italian Statistical Yearbook – 2009

MINISTRY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

National Accounts for Infrastructure and Transport (Years 2007-2008)

Pleasure-boating in Italy – 2007

Local public transport – year 2007 – Regional Department for Transport and Communications

ACI Statistical Yearbook 2009 – Automobile Club d'Italia

ENAC Airport traffic data 2008

Internet

<http://www.istat.it/>

Road accident statistics – 2008

Transportation of goods by road – 2000-2005

Maritime transport – 2006

Air freight – Years 2004-2005

Rail transport – Years 2004-2007

www.mit.gov.it

National Accounts for Infrastructure and Transport (Years 2007-2008)

Pleasure-boating in Italy (Year 2007)

www.starnet.infocamere.it

Thematic areas– Transport – Analysis and data