

17 – INDUSTRY

This chapter gathers together statistical information about the industry sector in Sicily. A first group of tables examines data regarding the electrical energy sector and the sales of petrol, diesel oil and kerosene; a second group provides data about active manufacturing enterprises registered with the Chambers of Commerce.

In Sicily in 2008, 23,627 million kWh (gross production) of electrical energy was produced, accounting for 7.5% of the total amount produced in Italy and 21.5% of the amount in the whole south of Italy. Production was mainly generated from thermo-electrical sources (97.1%), and fell by 4% when compared with 2007.

A total of 18,920 million kWh of electrical energy were consumed in Sicily in 2008; most of the energy was absorbed by industry (38.3% of total consumption), followed by the family sector and its domestic consumption (31%) and by the service industries (28.3%), whilst the lowest consumption was recorded in the primary sector (2.4%). Over the last few years, energy consumption, after a period of constant growth (a yearly average of +1.6% between 2002 and 2006) registered an inversion of trend in 2007 (-0.5%), which was confirmed in 2008 (-0.1%). At the sectorial level the Sicilian service industry showed an increase in consumption in all the years under examination, whereas industry, on the other hand, has registered constant falls since 2003, interrupted only temporarily in 2006. In the period in question there was an average annual variation of -1.1%. In 2008, Regional analysis reveals that the overall consumption of electrical energy was concentrated principally in the Provinces of Catania, Siracusa, Palermo and Messina. Within the industrial sector the highest consumer was Siracusa with over 2,600 million kWh, justified by the energy requirements of the petrochemical plant at Priolo. The industrial zones of Gela and Milazzo are also vying to put the Provinces of Caltanissetta (953 million kWh) and Messina (943 million kWh) at the top of the Sicilian Provincial classification, to which Catania (1,113 million kWh) can also be added.

Further indicators correlated to this sector are those relating to the sale of petrol and motor diesel oil, which closely mirror the vehicular movement of goods and persons. In 2008 the total amount of petrol sold was a little below 900,000 tonnes, 8.1% of the national total. Compared to 2007 there was a 6.6% reduction in sales, thus emphasising the negative trend which had been apparent since 2003. Over the period 2003-2008 the average annual variation in petrol sales was -3.9%. The greatest quantity of petrol in the whole Region was sold in the Province of Catania (239,000 tonnes). The sales of motor diesel-oil in 2008 totalled about 1.6 million tonnes, showing a slight drop when compared to the previous year (-1.7%), which interrupted the positive trend of the previous seven years. Catania also held the record for diesel-oil with a total of 481,000 tonnes.

As regards fuel-oil, the main fuel for supplying thermo-electric power-stations, the quantity sold amounted to 877,000 tonnes in all; this represented a sharp decline when compared to sales in 2007 (-35.9%) and in line with the negative trend of the last few years (annual average of -11.6%). The Province of Messina alone accounted for the most significant quantities sold (84% of the Regional total). From the point of view of

Sicily's industrial configuration in 2008, there were 37,590 business enterprises operating in the manufacturing sector (5.8% of the national total), and mainly in the food sector, with its 11,514 enterprises (30.6% of the total), as well as the metallurgic sector (15.4%) and the engineering sector (11.7%). After five years of steady growth the number of business in 2007 fell by 792 units, representing a drop of 2.1%, with a further drop of 98 units in 2008 (-0.3%). Analysing the single areas in the period 2003-2008 the most impressive figures were those for means of transport, with an average annual increase of 4.4%, in non-metalliferous products (+2.3%) and in those connected to the food industry (+2%). On the other hand the Sicilian textile sector seems to be in decline, with a steady fall in the number of business enterprises in operation in the period in question (an annual average of -2.8%).

Almost 60% of active Sicilian business enterprises operate in the Provinces of Catania (8,811), Palermo (8,244) and Messina (5,310); this predominance also exists at the level of single sectors. It is worth mentioning that Trapani still has a substantial number of business enterprises in the sectors of transportation (13.9%), non-metalliferous products (13.2%) and the food industry (10%), whilst Siracusa makes its presence felt in the metallurgical industry (10.8%) and Caltanissetta in the textile sector (7%).

Glossary

Business enterprise: a juridical/economic entity producing goods and services intended for sale; it has the authority to distribute the profits to the owners of the enterprise, be they private or public.

Dense combustible oil with a low sulphur content (BTZ): residual of inferior quality much used in industry for heating, for powering ships and as a combustible in thermoelectric plants.

Electricity supply (consumption): amount of electricity sold by public enterprises, by wholesalers and by producers to their customers, and the amount of electricity consumed by self-producers themselves.

Fuel-oil: heavy or residual distillates from refinery distillation or other operations, used for the production of heat for industry (furnaces and boilers) and for domestic heating or the production of energy (motors)

Gross electricity production: total amount of electricity produced in a given period and recorded at the terminals of generators in power stations.

Hydro-electric plants: the totality of plumbing, machinery, equipment, buildings and services intended for the transformation of hydraulic energy into electrical energy.

Motor diesel-oil: intermediate distillate from refinery processing, used as fuel in diesel motors.

Net electricity production: total amount of electricity produced and recorded on emission from the production plants

Thermo-electric power-stations: the totality of traditional thermo-electric, nuclear thermo-electric and geo-thermo-electric plants.

Further reading

Publications

Italian Statistical Yearbook 2009 – ISTAT

Internet

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

8° Census of industry and services

Italian Statistical Yearbook 2009 – Chapter 14: “Industry”

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

“Statistical data about electrical energy in Italy”

<http://www.infocamere.it/movimprese.htm>

Data regarding registry changes in business enterprises

<http://dgerm.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/>

Statistical data regarding energy resources