

2 – POPULATION AND FAMILY

At the end of 2009, the resident population in Sicily numbered 5,042,992 inhabitants, accounting for 8.4% of the national total, and exceeding the previous year's total by 5,193. For the first time in the last few years the number of deceased (49,529) exceeds the number of births (49,217), whilst the migratory balance (107,660 officially registered in Sicily against 102,155 deletions) remains positive, albeit less so than for 2008.

In 2008, the last year available, there were 24,344 weddings in Sicily (corresponding to 4.8 legal unions per 1,000 residents), 22.7% of these (5,526) being celebrated with a civil marriage. There was a slight overall rise of 1% in legal marriages compared to the previous year in Sicily, with opposing trends for the two relevant components (-1.5% for religious rites, +1.1% for civil marriages). In Italy as a whole, the trend was towards fewer marriages (-1.5%), whereas there were analogous trends with Sicily for the two relative components (-4.7% for the former and +4.6% for the latter). More specifically, up to December 31st, 2009, the population of Sicily had increased by 1 unit per 1,000 inhabitants over the previous year, 2008. There was a 620 unit (-1.2%) fall in the number of births, and a 1,767 unit increase in the number of deaths (+3.7%). The natural component showed a negative balance of 312 units, a reversal of trend when compared to 2008 (+2,075 births). The birth-rate stood at 9.8 units per 1,000 inhabitants, not too far from the national average of 9.4. The mortality-rate was 9.8 per 1,000 inhabitants, in line with data for the country as a whole (9.7), lower than the centre-north (10.2), but higher than the overall figure for the south and the islands (9.2).

In 2009 there were 127,310 foreign residents in Sicily, representing 2.5% of the overall population, and a 11.1% increase of 12,678 units registered at the General Registry Offices in Sicily compared to the previous year. Females made up 52.3% of this component, with minors accounting for 19.8% of the total foreign population.

The index of the elderly in Sicily reveals that there were 120.2 elderly persons (over the age of 64 years) for every 100 young people (under the age of 15 years), a figure that was considerably lower than the corresponding figure (144) for the nation as a whole.

Statistical analysis reveals a slow, but constant increase in the population of Sicily, an increase of 5.1 units per 1,000 residents over the year 2005, and a steady increase in the number of foreign citizens resident in Sicily, from 74,595 in 2005 to 127,310 in 2009 (+70.7%); the proportion of minors remains constant (1 out of 5).

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 8.4% in 2005 to 9.2% in 2009), whereas the percentage of the resident population aged under 6 years in the same period, was more or less stable (from 6% to 5.9%). In 2009, 24.7% of the island's population resided in the Province of Palermo (1,246,094), 21.5% in Catania (1,087,682) and 13% in Messina (653,810), whereas considerably lower figures were registered in the Provinces of Caltanissetta (5.4%, 272,052) and Enna (3.4%). With regard to birth-rate, data shows figures that are equal to, or higher than, 10 births per 1,000 inhabitants in the Provinces of Catania (10.3), Palermo (10.5) and Ragusa (10.3); Trapani (8.9) and Messina (8.5 per 1,000 inhabitants) again find themselves in last place. On the other hand, analysis of the mortality-rate reveals a higher incidence in Messina (11.1 per 1,000 inhabitants), followed by Enna (10.4) and Trapani (10.4), whereas Catania had the lowest rate (9 per 1,000).

The migratory balance showed positive values in all Provinces except for Enna (-1.5 per 1,000 inhabitants), Caltanissetta (-0.9 per 1,000 residents) and Agrigento (-0.1). With regard to the resident population the highest proportion of foreigners was to be found in the Province of Ragusa (5.8%), a further increase over the year 2008, and in Messina (3.2%), whereas Caltanissetta (1.9%) and Enna (1.5%) had the lowest figures. The other Provinces had percentage figures in line with the averages for Sicily (2.5%).

Due to their greater population density the Provinces with the highest number of weddings were naturally Palermo, Catania and Messina (14,669 marriages in all, accounting for 60.3% of the total). The highest number of civil weddings were recorded in the Provinces of Catania (28.6%) and Siracusa (28.4%); Messina (24.2%) and Palermo (23.6%) had fewer weddings, but one wedding out of every five was still a civil wedding. Agrigento (13.8%) and Trapani (14.6%) had the lowest figures.

The indices of the elderly recorded in the Provinces of Catania (105.5), Palermo (111.7) and Caltanissetta (115.1) were relatively close to 100, whilst much higher figures were recorded in Trapani (134.3), Enna (133.76) and especially in Messina with 152.4, a figure which exceeded the average

corresponding national figure of 144 by 7.2 points and the figure for Sicily (120.2) by 32.2 points.

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 Commune)

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 Communal 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.

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

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.

Index of the elderly: percentage ratio between those aged 65 years and over and those aged between 0-14 years.

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 Commune)

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 – 2010 – 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 2009 – CARITAS
Compendium of official statistics for domestic administration

Internet

www.censimenti.istat.it/

14° General Census of the Population and Habitations – data consultation

<http://www.istat.it>

Daily life in 2008 - 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
Italian Statistical Yearbook 2010 – Chapter 2: “Population”
Income and living conditions – 2008
Preliminary estimates of death by cause in the Italian Regions –2004

demo.istat.it

Population and demography: data-warehouse
Tables regarding mortality in the resident population – year 2004

www.minori.it

Thematic site of documentation and analysis of childhood and adolescence

www.caritas.it

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

www.alef-fvg.it

Data about immigration

www.starnet.unioncamere.it

Thematic area – population – analysis and data

www.cnel.it

Data-bank of territorial statistics – demography and foreign component of population

Immigration data-bank