

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 (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 2009 there were 14,044 road accidents in Sicily, 301 (2.1%) of which involved fatalities, with 325 deaths and 21,742 injured persons. This meant a -2.1% drop in the total number of road accidents when compared to the previous year (2008). A total of 78.3% of all road accidents took place within the urban environment and only 7.3% on motorways. 78.8% of accidents happened between moving vehicles, whilst 6.6% involved pedestrians being hit by moving vehicles.

The local public transport sector (TPL) in Sicily in 2008 counted 129 companies; 29 of these run urban services, 75 out-of-town services.

As regards maritime transport in 2009, figures show that in Sicily, 1,453,427 passengers were shipped by Tirrenia S.p.A. sailing to the smaller islands, which represented a considerable 17.4% fall over the previous year. The highest number of passengers (737,603) travelled on the Milazzo-Aeolian island route (accounting for 50.7% of the Regional total), explained mainly by the intensive tourist activity in the Aeolian islands. Similar considerations can be made for the Trapani-Egadi Island route, with 451,904 passengers in transit every year (31.3% of the Regional total).

As for civil aviation, the leader is still the airport of Fontanarossa in Catania, which, in 2009, handled a total of 55,331 aircraft operations (a fall of 2.4% over the previous year, 2008), for a total of 5,905,074 passengers (-1.9% when compared to 2008) and 29,286 transits. The airport of Palermo remains the

second Sicilian airport with 49,389 aircraft operations (+4.8%) and 4,352,778 passengers (-1.6%). Over all, Sicilian airports handled 8.8% of flight operations in the country as a whole; the 11,651,683 passengers landing in Sicily in 2009, represented 9% of the total number of passengers landing in Italian airports.

Of particular note in the last year, and something which is now a consolidated fact, is the success of Birgi airport (Trapani), with increases in both the number of operations and passengers. There was a 101.4% increase in the number of passengers and a 40.1% increase in aircraft operations. The reason for this is due in no small measure to the presence of low-cost airlines and the continual introduction of new international air routes. A total of 98.9% of flights to and from Birgi (TP) were handled by low-cost air-lines, as opposed to a more balanced division between traditional and low-cost air-lines in the airports of Palermo (56.2% v 43.8%) and Catania (59.4% v 40.6%). In 2009, 1,725,414 passengers (2.5% of the national total) arrived in Sicily by air from international airports. The airport of Catania handled 862,206 of these passengers (50% of the total for Sicily), most of which (42%) involved links with German airports (362,112 passengers). On the other hand Palermo airport mainly handled flights from France (201,579 passengers, 39% of total international flights).

Figures show that in Sicily, on Dec 31st, 2007, there were 40 ports (16.7% of those in Italy as a whole) for a total of 235 docking berths. The overall length of these docking berths is almost 51 km, with an average of one berth approximately every 215 metres. The ports with most berths for petroleum products are Siracusa with 7, and Augusta with 6 berths, whilst the greatest number of berths (26) for pleasure boating are spread among the 11 harbours of Trapani. Furthermore, Trapani and Milazzo, with their specific port infrastructure, also outstrip the others with regard to berths for passenger transportation, with 25 and 19 berths respectively. This is basically down to tourism-related activities in the Egadi and Aeolian islands. In 2009, there were 12,851 mooring bays along the Sicilian coast, with the port of Trapani heading the list with 2,588 bays; however the port of Milazzo had most mooring bays of a length exceeding 24 metres (90 as against the 79 in Trapani), again as a result of tourism and the vicinity of the Aeolian islands.

In Sicily, in the year 2009, there were 101 pleasure boats newly registered with the Maritime authorities (40 sailing boats and 61 motor boats), whilst there were 49 deletions. These results bring the number of pleasure-boats in Sicily up to a total of 4,956 (on Dec 31, 2009), a figure which represents 6.1% of the overall number registered in Italy. Most of the pleasure-boats are moored in Palermo (1,565 in 2009, 31.6% 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 2009

Italian Statistical Yearbook – 2010

MINISTRY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

National Accounts for Infrastructure and Transport (Years 2008-2009)

Pleasure-boating in Italy – 2009

ACI Statistical Yearbook 2010 – Automobile Club d'Italia

Internet

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

Road accident statistics – *various years*

Transportation of goods by road – 2000-2007

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