

## *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 2009, 22,254 million kWh (gross production) of electrical energy was produced, accounting for 7.8% of the total amount produced in Italy and 21.7% of the amount obtained in the whole south of Italy. Production was mainly generated from thermo-electrical sources (96.9%), and fell by 5.8% when compared with 2008.

A total of 18,572 million kWh of electrical energy were consumed in Sicily in 2009; most of the energy was absorbed by industry (36.2% of total consumption), followed by the family sector and its domestic consumption (31.6%) and by the service industries (29.9%), whilst the lowest consumption was recorded in the primary sector (2.2%). After a period of growth between 2005 and 2006 (+2.1%), energy consumption registered a reversal of trend in 2007 (-0.5%), which was confirmed in 2008 (-0.1%), and to an even greater extent in 2009 (-1.8%).

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, from 2005 onward, registered constant falls, interrupted only temporarily in 2006; subsequently the negative trend persisted until 2009, the year in which a 7.3% drop in electricity consumption was registered. In the period in question there was an average annual variation of -2.4%. Regional analysis reveals that the overall consumption of electrical energy in 2009 was concentrated mainly in the Provinces of Catania, Siracusa, Palermo and Messina. Within the industrial sector the highest consumer was Siracusa with over 2,300 million kWh, justified by the energy requirements of the petrochemical plant at Priolo.

The industrial zones of Gela and Milazzo keep the Provinces of Caltanissetta (888 million kWh) and Messina (954 million kWh) near the top of the Sicilian Provincial table, where they are joined by Catania (993 million kWh).

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 2009 the total amount of petrol sold was a little over 850,000 tonnes, 8.1% of the national total. Compared to 2008 there was a 4.5% reduction in sales, thus emphasising the negative trend which had been apparent since 2005. Over the period 2005-2009 the average annual variation in petrol sales was -5.5%. The greatest quantity of petrol in the whole Region was sold in the Province of Catania (229,000 tonnes). The sales of motor diesel-oil in 2009 totalled about 1.6 million tonnes, showing a slight drop when compared to the previous year (-2.3%), in line with the negative trend noted since 2007. Catania also held the record for diesel-oil with a total of 490,000 tonnes. As regards fuel-oil, the main fuel for supplying thermo-electric power-stations, the quantity sold amounted to 946,000 tonnes in all, which represented a sharp 8% rise when compared to sales in 2008. The Province of Messina alone accounted for the most significant quantities sold (85% of the Regional total).

From the point of view of Sicily's industrial configuration in 2009, there were 30,897 business enterprises operating in the manufacturing sector (5.6% of the national total); these were mainly in the food sector, with its 7,082 enterprises (22.9% of the total), and the wood (21%) and metallurgic sectors (18.4%). The number of business between 2007 and 2008 fell by 98,000 units, representing a drop of 0.3%, with a further drop of 6,693 units in 2009, corresponding to a negative variation of 17.8%. Analysing the single areas over the period 2005-2009 the most striking figures were those among means of transportation, which improved consistently until 2008, and then, in 2009, settled down to a level similar to that of 2005. All the other sectors seem to be suffering, especially the food industry (-8.7%) and engineering (-7.2%).

Over 60% of active Sicilian business enterprises operate in the Provinces of Catania (7,681 factories), Palermo (6,874) and Messina (4,163); 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 means of transportation (14.4%), non-metalliferous products (13.1%) and the food industry (11%), whilst Siracusa makes its presence felt in the metallurgical industry (10.8%) and Caltanissetta with its healthy number of enterprises 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 2010 – ISTAT

## Internet

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

8° Census of industry and services

Italian Statistical Yearbook 2010 – Chapter 14: “Industry”

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

Electrical system “statistics”

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

Data regarding registry changes in business enterprises

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

Statistical data regarding energy resources