

10 – TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The data contained in this chapter is mainly from ISTAT sources and pertains to road traffic and haulage, maritime traffic of goods and passengers, and also airport traffic. There is also data regarding road-accidents, the infra-structure in ports and the quantity of pleasure boating.

In the course of the year 2007 there were 14,173 road accidents in Sicily, 312 (2.2%) of which involved fatalities. There were 356 deaths and 21,442 injured persons. Therefore, there was a slight 0.2% drop in the total number of road accidents when compared to the previous year.

81.3% of all road accidents took place within the urban environment and only 5.8% on motorways. 48.8% of all accidents within the Region occurred in the provinces of Palermo (3,561) and Catania (3,353). 78.9% of accidents happened between moving vehicles, whilst 7.1% 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 figures show that 57.6% of the companies operating in the Region exclusively provide an out-of-town service. A Provincial distribution of the data regarding local public transport reveals Palermo to have the highest density of passenger traffic taking into account only out-of-town services (20,750,392 passengers, 51.4% of the total for Sicily). However it is Catania with 46.3% of the Regional total, that is the city with the highest number of passengers carried by urban services (28,915,526).

As regards maritime transport in 2006, and with regard to all sea-going vessels, it emerges that Messina, due principally to its intensive ferry operations, has the highest number of passengers passing through its port. For this reason passenger traffic in the port of Messina amounts to a total of 10,834 passengers in transit, the highest number of passengers in Sicily, and representing a figure of 67.1% of all traffic. As for cargo, in the year 2006, it emerges that the port of Augusta has the highest density (30,979,000 tonnes in transit, of which 54.4% were off-loaded), followed by the port of Milazzo (18,054) and the port of Santa Panagia (15,938). These three ports together account for 77% of goods transiting through Sicilian ports, in virtue of the intense flow of petroleum products concentrated there.

As for civil aviation, the leader is still the airport of Fontanarossa in Catania, which, in 2007, handled 59,301 aircraft operations in all (a 13.6% increase over the previous year), for a total of 6,046,263 passengers (+12.6% when compared to 2006) and 34,291 transits. The airport of Palermo remains the second Sicilian airport with 49,106 aircraft operations (+7%) and 4,486,364 passengers (+5.6%). Over all, Sicilian airports handled 8.1% of flight operations in the country as a whole. The 11,393,050 passengers landing in Sicily in 2007, represented 8.4% of the total number of passengers landing in Italian airports. The most striking data regards the sharp increase in both operations (+45.8%) and the number of passengers recorded at the airport of Birgi (Trapani) (+61.2%). The rapid expansion this small airport has undergone in recent years, due in no small measure to the presence of low-cost airlines, is receiving a boost as a result of the introduction of several new international routes in the two-year period 2007-2008. In 2007, there were 2,326,573 passengers (3% of the national

total) on flights arriving in Sicily from international airports. The airport at Catania handled 1,285,173 of these passengers (55.2%), 23.2% of whom were carried by Italian air-lines. It should be mentioned that, in the same year, only 0.6% of passengers arriving from abroad at Birgi (TP), were flying with Italian airlines.

In Sicily, on Dec 31st, 2007, there were 64 ports (24.3% of those in Italy as a whole) for a total of 304 mooring berths. The overall length of these mooring 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, hold the record for berths destined for passenger transportation. This is basically due to activities connected with tourism in the Egadi and Aeolian islands.

In Sicily, in the year 2006, there were 134 pleasure boats (53 sailing boats and 81 motor boats) newly registered with the Maritime authorities, whilst there were 97 deletions. These results bring the number of pleasure-boats in Sicily to a total of 4,615 (on Dec 31, 2006), a figure which represents 6.1% of all the total number registered in Italy. Most of the pleasure-boats are moored in Palermo (1,307 in 2006, 28.3% of the Regional total).

Glossary

Boating units: every construction of any type and under any type of propulsion, meant for pleasure boating.

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.

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

Road accidents 2007 - ISTAT

Maritime transport statistics – year 2006 - ISTAT

Italian Statistical Yearbook – 2008 – ISTAT

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

National Accounts for Infrastructure and Transport (Years 2006-2007) – Ministry for Infrastructure and Transport

Pleasure-boating in Italy – 2005 – Ministry for Infrastructure and Ministry of Transport

Statistical Yearbook 2008 - ACI – Automobile Club d'Italia

Airport traffic data 2007 – ENAC

Internet

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

Road accident statistics – 2007 – ISTAT

Transportation of goods by road – 2000-2005

Maritime transport – 2006

Air freight statistics – Years 2004-2005

www.trasporti.gov.it

National Accounts for Infrastructure and Transport (Years 2006-2007)

Pleasure-boating in Italy (Year 2006)

www.starnet.infocamere.it

Thematic areas– Transport – Analysis and data