



POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY



The Italian Republic occupies 93% of the Italian geographical region. The remaining portion (23,000 km²) is divided between several other states, some of which (San Marino and Vatican City) are fully included in political boundaries.

About Italy

Italy is a country in south Eastern Europe located on the Apennine Peninsula, which is jutting into the central Mediterranean Sea. Its distinct shape, resembling a kicking boot, makes it easy to recognize it on maps or even from space. In north where the peninsula is connected to mainland Europe, Italy meets the Alps, the great mountain range system—therein Switzerland and Austria. In northwest Italy is bordered by France and in northeast by Slovenia. It is bordered by the Adriatic Sea in east, the Sea of Sicily in south and the Ionian Sea in southeast, the Ligurian Sea and the Tyrrhenian Sea in west.

Additionally to the peninsula, two of the largest Mediterranean islands belong to the country: Sardinia in west and Sicily in south. Inside the Italian peninsula, there are two other small political entities, the independent states of the Republic of San Marino, an enclave on the eastern side of the Apennine Mountains near the Adriatic coast, and Vatican City, an enclave within the city of Rome and home to the Pope. With an area of 301,318 km² (116,340 sq. mi.), Italy is four-fifth, or 80% the size of Japan or slightly larger than the U.S. state of Arizona. Italy shares maritime borders with Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Greece, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Spain, and Tunisia. Italy's capital is Rome. Spoken language is Italian.

ITALIAN REGIONS

The regions are, together with municipalities, provinces, metropolitan cities and the central state, one of the five building blocks of the Italian Republic.

Each region has a local authority with its own statutes, powers and functions according to the principles established by the Constitution of the Italian Republic, as established by art. 114, paragraph II of the Constitution.

The regions, in accordance with art. 131 Cost. They are twenty. Five of these are equipped with a special statute of autonomy and one of them (the Trentino -Alto Adige) , consists of only two autonomous provinces , with that legislative powers similar to those of the regions , of the Italian (Trento and Bolzano) . In respect of linguistic minorities, Trentino -Alto Adige and Valle d' Aosta are listed under the names bilingual Trentino -Alto Adige / Südtirol and Valle d' Aosta / Vallée d'Aoste art. 116, as amended in 2001.

REGIONS WITH A SPECIAL STATUS

An Italian region with special status is an Italian region that has particular forms and conditions of autonomy. Five Italian regions have a special status, approved by Parliament by a constitutional law : Sicily, Sardinia , Valle d' Aosta , Friuli - Venezia Giulia and Trentino -Alto Adige (in fact the latter is composed of the autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano under Article 116 of the Constitution and of the same special status) .

Geography of Italy



Italy is located in southern Europe and comprises the long, boot-shaped Italian Peninsula, the southern side of Alps, the large plain of the Po Valley and some islands including Sicily and Sardinia. Corsica, although belonging to the Italian geographical region, has been a part of France since 1769. Its total area is 301,340 km², of which 294,140 km² is land and 7,200 km² is water. It lies between latitudes 35° and 48° N, and longitudes 6° and 19° E. Italy borders with Switzerland, France, Austria and Slovenia. San Marino and Vatican city are enclaves. Including islands, Italy has a coastline of 7,600 kilometres on the Adriatic Sea, Ionian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea, Ligurian Sea, Sea of Sardinia and Strait of Sicily. Almost 40% of the Italian territory is mountainous, with the Alps as the northern boundary and the Apennine Mountains forming the backbone of the peninsula and extending for 1,350 km. Between the two lies a large plain in the valley of the Po, the largest river in Italy, which flows 652 km eastward from the Cottian Alps to the Adriatic. The Po Valley is the largest plain in Italy, with 46,000 km² and it represents over 70% of the total plain area in the country. Worldwide-known mountains in Italy are Monte Rosa, Gran Paradiso in the West Alps, and Bernina, Stelvio and Dolomites along the eastern side of the Alps. The highest peak in Italy is Mont Blanc, at 4,810 meters above sea level.



Many elements of the Italian territory are of volcanic origin. Most of the small islands and archipelagos in the south, like Capraia, Ponza, Ischia, Eolie, Ustica and Pantelleria are volcanic islands. There are also active volcanoes: Etna, in Sicily, the largest active volcano in Europe; Vulcano, Stromboli, and Vesuvius, near Naples, the only active volcano on mainland Europe.



Most of Italy's rivers drain either into the Adriatic Sea or into the Tyrrhenian, Black Sea through the basin of the Drava, a tributary of the Danube, and the waters from the Lack di Lei in Lombardy drain into the North Sea through the basin of the Rhine.

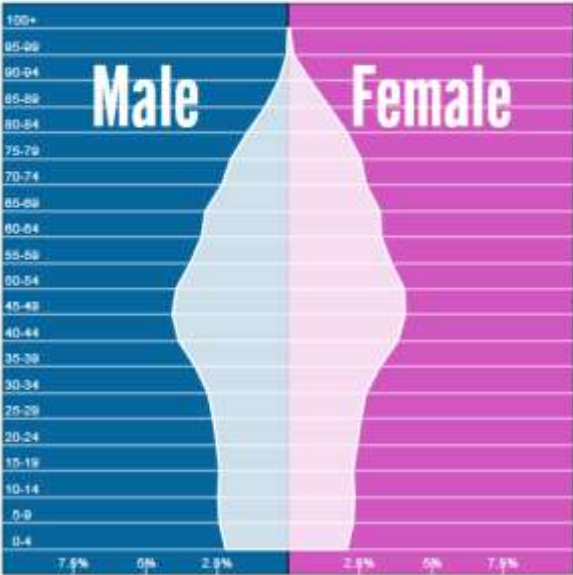
Italy includes several islands. The largest are Sicily 25,708 km² and Sardinia 24,090 km². The third largest island is Elba, the largest island of the Tuscan Archipelago.



Population

Italy
2016

Population: 59.801.000



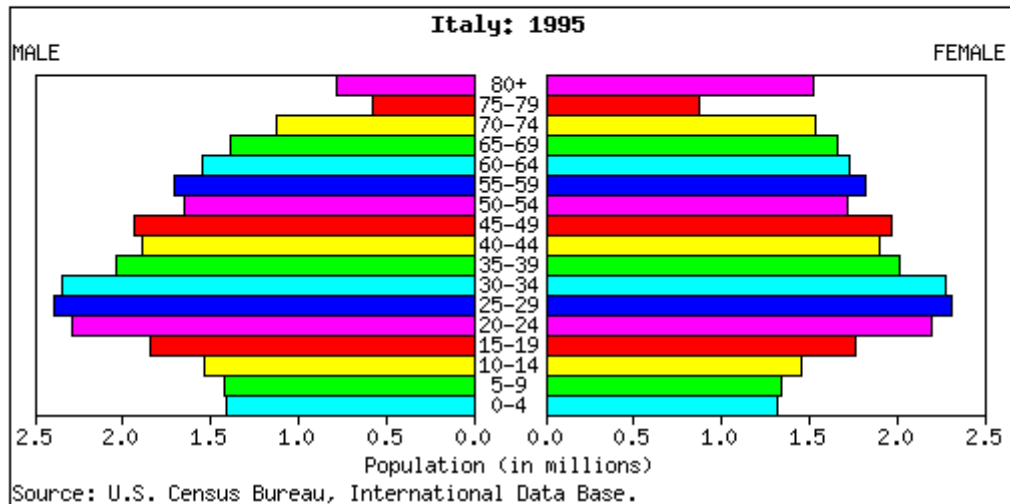
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Population Pyramids of Italy

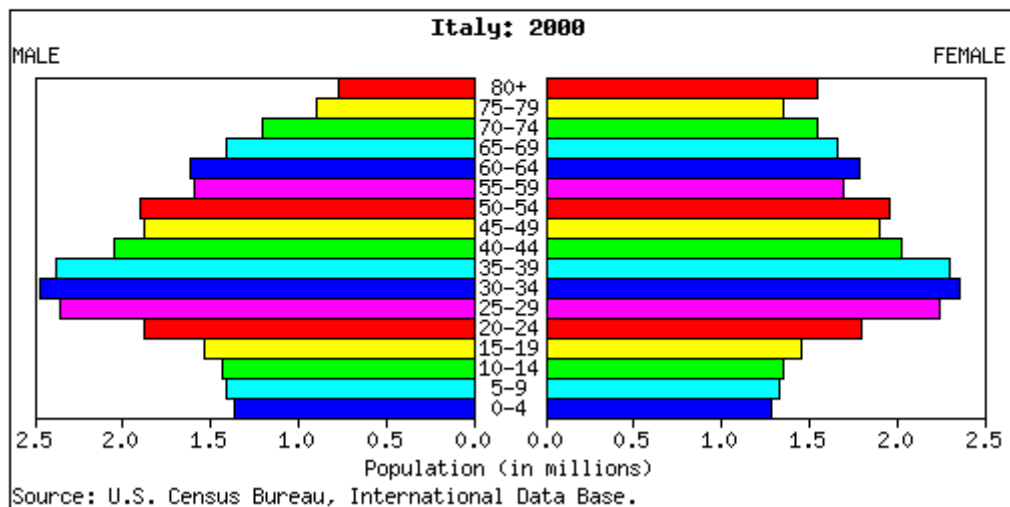
Italy Population Pyramid for 1995

Age and sex distribution for the year 1995:



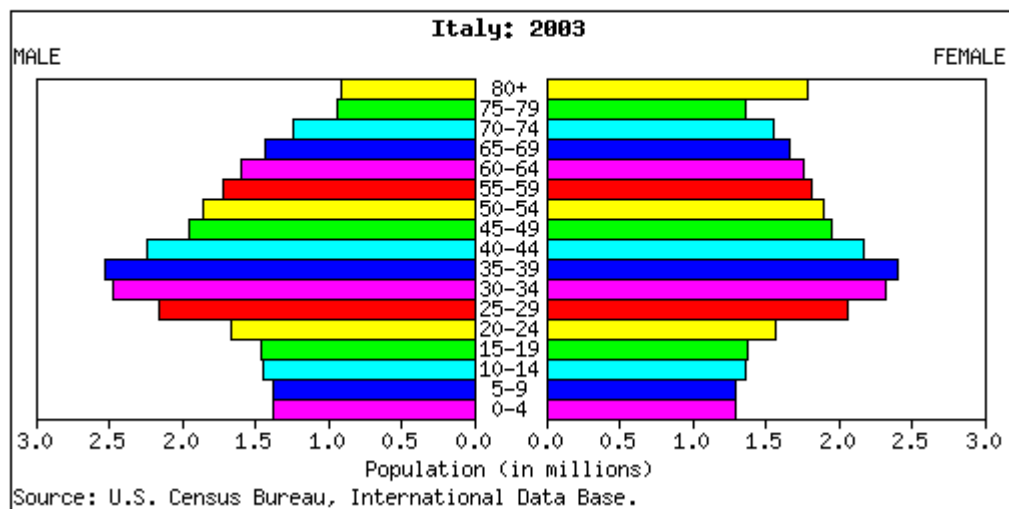
Italy Population Pyramid for 2000

Age and sex distribution for the year 2000:



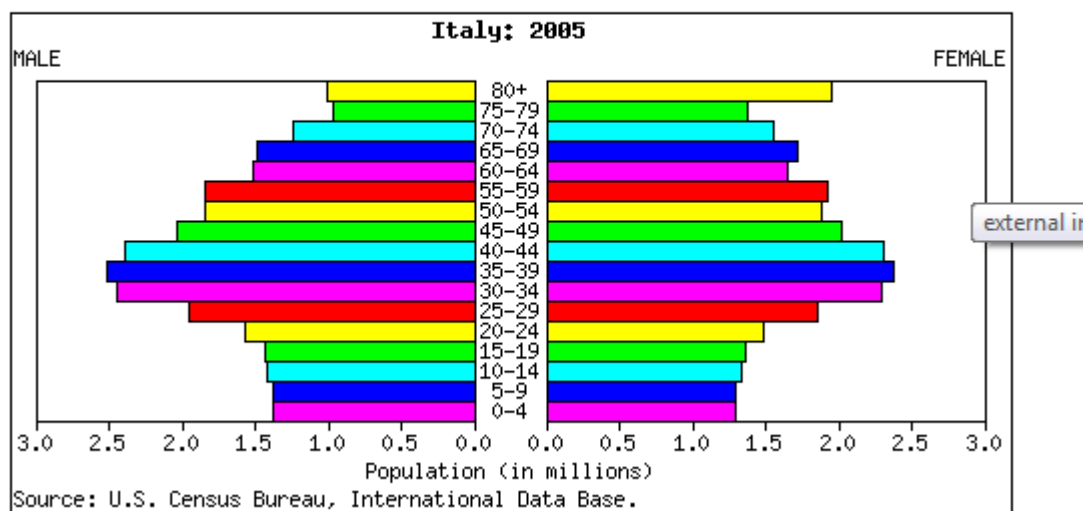
Italy Population Pyramid for 2003

Age and sex distribution for the year 2003:



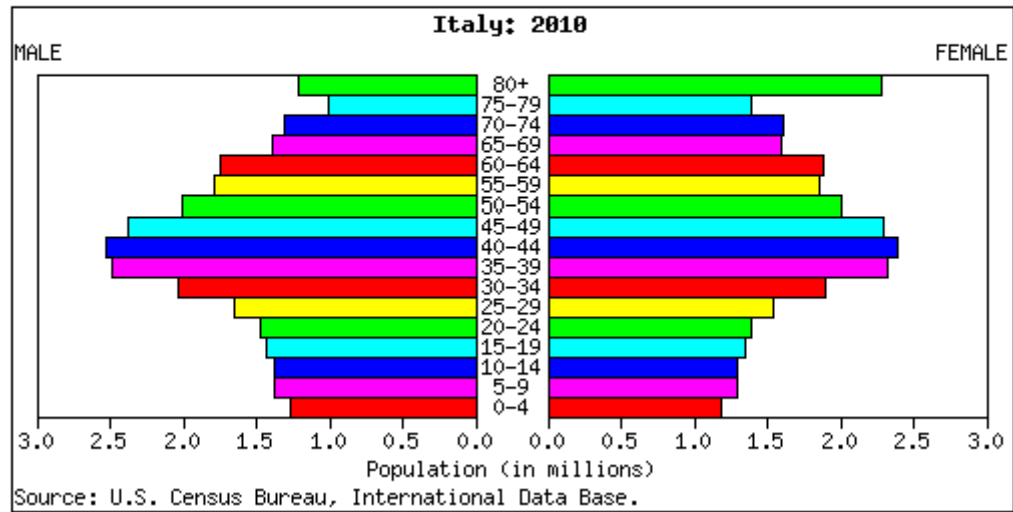
Italy Population Pyramid for 2005

Age and sex distribution for the year 2005:



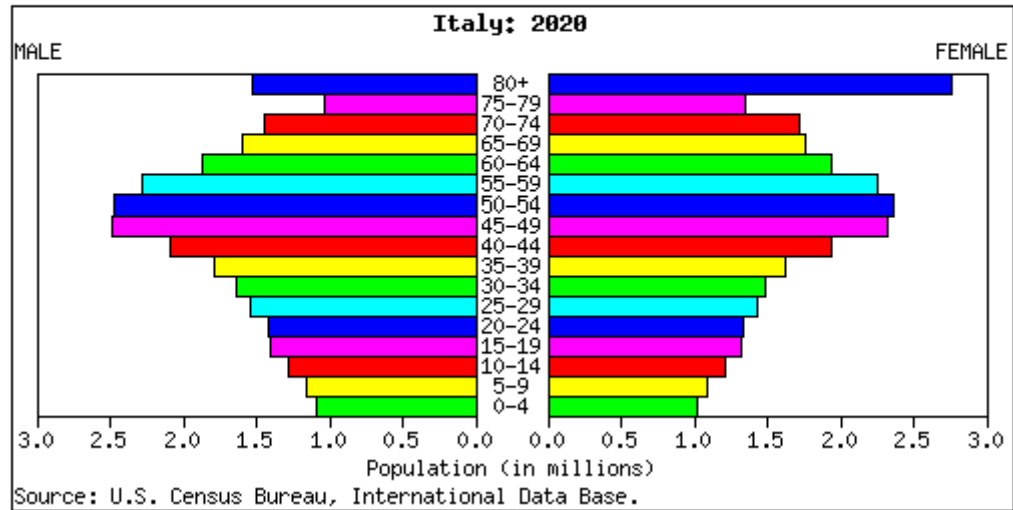
Italy Population Pyramid for 2010

Age and sex distribution for the year 2010:



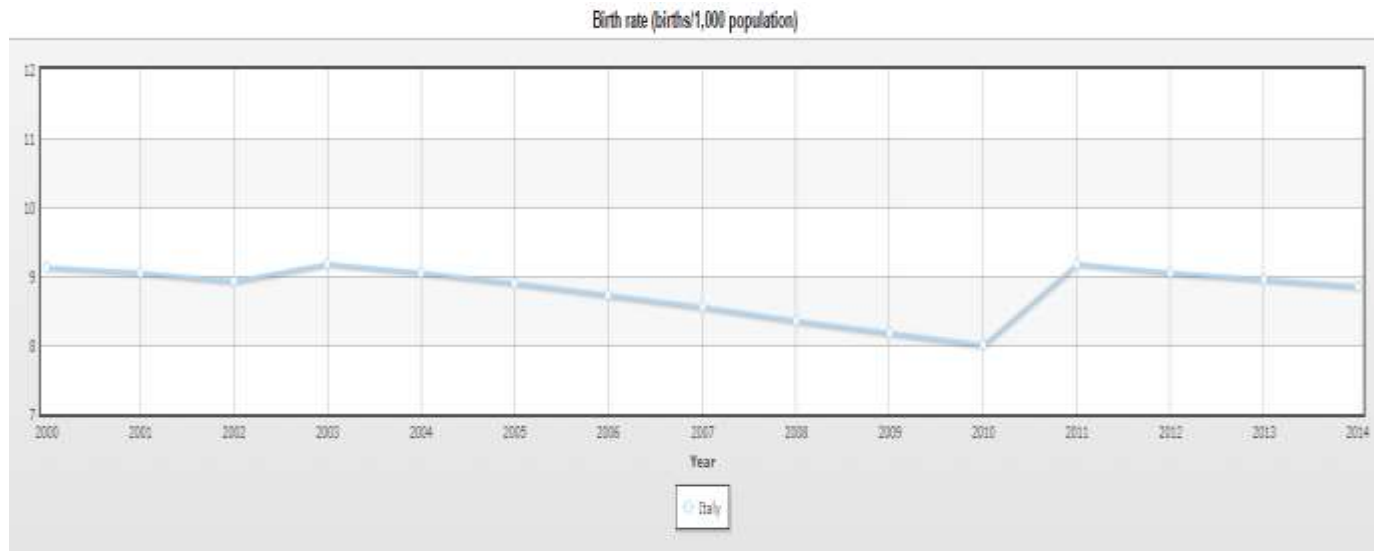
Italy Population Pyramid for 2020

Predicted age and sex distribution for the year 2020:

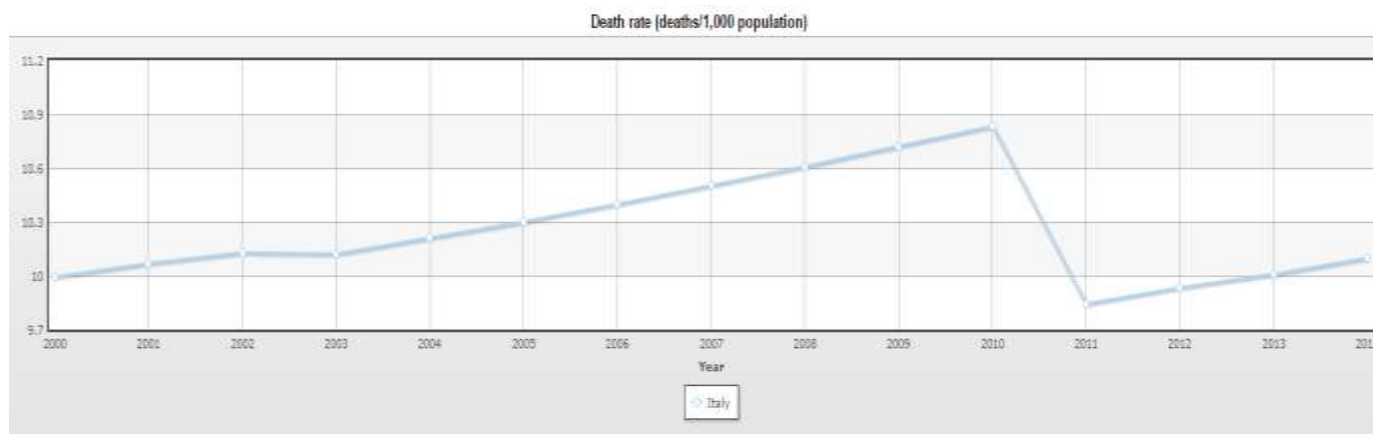


Italy's birth rate drops to its lowest level in 150 years as economy tanks

- Fewer babies were born in Italy in 2014 than in any other year since 1861
- Number of live births last year was 509,000 - 5,000 fewer than previous year
- Births per 1,000 people living in Italy is 8.4, down from 38.3 150 years ago
- Babies born to natives and foreigners dropped as immigration tumbled

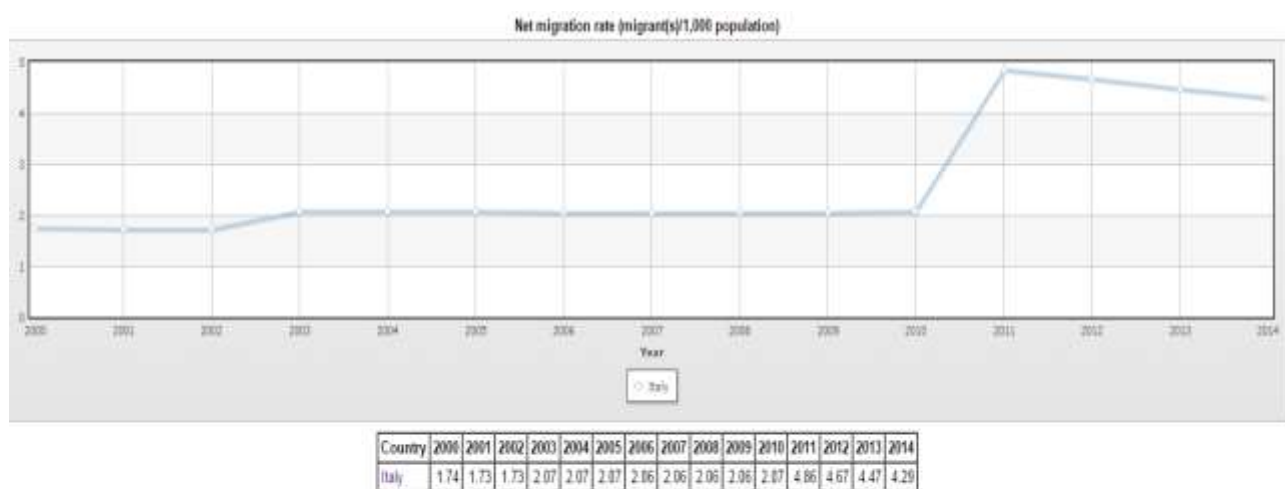


Italy's Death rate



Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Italy	9.99	10.07	10.13	10.12	10.21	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.61	10.72	10.83	9.84	9.93	10.01	10.1

Migration rate by year



Definition of Net migration rate: This entry includes the figure for the difference between the number of persons entering and leaving a country during the year per 1,000 persons (based on midyear population). An excess of persons entering the country is referred to as net immigration (e.g., 3.56 migrants/1,000 population); an excess of persons leaving the country as net emigration (e.g., -0.26 migrants/1,000 population). The net migration rate indicates the contribution of migration to the overall level of population change. High levels of migration can cause problems such as increasing unemployment and potential ethnic strife (if people are coming in) or a reduction in the labor force, perhaps in certain key sectors (if people are leaving).

In October 2013, Italy's previous unelected government, which like the current one was left-wing, ordered the Italian navy to search for and rescue all boat people in the Sicilian channel and beyond. This hugely expensive operation — 'Mare Nostrum' — ran until October last year and rescued nearly 190,000 people. The Italian government took this decision after a migrant boat sank with the loss of 360 lives 500 yards from an idyllic beach on the island of Lampedusa, once a resort of choice for the right-on rich.

The Italian Economy

Italy has a diversified industrial economy, which is divided into a developed industrial north, dominated by private companies, and a less-developed, welfare-dependent, agricultural south, with high unemployment. The Italian economy is driven in large part by the manufacture of high-quality consumer goods produced by small and medium-sized enterprises, many of them family owned.

Italy also has a sizable underground economy, which by some estimates accounts for as much as 15% of GDP. These activities are most common within the agriculture, construction, and service sectors. Italy has moved slowly on implementing needed structural reforms, such as reducing graft, overhauling costly entitlement programs, and increasing employment opportunities for young workers, particularly women.

The international financial crisis worsened conditions in Italy's labor market, with unemployment rising from 6.2% in 2007 to 8.4% in 2010, but in the longer-term Italy's low fertility rate and quota-driven immigration policies will increasingly strain its economy. A rise in exports and investment driven by the global economic recovery nevertheless helped the economy grow by about 1% in 2010 following a 5% contraction in 2009.

The Italian government has struggled to limit government spending, but Italy's exceedingly high public debt remains above 115% of GDP, and its fiscal deficit—just 1.5% of GDP in 2007—exceeded 5% in 2009 and 2010, as the costs of servicing the country's debt rose.

Labor force: 25.05 million (2010 est.)

Labor force by occupation: Agriculture: 4.2%

Industry: 30.7%

Services: 65.1% (2005)

Exports: \$458.4 billion (2010 est.)

Export commodities: Engineering products, textiles and clothing, production machinery, motor vehicles, transport equipment, chemicals; food, beverages and tobacco; minerals, and nonferrous metals.

Imports: \$459.7 billion (2010 est.)

Import commodities: Engineering products, chemicals, transport equipment, energy products, minerals and nonferrous metals, textiles and clothing; food, beverages, and tobacco.

History

The precursor to the European Union was established after World War II in the late 1940s in an effort to unite the countries of Europe and end the period of wars between neighboring countries. These nations began to officially unite in 1949 with the Council of Europe. In 1950 the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community expanded the cooperation. The six nations involved in this initial treaty were Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. Today these countries are referred to as the "founding members."

During the 1950s, the Cold War, protests, and divisions between Eastern and Western Europe showed the need for further European unification. In order to do this, the Treaty of Rome was signed on March 25, 1957, thus creating the European Economic Community and allowing people and products to move throughout Europe.

Economy of Italy

Italy is the 4th-largest national economy in Europe.

In the post-war period, Italy was transformed from an agricultural based economy which had been severely affected by the consequences of the World Wars, into one of the world's most industrialized nations, and a leading country in world trade and exports.

Primary

According to the last national agricultural census, there were 1.6 million farms in 2010 located in Southern Italy. The vast majority are family-operated and small. Of the total surface area in agricultural use, grain fields, olive tree orchards, vineyards, citrus orchards, sugar beets, and horticulture. The remainder is primarily dedicated to pastures and feed grains. The northern part of Italy produces primarily maize, corn, rice, sugar beets, soybeans, meat, fruits and dairy products, while the South specializes in wheat and citrus fruits. Livestock includes head of cattle, head of swine, head of sheep, and head of goats. The total annual production of the fishing industry in Italy from capture and aquaculture, including crustaceans and molluscs.

Italy is the first largest producer of wine in the world, and one of the leading in olive oil, fruits:

apples, olives, grapes, oranges, lemons, pears, apricots, hazelnuts, peaches, cherries, plums, strawberries and kiwifruits, and vegetables: artichokes and tomatoes.

Secondary

Italy has a smaller number of global multinational corporations than other economies of comparable size, but there is a large number of small and medium-sized enterprises, many of them grouped in clusters, which are the backbone of the Italian industry. This has produced a manufacturing sector often focused on the export of niche market and luxury products. The most industrial districts are the Northwest with a large modern group of industries, as in the so-called "Industrial Triangle" Milan-Turin-Genoa, where there is an area of intense machinery, automotive, aerospace and naval production; in the Northeast and the Center, previously rural areas that experienced social and economic development around family

based firms, there are small enterprises of low technology but high craftsmanship, specialized in clothing, leather products, footwear, furniture, textiles, machine tools, spare parts, appliances, and jewellery; finally, in the less-developed South, the two forms exist side by side.

Tertiary

The tertiary includes: Energy and natural resources , Transport and Finance.

Energy and natural resources

In the last decade, Italy has become one of the world's largest producers of renewable energy, ranking as the third largest producer in the European Union after Germany and Sweden. The country is also the world's second largest producer of energy from solar power. Renewable sources account for the 27.5% of all electricity produced in Italy, with hydro alone reaching followed by solar, wind , bioenergy, and geothermal. The rest of the national demand is covered by fossil fuels and by imports.

Transport

Italy was the first country in the world to build motorways, the so-called "autostrade", reserved for motor vehicles. The Milano-Laghi motorway, connecting Milan to Varese and now parts of the A8 and A9 motorways, was devised by Piero Puricelli, a civil engineer and entrepreneur. He received the first authorization to build a public-utility fast road in 1921, and completed the construction between 1924 and 1926. By the end of the 1930s, over 400 kilometers of multi- and dual-single-lane motorways were constructed throughout Italy, linking cities and rural towns. Today there are 668,721 km of serviceable roads in Italy, including 6,661 km of motorways mostly toll roads, national and local roads, state-owned but privately operated mainly by Atlantia company.

Finance

The origins of modern banking can be traced back to medieval and early Renaissance Italy, to the rich cities like Florence, Lucca, Siena, Venice and Genoa.

The Bardi and Peruzzi families dominated banking in 14th century Florence, establishing branches in many other parts of Europe. One of the most famous Italian banks was the Medici Bank, set up by Giovanni di Bicci de' Medici in 1397. The earliest known state deposit bank, the Bank of Saint George, was founded in 1407 in Genoa, while Monte dei Paschi di Siena, founded in 1472, is the oldest surviving bank in the world. Today, among the financial services companies, UniCredit is one of the largest bank in Europe by capitalization and Assicurazioni Generali is the second largest insurance group in the world.

Social problems

UNEMPLOYMENT IN ITALY

Italy's jobless rate unexpectedly rose in June as businesses continue to dismiss workers amid concerns that the country's exit from recession may not be sustainable. Youth unemployment jumped to a record-high 44.2 percent. Unemployment increased to 12.7 percent from a revised 12.5 percent in May. Youth unemployment in June rose to the highest rate since the series began in 2004, from 42.4 percent in May with about 22,000 jobs lost in June alone, according to the report. Joblessness in the euro area's third-largest economy has been at 12 percent or above for more than two years as the record slump deepened before gross domestic product started to rise again at the end of 2014. The International Monetary Fund said in a report that "without a significant pick-up in growth," it would take Italy "nearly 20 years to reduce the unemployment rate to pre-crisis" levels of about half the current one.

IMMIGRATION IN ITALY

Immigration to Italy occurs from a variety of countries. As of 1st January 2015, there were 5,014,437 foreign nationals resident in Italy. This amounted to 8.2% of the country's population and represented an increase of 92,352 over the previous year. These figures include 75,067 children born in Italy to foreign nationals but exclude foreign nationals who have subsequently acquired Italian nationality; this applied to 129,887 people in 2014. They also exclude illegal immigrants whose numbers are difficult to determine. The distribution of foreign born population is largely uneven in Italy: 86% of immigrants live in the northern and central parts of the country, that are the most economically developed areas, while only 14% live in the southern half of the peninsula. Many illegal immigrants from Africa are making the dangerous boat journey across the Mediterranean Sea to Italy. In 2013, the foreign born population origin was subdivided as follows: Europe, Africa, Asia, America and Oceania.

History of Italian Immigration

Italian immigrants to the United States from 1890 onward became a part of what is known as “New Immigration,” which is the third and largest wave of immigration from Europe and consisted of Slavs, Jews, and Italians. This “New Immigration” was a major change from the “Old Immigration” which consisted of Germans, Irish, British, and Scandinavians and occurred throughout the 19th century.

Between 1900 and 1915, 3 million Italians immigrated to America, which was the largest nationality of “new immigrants.” These immigrants, mostly artisans and peasants, represented all regions of Italy, but mainly came from the “*mezzogiorno*”, Southern Italy. Between 1876 and 1930, out of the 5 million immigrants who came to the United States, 4/5 were from the South, representing such regions as Calabria, Campania, Abruzzi, Molise, and Sicily. The majority were farm laborers or laborers, or “*contadini*”. The laborers were mostly agricultural and did not have much experience in industry such as mining and textiles. The laborers who did work in industry had come from textile factories in Piedmont and Tuscany and mines in Umbria and Sicily.

1913 was the year where a record high of Italian citizens immigrated to the United States. Most of these emigrants came from Northern Italy, but more came per capita from the South. They comprised a large segment of the following three labor forces: mining, textiles, and clothing manufacturing. In fact, Italians were the largest immigrant population to work in the mines.

An interesting feature of Italian immigrants to the United States between 1901 and 1920 was the high percentage that returned to Italy after they had earned money in the United States. About 50% of Italians repatriated, which meant that often times the immigrants did not care about learning English or assimilating into American society because they knew that they would not remain in America permanently.

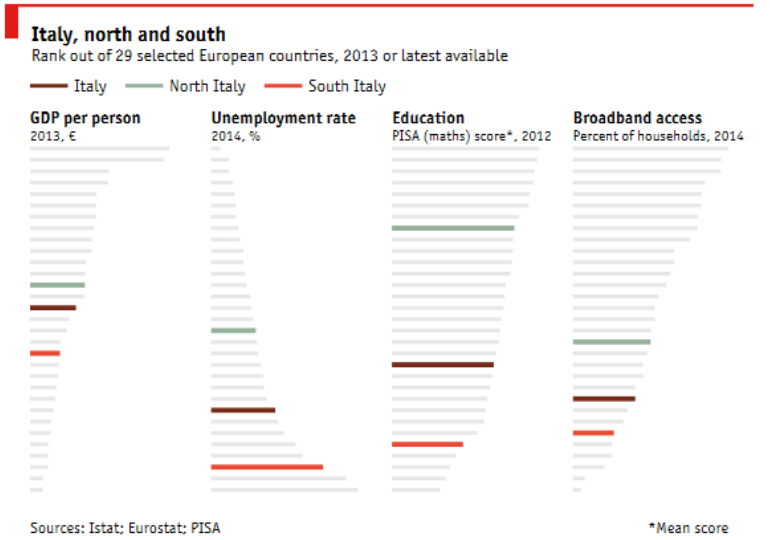
Racism in Italy

Racism in Italy deals with the relations of Italians and outgroups in the history of Italy. Racism is encountered in most societies, and Italy has been no exception. Italians, though a unified sense of national-corporate identity as found in the classic European nations, has been historically fragile, have long prided themselves on an absence of racial enmity. For decades after unification, the country lacked a cohesive national identity, and hostility to outsiders was mainly a matter of regional dislikes.. Italy's colonial adventures led to an upsurge in explicit racial dislikes for the peoples colonized. Under Benito Mussolini's fascist state, once the régime consolidated its pact with Nazi Germany, anti-Semitic laws were passed, as were laws prohibiting internal migration under certain circumstances. The post-war mass migrations from the south towards the industrialized north engendered a degree of anti-southern prejudice. A wave of immigration by *extra-comunitari* (non-EU immigrants) from the late 80s, gave rise to political movements, like the Northern League, hostile to both southern Italians and *clandestini* (illegal immigrants) from areas south of the Mediterranean. In 2011, a report by Human Rights Watch pointed to growing indications of a rise in xenophobia within Italian society.

POVERTY IN ITALY

Poverty in Italy remains a problem. For the first time in 16 years, poverty rates have risen, along with the general jobless and youth unemployment rate. The news was even worse for younger generations as youth unemployment reached an all-time high of 41.2 percent. Although the first month of the New Year has yet to end, Italy remains hopeful to see results and move on from past adversities. Listed below are a lots of facts about poverty in Italy. Between 2011 and 2012, Italy saw its relative poverty rate rise from 4.9 to 6.2% . According to a Europe 2020 report, the risk-of-poverty rate climbed to almost 30% in 2012, more than double the amount in 2005. Between those same years, the poverty rate in industrial areas nearly tripled in poverty as it climbed from 2.5 to 6.4%. The amount of people living in absolute poverty affected as many as 1.7 million families in 2012 and as many as 4.8 million people in total. In 2012, 3.2 million families lived in relative poverty. Relative poverty is defined as a family or group of individuals who live together on a monthly income of less than \$1,400 a day. Approximately four in ten people under-25 are currently out of the workforce. The number of younger people on full-time contracts currently resides at 9.4 percent. Italy looks to repair its economy 1% over the next two years and increase its job growth in the process.

North South Italy



AFTER three years of recession, Italy's economy grew in the first three months of the year by 0.3% compared with the previous quarter. It is forecast to grow by 0.7% over the year as a whole. But behind the national economic data lies a longstanding regional divide, which has deepened in recent years. To illustrate the gap, our interactive chart pits Italy's north and south against 29 European countries on the basis of



four indicators. economist.com

In terms of GDP per person, Italians in the north are almost twice as rich as their southern compatriots. While northerners are wealthier than the Brits, southerners are poorer than the Slovenians. Unemployment averages 9.5% in the north compared with 20.8% in the south. On education, northern Italians score better on PISA maths tests than the French. Southerners, by contrast, fare worse than Croatians. Most of Italy lags behind Europe in terms of digital infrastructure, but while 74.9% of northern households have access to broadband, in the south only 65.5% do, fewer than in Cyprus. Regional divides are common in many countries, but the Italian case is peculiar because of its longevity. In the 1990s the gulf between east and west Germany was much wider than that between northern and southern Italy; now it is smaller.

National economic data always mask regional differences. In Italy, however, they disguise a divide that is deeper than normal (see charts). The country is, in effect, made up of two economies. Take that 2001-13 stagnation. In that period northern and central Italy grew by a slightly less miserable 2%. The economy of the south, meanwhile, atrophied by 7%.

This is partly because the south grew more slowly than the north before the financial crisis. But the main source of the divergence has been the south's disastrous performance since then: its economy contracted almost twice as fast as the north's in 2008-13—by 13% compared with 7%. The *mezzogiorno*—eight southern regions including the islands of Sardinia and Sicily—has suffered sustained economic contraction for the past seven years. Unicredit, Italy's biggest bank, expects it to continue this year. The Italian economy is both weaker and stronger than it appears, depending on the part of the country in question.

Of the 943,000 Italians who became unemployed between 2007 and 2014, 70% were southerners. Italy's aggregate workforce contracted by 4% over that time; the south's, by 10.7%. Employment in the south is lower than in any country in the European Union, at 40%; in the north, it is 64%. Female employment in southern Italy is just 33%, compared with 50% nationally; that makes Greece, at 43%, look good. Unemployment last year was 21.7% in the south, compared with 13.6% nationally. The share of northern and southern families living in absolute poverty grew from 3.3% and 5.8% respectively in 2007, to 5.8% and 12.6% in 2013.

Downward pressure on demand is exacerbated by the south's lower birth rate and emigration northward and abroad. The average southern woman has 1.4 children, down from 2.2 in 1980. In the north, fertility has actually increased, from 1.4 in 1980 to 1.5 now. Net migration from south to north between 2001 and 2013 was more than 700,000 people, 70% of whom were aged between 15 and 34; more than a quarter were graduates. Marco Zigon of Getra, a Neapolitan manufacturer of electric transformers, says finding engineers in Naples, or ones willing to move there, is becoming ever harder. According to Istat, Italy's statistical body, over the next 50 years the south could lose 4.2m residents, a fifth of its population, to the north or abroad.

These demographic trends have tempered the gap in GDP per person with the north, according to SVIMEZ, an association for the development of the *mezzogiorno*. But the loss of human capital, coupled with low investment in the physical sort, is sucking the region dry of the resources it needs to recover. Investment in the north shrank by a quarter between 2008 and 2013; in the south it fell by a third.

These problems are not new, nor are they uniquely southern. But they are more virulent than the economic afflictions that sap growth in the north of Italy. Crumbling infrastructure is a good example. Mr Zigon complains that the port of Naples has fallen into disrepair, hampering Getra's exports. In April part of the main highway across Sicily collapsed due to a landslide, almost doubling the time it takes to get from one end of the island to the other. Fixing it could take years. Railways in the south include Italy's oldest, opened in 1839.



Most of Italy lags behind Europe in terms of digital infrastructure, but the south is especially backward. The same is true of civil justice and the bureaucracy, both of which are generally slower in the south. Corruption is common enough in the north, says Antonio La Spina of LUISS university in Rome, but it is more diffuse in the south, even if sums involved tend to be smaller. That makes it harder to root out.

Buoyant exports and cheaper credit have helped Italy's economy revive in recent months. But these effects are more muted down south. The region accounts for just over a tenth of Italy's annual exports of €400 billion (\$450 billion), and much of that goes to other European countries. Whereas exports from the north grew by 2.9% last year, those from the south shrank by 4.7%, partly because the low price of oil dampened revenues at Sicilian and Sardinian refineries. Loans are often harder to get and more expensive in the south, thanks to the high rates of delinquency and bankruptcy that prevailed during the crisis.

Regional divides are common in many countries, says Gianni Toniolo, an economic historian at LUISS, but Italy's case is peculiar because of its longevity. The gulf between east and west Germany was much wider than that between northern and southern Italy in the 1990s; now it is smaller. If Italy's economy is to grow anywhere near as fast as that of the euro zone's powerhouse, it will have to find some way to narrow its internal divisions.

Relations between Italy and UE

Located in Europe, Italy has been considered a major Western power since its unification in 1861. Its main allies are Foreign relations of the Italian Republic are the Italian government's external the NATO countries, the EU states and the G7 nations, three entities of which Italy is a founding member.

Italy has a particular role within the Christian world because Rome is the seat of the Pope and the center of the Catholic Church. Italy acts as a mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and has a lot of troops deployed in the middle east and all over the world for peacekeeping missions and for combating the organized crime, illegal drug trade, human trafficking, piracy and terrorism. Italy is currently commanding various multinational forces. The country plays also a significant role in former colonies and territories of the Italian Empire and is considered a key player in the Mediterranean region.

Italy–Spain relations

Italy–Spain relations refer to interstate relations between Italy and Spain. Both countries established diplomatic relations after the unification of Italy. Relations between Italy and Spain have remained strong and affable for centuries owing to various political, cultural, and historical connections between the two nations.

In 218 BC the Romans invaded the Iberian peninsula, which later became the Roman province of Hispania. The Romans introduced the Latin language, the ancestor of modern-day Spanish and the Portuguese language. The Iberian peninsula remained under Roman rule for over 600 years, until the collapse of the Western-Roman Empire.

In the Early modern period, until the 18th century, southern and insular Italy came under Spanish control, having been previously a domain of the Crown of Aragon.

During the Spanish civil war, the Corps of Volunteer Troops, a fascist expeditionary force from Italy, supported the Nationalist forces led by Francisco Franco. It's estimated that around 75,000 Italians fought in the war.

Both countries are full members of NATO, the Union for the Mediterranean, European Union, and the Eurozone. Italy has an embassy in Madrid. Spain has an embassy in Rome.