

21.4.1982

1981 CENSUS OF POPULATION

First results for Italy

A census of population was carried out in Italy on 25 October 1981 and a preliminary report of the census was issued in March 1982. Although the census was held within the context of the Community directive for synchronised censuses in 1981 it was not possible, for administrative reasons, to carry out the enumeration in the Spring of 1981 as specified in the directive, and a derogation was obtained permitting a postponement until the Autumn.

The resident population at 25 October 1981, comprising all persons whose normal residence was in Italy, amounted to 56 244 000 persons, an increase of 2 107 000 or 3.9% on the census of 24 October 1971. This increase was somewhat less than that recorded for preceding inter-censal periods. Between the 1961 and 1971 censuses, the total resident population rose by 6.9% and between the 1951 and 1961 censuses by 6.5%.

Table 1 shows the distribution of the population by broad geographical areas as well as changes since earlier censuses.

Table 1 Total resident population by area

Area	Population (000)		Percentage change	
	1971	1981	1971-1981	1961-1971
Northern Italy	24 964	25 607	2.6	10.2
Central Italy	10 298	10 755	4.4	9.7
Southern Italy and islands	18 874	19 882	5.3	1.6
Total	54 137	56 244	3.9	6.9

Northern Italy, which showed the greatest increase in percentage terms (+ 10.2%) during the period 1961-1971 showed the least increase (+ 2.6%) between 1971 and 1981. In contrast the percentage increase in population was greatest between 1971 and 1981 in Southern Italy and the islands (+ 5.3%) whereas it had been least in the earlier period (+ 1.6%). These changing trends are due in large part to a slowing down of the migration flow from the south to the north.

Table 2 gives the 1971 and 1981 resident population figures for the twenty Regions of Italy. Also shown is the present population for each region. The latter concept refers to all persons present in the region at census date regardless of their normal place of residence. For Italy as a whole, the present population exceeded the resident population by some 92,000 persons in 1981.

Population by region at the 1971 and 1981 censuses and percentage change
Table 2

Region	Resident population			Present Population 1981
	1971	1981	% change	
Piemonte	4 432 313	4 447 362	0.3	4 470 281
Valle d'Aosta	109 150	112 662	3.2	113 319
Lombardia	8 543 387	8 898 653	4.2	8 913 190
Trentino-Aldo Adige	841 886	870 475	3.4	900 378
Veneto	4 123 411	4 309 607	4.5	4 339 826
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	1 213 532	1 229 929	1.4	1 270 686
Liguria	1 853 578	1 799 055	- 2.9	1 825 305
Emilia-Romagna	3 846 755	3 939 488	2.4	3 997 692
Toscana	3 473 097	3 570 926	2.8	3 625 043
Umbria	775 783	803 988	3.6	809 632
Marche	1 359 907	1 409 326	3.6	1 411 561
Lazio	4 689 482	4 970 681	6.0	5 042 207
Abruzzi	1 166 694	1 215 136	4.2	1 201 710
Molise	319 807	324 741	1.5	312 544
Campania	5 059 348	5 408 298	6.9	5 388 081
Puglia	3 582 787	3 849 598	7.4	3 800 627
Basilicata	603 064	603 959	0.1	578 733
Calabria	1 988 051	2 030 505	2.1	1 956 433
Sicilia	4 680 715	4 863 587	3.9	4 803 038
Sardegna	1 473 800	1 585 959	7.6	1 575 899
Italy	54 136 547	56 243 935	3.9	56 336 185